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Army officer's wife booked for alleged espionage-related activities

The accused is currently working as a freelance researcher.

Press Trust Of India

A deputy superintendent of police has been assigned to lead the probe.

JAMMU: An Army officer's wife, who allegedly used artificial intelligence tools including ChatGPT and Claude to write analytical papers on sensitive national security issues for Chinese intelligence operatives, has been booked in Jammu for alleged espionage-related activities, officials said on Sunday.

The accused, a well-qualified resident of Telangana who undertook an IT internship with the United Nations in 2023, is currently working as a freelance researcher. Although she



FILE IMAGE

has not been arrested, she has been questioned following the registration of the FIR and is cooperating with investigating agencies, the officials said. The woman was allegedly tasked to write analytical papers on sensitive security, defence, and geopolitical issues, specifically covering Line of Control (LoC) dynamics in Jammu and Kashmir, critical infrastructure projects in Arunachal Pradesh, and

drone deployment, they said. According to the officials, the case was registered at Gandhi Nagar police station in Jammu on Friday under relevant provisions of the Official Secrets Act, concerning espionage and the unauthorised handling of protected official information, alongside provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) relating to criminal conspiracy and offences against national sovereignty. A deputy

superintendent of police has been assigned to lead the probe.

Acting on a tip-off, a joint team comprising personnel from the central intelligence agency and police intercepted the woman at Jammu Tawi railway station on October 14 when she was reportedly preparing to board a train to Pathankot. She was stopped and taken to a nearby military station for questioning, the officials said.

Her mobile phone was seized and sent for a detailed forensic analysis.

The accused married a serving Army officer holding the rank of Major in October 2023 after completing Master of Advanced Studies in European and International Governance

in Geneva in 2022. She also earned a master's degree in International Relations from a university in Bengaluru in 2021. She had also undertaken an online internship with the Centre for Land Warfare Studies (CLAWS) in New Delhi and authored several research articles, the officials said. Interrogation indicated that she had interacted with several foreign nationals during her UN internship, including a Chinese national with whom she allegedly maintained contact through WhatsApp.

The officials claimed that in 2024, she was in contact via social media with a Malaysian national running a consultancy who was allegedly working for Chinese intelligence agencies.

'Oppn's 'low-level acts' reinforce need for Modi's leadership'



Press Trust Of India

RAIPUR: BJP MP Kangana Ranaut on Sunday slammed opposition parties over their calls for regime change, stating that their "low-level acts" constantly remind the nation of the need for strong leadership under Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Speaking to reporters at the Swami Vivekananda Airport here, the actor-politician cited recent unrest in France and global conflicts to emphasise that such developments make PM Modi's decisive leadership even more vital for India.

Asked about the Opposition's remarks about regime change,

she claimed, "Such low-level acts are repeatedly reminding the country that strong leadership is necessary. You saw what happened in France last night. Everything was set on fire, historical structures were destroyed, and looting took place."

The opposition parties have come under fire over senior advocate Prashant Bhushan's "regime change" remark amid protests against the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls.

During a press conference earlier this week, Bhushan said spreading "disaffection" against a government is not a crime in a democracy, and that the struggle is now "really for a regime change". Several BJP leaders have reacted sharply to the remark.

Ranaut said, "Everyone is watching the situation that has emerged around a possible Third World War.

NEWSLINE

MUMBAI

Tiger Shroff escapes firing attempt



Unidentified person/s fired at actor Tiger Shroff's car in Mumbai's Juhu area on Sunday evening, though he is unhurt, police said. The incident took place near Pushpa Park under Juhu police station limits in the western suburb, and the chain of events leading to the incident is being pieced together, an official said. "Shroff is safe and has not sustained any injuries in the firing incident," the official reiterated. As per preliminary reports, an unidentified individual fired upon the actor and his friend. A viral video showed an unidentified person opening fire on the actor's car.

15 killed as truck mows down devotees outside Gwalior temple

Press Trust Of India

The impact brought down a section of the temple wall, trapping people under the debris.

GWALIOR/BHOPAL: Fifteen persons, including several teenagers, lost their lives and more than 25 were injured when a speeding truck ploughed into devotees gathered for Navratri



Wreckage of a truck after it ploughed into several devotees before crashing into a temple's entry gate, in Gwalior, MP, Sunday. | Photo PTI

prayers outside a temple in Madhya Pradesh's

Gwalior district early on Sunday, police said.

The paddy-laden truck, bearing a Punjab registration number, entered a no-entry zone on Chinara Road at around 1.30 am, crashed into several devotees waiting for darshan and roadside shops before hitting the Sheetla Mata temple's entrance gate, they said.

The truck driver fled the scene, and police teams were searching for him, they added.

Durga Puja celebrations



A woman performs rituals at a pandal during Durga Puja festival, in Gurugram, Sunday. | Photo PTI

| ANKITA BHANDARI MURDER |

Several detained as protesters demand impartial probe

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Several people, including Congress members, were detained by Delhi Police on Sunday after they staged a protest outside the Patiala House Court here, demanding a transparent and court-monitored probe into the 2022 murder of 19-year-old Ankita Bhandari in



Uttarakhand. The protesters sought accountability and called for a fair probe into the alleged 'VIP' angle, which has come under renewed scrutiny

amid an ongoing CBI investigation. Delhi Congress member Laxman Rawat said no individual should be above the law.

"Ankita Bhandari deserves justice, and her family deserves answers. The serious questions and allegations surrounding this case cannot be ignored or buried under political pressure," Rawat

said. Rawat said the Delhi Police detained around 50 people, several of whom were taken to the Jaffarpur Police Station.

Around 100 to 150 people participated in the protest, including Congress functionaries from Uttarakhand and members of the Aam Aadmi Party and Left parties, he said.

Critically ill civilian patient airlifted in C-130J

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI/LEH: A 30-year-old critically ill civilian patient was airlifted from Leh to Delhi in a C-130J aircraft, with the mission being carried out by the IAF in darkness and challenging weather conditions, officials said on Sunday.

The evacuation mission required a high degree of operational preparedness, profes-

sional coordination and timely execution, they said.

A senior official said the airlift happened late night on Saturday. The defence ministry shared more details on this short-notice evacuation conducted by the Indian Air Force. An IAF C-130J aircraft airlifted the critically ill patient from Leh to Palam air base in Delhi for further medical care, the ministry said in a statement.



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‘101 foot-tall Ravan effigy to be combusted on Dussehra’

MLA appealed to the residents of Raipur to visit WRS Colony and participate in the Ravan Dahan event.

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: The BJP MLA Purandar Mishra providing details about the Ravan Dahan event to be held in Raipur's WRS Colony, informed that the grand event would be organized on October 20 to mark the festival of Vijaydashami. A large turnout is expected for the occasion. The MLA appealed to the residents of Raipur to visit WRS Colony and participate in the Ravan Dahan event.

Purandar Mishra mentioned that this year, a 101-foot-tall effigy of Ravan will be set on fire in WRS Colony, alongside the effigies of Kumbhakarna and Meghnada. He noted that the festi-

val, held in WRS Colony, has now completed 56 years—a detail he linked to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's well-known remark about his "56-inch chest."

Appreciation for the support from the 'Railway family'

The BJP MLA praised the role of the 'Railway family' (the railway community) in the event. He highlighted the significance of organizing this religious and cultural event consistently for so many years, commend-

ing the support provided by the railway community. He added that Ravan Dahan is not merely a religious event, but also an opportunity for people to come together and



HIGHLIGHT

● **BJP MLA praised the role of the 'Railway family' (the railway community) in the event.**

connect with their cultural traditions. The organizers are currently making preparations for the event in WRS Colony. The MLA has urged the city residents to participate in large numbers.

BJP MLA takes a dig at Cong over allegations of 'vote theft'

Political rhetoric between the Congress and the BJP in Chhattisgarh has intensified following allegations of 'vote theft'. BJP MLA Purandar Mishra has reacted sharply to the Congress party's move to reach out to the booth level. Hitting back, Mishra remarked that "thieves see thieves everywhere," asserting that it is the Congress—not the BJP—that engages in the theft of votes. In this context, he also alluded to historical events surrounding the selection of the country's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. Meanwhile, the MLA also provided updates regarding the preparations for the 'Ravan Dahan' (effigy burning of Ravan) event to be held in the WRS Colony area of Raipur. Questioning the Congress party's strategy of reaching down to the booth level, Mishra pointed out that while the Congress frequently levels accusations of 'vote theft,' it ought to reflect on its own political history. He reiterated that "thieves see thieves everywhere," alleging that it is the Congress, not the BJP, that has a history of stealing votes.

Youth robbed by individuals posing as police officers, two arrested

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: In the capital city of Raipur, police have arrested two individuals for carrying out a robbery while posing as police officers. It is alleged that the two assaulted a young man, striking him with a belt, and stole his mobile phone along with the keys to his Activa scooter. Following the receipt of a complaint, the police initiated an investigation. After inspecting the crime scene and questioning witnesses, the police apprehended the two suspects

involved in the incident. According to reports, the incident occurred within the jurisdiction of the Purani Basti police station. The robbery and



assault reportedly took place on October 16 near Kankalipara. In his complaint, the victim stated that the perpetrators, who

claimed to be police officers, assaulted him before robbing him. Acting on a tip-off, the police tracked down the suspects—Dhirendra Singh Tomar and Akash Pandey—and took them into custody for questioning.

During interrogation, the accused confessed to committing the crime, citing a dispute over a financial transaction. The stolen mobile phone, the red leather belt used in the assault, and the keys to the Activa scooter were recovered from their possession.

Special safety seminar organised by SECR

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: On October 17, 2026, the Safety Department of the South East Central Railway's Raipur Division organized a special safety seminar at Ullas Bhawan, Shivnath Rail Vihar, Raipur. The event was attended by staff from the Operations, Electrical (Operations), Engineering, Mechanical, Signal & Telecommunication, and Official Language (Rajbhasha) departments. Discussions focused on the following key areas:

Prevention of SPAD (Signal Passed at Danger)

incidents; precautions to be observed during shunting and stabling operations; winter-related safety measures; protocols for disconnection and reconnection; inspection of coaches/wagons to prevent issues such as hot axles, brake binding, and train partings; safety precautions during work in OHE (Overhead Equipment) blocks; the importance of the official language (Hindi) and its role in safety; fire prevention, including the use and demonstration of fire extinguishers; and basic first aid.

BJP leader arrested for misbehaving with SHO

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: In the capital city of Raipur, police have arrested Shubhankar Dwivedi—a leader associated with the BJP Yuva Morcha—who had been absconding. He is accused of entering the Gudhiyari police station, misbehaving with the Station House Officer (SHO), issuing threats, and damaging government property.

The accused had been on the run since the incident, and the Gudhiyari police had been actively searching for him. Following his arrest, he was brought to the Gudhiyari police station, where he is currently being interrogated. The police are also investigating his whereabouts while he



was in hiding and identifying those who may have assisted him. The incident took place on September 15. It is alleged that Shubhankar Dwivedi picked up a flower pot and a pen stand from a table and threw them onto the floor.

Although the police personnel cautioned him against damaging government property, the accused allegedly grabbed a nameplate from the table and hurled it at a television mounted on the wall, causing it to break.

| RITUALS AND PRAYERS AT MAA DURGA PANDALS | Maa Durga symbolises strength, courage & positive energy: CM

Central Chronicle News

CM Sai offers prayers to Maa Kali and Maa Durga, prays for Ch'garh's prosperity.

RAIPUR: Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai visited the renowned Maa Kali Temple in Kali Bari and a Durga Puja pandal in the state capital today evening. He offered prayers to Maa Kali and Maa Durga, performed customary rituals and prayed for the prosperity, happiness and good health of the people of Chhattisgarh. Bowing before the goddesses, he sought their blessings for continued peace, happiness and prosperity in the state. Offering prayers with deep



devotion, CM Sai wished for the continued progress of Chhattisgarh and happiness and prosperity in every household. He said that the sacred occasion of worshipping the divine feminine power connects people with their faith, culture and glorious traditions. Maa Durga symbolises strength, courage and positive energy, and her worship inspires people to face life's challenges with determination and follow the

path of truth, righteousness and moral conduct. Sai said that Chhattisgarh's identity is deeply rooted in its rich culture, folk traditions and religious faith. Festivals are not merely religious observances, they strengthen social harmony, mutual affection and brotherhood. Such celebrations bring different sections of society together and familiarise younger generations with the state's cultural heritage and enduring values.

| 'SAMAGRA SHIKSHA' |

Training prog for teachers held at IGKV

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: Under the 'Samagra Shiksha' (Comprehensive Education) initiative, a "Domain-Specific Teacher Capacity Enhancement Training Program" for school teachers in the state was held from October 12 to 16, 2026, at the Seminar Hall of the College of Agriculture, Raipur. The program was organized under the aegis of the



Pandit Sunderlal Sharma Central Institute of Vocational Education (PSS-CIVE), Bhopal—a constituent unit of the Ministry of Education, Government

of India—in collaboration with Indira Gandhi Krishi Vishwavidyalaya (IGKV). Thirty participants from various districts across Chhattisgarh took part in

the training. The objective of the program was to promote skill-based, practical, and employment-oriented education in schools—in alignment with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and the National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCF-SE) 2023—and to further develop the professional competencies of the teachers. During the training, participants gained knowledge

and practical experience across a range of subjects. The sessions, held from October 12 to 16, 2026, covered both theoretical and practical aspects of topics including the National Education Policy 2020, protected cultivation, vegetable production, mushroom cultivation, seed production, pest and disease management, soil testing, irrigation, weed control, floriculture, and post-harvest management.

Briefs BEST OF THE REST

HISTORIC SPORTING ACHIEVEMENT

Shourya Agrawal creates history with gold medal and new CBSE National Javelin record



RAIPUR: N.H. Goel World School, Raipur, celebrates a historic sporting achievement as Shourya Agrawal, a student of Class XII, clinched the Gold Medal in the Under-19 Boys' Javelin Throw at the CBSE National Athletics Championship, setting a new CBSE National Record with an outstanding throw of 66.82 metres. With this remarkable performance, Shourya has become the first athlete from N.H. Goel World School to establish a CBSE National Record, bringing immense pride and recognition to the institution. Adding another milestone to his sporting jour-

ney, Shourya has also been selected for the SGFI Nationals and Khelo India, creating further opportunities to showcase his talent at prestigious national-level competitions. His achievement is a reflection of his consistent hard work, disciplined training, determination and passion for athletics. His success has not only brought glory to the school but has also inspired fellow students to pursue excellence in sports. The NHGWS Sports Team expressed heartfelt gratitude to the school management for its continued trust, encouragement and support in nurturing young sporting talent.

SPECIAL AWARENESS CAMP

AIIMS Raipur organizes maternal and neonatal health awareness camp

RAIPUR: The Sickle Cell Committee of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Raipur, in collaboration with the Department of Biochemistry and the Association of Biochemistry Clinical Welfare Society, organized a special awareness camp at the Community Health Centre (CHC), Dharsiwa. The primary objective of the camp was to strengthen public awareness regarding tests conducted during pregnancy and early screening for newborns. The program was organized under the guidance of Prof. (Dr.) Eli Mohapatra, Dean (Academics), Chairperson of the Sickle Cell Committee, and Head of the Department of Biochemistry at AIIMS Raipur. More than 60 participants, including pregnant



women, mothers of newborns, Mitanins, and local healthcare workers, actively took part in the event. During the technical and awareness sessions of the camp, specialist doctors provided detailed guidance on critical topics related to maternal and child health. Prof. (Dr.) Suprava Patel highlighted the necessity of antenatal screening for the timely detection of anemia, hypertension, gestational diabetes, and genetic disorders during pregnancy.

BULLSEYE BRILLIANCE

Nishant and Padma power gold rush at Sr Archery Championship

RAIPUR: Ace marksmen from across the state put on an electrifying masterclass of precision and focus at Dr. C.V. Raman University in Kota, Bilaspur, as the prestigious 26th Senior State-Level Archery Championship, organized by the Chhattisgarh Pradesh Archery Association, culminated in thrilling fashion. Kondagaon's sharp-shooter Nishant Patel emerged as the standout star of the entire tournament, registering an unmatched tournament-high score of 348 points to capture the gold medal in the Boys' Compound event, closely chased by fellow district mate Aryan Sahu (342 points) in second and Rajnandgaon's Rustom (340 points) in third. In the Girls' Compound showdown, Mahasamund's Padma dominated the podium with a dazzling 343 points to seal top honours, leaving Arya from



Sport Academy (338 points) and Durg's Ankita Mourya (336 points) with the runner-up and third positions, respectively. District Mahasamund stamped its authority across multiple divisions, sweeping three championship titles throughout the meet. In the Boys' Indian Round, Kamlesh of Mahasamund held his nerve to strike gold with 338 points, overcoming a fierce challenge from Shivratai duo Vikram Raj (335 points) and Kuber Singh Jagat (330 points).

HNOURFOR DURGOTSAV AND SOCIAL WORKS

Triloki Maa Kalibari Samiti honors MLA Sunil Soni for his contributions to 'Durgotsav'



RAIPUR: MLA for Raipur South, Sunil Soni, visited the Triloki Maa Kalibari Temple in Rajendra Nagar to offer prayers. On this occasion, the Samiti (committee) honoured Soni. He praised the 'Durgotsav' (Durga Puja festival) organized by the Samiti, as well as their ongoing efforts in the field of social service. Extending his best wishes for Navratri and Vijaydashami, he prayed for the happiness, peace, and prosperity of the state. The Samiti's secretary, Vivek Bardhan, stated that the committee's president, Debashish Ganguly, along with other office-bearers, honoured MLA Sunil Soni by

presenting him with a shawl, a coconut (shrifal), and a memento. During the event, Amar Gidwani—a member of the Municipal Corporation's Mayor-in-Council (MIC) and head of the cultural wing—as well as Mr. Sunil Kukreja, president of the Civil Lines division, were also honored. It is noteworthy that the Triloki Maa Kalibari Samiti has been organizing the 'Durgotsav' for the past 46 years and remains consistently active in the realm of social service. Through religious and cultural events, as well as various charitable initiatives, the Samiti continues to fulfill its responsibilities toward society.

Raipur News

Govt is committed for dignity, safety of women: CM Sai

CM participates in Garba and Navratri celebrations across Raipur, extends festive greetings to the people of Chhattisgarh

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: The sacred festival of Navratri signifies the expression of reverence towards Shakti- the power of divine feminine, honouring the strength of women, celebrating the harmony and unity, and celebrating the glorious cultural traditions of India. In Indian culture, women are revered as embodiments of Shakti. In keeping with this spirit, the Chhattisgarh Government is committed to strengthening the dignity, ensuring safety, encouraging self-reliance and facilitating economic empowerment of women. Women's progress is not merely the progress of an individual family, but a foundation for the advancement of society and the state as a whole.

CM Vishnu Deo Sai expressed the aforementioned views while addressing the Garba and Navratri celebrations in Raipur, extending his heartfelt greetings and best wishes to the people of Chhattisgarh on the occasion of Navratri.

CM Sai visited the Maa Kali Temple in Kali Bari and offered prayers for the happiness, prosperity and well-being of the people. He also attended the Shri Patidar Navratri Mahotsav organised by



FASTFACTS

● Nearly 68 lakh women benefit from Mahtari Vandan Yojana; 14 lakh women in the state have become Lakhpati Didis

● Chhattisgarh advancing on the path of progress with the Vision of 'Vikas Bhi, Virasat Bhi'

the Shri Kutch Kadva Patidar Samaj at the Mandi premises, a Garba celebration organised by the same community in Bhanpuri, a Navratri Mahotsav organised by Shri Kutch Gurjar Kshatriya Samaj in Govardhan Nagar, and Dholida Raas Garba 2026 in the Amlidih area, along with other festive gather-

ings. Sai further said that Navratri creates an atmosphere of devotion, faith and enthusiasm across the country and the state. Over nine days, worshipping the various forms of Maa Durga inspires people to embrace courage, restraint, positivity and righteous conduct. The festival strengthens cultural awareness while fostering love, harmony and social cohesion.

Chief Minister said that Garba is not merely a dance celebration but a beautiful expression of devotion to Maa Durga. Originating in Gujarat, this rich tradition is now celebrated with enthusiasm across the country, reflecting unity in India's cultural diversity. He said that festivals and celebrations bring society

together. When people from different communities celebrate collectively, mutual affection, harmony and brotherhood grow stronger. This is one of the greatest strengths of Indian culture. In Chhattisgarh, communities have preserved their traditions and cultural identities while making important contributions to the state's social and economic development.

Expressing happiness at the enthusiastic participation of women and girls in the Garba celebrations, Shri Sai said their presence made these events more vibrant and dignified. Navratri also reminds society of the importance of respecting women and fulfilling the responsibilities towards them.

Workshop on UCF on Oct 21

RAIPUR: A regional workshop on the 'Urban Challenge Fund' (UCF) is scheduled for October 21 to deliberate on new opportunities for urban development, investment, and infrastructure in Chhattisgarh. The workshop, organized by the state's Urban Administration and Development Department in collaboration with HUDCO, will take place at a private hotel in Naya Raipur. Chief Minister Shri Vishnu Deo Sai will inaugurate the event. Union Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs, Shri Tokhan Sahu, and Deputy Chief Minister, Shri Arun Sao, will participate as guests of honour.

Focused on the 'Urban Challenge Fund' and the 'Urban Invest Window,' the workshop will bring together policymakers, experts, and senior officials to discuss infrastructure development in urban local bodies, strategies for attracting investment, improved financial management of projects, the adoption of innovation-driven development models, and the well-planned expansion of cities. These discussions aim to strengthen basic urban infrastructure, boost the urban economy, foster an investment-friendly environment, and formulate robust, long-term development strategies. Sanjay Kulshreshtha, Chairman and Managing Director of HUDCO, will deliver the inaugural address.

Rs 2 cr swindled after cloning official's mobile number

Central Chronicle News

A shocking case of cyber fraud has come to light in Raipur

RAIPUR: A shocking case of cyber fraud has come to light in Raipur, wherein an unknown cyber fraudsters allegedly cloned the mobile number of an authorized official of a private company and swindled Rs 2 crore from the firm. The fraudsters sent a WhatsApp message to the company's accountant from the official's number, instructing an immediate transfer of funds. Believing the message to be an instruction from a senior official, the accountant transferred Rs 2 crore via RTGS to the specified bank account. Later, when the official in question was contacted, he denied having issued any such instruction. Upon realizing the fraud, the company management filed a complaint with the Cyber Cell.

According to reports, the incident involves the corporate office of Vankala Cables and Transmission Limited, located in Raipur. As per the complaint filed with the police, on October 16, 2026, the company's accountant, Biresh Tiwari, received a WhatsApp message from the mobile number of an authorized official, Anshul Sharma. The message contained instructions to immediately transfer Rs 2 crore



to a designated bank account. Since the message appeared to originate from the official's own number, the accountant did not suspect any

HIGHLIGHT

● This incident highlights the necessity of verifying large online payments through an independent channel with the concerned official.

thing and proceeded with the payment. Acting on the instructions received via WhatsApp, accountant Biresh Tiwari transferred the funds from the Pandri branch of the Bank of Baroda. It has been reported that a total of Rs 2 crore was transferred via RTGS to a bank account in Prayagraj. The payment was made under the impression that it had been authorized by an official of the company. However, it was later revealed that no such instruction had been issued by the official. Upon contacting the official, the fraud came to light; when the accountant and company management reached out to the authorized official, Anshul Sharma, the entire incident was uncovered.

JioHotstar becomes official streaming partner of Ch'garh Hockey League

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: JioHotstar, the official streaming partner of the Chhattisgarh Hockey League, will livestream all matches of the tournament, bringing world-class hockey to viewers across the country and beyond. From October 22 to November 1, audiences can watch 18 exciting matches every day from 5:30 PM onwards on JioHotstar, in addition to enjoying the action at the stadium.

The Chhattisgarh Hockey League is India's first official state-level hockey league to receive recognition from Hockey India. Featuring six franchises representing six cities of the state, the tournament will follow a league format, with the top four teams qualifying for the semi-finals. The final will be played on November 1, 2026.

The league will feature several prominent names in Indian hockey as mar-

quee players, including Olympians Surender Kumar, Pradeep Mor, S.V. Sunil, Lalit Kumar Upadhyay, Shamsher Singh and Chinglensana Singh Kangujam. These players will lead the six franchise teams, adding to the tournament's competitive appeal. Alongside the men's competition, the Department of Sports and Youth Welfare, Chhattisgarh, will organise an exhibition match for women on the opening day. The initiative aims to promote women's hockey and encourage greater participation in the sport. Director of Sports and Youth Welfare Smt. Akanksha Shiksha Khalkho said the Chhattisgarh Hockey League marks the beginning of an important chapter in Indian hockey. She said the primary objective is to provide players from the state with opportunities to excel at the state, national and international levels.

Little Garba Queen Pahi steals the show



RAIPUR: The Navratri fervour reached its peak at Avinash Capital Homes 2 as little Pahi Pawar mesmerized everyone with her graceful Garba moves. Dressed in vibrant traditional attire, Pahi's energetic and rhythmic performance became the centre of attraction during the society's Garba night.

Residents applauded her innocence, confidence and festive spirit. Her performance added extra charm to the celebration, reflecting the true spirit of Navratri – joy, devotion and togetherness.

AIIMS Raipur holds CME to strengthen diagnosis of Leprosy

Central Chronicle News

Scientific sessions focus on clinical diagnosis, disability management and multidisciplinary approaches to neglected tropical diseases

RAIPUR: Department of Dermatology at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Raipur, organised a Continuing Medical Education (CME) programme on "Leprosy and Mycetoma: Multidisciplinary Perspectives on Diagnosis and Management", focusing on strengthening clinical expertise in the diagnosis, evaluation and treatment of these neglected tropical diseases. The programme was organised by the Indian Association of Dermatologists and Leprologists (IADVL) Academy in association



with the IADVL Chhattisgarh State Branch. The programme was inaugurated by Lieutenant General Ashok Jindal (Retd.), Executive Director, AIIMS Raipur, in the presence of Dr. Eli Mohapatra, Dean (Academics), AIIMS Raipur; Dr. Renuga P.S.S., Associate Professor, JSS Medical College, Mysuru; Dr. Piyush Agarwal, President, IADVL Chhattisgarh State Branch; and Dr. Satyaki Ganguly, Organising Chairman and Head of the Department of Dermatology,

FASTFACT

● Over 80 delegates participated in CME organised by the Indian Association of Dermatologists, Venereologists and Leprologists Academy in collaboration with its Chhattisgarh State Branch

AIIMS Raipur. The scientific sessions covered key aspects of the diagnosis, clinical evaluation and management of leprosy

and mycetoma. Experts delivered lectures on nerve conduction studies in leprosy, selection of splints for managing leprosy-related disabilities, sample collection techniques, histopathological diagnosis of mycetoma, the history of leprosy care in Chhattisgarh, the National Leprosy Eradication Programme (NLEP), and the role of private practitioners in leprosy control. The sessions featured Dr. Neel Prabha, Dr. Saravana Sukriya S. and others.

NEWSLINE

PENSION ISSUE

CUWA urges CM to address the plight of RSU pensioners

RAIPUR: Pradeep Mishra, President, and Shirish Trivedi, General Secretary of the Chhattisgarh University Pensioners' Welfare Association (CUPWA), stated that they have appealed to the state's head, Vishnu Deo Sai. The Association submitted a formal request in the last week of August—followed by a reminder in the first week of October—urging the government to ensure that retired university employees receive their pensions as per the Seventh Pay Commission before the conclusion of the "Seva Sankalp" (Commitment to Service) month, which runs from Sept 17 to Oct 17.

The Association has been repeatedly appealing to the Chief Minister, the Chief Secretary, the Finance Minister, and the Minister of Higher Education of the Chhattisgarh Government, urging them to ensure timely disbursement of pensions. Pradeep Mishra noted that it has now been ten years and nine months that university pensioners in Chhattisgarh have been denied pensions based on the Seventh Pay Commission's scales.

OBITUARY

Ganesh Prasad Agrawal



RAIPUR: Ganesh Prasad Agrawal, breathed his last here on Sunday. The final rites will be performed on Sept. 19 at Marwari crematorium at 3:00 pm. He was founder of Shri Ram Rui Bhandar at MG Road.

OBITUARY

Nirmala Behar



RAIPUR: Nirmala Behar (Advocate), R/o Sunder Nagar, breathed her last here on Sept. 16. The final rites were performed at Mahadev Ghat Crematorium. She was W/o Late Dr Ram Kumar Behar and mother of Meenal, Mili Behar.

HINDUSTANI CLASSICAL MUSICA BAITHAK |

Young vocalists and senior musicians enthrall music lovers

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: Keeping alive Raipur's long-standing tradition of intimate classical music gatherings during Ganeshotsav and Durga Puja, a special Hindustani classical music baithak was organised by Shripad Suravadhanivar at Dal Dal Seoni, Raipur, during the Durga Puja festivities.

The musical gathering continued for nearly four to five hours into the late night, bringing together promising young vocalists and established



musicians of the city. The programme offered an enriching experience for listeners, with unhurried performances that allowed the artists to explore the depth and nuances of Hin-

dustani classical music. The highlight of the evening was the extended solo performances by young vocalists Soumen-dra Phadke and Chaitanya Joglekar, each presenting

an hour-long recital. Soumendra Phadke began his performance with a vilambit composition in Raga Puriya Dhanashree, exploring the melodic framework of the raga before concluding with the popular traditional bandish "Payaliya Jhankar" in madhyalaya. He was accompanied by Chandrashekhar Suravadhanivar on tabla and Smt. Manjusha Bedekar on harmonium. Chaitanya Joglekar followed with a performance in Raga Jogkauns, beginning with

a vilambit composition in Ektaal. His powerful and energetic rendition was followed by the traditional bandish "Peer Parai" in madhyalaya Teentaal. Chandrashekhar Suravadhanivar accompanied him on tabla, while Smt. Manjusha Bedekar provided harmonium support. The programme then featured senior musicians Dr. Deepak Bedekar and Prof. Vijay Joshi, who presented short compositions in different ragas. Dr. Bedekar performed in Raga Bageshri.

Raipur TT squad announced for 24th CG State Championship

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: The Raipur district table tennis contingent has been announced for the upcoming "UTT 24th Chhattisgarh State and Inter-District Table Tennis Championship-2026," scheduled to take place from October 22 to October 25 at the Sapre School Table Tennis Hall in Budhapara, Raipur. Organized by the Chhattisgarh Table Tennis Association in collaboration with the Life Insurance Corporation of



India (LIC) and Central Bank of India, the four-day sporting event will feature intense competition across multiple age groups and categories. Announcing the squad, chief guest

Kuldeep Juneja, President of the Chhattisgarh Table Tennis Association and former MLA of Raipur North, unveiled the players and distributed official team jerseys.



“The waiver of domicile certificate for SC and OBC scholarships is a welcome decision of the State govt..”

Dharamjit Singh
MLA, Takhatpur

Over 8,000 auto-rickshaws registered for QR codes

Bilaspur Police launched district-wide registration drive to improve passenger safety, identify drivers and owners, and strengthen accountability.

Central Chronicle News

BILASPUR: Bilaspur police have registered more than 8,000 autorickshaws for QR codes within six days as part of a district-wide initiative to improve passenger safety, transparency and accountability in public transport. The campaign aims to establish the identities of autorickshaw drivers and vehicle owners while helping passengers make informed decisions before beginning their journeys.

Under the initiative, each registered autorickshaw will receive a unique identification number and QR code. These will be displayed at designated locations on the front and rear of the vehicle. Passengers will be able to scan the QR code using their smartphones to access information about the driver and vehicle owner.

The campaign is being conducted under the direction of DIG and Senior Superintendent of Police Rajnesh Singh. Police officials said the initiative has been designed to improve the safety of women, children, senior citizens, persons with disabilities and other pas-



FASTFACTS

- Passengers can scan vehicle QR codes to access driver and owner details before boarding.
- Police aim to register every autorickshaw operating across Bilaspur district through the ongoing campaign.

sengers using autorickshaws across the district.

According to police, the QR code system will make it easier to establish the identities of drivers and owners in cases involving passenger complaints, disputes or suspicious activities. The availability of identification details is expected to

strengthen accountability and assist authorities in responding to complaints related to autorickshaw services.

Police also highlighted the importance of the initiative for women drivers, who operate a significant number of autorickshaws in Bilaspur city and remote areas. The identification system is expected to provide an additional layer of security for women operating

these vehicles. Registration is being conducted across police station jurisdictions and at major intersections throughout the district. Police personnel and traffic staff are helping drivers complete the online registration process, particularly those who face difficulties operating Android smartphones or accessing the registration system. Traffic police have urged passengers to scan the QR code and verify the driver's and vehicle owner's details before boarding an autorickshaw. They have also advised commuters to avoid travelling in unregistered vehicles. The stated objective is to bring every autorickshaw operating in Bilaspur district under the registration system, making local transport more identifiable, accountable and safer for passengers and drivers alike.

Registration continues round the clock

To expand public awareness, the registration drive is continuing round the clock. Information about the initiative is also being broadcast through 23 public address systems installed across the district. Police officials are encouraging autorickshaw operators to complete registration promptly so that the entire fleet can be covered.

Domicile waived for SC-OBC scholarships

BILASPUR: The Chhattisgarh government has removed the mandatory domicile certificate requirement for Scheduled Caste (SC) and Other Backward Class (OBC) students applying for scholarship schemes in the state. The decision is expected to simplify the application process and benefit thousands of students who previously faced delays due to documentation requirements. According to an order issued by the Directorate of Public Instruction (DPI), Nava Raipur, administrative approval has been granted to remove the requirement for domicile certificates for central-sector and centrally sponsored scholarship schemes covered by the decision. The DPI has directed all District Education Officers across the state not to ask students belonging to the SC and OBC categories to submit domicile certificates for these scholarship schemes. The move is expected to reduce paperwork, save time and resolve delays in scholarship applications caused by difficulties in obtaining domicile certificates. Students from these categories, including girls and boys across the state, are expected to benefit from the simplified procedure.

Dy CM Arun Sao injured, advised 3 weeks of rest



Central Chronicle News

Chhattisgarh Deputy Chief Minister Arun Sao injured his leg during an event in Lormi.

FASTFACTS

- Doctors found no fracture but applied a temporary plaster cast and advised three weeks' rest.

BILASPUR: Chhattisgarh Deputy Chief Minister Arun Sao sustained a leg injury during an event in the Lormi Assembly constituency on Saturday. He was taken to the Chhattisgarh Institute of Medical Sciences (CIMS) in Bilaspur for medical examination and treatment.

Doctors examined him and conducted an X-ray to assess the extent of the injury. The investigation confirmed that there was no fracture. However, considering the pain and swelling in his leg, the medical team applied a temporary plaster cast and advised him to take complete rest for three weeks. Following the doctors' advice, all programmes scheduled for Sao on Saturday were cancelled. He is currently resting at his residence in Bilaspur and is expected to follow the prescribed

medical instructions during his recovery. CIMS Dean Dr Ramesh Murti confirmed that the Deputy Chief Minister was brought to the hospital after sustaining the injury. Dr Sanjay Ghillie and his team examined Sao and carried out the necessary X-ray examination. According to Dr Murti, although the X-ray showed no fracture, the doctors decided to provide support to the injured leg because of the pain and swelling. The temporary plaster cast was applied to help manage the injury, while three weeks of rest were recommended for recovery. The Deputy Chief Minister's visit to CIMS was attended by CIMS medical Superintendent Dr Lakhan Singh, Dr Bhupendra Kashyap and other doctors and hospital staff members.

NEWSLINE

GRATITUDE

Tokhan Sahu thanks Prez, PM for wishes

BILASPUR: Union Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs Tokhan Sahu has expressed his gratitude to President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi for their birthday greetings. He said the affection, blessings and guidance of the country's top leadership had strengthened his resolve to serve the nation and work for public welfare. In his birthday message, Prime Minister Modi praised Sahu's hard work, energy and determination, and acknowledged his role in building a “New India”.

He also wished the minister good health and a long life. President Droupadi Murmu conveyed her wishes for Sahu's good health, happiness, prosperity and continued dedicated service to the nation. Expressing his gratitude to the President, Sahu said the greetings were a matter of great honour and inspiration. He described her guidance as a valuable asset in his public life, providing renewed motivation for his commitment to national service. Thanking the Prime Minister, Sahu said it was a privilege to carry out his public responsibilities.

RELIEF

Durga Puja brings relief from power cuts

BILASPUR: Residents of Bilaspur have received temporary relief from daily power cuts lasting five to six hours as the electricity distribution company has paused its maintenance campaign during the Durga Puja and Dussehra festivities. For the past month and a half, the company had been carrying out pre-Diwali maintenance across different parts of the city, regularly interrupting power supply. The work included repairs to substations, feeders, power lines and transformers, as well as trimming tree branches touching electrical wires. Considering the ongoing festivities, the company suspended maintenance work for a few days across both divisions of the city circle to minimise inconvenience and ensure uninterrupted electricity during the celebrations.

SEIZURE

Mining dept team seizes 10 vehicles

BILASPUR: The Mining Department seized 10 vehicles during a four-day crackdown on illegal excavation and transportation of minerals across Bilaspur district.

The seized vehicles included heavy dumpers and tractor-trolleys allegedly involved in unauthorised mining activities. The enforcement drive covered several sensitive mining zones, including Ratanpur, Kota, Kholipara, Turkadih, Sendri, Koni, Lamer, Nirtu, Sakri, Lalkhadan, Masturi and Lawar.

Eight accused arrested in NTPC Sipat copper cable theft

Central Chronicle News

Sipat police arrested eight people for stealing copper cables worth over ₹2 lakh from NTPC.

BILASPUR: Sipat police have arrested eight people for allegedly stealing copper cables worth Rs 2,00,106 from the site office of Bridge and Roof (India) Limited, which is installing a floating solar power plant at NTPC Sipat.

Police recovered 211 kg of stolen copper cable, an e-rickshaw allegedly used in the crime, a Hero Xtreme motorcycle and Rs 15,500 in cash. All eight accused have been sent to jail on judicial remand.

Sipat police station in-charge Rajesh Mishra said the company is executing a 26 MW floating solar power project at Reservoir 1B in the Ujjwal Nagar area of NTPC Sipat Township. Arun Kumar



FASTFACTS

- Police recovered 211 kilograms of copper cable, vehicles, and cash during the investigation into the theft.

Sinha, a township resident originally from Howrah district in West Bengal, is employed with the company.

According to police, a tip-off led to the detention and questioning of Rajkumar Dewar alias Akdi. During interrogation, he allegedly con-

fessed to committing the theft with his associates. The accused reportedly scaled the company's boundary wall and broke into its site office to steal copper cables on different nights between October 5 and 10.

They allegedly loaded the stolen material into an e-rickshaw belonging to Chandrahas Suryavanshi and transported it to an abandoned hospital in Pragati Nagar.

Police said the accused burned the cables to extract copper and sold it to scrap dealer Nand Kumar Sahu in Nawadih.

One arrested in cyber fraud involving IDFC, SBI accounts

Central Chronicle News

Sarkanda police arrested a 35-year-old man for allegedly facilitating cyber fraud through bank accounts.

BILASPUR: Sarkanda police have arrested Sanjay Kumar Sahu, 35, a resident of Semartal near Gandhi Chowk under Koni police station limits, for allegedly handling money obtained through cyber fraud. His alleged associate remains absconding.

According to police, Sahu allegedly conspired with his associate to obtain money through cyber fraud or by offering people various inducements.

The money was reportedly deposited into accounts maintained with IDFC First Bank and the State Bank of India



FASTFACTS

- Investigators identified 11 cybercrime complaints linked to an IDFC First Bank account under investigation.

(SBI). The accused allegedly withdrew the funds through UPI transactions and ATMs before sharing the proceeds. The

case emerged during a district-wide investigation into suspected mule bank accounts, following directions from senior police officials and Raipur Police Headquarters.

Information received through the Government of India's police coordination portal, JMIS, flagged an IDFC First Bank account for scrutiny. Police said 11 cybercrime complaints

| VERDICT |

HC denies relief to suspended Edn Dept clerk

Central Chronicle News

BILASPUR: Sunil Kumar Yadav, a junior auditor in the School Education Department who was suspended in connection with alleged irregularities in teacher rationalisation and promotion, received no immediate relief from the Chhattisgarh High Court. Facing a firm stance from the court over the seriousness of the matter, Yadav withdrew his petition with permission to approach the



appropriate departmental authority. The writ petition challenging his suspension was heard by a single bench of Justice B.D. Guru. Senior counsel appeared for Yadav, while Additional Advocate General Yashwant Singh Thakur represented the

state government. During the hearing, the government's counsel outlined the seriousness of the alleged irregularities. Justice Guru observed that Yadav should first appeal before the competent departmental authority under Rule 23

“The applicant should first appeal before the competent departmental authority.”
Single Bench
High Court, CG

of the applicable Conduct, Classification and Appeal (CCA) Rules. The court indicated that oth-

erwise it would proceed to decide the matter on its merits. After considering the court's position, advocate Amrito Das sought permission to withdraw the petition with liberty to approach the appropriate forum. The court allowed the request and disposed of the petition as withdrawn. The case relates to alleged large-scale financial and administrative irregularities in teacher rationalisation and promotion in Bilaspur district.

Fun & Focus



Daily Horoscope

ARIES

Sheer pleasure and enjoyment for those venturing out to have fun. You know the importance of money very well, which is why the money you save today will be useful in the future and get out of any major difficulty. Health of your spouse may cause reason for stress and anxiety.
Cosmic tip: Dive in with your floats.

TAURUS

Try to get out of your office early for some recreation. Today, some unemployed natives of this sign can get jobs, which will improve their financial condition. Friends and relatives will demand more attention but this is the perfect time to close the doors to the world and treat yourself royally.
Cosmic tip: Dung will never smell like flowers.

Gemini

Expectant mother should take special care while walking on floor and if possible don't stand with a friend while he is smoking as it could badly affect the unborn child. Today you can invest your money in religious activities, and most likely to incur mental peace and stability. Sisterly affection will encourage you. But you should not lose your temper over trifles.
Cosmic tip: Think again and decide for yourself.

Cancer

As food owes its flavour to salt-some unhappiness is essential only than you realize the value of happiness. Important people will be ready to finance anything that has a special class to it. The family's situation won't be normal as you think. Today, there is a possibility of an argument or dispute.
Cosmic tip: Put the fear to rest.

Leo

Your fondest dream will materialize. But keep your excitement under control as too much happiness may cause some problems. Today, seek the blessings of your elders before going out of the house, as it will benefit you. A dispute is likely to occur between family members regarding money matters.
Cosmic tip: Breathe life into your lungs again.

Virgo

Periodical breakdown may cause you some problems. Take a complete rest to keep your nervous system functioning. Investment needs to be made with a long-term perspective. If you have pressure on your mind-talk to your relatives or close friends as it would take the burden off your head.
Cosmic tip: Doesn't mean you have to do it.

Libra

You need to exhibit extreme courage and strength as you face some traumas. You could easily overcome these by your optimistic attitude. Your money comes to your work only when you stop yourself from spending extravagantly, today you can understand this thing well.
Cosmic tip: Keep moving.

Scorpio

Today you feel relaxed and in the right mood to enjoy. Your idea of saving money for yourself can be accomplished today. Today you will be able to save appropriately. You will find it difficult to please your parents. Try to understand and look the things from their perspective to give positive results.
Cosmic tip: You are reaching your goal post.

Sagittarius

You will have ample time to do things to improve your health and looks. The money you had saved up from a long time can come to use today. However, the expenditure can lower your spirit. Period of tension may prevail but family support will help you. Wedding bells for some while others will find romance to keep them in high spirits.
Cosmic tip: Your long-term goals are actions.

Capricorn

A special day today as good health will enable you to do something extraordinary. 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. Your brother will be more supportive to your needs than you had thought.
Cosmic tip: Look at the potential.

Aquarius

Do some mental exercise by reading something interesting. An old friend can ask you for financial help today. However, your assistance can weaken your financial conditions. Over indulgence in outdoor activities at the cost of studies could invite the wrath of your parents.
Cosmic tip: Be aware of distractions.

Pisces

Body pains and stress related problems cannot be ruled out. A new financial deal will get finalized and fresh money rolls in. Your domestic life will suffer if you spend extra time at office. You will think of doing something new in your free time today. However, you will be so occupied in this task that all other things will take a backseat.
Cosmic tip: Move past this indecisiveness.

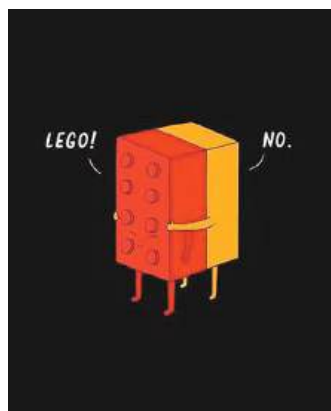
SCIENCE WATCH

The world of LEGO



LEGO bricks, are packed with amazing science, engineering, and math facts that kids can easily test and explore! The factory moulds that shape LEGO bricks are so precise that they are accurate to two-thousandths of a millimetre (0.002 mm).

No mistakes allowed



Because the Lego moulds are so exact, only about 18 out of every million bricks fail a quality check, which is no mistake is allowed. The name "LEGO" comes from two Danish words, leg godt, which translates to "play well".

LEGO is also tire king



LEGO brick made back in 1958 will still click together and lock perfectly with a brand-new brick you buy today. LEGO also makes hundreds of millions of tiny rubber and plastic tires for cars and trucks every year.

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

Subject VS Predicate

Subject

Part of the sentence that tells what or whom the sentence is about

The subject can only be an object i.e. noun or pronoun

Types of Subject:

1. Simple Subject (only subject)
2. Complete Subject (subject with a modifier)
- Compound Subject (two or more subject joined with a conjunction)

Examples:

- The wise man called the ambulance. (Complete subject)

Predicate

Part of the sentence that tells what the subject in the sentence is doing

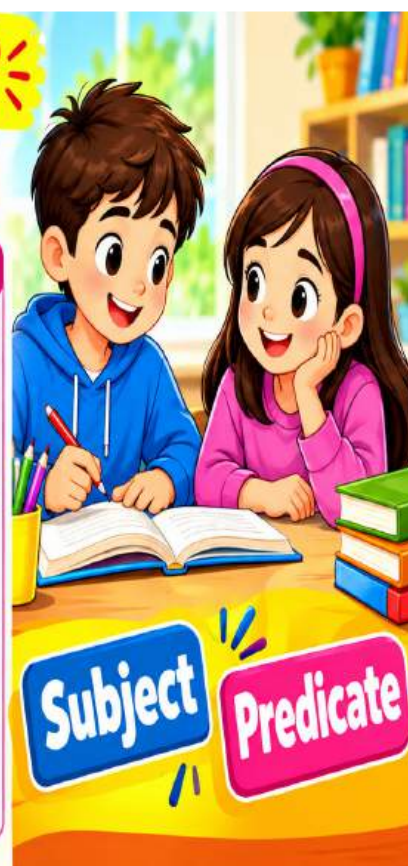
The predicate will contain verbs to tell what the subject is doing.

Types of Predicate:

1. Simple Predicate (only verb)
2. Complete Predicate (verbs with a modifier)
3. Compound Predicate (two or more verbs with conjunction)

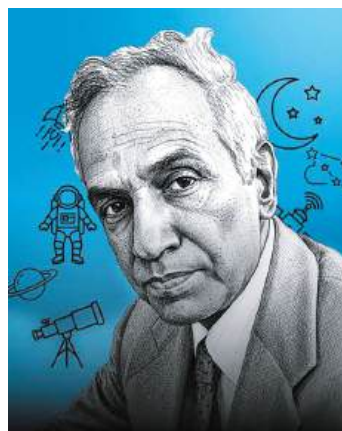
Examples:

She and her brother always quarrel for little things. (complete Predicate)



OCTOBER 19-THE DAY IN HISTORY

1. October 19 marks several major turning points in world and Indian history, including in 1970 - the first indigenous MiG-21 was handed to the IAF, and privy purses for former rulers were abolished.
2. On this day in 1910 was born Nobel laureate and astrophysicist Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar.
3. Same day in 1812 - Napoleon Bonaparte began his disastrous retreat from Moscow.
4. On October 19, 1943 - Streptomycin, the first effective antibiotic remedy for tuberculosis, was isolated.



Knowledge today brighter tomorrow

Learn Explore Grow Everyday

IT'S QUIZ TIME

1

Traditional maps can make countries near the equator appear much smaller than they really are. For example, Africa is shown as roughly the same size as Greenland, although Africa is actually 14 times larger. Which organisation recently adopted the "Correct the Map" resolution?

2

The novel Train to Pakistan, published in 1956, tells the story of the Partition of India through the fictional village of Mano Majra. Who wrote the novel?

3

Which fish is famous for climbing waterfalls and steep rocks using a powerful suction disc formed from its pelvic fins?

4

Which type of blood vessel has walls only one cell thick, allowing for the diffusion of oxygen, nutrients, and waste between the blood and body tissues?

5

The novel Anandamath, which inspired the song Vande Mataram, is set during which 18th-century rebellion in India?

6

For much of the 20th century, which company controlled much of the world's rough diamond supply and helped make diamonds a symbol of engagement through the famous slogan "A Diamond Is Forever"?

7

When Bhima was poisoned by Duryodhana and thrown into the Ganga, he reached the kingdom of the Nagas. Which Naga king gave Bhima a divine drink that greatly increased his physical strength?

Answers-

(6) De Beers (7) Aryaka
(4) Capillaries (5) Samnyasi-Fakir Rebellion
(2) Khushwant Singh (3) Hawaiian Goby
(1) United Nations General Assembly

RamaQuiz

TELL ME WHY?

Why do moths get attracted to light?

Back (dorsal side) points toward the light

Moths are not actually trying to visit or hug a light bulb; instead, artificial lights trick their built-in navigation and balance systems.

Flying insects do not have a heavy skeleton like humans to feel gravity the same way. Instead, they use a rule called the dorsal light response and in it they keep their backs (dorsal side) pointed toward the brightest light source—which is normally the open sky or the sun/moon.

FACT OF THE DAY

Meerkats leave their newborn pups with babysitters. They practice cooperative childcare where older siblings, subordinate group members stay behind in the underground burrow to baby-sit newborns while the rest goes out to forage.

WORD OF THE DAY

Epiphany

Meaning -

A sudden, powerful moment of realization or comprehension

Example -

"I had an epiphany about my study habits after failing the first test."

Synonyms -

Insight, Realization, Revelation

Antonyms -

Confusion, Ignorance, Bewilderment

LEARN GROW ACHIEVE

HOW IT IS ABBREVIATED

ABBREVIATIONS Full Words

1 GMO

2 CFC

3 PVC

4 EMF

5 ISDN

1- Genetically Modified Organism, 2- Chlorofluorocarbon 3- Polyvinyl Chloride, 4- Electromotive Force, 5- Potential of Hydrogen

ANSWERS

GMO CFC PVC EMF ISDN

APTITUDE TEST

Find the missing number in the series:

4, 9, 19, 39, 79, ?

A - 149

B - 159

C - 155

D - 169

ANSWER - B - 159

CROSSWORD -260

CROSSWORD SOLUTION- 259

Across

1 Yellow cage-bird (6)
4 Self-centred person (6)
8 Baffle (5)
9 Program for accessing the World Wide Web (7)
10 Rudolf --, ballet dancer (7)
11 Traditional board game (5)
12 Of ill-repute (9)
17 Cook's garb (5)
19 Venetian canal boat (7)
21 Snubs (7)
22 Fries (5)
23 Cold (6)
24 Largest of the Channel Islands (6)

Down

1 Gambling establishment (6)
2 Uncharged atomic particle (7)
3 Reimburse (5)
5 One of the Marx Brothers (7)
6 Point of debate (5)
7 Song bird (6)
9 Drinks (9)
13 Melodious (7)
14 Tales (7)
15 Material (6)
16 Go past (4,2)
18 Leader of a Jewish congregation (5)
20 Mother-of-pearl (5)

SUDOKU- 260

SUDOKU SOLUTION- 259

2 9 6 8 3 7 1 4 5

7 1 3 6 8 4 5 2 6

4 6 7 2 1 9 3 8 5

5 2 4 6 3 7 8 1 9

9 6 2 1 4 3 5 7 8

4 7 9 1 6 8 2 5 3

6 5 3 4 7 2 1 9 8

1 2 3 4 7 6 5 9 8

8 7 4 3 9 5 6 1 2

5 6 9 2 8 1 4 3 7

7 8 6 1 4 3 2 5 9

2 3 5 7 6 9 1 8 4

9 4 1 5 2 8 3 7 6

4 1 8 6 5 7 9 2 3

6 5 7 9 3 2 8 4 1

3 9 2 8 1 4 7 6 5

DAILY WORD SEARCH

- Acrid

■ Hard

■ Severe

■ Bitter

■ Heavy

■ Sharp

■ Brute

■ Hoarse

■ Stern

■ Coarse

■ Husky
- Stiff

■ Draconian

■ Rasping

■ Strident

■ Foul

■ Rigorous

■ Stubborn

■ Gruff

■ Rude

■ Guttural

■ Rugged

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

Business



“Long-term joint ventures between governments and private operators can encourage sustained investment, infrastructure modernisation and greater efficiency in port development.”
Yuvraj Narayan
CEO, DP World Group

India bars sugar based ethanol to protect supplies

Government restricts sugar-based ethanol procurement for 2026-27 while reducing maize incentives, aiming to safeguard domestic sugar availability without disrupting India’s fuel blending programme.

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: State-run oil marketing companies have excluded ethanol produced from sugarcane juice, sugar syrup and B-heavy molasses from their latest procurement tender for 2026-27, reflecting the government’s efforts to protect domestic sugar supplies while maintaining its ambitious petrol-blending programme. The tender, issued on October 16 by Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) on behalf of oil marketing companies, seeks approximately 11 billion litres of ethanol for the supply year beginning November 2026.

The procurement aims to support India’s nationwide programme of blending 20 per cent ethanol with petrol, commonly known as E20. “The Government of India has issued directions that sugar diversion for ethanol be reduced to zero for ethanol supply year 2026-27,” the tender document stated.

“No offers have been sought for ethanol produced from sugarcane juice, sugar or sugar syrup and B-heavy molasses in this quan-



tity bid tender,” it added. The decision represents a significant change in India’s ethanol procurement strategy, which previously relied on both sugarcane-based and grain-based feedstocks.

Under the revised framework, suppliers can offer ethanol manufactured from maize, broken rice, surplus rice procured through the Food Corporation of India and C-heavy molasses. The government has also reduced the procurement price for maize-based ethanol from Rs 71.86 to Rs 68.86 per litre.

Consequently, the additional incentive available to maize-based ethanol producers has declined from Rs 5.79 to Rs 2.79 per litre.

Industry participants

believe this reduction could affect producer margins, particularly when grain procurement and processing costs remain elevated.

The restrictions follow concerns over domestic sugar availability after inadequate rainfall in major sugar-producing states, particularly Maharashtra and Karnataka, raised fears of reduced production.

India, the world’s largest sugar consumer, must balance growing fuel requirements against the need to maintain adequate supplies for households and food-processing industries. Diverting sugarcane and sugar towards ethanol manufacturing can place additional pressure on domestic

availability when agricultural output weakens. However, ethanol blending remains central to India’s strategy for reducing dependence on imported crude oil and lowering vehicle emissions.

The programme has also created substantial opportunities for distilleries while generating additional demand for agricultural commodities. With sugar-based feedstocks restricted, grain-derived ethanol is expected to assume greater importance in meeting blending requirements.

This transition could increase demand for maize and rice while placing additional responsibility on grain-based distilleries to maintain consistent sup-

NUMBER

11

●Oil companies seek 11 billion litres ethanol while prioritising alternative agricultural feedstocks.

●Sugarcane juice and B-heavy molasses excluded from ethanol procurement to safeguard domestic sugar supplies.

●Maize ethanol procurement price reduced to Rs 68.86 per litre, affecting producers’ earnings.

plies. Industry experts believe feedstock availability, procurement economics and adequate processing capacity will determine whether suppliers can fulfil the tender requirements.

The latest policy adjustment highlights the government’s attempt to balance energy security, agricultural interests and consumer protection. The procurement arrangements will remain applicable throughout the ethanol supply year, extending from November 2026 until October 2027.

BizBriefs

BEST OF THE REST

COMBINED MARKET VALUATION

Mcap of nine of top-10 most valued firms surges by Rs 3.65 lakh cr; TCS shines



NEW DELHI: The combined market valuation of nine of the top-10 most valued firms surged by Rs 3.65 lakh crore last week, with TCS, Bharti Airtel and Infosys emerging as the biggest winners, amid a bullish trend in equities.

Last week, the BSE benchmark Sensex surged 2,256.94 points, or 3.11 per cent, and the NSE Nifty jumped 625.7 points, or 2.77 per cent. “Indian equity markets extended their recovery during the week, with the Nifty-50 and Sensex recording their strongest weekly performance in approximately six months. The Nifty-50 advanced around 2.8 per cent, while the Sensex gained approximately 3.1 per cent.

“The rally was primarily driven by a sharp rebound in information technology stocks following encouraging September quarter earnings, supported

by renewed buying interest in several heavyweight stocks,” Ponnudi R, CEO - Enrich Money, an online trading and wealth tech firm, said. While Reliance Industries, Bharti Airtel, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), State Bank of India, Bajaj Finance, Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) and Infosys were the gainers, Larsen & Toubro emerged as the only laggard.

The market valuation of TCS surged Rs 1,08,542.63 crore to Rs 8,91,134.96 crore, the most among the top-10 firms. Bharti Airtel added Rs 61,406.53 crore, taking its valuation to Rs 11,88,815.45 crore. The valuation of Infosys jumped Rs 55,893.05 crore to Rs 4,71,409.41 crore, and that of Reliance Industries zoomed Rs 53,047.56 crore to Rs 16,37,437.19 crore.

NEW MINING LAW

Centre plans overhaul of MMDR Act to create new mining law

NEW DELHI: The government is considering overhauling the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, into a comprehensive new mining law, a move aimed to incorporate ease of living and ease of doing business reforms, sources said.

The mines ministry administers the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (MMDR Act) The Act has been amended from time-to-time to keep pace with the evolving requirements of the mining and minerals sector, sources said.

In recent years, the Centre has made efforts to review the nation’s regulatory landscape to incorporate ease of living and ease of doing business reforms across all sectors. Considering that the mining and mineral sector is important for the economy, future technological progress, fulfilling the strategic needs of the country, and achieving the vision of Viksit Bharat by 2047, the MMDR Act, 1957, is proposed to be overhauled into a comprehensive and streamlined new mining law, sources said.

CLEARTRIP EYES EXPANSION

Cleartrip eyes sustained revenue growth driven by air travel



MUMBAI: Online travel technology platform Cleartrip expects to sustain its growth momentum in 2027, driven by steady expansion in air travel and a rising contribution from non-air businesses, according to a top executive of the company.

“The growth rate doubled year-on-year in 2026 and we expect to maintain similar momentum this year while aiming for a stronger business mix. The share of non-air business, including hotels, buses, trains and holiday packages, is expected to increase and there will be steady growth in air business as well,” Cleartrip chief growth and business officer Manjari Singhal told PTI. She said Cleartrip’s performance is growing 8-10 times faster than the industry in air travel and the non-air share has risen to 27 per cent and the company is targeting around 40 per cent by the end of 2027, she added.

NTPC NUCLEAR EXPANSION

NTPC to begin feasibility studies in more states for nuclear programme

NEW DELHI: State-owned NTPC plans to initiate feasibility studies in more states, including Uttar Pradesh, for proposed nuclear power projects as part of its drive to expand non-fossil fuel energy capacity to at least 2 GW by 2032, according to a senior official. As part of its energy diversification strategy, NTPC, which has five decades of experience in power generation, is targeting to set up 30 GW of nuclear projects in the country to contribute to the government’s ambitious 100 GW nuclear capacity target by 2047.

The company has completed feasibility studies in Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Odisha, and now it will start looking for locations in more states for nuclear projects, the official told PTI. Sharing details of the finalised locations, he said that as per the feasibility study, Banka in Bihar, Basai in Madhya Pradesh and Nabarangpur in Odisha have been identified as potential sites for the nuclear projects. “More states will be explored as the vision is 30 GW nuclear capacity by 2047.

Of course, Uttar Pradesh is on our list along with more states. We will conduct feasibility studies soon,” the official said the company’s plan is



to set up an average project having 1,400 MW with two units of 700 MW each. As part of the process, feasibility study for a nuclear project is submitted to the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE).

The Standing Site Selection Committee reviews the proposal, and if found technically feasible, puts it to the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) for further processing. Industry estimates suggest that to set up a nuclear power capacity of 1 gigawatt, typically an investment of Rs 15,000-20,000 crore is required, and the timeframe could be at least three years from concept to commissioning.

Five litres of water is needed to produce 1 unit of nuclear power. Land requirement depends on the size of the project, with a 1-square-kilometre exclusion zone. Among other inputs, continuous water supply is a key requirement for a nuclear project.

PNB aims to scale up quarterly profit to Rs 6,000 cr: Chandra

Press Trust Of India

PNB has already posted a net profit of Rs 5,500 crore.

NEW DELHI: After posting a quarterly net profit of Rs 5,500 crore in the September quarter, Punjab National Bank (PNB) is targeting Rs 6,000 crore in income over the next few quarters, its Managing Director and CEO Ashok Chandra said.

The country’s second-largest lender has maintained consistency in operating profit, net profit and other key parameters over the past four quarters, and expects this trend to continue, Chandra told PTI in an interview.

PNB has already posted a net profit of Rs 5,500 crore and is targeting further growth in operating profit, which



would also support an increase in net profit, he said. For the second quarter ended September 2026, PNB reported a 13 per cent rise in net profit to Rs 5,532 crore, driven by improved core income and a moderation in bad loans. The profit recorded was the highest ever in a quarter.

Despite treasury losses of around Rs 1,000 crore during the quarter, the bank managed to maintain growth in operating profit, he noted.

Treasury income declined by Rs 1,000 crore to Rs 753 crore in the second quarter from Rs 1,769 crore a year ago.

Jio platforms eyes AI led growth ahead of IPO

Press Trust Of India

Jio Platforms targets artificial intelligence, broadband and overseas technology markets for expansion.

NEW DELHI: Jio Platforms is preparing for its Rs 30,213-crore initial public offering (IPO), with brokerages identifying artificial intelligence, home broadband, enterprise services and international technology licensing as major drivers of future growth.

The public issue, priced between Rs 1,065 and Rs 1,119 per share, opens on October 21 and closes on October 23. Anchor investor bidding is scheduled for October 19. Institutional investors have reportedly indicated interest worth nearly Rs 2.5 lakh crore, reflecting significant enthusiasm ahead of the



offering. With its nationwide 5G rollout largely completed, Jio Platforms is shifting attention towards monetising its technological capabilities and expanding digital services.

Managing Director Akash Ambani and board director Isha Ambani outlined the company’s growth strategy during pre-IPO meetings with analysts and brokers.

Emkay Global highlighted Jio’s indigenous 5G technology stack, proprietary network systems and fixed wireless access capabilities as important competitive advantages. The bro-

HIGHLIGHT

● Brokerages identify strong growth opportunities while cautioning investors about regulatory challenges ahead.

kerage believes partnerships with international telecom operators could create additional revenue opportunities through technology exports.

GEPL identified the company’s JioBrain artificial intelligence platform, cloud-native architecture and investments in 6G research as promising growth areas.

HONDA TARGETS GROWTH |

Honda eyes six million domestic sales in FY27

Press Trust Of India

Honda expects stronger two-wheeler demand to drive domestic sales growth this fiscal.

NEW DELHI: Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India (HMSI) expects domestic sales to touch six million units during the financial year ending March 2027, representing approximately 4.3 per cent growth over the previous fiscal.

HMSI President and CEO Tsutsumu Otani expressed confidence about achieving the target, citing encouraging market conditions and strong festive-season demand.

“This year, the market and Honda’s sales have been very good. Now, with the Navratri season starting, it is going quite well. Considering the current pace, Honda’s domestic sales volume may be around six million units for the year,” Otani said.



HMSI President and CEO Tsutsumu Otani

India’s second-largest two-wheeler manufacturer recorded domestic dispatches of 3.04 million units during the first half of FY27, registering 13.5 per

HIGHLIGHT

● Honda plans capacity expansion while strengthening scooters, motorcycles and electric vehicle offerings.

cent year-on-year growth. Its market share stood at approximately 25 per cent.

According to the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers, overall domestic two-wheeler sales increased 17.6 per

cent to 12.09 million units during the same period.

Scooters contribute nearly 60 per cent of Honda’s sales, compared with approximately 40 per cent for the overall industry. However, the company intends to strengthen its presence across entry-level and premium motorcycles. Honda recently unveiled ten models, including the ADV 160 adventure scooter, QC3 electric scooter, Rebel 300 and CB500 roadster.



QUOTE FROM THE QUOTABLE

"Success comes through hard work, discipline, determination and dedication, while progress demands continuous learning, innovation and sincere efforts."

[M. Visvesvaraya]

| OUR VIEW |

Global Wave Of Riots Threatens Democracy Everywhere

The violent protests sweeping across France are not merely another episode of public anger. They reflect a disturbing global trend in which economic hardship, political frustration and declining public confidence are increasingly pushing societies towards confrontation. From Sri Lanka and Bangladesh to Nepal, and with similar tensions emerging in India, public discontent is becoming a serious challenge to democratic stability. France witnessed extraordinary scenes of destruction as hundreds of thousands of demonstrators protested against rising living costs, deteriorating public services and government failures. More than 1,200 arrests, injured police personnel, burning buildings and looted businesses exposed the dangerous transformation of legitimate protests into widespread disorder. Such violence cannot be justified, irrespective of the grievances involved. The developments recall the mass protests that shook Sri Lanka during its economic collapse, forcing political change amid unprecedented public anger. Bangladesh subsequently experienced violent upheaval driven by political dissatisfaction and demands for accountability. Nepal, too, witnessed powerful youth-led protests reflecting frustration with corruption, unemployment and political privilege. Although the circumstances differ, these movements share a troubling characteristic: growing distrust between citizens and those governing them. Young people increasingly feel excluded from economic opportunities and political decision-making. Rising prices, unemployment, inequality and perceived government indifference create conditions in which public frustration can rapidly escalate. India cannot afford to ignore these warning signals. While democratic demonstrations remain a constitutional right, episodes of communal tension, politically charged confrontations and violent protests demonstrate how quickly public grievances can threaten social harmony. Political parties must resist exploiting popular anger for electoral advantage. Equally important, governments must recognise that excessive force, delayed reforms and dismissive responses can deepen resentment rather than restore confidence. Police accountability, responsible political leadership and meaningful dialogue are essential to preventing escalation. Social media has further complicated matters by accelerating mobilisation, spreading inflammatory narratives and sometimes turning local disputes into nationwide confrontations. The lesson from France and South Asia is unmistakable. Democracy cannot survive through elections alone; it requires responsive institutions, economic fairness and public trust. Governments must address legitimate grievances before frustration erupts into violence. Equally, citizens must reject destruction as an instrument of political change. When dialogue fails and streets become battlegrounds, democracy itself pays the highest price.

| GUEST VIEW |

Thomas Edison: The Wizard Who Illuminated Humanity

Thomas Alva Edison remains one of history's greatest inventors, whose remarkable contributions transformed modern civilisation. His pioneering discoveries in electricity, communication and entertainment revolutionised everyday life and laid the foundation for technological advancement. Popularly known as the "Wizard of Menlo Park," Edison established a famous industrial research laboratory in New Jersey, where he developed several groundbreaking inventions. His improvements to the incandescent electric bulb made practical lighting widely accessible, changing how people lived and worked. Edison also invented the phonograph, which could record and reproduce sound. Interestingly, he considered this remarkable invention his personal favourite. His contributions to motion picture technology helped establish the foundations of the modern film industry. Another significant achievement was the development of the rechargeable nickel-iron alkaline storage battery. His work on electric power distribution further accelerated the widespread adoption of electricity. Despite receiving limited formal education and experiencing serious hearing difficulties, Edison displayed extraordinary determination and curiosity. He believed his impaired hearing helped him concentrate on experiments without unnecessary distractions. Holding more than 1,000 American patents, Edison demonstrated that perseverance, imagination and relentless experimentation could overcome limitations. Until his death on October 18, 1931, Edison remained devoted to scientific innovation, leaving an extraordinary legacy that continues to illuminate humanity.



Dr Ganapathi Bhat

Comment

New Generation Marriage: Aspirations and Expectations

Marriage in India has never been merely a relationship between two individuals. Traditionally, it has been viewed as a bond between two families, supported by social values, responsibilities, traditions and shared expectations. However, the meaning and expectations surrounding marriage are changing rapidly. The new generation is growing up in an India that is more modern, digital, career-oriented and globally connected. As a result, marriage today is increasingly becoming a personal decision influenced by career aspirations, financial independence, emotional compatibility, lifestyle choices and individual freedom. This transformation represents a changing society. The real challenge is to find a healthy balance between individual aspirations and expectation.

Career First, Marriage Later : One of the most visible changes among young generation are the increasing importance given to education and career before marriage. Young people want to become financially independent, establish professional identities and experience personal growth before taking on family responsibilities. A young woman today may want to build her career, become financially independent and make decisions about marriage on her own terms. Similarly, young men face increasing expectations to establish stable careers, earn sufficiently and achieve professional success before marriage.

The problem begins when career building becomes an endless race. The desire to achieve "more" can lead to postponement of marriage and family life without a clear understanding of what one actually wants from life. Career is important, but career success alone cannot guarantee a fulfilling life. Young people need to ask themselves not only, "What do I want to become?" but also, "What kind of life do I want to build?"

Changing Expectations from Marriage

Earlier generations often entered marriage with an attitude of adjustment, compromise and long-term commitment. Today, young people increasingly seek companionship, friendship, emotional support, equality and compatibility. This is an important change. Marriage should not be based only on social obligation. Emotional compatibility, mutual respect and shared values matter greatly.

At the same time, excessive expectations can create difficulties. Social media and popular culture often present idealized images of relationships. Young people may unconsciously expect a partner to be simultaneously a best friend, emotional counsellor, financial partner, travel companion, perfect communicator and constant source of happiness. Real relationships are different. Every marriage involves differences in personality, habits, priorities and expectations. Compatibility does not mean similarity in everything; it means the ability to respect differences and grow together.

Parents' Perspective: Concern or Interference? :Parents remain an important part of the Indian family system. Their concerns about marriage usually arise from love, experience and a desire to protect their children. They worry about financial stability, family background, social compatibility, long-term security and the wellbeing of their children.

However, the younger generation sometimes experiences these concerns as pressure or interference. The generation gap becomes particularly visible when parents believe that marriage should happen at a particular age, while their children want to wait until they are personally and professionally ready.

Parents need to recognize that their children are living in a different social and economic environment from the one in which they grew up. At the same time, young people should not dismiss parental wisdom simply because it comes from an older generation. The answer lies in dialogue rather than confrontation. Parents can share their concerns without imposing decisions, while young people can



Dr. Yasin Sheikh
Dean NIT Nagpur

communicate their choices without disrespecting their parents.

The Social Dimension : Marriage continues to have a strong social dimension in India. Relatives, neighbors, friends and extended families often have opinions about when and whom a person should marry. Questions such as "When are you getting married?", "Why are you delaying?", or "What is the problem?" may appear harmless but can create considerable psychological pressure.

There is also increasing acceptance of inter-caste, inter-regional and intercultural marriages in many parts of India. Young people are meeting potential partners through workplaces, universities, professional networks and digital platforms. This has expanded the possibilities of finding companionship beyond traditional social boundaries.

Yet social acceptance is not uniform. Differences in caste, religion, economic background, language and family expectations can still create challenges for couples. Therefore, the future of Indian marriage may require a shift from social conformity to social maturity—where families respect individual choices while encouraging responsible decision-making.

The Physical and Emotional Dimension :Marriage is also a physical and emotional relationship. However, conversations about physical intimacy, reproductive health, contraception and sexual wellbeing remain uncomfortable in many Indian families.Emotional wellbeing is equally important. Stress, anxiety, loneliness, work pressure and financial concerns can affect relationships. Couples need the ability to communicate openly, manage disagreements and seek professional counselling when necessary. There should be no shame in seeking counselling. Seeking help is not a sign of failure; it can be a sign of responsibility and maturity.

Financial Independence and Shared Responsibility: Money is another major factor influencing modern marriages. Housing costs, education loans, lifestyle expectations, career uncertainty and changing employment patterns can place

considerable pressure on young couples.The traditional assumption that one partner will automatically be the primary financial provider is gradually changing. Many young couples are both professionally active and financially independent. This requires a new understanding of household responsibility. Cooking, childcare, household management and financial planning should increasingly be viewed as shared responsibilities rather than duties determined only by gender. A successful marriage should ideally be a partnership, not a power structure.

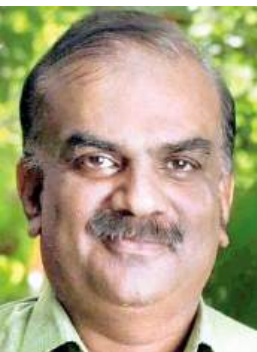
The Need for a New Marriage Mindset: The new generation does not necessarily need to reject traditional values. Instead, it can reinterpret them .Similarly, parents do not need to abandon their cultural values. They need to understand that values are best transmitted through conversation and example rather than pressure. The real question is not whether children are marrying "too early" or "too late". The more important question is whether they are emotionally, financially and socially prepared to build a partnership.

Building Relationships for Life: The ideal approach is to see marriage and career as two dimensions of life that can complement each other when planned thoughtfully. Young people need self-awareness, emotional maturity, financial responsibility, communication skills and realistic expectations. Parents need patience, trust and openness. Society needs greater acceptance of individual choices while encouraging responsibility and mutual respect.

The marriage of tomorrow will probably look different from the marriage of yesterday. But some principles will remain timeless: trust, respect, communication, commitment, companionship and the willingness to grow together. Ultimately, the success of marriage is not determined by how perfectly two people fit together at the beginning. It is determined by how sincerely they learn, adapt, communicate and stand together as life changes.

Hockey Returns to Its Heartland in Punjab

Punjab, the cradle of Indian hockey, is preparing to welcome Asia's leading teams as the Asian Champions Trophy brings international action back to the sport's historic heartland.



Dr. Vasisht M.C.

Punjab will host the 9th Men's Asian Champions Trophy from October 27 to November 5, 2026, marking the first time the prestigious international hockey tournament will be held in the state. The competition, organised by the Asian Hockey Federation (AHF), will be staged across Jalandhar and Mohali, bringing top Asian teams to a region deeply connected with Indian hockey.

The tournament will feature six countries: India, Bangladesh, China, South Korea, Japan and Malaysia. India, the defending champion after winning consecutive titles in 2023 and 2024, will aim to continue its dominance on home soil.

The opening ceremony and all round-robin matches will take place at the Olympian Surjit Hockey Stadium in Jalandhar. The semi-finals, medal matches and closing ceremony are scheduled for the Olympian Balbir Singh Senior International Hockey Stadium in Mohali.

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann unveiled the tournament emblem on September 14, 2026, alongside representatives of Hockey India and the Asian Hockey Federation. The state government has approved a budget of Rs. 25.40 crore, including Rs. 22.96 crore for infrastructure development and upgrades at the two venues. Entry to all tournament matches will be free, giving fans an opportunity to



experience international hockey without ticket costs.

Punjab's association with hockey stretches across generations. Its villages, academies and sporting institutions have produced numerous players who have represented India at the highest level. Legendary Olympians Udhham Singh and Balbir Singh Senior helped establish the state's reputation, while contemporary stars such as Manpreet Singh and Har-

manpreet Singh continue that tradition.

Despite this rich legacy, Punjab has hosted relatively few major international hockey tournaments in recent decades. The 2009 Punjab Gold Cup was among the last significant international competitions held in the state. The upcoming championship therefore represents an important opportunity to reconnect local supporters with elite international hockey.

India captain Harmanpreet Singh, who led the team to consecutive Asian Games gold medals, described the tournament as a special occasion, particularly for players from Punjab. Representing India in their home state, he said, would be a memorable experience.

India has enjoyed considerable success in Asian hockey, winning the Men's Asia Cup five times, including the 2025 edition. The Asia Cup is a separate competition from the Asian Champions Trophy, with its winner earning qualification for the FIH Men's Hockey World Cup.

Beyond the battle for the title, the 2026 Asian Champions Trophy carries wider significance. It offers Punjab an opportunity to showcase its sporting heritage, improve hockey infrastructure and inspire a new generation of players. Most importantly, it brings international hockey back to a region that has helped shape India's identity in the sport.

YOURLETTERS

Can courts define religions as inclusive or exclusive?

The Madras High Court's FCRA ruling raises questions about judicial interpretation of religious doctrines. While courts can examine an organisation's activities and statutory compliance, declaring Hinduism "inclusive" and Abrahamic religions "inherently exclusive" enters contested theological territory. All major religious traditions contain diverse beliefs and practices, making absolute classifications problematic. The debate becomes more complex with "Ghar Wapsi," a term used by Hindu organisations for religious conversion described as a return to ancestral roots.

Yah Pal Ralhan,Jalandhar

Strengthen tea safety standards through better testing

The FSSAI's proposed Maximum Residue Limits for Acetamiprid and Imidacloprid pesticides in tea represent a welcome step towards consumer safety. Aligning domestic standards with international benchmarks can protect public health while supporting farmers' crop protection requirements. Clear regulations will encourage responsible pesticide use, promote sustainable cultivation and strengthen confidence in Indian tea across global markets. However, effective implementation requires stronger regional testing laboratories, regular monitoring and affordable testing facilities to ensure compliance and safeguard consumers.

Dr. Vijaykumar H K, Raichur

“As an actor, theatre fosters a unique intimacy with the audience; you can actually see them, hear them catch their breath, and share in their laughter. You become completely immersed in a live performance there is a distinct, magical quality to it that is truly one of a kind,”

Minishsha Lamba



&Glitters

O.T.T Watch



Dragon Ball Super gets overhaul

The early storylines of the beloved anime franchise receive a complete structural overhaul in this enhanced 19-episode series. Featuring reconstructed animation and newly produced footage from Toei Animation, the series streamlines longtime fans and newcomers.



Tenzing is salute to the Sherpa

Director Jennifer Peedom and writer Luke Davies bring the historic conquest of Mount Everest to the screen, shifting the cinematic focus directly onto the legendary Sherpa mountaineer Tenzing Norgay. Currently streaming on Apple TV



Moneytrap: The Karun Treasure

The hit Turkish crime comedy franchise Organize Isler expands into an eight-episode event series marking twenty years since its cinematic debut. Yilmaz Erdogan returns to star as the iconic con artist Asim Noyan, alongside a massive ensemble cast including Kivanc Tatlitug.



Masterplan is volatile

Stanley Tucci, Simona Tabasco and Victor Belmondo spearhead this heist film directed by Thomas Vincent about an estranged family forced into an unexpected and chaotic reunion. It is streaming on Prime Video.



Aasha brings family secrets

Urvashi, Joju George and Aishwarya Lekshmi anchor this Malayalam psychological thriller centred around a deeply buried family secret that unexpectedly resurfaces, setting off a chain reaction of suspicion among the core characters.

CLOSE UP

Neha Dhupia looks back on two missed opportunities

Neha Dhupia reveals two major projects she regrets turning down.

Central Chronicle News

The actor missed Shah Rukh Khan's Chak De India and Operation Safed Sagar.

Actor Neha Dhupia has opened up about two career opportunities she wishes she had accepted: Shah Rukh Khan's sports drama Chak De India and the military series Operation Safed Sagar. Looking back, she admitted that missing out on both projects has stayed with her. Neha discussed these decisions during a board game session on her chat show Double Date. She revealed that she had always wanted to explore sports and military-themed stories but eventually let go of opportunities to work in both genres. “Sometimes, when you look back at the opportunities you turned down, you realise what you may have missed,” the actor said, acknowledging that these projects remain among her professional regrets. Released in 2007, Chak De India featured Shah Rukh Khan as Kabir Khan, a former Indian men's hockey team captain who takes charge of coaching the women's national hockey team. Produced by Yash Raj Films, the film also starred Vidya Malavade, Shilpa Shukla, Sagarika Ghatge



Two missed opportunities haunt Neha



and Chitrashi Rawat. Celebrated for its sports narrative and team spirit, the film remains a memorable title in Hindi cinema. Meanwhile, Operation Safed Sagar: The Untold Story of the Kargil War is a 2026 Netflix series inspired by the Indian Air Force's contribution during the 1999 Kargil conflict. Its six episodes follow pilots of the Golden Arrows squadron as they undertake dangerous

combat missions. The ensemble cast includes Siddharth, Jimmy Shergill, Abhay Verma, Dia Mirza and Adil Hussain. Neha made her Bollywood debut with Qayamat: City Under Threat in 2003 and later appeared in films including Julie, Singh Is Kinng and Tumhari Sulu. She now hosts Double Date with husband Angad Bedi, expanding her presence across entertainment platforms.

| HOLLYWOOD |

Sylvester Stallone admits his biggest regret in Hollywood

Central Chronicle News

HIGHLIGHT

● Sylvester Stallone regrets performing his own stunts after suffering years of painful injuries.

Hollywood star Sylvester Stallone has opened up about the physical toll of performing his own stunts, admitting that he deeply regrets putting his body through years of injuries. In a recent interview with Fox News Digital, the 80-year-old actor recalled the painful consequences of his action career, saying he has “millions, millions of regrets” about his experiences. Stallone revealed that his injuries became particularly severe after a stunt went

wrong while filming the 2010 action thriller The Expendables, which also featured Jason Statham and Mickey Rourke. The incident left him with a fractured neck and dislocated shoulders, leading to several major surgeries. The actor said he subsequently underwent nine back operations and three neck fusions. He also suf-



fered serious shoulder injuries and eye-related complications, describing the entire experience as brutal. Stallone admitted that he has never been quite the same since the surgeries. Reflecting on his decision to perform danger-

ous sequences himself, the Rocky star advised aspiring performers against taking similar risks. He emphasised that professional stunt performers should handle physically demanding scenes instead of actors attempting to prove themselves on set. “Don't be a stage hawk, or whatever you call it, a showboat,” Stallone said, encouraging people to let professionals do their jobs. He further explained that physical consequences cannot be avoided simply through confidence or determination. “You cannot beat

Sylvester Stallone regrets doing his own stunts

gravity; when you hit the ground, you lose,” he said. Stallone also dismissed the idea that he should feel proud of his injuries, bluntly admitting, “I think I'm an idiot for doing that.” His candid remarks highlight the lasting consequences of action filmmaking and the importance of prioritising safety over spectacle. The actor, director and writer recently released his memoir, The Steps, offering readers another glimpse into his personal and professional journey.

CineBriefs

BEST OF THE REST

Web Series

Radhika Apte calls Akka an intriguing story

Radhika Apte has revealed what attracted her to Akka, an upcoming gangster saga produced by YRF Entertainment. Following the teaser launch, the actress said the complexity of its characters and their conflicting perspectives made the project intriguing. She plays Rudra, a strong-willed woman driven by her convictions, alongside Keerthy Suresh as Bhavani. Set in the 1980s, the series explores Pernuru, a kingdom shaped by generations of women who built, governed and protected their world. Directed and written by Dhar-maraj Shetty, Akka marks Keerthy's first series with Netflix and premieres on October 30, promising a gripping story of power, traditions and rivalries.

Hot Pair

Yash calls wife Radhika his biggest strength



Actor Yash offered a heartfelt glimpse into his relationship with wife Radhika Pandit at the Bengaluru trailer launch of Ramayana. Speaking about her unwavering support, he humorously called himself “Radhika Ka Pati”, drawing a playful parallel with “Sitapati”. Acknowledging how she stands by his creative choices, Yash said having a strong support system at home makes it easier to take unconventional roles. Referring to his portrayal of Ravana, he highlighted the importance of a partner who believes in one's ideas and experiments. His candid remarks celebrated Radhika's role as his biggest strength beyond the spotlight.



Music

Badshah hints at his next Marathi film song

Rapper Badshah is set to explore Marathi music further after the success of his debut Marathi track, Chimna. Speaking to the media at the Khidkiyaan Theatre Film Festival, the singer revealed that his next musical project is connected to a Marathi film, though he kept details under wraps. Badshah did not disclose the song's title, collaborators or release date, asking fans to wait for an official announcement. Released on August 31, 2026, Chimna featured Divya Kumar and Nagesh Morwekar, with Neha Khan appearing in its music video, blending contemporary hip-hop with Maharashtrian folk influences.

Trending on Insta

@saifalikhanaonline

Ibrahim questions Saif's Instagram debut

Saif Ali Khan's Instagram debut sparked a playful exchange with son Ibrahim Ali Khan. When Ibrahim questioned whether the account belonged to his father, Saif shared an old childhood picture of him, continuing their witty banter. The interaction amused fans online.





Wellness

WORLD SPINE DAY

Your spine is strength – let it keep moving

A healthy spine needs regular movement, gentle exercise and mindful habits.

Long hours at a desk, poor posture and a lack of physical activity can leave the back feeling stiff and uncomfortable. Observed on October 16, World Spine Day reminds people to prioritise spinal health through regular movement, gentle exercises and everyday habits that support flexibility and mobility.

Cat-Cow Stretch

Start on your hands and knees, with wrists below shoulders. Round your back and tuck your chin towards your chest. Then lower your abdomen and lift your chest. Move between both positions while breathing normally.

Pelvic Tilts

Lie on your back with knees bent and feet flat. Tighten your abdominal muscles and tilt your pelvis, bringing your lower back towards the floor. Hold briefly, relax and repeat.

Bird-Dog Exercise

Begin on your hands and knees. Extend your right arm forward and left leg backwards, keeping your back steady. Return to the starting position and switch sides.



Move more to ease back stiffness.

This engages core muscles and challenges balance.

Glute Bridge

Lie on your back with knees bent and feet flat. Tighten your abdomen, squeeze your buttocks and lift your hips. Pause briefly before lowering. This strengthens the glutes and supports trunk stability.

Knee-to-Chest Stretch

Lie on your back and bring one knee towards your chest, holding it comfortably. Keep the other knee bent if needed. Release after a few seconds and repeat on the opposite side.

Walking

Take a five-to-ten-minute walk to break up prolonged sitting. Relax your shoulders and gradually increase the duration. Daily movement supports overall fitness and helps reduce stiffness from sitting for long periods.

Perform each movement gently and stop if pain increases. Seek medical advice for persistent discomfort or new leg weakness, numbness, or bladder or bowel changes.

HIGHLIGHT

- From gentle stretches to walking, these movements support a healthier back.



Which sleeping position is better for your spine?



Both back and side sleeping can support spinal health, depending on individual comfort and existing medical conditions. Spine surgeons recommend getting at least seven hours of sleep regularly. People with

lumbar disc disease or spinal stenosis may find side sleeping more comfortable because it can create more space around the nerves. Those who prefer sleeping on their backs can place a pillow beneath their knees for added comfort. Avoid twisting your spine while changing positions; move your shoulders and hips together to keep your back aligned.

BAG STRAIN ON SPINE

Can one shoulder bag strain your spine?



Carrying a handbag, laptop bag or backpack on the same shoulder daily may affect posture and cause discomfort. Uneven weight makes the body compensate by raising one shoulder or tilting sideways, forcing spinal muscles to work unevenly. Over time, this may lead to muscle fatigue, neck and shoulder pain, and upper-back stiffness. Students, office-goers and people carrying heavy bags for extended periods may face greater risks. To prevent discomfort, alternate shoulders, reduce bag weight, maintain good posture and exercise regularly. This habit does not automatically cause serious spinal conditions, but balanced carrying habits can help minimise strain.

| SELF - SILENCING |

Hydration tips for energetic Garba nights

Central Chronicle News

Enjoy Garba nights safely with simple hydration tips to prevent dehydration.

Garba nights bring hours of dancing. However, continuous movement, sweating and fasting can increase the risk of dehydration. Staying hydrated helps regulate body temperature, maintain energy and prevent fatigue, dizziness, headaches and muscle cramps. Drink water before, during and after dancing instead of waiting until thirst sets in. Carry a water



Don't let dehydration spoil Garba

bottle and take regular sips during breaks. People dancing in crowded venues or warm conditions should be careful

about fluid loss. Along with water, coconut water, buttermilk and lemon water can contribute to fluid intake.

Water-rich fruits such as watermelon, oranges and cucumber also help replenish fluids. During prolonged dancing and

heavy sweating, electrolyte replacement may be useful.

Those observing a fast should prioritise fluids during permitted hours. Sip water between breaking the fast and bedtime rather than drinking large quantities at once. Include fruits, milk and coconut water in meals. Avoid excessive tea, coffee, sugary beverages and very salty foods, which may increase thirst.

Fluid requirements vary according to age, body size, activity levels, weather and health conditions. Children, adolescents, men and

women may have different needs. Drinking water before Garba can help prepare the body for fluid loss. Pale yellow urine generally indicates adequate hydration.

Dark yellow urine, dry mouth, excessive thirst, headaches, tiredness and dizziness may signal dehydration. If someone feels unwell, help them stop dancing and move to a cool place. Offer water if they are alert and can swallow safely. Confusion, fainting or persistent symptoms require urgent medical attention.

Wear breathable clothing, take regular breaks and avoid pushing through discomfort. With hydration and adequate rest, you can enjoy Navratri celebrations while protecting your health.

HealthTips

HEALTHY INDIAN MEALS FOR RECOVERY



Hydration in Every Refreshing Sip

Ingredients

1 glass fresh coconut water, 5–6 mint leaves, 1 tsp lemon juice and a few ice cubes.

Instructions

Lightly crush the mint leaves to release their aroma. Mix them with coconut water and lemon juice. Add ice cubes, stir gently and serve immediately for a refreshing festive drink.

Benefits

Coconut water supplies fluids and electrolytes, including potassium, while lemon adds a citrusy flavour. This simple cooler helps replenish fluids lost through sweating during long Garba sessions.

Lemon, Honey and Ginger Refresher

Ingredients

1 glass chilled water, juice of half a lemon, 1 tsp honey, a small piece of grated ginger and a pinch of salt.

Instructions

Mix lemon juice, honey and grated ginger in water. Add a pinch of salt, stir thoroughly and allow the flavours to blend for a few minutes.

Benefits

Water supports hydration, while lemon and ginger add refreshing flavour. A little salt provides sodium, which may help replace some electrolytes lost during prolonged dancing and sweating.



Spiced Buttermilk with Curry Leaves

Ingredients

1 cup plain curd, 1 cup water, 5 curry leaves, half a tsp roasted cumin powder, chopped coriander and a pinch of salt.

Instructions

Whisk curd and water until smooth. Blend in curry

leaves and coriander, then add roasted cumin powder and salt. Mix well and refrigerate briefly before serving alongside a fasting-friendly meal.

Benefits

Buttermilk contributes fluids, protein and calcium. Its cooling texture and savoury flavour make it a refreshing accompaniment during warm Navratri days, helping support hydration between dance sessions.

Watermelon Basil Cooler

Ingredients

1 cup chilled watermelon cubes, 4 fresh basil leaves, 1 tsp lemon juice and half a cup of cold water.

Instructions

Blend watermelon and water until smooth. Add lemon juice and gently crushed basil leaves. Stir well and serve immediately without adding sugar, allowing the fruit's natural sweetness to shine through.

Benefits

Watermelon contains substantial water, making it useful for increasing fluid intake. It also provides vitamin C and other nutrients, while basil and lemon lend a refreshing twist to this colourful festive drink.



Cucumber, Lemon and Mint Cooler

Ingredients

Half a cucumber, 1 glass chilled water, 6 mint leaves, juice of half a lemon and a small pinch of salt.

Instructions

Blend cucumber, mint leaves and water until smooth. Add lemon juice and salt, then stir thoroughly. Strain if desired and serve chilled, garnished with a thin cucumber slice and fresh mint.

Benefits

Cucumber adds water, while lemon and mint enhance the flavour without requiring added sugar.

Sports



“Someone needs to put a shoulder around West Indies cricket financially, and strong performances against India can help attract sponsors.”

Daren Sammy
West Indies head coach.

Matata wins Delhi Half Marathon men’s race, Alemu takes women’s crown

Kenya’s Charles Matata set a new course record while Ethiopia’s Wudinesh Alemu claimed the women’s title as nearly 40,000 participants celebrated Delhi’s premier road-running event.

Press Trust Of India

Matata clocked 58:52, breaking the previous course record by one second.

NEW DELHI: Kenya’s Charles Matata produced a record-breaking performance to win the men’s elite race at the 2026 Vedanta Delhi Half Marathon on Sunday, while Ethiopia’s Wudinesh Alemu emerged victorious in the women’s category. Nearly 40,000 people took to the streets of the national capital for the 21st edition of the prestigious event.

Matata completed the 21.097-kilometre distance in 58 minutes and 52 seconds, improving the previous course record of 58:53 set by Ethiopia’s Amedework Walelegn in 2020. The 29-year-old also registered a personal best, surpassing his previous mark of 59:15 recorded at the Riga Half Marathon in May.

The achievement was particularly impressive given the challenging conditions, with humidity around 90 per cent and temperatures hovering near 21 degrees Celsius. Matata finished second in the 2023 edition in 1:00:05. His victory earned him USD 27,000, while the course record brought an additional USD 12,000.

Kenya swept the men’s



Men’s elite race winner Kenya’s Charles Matata, runner-up Samwel Nyamai Mailu and second runner-up Stanley Mburu at medal ceremony. Photo: PTI

podium, with Samwel Nyamai Mailu finishing second in 59:24 and Stanley Waithaka Mburu taking third in 59:33. Matata’s twin brother, Alex, had won the previous edition in 59:50.

In the women’s elite race, Alemu crossed the

finish line in 1:06:35. Kenya’s Selah Businei finished second in 1:07:01, followed by compatriot Cynthia Chelangat

Chepkwony in 1:07:32.

Indian runners also delivered notable performances. Shailesh Kushwaha won the men’s Indian elite category in 1:05:05, ahead of Gaurav Mathur (1:05:11) and Hemant Kumar (1:05:37). Ankita Dhyani claimed the women’s Indian elite title in 1:12:46, with Soniya (1:14:56) and Bhagirathi (1:15:51) completing the podium.

The World Athletics Gold Label race offered a total prize purse of USD 275,732, with the international men’s and women’s champions each receiving USD 27,000.

The event proceeded along a revised route after organisers removed Rail Bhawan, Sansad Marg and Patel Chowk from the traditional course amid protests near the landmarks. The races began at 5:18 am, with Union Minister Kiren Rijiju, Chief of Defence Staff General N S Raja Subramani and World Athletics Vice President Adille Sumariwalla present. Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta flagged off the Great Delhi Run, while Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah participated in the half marathon. Bahamas sprinter and two-time Olympic champion Shaunae Miller-Uibo served as international event ambassador.

| TILAK EMBRACES FINISHING |

Tilak Varma embraces finisher’s role, ready to bat anywhere for India

Press Trust Of India

Tilak Varma is embracing his lower-order role, determined to finish matches for India.

BENGALURU: India vice-captain Tilak Varma has admitted that moving down the batting order from No. 3 to No. 5 or 6 is challenging, but he remains confident about adapting to his new responsibilities in T20 internationals.

The left-handed batter said he has been working consistently on improving his skills and expanding his range of shots to meet the demands of finishing matches. Speaking after the fifth and final T20I against the West Indies was abandoned due to rain in Bengaluru on Saturday, Tilak reiterated



ated his commitment to the team’s requirements.

“It’s not that easy to change the numbers from 3 to 5 and 6. It will be slightly challenging. But I have been working on that,” he said, adding that he enjoys finishing games for India.

Tilak acknowledged that Ishan Kishan’s impressive performances at No. 3, Shreyas Iyer’s presence at No. 4 and the management’s preference for Abhishek Sharma and Sanju Samson at the top have necessitated his move down

HIGHLIGHT

- Tilak averages 65.66 at No. 6, striking at an impressive 195.
- The Indian vice-captain is strengthening his finishing skills through focused practice.

the order.

The 23-year-old has delivered encouraging numbers in his new role. Across nine innings at No. 6, he averages 65.66 at a strike rate of 195. Across 26 innings at No. 5 and 6 combined, he averages 46 at a strike rate of 158.

Tilak said he is focusing on developing the ability to attack different deliveries, particularly slower balls, during the limited opportunities available to finishers.

Series result could have been different had we bowled better: Iyer

BENGALURU: India captain Shreyas Iyer on Saturday said the result of the five-match T20I series against the West Indies could have been different had they bowled better in two games they lost. The series ended at 2-2 after the fifth and final T20I was called off due to rain. “It could have been different considering we would have bowled better in the second and fourth game. Credit where it is due, they batted well. The way (Shai) Hope batted throughout the series.” Asked what he tells someone like Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, who warned the bench during the series, Iyer said: “I just keep telling him you will get the opportunity, if you be consistent about your processes, you have to wait sometimes, we have got two fantastic openers, that’s the conversation we have been having with Vaibhav.”

| AVASKAR BACKS BOWLING STRENGTH |

Gavaskar calls Hardik Pandya irreplaceable, urges India to strengthen bowling

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Former India captain Sunil Gavaskar has said Hardik Pandya is irreplaceable and advised the team management against searching for a like-for-like replacement for the star all-rounder. Instead, he urged India to identify players capable of performing different roles while maintain-

ing the bowling attack’s strength.

Speaking on Jio-Star after the fifth T20I against the West Indies was abandoned due to rain in Bengaluru on Saturday, Gavaskar stressed that India should field at least four specialist bowlers. The remaining two bowling options could be all-rounders who also contribute with the bat. Gavaskar cited young



batter Naman Dhir as an example, praising his ability to bowl effectively and deliver quick runs. Dhir scored an

“Hardik Pandya is irreplaceable. If you can’t find somebody of his calibre, then go with somebody who will do a slightly different job.”

Sunil Gavaskar
Former India captain

unbeaten 24 off just six balls in the rain-affected match, which ended after only 7.4 overs.

The former captain warned that prioritising batting depth until No. 8 could weaken India’s bowling and cost the team matches. He also emphasised the need to identify preferred spin options and consistently back them to build confidence in the shortest format.

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

YAMAL STEALS SPOTLIGHT

Yamal takes center stage as ruthless Barcelona crush Real Betis ahead of PSG clash



BARCELONA: Lamine Yamal inspired Barcelona to a commanding 5-2 victory over Real Betis, extending their winning run ahead of Tuesday’s Champions League clash against Paris Saint-Germain. The 19-year-old opened the scoring in the 10th minute with a stunning finish, beating Facundo Bernal before curling the ball inside the far post. He later assisted Gabriel Jesus for Barcelona’s

third goal. The match turned controversial when Yamal clashed with Bernal off the ball. Bernal was sent off, while Yamal received a yellow card following the confrontation. Eric Garcia and Dani Olmo added further goals as Barcelona secured another impressive victory. Despite spirited resistance from Betis, the visitors maintained control to complete the five-goal performance. **PTI**

PSG COMPLETES COMEBACK

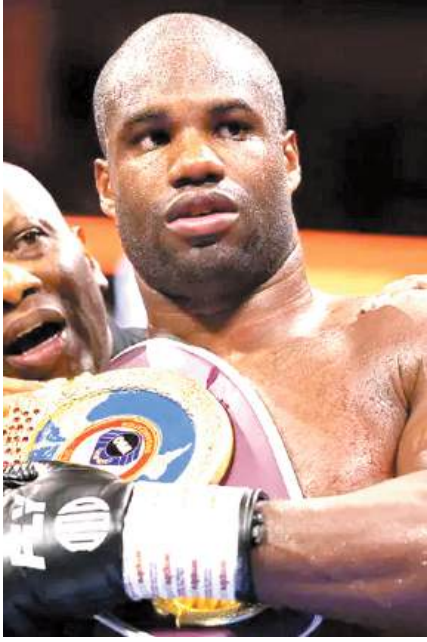
PSG recovers to beat Strasbourg with late goals ahead of Barcelona showdown



PARIS: Paris Saint-Germain staged a late comeback to defeat Strasbourg, keeping their momentum going ahead of a crucial clash against Barcelona. Strasbourg took the lead in the 17th minute through United States midfielder Gio Reyna, whose low shot put the hosts under pressure. PSG coach Luis Enrique initially rested several key players, including Ousmane Dembélé, Désiré Doué, Vitinha, Nuno Mendes and Achraf Hakimi, apparently with the upcoming European encounter in mind. The key players eventually entered the contest, but Dembélé missed a penalty in the 72nd minute. Ukraine defender Illya Zabarnyi equalised five minutes later, before Dembélé scored in the 85th minute to put PSG ahead. Doué sealed the victory with a stoppage-time goal. Meanwhile, Lille drew 1-1 with Brest, missing the opportunity to move top, while Lens secured a 3-1 victory over Troyes. **PTI**

DUBOIS DOMINATES WARDLEY

Dubois retains WBO heavyweight title with brutal second-round stoppage victory



LONDON: Daniel Dubois retained his WBO heavyweight title after delivering a devastating second-round stoppage against Fabio Wardley in their highly anticipated rematch at London’s O2 Arena on Saturday. Dubois dominated from the opening bell, knocking Wardley down with an overhand right just 17 seconds into the first round. The champion continued his relentless attack in the second, forcing referee Steve Gray to stop the contest with 39 seconds remaining after Wardley’s trainer threw in the towel. The victory came five months after Dubois defeated Wardley in an 11th-round stoppage to become a two-time heavyweight champion. Dubois improved his professional record to 24 wins and three losses, with 23 knockouts. “It was my time and it’s my era. I had bad intentions from the beginning,” Dubois said. Wardley suf-

MESSI INSPIRES MIAMI

Lionel Messi scores twice and assists as Inter Miami cruise past Atlanta United



ATLANTA: Lionel Messi delivered a brilliant performance, scoring twice and providing an assist as Inter Miami secured a 3-1 victory over Atlanta United in Major League Soccer on Saturday. The Argentine superstar set up Germán Berterame’s opening goal just before half-time, combining with Luis Suárez to help the forward score his ninth goal in 26 MLS appearances. Messi then struck twice within four minutes after the restart, finding the net in the 56th and

60th minutes to extend Miami’s advantage. The goals took his league-leading tally to 25, while his 15th assist equalled Son Heung-min’s league-leading mark. Messi became the first player in MLS history to register at least 15 assists in three consecutive seasons. He now has 40 goal contributions, closing in on Carlos Vela’s single-season record of 49. Atlanta avoided a clean sheet when Fafa Picault converted a penalty in the 89th minute. **PTI**

Russian oil facilities ablaze as Ukraine launches 1000 drones

Ukrainian strikes set an oil export terminal and a depot ablaze in St Petersburg on Sunday as Kyiv launched more than 1,000 drones at Russia.

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MOSCOW: Ukrainian strikes set an oil export terminal and a depot ablaze in St Petersburg on Sunday as Kyiv launched more than 1,000 drones at Russia in one of its largest aerial attacks of the war.

The strikes came amid deepening tensions between Ukraine and Washington, with US President Donald Trump criticising Kyiv's attacks on Russian oil infrastructure and the prospect of further US sanctions against Moscow still uncertain. One per-



son was killed, and five others were wounded in the St Petersburg attack, which sparked fires at the Petersburg Oil Terminal and the city's Ruchi oil depot, local Gov. Alexander Beglov said. A logis-

tics centre belonging to Russian retailer Ozon and a data centre operated by Russian tech giant VK were also targeted, the companies confirmed.

Russia's Defence Ministry said Sunday that its

FASTFACTS

●According to Ukraine officials this was one of its largest aerial attacks of the war till date .

●The strikes came amid deepening tensions between Ukraine and USA.

forces had destroyed 1,015 Ukrainian drones over 15 Russian regions, the annexed Ukrainian peninsula of Crimea and the Black Sea. Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov told Russian state news agency

Tass that Kyiv was “resisting” Moscow’s invasion but could not “change the current course of events.”

The strikes came after Trump told reporters that they did not know what his decision on further sanctions against Russia would be, despite signing an executive order Friday night waiving planned restrictions, citing US national interests. Speaking on NBC’s “Meet the Press” on Sunday, Zelenskyy said waiving sanctions against Russia would strengthen Putin’s war effort.

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

MARITIME EXERCISE

Royal Navy of UK concludes bilateral maritime exercise with Indian Navy

LONDON: The Indian Navy and the Royal Navy of the United Kingdom concluded their bilateral maritime exercise off Plymouth on October 15, strengthening cooperation and improving their ability to operate together during complex maritime operations. The exercise was conducted from October 8 to 15 and involved the Indian Navy’s stealth frigate INS Trishul and the Royal Navy’s Duke-class anti-submarine warfare frigate HMS Sutherland. The Royal Navy’s Fleet Operational Standards and Training organisation conducted the exercise.

The four-day sea phase, held from October 12 to 15, featured a series of advanced maritime activities designed to enhance coordination and operational readiness between the two navies. These included advanced seamanship manoeuvres, joint tactical exercises, communication procedures, anti-surface asymmetric warfare, anti-submarine warfare and weapon firings.



The participating warships carried out these activities in a multi-threat maritime environment, providing both navies with an opportunity to test their operational capabilities and strengthen their coordination during challenging situations. The exercise also facilitated the exchange of professional knowledge, operational experience and best practices between personnel of the two navies. Such joint training activities help improve mutual understanding and ensure that naval forces can work effectively together when required.

Dhaka seeks explanation from Arabia

DHAKA: Bangladesh on Sunday sought an explanation from Saudi Arabia over the execution of two of its nationals, saying authorities in Dhaka and its mission in Riyadh were not informed about the legal proceedings beforehand. Foreign Ministry’s East and West Asia Division Secretary Mohammad Nazrul Islam sought detailed information about the executions during a meeting with Saudi Ambassador Abdullah Zafer H bin Abiyah, officials said.

Pakistan plans Lunar landing by 2035 : Minister Ahsan Iqbal

Press Trust Of India

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan is aiming to land on the moon by 2035 as part of its efforts to expand the country’s space programme, Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal said on Sunday.

Addressing the concluding ceremony of World Space Week in Narowal district in Punjab province, Iqbal said cooperation with China



would help Pakistan reach new heights in space exploration. Pakistan’s “first astronaut will embark on a space mission from China’s space

FASTFACTS

●Pakistan is aiming to land on the Moon by 2035 under space programme, said Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal.

centre on November 25, while the country aims to achieve a lunar landing by 2035,” he said.

The minister highlighted the growing impor-

ance of space technology in agriculture, communications, climate monitoring, education and national security, stressing that scientific research and space exploration were essential for technological advancement. World Space Week 2026 was celebrated for the first time in Narowal in collaboration with the Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission.

Major fire breaks out in Alberta after deadly incident at Canadian military base

TORONTO: Canada’s defence minister said Saturday that people were killed and injured in an incident at a military base in Alberta that caused a major fire, while reports said that large numbers of injured people were being transported to hospitals.

Fire crews scrambled late into the night as fierce winds whipped



flames beyond Canadian Forces Base Wainwright and into the surrounding rural area.

It was not immediately clear how many

people were killed or injured, but a doctor at a hospital in the city of Edmonton, 180 km northwest, told Canada’s national broadcaster that patients were being brought to hospitals across the city as health-care facilities around the base became “completely overwhelmed” by the number of people needing care.

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