COMMENT
Automation Transforming Lives & Modern Workplaces
Pg 10





RAIPUR REGION
Sukma police bust interstate ganja....
Pg 06

SPORT
Shubman Gill urges ICC to reconsider saliva ban rules
Pg 14



&GLITTERS
Chulbul will return but skeptical of Pawan Kumar – Salman
Pg 12



Central Chronicle

Bilaspur | TUESDAY, November 24, 2026 | *Fastest Growing English Daily Of Chhattisgarh* | www.centralchronicle.in | Pages: 16 | Price: Rs. 4.00

| RESET IN TIES |

PM Modi announces NPR 24,000-crore Nepal package

Modi flags off cross-border train with Nepal PM Balendra Shah.

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday announced an economic package worth 24,000 crore Nepalese rupees for Nepal and flagged off a cross-border passenger train alongside his Nepalese counterpart, Balendra Shah, as both sides finalised a vision document and signed eight pacts to deepen bilateral cooperation, signalling a major reset in ties after a spell of strain over their lingering boundary row.



PM Narendra Modi speaks during a joint press statement with his Nepalese counterpart Balendra Shah following bilateral talks in New Delhi,

The two leaders also virtually inaugurated two India-funded energy and connectivity projects in Nepal and laid the foundation stones for three other initiatives, besides resolving to expand the two-way engagement in many other key sectors.

> **Neighbourly ties, unwavering trust.**
> **Narendra Modi,** Prime Minister

"The relationship between India and Nepal is not just one of neighbourhood, but it is about closeness and unwavering trust," Modi said in his media statement in the presence of Shah.

"We share our joys, and so do our challenges. We are partners in each other's progress and also support each other in difficult times," he said.

Shah, who came to power in March after a landslide victory in Nepal's parliamentary polls triggered by last year's youth-led protests, arrived in India on Sunday on his first bilateral foreign visit.

In his remarks, the Nepalese prime minister said "mutual respect, steadfast trust and unbroken goodwill" are the bedrock of Nepal-India relations.

Maoist dump yields electronic equipment seizure

Press Trust Of India

BIJAPUR: Security forces have recovered a cache of electronic equipment, including a night vision device, wireless sets and a camera, allegedly concealed by Maoists in a forest in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district, police said on Monday. The recovery was made on Sunday during a search-cum-area domination operation conducted by a joint team of security personnel in the forested hills near Gunjeparti village under the Usoor police station limits, a police official said. The operation was launched on November 21 based on inputs provided by informers, he said, adding that the Maoist dump was detected on Sunday in the forest-hill, around 20 km from Usoor police station. The recovered items include a night vision device, wireless sets, a camera, electronic equipment, batteries, chargers, medical supplies and other daily-use articles, they said. A case has been registered at Usoor police station, and a detailed investigation is underway, the official added. Police have appealed to local residents to immediately inform the nearest police station or security camp about any suspicious object or explosive material and refrain from touching such items, maintaining a safe distance from them. On November 5, security forces recovered 711 BGL shells concealed by Maoists near the Karregutta hills, while the next day, they seized 900 electronic and non-electronic detonators along with materials.

NEWSLINE

NEW DELHI

Prez greets on Guru Nanak Jayanti

President Droupadi Murmu on Monday greeted citizens on the eve of Prakash Parv of Guru Nanak Dev and asked them to resolve to follow his teachings and contribute to the welfare of society and the nation.

The message of 'Ik Onkar' given by Guru Nanak Dev is, in essence, a message of the unity of all humanity, she said.

He emphasised the need to build a society free from caste distinctions, social hierarchies and discrimination, the President said.

"On this sacred occasion, let us resolve to follow the teachings of Guru Nanak Dev Ji and contribute to the welfare of society and the nation by upholding the values of service, equality and harmony," she said in a message.

The President said Guru Nanak Dev taught that love, compassion and service to humanity should form the foundation of our lives.

NEW DELHI

WhatsApp Web session

A WhatsApp Web session left logged in on a public computer or a shared device could become a gateway for cybercriminals to hijack accounts, read private conversations and impersonate users to carry out fraud, a latest advisory from the Union home ministry's anti-cybercrime wing, I4C, warned on Monday.

The National Cybercrime Threat Analytics Unit (NCTAU) of the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) has warned that authenticated WhatsApp Web sessions could be used to gain unauthorised access, allowing malicious actors to read messages, send communications while impersonating the account holder, access contact lists and group conversations, and exploit the user's trusted identity to carry out fraud, phishing and social-engineering attacks.

Nvidia reinstates Jensen Huang as CEO

Press Trust Of India

The Board believes Jensen is the right person to lead NVIDIA.

WASHINGTON: Nvidia's board reinstated Jensen Huang as its president and CEO on Monday in a surprise move shortly after rejecting his offer to return.

It's the latest twist in the fallout from Huang's admission of an affair with a woman suspected of being a Chinese spy.



"The Board believes Jensen is the right person to lead NVIDIA, and that his reinstatement is in the best interests of our stockholders, employees, partners and customers," board Chairman Harvey C. Jones said in a statement Monday.

Jensen Huang was forced to resign as CEO of Nvidia over revelations about his extramarital affairs, including one with a woman suspected of being a Chinese spy, calls for his return have been bolstered by none other than US President Donald Trump.

At a press conference on Friday (November 20), following his return from the Philippines and China, Trump reaffirmed his support for Huang.

| BROKEN DREAMS |

'Drug abuse shatters families' dreams and hopes'

Press Trust Of India

Entire Sikh tradition has been synonymous with the spirit of sacrificing everything for the nation and its culture.

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday called upon the youth to stay away from all forms of addiction, particularly drugs, saying substance abuse not only destroys young lives but also shatters the dreams and aspirations of their families. Addressing a gathering after attending a Shabad Kirtan recital at Delhi Lok Niwas on the eve of Parkash Purab, the birth anniversary of Sri Guru Nanak Dev, the first Sikh Guru, Modi stressed the importance of family support in combating drug addiction.



"May every young person in the country be free from addiction. May they fulfil their dreams. May they study hard, move forward, and bring pride to their families and their country. Families have a very important role to play in this effort," he said. The Prime Minister observed that when young people fall under the influence of drugs, the hopes and dreams of their families are shattered. He urged families to remain actively involved in guiding and supporting young people, enabling them to lead healthy and productive lives. Highlighting the universal message of Sri Guru Nanak Dev, Modi said the spirit of 'Sarbat Da Bhala' – wishing well-being for all – was particularly relevant in the present global situation. He emphasised that the principle should inspire efforts to ensure peace across the world, safety for every family and an opportunity for every individual to live with dignity.

Referring to conflicts and unrest in several parts of the world, the Prime Minister said innocent people and countless families were suffering because of violence and instability.

Illuminated Golden Temple



People wait to offer prayers at the illuminated Golden Temple ahead of Parkash Purab of Sri Guru Nanak Dev, in Amritsar, Punjab, Monday.| Photo PTI

| APEX COURT RULING |

'Children not mere chattels, nor toys for their parents'

Press Trust Of India

Court Upholds Children's Bond With Mother.

NEW DELHI: The welfare of a minor is the paramount consideration for a court while appointing a guardian, the Supreme Court said on Monday, observing that children are not mere "chattels" nor toys for their parents.



Dealing with a plea concerning the custody of two minors whose parents are divorced, the court said the children should not be separated from their mother, with whom they have developed a strong natural bond over the years.

Observing that the father also deserves the company of his children, who are the victims of a "fractured marriage", a bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Aparesh Kumar Singh said he would be allowed to meet the minors between 10 am and 2 pm on the second Saturday and Sunday of every month.

The bench said when the court is confronted with conflicting demands from the parents, it has not only to look at the issue on a legalistic basis.

| LEGAL ACTION |

Bisleri faces prosecution over contaminated water sample

Agencies

NEW DELHI: Bisleri International, one of India's largest packaged drinking water companies, faces legal action after the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) declared one of its water samples 'unsafe' following laboratory tests that detected chemical contaminants. The food safety regulator has formally approved prosecution proceedings against the company under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.



The action follows the detection of bromate above the prescribed limit and the subsequent identification of polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) in a sample collected from the company's Goa facility. The findings have raised concerns over the safety of packaged drinking water and prompted the regulator to intensify surveillance of the sector. FSSAI has reportedly collected samples from major packaged drinking water brands as part of its enforcement drive. Officials have also inspected food business operators involved in the bottled water trade and sent samples to laboratories for testing. The regulator is considering legal action against companies found violating food safety standards.

HIGHLIGHT

- **FSSAI declares sample 'unsafe' after detecting bromate and PAHs; regulator also steps up testing of other packaged drinking water brands.**

'Water is safe'

Bisleri International has maintained that its packaged drinking water is safe for consumption and said it would cooperate with the food safety regulator. The company said the matter relates to a batch manufactured at its Goa plant in September 2025, around 14 months ago. According to Bisleri, five of the six samples collected by FSSAI met the prescribed standards, while one showed bromate levels of 12 micrograms per litre.The company further claimed that subsequent tests at a reference laboratory and another FSSAI-approved independent laboratory found bromate within permissible limits. However, the reference laboratory separately identified PAHs.

What the laboratory tests found

The initial examination of a sample collected in Goa detected bromate at 12 micrograms per litre, against the prescribed maximum limit of 10 micrograms per litre. Following the company's appeal, the sample was referred to a reference food laboratory, which subsequently reported the presence of PAHs.

Raipur



Arun Sao-Cut-Out

Success is attained by those who possess self-confidence, patience, and the courage to confront adverse circumstances.

Arun Sao
Dy. CM Ch'garh

Domestic violence should not be overlooked: Deka

Governor attends workshop on human trafficking and domestic violence.

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: Governor Ramen Deka stated that human trafficking and domestic violence are serious social issues. Effectively curbing these problems requires the strict enforcement of laws, proactive engagement from relevant enforcement agencies, and the collective participation of society. Domestic violence should never be dismissed as a routine or normal occurrence; it must be treated with the utmost seriousness, and such cases must be addressed impartially and independently. He urged the community



and voluntary organizations to step forward to raise awareness and provide support to victims.

Governor Ramen Deka was addressing the inaugural session of a training-cum-workshop on human trafficking and domestic violence, organized by the Chhattisgarh State Commission for Women at the Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Auditorium in Raipur. He attended the event as the chief guest.

The Governor noted that human trafficking has taken on a dangerous form today. It is no longer limited to the movement of people from one place to another; incidents are now also linked to the demand for human organs. This has become a critical issue, making the effective implementation of laws and the accountability of relevant agencies essential to tackling the problem.

Deka observed that while the joint family system was once the norm, the number of nuclear families is now on the rise. Domestic violence has existed in the past and continues to occur today. Factors such as illiteracy and unemployment can further exacerbate this issue. Victims of domestic violence include not only homemakers but also women who work outside the home.

He emphasized that domestic violence must be viewed with the same level of seriousness as an addiction, as its adverse effects impact the individual, the family, and society as a whole.

HIGHLIGHT

- **The Governor stressed the need to implement the ideas discussed during the workshop and the conclusions drawn from them on the ground.**

Major decision taken related to multi-level parking at collectorate

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: The Raipur Municipal Corporation (RMC) has taken a significant step regarding the operation of the multi-level parking facility located within the Raipur Collectorate premises. A tender process has been initiated with the objective of making the parking system more organized, secure, and convenient for citizens. The tenders are proposed to be opened within the next week. Currently, the parking facility is available to the public completely free of charge. Once the tender process is



concluded, the systematic operation of the parking facility will be ensured.

According to reports, the multi-level parking at the Collectorate was previously managed departmentally. During that period, some complaints were received regarding its operation and management. Taking these complaints seriously, the responsibilities of the concerned staff have been clearly defined. The goal is to ensure regular monitoring of the parking premises and establish accountability in all operational tasks. The Municipal Corporation is taking necessary measures to improve the parking system, with officials focusing on ensuring that citizens visiting the premises do not face any inconvenience. To this end, the operational framework is being enhanced, and monitoring protocols along with staff responsibilities have been clarified.

Jitendra nabbed in child-trafficking case

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: The police have achieved another significant breakthrough in the case involving the alleged buying and selling of newborns in the capital city, Raipur. The Azad Chowk police station team has arrested another suspect, Jitendra Khetan, who is implicated in the case. Six individuals had already been arrested previously; with this seventh arrest, the police have intensified their investigation into the entire network involved in the trafficking of newborns.

According to the police, the interrogation of the accused has revealed crucial information regarding the sale and purchase of other infants. A case has been registered at the Azad Chowk police station (Crime No. 307/2026) under Sections 140(3), 143(4), 318(4), and 61 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). Acting under the guidance of senior officials, the police team is conducting an ongoing investigation, which led to the arrest of Jitendra Khetan based on the evidence gathered.

OBC groups unite in Raipur, mobilise for Delhi mega rally



Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: A state-level meeting of the All India Caste Census Coordination Committee was held at Phool Chowk in Raipur on Sunday to press for a separate column, code number and drop-down menu for the Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in the forthcoming caste census.

Representatives of various OBC organisations, social activists and hundreds of supporters attended the meeting and resolved to make the November 28 mega protest at Ramlila Maidan in New Delhi a success. They called for maximum participation from Chhattisgarh. Speakers emphasised that accurate enumeration of the OBC population was essential to ensuring fair assessment of the community's social, educational, economic and political status, as well as its rightful representation. They described caste-based enumeration as a crucial issue linked to the community's rights, dignity and constitutional entitlements.

| 'VANDE MATARAM CAMP' |

Country's diversity is our greatest strength: Arun Sao

Central Chronicle News

Dy CM meets youth from 6 states visiting Chhattisgarh under the 'Vande Mataram Camp'; shares the mantra for success



RAIPUR: Dy CM and Minister for Sports and Youth Welfare, Arun Sao, met with youth from six states who were on a visit to Chhattisgarh. Under the Government of India's 'Vande Mataram Camp,' 150 young people from Tripura, Maharashtra, Telangana, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, and Jammu & Kashmir travelled to Chhattisgarh. Throughout their week-long stay, they engaged with the state's culture, art, cuisine, history, archaeological treasures, and development. They also learned about the diverse cultures, culinary traditions, and lifestyles of each other's home states. On the final day of their visit, they met with Dy CM Sao to share their experiences. Addressing the youth from various states at his residence-office in Naya Raipur, Sao stated that the responsibility of building a 'Viksit Bharat' (Developed India) by 2047–and leading that vision–will rest on the shoulders of today's younger generation. He emphasized that the nation's youth possess the talent, capability, and self-confidence required to propel India to a position of global leadership.

| GOLDEN BOOK OF WORLD RECORDS |

Sathya Sai Hospitals earn global recognition

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: The 101st birth anniversary of Bhagwan Sri Sathya Sai Baba was celebrated with devotion and spiritual fervour, reaffirming his vision of completely free healthcare, education and selfless service for all.

Adding to the occasion's significance, Sathya Sai Sanjeevani Hospitals (SSSSH) received recognition in the Golden Book



of World Records for completing 45,000 successful surgeries. Mrs Sonal Rajesh Sharma, Chhattisgarh Head of the Golden Book of World Records, presented the certificate to Dr C. Sreenivas, Chairman of the Sri Sathya Sai Health and Education Trust, in the presence of chief guest Brijmohan Agrawal, MP from Raipur. Recalling his long association with the hospital, Agrawal said it had transformed the healthcare landscape of Chhattisgarh and emerged as a trusted destination for children with heart ailments from across the country. During the special Gift of Life programme, he also presented gifts and certificates to patients.

Sharma described the hospital's services as unique and unparalleled, expressing her privilege in presenting the recognition to an institution dedicated to selfless service.

Inspired by Bhagwan Sri Sathya Sai Baba's message of 'Love All, Serve All', the hospital continues to bring hope and smiles to children through its commitment to completely free healthcare.

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

CREATIVE LEARNING

Young Director session held at RIS and St. Xavier's High School



RAIPUR: St. Xavier's High School and Ryan International School(RIS), Raipur, hosted a Young Director Session conducted by Miss Shibani Sharma, Director of Ryan TV, Ryan International, Mumbai. The session provided students with an opportunity to explore the creative and technical aspects of media production, including filmmaking, photography, video editing, photo editing, lighting, camera positioning, framing, and storytelling.

Around 150 students from St. Xavier's High School and Ryan International School, Raipur, along with students from St. Xavier's High School, Durg and Dhamtari, participated in the interactive session. The programme provided students with an opportunity to learn, interact, and explore their creative potential in the field of digital media.

Students gained practical insights into digital content creation and learned how the effective use of technology can enhance creativity and communication.

To encourage students to apply their learning, each participant was provided with a creative kit comprising a digital pen, ring light, and convertible tripod stand with a mobile phone holder.

DISCOMFORT DUE TO LEG INJURY

Former MP Nandkumar Sai sustains injury, CM brings him to Raipur by helicopter

RAIPUR: Demonstrating concern for the well-being of former MP and senior tribal leader Nandkumar Sai, Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai brought him to Raipur by helicopter to ensure he receives proper medical care.

Speaking to journalists today, CM Sai explained that Nandkumar Sai had slipped and fallen two days ago, resulting in a leg injury. The Chief Minister mentioned that while visiting Jashpur yesterday, he attended an event near Nandkumar Sai's residence. During this visit, he called on Nandkumar Sai at his home to check on his health.

CM Sai noted that the leg injury was causing difficulty for Nandkumar Sai in moving around. As the Chief



Minister was scheduled to travel to Raipur today, he brought Nandkumar Sai along in the helicopter to spare him any travel-related discomfort and to ensure access to superior medical facilities. He added that arrangements have been made for Nandkumar Sai's treatment at Balaji Hospital in Raipur.

CELEBRATING FIRST ANNIVERSARY

'Adhyayan' launches 'The Peepal Post' on its first anniversary

RAIPUR: 'Adhyayan,' an open writing and literary community in Raipur, celebrated its first anniversary on November 22. The event marked the completion of one year since the community's inception on November 2, 2025. Initiated by Satpriya Kaur, the project began as a modest idea and has since evolved into a shared platform where people come together to explore writing, delve into creativity, and exchange ideas. The community's free weekly sessions in Raipur cover a diverse range of topics–from poetry, literature, and storytelling to music, art, and everyday life experiences. The platform welcomes individuals from all backgrounds, regardless of whether they identify as writers. Its core objective is to provide a space for



self-expression, the sharing of diverse perspectives, and the fostering of connections through the power of words.

To mark the anniversary, a newsletter titled 'The Peepal Post' was also launched. Created by Satpriya Kaur and Y. Jahnavi, this newsletter serves as an extension of the 'Adhyayan' community. It aims to carry the spirit of curiosity, creativity, and expression–central to the community–beyond the weekly gatherings and reach a wider audience.

FREE DENTAL HEALTH CHECK-UP CAMP

Shri Davara University organises free dental health check-up camp



RAIPUR: Shri Davara University (DU) organised a Free Dental Health Check-up Camp at its educational campus in Naya Raipur for university students and staff. The initiative aimed to promote oral hygiene, preventive dental care, and overall health and well-being among the university community. The camp allowed students and staff to undergo dental screening and receive necessary treatment from a specialised team of visiting dental professionals from New Horizon Dental College & Research Institute, Sakri, Bilaspur (Chhattisgarh).

The programme was inaugurated in the gracious presence of Director General Dr. Charmi Davara, CEO Shri Chinmoy Davara, Honorary Director Shri Tulsidas Sanghani, Pro-Vice-Chancellor Dr. Varun Ganjeer and Registrar Vipin Shrivastav.

The dental team comprised Dr. Swati Agrawal, Assistant Professor, along with Dr. Ishan Sahu, Dr. Muskan Mukherjee, Dr. Pragati Naik, Dr. Amolak Singh and Dr. Khushi Modi. During the camp, the team conducted dental screenings for a large number of students and provided necessary dental treatment based on their individual requirements. Addressing the students, Director General Dr. Charmi Davara highlighted the importance of maintaining proper oral hygiene and undergoing regular dental check-ups.

Raipur News

'AI is powerful tool to multiply capabilities'

A new chapter of technological innovation in Chhattisgarh's higher education: MoU signed between the Department of Higher Education and Google for Education

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: The state government of Chhattisgarh has taken a significant initiative to integrate modern technology, innovation, and Artificial Intelligence (AI) into higher education. Under the leadership of Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between the Department of Higher Education and Google for Education. This marks the beginning of a new chapter aimed at making teaching, research, and administrative processes in the state's colleges more effective, high-quality, and technology-driven. As part of this initiative, professors, officers, and staff are being trained in the practical application of AI technology.

Addressing the MoU signing and AI training program held today, November 23, at the DD Upadhyay Auditorium, Higher Education Minister Tankram Verma stated that the current era is defined by knowledge, innovation, and technology. Artificial Intelligence possesses the potential to bring about comprehensive changes in the education system. In line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a 'Viksit Bharat' (Developed India) and the spirit of the National Education Policy 2020, the Chhattisgarh government is promoting the effective use of modern technology in higher education. 'AI Technology: A Tool to Enhance the Role of Educators'



FASTFACTS

- AI training provided to over 500 teachers from 22 colleges in Raipur, along with more than 50 officers and staff members from the Directorate of Higher Education

Minister Verma stated that AI is not a replacement for teachers; rather, it is a vital tool that can significantly amplify their efficiency, creativity, and teaching effectiveness. A good teacher does more than just impart information–they inspire students to think, comprehend, question, and move forward in life. AI technology can prove instrumental in making this role even more impactful.

Higher Education Minister Verma noted that AI technology will enable professors to develop multilingual study material. It will assist in explaining complex subjects in a simple and engaging manner, creating superior lesson plans, enhancing the effectiveness of student assessment and feedback, and unlocking new potential in research endeavors. In a state like Chhattisgarh–characterized by its diverse linguistic, social, and geographical landscape–this technology can play a pivotal role in expanding access to quality education.

Higher Education Minister Verma stated that the objective of this training is not merely to impart technical knowledge, but to ensure its practical application in the daily academic and administrative activities of colleges and offices. He urged officials and educators to embrace technological transformation with a positive outlook and to cultivate an environment of awareness regarding innovation and the use of AI within their respective institutions.

'Training for over 500 teachers, officials from 22 Colleges'

A significant milestone of this program is the initial workshop, which is providing training in AI technology to more than 500 teachers and officials from 22 colleges in the Raipur district, as well as over 50 officials and staff members from the Directorate of Higher Education. Following this foundational training, 10 offline training sessions will be conducted for departmental staff and officials. Online training options will also be made available as needed. 'AI Can Help Foster an Environment of Awareness' The event was attended by the Secretary of the Higher Education Department, Avinash Champawat; the Commissioner of Higher Education, Rita Yadav; the Vice-Chancellor of Rungta International Skills University.

Govt offices, schools, banks closed today

RAIPUR: Following the holidays for Diwali, Bhai Dooj, and Chhath, schools will remain closed on November 24. Additionally, all government offices and banks will also be closed. This means school children will get another day to enjoy, while government operations will be affected. If you were planning to get some work done at a government office, you will need to adjust your plans.

Guru Nanak Dev Jayanti is celebrated as the 'Prakash Parv' (festival of light) of Guru Nanak Dev, the founder of Sikhism and the first Sikh Guru. This festival falls on the day of Kartik Purnima. On this day, members of the Sikh community organize special prayers (ardas), devotional singing (kirtan), and religious programs at Gurdwaras. In many places, early morning processions (prabhat pheris) are held, and 'Langar' (community kitchens) are organized, where people from all religions and backgrounds sit together to share a meal.

In its annual holiday calendar, the Chhattisgarh government has declared November 24 a public holiday on the occasion of Guru Nanak Jayanti. Consequently, government offices and banks across the state will remain closed on Tuesday.

Cong prepares to gherao govt during Winter Session

Central Chronicle News

MLAs have begun preparing to pose questions to the government, for the Winter Session of Assembly starting Nov.14 to 17.



HIGHLIGHT

- The main opposition party, the Congress, is strategizing to corner the government on various issues during the winter session.

RAIPUR: The Winter Session of the sixth Legislative Assembly of Chhattisgarh is scheduled to run from December 14 to December 17. Political activity has intensified ahead of this four-day winter session. Following the issuance of the session notification, MLAs have begun preparing to pose questions to the government. By November 19, a total of 589 questions had been submitted by members from both the ruling party and the opposition–comprising 315 starred and 274 unstarred questions.

The main opposition party, the Congress, is strategizing to corner the government on various issues during the winter session. Paddy procurement is expected to be the primary focus for the opposition. While paddy procurement in the state commenced on November 15, farmers have had to endure the impact of unseasonal rains over the past 25 days. Consequently, the government is likely to face pointed questions in the House regarding the procurement system, the losses suffered by farmers, and the challenges they are currently facing. Beyond paddy procurement, the Congress intends to prominently raise issues concerning law and order as well as corruption during this session. Through these inquiries, the opposition aims to compel the government to provide responses. Given the high number of questions and the broad range of issues to be addressed during this brief four-sitting session, heated debates are expected in the House. Read the News A significant highlight is that the state's BJP government will complete its three-year tenure during the upcoming winter session. Consequently, a political confrontation between the ruling party and the opposition is likely to emerge regarding the promises made by the government, the implementation of 'Modi's Guarantee,' and the status of these commitments.

NEWSLINE

KARTIK PURNIMA

Historic Punni Mela today



RAIPUR: The historic Punni Mela–a vibrant symbol of Chhattisgarh's rich religious faith, folk traditions, and cultural heritage–is set to unfold in all its grandeur once again at Mahadev Ghat in the capital, Raipur. On the auspicious occasion of Kartik Purnima, the sacred banks of the Kharun River will witness a remarkable convergence of devotion and jubilation. A large number of devotees from Raipur and surrounding districts are expected to arrive to take a holy dip, offer lamps (deepdaan), and seek the blessings of Lord Bholenath (Shiva) in the abode of Lord Hatkeshwar Mahadev.

The Punni Mela at Mahadev Ghat is more than just a religious event; it is a living expression of Chhattisgarh's cultural consciousness, social unity, and folk life. Traditions passed down through generations are still observed here with the same deep reverence and enthusiasm. On the sacred occasion of Kartik Purnima, the shimmering glow of lamps along the banks of the Kharun River, the chanting of mantras in the temples, the resounding cries of devotion to Lord Shiva, and the lively bustle of the traditional fair combine to create an atmosphere that highlights the unique cultural identity of Chhattisgarh.

Govt takes major action in case of newborn trafficking

Central Chronicle News

The state government has initiated steps toward strict punitive action in trafficking of newborns.



HIGHLIGHT

- SIT probe will be conducted, alongside investigations at other levels.

RAIPUR: Following the exposure of an alleged interstate gang involved in the trafficking of newborns in Raipur, the capital of Chhattisgarh, the state government has initiated steps toward strict punitive action. After the arrest of three individuals–including a doctor from Diwakar Multispecialty Hospital–there are now moves to revoke the hospital's license and freeze the medical degrees of the doctors involved.

Health Minister Shyam Bihari Jaiswal shared details regarding the government's proposed measures while speaking to the media. Plans are underway to cancel the hospital's license; Health Minister Shyam Bihari Jaiswal emphasized that the government is treating the case of newborn trafficking with the utmost seriousness. He stated that the hospital's license will be revoked, and the medical degrees of the doctors implicated in the case will be frozen. The Minister asserted that those responsible for

Guv provides 10 computers, printers School

RAIPUR: On Monday, at Lok Bhawan, Governor Ramen Deka provided 10 computers and printers to Saraswati Mahavidyalaya, Bilaspur, from his discretionary grant fund. This initiative aims to enhance the academic and technical facilities at the college and provide students with better educational resources. Deka stated that these computers and printers are being provided to strengthen the college's digital and technical capabilities, and to make the students' learning process more accessible and modern. The Governor has provided these 10 computers and printers from his discretionary grant fund. Present on the occasion were the President of Saraswati Mahavidyalaya, Santosh Kumar Tiwari; members of the Vidya Bharati Uchcha Shiksha Sansthan–Brijendra Shukla, Shri Vivek Saxena, Shri Laxman Rao Magar, and Badrinath Kesarwani–along with other members of the college's management committee.

| INTEGRATED PATIENT FACILITATION CENTRE |

AIIMS-R dedicates integrated patient facilitation centre

Central Chronicle News

AIIMS), Raipur, inaugurated its Integrated Patient Facilitation Centre to simplify hospital admission and discharge procedures.



RAIPUR: The All-India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Raipur, inaugurated its Integrated Patient Facilitation Centre to simplify hospital admission and discharge procedures. The Centre brings key services together at one location so patients and their families can complete the required formalities with fewer trips between counters and less waiting, particularly when preparing to return home after discharge.

Lt Gen Ashok Jindal, (Retd), Executive Director, AIIMS Raipur, inaugurated the Centre. Mr Brijmohan, a patient at the Institute, formally dedicated it to patient services. The Medical Superintendent, the Additional Medical Superintendent, the Deputy Director (Administration), representatives of the hospital administration and nursing management, and patients attended the ceremony.

Speaking on the occasion, the Executive Director said, "The Integrated Patient Facilitation Centre reflects our commitment to making healthcare services more accessible, efficient and patient-friendly. By bringing multiple services together at a single location, we aim to simplify hospital procedures, reduce unnecessary movement of patients and attendants, and ensure a smoother experience, particularly during discharge. Our focus is to continuously improve the quality of services and place patients at the centre of every initiative." The Medical Superintendent said the new arrangement had already shortened the time needed to complete discharge formalities for Ayushman Bharat beneficiaries.

FASTFACT

- On the opening day, a patient admitted under the Dept of Urology became the first Ayushman Bharat beneficiary to complete discharge formalities through the Centre.

SOFTWARE

New registration software launched

RAIPUR: Registration Department: A new software has been introduced to improve the land and property registration process; however, concerns are being raised as citizens were not informed about this change.

A new software has been implemented in the capital, Raipur, to technically enhance the land and property registration process. Yet, questions are being raised because the general public was not informed about this transition. The introduction of new technology without adequate training or prior information is likely to cause significant inconvenience to those arriving for registrations.

According to departmental documents, the new software has been in use at Sub-Registrar Branch No. 6 since November 20.

| RAIPUR MASTER PLAN 2031 |

'Investigation committee recommends revisions'

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: The state government has initiated a revision process to address changes related to roads–alterations that have impacted the city's planned development and traffic infrastructure. A significant update has emerged regarding the Master Plan 2031 for the capital city, Raipur. The state government has begun a revision process to address changes concerning roads, which have affected the city's systematic development and traffic management. Following a report by an investigation committee, preparations are underway to reverse several changes made to the Master Plan (which was published in July 2023). The committee has recommended reinstating 11 roads, restoring the width of 23 roads to their original specifications, and reverting 10 roads to their previous alignments. This proposal has reignited discussions regarding road-related provisions in the Raipur Master Plan. The state government has invited claims, objections, and suggestions from the general public, landowners, and relevant stakeholders regarding these proposed revisions, to be submitted within 15 days. Investigation Committee Formed Following Over 170 Complaints A new Master Plan was published on July 24, 2023, following a review of the original 'Master Plan 2021' (which had been published on April 7, 2008). The government received over 170 complaints regarding changes made to the routes, widths, and alignments of various roads in this new plan. Taking these complaints seriously, Finance Minister OP Choudhary initiated an inquiry into the matter. Subsequently, on March 15, 2024, the state government constituted an investigation committee, chaired by the Director of Town and Country Planning.



Prashant Singh Raghuvanshi elected as Treasurer IKCA

Central Chronicle News



RAIPUR: Following the implementation of the National Sports Code, the election process for the Indian Kayaking and Canoeing Association has been successfully concluded. Securing one of the three key positions within the organization is considered a proud achievement for the sports fraternity of Chhattisgarh. This development has further bolstered Chhattisgarh's participation and influence in national sports administration.

'I am deeply grateful to Baldev Singh Bhatia, President of the Chhattisgarh State Kayaking and Canoeing Association, for entrusting me with responsibilities in the sport–a decision that continues to yield positive results. The constant support from the office-bearers, the outstanding performance of the athletes from the state, and the backing and confidence shown by officials from various states across the country have been instrumental. I express my heartfelt gratitude to everyone', PS Raghuvanshi said.

Bilaspur



"As the Patwaris have called off their strike, the administration should complete crop survey to help the farmers."

Dharam Lal Kaushik
MLA, Bilha

Millers not to take paddy directly from societies

New procurement rules halt direct miller lifting to prevent recycling fraud, while Bilaspur societies struggle with limited storage capacity.

Central Chronicle News

BILASPUR: A major policy change in the Minimum Support Price (MSP) paddy procurement system has created a fresh storage challenge for cooperative societies and the district administration in Bilaspur. Under the new arrangement, rice millers will not be issued Delivery Orders (DOs) for lifting paddy directly from cooperative societies until January 15.

The restriction may continue throughout the procurement season, depending on further government directives. Consequently, cooperative societies will have to retain the procured paddy on their own premises, increasing pressure on their existing storage facilities.

In previous procurement seasons, the transportation of paddy from procurement centres to rice mills continued simultaneously with purchases, helping societies maintain sufficient storage space for incoming stocks. The parallel movement of procured paddy also reduced the burden on procurement centres and allowed them to handle fresh arrivals without major difficulties. According to sources, the government has introduced the new system to strengthen monitoring at every stage, from procurement and transportation to storage and custom milling. The primary objective is to prevent irregularities, particularly the alleged recycling of rice, under which procured stock could be misused or manipulated through the milling process. By restricting direct lifting by millers, the government intends to establish tighter control over the movement and accounting of paddy.

However, the decision has raised concerns among cooperative societies, many of which have limited space to accommodate continuously arriving stocks. With transportation to rice mills suspended, societies will have to make additional arrangements to protect stored paddy from rain, moisture, theft and other potential losses.

Adequate platforms (chabutras), tarpaulins, security arrangements and regular monitoring will become increasingly important as procurement progresses.

To address the possibility of an acute storage shortage, the government has provided a conditional alternative. If a cooperative society completely exhausts its available storage capacity, the concerned Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) will conduct an on-site inspection to assess the actual situation.



FASTFACTS

- Five designated storage centres await arrangements as procurement continues across Bilaspur district.
- Millers must await government orders, while SDM approval becomes mandatory for shifting excess paddy.

'No order to be issued for direct lifting'

Confirming the new directive, Bilaspur District Marketing Officer (DMO) Upendra Kumar said that no Delivery Orders would be issued for lifting paddy directly from any cooperative society in the district during the procurement period. He clarified that Transport Orders for shifting stocks to designated storage centres would be permitted only in exceptional circumstances involving heavy arrivals and serious storage constraints.

Youth assaulted; two arrested

BILASPUR: Ratanpur police have arrested two individuals and sent them to jail on judicial remand for allegedly abusing and assaulting a youth after he refused to give them money to buy alcohol. A third accomplice involved in the attack is currently absconding, and police have launched a search to apprehend him.

According to police, Ratanpur resident Durgeshnandan Sarthi lodged a complaint stating that he had gone to Mahamaya Chowk for some work on November 21.

During this time, Ramnagar residents Raj Sarthi and Shivendra Sarthi, along with another associate, accosted him and demanded money for liquor. When he refused to pay, the trio allegedly hurled abuses and thrashed him.

Following the complaint, a police team led by Station House Officer (SHO) Nilesh Pandey acted swiftly and arrested two of the accused within a few hours.

The arrested men have been identified as Raj alias Chhotu Sarthi (33) and Shivendra Sarthi (23), both residents of Ramnagar Sarthipara in Ratanpur. Both accused have been sent to judicial remand, while efforts are underway to trace the absconding third suspect.

State Govt slashed paddy amount by Rs 258/ qntl, alleges Cong



Central Chronicle News

BILASPUR: Former District Congress President and former Beltara Assembly candidate Vijay Kesharwani has accused the Chhattisgarh government of depriving farmers of the benefit of increased Minimum Support Price (MSP) for paddy by proportionately reducing its additional financial assistance under the Krishak Unnati Yojana. Addressing a press conference in Bilaspur, Kesharwani presented figures relating to paddy procurement and state assistance. He alleged that while the Central Government increased the MSP of paddy by Rs 258 per quintal over three years, the state government reduced its additional assistance by exactly the same amount, keeping the total payment unchanged at Rs 3,100 per quintal. According to Kesharwani, during the 2023-24 Kharif marketing season, the MSP for common paddy was Rs 2,183 per quintal, while the state provided additional assistance of Rs 917, taking the total payment to Rs 3,100. For the 2026-27 season, although the MSP increased to Rs 2,441 per quintal, the state's additional assistance was reduced to Rs 659. He argued that farmers would have received Rs 3,358 per quintal if the earlier assistance rate had continued. Calculating the impact on the procurement limit of 21 quintals per acre, Kesharwani said farmers earlier received Rs 19,257 as state assistance, against Rs 13,839 at the revised rate. This, he alleged, would result in a loss of Rs 5,418 per acre. He further alleged that the government was publicising assistance payments while concealing the reduction in the additional amount.

FASTFACTS

- Farmers face payment losses, procurement hurdles and technical problems; Congress threatens phased agitation.

NEWSLINE

SPORTS

Agrawal Premier League launched

BILASPUR: Agroha Mitra Mandal will organize the second edition of the Agrawal Premier League cricket (APL Season 2.0) in the city from December 17 to 20 at the Mini Stadium in Dayalband, featuring eight competing teams. The winning team will receive a first prize of Rs 2,22,222 along with the APL Premier League trophy, while the runners-up will be awarded Rs 1,11,111 and a trophy. In addition, individual accolades such as Man of the Match, Man of the Series, Best Bowler, and several other prizes will be presented to players throughout the tournament. Organizing committee member Vintesh Agrawal informed that Agroha Mitra Mandal hosted a grand launch event for APL 2.0, which included the unveiling of the tournament trophy and team jerseys alongside player selection. Chief guests CA Om Modi and Dr. Abhishek Shah extended their best wishes to the players in advance and lauded Agroha Mitra Mandal for organizing the event. Young players from the Agrawal community are set to participate in the tournament with renewed enthusiasm this season.

Public Convenience Building at Bilasa Airport remains locked

Central Chronicle News

Most of the time, the Public Convenience Building at Bilasa Airport remains locked as it is yet to be inaugurated.

BILASPUR: Despite the completion of construction work, the newly built public convenience building outside Bilasa Devi Kevat Airport has yet to be opened to the public.

Expressing strong displeasure over the locked facility, the Hawai Suvidha Jan Sangharsh Samiti has demanded that the administration immediately inaugurate the building and ensure its smooth operation so that passengers and their families can benefit from it., Basic amenities have long been lacking at the airport, forcing family members arriving to drop off or receive passengers to stand out in the open without any shelter or waiting hall. Whenever flights are delayed, passengers and their relatives are compelled to sit and eat under a banyan tree outside the airport premises. To resolve this hardship, the committee had long been pressing for a well-equipped facility. Members raising the demand include Ravi Banerjee, Badri Yadav, Anil Gulhare, Shirish Kashyap, Rishi Raj Gautam, Gopi Rao, Mohan Jaiswal, Sameer Ahmed Babla, Vinay Shukla, Vijay Verma, Sandeep Bajpai, Keshav Gorakh, Ashutosh Sharma, Mazhar Khan, Mahesh Dubey Tata, Amar Bajaj, Aqeel Ali, Mohsin Ali, and Sudeep Shrivastava. Built in Nine Months at a Cost of Rs 25 Lakh.

About a year ago, the district administration entrusted a private company with constructing the public convenience building under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds at a cost of Rs 25 lakh.



FASTFACTS

- Despite the completion of construction work, the newly built public convenience building outside Bilasa Devi Kevat Airport has yet to be opened to the public..

| CROP SURVEY |

Farmers wait for crop survey as Patwaris called off strike

Central Chronicle News

255 patwaris in Bilaspur district and 5,000 statewide ended their agitation following CM Vishnu Deo Sai's assurance.

BILASPUR: In a major relief for farmers amid the ongoing paddy procurement season, patwaris across Chhattisgarh have called off their 41-day-long strike over a four-point charter of demands. Around 5,000 patwaris statewide–including 255 in Bilaspur district–had been agitating, bringing crucial revenue and field verification tasks to a standstill.

A delegation of patwaris met Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai on November 22 to place their demands before him. Following assurances from the Chief Minister, the union announced the withdrawal of the strike, and patwaris are expected to resume duties at their respective workplaces within a day or two.

The end of the impasse has revived hopes for nearly 3,000 farmers in Bilaspur district whose Digital Crop Survey (DCS) had remained incomplete due to the agitation. Under the DCS exercise, digital records of sown crops and actual cultivated acreage (rakba) are compiled, playing a vital role in the Minimum Support Price (MSP) paddy procurement system. With records left incomplete after the start of the procurement season, affected farmers had been worried about facing technical hurdles in selling their harvest. While the return of patwaris has brought relief to both farmers and the administration, completing the pending Digital Crop Survey for the roughly 3,000 farmers on priority will now be the biggest immediate challenge.

Once the survey is concluded and records are rectified, technical bottlenecks will be cleared, ensuring that eligible farmers are not left out of the procurement process.



FASTFACTS

- Now the farmers are waiting for the pending digital crop survey, to be resumed soon

ARREST

Man held for selling illicit liquor

BILASPUR: Sarkanda police have arrested a man on charges of illegally selling liquor and seized 33 quarters of Goa Special and country-made masala liquor worth approximately Rs 3,800 from his possession. According to police, on November 21, officials received a tip-off that a person was roaming in the Prabhat Chowk area carrying liquor for illegal sale.

Acting swiftly on the information, a police team led by Station House Officer Naresh Kumar Chauhan reached the spot, cordoned off the area, and apprehended the suspect. During questioning, the accused identified himself as Deepak Khatik (35), a resident of Tikrapara Mochi Mohalla under City Kotwali police station limits.

| ANNUAL CONFERENCE |

Research & start-ups be linked: VC Prof. Chakrawal

Central Chronicle News

BILASPUR: The three-day 36th annual conference and international seminar organized by the Department of Botany under the School of Life Sciences at Guru Ghasidas Central University (GGU), in collaboration with the Indian Association for Angiosperm Taxonomy (IAAT) and the Botanical Survey of India (BSI), concluded on Sunday at the university's Rajat Jayanti Auditorium. The seminar was centered on the theme 'Emerging Trends in Plant Systematics, Traditional Knowledge and Biodiversity Conservation for a Sustainable Future'. Presiding over the valedictory ceremony, Vice-Chancellor Prof. Alok Kumar Chakrawal emphasized that developing a commercial and entrepreneurial outlook among scientists, researchers, and students is essential in the present era. He stated that merely acquiring knowledge and conducting research is no longer sufficient; scientific investigation must be linked with socially useful products, innovation, startups, and entrepreneurship. Commercializing research, he noted, not only helps mobilize financial resources for modern laboratories and further research, but also generates employment and strengthens the national economy.

Registrar Prof. Ashwini Kumar Dixit remarked that such academic gatherings promote research culture, scholarly dialogue, and scientific collaboration within universities.



> "Linking research with startups is the need of the hour."
>
> **Prof. Alok Kr Chakrawal**
> Vice-Chancellor , GGU

Discrepancies in paddy acreage record removed

Central Chronicle News

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.

Out of 1,128 farmers affected by acreage-related errors at the Paunsara and Semartal paddy procurement centers, records of 810 farmers have been corrected so far, while physical verification and technical rectification are currently underway for the remaining 318 cases. At the Paunsara paddy procurement center, the acreage records of 714 farmers were affected.

DRUGS

Accused held with 8 Kg cannabis

BILASPUR: Ratanpur police have arrested a 62-year-old absconding accused in connection with a ganja smuggling case. The accused has been identified as Ramayan alias Munna Patel (62), a resident of Hindadih under Seepat police station limits. Following his arrest, he was produced before a court and remanded to judicial custody. YouTube According to police, on October 15, 2026, Ratanpur police conducted a raid at the residence of Bhanwar Singh Netam in village Jali and recovered 8.185 kilograms of ganja.

N-E-W-S



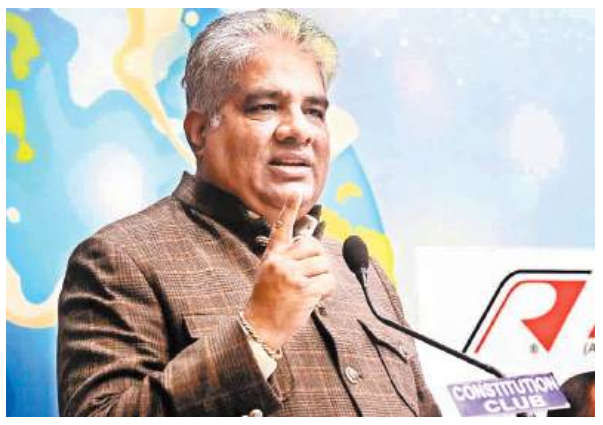
The birthplace of Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu- Nabadwip- would be transformed into a prominent pilgrimage destination."

Suvendu Adhiakri
CM, West Bengal

Govt reviews 133 wildlife clearance proposals for devp

Centre reviews infrastructure proposals while seeking to balance development with wildlife conservation.

Press Trust Of India



NEW DELHI: The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change on Monday reviewed 133 infrastructure proposals requiring wildlife clearance during the 92nd meeting of the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife in New Delhi.

The proposals include projects related to roads, drinking water supply and other essential infrastructure. The meeting was chaired by Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav. The discussions focused on examining development requirements while ensuring that wildlife habitats and ecological interests receive appropriate consideration. The proposals have been submitted under the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, which regulates activities requiring permission in protected wildlife areas and other notified locations. Infrastructure development in and around forest and wildlife areas often requires detailed scrutiny because such projects may affect animal habitats, movement corridors and ecological systems.

The committee examines project-related information and environmental considerations before making recommendations on proposals requiring statutory clearance.

The meeting also reviewed matters relating to wildlife conservation and management. The ministry's initiative reflects the need to coordinate infrastructure expansion with environmental safeguards, particularly in areas where local communities depend on roads, drinking water and other public facilities.

Road connectivity and access to drinking water remain important development priorities in several remote and rural regions.

HIGHLIGHT

- Roads and drinking water projects feature among proposals examined by committee members.

Innovation is must for educational reforms: Sukhu

Central Chronicle News



SHIMLA: Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu on Monday highlighted the importance of innovation, research and equal educational opportunities while addressing issues concerning the state's education system at the 10th convocation ceremony of the Central University of Himachal Pradesh in Dharamshala.

Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, Governor Kavinder Gupta and the Chief Minister attended the convocation ceremony held on Sunday, where 708 students received degrees and 27 students were awarded gold medals.

A notable achievement was that women students secured 21 of the 27 gold medals, while male students received six. Chief Justice Surya Kant described the achievement as a reflection of a changing India, where women are increasingly receiving opportunities to demonstrate their capabilities. Addressing the graduating students, the CJI advised them to remain patient.

FASTFACTS

- Himachal leaders underline education, equal opportunity and innovation at a university convocation.

NEWSLINE

NEW DELHI

Two arrested in Jafrabad attack

Delhi Police have arrested two men for allegedly abducting and attempting to murder a 22-year-old man in the Jafrabad area following an old personal enmity. The accused have been identified as Md Abbas, 26, and Sameer, 23. A third suspect, identified as Sakir, remains absconding, police said on Monday.

According to investigators, the incident occurred during the early hours of November 19, when the victim, Aslam, was near Rashid Biryani in Jafrabad. Three men allegedly approached him on a motorcycle and began abusing him. Abbas reportedly threatened him over a previous stabbing incident that had taken place around 18 months earlier.

KOCHI

Two youths killed in bike crash

Kochi. Two young men were killed after their motorcycle allegedly travelling at high speed lost control and crashed into a footpath near Changampuzha Park in Kochi during the early hours of Monday. The deceased were identified as Praveen Kumar, 28, a resident of Kottayam, and Ribin, 21, who belonged to Tamil Nadu's Nilgiris district. The accident occurred at approximately 3.15 am, according to police. Following the collision, both riders sustained serious injuries.

| NABADWIP PILGRIMAGE |

Bengal plans infrastructure push to develop Nabadwip pilgrimage hub

Press Trust Of India

The West Bengal Govt has announced bridge and heritage will be upgraded for Nabadwip's development.



KOLKATA: West Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari has announced a major infrastructure development programme to transform Nabadwip, the birthplace of Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu, into a prominent pilgrimage destination. The initiative includes financial assistance for religious facilities, renovation of river ghats and efforts to accelerate construction of a proposed bridge over the Bhagirathi river.

Addressing a gathering during the Raas Purnima celebrations, Adhikari announced Rs 3 crore for religious and related facilities in the historic town. Of this amount, Rs 2 crore will be used to complete a research centre dedicated to Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu, while Rs 1 crore has been earmarked for expanding a gaushala at the saint's birthplace temple and ashram.

The proposed bridge is expected to improve connectivity and facilitate the movement of pilgrims and local residents.

Gang member held with illegal pistol

NEW DELHI: Delhi Police have arrested an alleged active member of the Neeraj Bawana gang and recovered a semi-automatic pistol and two live cartridges from his possession in the outer Delhi locality of Ranhola. The accused has been identified as Manjeet Dalal alias Mangal, 32, a resident of Jhajjar district in Haryana. Police said he was apprehended on Sunday behind a school in Kotla Vihar Phase-II following information received from a secret informer. According to officials, the police team was conducting routine

| REGIONAL ISSUES |

Meghalaya CM renews efforts to resolve long-pending administrative issues peacefully

Press Trust Of India



SHILLONG: Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma has reiterated his government's commitment to resolving long-pending administrative and regional issues through continued engagement and discussions with concerned stakeholders.

Speaking on Sunday, Sangma said the government would continue working towards solutions to the Assam-Meghalaya boundary issue and the proposed relocation of residents from Them Iew Mawlong in Shillong. He said difficulties and political sensitivities would not prevent the government from pursuing matters requiring administrative attention.

The Chief Minister acknowledged that the relocation issue involved complicated land-related questions. He indicated that the government was continuing its efforts to find an acceptable arrangement rather than abandoning the process because of existing difficulties.

Deputy Chief Minister Sniawbhalang Dhar is handling the land-related aspects of the proposed relocation. The state government is expected to continue discussions with the concerned stakeholders to explore possible solutions.

| BASIC FACILITIES |

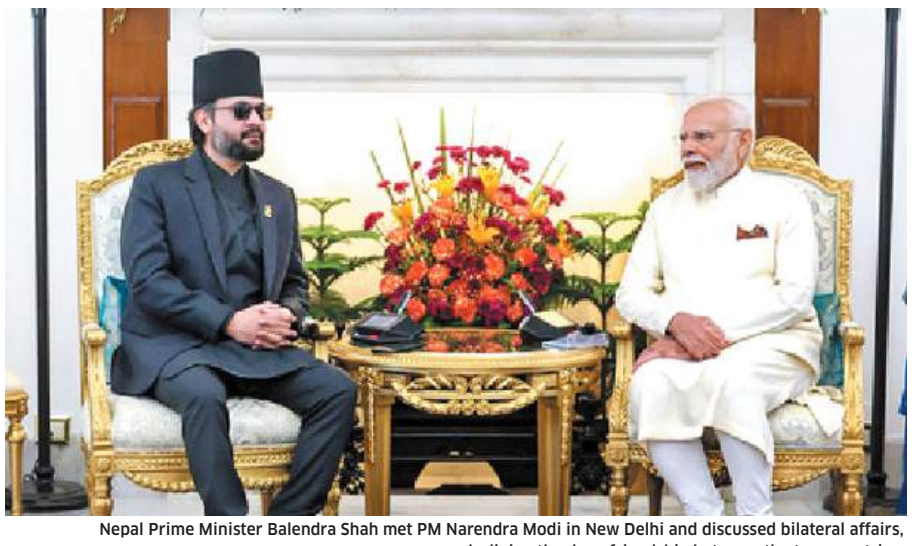
Mann announces village grant of Rs 51 lakh, inaugurates new sports facilities in Punjab

Press Trust Of India



LUDHIANA: Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann has announced a grant of Rs 51 lakh for development works in Hedon Bet village of Samrala, emphasising that government resources should be utilised for public welfare and improvement of basic facilities. Addressing a Lok Milni programme in the village on Sunday, Mann said his government was prioritising education, healthcare, employment, irrigation, infrastructure and women's empowerment. He said public representatives and officials must ensure that development benefits reach households across the state. The announced grant will be used for facilities including a dispensary, sports ground, community centre, Anganwadi centre and drainage infrastructure. The Chief Minister said genuine public grievances raised during Lok Milni programmes would receive priority attention. Mann also referred to the government's efforts to promote sports as a means of providing young people with constructive opportunities and discouraging substance abuse.During a separate programme in Dhuri, he laid the foundation stone for a modern sports complex spread over 10 acres.

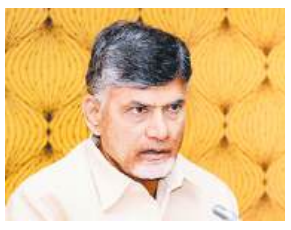
Nepal PM Balendra Shah meets PM Modi



Nepal Prime Minister Balendra Shah met PM Narendra Modi in New Delhi and discussed bilateral affairs, underlining the deep friendship between the two countries.

| POLLING HOLIDAY |

Andhra Pradesh shifts cabinet meeting after local body polling holiday



AMARAVATI: The Andhra Pradesh government has rescheduled its Cabinet meeting from November 26 to November 27 because of a public holiday declared on account of polling in 23 urban local bodies across the state. The decision was communicated through a Cabinet note issued by Chief Secretary G. Sai Prasad on Monday. The meeting will be chaired by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and conducted in a hybrid format, allowing ministers to participate either physically or virtually. According to the revised arrangements, ministers available in the state have been asked to attend the meeting at the Andhra Pradesh Secretariat in person.

Centre to launch Nayi Chetna 5.0 campaign for women's empowerment



NEW DELHI: The Union Ministry of Rural Development will launch the fifth edition of its nationwide gender campaign, Nayi Chetna 5.0 - Pahal Badlav Ki - on November 25, with a focus on women's economic empowerment, safety and equal opportunities. The month-long campaign will continue until December 23 and will be implemented across the country under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission. Union Rural Development and Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan will inaugurate the campaign in the presence of Women and Child Development Minister Annapurna Devi.

This year's theme is 'From Access to Agency: Empowering Women through Livelihoods and Equal Opportunities for a Viksit Bharat'. The initiative seeks to strengthen women's participation in economic activities and improve their access to assets, markets, financial services and public facilities. Four major areas will receive attention: recognising women as economic contributors.

NEW DELHI

Government warns WhatsApp Web users

The Union Home Ministry has issued a cybersecurity warning, cautioning WhatsApp Web users against the possibility of unauthorised access to their accounts if they leave authenticated sessions active on public or shared computers. The advisory was issued by the National Cybercrime Threat Analytics Unit of the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) on Monday. It warned that cybercriminals could exploit an active session to read private conversations, access contact lists, view group discussions and send messages while impersonating the account holder.

| NEW MATERIAL |

Sun-light-powered material made to degrade pollutants

Press Trust Of India



NEW DELHI: Indian scientists have developed an advanced material capable of using sunlight to degrade persistent environmental pollutants, offering a potential new approach to tackling chemical contamination. The research involves incorporating metallic nanowires into metal-organic frameworks (MOFs), molecular structures containing interconnected spaces that allow gases and chemicals to pass through them. According to the Ministry of Science and Technology, the newly developed material can harness a broad range of light wavelengths to efficiently degrade pyrene, a persistent polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon found among environmental pollutants. Pyrene is considered a serious environmental concern because it is toxic to living organisms and difficult to remove through conventional remediation methods. Scientists have been exploring the use of MOFs for pollutant removal because of their distinctive molecular structures and large internal surface areas.

Railway to begin bullet train trial run in May 2027

NEW DELHI: Railways will start trial run of bullet train on Surat - Bilimora 50-kilometre section by May next year. Railway Ministry sources said, it will have indigenous trainset and will travel at 280 kilometres per hour. It said, the first section of the Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train route, from Surat to Vapi, will be operational by the end of 2027. The sources said, this time during festive season of Durga Puja, Diwali and Chatth approximately 18 thousand additional services were operated. Last year it was around 12 thousand. Approximately 20 crore passengers travelled during this festive season, which is eight percent higher than last year.

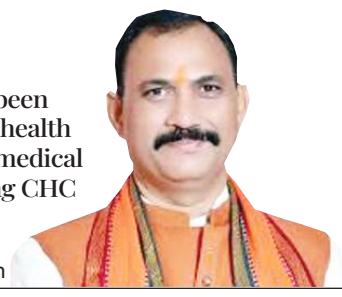
NEW DELHI

Heavy rain likely in southern states

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast heavy rainfall across Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal during the next five days, warning residents to remain alert as wet weather conditions are likely to persist in these regions. The forecast indicates continued rainfall activity, particularly in coastal areas, under the influence of prevailing meteorological conditions. The Met Department has also predicted isolated to scattered rainfall in parts of East Uttar Pradesh until tomorrow. Thunderstorms accompanied by lightning and gusty winds are likely at isolated places in Andhra Pradesh and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands today.

The health officers have been asked to improve upon the health services and provide better medical treatment to patients visiting CHC Berla.

Shyam Bihari Jaiswal
Health Minister Ch'garh



Bilaspur Region

CM Sai seeks blessings, joins devotional singing

CM Vishnu Deo Sai attended a bhajan-kirtan program at Jashpur's Radha-Krishna temple.

Central Chronicle News

JASHPUR: Chhattisgarh CM Vishnu Deo Sai on Sunday participated in a Kartik month bhajan-kirtan programme at Shri Radha-Krishna Temple (KanwarDham), located on the banks of the Ib River in Pamshala village of Jashpur district. Accompanied by his wife, Kaushalya Sai, he offered prayers and joined devotees in devotional singing, playing the manjira.

On the occasion, the Chief Minister announced financial assistance for all 62 kirtan groups in the region to purchase musical instruments, costumes and other essential equipment. He said bhajan-kirtan was an integral part of Chhattisgarh's religious and cultural heritage and assured government support for preserving these traditions.



Addressing devotees, Sai said the true purpose of human life lies in serving others, helping those in need and working for social welfare. He emphasised the importance of preserving folk traditions such as Karma, Damkach, Jhumar and Mahadev Nacha.

Highlighting development in Jashpur, he described the commencement of medical education in the district as a historic achievement that would provide local youth with better educational opportunities and strengthen healthcare facilities. He also recalled the contributions of Sant-Gahira Guru Maharaj and the Kanwar community towards social reform, tribal welfare and cultural preservation. Speaking about government initiatives, Sai said 18 lakh houses had been sanctioned under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, while 68 lakh women were receiving Rs 1,000 monthly under the Mahtari Vandan Yojana. He also highlighted paddy procurement at Rs 3,100 per quintal and financial assistance of Rs 10,000 annually to landless agricultural labourers.

The Chief Minister further highlighted the launch of the 24-hour Chief Minister's Helpline 1076 and the SevaSetu portal to provide citizens with easier access to government services and grievance redressal.

HIGHLIGHT

- He sought the blessings of the deities and announced financial assistance for 62 kirtan groups.

Three devotees killed, bus driver flees Sakti

Central Chronicle News

SAKTI: Three people, including a teacher, were killed after a speeding passenger bus collided with their motorcycle near Chhawaripali petrol pump on the Dabhra-Chandrapur road in Chhattisgarh's Sakti district on Monday around 11 am.

The deceased were identified as Harishankar Chauhan, a teacher, Mohar Das Bairagi and Set Kumar Patel, all residents of Darri village. They were travelling towards Sapos village to attend a Ram Saptahprogramme when the bus, reportedly coming from the wrong side, rammed their motorcycle. One died on the spot, while the other two succumbed to their injuries during treatment. The bus driver abandoned the vehicle and fled.



FASTFACTS

- A severe road accident occurred near the Chhawaripali petrol pump on the Dabhra-Chandrapur road.
- Three people on a motorcycle died after being struck by a speeding bus.

CRIME

History-sheeter nabbed

BILASPUR: Sarkanda police have arrested a listed history-sheeter for assaulting an e-auto driver with a screwdriver after the victim refused to give him money to buy alcohol.

According to Sarkanda Town Inspector Naresh Chauhan, the victim, 23-year-old BisahuSahu of AtalAwas in Chingrajpara, operates an e-auto bearing registration number CG 10 BL 1643, which is rented from Councilor Rani ShaileshDewangan. Around 7:00 PM on November 20, Bisahu went to drop off the vehicle at the councilor's residence near Lakshmi Chowk.

INAUGURATION

CM Sai launches Rs 1.97 cr proj

JASHPUR: CM Vishnu DeoSai on Sunday inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for various development projects worth Rs 1 crore 97 lakh 56 thousand in Pamshala village of Farsabahar development block in Jashpur dist. The projects include Mahtari-Sadans, community halls, roads and culverts, aimed at strengthening rural infrastructure and promoting women's empowerment. The CM laid the foundation stone for four Mahtari Sadans in Ganjhiyadih, Uparkachhar, Sikirma and Ambakachhar villages, each costing Rs 30 lakh. With a total investment of Rs 1.20 crore, these centres will provide rural women dedicated spaces for social, cultural and creative activities, interaction and self-employment initiatives.

| IAAT CONF CONCLUDES |

Three-day annual conf of IAAT conclude at GGU

Central Chronicle News

BILASPUR: The three-day 36th Annual Conference of the Indian Association for Angiosperm Taxonomy (IAAT) and International Symposium concluded on Nov 22, 2026, at Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya, Bilaspur. Organised by the Dept of Botany, School of Life Sciences, in collaboration with IAAT and the Botanical Survey of India, the symposium focused on "Emerging Trends in Plant Systematics, Traditional Knowledge and Biodiversity Conservation for a Sustainable Future."



Presiding over the valedictory ceremony, Vice-Chancellor Prof. Alok Kumar Chakrawalemphasised the need to connect scientific research with commercialisation, start-ups and entrepreneurship. He said translating research into socially beneficial products and innovations could generate employment and strengthen the national economy.University Registrar Prof. Ashwini Kumar Dixit and IAAT office-bearers also highlighted the importance of scientific collaboration and research.

GBM Koriya Dist Panchayat on Nov 25

KORIYA: The general body meeting (GBM) of the Koriya Zila Panchayat will take place on Wednesday, November 25, at 3:00 PM in the Zila Panchayat conference hall located in Baikunthpur. According to the issued agenda, other matters may also be discussed during the meeting, subject to the permission of the Zila Panchayat President.

In a letter issued on November 19, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Zila Panchayat has requested all concerned to attend the meeting.

| CYBER FRAUD|

Surajpur police bust Rs 113-cr cyber scam, two nabbed

Central Chronicle News

SURAJPUR: Surajpur police have uncovered a major cyber-fraud network with links to 21 states, involving suspicious transactions worth over Rs 113 crore through a single bank account. The account has been linked to 150 cyber-fraud cases registered across the country.

Police arrested two accused, AmanPaswan (32), a resident of Kanker district, and ZishanRaza (30), from Surajpur. According to investigators, they facilitated the receipt and withdrawal of fraudulently obtained money in exchange for commissions totallingRs 13 lakh. The racket came to light after police received suspicious account details through the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre's (I4C) JCC-TMS portal. Investigation revealed that fraudulent funds were withdrawn through cheques and ATM transactions.



Police had earlier arrested another accused, Devnarayan-Chakradhari, and filed a chargesheet against him. One suspect remains absconding. The operation was conducted under the supervision of SP Yogesh Kumar Patel.

| WOMAN THIEVES GROCERY STORE |

Woman steals Rs 75 K from Grocery shop

Central Chronicle News

AMBIKAPUR: A case of repeated theft has come to light at a grocery store in Ambikapur, Chhattisgarh, where a woman from the neighbourhood allegedly stole around Rs 70,000 to Rs 75,000 from the shop's cash counter on five occasions within 10 days.

The incident took place at Prakash Kirana Store in Babupara, under Ambikapur Kotwali police station limits. According to the shop owner, cash had been disappearing from the store for several months, but he was unable to identify the person responsible. Suspecting theft, the owner installed CCTV cameras. Upon reviewing the footage, he allegedly spotted a woman who regularly visited the shop taking money from the cash register. Following the discovery, the shop owner lodged a complaint with the police and demanded action against the accused. The matter is currently under investigation, and further police action is awaited.



| KIOSK FRAUD |

Fugitive arrested in Kiosk Bank scam for cheating villagers

Central Chronicle News

SAKTI: Sakti police have arrested SohratBanjare, an SBI Kiosk Bank operator who had been absconding since 2019 for allegedly cheating villagers and misappropriating their savings.

A permanent arrest warrant had also been issued against him by the court. The case relates to an SBI Customer Service Point in Muktaraja under Baradwar police station limits. According to the complaint, Uma Sahu (45), a resident of Paladi Kala village, deposited Rs 56,000 on May 30, 2019, for a one-year fixed deposit. However, when she later approached the bank to withdraw the money, she discovered that no FD had been opened in her name. During the investigation, police found allegations that the accused had also misappropriated money from other villagers through unauthorised banking transactions. A case was registered under IPC Sections 420, 467, 468 and 471. Acting on the directions of SP Prafull Kumar Thakur, police arrested Banjare and produced him before the court.



MEETING

BKSM forms Mungeli dist executive

MUNGELI: An important meeting of the Bilaspur Regional Working Committee of the Bijli Karmachari Sangh Mahasangh (BKSM), affiliated with the Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh, was held at Hotel Singh International in Mungeli. The meeting focused on strengthening the organization, addressing issues faced by electricity employees, protecting their interests, resolving pending demands and improving organizational activities.

Sipat Press Club seeks action against extortion

SIPAT: The Sipat Press Club has urged the administration and police to take action against alleged extortion and intimidation by individuals misusing the identity of journalists in Sipat and adjoining rural areas.

A delegation of the Press Club submitted a memorandum to Masturi Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) BajrangVerma and CSP Tileshwar Prasad Yadav, seeking an impartial inquiry and strict action against those found guilty. The memorandum alleged that some individuals posing as journalists associated with various news portals and digital media platforms were exerting undue pressure on government officials, employees, and public and private institutions. Complaints have also emerged of alleged attempts to extort money by threatening to publish adverse news reports.



The Press Club members emphasised that journalism, regarded as the fourth pillar of democracy, plays a vital role in highlighting public issues and ensuring accountability.

Burglars loot gold, silver, cash from house worth Rs 94,000

RAIGARH: Unidentified thieves broke into a locked house in Kirodimal Nagar, Raigarh district, and stole gold and silver jewellery worth approximately Rs 72,000 along with Rs 22,000 in cash.

According to reports, Babulal Sahu (61), alias Mohanlal Sahu, had gone with his family to their ancestral village, Paraghat in Bilaspur district, on Friday to celebrate Deuthani Ekadashi.



Taking advantage of the family's absence, thieves broke the main gate latch and entered the house. They also broke open a cupboard and stole jewellery, cash and purchase receipts.

The theft came to light when a tenant, Parasram-Jaiswal, noticed the broken gate and informed Sahu over the phone. The total loss is estimated at Rs 94,000.

| DEMAND FOR FUND APPROVAL |

Bilaspur airport gets Rs 103-cr budget boost

Central Chronicle News

BILASPUR: The delay in the development of Bilasa Airport and expansion of air connectivity in the region has triggered fresh protests, with the HawaiSuvidha Jan SangharshSamiti demanding an immediate allocation of Rs 103 crore in the supplementary budget during the upcoming winter session of the Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly. The committee alleged that despite land for runway expansion being available for nearly a year, construction work has not started due to a lack of funds.



According to the committee, the Public Works Department (PWD) submitted proposals to the state government four months ago, seeking Rs 63 crore for runway expansion and Rs 40 crore for construction of a new permanent Air Traffic Control (ATC) tower. However, the files are still pending with the state government.

During its ongoing sit-in protest, committee members criticised the delay and said withholding funds despite land availability amounted to injustice towards Bilaspur and the surrounding region.

Dewangan credits Sai's governance for festive joy

MUNGELI: A district-level Diwali get-together was organised by Minister-in-Charge Lakhanlal Dewangan at the Atal Parisar Dist BJP Office in Mungeli, with the participation of office-bearers and workers from all 11 mandals. During the programme, Dewangan felicitated senior party workers by presenting them with saffron gamchas and extended Diwali greetings. Addressing the gathering, he said that under CM Vishnu DeoSai's leadership, people across Chhattisgarh were celebrating festivals with enthusiasm. He highlighted govt initiatives, including paddy procurement at 21 quintals per acre, farmers' bonuses and housing benefits under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana.

RAID

Food safety raids dhabas

RAIGARH: The Food and Drug Administration Department has launched a special food safety inspection drive across Raigarh district under the campaign 'SurakshitAahar, HamarAdhikar' (Safe Food, Our Right), being conducted from November 16 to 30. During the campaign, departmental teams are inspecting hotels, dhabas and restaurants to ensure food quality and hygiene standards.During an inspection at New Welcome Dhaba and Family Restaurant in Charbhatha, Kharsia, officials collected samples of paneer, cooked rice and aloo-parwal. The samples have been sent to a Raipur laboratory for testing.

Fun&Focus

IT'S QUIZ TIME

1. Which sport, invented in Belgium, is played on an inflatable court with trampolines on both sides of a net and combines elements of volleyball, football, gymnastics and capoeira?



2. The Houthis, a powerful armed movement in Yemen, have gained strategic importance because of Yemen's location near the Bab el-Mandeb Strait. What is the significance of this location?



3. Manu Bhaker and Pawan Sehrawat were India's flag bearers at the opening ceremony of the 2026 Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games. Manu Bhaker is a double Olympic medalist, while Pawan Sehrawat is a leading Indian player. They represent which two sports respectively?



4. Which Indian state was the first in the country to introduce a unique elephant-proof initiative at Nagarahole National Park in 2015, using old, unused railway tracks to create strong vertical barricades alongside traditional Elephant Proof Trenches, a method later adopted by other states?



5. Hori and Kajri are traditional seasonal folk music forms popular in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. While Hori is associated with the festival of Holi, Kajri is traditionally sung during which season, often expressing love and longing?



6. The Magnetic Hill near Leh in Ladakh is famous for the unusual sight of vehicles appearing to roll uphill even when the engine is switched off. There are theories of magnetic forces below. What actually creates this fascinating illusion?



7. In 1967, South African surgeon Christiaan Barnard performed the world's first human heart transplant in Cape Town. The recipient, Louis Washkansky, lived for just 18 days. What caused his death?



Answers- RamaQuiz

(1) Bossaball (2) Control on a vital shipping route connecting the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean (3) Shooting and Kabbadi (4) Karnataka (5) Monsoon (6) An optical illusion caused by the surrounding terrain (7) Pneumonia

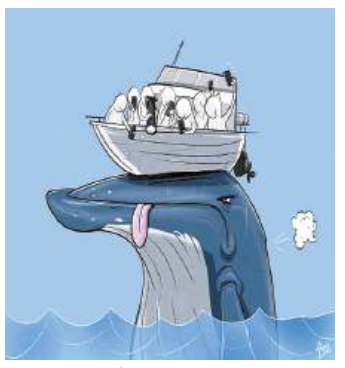
SCIENCE WATCH

Who is the largest marine mammal?



Whales are warm-blooded largest marine mammals that breathe air through blowholes and live in oceans around the world. They can grow over 90 to 100 feet long and weigh more than 150 tons, making them larger than any dinosaur.

They use Science of Echolocation



Whales like belugas, and killer whales have teeth and use echolocation. Echolocation is a way some animals use sound and echoes to find things in the dark and that is their way to find out where their prey is hiding.

They sing for the Ocean



Male humpback whales sing complex songs to make friendship and low whale calls can travel across vast distances underwater. The songs can last 10 to 30+ minutes and repeat for hours. Surreal!

ONE WORD SUBSTITUTION

A group of guns or missile launchers operated together at one place	Battery
A large bundle bound for storage or transport	Bale
A large gathering of people of a particular type	Bevy
An arrangement of flowers that is usually given as a present	Bouquet
A family of young animals	Brood
A group of things that have been hidden in a secret place	Cache
A group of people, typically with vehicles or animals travelling together	Caravan



TELL ME WHY?

Why only gold and silver are used to make ornaments?

Metals like gold and silver are only used in making ornaments because they are lustrous, malleable, ductile and corrosion-resistant.

Lusturous means natural shine, malleability and ductility means artisans can hammer them into thin sheets or draw them into fine wires and corrosion-resistant means these metals do not rust or corrode easily.



NOVEMBER 24-THE DAY IN HISTORY

1. In India, November 24 marks Guru Nanak Jayanti (Gurpurab) and Dev Deepawali, which both falls on Kartik Purnima. It is also observed as Shaheedi Diwas (Martyrdom Day of Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji)
2. The day is also celebrated as Lachit Divas, in memory of Lachit Borphukan, the famed Ahom military commander known for the Battle of Saraighat (1671).
3. On this day were born in 1881,Sir Chhotu Ram, freedom fighter and prominent leader of farmers and R. K. Laxman, iconic Indian cartoonist and creator of The Common Man in 1924.
4. On November 24, 1974, Paleontologists discover the fossilized hominin skeleton known as "Lucy" (Australopithecus afarensis) in Ethiopia's Afar region.



Daily Horoscope

Aries

Friends will introduce you to somebody special who would have a remarkable influence on your thoughts. Improvement in finances is certain. People close might take undue advantage of you- if you behave extra generous. Your aptitude to learn new things would be remarkable. Your ability to help those in need will bring you respect.

Taurus

Encourage your mind to be receptive to positive emotions like love hope faith sympathy optimism and loyalty. Once these emotions take complete command- the mind automatically responds positively to every situation. Today, you are likely to attain benefits from the help of your brother or sister. Children cause some disappointment.

Gemini

Health should be given priority to social life. Today, with the help of a close friend, some businessmen are likely to gain monetary benefits. This money can overcome many of your troubles. Friends will brighten up your day as they plan out something exciting for the evening. You might have an upper hand on everything at work today. Not a very good day for travelling.

Cancer

A friend may test your open mindedness and tolerance power. You should be careful not to surrender your values and be rational in every decision. Those who were unnecessarily blowing their money till now should control their actions from today and start saving up. Good day to communicate with people whom you rarely meet.

Leo

Try to avoid long journey as you are too weak to travel. If you were asking a debtor to return your money from a long time, and s/he was avoiding it, then today is your lucky day, as s/he can return your money unexpectedly. Children and family are the focus of the day. Those engaged will find their fiancée a source of great happiness. If you want to do better at the workplace, then try and infuse new technologies in your work.

Virgo

You are unable to make any progress because of your pessimistic attitude. It is high time for you to realise that worry has retarded your thinking power. Look at the brighter side and you will see a definite change in your discretion. You will make money if you put your savings into conservative investments. To your surprise brother would come at your rescue.

Libra

Inject a bright beautiful and glorious picture in your mind to uplift your spirits. Money can be required anytime, so plan your finances and start saving now as much as possible. Get everybody to your big party-You'll have that extra bit of energy today which will make you organize events for your group. Good day for businessmen.

Scorpio

Today, your health is expected to be healthy. Due to your good health, you can plan to play with your friends today. Investment in antiques and jewellery will bring gains and prosperity. You should take a break from your daily schedule and go out with your friends today. Communication will be your strong point today.

Sagittarius

Don't waste your time in building castle in the air. Rather conserve your energy to do something meaningful. Control your tendency to live for the day and to spend too much time and money on entertainment. Overall a beneficial day but someone you think you can trust will let you down. Opportunities for work will come.

Capricorn

Meditation and yoga should be practiced for spiritual as well as physical gains. An old friend of yours can advise you on how to earn more profits in business today. If you follow his/her advice, you're definitely in luck. Social activity with your family would keep everybody in a relaxed and pleasant mood. Too many expectations is not good.

Aquarius

Involve yourself in some donation and charity work for mental peace. Today, you can face money-related issues, and ask your father or a father-like individual you cherish for suggestions. There may be opportunities to attend social functions- which would bring you in close contact with influential people. You must avoid gossiping.

Pisces

Take care of your well being otherwise things might take a turn for the worse. Planetary placement doesn't seem favourable for you today in regard with money matters. Hence, keep your money safe. Family members will hold a special place in your life. Today, any of your old work at the workplace can be appreciated. Your spouse will do something really special for you today.

PHRASE FACT FINDER

"Break a leg"

Meaning: A way of wishing someone good luck, especially before a performance.

Example: "You're going to do great in the play tonight. Break a leg!"



FACT OF THE DAY

The oldest computer virus ever created was written in 1971 and was harmlessly named Creeper –it just popped up a screen saying, "I'm the creeper, catch me if you can!"



ENGLISH LENT

1. Bouquet - French
2. Canyon - Spanish
3. Spaghetti - Italian
4. Doppelganger - German
5. Diesel - German



WORD OF THE DAY

Conscientious

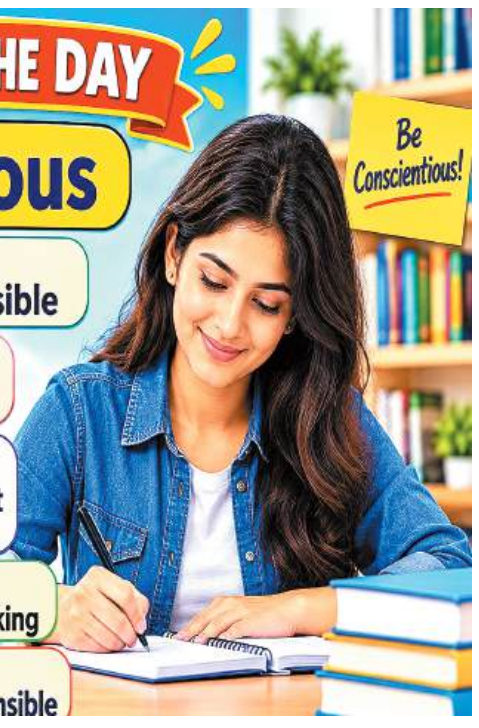
Meaning – Careful and responsible

Part of speech – Adjective

Example - A conscientious student checks the work.

Synonyms – Diligent, meticulous, painstaking

Antonyms – Careless, negligent, irresponsible



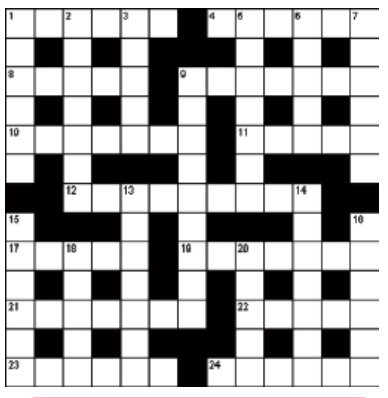
CROSSWORD -286

Across

1 Conflict (6)
4 Short fast race (6)
8 Dire (5)
9 Vein in the neck (7)
10 Beseech (7)
11 Demonstrated (5)
12 Dispirited, downcast (9)
17 Perfunctory kisses (5)
19 South American country (7)
21 Trembling (7)
22 Aggregate (5)
23 Festival in spring (6)
24 __ Burns, Scottish poet (6)

Down

1 Remained (6)
2 Disproved (7)
3 Untrue (5)
5 Mythical winged horse (7)
6 Inuit abode (5)
7 Despot (6)
9 1940s dance (9)
13 Leisure activity (7)
14 Enthusiastic supporter (7)
15 Not transparent (6)
16 Wooden hammer (6)
18 Category (5)
20 Numbers game (5)



CROSSWORD SOLUTION- 285



SUDOKU- 286

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

SUDOKU SOLUTION- 285

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

DAILY WORD SEARCH

- Copland
- Ireland
- Overland
- England
- Island
- Poland
- Finland
- Jutland
- Portland
- Garland
- Lapland
- Scotland
- Greenland
- Lowland
- Thailand
- Holland
- Maryland
- Wetland
- Homeland
- Midland
- Zetland
- Iceland
- Oakland

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

Business



The SEBI has proposed eliminating additional disclosure requirements for offshore funds."

Tuhin Kanta Pandey
Chairman, SEBI

EV sales jump 52.62 percent during festive season: FADA

Electric vehicle retail sales surged over 52 per cent during the 2026 festive season, while passenger vehicle sales recorded a decline despite overall market growth.



Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: Retail sales of passenger vehicles in India declined 7.16 per cent during the 2026 festive season compared with the corresponding period last year. However, electric vehicle (EV) sales registered remarkable growth, crossing the five lakh mark for the first time during a single festive season.

According to data released by the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA), total EV retail sales increased 52.62 per cent to 5,09,667 units from 3,33,935 units in the previous year's festive season. Despite the decline in passenger vehicle sales, the overall automobile retail market recorded positive growth. Total vehicle retail sales increased 2.21 per cent to 55,25,490 units during the festive period, compared with 54,05,956 units in the corresponding period last year.

FADA data showed that passenger vehicle retail sales fell to 7,48,616 units from 8,06,322 units, indicating continued pressure on this segment. In contrast, two-wheeler sales increased 3.67 per cent to 43,13,276 units, while three-wheeler retail sales grew 5.32 per cent to 1,93,576 units. Commercial vehicle sales also registered an increase of 7.13 per cent, reaching 1,55,761 units during the festive period. Construction equipment retail sales recorded a sharp rise of 26.06 per cent, while tractor sales increased 2.24 per cent. FADA President Sai Giridhar said the festive season started on a relatively subdued note during Navratri but gained momentum around Dhanteras and Diwali. He said consumer demand gradually improved as the festive season progressed, helping the automobile market recover from its initial weakness.

According to Giridhar, passenger vehicle sales had declined by more than 18 per cent during Navratri. However, the deficit was reduced by nearly half by the end of the complete festive season. The overall automobile market also moved from negative growth during Navratri to positive growth over the entire festive period.

The electric vehicle segment emerged as a major contributor to market growth. Electric two-wheeler retail sales increased 61.10 per cent to 3,30,846 units, compared with the previous year. Electric three-wheeler sales rose 25.45 per cent to 1,20,330 units. Electric passenger vehicle sales also recorded strong growth of 72.91 per cent, reaching 52,104 units against 30,133 units in the previous festive season.

NUMBER

73

- Electric passenger vehicle sales jumped nearly 73 per cent during the period.
- Overall automobile retail sales increased 2.21 per cent during the festive season.

BizBriefs

BEST OF THE REST

STOCK MARKET

Sensex, Nifty open higher on foreign inflows despite weak Asian cues, turn negative later



MUMBAI: Indian equity benchmark indices opened higher on Monday, with the Sensex rising 502 points and the Nifty crossing the 25,900 mark, but soon slipped into negative territory amid volatility. The initial gains were supported by sustained foreign portfolio investor (FPI) inflows and positive domestic market sentiment, even as most Asian markets traded lower. The Nifty 50 opened at 25,929.15, gaining 128 points or 0.5 per cent, while the BSE Sensex advanced 502.26 points, or 0.60 per cent, to open at 84,421.97. However, both indices turned negative soon after the opening.

Ajay Bagga, banking and market expert, said: "Indian markets are pointing to a positive opening on a monthly expiry day. Strong FPI net inflows have led to a rising Indian market over the last 25 days." He said remarks by US Treasury Secretary Bessent over the weekend against excessive monetary tightening by the US Federal Reserve had slightly lowered market expectations of a rate hike at the December 9 Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) meeting, from 100 per cent to 93 per cent. According to Bagga, the remarks also helped gold and silver prices recover during thin Asian trading, with Japan's major financial markets closed for a holiday. In the broader market, the Nifty 100 gained 0.65 per cent, while the Nifty Midcap 100 advanced 0.49 per cent and the Nifty Smallcap 100 rose 0.34 per cent.

Among sectoral indices, the Nifty IT index led the gains, rising 1.53 per cent, followed by the Nifty PSU Bank index, which advanced 0.95 per cent.

IPO

Mahanadi Coalfields IPO fully subscribed on final day

NEW DELHI: The initial public offering of Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd, a subsidiary of state-owned Coal India, was fully subscribed on the final day of bidding on Monday. The Rs 8,981-crore IPO received bids for 74,86,87,060 shares against 49,30,68,045 shares on offer, translating into 1.52 times subscription, as per the NSE data. The category for Qualified Institutional Buyers (QIBs) was subscribed 4.95 times, while the non-institutional investors quota received 66 per cent subscription. The portion for retail investors was booked 46 per cent.

Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd on Wednesday last week raised Rs 2,295 crore from anchor investors. The IPO price band has been fixed at Rs 129-136 per share, valuing the company at a little over Rs 90,000 crore. The Initial Public Offering (IPO) is entirely an offer-for-sale (OFS). Since the issue is only an OFS, the company will not receive any proceeds from the IPO. The entire proceeds will go to Coal India, the selling shareholder. The proposed listing is part of Coal India's broader plan to unlock value from its subsidiaries through the capital markets.

AGREEMENT

Tata Steel announces agreement to acquire APL Apollo acquisition

MUMBAI: Tata Steel on Monday announced an agreement to acquire the entire 26.6 per cent promoter stake in APL Apollo Tubes Ltd for Rs 15,510 crore, marking a major strategic development in India's steel industry. The acquisition agreement has been signed with SG Tech Engineering Private Ltd, an entity associated with the promoter group of APL Apollo. Tata Steel will acquire the shares at Rs 2,100 per share.

The company will also make an open offer to acquire an additional 26 per cent stake in APL Apollo at Rs 2,301.40 per share. The proposed open offer involves an estimated consideration of Rs 16,756 crore. The strategic arrangement is intended to strengthen Tata Steel's position in the downstream steel products segment, particularly steel tubes, pipes and colour-coated products. Under the broader restructuring arrangement, Tata Steel will transfer its steel tubes and pipes business and its entire stake in Tata Steel Colors to APL Apollo for approximately Rs 28,000 crore. The combined business aims to increase its annual production capacity from the present 2.5 million tonnes to 7.5 million tonnes initially.

NSE adviser Shailesh Pathak resigns for MP Corridor role

Agencies

NSE adviser Shailesh Pathak resigns to take up Madhya Pradesh govt assignment.



HIGHLIGHT

- Shailesh Pathak will leave NSE on November 30 after serving about 15 months.

MUMBAI: Shailesh Pathak will step down as senior adviser for policy advocacy at the National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) on November 30, following his appointment to a senior position in Madhya Pradesh's industrial development initiative.

In a filing to the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) on November 21, NSE said Pathak would leave the organisation at the close of business on November 30. In his resignation letter addressed to NSE Managing Director and CEO Ashish Kumar Chauhan, Pathak said the Madhya Pradesh government had offered him the position of executive vice-chairman of the newly formed Jabalpur-Bhopal-Indore Industrial Corridor company. The company is headquartered in Bhopal and is chaired by the state's Chief Minister. Pathak said the state government had asked him to take charge from December 1.

| POVERTY ELIMINATION |

FM calls for wider financial access to eliminate poverty

Press Trust Of India

FM links financial inclusion and digital access with lasting poverty reduction.

NEW DELHI: Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday stressed the need for wider access to finance, markets and the digital economy to eliminate poverty and ensure that families emerging from deprivation do not fall back into difficult economic circumstances.

In a statement highlighting India's progress in poverty reduction, Sitharaman referred to a World Bank report which indicated that nearly 50 crore Indians had moved out of poverty between 2011 and 2023.

She said the government's approach had focused on targeted interventions, measurable outcomes and welfare schemes designed to address the specific needs of vulnerable households.

The minister observed that poverty could not be measured merely through income or wages. A family without secure housing, safe drinking water, sanitation and healthcare continued to remain economically vulnerable. She pointed out that a medical emergency could exhaust household savings and push families back into poverty.

Sitharaman said government initiatives such as the Jal Jeevan Mission, Ayushman Bharat, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, Ujjwala Yojana and Swachh Bharat Mission had helped reduce household expenditure and improve living conditions. These programmes, she said, provided protection against economic shocks while enabling families to devote more resources to education, employment and livelihoods. She also highlighted the contribution of financial inclusion schemes in creating economic opportunities.



HIGHLIGHT

- MUDRA, PM SVANidhi and PM Vishwakarma cited as opportunities for vulnerable households.

Under the MUDRA programme, approximately 60 crore loan accounts have been sanctioned, with nearly two-thirds of the beneficiaries being women.

PHARMA EXPORTS

India's pharma exports expected to top USD 33 bn in FY27: Pharmexcil DG

NEW DELHI: Exports of pharmaceutical products from India are growing at 5-6 per cent currently and could reach USD 32-33 billion in the ongoing financial year, a senior official said on Monday. Speaking to the media on the sidelines of CPHI India 2026, Pharmexcil Director General K Raja Bhanu said, "Pharma exports from India have crossed USD 30 billion, and we are growing about 5-6 per cent... looking at that, we may reach about USD 32-33 billion this financial year."

He admitted that pharma exports to the US saw a dip, but pointed out that India has been exploring new markets and "we are fairly hitting it up in Latin America, Africa, and ASEAN nations".

This year saw multiple supply chain disruptions arising out of geopolitical conflicts, but the country has been able to negate the adverse impact through supply chain diversification. "We were able to overcome that by importing from some other countries," he said. The Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council of India (Pharexcil) is the apex government agency for the promotion of pharmaceutical exports.

Sharing some key statistics, Informa Markets Managing Director Yogesh Mudras said India's pharmaceutical industry continues to demonstrate strong manufacturing momentum, with annual turnover reaching Rs 5.08 lakh crore in FY26, registering an average growth of 9.2 per cent over the preceding five years. Alongside this, domestic manufacturing of medical devices expanded approximately 48.2 per cent, increasing from Rs 28,000 crore in FY20 to Rs 41,500 crore in FY25.



"The next phase of growth will depend on moving towards high-value segments such as advanced biologics, specialised therapies and complex formulations, supported by investments in advanced manufacturing infrastructure and technology.

Through this event, we aim to support innovation and strengthen India's position in the global pharmaceutical ecosystem," he said.

| PM SWANIDHI |

BoB tops loan disbursement under PM SVANidhi

Press Trust Of India



MUMBAI: Bank of Baroda has received the SVANidhi Samman Award 2026 for securing the first position among public and private sector banks in loan disbursement under the Pradhan Mantri Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) Scheme.

The award recognises the bank's contribution towards providing formal banking services and accessible credit facilities to street vendors across the country. The award was presented by Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs Manohar Lal at a ceremony held in New Delhi on November 20. Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs Tokhan Sahu, Ministry Secretary Satendra Singh and PM SVANidhi Mission Director Isha Kalia were present on the occasion. The award was received on behalf of Bank of Baroda by Raj Kumar Goel, General Manager, Government Schemes and Co-Lending; Rakesh Singh, Assistant General Manager, MSME Banking; and Newton Kumar, Chief Manager, MSME Banking.

Bank of Baroda Managing Director and CEO Debadatta Chand said the recognition reflected the bank's commitment to extending formal banking services to people at the grassroots level. He said street vendors played an important role in India's entrepreneurial ecosystem and timely access to affordable credit could help improve their livelihoods and expand their businesses.

Under the PM SVANidhi Scheme, the bank provides collateral-free working capital loans to street vendors.

Nation News

'BJP's countdown begins in Rajasthan'

Party leaders must build momentum into bigger electoral victories.

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The reverse countdown for the BJP in Rajasthan has started with the Congress' win in the panchayat polls, AICC general secretary Sachin Pilot said on Monday, asserting that the party leaders should now focus on building on this momentum to ensure that it translates it into a larger victory in the assembly and Lok Sabha polls. peaking with PTI, Pilot said the Congress' 'Team Rajasthan' is working together with everyone having different assignments and all senior leaders working in unison.

Asked about Congress veteran Ashok Gehlot's remarks that he can be chief minister again if the high command and party want it, Pilot said, "All I can say is that we are a very disciplined party and we are fighting for the larger issues in this country and in the state. Rahul Gandhi ji and Mallikarjun Kharge ji are fighting against vote chori, capture of institutions, joblessness facing young people, and agrarian distress." "We are looking to put the country back on track.



Cong leader Sachin Pilot.

What's more important for us is to focus on securing the mandate in upcoming elections in Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and of course when elections happen in Rajasthan." People of Rajasthan are waiting for that opportunity to return the Congress to power, he said.

"Who will occupy what position is far too early for people to ask and answer these questions because it is of no relevance right now. What is more important is how we can build on this momentum, keep sustaining this streak of victory to translate it into a larger victory in the assembly and Lok Sabha polls," Pilot told PTI. On the road ahead for the Congress in Rajasthan, Pilot said 'Team Rajasthan' is working together with everyone having received different assignments.

'State government has lost moral legitimacy'

"The Bhajan Lal government has to introspect; they have already lost the moral right to govern because this is an indication of the governance over the last three years where they have failed miserably on all fronts," he said.

The opposition Congress registered a sweeping victory over the ruling BJP in Rajasthan's Panchayat Samiti and Zila Parishad elections on Friday, securing a commanding lead less than a month before the Bhajanlal Sharma government's third anniversary.

HIGHLIGHT

- Congress outperformed BJP in most Zila Parishads.
- Ruling party said it accepts the people's mandate.

The Congress also outperformed the BJP in Zila Parishad elections across most districts, although the elected members will separately choose the heads of these rural bodies.

TMC questions Winter Session uncertainty

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Trinamool Congress on Monday questioned the uncertainty over Parliament's Winter Session, alleging that neither ruling BJP MPs nor Opposition parties had been kept informed about its schedule. The party's Rajya Sabha leader Derek O'Brien demanded a fixed parliamentary calendar to ensure at least 100 sitting days in a year. In a post on X, O'Brien questioned why the BJP was treating the Winter Session as an "optional engagement" and reiterated his demand for a fixed parliamentary calendar. "Why is a skittish BJP treating the Winter Session like an optional engagement?" O'Brien said.

Lung cancer cases

NEW DELHI: Around 83 cases of lung cancer were recorded every month across prominent government hospitals in the national capital in the last six and a half year period, with one patient succumbing to the disease every three days. This information was provided in response to an RTI query to AIIMS, RML Hospital, Safdarjung Hospital and the Delhi State Cancer Institute.

Under the Right to Information (RTI) Act, data regarding lung cancer cases and associated deaths between January 1, 2020, and July 31, 2026, were requested from the hospitals. Safdarjung Hospital only provided the number of lung cancer deaths but did not disclose the total number of cases. A request was also made for data on patients who had never smoked. However, none of the institutes provided any data on it.

New show

MUMBAI: Watch Gaurav Khanna and Shraddha Arya's new show Dil Ki Bewafaiyaan tonight at 9 PM on Star Plus and anytime today on JioHotstar. In Ektaa Kapoor's romantic family drama, Gaurav and Shraddha play Manav and Janaki, a husband and wife who want different things from the same marriage after 20 years together. Janaki sees the glass as 80 per cent full and finds happiness in the stability of the life they've built. Manav keeps thinking about the 20 per cent he feels is missing and wonders if there's still room for a little more excitement.

The show gives a midlife dilemma that rarely takes centre stage on Hindi television a gentle treatment. What happens when life has finally settled down and you find yourself thinking about all the things you still want to experience? At the launch, Farah Khan spoke about the pressures of the "sandwich generation," caring for ageing parents and raising children while trying to make time for yourself. She asked Gaurav if he recognised any of Manav's restlessness in his own life.

Aadhar Housing Finance Ltd.

Aadhar Housing Finance Ltd

Corporate office: office Nos. 501 & 503, 5th Floor, Lightbridge, Saki Vihar Road, Andheri East, Mumbai Suburban (Dist.), M.H. 400072

Bilaspur Branch: 1St Floor Krishna Sonchatra Compund Near Rnt Squire Tarbahar Road Bilaspur-495004,(CG).

DEMAND NOTICE

UNDER SECTION 13(2) of THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION of FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT of SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002 READ WITH RULE 3 (1) of THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002.

The undersigned is the Authorised officer of **Aadhar Housing Finance Ltd.(AHFL)** under Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (the said Act). In exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, the Authorised officer has issued Demand Notices under section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the following Borrower(s) (the "said Borrower(s)"), to repay the amounts mentioned in the respective Demand Notice(s) issued to them that are also given below. In connection with above, Notice is hereby given, once again, to the said Borrower(s)to pay to AHFL, within **60 days** from the publication of this Notice, the amounts indicated herein below, together with further interest as detailed in the said Demand Notice(s), from the date(s) mentioned below till the date of payment and/or realization, payable under the loan agreement read with other documents/writings, if any, executed by the said Borrower(s). As security for due repayment of the loan, the following assets have been mortgaged to AHFL by the said Borrower(s) respectively.

S. No.	Name of the Borrower / Co-Borrower & Guarantor	Demand Notice Date & Amount	Description of secured assets (immovable property)
1	(Loan Code No. 01010000097/ Bilaspur Branch) Amit Kumar Sahu (Borrower) Avinash Sahuu (Co-Borrower) Shiv Shankar Sahu (Guarantor)	09-11-2026 & ₹ 14,85,270/-	All that piece and parcel of the property bearing, Mouja Gram Godhna Khasra No 3313/3 , Phn 20, Ric Shivrinarayan Tehsil Shivrinarayn Distt Janjgir - Champa (C.G.) 495556 **Boundaries** : East: Road, West:Land Of Vinay Kumar Sahu, North: Land Of Shyam Lal & Nathan Shrivas, South: Gorvment Canal
2	(Loan Code No. 01010000319 & 01010000522 / Bilaspur Branch) Rajesh Prasad Gupta (Borrower) Poonam Gupta (Co-Borrower)	09-11-2026 & ₹ 15,76,287/-	All that piece and parcel of the property bearing, Mouja Chilhati Shrre Ram Puram Colony Plot No -034, Bhuknahnd Krmank - 1/45, Khasra No. 237/46239/37, P.H.N. 19/29 Ric Bilaspur Vikaskhand Bilha, Tehsil & Distt Bilaspur C.G. 495551 **Boundaries** : East: House Of Muslman, West: Road, North:Road, South: Other'S Land
3	(Loan Code No. 01010000497 & 01010000519 / Bilaspur Branch) Arvind Rajput (Borrower) Lalita Rajput (Co-Borrower)	09-11-2026 & ₹ 19,72,264/-	All that piece and parcel of the property bearing, Mouja Mangla Phn 21/25/35 Ric Sarkanda Sit No. 13 Plot No 05 Khasra 122/3 (Part), Vikaskhand (Block) Bilha, Tehsil & District Bilasapur Chhattisgarh 495001 **Boundaries** : East: Land Of Yadav, West: Road, North: Land Proposed To Be Purchchased By Pankaj Das, South: Land Of Sahu

If the said Borrowers shall fo AHFL as aforesaid, AHFL shall proceed against the above secured assets under Section 13(4) of the Act and the applicable Rules, entirely at the risks of the said Borrowers as to the costs and consequences. The said Borrowers are prohibited under the Act from transferring the aforesaid assets, whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise without the prior written consent of AHFL. Any person who contravenes or abets contravention of the provisions of the said Act or Rules made there under, shall be liable for imprisonment and/or penalty as provided under the Act.

Place : Chattisgarh
Date : 24.11.2026

Sd/- Authorised officer
For : Aadhar Housing Finance Limited

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that property situated at Village Baikunthpur, Tahsil & District Raigarh (C.G.), bearing Khasra No. 66/1/16, 69/1/16, 74/1/19, 75/1/16, Area 1600 Sq. Ft., presently recorded in the name of Harsh Singhaniya S/o Rajesh Singhaniya, has been agreed to be sold by him to Purvendra Patel w/o Gaurishankar Patel.

The proposed purchaser Purnendu Patel has applied to IDFC First Bank Ltd., Branch Raigarh for loan by mortgaging the said property. The prior Registered Sale Deed dated 21/06/2011, Document No. 1084, Book No. Adi-1/5071, Page 39 to 45, SRO Raigarh, executed by Kartar Singh, Jasraj Singh & Manjit Singh in favour of R.D.A. Project Pvt. Ltd., Jora, Raipur through its Director Sunil Kumar Agrawal, has been lost and is not traceable despite search. Report has been lodged with concerned Police Station.

I, Sanjay Kumar Panda, Advocate, Raigarh, being duly authorized on behalf of IDFC First Bank Ltd. Branch Raigarh, If any person / firm /institution / bank has any objection, claim or demand regarding the said property / transaction, he shall file written objection with documents at my office within 15 days from publication of this notice. Objection after the said period shall be treated as illegal, void and not binding on my client, and equitable mortgage shall be created in favour of the Bank.

Sanjay Kumar Panda
Advocate Mo.9826604858
Office/Residence Garhumaria
District Raigarh (Chhattisgarh)

सेन्ट्रल बैंक ऑफ़ इंडिया Central Bank of India — **BRANCH: RAMANUJNAGAR, DIST: SURAJPUR (C.G.)**

POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Properties)

[Under Rule-8(1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002]

Whereas

The undersigned being the authorized officer of the Central Bank of India, under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice as below mentioned date calling upon the borrower/s to repay the amount mentioned in the notice with Interest and expenses thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules on the date mentioned below. The borrower, guarantor/s in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Central Bank of India for the due amount as mentioned below with subsequent interest and expenses there on.

The borrower's/guarantors attention is invited to provisions of sub-section 8 of section 13 of the act, in respect of time available redeem the secured assets.

S. N.	Name of Borrower/ Guarantor & Address	Description of the Immovable property	Demand Notice Date/Amount
1.	**Borrower- Mr. Ramprakash Sahu and Mr. Shyamlal Sahu**, Both resident of Vill.- Kaushalpur,, Post- Ramanujnagar, Dist- Surajpur, PIN- 497333 (C.G.)	**1)** Land and Building constructed thereon on plot bearing Khasra no. **1108** admeasuring **0.08** hectare situated at Village- Kaushalpur, PHN-20, RNM- Ramanujnagar, Tehsil- Ramanujnagar, District- Surajpur, PIN- 497333, Chhattisgarh in the name of **Mr. Shyam Lal Sahu with following boundaries- North-** Plot of Kanhaiya Lal Sahu, **South-** Plot of Banarsi Sahu, **East-** Plot of Lakeshwar Sahu, **West-** Road. **2)** All that piece & parcel including land, building, super structure, common pathways and secured asset of the Bank located at land bearing Khasra No. **1071** area **0.010** hectare and Khasra no. **1073** area **0.020** hectare situated at Village- Kaushalpur, PHN- 20, RNM- Ramanujnagar, Tehsil- Ramanujnagar, District- Surajpur, PIN- 497333, Chhattisgarh in the name of **Mr. Shyam Lal Sahu** with following boundaries as per registered mortgage deed- **North-** Owner's Plot, **South-** Surajpur road, **East-** Gali, **West-** Plot of Shri Harkesh Sahu.	**14/09/2026** ₹ **18,20,470.30** Plus interest and other charges **Date of Posse.** **20/11/2026**

Date: 23.11.2026, Place: Ramanujnagar (C.G.) — **Authorised officer / CENTRAL BANK OF INDIA**

pnb PUNJAB NATIONAL BANK — Asset Recovery Management Branch, Bilaspur (C.G.)

E-AUCTION ON 10.12.26 & 18.12.26

Time: 11.00 am to 4.00 pm

Sale of Immovable Property/ies Mortgaged to Bank Under SARFAESI Act, 2002 (Act 54 of 2002)

APPENDIX-IV-A [See proviso to rule 8(6)]

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

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive/physical/ symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Bank/ Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on the date as mentioned in the table herein below, for recovery of its dues due to the Bank/ Secured Creditor from the respective borrower (s) and guarantor (s). The reserve price and the earnest money deposit will be as mentioned in the table below against the respective properties.

SCHEDULE OF THE SECURED ASSETS

SL No.	"Name of the Account, Name of Borrower/ Guarantors A/c,Name of Bank Branch"	"Description of the Immovable Properties Mortgaged/ Owner's Name (mortgagers of property(ies)"	Date of Demand Notice U/s13(2) of SARFAESI ACT-2002/ Outstanding Amount as on + Intertest w.e.f Nature of Possession/Date as per SARFAESI Act, 2002	Reserve Price (Rs. In Lakh) EMD (Rs. In Lakh) Bid Increase Amount (Rs. In Lakh)
For Serial No. 01 to 02 : E-Auction Date- 10/12/2026 & Time- 11.00 am to 4.00 pm				
1	**Borrower- Sh. Rajesh Kumar Gupta** S/o Sh. Choudhari Prasad Gupta, **Co-Borrower/ Mortgagor - Sh. Choudhari Prasad Gupta** S/o Sh. Sunder Lal Gupta.**Branch Office- ARMB, Bilaspur (820700)**	**Residential Land & Building** at Khasra No. 6/2, Village Manja, Post - Sarbhokha, RNM & Tehsil- Ramanujnagar, Kudeli Road, Distt. - Surajpur, (C.G.), **Area- 0.37 Hect** Owner- Sh. Choudhari Prasad Gupta, Bounded by: North - Land of Subai, South - Plot of Arvind Sinha & Kaccha Road, East - Land of Syambar, West - Land of Sirdar Chamar.	1) **13-06-2024** 2) **Rs 66,81,743.13/-** as on 31-05-2024 + intt. thereon 3) **Symbolic as on 09-09-24**	**Rs. 28.77 Lakh** **Rs. 2.88 Lakh** **Rs. 0.10 Lakh**
2	**Borrower - M/s Chhattisgarh Saree Sales, Prop.- Sh. Trilochan Singh Hora** S/o Har Dayal Hora, **Guarantor / Mortgagor - Smt. Parmeet Kaur Hora** W/o Sh. Trilochan Singh Hora. **Branch- ARMB, Bilaspur (820700)**	**All that part & parcel of Shop No. FF 61,** First Floor, City Center Mall, Power House Road, Korba, Tehsil & Distt- Korba (C.G.) Pin- 495678, Builtup Area - 431.20 Sqft. with **Super Builtup Area - 560.56 Sqft.** Owner -Smt. Parmeet Kaur Hora. Boundaries :- North- Corridor, South – Shop No. FF-64, East - Shop No. FF-60, West- Shop No. FF-62.	1) **23.09.2022** 2) **Rs. 27,94,325.00/-** as on **31.08.2022**+ intt. thereon 3) **Symbolic as on 19.01.2023**	**Rs. 28.22 Lakh** **Rs. 2.82 Lakh** **Rs. 0.10 Lakh**
For Serial No. 03 to 05 : E-Auction Date- 18/12/2026 & Time- 11.00 am to 4.00 pm				
3	**Borrower- M/s Garg Metals, Proprietor: Anjani Kumar Agrawal, Branch Office- ARMB, Bilaspur (820700)**	EM Of Commercial Diverted Land Situated at Kh. no. 72/3, **Area 0.182 Hect. or 19838 Sq.ft.** at **Vill- Gerwani,** PH. No. 27, Tehsil & District : Raigarh (C.G.) Pin- 496001. Owner- M/s Garg Metals, Proprietor: Anjani Kumar Agrawal,	1) **03-08-2023** 2) **Rs 65,59,569.92/-** as on 01-08-2023 + intt. thereon 3) **Symbolic as on 25-01-24**	**Rs. 45.37 Lakh** **Rs. 4.53 Lakh** **Rs. 0.20 Lakh**
4	**Borrower: Mr. Sabir Ali** S/o Mohammad Rais Ali. **Branch- ARMB, Bilaspur (820700)**	**Shop No. S/216 & S/217,** PH.NO.23, 2nd Floor Ward No.1,Area 1006 sq.ft. Ela Mall Shopping Complex,at Bypass road, Baikunthpur, Raigarh (C.G.) Pin: 496001, Owner- Mr. Sabir Ali S/o Mohammad Rais Ali. Boundaries: North-Open to sky, South-Lobby, East- Open to sky, West- Shop No.S/215. Geography Cordinates- 21.909750, 83.380361.	1) **16.06.2021** 2) **Rs. 32,36,646.92/-** as on **31.03.2021**+ intt. thereon 3) **Symbolic as on 15.11.2021**	**Rs. 10.59 Lakh** **Rs. 1.06 Lakh** **Rs. 0.10 Lakh**
5	**Borrowers:- Shri Chandan Singh Sahu** S/o Shri Bhoj Raj (Through Legal Heirs), **Shri Devendra Sahu** S/o Shri Chandan Singh Sahu, **Guarantors:- Shri Gokul Prasad** S/o Shri Bhoj Raj & **Shri Prem Lal** S/o Shri Jugal Lal, **B.O.- ARMB, Bilaspur (820700)**	**Land and Building** on Kh No. 471/3 (Part of Kh no. 471/1) located at **Village- Sondka,** PH No. 17, Tahsil- Kharsia, District- Raigarh, **Area- 0.028 Hectare,** Owner/Mortgagor- Shri Chandan Singh & Gokul Prasad S/o Bhoj Raj. Boundaries as per deed: North:- Plot of Markandey, South:- Plot of Chamra, East:-Plot of Markandey, West :- Plot of Samaro Das Mahant.	1) **10-08-2018** 2) **Rs 23,81,333.36/-** as on 30-04-2018 + intt. thereon 3) **Physical as on 06-07-19**	**Rs. 11.04 Lakh** **Rs. 1.10 Lakh** **Rs. 0.10 Lakh**

Date and Time of Earnest Money Deposit: For Serial No. 01 to 02 - 09.12.2026 Upto 11:59 PM & For Serial No. 03 to 05 - 17.12.2026 Upto 11:59 PM

For any queries Contact: ARMB, Bilaspur:- Tel. No. - 07752-310118 & Authorised Officer - 7976331048

NOTES: 1) Please ensure scrutiny of documents of the related property before depositing the EMD.
2) All Government pending dues (property, water, electricity etc.) related to all above IPs from all related Govt. offices shall be borne by the purchaser.

Important Note : 1. The auction sale will be "online through e-auction" portal **https://baanknet.com**, 2. The intending Bidders / Purchasers are requested to register on portal **(https://baanknet.com)** using their mobile number and email-id. Further, they are requested to upload requisite KYC documents. Once the KYC documents are verified by e-auction service provider (may take 2 working days), the intending Bidders/ Purchasers has to transfer the EMD amount using online mode in his Global EMD Wallet by before the **For Serial No. 01 to 02 - Date 09.12.2026 & For Serial No. 03 to 05 - Date 17.12.2026** and time 11.59 PM in the portal.The registration, verification of KYC documents and transfer of EMD in wallet must be completed well in advance, before auction date. TERMS AND CONDITIONS: The sale shall be subject to the Terms & Conditions prescribed in the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 and to the following further conditions: 1. The properties are being sold on **"AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS BASIS"** 2. The particulars of Secured Assets specified in the Schedule herein above have been stated to the best of the information of the Authorised Officer, but the Authorised Officer shall not be answerable for any error, misstatement or omission in this proclamation. 3. The Sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the Website **https://baanknet.com** on **For Serial No. 01 to 02- E-Auction Date 10/12/2026 & For Serial No. 03 to 05- E-Auction Date 18/12/2026** For detailed term and conditions of the sale, please refer **https://baanknet.com & www.pnbindia.in**

Note:- Interested Bidders need to create their user id and password by own and it will take minimum time of 2 days therefore it is requested to the bidder to kindly create his/her user id before the last date.

Date: 24.11.2026, Place: Bilaspur — **Authorized Officer, Punjab National Bank, Secured Creditor**

NAME CHANGE

It is informed to the General Public that I MAYANK JAIN SIO Hemant Lal Jain Resident of House No 208 Sanmati vihar maharishi school Road mangla Dist. Bilaspur (C.G.) Pin 495001 have changed my old Name mayank Jain S/o Hemant Lel Jain so in future I should be recognized by my New Name that is mayank kumar Jain S/o Shri Hemant Lal Jain in all Government and other Documents.

MAYANK Kumar Jain
House N0. 208 Sanmati vihar maharishi school Road mangla
Dist. Bilaspur (CG)
PIN-495001

MANAPPURAM FINANCE LTD.

CIN: L65910KL1992PLC006623,
Registered Office : IV - 4/ 638A, Manappuram House, P.O. Valapad, Thrissur - 680 567, Kerala, India

GOLD AUCTION NOTICE

The pledges, in specific and the public, in general, are hereby notified that public auction of the gold ornaments pledged in the below accounts is proposed to be conducted at the following branches on 16/12/2026 from 10.00 am onwards. We are auctioning gold ornaments defaulted customers who have failed to make payment of his/her loan amount despite being notified by registered letters. Unauctioned items shall be auctioned on any other days without further notice. Changes in venue or date (if any)will be displayed at auction centre and on website without any further notice.

List of pledges:-

BILASPPUR, BUS STAND,BILASPUR, 0117040700027456, 7461, 7463, 8479, 8541, 8665, 8752, 8816, 8824, 8847, 8850, 8853, 8858, 8875, 8890, 8902, 8930, 0117040730051874, 1936, 2054, 2205, 2266, 2525, 2602, 2741, 2742, 7355, 7872, 8072, 8102, 8134, 8211, 8217, 8275, 8284, 8285, LINK ROAD, BILASPUR, 0131560700019245, 9280, 9329, 9360, 9364, 9372, 9379, 9380, 9391, 9405, 9413, 0131560730024297, 4981, 5092, 5107, 8955, 9074, 9182, 9231, 9399, 9407, 9429, 9437, 9457, 9475, 9476, 9488, 9545, 9564, 9568, 9589, 9685, 0131560750000219, MAHARANA PRATAP CHOWK, 0124630700023035, 3036, 3056, 3092, 3096, 3111, 3136, 3150, 3151, 3178, 3186, 3201, 4104, 4168, 4226, 4271, 4279, 4299, 4550, 4553, 4556, 4564, 4569, 4573, 4584, 4592, 4596, 4600, 4601, 4602, 4609, 4616, 4630, 4641, 4644, 4655, 4658, 4679, 4701, 4704, 0124630730027523, 8348, 8349, 0124630730033551, 3552, 3627, 3704, 3911, 4254, 4289, 4292, 4302, 4339, 4373, 4375, 4411, 4417, MANGALA CHOWK,BILASPUR, 0122000700028388, 8639, 8665, 8690, 8696, 8707, 8718, 8729, 8745, 8749, 8767, 8770, 8801, 8804, 9909, 9970, 9989, 0122000700030020, 0050, 0186, 0244, 0256, 0263, 0302, 0321, 0427, 0441, 0442, 0454, 0457, 0476, 0482, 0504, 0508, 0524, 0542, 0558, 0561, 0563, 0588, 0598, 0604, 0609, 0618, 0621, 0625, 0644, 0647, 0122000730042258, 2637, 2955, 3001, 3119, 3120, 3121, 3137, 3147, 3398, 3546, 3660, 3665, 9794, 9922, 0122000730050040, 0412, 0468, 0492, 0507, 0516, 0535, 0649, 0673, 0705, 0799, 0855, 0857, 0866, 0895, 0933, 1002, 1041, 1067, SADAR BAZAR,BILASPUR, 0129660700021087, 2320, 2325, 2441, 2469, 2470, 2510, 2511, 2519, 2526, 0129660730023148, 3214, 3683, 3684, 3840, 3891, 8297, 8748, 8755, 8790, 8841, 8898, 8922, SARKANDA,BILASPUR, 0121440700026233, 6283, 6313, 6315, 6347, 6348, 6384, 6386, 7207, 7225, 7235, 7255, 7299, 7326, 7608, 7625, 7671, 7677, 7700, 7720, 0121440730037756, 0121440730043726, 3898, 4450, 4453, 4476, 4505, 4507, 4508, 4512, 4523, 4566, 4580, 4610, 4659, 0121440750000188, VYAPAR VIHAR, 0115450700022595, 2599, 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8681, 8707, 8713, 8716, 8720, 8746, 9552, 9640, 9757, 9894, 9922, 9950, 9962, 9975, 9981, 9984, 0131960700020001, 0041, 0049, 0051, 0058, 0060, 0080, 0088, 0094, 0105, 0140, 0131960730023944, 3978, 3989, 4424, 4520, 4656, 4928, 4959, 4960, 8470, 8486, 8487, 8488, 8588, 8732, 8824, 8906, 8975, 8987, 9076, 9084, 9085, 9102, 9105, 9112, 9124, 9169, 9175, 9229, 9245,

Persons wishing to participate in the above auction shall comply with the following:- Interested Bidders should submit Rs. 10,000/- as EMD (refundable to unsuccessful bidders) by way of NEFT/RTGS on the same day of auction. Bidders should carry valid ID card/PAN card. For more details please contact 9072607147.

Authorised Officer
For Manappuram Finance Ltd

Central Chronicle

Since 1974 Volume 14 No. 235

Comment

QUOTE FROM THE QUOTABLE

"The distinction of castes, introducing innumerable divisions and sub-divisions among them, has entirely deprived them of patriotic feeling..."

[Raja Ram Mohan Roy]

| OUR VIEW |

India's Rising Power Demands Greater Global Influence

India's emergence as Asia's second-most powerful country after China, excluding the United States, marks another significant milestone in its journey towards becoming a major global force. The Lowy Institute's 2026 Asia Power Index places India third overall, with 40.5 points, ahead of Japan's 38.6. This recognition reflects the country's expanding economic, military, diplomatic and cultural capabilities. However, the achievement must inspire greater responsibility rather than complacency. Despite impressive progress, India remains considerably behind the United States and China, which scored 78.9 and 73.6 points respectively. Bridging this enormous gap requires sustained economic transformation, technological advancement and stronger international partnerships. India's growing cultural influence and improving defence networks demonstrate its expanding regional presence. Defence exports, including BrahMos missile systems, reflect increasing confidence in indigenous military technology. Its demographic advantages and future economic potential provide additional opportunities to strengthen its strategic position. Nevertheless, the report exposes important weaknesses. India's economic capability registered a marginal decline, while its economic relationships and defence networks remain less developed than those of several regional competitors. More importantly, the country continues to struggle to convert its considerable resources into corresponding international influence. This gap demands serious policy attention. A large population, substantial military strength and expanding economy cannot independently guarantee geopolitical leadership. India must accelerate manufacturing growth, strengthen infrastructure, promote innovation and reduce dependence on critical foreign technologies. Equally important is cultivating stronger relations with neighbouring countries and emerging Asian economies. Trade partnerships, reliable connectivity, defence cooperation and development assistance can enhance India's influence more effectively than symbolic diplomatic achievements. Strategic autonomy must remain central to India's foreign policy. Cooperation with major powers should advance national interests without creating excessive dependence on any single country. Economic resilience, technological self-reliance and diplomatic credibility will ultimately determine India's international standing. The Lowy Institute's findings therefore represent both recognition and a reminder of unfinished responsibilities. India's challenge is no longer simply to accumulate economic and military resources, but to transform them into meaningful regional leadership. True national power lies not merely in impressive rankings, but in the ability to promote prosperity, maintain security, build international confidence and contribute responsibly to global stability.

| GUEST VIEW |

Automation Transforming Lives & Modern Workplaces

Automation has emerged as a powerful force transforming modern society. By using machines, computers and advanced technologies to perform tasks with minimal human intervention, it has revolutionised education, healthcare, banking, agriculture, transportation and industries worldwide. Everyday conveniences demonstrate automation's growing importance. ATMs simplify banking, online platforms process orders instantly, and household appliances reduce manual work. Hospitals use automated equipment for accurate diagnosis and patient monitoring, while farmers benefit from smart irrigation systems and advanced agricultural machinery. In 2026, artificial intelligence and robotics are accelerating this transformation. Intelligent machines analyse information, support decision-making and improve industrial productivity. Smart factories increasingly employ connected sensors and robotic systems, while Indian businesses embrace automation to strengthen efficiency and competitiveness. However, rapid technological advancement also raises concerns about employment, workforce adaptation and dependence on machines. Addressing these challenges requires continuous learning, technical training and responsible implementation. Automation should complement human abilities rather than replace them entirely. Machines excel at repetitive tasks, while people contribute creativity, judgement, empathy and innovation. Governments, industries and educational institutions must collaborate to prepare workers for emerging opportunities. Ultimately, responsible automation can create safer workplaces, improve productivity and promote inclusive development, ensuring technology serves humanity and strengthens society's collective future.



Dr. KK Vepakomma

After the Midterms: What a Democratic Congress Changes, and Does Not, for India-US Trade Deal

Democrats won control of both chambers of the US Congress in Tuesday's midterm elections, the Associated Press reported, in a vote it linked to high prices and the Iran war. For India, the question is whether that shifts a trade deal that US Secretary of State Marco Rubio called "very, very close" two weeks ago. The short answer is that the tariff India pays today does not depend on Congress, and the deal's remaining risks sit mostly with the White House.

The tariff India pays now: The February 6. 2022 US-India joint statement set a reciprocal tariff of 18 per cent for India. That rate rested on emergency powers, and on February 20, 2026, the US Supreme Court ruled that the administration lacked authority under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act to impose reciprocal tariffs. A temporary 10 per cent surcharge under Section 122 followed and expired on July 24, 2026, according to CNBC-TV18.

Since July 24, 2026, India has paid a 10 per cent duty under a Section 301 forced-labour action. The US Trade Representative's notice, published July 28, 2026, applied the duty to goods entered from 12:01 a.m. eastern time on July 24 and names India among the economies taxed at 10 per cent. Its exemptions include goods already subject to Section 232 tariffs. Some commentary still refers to an 18 per cent tariff. That is the February framework figure, and the notice shows 10 per cent as the rate set after the court ruling.

Why Congress matters less than it seems: The 10 per cent duty was imposed by the Trade Representative at the President's direction, and Section 232 tariffs are set by the President under powers Congress has delegated, according to the Congressional Research Service. Rewriting that would take a new law. The President can veto it, and Congress can override only with two-thirds of both chambers, under Article I, Section 7 of the Constitution. Experts quoted by the Economic Times differ. Biswajit Dhar expects more room for India to negotiate, while Bank of Baroda's Madan Sabnavis expects the deal's provisions to stay unchanged.



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Indian Institute of Management Raipur



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Indian Institute of Management Raipur



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Indian Institute of Management Raipur

The next tariff risk is already on the calendar. USTR opened a Section 301 excess-capacity investigation into 16 economies, including India, on March 11. According to EcoVadis, it has issued no findings, and a determination is due by March 11, 2027.

The oil lever has been waived, not removed: On September 18, 2026, the US enacted the Graham Act, which allowed tariffs of up to 100 per cent on the five largest buyers of Russian oil and gas, India among them. President Trump waived those measures on October 16 this year with no expiry date, days before they were due. S&P Global reported on October 23, 2026, that the waiver can be reversed, so refiners are treating it as a reprieve and not a settlement.

Indian refiners are already hedging. Kpler data cited by Business Standard show Russia's share of India's crude imports at about 35 per cent in October, down from a record 56 per cent in July, even as total imports ran near a record 5.6 million barrels a day.

Exporters have been moving early: India's exports to the US rose 11.11 per cent to $50.81 billion in April-September this year, the Financial Express reported on October 16, 2026. September shipments jumped 48 per cent to $8.02 billion. The paper attributed that to frontloading ahead of possible tariffs and noted a weak base from September 2025. Imports from the US climbed 26 per cent to $32.3 billion in the same half, according to the Economic Times. Washington wants energy and defence purchases to help reach a $500 billion bilateral trade target by 2030, a point Mr Rubio pressed in Mumbai on October 21, 2026.

What to watch: Three things matter in the coming weeks: whether the interim agreement is signed, whether the Graham Act waiver holds, and whether the new Congress moves on tariff oversight once it is seated on January 3, 2027. Until then, India's position is steadier than in the summer but not secure, because the main tariff decisions still sit with the executive. This is an assessment based on the figures above, not an official projection.

China's Unease with India's Rise

India's growing economic and military strength challenges China's regional dominance, demanding strategic vigilance, economic self-reliance, stronger defence capabilities and balanced diplomacy amid shifting geopolitical realities.



Dr.Kolahalam RamKishore
Associate Professor
(Retired)



India's growing economic and military prowess is reshaping the geopolitical landscape, particularly in Asia, where the contest for regional influence is becoming increasingly pronounced. For China, which seeks to preserve its pre-eminent position in the region, India's emergence as a formidable power is an unwelcome development. A report by the US-China Economic and Security Review Commission, submitted to the US Congress, observes that Beijing views India not merely as a neighbouring country but as a potential challenger to its regional dominance. The findings have brought renewed attention to China's strategic calculations towards India and the evolving security environment in South Asia. These developments, however, must be examined not simply through the prism of bilateral tensions but against the wider backdrop of global power rivalry.

One of the report's significant observations concerns China's military and technological assistance to Pakistan during Operation Sindoor, launched by India in May 2025. Although China did not directly participate in the military confrontation, the report highlights its support in strengthening Pakistan's military capabilities. Beijing's willingness to bolster Islamabad during its military tensions with New Delhi reinforces the perception that it seeks to safeguard its strategic interests by keeping India under pressure. Its supply of weapons, military equipment and advanced technology to Pakistan cannot, therefore, be viewed merely as a commercial enterprise; it also serves a larger geopolitical purpose of constraining India's strategic space.

The unresolved boundary dispute remains another major source of concern. Although India and China reached an understanding in October 2024 to reduce tensions along the Line of Actual Control (LAC), normalcy has yet to be fully restored. China's continuing construction of military installations, roads and other infrastructure in border areas poses a persistent challenge to India's security. Its repeated claims over Arunachal Pradesh further expose its reluctance to respect India's territorial sovereignty. While Beijing speaks of peace and cooperation at diplomatic forums, its continued military infrastructure expansion on the ground reveals a troubling contradiction between its rhetoric and actions.

China's expanding naval presence in the Indian Ocean is equally significant. Its ambition to secure influence over vital maritime routes, which carry a substantial share of global trade, could have serious implications for India's maritime security. Beijing's close strategic partnership with Pakistan, its involvement in developing regional ports and its growing naval activities underline the need for New Delhi to continually reassess and strengthen its maritime defence capabilities.

India's economic advancement is another factor contributing to China's unease. India's growing attractiveness to international investors, expanding manufacturing base and progress in technology and indigenous defence production have the potential to alter Asia's existing balance of power. The deepening defence and technological partnership between India and the United States is an additional source of concern for Beijing. More worrying, however, is China's ability to exploit India's continuing dependence on its industrial supply chains. Excessive reliance on Chinese imports for critical components, electronics and rare earth minerals exposes vulnerabilities that could undermine India's economic and strategic security.

Nevertheless, the US commission's assessment should not be accepted uncritically as an entirely dispassionate evaluation of regional security. Countering China's influence in Asia remains a central objective of American foreign policy. Strengthening strategic ties with India consequently serves Washington's own geopolitical interests. India must, therefore, examine the report's warnings carefully and formulate its responses strictly in accordance with its national interests.

Depending excessively on American support to counter China would be as unwise as disregarding the strategic challenges posed by Beijing. India must accelerate indigenous defence production, strengthen border infrastructure and reduce dependence on external suppliers in critical industrial sectors. Simultaneously, diplomatic engagement with China must remain open, while relations with neighbouring countries need to be nurtured through mutual trust and cooperation. National security is not merely a question of military hardware; it also rests on economic resilience, technological self-reliance and diplomatic maturity. The most convincing response to China's apprehensions about India's rise will not come through rhetoric or reliance on American patronage, but through the creation of a strong, self-reliant and economically vibrant India, firmly anchored in democratic values.

YOURLETTERS

Child marriage demands action beyond promises

Child marriage remains a disturbing reality in Karnataka despite government awards and awareness campaigns. Reports indicate that over 31 per cent of young women were married before eighteen, while nearly 2,000 cases reportedly remain pending in courts. Such figures expose serious failures in prevention and enforcement. Poverty, school dropouts and social pressures continue to threaten girls' futures. Authorities must prioritise education, strengthen monitoring, ensure speedy justice and punish offenders instead of celebrating publicity-driven achievements that fail to protect vulnerable children.

Dr. Vijaykumar H K, Raichur

Guru Nanak's teachings inspire universal brotherhood

Guru Nanak Sahib preached that God resides in every creation and true devotion emerges through love and compassion. Inspired by his teachings, Sikhs have consistently demonstrated selfless service beyond religious boundaries. Their assistance to Muslims affected by the 2019 Christchurch attacks, displaced Rohingyas in Bangladesh and Muslims seeking prayer space in Gurugram reflects remarkable humanity. Such gestures uphold equality, tolerance and universal brotherhood. By serving people regardless of faith, the Sikh community beautifully demonstrates the spiritual essence of Guru Nanak's timeless teachings.

K. Chatterjee, Kolkata

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



"The Centre will discuss its plans with Darjeeling tea planters and announce the decisions soon."

Piyush Goyal,
Union Commerce & Industry Minister

'Rohtas Forts bridging civilizations from Bihar to Pak'

Two Rohtas forts are bridging the ancient civilizations of India and Pakistan.

Press Trust Of India



NEW DELHI: The historic Rohtas Fort in Pakistan's Punjab province and Rohtasgarh Fort in Bihar offer a remarkable glimpse into the shared history and civilisational heritage of India and Pakistan, a legacy that predates the Partition of 1947.

Built in the 16th century by Afghan ruler Sher Shah Suri, the Rohtas Fort in present-day Jhelum district of Pakistan is an outstanding example of early Muslim military architecture in Central and South Asia. Spread across nearly 70 hectares, its massive fortifications feature 68 bastions and 12 monumental gateways. Recognising its historical and architectural significance, UNESCO declared it a World Heritage Site in 1997.

Its namesake, Rohtasgarh Fort, located in Bihar's Rohtas district, also bears the imprint of Sher Shah Suri, who strengthened the medieval fortress. Known for its strategic location and impressive military architecture, the sprawling complex houses gateways, palaces, temples and reservoirs, reflecting a blend of Indo-Afghan architectural traditions. Sher Shah's magnificent mausoleum at Sasaram, also in Bihar, further reinforces his enduring historical association with the region.

This shared heritage came into focus at the first Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Civilisational Dialogue Forum, hosted by India at Delhi's Purana Qila from November 20 to 22. The forum brought together scholars, academics and cultural representatives to explore the shared civilisational connections among SCO member countries. Addressing a thematic session on 'Civilisational and Cultural Expressions', Pakistan's Federal Minister Musadik Malik highlighted the layered history of Purana Qila, invoking Mughal Emperor Humayun and Sher Shah Suri, both associated with its construction. He described the monument as a meeting point of different historical identities and traditions, emphasising the importance of dialogue through culture.

The historical connections extend beyond the two Rohtas forts. Sher Shah's expansion of the imperial highway, later known as the Grand Trunk Road, and his administrative and revenue reforms created enduring links across present-day India, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh. Interestingly, both Rohtas Fort in Pakistan and Purana Qila in Delhi feature a Talaqi Darwaza and a baoli, or stepwell, reflecting architectural similarities. Amid continuing strains in India-Pakistan relations, the SCO forum offered an opportunity to foreground cultural connections that transcend contemporary political boundaries. As Union Culture Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat observed, shared cultural heritage remains a strong bridge connecting SCO nations.

The two Rohtas forts thus stand as enduring reminders of a common past and the potential of heritage diplomacy to foster understanding across borders.

HIGHLIGHT

- One fort is located in Pakistan's Punjab province while the other is Rohtasgarh Fort in India's Bihar.

Case registered against nine

BHADOHI: Nine people have been booked for allegedly harassing and attempting to disrobe a 22-year-old Dalit woman, and severely injuring her husband with an iron rod, police said on Monday. Following the woman's complaint to Superintendent of Police Abhinav Tyagi, a case was registered on Sunday under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and the SC/ST Act, Additional SP Shubham Agrawal confirmed.

The incident occurred around 10 pm on September 30 when five named and four unidentified men arrived at the couple's rented house in Badi Bagh to put up a banner. They allegedly showed the woman obscene videos, made inappropriate advances, hurled casteist slurs, and partially disrobed her before her landlord and neighbours intervened.

Later that night, the accused attacked her husband with an iron rod, leaving him unconscious, and injured her as well. The woman alleged police initially ignored her complaint and booked her husband instead. Circle Officer Sumit Tripathi has been directed to ensure prompt action.

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

India-Nepal Strengthen Ties through Rail Link

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi hails Ayodhya-Janakpur train service as India-Nepal milestone



LUCKNOW: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Monday welcomed the launch of a direct rail service between Ayodhya and Janakpur in Nepal, describing it as a significant milestone in strengthening the centuries-old spiritual, cultural and social ties between the two countries.

In a post on X ahead of the inauguration, Adityanath said Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Nepalese counterpart Balen Shah would jointly flag off the rail service connecting Ayodhya, associated with Lord Ram, and Janakpur, the birthplace of Goddess Sita. He said the modern rail connectivity would further strengthen the longstanding emotional and cultural relationship between India and Nepal.

Referring to the traditional 'roti-beti' relationship between the Awadh and Mithila regions, the chief minister said the initiative would add a new golden chapter to their shared spiritual, cultural and social heritage. Adityanath also confirmed that he would be present in Ayodhya to witness the historic occasion, which he described as an opportunity to relive the memories of the Treta Yuga.

He said the initiative reflected Prime Minister Modi's vision of combining heritage with development and his 'Neighbourhood First' policy.

According to the chief minister, the direct rail connection would make pilgrimages easier for crores of devotees from both countries while providing a major boost to religious tourism, cultural integration and regional economic prosperity. **PTI**

HC's Clearance to Demolish Janta Quarters

Demolition of 599 Janta Quarters begins in Bhopal following high court clearance



BHOPAL: Authorities on Monday began demolishing 599 of the 600 dilapidated Janta Quarters in the Aishbagh area of Bhopal, a day after the Madhya Pradesh High Court cleared the demolition drive while granting temporary relief to one resident. The 40-year-old residential colony, built by the Madhya Pradesh Housing Board, houses around 3,000 people. The buildings were declared dilapidated in 2016. During a special hearing on Sunday, the High Court refused to halt the demolition of the entire colony but granted an interim stay on the demolition of one house belonging to petitioner Mohammad Hafiz Khan until the next hearing on November 25.

Following the court's decision, teams from the district administration, police and municipal corporation began preparations by erecting barricades and closing access roads.

An official said four sub-divisional magistrates, 10 tehsildars and approximately 1,000 personnel from the police and municipal corporation had been deployed for the operation. Poclain machines and bulldozers are also being used. **PTI**

Sule promises push on murder probe

THANE: NCP (SP) MP Supriya Sule has assured the family of slain Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Pradeep Purnekar that she will write to Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and raise the murder case during the upcoming winter session of the state legislature to ensure a transparent investigation.

Speaking to reporters in Thane on Sunday, Sule said NCP (SP) MLA Jitendra Awhad had been requested to raise the issue in the legislature for a detailed discussion.

Purnekar, the Shiv Sena (UBT) Manpada ward chief, was shot and hacked to death with choppers by five assailants inside his office on September 29. Five accused have been arrested in connection with the murder.

Meanwhile, Thane police on Saturday secured court permission to take two arrested accused, Nitesh Pawar and Nikhil Yadav, into police custody for further interrogation.

| FINANCIAL IRREGULARITY |

Corruption allegations rock AITA as Gupta demands independent probe

Central Chronicle News

Serious financial irregularity allegations against tennis officials trigger demands for independent investigation.



Mr. Dinesh Arora



Sunder Iyer (Maharashtra)

NEW DELHI: Serious allegations of corruption, financial irregularities and nepotism have surfaced against All India Tennis Association (AITA) Secretary General Sunder Iyer and former Treasurer Dinesh Arora, prompting demands for an independent investigation and greater transparency in tennis administration.

Advocate Naresh Gupta has submitted complaints to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya and Maharashtra government authorities, seeking action against the officials.

According to the complaints, approximately Rs 80 lakh of AITA funds was allegedly misused for personal purposes. Arora also faces allegations concerning irregular financial transactions and questionable cheques. These claims remain unproven.

The controversy intensified following an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Punjab State Lawn Tennis Association in Amritsar on October 29, where Arora reportedly resigned as General Secretary. He subsequently resigned as Treasurer of AITA's Interim Executive Committee.

Meanwhile, Maharashtra authorities sealed portions of the Maharashtra State Lawn Tennis Association's Mumbai facility over alleged lease violations. The action concerned accommodation rooms and padel courts, while the association's office and tennis courts remained operational.

Gupta's complaint further alleges that event-management contracts worth more than Rs 2 crore were awarded to entities associated with Iyer's family, raising concerns about possible conflicts of interest.

Another allegation concerns a Maharashtra government grant of approximately Rs 2 crore, allegedly transferred to a private trust without adequate supporting documentation.

Gupta has separately approached Maharashtra's Anti-Corruption Bureau, demanding scrutiny of financial records, contracts and government grants.

FASTFACTS

- Advocate Naresh Gupta seeks investigation into alleged fund misuse and questionable contracts.
- Dinesh Arora's resignation and Maharashtra government action intensify scrutiny of tennis administration.

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

-:: ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना ::-

क्रमांक / 1318 / लो.क.नि. / 2026-27 दिनांक 20 / 11 / 2026

एतद्वारा पंजीयन प्रमाणी अहर्ता सहाय श्रेणी में पंजीकृत अनुभवी ठेकेदारों से 10.12.2026 शाम 5.30 बजे तक निम्नलिखित निर्माण कार्य हेतु दिनांक ऑनलाईन (Online) निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है :-

क.	कार्य का नाम	अनामत (लाख में)
1	वार्ड क्र. 02 राजीव नगर में साहू किराना से राहुल सोनकर के घर तक, दुर्गा मंच से सुनता विश्वास स्टोर, वाल्के के घर के पास, साहू भवन के पास, सोनी के घर पास, रूखमणी ठाकुर के घर के पास सी. सी. रोड निर्माण कार्य। (System No.204309)	12.66
2	वार्ड क्र. 06 ठेठवार चाल में इमली पेड़ से एन. टेलर से पटेल धोबिया तक नाली निर्माण कार्य। (System No.204303)	15.18
3	वार्ड क्र. 10 शंकर नगर में सरस्वती विद्यालय से मेन रोड अवधान इलेक्ट्रीकल तक सी.सी. रोड निर्माण कार्य। (System No.204309)	15.10
4	वार्ड क्र. 24 अमरी मंदिर वार्ड सनराईज स्कूल के पास एवं अन्य स्थानों में सी.सी. रोड निर्माण कार्य। (System No.204310)	12.76
5	वार्ड क्र. 28 गुरुद्वारा गली एवं अन्य स्थानों में सी.सी. रोड निर्माण कार्य। (System No.204311)	12.72
6	वार्ड क्र. 26 संतरा बाड़ी में कोटवानी के घर से अभंगा टॉकिज तक सी.सी. रोड निर्माण कार्य। (System No.204312)	12.76
7	वार्ड क्र. 33 तुलसी चौक से लाल इमली जड़ा तक एवं तुलसी चौक से शिवपाड़ा कंजारा वाली मंदिर तक सी.सी. रोड निर्माण कार्य। (System No.204313)	12.72
8	वार्ड क्र. 34 शिवपड़ा सरस्वती नगर के विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में नाली पुलिया निर्माण कार्य। (System No.204315)	12.71
9	वार्ड क्र. 35 नगरपालिका चौक से पचवटी मेडिकल पैलेस तक आर.सी.सी. नाला निर्माण कार्य। (System No.204317)	41.65
10	वार्ड क्र. 37 अजाद वार्ड में शिवमोहन के घर से लेकर प्यारे लाल हलवे के घर तक एवं अन्य गली, सिलवारा सी.सी. रोड निर्माण कार्य। (System No.204322)	11.46
11	वार्ड क्र. 29 शिवप्रसाद गार्डनगर से सीता पाकवाड़ा, मस्जी मैदान, शिवमंदिर, लू सिलवानगर में सी.सी. रोड निर्माण कार्य। (System No.204337)	12.60
12	वार्ड क्र. 42 जगदीशैया सिद्धिवारी के घर से जशोने निवास, राज जस्सल स्टोर्स गली, मोहन बाबा गली होते हुये कुंज के घर एवं अन्य स्थान सी.सी. रोड निर्माण कार्य। (System No.204340)	11.79

निविदा की विस्तृत जानकारी कार्यालय अथवा ई-टेंडरिंग पोर्टल http://eproc.cgstate.gov.in एवं विभागीय वेबसाइट www.uad.cg.gov.in से भी डाउनलोड की जा सकती है।

कार्यपालन अभियंता

कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता
लोक निर्माण विभाग, विधान सभा संभाग, रायपुर (छ.ग.)

निविदा संशोधन

इस कार्यालय द्वारा जारी निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना क्रमांक–03 / 2026–2027 / टी.सी. दिनांक 06 / 11 / 2026 में निम्नानुसार तिथी में संशोधन किया जाता है।

विवरण	पूर्व की तिथि	संशोधित तिथि
निविदा प्रपत्र क्रय करने हेतु आवेदन प्रस्तुत करने की अंतिम तिथि :	20 / 11 / 2026 अपरान्ह 5.30 बजे तक	25 / 11 / 2026
निविदा प्रपत्र प्रदाय करने की तिथि	23 / 11 / 2026 अपरान्ह 5.30 बजे तक	27 / 11 / 2026
ठेकेदारों द्वारा प्रस्तुत निविदायें प्राप्त कराने की अंतिम तिथि	26 / 11 / 2026 अपरान्ह 5.30 बजे तक	30 / 11 / 2026
निविदा खोलने की तिथि	27 / 11 / 2026 पूर्वान्ह 11.30 बजे तक	01 / 12 / 2026

निविदा में अन्य जानकारी यथावत रहेगी।

कार्यपालन अभियंता
लो.नि.वि. विधान सभा संभाग
रायपुर (छ.ग.)

G-262704630/1

बैंक ऑफ़ बड़ौदा Bank of Baroda

Regional Stressed Asset Recovery Branch, Durg:
Regional Office Bank of Baroda,First Floor,Sector-10
Bhilai, Dist.- Durg (C.G.)- 490006, Mob.07723024982
E-mail: sardur@bankofbaroda.bank.in

POSSESSION NOTICE

(As per Appendix IV read with rule 8(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002) Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Bank of Baroda under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act,2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice to the following borrowers / guarantors calling upon the Borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the respective notices within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The under mentioned Borrower / Guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers/Guarantors and the Public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub - section (4) of section 13 of the Act read with Rule 8 and under section 14 of the Act of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002 .

S. N.	Name of Borrower / Guarantor & Address	Description of Property	Demand Notice Date, Amount & Symbolic / Physical Possession Date
01	Mr. Nitesh Kumar Dua (Borrower) Mrs. Natasha Dua (Co-Borrower)	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of residential House bearing Khasra No.- 734/08, (Part of Khasra No.734) Plot No. E/117- A, Area - 1500 Sq. Ft. or 138.40 Sq. Mtr. Situated at Mouza - Surya Vihar, Junwani, Ward No. 01, Bhilai. Distt. Durg, C.G.- 490020 in the name of Shri Nitesh Kumar Dua and Smt. Natasha Dua. Bounded:On the North by:30 ft.Road, On the South by:Plot No.116-A On the East by: Land of Khasra No.734, On the West by:Plot No.117.	16.07.2026 Rs. 91,93,735.59 + interest + other charges 21.11.2026 Symbolic Possession

The Borrowers / Guarantors / Mortgagors in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the above mentioned property and any dealings with the property/ies will be subject to the charge of Bank of Baroda for above mentioned amount interest and other charges thereon.

The Borrower's attention is invited to provision of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Date: 24.11.2026, Place: Bhilai, Chhattisgarh

Authorised Officer,Bank of Baroda

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
CIVIL APPELLATE JURISDICTION
SPECIAL LEAVE PETITION (CIVIL) No. 13335 OF 2026
WITH PRAYER FOR INTERIM RELIEF

THE ORIENTAL INSURANCE CO. LTD. ---- Petitioner(s)
VERSUS
AHILYA SAHU AND OTHERS ---- Respondent(s)

To,

1 IQBAL SINGH, S/O LAKHA SINGH JAAT R/O VILLAGE GAADE, POLICE STATION GUMAAN, DISTRICT BATALA, GURDASPUR, PUNJAB
PID: 284912/2026 FOR R[7] IN SLP(C) NO: 13335/2026 (SEC IV-C)

PRESENT ADDRESS
TIRUPATI ROADLINES COMPANY, POLICE STATION TATIBANDH, DISTRICT RAIPUR, CHHATTISGARH

WHEREAS the Petition for Special Leave to Appeal with prayer for interim relief along with applications above mentioned(copy enclosed) filed in the Registry by MR. LOKESH KUMAR CHOUDHARY- 2704, Advocate on behalf of the Petitioner(s) above named was listed for hearing before this Court on 20th March, 2026, when the Court was pleased to pass the following order:-

"1. Delay condoned.
2. Learned counsel for the petitioner submits that the High Court has enhanced the amount of compensation from Rs. 11,95,200/- to Rs. 42,12,512/- based on the Income Tax Returns of the deceased for the assessment years 2013-2014 to 2015-2016,however, RTI query made with the Income Tax Department revealed that the deceased had not filed any Incom Tax Returns for the above said assessment years.
3. Issue notice.
4. Learned counsel for the petitioner submits that the amount awarded by the Motor Accident Claims Tribunal has already been paid to the claimants.
5. In the meanwhile, the operation of the award to the extent of enhanced compensation as awarded by the High Court shall remain stayed."

AND WHEREAS , the matter above - mentioned was listed before Ld. Registrar's Court on 13th October, 2026, When the following order was passed:-

" Counter affidavit on behalf of respondent nos. 1 to 4 and 6 has not been filed, despite the grant of last opportunity. Further opportunity to file counter affidavit will hereinafter stand declined.
Service is complete on respondent no. 8 but none has entered appearance.
Learned counsel for the petitioner has filed an application for substituted service by way of paper publication in respect of respondent no. 7. The same is hereby allowed.
Proof of publication be filed by the learned counsel for the petitioner on or before 27.10.2026.
Learned counsel for the petitioner has not taken appropriate steps with respect to deceased respondent no. 5, despite the grant of last opportunity.
List the matter before the Hon'ble Judge-in-Chambers for directions.
Copy of this Record of Proceedings be furnished to the concerned learned Advocate-on Record for information and compliance."

NOW, THEREFORE, TAKE NOTICE that the above petition with prayer for interim relief along with applications will be posted for hearing before this Court in due course and you may enter appearance before this Court either in person or through an advocate on record of this Court duly appointed by you in that behalf within 30 days from the date of publication of notice . You may thereafter show cause to the Court on the day that may subsequently be specified as to why Special Leave Petition and interim relief as prayed be not granted and the resultant appeal be not allowed.

Take Further Notice that the prayer for interim relief after notice will also be listed before the Court in due course.

You may file your affidavit in opposition to the petition as provided under Rule 14(1) of Order XXI. S.C.R.2013 within 30 days from the date of publication of notice or not later than 2 weeks before the date appointed for hearing, whichever be earlier, but shall do so only by setting out the grounds in opposition to the questions of law or grounds set out in the SLPs and may produce such pleadings and documents filed before the Court / Tribunal against whose order the SLP is filed and shall also set out the grounds for not granting interim order or for vacating interim order if already granted.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that if you fail to enter appearance as aforesaid , no further notice shall be given to you even after the grant of special leave for hearing of the resultant appeal and the matter above mentioned shall be disposed of in your absence.

Dated: 29th October, 2026 ASSISTANT REGISTRAR

"I still feel scared of auditions. No matter how confident I [feel] when I come on set for the shoot, auditions continue to paralyse me. There is a difference between [shooting] and having to audition."

Babil Khan



&Glitters

OTT Watch



Daayra makes strong Netflix debut

Meghna Gulzar's Daayra clocked 3.2 million views in its debut week on Netflix, entering the global Top 10 at No. 9. Trending in 14 countries, the film outperformed Cocktail 2, Dhamaal 4 and Pati Patni Aur Woh Do.



Drishyam 3 announces its OTT premiere

Ajay Devgn and Tabu's Drishyam: The Conclusion will premiere on Netflix on November 27, 2026. Directed by Abhishek Pathak, the crime thriller continues Vijay Salgaonkar's battle to protect his family from a reopened investigation.



Ravi teaches Akshay his viral hook step

Akshay Kumar and Ravi Kishan bring laughter and camaraderie to Koffee with Karan 9. In the promo, Akshay cheekily calls sex the best workout, while Ravi teaches him his viral hook step. The episode streams Wednesday on JioHotstar.



Abhishek reunites with Sudip Sharma

Abhishek Banerjee says he had been waiting for Sudip Sharma to approach him after their collaboration on Paatal Lok. He is happy to reunite with the filmmaker in Pushpak Vimaan, a crime-comedy series starring Barun Sobti and Jaideep Ahlawat.



Love and ambition face a new reality

Teen Tigada is streaming on ZEE5. Starring Prasanna Bisht and Danesh Razvi, this drama follows an aspiring cricketer and a musician whose promising careers face uncertainty after an unexpected pregnancy changes their relationship.

CLOSE UP

Chulbul will return but skeptical of Pawan Kumar - Salman

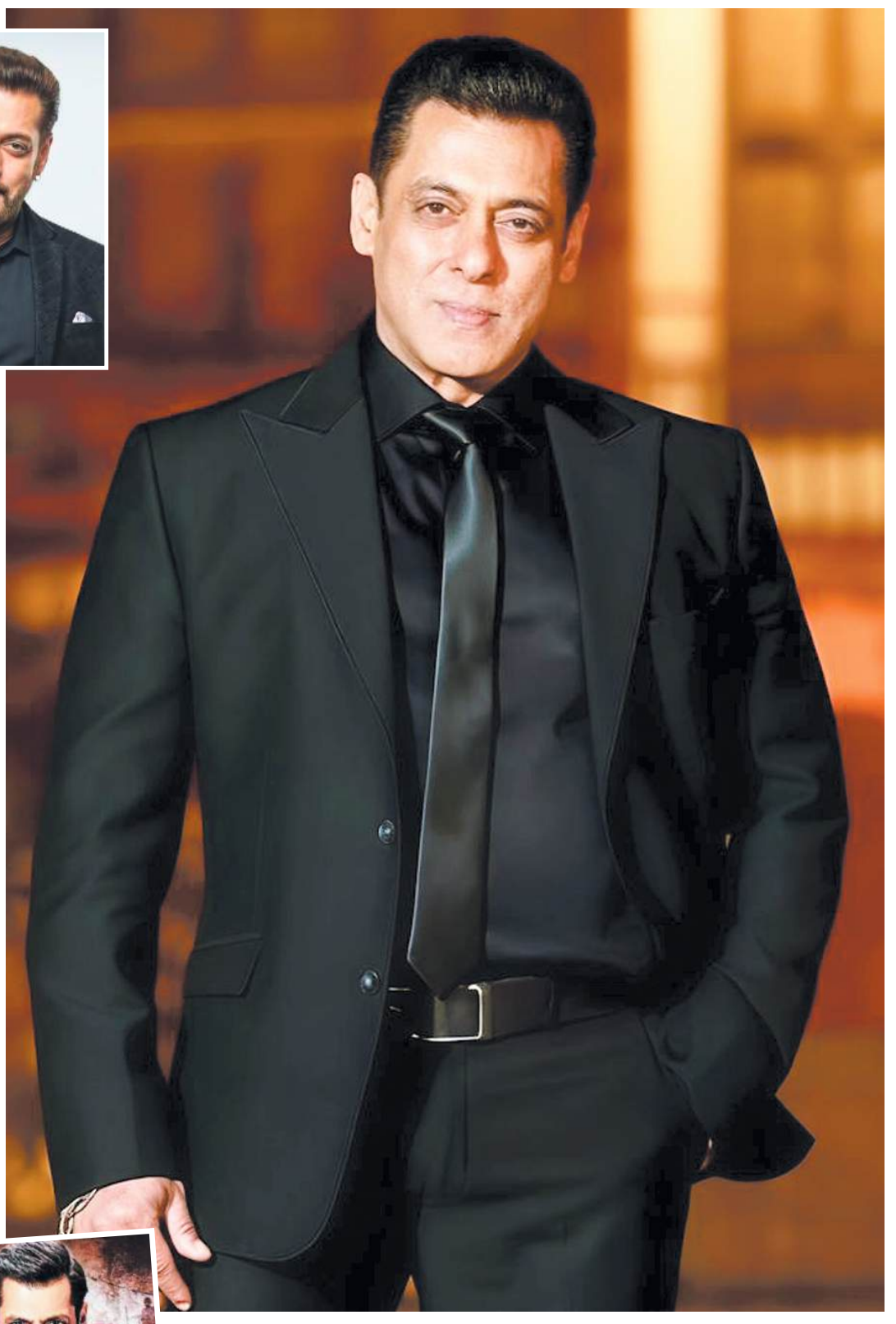
Salman Khan shares exciting news about one of his biggest franchises.

Central Chronicle News

While Dabangg will return, a Bajrangi Bhaijaan sequel seems unlikely.



Salman Khan confirms Dabangg sequel is in the works



Salman Khan has shared an update on two of his popular film franchises, Dabangg and Bajrangi Bhaijaan, confirming that a new instalment of the former is in the works while ruling out a sequel to the 2015 emotional drama. The actor lately discussed returning to his memorable characters and explained why he does not wish to revisit Bajrangi Bhaijaan. Talking about Dabangg, which introduced audiences to the popular cop Chulbul Pandey in 2010, Salman indicated that another film in the franchise is definitely planned. The actor suggested that taking the series forward remains within his family's control. "Dabangg ka toh aa hi jaayega. Yeh toh humare haath mein hai. Baaki films unke haath mein hai," he said. The franchise, known for its action, humour and Salman's portrayal of Chulbul Pandey, has already seen two sequels. The second film arrived in 2012, followed by the third instalment in 2019. However, Salman was less enthusiastic about the possibility of Bajrangi Bhaijaan 2. He explained that recreating the emotional impact and audience connection of the original would be extremely difficult. The 2015 film, directed by Kabir Khan, featured Salman as Pawan Kumar Chaturvedi, who helps a young Pakistani girl reunite with her family. The actor said he did not want a second film to invite comparisons with the original or leave audiences disappointed. He believes the first film's emotional appeal would be difficult to surpass.



Meanwhile, Salman's next theatrical release is Maatrubhumi: May War Rest in Peace. Directed by Apoorva Lakhia, the patriotic drama also stars Chitrangada Singh and is scheduled to release in cinemas on December 4, 2026.

| SMALL SCREEN |

Gaurav Khanna left corporate job to follow acting dreams

Central Chronicle News



Gaurav Khanna soon seen in show Dil Ki Bewafaiyaan.

HIGHLIGHT

- **A well-paying job could not keep Gaurav Khanna away from acting.**

Actor Gaurav Khanna has opened up about leaving a well-paying corporate job to pursue his passion for acting. At the launch of Ektaa Kapoor's upcoming show Dil Ki Bewafaiyaan, he recalled how chance first introduced him to acting. Speaking to host Farah Khan, Gaurav revealed that he initially had no plans to become an actor. "I had a pretty good corporate job with a fat package. I had no idea that there might be an actor in me or that I could learn to act. I wish I had entered the industry a little earlier," he said. He added that he sometimes feels he could have done more work and met more people had he started sooner. Recalling his first audition, Gaurav shared that it happened entirely by chance. He had accompanied a friend to an audition in Aram Nagar and was waiting outside on his bike when someone from the team invited him to audition. When the casting team asked for his profile, he initially assumed they wanted his CV. Reacting to his story, Farah offered an encouraging perspective, telling him, "You came in late, so you'll be around for longer." The actor also spoke about handling challenges, emphasising the importance of staying determined. "There can be a lot of obstacles along the way, problems and speed breakers. But always keep moving," he said. Gaurav currently stars alongside Shraddha Arya in Dil Ki Bewafaiyaan, playing Manav, while Shraddha portrays Janaki. The show explores the changing dynamics of a marriage after 20 years, as the couple develops different perspectives about life and unfulfilled aspirations. The series premieres on November 24 at 9 pm on Star Plus and JioHotstar.

CineBriefs

BEST OF THE REST

Web Series

Emily In Paris gets a farewell season

Netflix's popular series Emily in Paris is returning with its sixth and final season, bringing Emily Cooper's journey to an end. Starring Lily Collins, the 10-episode season promises romance, fashion and fresh European adventures. The story continues after Emily turns down Marcello's offer to move to Italy and chooses her career in France. Her Mediterranean getaway with best friend Mindy will take viewers to Greece and Monaco. Lucas Bravo, Ashley Park, Philippine Leroy-Beaulieu and Lucien Laviscount will reprise their roles, while Camille Razat will not return. All episodes will premiere on Netflix on December 24, 2026.

Hot Pair

Shilpa Shetty calls Raj her matching soul



Shilpa Shetty and Raj Kundra celebrated another year of marital bliss, marking their wedding anniversary with a sweet social media post. The actress shared a picture of the couple walking hand in hand, with their backs to the camera. Captioning it, she wrote, "Matching Soles with my matching SOUL." The couple tied the knot in a traditional South Indian ceremony in Lonavala in November 2009. They are parents to son Viaan and daughter Samisha. Friends from the industry, including Karishma Tanna and Geeta Basra, showered them with anniversary wishes. Raj recently announced his debut production, Nihang.



Music

A flight full of music with Sonu Nigam

Singer Sonu Nigam turned an ordinary Raipur-Mumbai flight into a memorable musical experience on November 20. Travelling back after performing at AIIMS Raipur's Oriana Fest, he received an unexpected welcome when passengers began singing his popular songs, including Kal Ho Naa Ho and Main Agar Kahoon. Moved by their enthusiasm, Sonu recorded the singalong before surprising everyone with a live performance. He stepped into the aisle and sang tracks such as Main Hoon Na, Bijuria and Har Ghadi Badal Rahi Hai Zindagi. Sharing the experience online, he thanked passengers for their heartwarming love. The unexpected concert made the journey special for everyone on board.

Trending on Insta

@anilskapoor

Anil Kapoor revisits memories of Sridevi's Lamhe

Anil Kapoor celebrated 35 years of Lamhe, revisiting memories of the iconic romantic drama. He said he would always cherish working with late filmmaker Yash Chopra and praised co-stars Sridevi, Anupam Kher, and the entire cast and crew.





Excursion

TRAVELOGUE

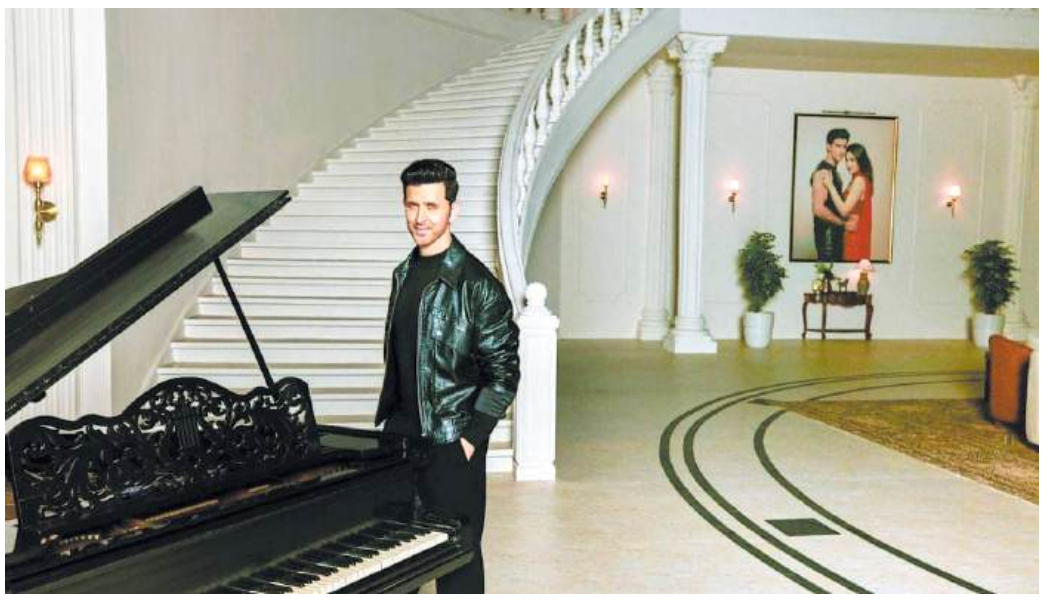
Bollywood nostalgia meets experiential travel

Airbnb brings one of Bollywood's most memorable homes back to life.





Bollywood reminiscence meets empirical travel as Airbnb recreates the iconic Raichand House from Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham in Mumbai, giving fans a chance to relive the film's memorable moments. Celebrating 25 years of the family drama, Airbnb has collaborated with filmmaker Karan Johar to introduce an exclusive experience titled At Home with the Raichands. Scheduled from December 1 to 6, 2026, the experience will welcome 180 lucky guests for a complimentary two-hour visit. Visitors can explore recreated spaces from the film, including the grand staircase, living room and family study. An immersive audio tour will take guests through memorable scenes and moments from the movie. One of the biggest attractions is Poo's iconic wardrobe, where fans can revisit the fashion moments associated with Kareena Kapoor's much-loved character. The experience begins with an entry challenge inspired by Rohan, followed by a traditional Raichand-style welcome. Guests can write personal notes inspired by the film's message of family and relationships and receive a keepsake.



HIGHLIGHT

- The recreated Raichand House offers fans an unforgettable nostalgic experience.

Booking requests open on November 23, 2026, at 12 PM IST through Airbnb's dedicated page, airbnb.com/k3g. The experience is free, and each selected guest can bring one companion. Applicants must have an active Airbnb profile, positive reviews and government-issued identification. Visitors will need to arrange their own travel to Mumbai.

The initiative also raises a question about Bollywood tourism becoming India's next travel trend. Films have long influenced travel choices, with Switzerland gaining popularity among Indian tourists through its association with Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge. The recreated Raichand House could introduce a new form of cinema-inspired travel, bringing iconic Bollywood settings closer to fans. If successful, it may encourage more such experiences across India.



K3G family home to life in Mumbai

WindowView

MAGICAL LANTERN FESTIVALS ACROSS ASIA

Yi Peng Lantern Festival Lights Up Chiang Mai



Held in November, Thailand's Yi Peng Lantern Festival celebrates the region's traditional Lanna culture. Thousands of illuminated lanterns rise into the night sky, creating a spectacular sight. The festival coincides with Loy Krathong, when decorated floats are released onto rivers. Visitors can participate in organised lantern releases, explore Chiang Mai's historic temples, including Wat Phra Singh, browse colourful night markets and attend traditional lantern-making workshops. A trip to nearby Chiang Rai can further enrich the cultural experience.

Pingxi Sky Lantern Festival Celebrates Wishes



Celebrated around the Lunar New Year, Taiwan's Pingxi Sky Lantern Festival brings people together through wishes and new beginnings. Visitors write their hopes and messages on paper lanterns before releasing them into the night sky. Set in the scenic Pingxi region, the festival offers a memorable cultural experience. Travellers can explore Shifen Old Street, visit the beautiful Shifen Waterfall and wander through Jiufen's charming hillside lanes. Taipei's temples and night markets also make interesting additions to the itinerary.



Hoi An Lantern Festival Glows Brightly

Held monthly around the full moon, Vietnam's Hoi An Lantern Festival transforms the historic town into a colourful spectacle. Beautiful lanterns illuminate its streets while their reflections shimmer across the Hoai River. Visitors can enjoy traditional boat rides, float small lanterns on the water and explore historic merchant houses. Lantern-making workshops and Vietnamese cooking classes offer further cultural experiences. Travellers can also cycle through the countryside or relax at An Bang Beach, making this a delightful holiday destination.



Nagasaki Lantern Festival Illuminates Japan

Celebrated during the Chinese New Year period, Japan's Nagasaki Lantern Festival fills the city with colourful lantern displays, festive decorations and traditional performances. Rooted in Nagasaki's Chinese cultural heritage, the celebration offers visitors a glimpse into its fascinating history. Travellers can explore Shinchi Chinatown and Minato Park, visit the iconic Spectacles Bridge and discover Dejima, a historic trading post. The Nagasaki Peace Park and Atomic Bomb Museum offer meaningful experiences, while local Nagasaki champon noodles are worth sampling.

Seoul Lantern Festival Lights Up Korea



South Korea's Seoul Lantern Festival transforms the city into a dazzling celebration of art, culture and creativity. Usually held during November and December, the festival features beautifully illuminated lantern installations along the Cheonggyecheon Stream. Visitors can enjoy traditional Korean designs, contemporary light displays and colourful themed decorations. Travellers can also explore nearby Gwangjang Market, visit Gyeongbokgung Palace and discover Seoul's vibrant shopping streets.

| TRAIL |

'Kharka Gaon' A beautiful village of marigolds

Central Chronicle News

Looking for a peaceful getaway? This Himalayan village deserves your attention.



Colourful marigold flowers and scenic mountain views.

Not every holiday need crowded tourist attraction, busy streets or packed itineraries. Sometimes, a quiet village surrounded by hills, colourful flowers and fresh mountain air offers the perfect escape. Tucked away in West Bengal's Kalimpong district, Kharka Gaon is one such destination that looks straight out of a postcard.

A village surrounded by marigolds

Located around 9 km from Kalimpong town and close to Deolo, Kharka Gaon is known for its beautiful natural surroundings and colourful marigold flowers. During the flowering season, bright yellow and orange blooms add charm to village roads and landscapes. Travellers can enjoy breathtaking views of Mount Kanchenjunga and the surrounding Himalayan peaks. The village also offers beautiful sunrise and sunset views, making it a wonderful destination for photography enthusiasts and nature lovers. The region is also home to several Himalayan bird species, including the White-browed Shrike-Babbler, Blue-throated Barbet and Red-vented Bulbul. Its peaceful atmosphere makes it ideal for slow travel and spending quality time amid nature.

HIGHLIGHT

- From marigold fields to mountain views, Kharka Gaon offers unforgettable scenery.



Where to stay?

Kharka Gaon is an offbeat destination where visitors can find local homestays instead of luxury hotels and resorts. These accommodations offer basic facilities and an opportunity to experience village life and local hospitality.

Best time to visit

April to June is considered a good time to explore Kharka Gaon, when temperatures generally range between 15 and 28 degrees Celsius. Winters can be cold, while monsoons are best avoided because heavy rainfall may cause landslides and road disruptions.

How to reach?

Bagdogra Airport, approximately 80 km away, is the nearest airport. New Jalpaiguri Railway Station, around 78 km away, is the nearest major railhead. From both locations, travelers can hire taxis. Kalimpong town is just 9 km away, making the village easily accessible by road.

Sports



"We are in a situation that is very complicated, very difficult, but we must remain focused and fight for improvement."

Mauricio Pochettino
Manchester United manager

Gukesh Vs Sindarov: A royal battle of minds

India's defending world champion D Gukesh faces formidable Uzbek challenger Javokhir Sindarov in Geneva, with both young grandmasters preparing for a historic battle for chess supremacy.

Press Trust Of India

Sindarov enters championship as favourite following remarkable World Cup and Candidates triumphs.



GENEVA: India's D Gukesh will begin the defence of his classical World Chess Championship title against Uzbekistan's in-form Javokhir Sindarov on Tuesday, setting the stage for the youngest title contest in chess history.

The two 20-year-old grandmasters will battle across 14 games from November 24 to December 12 in Geneva, with Sindarov entering as the favourite following an extraordinary run of performances.

The Uzbek challenger captured the 2025 World Cup before dominating the Candidates Tournament, securing qualification with a round to spare. His exceptional consistency has earned widespread admiration, while his November FIDE rating stands 72 points above Gukesh.

Sindarov, currently ranked fourth globally, has recorded an impressive average performance rating of 2,837 across his first four major tournaments of 2026.

However, Gukesh knows that rankings alone cannot determine championship outcomes. The Indian made history in Singapore in 2024 when he defeated China's Ding Liren to become the youngest undisputed classical world champion at just 18.

Since that triumph, Gukesh has endured a challenging period, struggling for consistency and slipping to 26th in the world rankings. He consequently reduced his classical tournament commitments to concentrate on preparation.

Nevertheless, encouraging performances have restored confidence ahead of his title defence. At September's Chess Olympiad in Samarkand, Gukesh collected 8.5 points from 11 games, claiming individual silver on board four while helping India secure team silver. His coach, Grzegorz Gajewski, believes the Olympiad performance strengthened the Indian champion's confidence. Gukesh has also credited meditation with improving his mental approach during demanding competitions.

Despite being widely regarded as favourite, Sindarov remains cautious about facing the defending champion. The Uzbek insists that thorough preparation and respect for Gukesh's abilities are essential.

RULES AND SCHEDULE

VENUE: Fondation Martin Bodmer, Cologny, Geneva, the first world title match in Switzerland since 2004.

FORMAT: 14 classical games, and the first to 7.5 points wins.

SCHEDULE: Game 1 is on Tuesday, November 24, at 3 pm local time (7:30 pm IST). Game 14 is on December 11, and any tiebreaks are on December 12.

REST DAYS: After every third game, on November 27, December 1, December 5 and December 9.

TIME CONTROL: Two hours for 40 moves, then 30 minutes for the rest of the game, with 30 seconds added per move from move 41.

NO QUICK DRAWS: No agreed draw before Black's 40th move.

TIEBREAKS AT 7-7: Four rapid games, then two games at 10+5, then two blitz games, then sudden-death blitz. There is no Armageddon.

PRIZE FUND: US $2.5 million, with $200,000 for each game won and the rest split equally. A fixed $1.3 million and $1.2 million split applies if the match is decided in the tiebreaks or by the narrowest classical margin.

KSLTA to host Bengaluru Open ATP Challenger, Women's W100

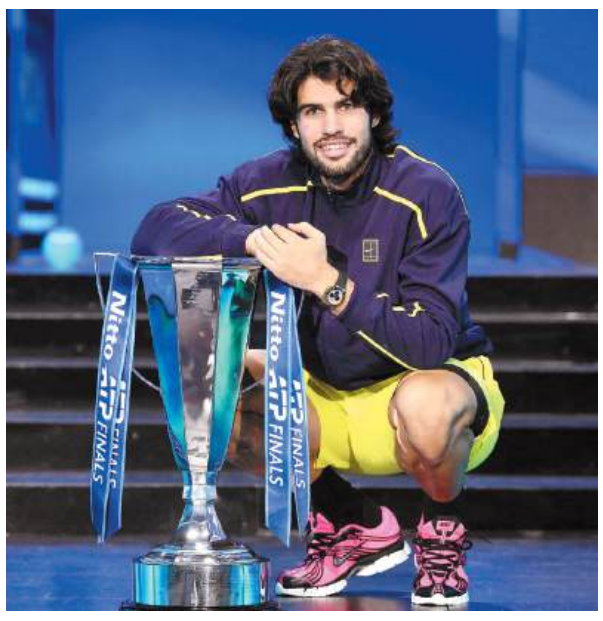
BENGALURU: Bengaluru will host two international professional tennis tournaments early next year, with the ATP Challenger 125 scheduled from January 4 to 9 and the ITF Women's World Tennis Tour W100 from February 14 to 21. Both tournaments will be held at the S.M. Krishna Tennis Stadium. The Bengaluru Open will offer a prize purse of USD 235,000, while the women's event will carry USD 100,000, taking the combined prize purse to USD 335,000. The Bengaluru Open, which completed its 10th edition in 2025, is among the highest-tier ATP Challenger events held in India. India's Sumit Nagal won the singles title in 2017 and was runner-up in 2024, while Prajnesh Gunneswaran claimed the title in 2018, with Saketh Myneni finishing runner-up.

| ALCARAZ CELEBRATES TRIUMPH |

Alcaraz joins tennis legends with historic ATP triumph

Press Trust Of India

Carlos Alcaraz defeats Alexander Zverev to claim his maiden ATP Finals crown.



TURIN: Carlos Alcaraz joined an exclusive group of tennis legends after defeating world number one Alexander Zverev 6-2, 7-6 (7) in Sunday's ATP Finals championship match.

The 23-year-old Spaniard became only the fourth man to combine a career Grand Slam with the prestigious season-ending trophy, following Andre Agassi, Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic.

Despite struggling with a left hamstring injury and knee discomfort, Alcaraz displayed remarkable determination to secure his 14th consecutive victory, following triumphs in Vienna and Paris.

"It's something impressive that my name is next to those legends," Alcaraz said.

The Spaniard dominated the opening set, repeatedly breaking Zverev's serve through aggressive returns and exceptional court coverage.

However, Zverev recovered from an early second-set break and forced a tiebreaker, where he squandered three set points before Alcaraz sealed victory with a stunning backhand winner.

The champion struck 28 winners against Zverev's 12, underlining his attacking superiority.

HIGHLIGHT

- Spaniard joins Agassi, Federer and Djokovic in exclusive career Grand Slam club.
- Alcaraz overcomes injury concerns to extend winning streak to fourteen matches.

| KOOKABURRA QUALITY QUESTIONED |

Shubman Gill urges ICC to reconsider saliva ban rules

Press Trust Of India

WELLINGTON: India captain Shubman Gill has urged the ICC to reconsider its saliva ban, questioning Kookaburra ball quality following the drawn first Test against New Zealand.

New Zealand survived 75 overs on the final day, scoring 120 runs for three wickets.

"We are way past Covid times. There was a rule that you can't apply saliva to shine the ball. It's been 7-8 years now, I still don't understand why they are not allowing it," he said.

"Our first ball, I think after 25-30 overs, the ball became very soft. I think they also complained," Gill said.

The skipper argued that softer balls make wicket-taking difficult on unresponsive surfaces.

"They don't carry the edges. So, the caught-behind dismissal becomes harder. If there is not so much movement in the pitch, then the LBW remains on hold."



> **"...from the wicket, and the ball also becomes soft, then it becomes very difficult for the bowlers to take wickets."**
>
> **Shubman Gill**
> Indian Cricket Team Captain

Gill also highlighted India's bowling workload after nearly 250 overs during the match.

"Our bowlers have put in so many overs, we will definitely take them (out for a dinner). We had a team activity but after bowling so many overs it stands cancelled," he said.

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

BARCELONA CELEBRATE COMEBACK

Barcelona stage stunning comeback against Villarreal to reclaim league lead



TURIN: Barcelona staged a remarkable comeback from two goals down to defeat Villarreal 3-2 and restore their three-point advantage at the top of La Liga. Villarreal stunned the hosts with goals from Canadian internationals Tajon Buchanan and Tani Oluwaseyi inside seven minutes. Lamine Yamal subsequently missed a penalty, leaving Barcelona trailing 2-0 at halftime. However, Barcelona responded brilliantly after the interval, scoring three goals within 10 minutes. Gerard Martín and Fermín López found the net before Pau Navarro's own goal completed the dramatic turnaround in the 67th minute. Navarro was subsequently dismissed following a second yellow card during stoppage time. The victory marked Barcelona's third consecutive league triumph since losing to Real Madrid in last month's clasico. **PTI**

LIVERPOOL CELEBRATE VICTORY

Liverpool crush Manchester United 4-0 in Pochettino's disastrous debut match



LIVERPOOL: Mauricio Pochettino endured a disastrous debut as Manchester United manager, suffering a humiliating 4-0 Premier League defeat against Liverpool at Anfield on Sunday. United's troubles began when Leny Yoro received a red card in the eighth minute for fouling Alexander Isak. Dominik Szoboszlai converted the resulting free kick before Florian Wirtz doubled Liverpool's advantage three minutes later. Despite several missed opportunities, Liverpool extended their lead through Rio Ngumoha in the 66th minute, while Victor Munoz completed the rout in the 82nd. Goalkeeper Senne Lammens prevented further embarrassment with several crucial saves. The defeat left United second from bottom with just one league victory this season, while Liverpool climbed to fourth. **PTI**

BABAR STAYS FOCUSED

Babar's mantra: Give 100 per cent on field, shut out external noise



DUBAI: Pakistan batting star Babar Azam believes giving his best on the field and ignoring outside criticism are essential to maintaining consistency and helping his team win. The former Pakistan captain, who will represent Desert Vipers in the DP World ILT20 2026, said his focus remains on training, performance and contributing to victories. "I give my 100 per cent on the ground and in the practice sessions regardless of what people say," Babar told PTI. Despite constant scrutiny of his technique and performances, the 32-year-old prefers seeking advice from trusted coaches and former players. Babar, who captained Pakistan to a historic T20 World Cup victory over India in 2021, stressed that external opinions should never distract players from their responsibilities. **PTI**

INDIA LOSE GROUND

India lose crucial ground in WTC standings after Wellington draw



WELLINGTON: India suffered a setback in their World Test Championship (WTC) campaign after New Zealand secured a hard-fought draw in the opening Test at Basin Reserve on Monday. Despite declaring at a massive 720/9, India failed to dismiss the hosts, who finished at 239/5 after 120 overs. Daryl Mitchell remained unbeaten on 49 from 186 deliveries, while Glenn Phillips contributed a patient 26 from 126 balls, frustrating India's bowlers. The result saw Australia climb to second place with 69.23 percentage points, pushing New Zealand into third at 66.67. India remained fourth with 50.00 percentage points, behind leaders South Africa. Shubman Gill's side will seek crucial points when the second Test begins in Christchurch on Friday. **PTI**

Sports News

Stalemate on stubborn Basin Reserve pitch

Daryl Mitchell and Glenn Phillips produced a remarkable defensive partnership as New Zealand frustrated India's bowlers to secure a hard-fought draw in the opening Wellington Test on Monday.

Press Trust Of India

India missed crucial opportunities as New Zealand survived final day batting pressure.



WELLINGTON: Daryl Mitchell and Glenn Phillips displayed tremendous patience and determination as New Zealand battled to a draw against India in the opening Test at Basin Reserve on Monday, frustrating the visitors' hopes of securing a series lead.

Resuming the final day at 119 for two, New Zealand faced the challenging task of surviving against India's formidable bowling attack. However, Mitchell's unbeaten 49 off 186 deliveries and Phillips' patient 26 not out from 126 balls ensured the hosts finished at 239 for five in 120 overs.

India, who had declared their first innings at 702 for nine after dismissing New Zealand for 368, began the final day needing eight wickets to force victory.

Washington Sundar provided an early breakthrough by removing Devon Conway for 65, while Prasidh Krishna dismissed Rachin Ravindra for 37. Both overnight batters had initially frustrated India's bowlers with cautious batting.

Anshul Kamboj then removed Tom Blundell for 15, with the dismissal confirmed through DRS, raising India's hopes of breaking through New Zealand's resistance.

However, Mitchell and Phillips combined in a stubborn, unbeaten partnership lasting 43 overs, successfully neutralising India's pace and spin attacks.

Mitchell survived a crucial run-out opportunity when Akash Deep failed to collect the ball cleanly, allowing the batter to continue his determined resistance.

The Wellington surface offered little assistance to bowlers, with diminishing pace and minimal deterioration making wicket-taking increasingly difficult.

Jasprit Bumrah was carefully managed throughout the match, bowling short spells. He finished with five wickets from 49 overs across the contest.

India's frustration increased as Mitchell and Phillips continued blocking deliveries, including prolonged periods without scoring.

With victory becoming increasingly unlikely, India eventually accepted the draw with 15 scheduled overs remaining.

The result dealt another setback to India's World Test Championship ambitions, while New Zealand slipped to third in the standings.

For the hosts, Mitchell and Phillips emerged as the heroes, demonstrating remarkable concentration and resilience under pressure to prevent India from converting their commanding first-innings advantage into victory.

Treesa-Gayatri chase historic hat-trick as young Indians eye glory

Press Trust Of India

Defending champions Treesa-Gayatri lead India's promising youngsters into the Syed Modi International.



LUCKNOW: Defending champions Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand will chase a historic hat-trick of titles as India's emerging badminton stars prepare to showcase their talent at the Syed Modi India International Super 300 tournament beginning Tuesday.

With established names like PV Sindhu, Lakshya Sen, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy, Chirag Shetty and Kidambi Srikanth absent, the USD 250,000 tournament offers promising youngsters an opportunity to make their mark.

Top-seeded Treesa and Gayatri arrive with growing confidence after securing bronze at the World Championships in New Delhi in August, India's first women's doubles medal at the event in 15 years. The defending champions begin against qualifiers.

India enjoys strong representation in women's singles, with five players among the eight seeds.

Seventh seed Devika Sihag, who claimed her maiden World Tour title at the Thailand Masters, faces compatriot Tanya Hemanth.

Second seed Tanvi Sharma, the youngest Taipei Open champion, opens against Malaysia's Goh Jin Wei, while fifth seed Ashmita Chaliha meets Ukraine's Polina Buhrova.

Third seed Unnati Hooda faces Ukraine's Yevheniia Kantemyr, while eighth seed Isharani Baruah takes on Indonesia's Thalita Ramadhani Wiryawan.

Attention will also focus on 19-year-old Rakshitha Ramraj, who stunned Olympic champion Chen Yu Fei at the Hong Kong Open last week.

In men's singles, third seed HS Prannoy spearheads India's challenge against Chinese Taipei's Wu Zhe Ying. Tharun Mannepalli, Kiran George and Mithun Manjunath are other notable contenders.

In men's doubles, Hariharan Amsakarunan and MR Arjun begin against fellow Indians Abinash Mohanty and Ayush Pattanayak.

|IPL AUCTION|

Dhoni unlikely to sit at CSK auction table: Pathan

Press Trust Of India

Former India pacer believes Dhoni will focus on mentoring Chennai Super Kings.



NEW DELHI: Former India pacer Irfan Pathan believes MS Dhoni will stay away from Chennai Super Kings' auction table for IPL 2027, concentrating instead on mentoring players.

The auction is scheduled in Goa on December 16. Dhoni retired earlier this month after representing CSK in 17 IPL seasons and was subsequently appointed franchise mentor.

"Knowing Dhoni, I don't think he will be sitting at the auction table. His job is to guide players, share experience and help them win matches," Pathan told JioStar.

He said Dhoni trusted CSK's management to handle bidding decisions.

Meanwhile, former India batter Abhinav Mukund highlighted CSK's bowling weaknesses following three consecutive seasons without playoff qualification.

Mukund suggested the franchise could trade surplus batters to strengthen its bowling attack, particularly by acquiring a reliable Indian spinner ahead of the upcoming season.

Ganguly questions absence of Kuldeep, Suthar

NEW DELHI: Former India captain Sourav Ganguly underlined the need for a frontline spinner to win Test matches on flat wickets, while questioning the absence of Manav Suthar and Kuldeep Yadav. India struggled to dislodge the sixth-wicket pair of Glenn Phillips and Daryl Mitchell as New Zealand held on for a draw in the first Test at Wellington, batting through the fifth day. "India has been brilliant this series .. white ball and now red ball .. the batting application looked super .. but they must understand to win Test matches away a genuine spinner is a must on pitches which get flat with time," Ganguly wrote on X.

|ASIA CUP RISING STARS|

India A seek disciplined bowling effort vs UAE to seal semifinal berth

Press Trust Of India

India A seek improved bowling performance against UAE to secure semifinal qualification.



DOHA: India A will aim to bounce back from their defeat against Pakistan A when they face the United Arab Emirates in a crucial Asia Cup Rising Stars 50-over tournament clash on Tuesday.

A victory will take India to four points from three Group B matches and secure their semifinal berth.

India's bowling remains a major concern after conceding 313 against Pakistan, including 83 runs in the final 11 overs. The team eventually suffered a 48-run defeat.

Harshit Rana, Prince Yadav and Shahbaz Ahmed must deliver improved performances after part-timer Ayush Badoni outshone the regular bowlers.

The UAE cannot be underestimated, having earlier restricted Pakistan to 245.

India will also expect more runs from 15-year-old Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, who managed scores of 26 and 11 against Nepal and Pakistan respectively.

Opening partner Abhishek Sharma and skipper Tilak Varma will be crucial as India seek a stronger batting display to enter the semifinals.

FASTFACTS

- India's bowlers must regain discipline after conceding 313 runs against Pakistan A.
- Vaibhav Sooryavanshi needs bigger contribution as India seek stronger opening batting partnerships.

|ASIAN CHAMPIONS TROPHY|

India aim to extend dominance against China in ACT

Press Trust Of India

Defending champions India face Olympic silver medallists China in crucial continental showdown.



BHOPAL: Riding high on their Asian Games triumph, defending champions India will look to continue their impressive run when they face higher-ranked China in the Women's Asian Champions Trophy here on Tuesday.

Already assured of a semifinal berth after winning their opening three matches, India lead the six-team standings with nine points, ahead of Japan on goal difference. China occupy third position with four points.

India defeated China 1-0 in the Asian Games final and will aim to repeat that success against the reigning Olympic silver medallists.

The hosts opened their campaign with a convincing 4-1 victory over Malaysia before edging South Korea 2-1 and thrashing Thailand 7-0.

Young striker Mumtaz Khan has impressed with three field goals, while drag-flicker Deepika has converted three penalty corners. Experienced Navneet Kaur has contributed two penalty-stroke goals, with Sunelita Toppo also scoring twice.

Goalkeepers Bichu Devi Kharibam and Bansuri Solanki have performed admirably in Savita Punia's absence, conceding just two goals.

Chief coach Sjoerd Marijne praised his players' adaptability and attacking quality but acknowledged that changing positions remained challenging.

Pranavi Urs eyes title defence at Atri Invitational

MUMBAI: Pranavi Urs will look to defend her Atri Invitational title, which she won last year to become the first Indian woman professional to win a mixed-gender event in the country, when the IGPL tournament tees off here on Tuesday. Since that historic triumph, Pranavi has added another major milestone to her career by winning a gold medal at the Asian Games. The 54-hole professional event, carrying a prize purse of Rs 2 crore, with the winner taking home Rs 30 lakh, will feature a strong field of men and women professionals, alongside amateurs and young players, at the iconic Bombay Presidency Golf Club (BPGC).

|BANGLADESH BATTING COLLAPSES|

Rabada and Jansen demolish Bangladesh for 91 in Centurion

Press Trust Of India

South African pacers dismantle Bangladesh batting lineup in rain-affected second Test opener.

CENTURION: South Africa's formidable pace attack, led by Kagiso Rabada and Marco Jansen, produced a devastating bowling performance to dismiss Bangladesh for just 91 runs on the opening day of the second Test here on Monday.

Rabada and Jansen claimed three wickets each, while Anrich Nortje contributed two as Bangladesh's batting lineup collapsed spectacularly under challenging conditions.

Rain washed out the morning session, delaying the toss by four hours and reducing the day's scheduled play to 60 overs.

South Africa, led by Aiden Markram in the absence of injured captain Temba Bavuma, elected to bowl under overcast skies on a moisture-laden surface.

Bangladesh suffered an early setback when Jansen removed opener Tanzid Hasan for three, caught at first slip. Mahfijul Islam (23) and Mominul Haque (18) briefly steadied the innings with a 37-run partnership before Nortje struck twice in three deliveries.

Nortje bowled Islam and skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto (4), leaving Bangladesh struggling at 44 for three.

Wiaan Mulder then dismissed Mominul, while Jansen removed Litton Das for eight, reducing the visitors to 73 for five.

Towhid Hridoy, who struck a century in the opening Test, attempted a counter-attack against Simon Harmer, hitting two boundaries and a six.

World



Portugal backs Pak's bid to retain EU trade concessions.

Paulo Rangel
Portugal Foreign Minister

Ukrainian drones strike Russian warship in Libya

Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Monday claimed that sea drones sank the navy vessel in a surprise assault the previous day.

Press Trust Of India



A Ukrainian Sea Baby suicide drone attacks the Russian cargo ship MV Angara near Benghazi, Libya.

KYIV: Ukraine carried out an attack on a Russian warship moored at a port in Libya, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Monday, claiming that sea drones sank the navy vessel in a surprise assault the previous day. Ukrainian forces deployed seven domestically made sea drones in the operation, which struck the Russian navy corvette in the Mediterranean, according to Zelenskyy. The ship was one of Russia's newest vessels, commissioned a year after Moscow launched the 2022 invasion of its neighbour, the Ukrainian leader said in a post on X.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov declined to comment on the attack, saying that Russia's Ministry of Defence would provide more information "if deemed to be appropriate." The operation, conducted some 2,400 kilometres from the front line in Ukraine, was the latest daring long-range assault by Kyiv's forces. Ukraine has at times blindsided Russia during the war with attacks that embarrass Moscow, such as Operation Spiderweb in June last year, when drones launched from trucks hit over 40 aircraft parked near air bases across Russia. Along the roughly 1,250-kilometre front line snaking through eastern and southern Ukraine, Kyiv's drones and ground robots are helping hold back Russia's bigger army.

At the same time, Russia's bombing of Ukraine has devastated the power grid ahead of winter and damaged civilian buildings. A Russian strike on a five-story apartment block in a village near Kyiv killed 11 people, regional police said Monday. A 7-year-old child and a 79-year-old woman were pulled from the rubble after the Sunday morning attack, rescue services said. On Monday, three people were killed in a Russian strike on a hospital in the southern Ukraine city of Zaporizhzhia, the regional military administration said. Two other people were killed when Russian forces struck a marked evacuation vehicle taking residents out of the eastern city of Kramatorsk, authorities said.

Zelenskyy described Sunday's attack as "exemplary" and said "the targets we set were achieved." "We continue our operations in designated waters. We are responding to Russia's aggression. We are developing Ukrainian weapons," he said. Ukraine has hit Russian oil refineries as far away as western Siberia and Russian warships in the Mediterranean, Zelenskyy noted in a live video address Monday to a meeting of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly in Berlin. An oil refinery in Russia's western Rostov region halted work Monday after what Governor Yuri Slyusar said was a "massive" Ukrainian drone and missile attack that lasted more than six hours.

"We keep finding ways to get back on our feet after every Russian attack," Zelenskyy said.

Ukrainian forces also struck the Russian dry cargo ship MV Angara, which Zelenskyy said Moscow used to transport weapons, and destroyed a Ka-27 military helicopter in the attack, the Ukrainian leader said. Ukrainian forces are operating in western Libya under a covert deal endorsed by the West, using the North African country's territory to strike a Russian tanker in the Mediterranean in March, according to Libyan officials.

The Ukrainian forces, most of them drone experts, were at the time operating mainly at an air base in the coastal city of Misrata, but also in other military facilities in the capital Tripoli and the coastal town of Zawiya, the officials told The Associated Press earlier this year.

FASTFACTS

- One Of Russia's Newest Warships
- Kyiv Launches Daring Long-Range Assault

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

DIGITAL CURBS

Bangladeshi court orders interim curbs on social media access for children under 16



DHAKA: A Bangladeshi court has directed the authorities to frame mandatory interim guidelines to prevent children below 16 years of age from accessing social media platforms and ordered the formation of an independent expert committee to examine the impact of algorithm-driven content feeds on minors.

The High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh issued the directives on Sunday while passing an order on a writ petition that questioned the government's failure to formulate a national policy regulating social media access for children under 16, the Prothom Alo newspaper reported.

The bench comprising Justices Sikder Mahmudur Razi and Fatema Anwar directed the Secretary of the Posts and Telecommunications Division and the Chairman of the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission, among other respondents, to take necessary steps.

It also ordered the immediate formation of a committee comprising cybersecurity specialists, child psychologists, paediatricians and legal experts to assess the structural impact of algorithm-controlled feeds on children.

The move comes amid growing international concerns over the impact of social media on children's mental health, physical well-being and development, with governments across the globe increasingly considering age-based restrictions and stricter safeguards against potentially harmful online content.

MISHAP

Tourists evacuated after fire destroys 6 hotels in Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR: Investigations continued Monday into the cause of a huge fire that engulfed six hotels along a popular beach in Tanzania's semiautonomous archipelago of Zanzibar.

Several hotel workers were injured in the blaze over the weekend. Authorities said about 180 tourists were safely evacuated.

The fire broke out Saturday afternoon at Makofi Hotel on Nungwi Beach, at the northern end of the island, and spread rapidly to neighbouring properties, fuelled by strong winds and thatched roofs. Firefighters battled the blaze for about three hours before bringing it under control.

Preliminary reports suggest the fire may have started in an oven used to bake bread, though officials have cautioned against speculation.

Tourism Minister Nasra Nassor said Saturday that the government would conduct a rapid assessment and establish the cause of the fire before taking "necessary measures."

Zanzibar's white sand beaches and tropical climate draw tourists to the archipelago, where tourism is a major contributor to the economy.

COASTAL POLLUTION

Sri Lanka begins clean-up after oil spill pollutes Colombo Port

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka has launched containment and clean-up operations after an oil leak at the Colombo Port contaminated more than three kilometres of coastline, including Mutuwal Beach, officials said on Monday. The leak occurred on Saturday morning from a storage tank at Jaya Container Terminal (JCT) No. 108, which had a capacity of around 1,000 tonnes and was full at the time.

Marine Gas Oil (MGO) -- a light, refined distillate fuel -- leaked through a damaged drain valve, the official government news portal News.lk reported. The Sri Lanka Ports Authority (SLPA) stopped the leak by around 10.30 am local time on Saturday, about an hour after the incident was reported, it said.

However, some of the spilled oil had already entered an urban drainage canal and flowed into the sea, affecting more than three kilometres of coastline, including Mutuwal Beach and the B-Gate anchorage area, it added. The Marine Environment Protection Authority (MEPA), along with the SLPA and the Sri Lanka Coast Guard, has launched containment and clean-up operations.

Sentence reduced

BANGKOK: An appeals court Monday upheld the conviction of an opposition lawmaker for defaming Thailand's monarchy in social media posts but reduced her prison sentence from six years to three.

Rukchanok Srinork of the People's Party was initially charged with lese majeste and violating the Computer Crime Act. In 2023, she was convicted and sentenced to six years in prison over two social media posts.

The appeals court said in a statement that it upheld the conviction in connection with one post but dropped the charges related to the other, halving her sentence. It said the three-year penalty was imposed under the lese majeste law, which carries a heavier penalty than the Computer Crime Act, a broad law regulating online activities.

Rukchanok was accompanied to the hearing by several fellow party members. Supporters greeted her outside the Bangkok court and gave her red roses before she entered.

| CHINA OUTREACH |

'Ready to facilitate business visas for Indian business personnel'

Press Trust Of India

Diplomatic missions have reduced visa issuance, including business visas, to Indian nationals.



PM Modi with President of China Xi Jinping during a bilateral meeting.

BEIJING: China has said it is ready to work with India to facilitate visa arrangements for business personnel from both sides, amid reports that its diplomatic missions have reduced visa issuance, including business visas, to Indian nationals.

"China issues visas for eligible foreign nationals coming to China in accordance with laws and regulations," a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson said in a written reply to questions by PTI about the reported reductions in visa issuance for Indians.

"We stand ready to work with India to facilitate visa arrangements for business personnel of both sides," the spokesperson said. The spokesperson's remarks came amid reports that Chinese diplomatic missions have reduced visa issuance to Indian nationals, including business visas.

Also, fewer Indian businessmen were reportedly given visas to attend this month's China Import Expo in Shanghai. The annual trade fair attracts businessmen from around the world to showcase their businesses to Chinese consumers. Beijing has also stopped the service provider China Visa Application Centre from accepting visa applications, and its missions have begun handling them directly amid rising demand for Chinese visas, especially business visas.

The visa process between the two countries improved after India began issuing tourist visas to Chinese nationals in July last year after a gap of five years, amid efforts to repair bilateral ties that came under severe strain following the deadly Galwan Valley clashes in 2020. The resumption of the visas was regarded as a significant move as the two countries started the normalisation process after a freeze in bilateral ties. With liberalised visa processes, the two countries launched direct air services connecting several cities, including Beijing-New Delhi.

According to Indian officials, the visa rejection rate for Chinese nationals has been reduced to around seven per cent in recent months to encourage more business and tourism-related travel to India. For its part, the Chinese Embassy in India launched the "China Online Visa Application System" for Indian applicants in December last year to enable them to apply for visas online.

FASTFACTS

- China missions directly handle rising visa demand.
- Visa resumption signals bilateral normalisation process.

Strategic Partnership

Pak Army Chief Munir meets Malaysian PM, discusses defence and security cooperation



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Army Chief Field Marshal Asim Munir met Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim and discussed bilateral ties, defence and security cooperation, and evolving regional and global security dynamics, the army said on Monday. Munir, who is visiting Malaysia to strengthen bilateral defence and military cooperation, met PM Ibrahim in Putrajaya in the south of Kuala Lumpur, the army said in a statement.

The meeting focused on bilateral relations, defence and security cooperation, and evolving regional and global security dynamics, Geo News reported, citing the army's statement. Both leaders exchanged views on matters of mutual interest and underscored the importance of sustained engagement to promote regional peace, stability and security, it added. The prime minister reaffirmed Malaysia's commitment to further strengthening bilateral relations, particularly in the fields of defence and security, it said.Munir hailed Malaysia's constructive role in promoting peace and stability in Southeast Asia and reiterated Pakistan's resolve to further deepen defence cooperation and institutional linkages between the armed forces of both countries, the army said.

"Both sides reaffirmed their shared commitment to strengthening bilateral defence ties through regular high-level exchanges, enhanced military cooperation and sustained dialogue on regional and international security issues," it said.

| ICJ GENOCIDE RULING |

Bangladesh seeks Thai support for Rohingya repatriation

Press Trust Of India



Thailand backs Rohingya return efforts.

Humaiun Kobir
Minister for Foreign Affairs

DHAKA: Bangladesh has sought Thailand's continued support for the safe and dignified repatriation of forcibly displaced Rohingya Muslims to Myanmar in renewed diplomatic efforts to resolve a protracted refugee crisis with significant implications for regional stability, including India.

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Humaiun Kobir made the request on Sunday when Thai Ambassador Thitiporn Chirasawadi paid a courtesy call on him at his office, the state-run BSS news agency reported, citing a foreign ministry press release. The move followed a landmark verdict by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in The Hague last week in which it ruled that Myanmar committed genocide against the Rohingya minority in a brutal 2017 military operation and ordered the military junta to allow people who fled the violence to return home. The ruling is final and binding.

Approximately 1.2 million Rohingyas are currently living in refugee camps in Bangladesh, primarily in Cox's Bazar, making it one of the world's largest protracted refugee crises. Their repatriation efforts have repeatedly stalled amid concerns over security, citizenship rights and the continuing conflict in Myanmar.

Referring to the ICJ judgment delivered on November 19, Kobir underscored the importance of Thailand's continued cooperation in facilitating the Rohingyas' return to their homeland, the BSS report said.

Thailand and Myanmar maintain active diplomatic, economic, and border ties. Bangkok is pursuing a policy of "calibrated re-engagement" focused on border stability, and trade, and helping Myanmar gradually reconnect with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Myanmar has been accusing the regional bloc of denying it equal rights and representation as a member state.