

Central Chronicle

'Smriti caught leaders off guard'

The new state in-charge arrived fully prepared; the day was marked by a marathon series of organizational meetings.

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: Upon her arrival in Chhattisgarh, the new state in-charge, Smriti Irani, brought with her a detailed record of the BJP leaders' activities—a move that immediately stirred things up within the organization. During a full day of meetings at the Kushabhau Thakre complex on Sunday, she not only sought an account of the leaders' responsibilities but also explicitly named those who had failed to visit their assigned areas. In her discussions with state-level office-bearers, district in-charges, and district presidents, her



message was clear: if you have been entrusted with a responsibility, its impact must be visible on the ground. Having arrived well-prepared with data on the leaders' tours and work, Irani issued a firm directive to accelerate the organization's activities. Along with reviewing the organization, she held individual discussions with former public representatives and former

office-bearers to gather feedback on the prevailing political and administrative situation. Following an assessment of the organization's functioning on the first day, she is scheduled to meet with MLAs, MPs, and ministers on Monday to obtain feedback on the performance of the administration. All scheduled BJP meetings took place on the first day of the two-day

FACTFILE

● She gathered feedback from everyone—ranging from district presidents to former MPs and MLAs.

visit by Smriti Irani and co-in-charge Siddharth Shambhu. The proceedings began with a meeting of state-level office-bearers, which included introductions, a review of their assigned responsibilities, and an update on the work completed thus far. According to sources, Irani arrived with prior feedback regarding the performance and

field visits of the leaders in question. She specifically questioned those who had failed to visit their assigned regions. Many office-bearers were taken aback when it was revealed who had visited their designated areas and who had lagged behind. This was followed by a meeting with divisional in-charges, district in-charges, and district presidents, where the organization's level of activity and overall functioning were reviewed. Irani advised all leaders to work in unison to strengthen the organization and to be more diligent in fulfilling their responsibilities.

Feedback on regional conditions from former public reps

A meeting held on the first day with former MPs and MLAs was also significant. According to sources, the discussion covered the current political and administrative landscape, as well as regional issues. Feedback was also sought regarding the performance of the incumbent MPs and MLAs. The meeting was conducted with strict discretion, and no photography was permitted. During the lunch break, Smriti Irani, co-in-charge Siddharth Shambhu, and State General Secretary (Organization) Karmveer Singh were seen engaged in a discussion while standing under a tree on the party office premises.

Complaints raised regarding the bureaucracy and the govt's functioning

It is reported that during the meeting with former state-level office-bearers, concerns were raised regarding the state's bureaucracy and the functioning of the government. According to sources, some former office-bearers raised concerns regarding a lack of communication and issues related to government functioning. However, these complaints have not been officially confirmed. It is reported that Smriti Irani assured the concerned leaders that their points would be looked into and the grievances addressed.

NEWSLINE

DEHRADUN

Disaster excellence

The Uttarakhand State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) has been awarded the Quality Management System certification, making it the country's first such force to receive this recognition, officials said. Facilitating the standardisation of operations, systematic record-keeping, clear definition of responsibilities, and continuous improvement of operational procedures, the ISO 9001:2015 certification will also enhance training, equipment maintenance, and resource utilisation, the officials said. Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama congratulated the SDRF on receiving the certification, saying, "This reflects the force's operational efficiency, discipline, and commitment to quality in the field of disaster management. I am confident that the SDRF will continue to serve with the same level of promptness and dedication in the future."

Storm over Kharge's 'Baap' retort on PM Modi

Central Chronicle News

Audience heckles Kharge, says Modi won't leave.

PATNA: Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Sunday sparked a controversy with his remarks that "Modi ka baap bhi jayega", in response to an audience member's comment that "the PM would not go anywhere", during an event in Patna to mark the birth anniversary of Bihar's first chief minister, Shri Krishna Singh.



Responding to Kharge's statement that the Congress will send those involved in carrying out alleged irregularities in the SIR process to jail, a person from the audience shouted, "As long as there is no rebellion, Modi won't go anywhere." The Congress

president shot back, saying, "Modi ka baap bhi jayega" (Let alone Modi, even his father would go). NDA leaders in Bihar condemned Kharge's remarks, describing those as "unfortunate" and "reflective of the Congress's frustration and lack of political decorum". The man who said those words was immediately surrounded by attendees who threw him to the ground and thrashed him before throwing him out.

Cultural Spectacle



Devotees take part in a religious procession during the 'Kullu Dussehra' festival, in Kullu, Sunday. | Photo PTI

PROUD MOMENT |

Ladakh declared India's first Organic UT

Press Trust Of India

LEH: Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena on Sunday declared Ladakh "India's first 100 per cent Organic Union territory", months after the administration banned the sale, distribution and use of chemical and synthetic fertilisers for agricultural practices. "This is a moment of immense pride for Ladakh and the entire nation. Our farmers have demonstrated that envi-



ronmentally responsible agriculture can flourish even in the most challenging geographical conditions. "Becoming a fully organic Union Territory is not merely a milestone; it is a commitment to protecting our fragile Himalayan ecosystem, preserv-

NUMBER

100

● Ladakh is first 100 per cent Organic Union territory.

ing our traditional farming practices and ensuring better livelihoods for our farmers," the LG said. In a major policy intervention in July, the LG ordered a complete prohibition on the procurement, distribu-

tion, sale, marketing and use of chemical and synthetic fertilisers for agricultural practices across Ladakh. The administration, in March, had also flagged off distribution of organic fertiliser among farmers across villages to ensure timely availability before the sowing season. Congratulating the farmers and stakeholders, Saxena said, Our goal is to ensure that the organic status of Ladakh brings real value to our farmers.

| OPERATION TRIDENT |

India will hammer drug cartels, says Shah

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Simultaneous raids across Assam, Mizoram and Manipur led to the arrest of 18 people and the freezing of 1,424 bank accounts, exposing Rs 100 crore of hawala transactions, breaking the financial and operational backbone of a cartel led by a Myanmar-based drug lord arrested earlier this year, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Sunday.

In a post on X, Shah said 'Operation Trident' was conducted on October



23 to dismantle an international narcotics cartel operating across India, Myanmar and Bangladesh. The operation uncovered hawala transactions worth Rs 100 crore, led to the attachment of properties worth Rs 17.82 crore and resulted in the seizure of 500 detonators and Rs 12 lakh in cash, he said.



Eradicate drug networks by 2029.

Amit Shah,
Home Minister

Shah said the network trafficked narcotics across the borders of India, Myanmar and Bangladesh through the "Death Triangle Corridor".

Congratulating the anti-narcotics team comprising central agencies and police forces of the three states, Shah said the operation reflected the government's resolve

to eradicate every drug network by December 31, 2029.

"India will hammer until the last nail is driven into the coffin of drug cartels," he said.

Under 'Operation Trident', the Narcotics Control Bureau with 38 teams raided 38 locations simultaneously across Assam, Mizoram, and Manipur against transnational narco-financial syndicates to dismantle the operational and financial backbone of a major transnational drug trafficking cartel.

| 'MANN KI BAAT' |

Give prominence to products by local artisans: PM Modi

Press Trust Of India

PM for 'Vocal for Local' campaign and ensure realisation of the vision of a self-reliant India.

BILASPUR:

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday urged citizens to buy products made by



local artisans while doing festival shopping, saying such a move will boost the 'Vocal for Local' campaign and ensure reali-

sation of the vision of a self-reliant India.

In his monthly radio broadcast 'Mann Ki Baat', he said the spirit of 'Vocal for Local' is taking Indian products to markets across the world as 'makhana' from Bihar is reaching Greece, while 'arhar dal' from Karnataka is being exported to the Maldives, opening

new global markets for Indian farmers.

The prime minister noted that during festivals, people buy many things for their family and loved ones.

"This time too, while shopping, please give priority to products made by local artisans. Your purchases will boost their enthusiasm," he said.

'No permanent geographic split of fighter assets'

Press Trust Of India

Centralised control, decentralised execution for effective airpower.

NEW DELHI: In his first comprehensive articulation on the theaterisation plan, Chief of Air Staff AP Singh said on Sunday that the Indian Air Force is not in favour of permanently splitting fighter assets geographi-

cally, advocating instead for a tailored structure built around India's specific security requirements rather than replicating foreign models.

In an exclusive interview to PTI, the Air Chief Marshal said the guiding principle for theaterisation should be "centralised control" where necessary and "decentralised execution" where appropriate as he cited ongoing conflicts

in various geographies to assert that air power can decisively shape military outcomes.

Air Chief Marshal Singh also emphasised that the "transformation of this scale" should be implemented in phases so that operational readiness is "never compromised" and warned against the "trap" of trying to predict the future battlefield with "excessive certainty".

MUMBAI

15 lakh jobs

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Sunday said the proposed NAINA city near Navi Mumbai International Airport is expected to generate 15 lakh jobs, including five lakh high-paying positions, and asserted locals would get first right to such employment opportunities. Describing NAINA, or Navi Mumbai Airport Influence Notified Area, as the "Third Mumbai", Fadnavis said the planned urban centre would emerge as a major growth engine for Maharashtra over the next 50 years. "Of the 15 lakh jobs expected to be generated, 5 lakh would be high-paying positions, while 10 lakh would be at basic-to-intermediate levels.

Raipur youth rally for a Drug-Free India

Over 150 young people join MY Bharat & SAI traditional sports event during Week 6 of the nationwide campaign.

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: From spirited kabaddi contests to tug-of-war and gillidanda, traditional games brought more than 150 young people together in Raipur on Sunday with a shared message: embrace an active life and stay away from drugs. Jointly organised by MY Bharat and the Sports Authority of India (SAI), the event took place at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Outdoor Stadium, Budha Talab. It marked the sixth week of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports' "100 Weeks for Nasha Mukh Yuva for Viksit Bharat"



campaign. Built around the theme "Traditional Sports: Our Heritage, Our Games, Our Pride," the programme connected India's sporting traditions with efforts to encourage healthy lifestyles and raise awareness about substance abuse. Participants took part in tug-of-war, kabaddi and

gilli-danda, alongside yoga and rope-skipping activities. MY Bharat youth volunteers, SAI athletes and players from the State Sports Authority joined the activities, which encouraged teamwork, discipline and constructive engagement through sport. Chhattisgarh State Minorities

Commission Chairman Amarjeet Singh Chhabra presided over the programme. Those present included MY Bharat State Director Arpit Tiwari; Assistant Director Raman Patel; SAI High Performance Coach Kushal Chandra Tripathi; Satish Dubey; Renu Parik; Sunita Chansoriya of

HIGHLIGHT

• Participants took part in tug-of-war, kabaddi and gillidanda, alongside yoga and rope-skipping activities.

Durga Mahavidyalaya; Prof. Rajeev Choudhary, Head of the Department of Physical Education at Pandit Ravishankar Shukla University; and cybersecurity expert Mahendra Rajpoot.

MY Bharat volunteers from Durga College also staged a street play highlighting the harmful effects of substance abuse.

RAIPUR: A tragic road accident in Raipur, the capital of Chhattisgarh, has claimed the lives of a mother and daughter travelling on a scooter. The incident, which occurred when a truck collided with their scooter at the city's busy Telibandha VIP Chowk, caused widespread chaos in the area. A crowd gathered at the scene following the accident. Upon receiving the information, the police arrived and initiated necessary procedures. This incident has once again raised questions regarding traffic safety and the movement of heavy vehicles on the city's busy roads. According to available information, the accident took place at VIP Chowk in the Telibandha area of Raipur. It is reported that the mother and daughter were travelling on a scooter when it was struck by a truck. The impact was so severe that both sustained critical injuries and died on the spot. The horrific nature of the accident left bystanders in shock. A crowd quickly gathered at the scene, and news of the tragedy spread throughout the area.

Following the accident, the area descended into chaos. The incident, occurring at a busy intersection, caused significant concern among passersby. The collision between the truck and the scooter has once again brought the issue of the safety of two-wheeler riders in the vicinity of heavy vehicles into the spotlight.

Major intersections in the city experience constant vehicular movement throughout the day. At such locations, two-wheeler riders need to exercise extra caution. Similarly, drivers of heavy vehicles are also expected to adhere to traffic rules and remain vigilant regarding other vehicles on the road. However, the specific circumstances under which this accident occurred and the underlying causes of the collision will only become clear following an investigation.



Kharge must offer a public apology to the nation: CM

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai has strongly condemned the remarks made by Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge in Patna regarding the late father of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The Chief Minister stated that, in its political desperation, the Congress party has begun to cross the boundaries of decorum and traditional Indian values.

On the social media platform 'X', Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai wrote that targeting the Prime Minister's late father—as



an extension of their opposition to Prime Minister Narendra Modi—exposes the declining political mindset and ideological bankruptcy of the Congress party. He added that the entire nation is witnessing the depths to which the Congress is stooping out of political malice toward the Prime Minister. The Chief Minister remarked that the

public has clearly recognized this uncouth and petty style of politics practiced by the Congress. Whenever the Congress has resorted to such vile language, the public has given a befitting reply. This time, too, the people will neither forget nor accept such politics, and when the time comes, they will respond through the exercise of their democratic rights.

CM Sai stated that making such indecent remarks under the guise of political opposition is clear evidence of the Congress party's degraded mindset and lack of moral values.

Accused brandishing pistol in Press Club nabbed

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: A man fired shots into the air at the Press Club in Raipur, the capital of Chhattisgarh, late Saturday evening, causing a stir throughout the premises. The individual, identified as Palash Tiwari, is accused of firing a pistol into the air and threatening office-bearers amidst a dispute regarding Press Club membership. Acting swiftly, the Kotwali police arrested the accused. The police recovered the pistol used in the incident, one spent shell, and two live

cartridges from his possession. Fortunately, no one was injured in the incident.

On Saturday evening, the Press Club premises saw the usual movement of media personnel, journalists, and others. During this time, Palash Tiwari arrived and began an argument concerning membership. It is reported that the accused sought membership to the Press Club and was angered by his failure to obtain it. As the dispute escalated, he allegedly pulled out a pistol and fired shots into the air.

Lawyer's wife, daughter injured at two vehicles collide

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: In the state capital, Raipur, another case of speeding and reckless driving has come to light. In the Amlidih area, an electric scooter struck an Activa from behind—the Activa was being ridden by a woman who was bringing her daughter home from school. Both the woman and her daughter fell onto the road and sustained injuries. The rider of the electric scooter fled the scene following the accident. The incident took place around 2:00 PM on October 23, near the turn-off for Medishine Hospital.

According to the FIR, the woman had gone to pick up her daughter from St. Joseph's School in Amlidih. While they



were returning home on their Activa, an electric scooter (bearing registration number CG 04 QZ 1218) approached from behind at high speed and, driven recklessly, collided with their vehicle. Upon impact, both the woman and her daughter fell from the Activa. The woman sustained injuries to her arms and legs, while her daughter suffered injuries to her arms, legs, and face.

In her complaint, the woman stated that the accident was witnessed by people nearby.

| AWARENESS ABOUT BREAST CANCER |

Balco Medical Centre organises 'Ride for a Cause Cyclothon 2026'

On the occasion of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Balco Medical Centre organised the 'Ride for a Cause Cyclothon 2026'.



thon was flagged off by Dr. Gaurav Kumar Singh, Collector, Raipur, who expressed his support for the campaign and highlighted the importance of community participation in creating greater awareness about breast cancer.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from more than 1,000 people, including members of various cycling groups across Raipur, healthcare professionals, media representatives, corporate employees, and citizens. The participants

FACTFILE

• Adding a unique dimension to the campaign, around 10 women e-rickshaw drivers associated with Vihan Group under NRDA also participated in the cyclothon.

came together to spread the message of breast cancer awareness and emphasise the importance of early detection and timely screening.

| MAJOR ACTION BY TRAFFIC POLICE |

83 motorists penalized for violation

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: Raipur, the capital of Chhattisgarh, saw a special checking drive conducted by the traffic police aimed at improving traffic flow and cracking down on motorists who violate traffic rules. Vehicles were inspected at various locations across all nine traffic police station jurisdictions in the city. A total of 83 motor-

ists faced action during the drive. Additionally, a stolen 'Activa' scooter was recovered; the rider was apprehended, and both the individual and the vehicle were handed over to the Devendra Nagar police station for further legal proceedings.

The operation was carried out on October 24, 2026, under the guidance of Dr. Archana Jha, Deputy Commissioner of

Police (Traffic and Protocol), with the objective of ensuring smooth traffic movement and maintaining law and order. Enforcement actions were taken against various violations, including driving under the influence of alcohol, operating vehicles without number plates or with obscured/illegible number plates, parking in 'no-parking' zones, triple-riding, reck-

less driving, and the use of modified silencers.

Traffic police teams inspected motorists across different areas and initiated action under the relevant legal provisions wherever violations were detected.

The highest number of violations—54 cases—involved vehicles operating without number plates or with obscured/illegible number plates. Further-

more, 14 cases were registered against individuals found riding with three people on a two-wheeler. Seven instances of vehicles being parked in 'no-parking' zones were identified. Additionally, action was taken in three cases involving driving under the influence of alcohol or other intoxicants, and three cases of reckless driving were recorded.

FIRE AT HOME DECORATION BLDG Major fire breaks out on 4th floor of Home Decoration store

RAIPUR: A fire incident was reported on Sunday in the Devendra Nagar police station area of Raipur, the capital of Chhattisgarh. A fire suddenly broke out at a home decoration store located near City Center Mall. The blaze started on the fourth floor of the store, where furniture was reduced to ashes. It is estimated that the incident has caused losses amounting to lakhs of rupees. Upon receiving the alert, two fire tenders arrived at the scene. Police personnel and firefighters gained control after many rounds of fire-fighting vehicle and brought the fire under control. According to reports, a fire suddenly erupted on the

fourth floor of a home decoration store near City Center Mall in the Devendra Nagar police station area. Within moments, the flames engulfed the furniture stored there. Given that the shop contained furniture and decorative items, significant damage is expected. It has been reported that the furniture on the fourth floor has been completely destroyed by the fire. However, the exact cause of the blaze has yet to be determined.



OPTOMETRY CME ORGANIZED AT SGVEH

Over 100 Optometrists from across the state learn the nuances of Contact Lens fitting

RAIPUR: A Continuing Medical Education (CME) program was organized at Shri Ganesh Vinayak Eye Hospital (SGVEH), Raipur, on Sunday, October 25, with the objective of fostering practical knowledge and skill development in the field of optometry. More than 100 optometrists from various districts and cities across Chhattisgarh participated in the event. The central theme of the program was 'Soft Contact Lenses - Fit, Feel, and Function.'

During the session, participants received essential information regarding the proper fitting, usage, comfort, and functionality of contact lenses. Experts explained the technical intricacies through live demonstrations and hands-on training.

Dr. Charudatta Kalamkar, Director



of the hospital and a senior ophthalmologist, stated, "Technology in ophthalmology is constantly evolving. In such a landscape, theoretical knowledge alone is insufficient; its correct practical application is equally vital. Our goal is to equip optometrists working across various regions of Chhattisgarh with modern techniques and practical training, enabling them to provide superior and safer eye care services to patients in their respective areas."

DELIVERIES DURING THE FESTIVE SEASON

Nexa delivers 125 Baleno cars simultaneously in Raipur

RAIPUR: Nexa, the premium retail channel of automobile manufacturer Maruti Suzuki, hosted a grand delivery ceremony in the capital, Raipur, on Sunday, where the keys to 125 new Baleno cars were handed over to customers simultaneously. This mega event highlights the growing demand for premium hatchback cars in the region. Furthermore, the total number of deliveries by Nexa in Chhattisgarh this festive season has reached a record 1,000 units, positioning the brand at the forefront of the state's growth trajectory within the passenger vehicle segment.

This milestone reflects the immense commercial success of the new Baleno, which was launched in August 2022. Within just a few months of its market debut, this updated model has officially become the number one volume-generating car in Chhattisgarh. Auto analysts attribute the vehicle's rapidly rising popularity to significant technological upgrades. Features typically



found in higher-end, more expensive segments—such as ADAS 2.0, ventilated front seats, and a striking new front design—are proving highly attractive to tech-savvy car buyers.

Adding to the festive season excitement, regional dealerships—including Vishwabharti Nexa, Sky Automobiles, Sparsh Automobiles, and Chauhan Automobiles—are witnessing a large influx of customers, driven by aggressive seasonal offers. Current offers—including a 100% waiver on RTO fees for the Grand Vitara, and 'scratch-and-win' guaranteed gift schemes for the Baleno and the Fronx compact crossover—have led to a significant increase in customer footfall at showrooms.

Smriti Irani and CM Sai listen to *Mann Ki Baat*

Smriti Irani arrived at a booth in Abhanpur to listen to ‘Mann Ki Baat’ during her very first visit, clearly defining the focus of organizational politics.

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: Newly appointed BJP State In-charge Smriti Irani arrived at a booth in Abhanpur to listen to ‘Mann Ki Baat’ during her very first visit, clearly defining the focus of organizational politics. The message was that the true strength of the organization lies not in the corridors of power, but with the workers standing at the booths.

This decision to sit on the ground with Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai to listen to the program and give priority to local workers is seen as an exercise to tighten the organization at the grassroots level. During this event, Smriti Irani



was welcomed with a special garland made of 139 lotus flowers. The program was attended by Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai, Smriti Irani, co-incharge Siddharth Shambhu, MP Brijmohan Agrawal, state general secretary Akhilesh Sahu, rural district president Shyam Narang, trade

FASTFACT

- Smriti Irani was welcomed with a special garland made of 139 lotus flowers.

cell state co-convenor Nitin Agrawal, along with leaders and workers of the Abhanpur assem-

bly constituency. It was reported that Smriti Irani had given instructions to prioritize the participation of locals in the program, while other leaders were asked to go to their respective areas to listen to ‘Mann Ki Baat’. The event held in Abhanpur was also broadcast live by Doordarshan.

Smriti and Siddharth Shambhu on a Two-Day Visit

The Chief Minister shared that state in-charge Smriti Irani and co-incharge Siddharth Shambhu are on a two-day visit to Chhattisgarh.

During this period, they will hold meetings with leaders and workers at various levels.

These meetings will facilitate organizational operations and interaction with workers. The event also saw the presence of MLA Indrakumar Sahu, ‘Mann Ki Baat’ state in-charge Pritesh Gandhi, district minister Sanchit Tiwari, mandal president Bharat Sahu, along with Kishore Sahu, Nagendra Verma, Toshon Sahu, Goyal Bhatt, Sagar Sahu, Sagar Barle, and other public representatives.

Arij, Janhvi clinch double crowns in Nihlani Memorial Tennis tourney



Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: The Late Ajay Nihlani Memorial Chhattisgarh State Tennis Ranking Tournament concluded on Sunday across the courts of Union Club and the International Tennis Stadium, featuring high-voltage finals across junior, open, and veteran categories.

In the Men’s Singles summit clash, Arij Khan produced a dominant display to lift the championship trophy, defeating Saurabh Singh, who finished as runner-up. Arij completed an impressive double triumph by pairing with

Kabir Barsaniya to claim the Under-18 Boys’ Doubles title against the runner-up duo of Vihar Sharan Bhatia and Amol Agarwal.

In the junior girls’ division, Janhvi Sahu shone bright with a twin-title haul, capturing both the Under-18 Girls’ Singles crown against Tanishka Bhatnagar and the Under-16 title over Archana Mathur. Archana, however, bounced back in the Under-14 Girls’ Singles final to emerge victorious against Sneha Nayar. The Under-12 Girls’ Singles title went to Sneha Nayar, who overcame Harleen Khetpal in the decider.

Finance Minister greets people on Sharad Purnima

RAIPUR: Chhattisgarh Finance Minister OP Choudhary has extended his heartfelt greetings and warm wishes to the people of the state on the auspicious occasion of Sharad Purnima. On this festive occasion, he prayed to Goddess Lakshmi for the peace, prosperity, good health, and well-being of all citizens.

Highlighting the significance of the festival, Choudhary stated that Sharad Purnima is a vital celebration deeply rooted in Indian culture, faith, and spiritual traditions. He noted that the festival symbolizes the beauty of nature, the soothing radiance of the moon, and the flow of positive energy into everyday life.

According to religious beliefs, the moon shines in its full brilliance on the night of Sharad Purnima, during which special prayers are offered to Goddess Lakshmi.

Samaya clinches Sr Women’s title at CG Table Tennis Championship

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: Raipur’s promising paddler Samaya Pande scripted history by securing her maiden Senior Women’s Singles title at the UTT 24th Chhattisgarh State and Inter-District Table Tennis Championship 2026, currently underway at the Sapre Shala Table Tennis Hall in Budhapara, Raipur.

In a fiercely contested Senior Women’s final, Samaya showcased remarkable poise and attacking flair to outplay Bilaspur’s Sushmita Som with a 4-2 scoreline, capturing the state crown for the first time in her career. Continuing her stellar run in the tournament, Samaya also advanced to the finals of the Youth Under-17 Girls’ Singles category by dispatching Lavanya Pande of Raipur 3-0 in the semi-finals, where she will face

Cyclone warning triggers heavy rain alert across Ch’garh

RAIPUR: A looming cyclonic storm originating from the Bay of Bengal has prompted an urgent weather warning and heavy rainfall alert across multiple districts of Chhattisgarh from October 25 to October 29. With wind speeds forecasted to reach up to 140 kilometers per hour, the Indira Gandhi Agricultural University has issued comprehensive weather-based advisories to safeguard crops, horticulture, and livestock.

State Agriculture Minister Ramvihar Netam and Agricultural Production Commissioner Siddharth Komal Singh Pardeshi have instructed all departmental officials and field staff to remain on high alert to assist farmers proactively.

According to the India Meteorological Department, rainfall activities will intensify starting today, with heavy to very heavy downpours expected particularly on October 28 and 29. Southern regions such as Bastar, Dantewada, and Sukma face high risks of extreme precipitation, while districts including Raipur, Durg, Rajnandgaon, and Dhamtari will experience significant rainfall over the coming days. Agricultural scientists have advised farmers whose paddy, pulse, and oilseed crops are ripening to postpone harvesting for the next two to four days.

‘Vote Bachao Desh Bachao’ campaign



Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: The Raipur City District Congress Committee convened a special meeting at Congress Bhawan to review its ongoing “Vote Bachao Desh Bachao” campaign and formally roll out the nationwide third phase of activities, spanning from October 25 to November 25.

The session was chaired by National Observer and Lok Sabha MP Shobha Bachhav, with AICC National Joint Secretary Vijay Jangid present as the special guest, alongside Chhattisgarh Pradesh Congress-appointed in-charge Arun Vora and City Congress President Sreem Kumar Shankar Menon.

During the meeting, senior leaders reviewed past booth-level demonstrations and gathered feedback from grassroots party workers, who alleged that arbitrary deletions from electoral rolls and manipulation across assembly and municipal elections had undercut democratic outcomes. Addressing the gathering, MP Shobha Bachhav alleged widespread voter roll deletions and irregular vote surges during crucial hours in recent

HIGHLIGHT

- Congress levels serious allegations over Voter rolls

elections, referencing instances raised by Rahul Gandhi in Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Haryana. Bachhav questioned the reliability of electronic voting machines (EVMs), arguing that several developed democracies have returned to paper ballots to preserve electoral transparency.

She demanded a return to ballot papers, constitutional safeguards and Supreme Court oversight in the appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner, strict curbs on the alleged misuse of Form 7 for voter deletions, and the immediate restoration of wrongfully deleted eligible names. Bachhav also appealed to party cadres to mobilize in record numbers for the scheduled November 1 rally in New Delhi.

AICC in-charge Vijay Jangid accused the Union Government of undermining democratic institutions and urged party workers to stay vigilant at booth levels by strengthening oversight of voter registration revisions.

NEWSLINE

HISTORIC FEAT

CG Archery ends 25-year wait with National Bronze



RAIPUR: Marking a momentous milestone, Chhattisgarh’s recurve archery team clinched a historic bronze medal at the 46th National Archery Championship held in Jaipur, Rajasthan, ending a 25-year drought for a national podium finish. The medal-winning squad—comprising Gitesh Yadav, Shreyansh Verma, Yuvraj, and Avinash—received a warm felicitation upon returning to Raipur railway station by Kailash Murarka, National Vice President of the Archery Association of India and senior official of the state body. Lauding the athletes, Murarka noted that this triumph, alongside para-archer Toman Kumar’s recent gold at the Asian Games mixed team event, signals a promising breakthrough toward international success. Emphasizing that Chhattisgarh possesses immense sporting talent, he reiterated the need for modern equipment and advanced coaching.

FENCING LEAGUE

CG girls shine at fencing league



RAIPUR: Young women fencers from Chhattisgarh delivered an outstanding performance at the Khelo India Asmita Fencing Zonal League - West Zone (2026-27), bagging one gold and two silver medals in the junior category on the second day of the tournament. The championship is underway in Gandhinagar from October 23 to October 26.

In the Junior Girls’ Épée event, Raipur’s Reeba Beni clinched the gold medal following a commanding display of technique and skill, while Bilaspur’s Rupali Sahu secured the silver medal, ensuring a double podium finish for the state. Adding to the state’s medal tally, Neetu Yadav of Raipur bagged a silver medal in the Junior Girls’ Sabre event with a series of sharp, competitive bouts.

| 19TH NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP |

Chh’garh Para Canoe contingent departs for 19th National Championship

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: A contingent representing Chhattisgarh departed from Raipur on Sunday aboard the Amarkantak Express to compete in the 19th National Para-Canoe Championship, scheduled to take place at Lower Lake, Bhopal, from October 26 to October 28. The prestigious sporting event is being organized under the aegis of the Indian Kayaking and Canoeing Association (IKCA).

Prior to their depar-



ture, the participating athletes called upon Baldeo Singh Bhatia, President of the Chhattisgarh Pradesh Kayaking and

Canoeing Association, who extended his best wishes and encouraged the squad to perform at their peak. Association

officials, including General Secretary Abhijeet Mishra, Joint Secretaries Prashant Singh Raghu-

Chhabra, alongside Dr. Naveen Bafna and other committee members, were present to see off the squad and convey their support.

The competing athletes include Premjeet Kumar, Hori Lal Yadav, Vibhishan Kumar, Karan Soni, Lucky Soni, Pintu Ram Sahu, Kuldeep Minj, Chanchala Patel and Sunil Kumar.

The contingent is accompanied by coach Dinesh Kumar Sahu and team manager Rakesh Singh Thakur.

JANMAN mobile units deliver healthcare to PVTGs

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: In a major push to deliver essential healthcare to remote tribal heartlands, Chhattisgarh’s PM-JANMAN Mobile Medical Unit (MMU) programme has provided medical services to 125,051 Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) beneficiaries. Operating across 18 districts with a dedicated fleet of 57 Mobile Medical Units, the initiative has systematically bridged critical geographic and infra-



structure hurdles since its launch on December 31, 2025. Over this period, the mobile units have conducted 15,209 medical camps, logged 245,095 patient registrations, administered 332,526 clini-

cal consultations, and executed 294,560 diagnostic investigations, while managing 128,596 follow-up cases and facilitating 3,671 hospital referrals.

Each operational unit functions as a doorstep clinic staffed by a doctor, a nurse, a laboratory technician, and a driver, delivering free on-site consultations, basic pathology services, point-of-care screenings, medicines, and emergency referral coordination.

AI and Technology to redefine tax administration: OP Choudhary

Finance Minister O.P. Choudhary hailed GST as India’s greatest economic reform, noting it unified 17 taxes and 23 cesses into a transparent, competitive system.

Central Chronicle News

BHILAI: Chhattisgarh Finance Minister O.P. Choudhary stated that the Goods and Services Tax (GST), rolled out under Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s leadership, stands as the most transformative tax reform in India’s economic history. Speaking at the Chhattisgarh Tax Tech Summit 2026 organized by the Tax Bar Association in Durg, Choudhary noted that GST simplified the nation’s complex indirect tax architecture by sub-



Guests being welcomed on the dais.

suming 17 taxes and 23 cesses into a single framework, significantly boosting trade transparency and curbing tax evasion. Choudhary under-

scored that this uniform tax regime has bolstered the competitiveness of Indian entrepreneurs in the global market, serving as a critical pillar for building a developed India (Viksit Bharat). He also spotlighted the growing role of emerging technologies, emphasizing that Artificial Intelligence (AI) will redefine legal research, document analysis, and tax administration. The summit was attended by School Education Minister Gajendra Yadav and GST Appellate Tribunal Principal Bench President Sanjay Kumar Mishra alongside legal practitioners from across Chhattisgarh. Key discussions centered on deploying prac-

FASTFACTS

● Leaders and experts at the Chhattisgarh Tax Tech Summit 2026 emphasized integrating Artificial Intelligence into tax administration and including GST in law school curricula.

tical AI tools to streamline taxpayer services, while council representatives formally recommended incorporating GST jurisprudence into law school curricula to equip future advocates for evolving market demands.

51 booked for public drinking and loitering



Central Chronicle News

BHILAI: In a targeted drive to curb antisocial behaviour and maintain public order, the Durg District Police registered 51 cases against individuals found consuming alcohol in public spaces and loitering on Saturday. The comprehensive operation covered police station and outpost jurisdictions across the district. Dedicated patrol teams conducted intensive surveillance and checks at major intersec-

tions, busy market hubs, public parks, and other vulnerable spots. All 51 cases were formally registered under Section 36(F) of the Chhattisgarh Excise Act. According to the station-wise breakdown, Mohan Nagar led the crackdown with nine cases, followed by Padmanabhpur with six, and Nevai, Jamul, and Durg with five cases each. Additional actions were recorded across Bhilai Nagar, Purani Bhilai, Khursipar, and other regional outposts.

NEWSLINE

CRIME

Man held for robbery

BHILAI: Police in Bhilai arrested a 27-year-old man for robbing cash at gun point from an enclosure near a local liquor outlet. The accused, Gopi Tiwari of Camp-02, Bhilai, barged into the premises near Saksharta Chowk, threatened operator Jackie Jaiswal with what appeared to be a firearm, and fled with Rs 5,400 from the cash register. Following a complaint, Chhawani police registered an FIR under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and the Arms Act. Officials apprehended Tiwari, recovering a black air gun, a pair of scissors, and Rs 1,250 in cash before remanding him to judicial custody.

SATTA-PATTI

Bookie arrested

BHILAI: Continuing its crackdown on illegal gambling, Durg Police arrested a 43-year-old man for operating an illegal betting racket in Dumardih village under Utai police station limits. Acting on a credible tip-off, a police team raided an area near Jaitkham in Bade Para and apprehended Dinesh Kumar Chelak. Officers seized a notebook containing betting records, Rs 560 in cash, a ballpoint pen, and a Vivo smartphone, with the total seized items valued at Rs 5,560. A case has been registered under Section 6 of the Chhattisgarh Gambling Prohibition Act, 2022, and the accused has been remanded to judicial custody.

MODIFIED SILENCER

Bike rider penalised

BHILAI: In an intensified drive against traffic violations, Durg Traffic Police penalised the rider of a Yamaha R1 motorcycle fitted with a modified silencer at Avanti Bai Chowk on Sunday. Acting on directions from the Senior Superintendent of Police, traffic personnel intercepted the high-end bike and slapped a Rs 5000 fine under the Motor Vehicles Act. Officials dismantled and seized the aftermarket exhaust on the spot. Police highlighted that loud, shrill exhausts cause noise pollution and disturb seniors, patients, and children, warning that strict enforcement against unauthorised vehicle modifications will continue across the district.

DISPUTE

Man critically injured

BHILAI: A dispute over liquor turned violent in the Newai police station area of Durg district on Saturday night, leaving a youth critically injured. The victim, Ram Raj Vijaywar, was returning home from a liquor outlet in Tanki Maroda when an altercation broke out near Newai Bhatia. The accused, Manoj Kumar Sahu, alias Mowgli, allegedly struck Ram Raj on the head with a heavy stone, rendering him unconscious. He was rushed by ambulance to the Government Hospital in Durg, where his condition remains critical. Following a complaint lodged by the victim’s brother, Yuvraj Vijaywar, Newai Police registered a case of attempted murder against the accused.

New voter registration camp organised

Central Chronicle News

BHILAI: A one-day voter awareness and new voter registration camp was organised at Government Vishwanath Yadav Tamaskar Post Graduate Autonomous College (Science College), Durg, on October 15, 2026. Held under the aegis of the Electoral Literacy Club (ELC), the initiative aimed to encourage eligible youth aged 18 and above to enroll in the electoral roll. Students registered online through the



ECINET app and offline using Form 6, alongside making corrections to existing voter ID cards. College Principal Dr. Ajay Kumar Singh and faculty members underscored the significance of voter enrollment in strength-

ening democratic participation. Conducted under the guidance of SVEEP ELC Coordinator (Durg City) Dr. Meena Maan, the camp successfully motivated unregistered students to exercise their franchise.

Power supply shutdown

BHILAI: Power supply across several parts of Durg district will remain suspended daily from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM between October 26 and October 31, 2026. According to Abdul Waris, Assistant Engineer, PWD (Electrical/Mechanical Division), the planned outage is required for shifting electric poles and transformers to facilitate road widening from Jail Tiraha to Minimata Chowk and Maharaja Chowk to Borsi Road. The shutdown will affect Rishabh South City, DMart, and Manish Petrol Pump on October 26.

PREPARATIONS UNDERWAY |

108 Kundiya Gayatri Mahayagya in January 2027

Central Chronicle News

BHILAI: A crucial organizational meeting of senior Gayatri Pariwar workers was held on Sunday at Gayatri Pragya Peeth in Bhilai to prepare for the upcoming 108 Kundiya Gayatri Mahayagya and Rashtriya Shaurya Samridhi Sammelan, scheduled for January 23-26, 2027. Organized under the guidance of Shantikunj, Haridwar, the grand gathering is expected to draw thou-



sands of devotees from Durg, Bhilai, Bemetara, Balod, and other regions across Chhattisgarh. Led by key representatives from Haridwar and regional coordinators, the session outlined comprehensive action plans for event management. Specific responsibilities were assigned to local committees oversee-

ing the construction of the yajnashtala, lodging, food distribution (bhandara), security, and visitor healthcare. Workers highlighted that the event transcends traditional religious rituals, embodying Pandit Shriram Sharma Acharya’s vision of societal transformation, environmental purification, and global peace.

Industrial safety training drives employment

Central Chronicle News

BHILAI: Specialised training in industrial safety and fire-fighting is creating strong employment pathways for youth, with four trainees from the Fire, Safety and Disaster Management Institute in Bhilai securing jobs at Bajrang Power Ispat Limited in Tilda, Raipur district. The private vocational institute, guided by Managing Director Ravi

Soni and Director Manoj Thakre, offers programmes aligned with MSME-CTAR, Ludhiana. Students receive practical instruction from



seasoned experts, including retired Bhilai Steel Plant professionals Shahrugh Lal Dhanakar and Tapan Kumar Vishwas. The cur-

riculum equips candidates with hands-on expertise in industrial risk management, fire prevention, emergency response, and safety protocols essential for core manufacturing sectors. Following their comprehensive training and evaluation, the four candidates were selected for critical safety roles, highlighting how targeted vocational education bridges industry skill gaps and boosts local employment.

Jan Sangharsh Morcha stages protest

Central Chronicle News

BHILAI: The Jan Sangharsh Morcha Chhattisgarh staged a demonstration at Parivar Chowk in Sector-6 on Saturday, raising urgent concerns over the Uniform Civil Code (UCC), voter deletions under the Special Intensive Revision (SIR), and housing rehabilitation for Hospital Sector residents. Addressing the gathering, key



speakers, including former MLA Janak Lal Thakur, warned that large-scale voter deletions undermine demo-

cratic participation and demanded accountability from the Election Commission. They also criticized the detention

of peaceful protesters in Delhi and opposed the UCC, alleging it threatens social justice and constitutional diversity. Additionally, protesters voiced strong opposition to the eviction notices served by the Bhilai Steel Plant management to Hospital Sector residents, demanding immediate nearby resettlement to protect their livelihoods, schooling, and shelter.

Four arrested for snatching gold chains

Central Chronicle News

BHILAI: A joint team of Old Bhilai Police and the Anti-Crime and Cyber Unit (ACCU) arrested four men on Friday for robbing gold chains from elderly pedestrians under the pretext of asking for directions. The breakthrough came while investigating an October 8 incident in Padmana-



gar, Bhilai-03, where two-wheeler-borne miscreants stopped an elderly couple and

snatched a woman’s gold chain. Interrogations also revealed their involvement in a simi-

lar robbery reported in Indira Nagar this January. Police recovered 19.41 grams of melted gold alongside an Activa scooter and a motorcycle used during the offenses. The accused—identified as Suraj Badhaik, Laxman Sahu, Kuldeep Singh, and Deep Singh—have been remanded to judicial custody following their arrest.

Bhavika crowned UCMAS Abacus champion

Central Chronicle News

BHILAI: Bhavika Singh, a Class 2-F student at DAV Public School, Hudco, Bhilai, brought immense pride to the institution and Chhattisgarh by clinching the champion’s title at the UCMAS Risali Visual Competition. Demonstrating exceptional mental arithmetic, speed, and focus, Bhavika competed in the F12 cat-

egory. While participants were tasked with solving 200 questions within eight



minutes, she answered all 200 correctly in an astonishing six minutes and ten seconds. School Princi-

pal and Regional Officer Prashant Kumar praised her dedication, noting that her remarkable achievement serves as an inspiration to fellow students. A versatile learner, Bhavika also excels in academics, Bharatanatyam, and devotional singing. Supervisory Head Manju Sharma credited the combined support of teachers and parents for her stellar success.

ILLEGAL MIGRANTS |

32000 records scanned, over 250 suspects shortlisted

Central Chronicle News

BHILAI: In an intensified crackdown against illegal foreign migrants residing without authorization, the Special Task Force (STF) of Durg Police carried out a specialized investigation that examined data records of approximately 32,000 individuals, shortlisting more than 250 suspects for in-depth verification. To trace and verify



the shortlisted profiles, the STF team conducted

extensive on-ground search and data collection

operations across key border districts of West Bengal, including Medinipur, South 24 Parganas, and Murshidabad. Relevant documentation and background credentials gathered during the mission are currently undergoing detailed analytical scrutiny. Officials confirmed that statutory legal action, including deportation procedures, will be initiated against those confirmed

to be staying unlawfully once document validation concludes. Durg Police previously detected and deported undocumented Bangladeshi nationals under similar enforcement operations. Authorities emphasized that continuous surveillance using integrated databases and technical intelligence remains active to detect foreign nationals residing illegally.

SS (UBT) demands crackdown on adulterated sweets

BHILAI: Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) Joint District President for Durg-Bhilai, Raju Gupta, raised serious concerns over the rampant sale of adulterated and expired dairy items and sweets across local markets during the festive rush. Gupta warned that items like milk, curd, paneer, mawa, soan papdi, and mysore pak are being widely traded without mandatory laboratory checks to maximize trader profits.

Consuming expired or toxic sweets poses severe health hazards, especially to children, the elderly, and pregnant women, potentially triggering acute food poisoning, nausea, vomiting, severe abdominal pain, and liver-damaging fungal toxins. Gupta urged the district administration to inspect production chains, test samples across all shops, cancel licenses, and seal offending establishments to prevent recurrence.

N-E-W-S



“Indian Parliament is all set to host the 12th BRICS Parliamentary Forum.”

Om Birla
Speaker, Lok Sabha

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Shri Narendra Modi
Hon'ble Prime Minister

Searches conducted in Jammu jail; Anti-tunnelling op in J-K's Samba

Security forces in Jammu conducted a search operation in a Jammu jail, launched an anti-tunnelling exercise near the International Border (IB) in Samba

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: As part of heightened security measures and to assess readiness, security forces in Jammu conducted a search operation in a Jammu jail, launched an anti-tunnelling exercise near the International Border (IB) in Samba, and carried out mock drills at a railway station and CRPF camp.

Officials said a joint search operation was conducted at District Jail Amphalla by jail staff, CRPF and police around 10 am. They said no suspicious or objectionable material was found inside the premises during the



operation, which lasted for more than one hour.

In Samba district, the Border Security Force (BSF) conducted an anti-tunnelling exercise in the forward area along the International Border at Border Outpost Lal-famkima in the Ramgarh

sector, the officials said.

The exercise was aimed at detecting any possible cross-border tunnels for infiltration or the smuggling of arms, ammunition and other contraband into Indian territory, officials said, adding no such structure

was detected when last reports were received.

At Jammu Railway Station and a CRPF camp in Banihal area of Ramban district, mock drills were conducted to strengthen inter-agency coordination and assess operational preparedness for emergency situations.

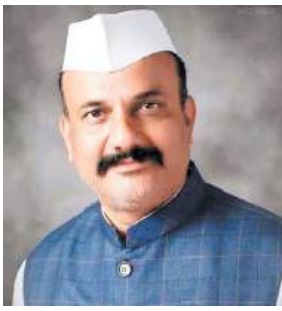
Railway Protection Force (RPF), fire and emergency services and medical staff engaged in the drill at the station, accompanied by a bomb disposal squad (BDS). Teams of CID Special Branch and CID Counter Intelligence were also present, the officials said.

FASTFACTS

● The forces also carried out mock drills at a railway station and CRPF camp.

Similarly, at the CRPF camp, a joint security and emergency response mock drill was conducted, which commenced at 11 am and concluded at 12:20 pm, the officials said, adding the drill involved troops of Rashtriya Rifles, CRPF personnel, the RPF, GRP, State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), police, fire and emergency services, and the block medical officer (BMO), Banihal.

Sena-UBT leader's murder: Sapkal hits M'ashtra govt



Press Trust Of India

THANE: Maharashtra Congress chief Harshvardhan Sapkal attacked the state government over the murder of Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Pradeep Purnekar, alleging that police were working to "protect the evildoers".

He was speaking to reporters after visiting Purnekar's grieving family in Thane. Sena (UBT) Manpada ward chief Purnekar was killed on September 29. He was shot at and then attacked

HIGHLIGHT

● The project, which became a matter of many discussions with his photographer daughter Avani Rai before he passed away.

with sharp weapons.

Sapkal said the murder, carried out in a densely populated area, proves that law and order has deteriorated in Maharashtra. He said the investigation into the crime was being steered away from the individuals named by Purnekar's family in their statements and complaints.

"Instead of targeting the masterminds, the police are merely arresting hired hitmen. It appears the police are functioning in a manner that protects the evildoers", he said.

NEWSLINE

MUMBAI

Advocate held in cyber fraud

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has arrested an advocate at Mumbai airport in connection with an alleged nationwide cyber fraud and money-laundering network involving banking transactions worth approximately Rs 28,000 crore, officials said on Sunday. The accused, Rashesh Upadhyay, also known as Rashesh Shah, was intercepted by the ED's Panaji unit at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport while preparing to board a flight to Delhi. His arrest took the total number of people held in the investigation to seven, according to official sources. Investigators allege that the network was involved in large-scale financial transactions linked to cyber fraud and digital-arrest scams. The agency said around Rs 2,900 crore was deposited in cash through the alleged network.

GHAZIABAD

Three arrested in Loni murder case

Police have arrested two men and detained a minor in connection with the shooting murder of a man in Loni, Ghaziabad district, officials said. The arrests followed an investigation into the killing of Sonu, who was allegedly called to a shop before being shot on Friday. According to the complaint registered at Loni police station, five accused allegedly summoned the victim and opened fire on him. Police subsequently registered a case of murder and criminal conspiracy under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. Relevant provisions of the Arms Act were also invoked in connection with the alleged use and possession of firearms. The arrested suspects were identified as Salman, 20, and Shoaib, 23, while a minor was detained. Police said a country-made pistol, a live cartridge and a motorcycle without a number plate were recovered from their possession.

BJP's Sangeet Som accuses Akhilesh Yadav of conspiracy to kill him

Press Trust Of India

BJP leader and former Sardhana MLA Sangeet Singh Som has accused Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav of conspiring to have him killed.

MEERUT: BJP leader and former Sardhana MLA Sangeet Singh Som has accused Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav of conspiring to have him killed, an allegation the SP has described as



politically motivated. Som, known for making controversial statements, reportedly made the allegation during a recent podcast, claiming that an alleged plan involving a person named Titu Yadav could not be executed.

Reacting to the allegation, SP MLA and former Uttar Pradesh cabinet minister Shahid Manzoor

declined to comment directly. He said Som should seek additional security from the government if he apprehended a threat to his life.

"He is a BJP leader, a former MLA and a fire-brand leader. His party is in power. If he faces a threat to his life, he should apply to the government. If 26-27 security personnel are not enough, he can take 50-100 personnel. If even Z-plus security is insufficient, he can seek NSG protection," Manzoor told PTI.

Murder accused injured in encounter

PATNA: A murder accused was injured in an exchange of fire with police during a weapon recovery operation in Bihar's Patna district on Sunday, officials said. The incident occurred on Kalyan Bigha Road in the Bakhtiyarpur police station area. The accused, Saurabh Singh, allegedly opened fire at a police team when officers took him to recover a firearm believed to have been used in the murder of Anjani Kumar. Sub-Inspector Puja Kumari reportedly fired in self-defence, hitting Singh in the left leg below the knee.

Uttarakhand govt lifts freeze on recruitment ahead of polls

Press Trust Of India

DEHRADUN: Uttarakhand government announced that a recruitment drive will start in the state for vacant teaching and non-teaching positions in the state's aided non-government secondary schools. A statement issued by the state govt on Sunday mentioned that "in this election year, and with the interests of students in mind, the state government has lifted the long-standing freeze on the recruitment process."

| RECRUITMENT |



Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami said, School management committees will now be able to fill vacant positions in their respective schools, based on the number of students enrolled.

In a statement issued to the media, the state's School Education Minis-

ter, Dhan Singh Rawat, affirmed that the government is committed to strengthening the state's education system and ensuring the availability of necessary human resources in schools.

"While some school management committees have been approaching the High Court regarding the recruitment of teachers and staff, other schools-lacking such resources-have been struggling to function with a minimal number of teachers.

Assam CM orders immediate action over alleged attack on Bihu

Press Trust Of India

GUWAHATI: Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Sunday directed police to take immediate action against those responsible for an alleged attack on a Bihu troupe in Sribhum district, asserting that any insult to the state's culture and heritage would not be tolerated.

"The news of an attack on a Bihu troupe in Sribhum is deeply disturbing and unfortunate," Sarma said in a social media post. The incident took place on Friday during a Durga Puja idol immersion procession in Sribhum, where miscreants allegedly attacked a Bihu troupe invited to perform at the event. Several members of the troupe



sustained injuries, while the attackers also allegedly damaged musical equipment. Sarma, who also holds the Home

portfolio, directed the DGP to initiate immediate action against those responsible. "Bihu is the soul of Assam, our pride and our identity. We will never tolerate any insult to our culture and heritage," he said. "I have directed the @DGPassamPolice to ensure immediate action against those responsible," the chief minister added.

| BARRAGE CLEARANCES |

Telangana CM to meet Fadnavis today

Press Trust Of India

HYDERABAD: Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy will meet his Maharashtra counterpart Devendra Fadnavis on Monday to resolve clearance issues over the proposed Tummidihetti barrage. Revanth Reddy, accompanied by Irrigation Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy and officials, will meet Fadnavis at the Sahyadri state guest house in



Mumbai, a press release said on Sunday. The Telangana government has proposed building a barrage across the Godavari River at Tummidihetti, on the interstate border. Telangana is seeking Maharashtra's consent as the proposed barrage

would result in submergence in the neighbouring state. On September 29, Revanth Reddy met Union Jal Shakti Minister C R Patil in Delhi and urged him to facilitate talks with the Maharashtra government to resolve the inter-state clearance issues concerning the project.

| SAUDI-PILGRIMS |

Omar must reply over Kashmiri pilgrims in Mecca: VHP

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) on Sunday questioned National Conference president Farooq Abdullah and J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah over their response to Kashmiri pilgrims stranded in Saudi Arabia and asked what steps they have taken to ensure their safe return to India. The remarks came amid escalating regional tensions following drone

and missile attacks targeting civilian infrastructure by Yemen's Houthis.

In a post on X, VHP national spokesperson Vinod Bansal raised the issue while sharing a news clip about the 34 stranded pilgrims, who had travelled to Saudi Arabia to perform Umrh, an Islamic pilgrimage to Mecca that can be undertaken at any time of the year. "Please tell us who will look after the 34 Kashmiri pilgrims stranded in Jeddah for



the past 15 days following attacks by Yemen's Houthi militants?" Bansal said. Bansal asked Farooq Abdullah and Jammu and Kashmir Chief Min-

ister Omar Abdullah to explain what steps they have taken to facilitate the pilgrims' return and questioned why they have not written to Saudi author-

ities or appealed to the Houthis. "Farooq Abdullah, who sings praises of Pakistan, and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah must explain what they have done so far to ensure the safe return of these pilgrims to India. Why have they not written to Saudi Arabia? Why have they not appealed to the Houthis?" he said. Bansal also questioned the alleged silence of those raising slogans in support of Gaza over Houthi attacks. "Why do

the voices raising slogans in support of Gaza on the streets remain silent against Houthi attacks?" he asked. "One cannot expect much from others, but at least show concern for the lives of people from your own religious community. Raise your voice for the safe return of Kashmiris. Why this silence?" he said. Bansal also challenged the two leaders to approach Pakistan and the Houthis to help secure the pilgrims' return.

संजीवनी
ग्रुप ऑफ हॉस्पिटल्स

► यूनिट - 1, 2, 3, ४ ►

अत्याधुनिक सुपरस्पेशलिटी सुविधाएँ, एक ही छत के नीचे!

- कैंसर, हृदय, अस्थिक, किडनी, गैस्ट्रो, हड्डी, फेफड़े, स्त्री रोग, रक्त रोग
- सभी मेडिकल व सर्जिकल ट्रीटमेंट, इमरजेंसी व ICU (क्रिटिकल) केयर
- सभी ओपन, लैप्रोस्कोपिक व रोबोटिक सर्जरी
- कैंसर सर्जरी, कीमोथेरेपी, रेडियोथेरेपी एवं ब्रैकीथेरेपी
- डायलिसिस व किडनी ट्रांसप्लांट
- कैथ लैब, ओपन व इंडोस्कोपिक हार्ट सर्जरी
- ब्रेन व स्पाइन हेतु न्यूरो माइक्रोस्कोप व नेविगेशन
- सभी गैस्ट्रो एंडोस्कोपी, ERCP, EUS, ब्रॉन्कोस्कोपी
- सभी पेन, पैलियेटिव, सर्पोर्टिव केयर व होम केयर
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Shyam Bihari Jaiswal
Health Minister Ch'garh



Raipur Region

Ensure benefits of govt schemes reach every section of society: CM

CM Sai attends Baba Bisashahe Kul Kolta Samaj's Varshik Sneh sammelan evam bandhu milan in Garhphuljhar

Central Chronicle News

MAHASAMUND: CM Vishnu Deo Sai attended the Varshik Sneh Sammelan and Bandhu Milan programme organised by the Baba Bisashahe Kul Kolta Samaj at Garhphuljhar in Basna development block of Mahasamund district on Saturday.

On the occasion, he inaugurated Sarvamangal Bhavan, built at a cost of Rs 50 lakh. Responding to the community's request, he also announced the construction of a grand dome at a cost of Rs. 50 lakh on the temple premises. CM Sai said that the



promises made in 2024 for the development of Garhphuljhar are now taking shape on the ground. The completion of Sarvamangal Bhavan would provide better facilities for social and community activities.

Beautification work at Mansarovar Pond is also underway at a cost of Rs.

48 lakh. Construction of a road approximately 1.75 kilometres long is in progress in the area at an estimated cost of Rs. 3.50 cr.

The Chief Minister said these development works would expand basic amenities in Garhphuljhar and nearby areas while encouraging social, religious and cultural activi-

HIGHLIGHT

● CM Sai announces construction of a grand dome at a cost of Rs 50 lakh on the temple premises.

"Sarvamangal Bhavan would further strengthen social unity"

Former Union Minister and Sambalpur MP Dharmendra Pradhan said visiting Garhphuljhar is a privilege. Referring to the religious significance of Maa Ramchandi Temple, he described the area as an important centre of faith, spirituality and cultural heritage. The construction of a gurdwara and the development of the Lakshmi-Narayan Temple would also give fresh direction to religious tourism in the area. Pradhan said spiritual and cultural activities are continuing to expand in the Basna region.

ties. He said the changes brought about by development are now clearly visible in Garhphuljhar, and development works would be accelerated further in keeping with the area's requirements.

Shopkeeper dies two days after an attack by iron pipe

Central Chronicle News

KHARORA: In the nearby village of Nahardih, a grocery shopkeeper was brutally murdered after being attacked with an iron pipe following a dispute over a trivial matter. The assailants fled the scene immediately after the incident.

The severely injured shopkeeper succumbed to his injuries while undergoing treatment at DKS Hospital in Raipur. The police have registered a case of murder and initiated an investigation; two suspects have been taken into custody, while a search for the prime suspect is ongoing. According to reports, Ramkumar Sahu (41,

son of Kriparam Sahu), a grocery shopkeeper and resident of Nahardih village, was at his shop when Akhilesh Saytode (28), a fellow villager, arrived. An argument ensued between the two over an unspecified issue. Although Saytode initially left the scene, he returned shortly thereafter accompanied by accomplices.

Following the incident, the police registered a case under sections related to murder and launched an investigation. As of the time of writing, two suspects involved in the incident have been arrested, while the prime suspect, Akhilesh Saytode, remains at large.

APPOINTMENT

UK Sahu
appointed Orgnz. Co-Secy CPSS



GARIABAND: Ukesh Kumar Sahu, a resident of Khadma village in the Chhura development block of Gariaband district, has been appointed as the Organizational Co-Secretary for the Raipur division within the Chhattisgarh Pradesh Sahu Sangh (CPSS) (Officers-Employees Cell). His appointment has become a topic of discussion among the Sahu community in the Chhura region and across Gariaband district.

PTM HELD

Parent-Teacher meeting held

ARANG: A Parent-Teacher Meeting (PTM) was organized on Saturday at the Saraswati Shishu Mandir in Farfard. A total of 107 parents—comprising 65 mothers and 42 other parents—participated in the meeting. During the session, views were shared regarding the children's education, values (sanskar), and overall holistic development.

School President Netram Chandrakar, Vice-President Sohan Chandrakar, Secretary Meghraj Chandrakar, and Executive Committee member Ganpat Ram Lodhi stated in their message that the foundation for a bright future for children is built upon quality education, values, and discipline.

SELECTED

SAGES students selected for school sports

SUKMA: Students from the Swami Atmanand Government English Medium School (SAGES), Pavaras, have once again proven their mettle on the sports field. Several students from this institution—which prioritizes the holistic development of its pupils—have been selected for the 2026 state-level school sports competition. These talented athletes, chosen across various sporting disciplines, will represent the Bastar division at the state level in the upcoming events.

MEETING

BJP Fafadih mandal meeting held

PITHORA: A meeting of the Bharatiya Janata Party's Fafadih Mandal was held yesterday afternoon at Lohana Bhavan, Fafadih, Raipur, under the chief guestship of Apex Bank Chairman Kedar Gupta. The meeting took place in the presence of Mandal President Jitendra Gandechara; Ward Councilors Mahendra Khodiyar and Khagapati Soni; District President of the Mahila Morcha (Women's Wing) Kritika Jain; Mandal In-charge Madhusudan Sharma; General Secretary Bhagwan Yadav; former Councilor VB Patel; and a large number of dedicated party workers.

Patwaris on strike over a four-point list of demands

Central Chronicle News

KHAIRAGARH: The indefinite strike by Patwaris has had a widespread impact across the district. Revenue Department operations have been severely disrupted.

Administrative tasks have come to a standstill, while the general public is facing significant hardship in obtaining essential documents—such as income, caste, and residence certificates—as well as in matters concerning

INDEFINITE STRIKE



land partition and mutation. The strike is also affecting the digital survey of paddy crops; the administration has been forced to rely on private surveyors to carry out this task. Currently, only 59 Patwaris are posted across the district's 102 Patwari circles (halkas). Due to the

strike, students, farmers, and landowners are struggling to get their essential work completed. Administrative duties, including the preparation of departmental reports, are also being affected. Consequently, numerous cases remain pending at the Tehsil and SDM offices.

State-level school sports competition on October 26

KHAIRAGARH: Under the aegis of the District Administration and the School Education Department, the 26th State-Level School Sports Competition will be held from Oct 26 to 29 at the Raja Fateh Singh Sports Ground in Khairagarh. Elected representatives and prominent citizens will attend the opening and closing ceremonies of this four-day event. The competition will be inaugurated on October 26 at 9:00 AM, with Santosh Pandey, Member of Parliament for the Rajnandgaon Lok Sabha constituency, serving as the chief guest.

ISBM University students visit 'Future Ecotronics'

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: To enhance the technical knowledge and practical experience of its students, the Faculty of Engineering and Technology at ISBM University, Nawapara (Kosmi), Gariaband, Chhattisgarh, organized an industrial visit to 'Future Ecotronics'—an Electronic Manufacturing Cluster (EMC) located in Naya Raipur—on October 23.

During this visit, students gained insights

FOR TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE



into the operational dynamics of the electronics manufacturing industry, modern technologies, the production of Printed Circuit Boards (PCBs), and industrial

quality control processes. Priyanshu Srivastava, founder of Future Ecotronics, introduced the company, explaining that it specializes in manufacturing high-quality, eco-friendly single-sided and double-sided Printed Circuit Boards (PCBs).

The company's core mission is to create reliable electronic products through innovative technologies while promoting sustainable development and environmental conservation.

District admn vigilant regarding women's safety, protection

Central Chronicle News

SUKMA: The district administration remains vigilant regarding women's safety, protection, and the prompt resolution of sensitive cases. On Saturday, Collector Amit Kumar conducted a surprise inspection of the 'Sakhi' One-Stop Centre in Sukma—operated by the Department of Women and Child Development—to assess its facilities and operations. During the



inspection, he thoroughly reviewed the essential services provided to women in distress, including medical, legal, and police assistance, psychological counseling, and temporary shelter. He placed special emphasis on ensuring

that women arriving at the center receive timely, sensitive, and need-based support.

Collector Amit Kumar gathered detailed information regarding the center's operations and the cases being handled.

SURPRISE INSPECTION

Alcohol worth Rs 1.06 cr consumed in just 12 hours!

KHAIRAGARH: Festivals are meant for sharing joy, spending time with family, and fostering social harmony. However, when rising alcohol consumption becomes a defining feature of these celebrations, it prompts a need for societal introspection.

In the Khairagarh-Chhuikhadan-Gandai (KCG) district, the sale of over Rs 1.06 crore worth of alcohol in just 12 hours on



Vijaydashami raises a critical question: have the joys of festivals become inextricably linked to intoxication? Given the district's

limited population and geographical area, this figure is truly staggering.

While there was relatively less footfall at liquor shops during the Sharadiya Navratri, the number of buyers surged as soon as the shops opened on the day of Dussehra. Crowds were observed at liquor outlets in Khairagarh, Chhuikhadan, and Gandai, as well as in the district's rural areas. At

some locations, stocks of certain popular brands even ran low.

While liquor sales generate excise revenue for the government, the focus on earnings should not overshadow the broader social consequences of this trend. Excessive alcohol consumption can have adverse effects on a family's financial stability, domestic peace, personal health, and road safety.

Youth tried to drown villager

DONGARGAON: An incident of assault has been reported involving a resident of Gungeri Nawagaon, who was attacked while bathing in the 'Bandhiya' pond located between Bargaon and Gungeri Nawagaon.

According to reports, two youths from Bargaon allegedly verbally abused the villager, then launched a life-threatening attack using sticks, stones, and



other objects, while also attempting to drown him in the pond. The victim sustained injuries to his head, legs, and other parts of his body. Following initial medical treatment, he was referred to the

District Hospital, where he is currently undergoing care. The Dongargaon police have arrested both accused and initiated an investigation. According to the information received, Purushottam Nishad (son of Mohit Nishad, aged 44), a resident of Gungeri Nawagaon, had gone to bathe in the Bandhiya reservoir—situated between Bargaon and Gungeri Nawagaon.

Blood donation camp held at College of Agri

RAJNANDGAON: A blood donation camp was organized at the Pandit Shivkumar Shastri College of Agriculture and Research Centre, Surgi (Rajnandgaon), under the joint aegis of the National Service Scheme (NSS) and the National Cadet Corps (NCC) units, in collaboration with Balaji Blood

Bank. The collection of blood was carried out by the team from Balaji Blood Bank. Faculty members, administrative staff, students, NSS volunteers, NCC cadets, and other donors participated enthusiastically, contributing their blood. A total of 33 units of blood were collected during the camp.

Amit Shah's helicopter tableau steals the show

By Neeraj Upadhyay

ARANG: KESHKAL: The tribal region of Bastar is renowned not only for its historic Dussehra celebrations but also for its unique folk traditions that reflect the creativity, faith and collective spirit of rural communities. One such tradition can be witnessed at the



Dussehra fair in Mainpur village, located in the remote part of the Keshkal Assembly con-

stituency, where villagers create elaborate tableaux and special chariots through their own efforts

every year. This year, a symbolic helicopter depicting the arrival of Union Home Minister Amit Shah emerged as the main attraction of the fair. Prepared over nearly a month through the collective efforts of villagers, the tableau drew thousands of visitors. The event was attended by Kanker MP Bhojraj

Nag, Bastar MP Mahesh Kashyap and Keshkal MLA Neelkanth Tekam.

Creativity and tradition come together. The highlight of Mainpur's Dussehra celebration is the villagers' tradition of designing and building colourful tableaux, chariots and symbolic representations of prominent public figures.

Fun & Focus



Daily Horoscope

ARIES

Tooth ache or stomach upset may create some problems for you. Take a physician's advice to get relief immediately. Today, with the help of a close relative, you can do well in your business, which will also benefit you financially. Someone you know might overreact, bringing uneasy moments at home.

Cosmic tip: Work together with those who are supporting you.

Gemini

You can start your day with Yoga and Meditation. Doing this will be beneficial for you and you will maintain your energy levels throughout the day. Concentrate on your work and stay clear of emotional confrontations. Today, you would like to do all the things that you used to love during your childhood. Family tussles may arise.

Cosmic tip: Unlock your abundance.

Leo

Don't get upset when you confront a tricky situation. As food owes its flavour to salt-some unhappiness is essential only then you realize the value of happiness. Attend some social gathering to change your mood. Don't overpend too much in order to impress others. Your domestic scene will be somewhat unpredictable.

Cosmic tip: This pause is temporary.

Libra

Mould your thoughts to some positive thinking as you fight the fearsome monster of fear otherwise you would become the passive and unrelenting victim of this arch demon. Natives who are employed will require a sustainable amount, but due to unnecessary expenditure done in the past, they won't have enough.

Cosmic tip: Organise your plans.

Sagittarius

Evenings at the movie-theatre or dinner with your spouse seem to keep you in a relaxed and wonderful mood. Your creative talents will prove to be highly lucrative if put to proper use. Friends will interfere more than required in your personal life. Emotional disturbances could trouble you.

Cosmic tip: Keep your cards close.

Aquarius

Expectant mother should take especial care while walking on floor and if possible don't stand with a friend while he is smoking as it could badly affect the unborn child. Those who were spending money without thinking much till now can understand its importance in life, as an urgent need can arise.

Cosmic tip: Share your secrets wisely.

Taurus

Sheer pleasure and enjoyment for you-as you set about to enjoy life to the fullest. Don't make investments in haste-Losses are certain if you don't look at investments from all possible angles. A dispute is likely to occur between family members regarding money matters.

Cosmic tip: Detach, and speak with logic.

Cancer

Unexpected travel can be tiring which would make you frenzy. Massage your body with oil to give relief to muscles. Dig deep beneath the surface to find out more about the investment scheme that seems to be attracting you-Consult your experts before making any commitment. Do not be outspoken during business meetings.

Cosmic tip: Optimise them (your plans).

Virgo

Throw away the gloom-which is enveloping you and disrupting your progress. Money position improves as delayed payments are recovered. Spend some time with your friends-as it will do a world of good. Those connected with art and theatre will find several new opportunities to give their creative best. The wheel of time moves very fast.

Cosmic tip: Your prayers are being answered.

Scorpio

A wonderful day to do things that would make you feel good about yourself. If you were about to take a loan and had been engaged in this work for a long time, then today is your lucky day. Short trip to the relative brings moment of comfort and relaxation from your daily hectic schedule.

Cosmic tip: When life is good, make long-term plans.

Capricorn

A special compliment from a friend would be the source of happiness. This is because you have made your life like trees-which give shade to the others while they themselves stand in the sun and endure the scorching heat. Today, you can seek advice from the seniors of your family about finance management and savings and use them in your daily life.

Cosmic tip: Toss a coin in the air and make a wish.

Pisces

Your confidence and energy will be high today. Today, avoid lending your money to those relatives who have not yet returned the previous amount. People will give you new hopes and dreams-but lots will depend on your own efforts. Learn to control your mind, as many a times you lose focus and waste your time.

Cosmic tip: Choose stability over impulsive extroversion.

SCIENCE WATCH

It's the season of pollination



Pollination is the superpower process where plants make seeds and fruits with the help of animal's and birds. Pollination is classical example of the 'Web of Life' and 'Teamwork in Nature'.

Never ever kill a bee



Bees have fuzzy, hairy bodies that act like Velcro. When a bee drinks sweet nectar from a flower, dusty yellow pollen sticks to its body and gets hitched to a new flower, thereby starting pollination. Never ever kill a bee; they are pivotal in survival of the Planet Earth.

The musical note by the Bumblebee

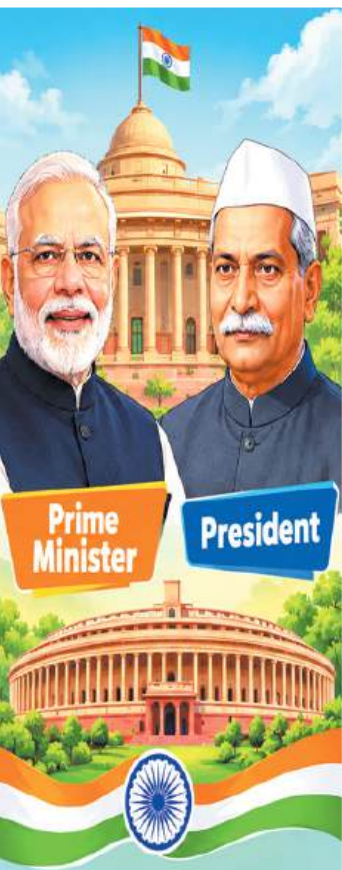


Some flowers (like tomatoes and blueberries) hide their pollen. Bumblebees bite the flower and buzz their wing muscles like a musical note to shake thousands of pollen grains loose in less than a second!

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

Difference between the Prime Minister and President

	Prime Minister	President
	The Prime Minister of India is the leader of the executive and the most powerful individual in the country	The President of India is the first citizen of the country and holds the highest office.
	The Prime Minister is the Head of the Cabinet, and the Council of Minister	The President is the ceremonial head of the country
	The Prime Minister and the Council of Ministers are in charging of deciding what policies and bills to pass	Bills cannot be passed without the assent and recommendation of the President
	The Prime Minister has no authority over matters concerning the Judiciary	The furthest extent of the President's judicial power is granting amnesty to criminals on death row
	A Prime Minister can be removed from office if the Lok Sabha passes a 'no-confidence motion'	The President can only be removed by the process of impeachment, which requires a special majority for the removal of the President
	The Prime Minister of India is appointed by the President	On the other hand, the President is elected by members of the parliament and legislative assembly. This impeachment process only arises if the President is found to be in violation of the Constitution of India
	Jawaharlal Nehru was the first Prime Minister of Independent India (November 14th 1889 - May 27th 1964)	Rajendra Prasad was the first President of Independent India (3 December 1884 - 28 February 1963)



OCTOBER 26-THE DAY IN HISTORY

- October 26 is primarily observed in India as Accession Day and Maharishi Valmiki Jayanti, in honour of the ancient sage, the author of the epic Ramayana.
- The day also is remembered for the 1934, foundation of Akhil Bharatiya Gramin Udyog Sangh and the 1962 - first National Emergency following the outbreak of the Sino-Indian War.
- On this day in 1863, the Football Association (FA)-the world's oldest governing body for soccer was founded to establish unified rules.
- On October 26, 1977, the last naturally occurring case of smallpox is diagnosed in Somalia, marking the final active case before global eradication.



IT'S QUIZ TIME

During the recent BRICS Summit in New Delhi, Prime Minister Narendra Modi gifted Russian President Vladimir Putin a Russian translation of which famous Tamil classic written in the 2nd century BCE?

Who is appointed as a celebrity advocate by UNICEF India?

Durga Bai Vyam, one of the best-known contemporary artists from Madhya Pradesh, helped bring her traditional art form to national and international audiences. What is this colourful tribal art form called?

Which Muslim woman participated in all the three Round Table Conferences?

The term "Woozle Effect" takes its name from a Winnie-the-Pooh story. What phenomenon does it describe?

Who is known as the founder of the Widow Remarriage Association in 1861?

The 2016 film Dangal, starring Aamir Khan, was based on the real-life story of the Phogat family and their wrestling journey. From which Indian state does the Phogat family come?

Answers-

(1) Thirukkural (2) Smriti Mandhana (3) Gond art (4) Begum Jahanara Shahnawaz (5) It is a phenomenon whereby an incorrect fact is cited so many times that it becomes largely accepted (6) Mahadev Govind Ranade (7) Haryana

RamaQuiz

TELL ME WHY?

Why wetlands are called the "kidneys of the Earth"

Wetlands are called the "kidneys of the Earth" because they filter pollutants, trap sediments, and absorb excess nutrients from water just like human kidneys clean blood in the body.

They also act as natural sponges that absorb heavy rainfall and floodwaters, releasing water gradually to recharge underground aquifers.

HOW IT IS ABBREVIATED

ABBREVIATIONS	Full Words
1) ASEAN	_____
2) ATM	_____
3) CSR	_____
4) BSE	_____
5) CCRF	_____

Answers-

- Association of Southeast Asian Nations,
- Automated Teller Machine,
- Corporate Social Responsibility,
- Bombay Stock Exchange,
- Central Crisis Response Force.

WORD OF THE DAY

Cicerone

Meaning - A person who conducts, informs, and guides sightseers, tourists, or visitors through museums, galleries, or historic sites.

Example - "Our knowledgeable cicerone led us through the old battlefield, explaining how the terrain shaped the course of the fighting."

Synonyms - Guide, Tour guide, Docent

Antonyms - Tourist, Sightseer, Traveller

FACT OF THE DAY

Bacteriophages, are virus which eat bacteria. River Ganga is the only river in the world where more than a thousand types of bacteriophages are found, playing a crucial role in keeping the river clean. British bacteriologist Ernest Hanbury Hankin first observed the presence of bacteriophages in Ganges in 1896.

APTITUDE TEST

Direction Series

Rohan walks 10 meters towards the North, turns right and walks 15 meters, turns right again and walks 10 meters, and finally turns left and walks 20 meters. Which direction is Rohan facing now?

A - East, 35 meters B - West, 35 meters
C - North, 25 meters D - South, 20 meters

ANSWER - A. East, 35 meters.

EXPLANATION -

- Initial Move: Walks 10 meters north.
- First Turn: Turns right (East) and walks 15 meters.
- Second Turn: Turns right (South) and walks 10 meters.
- Final Turn: Turns left (East) and walks 20 meters.

He is facing east, and his total distance from the starting point is 35 meters (15 + 20).

CROSSWORD -265

Across

- Clergyman's gown (7)
- One who shows people to their seats (5)
- Sightless (5)
- Clipping of trees into fancy shapes (7)
- Let go (7)
- Period during which a monarch rules (5)
- Place of worship (6)
- Financial holdings (6)
- Bush (5)
- Race-meeting for boats (7)
- Capital of Kenya (7)
- Not asleep (5)
- Assumed name (5)
- Heighten, augment (7)

Down

- Floor show (7)
- Expertise (5)
- Eccentric person (7)
- Young cat (6)
- Part of a shoe (5)
- Weightier (7)
- Artificial silk (5)
- Gin and vermouth cocktail (7)
- Piffle (7)
- Breed of cat (7)
- Sea trip (6)
- Father Christmas (5)
- Floating markers (5)
- Rail transport (5)

CROSSWORD SOLUTION- 264

SUDOKU- 265

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

SUDOKU SOLUTION- 264

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

DAILY WORD SEARCH

- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| ■ Assumption | ■ Canon |
| ■ Faith | ■ Judgment |
| ■ Surmise | ■ Thesis |
| ■ Axiom | ■ Credo |
| ■ Guess | ■ Opinion |
| ■ Tenet | ■ View |
| ■ Belief | ■ Creed |
| ■ Hunch | ■ Persuasion |
| ■ Theory | ■ Dogma |
| | ■ Stance |

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

Business



“The next wave in retail broking will mainly come from towns, villages..”

Tuhin Kanta Pandey
Chairman, SEBI

PM Modi inaugurates garment manufacturing unit in Varanasi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated a new garment manufacturing facility in Varanasi, to boost the textile manufacturing sector.



Press Trust Of India

VAFRANASI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday inaugurated a new garment manufacturing facility in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, in the presence of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, marking another step towards strengthening the state's textile and apparel manufacturing sector.

Following the inauguration, the Prime Minister interacted with workers and toured the manufacturing unit alongside the Chief Minister. The lead-

ers reviewed the facility's infrastructure, manufacturing arrangements and operational capabilities. They also visited a product exhibition showcasing garments and other items manufactured at the unit.

India produces approximately 22 billion garments annually, making it one of the world's largest garment manufacturing countries. The country's textile and apparel industry, including handicrafts, recorded exports of approximately US\$37.75 billion in 2024-25. In 2025-26, ready-

NUMBER

22

● New garment manufacturing facility aims to strengthen Uttar Pradesh's textile and apparel industry.

● India produces approximately 22 billion garments annually, making it one of the world's largest garment manufacturing countries.

made garment exports reached around Rs 1.39

lakh crore (US\$15.77 billion), underlining India's strong position in global apparel markets.

According to an official statement, the facility aims to strengthen textile and apparel production while supporting industrial development in the region. It is expected to generate employment opportunities, particularly for women, and provide a boost to the local economy. The inauguration reflects the government's broader efforts to expand manufacturing activities in Uttar Pradesh,

encourage investment and create additional employment opportunities through industrial development. The textile and apparel sector has significant potential to support labour-intensive economic activity, particularly by providing jobs to women and other workers.

The establishment of the new textiles unit is expected to contribute to the region's industrial growth by supporting manufacturing capacity and creating opportunities for workers.

CCPA fines Hogar Technologies for false advertisements

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) has imposed a penalty of Rs 1 lakh on Hogar Technologies and Innovations LLP for misleading advertisements and product listings of walkie-talkies that did not disclose operating frequencies and licensing requirements. The order, passed under the Consumer Protection Act, 2019, was issued by the CCPA headed by Chief Commissioner Nidhi Khare and Commissioner Anupam Mishra.

The authority found that listings on the company's website did not clearly state the frequencies at which the devices operate, the licences needed to use them, or their regulatory approvals, an official statement said. This, it said, could lead consumers to



HIGHLIGHT

● The CCPA has imposed a penalty of Rs 1 lakh on Hogar Technologies and Innovations for misleading advertisements.

believe the devices could be used legally without any authorisation.

Under the Use of Low Power and Very Low Power Short Range Radio Frequency Devices (Exemption from Licensing Requirement) Rules, 2018, personal mobile radios operating in the 446.0“446.2 MHz range are exempt from licensing, subject to conditions.

Deadlines extended for Cos to file financial statements : FM

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The corporate affairs ministry has extended the deadline for companies to file their annual financial statements for the fiscal 2025-26 till December 31. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman stated that the companies can submit their annual returns to the ministry till January 31, 2027, as per a circular. The extension of deadlines follow representations from stakeholders as they were facing issues in submitting the annual statutory filings through the MCA 21 portal.

According to the circular dated October 24, the ministry said that in view of the representations received and to enable radios companies to complete their annual statutory filings, the deadlines have been extended without

paying an additional fee. Now, the annual financial statements in e-forms AOC-4, AOC-4 (CFS), AOC-4 (XBRL), AOC-4 NBFC (Ind AS) and AOC-4 CFS NBFC (Ind AS) for the financial year 2025-26 can be filed up to December 31, 2026. For the 2025-26 fiscal year, annual returns in e-forms MGT-7 and MGT-7A can be submitted till January 31, 2027.

Generally, the annual financial statements have to be submitted within 30 days of completing the Annual General Meetings (AGMs) and in the case of annual returns, the time period is 60 days. Prior to issuance of the circular, the deadlines for submitting annual financial statements and annual financial returns for 2025-26 fiscal was October 31 and November 30, 2026, respectively. The ministry also said the circular “shall not be construed



HIGHLIGHT

● The corporate affairs ministry has extended the deadline for companies to file their annual financial statements for the fiscal 2025-26 till December 31

as conferring any extension of statutory time for holding of AGMs (Annual General Meetings) by the companies under the Act and the companies which have not adhered to the relevant statutory timelines shall be liable under the relevant provisions of the Act”.

| ONLINE SCAMS |

Unified law needed to stop online scams: Badrinath

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Global telecom industry body GSMA wants authorities to implement unified regulations covering the entire ecosystem to tackle online scams and maintain people's trust in digital technologies, a senior official of the organisation said.

In an interview to PTI, GSMA Director General Vivek Badrinath said there has been a lot of

simplification in telecom rules, but still it is heavily regulated, and there is room for further improvement.

“Trust and scams are a big area of concern. Nobody holds the answer alone. People use telecoms to scam people. People use social networks to attract them. People use banks to get paid. So it's important that the whole ecosystem comes together and, to a certain extent, that regulation is



unified,” Badrinath said. He said if the regulator focuses on only one part of the ecosystem, it can't really solve the problem. “It's an important prob-

lem for the population. So we need to address it,” he said. The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has convened a Joint Committee of Regulators (JCOR) to address scams and cyber fraud, but sectoral regulators still govern the rules separately.

Badrinath said that both the government and regulators should be open to dialogue, simplifying rules further to enable growth of the industry.

“One of the areas where I think regulation should really play an enabling role is really on the opening of the features that can make 5G monetised.

So be more outcome-focused rather than starting to write very detailed rules. Give a bit of trust to the industry also. We talked about trust. The operators have done their job with a very clear focus to improve the lives of the people in the country,” he said.

BizBriefs
BEST OF THE REST

GOLD-SILVER PRICES

Gold, silver face another test as oil surge puts Fed's policy decision in focus: Analysts



NEW DELHI: Gold and silver are expected to face fresh headwinds next week as surging crude oil prices revive inflation concerns, while the US Federal Reserve's policy decision could determine whether bullion rates stabilise or extend their downward trend, analysts said.

The precious metals, already battered by elevated bond yields and a stronger dollar, will look to the Federal Reserve's October 27-28 meeting and its chair's commentary for signals on whether interest rates could stay higher for longer. The focus will also be on policy decisions from the European Central Bank and the Bank of Japan, along with US durable goods orders, consumer confidence, Personal Consumption Expenditures inflation and third-quarter GDP data. Euro-

zone inflation readings, developments around the US mid-term elections, Russia-Ukraine peace talks and the West Asia conflict will also remain on the radar, they added.

“The near-term outlook remains cautious, with gold likely to remain under pressure until there is greater clarity on the Federal Reserve's policy path. The upcoming decision could determine whether prices stabilise near current levels or extend their corrective trend,” said Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst - Commodity and Currency, LKP Securities.

The pressure was evident in domestic markets, where gold futures for December delivery on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX) fell Rs 5,768, or nearly 4 per cent, over the past week to close at Rs 1.42 lakh per 10 grams.

ELECTRICITY

Nepal exports electricity worth USD 39 million to India

KATHMANDU: Nepal exported electricity worth more than USD 39 million to India between mid-September and mid-October, despite damage to several hydropower projects and transmission infrastructure caused by flash floods in August, an official said on Sunday. Nepal Electricity Authority Managing Director Dirghayu Kumar Shrestha said the country exported 633.986 million units of electricity to India during the period, earning Nepalese Rupees 5.925 billion, equivalent to more than USD 39 million.

He said approximately two-thirds of the electricity exported to India was supplied under bilateral power sales agreements, highlighting the importance of long-term cooperation between the two neighbouring countries in the energy sector. The exports continued despite extensive damage caused by flash floods triggered by an ice-rock avalanche in the high Himalayas near the Nepal-Tibet border on August 26. The disaster devastated towns and villages in northern and central Nepal, damaging homes, vehicles, roads, bridges and hydropower projects.

TRADE DEAL

Have huge expectations from India and EU FTA: Port CEO

ROTTERDAM: Port of Rotterdam Chief Executive Officer Boudewijn Siemons on Sunday expressed high expectations from the India-European Union Free Trade Agreement (FTA), saying Europe is looking forward to expanding business ties with India.

Siemons said ports and countries must work together in an increasingly interconnected global economy. He made the remarks during a visit by Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal to the Port of Rotterdam in the Netherlands.

He said improving the movement of goods between India and Europe would be an important area of cooperation. Easier trade flows could strengthen commercial relations, improve logistics and create new opportunities for businesses on both sides.

“I have very high expectations from the FTA, and I think with the developments in India going on, the potential is huge,” Siemons told reporters. He added that Europe was looking forward to doing more business with India.

TORRENT PROJECT

Torrent Power says 3,000-MW Karjat pumped storage project outside Bhimashankar Sanctuary

RAIGAD: Torrent Power has defended its proposed 3,000-megawatt pumped storage project in Karjat, Maharashtra, against environmental concerns, saying the project is located about 16 km from the Bhimashankar Wildlife Sanctuary and that all its components fall outside the sanctuary and its eco-sensitive zone. The company in a statement said the project, which will supply power to Maharashtra, would support grid stability as the share of solar and other renewable energy rises, while reducing reliance on coal-fired generation during evening peak hours. It also rejected reports of tree felling inside the sanctuary, describing them as based on incorrect information.

Pumped storage projects store surplus electricity, typically from solar and wind generation, by pumping water to an elevated reservoir and releasing it to generate power when demand rises. “Proposed project is located about 16 km away from the Bhimashankar Wildlife Sanctuary. All project components are outside the sanctuary boundary and the Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ). Further, no project works are proposed near the Bhimashankar Jyotirlinga temple,” the firm said. “The project underwent a



comprehensive statutory process over approx. 18 months, including detailed studies, public hearing, appraisal by the Expert Appraisal Committee and Forest Advisory Committee, multiple site inspections and clearance conditions before it received statutory clearances including Environmental Clearance, Forest Clearance and Forest Diversion Order.”

Torrent said its project would have a life of up to 80 years and supply about 6,570 million units of electricity annually, enough to meet the evening power needs of around 5.5 million homes. The company estimates the project would avoid the burning of 4.33 million tonnes of coal annually and prevent about 5.85 million tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions a year compared with coal-based generation.

‘Collegium must resist pressure’

Justice Kaul criticises Chandrachud’s government-deferential judicial appointment approach

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Former Supreme Court judge Sanjay Kishan Kaul has criticised former Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud’s approach to judicial appointments, alleging that he was “too deferential to the government”.

In his forthcoming memoir ‘Without Fear or Favour’, Justice Kaul, while recounting a collegium meeting to fill six Supreme Court vacancies, says five names had been agreed upon in advance when Justice Chandrachud proposed a sixth candidate and considered checking the government’s view.

“The Chief Justice drew me aside into a separate room and wondered aloud whether he should telephone out to check the government’s view,” Kaul wrote in his book.

Speaking to news portal ‘The Wire’ about his memoir, the former judge said that the collegium must resist executive pressure to safeguard judicial independence.

Asked whether the



Former SC judge Sanjay Kishan Kaul.

then CJI was trying to please the government or seeking prior approval,

Justice Kaul said, “I don’t think it was a question of pleasing the government,

Cases shouldn’t shift benches over verdict fears

HIGHLIGHT

- Constitution must remain beyond political pressure
- Congress questions judicial independence under Modi

Citing Kaul’s yet-to-be-released memoir, the opposition Congress on Sunday claimed it raised “serious questions regarding the independence of the judiciary under the Modi government” and asserted that the institution tasked with upholding the Constitution must remain free from the pressures of those in power. In a post in Hindi on X, Congress general secretary (in-charge communica-

tions) Jairam Ramesh said that Justice Kaul has highlighted “several concerning incidents - government interference in the

but what had happened was that he had discussed the names with me earlier.

“We had agreed on five names, and I thought the collegium would be quite okay with the other members of the collegium, and this (sixth) name was dropped up at the last minute with me while going to the collegium meeting. I said that name is not acceptable to me and will not be acceptable.”

“And well, he wanted me to collaborate and go ahead with the name. I said even if I do that, the others will not. I believe,

appointment of judges, attempts to secure government approval prior to Collegium meetings, and the government’s absurd questioning regarding the caste of a judge belonging to a minority community”.

Matters that many were previously hesitant to discuss openly have now been documented by Justice Kaul with measured, deliberate language, Ramesh said.

Protection against online scams

NEW DELHI: Amazon India announced the second phase of its collaboration with the Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C), under the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, to help consumers shift from recognising online scams to taking informed action. The initiative brings together practical safety guidance, technology-led innovation and interactive consumer education to help people identify suspicious communications, make safer digital payments and respond to evolving cyber threats. Amazon and I4C are jointly driving a series of initiatives at a national and regional level.

Nishant Kumar, Director, Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, said: “Amazon’s collaboration with I4C is important to strengthen public awareness and help citizens stay safer from online scams especially e-commerce scams. As cyber threats evolve, awareness must translate into informed decisions and timely action. By combining practical consumer education with technology-led innovation, this initiative aims to equip citizens to recognize warning signs, respond more confidently and contribute to a safer digital ecosystem.”

VHP objects to slogans at JNU

Press Trust Of India

Admn urged to act against graffiti culprits

NEW DELHI: The Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) on Sunday objected to slogans ‘Free Umar Khalid’ and ‘Long Live Naxalbari’, which reportedly surfaced on the campus of Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), and demanded that the administration take strict action against those responsible for the graffiti. The Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) earlier alleged that objectionable political graffiti, including these slogans, had been found painted on the walls of the JNU campus.

The RSS-affiliated student organisation also accused activists linked to Left student groups of defacing campus walls and alleged that objectionable remarks had been written next to a portrait of V D Savarkar.

The claims come days after similar slogans allegedly surfaced on the campus of Jamia Millia Islamia, where protests demanding restoration of its students’ union have escalated, prompting the authorities to move to online classes until further notice. In a post on X, VHP national spokes-

person Vinod Bansal said, “After Jamia Millia Islamia (JMU), slogans such as ‘Free Umar Khalid’ and ‘Long Live Naxalbari’ have now appeared on walls at Jawaharlal

FASTFACTS

- RSS student wing accuses left activists of defacement
- Campuses must promote knowledge, not provocation

Nehru University (JNU). A complaint has also surfaced over objectionable writing on a portrait of Veer Savarkar.

“Looks like educational institutions are now being targeted by the anti-national gang -- Congress, Communists and extremist elements,” he said. The VHP spokesperson said educational institutions should remain centres of knowledge and dialogue rather than become places for provocative slogans and the alleged insult of national figures.

“Educational institutions are centres of knowledge and dialogue, not places for provocative slogans and the insult of great personalities. The administration must identify those responsible and take strict action,” he said.

NEWSLINE

SHA JAPUR

‘I support Sanatan Dharma’



Senior Congress leader and former Madhya Pradesh chief minister Digvijaya Singh on Sunday said he supported Sanatan Dharma but not Hindutva, which he claimed was a term coined by Vinayak Damodar Savarkar.

Addressing a press conference, Singh said his mother had taught him about Sanatan Dharma, which, according to him, embodies love, affection and compassion.

“I support Sanatan Dharma but not Hindutva, which is a term coined by Savarkar. Hindutva has no connection with equality,” Singh asserted.

Singh also referred to the Quran, saying he had read it. The term ‘kafir’ referred to a person who did not follow any religion and practised ‘adharma’ (unrighteousness), the Congress leader claimed.

MUMBAI

‘Hydel controversy’



Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Sunday accused the Opposition of creating a fake narrative about a proposed hydropower project in Raigad district, asserting that the unit will produce clean energy and help meet peak electricity demand.

The project, proposed in Karjat tehsil, is the Saidongar-I Pumped Storage Project, a 3,000 MW hydro-energy initiative. It is expected to contribute to grid reliability and energy security in the state and other regions. It envisages an investment of Rs 13,505 crore.

India to host 12th BRICS Parliamentary Forum

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Parliament is all set to host the 12th BRICS Parliamentary Forum under the theme ‘strengthening Parliaments for people-centric development’, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi slated to meet leaders of visiting delegations.

On the eve of the two-day forum that begins on Monday, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla met the Russian delegation led by State Duma Chairman Vyacheslav Volodin.

The Lok Sabha Secretariat said both sides stressed stronger cooperation at global forums and joint efforts against terrorism.

Birla thanked Russia for its consistent support on the issue and noted that the two countries will mark 80 years of diplomatic ties in 2027.

The speaker called for regular meetings of the India-Russia Inter-Parliamentary Commission

and more delegation exchange, especially between young and women parliamentarians.

He also spoke about cooperation in nuclear energy and industry. Citing India’s 2026 BRICS Presidency, Birla sought Russia’s active role in the grouping’s parliamentary cooperation, called for reform of the UN Security Council, and thanked Moscow for backing India’s bid for permanent membership.

Volodin called for joint business ventures and the removal of obstacles to trade and investment. He backed regular exchanges between the two legislatures, including through BRICS, and reaffirmed Russia’s commitment to cultural and humanitarian cooperation. Birla also met parliamentary delegations from Cuba, Egypt, and Belarus. The forum will hold a session each on Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability.

Probe underway

RANCHI: A 40-year-old revenue department official was allegedly killed at his house in Jharkhand’s Ranchi by unidentified persons, police said on Sunday. The incident occurred in Tetar Tola within Namkum police station limits on Saturday.

The deceased was identified as Lakshmi-kant Munda, a resident of Bundu Block, who was posted at the Argora Circle Office as a revenue sub-inspector, they said.

“Munda was attacked and killed by unidentified persons at his house. The incident came to light when he did not reach office, and was not responding to phone calls. Post-mortem examination of the victim will be conducted on Sunday,” Namkum police station officer-in-charge Ramnarayan told PTI.

Police have launched a detailed investigation into the murder, and are investigating the case from all angles, including robbery and old enmity, he said.

‘AI may improve early TB, Cancer detection’

Press Trust Of India

AI flags abnormalities, prioritises patients, speeds investigations

JAIPUR: Artificial intelligence could be a game-changer in India’s fight against tuberculosis (TB) and lung cancer by helping doctors identify suspicious abnormalities early, prioritise high-risk patients and accelerate further investigations.

Experts highlighted this at NAPCON 2026, the 28th Joint Annual National Conference of the National College of Chest Physicians, India (NCCP-I), and the Indian Chest Society (ICS), held from October 22 to 25 here. More than 2,000 pulmonologists, respiratory physicians, researchers and healthcare pro-



professionals from India, the United States, the United Kingdom and other countries participated in the conference. Dr Randeep Guleria, former Director of AIIMS, Delhi, who inaugurated the conference, said, “Artificial intelligence has the potential to change how we approach the early detection of respiratory diseases. By helping identify suspicious findings on chest X-rays and CT scans, AI can support doctors in making faster, more informed decisions and

directing patients towards timely investigations.”

AI-powered software can analyse chest X-rays and flag patterns that may indicate TB, helping healthcare professionals identify people who need further testing. The World Health Organisation has recommended the use of computer-aided detection software as an option for TB screening in appropriate populations. India, accounting for approximately 26 per cent of estimated global TB cases in 2024, could particularly benefit from AI-assisted screening in underserved areas, primary healthcare facilities and mobile diagnostic programmes, experts said. By supporting faster identification and referral, the technology could help reduce delays in diagnosis and treatment. However, confirmatory testing remains

‘Keep students away from harmful vices’

Press Trust Of India

RAMNAGAR: In a veiled attack at the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP), West Bengal Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari on Sunday said programmes to inculcate nationalism among students should be held every year to keep them away from the influence of “vices like cockroaches”.

Adhikari said a three-day elocution, quiz and debate programme should be organised every year in all educational institutions to help students imbibe nation-

alism. “Vices like cockroaches, bedbugs, tukde tukde gangs... which are trying to spread like the coronavirus... would not have required the spraying of ‘Hit’ (had they not tried to spread),” he said.

‘Hit’ is a brand of mosquito and bug-repellent spray. Training his guns on the Left parties and the 15-year rule of the Mamata Banerjee-led Trinamool Congress, the CM said, “The 34-year long regime of the ‘nastik’ (atheist) Communists and the 15-year dispensation (of the TMC) tried to erase people’s heritage



and culture.” He also accused the previous TMC government of trying to stop enrolments in the National Cadet Corps (NCC) in the state’s educational institutions, and introducing the ‘Jai Hind Vahini’ instead.

“Being in the NCC

Vices are trying to spread like coronavirus
Suwendu Adhikari
West Bengal CM

would have helped the students get selected as Agniveers in the armed forces,” Adhikari said after meeting a family that lost a member in a stampede incident at Chorbagan Durga Puja pandal in Kolkata on October 17. Adhikari also claimed that those who

drove out Tata Motors from Singur were “eulogised” in a chapter in school history books during the TMC regime, referring to former CM Mamata Banerjee and the anti-land acquisition agitations.

“Changes will be seen in the syllabi from the next academic year,” he said, asserting that the National Education Policy will be implemented in West Bengal.

Int’l literature festival gets underway

Press Trust Of India

DEHRADUN: Uttarakhand Governor Dhal Singh Bisen inaugurated the ‘International Literature, Culture, and Art Festi-

val-2026’ at ‘Lekhakh Gaon’ in Thanu here.

Representatives from across the country and abroad, associated with the fields of literature, art, and culture, are partici-

pating in this five-day festival. Speaking as the chief guest at the inauguration, Governor Bisen said that literature, culture, and art are powerful media for connecting humanity.

 Regd. Off.: 9th Floor, Antriksh Bhawan, 22, K.G. Marg, New Delhi-110001. Ph: 011-23357171, 23357172, 23357414. Web: www.pnbhousing.com BRANCH ADDRESS: 3RD FLOOR, NEELAY ICONIC, ABOVE YES BANK, TV TOWER ROAD, SHANKAR NAGAR, RAIPUR - 492001. CHHATTISGARH NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF CHAPTER II OF SECURITISATION & RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT 2002, READ WITH RULE 30 OF THE SECURITISATION & RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT 2002.																								
We, the PNB Housing Finance Ltd. (hereinafter referred to as “PNBHFL”) have issued Demand Notice U/s 13(2) of Chapter II of the Securitization & Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (hereinafter referred to as the “Act”). The said Demand Notice was issued through our Authorized Officer, to you all below mentioned Borrowers/Co-Borrowers/Guarantors since your account has been classified as Non-Performing Assets as per the Reserve Bank of India / National Housing Bank guidelines due to nonpayment of installments/ interest. The contents of the same are the defaults committed by you in the payment of installments of principal, interest, etc. The outstanding amount is mentioned below. Further, with reasons, we believe that you are evading the service of Demand Notice and hence this Publication of Demand Notice which is also required U/s 13(2) of the said Act. You are hereby called upon to pay PNBHFL within a period of 60 Days of the date of publication of this demand notice the aforesaid amount along with up-to-date interest and charges, failing which PNBHFL will take necessary action under all or any of the provisions of Section 13(4) of the said Act, against all or any one or more of the secured assets including taking possession of the secured assets of the borrowers and guarantors. Your kind attention is invited to provisions of sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 where under you can tenderpay the entire amount of outstanding dues together with all costs, charges and expenses incurred by the PNB HFL only (i) the date of publication of the notice for sale of the secured assets by public auction, by inviting quotations, tender from public or by private treaty. Please also note that if the entire amount of outstanding dues together with the costs, charges and expenses incurred by the PNB HFL is not tendered before publication of notice for sale of the secured assets by public auction, by inviting quotations, tender from public or by private treaty, you may not be entitled to redeem the secured asset(s) thereafter. Further you are prohibited U/s 13(13) of the said Act from transferring either by way of sale, lease or in any other way the aforesaid secured assets.																								
<table><thead><tr><th>Loan A/c No. (s) & Branch</th><th>Name & Address of Borrower & Co-borrower</th><th>Property(ies) Mortgaged</th><th>Date of Demand Notice</th><th>Amount O/s as on date Demand Notice</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>HOU/RAI/1216/341/920, B.O.: Raipur</td><td>Mr./Ms. Santosh Singh Rajput (Borrower), Mr./Ms. Prabha Rajput (Co-Borrower) Add.1 - H No. 51/714, Shila Colony, Kushalpur, Near Saraswati Khana Store, Raipur, C.G. Housing Board, 13-Oct-2026</td><td>Ews House No. E-9/301, Chhattisgarh, 492001. Add.2- Hari Bhoomi Communications Pvt. Ltd, Hambari Road, Persada, Kumharli, Bhalai, Dist.Durg, Chhattisgarh, 492001. Add.3- Eshwari House No. E-9/301, C.G. Housing Board, Persada, Kumharli, Bhalai, Dist.Durg, Chhattisgarh, 492001.</td><td>13-Oct-2026</td><td>NR 5,13,318.13/- (Rupees Five Lakh Thirteen Thousand Three Hundred Eighteen & Thirteen Paise)</td></tr><tr><td>2566600 01419 B.O.: Raipur</td><td rowspan="2">Mr./Ms. Rishi Deo Choudhary (Borrower), Mr./Ms. Rahul Deo Choudhary (Guarantor) Add.1 - H No. 3/8717, Mamta Nagar, Durg, Ward 17, Chhattisgarh, 491441. Add.2- Shivam 900 Soft, Khushi Tower Block-A, Amlichhi, Raipur, 492001. Add.3- Shivam 900 Soft, Khushi Tower Block-A, Amlichhi, Raipur, 492001.</td><td>Raipur Flat No. 304 Area 130-Square Feet, Khushi Tower Block-A, Amlichhi, Raipur, 492001.</td><td>13-Oct-2026</td><td>NR 10,84,607.55/- (Rupees Ten Lakh Eighty-Four Thousand Six Hundred Seven and Fifty-Five Paise)</td></tr><tr><td>PLACE:- RAIPUR, DATE:- 24.10.2026</td><td colspan="3">SD/- AUTHORIZED OFFICER, PNB HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED</td></tr></tbody></table>						Loan A/c No. (s) & Branch	Name & Address of Borrower & Co-borrower	Property(ies) Mortgaged	Date of Demand Notice	Amount O/s as on date Demand Notice	HOU/RAI/1216/341/920, B.O.: Raipur	Mr./Ms. Santosh Singh Rajput (Borrower), Mr./Ms. Prabha Rajput (Co-Borrower) Add.1 - H No. 51/714, Shila Colony, Kushalpur, Near Saraswati Khana Store, Raipur, C.G. Housing Board, 13-Oct-2026	Ews House No. E-9/301, Chhattisgarh, 492001. Add.2- Hari Bhoomi Communications Pvt. Ltd, Hambari Road, Persada, Kumharli, Bhalai, Dist.Durg, Chhattisgarh, 492001. Add.3- Eshwari House No. E-9/301, C.G. Housing Board, Persada, Kumharli, Bhalai, Dist.Durg, Chhattisgarh, 492001.	13-Oct-2026	NR 5,13,318.13/- (Rupees Five Lakh Thirteen Thousand Three Hundred Eighteen & Thirteen Paise)	2566600 01419 B.O.: Raipur	Mr./Ms. Rishi Deo Choudhary (Borrower), Mr./Ms. Rahul Deo Choudhary (Guarantor) Add.1 - H No. 3/8717, Mamta Nagar, Durg, Ward 17, Chhattisgarh, 491441. Add.2- Shivam 900 Soft, Khushi Tower Block-A, Amlichhi, Raipur, 492001. Add.3- Shivam 900 Soft, Khushi Tower Block-A, Amlichhi, Raipur, 492001.	Raipur Flat No. 304 Area 130-Square Feet, Khushi Tower Block-A, Amlichhi, Raipur, 492001.	13-Oct-2026	NR 10,84,607.55/- (Rupees Ten Lakh Eighty-Four Thousand Six Hundred Seven and Fifty-Five Paise)	PLACE:- RAIPUR, DATE:- 24.10.2026	SD/- AUTHORIZED OFFICER, PNB HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED		
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QUOTE FROM THE QUOTABLE

"Serve the world selflessly, for individual progress becomes meaningful only when it advances the happiness of everyone else."

[Swami Dayananda Saraswati]

| OUR VIEW |

Political Interests Must Never Override Counterterrorism Efforts

Terrorism remains one of the gravest threats to international peace, yet the global response continues to suffer from selective outrage, strategic compromises and political double standards. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar's recent observations have once again exposed a fundamental weakness in the international security framework: nations frequently condemn terrorism in principle while allowing geopolitical interests to determine their actions. The persistence of terrorism is not merely the consequence of extremist ideologies or inadequate security arrangements. It also reflects the willingness of certain governments to overlook dangerous activities when strategic advantages are involved. Such selective tolerance weakens international cooperation and emboldens organisations that exploit political divisions. The renewed engagement between Washington and Islamabad illustrates the complexities of this approach. US Secretary of State Marco Rubio has defended closer relations with Pakistan, arguing that engagement could provide greater influence over Islamabad's decisions, including those concerning terrorism. While diplomatic engagement is legitimate, it must be accompanied by measurable commitments and accountability. India's concerns arise from decades of experience with cross-border terrorism. The devastating Mumbai attacks of November 2008 remain a painful reminder of how extremist networks can threaten innocent lives and regional stability. International partnerships must therefore be judged not simply by diplomatic assurances but by their effectiveness in dismantling terrorist infrastructure. The larger challenge lies in establishing a genuinely universal standard against terrorism. Countries cannot demand decisive action against threats to their own security while remaining indifferent to violence affecting others. Such inconsistencies undermine the credibility of global institutions and encourage dangerous precedents. Equally important is recognising that terrorism cannot be separated from broader questions of international peace. Conflicts in Ukraine and West Asia demonstrate how regional instability can generate consequences extending far beyond national borders. Diplomacy, dialogue and cooperation must remain central to resolving these crises. For India, maintaining strategic autonomy while strengthening international counterterrorism partnerships remains essential. New Delhi must continue pressing for intelligence cooperation, financial restrictions on extremist networks and accountability for states that provide sanctuary to terrorists. Ultimately, the fight against terrorism demands consistency rather than convenience. Peace cannot become a bargaining instrument, and human lives must never be subordinated to geopolitical calculations. Unless nations demonstrate genuine zero tolerance through concrete action, declarations against terrorism will remain little more than diplomatic rhetoric.

| GUEST VIEW |

China's Border Moves Raise Security Concerns

Recent reports of continuing confrontations between Indian and Chinese troops along the Arunachal Pradesh frontier have renewed concerns over border security and military preparedness. The government must provide credible information while safeguarding operational interests. On October 22, ITBP Director General Shatruejt Kapur confirmed ongoing face-offs at several locations. Reports suggest Chinese troops established tents near Maja in Upper Subansiri district, approximately six to seven kilometres inside India's perception of the disputed Line of Actual Control (LAC). Although defence sources described the situation as stable, the developments underline the fragility of peace along the 3,488-kilometre frontier. The deadly Galwan clash of June 2020 remains a reminder of the consequences of escalating tensions. Modernising border security forces is equally essential. Advanced surveillance systems, drones, counter-drone technology, improved weapons, reliable communications and all-weather infrastructure must receive priority. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh should ensure Parliament receives meaningful information about developments and preparedness. Diplomatic engagement with China must continue alongside military vigilance. Transparency and accountability strengthen public confidence without compromising national security. India's territorial integrity requires sustained preparedness, firm diplomacy and responsible leadership. Political rhetoric alone cannot replace effective border protection.



Dr. Kolahalam Ramkishore

Comment

Love Yourself First: The Heartbeat of Healthy Relationships

In Indian society, many people grow up learning to care for everyone except themselves. A mother sacrifices her rest for her family, a young person suppresses personal feelings to meet social expectations, and a dedicated teacher continues working despite emotional exhaustion. Sacrifice, compassion and service are noble values, but an important question remains: Can we continue giving love to others when we have forgotten how to treat ourselves with love and respect?

The Gospel of Matthew offers a timeless answer. When asked about the greatest commandment, Jesus declared, "You shall love your neighbour as yourself" (Matthew 22:39). These words contain a profound spiritual and psychological insight: our relationship with ourselves influences the way we relate to others. Self-love is not an invitation to selfishness or self-centredness. Rather, it is a recognition of our own dignity while respecting the dignity of every other human being.

Understanding the Meaning of Self-Love
Healthy self-love begins with accepting ourselves as we are, with our strengths, weaknesses, achievements and imperfections. It means acknowledging our mistakes without allowing them to destroy our self-worth, respecting our emotional needs and taking responsibility for personal growth. It also involves recognising that our value as human

beings does not depend entirely on our achievements, appearance, social status or the approval of others.

A student may believe that only excellent marks make him worthy of love. An employee may feel valuable only when a superior appreciates her work. A young adult may tolerate disrespectful behaviour because of the fear of being abandoned. Such beliefs gradually weaken self-confidence and create emotional insecurity. Learning to value ourselves helps us understand that failure does not make us worthless, criticism does not define our identity, and rejection does not diminish our inherent dignity.

The Importance of Healthy Boundaries
Self-love also means understanding that we cannot please everyone all the time. Many people say yes to every request because they fear criticism, conflict or rejection. In the process, they neglect their own needs and eventually experience exhaustion, frustration and resentment.

Establishing healthy boundaries is therefore an essential part of self-respect. It allows us to say no when necessary, express our feelings honestly and seek help without shame. Boundaries do not mean rejecting others; they help us maintain relationships that are balanced, respectful and emotionally healthy.

In marriage, for example, loving one's spouse does



Fr. Saleen Pushparaj

not mean silently accepting humiliation, manipulation or controlling behaviour. Genuine love requires mutual respect, emotional safety, responsibility and honest communication. Similarly, parents can care deeply for their children without completely disregarding their own well-being. Teachers can remain committed to their students while recognising the importance of rest and emotional balance.

Self-Love Strengthens Our Relationships
When we depend entirely on others for approval and happiness, our relationships may become burdened by insecurity, unrealistic expectations and the constant fear of losing affection. We may try to control others, suppress our true feelings or sacrifice our identity to gain acceptance.

In contrast, people who value themselves are often better equipped to communicate honestly, accept differences and resolve disagreements constructively. They can offer love without making others responsible for their entire emotional well-being. They can forgive without ignoring wrongdoing and care for others without losing themselves in the process.

Self-love also encourages empathy. When we learn to treat our own imperfections with patience and compassion, we become more understanding of the struggles and shortcomings of others. We begin to recognise that everyone is fighting bat-

tles that may not be visible. Thus, compassion towards ourselves can become a pathway to greater kindness, patience and forgiveness towards others.

A Spiritual Foundation for Human Dignity
From a spiritual perspective, self-love helps us recognise our inherent dignity as beloved children of God. We do not have to be perfect to deserve respect, nor must we satisfy everyone to deserve belonging. Our imperfections are not reasons for self-hatred but opportunities for learning, healing and growth.

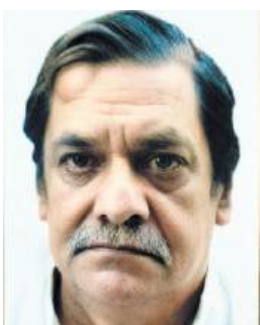
Loving ourselves does not mean placing ourselves above our neighbours, just as loving our neighbours does not require us to consider ourselves inferior to them. Both forms of love must grow together, rooted in humility, respect and compassion.

Ultimately, self-love is not about becoming more important than others; it is about understanding that we, too, are worthy of care. We do not have to sacrifice our entire well-being to prove that we love someone.

When self-respect and love for others grow together, they create healthier individuals, stronger families and a more humane society. Let us, therefore, learn to embrace ourselves with compassion, so that we may embrace others with greater sincerity, dignity and understanding. After all, the love we offer the world becomes healthier and more meaningful when we learn to extend that same love to ourselves.

India's Endangered Languages Face Growing Threat

UNESCO's warning over 197 endangered Indian languages highlights the urgent need for community participation, government support and technology to preserve the nation's linguistic heritage.



Yashpal Ralhan

Language is far more than a means of communication. It carries generations of memories, traditions, beliefs and cultural identities. India's extraordinary linguistic diversity represents a priceless civilisational inheritance, but this heritage now faces an alarming threat of extinction.

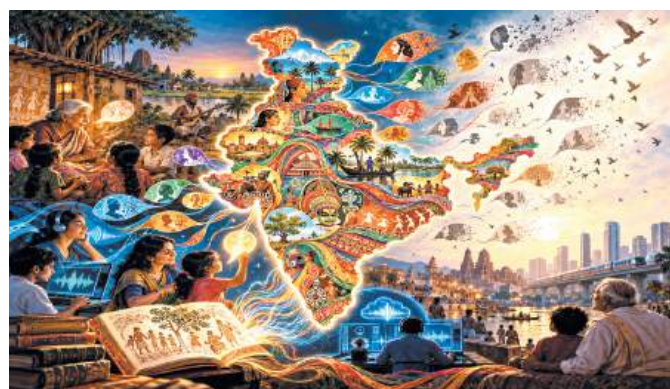
According to UNESCO, nearly 197 Indian languages are endangered, with several facing the possibility of disappearing altogether. The 2011 Census recorded 19,569 mother-tongue responses, subsequently classified into 1,369 mother tongues and 121 major languages. Many smaller languages, however, struggle for survival as their speakers steadily decline.

Globalisation, urbanisation, migration and the growing dominance of English and Hindi have contributed significantly to this crisis. Younger generations increasingly prefer languages offering better educational and employment opportunities, while traditional mother tongues gradually disappear from everyday conversations.

The consequences extend far beyond vocabulary. When a language dies, communities lose their oral histories, folk songs, indigenous knowledge, customs and unique understanding of nature. Such losses diminish humanity's collective cultural wealth.

India has already witnessed heartbreaking examples. The ancient Bo language of the Andaman Islands disappeared following the death of its last known speaker, Boa Sr, in January 2010. Other languages, including Toda, Birhor, Raji and Asuri, face varying degrees of vulnerability.

The experience of Dogri demonstrates the importance of institutional support. Although included in the Constitution's Eighth Schedule in 2003, the language continues to face challenges



in education and public usage. Constitutional recognition alone cannot ensure survival without sustained government intervention.

Educational institutions must therefore encourage mother-tongue learning, particularly during the formative years. Incorporating regional languages into school curricula, producing textbooks and supporting local literature can strengthen linguistic identity.

Technology offers another promising avenue. Artificial intelligence, digital dictionaries, speech-recognition systems and online archives can document endangered languages and introduce them to younger audiences. Initiatives such as Bhashini, A14Bharat and Adi Vaani are expanding

technological access across Indian languages.

Community participation, however, remains indispensable. In Jharkhand, the Asur community has demonstrated how grassroots initiatives can revive linguistic pride. The Asur Akhra Mobile Radio broadcasts traditional stories, songs and local information in Asuri, strengthening awareness among community members.

Migration and changing family structures also demand attention. Earlier, children naturally acquired their ancestral languages through interactions with grandparents and extended families. The growing prevalence of nuclear households and urban lifestyles has weakened

this intergenerational transmission.

Government programmes aimed at documenting endangered languages deserve greater financial and institutional backing. Universities, linguistic researchers, cultural organisations and local administrations should collaborate to record oral traditions, prepare dictionaries and promote community-based language education.

Preservation must also create opportunities for everyday communication. Festivals, community radio, theatre, regional publications and digital platforms can restore visibility and encourage younger speakers to embrace their linguistic inheritance.

Ultimately, governments can provide resources, recognition and technological assistance, but communities remain the strongest guardians of their mother tongues. Protecting India's endangered languages is not merely an academic responsibility; it is a national cultural obligation. Every language saved preserves another irreplaceable chapter of humanity's shared history.

YOURLETTERS
Religious harmony shines through shared traditions

For 48 years, residents of Dharmadanga village in West Bengal's East Burdwan district have celebrated Lakshmi Puja together, rising above religious differences. The Puja committee secretary, despite describing himself as not highly educated, draws inspiration from Kazi Nazrul Islam's message of Hindu-Muslim unity. His belief that communities should never be divided by religion reflects genuine humanity. Such inspiring traditions demonstrate that brotherhood needs no academic qualifications. India needs more people who practise unity through actions rather than words.

K. Chatterjee, Kolkata

India Poland partnership strengthens bilateral cooperation

Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk's India visit strengthened bilateral relations, with both countries reaffirming their strategic partnership. Discussions with Prime Minister Narendra Modi focused on defence, space, renewable energy, trade and technology. Both leaders aim to double bilateral trade by 2030 and strengthen cooperation against terrorism. Poland's support for India's 2028-29 UN Security Council candidature is encouraging. The India-Poland Startup Bridge promises greater technological collaboration. Their growing partnership reflects shared interests, diplomatic goodwill and opportunities for mutually beneficial economic cooperation.

Dr Ganapathi Bhat, Akola

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.

"A lot of homework and prep work went into the project before the shoot, starting with script reading. This is the first Hindi project (Akka) I signed, and script reading is something you generally don't do, so that was something new for me. I loved doing it, and I loved the process."

Keerthy Suresh



&Glitters

O.T.T Watch



Shraddha Das stuns in Gajab Raat

Shraddha Das has teased glamour and mystery in Netflix's thriller Gajab Raat, sharing a promotional poster featuring her in a red saree. Starring Manoj Bajpayee, the film is now streaming on Netflix.



Shilpa Shetty returns to Indian Idol

Shilpa Shetty returned to Indian Idol after 22 years, calling the experience a joy. Reuniting with Abhijeet Sawant, she praised his unchanged smile while celebrating the contestants' growth, confidence and musical journeys.



Tanuj Chopra takes over The Royals

Ishaan Khatter's The Royals Season 2 has reportedly seen another directorial change, with Tanuj Chopra replacing Mitakshara Kumar. Known for directing Delhi Crime seasons, Chopra has taken charge as filming shifts from Jaipur to Mumbai.



Koffee With Karan 9 trends globally

Koffee With Karan Season 9 has topped JioHotstar charts in India, the UK, Canada and Singapore. The final season premiered with Salman Khan, sparking social media buzz and nostalgic moments with Karisma Kapoor.



Netflix unveils first look of Tantara

Netflix has unveiled the first look of Tantara, starring Song Hye Kyo and Gong Yoo. Set across three decades, the period K-drama explores ambition, sacrifice and South Korea's evolving music industry.

CLOSE UP

Radhika Apte says every character deserves empathy

Radhika Apte explains why empathy shapes her character Rudra in Akka.

Central Chronicle News

The Netflix crime drama explores power, rivalry and human perspectives.

Radhika Apte has opened up about the emotional complexity of her character Rudra in Netflix's upcoming crime drama Akka, highlighting the importance of empathy in acting. At the trailer launch, the actor explained why understanding a character's perspective is essential before judging their actions. Radhika said she would not portray a character unless she could empathise with them. She believes acting has helped her become a more understanding person by encouraging her to explore different emotions and perspectives. According to her, nobody is born evil, and a person's actions can appear different depending on how their story is understood. The actor also revealed that she had several discussions with director Dharmaraj Shetty to understand Rudra's different personality traits. Some aspects of the character were unfamiliar to her, prompting conversations about how to approach the role emotionally. Radhika added that technical preparation alone cannot make a performance convincing.



Netflix has unveiled the trailer for Akka



She believes actors must genuinely connect with their characters because emotions are universal, and audiences can recognise when a performance lacks authenticity. Produced by YRF Entertainment, Akka is set in the 1980s in Pernuru, a fictional South Indian city where powerful women dominate the criminal underworld. The story centres on the intense rivalry between Bhavani, played by Keerthy Suresh, and Rudra, portrayed by Radhika Apte.

The series also features Tanvi Azmi, Anshumaan Pushkar and Vishak Nair. Written and directed by Dharmaraj Shetty, the crime drama explores power, loyalty and the complex motivations behind human behaviour.

Akka is scheduled to premiere exclusively on Netflix on October 30, 2026. With its layered characters and intense conflicts, the series aims to present a story shaped by ambition, relationships and differing perspectives.

| HOLLYWOOD |

Tom Cruise to receive AFI Life Achievement Award

Central Chronicle News

Hollywood superstar Tom Cruise will receive the American Film Institute's (AFI) 52nd Life Achievement Award, the organisation's highest honour for a career in cinema. The award will be presented during a gala tribute at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles on April 24, 2027. Kathleen Kennedy, chair of the AFI Board of Trustees, praised Cruise as a global icon. She highlighted his commitment as an actor and producer and his belief in cinema's ability to bring people together. Cruise, 64, has



HIGHLIGHT

● Hollywood star Tom Cruise will receive AFI's prestigious Life Achievement Award in April 2027.

enjoyed a career spanning more than five decades. According to the AFI, his films have earned nearly \$13 billion at the worldwide box office. His credits include Top Gun, Rain Man, A Few Good Men,

Tom Cruise set for AFI Honour

Jerry Maguire, Minority Report, The Last Samurai and the Mission: Impossible franchise. The actor has received three competitive Academy Award nominations. He was nominated for Best Actor for Born on the Fourth of July and Jerry Maguire, and for Best Supporting Actor for Magnolia. He also received a Best Picture nomination as a producer for Top Gun: Maverick at the 2022 Oscars. In 2025, Cruise received an honorary Oscar at the Academy's Governors Awards in recognition of his contributions to cinema.

CineBriefs

BEST OF THE REST

Bollywood

Alia Bhatt loved the script of Tumbbad 2

Sohum Shah has revealed why Alia Bhatt agreed to star in Tumbbad 2 after just two meetings. The actor said Alia first listened to the story and then read the script before immediately agreeing to join the film. He praised her professionalism, sincerity and sharp understanding of the project. According to Sohum, Alia found the script impressive, making the entire process smooth and easy. The upcoming horror sequel stars Sohum and Alia together and is scheduled to release in theatres on December 3, 2027. The film follows the success of the 2018 horror film Tumbbad, which earned appreciation for its unique story and atmosphere.

Web Series

Poison Ivy to get her own HBO series

A live-action series centred on Poison Ivy, one of Batman's famous villains, is in development at HBO. Lauren LeFranc, who led HBO's The Penguin, is attached as a producer. The DC Comics character is known for controlling plants and using seductive pheromones to manipulate people. Poison Ivy has appeared in several Batman adaptations but has never headlined her own live-action series. Uma Thurman famously played the character in the 1997 film Batman & Robin. The upcoming project is part of DC's growing focus on stories featuring comic-book villains, as the franchise continues expanding its film and television universe.

The Bollywood hot pair

Parineeti-Raghav's marriage is built on equality



Parineeti Chopra has revealed how she and husband Raghav Chadha keep their marriage simple, equal and grounded. The actor shared that they were clear about their expectations from the beginning and wanted to build their relationship on friendship and mutual respect. Despite their demanding professional lives, they ensure their personal relation-

ship remains normal and free from outside pressures. Parineeti believes that both partners should be treated equally in every aspect of life, including parenting and household responsibilities. She explained that inequality would be the only reason for disagreement between them, highlighting how trust, friendship and equality strengthen their marriage.

Fashion

Pooja Hegde's golden saree is pure elegance

Pooja Hegde brings festive elegance to life in a champagne-gold saree featuring intricate embellishments and a beautifully detailed border. The actor pairs the shimmering drape with a heavily embellished, plunging-neckline blouse, creating a balance between traditional charm and contemporary glamour. Statement gold earrings, stacked bangles and rings complete her look without overpowering the outfit.



Trending on Insta

@ Kiara Advani

Kiara Advani flaunts her new hairstyle

Mom-to-be Kiara Advani flaunted her new hairstyle in a mirror selfie, wearing a loose brown shirt and grey trousers. The actress shared, "Something about a haircut just makes you feel lighter."



@shahidkapoor

Shahid Kapoor finishes Farzi 2 shoot

Shahid Kapoor has wrapped up shooting for the second season of his crime thriller series Farzi. Directors Raj and DK celebrated the wrap by sharing a behind-the-scenes video showing Shahid's goofy side.





Wellness

GUT AWARENESS

Probiotic Vs Prebiotic – Who’s the King maker

Probiotics and prebiotics play different roles in gut health and both have their set standards.



Gut health has been one of the most discussed topics on social media and has now become a regular part of our day-to-day wellness conversations. Guess who has been the hero of this discussion? It is probiotics, but there is another part of the conversation that deserves attention that is the prebiotics. While both are linked to the health of the gut microbiome, they work differently. And rather than assuming that a probiotic supplement is the answer for everyone, it may be worth looking at the foods and habits that support the bacteria that is already present in your gut.

What’s the difference?

The simplest way to understand the distinction is to think of probiotics as live microorganisms and prebiotics as the nourishment that supports beneficial bacteria already in the gut. prebiotics work by supporting the growth of bacteria that are already present in the body. Probiotics, on the other hand, introduce additional



HIGHLIGHT

● Here’s what you need to know about their benefits and its everyday sources.



Nourishing the gut microbiome naturally is vital

bacteria into the digestive system. Prebiotics act by stimulating the growth of bacteria that already exists within the body, probiotics are bacteria that have been introduced into the body, and are not suitable for everyone.

Why probiotics may not always be the answer

Probiotic supplements have become increasingly popular, but taking one does not automatically mean it will work for everyone. Individuals responding to it can vary, and the quality and handling of a supplement also matters.

So, Should You Skip Probiotics? Not necessarily.

Pobiotics are recommended by physicians in certain situations, although they may not work in the same way for everyone. The larger takeaway is to avoid viewing probiotics as the only route to better gut health. Building a varied, fibre-rich diet and paying attention to everyday habits can be an important foundation.

Selena Gomez urges fans to quit vaping

Selena Gomez has warned fans against vaping, revealing that nicotine use affected her voice. The singer-actor admitted she vaped frequently and said quitting nicotine was difficult. She urged young people to avoid the habit, stressing that it



was not worth the damage. Gomez also shared that she had recently stopped using nicotine and hoped to continue. Known for her openness about health struggles,

including lupus, she encouraged others facing addiction to remain hopeful. Vaping exposes users to nicotine and potentially harmful chemicals, while its long-term effects remain under study. Gomez’s candid message highlights the importance of making informed health choices.

FITNESS CHOICE

Walking Pads: A smart home fitness choice



Walking pads offer a convenient way to stay active amid busy schedules, long working hours and household responsibilities. These compact machines allow users to walk indoors during breaks, between meetings or while watching television. They are particularly useful when bad weather, poor air quality or limited daylight makes outdoor walking difficult. However, walking pads cannot fully recreate the refreshing experience of an evening walk outdoors, which offers fresh air, changing surroundings and a mental break. They may also lack features needed for intense workouts. Before purchasing one, consider its size, speed range, weight capacity, noise levels, warranty and safety features.

| SELF - SILENCING |

Scalp care is the new skincare

Central Chronicle News

Think your hair is the problem? Your scalp might be calling the shots.

The shift has been happening gradually, driven largely by the kind of honest, educational conversations that social media has made possible in ways that traditional beauty marketing never quite managed. A well-balanced scalp promotes good hair growth, along with shine and luster, and making scalp health



Healthy hair begins with scalp care



an increasingly important part of the broader hair-care conversation. The realization that the

scalp plays an important role in the growth of every hair follicle has shifted the conversation from hair

care into something more considered and more effective. People are now paying attention to the condition

of their scalp because they are beginning to understand that healthy hair does not exist separately from the skin it grows from.

How to actually maintain a healthy scalp all year

1. Washing your scalp regularly, around two to three times a week, helps remove dirt, oil, and dust and keeps the scalp clean.
2. Paying attention to persistent symptoms is equally important. Redness, flaking, and itching should not simply be ignored or covered up with styling products.
3. Avoiding scalp oil-

ing is another consideration, particularly if you are experiencing dandruff, as it may worsen the condition. Conditioner, meanwhile, should be kept away from the scalp and applied over the length of the hair instead.

4. Nutrition also plays a role in maintaining healthy hair. Since hair is made up of keratin, which is a protein, a diet rich in protein provides the nutritional building blocks needed to support the hair.

5. And finally, persistent shedding or thinning deserves attention rather than being masked with products or styling. Identifying the underlying cause and treating it appropriately is an important part of managing ongoing hair loss.

HealthTips

PROBIOTIC RECIPES FOR A HAPPY GUT



Spiced Probiotic Buttermilk

Ingredients

1 cup plain curd, 1 cup chilled water, ½ tsp roasted cumin powder, 1 tbsp chopped coriander and a pinch of salt.

Instructions

Whisk the curd with water until smooth. Add cumin, coriander and salt. Stir thoroughly and serve fresh.

Benefits

Buttermilk made with live-culture curd provides fluids and may support digestion. Cumin adds flavour, while coriander brings freshness. It is a refreshing alternative to sugary drinks.

Carrot and Beetroot Kanji

Ingredients

2 carrots, 1 small beetroot, 4 cups boiled and cooled water, 1 tsp mustard powder and ½ tsp salt.

Instructions

Cut the vegetables into sticks. Place them in a clean jar with water, mustard powder and salt. Cover loosely and ferment using a tested recipe until tangy.

Benefits

Properly fermented kanji may contain beneficial microorganisms. Carrots and beetroot provide fibre and plant nutrients. Use clean utensils and discard the batch if mould or unusual odours appear.



Creamy Mango Lassi

Ingredients

1 cup plain curd with live cultures, ½ ripe mango, ¼ cup chilled water and a pinch of cardamom.

Instructions

Peel and chop the mango. Blend it with curd, water and cardamom until creamy. Serve immediately without adding sugar if the mango is naturally sweet.

Benefits

Live-culture curd may support gut health, while mango provides fibre and vitamin C. Cardamom adds fragrance, making this fruity drink a refreshing snack or breakfast accompaniment.



Fermented Idli with Coconut Chutney

Ingredients

1 cup fermented idli batter, ½ cup grated coconut, 1 green chilli, a small piece of ginger, salt and water.

Instructions

Pour batter into greased idli moulds and steam until cooked. Grind coconut, chilli, ginger, salt and water into a smooth chutney. Serve warm.

Benefits

Fermentation improves idli batter’s flavour and texture. Idlis provide energy, while coconut contributes fibre. Pair this meal with live-culture curd for additional probiotic benefits.



Curd Rice with Roasted Cumin



Ingredients

1 cup cooked rice, ¾ cup plain curd with live cultures, ½ tsp roasted cumin powder, 1 tbsp chopped coriander and salt.

Instructions

Cool the cooked rice promptly. Mix it with curd, cumin, coriander and salt. Refrigerate briefly and serve fresh.

Benefits

Curd provides live cultures when

present, while rice supplies energy. Cooling rice increases resistant starch, which can nourish beneficial gut bacteria. Refrigerate leftovers promptly and avoid leaving cooked rice at room temperature.

Sports News

Spirited Sindhu loses to nemesis An Se Young in French Open final

PV Sindhu displayed remarkable fighting spirit but failed to overcome world number one An Se Young, who clinched her fourth French Open title in Paris on Sunday.

Press Trust Of India

An Se Young secures eleventh seasonal title, extending unbeaten record against Sindhu.

PARIS: India's two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu produced a spirited performance but suffered another heart-breaking defeat against world number one An Se Young of South Korea in the women's singles final of the USD 950,000 French Open Super 750 badminton tournament on Sunday.

The 31-year-old Indian went down 21-16, 11-21, 12-21 after winning the opening game against the reigning Olympic champion, who secured her fourth French Open crown and remarkable 11th title of the season.

Despite the defeat, Sindhu displayed encouraging signs of returning to her attacking best, challenging the Korean with powerful smashes, clever net exchanges and impressive court coverage.

The opening game witnessed intense rallies as both players remained locked at 7-7. Sindhu gradually gained control through accurate cross-



court smashes and deceptive strokes, establishing a 15-11 advantage.

Although An reduced the deficit, Sindhu maintained her composure and raced to 19-14 before eventually taking the game 21-16 in 20 minutes.

It was only the second time Sindhu had managed to win a game against the Korean across their 11 meetings, high-

lighting the significance of her opening-game performance.

However, An responded strongly in the second game, using superior movement, precise placement and consistent attacking pressure to unsettle the Indian.

After an evenly contested beginning, the Korean established a four-point advantage at the

interval and subsequently dominated proceedings.

Sindhu struggled with unforced errors as An collected nine of 10 consecutive points during a decisive phase, eventually claiming the game 21-11 to force a decider.

The deciding game initially offered renewed hope for Sindhu, who displayed excellent attacking intent to establish an 8-5

lead.

However, An demonstrated her championship temperament, winning crucial rallies and overturning the deficit to lead 11-9 at the interval.

The Korean continued her relentless assault, combining sharp net play with accurate smashes to extend her advantage to 18-10.

Sindhu attempted another comeback but could not prevent An from sealing the championship 21-12.

Reflecting on the contest, Sindhu acknowledged that surrendering her third-game advantage proved costly.

She nevertheless expressed satisfaction with several positive aspects of her performance and emphasised the need for further improvement.

Although the elusive victory over An remains beyond her reach, Sindhu's determined display offered encouragement ahead of upcoming international tournaments.

For An, the triumph further strengthened her dominance of women's badminton, underlining her exceptional consistency throughout another outstanding season.

Yuki wins first ATP title of 2026 and fifth overall with Almaty Open doubles triumph

Central Chronicle News

The fourth-seeded Indo-American pair prevailed 7-6(3), 6-7(1), 10-2 in the final of the ATP 250 tournament.

ALMATY: India's number one doubles player Yuki Bhambri won his first ATP Tour title of the 2026 season, partnering American Ryan Seggerman to clinch the Almaty Open with a thrilling victory over top seeds Lucas Miedler and Neil Oberleitner of Austria here on Sunday.

The fourth-seeded Indo-American pair prevailed 7-6(3), 6-7(1), 10-2 in the final of the ATP 250 tournament, securing Bhambri's fifth career doubles title on the ATP Tour.

The victory added another title to Bhambri's steadily growing ATP trophy collection, having previously won ATP 250 crowns in Mallorca in 2023, Gstaad and Munich in 2024, and the ATP 500 Dubai tournament in 2025.

The 34-year-old Bhambri would savour Sunday's performance, especially after enduring a medal-less outing at the Asian Games in Japan, where he was expected to stand on the podium.

"I have been improving throughout this year. The results have not



been as good as I would have liked to. Even in the last couple of months, I have lost a lot of close matches. That has been the difference this week," Yuki told PTI.

"Both my partner Ryan and I served very well in this tournament and created a lot of chances. To win tournaments, you have to play well in important moments and under pressure, and this week we were able to do that."

It was his second ATP final of the season following a runner-up finish at the ATP 250 Geneva Open with Kiwi partner Michael Venus.

Bhambri reached a career-high ranking of 18

in February but slid gradually to drop out of the top-40.

In 2026, he reached the third round of the Australian Open men's doubles with Sweden's Andre Goransson before losing in the second round of the French Open.

He suffered first-round exits at Wimbledon and the US Open, where he partnered New Zealand's Michael Venus.

His best Grand Slam performance came in 2025, when he and Venus reached the US Open semifinals. Bhambri also won the prestigious ATP 500 title in Dubai that year, partnering Australia's Alexei Popyrin.

| NINGBO OPEN |

Rybakina beats Fernandez to defend Ningbo Open title

Press Trust Of India

Rybakina claims 1st title since earning No. 1 ranking

NINGBO: Elena Rybakina claimed her first trophy since earning the No. 1 ranking, beating Leylah Fernandez 6-2, 6-2 on Sunday to defend her Ningbo Open title.

Rybakina moved past Aryna Sabalenka into the top spot after the U.S. Open but was then stunned by 118th-ranked Alina Charaeva in her opening match at the China Open.

It's Rybakina's tour-leading fourth title of the year to go with her Australian Open, Stuttgart and U.S. Open trophies; and the 15th of her career.



Against the 30th-ranked Fernandez, a U.S. Open finalist in 2021, Rybakina saved all four break points she faced and produced a forehand winner on her first match point.

Rybakina improved to 8-0 in her career at the Ningbo Open after beating Ekaterina Alexandrova in last season's final.

India A to face Pakistan A in Asia Cup Rising Stars meet

DUBAI: India A will face arch rivals Pakistan on November 22 in the Asia Cup Rising Stars 50-over tournament, to be held in Doha from November 19. India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Afghanistan will field their A teams in the tournament while Nepal, United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Hong Kong are likely to send their strongest sides. India A have been placed alongside Pakistan A, Nepal and UAE in Group B, while Sri Lanka A, Bangladesh A, Afghanistan A and Hong Kong have been clubbed in Group A. The Indians begin their campaign against Nepal on November 20.

Katerina Siniakova wins Japan Open, beating Ashlyn Krueger 6-1 6-0

Press Trust Of India

Czech tennis star ends three-year singles title drought with dominant Osaka victory.

OSAKA: Czech tennis star Katerina Siniakova produced a commanding performance to defeat American Ashlyn Krueger 6-1, 6-0 in the Japan Open final on Sunday, securing her first singles title in three years.

The 30-year-old completely dominated the championship clash, breaking her 22-year-old opponent's serve six times and wrapping up the contest in just 64 minutes.

| SINIAKOVA CELEBRATES TRIUMPH |



Siniakova's impressive victory marked her sixth career singles title and her first since triumphing at the Jiangxi Open in Nanchang, China, in

2023. Renowned primarily for her exceptional doubles achievements, Siniakova has accumulated 39 career doubles

FASTFACTS

- Siniakova breaks Krueger's serve six times to seal victory in 64 minutes.
- Czech doubles specialist captures sixth career singles crown after remarkable final performance.

titles, establishing herself among the world's most successful doubles specialists.

Her latest doubles triumph came at the US Open last month, where she partnered American Taylor Townsend to capture the women's doubles championship.

| CHHATTISGARH HOCKEY LEAGUE |

Nyayadhani Knights inch closer to semis with third win

Central Chronicle News

Chirag's brilliant hat-trick powers Knights to commanding victory over Bailadila Bulls.



different from what fans have seen so far in the CHL 2026. Everyone is used to witnessing high-scoring encounters, but resolute defence is what came to the fore from both teams, at least in the first quarter, which went goalless.

It was only about which team would manage to make a mistake first. And that eventually turned out to be Bailadila, who conceded a PC in the second quarter, as Chirag struck gold with his very first drag-flick of the evening.

In fact, towards the end of the half-time, he repeated his feat in an almost similar fashion. Bulls pulled one back as Jaskaran landed the ball in the goal through a deflection, staying alive in the match with the score reading 2-1 at half-time.

Surender, a 2020 Tokyo Olympics bronze medalist showed the youngsters why he is still one of the best when it comes to saving the PCs. The third quarter saw Knights concede one due to an unnecessary stick check. In response, the veteran stood there at the goalpost without moving and stopped a bullet drag-flick right from the middle of his stick. Meanwhile, high-on-confidence Chirag ended the quarter completing his hat-trick, increasing his team's lead. Towards the end of the match, when Bailadila had no chance of coming back, Ketan Kushwaha came up with a tomahawk to further increase the lead.

But all in all, it was a defensive masterclass overall. Chirag, for his efforts, was named the striker & player of the match.

Karan claims ITF M25 Mumbai title, his fourth of the year

MUMBAI: Karan Singh continued his impressive run of form on the ITF circuit, claiming the men's singles title at the USD 30,000 ITF Men's World Tennis Tour M25 tournament here on Sunday. The third-seeded Karan won the tournament after Digvijay Pratap Singh was forced to retire in the final. Karan was leading 7-5, 3-1 in the second set when Digvijay retired. Both players went toe-to-toe in a fiercely contested opening set that lasted just over an hour, with Karan eventually taking it 7-5. Carrying that momentum forward, Karan established a 3-1 advantage in the second set before Digvijay was forced to retire after one hour and 32 minutes of play.

Harmanpreet, Deepti power India to 121-run win over Zimbabwe

Press Trust Of India

Harmanpreet and Deepti smash brilliant centuries as India register commanding ODI victory.

VADODARA: Harmanpreet Kaur struck a magnificent 126, while Deepti Sharma hammered an unbeaten 106 as India registered a comprehensive 121-run victory over Zimbabwe in the second women's ODI on Sunday. Batting first, India posted an imposing 328 for six before dismissing Zimbabwe for 207 in 48.5 overs. Harmanpreet's eighth ODI century came off 121 deliveries, featuring 15 boundaries, while Deepti



smashed 15 fours during her aggressive 86-ball innings.

The experienced duo shared a crucial 153-run fifth-wicket partnership, putting India firmly in control.

Despite being dropped three times, Harmanpreet dominated Zimba-

bwe's bowling attack with elegant drives and powerful cuts.

For Zimbabwe, Modester Mupachikwa scored 49, while Chipo Mugeru-Tiripano contributed 46, but their efforts proved insufficient against India's formidable total.



“We condemn the Houthi missile attacks targeting Saudi Arabia’s Makkah and Madinah regions, which are a ‘dangerous provocation’ of the sentiments of over two billion Muslims”.

Mohammed bin Abdulkarim Al-Issa
Secretary-General Muslim World League

‘Diwali at Times Square’ festival



People gather during the ‘Diwali at Times Square’ festival, in New York City, New York, USA. (PTI Photo)

Saudi Arabia reopens airport as attacks by Houthi rebels persist

Saudi Arabia reopened its main airport for international flights following a suspension caused by deadly Houthi rebel strikes.

Press Trust Of India

DUBAI: Saudi Arabia reopened its main airport for international flights, more than two weeks after deadly strikes by Yemen’s Iranian-backed Houthi rebels knocked the facility out of service. Earlier Sunday, the kingdom said it intercepted and destroyed a ballistic missile and a drone fired by the Houthis.

The King Khalid International Airport said it has opened terminals 1 and 2 for domestic and international flights, starting Sunday. The announcement came as

the Houthis in Yemen kept firing drones and missiles toward the Saudi capital.

Saudi military spokesman Maj. Gen. Turki al-Malki said air defenses intercepted and destroyed a ballistic missile and a drone fired by the Houthis toward Riyadh early Sunday, as well as 10 ballistic missiles toward the southern region.

In early October, Houthi strikes hit a complex housing two other terminals, killing 17 people and wounding over 330. Last week, the Riyadh airport opened

FASTFACTS

● The King Khalid International Airport said it has opened terminals 1 and 2 for domestic and international flights, starting Sunday.

● Israel launched a broad military operation in the occupied West Bank following a Hebron attack that killed two Israeli soldiers and wounded three.

to limited domestic flights. Meanwhile, Israel pressed ahead with a

broad military operation in the occupied West Bank in response to an attack that killed two Israeli soldiers and wounded three in the city of Hebron on Friday. It comes just days ahead

of Israel’s tense election on Tuesday. The vote is widely seen as a referendum on Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s leadership and security policies during the past three years of war.

Iran’s foreign minister dismisses threats of a flare-up in the war

Iran’s foreign minister vowed on Sunday that new threats of war will not budge Iran from its policies. “Today, again war is being spoken about, but I am thinking about post-war status, whether a war occurs or not, our policies will remain in place,” Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi told a group of diplomats in Tehran. He also warned the US against renewing strikes on Iran and repeated past statements that Tehran is ready to cooperate with neighbouring Arab nations in the Persian Gulf.

| UK STORMS |

UK endures weekend’s second big storm with north bearing the brunt

Press Trust Of India

Storm Boelo brought widespread travel disruptions and power outages to Scotland, Northern Ireland, and northern England on Sunday.

LONDON: The second of two storms to hit the UK this weekend brought widespread travel disruptions and power outages to Scotland, Northern Ireland and northern England on Sunday.

The Met Office, the UK’s national forecaster, said Storm Boelo will bring a danger to life



from flying debris and crashing waves and people should stay indoors as much as possible.

Gusts above 80 mph (128 kph) have already been recorded in Scotland, including on the island of Tiree in the Inner Hebrides. Energy company SSEN had reported a total of 93

unplanned power cuts in Scotland by 10 am.

An amber wind warning, the Met Office’s second most severe, is active across Scotland and the north of England until late Sunday.

Flood warnings are also in place, while airports, ferries, railways and roads have seen

FASTFACTS

● The Met Office issued amber wind warnings and flood alerts, with gusts exceeding 80 mph recorded in parts of Scotland.

● Boelo followed closely after Storm Austen, which battered southern England on Friday and knocked out power to over 130,000 properties.

disruptions. Boelo, pronounced “Boo-Loh”, has followed hard on the heels of Storm Austen, which battered southern England on Friday.

| US VOTER CANCER |

She voted for Trump every time. Then came cancer, bills

Press Trust Of India

MCALLEN: The Ford Expedition rumbled to a stop and Cindy Banda’s bedazzled flip-flops landed on the asphalt of the Houston cancer centre’s vast parking lot. She threaded through the rows of cars, a tally of patients who gather here to sit with chemotherapy needles or lie on radiation machines.

The elevator dinged open. A year ago in this building, surgeons removed Banda’s right breast, and she still didn’t know whether treatment had expunged the cancer



from her body. Doctors had told her it would be tough to beat. “I’m more of a positive person myself,” Banda said, now sitting with a white wristband in a dim waiting room. But the bills are harder to dismiss, and the single mother with six children in her care repeated something

“Keep the house. Keep the cars. And just keep the kids stable.”

Cindy Banda

like a mantra. “Keep the house. Keep the cars. And just keep the kids stable.” That’s true for many Americans, as rising healthcare costs leave more families with a sinking feeling after seeing the bill for surgery or medication. Heading into the Nov. 3 midterm elections, about half of regis-

tered voters said healthcare costs are a major problem for them and their families, up from a little more than one-third four years ago, according to a Fox News poll from September.

With party control of Congress at stake, registered voters are nearly twice as likely to say they trust Democrats over Republicans to handle healthcare, according to an Associated Press-NORC Centre for Public Affairs Research poll from the same month. Those frustrations, combined with broader concerns over rising prices,

have sapped support for President Donald Trump and his Republican Party.

Banda knows how that feels. She backed Trump in each of his three campaigns, motivated by her opposition to abortion. But when cancer came, the ensuing scramble to make ends meet was painful enough to rearrange her priorities, and she started to think about voting Democratic for the first time. The 46-year-old was ushered into a sterile room for her appointment, her phone lit up with a text. “Please contact TD Auto Finance.”

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

ISRAEL ELECTION WESTBANK

Days before Israeli election, military conducts massive West Bank operation



TEL AVIV: The Israeli military continued a massive military operation in the occupied West Bank on Sunday, displacing hundreds of Palestinians and placing major restrictions on movement in response to a gun attack that killed two Israeli soldiers and wounded three others in Hebron on Friday. The operation comes as Israel enters the final days before a tense election, which is largely seen as a referendum on current Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s leadership and security policies during the past three years of war.

Most Palestinian workers with permits will not be allowed to enter Israeli settlements for work in the occupied West Bank on Sunday and Monday, and crossings into Israel will remain closed until after Israel’s elections on Tuesday, the Israeli military said. The

military said it operated in more than 400 different locations over the weekend and arrested 40 Palestinians it claimed were affiliated with Hamas or Palestinian Islamic Jihad. It said the operation is continuing at the same intensity on Sunday.

The Hebron municipality said the operation displaced more than 2,200 people, including nearly 300 children under the age of 18. The military said that troops were conducting searches in the area where the gunmen operated, and warned residents to evacuate Deir Bahha, the suspected gunmen’s neighbourhood.

After Friday’s attack, Israel’s military said it found weapons in the gunmen’s car and that they were likely planning to attack Israeli civilians before being stopped at the checkpoint.

WASIA MWL HOUTH

Muslim World League condemns Houthi missile attacks

DUBAI: The Muslim World League on Sunday condemned what it described as Houthi missile attacks targeting Saudi Arabia’s Makkah and Madinah regions, saying they violated the sanctity of Islam’s holy sites. Saudi Civil Defense said two ballistic missiles launched towards the two regions were intercepted on Saturday, with debris falling in Wadi Al-Mughhamas in Makkah, Al-Nuzha neighbourhood in Jeddah, Wadi Jalil in Taif and Masturah Centre in Rabigh. The authorities said established procedures for such incidents had been carried out but did not provide information on casualties.

The Houthis, however, have denied targeting Makkah and Madinah, saying their operations were directed at oil facilities and military sites. In its statement, Muslim World League Secretary-General Mohammed bin Abdulkarim Al-Issa described the attacks as a “dangerous provocation” of the sentiments of more than two billion Muslims. The League said the attacks constituted “a betrayal of religion and Muslims” and reaffirmed its “full solidarity” with Saudi Arabia in measures to deter further attacks and safeguard holy sites and civilians.

PAK IRAN BORDER

Pakistan resumes cross-border trade with Iran

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has reopened a key border crossing with Iran to resume bilateral trade and cross-border movement after a week-long suspension that stranded freight vehicles, disrupted supplies and aggravated concerns over LPG shortages ahead of winter.

Trade operations resumed on Saturday at the Gabd-Rimdan crossing in Balochistan’s Gwadar district, with border officials allowing commercial consignments accompanied by consignment notes dated October 16 or earlier to cross, the Dawn newspaper reported. Mir Naveed Jan Kalmati, president of the Gwadar Chamber of Commerce and Industry, confirmed that the crossing, also known as Gate 250, has reopened.

“Pakistan has opened the border with Iran at Gabd-Rimdan... and allowed trucks and other vehicles to move toward Iran and Pakistan with import and export goods,” Kalmati said. Welcoming the decision, he said the resumption of cross-border trade would bring immediate relief to traders and transporters stranded on both sides.

BRAZIL ELECTION

Brazil votes in tense Lula vs Bolsonaro runoff with US influence over Latin America at stake



RIO DE JANEIRO: Brazilians began voting in Sunday’s polarising presidential election between incumbent President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva and Flavio Bolsonaro, a contest that will determine whether the US will significantly expand its growing influence in Latin America.

Polls before Sunday’s vote showed the two candidates, who need more than 50 per cent of the vote to become Brazil’s next leader in January, in a neck-and-neck race. The election pits the left-of-centre veteran politician Lula against Bolsonaro, an ally of US President Donald Trump and the son of imprisoned former President Jair Bolsonaro. Flávio Bolsonaro bested Lula by more than 2.2 million votes in the

first round of the election earlier this month. More than 33 million voters out of nearly 160 million did not turn out.

The difference between the two candidates is stark. Bolsonaro and Lula have opposing ideological views on issues ranging from US-Brazil relations and climate change to social welfare. A win for Bolsonaro would signify a pivot to the right by Latin America’s most populous country and its largest economy in a year when Trump allies have notched victories in Chile, Peru and Colombia. A victory for Lula would leave Brazil and Mexico, which is the region’s second most populous country and led by President Claudia Sheinbaum, with left-of-centre leaders.