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Finding the Solution: From Panic to Purpose



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Shraddha trains hard mastering Lavani for 'Eetha'

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Central Chronicle

Bilaspur | FRIDAY, November 20, 2026 | *Fastest Growing English Daily Of Chhattisgarh* | www.centralchronicle.in | Pages: **16** | Price: **Rs. 4.00**

| PM TO INDUSTRY LEADERS |

'Respond to tax relief with hiring, salary hikes'

Shed domestic-market comfort, step up manufacturing and exports

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday questioned industry leaders over the lack of commensurate job creation and salary increases despite the government's tax concessions, challenging businesses to translate higher consumer purchasing power into greater employment and economic activity.

Addressing the FICCI annual general meeting here, Modi said the government had taken several steps to improve the business environment, including reducing the basic corporate tax rate from 30 per cent in 2014 to 22 per cent, simplifying tax return and refund processes and lowering GST rates on several products. "I know you won't applaud. I know that very well, because your appetite is so enormous that no matter how much you are given, it is never enough," he told industry leaders. "I have given income tax relief up to Rs 12 lakh. But have you increased the salaries of your employees? Have you increased the number of employees? No! It is always: 'Modi ji, you do it; we will see what happens.'



PM Modi during the FICCI Annual General Meeting and Annual Convention, in New Delhi.

> **Countrymen deserve quality**
>
> **Narendra Modi**
> Prime Minister

This is how things will continue." He also cited the income-tax exemption for annual incomes of up to Rs 12 lakh, saying the relief had boosted people's purchasing power and should translate into greater demand and business expansion. "How much ever you give, their appetite is never satisfied," Modi said in a pointed remark to industry leaders, adding that businesses needed to do more for their employees rather than expect the government to shoulder the responsibility for growth.

He said a country could progress only by respecting its farmers, small entrepreneurs, industries, wealth creators and taxpayers, and not by criticising them.

Tusker tranquilised, fitted with radio-collar

AMBIKAPUR: Conflict elephant 'Kabra Kaan' that allegedly killed 16 persons in three districts was tranquilised and radio-collared in Surguja, marking the culmination of a six-day operation involving more than 200 forest personnel and thermal drones, officials have said.

Locally named 'Kabra Kaan' due to pigmentation and patches on its ear, the solitary male tusker had allegedly fatally attacked 16 persons in Surguja, Surajpur and Balrampur districts over the past six to seven months, they said.

The tranquilisation operation was launched on November 13 after obtaining requisite permission, Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) Pranay Mishra told PTI over the phone on Wednesday.

Kabra Kaan, roaming alone for the past few months, recently joined a herd of 17 elephants in the Udaipur area of Surguja, he said.

"We had been tracking the herd, but it was moving through dense forests, making it difficult to tranquilise the male elephant. We were waiting for a suitable opportunity when it would come out of the forest," Mishra said. Two trained 'kumki' elephants, along with trackers and mahouts from the Tamor Pingla Elephant Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre, were also deployed for the operation.

Cyclone Akvan to hit Odisha coast today

Press Trust Of India

State Prepares Cyclone Response, Targets Zero Casualties



BHUBANESWAR: The Odisha government has set up 9,299 shelters, evacuated over 1 lakh people to safety, deployed 305 emergency response teams and closed educational institutes in several districts as it has stepped up precautionary measures in view of Cyclone 'Akvan', which is likely to cross between Gopalpur and Puri on Friday, chief secretary Anu Garg said. The state government is making all-encompassing preparations to tackle the cyclone's impact, with priority being given to ensure "zero casualties", she said. Tourists have been prohibited from visiting coastal areas, including Gopalpur, Puri, Satapada and Chilika, and fishermen have been asked not to venture into the sea, the chief secretary said. The coastal and southern regions of the state have been experiencing light to moderate rain since Wednesday night, and the intensity will increase gradually as the weather system nears the coast, Bhubaneswar Meteorological Centre Director Manorama Mohanty told reporters here.

| COMPLIANCE RELAXATION |

Govt revises PUC certificate validity

Press Trust Of India

Extends renewal intervals for newer BS-VI vehicles



NEW DELHI: The government has revised the validity periods of Pollution Under Control (PUC) certificates, allowing newer BS-VI-compliant vehicles to go longer between renewals while retaining shorter validity periods for older vehicles to promote an efficient certification regime.

Under the new rules notified by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) on November 13, BS-VI-compliant private vehicles up to six years old will require a PUC certificate once every three years, while those aged more than six years but up to 10 years will need annual renewal.

Private BS-VI vehicles older than 10 years must have their certificates renewed every six months. The revised schedule also provides longer validity periods for BS-VI-compliant transport vehicles. Those up to six years old will require renewal once every two years, while vehicles aged more than six years but up to 10 years will need annual renewal.

Transport vehicles older than 10 years will continue to require renewal every six months. For vehicles complying with BS-I, BS-II, and BS-III emission norms, PUC certificates will be valid for three months, while those complying with BS-IV norms will be valid for six months.

NEWSLINE

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Padmaja quits BJP

The Congress on Thursday welcomed Padmaja Venugopal, daughter of late party stalwart K Karunakaran, after she quit the BJP, even as some party leaders opposed her return, citing her criticism of the Congress after she left it.

"I welcome her to the Congress," KPCC president Sunny Joseph told reporters when asked about her resignation from the BJP and the possibility of her return.

Padmaja, a former BJP National Council member, announced her resignation from the BJP on Thursday and described her decision to join the party as a "mistake made in haste". She had quit the Congress and joined the BJP on March 7, 2024.

NEW DELHI

Athlete apprehended

A man who attempted to forcibly enter the sensitive Terminal-3 of Delhi's Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport was an athlete from Haryana keen on travelling abroad even though he did not have a valid visa, officials said on Thursday.

CISF personnel apprehended him around 3 pm on Wednesday, averting a potential security breach, the force said. He was handed over to Delhi Police for interrogation.

A 35-second video posted by the CISF on Wednesday on X shows the man carrying a backpack forcing his way through the entry gate into T3 of the airport as a CISF jawan runs after him. Another armed CISF jawan joins and the man is caught inside the terminal, not far from the gate.

NEW DELHI

'Verify legal status'

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has advised Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), students and parents to exercise due caution and verify the authenticity and legal status of an educational institution before seeking admission or entering into any academic or financial arrangement with it.

In a public advisory, the UGC has cautioned the public against relying on advertisements and recommended verification of claims through official sources. "Students, parents, guardians and members of the public are advised to verify before taking admission or making any academic or financial commitment about whether the institution has been legally established or recognised under the applicable laws," the advisory said.

Ritual Spectacle



A participant dressed as an 'Aghori Sadhu' during the ritual pot immersion procession of Jagaddhatri Puja, in Nadia district, West Bengal

| SUBSCRIBER RELIEF |

EPFO approves systematic PF withdrawal plan

Press Trust Of India

Minimum balance requirement cut to 10 pc from 25 pc

NEW DELHI: The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) on Thursday approved sweeping changes in provident fund withdrawal rules, allowing retiring members to receive their PF savings in regular instalments, reducing the minimum balance requirement to 10 per cent from 25 per cent and cutting the waiting period for final settlement to two months from 12 months. The decisions were taken at the 240th meeting of the Central Board of Trustees (CBT), chaired by Union Labour and Employment Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Thursday, according to an official statement.



Under the proposed Systematic Withdrawal Plan (SWP), retiring members will be able to receive their accumulated PF savings through monthly, quarterly or half-yearly payouts instead of withdrawing the entire corpus at once.

The remaining balance will continue to earn returns, providing members with a regular income stream after retirement while preserving their savings.

The facility will be entirely voluntary and is aimed at supplementing pension income and providing greater financial security after retirement.

| CAIT PROJECTION |

52 lakh marriages expected this wedding season

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: India is expected to witness 52 lakh marriages in the upcoming wedding season from November 21 to December 15 -- an average of more than two lakh weddings every day -- generating an estimated Rs 7.5 lakh crore in business, according to traders' body CAIT. The Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) said the 25-day season is expected to drive demand across retail, manufacturing, hospitality, transport, food, jewellery and other sectors, with Delhi-NCR alone projected to account for around 5 lakh weddings and Rs 2.5 lakh crore in business. The projections were prepared by CAIT's research arm, the CAIT Research and Trade Development Society, following consultations with over 300 trade leaders and 550 trade associations across 25 states, the organisation said. According to CAIT, around Rs 4.05 lakh crore, or 54 per cent of the estimated business, is expected to come from goods and retail purchases, while services are projected to account for Rs 3.45 lakh crore or 46 per cent. Jewellery and precious metals are expected to account for Rs 1.2 lakh crore, followed by apparel and garments at Rs 90,000 crore. Gifts and wedding accessories, grocery and food supplies are estimated at Rs 37,500 crore each, while electronics, dry fruits and sweets, furniture and household articles are projected to contribute Rs 30,000 crore each, it said.



NUMBER

7.5

- India sees two lakh daily weddings, Rs 7.5-lakh-crore business

| MAHADEV BETTING APP CASE |

Chandrakar in judicial custody till Dec 2

Press Trust Of India

Chandrakar produced before PMLA court after ED remand.

RAIPUR: A special court in capital Raipur on Thursday remanded Saurabh Chandrakar, the alleged kingpin of the Mahadev online betting app case, to judicial custody till December 2 after the Enforcement Directorate (ED) did not seek his further custodial interrogation.

Chandrakar was produced before the PMLA (Prevention of Money Laundering Act) court upon expiry of his seven-day ED custody remand, the agency's counsel Sourabh Kumar Pande told reporters. The ED told the court that it had completed the questioning required at this stage and did not consider further custodial interrogation necessary. The court subsequently granted its request for 14 days of judicial custody, Pande said. He said the questioning during the remand period focused on Chandrakar's alleged role, as detailed in the prosecution complaint, statements made by other accused and witnesses, and documents collected during the investigation.

The investigation is still underway and other people may be summoned for questioning based on the information provided by Chandrakar, the ED counsel said, adding that the agency could seek his further custody if required.

Raipur



The glorious history, rich culture, and the sacrifices of great heroes from tribal society constitute an invaluable heritage of the nation.

OP Choudhary
FM Ch'garh

State attracts investment proposals worth Rs 1.07 lakh crore

CM Vishnu Deo Sai handed over 'Invitation to Invest' letters to 24 industrial groups; employment opportunities to be created for approximately 20,000 youth.

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: Chhattisgarh today hosted one of its largest gatherings of national industry. Around 150 industrialists from across India came together in Raipur for the third chapter of the Chhattisgarh Industry Dialogue. The dialogue was chaired by Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai and organised in partnership with the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI). It drew investment commitments worth Rs 1,06,567.8 crore.

A total of 21 projects committed to invest in the state. These projects



are expected to generate around 29,000 employment opportunities for the youth of Chhattisgarh.

The standout trend of the dialogue was the strong interest in emerging sectors. Of the 21 projects, 12 projects (57%) are in sectors such as pharmaceuticals, textiles and hospitality. Together, these projects will bring an investment of Rs 10,073.03 crore and create around 8,000 jobs, which is 27% of the total employment from the dialogue. These sectors are also highly employment-intensive. Every crore invested in them will create more than three times as many jobs as investment in other sectors.

The results show that Chhattisgarh's move into new sectors is gaining strength. The state's base in minerals, steel and power remains strong. Alongside it, more and more investors are now putting their money into employment-intensive sectors. Each round of the Industry Dialogue has added to this confidence, and Chapter 3 confirms that Chhattisgarh is now a preferred destination for industries that create jobs at scale.

Speaking on the occasion, CM Sai said, "Chhattisgarh is now among the easiest places in India to do business. The confidence shown by industry today, especially in new-age sectors, will translate into thousands of jobs for our youth. Our government is committed to speed, transparency and support at every step, from approval to production."

HIGHLIGHT

- **Investment proposals worth over Rs 8.5 lakh crore received in the last 1.5–2 years; work commenced on nearly 60 industrial projects, says CM Sai**

Rahul attempting to damage nation's reputation: Sao

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: Deputy Chief Minister Arun Sao stated that the Leader of the Opposition, Rahul Gandhi, is consistently attempting to harm the nation's reputation. He is making statements that serve to weaken the country and spread chaos. There is a constitutional recourse–approaching the court–to address grievances regarding electoral irregularities. Instead of taking this path, Rahul Gandhi is raising baseless questions about election results. He appears to



have no faith in either the Constitution or the nation's judicial system. Sao remarked that the history of the Congress party is itself intertwined with electoral irregularities. In the past, a court declared the election of a Congress Prime Minister invalid due to unethical conduct. Despite this, the Congress party today questions others–even though its seat count increased in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections compared to 2018. Nevertheless, Rahul Gandhi continues his efforts to defame the nation through lies and misleading allegations.

The Dy CM asserted that the people of the country are observing and understanding everything. The public will provide a fitting response to those who toy with the nation's reputation, cast aspersions on democratic institutions, and obstruct the path of development.

Four IAS officers promoted in state

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: Significant news has emerged from the administrative setup in Chhattisgarh. Subodh Kumar Singh, Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister, has been promoted to the rank of Additional Chief Secretary (ACS). Meanwhile, Niharika Barik, Principal Secretary for the Home and Jail Department, has also been promoted. She has been elevated to the position of Additional Chief Secretary for the Home and Jail Department. Dr Rohit Yadav (IAS-2002) posted as Secretary Finance Deptt and Additional charge of Secretary PR Department and President Pension Redressal Committee, has been promoted as Principal Secretary in all his departments. Similarly Kamalpreet Singh (IAS-2002) working as Secretary School Education Department has been promoted as Principal Secretary in the same department. Following these promotions, there have been changes in the responsibilities and positions held by senior officers of the state administrative service.

Asmita Rugby Ch'ship to kick off on Nov 21

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: The Chhattisgarh Rugby Football Association is set to organise the Chhattisgarh Asmita Rugby State League 2026-27 on November 21 and 22 at the Swami Vivekananda Athletics Stadium in Kota, Raipur. Aimed at providing a prominent platform for women and girl athletes and preparing emerging talent for national-level competitions, the state-level tournament will feature matches in the Under-15 and Senior categories.

Rugby India President and renowned film actor Rahul Bose has accepted the association's invitation and will attend the inauguration ceremony as the Chief Guest. Teams of talented women and girl players from multiple districts across Chhattisgarh–including Raipur, Bilaspur, Korba, Rajnandgaon, Durg, Balod, Bemetara, Mahasamund, and Dhamtari–will participate in the two-day event. The league seeks to connect more women from the state with sports, foster leadership, self-confidence, and sportsmanship, and provide competitive exposure to help them earn spots in national and international tournaments.

Dr. Ayaz Ahmed Khan, Secretary of the Chhattisgarh Rugby Football Association, stated that preparations for the tournament are in full swing. He noted that Rahul Bose's presence will serve as a major inspiration for the state's young female athletes, adding that the association is committed to guiding Chhattisgarh's talent.

| SEMINAR AND FELICITATION CEREMONY |

Scouting fosters discipline, leadership skills among students: Khandelwal

Central Chronicle News

One-day seminar and felicitation ceremony of The Bharat Scouts and Guides, Chhattisgarh, organized.



FACTFILE

- **42 office-bearers and members recognized for their outstanding contributions to the field of Scouting.**

RAIPUR: Under the guidance of the Minister of School Education and State President of The Bharat Scouts and Guides, Chhattisgarh, Gajendra Yadav, a one-day seminar and felicitation ceremony was held today at the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Auditorium of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College, Raipur. The event focused on enhancing the effectiveness of Scouting activities, accelerating organizational tasks, and honoring office-bearers and members who have made significant contributions to the field of Scouting. Dr. KK Khandelwal, Chief National Commissioner of The Bharat Scouts and Guides, New Delhi, stated that the organization serves as a vital medium for cultivating discipline, leadership, self-reliance, social responsibility, and a spirit of service among students and youth. Scouting activities prepare young people to face the challenges they encounter in life. He emphasized that Scouting is not merely an activity, but a powerful movement that inspires character building and social service.

| IITF STATE DAY CELEBRATIONS |

CG to showcase tribal and cultural heritage

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: Chhattisgarh is set to present a vibrant display of its folk culture, tribal traditions, and indigenous art forms at the 45th India International Trade Fair (IITF) in New Delhi tomorrow, November 20. Held at Amphitheatre-01 in Bharat Mandapam, the Chhattisgarh State Day celebrations will feature



live performances of seven traditional dance forms, bringing the state's cultural richness to a national and international audience.

The evening programme will commence at 5:00 PM, with Chhattisgarh Governor Ramen Deka gracing the occasion as the Chief Guest and Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai presiding over the ceremony. Deputy Chief Ministers, state ministers, Members of Parliament, MLAs, and chairpersons of various state corporations, boards, and commissions will also be in attendance. Organised by the Department of Culture and Official Language, the event seeks to elevate Chhattisgarh's traditional folk arts on a global platform.

The highlight of the cultural evening will be performances of seven iconic folk dances–Gaur, Gaura-Gauri, Bhojali, Raut Nacha, Sua, Panthi, and Karma–accompanied by traditional attire, folk music, and indigenous instruments.

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

RAIPUR'S YOUNG SCIENTIST MAKES HISTORY

Class 5 student Dhawal Srivastava enters India Book of Records 2026

RAIPUR: Bringing pride to Raipur and Chhattisgarh, Dhawal Srivastava, a Class 5 student of NH Goel World School, Raipur, has achieved remarkable national recognition through his exceptional talent and innovative approach to technology. His unique innovation, an *AI-Robotics Model that automatically plays the Google Dino Game, has earned him a prestigious place in the *India Book of Records 2026. This national recognition highlights Dhawal's technical skills and understanding of emerging technologies. By combining Artificial Intelligence (AI) with physical robotics, he has developed an innovative system that uses sensors and coding to detect obstacles appearing on the screen and automatically play the Google Dino Game without any human intervention. The model demonstrates how artificial intelligence and robotics can work together to identify situations, make decisions and perform actions automatically. This achievement reflects Dhawal's creativity, scientific



curiosity and impressive technical abilities at such a young age.

Beyond his personal achievements, Dhawal is also making commendable efforts to promote STEM education (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) at the grassroots level. He is actively encouraging students from rural areas to explore the world of science and modern technology.

EXHB & HANDS-ON WORKSHOP

Workshops foster capacity building among youth: Prof. Dayal

RAIPUR: An exhibition and hands-on workshop was organised on Wednesday under the joint aegis of the Department of Mass Communication, Kushabhau Thakre University of Journalism and Mass Communication, and Kajal Films and Rental Service. Addressing the inaugural session, Vice Chancellor Prof. (Dr.) Manoj Dayal stated that workshops play a vital role in developing the capabilities and practical skills of young people.

Highlighting the rapid evolution of the media landscape, Prof. Dayal noted that newspapers and the broader media industry have undergone massive transformations over time, with print media currently facing stiff competition. Emphasising the power of cartoons, he



remarked that a single cartoon can convey a profound message effectively in a very short span–accomplishing effortlessly what lengthy articles take considerable time to express. He added that the deep connection between cartoons and everyday life is evident from how children naturally express their originality and creativity by drawing cartoons on walls at home.

STRENGTHENING OF BANKS SECURITY

Police launches special operation for Banks security

RAIPUR: The North Zone Police in the capital, Raipur, have launched a special operation focused on the security of banks, ATMs, and financial institutions. Aimed at preventing criminal activities in the vicinity of bank premises and ensuring the safety of citizens, special police teams were deployed across the five police station jurisdictions within the North Zone to conduct dedicated 'bank bike patrols. During this operation, police monitored the movements of suspicious individuals near banks and ATMs. Furthermore, they consulted with bank management and security personnel to assess existing security arrangements and provided necessary guidelines. According to information provided by the police, Dy Comm of Police (North Zone), Deepmala Kashyap, had directed all Station House Officers



(SHOs) to initiate a special bank security drive to safeguard citizens visiting these financial institutions. During the drive, police officials also engaged with bank management and on-duty security guards. In addition to reviewing the security infrastructure at these locations, staff were advised to remain vigilant. The police further instructed that any information regarding suspicious individuals or activities near bank premises should be immediately reported to the local police station.

FELICITATION OF OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES

CS congratulates officers and staff on consistent improvements in e-Office



RAIPUR: Chief Secretary Vikasheel has congratulated and extended his best wishes to the officers and staff for the consistent improvements observed in e-Office and attendance rankings. He noted that encouraging progress is being witnessed in both areas. A cumulative assessment of rankings for the seven-month period from 1 April to 31 October has also been conducted, revealing significant improvement. The Chief Secretary honored officers, staff, Secretariat departments, offices of Heads of Departments, and district offices for their outstanding performance in e-Office operations.

The Chief Secretary directed the General Administration Department to systematically document the reforms implemented thus far in the e-Office and attendance systems. He further instructed an assessment of the progress achieved to date and an evaluation of areas where further improvements can be made in the future. He also called for a feedback survey to be conducted, ensuring that valuable suggestions can be incorporated to make the systems even more effective and efficient.

Raipur News

'Path to Viksit Ch'garh runs thru fin transparency'

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister formally inaugurates 'Audit Day and Audit Fortnight–2026'.

Central Chronicle News



RAIPUR: To mark the completion of 166 years of the glorious journey of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG), Audit Day and Audit Fortnight are being organized across accounts and audit offices nationwide. In continuation of this, the Office of the Principal Accountant General, Chhattisgarh, Raipur is organizing "Audit Fortnight-2026" from November 17 to December 01, 2026. It was formally inaugurated today by the Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai, at the Community Hall (Auditorium) located in the Accountant General Residential Complex, Raipur.

Addressing the gathering, CM Sai said that the accounts and audit institution plays a vital role in keeping the financial system of governance strong. He remarked that every rupee in the government treasury is a public trust, and maintaining accurate accounts of it is safeguarding public faith. He referred to the constitutional significance accorded to the CAG under Articles 148 to 151 of the Constitution and mentioned the institution's motto, "Lokhitarth Satyanishtha" (Integrity in Public Interest). The Chief Minister stated that monthly civil accounts are now being prepared by the 10th of the following month instead of the 25th, which gives the government timely information on the state's financial position and allows decisions in the public interest to be taken quickly.

He shared that in financial year 2025-26, 100 percent reconciliation of receipts and expenditure and 100 percent receipt of utilization certificates for grants have been achieved, while 99.99 percent adjustment of advance bills has been completed. He also mentioned the e-Accounts and e-Voucher system across all 35 treasuries in the state.

Five audit reports in 2026-27 have been tabled in VS

Highlighting the major achievements of the office, the Principal Accountant General stated that along with preparing the state's monthly civil accounts, annual finance accounts, and appropriation accounts, the office carries out important tasks such as managing government employees' GPF accounts, final settlements, and inspecting treasuries. He noted that in May 2026, the VLC accounting system was migrated to the cloud, enabling monthly civil accounts to be prepared by the 10th of the following month.

Winners of CAG-ICSSR Research Article competition

Following the inaugural ceremony, the Chhattisgarh state-level winners of the CAG–ICSSR Research Article Competition 2026, organized jointly by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) and the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), were felicitated. Principal Accountant General Yashwant Kumar presented certificates to Chetna Singh (Ghanshyam Singh Arya Kanya Mahavidyalaya, Durg), who won first prize in the undergraduate and postgraduate category, and Pranab Kumar Sona (Hidayatullah National Law University, Raipur), who won first prize in the doctoral category. Both winners are to be awarded a cash prize of Rs 75,000.

State to receive four national awards today



RAIPUR: Chhattisgarh will receive four national awards from the Government of India for its outstanding performance in implementing the Pradhan Mantri Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) Scheme. The Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has selected the state, along with three Urban Local Bodies (ULBs), Bilaspur, Bade Bacheli and Dantewada, for the 'SVANidhi Samman Awards-2026'. Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs Manohar Lal will present the awards at a ceremony scheduled to be held on November 20 at the Dr. Ambedkar International Centre in New Delhi.

A team comprising senior state government officials, along with elected representatives and officials of the concerned urban local bodies, will receive the awards under the leadership of Dy CM and Minister for Urban Administration and Development Arun Sao. Congratulating the Urban Administration Department and the three urban local bodies, Dy CM Sao said that Chhattisgarh receiving four national awards under the PM SVANidhi Scheme is a matter of pride.

'Strengthening organisation our collective resolve'

Central Chronicle News



RAIPUR: Union Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs Tokhan Sahu addressed the State Working Committee meeting of the BJP Backward Classes Morcha held at the state BJP office, Kushabhau Thakre Parisar on Thursday. The meeting took place in the presence of OBC Morcha National President Amarpal Maurya and State General Secretary (Organisation) Karmaveer Singh.

Emphasising the unity, social empowerment, and organisational strength of the Other Backward Classes (OBC) community, Sahu stated that under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, the community has received representation at the nation's highest levels alongside respect, rights, and new avenues for progress. He noted that landmark decisions–such as granting constitutional status to the National Commission for Backward Classes, providing 27 percent reservation for OBCs in All India Quota NEET seats, and empowering states to prepare their own OBC lists through the 105th Constitutional Amendment–reflect the government's commitment to social justice. Highlighting the social fabric of the state, Sahu pointed out that Chhattisgarh is home to nearly 67 OBC castes. While individual castes may have distinct identities and traditions, their cultural heritage, social values, and collective interests remain united. He urged the community to rise above caste boundaries and make social unity its greatest strength, adding that true organisational power is achieved through the active participation and mutual coordination of every section of society.

He further remarked that the Bharatiya Janata Party is not merely confined to political activities, but serves as a robust medium for inclusive growth and nation-building. He called upon the OBC Morcha to act as a strong bridge between the party organisation and society. Congratulating State President Ashok Sahu and his team for their outreach efforts across every corner of Chhattisgarh to unite and raise awareness within the community, the Union Minister urged party workers to maintain continuous public contact.

NEWSLINE

Sports

CG secures 47-run lead in Vijay Merchant Trophy opener



RAIPUR: Chhattisgarh Under-16 made a commanding start to their campaign in the BCCI Men's Under-16 Vijay Merchant Multi-Day Trophy, securing a 47-run first-innings lead by stumps on the opening day of their match in Lucknow. After winning the toss and electing to field first, Chhattisgarh's bowlers dismantled the opposition batting lineup, bundling out Uttarakhand for just 87 runs in 33.4 overs. Aditya Baidwal spearheaded the bowling attack with an impressive five-wicket haul, while Chandra Prakash Sahu provided strong support by claiming four wickets.

COMMUNITY SPIRIT

Kasar community celebrates Lord Sahasrabahu Jayanti

RAIPUR: The Kasar community celebrated the birth anniversary of its revered deity, Lord Shri Sahasrabahu Kartavirya Arjun, with devotion, enthusiasm and a spirit of social unity. The celebrations featured several social welfare and community initiatives, including a free health check-up and medical consultation camp, providing healthcare services to visitors. A blood donation camp was also organised, with donors enthusiastically participating in the humanitarian initiative. To encourage creativity among children and youth, a rangoli workshop was conducted, featuring an impressive live rangoli depicting Lord Sahasrabahu Kartavirya Arjun.

Joint forum burn govt orders over delayed DA/DR hike

Central Chronicle News



RAIPUR: Expressing strong resentment over the Chhattisgarh government's decision to grant a 2 per cent Dearness Allowance (DA) and Dearness Relief (DR) increase from November 1, 2026, instead of January 1, 2026, employees and pensioners staged a protest outside the Mahanadi Mantralaya on Wednesday.

Under the banner of the Karmachari Adhikari and Pensioner Sanyukt Morcha, protesters assembled at Gate No. 3 of Indravati Bhawan, raised slogans and held a meeting before taking out a rally to the Mantralaya. They burnt hundreds of copies of the government order to register their protest and submitted a memorandum addressed to the Chief Secretary to the Executive Magistrate. The protesters demanded a revised order granting the 2 per cent DA/DR increase with effect from January 1, 2026, in line with the Central Government, instead of the November 1 effective date mentioned in the state government's October 30 order. They also objected to the delay of nearly ten months and the denial of arrears.

The meeting was addressed by provincial convener of the Employees' Officers' Joint Morcha Anil Shukla, Ministry Employees' Association president Chandrakant Pandey and others.

Appls invited for Sports Scholarships

RAIPUR: The Department of Sports and Youth Welfare has invited applications from the state's athletes for sports scholarships (Khelvritti) under the Chhattisgarh Krida Protsahan Yojana. Under this scheme, national medal-winning athletes from the state will be granted annual scholarships of up to Rs 75,000. The dept awards incentive amounts ranging between Rs 20,000 and Rs 75,000 to senior, junior, and sub-junior category athletes based on their medals to encourage sporting talent across Chhattisgarh. Eligible athletes can submit their applications until November 30. Under the Chhattisgarh Krida Protsahan Yojana, senior category athletes who secure first place in national competitions will receive a scholarship of Rs 75,000, while second and third place winners will receive Rs 50,000 and Rs 40,000, respectively.

| RURAL ROADS |

13 Officials suspended over Rs 19 cr corruption in roads

Central Chronicle News

Those suspended include three then executive engineers, six assistant engineers and four sub-engineers.



RAIPUR: Thirteen officials of the Chhattisgarh Panchayat and Rural Development Department have been suspended over alleged irregularities in the construction of roads and excess payments of Rs 19.17 crore under a central scheme in Bijapur district, a Cabinet minister said on Thursday.

Those suspended include three then-executive engineers and six assistant engineers, Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Sharma said, adding action was also being initiated against five retired officials in accordance with rules.

These construction works were carried out under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), a flagship rural road development programme of the Centre, and payments were made during the previous Congress government (2018-23), according to state government functionaries. Sharma, who holds the Panchayat and Rural Development portfolio, said an investigation into construction of 24 roads in Bijapur, a former Maoist-hit district, revealed work had remained incomplete despite full payments being released to contractors on the basis of false entries made on an online portal of the Centre.

"During the previous Congress government, officials and leaders believed Naxalism would never end and that corruption could continue unchecked. Roads meant to connect around 40 villages in a sensitive district like Bijapur were left incomplete, while their completion was falsely recorded on the PMGSY portal," he said while talking to reporters here.

The investigation conducted by a team of superintending engineers found that 24 roads in Bijapur district had not been fully constructed, although payments had been made to contractors in full, Sharma maintained. According to the probe, departmental online records showed nearly 218 km of earthwork, whereas field inspections found construction on only around 116 km, that too of substandard quality. "Excess payments of approximately Rs 19.17 crore were detected in earthwork, moorum (fragmented rock) and other construction activities," Sharma said.

OBITUARY

H K Sinha



RAIPUR: Hemant Kumar Sinha, R/o Kushalpur, breathed his last here on Thursday. The final journey will leave from his residence on Nov. 20 to Mahadev Ghat Crematorium at 10:00 am. He was S/o Late Magan Ram Sinha and brother of Tejram Sinha, Manoj Sinha, Kumbhkaram Sinha and husband of Khushi Sinha.

| NO PRIVATISATION OF SCHOOLS |

'State govt to retain 100% ownership of land, buildings'

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: The Chhattisgarh Government is set to take a significant initiative toward providing national-level quality education to children in rural areas and development block headquarters across the state. Under this initiative, 100 per cent ownership of the land, buildings, and other assets of these schools will remain strictly with the state government.

A proposal to operate 207 IGNITE schools across five divisions of the state under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model is currently under consideration at the government level. These include 103 primary and 104 middle schools.

The primary objective of this initiative is to provide quality CBSE curriculum-based English-medium education to rural children and prepare them for national-level competition. Leveraging a curriculum aligned with CBSE standards, teacher training, timely availability of staff, and the expertise of experienced institutions is essential, with the core goal of ensuring access to quality education. According to the proposal, IGNITE schools will be operated under the OMT (Operation, Maintenance, and Transfer) model.

Under this arrangement, the selected agency will be entrusted with the operation and maintenance of the schools for 30 years, with a provision for a maximum extension of 10 years based on performance. The state government will retain 100 per cent ownership of the school land, buildings, and other assets, and the name 'IGNITE' will also remain unchanged. Upon completion of the stipulated period, all assets will revert to the government without any compensation. Thus, this arrangement is not a privatisation or sale of schools, but an initiative aimed at better academic management and delivering quality education.

Protecting the interests of students has been accorded the highest priority in the proposal. All currently enrolled students will continue to receive free education up to the highest class in the respective school.

HIGHLIGHT

- Free education for existing students to continue; special provisions to safeguard interests of underpriviledged and deprived children.
- Proposal to provide quality education in 207 IGNITE schools of Chhattisgarh under PPP model.
- Rural and block-level children to receive CBSE curriculum-based English-medium education.



Bilaspur



"E-challan facility has been started in the district. Now the citizens can pay their traffic challan through the link send on their mobile phones."

Rajnesh Singh
SSP, Bilaspur

Income Tax officials raid steel trader's premises

Income Tax officials conduct coordinated searches at multiple business establishments and residential premises linked to a prominent steel trader in Bilaspur and Raigarh.

Central Chronicle News

BILASPUR: The Central Income Tax Department launched a major search operation early Wednesday morning at the residential and business premises of prominent steel businessman Jaiprakash Mittal in Bilaspur and Raigarh districts. The coordinated operation, which began before sunrise, covered several locations associated with Mittal's steel trading network and has attracted considerable attention within the state's business community.

In Bilaspur, Income Tax officials simultaneously searched Mittal's residence, Prakash Kunj, located in Vidyanagar, and several commercial establishments in the Vyapar Vihar industrial and business area. The targeted firms included Mittal Steel Ispat, Steelmart and Hanuman Hardware. According to available information, a team comprising more than 15 Income Tax officers and staff members reached the locations in six vehicles and immediately began examining documents and financial records.

The officials reportedly scrutinised business transactions, accounting records, bank statements and digital data available at the establishments. The search operation also covered records connected with Mittal's wider business activities in the Bilaspur division.

Jaiprakash Mittal operates an extensive steel trading network in the region. His business interests reportedly include a major industrial unit at Mohda in the Bilha area, besides several commercial establishments in Bilaspur city. He is also understood to have business connections with a steel company in Raigarh, where Income Tax teams reportedly conducted parallel searches to examine financial transactions and possible links between the establishments.

According to sources, the department initiated the operation following intelligence inputs regarding suspected financial irregularities in the business group's operations. Investigators are reportedly examining allegations involving possible tax evasion, unaccounted cash transactions, benami properties, fake billing and financial dealings through suspected bogus companies.



FASTFACTS

- More than 15 officials conduct simultaneous searches at Bilaspur business establishments.
- Raigarh premises also come under scrutiny over suspected financial transactions.

Findings not publicly disclosed

The operation was conducted under strict confidentiality, and officials have not publicly disclosed the findings so far. No final conclusions regarding alleged financial irregularities have been established. The actual extent of the suspected discrepancies and any further departmental action will become clear after the investigation and verification of the seized records are completed.

Restaurant's license suspended

BILASPUR: Continuing its crackdown on food establishments across the city, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) department on Wednesday suspended the license of Babuji Restaurant for seven days after finding food being prepared in severely unhygienic and unsanitary conditions. Treating the lapses as gross negligence, officials also ordered the restaurant to remain closed until corrective measures are completed.

The action was carried out under the ongoing 'Surakshit Aahar, Hamar Adhikar' campaign, during which authorities found kitchen arrangements and sanitation standards at the outlet unsatisfactory. The inspection team comprised Designated Officer R. R. Dewangan alongside Food Safety Officers Avisha Maravi and Prateek Tiwari, sending ripples of concern among hotel and restaurant operators across Bilaspur.

During the drive, the team also inspected Khas Turban Dhaba and collected samples of biryani rice and chickpea curry (chole ki sabzi). Both samples have been dispatched to a government laboratory for quality testing, with further action under food safety norms to follow upon receipt of the test reports.

Lab finds 3 dairy products as substandard



Central Chronicle News

Laboratory tests have detected lead in dairy products of three popular brands sold across Bilaspur.

BILASPUR: In a concerning development for consumers, dairy products belonging to Amul, Vachan and Govardhan have reportedly failed quality tests conducted by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in Bilaspur. Laboratory analysis detected the presence of lead in samples of all three brands, raising concerns about food safety and the possible health risks associated with their consumption.

The samples were collected during a recent quality inspection drive conducted by the FDA across the district. They were subsequently sent to Cali Lab in Bhopal for scientific examination. According to the laboratory findings, products from all three companies were declared substandard following the detection of lead.

Following the report, Vachan has formally approached the department seeking a re-examination of its sample. However, Amul and Govardhan have reportedly not initiated any procedure for retesting their respective products so far.

Health experts have expressed concern over the findings, pointing out that lead is a toxic heavy metal and its presence in food products cannot be treated as ordinary adulteration.

HIGHLIGHT

- FDA awaits referral laboratory findings before deciding further action against the companies.

NEWSLINE

ACTION

Increments of 8 lecturers withheld

BILASPUR: The School Education Department has taken strict disciplinary action against lecturers found guilty of serious negligence in evaluating answer sheets for the High School and Higher Secondary Board examinations conducted by the Chhattisgarh Board of Secondary Education (CGBSE). Under an order issued by the Directorate of Public Instruction (DPI), the upcoming annual salary increment of 141 lecturers across the state–including eight from Bilaspur district–has been withheld. According to the order, the concerned evaluators committed gross negligence during the evaluation of answer copies and entry of marks for the 2024 and 2025 board examinations, adversely affecting students' results. Treating the lapse as serious misconduct in violation of Rule 3 of the Chhattisgarh Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1965.

MISHAP

Youth dies after falling into well

BILASPUR: A 27-year-old man died late at night after accidentally falling into a well located in the backyard of his house at Sukulkari (Badekari) Gram Panchayat under the Pachpedi police station limits. The incident sparked grief across the village and left the victim's family devastated. Pachpedi Town Inspector (TI) Kamla Pusam stated that Prakash Bhargava (27), son of Dilharan Bhargava and a resident of Sukulkari village, stepped out of his courtyard around midnight between Tuesday and Wednesday to relieve himself when a sudden splash was heard from the nearby well. Hearing the sound, his parents rushed outside and searched extensively for their son before suspecting he had fallen into the well.

Half-Yearly Exams: Primary & Middle School tests from Dec 1

Central Chronicle News

Half-Yearly Exams Announced; Primary and Middle School Tests Scheduled from December 1 to 7 Question.



File Photo

FASTFACTS

- Question papers for Classes 1 to 8 to be prepared at district level; High and Higher Secondary exams to run until December 13.

BILASPUR: Administrative preparations by the School Education Department have gained momentum for the smooth and successful conduct of the upcoming half-yearly examinations across all government and private schools in the district. The official timetable has been released, and schools are finalizing examination arrangements accordingly.

Under the schedule, examinations for primary and middle schools (Classes 1 to 8) will begin on December 1 and conclude on December 7. In accordance with government rules, no examination fee is charged from primary and middle school students. Consequently, following last year's practice, question papers for Classes 1 to 8 will be prepared at the district level and supplied to schools along with answer sheets and other necessary examination materials.

High and Higher Secondary Exams Until December 13, Alongside primary and middle classes, half-yearly examinations for High and Higher Secondary schools (Classes 9 to 12) will also commence on December 1 and continue until December 13 due to the wider range of subjects. Because students in Classes 9 to 12 pay a prescribed examination fee to school management, authorities have directed respective schools to prepare question papers at their own local level.

| STAFF WELFARE |

SECR reviews staff welfare, healthcare, workplace issues

Central Chronicle News

SECR officials reviewed the staff welfare, healthcare and the issues at workplace.



FASTFACTS

- He stressed that better market management requires active participation and responsibility from every trader.

BILASPUR: The two-day Second Regional Permanent Negotiation Machinery (PNM) meeting of South East Central Railway (SECR) concluded at its headquarters in Bilaspur on November 19, under the chairmanship of General Manager Tarun Prakash.

The meeting, held on November 18 and 19, was attended by Principal Chief Personnel Officer Darshanita B. Ahluwalia, heads of various departments, senior railway officials and representatives of the South East Central Railway Men's Congress Union.

The meeting provided a platform for constructive dialogue between the railway administration and recognised union representatives to address employee-related concerns and improve workplace facilities.

Union representatives raised several key issues concerning the welfare of railway employees and their families. Discussions primarily focused on improving healthcare and medical facilities, besides resolving practical difficulties faced by ticketing staff in the discharge of their duties.

The meeting also informed that notification for recruitment to 410 posts under the General Departmental Competitive Examination (GDCE) would be issued shortly. Addressing the gathering, General Manager Tarun Prakash appreciated the union representatives for bringing employee-related concerns to the administration's attention. He reaffirmed the railway administration's commitment to the welfare of employees and their families, as well as providing better workplace facilities.

The General Manager discussed the issues raised with the concerned departmental heads and stressed the need for timely action to address employee grievances and improve facilities. Officials were also directed to examine the suggestions and demands and take appropriate action as per rules. Departmental heads presented their respective positions and interacted with union representatives on matters concerning their departments.

ARREST

Man held for assaulting trader

BILASPUR: City Kotwali police have arrested a man for allegedly abusing and assaulting a businessman after the latter refused to give him money to buy liquor. The accused attacked the businessman on the head and nose with punches and a piece of brick lying nearby before being apprehended and sent to judicial remand. According to police, Subhash Saraf (52), a resident of Gondpara, lodged a report stating that around 10:00 PM on November 17 at Sadar Bazar near Corona Chowk, Saiful Haq (30), a resident of Sadar Bazar, demanded money from him for alcohol. When Saraf refused, the accused began hurling abuses and assaulted him on the head and nose with fists and a brick piece. Following the complaint, City Kotwali police registered a case.

| INDEFINITE STRIKE |

CIMS nursing staff launches indefinite strike

Central Chronicle News

BIALSPUR: The workers demand Rs 4,800 grade pay, with other due facilities.ursing staff at the Chhattisgarh Institute of Medical Sciences (CIMS) launched an indefinite strike on Wednesday to press for their nine-point charter of demands.

Mobilizing under the banner of the Nursing Officer Association, regular, contractual, and daily-wage employees staged a sit-in demonstration and raised slogans under the shed near the CIMS gate between 12:00 PM and 1:00 PM.



Holding placards carrying slogans such as "Fulfill our demands," "Regularize daily-wage workers," and "Rs 4,800 grade pay is our right," the protesting staff expressed strong resentment against the government. Office-bearers of the association stated that despite repeatedly drawing the administration's attention to their grievances over a long period, no concrete decision has been taken so far, compelling them to take the path of agitation.

"Regular and daily-wages workers staged protest near hospital gate."

Agitators
CIMS, Bilaspur

With regular, contractual, and daily-wage employees joining the protest simultaneously, concerns have deepened over a severe disruption to healthcare services at the hospital. Key demands highlighted by the nursing staff include changing the designation of 'Staff Nurse' to 'Nursing Officer', increasing their grade pay from Rs. 2,800 to Rs. 4,800, initiating regular recruitment at the earliest to fill vacant posts, and regularizing daily-wage and contractual personnel who have been serving for an extended period.

Online e-challan payment facility launched in city

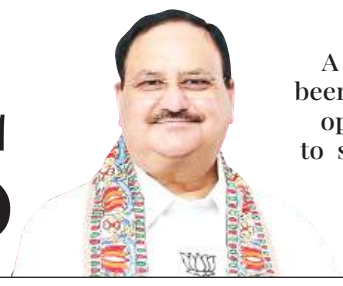
BIALSPUR: Motorists will no longer need to make rounds of the Regional Transport Office (RTO) to settle traffic fines, as the Transport Department has rolled out an online e-challan payment facility.

Through the e-Challan and Digital Traffic Transport Enforcement Solution platform of the Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, vehicle owners can now check challan details and pay fines directly from home.

Whenever a challan is issued, an automated notification is sent via SMS or WhatsApp to the vehicle owner's mobile number registered on the Vahan portal. The alert specifies the date of issuance, vehicle registration number, and instructions for paying the fine or registering a grievance.

Authorities have advised vehicle owners to either clear the challan or file a complaint within 45 days of issuance to avoid any hindrance in services related to their vehicle or driving license.

N-E-W-S



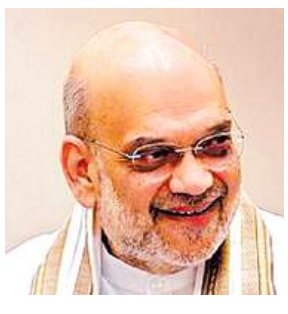
A separate licensing has been proposed for wholesale operation of bulk drugs, to support pharma supply chains."

Jagat Prakash Nadda
Union Health Minister

Shah calls for better coordination among agencies against terrorism

Home Minister inaugurates national conference focusing on cross-border terrorism and emerging security challenges.

Press Trust Of India



NEW DELHI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday inaugurated a two-day national anti-terror conference in New Delhi, organised by the National Investigation Agency (NIA). The conference is focusing on cross-border terrorism and strengthening coordination among central and state security agencies to address emerging threats to national security. The annual conference brings together senior police officers from states and Union Territories, central investigative agencies, security experts and professionals from legal, forensic and technological fields. Its objective is to develop a coordinated national response to terrorism through information sharing, institutional cooperation and improved investigative capabilities.

The discussions are being conducted under the broader whole-of-government approach, which emphasises cooperation among different departments and agencies. Participants are examining methods of obtaining evidence from foreign jurisdictions, using digital forensics and data analysis in investigations, and improving the management of terrorism-related trials.

The conference is also addressing radicalisation, espionage, emerging hybrid threats and the financial networks that support terrorist activities. Special attention is being given to developing future-ready counter-terrorism strategies and strengthening institutional capacities.

An important component of the conference is a capacity-building programme for state police personnel and practising professionals. It covers the application of new criminal laws in terror investigations, the use of digital evidence during prosecution, witness protection and effective trial management.

The programme will also discuss investigative challenges, legal provisions applicable to terror cases and measures to improve prosecution. Participants are expected to exchange experiences and share successful investigative practices.

HIGHLIGHT

- **NIA conference discusses digital forensics, terror financing, radicalisation and stronger investigative capabilities.**

J'khand cabinet announces relief for staff, pensioners



Press Trust Of India

The Jharkhand Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister Hemant Soren, has approved 41 proposals covering government employees' welfare.

RANCHI: The Jharkhand Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister Hemant Soren, has approved 41 proposals covering government employees' welfare, infrastructure, healthcare, irrigation and administrative reforms. One of the major decisions is a three-percentage-point increase in dearness allowance for government employees and corresponding dearness relief for pensioners and family pensioners.

The DA has been increased from 60 per cent to 63 per cent with effect from July 1, 2026. The decision will benefit employees covered under the Seventh, Sixth and Fifth Pay Commissions. The Cabinet also approved revision of the grade pay of 19 Welfare Department employees promoted from chowkidar to block welfare supervisor, increasing their grade pay from Rs 1,900 to Rs 2,400.

FASTFACTS

- **The DA has been increased from 60 per cent to 63 per cent with effect from July 1, 2026.**

NEWSLINE

NEW DELHI

MCOCA accused arrested in Delhi

Delhi Police have arrested a 36-year-old man wanted for several years in a case registered under the Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA). The accused, identified as Pardeep alias Anil alias Salamuddin, was arrested on November 17 following intelligence gathering, technical surveillance and field investigations.

According to police officials, he was allegedly a close associate of Mukesh alias Punit, the suspected kingpin of an organised criminal syndicate involved in murder, robbery and illegal arms activities.

PANCHKULA

Three arrested for passenger robbery

Panchkula Police have arrested three men for allegedly assaulting an auto-rickshaw passenger and snatching his mobile phone in the Mansa Devi Complex area. The police have recovered the stolen phone and the auto-rickshaw allegedly used in the incident.

According to the complaint, the victim, a resident of Indira Colony in Sector 17, boarded an auto-rickshaw from Singh Dwar towards Bhainsa Tibba on November 13. Two to three other persons were already travelling in the vehicle.

After covering some distance, the driver reportedly told the passenger that they would first stop near Ganesh Temple in Sector 5 for langar.

| EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES |

Gadkari highlights technology's role in creating employment opportunities

Press Trust Of India

Road Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari has called for innovation, entrepreneurship and digital platforms for generating employment.



NEW DELHI: Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari on Thursday emphasised the importance of technology, innovation, entrepreneurship and digital platforms in generating employment opportunities and addressing socio-economic challenges in the country.

Addressing the RIDE - Moving India Forward event in New Delhi, Gadkari said technological advancement could play a significant role in creating new economic opportunities, particularly for young people. He highlighted the need to encourage innovation and develop business models that generate employment while contributing to economic growth.

The minister stressed that entrepreneurship should be promoted as an important instrument for strengthening the economy and creating sustainable livelihoods.

NIA arrests railway blast accused

NEW DELHI: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has arrested Surinder Singh alias Thikriwal, an alleged supporter of the banned Khalistan Zindabad Force (KZF), in connection with the April 27 railway track blast in Punjab. He was arrested at Indira Gandhi International Airport in New Delhi following his deportation from the United States. According to the investigating agency, the blast occurred on the Dedicated Freight Corridor railway line between Shambhu and Rajpura stations.

| CASES AGAINST FARMERS |

Karnataka govt to considers withdrawing cases against farmers, Kannada activists: Shivakumar

Press Trust Of India



BENGALURU: Karnataka Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar has directed the Home Department to place a proposal before the State Cabinet for withdrawing criminal cases registered against farmers and Kannada activists involved in various public protests. The proposed move concerns demonstrations relating to land, water, language and farmers' interests. The development was disclosed by Congress MLC Dinesh Gooligowda, who said the Chief Minister had issued written instructions to the Additional Chief Secretary of the Home Department to present the matter at the next Cabinet meeting.

According to Gooligowda, approximately 193 cases were registered against farmers and Kannada activists between 2021 and August 2026. These cases are connected with agitations concerning the Mahadayi, Cauvery and Mekedatu river projects, agricultural laws, farmers' demands, protection of the Kannada language, border-related issues and employment opportunities for local residents.

| DEVELOPMENT |

Assam CM discusses economic development priorities with Finance Minister Sitharaman

Press Trust Of India



NEW DELHI: Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma met Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in New Delhi on Thursday to discuss the state's economic performance, development priorities and continued financial support from the Central Government. The meeting focused on Assam's ongoing development initiatives and the state's economic position amid changing national and international economic conditions. Sarma expressed appreciation for the Finance Minister's continued engagement with Assam and described her approach towards the state's priorities as pragmatic and supportive.

According to details shared following the meeting, the Chief Minister highlighted India's economic performance despite global uncertainties.

Cyclone Akvan intensified into severe storm



Cyclone Akvan has intensified into a severe cyclonic storm. It is currently centred over the west-central Bay of Bengal.

| AGITATION |

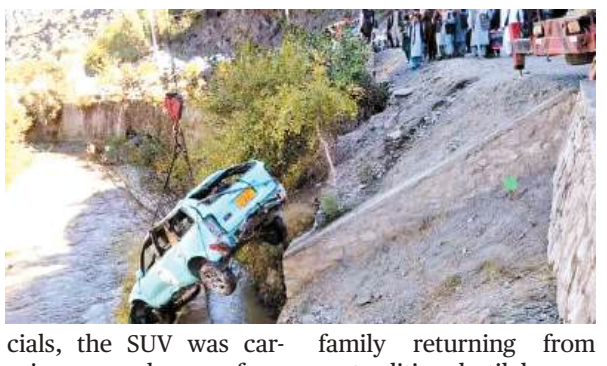
Punjab employees march towards CM House demanding pension and allowances



SANGRUR: Government employees and pensioners' organisations in Punjab planned a protest march towards Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann's residence in Sangrur on Thursday, intensifying their month-long agitation over pending service-related and financial demands. The demonstration was organised by the Sanjha Mulazam Manch and the Coordination Committee of Employees and Pensioners Sanjha Front.

| ACCIDENT |

Six people killed in accident as vehicle plunges into river



ARARIA: Six people were killed and another sustained injuries after a sports utility vehicle plunged into a river from a bridge in Bihar's Araria district late Wednesday night. The accident occurred at Beedi Bridge when the vehicle reportedly lost control while negotiating a sharp turn.

According to officials, the SUV was carrying members of a family returning from a traditional tilak ceremony organised in Bhaptiyahi village in the Sikti area. The occupants were travelling towards their homes in Thumaha village of Supaul district when the accident took place.

The vehicle fell from the bridge into the Mariya River within the jurisdiction of Tarabari police station.

| WELFARE SCHEMES |

CM Mann promises continuation of welfare schemes

Press Trust Of India



JALANDHAR: Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann has reaffirmed that the major welfare guarantees introduced by the Aam Aadmi Party government will continue as long as his party remains in power in the state. Addressing people during a Lok Milni programme at Donewal in Jalandhar district, Mann said his government remained committed to providing financial assistance, healthcare facilities, free electricity and other benefits to ordinary families.

Mann specifically mentioned free bus travel for women, monthly financial assistance of Rs 1,000 for women, health insurance coverage of Rs 10 lakh and free electricity. He maintained that these initiatives were intended to provide economic support to households and improve access to essential services. Mann also criticised the BJP, Congress and Shiromani Akali Dal, questioning their performance during their respective periods in power. He alleged that these parties had failed to address several longstanding problems affecting Punjab and were now making promises to regain political influence.

The Chief Minister said the present government wanted to maintain its focus on public welfare rather than become distracted by political criticism. He also highlighted the importance of development programmes and government assistance reaching eligible beneficiaries.

UP extends panchayat administrators' tenure

LUCKNOW: The Uttar Pradesh Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, has approved an extension of six months for administrators appointed in Gram Panchayats across the state. The decision was taken as part of 30 proposals approved during the Cabinet meeting.

The existing tenure of these administrators was scheduled to end on November 26, 2026. The government decided to extend their tenure to ensure administrative continuity until the necessary processes concerning local rural bodies are completed.

NEW DELHI

CISF foils airport security breach

Central Industrial Security Force personnel foiled an attempt by a man to forcibly enter Terminal 3 of the Indira Gandhi International Airport in New Delhi without valid travel documents. The incident occurred around 3 pm on Wednesday at the departure entrance, raising concerns over security at one of the country's busiest airports.

According to officials, the man attempted to push past security personnel stationed at the entrance and gain unauthorised access to the terminal.

GUWAHATI

Himanta targets Rahul Gandhi

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Thursday criticised Congress leader Rahul Gandhi over his remarks during a visit to the United States, accusing him of damaging India's international reputation through his political statements.

In a post on social media platform X, Sarma shared a video of Gandhi and took a sarcastic dig at his political ambitions. He said that if Gandhi could not win political battles within the country, he should at least avoid damaging India's reputation abroad.

The controversy followed Gandhi's address at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs in New York.



Negligence at any level within healthcare services will not be tolerated at any cost.
Santan Devi Jangde
Collector-MCB

Bilaspur Region

Collector reviews panchayat development initiatives

Collector Janmejay Mahobe held a meeting with the officials from the department of panchayat and rural development at the Collectorate.

Central Chronicle News

JANJGIR-CHAMPA: Collector Janmejay Mahobe chaired a comprehensive review meeting at the 'Sankalp' Conference Hall in the Collectorate to assess the progress of schemes and development works under the Department of Panchayat and Rural Development.

Zila Panchayat CEO Vinay Kumar Poyam, Additional CEO Nitesh Verma, Deputy Director (Panchayat) Baran Singh Mandavi, Janpad Panchayat CEOs and concerned officials attended the meeting.



The Collector reviewed major initiatives, including Viksit Bharat, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Gramin), National Rural Livelihood Mission (Bihan) and Swachh Bharat Mission. Expressing dissatisfaction over delays in rural housing construction, he directed the issuance of show-cause notices to concerned Janpad Panchayat CEOs, block coordinators and technical assistants. He instructed officials to complete ongoing houses within deadlines and submit a Gram Panchayat-wise report within one week on sanctioned houses where construction has not started.

HIGHLIGHT

- He reviewed the schemes and development projects under the department in the meeting.

Regular monitoring and timely assistance to beneficiaries were also emphasized. Under the Viksit Bharat initiative, officials were directed to identify farmers for Aajeevika Dabri construction, promote livelihood activities, achieve December man-day targets and prioritize groundwater recharge, Anganwadi and PDS buildings.

Pending girls' toilets must be completed within one month, while Muktidham construction should begin promptly. A five-year comprehensive development plan for Gram Panchayats was also emphasized.

GPM admn seizes 60 bags of paddy



Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: The district administration has intensified monitoring of paddy procurement at Minimum Support Price (MSP) for the Kharif Marketing Year 2026-27 to ensure transparency and prevent irregularities.

On the instructions of Collector Vijay Dayaram K., a joint inspection team conducted a check at the Khodri paddy procurement centre in GPM district on Wednesday. The team comprised the Sub-Divisional Officer (Revenue), Pendra Road, Food Inspector, Gaurela, and Agriculture Nodal Officer, Khodri. During the inspection, the team found that the paddy brought for sale by farmer Govind Singh Vakre, a resident of Khodri village, included summer and mixed varieties, which did not meet the prescribed procurement standards.

FASTFACTS

- On Wednesday, the GPM administration took strict action against paddy procurement irregularities.

ENCROACHMENTS

Authorities remove illegal kiosks

AMBIKAPUR: With the objective of improving traffic management and keeping the city free from encroachments, a joint team of the Police Department and Municipal Corporation conducted an anti-encroachment drive on Wednesday along Banaras Road. During the operation, illegal kiosks and unauthorized occupations were removed from the designated no-vending zone to ensure smooth traffic movement and provide better convenience to commuters and pedestrians.

PROTEST

Devgaon villagers stage protest

MUNGELI: Residents of Gram Panchayat Devgaon staged a protest at the concerned Electricity Department office under the leadership of Sarpanch Yogesh Patel and Janpad member representative Rajesh Sahu, demanding an immediate solution to several long-standing power-related problems. The villagers raised concerns over excessively high electricity bills, frequent voltage fluctuations and persistent disruptions in the rural electricity supply line. They also expressed dissatisfaction over the delay in installing a new transformer, stating that an application for the same had been submitted nearly 22 months ago but no action had been taken so far.

| MEMO SUBMITTED TO SDM |

Employees protest, submit memo to SDM

Central Chronicle News

TAKHATPUR: Following a state-level call by the Chhattisgarh Employees and Officers Federation, government employees and officers in Takhatpur Tehsil organized a protest rally and submitted a memorandum addressed to the Chief Minister to the Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM).

The employees raised two major demands. First, they sought a respectful resolution of the issues



arising from the Revenue Patwaris' agitation, including the immediate withdrawal of all punitive actions taken against them. Second, they demanded the release of the pending 3% Dearness Allowance (DA) and Dearness Relief (DR) from the same effective date as announced by the Central Government, along with applicable arrears. The employees expressed dissatisfaction over the delay in extending DA benefits to state government staff, stating that inflation affects everyone equally and equal treatment should be ensured.

Special Lok Adalat on Nov 21

SURAJPUR: In accordance with the directives of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA), New Delhi, and the Chhattisgarh State Legal Services Authority, a Special Lok Adalat will be organized on Saturday, November 21, 2026, under the guidance of the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Surajpur. The Special Lok Adalat will exclusively address pending cases related to cheque dishonour under Section 138 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881. Its primary objective is to facilitate speedy settlement of disputes.

| INSTRUCTIONS FOR PDS OPERATIONS|

Topno urges millers to clear stock

Central Chronicle News

MUNGELI: With the objective of ensuring the smooth functioning of the Public Distribution System (PDS) and uninterrupted rice supply to eligible beneficiaries, Collector Amrit Vikas Topno chaired a review meeting with rice millers and concerned departmental officials at Maniyari Hall in the District Collectorate.

During the meeting, the Collector reviewed the quantity of pending rice stocks yet to be deposited by rice millers in the warehouses of the



Civil Supplies Corporation (NAN). He directed all millers to deposit the outstanding rice within the prescribed deadlines.

Emphasizing the importance of the PDS as a vital public welfare scheme, the Collector stated that timely availability of food grains at Fair Price Shops is a priority of the district administration. Any delay in rice delivery could affect ration distribution to eligible beneficiaries and would not be tolerated. He instructed Food Dept and Civil Supplies Corporation officials to regularly monitor mill-wise pending stocks, review delivery progress and ensure timely deposits through effective coordination.

HIGHLIGHT

- Collector AmritVikasTopno held a meeting with the rice millers of the district at the Collectorate.

| PROUD MOMENT |

Two dist tops state in SVAMITVA scheme

Central Chronicle News

BALRAMPUR: Balrampur-Ramanujganj district has secured the first position in Chhattisgarh by achieving 100 per cent of its target under the Central Government's flagship SVAMITVA scheme. A total of 801 Records of Rights (property cards) have been prepared and distributed to beneficiaries across 160 villages.

According to the Superintendent of Land Records' report dated November 18,



drone surveys have been completed in 188 villages. Map-1 for 179 villages was received from the Survey of India, physically verified and returned, with no maps pending. Subsequently, Map-2 and Map-3 were received for 160 villages, and final publication has been completed in all of them. Based on these records, 801 property cards were prepared, uploaded online, signed and handed over to beneficiaries. No cards remain pending for distribution.

Collector Chandan Sanjay Tripathi congratulated the Revenue Department and officials and staff associated with the scheme for the achievement. She said SVAMITVA empowers rural residents by providing legal ownership documents for their houses and residential land.

| INSPECTION OF PPCS |

Collector reviews Gharghoda PPC arrangements

Central Chronicle News

RAIGARH: Paddy procurement at Minimum Support Price (MSP) began in Raigarh district on November 15. Collector Mayank Chaturvedi inspected the Gharghoda procurement centre and reviewed farmer registration, gunny bag availability, weighing arrangements, quality testing and basic facilities. He directed officials to ensure



transparent procurement and provide seating, drinking water and shade for farmers.

Farmers possessing an AgriStack ID and registered last year need not re-register or bring loan passbooks. Under the Krishak Unnati Yojana, eligible farmers will receive input assistance of Rs 13,839 per acre, even if they sell less than 21 quintals per acre.

To prevent illegal paddy transportation, 20 inter-state check posts and flying squads across 10 tehsils have been established. Farmers can also obtain tokens through the Tunhar Token app.

LISTS RELEASED

NHM releases selection lists

JANJGIR-CHAMPA: The National Health Mission (NHM) had invited applications for the recruitment of 148 contractual positions across 48 categories under various national health programmes at the district level. The Chief Medical and Health Officer (CMHO), Janjgir-Champa, has announced the release of merit lists, selection lists and waiting lists for 14 contractual vacancies related to the posts of Physiotherapist and Laboratory Technician. Candidates who applied for these positions can now check their respective results and selection status.

Collector reviews schemes, pending cases weekly

SAKTI: Collector Jayshree Jain chaired the weekly review meeting at the Collectorate conference hall on Wednesday and assessed the progress of various government schemes and departmental activities.

Reviewing paddy procurement for Kharif Marketing Year 2026-27, which began on November 15, she directed officials to ensure adequate



arrangements, including weighing machines, biometric devices, CCTV cameras, gunny bags and basic facilities at procurement centres. She also reviewed preparations for Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas scheduled for November 19 at Ambedkar Bhawan, Baradwar.

The Collector instructed all departments to implement the e-Office system and complete construction projects within prescribed deadlines. She reviewed Jal Jeevan Mission, PM Surya Ghar Yojana, health initiatives, PARAS portal updates and CM Helpline complaints. She also directed officials to expedite pending revenue cases, caste certificates, pension matters and public grievances.

Emphasizing accountability, she warned that negligence in priority government work would not be tolerated.

MLA Bhuran Singh Maravi urges to follow Birsa Munda's ideals

SURAJPUR: Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas was celebrated with great enthusiasm on Wednesday at Rangmanch, Surajpur, to mark the birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda.

Premnagar MLA Bhulan Singh Maravi attended the programme as the chief guest. The event showcased the rich culture, traditions and



heritage of tribal communities through colourful cultural performances. Meritorious tribal students and talented individuals were also honoured. Addressing the gathering, MLA Maravi recalled Bhagwan Birsa Munda's struggle against British rule to protect Jal, Jungle and Zameen.

He said his sacrifice and contribution continue to inspire generations to uphold tribal identity, unity and self-respect.

INSPECTIONS

Food safety checks done

SAKTI: The Food and Drug Administration has launched a 15-day special inspection campaign, 'Safe Food, Our Right' (Surakshit Aahar Hamar Adhikar), across Sakti district from Nov 16 to 30, 2026, to ensure the availability of safe and quality food. Under the directions of Deputy Director Pooja Agrawal and Designated Officer Ehsan Tigga, surprise inspections were conducted at roadside eateries and restaurants along the national highway on Nov 16. During the inspections, cooked dal samples were collected from Jaiswal Dhaba, Portha, while cooked rice, dal and paneer samples were collected from Atithi Shuddh Shakahari Family Dhaba.

| ALUMNI REUNION |

1971 alumni reunite at BR Sao School

Central Chronicle News

MUNGELI: A memorable reunion of the 1971 batch of former students was organized at PM SHRI B.R. Sao Government Excellence Hindi Medium School, Mungeli, in a warm and emotional atmosphere. Former classmates reunited after several decades, sharing cherished memories and expressing gratitude towards their alma mater and teachers. Former



Biology lecturer Dhan Singh Thakur attended as the chief guest. Distinguished guests included Anoopchand Baid, Saeed Ahmed Khan and Dr. Vinay Kumar Gupta, President of Bhawani Ramlal Dharmada Trust.

The former students recalled their school days, classroom experiences, teachers' guidance and lifelong friendships. Their conversations brought back memories of childhood mischief, discipline and the valuable lessons that shaped their personalities and careers.

A significant highlight of the programme was the initiative to preserve the school's historical legacy. Dr. Vinay Kumar Gupta compiled available historical records and information about the school's principals and teachers from 1965 to 1971.

Koriya approves toilets for 133 schools

KORIYA: Under the Viksit Bharat initiative, girls' toilets are being constructed in 133 rural schools across Koriya district, with an approved budget of Rs 5 crore 71 lakh 55 thousand.

Construction has been completed in approximately six schools, while the remaining work has been directed to be completed within the next two months.

Collector Roktima Yadav stated that clean, well-maintained toilets with proper water facilities are essential for the safety, hygiene and health of girl students. These facilities will help create a better educational environment.

Fun&Focus

IT'S QUIZ TIME

1) The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has introduced a 0.4% charge on certain UPI payments received by merchants. The charge will apply to transactions above what amount per transaction?



2) Which Indian state had a constitutional provision that allowed it to draft and maintain its own separate state constitution till 2019?



3) Who wrote the famous Kannada play Tughlaq (1964), which is based on the life and rule of the 14th-century Sultan Muhammad bin Tughlaq?



4) Which large seabird can spend years continuously over the open ocean without ever touching land, sleeping while gliding on air currents?



5) The liver is the only internal organ capable of significant natural regeneration. What is the name of the specialized cells that make up about 80% of the liver's mass?



6) After the abolition of slavery in the British Empire in 1833, Indian indentured labourers were sent to various parts of the world. Which was the first major destination for them?



7) Which Japanese concept means making continuous, small improvements to reduce waste and improve efficiency, and is closely associated with Toyota?



Answers- (1) 2,000 (2) Jammu & Kashmir (3) Girish Karnad (4)Wandering Albatross (5) Hepatocytes (6) Mauritius (7) Kaizen

RamaQuiz

SCIENCE WATCH

Baking Soda and Vinegar Volcano



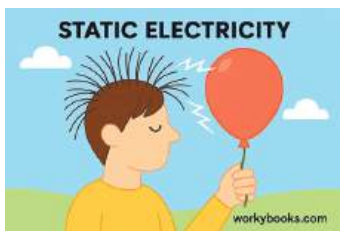
Mix baking soda and dish soap inside a container, then pour in vinegar to trigger a fast carbon dioxide gas eruption. Baking soda is a base and vinegar is an acid. When combined, they form an unstable liquid called carbonic acid, which instantly breaks down into water and carbon dioxide (CO_2) gas.

Walking Water (Capillary Action)



Line up clear cups with alternating water and food coloring, bridge them with folded paper towels, and watch the water travel to create a rainbow spectrum. This is the exact same way real trees and flowers drink! The roots pull water from the underground soil, and tiny tubes inside the plant stem carry the water.

Balloon Static Electricity



Rub a balloon against hair or a woolen sweater to charge it with static electricity, and then use it to bend a stream of tap water or attract an empty soda can. Static electricity happens when invisible tiny parts called electrons move from one object to another, creating an electrical charge on the surface of things.

TECHNOLOGY

THE FLYING ROBOTS - DRONES

Drones are **flying robots** with no pilot sitting inside them. They are controlled from the ground using a remote control, a smart phone, or a computer program.



How Drones Fly

1. **Spinning Propellers:** Most small drones are called quadcopters because they have four spinning blades or propellers
2. **Making Lift:** When the propellers spin super fast, they push air downward. That push sends the drone up into the air.
3. **The Tiny Brain:** A small computer board inside the drone acts as its brain. It uses special sensors to keep the drone balanced and steady.
4. **Rechargeable Batteries:** Drones run on batteries instead of gas, which usually lets them stay in the sky for about 20 to 30 minutes before needing a recharge.

TELL ME WHY?

Why do railway tracks have gaps between them?



Railway tracks have small gaps between them to give the metal rails room to stretch and grow when they get hot. Without this extra space, hot summer weather would make the heavy steel tracks bend and twist, which could cause trains to derail.

Every time a train's heavy metal wheels roll over one of these tiny gaps, it makes a rhythmic *click-clack* or *tak-tak* noise.

NOVEMBER 20-THE DAY IN HISTORY

1. November 20 holds several notable milestones in Indian history, including the day in 1902, when Mahatma Gandhi returned to South Africa at the request of the local Indian community to resume the struggle against anti-Asian laws.
2. Same very day in1917, the Bose Institute (J.C. Bose Research Institute) was established in Calcutta.
3. On this day in 1967, India launched its first indigenous sounding rocket, the Rohini RH-75, and in 1982, India's second experimental remote-sensing satellite, Bhaskara-II, was launched using a Soviet Intercosmos launch vehicle.
4. On November 20, 1923, Garrett Morgan patents his yellow-precursor traffic signal design.



Daily Horoscope

Aries

Elders need to put their extra energy into positive use to reap good benefits. Today, with the help of a close friend, some businessmen are likely to gain monetary benefits. This money can overcome many of your troubles. This is the perfect day to attract the attention of others without doing much on your side.

Taurus

You are likely to enjoy some sporting activity which will maintain your physical fitness. Bank dealing need to be handled very carefully. Love- companionship and bonding on the rise. Quite complicated life for romance today. Acknowledging you mistake on work will go in your favour. But you need to analysis how you can improve it.

Gemini

Use your energy to help someone in distress. Remember-what is the use of this perishable body if no use is made of it for the benefit of others. An old friend of yours can advise you on how to earn more profits in business today. If you follow his/her advice, you're definitely in luck. You will make favourable changes in your home environment.

Cancer

Keep your poise as you are likely to confront some difficulties otherwise-it may put you in some serious trouble. Especially control your anger which is nothing but a short madness. Real estate investment would be lucrative. People will give you new hopes and dreams-but lots will depend on your own efforts.

Leo

Support of highly influential people will give a big boost to your moral. Due to a function being organized at home, you will have to spend a lot of money today. This can negatively affect your financial condition. A favourable day for domestic matters and finishing pending household jobs. Today, you'll witness frustration clearly.

Virgo

Try to put your high confidence to good use today. Despite a hectic day you will still be able to gather back your energy. You may witness tremendous profit in business today. You can give new heights to your business today. Company of friends will provide comfort. You will have to forget the beloved as you confront with realities.

Libra

Your fondest dream will materialize. But keep your excitement under control as too much happiness may cause some problems. You will make money if you put your savings into conservative investments. Spend some relaxed moments with family members. Don't worry like ice your sorrow will melt today. The work you are doing today at office will benefit you in a different way in coming time.

Scorpio

Health needs care. Finances improve later in the day. Get everybody to your big party-You'll have that extra bit of energy today which will make you organize events for your group. Your love partner will surprise you with something really beautiful today. New proposals will be alluring but it will not be wise to take any hasty decisions.

Sagittarius

Try to improve your health and overall personality for a better life. It should be well understood that in the hour of grief, your accumulated wealth will only help you tackle the situation. Hence, start saving from today and avoid excessive spending. Visiting relatives would be much better than you might imagine. Your aptitude to learn new things would be remarkable.

Capricorn

Try to avoid rich and high cholesterol diet. You need to keep an eye on where your money is being spent; otherwise you may face problems in the coming times. Think before sharing your confidential information with your spouse. Those who were very busy for the last few days will finally get to enjoy their own time.

Aquarius

Cultivate a harmonious nature to kill your hatred because it is more powerful than love and deadly affects your body. Remember evil triumphs sooner than good. Control your tendency to live for the day and to spend too much time and money on entertainment. Grandchildren would be a source of immense pleasure.

Pisces

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. You will possess a desire to earn quick money. Negligence of your life partner may mar the relationship. Spend your valuable time and relive your sweet memories to regain your happy golden days.

APTITUDE TEST

Leo, Mia, and Sia have three pets: a dog, a cat, and a goldfish. Leo is allergic to fur, so he cannot have a dog or a cat. Which pet does Leo have?



A Goldfish B Dog C Cat D Cannot be determined

ANSWER - A - Goldfish.

EXPLANATION - There are only three pets available: a dog, a cat, and a goldfish. Leo cannot have the dog or the cat because he is allergic to fur. The only pet left without fur is the goldfish.

PHRASE FACT FINDER

"On the ball"

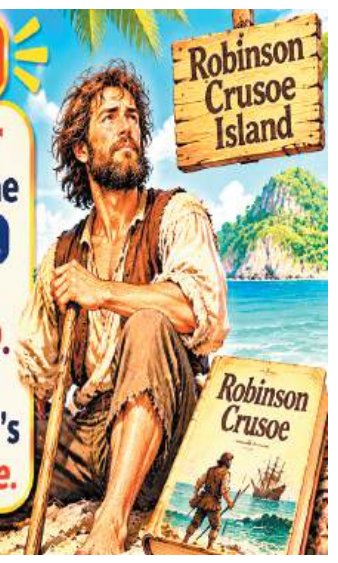
Meaning: Doing a good job, being on top of it

Example: "Thanks for the reminder – you're on the ball!"



FACT OF THE DAY

Scottish sailor Alexander Selkirk was marooned in the Robinson Crusoe Island, after quarrelling with his captain from 1704 to 1709. His over four-year ordeal directly inspired Daniel Defoe's classic novel Robinson Crusoe.



WORD OF THE DAY

Ebullient

Meaning - Cheerful and full of energy

Part of Speech - Adjective

Example - His ebullient gesture made him the hero in the crowd.

Synonyms - Exuberant, enthusiastic, lively

Antonyms - Depressed, apathetic, subdued



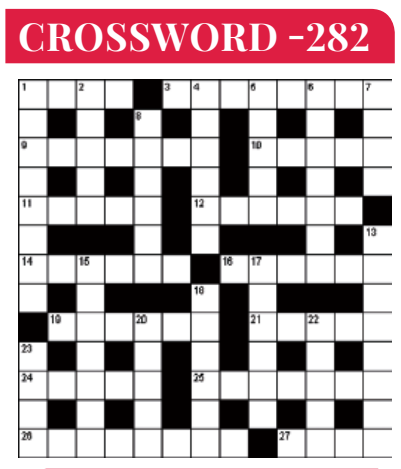
CROSSWORD -282

Across

1 Stinging insect (4)
3 Appraised (8)
9 Fishing vessel (7)
10 Stately, splendid (5)
11 Additional (5)
12 Leisurely walk (6)
14 Dam-building animal (6)
16 Farm livestock (6)
19 Send into exile (6)
21 Voracious fish (5)
24 Jousting weapon (5)
25 Spanish wine cocktail (7)
26 Height, elevation (8)
27 A smaller amount (4)

Down

1 Yorkshire racecourse (8)
2 Scarcely sufficient (5)
4 Accentuate (6)
5 Enigma Variations composer (5)
6 Brilliant red (7)
7 Extinct bird (4)
8 Gratify (6)
13 Monday to Friday (8)
15 Opposed (7)
17 Missing (6)
18 Pursued (6)
20 That is (Latin) (2,3)
22 Assent (5)
23 Parasitic insect (4)



CROSSWORD SOLUTION- 281



SUDOKU- 282

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

SUDOKU SOLUTION- 281

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

DAILY WORD SEARCH

- Blessed
- Friends
- Rejoice
- Concord
- Harmony
- Respect
- Content
- Healthy
- Romance
- Delight
- Holiday
- Wealthy
- Dollars
- Kindred
- Weekend
- Fitness
- Leisure
- Fortune
- Passion

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

Business



"India and Italy reaffirmed their shared target of achieving bilateral trade worth 20 billion Euros by 2029."

Piyush Goyal
Commerce Minister

Sitharaman holds meeting for budget preparation



Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman held meeting with Finance Ministry officials and stakeholders in New Delhi. for the preparation of next Union Budget

Piyush Goyal co-chairs India-Italy Joint Commission session in Rome

Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal co-chaired the 23rd session of the India-Italy Joint Commission for Economic Cooperation (JCEC) in Rome.

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal co-chaired the 23rd session of the India-Italy Joint Commission for Economic Cooperation (JCEC) in Rome with Italian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani.

During the meeting, both sides reaffirmed their shared target of achieving bilateral trade worth 20 billion euros by 2029 and discussed ways to strengthen economic cooperation, expand investment and deepen industrial partnerships.

The two ministers reviewed progress in bilateral economic and commercial cooperation and discussed measures to expand trade, investment and industrial partnerships. They reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening the India-Italy Special Strategic Partnership, building on the Joint Strategic Action Plan 2025-2029 and the outcomes of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Italy in May 2026. The discussions covered cooperation in automotive and aerospace industries, Industry 4.0, agriculture and agri-technology, connectivity, energy, critical minerals, science and innovation, culture and tourism, skills development and entrepreneurship. Both sides highlighted the complementarities between India's expanding manufacturing capabilities and skilled workforce and Italy's strengths in advanced manufacturing, engineering, machinery and technology. They encouraged greater participation by industry, joint ventures, technology partnerships and integration into global value chains. The ministers also welcomed the successful conclusion of negotiations on the India-European Union Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and discussed its potential to improve market access, boost trade and investment flows and strengthen supply chains.

NUMBER

20

- India-Italy reaffirmed target of achieving bilateral trade worth 20 billion euros by 2029.
- The two ministers reviewed progress in bilateral economic and commercial cooperation

Separate license proposed for wholesale drug pharma

Press Trust Of India

New licensing proposal aims to improve regulation and monitoring of bulk pharmaceutical distribution.



FACTFILE

- Proposed amendments introduce separate application forms and licences for bulk drug wholesalers.

NEW DELHI: The Union Health Ministry has proposed a separate licensing framework for the wholesale distribution of bulk drugs, marking an important step towards strengthening the regulation of pharmaceutical supply chains in India. The proposal seeks to introduce specific licensing requirements for businesses involved in the sale and distribution of bulk drug substances, including active and inactive pharmaceutical ingredients.

Under the proposed amendments to the Drugs Rules, a separate application form, identified as Form 19-BC, will be introduced for obtaining a licence to sell bulk drugs. Similarly, Form 20-BC has been proposed as the corresponding licence format for such wholesale activities. The proposed framework is intended to distinguish bulk drug distribution from other categories of pharmaceutical sales and establish a more clearly defined regulatory mechanism. Bulk drugs are essential components used in the manufacturing of medicines and play a critical role in the pharmaceutical industry's supply chain.

| GROWTH |

Public sector banks get huge profit in first half

Press Trust Of India

Public sector banks record impressive profitability, reflecting improved financial performance and operational efficiency.



FACTFILE

- Aggregate net profit crosses one lakh crore during first half of financial year.

MUMBAI: Public sector banks in India have recorded a 16.9 per cent increase in their combined net profit during the first half of the financial year 2026-27, taking the aggregate figure to more than Rs 1 lakh crore. The Ministry of Finance announced the financial performance on Thursday, describing it as a significant achievement for the country's public banking sector.

The improved results reflect stronger operational performance, better financial management and continued efforts by banks to improve the quality of their assets. Public sector banks play an important role in implementing government financial inclusion programmes, extending credit to businesses and supporting agricultural and rural development.

The aggregate operating profit of these banks also registered growth during the reporting period, indicating an improvement in their core banking operations. The performance comes amid continuing efforts by the government and banking institutions to strengthen financial stability, expand digital services and increase access to formal banking facilities. Public sector banks have been focusing on reducing non-performing assets, improving recovery mechanisms and expanding their lending portfolios. Their financial performance is particularly important because they account for a substantial share of India's banking network and serve millions of customers in rural and urban areas. The government has also been encouraging banks to improve customer service, strengthen digital payment infrastructure and extend institutional credit to small businesses and other priority sectors.

| GOLD PRICE |

Gold extends losing streak, sheds Rs 12,400/10gm

Press Trust Of India

Steel industry seeks fair trade and predictable policies

NEW DELHI: Gold's losing streak stretched to an eighth consecutive session, with prices declining by Rs 1,300 to Rs 1.34 lakh per 10 grams in the national capital on Thursday as a stronger rupee and growing expectations of a more hawkish US Federal Reserve kept bullion under pressure. The yellow metal of 99.9 per cent purity fell Rs 1,300 to Rs 1,34,500 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes) from Wednesday's close of Rs 1,35,800 per 10 grams, according to local traders.

In the past eight sessions, gold has lost Rs 12,400, since November 9, when it quoted Rs 1,46,900 per 10 grams. Silver prices also remained on a downward trajectory, falling to Rs 2,500 to Rs 1,62,000 per kg (inclusive of all taxes). The white metal had closed at Rs 1,64,500 per kg in the previous session.Spot gold and silver prices remained under pressure on Thursday as a firmer rupee pulled domestic rates lower," said Akshat Siddhant, Lead Quant Analyst at investment platform Mudrex.Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst of Commodities at HDFC Securities, said expectations of a more hawkish Federal Reserve policy stance continued to weigh on precious metals. In overseas markets, spot gold traded lower at USD 3,717.57 per ounce, and silver slipped to USD 44.92 per ounce. Gold traded lower in overseas trade on Thursday after minutes of the Federal Reserve's October meeting pointed towards further interest rate hikes. Meanwhile, the dollar climbed to a 19-month high, weighing on the precious metal, Siddhant said. Silver steadied around USD 45 an ounce after suffering a sharper sell-off on Wednesday, when it tumbled nearly 5 per cent to settle below that level, its lowest since September 2025.



BizBriefs

BEST OF THE REST

STOCK MARKET

Sensex jumps 990 points to cross 83000; Nifty reclaims 25,500 as auto stocks power rally



MUMBAI: The domestic stock markets witnessed a strong recovery on Thursday as benchmark indices rallied over 1 per cent, driven by gains in auto, consumer durables and banking shares. The Sensex soared 989.94 points, or 1.21 per cent, to settle at 83,021.75, while the Nifty advanced 286.35 points, or 1.14 per cent, to close at 25,514.30.

Commenting on Nifty technical outlook, experts said that the index closed on a strong positive around the 25,504 zone, forming a bullish candlestick after recovering from early weakness and advancing towards higher levels. "However, the 25,500 mark remains a crucial, and a decisive breakout followed by sustained trading above this level will be essential to extend the prevailing momentum towards the 25,800-26,000 zone," analysts stated. "On the downside, 25,400 has emerged as immediate support, followed by the 25,300 level," market experts noted. The rally was broad-based, with automobile stocks emerging as the biggest gainers. Maruti Suzuki India, Eicher Motors and Mahindra & Mahindra led the advances on the Nifty index.

Among sectoral indices, the Nifty Auto was the standout performer, rising more than 4 per cent during the session. Banking stocks also remained in focus, with the Nifty Bank touching a fresh all-time high of 63,053.25 before ending the day with solid gains.

CAPITAL

Fairfax arm gets controlling 44 pc stake in IIFL Capital

NEW DELHI: FIH Mauritius Investments, an investment arm of Fairfax Financial Holdings, has acquired a controlling stake of 44.06 per cent in IIFL Capital Services Ltd following the completion of an open offer and additional share purchases. With effect from November 19, 2026, FIH Mauritius Investments has become a promoter of the listed financial services company.

FIH Mauritius Investments, along with HWIC Asia Fund, a person acting in concert (PAC), has increased its shareholding in IIFL Capital through the transactions. The acquisition marks a significant development in the ownership structure of the financial services company.

According to a regulatory filing by IIFL Capital, Kalki Family Private Trust, acting through its trustee, and Ardent Impex Private Ltd, collectively described as the 'new sellers', have agreed to sell 30 lakh shares of the company to FIH Mauritius Investments.

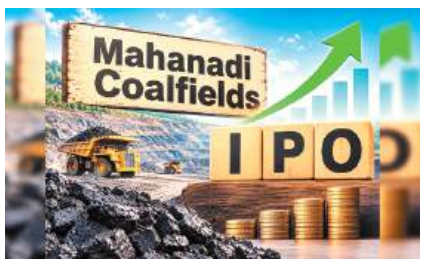
IPO

Foodlink F&B Holdings IPO to open on Nov 26

NEW DELHI: Foodlink F&B Holdings (India), which operates in the luxury food services segment, will launch its initial public offering (IPO) next week, marking its debut in the public markets. The company's maiden public offering is scheduled to conclude on November 30. Bidding for anchor investors will take place on November 25, according to its red herring prospectus (RHP). The company is expected to announce the price band of the public issue on Monday. The IPO comprises a fresh issue of equity shares aggregating up to Rs 192 crore and an offer for sale (OFS) of up to 88,35,382 equity shares by existing shareholders. According to the RHP, the company proposes to utilise the proceeds from the fresh issue to set up one new centralised kitchen and two new banquets. A portion of the proceeds will also be invested in its material subsidiary, Foodlink Global Restaurants & Catering Services LLC, to fund the setting up of four new casual dining restaurants.

MAHANADI COALFIELDS

Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd. IPO subscribed 38 pc on Day-1; Value crosses Rs 90000 cr



NEW DELHI: The initial public offering of Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd, a subsidiary of state-owned Coal India, received 38 per cent subscription on the first day of bidding on Thursday. The Rs 8,981-crore IPO attracted bids for 18,69,43,350 shares against 49,30,68,045 shares on offer, as per the NSE data.

The quota for Qualified Institutional Buyers (QIBs) was subscribed 1.26 times. The retail portion received 13 per cent subscription, while the non-institutional investors' segment was subscribed 8 per cent. Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd on Wednesday raised Rs 2,295 crore from anchor investors. The IPO price band has been fixed at Rs 129-136 per share, valuing the company at a little over Rs 90,000 crore. The issue will close on November 23. The Initial Public Offering (IPO), comprising entirely an offer-for-sale (OFS), will see promoter Coal India divesting a 10 per cent stake through the sale of up to 66.18 crore equity shares. Since the issue comprises only an offer for sale, MCL will not receive any proceeds from the IPO. The entire proceeds will go to Coal India, the selling shareholder.

The proposed listing is part of Coal India's broader plan to unlock value from its subsidiaries through the capital markets. MCL will become the third Coal India subsidiary to tap the public markets this year. Coal India has already listed Bharat Coking Coal Ltd in January, while the IPO of Central Mine Planning & Design Institute Ltd concluded in March. The company's shares are likely to be listed on the BSE and NSE on November 27. Incorporated in 1992, MCL produced 218.31 million tonnes of coal in FY26, accounting for around 22.4 per cent of India's total non-coking coal production, according to the Crisil report cited in the offer documents. It is also the largest coal-producing subsidiary of Coal India, contributing over 28 per cent to the state-owned company's total coal production in FY26. Coal India accounts for more than 80 per cent of the country's domestic coal output. SBI Capital Markets, Axis Capital, BOB Capital Markets, IDBI Capital Markets & Securities and IIFL Capital Services are the book-running lead managers to the issue, while KFin Technologies is the registrar.

Nation News

‘Wealthy India, poor sanitation performance’

Sanitation neglect undermines progress across other sectors.

Press Trust Of India



NEW DELHI: Flagging concerns over non-implementation of Solid Waste Management rules, the Supreme Court has said India is now a rich country but has poor sanitation performance.

Hearing appeals arising from orders of the National Green Tribunal concerning compliance with environmental norms by municipal corporations under the Solid Waste Management (SWM) rules, a bench of justices SVN Bhatti and NV Anjaria acknowledged that the first two phases i.e., kickstarting and putting in place the administrative mechanism for monitoring the implementation of the SWM Rules, 2026, are in place.

“The court notes that Bharat is now a rich country but has poor sanitation performance. The growth achieved in other fields is completely negated by the negative impact from this manageable dereliction by all the stakeholders,” the bench said in its November 17 order. The top court said there is a need to emphasise that poor sanitation and solid waste management affect the outlook of the society and country and there are instances where similar economies, within India and outside India, have succeeded in their sanitation and hygiene objectives.

“Our existing resources make it possible, albeit through unwavering implementation by the statutory enforcing authorities and adherence by the citizens,” it said, adding that the court after reviewing all the reports filed by the Supreme Court Monitoring Committee (SCMC), observes that each organ of the State has spun on its own wheel. “The cogs (citizens) that connect them must work towards the objective for realising good results,” the bench said, adding that the Constitution embodies separation of powers, as basic structure and the Parliament on its turn enacted the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, and the executive has framed the SWM Rules, 2026.

It underlined that despite the law and the rules in existence, the performance of the SWM Rules, 2016 and 2026, falls short of the objective set by the Parliament. “Therefore, this court, as a repository of the constitutional right to a pollution-free environment, through SCMC, has taken the arduous task of issuing continuing mandamus to the local bodies.

Renewable energy

MUMBAI: Amazon announced plans to investUS$7 billion in renewable energy projects in India by 2030, significantly expanding its renewableenergy portfolio and supporting the country’s transition towards a more sustainable and resilient energy future. This is in addition to US$4 billion already contractedin renewable energy investments in the country, making it one of India’s leading corporate purchasers of carbon-free energy.

Amazon also announcedfour new utility-scale wind and solar projects with a combined total capacity of 934 megawatts(MW). They include a 234 MW wind farm in Karnataka, Amazon’s largest wind project contracted in Asia to date; a 200 MW combined solar and wind project also in Karnataka; a 300 MW solar project in Madhya Pradesh; and a 200 MW solar project in Rajasthan.

Secured through Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs), the projects are part of Amazon’s existing US$4 billion contracted projects in India and,once operational, will have a combined capacity of more than 2 gigawatts (GW)—enough to generate electricity equivalent to the annual needs of more than 3.5 million Indian households.

JD(U) prepares for 2027 UP polls

Press Trust Of India

Party Strengthens Organisation, Assesses Contestable Constituencies.

FASTFACTS

- Part’s primary focus is on Purvanchal.
- Party to contest next polls as an NDA constituent.

NEW DELHI: The JD(U) has stepped up its preparations for the 2027 Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections, with the party assessing constituencies where it can contest and strengthening its organisation across the state, particularly in the eastern region.

While the party’s primary focus is on Purvanchal, the appointment of a separate in-charge for western Uttar Pradesh is aimed at organising party workers and exploring electoral possibilities in the region, JD(U) national general secretary and spokesperson Rajeev Ranjan Prasad told PTI.

The party is considering contesting the next polls as an NDA constituent. It announced its intention to enter the electoral contest at a party workers’ meeting in Varanasi on November 1, where Nishant Kumar, son of JD(U) president and former Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar, said the party would contest the elections as part of the NDA.

As part of its latest organisational reshuffle, the JD(U) has assigned Bihar minister Shravan Kumar the responsibility for Uttar Pradesh, while former MLA Ramesh Singh Kushwaha is the co-in-charge of the state. Dayanand Rai has been given separate responsibility for western Uttar Pradesh.

Prasad said Kumar is already handling Uttar Pradesh and the latest exercise primarily involves assigning responsibilities to office-bearers of the national committee constituted in April. “We can contest elections in Uttar Pradesh because an assessment is underway to identify seats where we can perform well,” he said.

He said the party’s focus is on eastern Uttar Pradesh, particularly the Purvanchal region, while Rai will help organise its workers and assess electoral prospects in the western part of the state. “Our focus is on eastern Uttar Pradesh, particularly the Purvanchal region. However, Dayanand Rai will look after the seats in western Uttar Pradesh. A large part of the Delhi-NCR region falls in western UP, and the party has a considerable number of workers there. They need to be organised,” he said.

‘Industries must address local pollution through CSR’

HIGHLIGHT

- Upgrade Infrastructure to Meet SWM Standards.
- Collectors told to identify bulk waste generators.

The bench said the industries cannot be heard to say that the pollution is generated at one place and the CSR contribution is made elsewhere. Pointing out several other flaws and issuing a slew of additional directions for compliance, the bench posted the matter for further hearing on January 12. On August 18, the top court issued a slew of directions for its management and disposal, saying the infrastructure for the purpose needs to be scaled up to meet the standards of the SWM Rules, 2026. The top court had said it is regrettable that across society, the general feeling is “I am entitled to generate but not to cooperate and control the impact of solid waste management at the threshold”.

NEWSLINE

KOCHI

‘Punish culprits’



Keralam Chief Minister V D Satheesan on Thursday expressed reservations over the verdict in the Ariyil Shukoor murder case and said all those involved in the crime should be punished, while acquitted CPI(M) leaders demanded an apology from the UDF, alleging they had been falsely implicated.

Satheesan, in a statement, said that the legal battle will continue till all the culprits involved in the brutal killing of Shukoor are punished.

The CM said that it was one of the most brutal murders in Keralam’s political history and a horrifying example of the “CPI(M) using criminals to eliminate political opponents”.

He said that Shukoor’s family members, who are victims of CPI(M)’s alleged political vendetta, have demanded an appeal against the acquittal of P Jayarajan, T V Rajesh and 16 others in the case and that they should get justice.

Sustained growth

MUMBAI: Airtel Payments Bank has crossed Rs 3,500 crore in annualised revenue, with its annualised EBITDA nearing Rs 500 crore, reflecting sustained growth and improved profitability.

Announcing its Q2 FY27 financial results for the quarter ended September 30, 2026, the bank reported revenue of Rs 875.5 crore, registering an 8.9% year-on-year growth. EBITDA increased 39.4% to Rs 124.5 crore, while net profit surged 139% to Rs 28.2 crore.

The bank continued to witness strong customer engagement, with its ‘Safe Second Account’ proposition gaining traction among users seeking a dedicated account for everyday digital payments.

Savings Bank Account Monthly Transacting Users (SBA MTU) grew 21.1% year-on-year to 31 million, while customer balances increased 10% to approximately Rs 4,385 crore.

| WINTER WOES |

Delhi weddings adapt to rising pollution levels

Press Trust Of India

Winter wedding season coincides with worsening air quality.



NEW DELHI: The flowers are in place, the menus finalised and the wedding outfits ready. But in Delhi, as the winter wedding season coincides with worsening air quality, families are adding another item to their celebrations checklist -- protection from pollution.

At a five-star hotel in Lutyens’ Delhi, wedding celebrations were in full swing in mid-October, with flowers, food and festivities setting the scene. But amid the elaborate arrangements, one family had an unusual addition to its checklist -- air purifiers.

“The bride’s family, who had travelled from Vancouver, Canada, was concerned about Delhi’s air quality and approached the organisers to arrange air purifiers for the residential wedding,” said Mohsin Khan of Vivah Luxury Weddings. For wedding planners, such requests are hardly unusual this season. And it is not just air purifiers. While only financially well-off families may be able to afford them, indoor celebrations, face masks and even masks matching wedding outfits are increasingly becoming part of the wedding season in the national capital, as pollution concerns begin to influence how families plan their celebrations, Khan said.

With November and December marking the peak wedding season, planners and banquet owners say families are rethinking everything from venues and catering arrangements to the comfort and safety of their guests.

“Most of the requests for air purifiers come from NRI families. Very few other families ask for them,” Khan said. Some families are shifting celebrations from open lawns to indoor banquet halls, renting air purifiers and opting for covered venues.

FASTFACTS

- Pollution Reshapes Delhi’s Wedding Celebrations.
- Banquet Halls Emerge as Affordable Alternatives.

LOST NOTICE

It is hereby informed to the general public that I have purchased House No. L.I.G. 377, situated at Deendayal Colony, Mangla Bilaspur (C.G.)-which was allotted by the Chhattisgarh Housing Board (छ.ग. गृह निर्माण मण्डल) in the name of the seller, Suresh Chandra Pandey, S/o Gajanand Pandey-through a registered sale deed.

The original registered lease deed of the said house was handed over to me by the seller, which got lost on the way from the District Court Bilaspur to Kududand Road while going home. Despite thorough searching, it remains untraceable.

Therefore, it is notified that if any person finds the said lease deed or has it in their possession, please inform immediately.

DATE: 18/11/2026

रश्मि यादव

Informant:
Rashmi Yadav
W/o Shri Satish Kumar Yadav
Address: Kududand, Bilaspur
Mobile: 7987541729

बैंक ऑफ़ बड़ौदा Bank of Baroda

Regional Office - Bilaspur, 1st floor, TR Complex, Rajkishore Nagar Branch, Lingiyadih, BILASPUR - 495006 (C.G.), PH: 07752-310229/ 310231, E-mail: recovery.bilaspur@bankofbaroda.com

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES “APPENDIX- IV-A [SEE PROVISO TO RULE 6(2) & 8(6)]

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to **Rule 6(2) and Rule 8(6)** of the Security Interest(Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower, Mortgagor (s) and Guarantor (s)that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **Bank of Baroda**, Secured Creditor, will be sold on **“As is where is”, “As is what is”, and “Whatever there is”** basis for recovery of dues in below mentioned account/s.

The details of Borrower(s)/Mortgagor (s)/ Guarantor (s) /Secured Asset/s/Dues/Reserve Price/e-Auction date & Time, EMD and Bid Increase Amount are mentioned below.

DATE AND TIME OF E-AUCTION: 24/12/2026 FROM 2:00 PM TO 6:00 PM

No.	NAME OF BORROWER(S)/ GUARANTOR(S)/ MORTGAGOR(S)	SHORT DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY WITH ANY ENCUMBERANCE	TOTAL DUES	RESERVE PRICE, EMD AND BID INCREASE AMOUNT	STATUS OF POSSESSION	PROPERTY INSPECTION DATE AND TIME
01	**Mr. Mirza Kaiser Beg S/o Mr. M. N. Beg And Mrs. Rukhsana Begum W/o Mr. Mirza Kaiser Beg. Both R/o.-** H. No. 216, Aashirwad Valley, Road no. 9, Bilaspur (C.G.) 495001	Equitable mortgage residential land and building bearing Kh. No. **43/1** and **43/2** admeasuring **980** sq. ft. "Ashirwad Valley" layout Plot No. **216** PH. no. 1, Mouza-Bodri, RNM- Bilha, Tehsil- Bilha Distt. Bilaspur, CG in the name of **Mr. Mirza Kaiser Beg** and **Mrs. Rukhsana Begam**. Constructed area:- Ground Floor **662** sq. ft., First Floor **606** sq. ft. **Boundary:- North:** Plot no. 217. **South:** Plot no. 215. **East:** Plot no. 209. **West:** Road.	₹ **19,29,437.06** + Interest + Other Charges	₹ **24,00,000/-** ₹ **2,40,000/-** ₹ **10,000/-**	**Symbolic Possession**	**23/12/2026 01.00 PM to 04.00 PM** (with prior appointment)

For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer/visit to the website link **https://www.bankofbaroda.in/e-auction.htm** and online auction portal **https://baanknet.com** Also, prospective bidders may contact the Authorised officer on **(077) 52310231/ (+91) 6232927350.**

Please note, for above properties which are under Symbolic Possession:

1. The sale is subject to confirmation by the Secured Creditor Bank.
2. Property is in Symbolic Possession and Bidder is purchasing the property in symbolic possession at his/own risk & responsibility.
3. Bank will hand over the possession of property symbolically only and successful Auction bidder/purchaser will not claim physical possession from the bank.
4. Bank will not be responsible or duty bound for handing over of physical possession.
5. Successful Auction purchaser will not be entitled to claim any interest, in any case of return of money.
6. Successful Auction purchaser has to submit the Declaration Cum Undertaking confirming the above terms & conditions immediately after e-Auction.
7. Subsequent to sale if successful bidder fails to submit Declaration Cum Undertaking, the Bid EMD amount will be forfeited.

Date: 20.11.2026, Place: Bilaspur (C.G.) **Authorised Officer, Bank of Baroda**

LIC HFL LIC HOUSING FINANCE LTD

LIC HOUSING FINANCE LTD.

RAIPUR Back Office: Usha Pride, 2nd floor,Vidhan Sabha Road,Mowa, Raipur(C.G) - 492001. Phone No. 0771-4075082, Mob: 8962870513, Website:www.lichousing.com

E AUCTION SALE NOTICE

WHEREAS the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of LIC Housing Finance Ltd (LIC HFL), under Securitization & Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 & in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (2) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 had issued Demand Notice to following Borrowers/Mortgagors/Guarantors calling upon them to repay the outstanding due amount mentioned in the said notices However The Borrowers/Mortgagors/Guarantors having failed to repay the said due amount, the undersigned has taken Symbolic (S)/ Physical (P) Possession in exercise of powers conferred U/s 13(4) and U/s 14 of the said Act read with the Rule 8.

This notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property have been mortgaged to the LIC HFL, the possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of LIC HFL will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" & without any recourse basis on **29-12-2026** , as per the brief particulars given here under.

Property 1 –Smt. Rukmani Devi, Loan No. - 120200004953

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY

Plot no. 280, Khasra no. 282/7, Mouza Uslapur, Ph no. 26, having area 1500 sq. Ft., RNM Sakri Vikaskhand, Tehsil- Takhatpur, Bilaspur (CG) 495001

Date of Demand Notice: **26/05/2025**	ACCOUNT DETAILS
Amt Demanded: Rs. 582240.00/- with further Interest, Cost and Expenses.	
Date of Possession(Physical)- 05/12/2025 (P)	Beneficiary Name: LIC Housing Finance Ltd.
Reserve Price - Rs. 13,50,000.00/- (Thirteen Lakh Fifty Thousand only)	Bank: Axis Bank, Centralised Collection Hub
EMD - Rs. 1,35,000.00/- (One Lakh Thirty Five Thousand only)	Account No: LHRP120200004953
Total Amount payable as on 20/11/2026 - Rs. 6,23,135.00/-	IFSC Code: UTIB0CCH274

Property 2 –Mr. Ashok Kumar Gidwani/ Ms. Sapna Gidwani/ Mr. Mohit Gidwani/ Ms. Pushpa Bai Gidwani, Loan No. – 120200007423/ 120200007424/ 8003020002504

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY

Plot no. 569, Khasra no. 1216/23, Hemu Nagar, Mouza Torwa, Ph no. 22/34, Ward no. 38, Shaheed Hemu Colony Nagar Ward, Sheet no. 14/11, Bilaspur (CG) 495001. Having area 1658 Sq. Ft.

Date of Demand Notice: **02/03/2026**	ACCOUNT DETAILS
Amt Demanded: Rs. 81,63,728.00/- with further Interest, Cost and Expenses.	
Date of Possession(Symbolic)- 18/06/2026 (S)	Beneficiary Name: LIC Housing Finance Ltd.
Reserve Price - Rs. 82,10,000.00/- (Eighty Two Lakh Ten Thousand only)	Bank: Axis Bank, Centralised Collection Hub
EMD - Rs. 8,21,000.00/- (Eight Lakh Twenty One Thousand only)	Account No: LHRP120200007423
Total Amount payable as on 20/11/2026 - Rs. 86,98,932.00/-	IFSC Code: UTIB0CCH274

Property 3 –Mr. Ashok Kumar Gidwani/ Ms. Sapna Gidwani/ Mr. Mohit Gidwani, Loan No. – 120200008252

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY

Layout Block no. A,Plot no. 38,Situated at Khasra no. 295/1 (Part), Dwarkapuram, Mouza Bodri, Vikas Khand Bilha, Diversion Sheet no. 08, Ph no. 01 Ward no. 03, Dr. Ambedkar Ward, Tehsil- Bodri, Bilaspur (CG) 495001. Having area 1258.38 sq. Ft.

Date of Demand Notice: **08/05/2026**	ACCOUNT DETAILS
Amt Demanded: Rs. 12,73,537.00/- with further Interest, Cost and Expenses.	
Date of Possession(Physical)- 27/08/2026 (P)	Beneficiary Name: LIC Housing Finance Ltd.
Reserve Price - Rs. 20,25,000.00/- (Twenty Lakh Twenty Five Thousand only)	Bank: Axis Bank, Centralised Collection Hub
EMD - Rs. 2,02,500.00/- (Two Lakh Two Thousand Five Hundred only)	Account No: LHRP120200008252
Total Amount payable as on 20/11/2026 - Rs. 12,81,390.00/-	IFSC Code: UTIB0CCH274

Property 4 –Mr. Chatrati Shiv Kumar Rao / Ms. Chatrati Reeta Rao/ Mr. Chaitrati Anant Rao, Mr. Chatrati Ashwin Kumar Rao, Mr. Chatrati Shridhar Rao/ Ms. C. Laxmi, Loan No. – 8003020001368

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY

Khasra no. 96/11, Mouza Deorikhurd, Ph no. 24, Vikas Khand Bilha, Bilaspur (CG) 495001 Having area 1580 sq. Ft.

Date of Demand Notice: **11/11/2025**	ACCOUNT DETAILS
Amt Demanded: Rs. 39,98,249.00/- with further Interest, Cost and Expenses.	
Date of Possession (Symbolic)- 19/02/2026 (S)	Beneficiary Name: LIC Housing Finance Ltd.
Reserve Price - Rs. 50,00,000.00/- (Fifty Lakh only)	Bank: Axis Bank, Centralised Collection Hub
EMD - Rs. 5,00,000.00/- (Five Lakh only)	Account No: LHRP8003020001368
Total Amount payable as on 20/11/2026 - Rs. 44,20,676.00/-	IFSC Code: UTIB0CCH274
Date and Address of property where documents can be inspected	Date: 22.12.2026 LIC Housing Finance Ltd. 1st floor, LIC Divisional office, Magarpara Road, Bilaspur (CG) 495001.
Inspection of the Property:	Date for inspection 24.12.2026, 12:00pm to 3:00pm
Contact person: Mr. Dewanand Dewangan	Contact Details: 8962870513
Contact details of E-Auction from the service provider	M/s. Arca Emart Pvt Ltd (Auctionbazaar.com) Officer Name : +91-7799830999 +91-8370969696 Email id:- contact@auctionbazaar.com, support@auctionbazaar.com E-Auction portal:- https://www.auctionbazaar.com/ Address:- 6-3-1090/1/1, I Floor, Part B, Uma Hyderabad House, Rajbhavan Road, Somajiguda, Hyderabad – 500082, Telangana, India
Last date of submission of Online Tender / Bid	Date 28.12.2026 & up to 5:00 pm
E Auction Date:	Date of auction: 29.12.2026 and time duration of auction:12:00pm to 3:00pm

*All other terms & conditions of the auction are mentioned as Annexure 2 in the Official Website - **https://online.lichousing.com/ eauction/**

Date: 20/11/2026 **Authorised Officer**
Place: Bilaspur **LIC Housing Finance Ltd**

Central Chronicle

Since 1974 Volume 14 No. 231

Comment

QUOTE FROM THE QUOTABLE

"Blind faith hinders progress; rational inquiry and intellectual courage drive humanity toward truth and understanding."

[Raja Ram Mohan Roy]

| OUR VIEW |

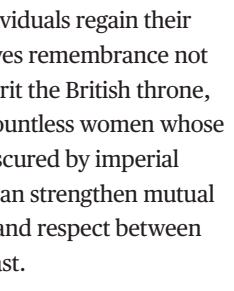
Royal ancestry reveals Britain's forgotten past

The discovery of Indian ancestry in Prince William's family tree offers more than an intriguing royal revelation. It opens a compelling chapter of British colonial history, exposing the complicated relationships between empire, identity, racial prejudice and forgotten family connections. Behind the grandeur of Britain's monarchy lies the remarkable story of Eliza Kewark, a woman whose legacy survived despite social discrimination and personal hardship. Born around 1790 to an Armenian father and an Indian mother, Eliza lived in the Bombay Presidency during the expanding influence of the East India Company. Her relationship with Scottish Company official Theodore Forbes produced children whose descendants eventually entered British aristocracy. Through Princess Diana's maternal ancestry, Eliza became Prince William's five-times-great-grandmother. Scientific evidence brought renewed attention to this forgotten connection. In 2013, researchers examining mitochondrial DNA from Diana's maternal relatives identified a rare genetic marker associated with South Asia. The findings strengthened evidence of the Indian origins concealed within Britain's royal genealogy. However, Eliza's story is not merely about royal bloodlines. It reflects the harsh racial and social divisions of colonial society. Although connected to a prominent Scottish family, she reportedly faced rejection because of her Indian heritage. Historical accounts suggest she was described as a housekeeper rather than receiving recognition appropriate to her relationship with Forbes. Following Theodore's death in 1820, Eliza endured financial difficulties while her daughter enjoyed a comparatively privileged upbringing in Scotland. Her subsequent appeals for assistance highlight the vulnerability of women abandoned within colonial power structures. Prince William's Indian connection presents an opportunity for historical acknowledgement. Recognising this ancestry would neither diminish royal traditions nor erase the painful realities of British colonialism. Instead, it could encourage a more balanced understanding of the intertwined histories of Britain and India. Importantly, speculation about why William has not publicly discussed this heritage should not be mistaken for established fact. His silence alone cannot establish his intentions. History becomes meaningful when forgotten individuals regain their rightful place in its narrative. Eliza deserves remembrance not simply because her descendant may inherit the British throne, but because her experience represents countless women whose contributions and suffering remained obscured by imperial privilege. Acknowledging such histories can strengthen mutual understanding, historical accountability and respect between nations sharing a complicated colonial past.

| GUEST VIEW |

Commercialisation threatens India's medical edu system

India's healthcare system faces a serious crisis, with an inadequate doctor-population ratio and an alarming shortage of specialists in rural areas. Despite the urgent need for medical professionals, hundreds of MBBS seats reportedly remain vacant, exposing deep flaws in the country's medical education policies. The growing commercialisation of medical education has made the profession increasingly inaccessible to deserving students from economically weaker backgrounds. Private medical colleges charge annual fees ranging from Rs 25 lakh to Rs 40 lakh, pushing the total cost of an MBBS degree beyond Rs 2 crore in some institutions. Such exorbitant expenses force talented students to abandon their aspirations despite securing admission through merit. The government's failure to implement effective fee regulations has further aggravated the situation. Recommendations made by committees headed by Dr Devi Shetty and Dr Ranjit Roy Chaudhuri deserve serious consideration to ensure affordable medical education. Moreover, graduates burdened with enormous educational debts may find it difficult to serve in poorly paid rural healthcare positions, worsening existing inequalities. Medical education must remain a pathway to public service rather than a privilege reserved for wealthy families. The government must enforce transparent fee structures, strengthen public medical institutions and ensure that financial circumstances never determine access to medical careers.



Dr Vijaykumar H K

Finding the Solution: From Panic to Purpose

Every problem, whether it is a classroom of distracted students, a stalled public project, a family dispute or a failing business, begins as an uncomfortable gap between what is and what ought to be. The real challenge is not merely to "solve" it, but to solve the right problem in a way that lasts. Research by the OECD describes problem-solving as the capacity to understand and resolve situations where the answer is not immediately obvious, involving stages of analysis, strategy, action and reflection. In an age of instant opinions and faster outrage, disciplined problem-solving has become a civic skill as much as an intellectual one. India's schools, workplaces and public institutions need citizens who can move beyond blame and slogans towards evidence, imagination and execution.

Name the real problem

The first mistake is treating a symptom as the disease. A student's poor marks may reflect weak study habits, anxiety, poor teaching, family stress or a language barrier. A traffic jam may be caused not only by too many vehicles, but by poor road design, unreliable public transport or weak enforcement. A useful discipline is to ask: What exactly is happening, who is affected, since when, and why does it matter? Strong problem-solvers gather information from more than one source, identify the issue clearly, generate options and weigh their consequences before acting.

Writing the problem in one precise sentence is a powerful start. Instead of saying, "Our school has discipline problems," try: "Incidents of conflict among Class IX students have risen during lunch breaks because supervision and constructive activities are inadequate." A clearly defined problem becomes workable; a vague complaint remains endless.

Separate causes from effects

Once the problem is defined, look beneath the surface. Root-cause analysis asks why a difficulty keeps returning rather than merely how to suppress it. A leaking roof can be patched, but if the drainage design is faulty, the leak will return after every monsoon.

The "Five Whys" method is simple: keep asking why until the underlying cause appears. Why are attendance figures falling? Because students are disengaged. Why are they disengaged? Because lessons do not connect with their realities. Why? Because teaching methods and content have not been updated. Each answer moves the discussion from blame to diagnosis. This approach also prevents the common trap of solving the wrong problem well. A brilliant solution to a misidentified issue can create new costs, delays and resentment.

Generate options, not verdicts

Good solutions rarely arrive fully formed. They emerge when people deliberately create alternatives before choosing one. The OECD notes that effective problem-solvers build a coherent picture of the situation, plan a strategy, monitor progress and critically review alternatives.

Use at least three lenses:

Prevent: Stop the problem from recurring, such as improving teacher training or designing safer intersections.

Mitigate: Reduce immediate harm, such as counselling a distressed student or deploying traffic police during peak hours.



Vadapalli Lakshmi
Blogger and Columnist

Transform: Change the system itself, such as revising curriculum design or investing in reliable bus services. Brainstorming should be separated from judgement. In the first stage, invite unusual ideas without ridicule. In the second, test them against evidence, cost, feasibility, equity and time. Creativity without evaluation becomes fantasy; evaluation without creativity becomes paralysis.

Test before you scale

The most convincing answer to a complex problem is not a speech but a small, measurable experiment. Pilot the intervention with a limited group, define success in advance, collect evidence and revise the approach. For example, if a school wants to improve reading, it should not announce a statewide programme on day one. It might test a structured reading period in ten schools for three months, measure comprehension and attendance, interview teachers and parents, then improve the design before expanding it. This is the essence of evidence-based governance: learn cheaply, fail safely and scale only what works. It also builds public trust, because citizens can see that decisions rest on results rather than assumptions.

Collaborate across differences

Most meaningful problems are too complex for one office, one expert or one ideology. Collaborative problem-solving requires people to describe the issue in shared language, agree on an approach and coordinate their actions. A city's waste crisis, for instance, involves households, sanitation workers, recyclers, municipal officials, businesses and urban planners. Each holds a piece of the truth. Solutions fail when consultation becomes a formality; they succeed when affected communities help design, monitor and improve the response. Inclusion is not merely ethical. It improves information. The person closest to a problem often sees constraints that distant decision-makers cannot.

Reflect, revise, repeat

A solution is not an event; it is a cycle. After implementation, ask whether the intended outcome occurred, who benefited, who was left out, what unintended effects emerged and what should change next time. Critical thinking involves questioning and evaluating ideas and solutions rather than accepting the first available answer. This reflective habit is especially important in education. Students should be taught not only to find answers, but to examine the quality of their reasoning: What evidence supports this claim? What alternative explanation exists? What would change my mind?

The larger lesson

Problem-solving is not a talent reserved for scientists, administrators or entrepreneurs. It is a learnable discipline of listening carefully, defining precisely, thinking broadly, acting cautiously and correcting honestly. India's future will depend less on the number of problems it faces than on its capacity to face them intelligently. The nations and communities that flourish are not those without difficulties, but those that convert difficulty into inquiry, inquiry into options, and options into accountable action. The next time a problem appears, resist the urge to announce a solution immediately. First, understand it. Then test it. Only then transform it.

Multilingual classrooms foster dignity & equality

Embracing children's mother tongues in classrooms strengthens learning, preserves cultural identity, promotes social equity, encourages community participation and ensures every child receives inclusive education. *By Sanjay Gulati, Sr. Specialist, Multilingual Education, Bhilai.*

When Every Child's Language Finds a Place in School, Education Begins with Dignity Rather Than Silence. Imagine a child who speaks with effortless confidence at home–telling elaborate stories, asking sharp questions, and navigating complex social relationships–yet falls completely silent the moment they step into a classroom. When the language of instruction is entirely foreign, this rich reservoir of knowledge becomes invisible. We must ask ourselves: Is the child unprepared to learn, or is the school system unprepared to understand the child?

This question lies at the heart of multilingual foundational education. Using a child's home language or mother tongue in the early years is far more than a clever pedagogical strategy; it is a fundamental driver of social change. It transforms how children learn, how teachers teach, how communities engage with schools, and how society values diversity.



From Silence to Voice: Learning as an Active Spark

Language is the primary lens through which young minds make sense of the world. In the foundational years, learning happens when new concepts connect naturally to what a child already knows. When early instruction takes place in a familiar tongue, children do not merely sit and listen; they ask questions, explain their reasoning, and debate ideas with their peers.

This approach reflects Lev Vygotsky's social constructivism: learning develops through meaningful social interaction. A familiar language provides the essential foundation for this dialogue. Rather than reducing early education to passive memorisation, it makes learning an active, joyful process. Crucially, mother-tongue instruction does not trap a child in their local context. Instead, it serves as a sturdy pathway–a scaffold that allows children to build strong conceptual foundations in literacy and numeracy, which then makes acquiring state or national languages like Hindi smoother and far less disruptive.

Protecting Dignity, Identity, and Belonging

A child's home language carries family heritage, local ecology, oral histories, and a deep sense of identity. When that language is banished from the classroom, a subtle message is sent: your world does not matter here. Welcoming the mother tongue reverses this sense of exclusion. It affirms the child's identity and asserts a simple truth: you belong here. True educational equity does not mean treating every child identically regardless of their background; it means providing each child with a fair, accessible starting point. F rameworks like the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and the National Curriculum Framework for the Foundational Stage (NCFFS) 2022 recognize this imperative, viewing linguistic diversity not as an obstacle to be overcome, but as a rich learning resource.

Bridging Disadvantage and Elevating Practice

When children are assessed in an unfamiliar language, differences in language fluency are frequently mistaken for differences in intelligence or learning capacity. Teaching through a familiar language allows teachers to accurately assess what a child actually understands.

This shift also transforms teaching practice. In classrooms where simple, contextualized Teaching-Learning Materials (TLMs)–such as local language conversation charts, big storybooks, and oral math games–are used, teachers can ask deeper questions and address learning gaps effectively. Even in complex multigrade classrooms, language-responsive activities keep children meaningfully engaged.

From Outsiders to Partners: Community Ownership

When schools honor home languages, parents–especially first-generation learners' families–are transformed from distant outsiders into active partners. Parents who may lack formal schooling can suddenly participate by sharing local stories, folk songs, agricultural knowledge, and environmental observations.

This shifts the traditional dynamic, demonstrating that valuable knowledge does not exist solely inside standardized textbooks. Local narratives about forests, seasons, farming, and animals become natural starting points for scientific inquiry, environmental awareness, and early mathematics.

Changing the System, Not the Child

The broader lesson of multilingual education is straightforward: children should not have to leave their linguistic identity at the school gate to access quality education. Schools must adapt to the child's reality while equipping them with the tools needed for the future. Multilingual education is not a silver bullet that will magically erase deep-seated social inequalities on its own. However, it removes one of the most persistent, avoidable barriers to equity and human dignity.

A society grows stronger when its children learn without feeling that their roots are inferior, when parents are respected as co-educators, and when a teacher's first question to a child is asked in a language that feels like home.

YOURLETTERS

Respect and humility define true leadership

A simple gesture at a road safety event in Kochi offered a meaningful lesson in mutual respect. When a young student police cadet presented a potted plant, her salute initially went unnoticed by the dignitary. However, upon spotting her raised hand, he immediately rose from his chair, smiled warmly and returned the salute. The thoughtful response highlighted the importance of acknowledging every individual, regardless of age or position. True leadership lies in humility, equality and respect for others.

K. Chatterjee, Kolkata

Philosophical thinking can build peaceful societies

Philosophy encourages independent thinking, introspection and understanding beyond conventional beliefs. Our thoughts shape our actions, while unbiased perspectives promote equality and harmony. Socrates emphasised recognising the limits of one's knowledge, reminding humanity to question assumptions before judging others. In a world divided by cultural conflicts and prejudice, philosophical reflection can strengthen mutual respect and peaceful coexistence. Observed on the third Thursday of November, UNESCO's World Philosophy Day encourages dialogue, understanding and shared wisdom to address global challenges through thoughtful reflection.

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.

Printed by **Sameer Maheshwari** on behalf of Ramgopal Investments Pvt. Ltd. at Navbharat Press, G.E. Road, Press Complex, Raipur and Published at Navbharat Bhawan, Near Bus Stand, Bilaspur, **Editor in Chief - Sameer Maheshwari.**
Editor: Sameer Shukla (Responsible for selection of news under PRB Act.) Phone: (07752) 224563, 230591 Fax : (07752) 405338, Raipur : (0771) 4911922 Fax : (0771) 4257703, Regd. No. CHHENG/2012/44065

Nation



"Corporate tax cut; zero tax on Rs 12 lakh earnings."

Narendra Modi
Prime Minister of India

AIADMK questions CM's silence on TVK high-handedness

On Thursday, AIADMK chief EK Palaniswami took a swipe at CM Vijay and his party's high-handedness in the state.

Press Trust Of India



CHENNAI: AIADMK General Secretary Edappadi K. Palaniswami on Thursday launched a sharp attack on the ruling TVK government in Tamil Nadu, alleging that the high-handedness of ministers, MLAs and party functionaries had crossed all limits within six months of assuming office.

Addressing reporters, Palaniswami questioned the authority of a state minister to conduct an inspection at a police station and criticised Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay for remaining silent on the issue. He demanded to know what action the Chief Minister had taken, alleging that no explanation had been provided so far. He also condemned an incident in Theni district in which TVK functionaries allegedly entered the Sothuparai dam premises and released water without official permission. Palaniswami said dams were protected structures and that irrigation water could only be released on the instructions of the District Collector or authorised Public Works Department (PWD) officials. Reviewing the TVK government's first six months, the AIADMK leader described its administration as inefficient and accused it of concealing actual performance data. Recalling the ruling party's earlier challenge to the public to assess its governance after six months, he remarked that people were now mocking the government's performance. Palaniswami further alleged that law and order had deteriorated significantly across Tamil Nadu. He claimed that incidents of murder, robbery, theft, snatching and sexual harassment were being reported regularly, with hardly a day passing without such incidents.

HIGHLIGHT

- He stated that all the ministers, MLAs and party functionaries of the TVK have crossed their limits within six months while in office.

Taking another swipe at Chief Minister Vijay, he criticised his failure to interact directly with the media during the past six months. He said previous chief ministers regularly addressed journalists and responded to public concerns. When reporters pointed out that ministers were answering questions on the Chief Minister's behalf, Palaniswami sarcastically asked, "Then why do we need a chief minister?"

Palaniswami also criticised Vijay for allegedly failing to raise Tamil Nadu's Cauvery water rights during his recent visit to Delhi for the launch of Congress leader Sonia Gandhi's book.

He pointed out that several senior Congress leaders, including Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and the AICC president, as well as Karnataka leaders, including Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, attended the event. He argued that Vijay should have used the opportunity to seek a meeting and raise the concerns of Tamil Nadu's farmers.

Emphasising the importance of the Cauvery River for the Delta region and drinking water requirements in 20 districts, Palaniswami recalled the 2018 Supreme Court verdict directing Karnataka to release 177.25 TMC of water annually to Tamil Nadu.

He alleged that Karnataka was releasing only surplus water while disregarding directions of the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA). He accused the Tamil Nadu government of failing to protect the state's water rights and safeguard farmers' interests.

Harassment complaint

KOLKATA: Former West Bengal ministers Bratya Basu and Indranil Sen have been named in a police complaint alleging attempted rape, sexual harassment, extortion and corruption through misuse of official position. A social activist lodged the complaint at Baguiati police station under the Bidhannagar Police Commissionerate, also naming several senior government officials.

Police have registered a general diary and initiated a preliminary inquiry to verify the allegations and examine the roles of those named. A senior police officer confirmed that the complaint is being investigated.

Basu previously served as Education Minister, while Sen held the Tourism portfolio. The allegations have triggered political and administrative controversy in West Bengal. Basu said he would respond after consulting his lawyers, while a former Chief Minister's Office official dismissed the allegations against him as an attempt to frame him. Sen, currently in judicial custody in connection with an alleged Durga Puja pass scam, has not issued an immediate response.

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

PROUD MOMENT

ICAR scientist Dr Anil Dixit honoured with gold medal for excellence in Weed Science



LUDHIANA: Dr Anil Dixit, Joint Director (Crop Health Research) at ICAR-National Institute of Biotic Stress Management (NIBSM), Raipur, has been honoured with the prestigious Gold Medal for Outstanding Contribution to Weed Science at the 4th International Weed Conference held at Punjab Agricultural University (PAU), Ludhiana. It was attended by 500 delegates from 10 countries. The award was presented during the inaugural ceremony of the four-day conference, being organised by the Indian Society of Weed Science from November 18 to 21, under the theme 'Technological Innovations in Weed Management for Climate-Resilient Sustainable Agri-Food Systems'. Around 400 delegates from across the world are participating in the conference. The recognition acknowledges Dr Dixit's contributions to weed science, integrated weed management and sustainable agriculture over more than 33 years of scientific service. A distinguished agricultural scientist, Dr Dixit has authored over 300 research publications, developed 20 weed management technologies and integrated weed management modules, secured three patents and led externally funded research projects worth approximately Rs 8 crore. He also played a key role in preparing the two-volume Weed Atlas of India. His contributions extend to tribal agricultural development, particularly in the Bastar region, where he has promoted improved farming practices, livelihood diversification and income generation. He was earlier honoured with the ICAR Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed Award for Outstanding Research in Tribal Farming Systems and the Noble Academician Leadership Award 2026. Through initiatives such as ICAR Farmers' FIRST and Biotech-KISAN, he has also supported technology-led rural development and additional income generation of around Rs 37,000 per farm family.

CORRIDOR PLANNED

Four-flyover elevated corridor planned on MB road to ease traffic

NEW DELHI: The Delhi government is planning an elevated corridor featuring four flyovers spanning more than 8 km along Mehrauli-Badarpur (MB) Road to ease traffic congestion in South Delhi. Officials said on Thursday that the Public Works Department (PWD) has received cabinet approval for two flyovers, while studies are underway for the remaining sections. The proposed corridor is expected to improve connectivity between Saket, Ambedkar Nagar, Khanpur, Sangam Vihar and Pul Prahladpur, significantly reducing travel time and easing traffic movement along one of South Delhi's busiest roads. The project has been divided into four sections. The first involves a 2.41-km flyover between Saket G and Sangam Vihar, where more than 50 per cent of construction work has been completed. The integrated structure is being built over an underground metro line by the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC). The second section is a 2.56-km flyover connecting Maa Anandmayee Marg and Pul Prahladpur. Construction has commenced and funds have been sanctioned.

ACCUSATIONS

Akhilesh Yadav mourns boy's death at Gorakhpur roadshow



GORAKHPUR: Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav on Thursday expressed deep sorrow over the death of a 14-year-old boy during his roadshow in Gorakhpur and criticised those politicising the incident, accusing them of hypocrisy. In a post on X, Yadav offered condolences to the bereaved family and said the party had already instructed its workers to meet the family and provide all possible assistance. He also referred to the June 22, 2026, Lucknow fire incident, in which 15 people lost their lives, accusing his critics of mistreating the grieving mother of a victim. The deceased, Aryavardhan Singh, was the son of local BJP leader Onkar Singh and a Class 10 student. According to his family, the boy was travelling to pick up his sister on Wednesday when he was allegedly struck by a JCB machine participating in Yadav's PDA Rath Yatra.

'Let us face each other directly once'



GORAKHPUR: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Thursday challenged Samajwadi Party (SP) chief Akhilesh Yadav to contest against him in Ayodhya, accusing the opposition leader of lacking the courage to face him directly. His remarks came a day after Yadav conducted a 20-km 'PDA Rath Yatra' in Gorakhpur, Adityanath's home district.

Addressing a programme in Campierganj, Gorakhpur, Adityanath said he was ready to contest from Ayodhya if Yadav also entered the electoral fray. He accused the SP chief of avoiding a direct political contest and launched a sharp attack on opposition parties.

Invoking the Ram temple movement, the Chief Minister criticised those who had ordered firing on 'karsevaks' and used force against devotees chanting 'Jai Shri Ram'. He alleged that opposition leaders were now remembering Lord Ram despite their earlier actions.

Adityanath also accused previous SP, Congress and BSP governments of promoting lawlessness, corruption and appeasement politics while neglecting employment, education, healthcare and farmers' welfare. He alleged that the SP-Congress combine had encouraged mafia elements and land encroachments.

| RASHID'S PLEA |

High Court seeks ED response on Rashid's plea

Press Trust Of India

On Thursday, the Delhi High Court sought a response from the ED on a petition filed by Baramulla MP Engineer Rashid.



NEW DELHI: The Delhi High Court on Thursday sought a response from the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on a petition filed by Baramulla MP Abdul Rashid Sheikh, popularly known as Engineer Rashid, challenging the framing of charges against him, jailed separatist leader Yasin Malik and five others in an alleged money laundering case linked to terror funding from Pakistan.

Justice Sachin Datta issued notice to the ED and scheduled the matter for further hearing next week. Rashid has challenged the September 9 order of the trial court directing the framing of charges against the accused. On October 24, the special court formally framed charges against all the accused under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), observing that sufficient material was available to raise a strong suspicion of their involvement in the alleged offence. The accused have consequently been put on trial.

FACTFILE

- Rashid has stated that the ED has framed false charges against him for laundering money.

According to the ED, proceeds of crime amounting to Rs 8.94 crore were allegedly generated, received, transferred, concealed, possessed and utilised by the accused through various channels.

Besides Rashid and Malik, the seven accused include separatist leaders Shabir Ahmad Shah, Masarat Alam, Zahoor Ahmad Shah Watali, Naval Kishore Kapoor and M/s Trison Farms and Constructions Pvt Ltd. The money laundering investigation originated from a 2017 case registered by the National Investigation Agency (NIA), in which charges were invoked under various provisions of the Indian Penal Code and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).

The prosecution has alleged that the accused received funds from the Pakistani establishment through hawala networks and other channels to promote secessionist activities and undertake activities against Indian law.

SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

Expression of Interest (EOI)

Advertisement for outsourcing of Pathology investigation for Railway Health Unit, SEC Railway, Manendragarh for three years.

Chief Medical Superintendent/SEC Railway, Bilaspur is inviting Expression of Interest (EOI) for Railway Health Unit, SEC Railway, Manendragarh. Reputed Pathology investigation Centre of Manendragarh city around 05 k.m. radius are invited for investigation facility to Railway beneficiaries on current CGHS rate (NABL / Non-NABL).

After receipt of EOI Railway will short list the offers as per laid down criteria. The centres fulfilling the pre-laid criteria will be empanelled accordingly. NABL/NABH accredited Centres will be preferred.

All willing Pathology investigation Centre of Manendragarh around 05 k.m. radius are requested to submit (Either in person OR by registered post) EOI in the prescribed proforma within 21 days of publication of this advertisement in the office of Chief Medical Superintendent, SEC Railway, Bilaspur on all working days between 11.00 hours to 17.00 hrs. The rates of investigations will remain un-changed for further three years and any revision of rate may be considered against revision of CGHS rates only.

The qualifying criteria, prescribed proforma for application and list of investigation tests are available in the office of Chief Medical Superintendent/Bilaspur and these can also be down loaded from the website of SECR in **www.secr.indianrailways.gov.in** from **20.11.2026** to **11.12.2026**.

Chief Medical Superintendent (in-charge)
S.E.C. Railway/Bilaspur

CPR/10/500

GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER
MAHANADI GODAWARI BASIN, RAIPUR (C.G.)

e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
eProcurement Portal: https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in

(1st Call)

System Tender No. :204039/NIT No.: 07/SAC/2026-27,
Chhuikhadan, Dated: 18.11.2026

Online Tenders are Invited for The Following Works up to 09.12.2026 at 17:30 Hour (IST) :-

Name of Work : CONSTRUCTION OF ANICUT CUM CAUSEWAY ON SURHI RIVER (BAGUR) IN BLOCK CHHUIKHADAN OF DISTRICT KHAIRAGARH-CHHUIKHADAN-GANDAI

Probable Amount of Contract : **Rs. 842.76 Lakhs**

The details can be viewed and downloaded online directly from the Government of Chhattisgarh Integrated e-Procurement Portal **(https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in)** from **Date 25.11.2026, at 17:31 Hours (IST) onwards.**

NOTE :- All eligible/interested contractors/bidders are mandated to get enrolled on the Integrated e-procurement portal **(https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in)** and get approval on specific vendor class from PWD under Centralized Contractor/Supplier Registration in order to download the tender documents and participate in the subsequent bidding process.

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
Water Resources Division, Chhuikhadan
for, Chief Engineer, Mahanadi Godawari Basin
Water Resources Department, Raipur (C.G.)

G-262704603/3

भारत सरकार
कारपोरेट कार्य मंत्रालय
त्वरित कॉर्पोरेट समापन प्रसंस्करण केंद्र (सी-पेस),
आई.आई.सी.ए. बिल्डिंग, 7वीं मंज़िल,
प्लाट P-6,7,8, से.-5, आई. एम्.टी. मानेसर, गुडगाँव,
हरियाणा - 122050.
Email: roc.cpace@mca.gov.in

सत्यमेव जयते

Government of India
Ministry of Corporate Affairs
Centre for Processing Accelerated Corporate Exit (C-PACE)
IICA Building, 7th Floor,
Plot P-6,7,8, Sector-5, IMT Manesar,
Gurgaon, Haryana - 122050.
Email: roc.cpace@mca.gov.in

FORM No. STK --6
PUBLIC NOTICE

[Pursuant to sub-section (2) and sub-section (4) of section 248 of the Companies Act, 2013 and rule 7 of the Companies (Removal of Names of Companies from the Register of Companies) Rules, 2016]

Public: ROC/C-PACE/STK-2/248(2)/2026-27/1897 **Date: 10/11/2026**

Reference:
In the matter of striking off or removal of names of (5) companies in the Chhattisgarh state under section 248 of the Companies Act, 2013 in respect of:

S No.	Work Item	CIN	Company Name
1	AC7384223	U31909CT2021PTC011899	MAHAGANPATI ENERTECH INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED
2	AC6020500	U43301CT2025PTC017286	MEGA WINDOWS INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED
3	AC5860003	U51909CT2022PTC013126	VILPURE FOODS PRIVATE LIMITED
4	AC6103788	U55209CT2021PTC012238	REDOLENCE RECREATION AND HOSPITALITY PRIVATE LIMITED
5	AC6100638	U27310CT2022PTC013395	KN STEEL AND ALLOY PRIVATE LIMITED

2. Notice is hereby given that the Registrar of Companies had received applications from the above-mentioned companies under section 248(2) of the Companies Act, 2013 for removal of its/their name (s) from the register of companies either on the ground that they have failed to commence business within one year of their incorporation or on the ground that the company(ies) is/are not carrying on any business or operation for a period of two immediately preceding financial years and has/have not made any application (s) within such period for obtaining the status of a dormant company under section 455 of the Companies Act, 2013 or the company(ies) have obtained the status of dormant company/subscribers to the memorandum have not paid the subscription which they had undertaken to pay at the time of incorporation of a company and a declaration to this effect has not been filed within one hundred and eighty days of its incorporation under subsection (1) of section 10A/have not been carrying on any business or operations, as revealed after the physical verification carried out under sub-section (9) of section 12, but it/they do not wish to continue its/their registration as companies and have, therefore, requested for removal/strike off of its/their names from the register of companies.
3. Accordingly, the Registrar of Companies proposes to remove or strike off the names of the above-mentioned companies from the Register of Companies.
4. Any person objecting to the proposed removal or striking off name of the companies from the register of companies may send his or her objection to the office address mentioned here above within thirty days from the date of publication of this notice.

Raunak Agrawal
Deputy Registrar
Centre for Processing Accelerated Corporate Exit

CBC 07123/11/0795/2627

"I had to get into that headspace... I studied the character and his nuances, watched documentaries, studied journalists and their lives, which all helped in bringing Arjun Pathak to life."

Kartik Aaryan



&Glitters

OTT Watch



Tabu set for Netflix series Tunnel Men

Actress Tabu joins YRF Entertainment's upcoming Netflix series Tunnel Men, inspired by the 2023 Uttarakhand tunnel rescue. The fictionalised drama will explore resilience, teamwork and hope, with Shiv Rawail serving as showrunner.



Panchayat Season 5 sets release date

Prime Video announced that Panchayat Season 5 will premiere on December 3. Returning to Phulera, the new season features Jitendra Kumar, Neena Gupta and Raghubir Yadav, with fresh rivalries, village politics and unexpected developments.



Campus Diaries returns with more drama

Nawazuddin Siddiqui and Dia Mirza star in JioHotstar's upcoming medical drama Dr. Hassan, an Indian adaptation of House MD. The teaser introduces an unconventional doctor, with the series set to premiere on December 11.

Hungama and T-Series launch FastTV

Hungama and T-Series have partnered to launch FastTV, a mobile-first micro-drama platform, with a Rs 300 crore investment. The venture will offer original stories across genres and languages, supported by AI-powered production and localisation technology.



Raghu Ram rejoins Roadies after years

Raghu Ram returns to Roadies after 12 years with its latest season, Roadies Rebirth. Returning as host with special powers, he promises a major format shake-up, calling his comeback his personal rebirth and a fresh beginning.

CLOSE UP

Shraddha trains hard mastering Lavani for 'Eetha'

Shraddha Kapoor embraces the challenging world of Lavani for her upcoming film.

Central Chronicle News

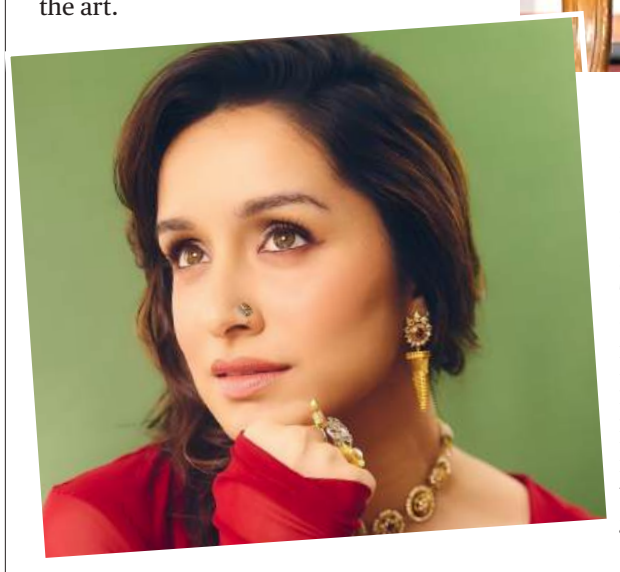
The actor reveals her rigorous training, heavy ghungroos and emotional preparation.



Eetha arrives in cinemas on December 4.



Actor Shraddha Kapoor is preparing to portray legendary Marathi Lavani and Tamasha performer Vithabai Narayangaonkar in her upcoming film Eetha. The actor recently opened up about the challenges of learning the traditional dance form, her rehearsals and experiences that helped her understand the character. At the launch of the song Ji Ji Re Ji at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi, Shraddha revealed that she had no prior knowledge of Lavani when she signed the film. Directed by Laxman Utekar, the biographical drama required her to attend workshops and interact with experienced artists to understand the dance form and its cultural significance. Shraddha described Lavani as beautiful but difficult to master. During her preparation, she met several performers, including veteran artist Shakuntala, whose guidance helped her understand the emotional depth of the art.



She explained that Lavani is not just about dance movements but also facial expressions that communicate performers' experiences. The lives of Tamasha artists have been challenging, and their performances reflect both pain and happiness. The physical demands of the role were equally challenging. Shraddha practised wearing four-kilogram ghungroos on each ankle, which tested her stamina and resulted in an on-set injury that temporarily paused filming. Director Laxman Utekar arranged two to three weeks of intensive rehearsals before every song to help her perfect the performance.

When asked about choosing women-centric films, Shraddha said her priority remains finding exceptional stories and meaningful characters.

CineBriefs

BEST OF THE REST

Bollywood

Ali Fazal lands major international project

Ali Fazal has landed another major international project, headlining a five-part adaptation of E.M. Forster's acclaimed novel A Passage to India. Directed and written by Emmy-winning filmmaker Richie Mehta, the series is being developed for BBC and CBC. Ali will portray Dr Aziz, an Indian physician navigating colonial-era tensions in 1920s India. The ensemble cast includes Tom Mison, Fiona Shaw, Naseeruddin Shah, Shahana Goswami, Gwilym Lee, Clare Hughes and Danish Hussain. Filmed in India, the series explores cultural divisions, prejudice and justice, marking another significant milestone in Ali's growing international career.

Web Series

Dhai Chaal brings campus politics into focus

JioHotstar has released the trailer of its upcoming student political drama Dhai Chaal, starring Gagan Arora and Aadil Zafar Khan. Created by Ritesh Shah and adapted from Navin Chaudhary's novels Janta Store and Dhai Chaal, the series explores campus rivalries, shifting loyalties and power struggles extending into state politics. The story follows Mayur Bhardwaj, whose entry into student politics brings him into conflict with his former mentor, Raghvendra Sharma. The ensemble cast also features Ankit Siwach, Rajesh Kumar, Paritosh Sand, Anjali Tartari and Rishika Lorke. Dhai Chaal will begin streaming on JioHotstar on November 27, with episodes premiering on Colors every Saturday and Sunday at 8 PM.

The bollywood hot pair

Rohit Sharma says wife dances better than him



Cricketer Rohit Sharma recently shared a candid family anecdote, admitting that his wife is a better dancer than him. Appearing on Sony Entertainment Television's Family Full House with Rohit Sharma, he spoke about his family's love for the song Dholida. Rohit revealed that the track is his two-year-old son's favourite. Recalling his son's annual day function at school last year, he shared that his wife and son had performed together on the song. Watching their performance on stage made Rohit want to join them too. However, he jokingly admitted, "Main apni biwi se achha dance nahi karta hoon yaar," acknowledging his wife's superior dancing skills.

Fashion

Simone Ashley's lehenga is a heritage tribute



Simone Ashley made a striking appearance at the 2026 Earthshot Prize Awards in Mumbai, wearing a custom golden lehenga by Manish Malhotra in collaboration with Swadesh. Celebrating her Tamil heritage, the ensemble featured Kanjeevaram silk woven in Kanchipuram over approximately 750 hours using traditional techniques and real gold zari. Intricate Zardozi embroidery, colourful gemstones and jewellery-inspired detailing added richness to the outfit.

| SMALL SCREEN |

Shraddha recalls shooting with Gaurav 13 years ago

Central Chronicle News



Dil Ki Bewafaiyaan is set to premiere on November 24

HIGHLIGHT

- **Shraddha Arya and Gaurav Khanna finally share television screens together.**

Actress Shraddha Arya has revealed that she had shot a mock with her upcoming television co-star Gaurav Khanna nearly 13 years ago. The actors are now coming together for the first time on television in Dil Ki Bewafaiyaan, a romantic family drama produced by Ektaa Kapoor's Balaji Telefilms.

Recalling their earlier encounter, Shraddha said they had auditioned together for a project on another channel. Gaurav was among the final choices, but things did not work out, and she was eventually paired with another actor. Interestingly, neither remembered the mock shoot when they met for their current show. Someone from the team later reminded them about their previous association. Reflecting on their reunion, Shraddha said, "I feel cheezein apne sahi waqt par hi hoti hain." She added that although they could have worked together 13 years ago, perhaps this was the story they were meant to do together. According to the actress, when something is destined to happen, it eventually finds its way. Shraddha also expressed happiness about sharing the screen with Gaurav at this stage of their careers. She said the excitement among fans about their pairing has made the experience special and that she is looking forward to audiences watching them together.

Trending on Insta



@diljitdosanjh

Diljit Dosanjh shares glimpses of spiritual visit

Punjabi singer-actor Diljit Dosanjh visited Gujarat's Girnar Parvat, sharing glimpses of his spiritual outing. He trekked with his team, took a cable car, expressed his wish to climb stairs and offered prayers at the temple.

@rashathadani

Raashii Khanna shares her workout mantra

Actress Rasha Thadani shared a belated Diwali photo dump featuring family moments, festive pictures and throwback memories. Her 20-picture carousel also caught attention for an unusual food combination: pasta with papad, which she happily enjoyed.



I am thankful to the faculty and hands-on-training on different subjects by the University staff. Adarsh Pandey- Adarsh Pandey- Ex-Student- ICFAI University Raipur

Adarsh Pandey



Scholar

COLLEGE CAMPUS

The Risks of Seeking Truth: Why Has Journalism Become Such a Challenge?



Dr. Vijay Garg
Retired Principal
Eminent Educationist

Campus Calling
THE FIRST LECTURE

Independent and safe journalism is essential for a strong democracy.

Journalism is considered the fourth pillar of democracy. Its primary purpose is to inform society about the truth, question those in power and provide a platform for the voices of ordinary citizens. However, in many countries around the world, journalism is increasingly becoming a risky profession. Journalists who attempt to expose the truth face threats, physical attacks, legal pressure, censorship and, in some cases, even death.

The greatest responsibility of journalism is to question those in power and present facts before society. When journalists investigate corruption, crime, human rights violations, wars and political irregularities, influential individuals sometimes perceive them as obstacles to their interests. As a result, pressure is exerted on journalists, and attempts are made to restrict their freedom.

Working in conflict zones is particularly dangerous for journalists. They risk their lives to bring the realities of violence, conflict and humanitarian crises to the attention of the world. Many journalists are killed, injured or go missing while reporting. Similarly, investigative journalists often receive serious threats from individuals and groups associated with organised crime, corruption and political interests.

The digital age has created new challenges for journalism. On social media, journalists face trolling, online harassment, character assassination and false allegations. Women journalists are particularly targeted with abusive comments and online threats. Moreover, fake news, misinformation and artificially generated content have made it increasingly difficult to maintain public trust in journalism.

However, external threats are not the only challenges facing journalism. Media organisations are also under growing pressure from commercial interests, advertisers and political influences.

In the race for TRPs and online clicks, sensational presentation sometimes replaces factual reporting. Maintaining impartiality, independence and journalistic ethics has therefore become increasingly difficult.

It is equally important that rumours, bias and unsubstantiated allegations are not promoted in the name of journalism. Freedom must go hand in hand with responsibility. Journalists must verify facts and maintain fairness, accuracy and social sensitivity in their reporting.

Independent and safe journalism is essential for a strong democracy. Governments must ensure the safety of journalists, conduct impartial investigations into attacks and hold those responsible accountable. Media organisations must also protect the rights, professional independence and freedom of their journalists.

True journalism is not merely about publishing news; it is about remaining committed to the truth. The safety of journalists is not just an issue concerning the media industry. It is directly connected with society's right to information and the future of democracy.

When people who write and speak the truth begin to live in fear, the voice of democracy gradually becomes weaker. Making journalism a profession associated not with danger but with dignity, freedom and security is one of the greatest needs of our time.

Chief National Comm BS&G accorded warm welcome at MAIC



RAIPUR: The MAIC Rover Crew and Ranger Team of Maharaja Agrasen International College (MAIC) organized a felicitation ceremony–titled "Scouting Odyssey – Felicitation"–in honour of Dr. Krishna Kumar Khandelwal, the newly appointed Chief National Commissioner of The Bharat Scouts and Guides (BS&G). Dr. Khandelwal attended the event as the Chief Guest, while Satyanarayan Sharma was present as the Guest of Honour.

The event also served as a platform to recognize several notable achievements by the Rover-Ranger team. Rajesh Agrawal, President of the college's Rover Crew and Ranger Team, was honoured upon his appointment as the President of The Bharat Scouts and Guides Foundation. Dr. Degree Lal Patel was felicitated for his Ph.D. research in the field of Scouting and Guiding. Additionally, Toshi Yadav was recognized for successfully completing the requirements for the President's Award, and Vibhuti Verma was honoured with the 'Best Ranger' award.

Another highlight of the program was the launch of the first-ever magazine of the MAIC Rover & Ranger Team, titled "Time of MAIC Army." This magazine is intended to serve as a significant platform for showcasing Rover-Ranger activities, creative endeavours, social engagement, and the achievements of the students.

COLLEGE GOSSIP: ISBM University

Anti-Ragging Policy

Central Chronicle News

Raipur: Student found guilty of such act by the way of including in or outside the premises of the University shall be liable to punishment as per the guidelines given by UGC in the light of the direction of Hon'ble Supreme Court depending upon the natural gravity of the offence establish by Anti Ragging Committe of the University. The punishment for those found guilty of the ragging at the University level shall be any one or any combination of the following:

Suspension from attending classes and academic privileges

Withholding/withdrawing scholarship, fellowship and other benefits

Debarring from appearing in any test, examination or other evaluation process

Withholding results

Debarring from representing the institute in any regional, national or international meet, tournament, youth festival etc.

Suspension/expulsion from the hostel

Cancellation of admission

Rustication from the institute for a period ranging from 1 to 4 semesters

Fine ranging from Rs 25,000/- to Rs 1,00,000/-

Collective punishment: When the persons committing or abetting the crime of ragging are not identified, the institution shall resort to collective punishment.

Anti-Ragging Squad

The Anti-Ragging Squad at ISBM University plays a crucial role in maintaining discipline and ensuring a ragging-free campus.

| STUDENT'S VIEWS |

Antibiotic Resistance: A Growing Threat to Public Health

By | Faishal Khan- B. Pharmacy Student, Amity Institute of Pharmacy, Amity University Chhattisgarh.

A Growing Public-Health Challenge

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) occurs when microorganisms no longer respond effectively to medicines used to treat infections. Antibiotic resistance is a major concern because it makes bacterial infections harder to treat, increases hospital stays and raises the risk of complications and death.

Real-World Incidence: Evidence from India and the World

Antibiotic resistance is a significant global health challenge. A major global analysis estimated that bacterial AMR was directly responsible for approximately 1.27 million deaths worldwide in 2019 and associated with 4.95 million deaths. In India, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance Network analysed 99,492 culture-positive isolates collected by participating hospitals in 2023. Susceptibility to imipenem among Escherichia coli isolates declined from 81.4% in 2017 to 62.7% in 2023. For Klebsiella pneumoniae, it decreased from 58.5% to 35.6%. These findings indicate reduced antibiotic effectiveness against tested isolates, although hospital-based results do not represent the entire Indian population.

Effects on Patients, Hospitals and Society

Antibiotic resistance can delay recovery, increase treatment costs and require additional laboratory tests or alternative medicines. Resistant infections may lead to longer



hospital stays, serious complications and increased mortality. Some alternative antibiotics are expensive, require intravenous administration or need careful monitoring because of potential toxicity. AMR also increases pressure on healthcare facilities and families through additional expenses and lost working or study time. Furthermore, it can complicate major surgeries, cancer chemotherapy and organ transplantation, which depend on effective infection prevention and treatment.

FACTFILE

- **Hospitals should strengthen hand hygiene, environmental cleaning, appropriate isolation and timely culture testing.**

Why Resistance Develops

Resistance develops through inappropriate antibiotic use, including self-medication, unnecessary prescriptions for viral infections, sharing medicines and improper use of leftover antibiotics. Antibiotic use in animals and agriculture, poor sanitation and inadequate infection-control practices also contribute. Antibiotics should be used only when clinically indicated and under authorised healthcare professionals' guidance.

Case Study: Drug-Resistant Pseudomonas in North India

A six-year study at a major trauma-care centre in New Delhi examined 2,269 Pseudomonas isolates, including 2,224 Pseudomonas aeruginosa isolates. Approximately 74.6% of the isolates were reported as multidrug-resistant. P. aeruginosa can cause serious infections, particularly in vulnerable hospitalised patients. The findings demonstrate the challenges of treating resistant infections and the importance of laboratory testing to guide appropriate therapy. However, these hospital-based results cannot be generalised to the entire Indian population.

ZeroPeriod
THE WORLD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION

MERIT LIST

Final merit list of recruitment into SAEEMS on Nov 21

RAIPUR: The recruitment into 1812 contractual posts in 26 different subjects in Swamy Atamanand Excellent English Medium Schools (SAEEMS) is in final phase. The Directorate of Public Instructions has issued the entire schedule of recruitment and under which the selected candidates will be issued the appointment orders by Nov 28. For the recruitment into contractual posts, the computer based test (CBT) was held in all 24 centres in different shifts from Oct 31 to Nov 4, 2026. Out of total 34,604 candidates registered for the exam, 28,535 appeared and the entire attendance was 82.46%.

INSPECTION

DEOs, BEOs to conduct inspection of Private Schools

RAIPUR: To put a check on highhandedness and monitoring of the working in private schools, the Directorate of Public Instructions (DPI) has taken stern steps. Directorate has asked all the District Education officers (DEOs) of the district to conduct regular inspection of private schools in their areas. Under this a team of DEOs, Block Education officers (BEOs), Asst. BEOs (ABEOs) and nodal principals will conduct inspection of private schools at ground-level. All those conducting inspections will have to submit their reports by Nov 25 to DEO without fail. The points on which the schools will be cross-checked include basic amenities like building, safety, toilets, library, lab and sports ground.

EVENT OF THE WEEK

Children's Day celebrated with great joy and enthusiasm



PITHORA: Children's Day celebrated with great joy and enthusiasm at the Government Upper Primary School in Kashihabara, Pithora. The event commenced with the lighting of a ceremonial lamp and the garlanding of a portrait of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of India. In his address, the head of the institution, Hemant Khute, stated that Children's Day serves as a reminder to honor the happiness, rights, talents, and dreams of children. He noted that sports contribute to the physical and mental development of children while instilling in them a sense of discipline, cooperation, and healthy competition. He encouraged the students to study with full dedication, participate actively in sports, and remain committed to their goals. Teachers Dilip Kumar Patel and Tabassum also extended their Children's Day wishes to the students and expressed their hopes for a bright future for them. To mark the occasion, various recreational sports competitions were organized at the school. These included a spoon-and-marble race, sack race, biscuit race, a ball-tossing game (placing a ball into a basket), *phugdi* (a traditional folk game), a needle-and-thread race, and a balloon-inflating contest.

SHORTAKE- ABC Public School

Inspirational and awareness session organized at ABC Public School



KHARORA: Students sensitized about the adverse effects of mobile phone usage, cybersecurity, and protection against online fraud. Saragaon, Raipur. A special motivational and awareness session was organized at ABC Public School, Saragaon, for students in classes 6th through 10th. During the event, motivational speaker Mr. Krishna Manikpuri provided valuable guidance to the students on topics such as achieving success in life, discipline, positive thinking, self-confidence, and goal setting. Mr. Manikpuri encouraged the students to remain dedicated to their goals, emphasizing the importance of hard work, consistent study habits, and the effective use of time. A significant portion of the session focused on the adverse effects of excessive mobile phone usage and social media.

SchoolBuzz

Science and Mathematics exhibition and 'Anand Mela' held



FINGESHWAR: Children's Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm at Eklavya Public English Medium School, Borsi, on November 14, featuring a variety of educational and recreational programs. During the event, students showcased their creativity, scientific thinking, and talent through science and mathematics exhibitions, presenting an array of engaging models and projects that demonstrated their academic capabilities.



Children's Day celebrated with fervor at Nehru Smriti Vidyalaya

BIRKONI: Children's Day was celebrated on Saturday, November 14, at Nehru Smriti Vidyalaya in the village of Birkoni. The event commenced with the Headmaster, Tupsing Nishad, garlanding a portrait of the nation's first Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. Meanwhile, students presented themes focused on environmental pollution, the 'Beti Bachao' initiative under the 'Beti Padhao' (Educate the Girl Child), 'Swachh Bharat' (Clean India), and 'Seva Setu' campaigns, an awareness drive was conducted with the slogan.



'Anand Bal Mela' organized at Higher Secondary School, Kumarda

DONGARGAON: On November 17, an 'Anand Bal Mela' (Children's Fun Fair) was organized at the Higher Secondary School in Kumarda to mark Children's Day. Students from the primary, middle, and higher secondary sections participated with great enthusiasm. The event commenced with a floral tribute to the portrait of India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru. Students set up nearly thirty stalls offering a variety of snacks–such as vada, samosa, aloo bonda, mungodi, pani puri, idli, pakora, Maggi, chowmein, and 'Chinese' pakoras–alongside traditional Chhattisgarhi delicacies like 'halwa, puri-sabzi, fara, and cheela'.

Sports



"We thought this was the best XI. I don't think dropping Siraj was a wrong decision. We consider all days."

Sitanshu Kotak
India batting coach

Rakshitha stuns Olympic champion; Satwik-Chirag reach Hong Kong quarters

Indian shuttlers delivered impressive performances at the Hong Kong Open, with Rakshitha Ramraj shocking Olympic champion Chen Yu Fei and Satwik-Chirag advancing comfortably into the quarterfinals.

Press Trust Of India

Lakshya Sen continues winning streak, while Satwik-Chirag enter men's doubles quarterfinals comfortably.



KOWLOON: India's 19-year-old badminton sensation Rakshitha Ramraj produced a sensational performance, defeating Tokyo Olympic champion and world No. 4 Chen Yu Fei of China in straight games to enter the Hong Kong Open Super 500 quarterfinals on Thursday.

The Coimbatore youngster, who trains at the Pullela Gopichand Academy, displayed remarkable confidence, attacking precision and clever overhead deceptions to register a memorable 21-18, 24-22 victory over the experienced Chinese star.

Having earlier stunned Denmark's Mia Blichfeldt in the opening round, Rakshitha continued her impressive campaign with arguably the biggest victory of her international career.

Describing Chen as her idol, Rakshitha admitted she could hardly believe the result. She credited her attacking approach, freedom of strokeplay and determination for the remarkable triumph.

The teenager, who will next face Thailand's Pornpawee Chochuwong, expressed confidence in her ability to challenge higher-ranked opponents and maintain her winning momentum in upcoming tournaments.

Meanwhile, India's leading men's doubles combination of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty secured their quarterfinal berth with a commanding straight-game victory over Malaysia's Nur Mohd Azriyn Ayub and Tan Wee Kiong.

The fifth-seeded Indian pair, winners of two Super 750 titles this season in Singapore and China, demonstrated excellent coordination and composure to complete a 21-19, 21-16 victory in just 42 minutes.

Satwik and Chirag will next confront China's Hu Ke Yuan and Lin Xiang Yi, who defeated Japan's Kakeru Kumagai and Hiroki Nishi 21-19, 21-17.

The Indians had earlier survived a challenging three-game opening-round encounter against Chinese Taipei's Lee Jhe-Huei and Yang Po-Hsuan.

In men's singles, in-form Lakshya Sen extended his outstanding run with a convincing 21-11, 21-18 victory over Denmark's Rasmus Gemke.

The 25-year-old, fresh from consecutive titles at the Hylo Open and Kumamoto Masters Japan, had already secured qualification for the season-ending BWF World Tour Finals in Hangzhou.

Sen will next face eighth-seeded Singaporean Loh Kean Yew, the 2021 world champion, in another significant quarterfinal challenge.

However, India suffered disappointment in women's doubles as World Championships bronze medallists Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand bowed out following a 20-22, 13-21 defeat against American pair Lauren Lam and Allison Lee in the pre-quarterfinals.

Despite that setback, the impressive performances of Rakshitha, Lakshya and Satwik-Chirag kept India's hopes alive across three events, raising expectations of further success as the prestigious tournament approaches its decisive knockout stages this week.

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

SHOOTER JOINS SERVICE

Asian Games double silver medallist Vidarsha joins Keralam government service



THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Asian Games double silver medallist shooter Vidarsha K Vinod joined Keralam government service on Thursday after receiving her appointment letter from Chief Minister V D Satheesan. Vinod has been appointed Assistant Director in the State Sports Directorate. The Chief Minister presented the appointment order in the presence of her family and Sports Minister O J Janeesh. Describing the occasion as heartwarming, Satheesan praised Vinod's international achievements and emphasised that sporting champions deserve recognition alongside opportunities for secure careers. He expressed hope that her journey would inspire aspiring athletes across the state. Vinod secured silver medals in the women's 10m air rifle team event and women's 50m rifle three positions team event at the 20th Asian Games, bringing pride to Keralam and India. **PTI**

TOTAL CHESS PILOT

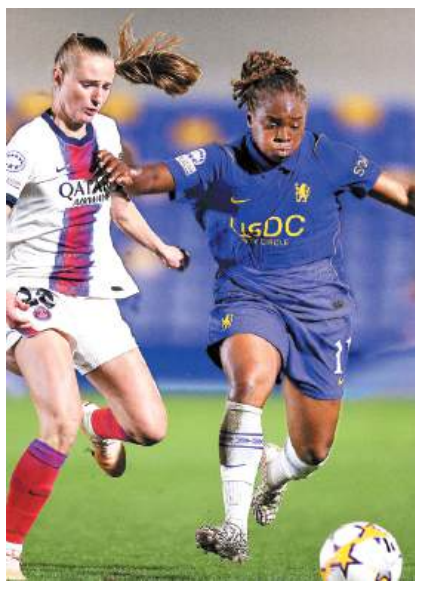
Erigaisi wins as Praggnanandhaa avoids clash with sister Vaishali



BUDAPEST: India's Arjun Erigaisi defeated Dutch grandmaster Jorden van Foreest in Armageddon, while R Praggnanandhaa avoided a potential encounter with sister R Vaishali at the Total Chess World Championship Tour Pilot. Competing for ninth to 12th positions, Erigaisi lost the second day 8-12 after winning the opener 11.5-8.5. However, he capitalised on van Foreest's 34th-move error in Armageddon to secure victory. He next faces Haik M Martirosyan for ninth place. Meanwhile, Praggnanandhaa staged a comeback against Uzbekistan's Nodirbek Abdusattorov, winning the Fast Classic encounter to secure an 11.5-8.5 victory. He will face Abhimanyu Mishra for 21st position. Vaishali, meanwhile, lost to Mishra 9-11 despite receiving a Fast Classic victory through forfeiture, ending her hopes of advancing further. **PTI**

CHELSEA CLAIM VICTORY

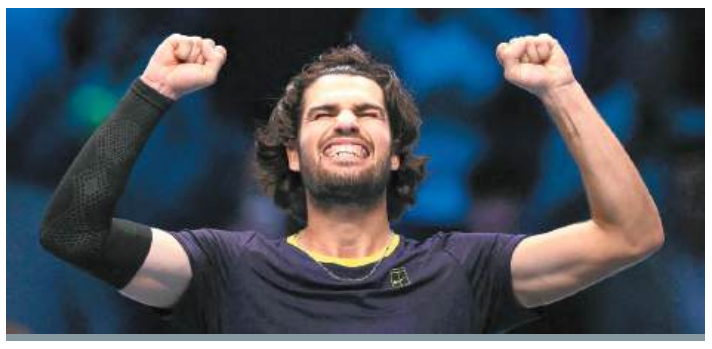
Chelsea beat PSG with late goal to top Champions League



LONDON: Chelsea climbed to the top of the Women's Champions League standings after defender Veerle Buurman scored a dramatic 87th-minute winner against Paris Saint-Germain, securing a narrow 1-0 victory. Buurman struck following a goalmouth scramble from a corner, extending Chelsea's unbeaten run and maintaining their remarkable record of five consecutive clean sheets. The English side moved one point ahead of OL Lyonnes and defending champions Barcelona, who were scheduled to play Thursday. Chelsea struggled offensively despite dominating defensively. PSG goalkeeper Katarzyna Kiedrzynek produced an excellent save to deny Sjoeke Nüsken before Buurman converted the resulting corner. **PTI**

ALCARAZ MAINTAINS MOMENTUM

Alcaraz beats Medvedev despite injury scare to reach ATP semifinals



TURIN: Carlos Alcaraz overcame a hamstring problem to defeat Daniil Medvedev 6-2, 6-4 at the ATP Finals, extending his winning streak to 11 matches. The seven-time Grand Slam champion required medical treatment and strapping on his left thigh during the second set but maintained his dominance to secure victory. Alcaraz confirmed his semifinal berth after Frances Tiafoe defeated Italy's Flavio Cobolli 7-6 (6), 6-0 in another group encounter. Tiafoe saved two set points in the opening tiebreak before comfortably winning the second set. Cobolli, making his tournament debut, was eliminated following consecutive defeats and became emotional afterward. Meanwhile, Tiafoe will face Medvedev on Friday for the remaining semifinal spot, promising another exciting contest at the season-ending championship in Turin. **PTI**

Bengaluru Strikers owner Hrithik Roshan eyes ISPL title

MUMBAI: Bengaluru Strikers have strengthened every department through their buys at the player auction as they prepare for Season 4 of the India Street Premier League (ISPL), starting next month. The tennis-ball T10 league will be held at the 1919 Sportz Cricket Stadium in Verna, Goa from December 6 to January 3, 2027. The 18-member Bengaluru Strikers squad has the likes of Yogesh Penkar, Sumeet Dhekale, Gauresh Nagvekar, Firoz Nijamuddin Shaikh, Zaid Khan, Jignesh Patel and Mayur Waghmare, giving the team a mix of batting, bowling and all-rounding options. Having finished among the top five teams last season, Bengaluru Strikers will look to build on that performance and mount a stronger challenge for the title this time around.

|INDIAN SPORTING EXCELLENCE|

Vaibhav, Harmanpreet, Lovlina among nine Indians on TIME100 Next list

Press Trust Of India

Nine Indian sporting icons earn recognition for shaping the nation's sporting future.



NEW DELHI: Young cricket sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, World Cup-winning captain Harmanpreet Kaur, Olympic medallists Lovlina Borgohain and Mirabai Chanu are among nine Indian sportspersons featured in the inaugural TIME100 Next India list.

The prestigious recognition celebrates 100 influential personalities shaping India's future across various fields.

Other sporting personalities include world chess champion D Gukesh, hurdler Vithya Ramraj, archer Kumkum Mohod, hockey goalkeeper Savita Punia and tennis legend Sania Mirza. Sooryavanshi, Chanu and Kumkum feature in the 'Innovators' category, while Borgohain, Gukesh and Vithya are recognised as 'Phenoms'. Savita appears among 'Leaders', with Harmanpreet and Sania named 'Advocates'.

Fifteen-year-old Sooryavanshi has rewritten several cricketing records, becoming the youngest IPL centurion and India's youngest men's international cricketer. He also topped the IPL 2026 run-scoring charts. Harmanpreet led India to their maiden Women's World Cup triumph in 2025, while Gukesh continues to inspire young chess enthusiasts as reigning world champion. Olympic medallists Chanu and Borgohain added Asian Games medals to their illustrious careers this year.

HIGHLIGHT

- Vaibhav Sooryavanshi joins celebrated champions Harmanpreet Kaur, Mirabai Chanu and Lovlina Borgohain.
- TIME100 Next India honours emerging talents and established champions across sporting disciplines.

| CUMMINS FACES SCRUTINY |

Cummins faces leadership challenge over sandpapergate allegations: Healy

Press Trust Of India

SYDNEY: Former Australian wicketkeeper Ian Healy believes Test captain Pat Cummins could face serious leadership challenges unless he addresses Cameron Bancroft's latest allegations concerning the 2018 Cape Town ball-tampering scandal.

Bancroft recently claimed the entire Australian team knew about the sandpapergate conspiracy, contradicting Cummins' dismissal of similar allegations by Usman Khawaja as "complete and utter nonsense."

Questioning Cummins' credibility, Healy said, "I would feel without refuting Cameron Bancroft's words again, he (Cummins) will struggle to captain the team."

However, Healy rejected suggestions that Cummins should immediately resign, arguing that the original investigation was rushed and poorly handled.



> **"I would feel without refuting Cameron Bancroft's words again, he (Cummins) will struggle to captain the team."**
>
> **Ian Healy**
> Former Australian wicketkeeper

He also suggested the controversy could damage the personal reputations of Cummins, Josh Hazlewood, Mitchell Starc and Nathan Lyon, who previously denied knowledge of the plot.

Healy called upon former Australian coach Darren Lehmann to clarify his involvement, saying, "If he's going to do it, now's the time."

Sports News

Nicholls, Phillips rescue New Zealand after Bumrah's early strikes

Henry Nicholls struck a gritty century while Glenn Phillips counterattacked brilliantly as New Zealand recovered from early setbacks to frustrate India on the opening day in Wellington.

Press Trust Of India

Bumrah claims three wickets, but India's remaining pacers struggle against resilient hosts.



WELLINGTON: Henry Nicholls struck a determined century while Glenn Phillips produced an attacking unbeaten 94 as New Zealand staged a remarkable recovery to reach 243 for five against India on the opening day of the first Test at Basin Reserve on Thursday.

Reduced to 70 for five, the hosts appeared headed for a disappointing total before Nicholls (113 not out off 221 balls) and Phillips (94 not out off 181 balls) added an unbroken 173 runs for the sixth wicket.

Jasprit Bumrah was India's standout bowler, claiming three wickets for 52 runs in 17 overs. However, his pace-bowling colleagues struggled to maintain pressure once the Kookaburra ball lost its shine.

Anshul Kamboj returned figures of 1/57, while Akash Deep claimed 1/33. Prasidh Krishna remained wicketless, conceding 58 runs in 16 overs.

Earlier, India captain Shubman Gill won the toss and elected to bowl on a surface offering bounce and movement.

Bumrah immediately justified the decision, dismissing New Zealand captain Tom Latham for a duck with a superb delivery that clipped the off-bail.

Devon Conway (4), Rachin Ravindra (15), Daryl Mitchell (1) and Tom Blundell (5) also departed cheaply as India's bowlers dominated the opening session.

However, the momentum shifted dramatically after lunch.

Nicholls displayed tremendous patience, combining solid defence with elegant drives and flicks through mid-wicket. The experienced left-hander reached his 12th Test century from 188 deliveries.

Phillips adopted a contrasting approach, attacking loose deliveries and gradually increasing the scoring rate. His aggressive strokeplay relieved pressure on Nicholls and frustrated the Indian attack.

Kamboj's modest pace, averaging around 128-130 kmph, allowed the batters sufficient time to adjust. Krishna also struggled with inconsistent lengths, repeatedly offering scoring opportunities.

Bumrah continued troubling Nicholls with movement and bounce but lacked adequate support from the other end.

India also missed a potential opportunity when confusion between Rishabh Pant and Devdutt Padikkal resulted in a misjudged catching chance.

Nicholls' century further strengthened his credentials at No. 3 following Kane Williamson's retirement.

With Phillips approaching his hundred and the partnership flourishing, New Zealand finished the day firmly in control.

India will need early breakthroughs on Friday to prevent the hosts from building a commanding first-innings total.

India begin Asian Champions Trophy defence with commanding win over Malaysia



Press Trust Of India

India overcome early setback to defeat Malaysia 4-1 in tournament opener convincingly.

BHOPAL: Defending champions India made a winning start to their Women's Asian Champions Trophy campaign, overcoming an early setback to register an impressive 4-1 victory over Malaysia in Bhopal on Thursday.

The opening night was expected to feature music, fireworks and hockey, but the inauguration of the newly-built International Sports Complex was postponed by three days. However, the Indian women's team provided plenty of excitement for the enthusiastic home crowd.

Malaysia surprised the hosts with an early goal after launching a swift counterattack from an Indian penalty corner. Azmyra Azhairy raced down the right flank before setting up Nuramirah Zulkifli, who fired a reverse hit past goalkeeper Bansari Solanki.

India responded quickly through Mumtaz Khan, who marked her return with an opportunistic equaliser, converting a rebound with a powerful reverse flick.

After a closely contested first half, India increased the intensity in the third quarter, dominating possession and repeatedly penetrating Malaysia's defensive circle.

Captain Salima Tete put India ahead after a goalmouth scramble, capitalising on a penalty corner opportunity.

Debutant Puja Sahoo then enjoyed a memorable senior international debut, scoring through a dragflick that took deflections before finding the net.

Lalremsiami completed the scoring by deflecting Deepika's dragflick into the goal from close range.

India's improved penalty corner execution proved decisive, with three successful conversions from nine second-half opportunities.

Although the hosts struggled initially against Malaysia's organised defence, their attacking combinations and relentless pressure eventually secured a comfortable victory.

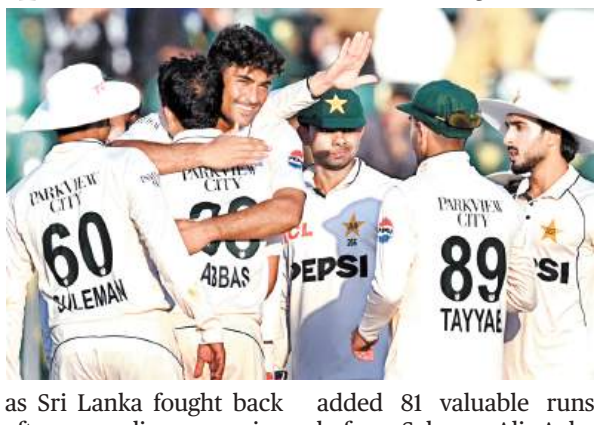
The result provided an encouraging beginning to India's title defence and highlighted the contributions of returning players and promising newcomers.

| SRI LANKA FIGHT |

Sri Lanka ekes out 82-run lead as Pakistan pacers toil to stay

Press Trust Of India

Sri Lanka secure slender lead despite Pakistan's relentless pace attack in Rawalpindi.



RAWALPINDI: Half-centuries from Sonal Dinusha, captain Kusal Mendis and Milan Rathnayake helped Sri Lanka reach 309 for nine, securing an 82-run lead against Pakistan on the third day of the second Test on Thursday.

Pakistan's depleted pace attack struggled after Saqib Khan was ruled out with a hamstring injury sustained on Wednesday.

Dinusha scored 54, Mendis contributed 53, while Rathnayake remained unbeaten on 60 as Sri Lanka fought back after conceding a massive 227-run first-innings deficit.

Mohammad Abbas delivered an impressive spell, claiming two wickets for 54 runs in 33 overs. Aamer Jamal picked up three wickets for 67, while Razaullah returned figures of 2/110.

Mendis and Dinusha added 81 valuable runs before Salman Ali Agha dismissed the Sri Lankan captain.

Dinusha later shared a 53-run partnership with Rathnayake before falling to Jamal.

Rathnayake continued resisting Pakistan's bowlers alongside Asitha Fernando until bad light forced early stumps.

Anushka Gupta wins DGC Ladies Open

NEW DELHI: Anushka Gupta clinched the 16th DGC Ladies Open amateur golf tournament title with an impressive aggregate score of 214 at the Delhi Golf Club on Thursday. Mehak Lohan secured the runner-up position with a total of 222, while Aahana Kashyap finished third with 224. Yogya Bhalla and Raza Kaur also delivered commendable performances, registering sub-par rounds during the championship. The three-day tournament witnessed competitive action among 112 women golfers, showcasing emerging talent and growing enthusiasm for women's amateur golf in the country.

| HARMER SPINS VICTORY |

Harmer spins South Africa to nine-wicket victory over Bangladesh

Press Trust Of India

Simon Harmer's six-wicket haul powers South Africa to commanding victory over Bangladesh.



JOHANNESBURG: Veteran off-spinner Simon Harmer produced another match-winning performance as South Africa defeated Bangladesh by nine wickets on the fifth day of the opening Test at the Wanderers on Thursday, taking a 1-0 lead in the two-match series.

Resuming at 100 for five, Bangladesh collapsed to 168 all out as Harmer claimed four of the remaining five wickets, finishing with impressive figures of 6/51.

Kagiso Rabada dismissed Litton Das before Harmer removed Mushfiqur Rahim, Mehidy Hasan Miraz, Hasan Mahmud and Ebadot Hossain to complete the demolition.

Chasing just 12 runs, South Africa lost Marques Ackerman for a duck but comfortably reached 12 for one before lunch. Aiden Markram remained unbeaten on eight and struck the winning run.

The 37-year-old Harmer continued his remarkable resurgence, having previously taken 6/16 against Australia.

Despite scoring 400 in their first innings, Bangladesh suffered a crushing defeat.

The second Test begins in Centurion on Monday.

FASTFACTS

- Harmer claims six wickets as Bangladesh collapse to 168 in second innings.
- South Africa chase modest target before lunch, securing crucial nine-wicket Test victory.

| YOUNG STARS IN ACTION |

Star-studded India A open Rising Stars Asia Cup campaign against Nepal

Press Trust Of India

Vaibhav Sooryavanshi and Abhishek Sharma aim to impress as India face Nepal.



DOHA: Young batting sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi and explosive opener Abhishek Sharma will aim to strengthen their 50-over credentials when a star-studded India A begin their Rising Stars Asia Cup campaign against Nepal on Friday.

Led by Tilak Varma, the squad features several established T20 performers, including Rinku Singh, Prabhsimran Singh and all-rounder Suryansh Shedge.

All eyes will be on 15-year-old Sooryavanshi, who has impressed with his aggressive batting and ability to construct long innings. His sensational 94 off 29 balls during the Tri-Series in Sri Lanka earlier this year attracted widespread attention.

The youngster also recently captained Bihar in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy.

Rinku, who has lost his place in India's T20 side, will be eager to impress selectors. Ayush Badoni, included after Rajat Patidar withdrew, hopes to continue his impressive domestic form.

Shahbaz Ahmed, who last represented India in 2023, also has an opportunity to revive his international prospects.

Meanwhile, pacer Harshit Rana will look to demonstrate his fitness following recovery from a quadriceps injury.

Indian hockey team begins NZ tour with a gritty 3-2 win

AUCKLAND: India began their campaign at the 2026 India-New Zealand Century of Sporting Unity Event with a hard-fought 3-2 victory over the hosts on Thursday. New Zealand took the lead through Jonty Elmes' 25th-minute penalty corner, but Uttam Singh equalised immediately. Shardanand Tiwari put India ahead with a 38th-minute field goal before captain Sanjay converted a penalty corner in the 43rd minute. Sam Hiha reduced the deficit for New Zealand in the 55th minute, but India held firm in the closing stages to secure victory in the three-match series opener.

| AARYAVIR EARNS RESPECT |

Aaryavir had to face criticism because of his surname, now he has earned respect: Sehwag

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Virender Sehwag praises Aaryavir's outstanding performances despite criticism surrounding his famous surname.

MUMBAI: The criticism comes along with a famous surname cannot be controlled but Aaryavir earned the much needed respect of the cricketing world, piling "big" runs in India's triumphant U-19 Asia Cup campaign, said his father Virender Sehwag on Thursday.

Aaryavir was named player of the tournament in the recent junior Asia Cup after scoring 361 runs that included a century and three fifties. He scored a crucial 58 in the all-important final against Pakistan.

"I am happy that Aryavir Sehwag contributed to India U19's Asia Cup triumph and especially in the final against Pakistan. He didn't just score runs; he hit big scores as well. I want to congratulate the whole team on this victory.

"I always used to have this chat with him (Aryavir) that you need to score big if you want respect, and that's what he has achieved in this tournament," senior Sehwag told PTI.

Sehwag said Aaryavir has proved his talent in front of the world and now it is all about scoring big runs consistently.

"Till the time you see a player play, you only go by the name. Then, when he or she performs, you say that they have talent. Aryavir also had to face a lot of criticism because of his surname.

"Maybe in the future as well, he will have to face the same, but now everyone knows he has the talent and he can perform, so in my opinion he will only get the country's love going forward," said the former India opener.

Sehwag had a heartwarming video call with Aaryavir following India's thrilling one wicket win over Pakistan in Oman. India came from the brink to chase down 338 in a high-pressure summit clash.

World



Russia, Japan will keep talking as ties remain chilled.

Sanae Takaichi
Japanese Prime Minister

Jaishankar flags 'weaponisation' of resources, supply chains

Jaishankar and Singh were in Tokyo for the fourth India-Japan Foreign and Defence Ministers' Dialogue.



Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar in a photograph with Japan Defense Minister Shinjiro Koizumi and Foreign Affairs Minister Toshimitsu Motegi during the fourth India-Japan 2 plus 2 Foreign and Defence Ministerial meeting, in Tokyo, Japan.

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Both ministers also held separate bilateral talks with their Japanese counterparts – Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi and Defence Minister Shinjiro Koizumi – respectively.

TOKYO: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Thursday flagged the growing "weaponisation" of connectivity, resources and supply chains, and called for stronger India-Japan cooperation amid global uncertainty, while Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said the two countries agreed to accelerate cooperation in niche underwater and missile technologies and deepen maritime security ties. Addressing the media after the talks, Jaishankar said the global order was facing multiple shocks, including two major ongoing conflicts, economic volatility and the after-effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. "There are two major ongoing conflicts whose impact have been felt even in distant regions," he said, adding that these developments had heightened concerns over energy, trade, food and health security.

The Russia-Ukraine war and the conflict in West Asia have had repercussions far beyond their respective regions, affecting global energy markets, maritime shipping and food security. "As we seek to secure ourselves on these fronts, trusted and substantive partnerships like ours become more valuable," Jaishankar said. In his remarks following the meeting, Singh said the two sides had agreed to move swiftly to translate their recently signed Memorandum of Arrangement on Maritime Security Cooperation into concrete collaboration, including in maritime and air domain awareness, search and rescue and information-sharing arrangements. "We agreed to accelerate cooperation in the area of niche underwater and missile technologies," he said. Singh said the two sides had also agreed on the need for an early conclusion of a Maritime Ship Repair Arrangement for reciprocal provision of ship repair facilities and decided to enhance cooperation in mine-countermeasure capabilities. Jaishankar said New Delhi and Tokyo were committed to keeping the Indo-Pacific free and open, and were joined in that endeavour by other Quad partners. The remarks came two days after Prime Minister Narendra Modi, US President Donald Trump, Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi and Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese met in Manila for a Quad leaders' summit. "The reality is that old assumptions may no longer hold true and each one of us will have to make a greater contribution to global good," Jaishankar said, adding that such contributions could come through initiatives and activities at the national and bilateral levels or with like-minded partners.

FASTFACTS

- **The two countries also looked forward to strengthening defence industrial cooperation under the framework of "Design with Japan, Make in India", while expressing expectations for an early conclusion of the UNICORN-related agreements, which concerns co-development of integrated antenna masts for Indian Navy warships.**

Pakistan extends airspace ban on Indian aircraft till December 24

LAHORE: Pakistan on Thursday extended its ban on the use of its airspace by Indian aircraft for yet another month, until Dec 24, 2026, according to a Notice to Airmen (NOTAM) issued by the Pakistan Airports Authority (PAA). Under the extended restrictions, all aircraft registered in India, as well as those owned, operated or leased by Indian airlines will remain barred from using Pakistani airspace. The ban also applies to Indian military aircraft. The latest extension follows a series of similar decisions since April 2025, when India and Pakistan imposed reciprocal airspace restrictions following the terror attack.

| TRILATERAL MEET |

Xi, Trump and Putin conclude historic trilateral with 'Declaration Towards Peace'

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They also agreed that the International Criminal Court and other similar bodies must not abuse their jurisdiction.



President Donald Trump, right, Chinese President Xi Jinping, center, and Russian President Vladimir Putin, pose for a photo, prior to their trilateral meeting, at the Kylin Villa in Shenzhen, China, Thursday.

BEIJING/SHENZHEN: The presidents of the US, China and Russia concluded their unprecedented trilateral meeting on Thursday by issuing a "Declaration Towards Peace", calling for UN reforms and outlining plans to increase the production and supply of refined petroleum products to ease the energy crisis. The three Presidents - Donald Trump, Xi Jinping and Vladimir Putin - in their four-point declaration also agreed to hold dialogue on reducing nuclear risks and preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

The declaration - issued at the end of the 90-minute meeting, the first-ever by the top leaders of the three major countries, on the sidelines of the APEC summit in Shenzhen - stated that they had an in-depth exchange of views on the current international situation and committed to maintaining strategic stability and international security. "As permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, China, Russia, and the United States committed to reform the UN so that the UN can respond more effectively to global challenges and conform to its fundamental mission of international peace and security," the statement said. Secondly, "the three countries plan to increase the production and supply of refined petroleum products for the benefit of all nations.

FASTFACTS

- **The Russian and US heads of state expressed appreciation to China for hosting this historic trilateral Summit, it said.**

| UN COURT SAYS |

Myanmar forces killed 10,000 Rohingya on genocide allegations

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The violence forced hundreds of thousands of the mainly minority Muslims to flee to neighbouring Bangladesh.

THE HAGUE: The top United Nations court said Thursday that evidence shows Myanmar forces killed about 10,000 Rohingya during 2017 military operations.

The finding came early in a three-hour session to read out the International Court of Justice's decision on whether Myanmar committed genocide in a brutal offensive against the Rohingya nearly a decade ago. "The court finds that Myanmar's security forces killed thousands of Rohingya civilians, perpetrated widespread acts of sexual violence, as well as acts of extreme violence against children, and attacked fleeing Rohingya," the World Court President Yuji Iwasawa said in a packed Great Hall of Justice.

The reading of the 15-judge court's decision is expected to take three hours. The Muslim-majority African nation of Gambia launched the proceedings at the International Court of Justice in 2019, asking it to rule that Myanmar has breached the 1948 Genocide Convention, order the nation to end any illegal activities targeting the Rohingya and ensure those responsible for genocide are punished.

Myanmar has defended its military campaign, calling it a legitimate counterterrorism operation that did not amount to genocide. The judgment comes as the World Court also is handling genocide allegations linked to the Gaza conflict and the war in Ukraine. "Genocides have similarities in how they are committed so this decision will have an impact on other cases," said Melanie O'Brien, a professor of international law at the University of Western Australia.

In August 2017, Myanmar's military launched what it called a clearance campaign in northern Rakhine state in response to an attack by a Rohingya insurgent group. The campaign led to accusations that security forces committed mass rapes and killings and burned thousands of homes. Under the 1948 convention, to establish that genocide occurred, the court will have to find that there was an intent to destroy the Rohingya "in whole or in part".

About 1.2 million Rohingya refugees now live in Bangladesh, primarily in crowded camps across Cox's Bazar district, where they endure harsh conditions marked by fire hazards, infectious diseases, monsoon landslides, inadequate sanitation and strict work restrictions. Gambia has asked for reparations for the Rohingya, including ordering Myanmar to grant them full citizenship and the right to return home.

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

RAHUL GANDHI IN US

'Indian democracy 'sacred', boycotting polls will end it'



WASHINGTON: Indian democracy is "sacred" and the Congress is ready to face electoral defeats until people realise that the system has been completely demolished, Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi said.

Interacting with students at the University of Chicago on Wednesday, Gandhi said boycotting elections over alleged flaws in the electoral system would bring an end to Indian democracy, and the Congress party does not intend to do that. "Indian democracy is sacred. For me to even say that there is a problem in Indian democracy is difficult without 100, 200, 300 per cent proof," he said during the interaction moderated by Prof Robert Pape. The Congress leader said asking the opposition to boycott elections would end democracy that very minute. "But what happens to all the opposition workers if we tell them, 'Okay, don't participate in the election?' If we say that we are not going to contest elections, we end Indian democracy that minute. And we don't want to end the structure of Indian democracy," Gandhi said. "So, our strategy is to expose what is going on and take the beating until the people of India realise that the system has been fully demolished," he said. Gandhi was on a two-day visit to the US during which he interacted with the students of Columbia University in New York on Tuesday and the University of Chicago on Wednesday.

PAK'S KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA

22 terrorists killed in intelligence-based operations

PESHAWAR: At least 22 terrorists have been killed in various intelligence-based operations in three districts of Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa between November 16-17, the military's media wing said on Thursday. In all, 15 terrorists were killed in South Waziristan, six in Bannu and one in Tank. The operations were conducted on November 16 and 17 against terrorists belonging to Fitna al-Khawarij. The federal government uses the term 'Fitna al-Khawarij' for terrorists belonging to the banned terror outfit Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan.

The Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said security forces conducted intelligence-based operations and engaged terrorists at multiple locations following reports about their presence. In South Waziristan, security personnel effectively targeted a terrorist hideout, triggering an intense exchange of fire that resulted in the killing of 15 terrorists. In Bannu district, security forces engaged terrorists in two separate encounters and effectively targeted their hideouts, killing another six militants.

VISA-FREE ACCESS

Malaysia to end visa-free entry to Indians from Jan 1, 2027

SINGAPORE: Malaysia is ending its visa-free access for Indian nationals from January 1, 2027, the Immigration Department of Malaysia has announced. Earlier, Indian nationals travelling to the South East Asian nation were granted a 30-day visa exemption and just had to register for Malaysia Digital Arrival Card within three days before arrival.

The visa exemption was introduced on December 1, 2023, and later extended to the end of 2026. The Immigration Department of Malaysia (JIM), in a notice on November 17, said the visa exemption facility for Indian nationals will no longer be available with effect from 1 January 2027. Accordingly, Indian nationals entering Malaysia from this date onwards will be required to obtain a valid visa prior to their arrival, it said.

Visa applications may be submitted through the MyVISA portal starting 1 December 2026, it added. The JIM further said that visa processing fees would be non-refundable, regardless of the application outcome, change of policy or any subsequent changes to travel plans.

US lawmaker to India

'Replace Russian junk with American weapons system'



WASHINGTON: India should replace its "legacy ineffective Russian junk" with American weapons systems and also opt for Boeing aircraft over those manufactured by European Airbus Industrie, a US Congressman has suggested. Michael Baumgartner, a Republican from Washington state, made the remarks at Diwali celebrations on Capitol Hill on Wednesday in the presence of Namgya Khampa, the Deputy Chief of Mission at the Indian Embassy here.

As a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Baumgartner said he regularly engages with diplomats from the Indian Embassy as the two countries seek to strengthen relations across economic and security issues.

"I was pleased to again express my thoughts that the more US exports to India - from weapons systems to replace their legacy ineffective Russian junk to Boeing airplanes that are superior to Airbus to the world's best lentils from the Palouse - the better it is for our two great countries," Baumgartner said in a post on X. Baumgartner also raised the issue of disruptions during Diwali celebrations in his home state of Washington. "A couple weeks back some attention-seeking racist morons disrupted a Diwali celebration in my home state of Washington. This evening, I was pleased to attend the Diwali celebration at the US Capitol," he said. The Diwali celebrations were also attended by US Congresswoman-elect Pia Dandiya, Congresspersons Grace Meng, Suhas Subramanyam, Shri Thanedar, Nick LaLota, Jonathan Jackson, Raja Krishnamoorthi, Norma Torres, Pete Sessions, Deborah Ross, Buddy Carter, Michael Guest, among others.

Scott Colom, who scripted history by becoming the first black Senator from Mississippi in 146 years, also lit the traditional lamp at the Diwali celebrations.