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Central Chronicle

Bilaspur | MONDAY, November 23, 2026 | Fastest Growing English Daily Of Chhattisgarh | www.centralchronicle.in | Pages: 16 | Price: Rs. 4.00

'Fascinated' by India's diversity, it's stunning'

Leader recalls Modi conversation, celebrates India's rich linguistic diversity.

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Russian President Vladimir Putin has, from time to time, expressed his fascination with the cultural diversity of India. Recently, the leader recounted one of his conversations with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and praised India's linguistic diversity, noting how more than half of the people of the country speak their own languages.



Russian President Putin during a recent conversation with PM Modi.

"Take, for example, Indian civilisation - the oldest one. It is very interesting. The more I learn about it, the more fascinated I become," Putin said in an interview, according to Sputnik.

He said that during a recent conversation with PM Modi, he asked how many people speak India's official language.

> **India fascinates me increasingly**
> **Vladimir Putin**
> Russian President

"I spoke with PM Modi not long ago and asked, 'How many of the country's citizens speak the official language?' He said, 'About 600 million''. 'And what's the total population of the country ?' (PM Modi replied) 'One and a half billion'.

Putin, fascinated, said, "Only one-third (of the population) speaks the language of the titular nation."

He then asked PM Modi about the other two-thirds of the population, to which he replied, "The other two-thirds speak their own languages," according to Putin.

The Russian President continued his praise and said in the interview, "Isn't that amazing? It's stunning!"

Cop cancels wedding over car dispute

SONIPAT: A wedding in Haryana's Sonipat turned into a distressing episode after the groom allegedly refused to marry the bride over the non-fulfilment of his demand for a Maruti Brezza car and returned with his family.

The incident took place on November 20 at Mamchand Vatika in Sonipat. The bride's father, Subhash Kumar, has alleged that the groom, Kuldeep, who is posted with the Delhi Police, insisted on getting a Brezza worth around Rs 13 lakh instead of Hyundai Aura worth approximately Rs 9.5 lakh that the bride's family had already booked for him.

The bride's family has approached the police, seeking action against the groom and his family.

The father claims that he spent between Rs 25 lakh and Rs 30 lakh on wedding preparations.

According to the complaint, Subhash had fixed his daughter Heena's marriage with Kuldeep around six months ago. The wedding was scheduled for November 20. The father alleged that demands for a car and jewellery had started emerging from the groom's side after the alliance was finalised.

Subhash claimed that he had already booked a car worth around Rs 9.5 lakh for the groom. However, a day before the wedding, he learnt through intermediaries that Kuldeep was not satisfied with the vehicle and wanted a Maruti Brezza instead.

NEWSLINE

HYDERABAD

'Bitten by dogs'

Nearly three years after coming to power, Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy is facing an increasingly uncomfortable challenge: criticism is no longer confined to the Opposition, but is coming from sitting Congress MLAs, MPs, ministers and sections of the party's original leadership. Public confrontations, allegations of corruption, disputes over development funds, ministerial rivalries and complaints reaching the Congress high command have put the state in the spotlight, with a new party in-charge assigned to resolve the internal disagreements. The latest confrontation was triggered by Munugode MLA Komatireddy Raj Gopal Reddy, who accused the Reddy-led government of discriminating against constituencies represented by legislators who are not part of the Chief Minister's immediate political circle.

TIRUCHIRAPALLI

8 killed in mishap

Eight people were killed and two others seriously injured after the car they were travelling in collided with a neem tree in this district on Sunday, police said.

The accident occurred near Kothurpatty four road within Jambunathapuram police station limits at around 4.05 pm, when 10 people were returning to Thirukattupalli in Thanjavur district after attending an ear-piercing ceremony at Erumapatti in Namakkal district, they added.

While five occupants died on the spot, three others succumbed to their injuries at the Musiri Government Hospital, police said.

LUCKNOW

Seat-sharing talks

The Samajwadi Party (SP) and the Congress leaders are to meet in New Delhi from Monday to start the first round of seat-sharing talks for the UP polls, which are due in early 2027. The talks are likely to be spread across two days, with Congress veteran and Rajya Sabha MP Pramod Tiwari's Delhi residence serving as the likely venue for talks, party leaders indicated. "We are to meet for a preliminary discussion from Monday," party's state working chief Imran Masood, who is among the panel of Congress negotiators for the talks with the SP, told PTI. Congress leaders suggested that party general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra might lead the talks, adding that many favoured closing the deal by December 20 at the latest.

| HEARTBREAKING LOSS |

Girl dies by suicide after infant sister's death

Press Trust Of India

The incident left the family devastated by the loss of two daughters on the same day.



KORBA: A 10-year-old girl allegedly committed suicide after her unwell two-and-half-month-old sister died at a hospital in Korba district, a police official said on Sunday. The incident took place on Friday in Amatikra village under Bango police station limits, leaving the family devastated by the loss of two daughters on the same day. The infant, Rani, had been suffering from cold, cough and fever for the past few days and was receiving treatment at a local hospital and a community health centre in Pondi Uproda, from where she was referred to the Medical College Hospital in Korba on Thursday night as her condition deteriorated, he said. Rani died on Friday morning, and her father, Sukhiram, a daily-wage labourer, informed the family about the death over the phone, the official said. "When the parents returned to their village with the infant's body in a funeral transport vehicle, they found their eldest daughter, Rupkunwar, hanging inside a room of their house.

| NEIGHBOURHOOD CONNECT |

Nepal PM Shah begins maiden India visit

Press Trust Of India

Shah-Modi Monday meeting may chart stronger bilateral ties.



Nepal Prime Minister Balendra Shah arrives in New Delhi.

NEW DELHI: Shoring up bilateral ties in energy, hydropower, railways, connectivity and infrastructure is set to be the key focus of talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Nepalese counterpart Balendra Shah on Monday. Shah arrived in New Delhi on Sunday on his first visit to India after assuming charge of the top office in March. He was received by Jitin Prasada, Minister of State for Commerce and Industry. The meeting between Shah and Modi on Monday is expected to provide political direction for a major upswing in the relationship in the coming years, people familiar with the matter said. Following their talks, the two prime ministers would virtually inaugurate several projects in Nepal, the people cited above said, adding that a number of "forward-looking" bilateral documents in diverse areas are expected to be concluded and exchanged between the two sides. This visit comes at an opportune time, as there is considerable synergy between the national priorities of both countries regarding economic growth, social development, infrastructure expansion, technology adoption and addressing issues like natural disasters and climate change, one of the people said.

Air Fest 2026



The IAF Surya Kiran Aerobatic Team (SKAT) performs manoeuvres during Air Fest 2026, at Vayusena Nagar in Nagpur.

| BILATERAL FREEZE |

'No formal India-Pak talks at SCO forum'

Press Trust Of India

SCO Forum's outcome document calls for respecting every civilisation, heritage protection



NEW DELHI: The SCO Civilisational Dialogue Forum hosted by India on Sunday came out with an outcome document -- Indraprastha Communique -- which called for the protection of cultural heritage, including from illicit trafficking, and "respecting every civilisation as an equal voice". Held at the historic Purana Quila, the three-day forum inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on November 20 saw the participation of delegates from various SCO member countries, including Pakistan's federal minister Musadik Malik. Asked if any formal bilateral talks were held between India and Pakistan on the sidelines, Union Culture Secretary Vivek Aggarwal said, "No, there were no formal bilateral talks between the two sides." However, he said that members of the Indian side did have interactions with him over banquets, and that there were other interactions with him during the course of the forum.

| EXPERTS VIEW |

'Coordinated approach to spine care essential'

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: India needs a coordinated national approach to strengthen specialised spine care, improve referral networks and ensure access to rehabilitation services, experts said on Friday while speaking at an international conference in the national capital.



The 26th annual conference of the Spinal Cord Society (SCS) of India, ISSICON 2026, is being held from November 20 to 23, bringing together spine surgeons, neurosurgeons, rehabilitation specialists and researchers from India, the US, the UK, Canada, Iran, Australia and several European countries.

Organised in collaboration with the International Spinal Cord Society (ISCoS), AO Spine and the Spine Trauma Study Group of ISCoS, the four-day conference is being held under the theme 'Spine and Spinal Cord Injury Horizons 2026: Global Innovation, Integration and Excellence'.

A study published on November 17 in the journal 'Discover Public Health', based on estimates from the Global Burden of Disease Study 2023, reported an age-standardised prevalence of spinal cord injury-related disability of 193.07 per one lakh population in India in 2023.

NUMBER

65.83

- The national years lived with disability (YLD) rate stood at 65.83 per one lakh population

Road crash in Rajasthan leaves nine dead

Press Trust Of India

MUV was carrying 16 members of a family comprising two brothers and their wives and children.

KOTA: Nine members of a family returning from a pilgrimage to Khatu Shyamji temple were killed when an MUV carrying them crashed into a truck parked along the roadside on the Kota-Udaipur National Highway here early Sunday, police said. The accident took place at 1 am when the victims were returning to their homes in Dhule district of Maharashtra. Superintendent of Police Tejeshwani Gautam said nine people, including children and women, died on the spot while eight others were injured. The multi-utility vehicle (MUV) was carrying 16 members of a family comprising two brothers and their wives and children.

A preliminary probe suggested that the MUV driver might have dozed off at the wheel. President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi voiced grief over the loss of lives in the accident. The prime minister also announced that an ex-gratia of Rs 2 lakh from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund would be given to the next of kin of each of those who lost their lives and Rs 50,000 would be given to each injured.

Raipur



Foundation stones laid for various development projects in village Charoda; irrigation, roads, electricity, and rural infrastructure will be strengthened.

Vishnu Deo Sai
CM Ch'garh

Nagar Kirtan held under the leadership of 'Panj Pyare'

A grand 'Nagar Kirtan' (religious procession) was taken out in the capital.

Central Chronicle News



RAIPUR: On Sunday, a grand 'Nagar Kirtan' (religious procession) was taken out in the capital, Raipur, with great devotion and enthusiasm to mark the 557th 'Prakash Parv' (birth anniversary) of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji, the first Guru of the Sikh faith. A large number of devotees participated in the procession, which commenced from Gurudwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha on Station Road, under the sacred presence of the Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji. Led by the 'Panj Pyare' (the five beloved ones), the procession traversed the city's main thoroughfares before concluding at the Telibandha Gurudwara.

On this occasion, Gurucharan Singh Hora–Chairman of the Grand Group and General Secretary of the Chhattisgarh Tennis Association–along with his family, welcomed the Nagar Kirtan in front of the Grand Meridian Complex. The Hora family showered flowers upon the 'Panj Pyare' and offered their respects before the Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji, praying for the prosperity and well-being of the state. Throughout the procession, 'prasad'–consisting of chickpeas (chane), 'pakoras', tea, and 'sev-boondi'–was distributed to the devotees. The Hora family, along with the officers and staff of the Grand Group, actively participated in this 'seva' (selfless service) by distributing the 'prasad'.

HIGHLIGHT

- Nagar Kirtan began at Gurudwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha (Station Road) and passed through various Chowks.

The Nagar Kirtan began at Gurudwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha (Station Road) and passed through Fafadih Chowk, Shastri Chowk, and Gaurav Path, finally concluding at the Telibandha Gurudwara. The procession was led by the 'palki' (palanquin) of the Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji and the 'Panj Pyare'. 'Ragi Singhs' (hymn singers) performed soulful renditions of 'Gurbani' and 'Guru Jas' (praises of the Guru), while a 'Gatka' (traditional Sikh martial art) team showcased their skills, which became a major attraction for the devotees. Along the entire route, the faithful welcomed the 'Panj Pyare' with devotion, a spirit of service, and great enthusiasm, while also paying their respects to the Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji.

Governor to inaugurate workshop today

Central Chronicle News



RAIPUR: A state-level training-cum-workshop on the theme "Human Trafficking and the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence" will be organized on November 23 by the Chhattisgarh State Commission for Women, in collaboration with the National Commission for Women and Pandit Ravishankar Shukla University.

The event, scheduled to take place at the university auditorium from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM, will see the participation of approximately 500 individuals representing the judiciary, the police, the Department of Women and Child Development, the Higher Education Department, and various voluntary organizations.

The workshop will be inaugurated by Governor Ramen Deka.

Dignitaries expected to attend include the Minister for Women and Child Development, Laxmi Rajwade; the Vice-Chancellor of Pandit Ravishankar Shukla University, Prof. Sachchidanand Shukla; and the Chairperson of the Chhattisgarh State Commission for Women, Dr. Mamta Sahu, along with other commission members and guests. The program will conclude in the presence of Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai.

Man struck by 11K-volt power line, sustains injuries

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: A major accident occurred in the Urla police station area of Raipur, the capital of Chhattisgarh, during the installation of solar panels. A worker came into contact with an 11,000-volt power line and sustained injuries. The incident caused panic at the scene. The injured man was immediately rushed to a hospital, and given the critical nature of his condition, he has since been admitted to AIIMS Raipur.

According to reports, solar panel installation work was underway in the Urla police station area when the worker, while performing his duties, came into contact with a nearby 11,000-volt high-tension power line. He was struck by a powerful electric current and collapsed. The sudden accident caused alarm among those present at the site. Bystanders immediately assisted the injured man and transported him to a hospital. Following initial treatment, he was transferred to AIIMS Raipur for advanced medical care, where he remains under the supervision of doctors.

State's tribal community against the UCC: Baij

Central Chronicle News



RAIPUR: The tribal community in the state is opposed to the Uniform Civil Code (UCC). State Congress President Deepak Baij stated that from Bastar to Sarguja, the tribal community has expressed its opposition to the implementation of the UCC in the state before the committee formed by the government. The BJP government is attempting to impose the UCC in the state, contrary to the wishes of the tribal population. We demand that the government make public all the objections and suggestions submitted to the UCC committee so that it becomes clear how many people support its implementation and how many oppose it. State Congress President Deepak Baij remarked that the UCC survey is a sham; the draft has already been prepared in Delhi. This survey by the BJP government is not intended to seek public opinion, but is instead a staged drama designed to validate its own agenda–dictated from Nagpur/Delhi.

This government seeks to strip away the self-respect of the people of Chhattisgarh, as well as their rights over water, forests, and land ('jal-jangal-zameen').

| NATIONAL ALL INDIA TELUGU CONF |

CM Sai inaugurates All India Telugu Conference

Central Chronicle News

CM inaugurated the conference and extended greetings on the occasion of the 50th Foundation Day of Andhra Association.



RAIPUR: The 11th National All India Telugu Conference, organised by Andhra Association, is being held on 21st November in two sessions. The first session of the conference was formally inaugurated by the Chief Guest, Shri Vishnu Deo Sai, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh, at Sri Balaji Vidya Mandir, Devendra Nagar, Raipur.

On this occasion, CM Sai highly appreciated the initiative of organising the 11th National All India Telugu Conference and extended his heartfelt greetings to all members on the 50th Foundation Day of Andhra Association. He stated that the construction of roads has reduced the distance between Raipur and Visakhapatnam, which will strengthen connections and relationships among Telugu-speaking people. This road connectivity will serve as an important bridge between the two regions. He also appreciated the significant contributions of the people of Andhra Pradesh in the fields of trade, industry and education, stating that their contributions are playing an important role in the continuous development and progress of Chhattisgarh.

| RUGBY STATE LEAGUE 2026 |

Bilaspur and Korba clinch titles in ASMITA Rugby league

Central Chronicle News



RAIPUR: The ASMITA Rugby State League 2026 concluded on Sunday at the Swami Vivekananda Athletics Stadium in Kota, Raipur, featuring competitive final-day fixtures across the Sub-Junior Under-15 Girls and Senior Women categories. At the end of the tournament, Bilaspur emerged as the champion in the Sub-Junior Girls category, while Korba lifted the title in the Senior Women's division.

In the Sub-Junior Under-15 Girls category, Bilaspur displayed dominant form throughout their fixtures, defeating Balod 15-0, Bemetara 25-0, and Korba 27-0 to secure the championship crown. Korba finished as the first runner-up after beating Durg 5-0 and edging past Mahasamund 10-7, while Mahasamund claimed the second runner-up spot following comprehensive wins over Rajnandgaon (27-5) and Bemetara (30-0). In another match in the category, Bemetara defeated Raipur 5-0.

The Senior Women's category witnessed equally intense action, with Korba clinching the championship title after registering victories against Bemetara (24-5) and Bilaspur (15-5).

Bilaspur finished as the first runner-up, having posted commanding wins over Balod (29-0) and Raipur (26-0), while hosts Raipur secured the second runner-up position after defeating Dhamtari 32-0 and Bemetara 10-0.

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

VISIT TO ANCIENT MUKTESHWAR DHAM

CM Sai offers prayers at the historic Mukteshwar Shiva Temple



RAIPUR: Mukteshwar Dham serves as an important center for Ch'garh's rich religious and cultural heritage: CM

Raipur: Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai performed formal worship of Lord Bholenath today at the historic Mukteshwar Shiva Temple, situated in the village of Charoda within the Dharsiwa area of Raipur district. Seeking the blessings of Lord Shiva, he prayed for a happy, prosperous, and flourishing life for the people of the state, as well as for the continued progress of Chhattisgarh. CM Sai remarked that the land of Chhattisgarh is imbued with ancient temples, religious beliefs, and rich cultural traditions. Historic religious sites like Mukteshwar Dham stand as vibrant symbols of our glorious heritage and popular faith. Such places strengthen our cultural identity and social unity.

Present on this occasion were Dharsiwa MLA Anuj Sharma, former Member of Parliament Ranvijay Singh Judev, along with other public representatives, officials, staff members, and a large number of local citizens.

ANNUAL ACADEMIC EXHB

Grand annual academic exhibition held at Bharat Mata School



RAIPUR: An impressive annual academic exhibition was held at Bharat Mata Higher Secondary School, Tatibandh, Raipur, on Nov 21. The event commenced with the lighting of a ceremonial lamp and the offering of garlands by the chief guest, Sister Sarla (Advisor), along with Sister Prem and the school principal, Sister Madhu Khes. Students from nursery to class XII participated in the exhibition with great enthusiasm. They presented engaging models, charts, and projects covering a wide range of subjects, including science, the environment, space, robotics, social science, mathematics, commerce, Hindi, and English. The students showcased their scientific thinking, creativity, innovation, and practical knowledge.

The chief guests, school management, teachers, and parents explored the exhibition, praised the students' talent and efforts, and encouraged them. The primary objective of the event was to foster self-confidence, a scientific temper, creativity, and practical knowledge among the students.

PROCESSION ARRIVES AT 'JAGRITI MANDAL'

RSS volunteers commemorate the life and works of Shri Guru Nanak Devji



RAIPUR: On the occasion of the birth anniversary (Prakash Parv) of the first Guru of the Sikhs, Shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji, a grand procession arrived on Sunday at 'Jagriti Mandal'–the provincial office of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh. The procession, which took the form of a 'prabhat pheri' (morning devotional procession), was accorded a grand welcome by the RSS 'karyakartas (workers). It is noteworthy that for several years now, this procession has been visiting the RSS office, 'Jagriti Mandal', on this sacred occasion.

During the event, women from the community presented inspiring 'kirtans' (devotional songs) that highlighted the life and contributions of Shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji. RSS volunteers offered flowers at the 'Palki Sahib' (the palanquin carrying the Guru Granth Sahib) and sought blessings. On this occasion, the volunteers recalled inspiring episodes from the life of Shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji. It is significant to note that the entire life of Shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji was dedicated to the protection of 'Hindutva', 'Dharma' (righteousness), and the nation. He urged society to shun social evils and championed the message of national unity and integrity.

PARENTS PROUDLY DEDICATE THEIR DAUGHTERS

This dedication will serve as a catalyst for global transformation: Jayanti Didi



RAIPUR: A grand dedication ceremony was held today at the Shanti Sarovar campus of the Prajapita Brahmakumari Ishwariya Vishwavidyalaya (PBIV), where 45 young women were initiated into the Brahmakumari order. In this dignified event, parents entrusted their daughters to the care of Rajyogini Jayanti Didi, the Additional Chief Administrator of the organization, dedicating them to the divine path of service for the welfare of the world. Rajyogini Jayanti Didi, the Additional Chief Administrator, praised and honored the noble decision made by these young women. Offering her blessings, she stated that the virtues of humility, purity, and harmony embodied by these sisters would help restore happiness and peace to the world. She added that the Divine would guide them at every step, leading them to the pinnacle of success. She remarked that there could be no greater joy than seeing 45 sisters come together with a firm resolve to dedicate their entire being to the Divine mission. By doing so, these sisters are not only ensuring the success of their own lives but are also acting as instruments to dispel the darkness of the current age (Kaliyuga) and pave the way for a new, virtuous era (Satyuga).

Raipur News

Opposition's allegations on delimitation are baseless: CM

There is a vast gap between what the opposition says and what they do; the people of the country will no longer be swayed by them: Chief Minister

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: Responding to the opposition's allegations regarding delimitation, Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai stated that the Bharatiya Janata Party and the NDA are consistently earning the trust of the nation's citizens through their policies, public welfare initiatives, and commitment to the people. Meanwhile, the opposition–frustrated by repeated electoral defeats–is attempting to vent its irritation by leveling baseless accusations. Their claims hold no merit, and the public is well aware of the reality.

CM Sai made these remarks while speaking to journalists after attending the inaugural session of the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha's two-day state executive committee meeting. CM Sai remarked that those whose words and actions have always been worlds apart–those who misled the public for years with lies to attain power–are now questioning others.

He added that the Hindi proverb, "After eating nine hundred mice, the cat sets off for a pilgrimage" (implying a hypocritical attempt to appear virtuous after a history of wrongdoing), perfectly describes such individuals. CM Sai stated that the people of the country have now understood the true nature of the opposition. This is the reason why the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the NDA continue to receive the support and trust of the public. He remarked that the opposition, rattled by repeated electoral defeats, is making baseless statements out of sheer frustration. The Chief Minister likened their situation to the proverb, "a frustrated cat scratches the pillar" (implying lashing out due to helplessness); the public does not take such allegations seriously.



FASTFACTS

- The Yuva Morcha plays a crucial role in taking the BJP's policies, principles, and the government's achievements to the masses: Sai
- Various issues will be deliberated upon across seven sessions during the two-day state executive committee meeting of the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha

The Yuva Morcha bears a significant responsibility for strengthening the organization and communicating the government's achievements to the general public. Regarding the state executive committee meeting of the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha, CM noted that executive committee meetings are an integral and continuous process within the Bharatiya Janata Party. Such meetings are held regularly, not only for the parent organization but also for its various wings (morchas).

These sessions serve as a platform to deliberate on organizational activities, upcoming programs, and matters concerning the strengthening of the organization.

The Chief Minister mentioned that the two-day state executive committee meeting of the Yuva Morcha will consist of seven sessions. In each session, experts will share their insights on specific topics and provide guidance to the party workers.

Discipline, punctuality and continuous outreach key to success: Karmaveer

BJP State General Secretary (Organisation) Karmaveer Singh emphasized today that the party organisation is its greatest strength, with the Yuva Morcha serving as its most dynamic wing. Addressing party workers, Singh stated that discipline, punctuality, and continuous public outreach form the core mantra for organisational success. Calling upon Yuva Morcha workers to actively engage with the public as Seva Doots (messengers of service) under a dedicated 25-day action plan, he urged them to undertake extensive tours and ensure that information regarding Central and State government welfare schemes reaches every household. He further instructed cadres to build strong teams of youth at every polling booth.

Program on Semiconductor held

RAIPUR: The Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering (ECE) at NIT Raipur successfully concluded its six-day online AICTE Training and Learning (ATAL) Faculty Development Program (FDP) titled "Emerging Semiconductor and Quantum Technologies: Devices, Architectures, and Applications" on Saturday. Held from November 16 to 21, the program brought together academicians, researchers, and industry professionals to explore advancements in semiconductor devices, quantum computing, AI hardware, and neuromorphic systems.

Throughout the week, participants attended expert sessions led by specialists from premier national and international institutions, including IITs, BITS Pilani Dubai Campus, the University of Alabama in Huntsville, Yeungnam University, Intel, Samsung Electronics, and GlobalFoundries.

The final day featured technical talks on IoT, AI-driven smart chips, and brain-inspired computing by industry leaders Pankaj Choubey (Vipan Semiconductor), Dr. Sunil Pandey (Samsung Foundry), and Dr. Dinesh Kushwaha (GlobalFoundries). The valedictory ceremony was attended by Director In-charge Prof. Samir Bajpai, CEC Chairman Prof. Subhojit Ghosh, ECE Head Dr. Bijayananda Patnaik.

Patwari strike suspended following CM's intervention



Central Chronicle News

Patwari Association announces suspension of strike after constructive dialogue; expresses gratitude to the Chief Minister

RAIPUR: Following an empathetic initiative and constructive dialogue by Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai, the Chhattisgarh Patwari Association has announced the suspension of its state-wide strike.

Representatives of the Patwari Association held a formal meeting with Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai at his official residence today. During the discussion, the association's office-bearers provided detailed information regarding their demands. Chief Minister Sai listened to their concerns with great patience and empathy. He emphasized that the legitimate demands of employees should be addressed through dialogue and mutual understanding, noting that the state government remains sensitive to the issues faced by its staff.

CM Sai directed the formation of a high-level committee to examine the Patwaris' demands concerning salary discrepancies and promotions. This committee will assess various aspects of these demands and submit recommendations for their resolution.

CM Sai also assured that any actions taken during the strike period would be reviewed with empathy. He reiterated that employee grievances should be resolved through dialogue and mutual understanding, affirming the state government's commitment to addressing the legitimate demands and concerns of its employees.

The representatives of the Chhattisgarh Patwari Association (CPA) have expressed their gratitude to Chief Minister Sai for his positive approach toward their demands and for his directive to establish a high-level committee.

HIGHLIGHT

- Chief Minister directs formation of a high-level committee to consider Patwaris' demands sympathetically
- Committee to examine issues regarding salary discrepancies and promotions, and recommend solutions

NEWSLINE

PAVILION IN IITF 2026

Rare manuscripts and copperplates take centre stage



RAIPUR The rich historical and cultural heritage of Chhattisgarh is drawing widespread attention at the 45th India International Trade Fair (IITF), organised by the India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi. Spread across 1,000 square metres on the first floor of Hall Number 4 (Stall No. 4F-03-A), the Chhattisgarh Pavilion features a special exhibition of rare manuscripts, copperplates, and historical records curated from the collection of Acharya Ramendranath Mishra by the State Archaeology Department.

Key exhibits include medicinal manuscripts from the Kalachuri era titled Khoob Tamasha and Nasket, alongside a 1735 AD copperplate issued by Amar Singh Dev, the last Kalachuri ruler of Raipur. Visitors can also view a gold-lettered manuscript from the era of Rani Durgavati and a Ramayana manuscript by Sushendas Maharaj from Goswami Tulsidas's disciple tradition.

A major highlight is Tawarikh-e-Haihaiya Rajaon Ki, written in 1858 by historian Babu Rewaram, considered the first historical manuscript of Chhattisgarh.

Cong stages protest against potholes on Gudhiyari–Ramnagar Canal road

Central Chronicle News



RAIPUR: Led by Raipur City District Congress President Srikumar Shankar Menon, Congress workers and local residents staged a demonstration on Sunday at the Gudhiyari-Ramnagar main road near the FCI godown on Canal Road, protesting against large potholes and open manholes on the stretch. During the protest, demonstrators raised slogans against the BJP-led administration and placed posters of BJP leaders inside the potholes, attributing the deteriorating civic conditions in the state capital to what they termed the "nine-engine government."

According to statements made by the protesters, the Canal Road stretch connecting Bharatmata Chowk in Gudhiyari to Ramnagar has been riddled with deep potholes and uncovered manholes for several months, leading to frequent accidents and injuries among commuters. Protesters stated that roughly 30,000 to 40,000 vehicles and nearly one lakh residents use the route daily. They noted that local residents had submitted dozens of complaints to the area corporator, MLA, Zone Chairman, Member-in-Council (MIC) and the Mayor, before approaching Congress leaders and former corporators to intervene due to a lack of action.

Joined by residents from Tilak Nagar, Ashok Nagar, Vikas Nagar, Gogaon, Kalinga Nagar, Khalbaada, Shukrawari Bazar, Murrabhatti, Pahadipara, Ekta Nagar, Kota, and Ramnagar, Congress workers symbolically named the potholes after local BJP representatives and placed posters criticizing the administration. The posters featured names and images of the local corporator, Zone Chairman and MIC member, Mayor Meenal Choubey, MLA Rajesh Munat, MP Brijmohan Agrawal and Minister Arun Sao.

Addressing the gathering, City Congress President Srikumar Shankar Menon alleged that despite having BJP governments at the municipal, state, and central levels, the administration had failed to provide basic amenities in Raipur.

| YUKTI 4.0 AT IIM |

Discussions held on strategic exits, responsible business

Central Chronicle News

IIM Raipur concluded the fourth edition of its flagship Business Conclave, Yukti 4.0.



RAIPUR: The Indian Institute of Management Raipur (IIM Raipur) successfully concluded the fourth edition of Yukti, its two-day flagship Business Conclave 2026, on November 22, 2026. Organised by the Student Affairs Committee, along with the Institute's Academic Clubs, the conclave brought together students and industry practitioners to deliberate on contemporary business challenges under the theme, "Chakravyuh: From the Battlefield to the Boardroom." Dr. Sanjeev Prashar, Director-in-Charge, IIM Raipur, said, "Yukti 4.0 reflects the importance of strategic thinking, adaptability and responsible decision-making in navigating the complexities of the business world. Through discussions on organisational transformation, ethical business practices and experiential learning, the conclave encourages students to look beyond conventional approaches, question established practices and develop the judgement required to lead organisations with purpose and responsibility."

The third panel, themed 'Nishkashan- The Strategic Art of Walking Away', was moderated by Dr. Sanjeev Prashar, Director-in-Charge, IIM Raipur. The discussion explored how organisations can navigate strategic exits and technological transitions while preserving business value, stakeholder trust and employee interests. The panellists examined the role of financial signals, emerging technologies and effective communication in driving organisational transformation.The discussion brought together Mukesh Jain, CTO and Executive Vice President, Capgemini, Neeraj Jha, Founder and Managing Director, Neeraj Jha Brand and Reputation Advisory, and Jyoti Prakash, Chief Financial Officer, Tata Steel Utilities and Infrastructure Ltd.

FASTFACT

- The third panel explored strategic business exits, technological transitions and organisational transformation.

ENFORCEMENT DRIVES

Crackdown on illegal paddy transport

RAIPUR: To ensure transparency in the paddy procurement system and curb illegal transportation, storage, and middleman (kochiya) activities, the state administration has intensified enforcement drives across Chhattisgarh.

As part of these ongoing inspections, authorities in Kanker district have seized 1,237 quintals of illegal paddy and registered 16 cases against middlemen, traders and other individuals.

According to information provided by the Kanker District Food Officer, action has been initiated under the Mandi Act, 1972, across all 16 cases, with specific proceedings under Sections 19 and 23 of the Act invoked in two instances for statutory violations. The enforcement raids were carried out across multiple blocks.

| WOMEN'S U-19 SQUAD AGAINST ENGLAND |

Ch'garh's Palak and Mahak selected for India

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: Bringing pride to the state, two promising female cricketers from the Chhattisgarh State Cricket Sangh (CSCS), Palak Singh and Mahak Narwase, have been selected for the Indian Women's Under-19 T20 squad. According to an official release issued by the CSCS Chief Executive Officer, both players will represent India in the upcoming five-match T20 series against England Women U-19, scheduled to be played from November 26 to December 6.

Palak Singh, an emerging medium-fast bowler from Chhattisgarh, caught the attention of national selectors with her pace, discipline, and consistent performances in youth cricket. Having claimed five wickets in eight matches over the past year, she also made headlines by winning a gold medal in the 'Speed Queen' competition during last year's Women's Premier League (WPL), where she clocked a top speed of 106 km/h. Joining her in the squad is talented bowling all-rounder Mahak Narwase, who has previously served as the vice-captain of the India U-19 women's team and regularly represents Chhattisgarh in domestic cricket. Narwase earned her spot on the back of a standout 2025-26 domestic season, where she scored 212 runs and scalped 20 wickets in the Senior Women's One-Day Trophy. She continued her fine form across age-group tournaments, registering 67 runs and eight wickets in four matches of the Women's U-19 One-Day Trophy, 53 runs and seven wickets in the Women's U-23 T20 Trophy, and five wickets in four outings during the Women's U-19 T20 Trophy. The England Women U-19 tour of India will commence in Vadodara, which will host the first T20 on Thursday, November 26 at 6:00 PM, followed by the second T20 on Saturday, November 28 at 1:00 PM. The action will then shift to Surat for the remainder of the series, with the third and fourth T20s scheduled for Tuesday, December 1 and Thursday, December 3 at 6:00 PM each, before concluding with the fifth T20 on Sunday, December 6 at 1:00 PM.



Rajnish, Rajesh, Sushant and S. Pendharkar take early lead

Central Chronicle News



RAIPUR: The final round of super league matches is currently underway at the Sapre School Table Tennis Hall in Budhapara, Raipur, as part of the ongoing "Late Shri Purushottam Bhai Chawda Memorial" 2nd Chhattisgarh State Masters Ranking Table Tennis Tournament-2026. Organised by the Chhattisgarh Veterans Table Tennis Committee under the aegis of the Chhattisgarh Table Tennis Association, the tournament features intense competition across the Men's Singles (40+, 50+, 60+, 65+, and 70+) and Women's Singles (40+ and 60+) categories.

In the Men's Singles (40+ age group), matches are being contested among Rajnish Oberoi (Durg), Shailesh Daga (Raipur), Chiranjit Roy (Raipur Mahanagar), A. Santosh (Durg), Deepak Verma (Raipur), and Nikhil Bani (Raipur). Rajnish Oberoi (Durg), A. Santosh (Durg), and Nikhil Bani (Raipur) have won their respective matches to take the lead.

Bilaspur



It is a good decision that Patwaris of the state have postponed their on-going strike, in the wake of farmers' plight due to cyclone."

Arun Sao
Dy CM, Chhattisgarh

Fourth line work to affect railway traffic for 13 days

SEC Railway has scheduled major infrastructure work on the Bilaspur–Jharsuguda fourth railway line, affecting passenger services across the corridor.

Central Chronicle News



BILASPUR: Rail traffic on the busy Bilaspur-Jharsuguda railway corridor will remain severely disrupted from December 6 to 18 due to infrastructure modernisation work being undertaken by the South East Central Railway (SECR). The work is part of the 206-kilometre-long fourth railway line project and involves non-interlocking (NI) work to connect Champa station with the fourth line, along with auto-signalling work in the Champa-Janjgir Naila section.

During the 13-day period, the railways will cancel 13 MEMU and passenger train services, while several important express trains will be short-terminated, short-originated or rescheduled. The changes will particularly affect passengers travelling between Bilaspur, Korba, Raigarh and other destinations.

Train No. 18237 Korba-Amritsar Chhattisgarh Express will originate from Bilaspur instead of Korba from December 7 to 18 and remain cancelled between Korba and Bilaspur. Train No. 18518 Visakhapatnam-Korba Link Express will terminate at Bilaspur from December 6 to 17. Its return service, Train No. 18517, will originate from Bilaspur instead of Korba from December 7 to 18. Similarly, Train No. 12410 Nizamuddin-Raigarh Gondwana Express will terminate at Bilaspur on December 10 and 12, while Train No. 12409 Raigarh-Nizamuddin Gondwana Express will originate from Bilaspur on December 12 and 14. The 68861/68862 Gondia-Jharsuguda-Gondia MEMU will also operate only up to Bilaspur from December 7 to 18.

To provide relief to daily commuters, the railways has arranged to operate Train No. 18250/18249 Korba-Raipur-Korba Hasdeo Express as a passenger train between Korba and Bilaspur during this period. The arrangement is intended to maintain connectivity for passengers travelling to smaller stations. Several long-distance trains will also face substantial delays. The 18478 Utkal Express will depart nine hours late from December 10 to 12, while its return service, 18477, will be delayed by seven hours from December 12 to 14.

FASTFACTS

- Railways cancels 13 local MEMU and passenger trains from December 6.
- Major express trains face route curtailments and delays of up to nine hours.

'Bilaspur-Raipur & other MEMU to be affected

Among the cancelled services, Train Nos. 68736 Bilaspur–Raigarh MEMU, 68746 Raipur–Gevra Road MEMU and 58204 Raipur–Korba Passenger will remain cancelled from December 6 to 17. Other affected services include 68735 Raigarh–Bilaspur MEMU, 68745 Gevra Road–Raipur MEMU, 58203 Korba–Raipur Passenger, 68734/68733 Bilaspur–Gevra Road MEMU, 68732/68731 Bilaspur–Korba MEMU, 68737/68738 Raigarh–Bilaspur MEMU and 58210 Bilaspur–Gevra Road Passenger. These trains will remain cancelled from December 7 to 18.

Employees demand release of DA, arrears

BILASPUR: A meeting and Diwali Milan Samaroh of the Chhattisgarh Karmachari Congress Officer-Employee Daily Wage and Permanent Gangman Organization was organized in Bilaspur, with Acting State President Rajendra Dave attending as the chief guest and District Branch President Arun Pandey presiding over the event. During discussions on various employee-related issues, the organization demanded the immediate release of the pending 3 percent Dearness Allowance (DA) along with arrears, in addition to the 2 percent DA recently announced by the government. Extending support to ongoing employee agitations across the state, the union urged the state government to resolve grievances swiftly through dialogue. Officials were also urged to expedite pending proceedings regarding time-bound pay scales for permanent gangmen of the Public Works Department (PWD), alongside detailed discussions on membership drives and organizational expansion. On the occasion, retired organization general secretary Prashant Mukashe and teacher K.K. Dubey were felicitated with a shawl, coconut.

Three accused arrested in cheque tampering fraud



Central Chronicle News

BILASPUR: Bilha police have arrested three individuals, including two bank employees and a cooperative society office-bearer, in connection with a Rs 3.38 lakh fraud involving the tampering and overwriting of cheques at the District Cooperative Central Bank in Bilha and the Seva Sahakari Samiti in Guma. Following their arrest, the accused were produced before a court and remanded to judicial custody. According to police, three cheques had been issued for various works at Seva Sahakari Samiti Maryadit Guma (No. 63) based on approved resolutions: Rs 51,900 via cheque number 021914 on September 15, 2025; Rs 1,82,080 via cheque number 021019 on October 14, 2025; and Rs 80,150 via cheque number 016635 on July 19, 2025. However, after the cheques were signed, the amounts were allegedly altered through overwriting and forgery–inflating Rs 51,900 to Rs 89,900, Rs 1,82,080 to Rs 2,82,080, and Rs 80,150 to Rs 2,80,150. Through these alterations, a total excess amount of Rs 3,38,000 was fraudulently withdrawn. A written complaint regarding the irregularities was lodged at the police station on September 26, 2026, by complainant Rajkumar Bargah.

During the investigation, police found that despite visible overwriting on the cheques, no verification was carried out at the bank level. Bank accountant Rishikesh Pandey allegedly cleared the tampered cheques, while cashier Sanjay Singh Baghel disbursed the cash instead of cancelling the altered instruments.

FASTFACTS

- Three accused were arrested, including bank employees, for Rs 3.38 Lakh cheque tampering fraud in Bilha

NEWSLINE

TRAIN

Puja special train to start from Darbhanga

BILASPUR: The South Central Railway administration has changed the originating station of Train No. 07562 Barauni-Charlapalli Puja Special due to operational reasons. The train will depart from Darbhanga instead of Barauni on Sunday, November 22, and operate under the revised name Darbhanga-Charlapalli Puja Special.

According to the revised schedule, the train will leave Darbhanga at 7:30 am on November 22. On Monday, it will reach Raigarh at 3:55 am, Bilaspur at 6 am, Raipur at 7:45 am, Durg at 8:50 am and Gondia at 11 am. It is scheduled to reach its final destination, Charlapalli, at 11:55 pm on Monday. During its journey, the train will halt at Samastipur, Barauni, Kiul, Jhajha, Jasidih, Madhupur, Chittaranjan, Dhanbad, Chandrapura, Muri, Ranchi, Rourkela, Jharsuguda, Raigarh, Bilaspur, Raipur, Durg, Gondia, Wadsa, Balharshah, Ramagundam and Kazipet stations. The railway administration has advised passengers to take note of the revised originating station and departure time before planning their journey to avoid inconvenience.

Power Company begins crackdown on hostels using domestic supply

Central Chronicle News

Power Distribution Company launches crackdown on hostels using domestic connections; penalties up to Rs 2 lakh imposed



BILASPUR: The power distribution company has launched an intensive crackdown across Bilaspur against hostels operating on domestic electricity connections, following a ruling by the Electricity Regulatory Commission that reclassifies hostel connections from domestic to commercial. Officials are registering cases of unauthorized commercial usage of domestic power and imposing hefty fines on hostel operators, triggering widespread panic among owners. As Bilaspur rapidly emerges as a major education hub, numerous hostels have mushroomed across the city to accommodate outstation students as well as working professionals. Under the power company's earlier tariff structure, hostel connections were categorized as domestic, and billing was carried out accordingly. However, after the regulatory commission explicitly classified hostels as commercial establishments, the power utility gave operators an opportunity to apply for a change of purpose. Despite the window provided, most operators ignored the directive, prompting the company to compile a list of violators and initiate raids. During inspection drives conducted in areas near educational institutions and coaching centers–including Koni, Dayalband, Shubham Colony, and Sarkanda–enforcement teams uncovered widespread discrepancies related to connection categories, sanctioned load, and power consumption.

Crackdown to Tighten on Hostels Operating Inside Residential Houses, Officials indicated that hostels functioning inside residential houses across various localities on domestic connections are also being identified.

FASTFACTS

- Power Distribution Company launches crackdown on hostels using domestic connections; penalties up to Rs 2 lakh imposed

| CASE FILED |

Man duped mobile shop owner of Rs 3.23 lakh, case registered

Central Chronicle News

Man duped mobile shop owner of Rs 3.23 Lakh using Rs 5 Lakh Cheque already reported lost



BILASPUR: A mobile shop owner on Karbala Road has been allegedly cheated of Rs 3,23,000 by a buyer who took expensive mobile phones in exchange for a Rs 5 lakh cheque that had already been reported lost at a police station.

Following a formal complaint, Kotwali police have registered a fraud case against the accused, Nirman Kingrani, and initiated an investigation. According to the complaint lodged by Jitendra Kumar Malghani, a resident of Sindhi Colony who operates a mobile store named Sunita Music near Old Bus Stand on Karbala Road, a female acquaintance connected him over the phone with Nirman Kingrani on October 31. Expressing an urgent need to buy mobile phones, Nirman sent an associate to the shop, who purchased the devices valued at Rs 3,23,000 in total. In exchange, Nirman handed over a signed cheque for Rs 5 lakh and assured Jitendra that the payment would be settled by the same evening.

However, when Jitendra called the next day to ask for the money, the accused flatly refused to pay.

When Jitendra informed him that he would deposit the cheque in the bank, Nirman brushed him off, claiming he had already lodged a missing report for the cheque at the police station. The shopkeeper further alleged that upon repeated demands for the dues, the accused began threatening him, boasting that no one could take action against him.

Distressed by the intimidation and financial loss, Jitendra approached the Kotwali police station, where officials have booked the accused for cheating and launched a probe into the matter.

FASTFACTS

- Kotwali police have registered a fraud case against the accused, Nirman Kingrani,

MISHAP

Trailer rams into bike; One killed

BILASPUR: A 23-year-old youth died and two others were injured after a speeding trailer truck collided with their motorcycle near Dheka Mod under the Torwa police station limits. Following the collision, the trailer driver abandoned the vehicle at the scene and fled. Police have seized the truck and launched a search to apprehend the absconding driver.

Torwa Station House Officer (SHO) Vivek Pandey stated that Prateek Kaivart (23), Seenu Kewat (30), and Shubham Kewat (14), all residents of Malhar, were traveling from Masturi toward Bilaspur on a motorcycle (registration number CG 10 CA 2501) around 4:00 PM, with Prateek riding the bike. As the trio reached the Dheka bypass turn and prepared to make a turn.

ARREST

Woman held for abetting suicide

BILASPUR: Police in the Koni police station area have arrested a 21-year-old woman in connection with abetting the suicide of a young man. The accused has been identified as Akanksha Sidar, a resident of Bhatgaon in Surajpur district. According to police, the deceased, Vikas Gupta (22), and the accused were in a romantic relationship. On January 27, 2026, both were staying at a hotel in Koni when an argument broke out between them over the issue of marriage.

| AMRIT MAHOTSAV |

CG School to celebrates Amrit Mahotsav on Dec 13

Central Chronicle News



BILASPUR: Chhattisgarh Higher Secondary School will celebrate its Amrit Mahotsav with great enthusiasm on December 13. On this historic occasion, a Teacher Felicitation Ceremony and Alumni Meet will be organized, bringing together former students who studied at the institution between 1951 and 2026. Over 1,200 alumni are expected to participate in the event to reconnect with old batchmates and relive their school days.

Sharing the outline of the celebration, alumnus and Chhattisgarh Shiksha Samiti President Dr. Shrish Kumar Mishra, former AU University Registrar Sudhir Sharma, Jitendra Shrivastava, and School Principal Prashant Diwakar Chipde stated that the festival will commence in the morning with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp.

Former teachers will be honored during the first session, followed by cultural performances presented by the Chhattisgarh Shiksha Samiti in the afternoon. The event will conclude later in the day with a tribute to deceased former teachers. Guests will also release the Amrit Mahotsav Souvenir on the occasion–a special publication chronicling the school's 75-year golden journey, achievements, former principals, alumni contributions, and institutional history. Journey Began with Class 5 in 1951, Office-bearers noted that the school began its journey in 1951 by admitting its first batch into Class 5.

> "Over 1200 alumni are expected to reconnect with old batchmates."
>
> **Dr. Shrish Kr Mishra**
> Chief, CG Shiksha Samiti

Computer equipment stolen from GGU lab

Central Chronicle News

BILASPUR: Computer equipment worth thousands of rupees was stolen from the Commerce Department's computer laboratory at Guru Ghasidas Central University (GGU), raising concerns over security on the campus. Unidentified thieves reportedly took away five CPUs, five UPS batteries, three computer mice and three keyboards after office hours. Following a complaint lodged by Commerce Department Head Munshi Ram, Koni police registered a theft case and initiated an investigation. According to Munshi Ram, the theft came to light on the morning of November 19 when a department peon unlocked the computer laboratory and noticed that several computer accessories were missing. A subsequent inspection confirmed that five CPUs, five UPS batteries, three mice and three keyboards had been stolen.

N-E-W-S



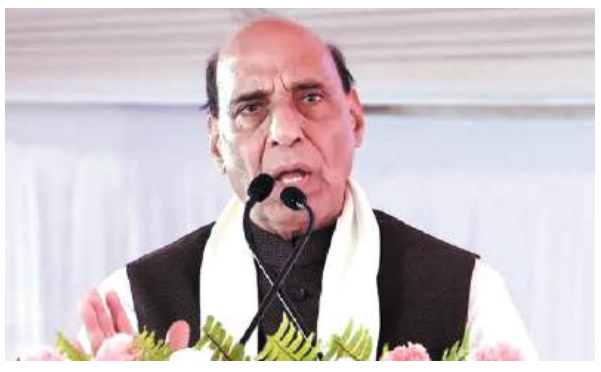
The youth should make cycling both a fashion and a passion, to becoming fitness-conscious."

Dr Mansukh Mandaviya
Union Sports Minister

Rajnath Singh urges students to embrace failure in life

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh urged students to embrace failure as an essential part of their journey towards success.

Press Trust Of India



LUCKNOW: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday urged students to embrace failure as an essential part of their journey towards success, face challenges with confidence and remain committed to their goals, saying that their future is determined by their efforts rather than circumstances.

Addressing the convocation ceremony of Babu Banarasi Das University in Lucknow, Singh encouraged graduating students to learn from setbacks and confront difficulties instead of giving up. "Remember that it is not your circumstances but your efforts that decide your future," he said. Citing the examples of scientist Thomas Alva Edison and spiritual leader Swami Vivekananda, the Defence Minister highlighted how perseverance and determination could help individuals overcome difficult circumstances.

Referring to Edison's struggles during childhood and his hearing impairment, Singh said the scientist never gave up and went on to make inventions that transformed human history.

Emphasising the importance of failure in the learning process, he said, "But as they say in the world of computers and IT, failure is a feature. Failure is a feature, not a bug." Recalling an incident from Swami Vivekananda's life in Varanasi, Singh narrated how Vivekananda confronted a group of monkeys chasing him, prompting them to retreat. Drawing a lesson from the incident, he urged students to face adversity with courage.

HIGHLIGHT

- **Addressing the convocation ceremony of BB Das University Singh encouraged students to learn from setbacks.**

"Face the brutes. Whatever challenges have come your way in life, fight them. Do not run away," he said.

The Defence Minister said that while university examinations followed a fixed syllabus and schedule, the professional world would present new and unpredictable challenges every day.

Quantum & AI university campus opens in Guntur

Central Chronicle News



GUNTUR: Andhra Pradesh has taken another step towards becoming a hub for quantum computing and artificial intelligence with the launch of a temporary campus of the National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology at Acharya Nagarjuna University in Guntur.

The permanent campus is planned on 8.5 acres at Nidamarru in Amaravati at an estimated cost of Rs 730.70 crore, with support from the Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and the state government. The temporary facility was inaugurated at the university's Centre for Distance Education building.

Four advanced laboratories are being established at the temporary campus at a cost of Rs 47 crore. They will focus on quantum computing, quantum communication, chip design and very-large-scale integration, and artificial intelligence.

Training programmes are expected to begin in January 2027.

FASTFACTS

- **Permanent Amaravati campus will cost Rs 730.70 crore, with specialised laboratories.**

NEWSLINE

NEW DELHI

Man arrested for stabbing youth

Delhi Police have arrested a 28-year-old man for allegedly stabbing a 27-year-old youth following an earlier personal dispute in the Mandoli area of northeast Delhi. The injured man, identified as Sandeep alias Aman, sustained a knife injury to his abdomen and was admitted to a hospital for treatment. According to police, the incident occurred on November 20 near Char Khamba in Mandoli. The accused, identified as Umesh, allegedly attacked Sandeep following an argument linked to an earlier dispute involving the accused and the victim's brother, Robin. The earlier disagreement had reportedly taken place around 40 to 45 days before the stabbing.

CHARKHI DADRI

Woman officer assaulted at workplace

Police in Haryana's Charkhi Dadri district have registered a case against two people following an alleged assault on a woman agriculture development officer inside her workplace. The complaint also alleges the use of caste-related abusive language during the confrontation at the Agriculture Department office on Loharu Road. According to the complaint, the officer was performing her official duties when a woman identified as Mamta arrived at the office accompanied by a lawyer.

| POPULATION |

Border village populations rising as migration reverses: Amit Shah

Press Trust Of India

Better services and cooperatives are encouraging residents to return to remote settlements.



ITANAGAR: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday said that the population of 40 villages along the India-China border in Arunachal Pradesh had increased and migration had stopped following improved facilities and livelihood opportunities. He made the remarks while addressing a cooperative conference in Itanagar. Shah said the Centre's efforts to provide electricity, drinking water, healthcare and employment had encouraged residents to return to their villages. He highlighted the role of cooperatives in strengthening the rural economy and improving links between border communities and security personnel.

According to Shah, the Union Home Ministry has directed the Army and the Indo-Tibetan Border Police to procure agricultural produce from cooperatives in border villages instead of sourcing supplies from larger towns. He said the arrangement would create a dependable market for village products and generate income locally.

22 arrested in cyber fraud

NEW DELHI: Delhi Police have arrested 22 people allegedly associated with 11 cybercrime syndicates accused of defrauding more than 22,000 people of over Rs 20 crore through malicious mobile applications.

The arrests followed a coordinated five-day operation conducted between November 11 and 15 across Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Bihar.

Seven special teams comprising 64 police personnel carried out raids in Jamtara, Deoghar, Giridih and other locations.

| INFRASTRUCTURE |

Karnataka announces Rs 16,000 crore rural infrastructure and housing programme

Press Trust Of India



BENGALURU: Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar has announced development projects worth Rs 16,000 crore to strengthen rural infrastructure, improve road connectivity and provide basic amenities in villages across the state.

The announcement was made while launching the Chief Minister's Rural Road Connectivity Scheme and the Chief Minister's Rural Development Scheme at Vidhana Soudha. Of the total allocation, Rs 10,000 crore has been earmarked for developing approximately 15,000 kilometres of rural roads. Another Rs 6,000 crore will be utilised for infrastructure development at the gram panchayat level.

The proposed road works will include resurfacing existing roads, improving gravel roads and constructing drainage facilities. The government expects improved connectivity to facilitate transportation of agricultural produce, access to markets and movement of rural residents.

The panchayat-level allocation will cover drinking water facilities, drainage systems and other essential infrastructure. Deputy Commissioners will approve the release of funds after identifying requirements in individual panchayats.

BAHRAICH

Jackal attack injures 8 villagers

Two children sustained serious injuries after a jackal allegedly attacked them in Parsa Kodi village under the Risia police station area of Uttar Pradesh's Bahraich district. Six villagers also suffered minor injuries while attempting to rescue the children and drive the animal away. According to local information, the incident occurred around 8.30 pm on Friday when four-year-old Rehan Ali was standing outside his house. A jackal suddenly attacked the child, leaving him seriously injured. The animal subsequently attacked another child, two-year-old Irfan, who was also in the vicinity.

| SATELLITE CONSTELLATION |

Assam plans Rs 600-crore satellite constellation to reduce data costs

Press Trust Of India



GUWAHATI: Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has outlined a proposed Rs 600-crore Earth observation satellite constellation, AssamSAT, which is expected to reduce the state's dependence on commercially purchased satellite data and strengthen technology-based governance. According to the Chief Minister, Assam currently spends approximately Rs 1,775 crore over five years on procuring satellite information from commercial providers. The proposed project, with an estimated expenditure of Rs 600 crore over the same period, could reduce this cost by nearly 66 per cent. The initiative is also expected to generate revenue through satellite data and related services. The state has projected potential revenue of around Rs 900 crore over five years. AssamSAT is proposed to support several administrative and development activities, including flood prediction, agricultural assessment, digital farming, urban planning, forest conservation and border-area mapping. The satellite system could be particularly useful in monitoring floods and erosion along the Brahmaputra, where changing riverbanks and inundation frequently affect settlements and agricultural land.

Amit Shah launches VVP in Arunachal Pradesh



Union Home Minister Amit Shah launched Vibrant Village rogramme and four major development projects worth Rs 5,610 crore in Itanagar on Sunday. .

| INVESTMENT |

Tamil Nadu Govt secures Rs 1.14 lakh crore in fresh investment proposals



CHENNAI: Tamil Nadu has secured investment commitments worth Rs 1,14,811.91 crore through 112 memorandums of understanding signed with companies across 23 sectors between May 10 and November 21, the state government announced on Sunday. The proposed projects are expected to generate 1,32,771 employment opportunities across the state. The figures were released as part of a review of the first 195 days of Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay's administration. According to the government, 83 of the 112 investment proposals have reached at least the stage of land confirmation, indicating progress towards implementation.

Telangana launches Rs 544-crore devp projects in Siddipet district: CM Reddy



SIDDIPET: Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy has inaugurated and laid foundation stones for development projects worth Rs 544.11 crore in Siddipet district under the state government's Praja Palana-Pragathi Baata programme.

The projects cover education, electricity infrastructure, religious tourism and public facilities, with the objective of improving essential services and strengthening regional development.

A major component involves the establishment of Young India Integrated Residential Schools in Dubbak and Siddipet constituencies. Each institution is being developed at an estimated cost of Rs 200 crore. The schools are intended to provide improved educational facilities and residential accommodation for students.

The programme also includes the development of 14 electricity substations at a combined cost of Rs 54.67 crore.

| HEALTH-CARE |

India's healthcare aims at prevention: Dr Jitendra Singh

Press Trust Of India



NEW DELHI: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science and Technology Dr Jitendra Singh on Sunday said India's healthcare research approach is increasingly shifting towards prevention, early detection and advanced research at molecular and genetic levels, as lifestyle-related and metabolic disorders continue to affect younger populations. Addressing Health Summit 2026 in New Delhi, the Minister said healthcare was moving beyond conventional treatment methods towards scientific interventions and more precise disease management, in line with the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047. He highlighted the growing prevalence of diabetes, obesity, hypertension and cardiovascular diseases among young people, attributing the trend to changing dietary habits, declining physical activity and lifestyle-related risks. Emphasising the importance of preventive healthcare, Singh said addressing these challenges requires greater public awareness and collective participation, rather than relying solely on medical professionals. The Minister said advances in biotechnology, molecular science and genetic research were opening new possibilities for understanding diseases and developing targeted treatment strategies.

Seven persons of a family killed in road accident

BHUJ: Seven people, including three children and a three-month-old infant, were killed when a speeding truck collided with a car on a national highway in Gujarat's Kutch district on Saturday late night. The victims belonged to Army families and were reportedly returning to Bhuj after visiting the Rann of Kutch. According to police, the accident occurred at approximately 10 pm when the truck rammed into the car carrying the victims. The impact was severe, leaving all seven occupants dead at the accident site. The deceased were natives of Uttarakhand's Garhwal region. Their families were reportedly travelling together when the collision took place.

NEW DELHI

CAQM orders dist pollution plans

The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) has directed Delhi and neighbouring National Capital Region states to prepare district-level action plans aimed at reducing annual average air pollution by 15 to 20 per cent in 2027 compared with 2026.

The direction marks a shift towards district-specific accountability in tackling air pollution.

Earlier, action plans were primarily prepared at state and municipal levels. Under the new arrangement, every district will have to identify pollution-control measures, measurable targets, implementation schedules and responsible officials.

The children should dream big and should have clear-cut goals and work hard to achieve with firm determination and discipline.

OP Choudhary
FM Ch'garh



Bilaspur Region

'Blacklist contractors for negligence in road maintenance'

PWD Secretary conducts inspection of construction works across four districts.

Central Chronicle News

SURGUJA/SURAJPUR: Mukesh Kumar Bansal, Secretary of the Public Works Department (PWD), conducted an intensive two-day inspection of roads, bridges, culverts, colleges, hospitals, and various other construction and maintenance projects across four districts.

Visiting multiple sites in Jashpur, Surguja, Surajpur, and Balrampur-Ramanujganj, he assessed the progress and quality of the work, providing immediate, specific instructions to both officials and contractors. Taking a firm



stance against the sluggish pace of construction and negligence in road maintenance, Bansal directed that notices be issued to the concerned contractors, their bank guarantees be forfeited, and that they be blacklisted if no improvements are made. He placed special emphasis on the regular monitoring of construction activities, strict adherence to quality standards, and the completion of projects within the stipulated timeframes.

Accompanied by Engineer-in-Chief VK Bhatpahari, Chief Engineer (Ambikapur Region, KP Sant, Superintending Engineer (Ambikapur Division) RS Tomar, as well as Executive Engineers, Sub-Divisional Officers, and contractors, Secretary Bansal reviewed the condition of roads and various construction projects in Jashpur, Manora, Sanna, Bagicha, Kansabel, Bagbahar, Kotba, Ludeg, Sitapur, Pathalgaon, Mainpat, Darima, Rajpur, Pratappur, Bhaiyathan, and Surajpur. He instructed officials to ensure that there are no unnecessary delays or compromises on quality in any construction work. Furthermore, he directed that appropriate action, in accordance with the rules, be taken against any contractors found negligent in road maintenance. Directives Issued for Action Against Contractors of Darima-Mainpat and Bario-Dhaurpur Roads During an inspection of the Darima-Mainpat and Bario-Dhaurpur roads in Surguja district, it was observed that the respective contractors had failed to carry out proper maintenance during the designated maintenance period.

HIGHLIGHT

- PWD Secretary served notices for slow progress on construction projects; issues strict on-site directives.

21 cases resolved in Special Lok Adalat

Central Chronicle News

MUNGELI: In accordance with the directives of the National Legal Services Authority (New Delhi) and the Chhattisgarh State Legal Services Authority (Bilaspur), and under the expert guidance of the Principal District and Sessions Court, Mungeli (Chhattisgarh), a special Lok Adalat was organized on November 21, 2026, in Mungeli and Lormi.

The event focused on cases related to Section 138 of the Negotiable Instruments Act (cheque bounce) and featured four dedicated Lok Adalat benches. The proceedings were inaugurated by Rakesh Kumar Som, First Additional Sessions Judge, Mungeli, who offered a floral garland to Goddess Saraswati and lit a ceremonial lamp. A total of 140 cases pertaining to Section 138 of the Negotiable Instruments Act were presented before the four benches.

Through mutual agreement between the parties, 21 of these cases were resolved, with a total settlement amount (award) of Rs 69,31,413. Key attendees at the special Lok Adalat included Satish Kumar Khakha (Chief Judicial Magistrate, Mungeli), Deepak Kumar Sharma (Judicial Magistrate Senior Division, Mungeli), Tikam Chandrakar (Chief, Legal Aid Defense Counsel System), Rajesh Kumar Mire (Deputy Chief), as well as counsels Ratiram Barman, Draupati Kashyap, and Jaykumar Dahariya.

PMJJBY

Insurance claim amount paid

GPM: During a meeting of the District-Level Consultative and Review Committee, an insurance claim amount totaling Rs 12 lakh was disbursed to six beneficiaries under the Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY).

In the presence of Collector Vijay Dayaram K., cheques for Rs 2 lakh each were handed over to the nominees of the deceased insured individuals. The beneficiaries who received the insurance claim amount under the scheme include Gendlal Kewat, Kaushalya Sarathi, Kashiram Puri, Sushmita Meshram, Tomar Singh Paikra, and Guddi Nai.

'VEERANGANA DIWAS'

Awareness prog organised

GPM: Under the instructions of Collector Vijay Dayaram K. and the guidance of District Program Officer Dhirendra Pratap Singh, the 'Mission Shakti Hub'–operated under the Department of Women and Child Development–organized various awareness programs and competitions to mark 'Veerangana Diwas' and 'Bal Adhikar Diwas'. In programs organized at the Govt Middle Schools in Sarbahara, Sadhwani, and Nawapara Sadhwani (located in the Gaurela development block), students were sensitized about child rights, education, safety, and equality, as well as the prevention of child marriage, child labor, and child exploitation.

| SECRET TO SUCCESS |

Dream big, set goals, and achieve them: Choudhary

Central Chronicle News

RAIGARH: For approximately 100 meritorious students from the Pusaur block, a meeting with the state's Finance Minister, O.P. Choudhary, proved to be an inspiring and memorable experience.

During an educational tour to Raipur, the students had a warm, personal interaction with the Finance Minister at his private residence. Choudhary engaged in an open dialogue with the



students, offering guidance on education, career choices, competitive examinations, and various aspects of achieving success in life. Throughout the conversation, the students posed several questions regarding higher education opportunities, preparation for competitive exams, career selection, and goal setting. Addressing their queries with ease, the Finance Minister emphasized that while it is essential to dream big, realizing those dreams requires clear goals, consistent study, discipline, and persistent hard work.

Food squad raids hotel kitchens

BILASPUR: Taking a strict stance on food quality and kitchen hygiene at prominent hotels and restaurants in the city, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) conducted surprise inspections across several major food establishments on Friday.

Hotel operators were issued clear directives that kitchen staff must mandatorily wear gloves and head caps while preparing food, and that establishments must maintain medical fitness certificates for employees alongside valid pest control certificates.

| PADDY PROCUREMENT |

44,664 quintals of paddy procured

Central Chronicle News

MUNGELI: Under the leadership of Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai, the procurement of paddy for the Kharif marketing year 2026-27 is proceeding smoothly and systematically in the district.

The procurement of paddy at the Minimum Support Price (MSP) is being conducted in a transparent, organized, and efficient manner. Under the guidance of Collector Amrit Vikas Topno, paddy is being procured across 113 procurement centers in the



district, with special attention given to the convenience of farmers and the overall arrangements. So far, more than 44,664 quintals of paddy have been procured from 1,351 farmers in the district. This includes 40,238 quintals of 'mota' (coarse) paddy and 4,426 quintals of 'Sarna' variety paddy. Farmers have been paid a total amount exceeding Rs 10,90,26,776 for the paddy procured. The district administration is ensuring that all necessary arrangements are in place at the procurement centers to keep the process smooth and transparent.

Relevant officials have been instructed to maintain continuous oversight and ensure that the procurement process is carried out in strict accordance with government guidelines, ensuring that farmers do not face any inconvenience.

| PARENT CONFERENCE |

Parent conferences held in three blocks

Central Chronicle News

MUNGELI: In order to ensure quality education in the district's schools, foster the holistic development of children, and increase active community participation in the educational system, 'Parent Conferences' and 'School Management Committee (SMC) Meetings-cum-Training Sessions' were organized across the three blocks of Mungeli, Lormi, and Pathariya.

This initiative, conducted under the 'Samagra Shik-



sha' (Comprehensive Education) scheme and focused on community mobilization, saw enthusiastic participation from approximately 350 individuals–including SMC chairpersons and members, parents, headmasters, and teachers–representing various school clusters across the district. The primary objective of the event was to make School Management Committees more active, empowered, and accountable, while strengthening community involvement to ensure 100% enrollment (especially for girls), regular student attendance, and the delivery of quality education.

| DIRECTIVES BY COLLECTOR |

'Provide quality education, boost exam results in the district'

Central Chronicle News

AMBIKAPUR: Collector Ajit Vasant held a monthly review meeting of the School Education Department today, conducting a comprehensive assessment of the district's education system, students' academic progress, teacher attendance, school facilities, and the implementation of various educational schemes.

He urged all officials and



teachers to work with coordination, commitment, and a sense of responsibility to provide quality education, enhance students' academic proficiency, and ensure better examination results. The meeting included a review of student enrollment across primary, middle, high, and higher secondary schools, the availability of teachers, and the status of 'APAAR' (Automated Permanent Academic Account Registry) ID generation, broken down by development block. The Collector directed that the reasons for any pending APAAR ID registrations be documented and submitted within one week.

RELIEF

Rectification of errors brings relief to farmers

BILASPUR: Discrepancies in farmer registrations–including zero registered acreage (rakba), land holdings recorded lower than actual size, and other crops entered in place of paddy–had mounted difficulties for farmers since the commencement of paddy procurement.

Stepping in to resolve the issue, the district administration has launched a special district-wide campaign on the directives of Collector Sanjay Agrawal to rectify revenue records.

Bankers must prioritize approval of loan appls.

GPM: On Friday, Collector Vijay Dayaram K. chaired a meeting of the District Level Consultative and Review Committee at the Arpa Conference Hall in the Collectorate.

During the meeting, he conducted a bank-wise review of loan disbursements and banking activities under various govt schemes. He directed that loan and grant applications–intended to connect



women from Self-Help Groups (under the National Rural Livelihood Mission 'Bihan'), beneficiaries from various departments, and the youth with employment and self-employment opportunities–be approved on a priority basis. While reviewing the bank-wise targets and achievements, the Collector instructed banks with poor performance to improve their progress in line with their assigned targets. He emphasized that the benefits of the government's public welfare schemes must reach eligible beneficiaries in a timely manner. He urged bankers to ensure the processing of loan applications without unnecessary delays, enabling as many beneficiaries as possible to become economically self-reliant. Reviewing loan applications received under the 'PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana' (PM Solar Home: Free Electricity Scheme), the Collector directed bankers and officials from the CSPDCL to coordinate and resolve pending cases immediately.

'Villagers worship Gauri-Gaura'

TAKHATPUR: The Gauri-Gaura festival–a symbol of Chhattisgarh's rich folk culture, traditions, and religious faith–was celebrated with great devotion, fervor, and enthusiasm at Gudi Chowk, Gandhi Nagar, in the village of Chhatauna.

The event included the traditional worship and immersion of the Gauri-Gaura idols. Smt. Radhika Rakesh Kaushik,



Sarpanch of the Chhatauna Gram Panchayat, attended the event and joined the villagers in observing this significant traditional festival. On this occasion, Sarpanch Radhika Rakesh Kaushik performed the Gauri-Gaura rituals with deep reverence, praying for the prosperity, well-being, peace, and progress of the village. Extending her greetings to the villagers, she remarked that such traditional festivals are not merely religious rituals; they are vibrant symbols of our cultural heritage, social unity, mutual affection, and collective harmony.

VENDORS

Street vendors are backbone of economy: Sahu

BILASPUR: Chhattisgarh has earned national recognition for the effective implementation of the PM SVANidhi scheme and its outstanding contribution toward economically empowering street vendors, winning five awards under the initiative.

At the 'SVANidhi Samman Awards 2026' ceremony held on November 20 at the Dr. Ambedkar International Centre in New Delhi, Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs Manohar Lal Khattar and Union Minister of State Tokhan Sahu felicitated various states and urban local bodies.

| AWARENESS PROGRAM |

Students sensitized to the dangers of crime

Central Chronicle News

RAIGARH: An awareness program was organized by the District Inter-departmental Coordination Committee at the Government Kirodimal Polytechnic College, Raigarh, on Friday.

Officials from the Police, Women and Child Development, Education, Health, and Social Welfare departments briefed students on various social and legal issues, encouraging them to become aware and responsible citizens.

Representing the Police Department, ASI Saraswati Mahapatra and Pramila Das advised students to stay away from criminal activities and to



remain vigilant. They discussed various crimes–including fraud–perpetrated against women, urging students to exercise caution and stay alert to any suspicious activity. Chaitali Rai and Sunita Khare from the Women and Child Development Department highlighted issues related to violence against women and emphasized the need to eradicate deep-rooted social evils.

They encouraged students to be sensitive toward the dignity, safety, and equality of women. Abhay Pandey from the Education Department underscored the importance of education and highlighted the crucial role youth can play in curbing social ills like child marriage. He urged students to spread awareness against child marriage and contribute to ending this regressive practice.

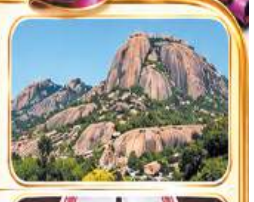
Painting and essay writing competitions held

MUNGELI: On the occasion of 'Tribal Pride Day' (Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas), the Tribal Development Dept organized various creative activities across the district. The initiative aimed to raise awareness among students regarding tribal culture, traditions, glorious history, and the contributions of prominent tribal figures. As part of this, painting and essay writing competitions were held in all 37 hostels and ashrams managed by the dept. Students residing in these facilities participated with great enthusiasm, showcasing their talent and creativity. Through the painting competition, students used colors to depict tribal lifestyles, folk art, culture, traditions, and the community's deep connection with nature.

Fun&Focus

IT'S QUIZ TIME

1. This town in Karnataka is known as the Silk City of India because of its high-quality silk production and one of Asia's largest silk cocoon markets. The town also became famous as a major shooting location for the film Sholay. Which town is it?



2. Which traditional, rectangular cotton cloth with red motifs from Assam is uniquely used to honor guests and cover scriptures during prayer?



3. The Montreal Protocol is considered one of the most successful environmental agreements. Its Kigali Amendment, adopted in 2016, specifically aims to reduce the use of which group of



4. In 1947, an actual insect caused a malfunction in the Harvard Mark II computer, leading to the famous use of the term "computer bug". What insect was found inside the machine?



5. During the Scramble for Africa, one ancient highland kingdom successfully resisted Italian attempts at colonisation. Its victory at the Battle of Adwa in 1896 made it a powerful symbol of African resistance. Which kingdom was this?



6. Which country is home to SAP, the world's largest non-American software company by revenue, headquartered in Walldorf, and whose systems are estimated to touch about 87% of global commerce at some point?



7. In the Kurma avatar, Lord Vishnu took the form of a giant tortoise to support Mount Mandara during the Samudra Manthan. On which part of his body did he support the mountain?



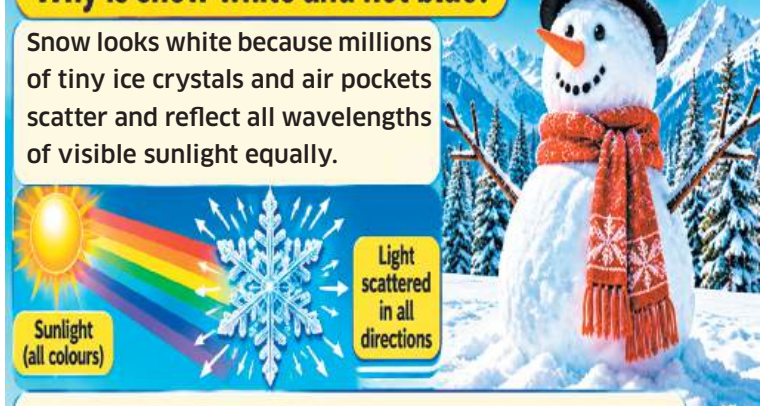
Answers- (1) Ramanagara (2) Gamosa (3) Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) (4) A moth trapped in a relay (5) Ethiopia (6) Germany (7) His back (shell)

RamaQuiz

TELL ME WHY?

Why is snow white and not blue?

Snow looks white because millions of tiny ice crystals and air pockets scatter and reflect all wavelengths of visible sunlight equally.



When all visible colours bounce back to your eyes together, your brain perceives the combined light as white. Snow itself has no white pigment.

SCIENCE WATCH

They are not true nuts



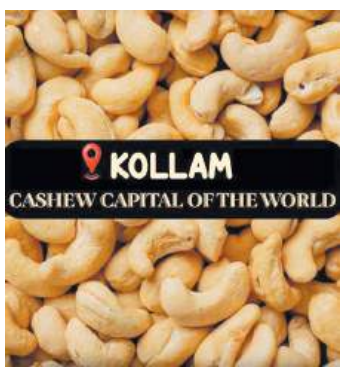
Cashews are actually seeds, not true nuts. Even though they are eaten like nuts, they grow on the outside bottom of a sweet, pear-shaped fruit called a cashew apple. Eating cashews gives your body minerals like magnesium and copper. Today is World Cashew Day.

They are cousins to poison ivy



Cashews belong to the Anacardiaceae plant family. Because of this family link, their outer shells contain an itchy oil called anacardic acid (related to urushiol), which is the exact same chemical that gives people rashes from poison ivy.

Cashew Capital of the World



Kollam in Kerala is traditionally known as the Cashew Capital of the World and India's historical cashew hub. Cashew trees originally grew only in north-eastern Brazil, until explorers carried their seeds across the ocean to India in the 1500s.

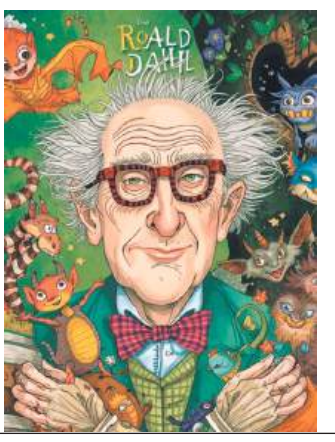
WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE

Battle of Plassey and Battle of Buxar

	Battle of Plassey (23rd June 1757)	Battle of Buxar (22 October 1764)
The immediate cause of the Battle of Plassey is attributed to the following factors :	• Non-payment of tax by the East India Company to the Nawab of Bengal • Defying the authority of the Nawab through East India Company's protection of rivals such as Krishna Das • Consolidation of holdings in Calcutta and other areas leased to the East India Company for trade purposes.	• Mir Qasim, who was made Nawab of Bengal upon deposing his father-in-law Mir Jafar, exerted his independence, alarming the East India Company enough to declare war on him. • The escalation between the two are said to be the immediate factors leading the Battle of Buxar
Who fought the battle –	The Battle of Plassey was fought by Robert Clive of the East India Company and Nawab Siraj-ud-Daulah, Mughal Administrator of Bengal.	The Battle of Buxar was fought by an alliance of Mir Qasim, Nawab of Bengal,Nawab of Awadh, Shuja-ud-Daulah,Mughal Emperor Shah Alam II against Hector Munroe of the East India Company
Who won –	The battle was going well for the Bengal forces until Mir Jafar, bribed by Robert Clive, defected with his entire army to the East India Company, tipping the scales in their favour and delivering a decisive blow to the Bengal forces. The British won the battle	Although numerically superior the allied army of Bihar and Bengal lacked effective communication between them, allowing Hector Munroe to defeat them one at a time. The British finally won the battle
Impact of the Battle –	The British victory led to the installation "Doctrine of Lapse" More strongly.	The Battle of Buxar led to direct control of the Gangetic-plains by the East India Company.

NOVEMBER 23-THE DAY IN HISTORY

1. November 23 has seen major events like the 1857 event when British forces led by Colin Campbell recaptured Lucknow from Indian rebels during the Revolt of 1857 and the first All India Khilafat Conference took place in Delhi in 1919.
2. Same day in 1983, India hosted the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in New Delhi for the first time and in 1991, the Bhaskaracharya Research Institute was established in Dhule, Maharashtra.
3. On November 23, 1924, astronomer Edwin Hubble's finding that Andromeda is a separate galaxy beyond the Milky Way was published in The New York Times.
4. This day in 1990, British children's author Roald Dahl breathed his last other than Sir Jagadish Chandra Bose, pioneering physicist, plant physiologist, and radio scientist in 1937.



Daily Horoscope

Aries

Health related problems might bring discomfort. You can acquire money from an unknown source today, which will resolve many of your financial troubles. Your excessive energy and tremendous enthusiasm will bring favorable results and ease domestic tensions Your beloved will seem a bit irritated- which will add pressure on your mind. New partnership would be promising today. Understand the value of your time.

Taurus

Support of highly influential people will give a big boost to your moral. Your idea of saving money for yourself can be accomplished today. Today you will be able to save appropriately. Domestic life will be peaceful and adorable In the busy streets, you will realize that you are the luckiest because your sweetheart is the best.

Gemini

Be cautious while drinking and eating. Carelessness could make you sick. The court will make decisions in your favour today if you were involved in a case regarding money-related matters. It will benefit you financially. Children need to concentrate on studies and plan for the future. You needn't dream about your erotic fantasies anymore; they might come true today.

Cancer

Friends supportive and will keep you happy. If you are planning on hanging out with your friends, then spend money thoughtfully, as you are likely to suffer from money loss. Be cautious of friends and strangers alike. Avoid a hasty step in love. You might get good news at work today.

Leo

Be attentive as someone could try to make you a scapegoat. Stress and tentions are likely to increase. Those who had invested their money on the advice of an unknown person are very likely to gain benefits today. Some people will tend to promise more than they can deliver- Forget about such people who just talk and give no results.

Virgo

Your enormous confidence and easy work schedule brings you enough time to relax today. Today, you can seek advice from the seniors of your family about finance management and savings and use them in your daily life. Parents and friends will give in their best to keep you happy. The day is fabulous in terms of your love life.

Libra

Blood pressure patients should be extra careful about their health while travelling in a crowded bus. Surplus money should be invested in real estate. You are best to avoid issues that could cause arguments with loved ones. Your smiles have no meaning-laughter have no sound-heart forgets to beat as you miss the company. Today, your free time can be spent by cleaning the house.

Scorpio

You need to sit back and relax today- and get involved in hobbies and things that you enjoy doing the most. Today, you can seek advice from the seniors of your family about finance management and savings and use them in your daily life. Domestic work will be tiring and become a major cause for mental stress. Your love partner will surprise you with something really beautiful today.

Sagittarius

Avoid a serious attitude to life today you can easily raise capital- collect outstanding debts- or ask for funds to work on new projects. Some changes at home will make you highly sentimental- but you will be able to effectively communicate your feelings to people who matter the most. Interference of people might harm your relationship with your spouse today.

Capricorn

You need to control your emotions and get rid of your fear as early as possible, as chances of instantaneously affecting your health and a stumbling block in your way of enjoying good health are high on the card. Today, you can face money-related issues, and ask your father or a father-like individual you cherish for suggestions.

Aquarius

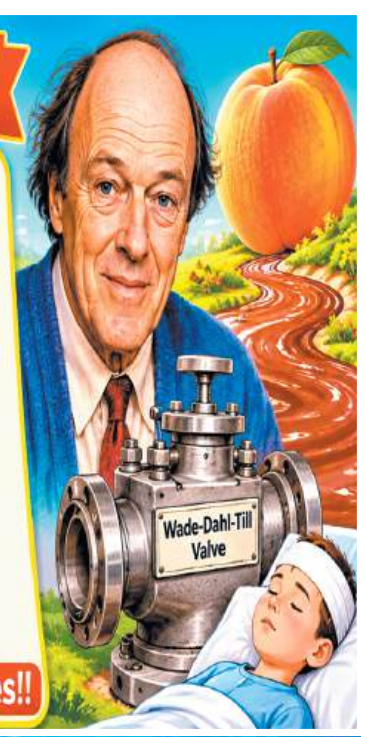
Today's entertainment should include sports activities and outdoor events. Our advice to you is to avoid spending money on alcohol and cigarettes. Doing so will not only spoil your health but worsen your financial situation. The time requires you to understand that anger and frustration would only hamper your sanity. This in turn would lead you towards a grave loss.

Pisces

Few tensions and difference of opinion could leave you irritated and uneasy. You will possess a desire to earn quick money. Your stubborn nature could mar the peace of your parents. You need to give heed to their advice. Better to be obedient to save all from offending. Look forward to new relationship for happiness Good day for businessmen. A sudden trip undertaken for business purpose will yield positive results.

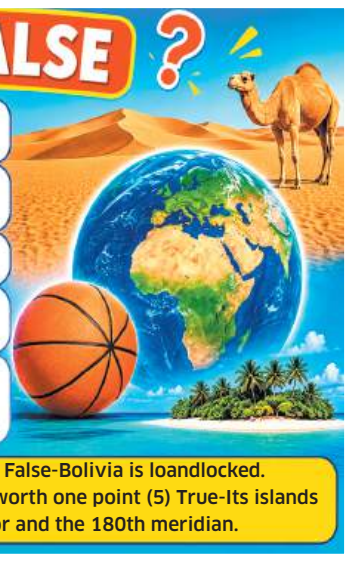
FACT OF THE DAY

Most people know Roald Dahl for giant peaches and a chocolate river (He was a children's author). Almost nobody knows he spent four years hunched over hydraulic diagrams, trying to save children with a broken skull with the help of a machine called 'Wade-Dahl-Till valve', named after him and his partners. His son Theo was once struggling for life, with no help around, when his father decided to build one for the world's children on his own. Salutes!!



TRUE OR FALSE

1. The Sahara is the largest desert on Earth.
2. Bolivia has a coastline on the Pacific Ocean.
3. A marathon is 26.2 miles long.
4. In basketball, a free throw is worth two points.
5. Kiribati is the only country with territory in all four hemispheres (Northern, Southern, Eastern, and Western).



Answers – (1) False-Antarctica (2) False-Bolivia is loandlocked. (3) True (4) False-It is worth one point (5) True-Its islands span across the Equator and the 180th meridian.

APTITUDE TEST

A shopkeeper marks up an article by 40% above its cost price and then gives a discount of 20% on the marked price. What is the net profit percentage?

A - 10% | B - 12% | C - 20% | D - 15%



Answer - B. 12%

EXPLANATION - Assume the cost price (CP) is 100.

1. Marked Price (MP):100 + 40% of 100 = 140
2. Selling Price (SP):140 - 20% of 140 = 140 - 28 = 112
3. Net Profit: 112 - 100 = 12 (which is 12%)

WORD OF THE DAY

Coda

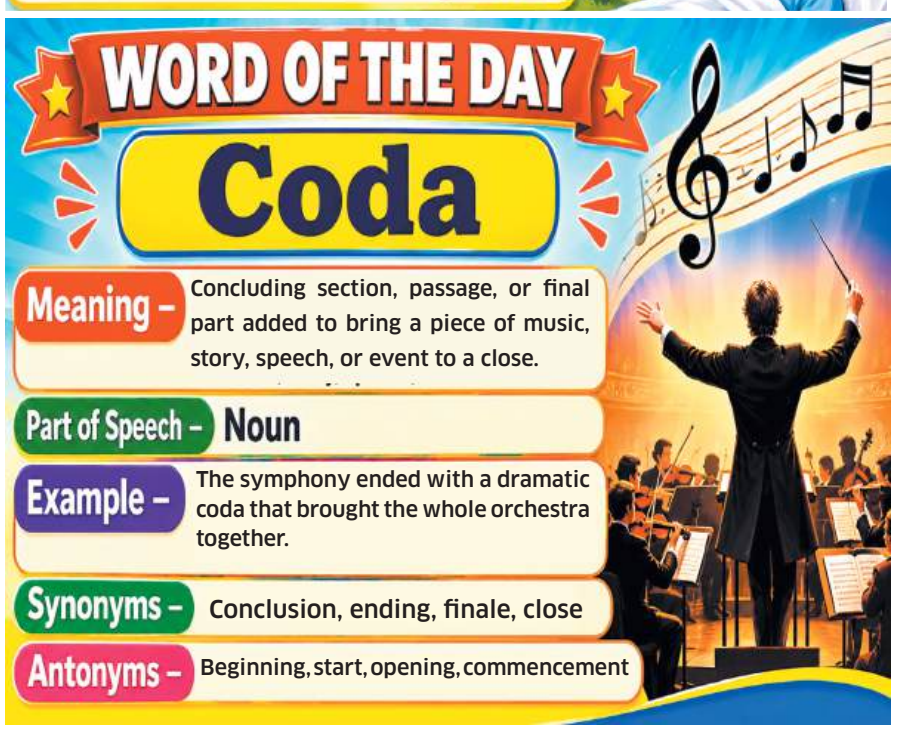
Meaning – Concluding section, passage, or final part added to bring a piece of music, story, speech, or event to a close.

Part of Speech – Noun

Example – The symphony ended with a dramatic coda that brought the whole orchestra together.

Synonyms – Conclusion, ending, finale, close

Antonyms – Beginning, start, opening, commencement



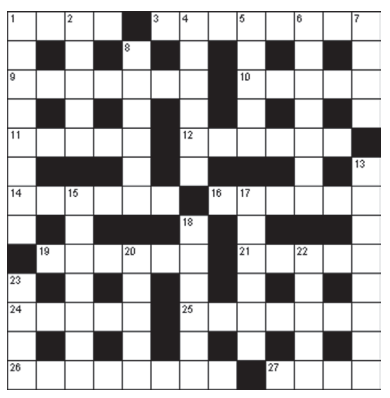
CROSSWORD -285

Across

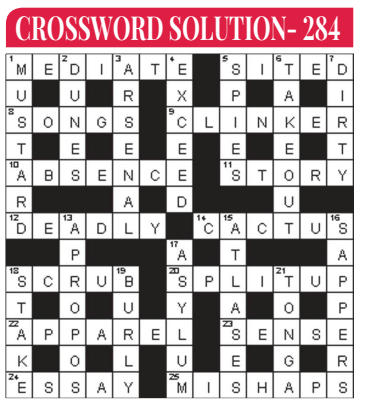
1 Shed tears (4)
3 Branch of mathematics (8)
9 Petty (7)
10 Room at the Top? (5)
11 Come in (5)
12 Precious metal (6)
14 Dairy product (6)
16 Lots and lots (6)
19 Movement (6)
21 Correct (5)
24 Heavenly being (5)
25 Conciliate (7)
26 Able to read and write (8)
27 Border (4)

Down

1 Yorkshire racecourse (8)
2 The Waste Land poet (5)
4 Finally (2,4)
5 Swimming stroke (5)
6 Correspondence (7)
7 Religious faction (4)
8 Ferocious (6)
13 So to speak (2,2,4)
15 Idea (7)
17 Brusque (6)
18 Very young child (6)
20 Loafer (5)
22 Magnificent (5)
23 Go by boat (4)



CROSSWORD SOLUTION- 284



SUDOKU- 285

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

SUDOKU SOLUTION- 284

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

DAILY WORD SEARCH

- Aphis
- Greenfly
- Moth
- Beetle
- Hornet
- Sawfly
- Bug
- Horntail
- Springtail
- Butterfly
- Lacewing
- Termite
- Cicada
- Locust
- Thrips
- Cricket
- Mantis
- Wasp
- Dragonfly
- Mayfly
- Weevil
- Earwig
- Midge
- Gnat
- Mosquito

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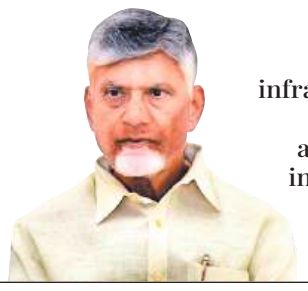
Business



The industrial infrastructure and strategic ports make perfect atmosphere for more investments in Andhra Pradesh."

N Chandrababu Naidu
CM, Andhra Pradesh

Piyush Goyal holds meeting with Italian CEOs



Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal held meetings with CEOs of leading Italian companies in Rome for expanding investment in India.

CII proposes 15 reforms to get $ 26.5 Trillion economy goal

Industry body CII has proposed 15 financial sector reforms, including a permanent liquidity window for higher priority sector lending limits for renewable energy.

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: In a bid to strengthen India's financial system for long-term growth ambitions, industry body CII has proposed 15 financial sector reforms, including a permanent liquidity window for well-governed NBFCs and higher priority sector lending limits for renewable energy.

The recommendations come against the backdrop of the government's constitution of a High-Level Committee on Banking for Viksit Bharat, announced in the Union Budget 2026-27. The Committee has a six-month mandate to examine the long-term capital requirements of banks, development finance institutions and NBFCs, review priority sector lending norms, prepare a roadmap for AI and digital adoption, and examine prudential regulations.

CII Director General Chandrajit Banerjee noted that the financial sector enters this phase from a position of strength, with healthy bank and NBFC balance sheets and a series of important measures by the government and regulators over the past year. "The task now is to build a system that can finance an economy several times its present size by 2047. That requires deeper and longer-tenor pools of capital, credit that reaches the sectors that will drive growth, and regulation that keeps pace with how finance is delivered. Our recommendations are intended to take the current reform effort to its next stage," Banerjee said. CII estimates that a USD 26.5 trillion economy by 2047 would require financial assets of nearly USD 106 trillion, compared with around USD 7 trillion at present. It said banking assets would need to grow 3-3.5 percentage points faster than nominal GDP.

The industry body also flagged the relatively shallow corporate bond market, which accounts for around 15 per cent of GDP in India, compared with 36 per cent in China and over 80 per cent in South Korea.

NUMBER

106

- **CII estimates that a USD 26.5 trillion economy by 2047 would need financial assets of nearly USD 106 trillion.**

Air Astana keen to operate more flights

Press Trust Of India



HIGHLIGHT

- **Kazakhstan's flagship carrier Air Astana is looking to increase flights to connect with more cities in India.**

MUMBAI: Bullish on the opportunities in the Indian market, Kazakhstan's flagship carrier Air Astana is looking for more bilateral flying rights to increase flights and to connect with more cities in India. The Almaty-headquartered carrier, which has been flying to India for more than two decades, currently connects two Indian cities -- Delhi and Mumbai -- and seasonally operates services to Goa.

Air Astana CEO Ibrahim Canliel told PTI that there was "endless scope" for airlines from both Kazakhstan and India to grow the travel market between the two countries. At present, only Air Astana operates direct flights between Kazakhstan and India. The airline also has a codeshare with Air India, which the CEO said is working quite well.

"Why should we fly to only two cities (Delhi and Mumbai) in India... we would love to fly more," Canliel said during a recent interview with PTI in Kuala Lumpur. Currently, the airline has 17 weekly flights -- 14 connecting Delhi and Almaty, and three services connecting Mumbai and Almaty.

In the summer schedule starting in March 2027, the count of weekly services will increase to 21.

| CYBER SECURITY |

TEMA and CSAI push for new cyber security policy

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Recent global outages and AI-driven security vulnerabilities have exposed the risks of overdependence on foreign technologies and single-technology vendors, industry associations including TEMA have said, calling for a new cyber policy and a stronger push for indigenous solutions.

The industry bodies have also offered to put together a comprehensive database or list of indigenous technology and telecom products, along with homegrown cybersecurity solutions and services, to help interested buyers identify domestic alternatives. "If you want to purchase only Indian solutions and services for cyber and telecom, there is no comprehensive directory today that can guide you. We are urging the government to support us, non-financially, so we can create such a list," NK Goyal, Chairman Emeritus of Telecom Equipment Manufacturers Association of India (TEMA), and the President of the Cyber Security Association of India (CSAI) told PTI. He noted that digitisation has increasingly interconnected multiple systems and subsystems across telecom and IT, making it imperative to clearly define and ensure security across the entire technology chain.

In their pre-Budget memorandum, TEMA and CSAI have further said ransomware and phishing attacks are increasingly being offered by hackers through franchise-like and subscription-based models, while stolen identities, malware, payment-card data and access to compromised networks are openly traded on dark-web marketplaces and messaging platforms. AI has made attacks larger and more sophisticated, they said, citing recent global hits on systems of airlines, banks and health providers.

Recent international outages show the systemic risk of depending on foreign or single-vendor security products, the memorandum said and emphasised that preferential access for trusted Indian products is a matter of national security and data sovereignty.



HIGHLIGHT

- **India's eight core infrastructure industries recorded year-on-year growth of 10.9 per cent in October 2026**

| INDIAMART FACES FINE |

CCPA slaps fine on IndiaMART for 'anti-drone gun'

Press Trust Of India



NEW DELHI: The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) has imposed a penalty of Rs 10 lakh on AirOne Robotics Pvt Ltd for listing and advertising an "Anti-drone gun VKSP03-PRO" on e-commerce platform IndiaMART without mandatory disclosures and regulatory authorisations. In its recent order, CCPA chief commissioner Nidhi Khare and commissioner Anupam Mishra held the company guilty of violating consumer rights, issuing misleading advertisements and indulging in unfair trade practices. The authority observed that "maintaining an active commercial listing with full technical specifications, an Rs 8,30,000 price point and an 'In stock' indicator on a prominent marketplace e-commerce entity clearly established an intent to offer the goods for sale and solicit prospective buyers." The company had claimed the product was a "non-active/inert replica". Rejecting this, CCPA said it was "a bare assertion, made only after the Show Cause Notice and contradicted by the listing itself", and could not be accepted as proof. It also noted that the firm's own versions were not "consistent with one another".

CCPA also turned down the firm's contention that terms like "Anti-drone gun", "electronic warfare device" and "neutralising drones" were used "purely as descriptive titles" to convey the "aesthetic design" of the model, and that the listing was "purely conceptual and ornamental".

The regulator said whether actual sales took place, or whether the product was later claimed to be an inert dummy, does not lessen the advertiser's culpability.

BizBriefs

BEST OF THE REST

CRUDE OIL

Crude oil futures brace for OPEC+ output decision amid supply glut concerns: Analysts



NEW DELHI: Crude oil futures are likely to remain volatile next week, with traders eyeing the OPEC+ meeting amid concerns over a global supply glut, analysts said. Traders will track weekly crude stock data from the American Petroleum Institute (API), US crude oil inventories, stocks at Cushing and inventory figures from the Energy Information Administration (EIA), they added.

Domestic commodity markets will remain closed during the morning session on Tuesday on account of Guru Nanak Jayanti. Brent crude is expected to trade in the USD 89-96 per barrel range, with investors also tracking developments around the Strait of Hormuz, analysts added. "Going ahead, Brent is likely to remain volatile in the USD 89-96 range. The November 29 OPEC+ meeting will be an important trigger," said Ajit Mishra, SVP of Research at Religare Broking. OPEC+ ministers are scheduled to hold a series of meetings on November 29 to decide their output policy for 2027.

The decision comes at a time when supply projections are increasingly weighing on the market, offsetting concerns over geopolitical disruptions. OPEC+ is an expanded coalition of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and ten major non-OPEC oil-producing nations, including Russia. For India, sustained moderation in crude prices would provide meaningful relief on inflation, the rupee and corporate margins, Mishra said. However, any escalation around the Strait of Hormuz remains a key upside risk, he added.

EXCAVATION

MPCB asks Adani firm to stop excavation work in Satara

MUMBAI: The Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB) has directed Adani Renewable Energy One Ltd to stop excavation and construction work for its temporary camp in Satara district for allegedly beginning these without obtaining the necessary environmental clearance and permissions. The labour camp in Satara's Patan taluka, some 300 kilometres from here, is part of the firm's 1500 MW Tarali Pumped Storage Project.

In a stop-work notice dated November 20, the MPCB said the company had started excavation and development work at Gat Nos. 33 and 34 in Sawargahar village for a temporary labour camp and other storage activities without informing the board or obtaining the required permissions. The company had not secured environmental clearance for the excavation and development work from the competent authority, the MPCB added. The notice, issued under Section 33A of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 1974, and Section 31A of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 1981, directed the company to stop all ongoing and proposed excavation and construction activities forthwith.

TRADE

India-EU trade pact likely to be signed on December 16

NEW DELHI: India and the 27-nation bloc European Union (EU) are likely to sign the free trade agreement (FTA) on December 16, an official said. The two sides concluded the negotiations for the pact on January 27 this year. European Union's Ambassador to India, Jean-Eric Paquet, recently said the FTA will be signed during Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Brussels in December, and it will come into force next year.

The European Commission has already submitted proposals to the Council of the European Union seeking authorisation for signing and conclusion of the agreement, along with the final legal text and tariff schedules. Under the free trade agreement, described as 'mother of all deals', 93 per cent of Indian shipments will enjoy duty-free access to the 27-nation bloc, while imports of luxury cars and wines from the EU will become less expensive. The deal, concluded after negotiations spanning over two decades, will create a market of about 2 billion people across the world's fourth-largest economy, India, and the second-largest economic bloc, the EU.

ENGINEERING EXPORTS

Engineering exports jump 36 per cent in Oct on strong US shipments: EEPC



KOLKATA: India's engineering goods exports grew 36 per cent year-on-year to USD 12.74 billion in October, helped by a favourable base, a sharp rise in shipments to the US and higher exports of iron and steel, copper, electrical machinery and automobiles, EEPC India said on Sunday. Engineering exports stood at USD 9.37 billion in October 2025. Monthly shipments have remained positive so far in the current fiscal. The US remained the top destination, with exports rising 62 per cent to an estimated USD 2.26 billion from USD 1.39 billion a year earlier.

Shipments to the UK grew 46.3 per cent to USD 499 million, while those to China surged 88.9 per cent to USD 479 million. Exports to Germany rose 33.5 per cent to USD 452.3 million. Exports to Singapore, South Korea, Mexico and Malaysia jumped 42.3 per cent, 38 per cent, 82.4 per cent and 148.8 per cent, respectively. "The export performance in October this year is a result of a broad-based increase across regions and panels. Most of the growth is concentrated in metals, electrical machinery and ships, and in a few large markets led by the US," EEPC India Chairman Pankaj Chadha said. Northeast Asia, ASEAN and Africa are emerging as the fastest-growing destinations, he added. Engineering goods accounted for 25.8 per cent of India's total merchandise exports in October. Thirty-one of the 34 engineering panels recorded growth during the month, while lead and products, zinc and products, and office equipment declined. All regions, barring CIS, saw growth.

Exports to Saudi Arabia, Vietnam, Thailand and Spain declined in October. Shipments to Saudi Arabia fell 18 per cent on lower copper and aluminium exports, and remained 14.4 per cent lower on a cumulative basis. The UAE was the only other top 25 market to decline cumulatively, by 1.9 per cent, with lower ships and motor vehicles offsetting higher electrical machinery and aircraft parts.

Nation News

‘SP-Congress lacks resolve to defeat BJP’

Both parties invited to unite against ruling party.

Press Trust Of India



Aazad Samaj Party (Kanshi Ram) president Chandra Shekhar Aazad(L) addressing media.

NEW DELHI: Aazad Samaj Party (Kanshi Ram) president Chandra Shekhar Aazad claimed on Sunday that the SP-Congress combine is “not serious” about defeating the BJP in next year’s Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls, even though doors are open for the two parties to join the ‘Samajik Parivartan Morcha’ to take on the ruling party unitedly. In an interview with PTI, the Nagina MP also claimed that people’s trust in the Mayawati-led BSP has decreased, while support for his Aazad Samaj Party is continuously increasing.

Aazad also dismissed claims that his party’s alliance with Asaduddin Owaisi’s AIMIM is a “B-team” of the BJP, saying people will answer those making such comments, as the argument is opposed to the Constitution, which gives everyone the right to contest polls. The remarks come days after AIMIM chief Owaisi named Aazad as the chief ministerial face of the newly-formed Samajik Parivartan Morcha for the 2027 Uttar Pradesh elections.

“We approached all the parties for forming the opposition alliance. We formally sent messages to their responsible leaders. Whenever this topic came up, we stated, even through the media, that we want to fight together to stop the BJP.

“And when we felt that they did not want it, we decided that a separate alliance should be formed because the alliances formed before were not successful in stopping the BJP,” Aazad said. “We saw the 2017 and 2022 elections. Our experience tells us that to defeat the BJP based on their vote share percentage, a higher vote share is needed. So a larger alliance should be formed - this was our desire and the demand of the public. But we could not succeed as these opposition parties don’t have the desire to stop the BJP,” he told PTI.

‘Samajik Parivartan Morcha will contest to form govt’

HIGHLIGHT

- Promises world-class education, government school repairs.
- Will work to ensure the rule of law, not rule by gun

Aazad also refuted media reports claiming that his alliance will contest 150 seats, asserting that the Samajik Parivartan Morcha will contest to form the government and make the NDA and the other “fake alliances” forfeit their deposits. Slamming the 10-year BJP rule in Uttar Pradesh, Aazad said history will record the tenure as a period where democracy was publicly murdered and constitutional values faced massive attacks. “As for the Aazad Samaj Party’s vision: we will build world-class education centres and repair the government schools. We will enact a law requiring government officials, employees and elected representatives to enrol their children in government schools.

Grievance redressal

BHOPAL: IFFCO-TOKIO General Insurance Company Limited, successfully organized a Grievance Redressal Camp in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, on November 18, 2026, on behalf of the General Insurance Council.

The camp was organized under IRDAI’s initiative, ‘Grievance Resolution Month’, being observed throughout November 2026. The initiative aims to ensure the timely resolution of pending policyholder grievances and further strengthen trust in the insurance sector. The theme of this initiative is “Resolve Grievances, Restore Confidence and Strengthen Trust.”

A total of 47 insurance companies from the general insurance, life insurance and health insurance sectors participated in the camp. During the event, insurance-related grievances and disputes were successfully addressed and resolved on the spot. Additionally, cheques amounting to more than Rs. 3 crore towards insurance claims and grievances were distributed during the camp.

The event was attended by several distinguished dignitaries, including Mr. A.V. Rao, General Manager, Department of Policyholders Protection and Grievance Redressal (PPGR), IRDAI; Mr. Nilesh Gupta from IRDAI and others.

‘UP govt neglected public issues’

Press Trust Of India

Thousands of crores spent on advertisements while neglecting basic public issues.

AGRA: Bahujan Samaj Party’s (BSP) chief national coordinator Akash Anand hit out at the BJP government in Uttar Pradesh on Sunday, accusing it of failing on education, security and employment, and spending thousands of crores of rupees on advertisements while neglecting basic public issues. Anand also described the two deputy chief ministers of Uttar Pradesh as mere “showpieces”, alleging that the BJP has failed to ensure adequate representation for Dalits. He also slammed the Congress and the Samajwadi Party (SP), terming them the “B teams” of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

Addressing a public meeting in Agra, Anand urged people to vote for the BSP in the 2027 Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls and said his party’s election symbol, the elephant, would be the means to settle accounts with the BJP. “I have decided that I will not get angry today. I will simply read out the government’s report card. If you feel like laughing while listening to it, go ahead.

FASTFACTS

- Congress and SP “B teams” of the BJP.
- 2 Dy CMs of Uttar Pradesh as mere “showpieces.”

But if you feel angry, settle the score by pressing the button against the elephant symbol of our party in the coming Assembly election,” he said. Conveying a message from BSP supremo Mayawati, Anand cautioned party workers against being misled by political rivals.

In a veiled attack on BJP leaders from Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and SP president Akhilesh Yadav, he said “leaders from Gujarat, religious mutts and the one who only things about Etawah would visit Agra during the election season to influence voters”.

“We do not ask any government for the moon and stars. We ask for just three things -- good education, security for all and employment for every hand,” he said. Targeting the BJP, Anand alleged that the Uttar Pradesh government has spent Rs 7,000 crore on advertisements projecting the state as developed, educated and safe, while failing to address pressing public concerns.

JD(U) to celebrate ‘Sushashan Divas’ across Bihar

Press Trust Of India

Bihar’s real transformation began after 2005, claimed leader.

PATNA: JD(U) national working president Sanjay Jha on Sunday said his party would celebrate ‘Sushashan Divas’ (Good Governance Day) on Tuesday to mark the day Nitish Kumar began his first full term as the Bihar chief minister. Though Kumar first became the Bihar CM in March 2000 as a Samta Party leader, his term lasted only seven days, and he assumed the post under JD(U)’s banner on November 24, 2005.

“Our party will observe Sushashan Divas on November 24, the date on which Nitish Kumar became the chief minister of Bihar in 2005. Though India attained Independence in 1947, Bihar’s true freedom from poverty, poor roads, lack of electricity and inaccessible schools came after 2005,” he said. The JD(U) leader said the day will be celebrated at all district headquarters in the state.

He also endorsed Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s claim that above 50 crore people in the country have been brought out of poverty since 2014, saying that the PM’s assertion was “based on data and facts”.

“The prime minister made the statement based on data and the country’s per capita income and GDP growth, among other indicators. Beyond speeches, there has been an improvement in the actual lives of people across the country, including Bihar,” Jha said. The JD(U) leader also shunned the controversy over naming of the bridge inaugurated by the PM on Saturday in Vaishali district after Nitish Kumar.

Global race

MUMBAI: The next global economic race may well be decided by what lies beneath the earth’s surface, but unlocking this potential will depend on how effectively governments and industry come together. Supportive policies, timely decisions and long-term industry investment can make the difference between mineral reserves remaining untapped and becoming the foundation of thriving industries and stronger economies.

Zambia offers a strong example of this in action. Following Vedanta’s return to Konkola Copper Mines (KCM), the Zambian government has assured full support for the company’s growth and expansion. With fresh investments since its reinstatement, copper production has risen in FY2026. KCM is now targeting annual production of 500,000 tonnes by 2030. The revival has also supported employment for around 14,500 people, making KCM the largest private employer in the country.

| VACCINATION DRIVE |

No negligence or complacency in polio vaccination: Keralam

Press Trust Of India

Disease eradicated from India by 2011, it is still being reported in neighbouring countries.



A health worker administers polio vaccine drops to a child during the Pulse Polio Immunization drive, in Thiruvananthapuram, Keralam.

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Keralam Health Minister K Muraleedharan on Sunday said that there should be no negligence in pulse polio vaccination activities by becoming complacent over the fact that the disease has been eradicated from India.

Muraleedharan, while inaugurating the state-level pulse polio vaccination campaign at the Peroorkada District Hospital here, said that while the disease was eradicated from India by 2011, it is still being reported in neighbouring countries.

He said that Indians live in many parts of the world and if there is complacency towards vaccination, the disease can come back through foreign countries. “We should anticipate this and prioritise the vaccination activities,” he said in a statement. In the drive held in the state on Sunday, 12.92 lakh children were given pulse polio drops at 13,453 booths manned by 26,906 volunteers, the statement said.

In addition to that, the government also prepared 373 transit booths, 149 mobile booths and seven festival booths to provide the vaccine to those travelling. One such booth was set up in Pampa to provide polio vaccination to children arriving for pilgrimage at Sabarimala. Polio drops were administered to 100 children from various districts of Kerala and 68 children from various states who had come for the Sabarimala pilgrimage.

The minister said that these arrangements aimed to ensure that the place of residence or the circumstances in which children travel do not become an obstacle to preventive activities. He also said that Malappuram, Kozhikode, Wayanad and Idukki districts were not included in the drive on the instructions of the Centre. Muraleedharan said that the state government had requested the central government to allow the drive in all the districts.

FASTFACTS

- On Sunday, 12.92 lakh children given pulse polio drops.
- 13,453 booths manned by 26,906 volunteers.

“Since every child is the asset of the future, polio drops should have been ensured for all children,” he added. The minister assured that the matter will be brought to the attention of the central government again.

| CLAIM |

‘Zero-casualty approach for disaster mgmt’

Press Trust Of India



ITANAGAR: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday said the government was following a ‘zero-casualty’ approach for disaster management, under which timely warnings and immediate evacuation measures were being prioritised to protect vulnerable people.

Inaugurating the 12th battalion campus of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) at Hollongi, near here, he said it would significantly strengthen disaster preparedness and response across the Northeast, one of the country’s most vulnerable regions to natural calamities.

Shah said the region is prone to various natural disasters and stressed the need for preparedness, modern warning systems and coordinated efforts to minimise loss of lives and property. He said the campus has been constructed in accordance with earthquake-resistant standards, keeping in view the vulnerability of the region to seismic activity.

The home minister said the NDRF’s expansion, improvement in resources and specialised training were among the key priorities of the government to strengthen the country’s disaster management capabilities.

Highlighting the importance of community participation in disaster management, the home minister appreciated the role of local volunteers, including children associated with scouts and trained ‘Aapda Mitras’, who remain prepared to assist people during emergencies.

> **“Involve people at the grassroots level.”**
>
> **Amit Shah**
> Home Minister

He said disaster management efforts should not be limited to specialised forces but must involve people at the grassroots level, including village-level functionaries.

Shah claimed that the country’s improved disaster response mechanism has improved and timely cyclone warnings, issued 24 to 48 hours in advance, help authorities evacuate people from vulnerable areas and prevent casualties.

He said there have been several cyclones in the last four years in which no lives have been lost, attributing the achievement to improved forecasting, preparedness and coordinated evacuation efforts.

‘Anti-Hindu, anti-Sanatan Dharma’

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The BJP on Sunday said the Tamil Nadu government’s move to seek a review of a Supreme Court order permitting the lighting of the traditional Karthigai Deepam lamp on November 24 as a one-time measure at Deepathoon reflects an “anti-Hindu and anti-Sanatan Dharma” mindset of the Congress and its allies.

Deepathoon is a stone pillar atop the Thiruparankundram hill in Madurai. The commissioner of Tamil Nadu’s Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department filed the review petition in the Supreme Court on Saturday, a day after the top court permitted the lighting of the traditional Karthigai Deepam lamp on November 24 as a one-time measure at Deepathoon. Reacting to the move, BJP spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi told reporters, “It is very unfortunate that the INDI Alliance government of Tamil Nadu is hell-bent on not implementing the Supreme Court’s judgment.

NEWSLINE

PANAJI

‘Shifting reponsibility’



Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) leader Saurav Das on Sunday questioned Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s remarks criticising industrialists for not generating enough jobs, asking why the government was shifting responsibility to the private sector after failing to fulfil its employment promises. On November 19, in his FICCI address, Modi 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.

“The government should be held accountable for the unemployment crisis facing the country’s youth. What has the PM done to generate jobs over the last 12 years?” Das questioned while addressing a gathering in Panaji in the presence of CJP leaders Abhijeet Dipke and Ashutosh Ranka. “What about you, Mr Prime Minister? What about your crony friends that you have cultivated in the last 12 years? What about Adani? What about Ambani?” Das further asked.

GANGTOK

‘Quality education’



Sikkim Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang on Sunday said the state aims to emerge as a preferred destination for quality education. Addressing the Shiksha Sammelan-2026 at Manan Kendra here, Tamang said HIS government was committed to transforming Sikkim into a leading education hub. “Our vision is clear -- no child from Sikkim should ever have to leave the state in search of quality education. Instead, we want Sikkim to become a preferred educational destination for students from across India and the world,” he said.

He said Sikkim’s achievement of becoming the country’s fifth fully literate state, with a literacy rate of 99.82 per cent, was a matter of pride, but stressed that the focus must now shift to ensuring quality education for every child. “Our next mission is to ensure that every child in Sikkim receives quality education, develops essential skills and is equipped to compete with confidence on every platform,” he said.

Central Chronicle

Since 1974 Volume 14 No. 234

Comment

QUOTE FROM THE QUOTABLE

"We believe in peace and peaceful development, not only for ourselves but for people all over the world."

[Lal Bahadur Shastri]

| OUR VIEW |

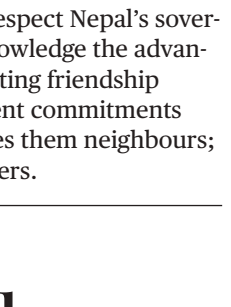
India Nepal Relations Need Trust Beyond Borders

Nepal Prime Minister Balendra Shah's visit to New Delhi presents an opportunity to strengthen relations between two neighbours bound by geography, history, culture and economic interdependence. His discussions with Prime Minister Narendra Modi must address not merely immediate agreements but also the mistrust that has periodically strained bilateral relations. Over the past five years, India-Nepal ties have witnessed significant progress alongside persistent diplomatic challenges. In 2021, cross-border electricity exports gained momentum, opening new economic opportunities for Nepal. The following year, Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba's visit to India strengthened cooperation in energy, infrastructure and connectivity. The inauguration of the Jaynagar-Kurtha railway restored an important transport connection. Relations advanced further during Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal's 2023 visit, when agreements covering petroleum pipelines, trade, transit and railway infrastructure demonstrated growing economic cooperation. In 2024, both countries signed a landmark agreement envisaging Nepal's electricity exports reaching 10,000 megawatts within a decade. This transformed hydropower into a strategic pillar of bilateral relations. During 2025, cooperation continued through trade discussions, investment commitments and infrastructure development. However, political uncertainties in Nepal and longstanding concerns over unequal economic dependence remained obstacles. India's influence in Nepal also faced increasing scrutiny amid Kathmandu's efforts to balance relations with China. The territorial dispute involving Kalapani, Lipulekh and Limpiyadhura has remained particularly sensitive. Shah's statements in May 2026 revived tensions, while India rejected third-party intervention. Both governments must recognise that historical disagreements require sustained dialogue rather than nationalist confrontation. Nevertheless, economic realities favour cooperation. India remains Nepal's largest trading partner and an indispensable transit corridor. Nepal's hydropower potential, meanwhile, can contribute significantly to regional energy security. Proposed railway connections between Raxaul and Kathmandu, alongside cultural links between Ayodhya and Janakpur, could deepen public engagement. Equally important are flood management, climate resilience, border infrastructure and employment opportunities. The open border and extensive people-to-people relationships represent exceptional diplomatic assets. Shah's visit should therefore mark a shift from periodic political friction towards predictable cooperation. India must respect Nepal's sovereignty, while Kathmandu should acknowledge the advantages of constructive engagement. Lasting friendship demands mutual sensitivity, transparent commitments and practical results. Geography makes them neighbours; trust must make them enduring partners.

| GUEST VIEW |

PF withdrawal reform strengthens retirement security

The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation's decision to approve a Systematic Withdrawal Plan (SWP) is a welcome step towards strengthening retirement security for millions of salaried Indians. The proposal allows retiring subscribers to withdraw their provident fund savings through monthly, quarterly or half-yearly instalments instead of taking the entire amount at once. Importantly, the remaining balance will continue earning interest, while nominees can access the corpus after a subscriber's death. Initially, around 6.32 lakh members aged above 55, with balances exceeding Rs 5 lakh, are expected to benefit. The reduction in the minimum balance requirement from 25 per cent to 10 per cent and the shortening of the final withdrawal waiting period from 12 months to two months offer additional financial flexibility. However, systematic withdrawals cannot replace guaranteed pension security. Rising medical expenses, inflation and longer life expectancy could exhaust modest retirement savings. The EPFO must provide clear withdrawal guidelines, financial counselling, reliable digital services and effective grievance redressal. The government must also extend retirement protection to informal-sector workers through affordable savings mechanisms and wider pension coverage. Ultimately, the reform's success must be judged by its ability to ensure financial independence, dignity and economic security for elderly citizens.



Yash Pal Ralhan

The Decade India Turned the Tide on Poverty

A year ago, during my visit to Kiphire, an aspirational district in the remote hills of Nagaland, I interacted with tribal women from local self-help groups. Among them was Esther, a Lakhpati Didi, who proudly spoke of her millet-based products reaching customers online, far beyond Nagaland. What stayed with me was their confidence in a better future. I encouraged them to dream bigger and become Crorepati Didis. Their stories reflected a transformation reaching India's remotest corners, where geographical and economic challenges have long constrained opportunities, yet aspirations for a better tomorrow are growing.

When the World Bank released its Poverty & Equity Brief on India last month, my interaction in Kiphire came back to me. The report showed that nearly 50 crore Indians had moved out of poverty between 2011 and 2023, while extreme poverty has been almost eradicated. These figures captured the transformation I had witnessed firsthand.

It was not always so. For over six decades after Independence, eradicating mass poverty remained an unfulfilled promise. Even in the early 2010s, India was portrayed abroad as a home of enduring destitution, lagging in sanitation, nutrition, clean cooking fuel and banking. The prevailing prescription was simply to put money into the hands of the poor, and poverty would take care of itself.

The last decade has overturned that belief. Under PM Narendra Modi's leadership, India has witnessed a fundamental shift from temporary relief to removing the barriers that perpetuate poverty. Guided by Antyodaya, the welfare of the last person in the line, our Government chose the harder path of addressing deprivations, household by household, ensuring development reached those who needed it most.

Targeted, Focused and Tailored

Garibi is not merely a shortage of income or wages. A household without a secure roof, safe water, sanitation or healthcare remains vulnerable even when its income rises. One illness can wipe out savings and push a family back into poverty. Our Government, therefore, made every intervention targeted at those who needed it, focused on measurable outcomes and tailored to the deprivation it was meant to remove.

There was no magic wand. Each scheme required careful identification of beneficiaries, effective delivery and follow-up until the last household was reached. PM Modi has personally and painstakingly monitored implementation, intervened at critical junctures to resolve bottlenecks, ensured follow-ups and encouraged the use of technology to track delivery. This sustained attention has helped translate policy into tangible improvements in people's lives.

Health and Dignity Begin at Home

A family cannot climb out of poverty while illness and the daily burden of fetching water keep pulling it back. Under Swachh Bharat, access to household toilets has improved sanitation and helped avert an estimated 60,000-70,000 infant deaths a year. Jal Jeevan Mission has expanded rural tap-water connections from about 3 crore households in 2019 to nearly 16 crore, sparing women and girls the long walk for water and reducing exposure to waterborne diseases. Ujjwala Yojana has enabled cleaner, smokeless kitchens, while PM Awas Yojana has provided the security and dignity of pucca homes. Ayushman Bharat, offering cashless hospital care, has strengthened financial protection against medical expenses. Together, they act as insurance against the shocks that once pushed families back into poverty, while lowering household expenditure and freeing time for work.



Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman

The author is Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs

From a Bank Account to an Enterprise

Protection keeps families from slipping back into poverty; to rise further, they need opportunities to earn. For crores of people, that journey began with a bank account. Once, it was accepted that only fifteen paise of every rupee sent from the exchequer reached the intended citizen. Direct Benefit Transfer has changed that. Over 59 crore Jan Dhan accounts enable benefits to reach recipients directly, without middlemen. Technology has made this possible at an unprecedented scale.

A bank account also provides a safe place for savings and helps establish a financial record, opening doors to formal credit. For those without property, access to the first loan can be life-changing.

Two months ago, during an interaction with MUDRA beneficiaries, I met Sushmita Gharai from West Bengal. She lost her father during the pandemic, and her family's printing business subsequently collapsed. With no land or gold as security, a collateral-free MUDRA loan helped her restart the press. Today, she employs 8 people, twice her initial workforce, and plans to expand into digital printing. What stayed with me was her determination to rebuild and grow. Her story reflects the aspirations of countless young Indians whose ambition exceeds their financial means. Under MUDRA, 60 crore loan accounts have been sanctioned, about two-thirds to women, while PM SVANidhi and PM Vishwakarma support street vendors and traditional artisans.

Women have led this transformation. Ten crore rural women participate in SHGs that, through the DAY-NRLM and other programmes, have become platforms for savings, skills, credit and entrepreneurship. Over 3.7 crore women have become Lakhpati Didis, with some going further to become Crorepati Didis. Others, trained as Namo Drone Didis, now provide drone-spraying services to farmers. Women once excluded from economic opportunity are building enterprises and livelihoods of their own.

The Sankalp for Viksit Bharat

For generations, poverty was treated as something India could manage but never end. What appeared unimaginable a decade ago has now been achieved through years of steady work on the ground.

Yet this is no time to rest; the road to Viksit Bharat by 2047 brings its own challenges. The next phase builds on this progress to lift the few people still at the bottom of the ladder out of poverty, while ensuring those who have already risen keep advancing and never slip back. The protection offered via various measures must now be complemented by even wider access to finance, markets and the digital economy. Government is building closer links between academia and industry through employment-linked incentives, internships and apprenticeships, while investment in infrastructure is connecting the country as never before. Opportunity cannot remain the preserve of a few.

The Prime Minister has said that Viksit Bharat, like freedom, is a commitment that every Indian must live. Having achieved in ten years what remained unfulfilled for six decades, India can face the next twenty with confidence. With the resolve of 140 crore Indians, Viksit Bharat by 2047 is within our reach, and we together will get there.

Will Machines Have the Right to Kill Human Beings?

Artificial intelligence is transforming modern warfare, but allowing machines to decide matters of life and death raises serious questions about humanity, accountability and moral responsibility.

Science has endowed human beings with powers that, until a few decades ago, could only have been imagined in science fiction. Artificial intelligence has given this transformation new momentum. Machines no longer merely follow human instructions; they can analyse information, assess situations and make decisions independently. However, when this capability enters the battlefield and begins to determine matters of human life and death, a scientific achievement turns into a serious humanitarian concern.



Mahendra Tiwari



The world is moving towards developing lethal autonomous weapons that can identify, track and attack targets without direct human commands. Using artificial intelligence, sensors and advanced computational systems, these weapons can select potential targets independently. From a military perspective, this may reduce risks to soldiers and increase operational efficiency. However, a fundamental question remains: Should a machine be given the authority to decide who deserves to live and whose life should be taken?

This question arose during the United Nations-supported international talks held in Geneva in November 2026. Representatives of various countries discussed possible rules governing lethal autonomous weapons. Although an immediate consensus on a legally binding agreement could not be reached, further discussions are expected over the next two years.

A battlefield presents extraordinarily complex human situations. Amid explosions, wounded soldiers, frightened civilians and collapsing buildings, distinguishing combatants from innocent people is difficult. A person carrying a weapon may not necessarily be a soldier. Someone lying wounded may be seeking help, while a frightened civilian may be running towards safety. Human beings can attempt to assess such circumstances through experience, understanding and compassion. Machines, however, depend on available data, where even a minor error could cost innocent lives.

The issue also raises serious questions about accountability. If an autonomous weapon mistakenly kills a civilian, who should be responsible—the manufacturer, scientists, military officers or the government? A machine cannot admit guilt, express remorse or explain its moral decisions before a court. Therefore, human responsibility must remain clearly established throughout the development and deployment of such weapons.

The global arms race makes this challenge even more dangerous. Competition to develop increasingly intelligent weapons could make warfare unpredictable, allowing devastating decisions within moments and reducing opportunities to prevent escalation.

India must adopt a balanced approach. Artificial intelligence can strengthen border surveillance, defence research and military preparedness. However, national security cannot justify abandoning humanitarian values. India should support an international framework ensuring meaningful human control over decisions involving human lives.

Technology should ultimately be judged by its contribution to human welfare. Artificial intelligence can transform medicine, education, agriculture and disaster management, but its uncontrolled military application threatens human civilisation.

The Geneva discussions offer an opportunity to establish clear restrictions, strengthen accountability and safeguard innocent lives.

Ultimately, the question is not about the intelligence of machines, but the wisdom of human beings. A machine may be extraordinarily fast, but it cannot understand human suffering or possess compassion for life. Before making weapons more intelligent, humanity must ensure that it does not lose its own wisdom and compassion.

YOURLETTERS

Water bells can improve students' health

Introducing water bells in schools can encourage students to drink water regularly and develop healthy hydration habits. However, ensuring safe drinking water is equally important. School authorities must regularly test water quality and maintain filtration systems. Cleaning dates and scheduled maintenance details should be clearly displayed on water filters. Schools should also install modern, sensor-enabled, touch-free water dispensers at student-friendly heights, ensuring accessibility for wheelchair users. Such measures will promote hygiene, prevent waterborne diseases and create a healthier learning environment for children.

Nabnit Panigrahi, Rayagada, Odisha

India's tuberculosis control efforts show progress

India has recorded encouraging progress against tuberculosis, with deaths declining by 38 per cent since 2015, according to the WHO. New cases also fell by 21 per cent between 2015 and 2024. Expanded screening, portable X-ray machines, molecular testing and improved treatment have strengthened detection and recovery. However, India accounted for 25 per cent of global TB cases in 2024. Undernutrition, diabetes, HIV and socio-economic challenges remain obstacles. Sustained efforts under the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme are essential for further progress.

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



Dialogue between parties strengthens democracy.

Santosh Kumar Gangwar
Jharkhand Governor

Cong neglected devp in Arunachal: Shah

Centre, under the leadership of PM Narendra Modi, has substantially increased its support for the progress of the northeastern state.

Press Trust Of India



Union Home Minister Amit Shah visits stalls showcasing products made by local women SHGs and cooperative societies.

ITANAGAR: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday accused the Congress of neglecting development and providing inadequate financial assistance during its rule in Arunachal Pradesh, claiming that the Centre, under the leadership of PM Narendra Modi, has substantially increased its support for the progress of the northeastern state.

Addressing a function organised by the state Cooperation Department here, Shah claimed that the Centre had provided Rs 33,530 crore to Arunachal Pradesh during the UPA rule between 2004 and 2014, while the financial assistance rose to Rs 1,64,664 crore during the 2014-2024 period under the NDA government.

Shah said tax devolution to the state went up four times, while grants increased 18 times.

He said the figures reflected the Narendra Modi government's commitment to the development of Arunachal Pradesh and the Northeast.

"The growth of Arunachal Pradesh's budget from Rs 12,000 crore to Rs 36,000 crore suggests how development has expanded in the last 12 years," he said.

Highlighting the Vibrant Villages Programme, Shah said the prime minister has changed the perception of border villages by describing them as the "country's first villages rather than the last".

He said development must begin at the borders and residents there should enjoy all basic facilities and livelihood opportunities.

The programme has helped reverse migration in Arunachal Pradesh, with people returning to nearly 40 villages, leading to an increase in their populations, he said.

The government has been addressing concerns relating to electricity, schools, basic amenities and employment in these areas, Shah said.

He added that the Northeast has been witnessing a major transformation in connectivity and development over the past 12 years under the leadership of PM Modi, asserting that the gap between the region and the national capital has narrowed considerably.

The home minister said no state capital in the Northeast now lacks improved road, rail or air connectivity, adding that the region has witnessed "unprecedented expansion" in infrastructure.

He described improved connectivity as one of the major achievements of the NDA government.

Shah said the Centre has placed the Northeast at the forefront of its development agenda, with special emphasis on education, economic growth, employment opportunities for youths and industrial development.

HIGHLIGHT

- Tax devolution quadrupled, grants increased eighteenfold.
- Figures underscore Centre's Northeast devp commitment.

Mixed response

KOTTAYAM: The Congress leaders on Sunday gave mixed responses over Padmaja Venugopal expressing interest in returning to the party after exiting the BJP, while leaving the decision to the state and national leadership.

Congress MLA Chandy Oommen said all those who wished to return to the party after correcting their mistakes should be welcomed, adding that several others were also waiting to come back from the BJP.

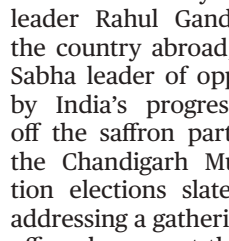
He was responding to reporters' questions about Padmaja Venugopal, daughter of former Chief Minister K Karunakaran and sister of Health Minister K Muraleedharan, who had quit the BJP and expressed her willingness to return to the Congress. Chandy Oommen, son of former Chief Minister Oommen Chandy, said the party should welcome everyone seeking to return after realising their mistakes, and not make an exception for any individual. "Anyone can return to the party after correcting their mistakes. Everyone should be accommodated. It should not be just one person, but everyone," he said.

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

UNIFIED EFFORT

'Industry and government need to unite behind PM's vision for India's growth'



MUMBAI: In a recent social media post, Anil Agarwal, Chairman, Vedanta Group, reflected on the Prime Minister's address to industry at FICCI. He called for greater collaboration between the government and private sector to accelerate India's economic growth and create large-scale employment opportunities.

He has proposed greater privatisation of government-owned companies across natural resources, energy, manufacturing and heavy industry, highlighting the potential of private-sector management to improve productivity, create jobs and encourage the growth of MSMEs. He suggests that privatisation should be accompanied by two conditions, no retrenchment and a threefold increase in employment. He also highlights public share distribution as an alternative to corporate acquisitions, with proceeds from privatisation potentially being used to reduce government debt and invest in infrastructure.

Emphasising the Prime Minister's focus on trust, Agarwal has called for replacing lengthy approval processes with self-certification and simpler regulations. He believes the government should establish clear rules and ensure compliance through audits, allowing businesses and new industries to start and scale more rapidly.

Agarwal has also highlighted exploration as a significant opportunity for young entrepreneurs and startups in the minerals, metals and hydrocarbons sectors. He advocates enabling exploration startups to sell their discoveries to established companies such as ONGC and Hindustan Zinc, which have the capacity to undertake large-scale mining and processing investments. He believes this could encourage hundreds of startups, create entrepreneurial opportunities and strengthen India's domestic resource ecosystem.

NCW CHIEF OPINES

'Society must equally recognise, respect single women'

NEW DELHI: National Commission for Women Chairperson Vijaya Rahatkar has said that an inclusive society must recognise and support women irrespective of their marital status, stressing the need for economic independence, secure housing, social security and legal support for single women. She made the remarks at a national consultation on "Rights and Challenges of Single Women in India" organised by the Commission here on Saturday to deliberate upon the legal, social and economic challenges faced by single women and identify measures to strengthen their access to rights, social security, economic opportunities and institutional support, the National Commission for Women (NCW) said in a statement. She said single women do not constitute a homogeneous group and their circumstances, needs and challenges vary considerably. "Empowerment must extend beyond financial assistance to include economic independence, secure housing, property and inheritance rights, social security, legal support and the freedom to make independent decisions," she said.

'INSULTING INDIA ABROAD'

Nitin Nabin lashes out at Rahul Gandhi over his remarks in US

CHANDIGARH: BJP president Nitin Nabin on Sunday accused Congress leader Rahul Gandhi of "insulting" the country abroad, alleging the Lok Sabha leader of opposition is pained by India's progress. Nabin kicked-off the saffron party's campaign for the Chandigarh Municipal Corporation elections slated for December, addressing a gathering of workers and officer bearers at the Ramlila Ground here. The election of councillors for 35 wards of Chandigarh Municipal Corporation will be held on December 23, and votes will be counted on December 26. During his address, Nabin asserted that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the country is taking significant strides forward. "There was a time when India was considered among the 'fragile five' economies... today, India has emerged as the fourth largest economy in the world." Targeting Congress and its leaders, the BJP chief alleged they go abroad only to "insult this soil". "They are pained by development, by the pace of India's progress, and, in an attempt to mislead people, they claim India's economy is a disaster.

Leopard dead

PILIBHIT: A leopard carcass was found on the side of a stretch of road between Marauri Bazar and Kalyanpur in Pilibhit district of Uttar Pradesh, officials said. Bharat Kumar D K, the DFO of the Social Forestry Department, on Sunday told reporters that preliminary investigations indicate the leopard died after being hit by an unidentified vehicle around 11 pm on Saturday. A team of the Social Forestry Department has taken possession of the carcass and initiated an investigation. A post-mortem of the leopard's carcass was conducted on Sunday by Dr Daksh Gangwar, a veterinarian at the Pilibhit Tiger Reserve (PTR). Gangwar told PTI that the deceased male leopard was approximately 2-3 years old. While there were minor injury marks on its body, the fatal injury was inside its skull. Several bones were fractured, which led to its death, he said. Such an injury could only have been caused by a collision, indicating that the leopard might have died after being struck by a vehicle.

| OPERATIONAL ASSESSMENT |

DRM inspects Dantewada–Koraput railway section

Press Trust Of India

DRM reviews safety, infrastructure and development works.



RAYAGADA: Amitabh Singhal, Divisional Railway Manager (DRM), Rayagada Division of East Coast Railway conducted an extensive inspection of the Dantewada-Koraput Railway Section on 20th November 2026 to review Railway Safety, Operational Efficiency, Station Infrastructure, Passenger Amenities, Staff Welfare facilities and the progress of various ongoing and proposed development works.

During his visit to Dantewada Railway Station, the DRM undertook a detailed inspection of station facilities and safety arrangements, including the Station Working Rules (SWR) and Visual Display Unit (VDU). Various safety-related aspects of the section were also thoroughly reviewed.

The progress of Limited Height Subway (LHS) works at different locations was assessed, with particular emphasis on completion targets. The status of station redevelopment works under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (ABSS) was also reviewed.

At Bodearpur, DRM Shri Singhal reviewed the progress of the new Station Building work. He also inspected the Railway Staff Colony at Tokpal and took note of issues relating to staff amenities and infrastructure. During the visit, he interacted with railway employees, listened to their grievances and directed the concerned officials to take necessary remedial measures within the stipulated time frame.

Officials from the Construction Organisation accompanied the DRM and briefed him on the progress of various projects, achievements against stipulated targets and the status of ongoing works.

FACTFILE

- Safety, Station Infra, and ongoing Devp Projects Reviewed
- Progress of Amrit Bharat Station Scheme Assessed

HOLY PILGRIMAGE

Sikh pilgrims leave for Pak via Attari border to attend Guru Nanak's birth anniversary celebrations



AMRITSAR: A group of 700 Sikh pilgrims left for Pakistan through the Attari-Wagah land route on Sunday to attend celebrations marking the 557th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev, the founder of Sikhism, on November 24. More pilgrims will cross over to Pakistan by Sunday evening, officials said. Akal Takht Jathedar Giani Kuldeep Singh Gargajj led the 'jatha' (group) of Sikh pilgrims that left for Pakistan in the morning.

The group also includes Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) executive committee member Ravinder Singh Khalsa, and members Parminder Kaur, Gurnam Singh Jassal, Gurinder Kaur Bholuwala and Lakhbir Singh. The Centre has deployed adequate Customs and immigration officials to ensure speedy completion of travel formalities for the pilgrims at the border point, the officials said.

The Pakistan government has issued visas to around 3,000 Indian Sikh pilgrims for the occasion, they said. Medical camps, temporary accommodation facilities, and transportation arrangements have been made on both sides of the border by the respective governments. An official said that after all the pilgrims reach Lahore by Sunday evening, they will proceed towards Nankana Sahib, the birthplace of Guru Nanak, in special transport arranged by the Pakistan government. The pilgrims will also pay obeisance at several historic Sikh shrines in Pakistan, before and after attending the birth anniversary celebrations at Gurdwara Janam Asthan in Nankana Sahib on Tuesday, which include the recitation of 'Akhand Path Sahib' and a 'Nagar Kirtan'.

Before proceeding to the Attari border from the Golden Temple, Gargajj said the daily 'Ardas' (prayer) of every devoted Sikh includes the longing for unhindered access to and proper care and maintenance of Nankana Sahib and the other historic Sikh shrines in Pakistan.

| WORD OF ADVICE |

'Hills teach people an essential truth'

Press Trust Of India

SHIMLA: Hills teach people an essential truth that no one climbs very far entirely alone, said Chief Justice of India Justice Surya Kant at the 10th Convocation ceremony of the Central University of Himachal Pradesh in Dharamshala on Sunday.

He further said that a strong sense of community exists in Himachal Pradesh and can be witnessed in the villages.

"The hills teach people an essential truth: no one climbs very far entirely alone," he said. "Individuals understand the importance of depending upon one another. For instance, when roads are blocked, when the weather turns difficult, or when someone needs assistance, communities often come together with a sense of responsibility that requires no formal instruction," he said.

Addressing the students as chief guest, he said, "I believe the same is true of your journey through this university. I am certain that not all your memorable lessons came from textbooks or lectures. Some must have come from friends while sharing notes before examinations, classmates who helped with difficult assignments, and conversations over tea that lasted considerably longer than anyone had intended."

> **No one climbs very far entirely alone.**
>
> **Justice Surya Kant**
> Chief Justice of India



"If there is one lesson I hope you carry forward from the friendships and shared experiences of your university years, it is to recognise that the willingness to listen, collaborate, and learn from others is not a limitation of one's abilities, but one of their greatest strengths," he said.

"It reflects the emergence of an India where talent is finding the opportunities it deserves, where daughters are increasingly being provided equal opportunities to excel and move forward," he added.

Sharing about his professional journey, Justice Kant said he started from district courts at his native place, Hisar, to the high court in Chandigarh, where he came with a few pairs of clothes and a great deal of uncertainty about what lay ahead.

"Feel free to say whatever you want about the trailer, that, 'It's too long' or 'it reveals the entire film.' But no, I will show you the actual film on December 4th. You know the saying, 'Never judge a book by its cover."

Salman Khan



&Glitters

OTT Watch



The Vvaan arrives on OTT

Sidharth Malhotra and Tamannaah Bhatia's fantasy thriller The Vvaan: Force of the Forest is now streaming on Amazon Prime Video. Directed by Deepak Kumar Mishra, the film premiered digitally on November 20.



A chilling tale of family horror

Jessica Chastain's psychological horror film Other Mommy, based on Josh Malerman's novel, is now available to rent on Amazon Prime Video for Rs 299. The supernatural thriller explores childhood fears, family troubles and a mysterious entity impersonating a mother.



Emily in Paris gets its grand finale

Netflix's Emily in Paris will return for its sixth and final season on December 24, 2026. Featuring 10 episodes, the series follows Emily's romantic and professional adventures across Paris, Greece and Monaco, bringing her popular journey to a close.



Huma Qureshi's next film heads online

Huma Qureshi's crime drama Bayaan will premiere directly on Zee5, skipping theatres. Directed by Bikas Ranjan Mishra, the film features Huma as a rookie police officer investigating a powerful cult leader accused of sexual assault.



Call Me Bae gets Anuv Jain track

Singer-songwriter Anuv Jain makes his OTT musical debut with 'Tu Keh De Toh', featuring Ananya Panday in its music video. The track is part of Call Me Bae Season 2, premiering December 17, 2026, exclusively on Prime Video.

CLOSE UP

'Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham' continues to amaze me – Kareena

Kareena says fans continue watching the family drama on repeat.

Central Chronicle News

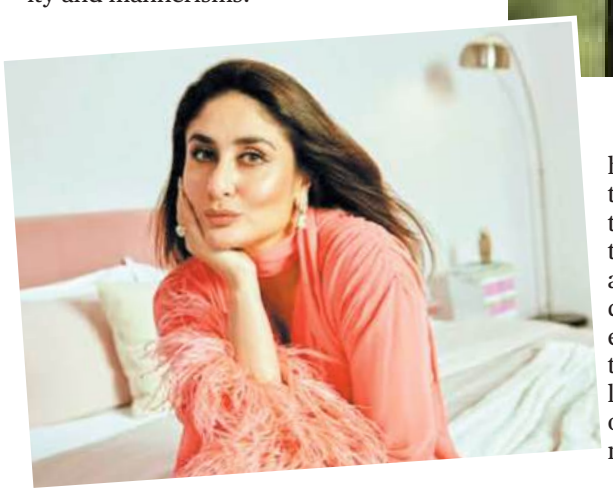
K3G completes 25 years, but its magic continues captivating audiences.





Kareena Kapoor wore a silk chiffon gown by Elie Saab.

Kareena Kapoor Khan says the love for Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham and her character Poo continues to amaze her, even 25 years after the film's release. Directed by Karan Johar, the family drama featured an ensemble cast, including Amitabh Bachchan, Jaya Bachchan, Shah Rukh Khan, Kajol, Hrithik Roshan and Kareena. Speaking at an event celebrating the film's 25th anniversary, Kareena said people often tell her they have watched the movie 20 to 25 times. She added that despite working in around 75 films, she has rarely received such repeated appreciation for any of her other projects. The actor described the response as incredible and said she feels overwhelmed by the continued affection for both the film and Poo. Kareena played Pooja, popularly known as Poo, Kajol's fashion-loving younger sister. The character became a pop-culture favourite for her confidence, distinctive style and memorable dialogues. The actor credited Karan Johar for shaping Poo's personality and mannerisms.



She said she followed his directions throughout the process and imitated the way he performed the character. Kareena also described herself as a director's actor, acknowledging Johar's contribution to bringing Poo to life. The film tells the story of a wealthy family separated after its son marries against his father's wishes. Its themes of family, friendship, warmth and reconciliation have helped it connect with audiences across generations. To mark the milestone, hospitality platform Airbnb has recreated the Raichand family mansion in Mumbai, including Poo's extravagant bedroom and wardrobe.

CineBriefs

BEST OF THE REST

Bollywood

Darsheel Safary returns with a cybercrime thriller

Darsheel Safary and Zain Khan Durrani are coming together for Cyber, an upcoming cybercrime thriller directed by Alok Naik. The film follows two unemployed computer engineering graduates who get an unexpected opportunity to work with a cyber agency. Their new roles take them into the complex world of digital crime, changing their lives. The supporting cast includes Prasad Oak, Kabir Duhan Singh, Rahul Singh and Alisha Khan. Produced by Raj Zacharias under Celebs and Red Carpet, the film marks the production house's Hindi cinema debut. Composer Gopi Sundar has joined the project to create its music.

Web Series

Arshad Warsi collaborates with Farhan and Ritesh

Arshad Warsi is teaming up with Farhan Akhtar and Ritesh Sidhwani for an upcoming untitled thriller series. Directed by Mihir Desai, the project marks the actor's first collaboration with the producers. Backed by Excel Entertainment and Baweja Studios, the series has begun filming its first schedule in London. According to reports, Rasika Dugal and Karan Tacker are also part of the cast. Warsi reportedly appreciates the producers' willingness to explore diverse stories and collaborate with new directors and writers. The thriller marks another interesting addition to his growing list of digital projects, bringing together a promising creative team.

The bollywood hot pair

Alia Bhatt talks equality in her marriage



Alia Bhatt has addressed speculation about her marriage to Ranbir Kapoor, rejecting claims that their relationship is unequal. In an interview, she said feeling understood and emotionally supported defines their bond. Describing her husband as someone who makes her feel heard without needing to explain herself, Alia highlighted the importance of emotional connection. Relationship experts suggest that a healthy marriage allows both partners to express opinions, make decisions and disagree without fear. True equality is not about keeping score but ensuring both individuals feel valued, respected and free to grow while maintaining their individuality.

Fashion

Sonam Kapoor's Givenchy suit has a surprise

Sonam Kapoor made a striking fashion statement at the inaugural Frieze Abu Dhabi and NOMAD art weekend in a black Givenchy pantsuit, styled by her sister Rhea Kapoor. The structured double-breasted jacket featured sharp lapels, a sculpted peplum waist and an oversized bow at the back, adding an unexpected twist. She paired it with relaxed pleated trousers, pointed oxblood pumps and a structured Givenchy handbag.



| HOLLYWOOD |

Harbour to return as Santa Claus in 'Violent Night 2

Central Chronicle News



David Harbour returning as Santa Claus in action-packed sequel.

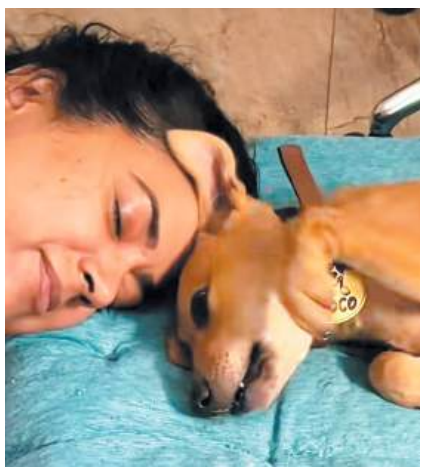
HIGHLIGHT

- **Tommy Wirkola returns with David Harbour for another chaotic Christmas adventure.**

David Harbour is set to return as the unconventional Santa Claus in Violent Night 2, and director Tommy Wirkola is looking forward to expanding the action-comedy franchise. The film will explore Santa's Viking history while retaining the blend of brutal action, dark humour and festive spirit that defined the original. Wirkola said returning to an established world gave the creative team greater freedom. Having introduced the characters and established the film's tone, the filmmakers could focus on finding new ways to surprise audiences. He added that this familiarity allowed them to be more ambitious without losing the spirit of the first instalment. The story centres on Santa as he confronts Bob Mason, a ruthless gangster played by Jared Harris, who is terrorising the merchants of Silver Bell Mall. The situation becomes more complicated when Santa loses his magic after losing sight of the true meaning of Christmas. With the community in danger and time running out, he turns to Mrs Claus, played by Kristen Bell, for help. Producer David Leitch said the sequel brings together different genres, combining brutality, comedy and genuine emotion.

He also highlighted the decision to explore more of Santa's Viking past, saying it adds another layer to the character while preserving the identity of the franchise.

Trending on Insta



@reddysameera

Sameera Reddy mourns the loss of puppy Maya

Actress Sameera Reddy opened up about losing her beloved puppy Maya, who died after battling distemper. The family later welcomed another Indie puppy, Coco, in Maya's memory, finding comfort in giving another dog a loving home.

@kritisanon

Kriti Sanon calls Kabir Bahia her birthday cutie

Kriti Sanon wished rumoured boyfriend Kabir Bahia on his birthday with an adorable social media post. Sharing his candid picture against a sunset backdrop, the actor called him "Cutie" and added a red heart and evil-eye emojis.





Wellness

COPD AWARENESS

Pollution affects your lung health drastically

Polluted air can silently damage lungs and make breathing increasingly difficult.





Mental health deserves greater awareness

Air pollution does more than cause watery eyes, throat irritation and coughing. It can also affect lung health and worsen conditions such as asthma and Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD). With pollution levels rising, protecting our lungs has become increasingly important. COPD is a long-term lung condition that restricts airflow, making breathing difficult. It includes chronic bronchitis and emphysema, which affect the airways and tiny air sacs in the lungs. Although it cannot be completely cured, timely treatment can help control its symptoms. Some warning signs are easy to mistake for everyday tiredness or a seasonal cough. Persistent coughing, mucus, breathlessness during routine activities, wheezing and frequent respiratory infections may indicate a lung problem. In advanced stages, even walking or climbing stairs can become difficult. Smoking is a major cause of COPD, but polluted air, industrial fumes, dust and household smoke can also damage the lungs. Tiny airborne particles such as PM2.5 irritate the respiratory system and may trigger breathing difficulties, particularly among people with asthma. A few everyday precautions can help reduce exposure. Avoid outdoor walks and exercise when pollution levels are high. Wear a well-fitted N95 mask when stepping outside, keep windows closed during severe pollution and avoid smoking indoors. An air purifier with an appropriate filter may also improve indoor air quality.

Children, older adults and people with existing respiratory conditions should take extra care when air quality deteriorates. Quitting smoking and staying up to date with recommended vaccinations can support lung health. Most importantly, do not ignore a persistent cough or unusual breathlessness. Consulting a doctor early can help identify problems, manage symptoms and reduce further complications.



HIGHLIGHT

- Know COPD symptoms, risk factors and simple ways to protect yourself



Vitamin C is essential, but excess can be harmful



Vitamin C is important for immunity, healthy skin and protecting cells from damage. However, consuming too much, especially through supplements, can cause health problems. Excessive intake may lead to stomach pain, gas, nausea, acidity and diarrhoea. It can also increase the risk of kidney stones by raising oxalate levels in the body. Vitamin C helps the body absorb iron, but excessive amounts may be harmful for people prone to iron overload. Adults generally need 75-90 mg daily. Include citrus fruits, guavas and vegetables in your diet. Avoid unnecessary supplements and consult a doctor before increasing your daily intake.

HEALTH ALERT

Vaccine myths parents should stop believing



Childhood vaccination protects children from several serious diseases, but many parents still believe common myths about vaccines. Vaccines help the immune system develop antibodies to fight infections and do not weaken immunity. They are tested for safety before approval. Mild side effects, such as fever or pain at the injection site, usually disappear within a day or two. There is also no scientific evidence linking vaccines to autism. Even healthy children need timely immunisation because they can still catch infections. Parents should follow the recommended vaccination schedule and consult a doctor before delaying or skipping any dose.

| SELF - SILENCING |

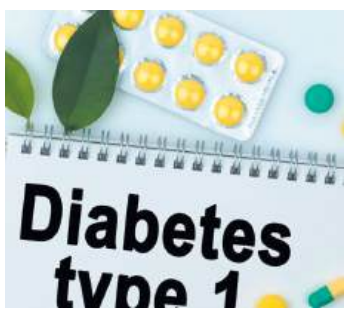
WHO releases type 1 diabetes guidelines for adults

Central Chronicle News

WHO has released new guidelines to improve type 1 diabetes management.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has issued its first guidelines for diagnosing and managing type 1 diabetes in adults. Released on November 14, 2026, World Diabetes Day, they focus on insulin access, blood glucose monitoring and continuity of care. Type 1 diabetes is an autoimmune condition in which the immune system attacks insulin-producing cells in the pancreas. The body then makes little or no insulin. It can develop at any age and requires lifelong treatment.





WHO issues new diabetes care guidelines



Insulin is essential

People with type 1 diabetes need lifelong insulin. WHO recommends intensive treatment, often involving multiple daily injections, with doses adjusted to individual needs. Human insulin is effective; insulin analogues may also be considered when appropriate.

Monitoring matters

Regular glucose checks help guide decisions about insulin and meals. Methods include HbA1c tests, finger-prick meters and continuous glucose monitoring devices. Urine glucose testing may be considered where blood testing is unavailable.

Care should be personalised

Insulin needs and glucose patterns vary. Treatment and monitoring should reflect each person's health, circumstances and available healthcare resources.

Affordable supplies are vital

WHO highlights the need for reliable, quality-assured and affordable insulin. Treatment must continue during disasters, when medicines and medical services may be disrupted. Missing insulin can become dangerous.

Implications for India

The recommendations underline concerns about insulin costs and unequal access to glucose monitoring. Continuous glucose monitors and insulin pumps may remain unaffordable for many. Implementation will require dependable supplies, affordable testing, trained health workers and follow-up.

The guidelines provide a framework for adult diabetes care. Patients should follow an individual plan with healthcare professionals and never change or stop insulin without medical advice.

Health Tips

WINTER SOUPS TO KEEP YOU NOURISHED



Classic Roasted Tomato Basil Soup

Ingredients

4 ripe tomatoes, 1 small onion, 2 garlic cloves, 1 tbsp olive oil, 1 cup vegetable broth, fresh basil, salt and pepper..

Instructions

Chop tomatoes and onion. Toss with garlic, olive oil, salt and pepper. Roast until soft and slightly caramelised. Blend with warm vegetable broth and basil until smooth. Reheat gently and serve hot.

Benefits

Tomatoes provide vitamin C and antioxidants, while basil adds freshness. This light, flavourful soup is a comforting winter option.

Creamy Garlic Potato Leek Soup



Ingredients

2 potatoes, 1 leek, 2 garlic cloves, 2 cups vegetable stock, 2 tbsp cream, salt and black pepper.

Instructions

Wash and slice the leek. Peel and dice potatoes. Cook leek and garlic in a little oil. Add potatoes and stock. Simmer until tender, then blend until smooth. Stir in cream, season with salt and pepper, and serve warm.

Benefits

Potatoes provide energy and potassium, while leeks offer fibre. This creamy soup makes a filling winter meal.



Spiced Carrot and Ginger Soup

Ingredients

3 carrots, 1 small onion, 1 tsp grated ginger, 2 cups vegetable broth, 1 tsp oil, salt and pepper.

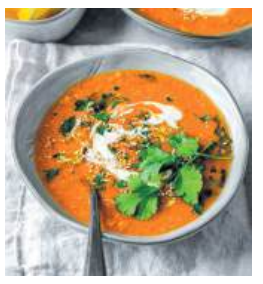
Instructions

Peel and chop carrots and onion. Heat oil, add onion and ginger, and cook briefly. Add carrots, broth and salt. Simmer until tender. Blend everything until smooth, reheat gently and season with pepper before serving.

Benefits

Carrots contain beta-carotene, which the body converts into vitamin A. Ginger adds warming flavour, making this soup a comforting winter choice.

Hearty Red Lentil and Cumin Soup



Ingredients

½ cup red lentils, ½ tsp cumin seeds, ¼ tsp turmeric, 2 garlic cloves, 2 cups vegetable broth, salt and lemon juice.

Instructions

Rinse lentils thoroughly. Lightly toast cumin seeds and chopped garlic in oil. Add lentils, turmeric, broth and salt. Simmer for 20 minutes until soft and creamy. Add water if needed and finish with lemon juice before serving.

Benefits

Red lentils provide plant-based protein, fibre and iron, making this simple, nutritious soup a satisfying winter meal.



Cozy Sweet Corn and Black Pepper Soup

Ingredients

1 cup sweet corn kernels, 1 garlic clove, ½ tsp grated ginger, 2 cups vegetable stock, salt and black pepper.

Instructions

Combine corn, chopped garlic, ginger and vegetable stock in a saucepan. Simmer for 8–10 minutes until tender. Blend half the mixture and return it to the pan. Keep some kernels whole for texture. Season generously with crushed black pepper and salt. Serve hot.

Benefits

Sweet corn provides fibre and carbohydrates for energy. Ginger and black pepper adds warmth and flavour, making this an easy winter soup.

Sports



"Rishabh is phenomenal. I always ask him about his mindset. Whenever we all think that he will play normally, just then"

Dhruv Jurel
Indian wicketkeeper-batter

Want to be more consistent and make an impact wherever I play: Pant

Rishabh Pant aims for greater consistency and lasting impact after scoring a memorable century in New Zealand, becoming the first Indian wicketkeeper with Test hundreds across SENA nations.

Press Trust Of India

Indian wicketkeeper emphasises enjoying cricket, maintaining consistency and contributing towards team's success.



WELLINGTON: Pant, the first Indian wicketkeeper to score Test centuries in all four SENA countries, says being on the ground makes him happy as he looks to bring greater consistency to his game at this stage of his career.

There were question marks over Pant's match fitness as he could not recover fully from his side strain to take part in the preceding India A games in New Zealand.

Majority of the Test players got valuable match practice heading into the two match series but Pant could not.

On Sunday, he dispelled all doubts over his form and fitness to smash 128 off 153 balls. He also became only the sixth Indian batter to have made a hundred in all four SENA countries.

"See, as a kid, I definitely used to have those goals for sure, hitting a lot of sixes. But you know, right now in my career, I'm not thinking about that anymore.

"I just want to be more consistent and just make an impact wherever I play the game," Pant told the host broadcaster when asked about surpassing Brendon McCullum to be second in the list of six hitters in Tests.

Pant was chirpy as ever behind the stumps following his famous hundred.

"One thing about me is whenever I take the field, be it fielding or batting, I want to have lots of fun, especially, you know, just being on the ground makes me happy. And just enjoying every day being out on the field," said Pant, who is not part of India's white-ball set up.

With India posting a record 720 for nine, Pant said it was a good wicket to bat on.

"But at the same time you have to enjoy that grind being on the field because every day you won't get a spicy wicket. You have to grind through, especially in Test cricket.

"So definitely being on the ground, the one thing we enjoy as a team is keep on talking about something, enjoying the little moments and having fun and putting our best effort on the field every day," said Pant, adding that India would back themselves to take the remaining eight wickets on day five.

Scoring his first hundred in New Zealand was special, said Pant.

"I think definitely it was a good one. New Zealand was one place where I was eyeing that hundred for sure. And I made sure that in a wicket like this where you have to grind and everyone is batting well, I just wanted to stay there as long as possible and just make my impact," said Pant, who got to three figures with a six.

"See, mostly whenever I'm trying to get a hundred, I try to get it with a six. But because of that, I've also missed a lot of hundreds. So I was waiting, I was very patient about it. But when the mid-off came up, I was like, this is the right opportunity. I might

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

VERSTAPPEN CELEBRATES VICTORY

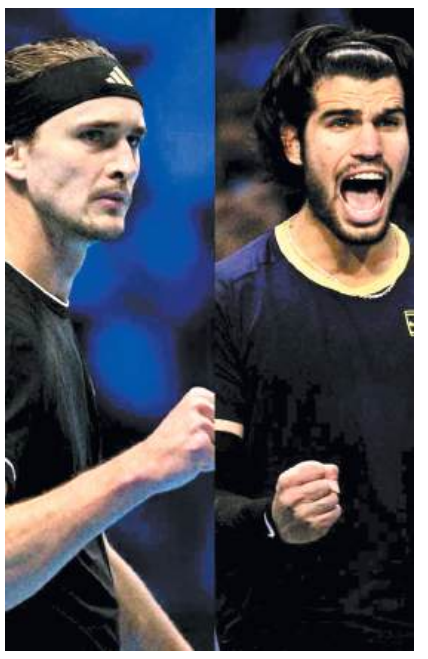
Max Verstappen wins Las Vegas Grand Prix for third time in 4 years



LAS VEGAS: Four-time Formula 1 champion Max Verstappen clinched his third Las Vegas Grand Prix victory in four years after surviving intense challenges from George Russell, Kimi Antonelli and Lando Norris on Saturday night. Starting from pole position, Verstappen battled Russell in the early stages, repeatedly reclaiming the lead in a race featuring 35 lead changes. Red Bull teammate Isack Hadjar briefly led on lap nine but later suffered front-wing damage, leaving Verstappen to defend his position alone. Russell crashed into the barrier with three laps remaining and finished ninth. Antonelli also challenged Verstappen before Norris emerged as his final rival. Verstappen eventually held firm to secure victory, with Norris finishing second and Oscar Piastri third. **PTI**

ZVEREV EYES GLORY

Zverev to face Alcaraz in championship match at ATP Finals



TURIN: World No. 1 Alexander Zverev will face Carlos Alcaraz in Sunday's ATP Finals championship match after both players secured contrasting semi-final victories. Zverev defeated Daniil Medvedev 7-6(0), 6-4, while Alcaraz overcame a thigh injury to beat Ben Shelton 3-6, 6-3, 7-6(1). The German, seeking his third ATP Finals crown, has not dropped a set or lost a service game throughout the tournament. Alcaraz, chasing his maiden title at the season-ending event, holds a narrow 7-6 advantage in their head-to-head encounters. The Spaniard also defeated Zverev in this year's Australian Open semifinals. Zverev acknowledged the challenge posed by Alcaraz, describing him as the world's best returner. The final offers Zverev an opportunity to strengthen his claim to the top ranking. **PTI**

RAYA SUFFERS INJURY

Arsenal loses Raya to injury in Newcastle draw before tough run of games



NEWCASTLE: Arsenal suffered a major injury scare after goalkeeper David Raya damaged his left shoulder during Saturday's 2-2 Premier League draw against Newcastle United at St James' Park. The Spanish international sustained the injury while challenging Newcastle striker William Osula after collecting the ball from a corner. Raya appeared in considerable pain and required medical attention before leaving the field in the 70th minute. Kepa Arrizabalaga replaced him. Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta confirmed that Raya would undergo further assessment, including a possible MRI scan, to determine the severity of the injury. The setback comes ahead of a demanding schedule featuring Champions League encounters against Borussia Dortmund and Real Madrid, alongside Premier League clashes with Manchester City, Brentford and Tottenham. **PTI**

ANUPAMA RETAINS CROWN

Anupama Ramachandran defeats So Man Yan to retain world snooker crown



INDORE: India's Anupama Ramachandran created history by becoming the first Indian to win consecutive IBSF World Snooker titles, defeating Hong Kong China's So Man Yan 3-1 in Saturday's final. After losing the opening frame, Anupama staged an impressive comeback, displaying excellent potting skills and remarkable composure. She registered crucial breaks of 31, 19 and 16 in the second frame before maintaining her dominance to seal victory. Anupama described defending her title on home soil as particularly special. She received USD 4,000 in prize money. Meanwhile, Iran's Ali Gharahgozlou captured the men's championship, defeating Tam Yun Fung 5-1 in the final. Earlier, Gharahgozlou overcame India's Pankaj Advani 5-3 in the semifinals, leaving the Indian veteran with a bronze medal. **PTI**

India clinch hockey series against NZ

AUCKLAND: The Indian men's hockey team secured the Century of Sporting Unity series 1-0 after playing out a 2-2 draw against New Zealand in the third and final match on Sunday. India remained unbeaten in the three-match series, having won the opener 3-2 on November 19 before registering two consecutive draws. New Zealand took an early lead through Dylan Thomas, who converted a penalty corner in the ninth minute. Indian captain Sanjay equalised through a penalty corner in the 16th minute. Karthi Selvam then struck a field goal in the 18th minute, putting India ahead 2-1. However, Benji Culhane scored in the 55th minute to restore parity for the hosts. Neither side could find a late winner. The series commemorated 100 years of sporting relations between India

|INDIAN PREMIER LEAGUE|

Mumbai Indians enter IPL 2027 as underdogs: Robin Uthappa

Press Trust Of India

Robin Uthappa believes Mumbai Indians must rebuild confidence and regain supporters' trust.



DUBAI: Former India batter and newly appointed Mumbai Indians batting coach Robin Uthappa believes the five-time champions will enter IPL 2027 as underdogs, determined to regain their supporters' confidence.

Mumbai Indians have endured six consecutive seasons without winning the title, prompting major changes in captaincy and coaching personnel.

Uthappa replaces Kieron Pollard, who has been elevated to head coach. T Dilip takes charge of fielding, while Mitchell McClenaghan becomes bowling coach.

"We really need to earn our straps back and earn the trust of the fans," Uthappa said during an interaction in Dubai.

The former India batter stressed that humility, clarity and communication would form the foundation of his coaching philosophy.

He believes players perform better when coaches understand their individual needs and provide the necessary support.

Uthappa also expressed confidence in Mumbai's existing batting talent, although the franchise could explore additional options during the upcoming auction.

Describing his appointment as unexpected, Uthappa said he had always hoped to work with Mumbai Indians.

HIGHLIGHT

- **Mumbai Indians seek redemption after six consecutive IPL seasons without winning titles.**
- **Uthappa emphasises player development, clear goals and creating a positive team environment.**

|DHONI'S MENTORSHIP MATTERS|

Dhoni's mentorship will greatly benefit Chennai Super Kings: Noor

Press Trust Of India

DUBAI: Afghanistan spinner Noor Ahmad believes MS Dhoni's absence behind the stumps will be deeply felt, but his mentorship will significantly strengthen five-time IPL champions Chennai Super Kings.

Dhoni was appointed CSK mentor ahead of the IPL retention deadline, bringing his illustrious playing career to an end.

"Everyone will miss him but his new role, that's going to help the team massively and I am happy that he is still with the team," Noor told PTI.

Discussing Dhoni's outstanding qualities, Noor said, "There are many things, but I would say his stumping maybe, and his finishing abilities."



"Everyone will miss him but his new role, that's going to help the team massively and I am happy that"

Noor Ahmad
Afghanistan spinner

The 21-year-old spinner, currently representing Dubai Capitals in ILT20, emphasised that franchise leagues provide valuable opportunities for young cricketers to learn from experienced players.

He stressed that adapting quickly to different playing conditions would be crucial for success in the tournament.

Noor also highlighted the challenges faced by modern spinners, particularly on batting-friendly pitches requiring greater variations.

Sports News

New Zealand dig in after India's record declaration

India piled up a record 720 for nine before Devon Conway led New Zealand's resistance to keep their hopes of a draw alive in the second Wellington Test.

Press Trust Of India

Pant's 128 powers India to 720 as Conway keeps New Zealand afloat.



India's players celebrate New Zealand's captain Tom Latham' wicket.

WELLINGTON: Devon Conway batted through 137 deliveries to keep New Zealand's hopes of a draw alive after India declared at a record 720 for nine on the fourth day of the second Test at the Basin Reserve. The hosts lost two wickets while negotiating about a third of the overs they needed to survive.

India's total, the highest ever recorded in a Test innings in New Zealand, earned them a lead of 352. They also became the first team in Test history to build partnerships worth fifty for each of the first seven wickets. Rishabh Pant struck his ninth Test century and moved past Brendon McCullum into second place on the format's six-hitting list, behind Ben Stokes.

India resumed with a lead of 118 after Shubman Gill's 98 on the third day. Nightwatcher Anshul Kamboj set the tone with successive boundaries off Kyle Jamieson before Pant took charge. On 95, the left-hander reverse-swept Glenn Phillips for four and then cleared long-off to reach his hundred before a capacity crowd. He finished with 128 off 153 balls and took his career tally to 108 Test sixes.

Dhruv Jurel matched Pant's tempo with a fluent 78 off 79 balls. The two added 75 in 14 overs as India plundered 234 runs in 41 overs on the day before declaring. The declaration came at the midday drinks break after India had batted for 166 overs.

Jasprit Bumrah struck early with the new ball, drawing Tom Latham into following a delivery that seamed away to complete a pair. Henry Nicholls survived a close leg-before appeal on umpire's call and helped Conway see off nearly 22 overs on a surface offering little pace or movement.

India moved their catchers in front of the wicket, allowing Prasidh Krishna to attack the stumps while retaining fielders for the short ball. The plan paid off when Nicholls offered a bat-pad catch, leaving him with 206 runs across his two innings.

Conway weathered the sustained attack from around the wicket to bring up his 14th Test fifty. He and Rachin Ravindra stayed together for 22.5 overs before stumps, finding survival easier as the ball softened. India remained the only side with a realistic chance of victory, with the second new ball due in 35 overs on the final day.

Women's ACT: India crush Thailand 7-0



Press Trust Of India

This was India's third straight win in the tournament, having earlier beaten Malaysia and South Korea.

BHOPAL: Defending champions India continued their excellent run of form as they crushed Thailand 7-0 in their third match of the Women's Asian Champions Trophy hockey tournament here on Sunday.

This was India's third straight win in the tournament, having earlier beaten Malaysia and South Korea.

Navneet Kaur opened the scoring for India with her strike in the fourth minute after being awarded a penalty strike.

Deepika doubled the lead when she struck in the 10th minute, and even before Thailand could regroup, she scored again to make it 3-0 in favour of India in the 11th minute.

Mumtaz Khan, who had already scored twice in the earlier matches, then got into the act as she found the target in the 28th minute to put the home team in the driver's seat at the half-time break.

India maintained the tempo when play resumed in the third quarter as Sunelita Toppo struck the team's fifth goal (32nd minute) right at the start of proceedings.

Deepika completed her hat-trick when she found the back of the net in the 56th minute to pile more misery on Thailand. India completed the rout as Navneet Kaur scored off a penalty stroke moments later.

| MEHTA EYES PRESIDENCY |

Former secretary General Rajeev Mehta eyes IOA presidency

Press Trust Of India

Former IOA secretary general Rajeev Mehta is likely to file his nomination Monday.



NEW DELHI: Former Indian Olympic Association secretary general Rajeev Mehta is likely to contest the presidency in the December 5 elections and file his nomination on Monday, a source close to him said.

Mehta, who served as IOA secretary general from 2014 to 2022, currently holds the same post in the Fencing Association of India and the Fencing Confederation of Asia. IOA vice-president and Olympic shooting medallist Gagan Narang is seen as the frontrunner for the presidency.

Returning officer Sanjay Kumar Srivastava said no nominations were received on Sunday, the opening day. Filing closes at 4.30 pm on Tuesday, with the final candidate list due on December 1.

The electoral college has 71 members, including 60 from national federations. Mirabai Chanu, Sajan Prakash and Nita Ambani can vote, while the remaining 68 members can both vote and contest.

Jitesh, Krunal star as Baroda beat Bengal

MUMBAI: India players Jitesh Sharma and Krunal Pandya played pivotal roles as Baroda defeated Bengal by four wickets in a Group A match of the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy here on Sunday. The victory helped Baroda (NRR: 2.3) top Group A with 16 points from five matches. Rajasthan also have 16 points but are placed second owing to an inferior net run rate of 1.8. Bengal remained third in the table with 12 points from five matches. Batting first, Bengal made 172 for six, with skipper Abhimanyu Easwaran scoring 78 off 46 balls (10x4s, 2x6s).

| RAGHUVANSHI ANCHORS CHASE|

Dube, Raghuvanshi power Mumbai past Chhattisgarh at Eden Gardens

Press Trust Of India

Raghuvanshi's unbeaten 84 guides Mumbai to a comfortable nine-wicket victory over Chhattisgarh.



Mumbai's Angkrish Raghuvanshi, right, and Hardik Tamore interact between the wickets.

KOLKATA: Angkrish Raghuvanshi struck an unbeaten 84 as Mumbai defeated Chhattisgarh by nine wickets in their Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy Group D match at Eden Gardens on Sunday.

Chasing 160, Mumbai reached 162 for one in 18.5 overs. Raghuvanshi hit eight fours and three sixes in his 63-ball knock and shared a 105-run opening stand with Hardik Tamore, who made 42 off 34 balls. Musheer Khan finished unbeaten on 29 from 16 deliveries.

Earlier, Shivam Dube claimed three for 21 as Mumbai bowled out Chhattisgarh for 159 in 18.2 overs after Mumbai had opted to bowl first. Tushar Deshpande and Maxwell Swaminathan picked up two wickets apiece.

Chhattisgarh captain Vikalp Tiwari hammered 41 off 18 balls, but his dismissal left his side at 78 for five. Jayant Yadav (24) and Dharmendrasinh Jadeja (28) added 51 for the ninth wicket before Dube removed both. Raghuvanshi was named Player of the Match.

FASTFACTS

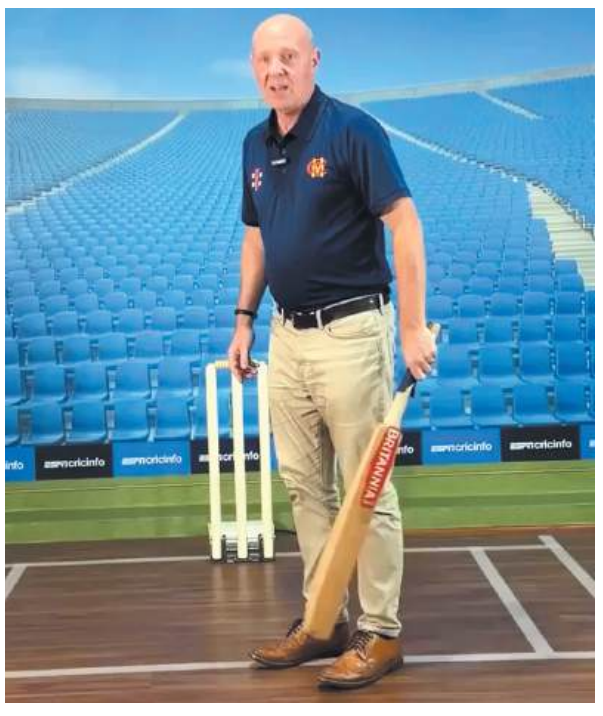
- Shivam Dube took three for 21 as Mumbai dismissed Chhattisgarh for 159.
- Vikalp Tiwari struck eight fours in a brisk 41 off 18 balls.

| MCC ON SANDPAPERGATE |

'Clear breach of laws but cricket needs to remain on back pages of newspapers'

Press Trust Of India

MCC's Fraser Stewart says cricket should move beyond the revived Sandpapergate controversy.



SHARJAH: Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) head of cricket Fraser Stewart said on Sunday that using sandpaper on the ball was a clear breach of cricket's laws and hoped the sport would return to the back pages as the Sandpapergate controversy resurfaced.

The scandal from the 2018 Cape Town Test between Australia and South Africa returned to the spotlight after former Australia opener Usman Khawaja made fresh claims in his autobiography. Stewart, speaking on the sidelines of the DP World ILT20, said the use of sandpaper warranted punishment. The league has partnered with the MCC to promote the Spirit of Cricket.

Stewart said questions about who knew what were outside the MCC's remit. Asked whether Cricket Australia had rushed its investigation, he said the matter was for the Australian governing body to examine. He hoped attention would shift back to the game when Australia visit England for next summer's Ashes series.

On the absence of handshakes in India-Pakistan matches, Stewart said the issue involved wider considerations beyond the MCC's control. He said the club would welcome handshakes and stressed that players should respect their opponents, the umpires and their authority on the field.

MI Emirates crush Desert Vipers for winning start in ILT20

DUBAI: Kusal Perera's half-century and Chris Jordan's four-wicket haul powered MI Emirates to a comprehensive 52-run victory over defending champions Desert Vipers in the DP World ILT20 opener here. Perera was dropped twice in the early stages by Pakistan's Naseem Shah, but the Sri Lankan batter went on to score 58 off 40 balls, with six fours and two sixes, putting on 94 runs for the opening wicket with UAE's Muhammad Waseem (41). The Vipers, who are expecting their star batter Babar Azam to be available from their second match, were bowled out for just 122 in reply to MI Emirates' 174/8.

| SYED MUSHTAQ ALI TROPHY |

Akshat's 21-ball fifty guides MP to narrow 5-run win over Maharashtra

Press Trust Of India

Gawli contributed a 43-ball 55, while Patidar struck 31 off 18 deliveries.

MOHALI: Akshat Raghuwanshi smashed a blistering 21-ball 50 while skipper Rajat Patidar and Harsh Gawli made valuable contributions as Madhya Pradesh held their nerve to edge past Maharashtra by five runs in a high-scoring Group C match of the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy here on Sunday.

After being put in to bat, Madhya Pradesh posted an imposing 208 for nine, riding on Raghuwanshi's explosive knock, which was studded with seven fours and three sixes.

Gawli contributed a 43-ball 55, while Patidar struck 31 off 18 deliveries to provide further impetus to the innings.

Player of the Match Raghuwanshi set the tone with an aggressive approach at the top, sharing a 62-run opening stand with Gawli before being dismissed in the sixth over. He reached his half-century in just 21 balls, striking at an impressive 238.09.

Gawli anchored the innings and stitched together important partnerships, while Shivang Kumar chipped in with 23 off 14 balls.

Patidar then accelerated with three sixes before Mukesh Choudhary dismissed him in the 15th over.

Rahul Batham provided the late fireworks with an unbeaten 28 off just 10 balls, including four boundaries and a six, as Madhya Pradesh crossed the 200-run mark despite Vivek Shelar's three-wicket haul (3/35).

Mukesh also picked up two wickets but conceded 58 runs in his four overs. In reply, Maharashtra came agonisingly close, finishing at 203 for six in their allotted 20 overs.

World



I am deeply shocked by the tragic passing of ex-police chief Gianni De Gennaro.

Giorgia Meloni
Italian Prime Minister

Trump vows to work with Democrats to cap credit card interest rates

Democrats and the Republican president have both backed capping credit card interest rates.

Press Trust Of India



President Donald Trump speaks during an event on the helipad on the South Lawn of the White House.

NEW YORK: President Donald Trump said Saturday that he would work with the incoming Democratic Congress to cap credit card interest rates, hoping to fulfill a promise he made on the 2024 campaign trail but couldn't deliver on because of industry pressure and a lack of interest from his fellow Republicans.

"I would do it. These credit card companies have made a lot," Trump told Fox News Channel's "Saturday in America." Democrats and the Republican president have both backed capping credit card interest rates, with the standard proposal being capping rates at 10 per cent. It would substantially reduce what credit card companies can charge customers. The median credit card interest rate is roughly 22.2 per cent, according to an August survey by the New York Federal Reserve.

Trump proposed capping credit card interest rates in January, as part of the White House's affordability push. Banks and credit card companies immediately and aggressively opposed the proposal, saying any interest rate cap would force them to cancel cards for the poor and less creditworthy customers or substantially cut back on the rewards they offer when customers spend on their cards.

The proposal also did not sit well with Republicans, and there was little effort by the GOP-controlled Congress to fulfill Trump's promise. That could change now that Democrats will control both the House and Senate. Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., who is expected to be the next chair of the Senate Banking Committee, has said repeatedly she wants to cap rates.

In response to the Fox News interview, Warren said: "Let's cap credit card interest rates and save Americans money." Researchers who studied Trump's campaign pledge after it was first announced found that Americans would save roughly USD 100 billion in interest a year if credit card rates were capped at 10 per cent.

FASTFACTS

- Americans are now carrying more credit card debt than ever, to the tune of about USD 1.23 trillion, according to figures from the New York Federal Reserve for the third quarter last year.

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

NORTHERN MEXICO

11 killed in burst of violence after capture of cartel leader



GUASAVE(MEXICO): At least 11 people were killed in a burst of violence in Mexico's Sinaloa state after Mexican authorities captured cartel boss Fausto Isidro Meza Flores, known as "El Chapo Isidro."

Mexico's Defense Cabinet on Saturday afternoon said that seven alleged cartel gunmen and four Mexican soldiers were killed in the fierce firefight that erupted Friday night and continued throughout the night.

Meza Flores, one of the FBI's 10 most wanted fugitives, was among eight people arrested in the operation, which was carried out using intelligence from the United States.

Iran strikes 3 tankers as it shows off missile launchers

DUBAI: Iran unveiled a new missile launcher at an underground facility, touting what it says is its continued capability to strike if the war with the United States and Israel accelerates once more. Meanwhile, in the Gaza Strip, an Israeli airstrike hit a truck carrying food, killing three men, the head of Shifa Hospital said. The Israeli military said that it was targeting militants.

Here is the latest news from the Middle East on Saturday. Read our full coverage here. Iranian state television aired footage from an underground missile facility where the paramilitary Revolutionary Guard unveiled a new launcher that it said was capable of firing two liquid-fuelled missiles. The launchers appear to be an advance over a dual launcher that Iran previously used that fired two solid-fuel missiles at a time.

Fire at Indonesian candy factory leaves 3 dead

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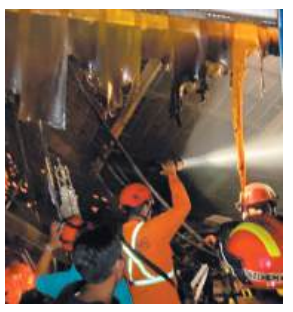

Indonesia's National Search and Rescue Agency, rescuers inspect a candy factory following a fire in Cikande, Banten Province, Sunday.

JAKARTA: A fire swept through a candy factory in Indonesia's Banten province, killing at least three workers and leaving 36 others unaccounted for, officials said Sunday.

The blaze broke out at the PT Fonusa Agung Mulia factory in the Serang district of Banten province, which borders the capital, Jakarta, at 5 p.m. local time on Saturday. Flames engulfed the three-story factory, sending thick black smoke into the sky, television reports showed. Debris littered the floor of the burned-out structure, including twisted metal and blackened, corrugated iron roofing.

A company representative said Sunday 300 workers were inside when the blaze started. He added 54 were initially missing, but 15 have since been rescued.

The rescued included four injured workers, the National Search and Rescue Agency said in a statement.

The remains of the three killed were transferred to a hospital in seven black body bags for identification.

The cause of the fire was not immediately known. Survivors said the fire originated from a cooling unit on the third floor, local media reported.

Although the blaze had largely been contained as of Sunday, firefighters were still carrying out intensive cooling operations before they could access all parts of the factory, said Tubagus Mahfud, operations chief of the Serang fire department, adding that the remaining hotspots were concentrated in the central and rear sections of the building.

Navdeep Bains elected as Ontario Liberal party leader

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TORONTO: Navdeep Bains, a former Canadian minister of Indian origin, has been elected as the new leader of the Liberal Party in Ontario, pledging to focus on getting the party in shape for the next election.

Bains, 49, received 50.3 per cent of the vote on the third and final ballot at the party's leadership convention, Global News reported on Sunday. "This may be the end of a leadership race, ladies and gentlemen, but this is just the beginning of our campaign to replace Doug Ford and the (Progressive) Conservative Party of Ontario," he said. The former cabinet minister has been one of the biggest supporters of former prime minister Justin Trudeau. The Conservative Party has been in power in the province since 2018. The provincial Liberal Party has been without a long-term leader since Bonnie Crombie's resignation in January. Bains becomes the party's third leader since former premier Kathleen Wynne resigned following the party's sweeping 2018 election defeat.

PAKISTAN'S PESHAWAR

Three TTP militants killed in joint operation

PESHAWAR: At least three militants of the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) were killed in a joint operation by security forces in Pakistan's northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, authorities said on Sunday.

The Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) and Pakistan Army personnel conducted the operation in the Matani area, around 25 kilometres southwest of Peshawar, following intelligence inputs about the presence of militants planning attacks on government installations.

According to a CTD spokesperson, security personnel laid an ambush in the area in the early hours of Sunday to apprehend the militants. The militants opened fire upon spotting the security personnel, triggering an exchange of gunfire, the spokesperson said. A subsequent search operation led to the recovery of three bodies, identified as Abdul Rashid, Saeedullah and Saeed Nawab.

Security personnel also recovered two Kalashnikov rifles, a pistol, three hand grenades, five magazines and national identity cards from the spot, the CTD said.

VISUAL RECORDING CONVICTION

Indian-origin man detained after serving sentence

HOUSTON: A 29-year-old Indian-origin man has been taken into custody by Federal immigration authorities in Texas following his conviction for attempted invasive visual recording, and he will remain detained while immigration court proceedings are pending, authorities said.

Raghul Anandakrishnan's custody has been assumed from a Texas county jail, US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) said in a post on Sunday. In an official post on X, Raghul Anandakrishnan served time in a county jail in Texas after his conviction for attempted invasive visual recording.

The conviction came after a woman reported that an employee at a wireless company went through her phone and transferred explicit photos of her from her phone to his. "ICE took custody of him from the county jail. He'll remain in ICE custody pending immigration court proceedings," the post said. The detention follows a June criminal case in Austin, where Austin Police Department records and Travis County court filings cited by local media showed Anandakrishnan was arrested while employed at a Total Wireless store.



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