

'Leaving pain of Naxal violence behind, CG progressing rapidly'

Governor Ramen Deka and Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai also addressed the event.

Press Trust Of India

President Murmu urged people to protect forests and plant more trees, saying they provide the essentials for sustaining life.



President Droupadi Murmu during Muria Darbar, tribal assembly and public dialogue tradition, in Jagdalpur. | Photo PTI

quarter of Bastar district, she also expressed confidence that youth tribal communities would actively participate in the country's journey towards becoming a developed nation.

Describing trees and plants as "living gods", President Murmu urged

Prez urges tribals to educate children, preserve cultural identity

President Droupadi Murmu on Friday urged tribal communities to educate their children and embrace new opportunities of progress without giving up their cultural identity. The President addressed representatives of tribal communities and their leaders at 'Muria Darbar', a traditional tribal assembly organised as part of the famous Bastar Dussehra festival in Jagdalpur, the headquarters of Chhattisgarh's Bastar district, an official statement said. "Society must move forward with changing times. Ensure that children receive good education and are given opportunities to study, learn and progress in life," the statement quoted Murmu as saying. Adopting positive changes in thinking and embracing new avenues of development is necessary, but this should not mean giving up one's culture, traditions and social identity, she said.

up before Chhattisgarh today, and I congratulate the Centre and the state for this. I have been informed that efforts to provide financial facilities to tribal entrepreneurs and connect them with markets have been accelerated," she said.

The President said

she was confident that these efforts would help achieve the goal of building a developed India by 2047 through equitable development. "Tribal youth will actively participate in the country's journey towards becoming a developed nation," Murmu said.

Chinese patrol deviations disturb border peace, hinder ties: India

Press Trust Of India

Last month, Modi held bilateral talks with Xi on the margins of the BRICS summit in New Delhi.

NEW DELHI: India on Friday said the situation along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) is disturbed from time to time when Chinese forces diverge from established patrolling patterns, asserting that the maintenance of peace and tranquillity in the border areas is essential for the overall development of bilateral relations.

The remarks by External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal came in response to a question on comments by Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) director general Shatruej Kapur that confrontations with Chinese troops continue to take place in a number of sites along the border in

Arunachal Pradesh.

"As we have noted in the past, the situation in the India-China border areas gets disturbed from time to time when Chinese forces diverge from established patrolling patterns," Jaiswal said at his bi-weekly media briefing.

"Both sides continue to use existing diplomatic and military mechanisms to resolve outstanding issues and avoid misunderstanding and miscalculation along the Line of Actual Control (LAC)," he said.

Jaiswal said the two sides have also agreed to discuss ways to improve understanding of LAC in appropriate areas for better border management.

"I would also like to emphasise that the maintenance of peace and tranquillity in the border areas is essential for the overall development of bilateral relations," he said.

Protesters detained as anti-SIR march heads to EC office

Press Trust Of India

Protesters, including farmers, students, and political leaders, alleged that the SIR exercise has resulted in the deletion of numerous eligible voters.



took out a protest march in the capital on Friday, demanding the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar and the withdrawal of the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls.

Delhi Police detained several protesters as they tried to march towards the headquarters of the Election Commission of India (ECI) on Ashoka Road in central Delhi, putting up barricades on the road. The march, called by the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) and the Delhi coordination committee of People Against SIR, a people's collective, began near the Gole Dak Khana, a few hundred metres

from the ECI headquarters, with participants carrying the national flag and banners demanding an end to the electoral roll revision exercise.

The protesters raised slogans against the chief election commissioner, including "Gyanesh Kumar, resign", "Halt SIR" and "Won't tolerate vote theft", alleging that the SIR exercise led to the deletion of numerous voters from the electoral rolls.

Missing 7-year-old girl found raped, murdered

Press Trust Of India

KORBA: A seven-year-old girl who went missing three days ago was found raped and murdered in Chhattisgarh's Korba district, leading to the arrest of a 42-year-old man tracked down by a police sniffer dog, an official said on Friday.

The body of the child, who went missing while running an errand at a grocery store, was found

in the bushes behind a poultry farm in the Rajgamar police chowki area on Thursday morning, the official said.

He said that the girl's father had reported her missing on the evening of October 19, informing the police that his daughter had not returned home from the shop.

The girl's father, a native of Faguram village in Sakti district, had moved to Rajgamar

with his four children four months ago, and he worked at a poultry farm to support his family, the official said.

Police launched a search to trace the girl. However, on Thursday morning, they received information about a body lying in bushes behind the poultry farm, and a forensic team and a police dog were also called in to assist the investigation, he said.

Three killed

SIWAN (BIHAR): At least three people were killed and three others were injured in an explosion at a house, where firecrackers were reportedly stored, in Bihar's Siwan district on Friday, a senior official said. Siwan District Magistrate Vijay Prakash Meena told PTI that the incident took place in Jomo area this evening. "According to initial reports, the explosion took place in a house where firecrackers were stored. Three people were killed and three others suffered minor injuries," he added.

42 drug samples found 'not of standard quality' in September

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Central Drugs Laboratories found 42 drug samples manufactured by various firms to be "not of standard quality (NSQ)" in its monthly drug alert for September, the Union health ministry said on Friday. Besides, the State Drugs

NUMBER

288

• The State Drugs Testing Laboratories have identified 288 drug samples as NSQ.

Testing Laboratories have identified 288 drug samples as NSQ, it said.

According to routine regulatory surveillance activity, the list of NSQ and spurious drugs is being displayed on the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) portal on a monthly basis.

"For the month of September 2026, Central Drugs Laboratories have identified 42 drug

samples to be Not of Standard Quality (NSQ) and State Drugs Testing Laboratories have identified 288 drug samples as NSQ," a health ministry statement said. Identification of drug samples as NSQ is done based on failure of the drug sample in one or the other specified quality parameters.

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Sugar supply halt threatens Diwali cheer for Ration Card holders

Sugar production stalls, leaving ration shops without supplies before Diwali.

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: Diwali may lack its usual sweetness for ration card holders this year, as fair-price shops across Chhattisgarh have reportedly received no sugar supplies for October. With stocks exhausted and production at cooperative sugar mills stalled, beneficiaries face uncertainty over when distribution will resume. Sources said mills are awaiting fresh sugarcane supplies to restart production. However, officials have not clarified when sugar stocks will become available, saying only that distribution will resume once supplies arrive. The disruption has



also raised concerns about a possible shortage in the run-up to Diwali, when demand for sugar typically rises due to increased sweet-making activities. Some shopkeepers, speaking anonymously, alleged that the supply situation warranted scrutiny amid speculation about sugar being diverted to private traders. These allegations

have not been independently verified. According to figures released in April 2026, cooperative sugar mills in the state were operating with accumulated losses of Rs 267 crore. Outstanding payments to sugarcane farmers have reportedly contributed to declining supplies, with many growers reluctant to deliver their produce until

Sugar supply to resume after stock arrives

Sugar supplies from mills are currently halted. A request has been made to ensure stock availability. Distribution to fair-price shops will resume once sugar supplies arrive.

Vinod Raikhi,
DS, Civil Supplies Corporation, Raipur

FACTFILE

- Cane shortages and unpaid dues disrupt distribution.

their dues are cleared. Although some pending payments were reportedly settled following intervention, substantial amounts remain outstanding. Sources estimate that

only around 50 per cent of farmers are currently supplying sugarcane, despite efforts to encourage cultivation.

The decline in cane availability has further affected production at cooperative mills, worsening the supply situation. The immediate concern is the restoration of sugar supplies to fair-price shops before the festival.

'No commercial or residential complex on BTI Ground'

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: Raipur North MLA Purandar Mishra has clarified that no commercial or residential complex will be constructed on the BTI Ground in Shankar Nagar, Raipur. His statement comes amid an ongoing debate over the proposed development in the area. Mishra said the proposed complex is not planned on the BTI Ground itself but on the adjoining site occupied by dilapidated



government residential quarters. According to the MLA, these old houses will be replaced as part of the proposed development. He stressed that the ground and the adjacent government housing area are separate sites, and the construction proposal concerns only the latter. The clarification

assumes significance as concerns have been raised over the possibility of commercial or residential construction on the BTI Ground, a prominent open space in the city. On Thursday, former Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel criticised the government over traffic-related inconvenience faced by Raipur residents. During a press conference, he alleged that ministers and officials in the state capital each have two government bungalows

President Murmu concludes CG visit, departs Raipur

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: President Droupadi Murmu departed from Swami Vivekananda Airport in Raipur on Friday, concluding her visit to Chhattisgarh. Governor Ramen Deka and Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai were present at the airport to bid her a warm farewell. Several ministers, public representatives and senior administrative officials also attended the farewell ceremony. The President's departure marked the



conclusion of her scheduled engagements in the state. Governor Ramen Deka and Chief Minister Sai extended their greetings to the President as she prepared to leave the state capital. The presence of senior dignitaries and officials reflected the significance of the presidential visit.

FIR against 2 women over alleged religious conversion pressure

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: Police have registered an FIR against two women for allegedly pressuring a family in the Amlidih area of Raipur to convert to Christianity and assaulting its members after they refused. The case falls under the jurisdiction of New Rajendra Nagar police station.

According to the complaint, the family alleged that they were being pressured to embrace Christianity. The complainants claimed that their younger daughter had already converted and that other family members were also being pressured to follow the same religion. The family further alleged that when they refused to convert, they were assaulted with kicks and punches.



They also claimed that their mobile phones were damaged during the altercation and that they were confined inside their house and prevented from leaving to seek medical treatment. The complaint also raised concerns regarding the alleged attempts to influence the family's 16-year-old son to convert to Christianity. Acting on the complaint, police registered a case against the two accused, identified as Vishakha Masih and Dulari Sahu, under Section 16(1) of the Chhattisgarh Freedom of Religion Act, 2026.

CG prepares to showcase best practices at National Conference

Central Chronicle News

Chhattisgarh prepares to showcase governance innovations at national conference.

RAIPUR: Chief Secretary Vikassheel on Friday chaired a high-level meeting at Mahanadi Bhawan to prepare Chhattisgarh's presentation for the upcoming National Conference of Chief Secretaries. The meeting reviewed key themes from the previous conference and assessed progress and qualitative improvements through the Action Tracking and Monitoring System. The Chief Secretary directed secretaries of concerned departments to compile information on the state's achievements, innovative initiatives and improve-



ments in education, skill development, healthcare and nutrition. He stressed that the information should be prepared within the stipulated timeframe to effectively highlight Chhattisgarh's progress at the national level.

The Toy Bank initiative operated through Anganwadi centres received special appreciation during the meeting. Under the initiative, old toys donated by people are used to support children's mental development and raise awareness about nutrition. More than one lakh toys have been collected so far.

FACTFILE

- Toy Bank initiative collects over one lakh toys.

The National Conference will focus on four major sessions aligned with the vision of Developed India 2047. Key themes include national development priorities, the mining sector's contribution to economic growth and state finances, technology-driven good governance, and timely completion of roads and other infrastructure projects.

HALF-NAKED PROTEST |

Contractors to stage half-naked protest over Rs 5,000 crore dues

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: Contractors associated with the Jal Jeevan Mission have announced a protest in Raipur on October 27, demanding the release of approximately Rs 5,000 crore in pending payments for completed construction works. The protesters plan to appear half-naked and carry begging bowls to highlight their financial distress.

The decision was taken during a meeting of the Chhattisgarh Contractors Association, which alleged that prolonged delays in payments have pushed contractors across the state into a severe financial crisis.

According to the association, contractors have been waiting for payments for nearly three years despite completing various projects under the Jal Jeevan Mission. These include single-village and multi-village water supply schemes, solar-powered systems, retrofitting works, piped water supply projects and

Contractors announce unique protest

Around 2,000 contractors across the state have been awaiting payments for Jal Jeevan Mission works for the past three years. Following a meeting in the capital last Wednesday, the Chhattisgarh Contractors Association decided to stage a protest on October 27. Contractors will gather at Shaheed Bhagat Singh Chowk, Ambedkar Chowk and Shastri Chowk, appearing half-naked and carrying begging bowls.



Biresh Shukla
State President, Chhattisgarh Contractors Association

tube-well drilling. Association representatives said contractors' working capital remains locked in

completed projects, leaving them struggling to meet essential financial obligations. They are fac-

ing mounting pressure to pay labourers, clear bills for construction materials and repay bank loans in instalments. The association said contractors have repeatedly raised the issue with the state government in an effort to secure the release of their dues. They have met Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai, Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Sharma and senior departmental officials, besides submitting formal memoranda seeking urgent intervention.

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

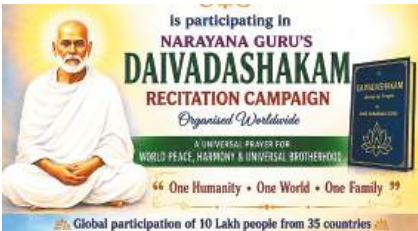
GLOBAL DAIVADASAKAM RECITATION CAMPAIGN

Sree Narayana Sandesha Samajam to join Global Daivadasakam recitation campaign on Oct 25

RAIPUR: Sree Narayana Sandesha Samajam (SNSS), Shankar Nagar, Raipur, will participate in the Global Daivadasakam Recitation Campaign on Sunday, October 25, 2026, at 7:15 pm. The global spiritual initiative is being organised by the Sree Narayana Forum for Universal Brotherhood, Germany, to promote peace, harmony and universal brotherhood through collective prayer.

Daivadasakam, meaning "Ten Verses to the Divine," is a sacred prayer composed by Sree Narayana Guru, the renowned Indian spiritual leader, philosopher and social reformer. The prayer conveys timeless messages of faith, compassion, wisdom, unity and surrender to the Divine, transcending barriers of caste, religion, language, nationality and culture.

The campaign aims to bring people together across countries and continents through the simultaneous recitation of this prayer, fostering mutual understanding, dignity, respect and a shared commitment to peaceful coexistence. Its guiding theme is "One Humanity - One World - One Family." In keeping



with the universal teachings of Sree Narayana Guru, the Raipur gathering will provide devotees, families and community members an opportunity to participate in collective prayer, reflect on the Guru's philosophy and reaffirm their commitment to universal brotherhood. V.G. Sasikumar, chairman of Sree Narayana Sandesha Samajam, has invited members, devotees, families, friends and well-wishers to join the programme. The recitation will take place at Sree Narayana Guru Mandiram, Shankar Nagar, Kailash Residency, Raipur. The organisers hope the collective prayer will inspire people to transform faith into service, compassion into action and spiritual understanding into universal love, strengthening the bonds of humanity and promoting lasting peace and harmony.

DIGITAL SECURITY CAMPAIGN

Chamber organises Digital Security Campaign to alert traders on cyber fraud



RAIPUR: The Chhattisgarh Chamber of Commerce and Industries organised a Digital Security Campaign on Friday at Chhattisgarh Chamber's Devi Lal Vyapar Udyog Bhawan in Bombay Market, Raipur, to educate traders about cybercrime prevention and digital security. The programme was held under the leadership of Chamber President Satish Thaurani, with Additional DCP (Crime and Cyber) Gaurav Mandal (IPS) attending as the chief guest. Cybersecurity and cyber forensics expert Sonali Guha delivered the keynote address, explaining ways to prevent UPI fraud, online blackmail, fake profiles and business email hacking. Thaurani urged traders to

remain vigilant against emerging cyber threats and share safety information with employees and family members. He also stressed the need for regular awareness workshops. Mandal advised cyber fraud victims to act immediately, calling the first 10 minutes crucial. He urged them to dial 1930, report incidents at cybercrime.gov.in, inform their banks and preserve evidence such as screenshots, transaction IDs and suspicious links. He also said Raipur Police would strengthen its cyber helpdesk for traders' associations. Guha cautioned participants against sharing UPI PINs, scanning suspicious QR codes and making large payments without verifying email requests.

WOMEN'S RIGHTS

Mahila Congress plans agitation, focuses on women's rights

RAIPUR: The Chhattisgarh State Mahila Congress held an important meeting at the Congress headquarters, Rajiv Bhawan, on Thursday to discuss the political situation, opposition to government policies and protection of women's rights. The meeting was chaired by state Mahila Congress president and Balod MLA Sangeeta Sinha. The meeting emphasised safeguarding women's dignity, security and constitutional rights, while strengthening the organisation's role in raising public concerns.



Women leaders and workers resolved to unite against policies they consider detrimental to the interests of women and the general public. The meeting also finalised preparations for upcoming programmes.

GRAND WELCOME

Smriti Irani's Raipur visit: BJP plans grand welcome with 5,000 workers

RAIPUR: BJP state in-charge Smriti Irani is scheduled to arrive in Raipur on the morning of October 25 for a two-day visit, with the state BJP unit preparing an elaborate welcome. Co-in-charge Siddharth Shambhu is also expected to accompany her. The party aims to mobilise more than 5,000 workers at Swami Vivekananda Airport in Mana. Around 1,000 BJP workers will participate in a bike rally, following the state in-charge's convoy from the airport to the Kushabhau Thakre Complex. Party workers will welcome her at several points along the route. BJP leaders from Raipur city, district and rural areas have been assigned responsi-



bilities for the arrangements. Presidents of 20 mandals have been asked to mobilise workers. Councillors from the Raipur and Birgaon municipal corporations, supporters of BJP MLAs from eight Assembly constituencies, ministers, MPs and senior party functionaries are also expected to attend. The visit comes after an eight-month gap in the appointment of a new state in-charge, with national president Nitin Naveen previously handling the responsibility. Ahead of the visit, party leaders have instructed workers not to put up welcome hoardings.

Raipur News



Ministry of Home Affairs
Government of India

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Joint team inspects 11 medical stores

NCB and FDA conducted surprise inspections across 11 Raipur medical stores to curb illegal drug sales.

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: In a joint operation aimed at curbing the illegal sale and misuse of controlled substances, a combined team comprising officials from the Narcotics Control Bureau and the Food and Drug Administration conducted rigorous inspections across eleven medical stores in the district on Friday. The initiative focused on ensuring strict adherence to regulatory compliance, verifying lawful procurement channels, and examining inventory management systems to prevent unauthorized distribution. During the surprise checks, authorities meticulously evaluated purchase records, available stock levels, and storage facilities to verify whether medicines were being sourced through



authorized vendors and logged in strict compliance with established protocols. While most inspected establishments maintained satisfactory records, discrepancies in documentation and stock maintenance were identified at four specific outlets, namely Sar Medicals in Bhanpuri, Shri Ram Medical Stores in Kota, Lakshmi Medical Shop in Santoshi Nagar, and Maa Lakshmi Medical Stores in Kukurbeda. Following the inspections, show cause notices are being issued to all four erring firms, granting them a

FASTFACTS

- Four outlets were found with documentation and stock discrepancies: Sar Medicals, Shri Ram Medical Stores, Lakshmi Medical Shop, and Maa Lakshmi Medical Stores.
- Show cause notices are being issued to the four erring firms, with warnings of strict future surveillance.

formal opportunity to present their explanations.

Hasdeo Express extended general coach facility

RAIPUR: The South East Central Railway has announced the extension of an additional general coach on the Hasdeo Express running between Raipur, Korba, and Raipur to manage the surge of passengers during the Diwali festival. Initially scheduled to run until October 25, 2026, the temporary extra coach for train numbers 18249 and 18250 will now remain attached until November 10, 2026.

Upgrade of 3 OTs at Kalibadi hospital

RAIPUR: The Mother and Child Hospital located in Kalibadi, Raipur, is set to begin upgrade work on its three operation theaters starting November 16, 2026. The renovation project is expected to take approximately three months to complete. To ensure uninterrupted medical care and minimize patient inconvenience during this period, the hospital management has arranged alternative facilities.

Permits of 170 buses cancelled in state, major action taken against operators

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: The Transport Department in Chhattisgarh has taken significant action against bus operators who compromised passenger safety and disregarded transport regulations. The department has cancelled the permits of 170 buses across the state and placed them on a blacklist. These buses were found to lack mandatory safety features, such as GPS systems and panic buttons. This action follows a three-month special



inspection drive and the issuance of formal notices, as confirmed by Additional Transport Commissioner D. Ravishankar. According to the Transport Department, the 170 buses whose per-

mits have been cancelled are no longer authorized to operate. If any operator is found running these buses on the road in violation of the rules, the vehicles will be seized, and further legal action will be taken.

Key findings from the Transport Department's probe:

412 buses lack GPS, 210 buses have non-functional GPS, 85 panic buttons are defective, and permits for 170 buses have been cancelled. The investigation revealed that several bus operators were transporting passengers without adhering to regulations. In some vehicles, GPS devices were installed but kept switched off. Bus operators failed to improve even after receiving notices; in the first phase, the department issued final notices to 300 buses, granting a 15-day grace period to install safety equipment. According to departmental data, 140 of these operators installed GPS and registered on the portal, while the permits of 170 bus owners were cancelled for failing to comply with the prescribed rules. However, there is a numerical discrepancy between the 300 notices issued, the 140 instances of compliance, and the 170 permit cancellations—a matter that requires clarification from departmental records. Panic buttons are essential for the safety of female passengers: the primary objective of installing these buttons is to provide assistance to passengers during emergencies. This system is considered crucial, especially for the safety of women.

| NIT_AVKALAN-MOU |

NIT Raipur and Avkalan Labs sign MoU to bridge academic research with real-world innovation

Central Chronicle News

Promoting collaboration in computational mechanics, advanced simulation, and Artificial Intelligence

RAIPUR: In a major step toward translating academic research into practical industrial solutions, the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Raipur and deep-tech startup Avkalan Labs Private Limited have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The primary objective of this partnership is to advance the practical application of computational engineering, advanced simulation technologies, and artificial intelligence (AI) in engineering disciplines, enabling lab-grown expertise to be deployed at an industrial scale.

The MoU was signed by Dr. N. V. Ramana Rao, Director of NIT Raipur,



and Dr. Kamal Shankar Patel, Director and Co-founder of Avkalan Labs. The signing ceremony was attended by Prof. Gangadhar Ramtekkar (Department of Civil Engineering), Prof. S. Sanyal (Department of Mechanical Engineering), and Prof. Shirish V. Deo (Department of Civil Engineering). All joint activities under this agreement will be coordinated under the supervision of Prof. Gangadhar Ramtekkar, Dr. Mohit Jaiswal (Assistant Professor, Department of Civil Engineering), and Dr. Kamal Shankar Patel.

Under this partnership, both institutions will pursue joint

research, industrial training, student internships, and academic projects in high-tech domains such as computational mechanics, finite element analysis, and multiphysics simulation. Furthermore, the agreement establishes a framework for industry-sponsored M.Tech and doctoral (Ph.D.) research addressing real-world industry challenges, paving the way for joint research publications, patent filings, and the commercialization of new technologies.

A key dimension of this strategic collaboration is exploring the potential establishment of a dedicated Centre of

FASTFACTS

- Under this partnership, both institutions will pursue joint research, industrial training, student internships, and academic projects in high-tech domains such as computational mechanics, finite element analysis, and multiphysics simulation.

Excellence in Computational Mechanics at NIT Raipur. This proposed centre aims to serve as a platform for advanced research, specialized skill training, and the development of modern computational methodologies across structural mechanics, engineering optimization, and high-performance computing, providing students with direct, hands-on exposure to practical engineering challenges.

Municipal Commissioner reviews city sanitation, revenue targets

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: Raipur Municipal Corporation Commissioner Sambit Mishra chaired a weekly TL (Time Limit) meeting at the Mahatma Gandhi Sadan headquarters, bringing together senior municipal officials, zone commissioners, and department heads to evaluate ongoing urban initiatives. Commissioner Mishra placed heavy emphasis on upgrading the city's sanitation network. He scrutinized before-and-after photo evidence of cleaning operations and directed zone commissioners to prioritize cleanliness standards, address public grievances swiftly, and ensure all complaints are resolved within designated timeframes.

On the financial front, the commissioner instructed zone authorities and assistant revenue officers to ramp up revenue collection in alignment with fixed targets. He urged officials to take strict, rules-based action against major tax defaulters. To ease the tax burden on citizens, Mishra highlighted a 4 percent rebate available on current fiscal year property taxes for taxpayers who clear their dues by December 31, 2026, urging administrators to maximize public outreach for the scheme. The meeting also addressed key infrastructural and civic administration matters, including the regularization of illegal water connections with applicable penalties, prompt handling of mutation cases, and strict legal action against illegal plotting, unauthorized construction, and unapproved colonies.



enue collection in alignment with fixed targets. He urged officials to take strict, rules-based action against major tax defaulters.

To ease the tax burden on citizens, Mishra highlighted a 4 percent rebate available on current fiscal year property taxes for taxpayers who clear their dues by December 31, 2026, urging administrators to maximize public outreach for the scheme.

The meeting also addressed key infrastructural and civic administration matters, including the regularization of illegal water connections with applicable penalties, prompt handling of mutation cases, and strict legal action against illegal plotting, unauthorized construction, and unapproved colonies.

RMC Zone-9 Commissioner issues fine & notice

RAIPUR: Raipur Municipal Corporation Zone 9 Commissioner Hitendra Yadav has issued a show-cause notice and slapped a fine of Rs 10,000 on Mewas Nawaz Enterprises, the contracted sanitation agency for BSUP Khaalpara in Ward 8. The punitive action was taken after the contractor stopped all sanitation work for four consecutive days from October 20 to October 23, 2026, without prior permission or notice, severely impacting local cleanliness and public health.

Authorities have directed the contractor to submit a written explanation in person, resume cleaning operations immediately, and improve sanitation standards within the next 24 hours. The administration warned that failure to provide a satisfactory response will result in the immediate cancellation of the contract.

| 24TH STATE TT CHAMPIONSHIP |

Raipur & Bilaspur share honors with 6 titles each

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: Raipur and Bilaspur emerged as dominant forces by clinching six team titles each at the ongoing UTT 24th Chhattisgarh State and Inter-District Table Tennis Championship 2026. Organised by the Chhattisgarh Table Tennis Association in collaboration with the Life Insurance Corporation of India and Central Bank of India, the four-day sporting event is underway at the Sapre Shala Table Tennis Hall in Budhapara,

Raipur, running from October 22 to October 25.

According to organizing secretary Vinay Baisware, the team events spanning twelve categories concluded on Thursday. These competitions featured players across Senior, Youth Under-19, Junior Under-17, Sub-Junior Under-15, Cadet Under-13, and Hopes Under-11 divisions for both boys and girls. Out of the twelve team crowns on offer, Raipur and Bilaspur evenly split the honors, securing six championships apiece.



In the youth team finals, Raipur registered a commanding performance in the Under-19 boys category, sweeping past Bilaspur 3-0. Raipur also captured the Under-19 girls team title by defeating Bilaspur 3-1.

Dominance continued in the Junior Under-17 girls segment, where Raipur secured another convincing 3-0 victory against Bilaspur. However, Bilaspur staged a strong comeback in the Cadet Under-13 girls division, decisively defeating Raipur 3-0 to claim the trophy.

The tournament shifted into its final phase on Friday with singles encounters in the Youth Under-19 and Sub-Junior Under-15 categories. In the Under-19 boys singles semifinals, Dikshant Jangde of Bilaspur overcame Raipur's Yashwant Dekate 3-1, while Aryan Singh of Raipur booked his place in the summit clash with a straight 3-0 win against Reyanish Pahwa of Bilaspur.

Nagar Rajbhasha Karyanvayan Samiti holds biannual meeting

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: The Nagar Rajbhasha Karyanvayan Samiti held its second biannual meeting of 2026 at the Rail Officer Club, Ullaas, under the chairmanship of Dayanand, Divisional Railway Manager and Committee Chairman. The proceedings commenced with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp, followed by a formal welcome to member offices, including the newly inducted Cen-



tral Water Commission, Upper Mahanadi.

Committee Secretary and Rajbhasha Officer Nikes Kumar Pandey presented a comprehensive review of the Hindi language implementation progress across member offices for the period from January 1, 2026, to

June 30, 2026. Addressing the gathering, DRM Dayanand commended the member institutions for achieving full compliance with Section 3(3) of the Official Languages Act and urged continued effort toward meeting all departmental targets.

APC reviews Kharif season, approves Rabi Action Plan

Agriculture Production Commissioner Sidiarth Komal Pardeshi reviews Kharif progress and approves Rabi plan to boost farmers income in Bilaspur division.

Central Chronicle News

BILASPUR: Agriculture Production Commissioner and Secretary Siddharth Komal Pardeshi chaired a comprehensive divisional review meeting in Bilaspur on Friday. The high-level conference evaluated Kharif 2026 performance and finalized strategic implementation plans for the upcoming Rabi 2026-27 agricultural season.

Addressing departmental officials and district collectors, Pardeshi urged a shift beyond traditional farming to boost rural incomes significantly. He instructed multi-departmental coordination to promote allied sectors, including poultry, fisheries, goat rearing, and horticulture.

Highlighting Bilaspur's agricultural potential, he emphasized adopting crop diversification through pulses, oilseeds, organic farming, and lucrative plantation crops. He directed authorities to expand cultivation of high-value produce such as lychee, strawberry, oil palm, and potato. Divisional Commissioner Sunil Jain praised Bilaspur's steady performance across agriculture and allied sec-



FASTFACTS

- Focus on crop diversification, livestock, and horticulture to maximize farmer earnings.
- Promote pulses, oilseeds, and high-value crops with proper seed and fertilizer supply.

tors, noting that innovative practices alongside traditional methods are successfully increasing farmer earnings.

The meeting featured detailed presentations from Markfed MD Jitendra Shukla, Agriculture Director Rahul Dev, Livestock

Timely distribution of seeds must : Pardeshi

Regarding input management, Pardeshi mandated the timely distribution of certified seeds, balanced fertilizers, and micro-nutrients across all districts. He specifically instructed officials to utilize soil moisture effectively in fallow lands, zero out summer paddy acreage, and maximize farmer benefits under the PM-AASHA initiative by expanding mustard cultivation. Additionally, he called for technical workshops for fish farmers and routine health checks at livestock shelters to ensure total animal welfare.

Director Chandrakant Verma, Horticulture Director Lokesh Kumar, and Mandi Board MD Mahendra Savanni.

District collectors from Bilaspur, Janjgir-Champa, Mungeli, Gaurela-Pendra-Marwahi, Sakti, Saranagarh-Bilaigarh, and Korba presented region-spe-

cific strategies using digital tools. The extensive departmental review addressed key operational areas, including the implementation of the Aadhaar-enabled biometric system, Integrated Farmer Portal registrations, and fertilizer management models.

Biometric attendance must for H.E. Dept

BILASPUR: The Chhattisgarh Directorate of Higher Education has officially made attendance via the Aadhaar-enabled Biometric Attendance System (AEBAS) mandatory for all guest lecturers serving across government colleges in the state. Under the new directive, guest faculty members are required to register themselves under the non-government category as guest lecturers and mark their daily attendance digitally. However, the implementation of this system has triggered widespread dissatisfaction among guest lecturers. Many educators fear that being required to remain on campus for extended hours will severely hamper their higher studies, ongoing PhD programs, and scholarly research work. They contend that academic growth and research activities form essential pillars of higher education and ought to be accommodated when enforcing rigid attendance policies. Furthermore, several guest lecturers have raised grievances regarding the conduct of college principals and permanent faculty members, alleging excessive workplace pressure and mistreatment. They demand that alongside strict attendance tracking, institutions must guarantee respectful treatment, clear guidelines, and a supportive working environment.

HC rejects bail plea in minor's sexual assault



Central Chronicle News

HIGHLIGHT

- The Chhattisgarh High Court has rejected the bail application of Yashwant Kumar Nishad, who is accused of sexually assaulting a minor girl.

the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

Defence counsel Seema Singh argued that the accused had been falsely implicated and that the relationship was consensual. The defence also questioned the delay in filing the complaint, stating that the accused had been in custody since March 27, 2026, and that the trial had begun, grounds on which it sought bail.

Opposing the application, government counsel Vivek Sharma highlighted the seriousness of the allegations and referred to a criminal case registered against the accused under the Excise Act in 2018. Based on the victim's educational records, the High Court found that she was 16 years and four months old at the time of the alleged incidents.

NEWSLINE

ARREST

Five arrested in attempted murder case

BILASPUR: Masturi police have arrested five men accused of launching a deadly attack on a 17-year-old boy following an old dispute in Lawar village. The accused allegedly attacked the teenager's head, neck and hands with a wooden club and a rigid bangle worn on the hand. The victim sustained a serious head injury. According to Masturi police station in-charge Kapildev Chandra, the incident occurred between 8.30 pm and 9 pm on October 20 at the premises of the middle school in Bothidih, Lawar village, following the Ravana effigy burning ceremony. Police said a dispute broke out between the victim, Bhanu Kai-vart, and accused Arun Kumar Khute alias Guddu over an incident that had occurred around two months earlier.

OFFENCE

Two held during Durga immersion

BILASPUR: City Kotwali police seized sharp-edged knives from two youths during checks conducted as part of a special security drive during Durga idol immersion processions. Cases have been registered against both under the Arms Act. Police also took preventive action against 12 people accused of creating disturbances and presented them before the court. According to police, the two youths were identified as Prince Sahu, 18, son of Prem Santosh Sahu, and Kamlesh Kewat, 20, son of Sanju Kewat. Both are residents of Ganiyari village under Kota police station area. Sharp-edged knives were allegedly recovered from their possession during checks at the immersion procession. Police registered cases numbered 615/2026 and 616/2026 at City Kotwali under Sections 25 and 27 of the Arms Act.

HIGH COURT

Vacancies of Law Assistant announced

BILASPUR: The High Court of Chhattisgarh in Bilaspur has issued an official recruitment notification inviting applications from eligible candidates for 11 Law Assistant positions. The appointments will be made purely on a contractual basis for an initial term of one year, which can be extended up to three years subject to approval from the Chief Justice. Selected candidates will receive a consolidated monthly honorarium of Rs. 30,000. Interested candidates must submit their application forms by October 31, 2026, before 5:00 PM. According to the notification's reservation breakdown, six posts are set aside for the unreserved category, two posts for Scheduled Castes, two posts for Scheduled Tribes, and one post for the Other Backward Classes category.

Checks tightened on Illegal paddy transport ahead of procurement

Central Chronicle News

BILASPUR: With paddy procurement for the 2026-27 Kharif marketing season expected to begin next month, the Chhattisgarh government has stepped up monitoring to prevent illegal transportation, stock diversion and recycling of paddy from the Rabi season. Although the official procurement dates have not yet been announced, the Food Department has issued detailed guidelines to ensure transparency and prevent paddy brought from neighbouring states from being sold through registered farmers. The state has established 273 check posts, including seven in Bilaspur district. Collectors have been directed to form special inspection teams comprising officials from the Revenue, Food, Mandi,



FASTFACTS

- Checks tightened on Illegal Paddy.
- transport ahead of procurement.

Cooperation, Forest and Transport departments. Authorities suspect that traders and intermediaries may attempt to bring paddy from other states and sell it using the registered landholdings of local farmers. Those transporting paddy from outside the state must

obtain administrative permission. Farmers moving their own paddy from one location to another may also be required to provide valid documents and explain the source of the produce. The administration is also concerned about traders and middlemen purchasing small quantities of paddy from farmers and selling the stock against registered farmers' landholdings, even where the recorded acreage may not have produced the quantity being offered.

GM Tarun Prakash interacts with passengers to get feedback

Central Chronicle News

The South East Central Railway (SECR) organised the 'Pan India Rail Jan Samvad' programme at 216 railway stations across the Bilaspur, Raipur and Nagpur divisions.

BILASPUR: The South East Central Railway (SECR) organised the 'Pan India Rail Jan Samvad' programme at 216 railway stations across the Bilaspur, Raipur and Nagpur divisions under Special Campaign 6.0. The initiative aimed to understand passengers' problems, expectations and suggestions to improve railway services and passenger amenities.



FASTFACTS

- At Bilaspur railway station, General Manager Tarun Prakash interacted directly with passengers and got their feedback.

At Bilaspur railway station, General Manager Tarun Prakash interacted directly with passengers and got their feedback on cleanliness, security, drinking water, waiting rooms and other facilities.

He listened to their concerns and suggestions and emphasised the need

for continuous improvement in passenger services. Additional General Manager Vijay Kumar Sahu interacted with passengers at Champa railway station, while Divisional Railway Manager Rakesh Ranjan held discussions at Usalapur station.

The conversations covered the quality of passenger amenities, cleanliness of station premises and possible improvements in railway services. Similar programmes were conducted at all 216 stations across the three

divisions in the presence of designated railway officials.

The initiative provided passengers, young people, senior citizens and other members of the public with an opportunity to communicate their concerns and suggestions directly to railway authorities. Officials emphasised reviewing the feedback received, taking necessary action and resolving passenger grievances promptly.

Under Special Campaign 6.0, the railway administration also focused on promoting cleanliness, clearing pending matters within set deadlines and improving the efficiency of office procedures and management. SECR said passenger feedback would remain an important tool for improving railway services and facilities.

DIGITAL MONITORING |

Digital Monitoring of PDS to begin for transparency

Central Chronicle News

BIALSPUR: The administration is planning to strengthen digital monitoring of the public distribution system (PDS) to improve transparency and prevent the diversion of foodgrains. Under the proposed Smart PDS system, stock and distribution records at 598 fair-price shops in the district will be monitored more closely, helping officials track every consignment from arrival to delivery to beneficiaries, said the in-charge



officer of PDS..

The system aims to maintain digital records of the quantity of foodgrains received by each ration shop, the amount dis-

tributed to beneficiaries and the stock remaining after distribution. Electronic point-of-sale (e-Pos) machines and digital records will help officials

“Digital monitoring of PDS is being planned to improve transparency “

In-charge officer Public Distribution System compare allocation, distribution and closing stock figures and investigate discrepancies.

More than 700 fair-price shops currently operate across the district under the public distribution system. According to

the report, around 18 lakh ration cardholders benefit from the scheme, with the government allocating approximately 14,000 metric tonnes of rice to meet their requirements. Maintaining accurate records throughout this extensive supply chain is essential to ensure that eligible families receive their entitled foodgrains. Food Controller Amrit Kujur said continuous efforts were being made at the government and administrative levels to improve transparency in ration distribution.

70-year-old man robbed of Rs 3,000 and mobile phone

BIALSPUR: Bilaspur: A 70-year-old man was allegedly robbed of Rs 3,000 in cash and his mobile phone near Vishal Traders, beneath the Tifra overbridge, under Sirgitti police station limits. The victim was also assaulted and injured after reportedly resisting the robbery. Police have registered a case against Kala Patre and his associates and launched an investigation. According to the complaint, Ram

Prakash Pandey, a resident of Yadunandan Nagar in Tifra, works at Chandra Aloo and Company in Vyapar Vihar. On October 20, he collected Rs 3,000 in wages from the shop. His employer, Yash Wadhwani, then dropped him by motorcycle at Maharana Chowk. Pandey was walking home after crossing the railway tracks when he reached the area near Vishal Traders, beneath the Tifra over-bridge.

Ensure all necessary arrangements like Manch, Pandal, lights, cleanliness and others at the venue for district level foundation day celebrations.

Kunal Dudawat
Collector Korba



Bilaspur Region

Yuwa Udaan 2026 empowers youth for Viksit Bharat

A Yuwa Udaan program was held in Korba to mark 25 years since the inception of the state of Chhattisgarh.

Central Chronicle News

KORBA: To mark 25 years of Chhattisgarh's formation, the Chhattisgarh State Youth Commission and Korba District Administration organised 'Yuwa Udaan 2026' at Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru Auditorium on Thursday. The event, led by Industries Minister Lakhan Lal Dewangan as chief guest, encouraged young people to pursue opportunities in education, employment, skill development, sports and personality building to help realise the vision of Viksit Bharat by 2047. Addressing the gathering, Minister Dewangan urged



youth to maintain a positive outlook, work hard and remain alert against misinformation. He highlighted government initiatives supporting education, employment and basic amenities, and dis-

cussed development projects undertaken through the District Mineral Foundation (DMF). He also announced approval of Rs 2 crore for renovating Rajiv Gandhi Auditorium in the Priyadarshini

Indira Stadium complex. Chhattisgarh State Youth Commission Chairman Vishwavijay Singh Tomar emphasised that youth power is defined by service, values, responsibility and perseverance.

HIGHLIGHT

● This program empowers youth to build a Viksit Bharat for the future.

Citing Swami Vivekananda's message, he encouraged young people to overcome challenges, respect their cultural roots and contribute to nation-building. He also highlighted the achievements of women athletes from the state as an inspiration for aspiring youth.

Korba Collector Kunal Dudawat highlighted initiatives to expand educational and sporting opportunities.

Collector Janmejay Mahobe reviews auditorium repair work

Central Chronicle News

JANJGIR-CHAMPA: Collector Janmejay Mahobe inspected the ongoing repair work at the district headquarters auditorium to review its progress and ensure construction quality. During the inspection, he directed officials to complete the work within the stipulated timeframe while strictly adhering to prescribed quality standards. The Collector emphasised that the auditorium serves as an important venue for government programmes, meetings, conferences and other official events. Therefore, ensuring adequate facilities, proper maintenance and organised arrangements is essential. He instructed the concerned

FASTFACTS

● Collector Janmejay Mahobe inspected the ongoing repair work at an auditorium in Janjgir-Champa.

● He directed the officials to ensure that the repair work gets completed on time.

officials to prioritise the repair work, conduct regular inspections and promptly resolve any technical issues that arise during construction. He also directed them to review progress periodically and ensure that all necessary facilities and arrangements are thoroughly tested upon completion, enabling the auditorium to function smoothly.

TRIBUTES PAID

Martyr Gautam Rajwade honoured

AMBIKAPUR: A tribute ceremony was organised on October 21, 2026, at Government Higher Secondary School, Latori to honour martyr Gautam Rajwade on National Police Commemoration Day. Public representatives, police personnel, teachers, students, family members and villagers paid homage to his supreme sacrifice.

Born on February 4, 1991, in Taraju village of Lakanpur block, Surguja district, Rajwade joined the Chhattisgarh Police Special Task Force (STF) after completing his education. While serving in the Naxal-affected Bastar region.

CAMP

Six students leave for Pachmarhi camp

RAIGARH: Six students from Government High School, Samaruma, in Tamnar block have departed for Pachmarhi, Madhya Pradesh, to participate in a training camp organised by The Bharat Scouts and Guides. The students are attending the camp under the guidance of the District Education Officer. The participants are Asha Yadav, Nikita Yadav, Varsha Ekka, Subhash Yadav, Nikhil Yadav and Kunal Yadav. During the camp, students will receive training in mountaineering, personality development and disaster management. The programme aims to enhance their self-confidence, discipline, leadership abilities.

District Panchayat CEO reviews health center facilities

Central Chronicle News

RAIGARH: Under the guidance of Collector Mayank Chaturvedi, efforts are underway to improve healthcare services and ensure essential medical facilities are accessible to the public.

As part of this initiative, District Panchayat Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Abhijit Pathare inspected the Urban Ayushman Arogya Mandir in Baghtalab and the Urban Primary Health Centre (UPHC) in Modina-



gar. He reviewed medical facilities, medicine availability, laboratory testing services and cleanliness arrangements.

During the inspection, Pathare directed officials to ensure the availability of essential medicines

and laboratory services according to government standards for timely diagnosis and treatment. He also instructed officials to develop the Baghtalab Urban Ayushman Arogya Mandir into a model health centre.

District hq's to host Rajyotsav celebration

SURAJPUR: A grand celebration of Chhattisgarh's foundation day, Rajyotsav, will be organised at the district headquarters on November 2. The one-day event will feature exhibitions showcasing major state government schemes and the achievements of various development departments under the theme 'Sashakt Nari, Yuwa Udaan' (Empowered Women, Youth Aspirations).

Eligible beneficiaries will also be provided access to various government welfare schemes during the event.

Gayatri Mahayajna promotes spirituality and social progress

Central Chronicle News

TAKHATPUR: A Bhumi Pujan ceremony was performed with Vedic rituals and mantra chanting at Gayatri Pragya Peeth in Limhi village under the guidance of the All World Gayatri Pariwar Trust. The ceremony marks preparations for the Shrimad Pragya Puran Katha, Five-Kund Gayatri Mahayajna and various Sanskar ceremonies, scheduled from October 28 to November 1. All programmes will be



organised free of charge. BJP District Vice-President Santosh Kaushik 'Guruji' attended as chief guest,

while Zila Panchayat Vice-President Lalita Santosh Kashyap served as the chief host.

Collector directs Census 2027 preparations

Central Chronicle News

MUNGELI: Collector and Chief Census Officer Amrut Vikas Topno has directed officials and staff involved in Census 2027 to perform their responsibilities with utmost seriousness, accuracy and accountability. He emphasised thorough training, adherence to prescribed procedures and effective coordination to ensure smooth census operations. A district-level training programme was organised at Maniyari Hall in the District Collectorate. Census



Office trainers Vidyanand and Vikram trained district- and charge-level officials and staff on census methodology, procedures and responsibilities. Topno instructed participants

to understand every aspect of the training to avoid confusion during field operations. He stressed that accurate data collection, timely execution and interdepartmental coordination are essential for this important national exercise.

Additional Collector and District Census Officer officials informed that the first phase, covering house listing and housing enumeration, was completed from May 1 to 30, 2026. The second phase, involving population enumeration, is scheduled for January-February 2027.

MCB completes Census 2027 enumeration training

Central Chronicle News

MCB: The first day of a two-day district-level training programme for Census 2027 concluded on October 22 in Manendragarh-Chirmiri-Bharatpur (MCB) district. The programme was held at the Collectorate conference hall under the chairmanship of Additional Collector and District Census Officer Namrata Dogre. Master Trainer Naseeb Ahmed Khan



and District Nodal Officer Atul Bansod provided detailed training on census procedures, formation of enumeration blocks, delineation of supervisory circles and systematic

data collection. Officials were briefed on the responsibilities of enumerators and supervisors, household identification, staffing requirements and monitoring mechanisms.

Special electoral revision targets eligible first-time voters

SAKTI: The Election Commission of India has announced a Special Summary Revision (SSR) of electoral rolls, with January 1, 2027, as the qualifying date, to ensure registration of all eligible voters, particularly youth and first-time voters.

Polling station reorganisation will be completed by November 2, 2026. The draft electoral roll will be published on



November 12, with claims and objections accepted until December 11. The final electoral roll will be published on January 4, 2027. Young people turning 18 by January 1, 2027, can register, while

advance applications are permitted for those attaining eligibility on April 1, July 1 or October 1, 2027. Form 6 is for new registrations, Form 7 for objections, Form 8 for corrections and transfers,

and Form 6A for overseas voters. Applications can be submitted through the ECI portal, the ECINET app or local Booth Level Officers. Helpline: 1950. Special camps will assist vulnerable groups.

Grand Ravana Dahan celebrated at Gandhi Maidan

CHIRMIRI, MCB: Ravana Dahan was celebrated with great enthusiasm at Mahatma Gandhi Stadium in Chota Bazar, Chirmiri, on the occasion of Vijayadashami. Organised by the Shri Shri Durga Puja and Vijayadashami Samaroh Samiti, the event witnessed the participation of Chhattisgarh Health Minister and local MLA Shyam Bihari Jaiswal,



along with his wife, Kanti Jaiswal, public representatives and a large number of residents. Amid chants of 'Jai Shri Ram,' the burning of Ravana's effigy symbolised the

victory of good over evil and the triumph of truth and righteousness. Officials from Chirmiri's GM Complex and representatives of various labour unions also attended. Calcutta Bazar and Meena Bazar emerged as major attractions, drawing families and children with shopping stalls, amusement rides, devotional music and cultural programmes.

Monika urges villagers to prioritize sanitation

MUNGELI: To strengthen sanitation and waste management under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin), State Consultant Monika Singh inspected ODF model villages Ghutia, Tikaitpendri, Mohbbhatta-S and Kirna in Pathariya Janpad Panchayat of Mungeli district. During the visit, she

reviewed solid and liquid waste management initiatives and assessed progress under the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026. She instructed Swachhagrahis to ensure door-to-door waste collection and segregation into four categories: dry, wet, sanitary and electronic waste.

APPROVAL

Sakti gets Rs 326 lakh for road construction

SAKTI: The Chhattisgarh government has approved Rs 326.04 lakh for constructing a 2.40-kilometre road connecting Dhimani village to the main road in Sakti district. The Public Works Department (PWD) has granted administrative approval for the project to strengthen rural connectivity and improve transportation facilities. The proposed road is expected to make daily travel easier for residents of Dhimani and neighbouring villages. Improved connectivity will help farmers transport agricultural produce, enable students to reach educational institutions conveniently.

| COLLECTOR OVERSEES CENSUS WORK |

Collector directs error-free, timely Census 2027 training

Central Chronicle News

Gaurela-Pendra-Marwahi: A district-level training programme was organised on October 22 and 23 at the High-Class New Rest House in Pendra Road to prepare officials for the population enumeration phase of Census 2027 in Chhattisgarh. Addressing the par-



ticipants, Collector and Chief Census Officer Vijay Dayaram K. described the census as a vital national

exercise whose data plays an important role in framing development policies, planning and public welfare schemes. He instructed officials to understand the technical procedures thoroughly and ensure accurate, fully digital and timely enumeration, emphasising that no individual should be left out. State-appointed

master trainers Balwant Somkunwar and Dharmaraj Meena provided detailed information about the census process, technical requirements and administrative procedures. Participants were briefed on the 40 questions to be asked during population enumeration, data compilation and digital monitoring.

According to the training programme, population enumeration in Chhattisgarh is scheduled from January 25 to February 28, 2027. The entire exercise will be conducted digitally, with enumerators visiting households and collecting information through a designated mobile application on their smartphones.

Fun & Focus



Daily Horoscope

ARIES

Likely to get a happy news. A new financial deal will get finalized and fresh money rolls in. Do not be erratic in your behaviour-especially with your spouse-otherwise it may mar the peace at home. Today, you can plan on going home early as soon as you reach the office. Upon reaching home, you can plan to watch a movie.

Cosmic tip: Instead of getting dragged focus on your own.

Gemini

Outdoor activities will be tiring and stressful today. You'll come to understand the fact today that investing often proves to be very beneficial for you, as any old investment made by you an offer profitable returns. You are going to learn some lessons from your children. Good day for retailers and wholesalers.

Cosmic tip: landing in a much better place.

Leo

Try to control your impulsive and stubborn nature especially in the party as it may spoil the mood in the party. If you wish to lead a smooth life and maintain a stable standard of living, then you need to remain attentive today regarding your finances. Good time for entering a matrimonial alliance.

Cosmic tip: There may be plenty of fish in the sea.

Libra

You would get relief from the tensions and strains of life which you have been experiencing for long. It is right time to change your life style to permanently keep them a bay. You may spend your money on your partner's poor health today. But you do not have to worry about it, as the money you were saving for a long time will come in handy.

Cosmic tip: Protect your boundaries.

Sagittarius

Few tensions and difference of opinion could leave you irritated and uneasy. You need to talk to your family members today regarding money investment and savings. Their advice will prove to be helpful in improving your financial situation. Small children keep you busy and bring you joy. Rudeness of your spouse might keep you upset.

Cosmic tip: Perfection is an illusion.

Aquarius

It is high time for you to cure your fear. You must realize that it not only wears down physical vitality but and shortens life. Those who have borrowed money from anyone may have to repay the loan under any circumstances. In such a manner, it can weaken your economic situation.

Cosmic tip: Savour what you have.

Taurus

Avoid high calorie diet and stick to your exercise. Investment concerning your residence will be profitable. Children could make the day very hard for you. Use affection weapon to keep their interest and avoid any undue stress. Great day to implement new projects and plans.

Cosmic tip: Stand your ground wisely.

Cancer

Don't waste your time in building castle in the air. Rather conserve your energy to do something meaningful. You may spend your money on your partner's poor health today. But you do not have to worry about it, as the money you were saving for a long time will come in handy.

Cosmic tip: Turn your fortune for your chosen destiny.

Virgo

Sort out your tension for mental peace. Due to the placement of the Moon, your money can be spent on unnecessary things. If you wish to accumulate wealth, then talk to your spouse or parents about it. Family members or spouse will cause some tensions. Those connected with art and theatre will find several new opportunities to give their creative best.

Cosmic tip: Life is turning around for the better.

Scorpio

Lovely mood of your spouse may brighten your day. You should look twice at investment schemes that are presented to you today. Today if you give advice-then be open to receive it as well. A sudden trip undertaken for business purpose will yield positive results. A day when most things proceed-as you desire.

Cosmic tip: Stay anchored in your beliefs.

Capricorn

Today you will be full of energy-Whatever you do-you will be able to do it in half the time you generally take. Financial position will improve through speculation or unexpected gains. Do not share your personal matters with the casual acquaintances. Opportunities to show your skills will be with you today.

Cosmic tip: Decide. Choose. Move.

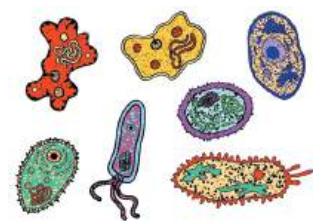
Pisces

Take special care while working at home. Any careless handling of domestic utilities could cause you some problem. Today, avoid lending your money to those relatives who have not yet returned the previous amount. Use your expertise to solve professional matters effortlessly.

Cosmic tip: Continuing to build what you dream off.

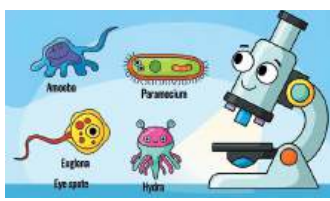
SCIENCE WATCH

What are unicellular organisms?



Unicellular organisms are living things made of just one cell that does everything it needs to survive, grow, and reproduce all by itself. Most are tiny microbes that you can only see with a microscope, like bacteria, amoebas, and yeast

What are there cool examples?



Amoeba - A jelly-like blob that moves by stretching out "false feet", Paramecium - A fast little swimmer covered in tiny hair-like oars called cilia, Yeast - A tiny fungus that helps bakers make bread rise and bubbles form are some cool examples.

They have tail power



Many unicellular organisms zoom around using a little whip-like tail called a flagellum, to find food. Bacterial flagella spin in a circle like a tiny electric drill bit, sometimes turning over 1,000 times a minute!

HOMOGRAPH QUIZ

Homographs are words that are spelled the same way, but have different meanings and sometimes different pronunciations.

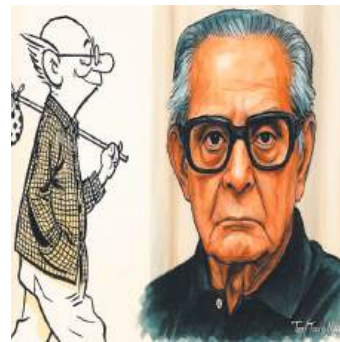
- Which single word can mean both "a natural current of air moving swiftly outdoors" and "to turn a knob, key, or mechanism repeatedly in a circular motion to tighten a spring"?
A - Draft B - Spiral C - Breeze D - Wind
- Which single word can mean both "the tough, protective outer exterior of a woody tree trunk" and "the sharp, explosive vocal cry made by a dog"?
A - Bark B - Rind C - Howl D - Husk
- Which single word can mean both "a nocturnal flying mammal" and "a wooden or aluminium club used to hit a ball in sports like baseball"?
A - Fowl B - Mallet C - Bat D - Club

ANSWER - 1-D, 2-A, 3-A.



OCTOBER 24-THE DAY IN HISTORY

- October 24 marks several significant milestones including the 1945 birth of UN and the 1577, foundation of Amritsar city by Sikh Guru, Guru Ram Das.
- Same day in 1851, India's first official telegraphs line was opened and in 1984 - first underground metro began operations.
- On this day was born Lakshmi Sahgal, commander of the Rani of Jhansi Regiment, R.K. Laxman, legendary Indian cartoonist and Krishnaswamy Kasturirangan, eminent space scientist.
- On October 24, 1901, 63-year-old Annie Edson Taylor became the first person to plunge over Niagara Falls inside a custom wooden barrel and survive.



IT'S QUIZ TIME

LEARN SOMETHING NEW! KNOW MORE GROW MORE!

- Only four Indian women have achieved the title of Woman Grandmaster (WGM). Three of them are Dronavalli Harika, R Vaishali and Divya Deshmukh. Name the fourth, who was the first to achieve this distinction.
- Which Indian civil servant and statesman was the 10th Election Commissioner of India, serving between 1990 and 1996, and was also a candidate in the 1997 Indian presidential election?
- BRICS originally began as BRIC with four countries. Which country joined later to add the "S" to the name BRICS?
- Karaikudi, a town in Tamil Nadu's Sivaganga district, is famous for which?
- What is the traditional two-piece dress worn by Khasi women of Meghalaya, held in place with shoulder straps?
- Saalumara Thimakkka, an environmentalist from Karnataka, planted and cared for thousands of banyan trees along roadsides with her husband. She became an inspiration for tree conservation in India. What was she popularly known as?
- In 1972, the video game Pong became one of the first games to gain worldwide popularity. But an even earlier electronic game was created in 1958. What was this pioneering game called?

Answers-

(1) Subbaraman Vijayalakshmi (the first Indian woman to achieve the WGM title in 2001)
(2) T. N. Seshan (Tirunelveli Narayana Iyer Seshan)
(3) South Africa (4) Its grand Chettiar mansions and spicy Chettinad cuisine (5) Jainsem (6) Mother of Trees (7) Tennis for Two

RamaQuiz

TELL ME WHY

Why the cell is called the structural unit of life?

The cell is the structural unit of life because all living things are built from cells. It is the functional unit because every vital process—such as energy production, metabolism, and reproduction—occurs inside them.

You are made of millions of cells, all of different types.

Blood cell

Nerve cell

Muscle cell

Skin cell

Who Am I?

- I am an Australian cricket player widely known as "The Don". I am famous for my unbelievable Test batting average of 99.94, a record that no other player has ever come close to beating.
- As a young boy, I practiced batting by throwing a golf ball against the curved brick base of a water tank and hitting it on the rebound with a cricket stump instead of a bat. This weird solo game helped me to build super-fast hand-eye coordination and amazing timing. I scored my first official century (100 runs in a single innings) when I was just 12 years old playing for my school.
- I scored 6,996 runs with an average of 99.94 in 52 matches and scored 29 Test centuries (including 12 double centuries and 2 triple centuries) in just 80 innings. During the 1932-33 Ashes series, England tried a dangerous bowling trick called "Bodyline" just to stop me from scoring but I was no where to stop.

ANSWER - Sir Don Bradman

WORD OF THE DAY

DISSONANT

Meaning - Lacking harmony, agreement, or a pleasing fit.

Example - The orchestra deliberately used a dissonant chord to build tension before the symphony's resolution."

Synonyms - Discordant, Cacophonous, Jarring

Antonyms - Incongruous, Discrepant, Incompatible

FACT OF THE DAY

Mole Day is celebrated annually on October 23 to honour Avogadro's number (6.02 × 10²³). The Mole is a standard counting unit in chemistry, similar to a "dozen" (12), used to count extremely tiny particles like atoms and ions.

Avogadro's number
 6.02×10^{23}

1 MOLE = 6.02×10^{23}

ATOMS
IONS

PHRASE FACT FINDER

"A dime a dozen"

Meaning: Something very common and not special.

Example: "Those shoes are a dime a dozen."

Origin: The phrase originated in the United States during the 1800s, building on the American dime (a 10-cent coin introduced in 1796).

So common... not special!

CROSSWORD -263

Across

- Instrument for finding directions (7)
- Lariat (5)
- Mixture of metals (5)
- Eyeglass for one eye (7)
- Chevy sweet (7)
- Gloss (5)
- Small wave (6)
- Bound (4,2)
- Trip the light fantastic (5)
- Quarrel (4,3)
- North American falls (7)
- Rebuke (5)
- Leather with a soft napped surface (5)
- No longer existing (7)

Down

- Poet who wrote "The Canterbury Tales" (7)
- Tooth adapted for grinding food (5)
- Very bad indeed (7)
- Easy, foolish (6)
- Countries (5)
- Achieve one's ambitions (7)
- The Atlantic, for example (5)
- Writer's pseudonym (3,4)
- Unlawful (7)
- Person requiring medical care (7)
- Burning (6)
- People of Denmark (5)
- Dodge (5)
- Edible bulb (5)

SUDOKU- 263

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

CROSSWORD SOLUTION- 262

'D	E	B	A	T	E	'W	'I	G	'W	A	'M
C	R	U	M	B	'A	U	S	T	R	I	A
R	E	E	I	S	T	T	G				
E	X	T	R	A	C	T	'A	B	H	O	R
E	I					R	N				E
'S	N	'U	F	'A	'N	'G	'U	I	'S	H	
T	N	F	U	R	V	O					
E	V	I	D	E	N	T	'O	P	I	U	M
E	O	T				O	A	A			
'M	O	N	D	A	'Y	'A	M	B	L	E	'S

SUDOKU SOLUTION- 262

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

DAILY WORD SEARCH

- Adage
 - Adagio
 - Adamant
 - Adaptor
 - Addendum
 - Adder
 - Address
 - Adept
 - Adhesive

- Adieu
 - Admiral
 - Adobe
 - Adonis
 - Adult
 - Advance
 - Advent
 - Adverb
 - Advice

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

Business



UPI surcharge needed for maintaining fledgling system
Amitava Chatterjee
J&K Bank MD and CEO

Goyal assures global investors of India's stable business climate

Piyush Goyal assures global investors of a stable Indian business environment, highlighting nine FTAs covering 38 countries and expanding trade opportunities worldwide.

Press Trust Of India

BERLIN: Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal has assured global investors that India offers a stable and predictable business environment, emphasising that investors can build and expand their businesses without facing the kind of uncertainty witnessed in some other countries.

Addressing the Berlin Global Dialogue, Goyal said the world was increasingly fragmented and trust had become a scarce commodity. However, he asserted that India ensures a fair and transparent environment for investors, business-people and traders. "I can assure everybody in the room and beyond that when you invest in India, you work in India, you grow in India, you build conglomerates of wealth or powerful business houses in India, I can guarantee you that you will never disappear one fine day, only to come out as a professor in a Japanese university," Goyal said.

Although he did not name anyone, the remarks appeared to allude to Alibaba co-founder Jack Ma, who reportedly remained out of public view for several months in 2020 after crit-



India offers investors stability, predictability and access to global markets.

icising Chinese financial regulators. He was subsequently appointed a visiting professor at Tokyo College, affiliated with the University of Tokyo.

Highlighting India's expanding global trade engagement, Goyal said the country had finalised nine free trade agreements (FTAs) covering 38 countries, whose combined gross domestic product exceeds USD 60 trillion.

He noted that India's earlier FTAs, including the agreement with Singapore, collectively covered economies with a GDP

NUMBER

38

● India offers investors stability, predictability and access to global markets.

Brazil-led Mercosur and Russia-led Eurasia. According to Goyal, these prospective agreements could add another USD 15 trillion to the economic opportunities available to Indian businesses. He said the combined reach of existing and proposed trade agreements could provide Indian businesses access to markets representing approximately USD 85 trillion of the USD 115 trillion global economy.

"This is 76 per cent of global GDP that will be open to Indian businesses," he said, under-

scoring the government's efforts to expand market access, strengthen international trade ties and attract investment. Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal assured global investors that India offers a stable and predictable business environment, and said those who invest, work and grow in the country would not face the kind of uncertainty seen elsewhere. Speaking at the Berlin Global Dialogue here, he said that the world is fragmented today and trust is a scarce commodity.

Infosys Q2 net profit rises 6.2 pc to Rs 7,823 crore

Press Trust Of India

Infosys reports 6.2% quarterly profit growth, driven by strong revenues and AI demand.

NEW DELHI: IT company Infosys on Friday reported a 6.2 per cent increase in consolidated net profit to Rs 7,823 crore for the second quarter ended September 30. The company registered net profit of Rs 7,364 crore a year ago, according to a regulatory filing. Its consolidated revenue from operations grew 10.2 per cent to Rs 49,244 crore in the reported quarter from Rs 44,490 crore in the year-ago period.

Infosys CEO and MD Salil Parekh said the company registered strong large contracts of USD 5.2 billion, including a mega deal of over USD 2 billion.



"Our AI revenue was 10.5 per cent and grew 29 per cent quarter-on-quarter. As enterprises move to AI adoption at scale, the strong growth in AI revenues is a recognition of our differentiated market positioning and client confidence," he said. The company's operating margin was stable at 21 per cent on a year-on-year basis. "Based on our Q2 performance and revised outlook for the rest of the year, our revenue growth guidance is 1 per cent to 2 per cent year-over-year in constant currency terms.

Jio Platforms IPO sets global record with 1 crore applications

Press Trust Of India

Jio Platforms IPO crosses one crore applications, setting global record.

NEW DELHI: Jio Platforms' mega initial public offering (IPO) has become the first public issue globally to receive more than one crore applications, setting a new record, sources said on Friday. The milestone surpasses the previous record of approximately 97 lakh applications set by Waaree Energies. By 12:03 pm on Friday, the IPO had received bids for 136.32 crore shares against 19.75 crore shares on offer, translating into nearly seven times overall subscription. Qualified Institutional Buyers (QIBs) led demand, subscribing to their reserved portion 14.46 times. Non-Institutional Investors subscribed 9.45 times, while



the retail investor category recorded 2.02 times subscription. The shareholder and employee portions were subscribed 5.68 times and 2.48 times, respectively. The entirely fresh issue comprises 27 crore shares. At the upper price band, Jio Platforms aims to raise approximately Rs 30,213 crore, implying a valuation of around USD 108 billion. Neither Reliance Industries Ltd nor other existing shareholders are selling shares. The company had raised Rs 8,110 crore from 212 anchor investors on October 19, allotting shares at Rs 1,119 apiece. Major inves-

HIGHLIGHT

● Investor response surpasses previous global records.

tors included BlackRock, Fidelity Investments, GIC and the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority. Jio Platforms plans to utilise up to Rs 27,500 crore of the proceeds to repay borrowings of its wholly owned subsidiary, Reliance Jio Infocomm. The remaining funds will support capital expenditure, technology and digital services investments, and working capital requirements.

| FOR THIRD CONSECUTIVE YEAR |

LG earns Great Place to Work certification

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: LG Electronics India Ltd. (LGE India), a leading consumer durables company, has received the Great Place To Work Certification for the third consecutive year, reflecting its continued commitment to employee trust, engagement and workplace well-being.

The certification, awarded by Great Place To Work, is based on



employee feedback through the Trust Index survey and an assessment of workplace cul-

ture. First receiving the recognition in 2023, LGE India continues to focus on employee

experience, professional growth, people-centric initiatives and family engagement. Commenting on the achievement, Hong Ju Jeon, Managing Director, LG Electronics India, said, "Earning the Great Place To Work Certification for the third year in a row is both an important milestone and a key validation for LG Electronics India's progressive HR practices. Our people are central to building a resilient organ-

isation and delivering on our long-term ambitions. We believe that a culture rooted in trust, respect and collaboration enables employees to contribute their best and realise their potential." Anurag Gupta, Executive Vice President, Great Place To Work India, said, "Earning the certification for the third consecutive year demonstrates LG Electronics India's steadfast commitment to a people-first workplace.

BizBriefs

BEST OF THE REST

HOW THE MARKET'S BEHAVE TODAY?

Markets extend losses for 4th day amid selling pressure, oil price surge



MUMBAI: Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty ended lower for the fourth consecutive session on Friday as crude oil prices breached the USD 114 level amid escalating tensions in West Asia, keeping investors on edge. A broad-based selling across sectors and FII outflows amid weak global trends also dampened investor sentiment. The 30-share BSE Sensex opened higher but later plunged 797.02 points, or 1.08 per cent, to hit an intraday low of 72,452.37. It later recouped some losses to settle at 73,123.83, down 125.56 points, or 0.17 per cent.

The 50-share NSE Nifty dropped 87.65 points, or 0.39 per cent, to close at 22,600 after tumbling 315.65 points, or 1.39 per cent, to a low of 22,372. Tata Steel and Adani Ports fell over 3

per cent, emerging as the biggest laggards among the Sensex firms.

Trent, Tech Mahindra, Bharat Electronics Ltd, IndiGo, Bajaj Finserv, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Titan, Bajaj Finance, NTPC, State Bank of India and Hindustan Unilever also traded lower. In contrast, Eternal, Larsen & Toubro, Reliance Industries, Tata Consultancy Services, UltraTech Cement, Asian Paints, Maruti Suzuki India, Infosys, and ICICI Bank were among the gainers. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, climbed 1.10 per cent to trade above USD 114.42 per barrel. "Market sentiment remained fragile as concerns over supply disruptions in global energy markets overshadowed selective buying in IT stocks. Brent crude approached USD 114 per barrel amid rising West Asia tensions.

PREMIUM ENTERTAINMENT

Airtel partners with YouTube to bring premium entertainment to prepaid customers

MUMBAI: For customers, mobile data is no longer just about staying connected. It has become the gateway to how they watch shows and movies, follow creators, listen to music and discover new content. To cater to this mass audience usage behavior and complement it with the best of its services, Airtel has partnered with YouTube to bring YouTube Premium to its prepaid customers. The partnership gives them an ad-free YouTube experience, including Shorts, along with background play, offline downloads and YouTube Music Premium, T&C apply. The launch reflects how customers use their phones today. Data is how they follow creators, catch up on shows, listen to music and discover new content. YouTube Premium now joins Airtel's entertainment lineup alongside Prime Video, JioHotstar, ZEE5 Premium, SonyLIV and 18+ other OTT platforms, all available through its Rs 200 OTT top-up with 30GB of additional data. With the addition of YouTube Premium, Airtel is expanding its prepaid entertainment proposition to bring together different ways customers consume content.

PHOTO EXPANSION

Burger Singh expands its presence with new outlet

MUMBAI: Burger Singh, India's largest homegrown burger chain, has opened a new outlet in Raipur, strengthening its expansion plans in Chhattisgarh, where it sees potential for up to 16 stores. With this launch, the brand now operates more than 200 outlets across over 100 cities in India. The company is targeting young, food-loving consumers seeking affordable, quality quick-service options featuring flavours suited to Indian tastes. Its expansion strategy also aims to create business opportunities for local entrepreneurs. "Raipur has embraced Burger Singh's taste from day one, and this new outlet reflects the potential of the market. Chhattisgarh can comfortably support 16 Burger Singh stores," said Nitin Rana, co-founder of Burger Singh. He added that the brand's established customer base, Indian-inspired menu and low-investment franchise model make it an attractive opportunity for first-time business owners. The company aims to collaborate with local entrepreneurs who understand regional preferences and grow alongside the brand.



DIGITAL COMPETITION FRAMEWORK

India needs flexible Digital Competition rules to protect innovation: Experts

NEW DELHI: India needs a balanced, evidence-based digital competition framework that ensures fair markets while protecting innovation, investment and business growth, experts said at The Dialogue's 4th Annual International Conference, "Competition, Innovation, and Growth: Building India's Digital Economy," held in New Delhi on October 22. The conference examined digital platforms' role in helping micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) expand, strengthening India's artificial intelligence (AI) ecosystem and developing competition policies amid changing global trade and investment dynamics.

Dr. Lazar Radic, Assistant Professor of Law at IE Law School and Senior Scholar at ICLE, cautioned against prescriptive regulations imposed in advance. He argued that a flexible, case-by-case competition framework would better accommodate technological changes while protecting consumers and encouraging innovation.

Shanker A. Singham, President and Chairman of Competere Group, said excessive regulation could increase compliance costs for smaller companies, restrict investment and limit opportunities for businesses to grow.



He advocated allowing companies to compete on merit and develop innovative products and services.

Elisa Ramundo, Founder and Director of SCOPE Global Exchange, called for a measured approach to digital competition regulation. She emphasised leveraging existing technologies and capabilities rather than pursuing costly duplication that could burden consumers and taxpayers.

Kazim Rizvi, Founding Director of The Dialogue, said India should strengthen the Competition Commission of India's (CCI) enforcement capacity, develop specialised expertise within its Digital Markets Division and improve the efficiency of the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal. He noted that existing mechanisms, including the Settlements and Commitments Framework, offer opportunities for timely.

Fadnavis orders probe into clip released by Jarange

He said even Jarange has demanded an investigation concerning the audio.

Press Trust Of India

Jarange had on Thursday released the audio clip in Jalna, alleging that a conspiracy was hatched to silence him and weaken the Maratha agitation.

NAGPUR/MUMBAI: Escalating tension within Maharashtra's ruling alliance over a controversial audio clip led Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Friday to order a forensic probe, as Shiv Sena leader Ramdas Kadam accused BJP insiders of plotting with Maratha quota activist Manoj Jarange to "finish" Deputy CM Eknath Shinde.

Fadnavis said in Nagpur that the audio clip released by Jarange, which purportedly claims that Rs 500 crore was delivered to him through Shiv Sena MP Shrikant Shinde, will be thoroughly investigated using forensic methods.

Hours later, Kadam called a press conference in Mumbai accusing Jarange of colluding with a section of the BJP to politically "finish a Maratha leader", an apparent reference to Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde.

Speaking to reporters after casting his vote for the Nagpur Graduates' seat in the Maharashtra Legislative Council elections, Fadnavis



said that a delegation of the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena had met him seeking a probe into the matter. The Shinde-led Shiv Sena has also questioned some BJP leaders whose names have cropped up in the audio.

"We all have the same question: why have these conversations emerged now, after two and a half years? What exactly are the motives behind their emergence? Who is being targeted? For what purpose? There are many questions in this regard," Fadnavis said.

"The Shiv Sena delegation has sought a probe, and the BJP has done so too. Even Jarange has demanded an investigation. Therefore, the matter will certainly be thoroughly investigated using forensic methods, and we will

uncover whatever truth there is," the Chief Minister said.

Jarange had on Thursday released the audio clip in Jalna, alleging that a conspiracy was hatched to silence him and weaken the Maratha agitation. He made the recording public after Deputy CM Eknath Shinde challenged him to prove allegations that the latter had secured Rs 500 crore from the BJP and funnelled it via his son and MP, Shrikant Shinde.

In the viral audio, a woman is allegedly heard claiming that Rs 500 crore had been delivered to Jarange through Shrikant Shinde (deputy chief minister's son). Speakers in the recording are also purportedly heard discussing strategies to counter Jarange's growing political influence in the Marathwada region

ahead of the 2024 assembly elections.

One speaker allegedly suggests countering Jarange indirectly, noting that his campaign portraying the BJP as anti-Maratha could pose a significant electoral challenge.

Kadam, meanwhile, launched an attack on Jarange, accusing him of fooling the Maratha community, driving a wedge between groups, and being involved in state tender processes.

"You are trying to hatch a conspiracy to finish a Maratha leader (Eknath Shinde) by colluding with the BJP," Kadam said.

Asking who within the BJP was attempting to undermine Shinde, Kadam pointed out that the names of BJP MLC Pravin Darekar and MLC Prasad Lad, both considered close aides of the Chief Minister, had surfaced in connection with the controversy. He also displayed photographs of Lad and Jarange having a meal together.

"Who are the ones in the BJP trying to finish Eknath Shinde?" Kadam asked.

The former minister said that he has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat, and the Chief Minister demanding a detailed forensic examination of the audio clip.

Assam to present 1st Bhupen Hazarika National Award to Usha Mangeshkar

GUWAHATI: The Assam government has instituted a new award, the 'Bharat Ratna Dr Bhupen Hazarika National Award', and it will be presented to eminent singer Usha Mangeshkar, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said here on Friday.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will present the award at the concluding ceremony of Hazarika's year-long birth centenary celebrations at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi on November 29, Sarma said at a press conference.

The award will be given every three years and comprises Rs 10 lakh in cash and a citation.

Sarma said around 5,000-7,000 people from across the country are expected to participate in the concluding event.

It will showcase Bhupen Hazarika's remarkable artistic legacy and multifaceted genius, whose music, poetry and humanist philosophy have transcended geographical and cultural boundaries, he said.

Renowned singers Kavita Krishnamurthy, Shankar Mahadevan, Shreya Ghoshal and artistes from Assam will also pay a musical tribute to the maestro, celebrating his enduring contribution to India's cultural heritage, the CM said.

Siddaramaiah calls 'sting operation' totally concocted, seeks fair probe

Press Trust Of India

He demanded a fair investigation to bring out the truth and identify those behind it.



BENGALURU: Former Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Friday termed the alleged sting operation targeting him as "totally concocted and false" and intended to blackmail him.

He demanded a fair investigation to bring out the truth and identify those behind it.

He said he had filed a complaint himself to ensure the truth came out and the public knew who was behind the alleged operation.

"I filed the complaint myself because the truth must come out. People should know who is behind this and that it is a false case," he told reporters here.

He said he had also approached a civil court and obtained an injunction to prevent wider publicity of the matter.

Late last month, two videos containing serious allegations against Siddaramaiah were uploaded on YouTube. The two-time chief minister obtained an injunction barring the press from reporting on the videos. He has lodged a police complaint seeking an investigation.

Referring to the

FASTFACTS

- The former chief minister reiterated that the matter should be investigated impartially so that the facts emerge and those responsible are identified.

reportedly behind it. He asserted that the allegations in the video had no basis.

"There is no truth in it. It is a totally concocted story. This is a false case," he said.

The Congress leader said he learnt about the matter on September 26, after the video became viral, and maintained that the operation would not succeed in tarnishing his image.

"Even if someone tries to tarnish my image, people will not believe it," he said.

NEWSLINE

CHANDIGARH Punjab Assembly passes unanimous resolution seeking inquiry into electoral 'irregularities'

The Punjab Assembly on Friday unanimously passed an official resolution seeking an independent inquiry into alleged electoral irregularities and the functioning of the Election Commission under Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar.

Taking part in the discussion on the resolution on Day 2 of the Assembly session, Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann lashed out at the BJP over alleged vote 'loot', terming it dangerous for democracy, and demanded the scrapping of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

Mann claimed that names of 14 crore voters had been deleted from the electoral rolls nationwide under the garb of SIR, accusing the BJP of manipulating electoral rolls in the name of the Election Commission by adding voters in its favour and deleting those of the opposition.

He also claimed that elections in Bihar, West Bengal, Haryana and Maharashtra had been won through "vote chori".

The six-day special session of the Punjab Vidhan Sabha began on Thursday and would continue till October 27.

RJD MP urges Jamia VC to restore students' union

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: RJD Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Yadav has urged Jamia Millia Islamia Vice-Chancellor to restore the students' union and withdraw disciplinary action against protesting students, as an agitation continues on the campus. Jamia has not had an elected students' union since 2006; the last elections were held in 2005. Students began an indefinite hunger strike on October 12, demanding the union's restoration and raising concerns over academic facilities, attendance, hostels, scholarships and research stipends. In a letter to Vice-Chancellor Professor Mazhar Asif, the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) MP called for a transparent, time-bound roadmap for holding

elections; the withdrawal of disciplinary orders and campus restrictions imposed on protesters; and immediate dialogue with students. "An elected students' union is not a privilege; it is an essential platform for democratic representation, academic freedom, nation building and responsible leadership," he said. Citing Jawaharlal Nehru University and Delhi University, where students' union elections are held in accordance with the Lyngdoh Committee recommendations, Yadav said Jamia could adopt an appropriate framework to restore the union. He also urged the administration to ensure medical care and protection for students on hunger strike, saying the situation required sensitivity and dialogue.

Actress Urmila Sanawar, ex-MLA Suresh Rathore agree for narco test

Press Trust Of India

The CBI is investigating the authenticity of the viral clips.

DEHRADUN: Actress Urmila Sanawar and former BJP MLA Suresh Rathore on Friday gave their consent before a CBI court here for undergoing narco-analysis test in connection with the 2022 Ankita Bhandari murder case.

The CBI had issued notices to Sanawar and Rathore regarding an audio clip that mentions a "VIP" link to the crime.

Sanawar alleged the involvement of the 'VIP' in the murder of Ankita, who worked as a receptionist at the Vanantra Resort in Rishikesh, on September 18, 2022.

The actress also claims



Actress Urmila Sanawar arrives to appear before the Special CBI Court to give her voluntary consent for a proposed narco-analysis and polygraph test in connection with the Ankita Bhandari murder case investigation, in Dehradun, Friday.

to be the wife of Rathore but the politician has denied this.

Sanawar released on social media the audio recording, which she claimed captured conversations with Rathore and pointed to the role of the "powerful" figure

in the murder case. Recently-appointed Sikhim Governor Dushyant Gautam is being alleged to be the VIP involved. Gautam has denied the allegations.

The CBI is investigating the authenticity of the viral clips.

FASTFACTS

- The actress also claims to be the wife of Rathore but the politician has denied this.

The hearing on Friday was about the narco-analysis and polygraph tests. The special court will next hear the matter on October 26.

After her court appearance, Sanawar said, "I have given my consent for the narco test as I have nothing to lose. I will ensure that Ankita gets justice.

I neither have anyone sponsoring me nor do I have anything to do with the state government. I have kept a condition that media must be given access to my narco-analysis test so that details are available to all."

| THAROOR ON RAIHAN VADRA 'CENSORSHIP' ROW |

'It casts shadow on India's reputation as land of democracy'

Press Trust Of India

Tharoor made the remarks after he visited the photo exhibition of Raihan, son of Congress general Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and businessman Robert Vadra, at the Bikaner House here.

NEW DELHI: Senior Congress leader Shashi Tharoor on Friday termed as "petty" the Bikaner House administration's decision to remove certain photographs from Raihan Vadra's exhibition



Congrats to the officers for the spectacular performances and bringing laurels to the country.

Daljit Singh
Lieutenant General

eos, Tharoor weighed in on the picture exhibition row and said the move to remove photographs was very disappointing.

"The Bikaner House was supposed to be a place of art and culture, and to be very honest,

people don't come to look at photographs out of any sense of political agitation. This is not a place where anyone is going to start shouting slogans, they come to see an artist's eye, something he has framed," the Congress leader said.

Seeing all those blank empty walls was really sad, he said and lamented what "we have reduced ourselves to". "There is one wall where he (Raihan) planned to have photographs of protests and beneath that was the Preamble of the Constitution, that they

could not take down as it is painted on the wall. So, the Preamble is there but the photographs are gone," the Lok Sabha MP said. This is the kind of thing that makes one despair for the kind of mentality of those people who are afraid of the public seeing a number of photographs, he said.

"You don't get political agitations here, people come in because they are interested in the works displayed, whether it is paintings or photographs or books... I don't understand why people do these silly things," he said.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I am publishing this Public Notice on behalf of and under the instructions of my client, PRAFULL CHIPDE, S/o Shri R.G. Chipde, resident of L.I.G. 755, Deendayal Awas, Mangia, Bilaspur, Tehsil and District Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh, stating that my client is the owner and in possession of the land/house situated at Mauza Mangia, P.H. No. 35, Revenue Circle Bilaspur, under Deendayal Awas Yojana, Building No. L.I.G. 755, measuring 899.75 square feet. The said property was purchased by my client from Aditya Ambekar, S/o Late Anand Ambekar, through Sale Deed dated 01-06-2018, Document No. 819. The previous registered Sale Deed, through which Shri Randhir Kapoor, S/o Shri R.S. Kapoor, had purchased the said property from Chhattisgarh Housing Board on 12/12/2007, vide Document No. 755, has inadvertently been lost by my client. My client has submitted an application for a loan to LIC Housing Finance Limited (LICHFL), wherein submission of the original copy of the said Sale Deed is required. The loan proceedings are being carried out on the basis of a certified copy thereof.

Therefore, if the original copy of the aforesaid Sale Deed has been found by any person, institution, government or semi-government department, bank, body, or any interested person, or if the same has been kept as a mortgage or security, they may submit their objection, along with supporting documents, at the address mentioned below within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. After expiry of the said period, no objection shall be admissible, and the loan proceedings shall be carried out accordingly.

SO INFORMED.

Yours faithfully,
VISHNU KANT GUPTA, ADVOCATE
Kapil Nagar, Sarkanda, District Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh Mobile No.: 9827954253

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Zeba Parveen D/o. Lt. Abdul Saleem, aged about-36 years, Resident of MIG-D5, Parijaat Extension, Near Shiv Mandir, Nehru Nagar, Bilaspur (C.G.) have changed my name from Zeba Parveen to TANYA. Henceforth be known as 'Tanya' in future for all purposes.

Zeba Parveen
DEPONENT

सार्वजनिक सूचना

“मैं” प्रमोटर फर्स्ट मै न रेसीडेणियल डेवलपर्स व्यक्तिगत कारणों से छत्तीसगढ़ रेरा में पंजीकृत प्रोजेक्ट “एफ एम क्वीस टावर” रेरा रजिस्ट्रेशन न. PCGRERA110122001318 का सरेंडर / कैसिलेशन / निरस्तीकरण करा रहा हूँ। किसी व्यक्ति / संस्था आदि द्वारा इस प्रोजेक्ट में यदि कोई बुकिंग करायी गई हो, तो कृपया अपना क्लेम / दावा प्रस्तुत करें।

उक्त क्लेम / दावा का विवरण सहित 15 दिनों के अंदर छत्तीसगढ़ रेरा की ईमेल आईडी – registrar.rera.cg@gov.in पर भी भेजा जाए तथा क्लेम / दावा विवरण का रजिस्ट्रार, छत्तीसगढ़ रेरा कार्यालय, शास्त्री चौक, रायपुर –492001 को प्रेषित किया जाए।

फर्स्ट मै न एसोसिएट ईमेल – mailme.doc49@gmail.com

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1st Floor, Life Insurance Corporation of India, Divisional Office, Magarpara Road, Bilaspur C.G. Ph: 07752-418136

APPENDIX-(IV) RULE 8(1) POSSESSION NOTICE (IMMOVABLE PROPERTY)

Under Rule No. 8 (1) of Securitization & Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the LIC Housing Finance Ltd. under the Securitization & Reconstruction of Assets and Enforcement of Security Act 2002 and exercise of power conferred Under Section 13 (12) read with rule (9) of the security interest (Enforcement) rules 2002. Issued a Demand Notice from LIC Housing Finance Ltd. Bilaspur within 60 days from the date of receipt at the said notice as mentioned below the borrower having failed to repay the amount notice is hereby given to borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described. Herein below in exercise of power conferred on him under section 13(4) of the said act read with rule 8 of the said Rule's for property given below. The borrower and public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealing with property will be subject to the charge of LIC Housing Finance Ltd. Bilaspur.

S. No.	Name of Borrower	DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY ON DEMAND NOTICE	DATE OF THE DEMAND/ POSSESSION NOTICE	AMOUNT IN DEMAND NOTICE
1)	Borrower- Mr. Sourabh Nello, Co-Borrower- Ms. Sushma Nello, Loan Account No. 1220200006712	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Flat no. A- 204, Block A (Satyam), 2nd floor, Shivam Heights, Mouja Kudukund, Situated at Plot no. 112, Kharsa no. 363/15, 364/15, 365/15 and 364/45, Ph no. 21, Ward no. 03, Nehru Nagar ward, Bilaspur (C.G.) 495001, Admeasuring area 990.75 sq.ft. Bounded: North-Flat no. A-203, South-Open to sky, East-Open to sky, West-Passage	17.06.2026 17.10.2026	Rs. 42,78,086.00 +int. & other charges

STATUTORY NOTICE: The borrower / guarantor here by notice do pay the sum mentioned above within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice failing which the aforesaid property will be auctioned and balance if any will recovered with interest and cost from you.

Date: 24.10.2026, Place: Bilaspur

Authorised Officer



QUOTE FROM THE QUOTABLE

“Faith is the bird that feels the light and sings when the dawn is still dark, bringing hope to life.”

[Rabindranath Tagore]

| OUR VIEW |

SIM Binding Rules Demand Balanced Implementation

The government’s decision to make SIM binding mandatory for messaging applications from January 1, 2027, marks a significant shift in India’s digital security framework. While the measure seeks to curb rising cybercrime, its implementation must balance security requirements with convenience, privacy and uninterrupted digital communication. Under the Department of Telecommunications’ directive, messaging platforms such as WhatsApp, Telegram and Signal must ensure that accounts registered with Indian mobile numbers remain linked to the corresponding active SIM cards installed in users’ devices. The existing system allows users to continue accessing messaging services even after removing or transferring their SIM cards. Authorities believe this flexibility has created opportunities for cybercriminals to misuse accounts. The government’s concerns are understandable. Cyber-fraud losses exceeded Rs 22,800 crore in 2024, highlighting the growing threat of online financial deception. Fraudsters frequently exploit messaging platforms for impersonation, phishing, fraudulent investments and digital arrest scams. Stronger verification could help prevent unauthorised account access and improve the traceability of suspicious activities. However, stricter security should not become an unnecessary obstacle for legitimate users. Millions of Indians depend on messaging applications for business, education, employment and personal communication. Frequent international travellers, people using multiple devices and those relying on WiFi-only tablets could encounter difficulties. Uncertainty surrounding eSIM compatibility and device switching also requires clarification. The withdrawal of the proposed compulsory six-hour logout requirement for web sessions is a welcome step. Replacing blanket restrictions with risk-based monitoring demonstrates that security can be strengthened without imposing excessive inconvenience. Nevertheless, SIM binding alone cannot eliminate cybercrime. Criminal networks continually develop new methods to bypass technological safeguards. Effective enforcement must therefore be accompanied by stronger digital literacy campaigns, faster fraud reporting, improved coordination among agencies and greater accountability from technology platforms. The government should ensure that implementation guidelines are transparent, technically practical and sensitive to genuine user difficulties. Messaging companies must provide simple verification procedures and accessible grievance-redressal mechanisms.

| GUEST VIEW |

Valmiki’s legacy inspires unity beyond caste barriers

Maharishi Valmiki, the revered author of the Ramayana, remains an enduring symbol of social harmony and equality. Shri Guru Gobind Singh described him as the first incarnation of Brahma. Valmiki provided shelter to Sita during her exile and guided her sons, Lav and Kush, in scriptures, warfare and music. His teachings emphasised moderation, compassion and human dignity, values that continue to inspire efforts against caste discrimination. The Valmiki community particularly reveres him as a spiritual guide and symbol of social inclusion. Despite considerable social progress, caste-based distinctions remain prevalent in several rural areas. Religious leaders and social organisations are therefore working to promote unity and mutual respect. A remarkable example emerged from Sehore, near the Bhopal-Indore highway, where a community feast was organised in a Valmiki settlement on Ram Navami. Renowned spiritual preacher Pandit Pradeep Mishra attended the celebration, performed aarti at the temple and accepted prasad, conveying a message of social equality. Dr Amit Modi, Dr Gagan Namdev, Pandit Ganesh Sharma and several others participated in Kanya Puja before sharing meals with residents. Such initiatives reinforce Valmiki’s enduring message that humanity, mutual respect and social harmony must rise above caste divisions in society.



Er. Rajesh Pathak

Growing up in Vishrampur, Chhattisgarh, I witnessed the challenges and social stigma faced by many tribal communities. These experiences inspired me to pursue social work. Over time, however, I realised that empathy alone was not enough; understanding the root causes of social problems and learning how to facilitate meaningful change were equally important. This aspiration brought me to Indira Gandhi National Tribal University (IGNTU), Amarkantak, to pursue a Master of Social Work (MSW). A recent field exposure visit proved to be a valuable learning experience, bridging classroom theories with the realities of professional social work.

The visit covered a wide range of institutions and initiatives, including a fossil park, tribal welfare organisations, community radio projects, educational institutions, child protection services, development organisations and coal mines. Each destination offered valuable insights into the interconnected dimensions of community development. At the fossil park, I learned about environmental conservation, reforestation and organic farming. The experience helped me understand that environmental protection is not merely about preserving nature; it is also closely linked to community well-being, sustainable livelihoods and long-

term development.

Our visit to Janjati Kalyan Kendra, which works across 11 adopted villages, provided insights into initiatives related to healthcare, education and cattle conservation. The organisation conducts medical camps for persons with disabilities and special programmes for women. Around 114 students study at the institution, while corporate social responsibility (CSR) support has helped provide hostel facilities. However, differences in boys’ and girls’ participation raised an important question about equitable access to education. I realised that infrastructure alone cannot ensure inclusion; development initiatives must also address social barriers and create equal opportunities.

One of the most memorable experiences was our visit to the Baiga Chak region, where we met Padma Shri awardee Arjun Dada Hurve and learned about community radio. These broadcasts provide tribal communities with information on agriculture, government schemes, weather updates, women’s safety, snakebite awareness and menstrual hygiene. The initiative demonstrated how accessible communication can empower communities, improve awareness and encourage participation in development programmes. The warmth and hospitality of the people we encountered also left



Alankrita Dubey
Department of Social Work, Indira Gandhi National Tribal University, Amarkantak, Madhya Pradesh

a deep impression on me. Their openness challenged preconceived notions and reinforced the importance of understanding communities through direct interaction rather than stereotypes or second-hand accounts.

At the District Child Protection Unit in Anuppur, we learned about the Juvenile Justice Act and institutional mechanisms for child protection. Discussions on nutrition, healthcare and support services for women highlighted the need for coordinated efforts among government agencies and social welfare institutions to address complex social issues effectively. Our interaction at MB Power introduced us to CSR initiatives in healthcare, education, infrastructure and livelihoods, along with emerging career opportunities in social impact assessment and social auditing. Visits to Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya and Prakriti Prerna Foundation further broadened my understanding of cultural exchange, environmental conservation and wildlife restoration. At the coal mines, we learned about livelihood initiatives, including turmeric processing under the One District One Product programme, demonstrating how corporate resources can support local economic development.

Among all these experiences, the words of Lahari Bai, popularly known as the “Millet Woman of India,” remain especially mean-

ingful to me. Despite having no formal education, she has worked with determination to promote traditional millets and inspire social change. As we departed she said, “Har ek gaon mein ek Lahari Bai honi chahiye”—there should be a Lahari Bai in every village. Her words reminded me that leadership and knowledge are not confined to formal education. Communities possess their own wisdom, strengths and potential to transform their futures.

This field exposure has reshaped my understanding of social work. Medical camps can provide immediate relief, but sustainable well-being requires continued access to essential services. CSR initiatives must respond to genuine community needs, while educational programmes must address barriers to equal participation. Effective social work demands professional knowledge, critical thinking, careful observation and, above all, respect for people’s choices and dignity. I began my MSW journey with the desire to help communities. I am now learning that meaningful change begins with listening, grows through understanding and becomes sustainable when people actively participate in shaping their own futures. The classroom introduced me to the principles of social work; the field is teaching me to understand the people, experiences and aspirations behind them.

As the Himalayas Warm, Their Rivers Slip Out of Control

Melting Himalayan glaciers are dangerously altering river flows, increasing flood risks and threatening water, food and energy security for millions across South Asia’s vulnerable regions.



PANKAJ CHATURVEDI

The most visible and troubling consequence of a warming planet is now unfolding on the glaciers of the Himalaya. Often called the world’s Third Pole, this mountain system is losing ice at a pace that has multiplied over recent decades, and the effect is being felt directly in the water level, flow and behaviour of great rivers such as the Indus, Ganga, Brahmaputra, Sutlej and Yangtze. From Himachal Pradesh to Ladakh, the change is no longer a matter of how much water arrives each year. The timing of snow and glacier melt is shifting, silt is choking riverbeds, and banks are growing unstable. The basic character of these rivers is being rewritten.

The numbers show how serious this has become. A 2023 report by the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, ICIMOD, found that Himalayan glaciers melted 65 percent faster between 2011 and 2020 than in the previous decade. Even if global warming is held between 1.5 and 2 degrees Celsius, between 30 and 50 percent of the region’s glacier vol-

ume could be gone by 2100. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change’s sixth assessment report adds a warning about what comes next. Faster melting will first raise annual river flows for a few decades. Once the glaciers have shrunk too far, water levels will fall sharply.

A joint study by scientists from IIT Indore, Jawaharlal Nehru University, the Indian Institute of Science in Bengaluru, the Space Applications Centre in Ahmedabad, the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research in Goa and the University of Aberdeen offers a finer-grained picture of the valleys of Ladakh and Himachal. Between 1975 and 2024, Ladakh’s temperature rose by an average of 0.02 degrees Celsius a year. That moved the onset of snowmelt earlier in the season and steadily reduced the flow of its streams. In the tributaries of the upper Indus, 62 to 72 percent of total flow still depends on snow and glacier melt. An analysis of 2,257 glaciers in Ladakh between 1977 and 2019 found that their combined area fell from 8,511 square kilometres to 7,923 square kilometres over those 42 years, with the great majority of them in retreat. In the Stok region of Ladakh, a study covering 2003 to 2019 found that snowmelt contributed 65 percent of annual river flow, glacier melt 19 percent and rain only 16 percent, even as glacier area there shrank by 4.2 percent. More than three hundred families in Stok depend entirely on this water for their farming.



The situation in Himachal Pradesh’s Chandra-Bhaga valley is no less worrying. A study of 251 glaciers feeding this river system found that their area declined from 996 square kilometres to 973 square kilometres between 1993 and 2019. The rate of loss is also accelerating. Between 1993 and 2000 the glaciers lost about 0.025 square kilometres a year, and by 2010 to 2019 that had risen to 0.036 square kilometres a year. Another study found that when summer air temperature rises by just one degree Celsius, the flow of the Chandra river increases by an average of 22 cubic metres per second. Groundwater, glacier melt and seasonal snowmelt contribute roughly equally to that rise, while rain plays a negligible part.

None of this is abstract. Recent years have delivered terrible demonstrations of what it can mean. In February 2021, a portion of a glacier on Nanda Devi in Uttarakhand broke away and sent a deluge down the Dhauliganga and Rishiganga rivers. It destroyed two major hydropower projects and killed

more than two hundred people. In October 2023, the South Lhonak glacial lake in Sikkim burst its banks, and the resulting flood on the Teesta river swept away the Chungthang dam, several bridges and a vast stretch of infrastructure. Such disasters are known as glacial lake outburst floods, or GLOFs. When intense summer melt combines with heavy monsoon rain, as it increasingly does, the Brahmaputra, Ganga, Sutlej and the tributaries of the Indus see far more frequent flooding and erosion in the plains below.

What makes the change so dangerous is that its damage arrives on several fronts at once. Faster melting washes rock, debris and soil into the rivers, where they settle and raise the riverbed. A shallower channel floods even after modest rain, and the sediment also wears down the turbines of hydropower plants. At the same time, today’s short-term flooding is a warning of long-term drought. Once the glaciers have dwindled, the main source of summer water will be gone, and millions

of people in Ladakh, Himachal and the plains will face a grave shortage of drinking water and irrigation. Shifts in river flow, volume and temperature are also destroying the natural habitat of species such as the Himalayan trout and the Ganges river dolphin. In the mountain districts of Ladakh and Himachal, disrupted farming, livestock rearing and local water supply are already pushing some families toward becoming climate refugees.

The transformation in the Himalaya, from Himachal to Ladakh and across the entire range, can no longer be treated as a local environmental concern. It has become a regional crisis for the water, food and energy security of an estimated one and a half to two billion people in South Asia. Meeting it demands deep and rapid cuts in carbon emissions worldwide, but also firm action closer to home. High-altitude lakes and glaciers need round-the-clock monitoring through satellites and ground sensors, feeding an early warning system that gives downstream communities time to act. Unregulated construction in river catchments must be stopped. Cropping patterns and irrigation methods must be adapted to the water that will actually be available.

For centuries the Himalayan rivers have sustained the lives of hundreds of millions of people. Their changing moods must be understood in time, and policy must be built around that understanding. This is a matter that can no longer afford delay.

YOURLETTERS

eSIM scam exposes dangerous digital security gaps

The Rs 4-lakh eSIM fraud exposes dangerous holes in India’s cyber security system. Even when ATM and UPI access are blocked, fraudsters can hijack mobile signals through malicious links, activate eSIMs on duplicate devices, capture OTPs and empty bank accounts. Though the I4C blocks about 2,000 fraud numbers daily and the DoT has terminated four lakh illegal SIMs, these are only reactive steps. Mandatory biometric re-verification for eSIM activation and a 24-hour freeze on high-value transfers are urgently needed now.

Dr. Vijaykumar H K, Raichur

Electricity right strengthens dignity, shelter and justice

The Allahabad High Court has rightly reaffirmed that electricity is integral to a dignified life under Article 21. Courts have consistently held that ownership alone cannot decide eligibility for a power connection; lawful occupancy and an indemnity declaration are sufficient. Similar rulings, including from the Punjab and Haryana High Court, reject arbitrary denial of basic amenities. Since shelter itself is part of the right to life, electricity becomes an essential enabling service for citizens in contemporary everyday residential life everywhere.

Yashpal Ralhan, Jalandhar

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



Europe represent probably 3% or 4% of the world's population, yet your contribution to those carbon emissions—or this mess—is humongous.

Piyush Goyal,
Union Commerce & Industry Minister

Kerala HC to hear appeals by CM Vijayan and family

On Friday, the Kerala High Court posted the date on which it will hear the appeal of former CM P Vijayan and his family regarding the CMRL bribery case.

Press Trust Of India

KOCHI: The Kerala High Court on Friday posted to October 26 the appeals filed by former Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and his family members challenging a single judge's order directing the registration of a First Information Report (FIR) against them in the alleged Cochin Minerals and Rutile Limited (CMRL) bribery case.

The appeals filed by Vijayan, his daughter Veena T, and son-in-law P A Muhammed Riyas, a Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA), came up before a Division Bench comprising Justice Sathish Ninan and Justice P Krishna Kumar. The Bench decided to consider the matter further on Monday.

During the hearing, counsel for Vijayan submitted that the Supreme Court had stayed the Vigilance and Anti-Corruption Bureau (VACB) investigation only for a



limited period. However, the High Court decided to take up the appeals on October 26.

The controversy intensified last month after the Enforcement Directorate (ED) wrote to the state police seeking registration of an FIR against Vijayan and his family members. The request was based on evidence collected during the agency's investigation into alleged payments made by CMRL, as well as searches conducted under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). Instead of immediately registering a crim-

HIGHLIGHT

- The next hearing for the case has been scheduled for October 26.

inal case, the state police decided to conduct a preliminary inquiry into the ED's report.

On October 9, the Kerala High Court directed the VACB to register a case based on the report submitted by the ED to the state police. Subsequently, two FIRs were registered, and the ED initiated separate investigations under the PMLA against Vijayan and his family members.

On October 15, the High Court rejected applications filed by Vijayan, Veena and Riyas seeking permission to appeal against the single judge's order. They subsequently approached the Supreme Court, which stayed the VACB investigation for one week and directed them to pursue

their challenge before a Division Bench of the High Court. However, the Supreme Court did not stay the ED's investigation into the alleged financial transactions.

The ED had issued a notice directing Vijayan to appear for questioning on Friday. However, he reportedly sent a letter to the agency citing the Supreme Court's order and the ongoing Assembly session as reasons for not appearing for interrogation, officials said.

According to the VACB's FIR, Vijayan allegedly misused his official position and adopted corrupt and illegal means to secure illicit pecuniary benefits for himself, his daughter and her company. The FIR further alleges that Veena and her now-defunct company, Exalogic Solutions, received Rs 3.28 crore from CMRL and Empower India Capital Investments Pvt Ltd through their respective bank accounts.

UAPA involved in Kochi arson case

KOCHI: The Special Investigation Team (SIT) has invoked the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) against Ebin Paul, 32, arrested for allegedly setting fire to Blossom Nursery opposite the Kadavubhagam synagogue in Ernakulam market on October 12. The National Investigation Agency (NIA) is likely to take over the probe.

Police invoked Sections 16 and 18 of the UAPA, relating to terrorist acts and conspiracy, suspecting a larger conspiracy. Kochi City Police Commissioner S Kaliraj Mahesh Kumar said investigators believe Paul received instructions from a handler through Telegram.

Electronic devices allegedly revealed evidence of planning, cryptocurrency payments, prior surveillance of the location and videos of him practising similar acts. Investigators are also examining a possible wider network, with the state Anti-Terrorism Squad assisting the probe.

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

DELHI'S POOR AIR PROBLEM

Delhi wakes up to poor air quality as min temperatures stays above normal



NEW DELHI: Delhi woke up to poor air quality on Friday, with a thick layer of smog covering parts of the national capital. The average Air Quality Index (AQI) stood at 225 at 9 am, according to official data.

The minimum temperature at Safdarjung, Delhi's base weather station, was recorded at 19 degrees Celsius, 1.8 degrees above normal. Palam recorded the lowest minimum temperature at 18.3 degrees Celsius, followed by Lodhi Road at 18.6 degrees. Ayana-gar and the Ridge recorded minimum temperatures of 19.1 and 19.2 degrees Celsius, respectively. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) forecast

mainly clear skies during the day, with the maximum temperature expected to settle around 32 degrees Celsius.

According to data from the Central Pollution Control Board's SAMEER app, 38 monitoring stations recorded poor air quality, while 18 reported moderate conditions. Pusa recorded the highest AQI at 290, followed by RK Puram at 284 and Rohini at 279, with readings approaching the very poor category. Narela recorded an AQI of 272, while Mathura Road and Dwarka registered 268 each. Delhi University's North Campus recorded 240, followed by IGI Airport Terminal 3 at 228 and Anand Vihar at 216. **PTI**

BJP Slams CM Satheesan over Vadra's Exhibition

Kerala BJP chief slams offer to host Raihan Vadra's exhibition as preferential treatment

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: BJP Kerala president Rajeev Chandrasekhar on Friday criticised Chief Minister V D Satheesan's offer to host a photo exhibition by Raihan Vadra, son of Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, alleging preferential treatment amid police action against protesting youths in the state.

In a social media post, Chandrasekhar said he had no objection to hosting the exhibition but questioned why Raihan was receiving special consideration while Malayalee youths were allegedly being tear-gassed, attacked with gas grenades and assaulted by police during peaceful protests. Questioning Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Satheesan, the BJP leader asked whether democracy and citizens' rights mattered only when members of a political family were involved. He also raised concerns over unemployment, alleged political corruption and the reported marriage



of an underage Muslim girl, citing the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. Chandrasekhar's remarks followed Satheesan's offer to host Raihan's exhibition, No Idea Is Final, in Kerala. **PTI**

OP Mathur sworn in as 29th Guv-Keralam

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM:

Om Prakash Mathur was sworn in as the 29th Governor of Kerala at a ceremony held at Lok Bhavan on Friday. Kerala High Court Chief Justice Justice Soumen Sen administered the oath of office to Mathur in the presence of Chief Minister V D Satheesan, cabinet ministers and leaders from various political parties.

Before the ceremony, the appointment order issued by President Droupadi Murmu was read out, following which Mathur took the oath and formally assumed office. Mathur hails from Bedal village in Bali tehsil of Rajas-than's Pali district.

| BRISK POLLING WITNESSED |

Brisk polling recorded across eight Bihar MLC seats

Press Trust Of India

On Friday, Bihar held its biennial election on eight MLC seats.

PATNA: The biennial election to eight Bihar Legislative Council seats witnessed brisk polling on Friday, with Saran Teachers' constituency recording the highest turnout of 13.56 per cent in the initial hours, followed by Patna at 12.88 per cent.

According to the Chief Electoral Officer's office, 5,32,847 voters, including 1,46,611 women and 37 third-gender voters, are eligible to decide the fate of 150 candidates across



933 polling stations. Voting began at 8 am and will continue until 4 pm, while counting is scheduled for October 27.

Among the Graduates' constituencies, Darbhanga recorded the highest turnout at eight per cent, followed by Patna at 5.5 per cent, Kosi at 5.14 per cent and Tirhut at 4.81 per cent. In the Teachers' constituencies, Saran led with 13.56 per

cent, followed by Patna at 12.88 per cent, Darbhanga at 12 per cent and Tirhut at 5.88 per cent. The average turnout stood at 5.86 per cent in Graduates' constituencies and 11.08 per cent in Teachers' constituencies. Officials said polling had remained peaceful.

The Patna Graduates' constituency has attracted particular attention due to divisions

HIGHLIGHT

- Brisk polling was recorded on all eight seats.

within the JD(U). Mokama MLA Anant Singh has backed Jan Suraj Party candidate Anuj Singh against JD(U) nominee Neeraj Kumar, a former minister and close aide of Nitish Kumar, who is seeking a fourth consecutive term. Anant Singh alleged that Neeraj Kumar had worked against him during last year's Assembly elections. Meanwhile, JD(U) leader Shyam Rajak expressed confidence in the NDA's prospects, saying voting was proceeding smoothly.

| RAIHAN'S PHOTO EXHIBITION |

Kerala offers to host Raihan Vadra's photo exhb

Press Trust Of India

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM:

Kerala Chief Minister V D Satheesan has offered to host the exhibition of artist and photographer Raihan Vadra, son of Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, in Kerala amid a controversy over the removal of photographs depicting protests in Delhi from his solo exhibition.

Raihan Vadra alleged that the administration of Bikaner House in Delhi removed several photographs from his exhibition, titled No Idea Is Final. He claimed that the authorities warned him that the exhibition could be cancelled if the pictures were not taken down by 5 pm on Wednesday. Responding to the controversy, Satheesan expressed his willingness to host the exhibition in



its entirety. In a post on X on Thursday, he said, "Keralam would be happy and proud to host Raihan Vadra's No Idea Is Final exhibition in its entirety. No exclusions, no exceptions." He tagged Raihan and Priyanka Gandhi in the post.

Raihan said he had shared the exhibition proposal and layout with the Bikaner House management well in advance. He maintained that the photographs carried no political message and merely documented protests held

“Keralam would be happy and proud to host Raihan Vadra's No Idea Is Final exhibition in its entirety. No exclusions, no exceptions.”

VD Satheesan,
CM-Keralam

over the past six months. Priyanka Gandhi strongly criticised the removal of the photographs, describing the move as an attempt to suppress artistic expression. The Congress MP called the action "ridiculous" and accused those in power of "muzzling" the voices of young people across the country.

A Bikaner House offi-

cial, however, said the administration was "not authorised to comment" on the matter.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) rejected the allegations, describing them as "fake news".

**CENTRAL SILK BOARD**
(Ministry of Textiles - Government of India)
BTM Layout, Madivala, Bengaluru - 560 068
Phone: +91-80-2628 2699 Website: csb.gov.in



Adv.No.CSB/01/2026

EXTENSION NOTICE

Date: 24.10.2026

Central Silk Board had published the Notification No. CSB/01/2026 dated 12.09.2026 which appeared in the Employment News of 12-18 September, 2026 for filling various posts on deputation basis. It is for information that the last date for receipt of application against various posts has been extended for another 30 days. i.e. upto 11.11.2026.

For details, refer CSB website: www.csb.gov.in

CBC 41109/11/0023/2627 **Central Silk Board**

CHHATTISGARH STATE POWER TRANSMISSION COMPANY LIMITED
(A Govt. of Chhattisgarh Undertaking) GSTN-22AADCC5773E1ZX
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (LINE) Block-4, Near CSPTCL Dispensary, Dagania, Raipur (C.G.)
Website: www.cspc.co.in E-Mail- ce.cht@cspc.co.in Phone no. 0771 – 2574221, 2574224 Fax No.2574222

ED/LINE/Works/EE-III/TR-1170/1494 **Raipur, Date:21.10.2026**

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (Through E-bidding module of SAP-SRM)

Online bids are invited for Construction of RCC Retaining Wall to protect endangered tower No. 224 (D60+0) of 132 KV Mopka-Bilaspur-Silpahari line as detailed hereunder:

TR No	Name of work	EMD (Rs)	Cost of tender form (Rs) (Incl. GST)	Date of opening
TR-1170 RFX No. 8100054935	Construction of RCC Retaining Wall to protect endangered tower No. 224 (D60+0) of 132 KV Mopka-Bilaspur-Silpahari line.	17,816.00	2000/-	20/11/2026
Last Date & Time of Submission of Tender		20/11/2026		15:00 hours
Date & Time of Opening of Tender		20/11/2026		15:30 hours

For all other details of NIT and term & condition, please visit our website www.cspc.co.in/csptcl_tendernotices/CSPTCL_Tender.htm.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (LINE)
CSPTCL, Raipur

//Save Elecaticrity// **S-49562/1**

कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता,
ग्रामीण यात्रिकी सेवा संभाग जांजगीर
E-mail ID - res.janjgirchampa.janjgir@gmail.com

// संक्षिप्त ई-निविदा सूचना क्रमांक - 11

क्रमांक 1645 / निविदा / ग्रा.या.सेवा / 2026 जांजगीर, दिनांक 22 / 10 / 2026

एकीकृत पंजीयन प्रणाली अंतर्गत सक्षम श्रेणी में पंजीकृत टेकेंदारों से निम्नलिखित निर्माण कार्य हेतु ऑनलाईन (Online) निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है :-

कार्य का विवरण	अनुमानित लागत (₹. लाख में)	निविदा आमंत्रण बार	निविदा कार्यालय में पहुंचने की अंतिम तिथि
Higher Secondary School Building Construction Work Kosala Block Pamgarh (Including Electrification) Tender No. - 202441	171.64	द्वितीय बार	04.11.2026

उपरोक्त कार्यों की निविदा की सामान्य शर्तें, धरोहर राशि, विस्तृत निविदा, निविदा दस्तावेज व अन्य जानकारी ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट वेबपोर्टल <http://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> में दिनांक 22.10.2026 से दिनांक 02.11.2026 तक देखी जा सकती है।

कार्यपालन अभियंता
ग्रामीण यात्रिकी सेवा संभाग जांजगीर
जिला जांजगीर चापा (छ.ग.)

G-262704169/1

**कार्यालय नगर पालिक निगम, दुर्ग**
Email Id: durgmc2019@gmail.com Phone: 0788-2322148

--:मेनुअल निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना :-:

क्रमांक / 183 लो.क.वि.अ. / 2026-27 दिनांक 23 / 10 / 2026

एकीकृत पंजीयन प्रणाली अंतर्गत सक्षम श्रेणी में पंजीकृत टेकेंदारों से लो.नि.वि. में प्रस्तावित भवन 01.01.2015 एवं रोड नाली एस.ओ.आर. दिनांक 01.01.2025 / 20.04. 2026 / 10.06.2026 एवं नॉन एस.ओ.आर. के अनुसार निविदा दिनांक तक संशोधित दर पर कम / अधिक प्रतिशत दर पर तीन लिफाफा पद्धति के माध्यम से स्पीड पोस्ट / पंजीकृत डाक से निम्नांकित निर्माण कार्य हेतु निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है :-

निविदा प्रपत्र क्रम हेतु आवेदन प्रस्तुत करने की अंतिम तिथि — 29.10.2026

निविदा प्रपत्र जारी कर ने की अंतिम तिथि — 05.10.2028

निविदा जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि — 12.11.2028

निविदा खोलने की तिथि — 13.11.2028 शाम 4.00 बजे

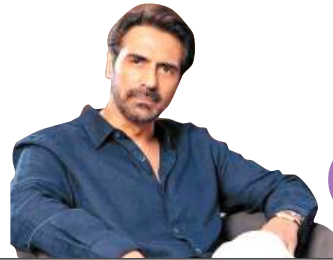
किरी कार्यक्रम निविदा खुलने की तिथि में नही खोला गया है तो निविदा द्वितीय दिन कार्य दिवस में खोला जावेगा।

क्र.	कार्य का नाम	लागत (लाख में)
1.	वार्ड क्रं. 40 सत्य साई सेवा समिति में बांडुडीवाल कार्य। (महा.नि. 26-27)	254167
2.	वार्ड क्रं. 48 अग्निशमन भवन में पेवर ब्लाक कार्य। (महा.नि. 26-27)	254821.12
3.	वार्ड क्रं. 07 शिवमंदिर के पास सामुदायिक भवन संभारण कार्य। (महा.नि. 26-27)	362382.10
4.	वार्ड क्रं. 14 में सार्वजनिक भवन नयी सुविधाओं की व्यवस्था निर्माण कार्य। (पार्षद.नि. 25-26)	127071
5.	वार्ड क्रं. 17 शांति नगर में भवन संभारण कार्य। (पार्षद.नि. 26-27)	127025.50
6.	वार्ड क्रं. 01 में चतुर्था निर्माण कार्य। (पार्षद.नि. 26-27)	81428.80
7.	वार्ड क्रं. 45 में मुन्नालय निर्माण कार्य बाबत। (पार्षद.नि. 26-27)	254403.32

कार्यपालन अभियंता,
नगर पालिक निगम, दुर्ग.

"I think it is very unprofessional to do that to an actor. Yes, there was a good amount of work coming to me and good work—and so people who were meant to be coming to me, didn't come. I have lost out on work."

Arjun Rampal



&Glitters

CLOSE UP

Radhikka Madan on her eight years in Bollywood

Radhikka Madan celebrates eight years in showbiz with gratitude and renewed ambition.

Central Chronicle News

The actress reflects on her journey, thanking those who believed in her dreams.

Actress Radhikka Madan has completed eight years in the entertainment industry, reflecting on her journey with gratitude, excitement and renewed ambition. The actress took to Instagram to celebrate the milestone, acknowledging the experiences, challenges and people who helped shape her career. Sharing her thoughts, Radhikka wrote, "8 years. So many stories told, so many versions of myself discovered. Some dreams come true; some changed along the way." She also thanked those who continued to believe in her, particularly when she struggled with self-doubt. "To everyone who believed in me, especially on days when I struggled to believe in myself, thank you. You've been a bigger part of this journey than you know," she added. Looking ahead, Radhikka expressed her continued enthusiasm for acting and the opportunities that lie ahead. "8 years later, still the same butterflies, still the same hunger, and so much left to dream," she wrote, underlining her determination to keep exploring new sto-



Radhikka Madan was last seen in film 'Lust Stories 3'.



ries and characters.

Radhikka began her career on television with the popular show Meri Aashiqui Tum Se Hi, where she played Ishaani. She made her Bollywood debut with Vishal Bhardwaj's Pataakha in 2018, marking the beginning of her transition from television to films.

Since then, the actress has appeared in projects such as Mard Ko Dard Nahi Hota, Angrezi

Medium, Shiddat and Sajini Shinde Ka Viral Video. She also featured in the streaming series Saas, Bahu Aur Flamingo.

Radhikka was last seen in the Netflix anthology Lust Stories 3, which premiered on September 18, and the action film Subedaar, released on Prime Video. As she marks eight years in the industry, the actress remains eager to take on fresh challenges and continue evolving as a performer.

| SMALL SCREEN |

After 30 years, Rinku Dhawan wants versatile roles

Central Chronicle News

Television actress Rinku Dhawan has urged the entertainment industry to stop typecasting her in negative and grey-shaded characters, emphasising that her three-decade-long career reflects her talent and versatility. Known for her performances in shows such as Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii, Choti Sarrdaarni and Anupamaa, the actress wants casting teams to explore her abilities beyond familiar roles. Taking to Instagram, Rinku shared a



heartfelt note expressing her concerns about being repeatedly associated with negative characters. She wrote, "I am an actor. Please don't typecast me. I didn't start my career as an

actor in negative roles/grey shades." She further stressed that her 30 years in the entertainment industry were built on her skills and talent, which should not be overlooked because

HIGHLIGHT

● Rinku Dhawan wants makers to recognise her versatility beyond negative roles.

of the characters she has portrayed. Through her post, the actress appealed to makers to recognise her versatility and offer her opportunities to explore different roles. Rinku has also expressed interest in working in web series and the growing digital entertainment space. She previously sought opportunities

Rinku Dhawan completes 30 years in showbiz

through social media, stating that she wanted to work in web series. Her appeal reflects the challenges experienced by actors who become closely associated with particular character types. The actress is best remembered for playing Chhaya in the popular television drama Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii. She later appeared in several other television projects, including Choti Sarrdaarni and Anupamaa, where she portrayed an antagonist.

CineBriefs

BEST OF THE REST

Web Series

Prajakta Koli hints at Mismatched movie

Prajakta Koli is not ready to say goodbye to Dimple, her beloved character in Netflix's romantic drama Mismatched. As the series concludes with its fourth and final season, the actress revealed that she and co-star Rohit Saraf find it difficult to accept the show's ending. After seven years of playing Dimple, Koli hopes the audience's love will encourage the makers to continue the story. Asked whether the series could return as a movie, she remained optimistic, saying, "Yes, you never know, we may come back as a movie." The fourth season's release date is yet to be announced.

Hot Pair

Vijay went down on one knee for Rashmika



Vijay Deverakonda and Rashmika Mandanna are set to share their love story on Koffee with Karan 9. The newlyweds will reportedly reveal intimate details of their relationship, including Vijay's surprise proposal. The actor disclosed that he proposed to Rashmika on the first day of their wedding celebrations in Udaipur, during the sangeet night. He went down on one knee in front of their friends to give her a special moment to remember. The couple's affectionate moments while promoting Ranabaali have already delighted fans, and their upcoming appearance promises more heartwarming revelations about their romance.



Music

Maatrubhumi gets a patriotic song Jai Hind

Salman Khan marked Dussehra by releasing the lyrical version of Jai Hind from his upcoming film Maatrubhumi. Sharing the song on social media, the actor emphasised that patriotism should be celebrated throughout the year, not just on special occasions. The track features music by Himesh Reshammiya and vocals by Stebin Ben. Following its release, fans flooded the comments section asking about the film's theatrical release date. Initially titled Battle of Galwan, the Apoorva Lakhia-directed film was later renamed Maatrubhumi: May War Rest in Peace. Its official release date remains unannounced.

Trending on Insta

@ronitboseroy

Ronit Bose Roy flaunts his biceps in Gym

Ronit Bose Roy is back at the gym to burn off festive-season calories. The actor shared a gym picture on Instagram, flaunting his pumped-up biceps and motivating fans to prioritise fitness.



Sonam's taunt triggers Manish

Manish Kashyap lost his temper on Rise and Fall 2 after Sonam called him ill-mannered. He smashed a door before apologising, while Rishabh and Aarush Bhola resolved their past differences.



Ekta Kapoor's next TV show teased

Ekta Kapoor teases a new television show featuring Gaurav Khanna and Shraddha Arya. The upcoming Star Plus project marks their first on-screen collaboration, with the title yet to be announced.



Rings Of Power teases epic war

The Rings of Power Season 3 trailer teases Sauron's growing power, the Nazgûl's origins and Middle-earth's looming war. The fantasy series premieres on Prime Video on November 11, 2026, with a staggered release schedule.



Kapil Sharma's musical night unfolds

Kapil Sharma brings musical stars Jasmine Sandlas, Shashwat Sachdev, Satinder Sartaaj and Rishab Rikhiram Sharma to The Great Indian Kapil Show, jokingly comparing Rishab to Tamannaah Bhatia.



Diwali brings family drama to Netflix

The trailer of Meethe Mein Kya Hai introduces Radhika Bansal's directorial debut, a multigenerational family drama starring Rohini Hattangadi. Set during Diwali, the Netflix film premieres on October 30.



Lifestyle

LIFE MATTERS

Smart technology is changing the dining experience

Restaurant technology promises less waiting and more time enjoying meals.



HIGHLIGHT

● **Connected kitchens and faster ordering are changing dining experiences.**

identify delays and coordinate teams. Inventory tools help restaurants prepare for busy evenings. By tracking supplies and popular dishes, businesses can plan purchases, reduce food waste and avoid running out of customer favourites. However, technology alone cannot guarantee faster ser-

vice. Restaurants need systems, trained employees and accurate data. Smaller businesses may find software costs and staff training challenging. Digital convenience should never replace warm hospitality or personal assistance.

The goal is not to rush customers through meals but to remove unnecessary waiting. When ordering, cooking and billing work together smoothly,

Smarter systems reduce restaurant waiting



diners can spend less time chasing menus and more time enjoying conversations over their favourite food. As restaurant technology becomes more accessible, results will come from combining efficient digital systems with human service. Technology works best when it helps staff focus on guests, rather than replacing the human touch that makes dining memorable.



Eat smart to beat post-festival bloating



The most powerful recovery tool remains one of the simplest and that is 'SLEEP'. During sleep, the body releases growth hormones; repairs damaged tissues and regulate inflammation. Consistently getting quality sleep allows muscles to recover more efficiently

and helps maintain overall physical and mental resilience. Sleep like you have no other day to sleep, make it a compulsion and enjoy the treat of sleep. Sleep cuts off screen fatigue, persistent headaches, concentration problems and others. Taking regular sleep helps you to curb unnecessary screen time and avoiding phones before bedtime gives you a guaranteed good sleep.

RELATIONSHIP

The rise of the loneliness economy



Loneliness is creating a new kind of business, with people paying to rent companions, partners and even children. In China, young people visit elderly individuals, help with household tasks and spend time chatting with them. In Japan, rental boyfriend and girlfriend services allow people to hire dates for outings and family gatherings. A similar trend is emerging in India, where busy professionals living away from their families seek companionship for social events. Hospital companion services also help patients with everyday needs during medical visits. While these services offer comfort, they also highlight how modern lifestyles can leave people feeling isolated.

| DÉCOR |

A home coffee corner that beats the café

Central Chronicle News

Create a cosy home coffee corner for café-style brews every morning.

For A thoughtfully designed coffee corner can bring café comfort into your kitchen without adding to daily expenses. Whether you enjoy strong black coffee or a creamy cappuccino, a dedicated space can make mornings more enjoyable.

You do not need an elaborate setup or expensive equipment. A shelf, dining table corner or countertop can accom-

modate your essentials. Keep mugs, coffee grounds, filters and brewing equipment together for easy access. Choose a brewing method that suits your preferences. A French press is ideal for full-bodied coffee, while a stovetop moka pot creates a concentrated brew. A drip coffee maker offers convenience when preparing multiple cups. Pour-over brewing suits those who enjoy a slower, hands-on process. Once you select your brewer, focus on the basics. Fresh coffee, an appropriate grind size and the right coffee-to-water ratio can improve flavour. Experiment with brewing time

and quantities until you find a taste you enjoy. For milk-based drinks, consider adding a milk frother. Presentation matters. A decorative tray, ceramic mugs, a glass coffee jar and a small plant can make the corner inviting without clutter. Store coffee in an



Create a stylish home coffee corner on a budget



FACTFILE

● **Simple essentials make homemade coffee special, convenient and affordable.**

airtight container, away from heat, moisture and direct sunlight, to preserve its freshness and aroma. Build your collec-

tion gradually instead of purchasing every accessory at once. Choose items that suit your space and habits.

A home coffee corner offers convenience, personalisation and lower costs per cup. Although it cannot fully replace a café's atmosphere, it lets you enjoy your favourite brew whenever you want. With a little planning, even a modest kitchen space can become your personal coffee retreat. Sometimes, a homemade coffee ritual is all you need to make an ordinary morning feel special.

GadgetPick

TRENDING PERSONAL-TECH

Philips Hue Play Gradient Strip Light Pro 100

About:

This gradient strip enhances 85-100-inch TVs with screen-matched colours projected onto the wall for immersive viewing

Key Features:

OmniGlow technology creates smooth colour gradients, while deep dimming keeps dark scenes subtle. Chromasync matches colours across compatible Hue lights. Users can synchronise lighting through the Hue Sync TV app or HDMI sync box and create ambient scenes using the Hue app. The 157.5-inch strip can be cut to size and mounted behind the television with included brackets.



TCL P80 Ultra Smartphone

About:

The TCL P80 Ultra runs Android 16 and features a 6.83-inch 1.5K AMOLED display with NXTPAPER technology for comfortable reading.

Key Features:

Its 120Hz screen reaches 3,200 nits and offers Paper Mode, Max Ink Mode and anti-glare protection. The camera system includes a 50MP main sensor with OIS and a 50MP periscope telephoto lens with 3x optical zoom. A 5,800mAh battery supports 45W charging, while the slim, durable body carries an IP68 rating.



Sony NW-ZX900 Walkman

About:

The Sony NW-ZX900 is a portable music player featuring Android 16 and a 5-inch Full HD touchscreen for high-quality listening.

Key Features:

Its 4.4 mm balanced output powers demanding headphones, while DSD Remastering and DSEE Ultimate enhance audio quality. Bluetooth 5.4 with LDAC supports wireless listening, and Google Play enables streaming apps. The player offers up to 40 hours of MP3 playback, 64GB storage and a microSD card slot for expansion.



Motorola Edge 70 Plus

About:

The Motorola Edge 70 Plus runs Android 16 and combines a 200MP camera with a 6,500mAh battery offering over two days of use.

Key Features:

Its 6.78-inch 1.5K AMOLED display supports a 144Hz refresh rate and 5,200-nit peak brightness. The 200MP main camera features optical image stabilisation for clearer low-light photos. Powered by Snapdragon 7s Gen 3 with 8GB RAM, it includes 45W TurboPower charging, bypass charging, Gorilla Glass 7i protection and IP64-rated durability.



OXIVUE M02C AI Smart Glasses

About:

OXIVUE M02C AI smart glasses combine a lightweight 41g sunglasses frame with a Sony camera, open-ear speakers and a voice assistant.

Key Features:

The visual AI assistant answers questions about objects through voice commands. The HeyCyan app supports translation across 40+ languages. An 8MP Sony camera captures photos and videos with dual stabilisation, while directional speakers deliver music and calls without blocking surrounding sounds. The IP65-rated TR90 frame offers around seven hours of battery life and charges magnetically.



Bose Noise Cancelling Wired Earbuds

About:

Bose Noise Cancelling Wired Earbuds connect through USB-C, offering QuietControl noise cancellation without charging or Bluetooth pairing.

Key Features:

Three listening modes include Quiet, Aware and Off for flexible sound control. The in-line three-button remote manages volume, tracks, calls and noise settings, while the built-in microphone supports hands-free conversations and recording. Multiple eartip and stability band sizes provide a secure fit, while IPX4 protection helps the earbuds withstand sweat and light splashes.





“Honestly, it feels unreal. I’m still trying to sink it all in! Beating a player like Akane, who has achieved so much in this sport, is a really special feeling.”

Jacob Duffy
New Zealand Fast Bowler

India’s bowlers face stern test against aggressive New Zealand

India’s struggling bowling attack faces a crucial examination against New Zealand’s explosive batting lineup as both teams prepare for another high-scoring contest in Christchurch on Saturday.

Press Trust Of India

Sooryavanshi likely to debut as injured Kishan misses second T20I against Kiwis.

CHRISTCHURCH: India’s bowlers will be under intense pressure to improve their performance when the visitors face New Zealand in the second T20 International here on Saturday, following a thrilling victory in the series opener.

Although India successfully chased a record target of 226 to secure a 1-0 lead in the five-match series, their bowling vulnerabilities remain a major concern against New Zealand’s aggressive batting lineup.

The absence of injury-prone all-rounder Hardik Pandya has exposed India’s limited bowling options, particularly in the fifth and sixth bowler roles.

Nitish Kumar Reddy conceded 40 runs without taking a wicket in four overs during Thursday’s encounter, while Naman Dhir was not required to bowl before making a decisive contribution with the bat.

Veteran pacer Bhuvneshwar Kumar, returning to international cricket after nearly four years, struggled with his rhythm, conceding 49 runs while delivering two no-balls and two wides.

New Zealand openers



India’s head coach Gautam Gambhir, left, and Vaibhav Sooryavanshi during a practice session. Photo: PTI

Finn Allen and Tim Seifert attacked Bhuvneshwar and Arshdeep Singh relentlessly during the powerplay. Axar Patel also endured an expensive outing, adding to India’s concerns.

Captain Shreyas Iyer admitted that his bowlers had failed to consistently hit the hard lengths required on the Christchurch surface.

With another batting-friendly pitch expected,

India’s attack must demonstrate greater discipline and control to contain the hosts.

Meanwhile, 15-year-old Vaibhav Sooryavanshi could make his international debut following

Ishan Kishan’s injury.

The youngster is expected to open alongside Abhishek Sharma, with Sanju Samson moving to number three and Tilak Varma returning to his customary number five position.

India’s explosive opening combination of Samson and Abhishek proved particularly destructive in the first match, scoring 94 runs during the powerplay.

New Zealand pacers Matt Henry and Adam Milne generated early swing but struggled to maintain sufficiently challenging lengths against the Indian batters.

However, captain Mitchell Santner and fellow spinner Michael Bracewell enjoyed success during the middle overs, exposing India’s difficulties against quality spin bowling. Bracewell particularly troubled India’s left-handed batters with his off-spin. Santner acknowledged that restricting India’s aggressive top order would be New Zealand’s biggest challenge in Saturday’s encounter.

He also stressed the importance of improving bowling execution and capitalising on fielding opportunities.

With both teams possessing formidable batting strength, greater bowling discipline could ultimately determine the outcome of Saturday’s contest in Christchurch.

Bindra rules out contesting IOA elections

NEW DELHI: Country’s first individual Olympic gold medallist shooter Abhinav Bindra on Friday ruled out the possibility of contesting for a position in Indian Olympic Association’s (IOA) Executive Board, saying that he is not interested. Bindra is one of the 80 former players on the roster of Sportspersons of Outstanding Merit (SOMs) out of which eight will be selected on November 9. The eight will have voting rights and would be eligible to contest the IOA elections scheduled for December 5. In the last edition, an SOM -- PT Usha -- went on to become the IOA president. Out of the eight two will be part of the all important Executive Council of 15. But Bindra, who won the 10m air rifle gold at the 2008 Beijing Olympics, said he is not interested in any executive position.

Rahul, Yashasvi Jaiswal lead India A’s crucial Test preparations

Press Trust Of India

India A’s experienced players aim to adapt to New Zealand conditions before next month’s crucial Test series.

LINCOLN: Senior batters KL Rahul and Yashasvi Jaiswal will spearhead India A’s preparations for next month’s two-Test series against New Zealand when the opening four-day match begins here on Saturday.

Led by wicketkeeper-batter Dhruv Jurel, India A will face New Zealand A at Bert Sutcliffe Oval, seeking valuable experience in local conditions ahead of the World Test Championship series starting November 19 in Wellington.

The squad includes



Devdutt Padikkal, Washington Sundar, Sai Sudharsan, Akash Deep, Anshul Kamboj and Mukesh Kumar.

However, Rishabh Pant remains unavailable as he continues recovering from an injury at the

BCCI Centre of Excellence. Kumar Kushagra has replaced him for the first two matches following Pant’s left side strain sustained during the Irani Cup.

India batting coach Sitanshu Kotak emphasised

HIGHLIGHT

● Rahul and Jaiswal headline strong India A squad for four-day practice matches.

● Injured Pant remains unavailable as Jurel leads visitors against New Zealand A.

sised the importance of red-ball match practice for established players and emerging talent.

He said the series would help players adjust to New Zealand conditions while strengthening their preparations for international assignments.

Akash Deep, included in India’s Test squad, will particularly look to regain bowling rhythm and match fitness.

| FEARLESS OPENING DUO |

Kotak praises Samson, Abhishek for fearless batting approach

Press Trust Of India

CHRISTCHURCH: India batting coach Sitanshu Kotak on Friday praised openers Sanju Samson and Abhishek Sharma for their fearless approach, remarkable power and mental strength, saying their ability to handle pressure makes them exceptional performers.

Kotak also defended the team management’s decision to persist with the opening combination despite growing

social media demands for including 15-year-old batting sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi.

The youngster, who has remained on the sidelines since the Asian Games, is expected to feature in Saturday’s second T20 International against New Zealand following Ishan Kishan’s injury.

Samson played a brilliant knock of 67 off 33 balls in India’s four-wicket victory in the series opener, while



Abhishek provided valuable support during the powerplay.

Kotak emphasised that selection decisions were

“Beyond their tremendous power, talent and attacking intent, Samson and Abhishek possess remarkable mental control that makes their fearless approach exceptional.”

Sitanshu Kotak
India batting coach

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

ANAHAT’S HISTORIC BREAKTHROUGH

Anahat Singh storms into maiden PSA Gold semifinal after thrilling five-game victory



NEW DELHI: Indian squash sensation Anahat Singh reached her maiden PSA Gold-level semifinal after defeating Egyptian sixth seed Salma Hany in a thrilling quarterfinal at the Silicon Valley Open in Redwood City, USA. The 18-year-old world No. 15 overcame world No. 14 Hany 4-11, 11-8, 4-11, 11-2, 11-5 in 42 minutes. The victory followed her stunning straight-game triumph over Egyptian world

No. 3 and eight-time world champion Nour El Sherbini. Anahat admitted feeling tired after her previous victory but maintained her composure to recover from a 1-2 deficit. The reigning world junior champion will next face Malaysian world No. 4 Sivasangari Subramaniam, who defeated her in the recent Asian Games final. Anahat will now seek revenge and a place in the championship final. **PTI**

BOURNEMOUTH STUN MILAN

Bournemouth thrash ten-man AC Milan as Juventus settle for Europa League draw

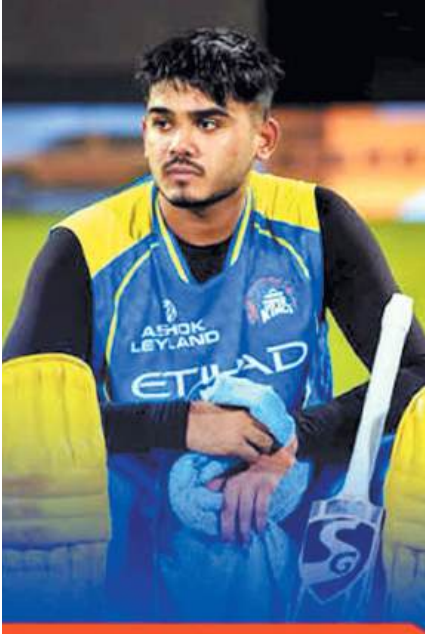


LONDON: Bournemouth secured their biggest European victory, defeating 10-man AC Milan 3-0 in the Europa League after goalkeeper Mike Maignan was sent off. Milan were already trailing when Maignan received a straight red card for pushing Tyler Adams during a corner. Marcus Tavernier converted the resulting penalty before Amine Adli completed the victory with a curling free kick. Meanwhile, Juventus were held to a 2-2 draw by Rennes despite Nick Woltemade’s second-half penalty. A potential late winner was ruled out for offside. Bayer Leverkusen maintained their perfect record as Jonas Hofmann scored twice in a 2-0 victory over OFI Crete. Elsewhere, Benfica defeated Omonia 4-1, Olympiacos edged Sparta Prague 1-0, while Real Sociedad demolished Lillestrøm 6-0. **PTI**

MHATRE INJURY SETBACK

Ayush Mhatre undergoes surgery, sidelined for about three months

MUMBAI: India Under-19 World Cup-winning captain and Mumbai vice-captain Ayush Mhatre has undergone surgery for a serious right hamstring injury and is expected to remain sidelined for two to three months. The 19-year-old suffered a Grade 4 hamstring tear while running between wickets during Mumbai’s Ranji Trophy opener against Chandigarh on October 11. According to a BCCI source, the surgery was successfully performed by Dr Dinshaw Pardiwala at Kokilaben Hospital in Mumbai on Thursday. Mhatre has begun walking with crutches and is recovering satisfactorily. Earlier, he suffered a left hamstring injury while representing Chennai Super Kings in the IPL on April 18, requiring three months of rehabilitation. His latest setback has forced Mumbai to reshuffle their opening combination for subsequent Ranji Trophy matches. **PTI**



HASHIMOTO’S GOLDEN STREAK

Hashimoto claims fourth straight world gymnastics all-around gold medal triumph



ROTTERDAM: Japan’s Daiki Hashimoto captured his fourth consecutive men’s all-around gold medal at the World Gymnastics Championships, producing a brilliant high-bar performance to seal another historic victory. The 25-year-old Olympic champion scored 85.988 points, including an impressive 14.766 on high bar, overcoming a sluggish start that left him 10th after the

opening floor exercise. Hashimoto’s four successive world titles place him behind legendary compatriot Kohei Uchimura, who claimed six consecutive all-around crowns. China’s Yang Haonan secured silver with 84.199 points, while Britain’s Joe Fraser took bronze with 83.531. Russian teenager Arsenii Dukhno slipped to seventh following costly high-bar errors. **PTI**

Sports News

India's para-athletes script history with record 114 medals

India's para-athletes delivered a historic performance at the Asian Para Games, securing a record 114 medals, including 30 gold, with outstanding displays across several sporting disciplines.

Press Trust Of India

Sandeep and Haney set world records as Indian shuttlers claim three golds.

NAGOYA: India's para-athletes produced their best-ever Asian Para Games performance, concluding their campaign with 114 medals, including 30 gold, 35 silver and 49 bronze, following a spectacular final-day showing on Friday.

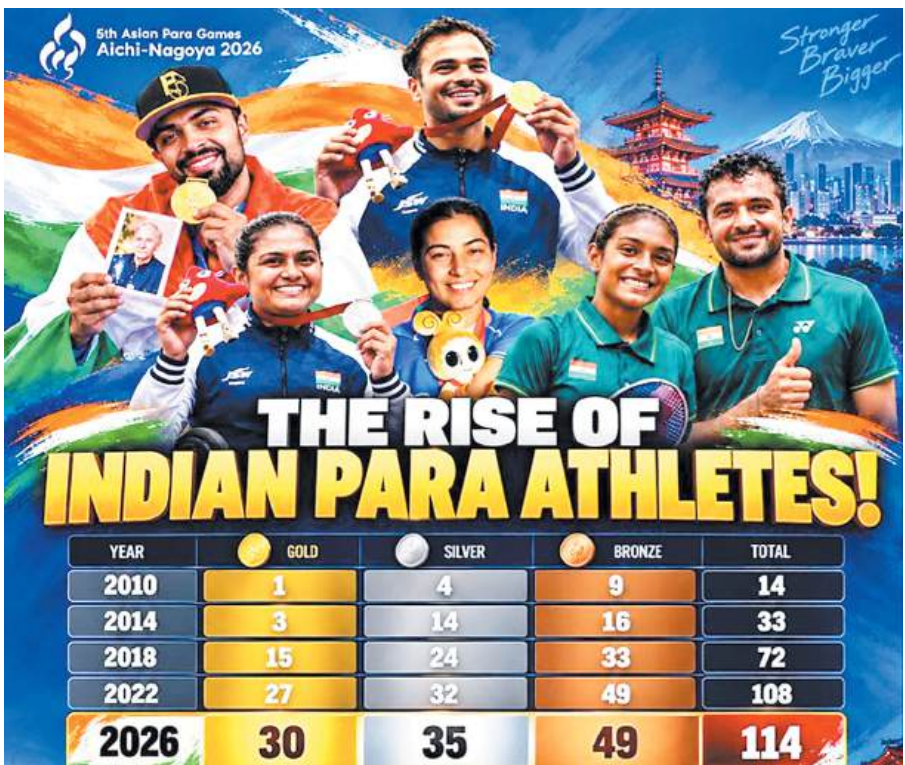
Despite fielding just 168 athletes, nearly half the contingent sent to Hangzhou in 2023, India surpassed its previous record of 108 medals, including 27 gold.

India occupied fourth position in the standings, although the final ranking could change after Saturday's remaining events.

The contingent secured nine gold medals on Friday, its highest single-day tally, with outstanding performances in badminton, athletics, archery and shooting.

Athletics remained India's biggest contributor, delivering 65 medals, 12 more than the previous edition.

In badminton, Paris Paralympic champion Nitesh Kumar defeated



compatriot Pramod Bhagat 21-18, 21-16 to claim men's singles SL3 gold. Debutant Naveen Sivakumar secured the SL4 title, beating Indonesia's Fredy Setiawan 21-9, 21-17.

T h u l a s i m a t h i Murugesan partnered Manasi Joshi to win women's doubles SL3-SU5 gold, defeating China's Yang Qiuxia and Xiao Xuxian 21-16, 21-13. She also collected silver medals in women's singles and mixed doubles.

Abhijeet wins Asian Para bronze

RAIPUR: Chhattisgarh's Abhijeet Sakhuja brought glory to the state by clinching a bronze medal in the men's SL4 badminton category at the Asian Para Games 2026 in Japan. Abhijeet advanced to the semi-finals with an impressive 21-16, 21-12 victory over compatriot Suryakant Yadav in the quarter-finals. However, his campaign ended in the semi-finals following a 13-21, 15-21 defeat against fellow Indian and world No. 2 Shiv Kumar Naveen, leaving him with the bronze medal.

ABHIJEET SAKHUJA
PARA BADMINTON
MEN'S SINGLES SL4

| SINDHU MARCHES AHEAD |

PV Sindhu storms into French Open badminton singles semis

Press Trust Of India

Sindhu advances with commanding victory, while Ashmita Chaliha exits after spirited battle.



nament.

World No. 11 Sindhu, the only Indian remaining in contention, will face Japan's Hina Akechi in the semifinals.

Meanwhile, world No. 36 Chaliha's impressive campaign ended following a hard-fought 10-21, 21-17, 16-21 defeat against Japan's former world champion Nozomi Okunaka.

hara.

Chaliha had earlier stunned three-time world champion Akane Yamaguchi in the pre-quarterfinals.

Reflecting on her victory, Sindhu said she had learned valuable lessons from her opening-round struggle against Thailand's Supanida Katethong.

S Meghana retires from all forms of cricket

NEW DELHI: India's top-order batter S Meghana on Friday announced her retirement from all forms of cricket at the age of 30. Hailing from Andhra Pradesh, Meghana last played for India in November 2022. She played for RCB and Gujarat Giants in the Women's Premier League. "As I announce my retirement from all formats of cricket as a player, my heart is overflowing with gratitude," Meghana wrote in an Instagram post. "The field has been my second home, teaching me resilience, humility, and giving me memories and friendships that I will carry for a lifetime," she wrote.

| ADVANI CELEBRATES TRIUMPH |

Pankaj Advani clinches 29th world title with stunning comeback

Press Trust Of India

Indian cue sports legend Pankaj Advani scripts history with another remarkable triumph.



BIRMINGHAM: Indian cue sports legend Pankaj Advani clinched his 29th career world title after producing a sensational comeback to defeat England's Robert Hall in the WBL World Billiards Championship final.

The 41-year-old Indian registered a commanding 1906-1206 victory in the gruelling five-hour contest, extending his extraordinary record in international cue sports.

Advani began strongly with a 91-point break, but Hall responded with impressive breaks of 203 and 331 to establish a substantial lead.

Trailing 697-1014 with just 115 minutes remaining, Advani staged a remarkable recovery. He first compiled a brilliant 210 break before producing a magnificent 587-point effort, the highest break of this year's championship, to turn the contest decisively in his favour.

Earlier, Advani defeated compatriot Sourav Kothari 1134-575 in the quarter-finals before overcoming David Causier 1607-1271 in the semi-finals.

The multiple world champion will now shift his focus to the IBSF World Snooker Championship, scheduled in Indore in mid-November.

| CHHATTISGARH HOCKEY LEAGUE |

Mainpat Titans vs. Bailadila Bulls ends in a 3-3 draw

Central Chronicle News

Prahlad named 'Striker of the Match'; Karan Dhanuk receives 'Player of the Match' award.



nuk was adjudged 'Player of the Match'.

The match began with both teams launching attacks. Mainpat created an early opportunity in the seventh minute, but Bailadila's goalkeeper denied Prahlad Tandhi.

Bailadila subsequently earned a penalty corner, which Sandeep Thakur converted to open the scoring.

Mainpat responded with attacking moves, and Pravin Yadav found the net following an excellent run and pass from Prahlad.

After the interval, Bailadila intensified their attacks, with Rahul Yadav scoring following a fine move by Jaskaran Singh.

Jaskaran then converted a penalty corner early in the fourth quarter to bring his team level.

Mainpat regained the advantage when Prahlad produced a superb reverse flick from inside the circle.

However, Bailadila refused to surrender and continued pressing for an equaliser. Their persistence paid off when Nihal Hussain Ansari struck from a penalty-corner rebound in the closing stages.

The thrilling encounter eventually ended 3-3, with both teams sharing points after an entertaining contest marked by determined attacking play and impressive individual performances.

Parvinder Awana to head BCCI junior selection committee

NEW DELHI: Former India pacer Parvinder Awana was on Friday appointed chairman of the newly-formed BCCI junior selection committee.

Awana played two T20Is for India and featured in 62 First-Class matches, taking 191 wickets. He also represented Delhi, India A and Rest of India, besides playing in the IPL for Kings XI Punjab (now Punjab Kings). After retirement, he moved into coaching, working with Delhi's U16, U19 and U23 teams, as well as India U19 and various BCCI/COE high-performance programmes. The other members of the committee are Krishna Das, Rakesh Patel and N. Arjun Yadav.

| CRICKET'S OLYMPIC RETURN |

LA Olympics cricket qualifiers scheduled for Jan-Feb in 2028

Press Trust Of India

Cricket's historic Olympic return gathers momentum as ICC schedules crucial qualifying tournaments.

NEW DELHI: The qualification tournaments for cricket's much-awaited return to the Olympic Games at Los Angeles in 2028 are scheduled to take place in January-February that year, according to a media report.

The qualifiers for both men's and women's competitions feature in the International Cricket Council's (ICC) global events calendar shared with member boards following meetings in Dubai in October, ESPNcricinfo reported.

Cricket will return to the Olympics after more than a century, marking a historic milestone for the sport's global expansion.

According to the report, Australia, India, South Africa and Great Britain have already secured qualification for the women's competition as the highest-ranked teams from their respective continents based on performances at the T20 World Cup earlier this year.

In the men's category, the highest-ranked teams from Africa, Asia, Europe and Oceania, as

of December 31, 2026, will secure four available berths.

Hosts United States will be eligible to participate in both competitions provided their teams finish among the world's top 15 during the qualification period from June 30 to December 31, 2026. Should the American women's team fail to meet the ranking requirement, its berth will be reassigned based on the ICC Women's Champions Trophy 2027 standings, with March 1, 2027, serving as the cut-off date.

The qualifying tournaments will feature eight teams each, selected according to international rankings.

Pratika's unbeaten ton, Charani's 4/23 help India rout Zimbabwe by 9 wickets

Central Chronicle News

India registered a dominant nine-wicket victory over Zimbabwe, riding on outstanding performances.



VADODARA: Pratika Radwal struck an unbeaten century while left-arm spinner Shree Charani claimed career-best figures of 4/23 as India crushed Zimbabwe by nine wickets in the opening women's ODI of the three-match series on Friday.

Chasing 198, India raced to 200/1 in just 27.1 overs, with Pratika smashing her third ODI century and remaining unbeaten on 100. Her fluent innings, featuring 15 boundaries, helped India comfortably dominate the Zimbabwe bowling attack.

Promoted to open, Pratika combined with skipper Smriti Mandhana (32) to provide a flying start. The pair added 94 runs before Mandhana was dismissed by Olinder Chare in the 16th over.

Vice-captain Shafali Verma, batting at number three, maintained the momentum with an explosive unbeaten 64 off just 33 deliveries, striking five boundaries and four sixes.

Earlier, Zimbabwe struggled against India's

disciplined bowling attack and were dismissed for 197 despite Beloved Biza's fighting 62 off 92 balls.

Charani led the bowling effort, dismissing Modester Mupachikwa (25), Chipso Mugeru-Tiripano (21), Nyasha Gwanzura (13) and Michelle Mavunga (29).

Kranti Gaud provided excellent support with figures of 3/42, while Deepti Sharma chipped in with 2/44.

Biza offered resistance with a patient innings

containing five boundaries, but Zimbabwe failed to build substantial partnerships on a batting-friendly surface.

However, India's fielding remained an area of concern, with wicketkeeper Richa Ghosh, Deepti Sharma and Gaud missing catching opportunities. Despite these lapses, India's comprehensive victory underlined their batting strength and bowling depth, giving the hosts a commanding 1-0 lead in the three-match series.

