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Central Chronicle

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| TIRUVANNAMALAI KARTHIGAI DEEPAM |

Lakhs of devotees brave rain to circumambulate sacred hill

Bharani Deepam was lit at the Sri Arunachaleswarar Temple here at 4 am on Tuesday.

Press Trust Of India

TIRUVANNAMALAI: Braving intermittent rainfall, oppressive humidity, a massive sea of devotees from across Tamil Nadu and other neighbouring states converged on Tiruvannamalai on Tuesday for the annual Karthigai Deepam festival to witness the lighting of the sacred beacon and perform Girivalam, the circumambulation of the holy hill in this North Tamil Nadu district.



Setting the stage for the lighting of the grand Maha Deepam atop 2668-foot-high the Annamalai Hill here, the Bharani Deepam was lit at the Sri Arunachaleswarar Temple here at 4 am on Tuesday.

Thousands of devotees converged in the temple well before dawn to witness the auspicious ritual, which was performed in the sanctum sanctorum of the ancient Saivite temple.

The lighting of the Bharani Deepam symbolises Lord Shiva as the supreme cosmic force manifesting through the "Pancha Bhootas", the five elements of earth, water, fire, air, and space.

The 10-day festival, which formally commenced on November 15 with the traditional sacred flag-hoisting ceremony, reaches its grand crescendo on Tuesday evening. All eyes are now turned towards the summit of Annamalai Hill, where the colossal Maha Deepam is scheduled to be lit at 6:00 PM.

SC-ordered temple lamp remains unlit

A scuffle ensued between functionaries of Hindu outfits and police as Karthigai Deepam was not lit atop the Deepathoon (stone pillar) in Thirupparankundram on Tuesday evening as mandated by the Supreme Court. A number of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Hindu Munnani functionaries and a section of devotees, frustrated by the fact that the ceremonial lamp was not lit on the stone pillar, resorted to a sudden protest at Thirupparankundram. The protesters alleged non-compliance with the Supreme Court directive and demanded that the authorities implement the apex court directive as a one-time measure. The police however tried to prevent them from assembling but the members resisted indulging in a scuffle with the policemen. Some of the protesters were detained.

15-year-old slammed the fastest List A hundred and easily the fastest double hundred



Sooryavanshi shatters multiple world records in style

DOHA: Boy wonder Vaibhav Sooryavanshi shattered a plethora of records in his superhuman 53-ball 204 as India A gunned down UAE's 250 in an astonishing 14.2 overs in a Group B game of the the Rising Stars Asia Cup here on Tuesday. The 15-year-old blasted 204 from 53 balls as India raced to the victory target of 250 in just 14.2 overs to seal their place in the semi-finals.

The India A opener brought up his fifty from 16 balls in the third over and then needed another 12 balls to bring up his century from just 28 balls -- the fastest hundred in List A one-day cricket. He brought up the landmark in the seventh over with a four off Ibrar Ahmad. Incredibly, his 103 off 28 balls included 14 sixes and four boundaries, meaning 100 of those runs had come in boundaries. He broke the previous record of a 29-ball century by Australia's Jake Fraser-McGurk for South Australia against Tasmania in 2023.

INNINGS AT A GLANCE

Runs:	204
Balls:	52
Fours:	7
Sixes:	28

Fastest Century: 28 balls

Fastest Double Century: 50 balls

Modi, Merz discuss global developments together

Press Trust Of India

Both Pledge Closer Cooperation for Global Peace, Stability.

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi and German Chancellor Friedrich Merz on Tuesday discussed regional and global developments of mutual interest over the phone and agreed to continue working closely to promote global peace, stability, and a rules-based international order. During the telephonic



conversation, Prime Minister Modi and Chancellor Merz reviewed progress in the India-Germany Strategic Partnership and expressed satisfaction at the sustained momentum in bilateral engagements, a statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said. As India and Germany celebrate 75 years of diplomatic relations this year, the two leaders reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthening cooperation across key sectors, including defence and advanced technologies.

The two leaders noted that the India-EU Free Trade Agreement would unlock several new opportunities for expanding bilateral trade and investment.

| SEAT-SHARING TALKS |

'26 seats offered to Cong for 2027 UP polls'

Press Trust Of India

Second round of discussions between the SP and Congress on seat-sharing is underway.

LUCKNOW: Samajwadi Party secretary general Ram Gopal Yadav on Tuesday said the party has offered 26 seats to the Congress for the 2027 Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections, ahead of the second round of seat-sharing talks between the two parties.

Yadav, speaking to reporters before talks at



SP MP Ram Gopal Yadav speaks during the seat-sharing talks.

Congress leader Pramod Tiwari's residence in Delhi, confirmed that 26 seats have been offered to the Congress.

"We have offered two seats which the Congress won, four seats where it finished second, and 20 other seats where we (SP) had secured 60,000-70,000 votes, while the Congress had received only around 2,000 votes," he said. Uttar Pradesh Assembly has 403 seats. The second round of discussions between the SP and Congress on seat-sharing is underway. Reacting to the seat-sharing talks between the SP and Congress, Uttar Pradesh Minister Dayashankar Singh said in Ballia that the two parties were "opposite poles" and were coming together solely for their own interests.

He accused the SP chief Akhilesh Yadav of allying with the Congress out of political self-interest, saying the two parties had neither ideological similarities nor a common objective for the country and society.

Accusing Yadav of betraying the ideals of his father and SP founder Mulayam Singh Yadav, the minister said the latter had established the party in opposition to the Congress.

"Mulayam Singh Yadav founded the Samajwadi Party against the murder of democracy. The Congress had jailed him under MISA and subjected him to hardships.

NEWSLINE

MUMBAI

Issue-based support

NCP (SP) chief Sharad Pawar may not necessarily join the BJP-led NDA, but could possibly support the ruling alliance or the Union government on specific issues, senior NCP leader and Maharashtra minister Chhagan Bhujbal said on Tuesday. He said political meetings and discussions often trigger speculation about possible realignments. "Personally, I do not think Sharad Pawar will join the NDA. This is my personal opinion. However, on a particular issue, if he feels it is right, he can support the NDA-led governments or the Central government," he told reporters.

Bhujbal, who supported (late) Ajit Pawar when he rebelled against his uncle and joined the NDA government in 2023, added that until the Pawar senior takes a formal decision, any discussion about his joining the NDA remains speculative. He also said that the NCP (SP) may support the Delimitation Bill after due diligence.

NEW DELHI

Priyanka slapped boy

Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra said she slapped a boy in school after he teased her following the Emergency, saying, "Chor hai tera chacha (Your uncle is a thief)". She narrated the incident during a conversation with her mother Sonia Gandhi and her brother Rahul Gandhi, a video of which was shared by them on social media platforms on Tuesday.

"After the Emergency, when dadi (Indira Gandhi) lost the election, we moved to a different house. I remember there was a lot of tension," Priyanka Gandhi says in the video.

Divine Illumination



Fireworks light up the sky at the illuminated Golden Temple during Guru Nanak Jayanti, in Amritsar. | Photo PTI

| SIX YEARS AFTER PARTING WAYS |

BJP-SAD announce alliance for Punjab Assembly polls

Press Trust Of India

CM post will go to the SAD if alliance comes to power.

NEW DELHI: The BJP and Shiromani Akali Dal on Tuesday announced their tie-up for the upcoming Punjab Assembly polls, marking the return of the oldest NDA ally after six



years, with Home Minister Amit Shah making it clear that the CM post will go to the SAD as it would be the "big brother" in the alliance. Shah said the two parties would contest all 117 seats in Punjab.

'Punjab to get pro-people governance'

PM Narendra Modi on Tuesday said that he was extremely delighted that the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) returned to the NDA and was confident that the coalition will emerge as the preferred choice of the people of Punjab. The BJP and SAD on Tuesday announced their alliance for the upcoming Punjab Assembly elections, describing it as a "natural and emotional" pact. "Putting Punjab and the welfare of Punjabis first! I am extremely delighted that the Shiromani Akali Dal returns to the NDA family and that too on the Parkash Purab of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji," Modi said in a post on 'X'. The prime minister said the BJP and the Akali Dal have a natural alliance which will ensure Punjab gets pro-people governance that takes the state to new heights of progress. "Nurtured by Atal Ji, Advani Ji and Sardar Parkash Singh Badal Ji, the Akali Dal-BJP Alliance has stood the test of time. I am confident that our Alliance will emerge as the preferred choice of the people of Punjab," he said.

| HEALTHY SIGN |

Informal economy registers record growth

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: India's unincorporated non-farm economy expanded at its fastest quarterly pace on record in July-September, but the surge was driven largely by owner-operated businesses rather than paid employment, pointing to an expansion in self-employment even as the creation of hired jobs remained relatively weak.

The number of establishments rose 18.81 per



cent from a year earlier to 9.47 crore, while employment increased 16.86 per cent to 15.03 crore, the National Statistics Office (NSO) said in its latest Quarterly Bulletin of the Annual Survey of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises. Both growth rates were the highest in the quarterly series.

The composition of employment, however, presents a more mixed picture. The number of hired workers increased by only about 5 per cent to 3.49 crore, while working owners accounted for nearly 62 per cent of the workforce, up from 59.98 per cent a year earlier.

The figures suggest that the expansion of India's vast small-business economy is translating more rapidly into self-employment and owner-operated enterprises than into conventional wage-paying jobs.

NUMBER

18.81

- The number of establishments rose 18.81 pc from a year earlier to 9.47 crore.

K'taka backs Toyota's expansion plans fully: CM Shivakumar

Press Trust Of India

Shivakumar encouraged the company to further scale up its operations in the state.

BENGALURU: CM D K Shivakumar on Monday assured Toyota Motor Corporation of his government's full support and facilitation for expanding its manufacturing operations in Karnataka, as the Japanese automobile major looks at scaling its vehicle production capacity to one million in the near future.

During a meeting with the senior leadership of Toyota Motor Corporation at its Motomachi plant in Japan, the CM, along with Minister for Large and Medium Industries M B Patil, discussed opportunities to strengthen the automaker's manufacturing footprint, expand production and explore new mobility solutions in Karnataka, officials said.

The Toyota delegation was led by Masakazu Yoshimura, Regional CEO of Toyota Motor Corporation, they said.

According to a statement issued by the CMO, the company highlighted Karnataka's importance as a key manufacturing destination and export hub, besides outlining its existing presence and operations in the state.

Raipur



Demolish skywalk and construct a flyover instead.

Vandana Rajput

Cong Spokesperson

Richa reviews paddy procurement, stresses farmer convenience

Officials directed to ensure hassle-free paddy procurement for farmers.

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: Additional Chief Secretary and Secretary-in-charge of Raipur district, Richa Sharma, inspected paddy procurement centres at Arang, Jaroud and Bhansoj along with Collector Dr Gaurav Singh to review procurement arrangements and assess facilities available to farmers. She interacted with farmers and directed officials to ensure a smooth, transparent and hassle-free procurement process. During the inspection at Arang, Sharma instructed officials to provide essential facilities, including drinking water, shaded



waiting areas and seating arrangements. She stressed that farmers should not face any inconvenience during token generation, weighing and sale of their produce. She also directed regular monitoring of weighing and storage operations. At the Jaroud procurement centre, she reviewed paddy stacking and storage arrangements and instructed officials to ensure proper drainage and adequate dunnage to protect the procured crop from rain and moisture. She also emphasised wider publicity of the Krishak Unnati Yojana to increase awareness among farmers.

During her visit to Bhansoj, Sharma sought feedback from farmers regarding token distribution and procurement arrangements. Farmers informed her that tokens were being issued smoothly and they were not facing difficulties in selling their produce. She also assured that farmers whose crops were damaged due to recent rains would receive assistance as per prescribed rules. Meanwhile, Collector Dr Gaurav Singh informed her about a digital dashboard developed by the district administration for continuous monitoring of procurement centres. District and sector-level nodal officers upload photographs showing storage, stacking, security and other arrangements. The procurement centres are reviewed twice daily, in the morning and evening, through video conferencing. The system helps officials identify shortcomings and take corrective measures promptly.

HIGHLIGHT

- **Digital dashboard introduced for continuous monitoring.**

Zila Panchayat CEO Kumar Bishwaranjan, Food Controller Bhupendra Mishra, DCCB representative Bhupesh Chandravanshi and Arang SDM Ravi Singh were also present during the inspection.

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

'SAMVAD SE SAMADHAN'

Raipur police organise public awareness programme 'Samvad Se Samadhan'



RAIPUR: Pandri police organised a public awareness programme at Jai Hind Chowk, Lodhipara, on November 24 under the initiative 'Samvad Se Samadhan', aimed at strengthening police-public relations and promoting community participation in crime prevention. Around 100 local residents attended the programme. During the campaign, police personnel educated residents about various forms of cybercrime, including online financial fraud, digital arrest scams, fraudulent calls, malicious links, unsafe social media practices and banking fraud. Citizens were also informed about precautions to follow while conducting online financial transactions. The police explained the procedure for reporting cyber fraud through the national helpline number 1930 and the official portal www.cybercrime.gov.in. Other important issues discussed during the programme included drug de-addiction, traffic safety, protection of women and children, domestic violence and resolving interpersonal disputes through dialogue and legal procedures.

PROUD MOMENT

Agricultural scientist Dr Anil Dixit honoured for Gold Medal achievement

RAIPUR: Dr Anil Dixit, Joint Director of ICAR-NIBSM, Raipur, was felicitated by the Chhattisgarh Kanyakubj Education Board in recognition of his Gold Medal achievement and 33 years of contribution to agricultural science. The Gold Medal was presented to Dr Dixit by Dr H.S. Dhaliwal, Vice-Chancellor of Punjab Agricultural University (PAU), Ludhiana, during the 4th International Weed Conference held from November 18 to 21.



Dr Dixit has made significant contributions to improving tribal farming systems through his work with tribal farmers in Bastar. In recognition of his research, he received the ICAR Outstanding Tribal Farming Research Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed Award, along with several other national honours in agricultural science.

At the felicitation ceremony in Raipur, MP Brijmohan Agrawal honoured Dr Dixit and appreciated his long-standing contributions to the field. Raipur Police Commissioner and Anjay Shukla, Vice-Chairman of the Medicinal Board, were also present on the occasion.

FREE DENTAL CHECK-UP CAMP

N.H. Goel World School's NSS Unit organises free dental check-up camp

RAIPUR: Upholding the core spirit of the National Service Scheme (NSS), guided by the motto "Not Me, But You" and the principle of "Education through Service," the NSS Unit of N.H. Goel World School organised a Free Dental Check-up Camp at the Higher Secondary Girls' School in Nardaha. The camp was organised in collaboration with Namman Dental Hospital. A total of 200 girl students from the host school benefited from the free dental check-up camp. Qualified dental professionals from Namman Dental Hospital conducted comprehensive dental examinations and also delivered an informative session on oral hygiene and preventive dental care. The doctors emphasised the importance of timely dental check-ups and maintaining regular oral hygiene practices.



The camp was successfully conducted under the leadership of Ms. Sakshi Kahar, NSS Programme Officer. Dr. Neha B. Purohit and Mr. Bhuvan Lal Purena also extended valuable support in organising the event. NSS volunteers from Classes XI and XII actively participated in managing the arrangements, demonstrating excellent organisational skills, teamwork and a strong sense of social responsibility.

EXPORT TRAINING PROGRAMME

Three-day export training programme held for MSMEs in Raipur



RAIPUR: A three-day Export Awareness and Training Programme was organised by Choice Consultancy at Hotel Mahendra, Raipur, from November 19 to 21 under the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) Scheme. The programme aimed to connect micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in Chhattisgarh with global markets and familiarise entrepreneurs with export opportunities and procedures.

On the first day, Dinesh from the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) briefed participants on export opportunities in agricultural and food products, the organisation's role and essential export procedures. On the second day, Kaushik Mitra from the Export Credit Guarantee Corporation (ECGC) explained export credit insurance, financial risk management and payment security.

Ritesh from the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) provided information on Importer Exporter Code (IEC) registration, documentation, export formalities and foreign trade regulations.

Woman from Mumbai nabbed in Raipur with cannabis worth Rs 6 lakh

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: On November 23, the Anti-Crime and Cyber Unit received information that a woman was present near the railway platform in Sarona–within the jurisdiction of the D.D. Nagar police station–in possession of cannabis and appeared to be preparing to travel elsewhere. Acting under the guidance of senior officers, a joint team from the Anti-Crime and Cyber Unit and the D.D. Nagar police station reached the location, identified the woman based on the description provided by an informant, and appre-



hended her. During questioning, the woman identified herself as Sonali Mote, a resident of Mumbai, Maharashtra. Upon searching the bags she was carrying, the team discovered cannabis stored in various containers. The accused, Sonali Mote, was arrested, and 12 kilograms of cannabis–valued at approximately Rs 6,00,000–were seized from her possession. A case (Crime No. 730/26) has been registered against her at the D.D. Nagar police station under Section 20(b) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act. Authorities are conducting a comprehensive, end-to-end investigation, interrogating the arrested individual to uncover forward and backward linkages and identify other potential suspects.

Activa stolen from Blinkit store recovered, accused arrested

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: The Anti-Crime and Cyber Unit, along with Purani Basti police, has arrested a 32-year-old man for allegedly stealing an Activa scooter belonging to a Blinkit delivery executive. The stolen vehicle, valued at approximately Rs 50,000, has been recovered from his possession.

The accused has been identified as Vishal Padamwar, son of Vinod Padamwar, a resident of New Changorabhata under D.D. Nagar police station limits. According to police, complainant Ajay Dhruv, who works



as a delivery executive for Blinkit, reported that his Activa scooter (CG/04/QR/9361), registered in his wife's name, was stolen on November 23, 2024. He had parked the scooter outside the Blinkit store in Bhathagaon around 2 pm and entered the premises. When he returned approximately 15 minutes later, the vehicle was missing.

No tolerance for corruption, says Amit Chimnani

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: BJP state spokesperson Amit Chimnani has said that the Vishnu Deo Sai-led state government will take strict action against officials who harass citizens without reason to extort money. He said the government follows a zero-tolerance policy towards corruption, with good governance and public interest remaining its top priorities. Reacting to the Anti-Corruption Bureau's (ACB) arrest of a State GST Assistant Commissioner and others while allegedly accepting a bribe in Jagdalpur, Chimnani said the swift action against officials and middlemen involved in demanding money in a GST-related matter sends a strong message that cor-



ruption will not be tolerated.

He asserted that no individual, irrespective of position or influence, would be spared if found involved in corrupt practices. Officials misusing their authority to harass ordinary citizens and businessmen would face stringent legal action. Targeting the previous Congress government, Chimnani alleged that corruption had received protection during its tenure and investigative agencies were not allowed to function independently.

| MYSTERY BEHIND 5 DEATHS UNCOVERED |

'Head of family turns out to be the perpetrator'

Central Chronicle News

The mystery behind 5 deaths in Sanjay Nagar has been uncovered after 7 months.

RAIPUR: In the case of the mass death of 5 individuals in the Sanjay Nagar area of the capital, Raipur, a major revelation has emerged after nearly 7 months. Following findings from a Special Investigation Team (SIT), the police have identified the deceased head of the family, Sajid Ali, as the perpetrator; he had killed his wife and three children by administering pesticide, after which he took his own life by hanging.



According to the SIT investigation, Sajid was distressed due to losses in a betting business and severe financial hardship. He used to facilitate betting via mobile phones in the Golbazar and Daganiya areas. An examination of his bank accounts revealed transactions totaling approximately 70 lakh over the past five years. His financial troubles intensified after his business collapsed. The investigation further revealed that on the day of the incident, Sajid called his son, Irshad, home twice. He had brought sweets and food, and subsequently mixed pesticide into the items, which he then gave to his wife, Rabia, and their three children. CCTV footage shows him closing the door of the house for the last time at 10:18 AM. Additionally, about two and a half months prior to the incident, he had confided in an acquaintance that his relationship with his family was strained and that he no longer wished to live.

Following an investigation that lasted nearly five months, the Tikrapara police have registered a murder case against Sajid Ali.

| GRAND DIWALI GATHERING |

Kanyakubja Brahmin Samaj felicitates 98 talented individuals

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: A grand Diwali gathering and an awards ceremony for meritorious students were organized by the Kanyakubja Sabha-Shiksha Mandal at Ashirwad Bhawan, Bayron Bazar, Raipur. The event was graced by several prominent figures, including the Chief Guest, Brijmohan Agrawal, the popular Member of Parliament (MP) for the Raipur Lok Sabha constituency;



Anjay Shukla, Vice-Chairman of the Chhattisgarh Tribal, Health Tradition, and Medicinal Plant Board; Sunil Soni, MLA for Raipur South; Anil Kumar Bajpai, a former police officer and President of the Telangana Brahmin Samaj (Hyderabad); Raipur Police Commissioner Sanjeev Shukla; and Corporator Amar Gidwani.

During the Diwali Milan Samaroh, 98 talented students were honored with silver medals and mementos. Community members who demonstrated outstanding performance at the state and national levels were also recognized. Furthermore, four exceptionally talented children were awarded gold medals, supported by the community. The event was skillfully conducted by Rajesh Mishra and Vikas Tiwari.

The program commenced with the guests, office-bearers, and distinguished members offering floral tributes to the statue of Pt. Ravishankar Shukla and the portrait of Lord Parashurama.

Raipur News

Devotees in large number took Holy dip in Kharun

Devotees from city and nearby areas in large number took a Holy dip on occasion of Kartik Poornima in Kharun River.

Central Chronicle News



RAIPUR: Devotees from city and nearby areas in large number took a Holy dip on occasion of Kartik Poornima in Kharun River located at Mahadev Ghat and offered lamps (deepdaan) and sought the blessings of Lord Bholenath (Shiva) in the abode of Lord Hatkeshwar Mahadev.

In Indian religious traditions, Kartik Purnima is considered highly sacred. On this day, bathing in a river, worshipping Lord Shiva and Lord Vishnu, offering lamps (deepdaan), and performing acts of charity are held in high regard. According to religious beliefs, bathing in sacred waters and offering lamps on Kartik Purnima brings spiritual merit (punya).

At Mahadev Ghat, devotees took a Holy dip in the Kharun River in the early morning and perform 'jalabhishek' (offering water) to Lord Hatkeshwar Mahadev. By offering 'belpatra' (sacred leaves), flowers, and water at the temple, they prayed for the well-being, prosperity, and good health of their families, as well as for the overall prosperity of the state. The tradition of lighting lamps along the riverbank lends a distinct spiritual dimension to this occasion. The 'Punni Mela' (fair) is an integral part of the unique cultural tradition of Chhattisgarh, where religious faith and folk life complement one another. In the state, the period surrounding the paddy harvest is traditionally associated with rural festivals, fairs, and 'madai' (local community fairs). In an agrarian society, this time serves as an occasion for collective joy, family reunions, and social engagement. The fair at Mahadev Ghat offers a glimpse into this vibrant folk life. The fairgrounds bustle with activity, featuring stalls selling traditional food, toys, adornments, household goods, and a variety of other items. Swings and various forms of entertainment serve as major attractions for children. For families, this event offers both a religious experience and an opportunity for shared joy. A defining feature of this fair is the beautiful blend of rural and urban cultures. Even amidst the modern capital, this event continues to keep Chhattisgarh's traditional lifestyle, sense of community, and cultural values alive. Mahadev Ghat is one of the prominent religious tourism destinations in the capital, Raipur.

FASTFACTS

- The fair at Mahadev Ghat offers a glimpse into this vibrant folk life.

Baghel takes a Holy dip in Kharun on Kartik Purnima



On the auspicious occasion of Kartik Purnima, former Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel arrived at Mahadev Ghat on Tuesday morning. In the early hours, he took a holy dip in the cold waters of the Kharun River. Staying true to his annual tradition, he dove into the water with a somersault. Following this, Bhupesh Baghel offered prayers at the Hatkeshwarnath Mahadev temple and prayed for the happiness and prosperity of the people of the state. Devotees began gathering at Mahadev Ghat from early morning on the occasion of Kartik Purnima. A large number of people arrived to take a sacred bath in the Kharun River. According to religious belief, bathing in a river and offering prayers on Kartik Purnima hold special significance. Upholding this tradition, Bhupesh Baghel visited Mahadev Ghat in Raipur this morning to bathe in the Kharun River.

CM Sai to hold Jandarshan on Nov 26

RAIPUR: Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai will hold a Jandarshan programme on Thursday, November 26, at his official residence in Civil Lines, Raipur. The programme will be held from 12 noon to 3 pm. During the programme, the Chief Minister will interact directly with members of the public, listen to their grievances and demands, and issue necessary directions to officials concerned for their prompt and appropriate redressal. The Jan Darshan programme will provide citizens an opportunity to place their grievances, demands and suggestions directly before the Chief Minister.

Digital talents to be honoured today

RAIPUR: To encourage creative talent and promote Chhattisgarh's rich culture, art, tourism, and heritage on a national stage through digital media, the state government is organizing the 'Chhattisgarh State Creator and Influencer Awards 2026' in Raipur on November 25.

This event–the first of its kind in the state–will be graced by the presence of Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai.

Saurabh's lawyer arrested before fleeing the country



Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: A major revelation has emerged in the Mahadev betting case. The ED has arrested lawyer Himanshu Shekhar, who was allegedly involved in 'fixing' judges and officials in cases linked to the Mahadev betting scandal. Himanshu had received Rs 15 cr from Saurabh Chandrakar for this purpose. A lookout circular had been issued against the 43-year-old Delhi-based corporate lawyer, leading to his arrest. He was apprehended by ED officials at Mumbai International Airport while attempting to flee the country for Dubai. Lawyer for Saurabh Chandrakar arrested in Mahadev betting case

A legal dispute arose in a special court in Mumbai concerning the arrest and transit remand. The Enforcement Directorate (ED) challenged the court's order denying transit remand before the Bombay High Court. Following relief from the High Court, the ED has brought the accused to Raipur and requested a seven-day remand for further questioning. According to Saurabh Pandey, a special public prosecutor for the ED, Mahadev betting promoter Saurabh Chandrakar was interrogated between November 13 and 19. During this period, he informed the investigative agency that over Rs 15 crore in cash had been paid to advocate Himanshu Shekhar to settle matters related to the betting operations. Following the emergence of Himanshu's name during the interrogation, the ED intensified its action against him. The investigative agency also learned that Himanshu had traveled to Dubai multiple times over the last three years, where he met with Saurabh Chandrakar. Based on information gathered during the interrogation, the ED had issued a 'Lookout Circular' to prevent the accused from fleeing the country.

HIGHLIGHT

- Accused of taking over 15 crore rupees from betting promoter Saurabh Chandrakar.
- Delhi-based corporate lawyer Himanshu Shekhar arrested by the ED in Mumbai.

NEWSLINE

APPEAL

Do not be cruel to animals:CSAWB

RAIPUR: In line with the guidelines of the Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI), the Chhattisgarh State Animal Welfare Board (has appealed to all citizens, educational institutions, social organizations, and public bodies in the state to adopt a humane, compassionate, and responsible attitude toward animals. The Board has stated that showing kindness and empathy toward animals is both a moral and a constitutional obligation for every citizen. Under Article 51A of the Constitution of India, it is the duty of every citizen to have compassion for living creatures. Furthermore, the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, provides legal safeguards to protect animals from unnecessary suffering and torture. The Board has urged citizens to follow key guidelines for animal protection.

It is strictly prohibited to beat, kick, frighten, or torture animals, or to inflict any form of unnecessary suffering upon them. Intentionally harming, poisoning, or abandoning animals is a punishable offense. All animals must be provided with adequate and appropriate food, clean drinking water, safe shelter, and necessary veterinary care. Proper arrangements must also be made to ensure the safety of animals during adverse conditions, such as extreme heat, cold, or heavy rainfall.

OBITUARY

Kamla Sangevar



RAIPUR: Kamla Sangevar, a resident of Q-16, Anupam Nagar, Raipur, passed away on Tuesday, November 24, 2026. She was the wife of Pradeep Sangevar and mother of Rajesh and Rakesh Sangevar. Her last rites were performed at 3 pm at Marwari Crematorium, Raipur.

| SPORTS COMPETITION |

IGKV wins title of 'overall winner' with total of 16 medals



Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: The College of Agriculture, Indira Gandhi Krishi Vishwavidyalaya (IGKV), Raipur, delivered an outstanding performance at the Eastern Regional Inter-Collegiate Sports Competition 2026-27, clinching the title of 'Overall Winner' with a total of 16 gold medals. The event was held from November 20 to 22, 2026, at the DKS College of Agriculture and Research Centre, Bhatapara.

Showcasing exceptional talent, hard work, discipline, and sportsmanship, the college's athletes achieved remarkable success across various team and individual events. In team events, the College of Agriculture, Raipur, secured gold medals in Table Tennis (boys and girls), Badminton (boys and girls), Kabaddi (boys), Kho-Kho (boys), and Volleyball (boys and girls). The college's athletes also achieved notable success in athletics. Gold medals were won in the boys' 100m, 400m, 800m, and 1500m races. In the girls' category, the college brought home gold medals in the shot put, javelin throw, and discus throw.

Additionally, the athletes earned several silver and bronze medals across various disciplines. This impressive achievement has brought new recognition to the college's sporting talent, team spirit, and collective effort.

Dr. Aarti Guhe, Dean of the College of Agriculture, Raipur, extended her heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to all the winning athletes, team managers, coaches, and support staff, wishing them a bright future.

The team from the College of Agriculture, Raipur, was led by Team Manager and Sports Officer Dr. R.K. Thakur, along with Women's Team Manager Dr. Yogeshwari. Under their guidance and coordination, the athletes delivered an excellent performance, securing this prestigious achievement for the college.

| CLARIFICATION OF ADDL. SECURITY DEPOSIT |

'Security deposit' from consumers as per CSERC provisions

Central Chronicle News

The rule for an 'additional security deposit' has been in effect since the era of the undivided MPEB; it is not a new policy.

RAIPUR: In accordance with the provisions of the Chhattisgarh State Electricity Regulatory Commission, an 'additional security deposit' is calculated for electricity consumers every October and collected through their electricity bills. This calculation is based on the consumer's electricity consumption over the preceding 12 months. Consumers earn interest on this deposited amount at a rate higher than that offered by banks. Last year, interest amounting to Rs 188.53 cr on these additional security deposits was credited to consumers' bills, informs a press release The requirement for consumers to provide an additional security deposit due to increased consumption is not a new policy; it has been in place since the time of the undivided Madhya Pradesh Electricity Board.

The Chhattisgarh State Power Distribution Company calculates the additional security deposit by analyzing each consumer's usage. As per the regulations, the security deposit must be equivalent to the average electricity bill for a 60-day (two-month) period. This additional deposit is requested only from consumers whose electricity consumption has increased over the year–specifically, it is sought when there is a difference between the amount already held as a security deposit and the newly calculated required amount. This sum is not a charge for electricity consumption, but rather a security deposit (collateral) provided by the consumer. This year, less than 9 percent of consumers across the state were required to pay an additional security deposit.

There are 6.757 million (67.57 lakh) consumers in the state, out of which only 618,000 (6.18 lakh) are required to deposit an additional security deposit. If a consumer's electricity consumption is low, the additional security deposit can be adjusted against their electricity bill or refunded. This security deposit is not an electricity bill payment, but rather a deposit held on behalf of the consumer, which is returned if the connection is terminated. Consumers earn interest on this amount at a rate higher than that offered on bank savings accounts. In accordance with Reserve Bank of India (RBI) guidelines, interest at a rate of 5.75% has been provided for the current year; this has been credited to each consumer by adjusting it against their May electricity bill.

| THRU 'AAROGYA SE ATMANIRBHARTA' INITIATIVE |

Ch'garh's PM SVANidhi gains national recognition

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: Chhattisgarh's efforts to foster economic self-reliance among street vendors, while simultaneously strengthening their health and social security, have received significant national recognition. The state has been honoured with five national awards across various categories for the effective implementation of the Pradhan Mantri SVANidhi (PM SVANidhi) scheme. The 'Aarogya se Atmanirbharta' (Self-Reliance through Health) initiative–which integrates the 'Mukhyamantri Slum Swasthya Yojana' (Chief Minister's Slum Health Scheme) with the PM SVANidhi scheme–secured second place nationwide in the 'Innovation and Best Practices' category. Under this initiative, street vendors and their families are provided with free health check-ups, medicines, and access to credit facilities–all in a single location. The awards were presented at the 'SVANidhi Samman Awards



2026,' organized by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India, at the Dr. Ambedkar International Centre in New Delhi. The awards were received on behalf of Chhattisgarh by Dy CM and Minister for Urban Administration and Development, Arun Sao; Principal Secretary, Sonmani Borah; Director, Nilesh Mahadev Kshirsagar; and the Dy Chief Executive Officer of the State Urban Development Agency (SUDA) and State Nodal Officer, Sunil Agrahari. The ceremony was held in the presence of the Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs, Manohar Lal, and the Minister of State, Shri Tokhan Sahu. Integrating Health Services into Loan Camps Boosts Street Vendor Participation Sumeet Agrawal, Chief Executive Officer of the State Urban Development Agency, stated that increasing the participation of street vendors in loan camps organized under the PM SVANidhi scheme was a significant challenge. Many street vendors perceived these camps as being limited solely to the submission of applications and documentation. To address this, Chhattisgarh integrated the mobile medical units of the 'Mukhyamantri Slum Swasthya Yojana' (Chief Minister's Slum Health Scheme) with the PM SVANidhi loan camps, leading to the organization of 'health-cum-loan' camps. At these camps, street vendors and their families were provided with free health check-ups, 41 types of diagnostic tests, and 170 varieties of generic medicines.

Additionally, they received assistance with filling out loan applications, creating socio-economic profiles for their families, and accessing various welfare schemes.



Bilaspur



"Bilaspur Swadeshi Mela has been a huge success, because it has provided market to the indigenous products."

Dharam Lal Kaushik
MLA, Bilha

Swadeshi Mela extended amid overwhelming response

In view of the steadily growing crowds and public demand, the Swadeshi Mela organizing committee has extended the even. Now the Mela will continue till Nov 28.

Central Chronicle News



BILASPUR: Organized with the objective of providing market access to indigenous products and recognition to local talent, the Swadeshi Mela has received an overwhelming response from city residents.

In view of the steadily growing crowds and public demand, the organizing committee has extended the duration of the fair by one day. Now the Mela will continue till November 28 instead of November 27. Featuring everything from Chhattisgarh's traditional handicrafts, Bastar art, handloom items, and self-help group products to household goods and modern machinery–ranging from a needle to a JCB–the fair has emerged as a major attraction. On the fourth day of the event, Bilha MLA Dharamlal Kaushik attended as the chief guest, while Kota MLA Atal Shrivastava presided over the program.

Mayor Pooja Vidhani, District Cooperative Central Bank Chairman Rajneesh Singh, and Kishore Rai were present as distinguished guests. Addressing the gathering, MLA Kaushik remarked that the massive turnout at the fair reminds one of Delhi's Pragati Maidan, offering equal opportunities to small and large traders as well as every section of society. Emphasizing the goal of building a 'Viksit Chhattisgarh' ahead of the national 'Viksit Bharat 2047' vision, he stated that local talent and rural skills must be promoted and connected with industry and employment, adding that Swadeshi products must be actively adopted rather than merely praised.

The program was conducted by Rinku Mitra, Tushar Panse, Pratiksha Tamrakar, and Yugal Sharma, with fair convenor Gulshan Rishi, Dr. Sujit Shrivastava, Praveen Jha, Dr. Prafulla Sharma, Arun Dixit, Dr. Nita Shrivastava, Soumitra Gupta, Bhrigu Awasthi, and others in attendance. Women Showcase Talent in Culinary and Traditional Attire Contests; Youth Donate Blood, On the fourth day of the fair, sweet and savory culinary competitions were organized.

FASTFACTS

- Guests visiting in the Swadeshi Mela stressed linking local talent with the market.
- The Mela has shown Chhattisgarh's traditional handicrafts, Bastar art, handloom in the stalls.

'Swadeshi Mela gives platform to SHGs'

Speaking on the occasion, MLA Atal Shrivastava noted that the Swadeshi Mela r offers women from self-help groups a vital platform to showcase and sell their products. He highlighted that the diversity of Bastar art and handmade handloom goods serves as an effective medium to bring recognition to local producers and take their creations to national and international markets. Additionally, a blood donation camp has been set up at the venue to assist needy patients, drawing active participation from citizens.

Lost bag with Rs 3 Lakh recovered

BILASPUR: City Kotwali police recovered a bag containing Rs 3 lakh in cash with the help of CCTV footage and returned it safely to a trader who had accidentally lost it while travelling to his shop. The entire amount was found intact.

According to police, Narendra Chhugani, a resident of the area behind the Old High Court, runs Deepak Aalu Bhandar at Vyapar Vihar and Tifra Mandi. Around 9 am on Sunday, he was travelling on his two-wheeler from his residence to his shop when the bag kept on the vehicle accidentally fell near Mama-Bhanja Talab in Tikrapara.

Chhugani lodged a complaint at City Kotwali police station on November 23. Acting on his complaint, a special team was formed under the leadership of SHO Inspector Top Singh Nawrang.

Police examined CCTV footage from the Integrated Traffic Management System (ITMS) building and other locations. The footage showed a motorcycle rider picking up the bag and handing it to an auto-rickshaw driver. Police traced the auto through its registration number using RTO records and questioned the driver, who confirmed finding the bag on the road.

Road roller crushes over 200 seized modified silencers



Central Chronicle News

City police used road roller o crush over 200 seized modified silencers.

BILASPUR: In a major drive against noise pollution and unauthorised vehicle modifications, Bilaspur traffic police destroyed more than 200 seized modified silencers by running a road roller over them at the Bilasagudi premises in Police Lines. The action was taken to discourage motorists from using illegal exhaust systems that create excessive noise and violate traffic regulations. According to police officials, the modified silencers had been confiscated from different parts of the city during enforcement drives conducted throughout 2026. Most of these exhausts had been fitted illegally on Royal Enfield Bullet motorcycles and other high-capacity motorcycles. The violators were booked under relevant provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act, and the cases were formally disposed of by the court before the seized silencers were destroyed. Police officials explained that unauthorised modified silencers produce noise levels far beyond the prescribed decibel limits. Such modifications also involve unauthorised changes to the original structure of motorcycles and may include the removal of built-in pollution control equipment. The destruction drive was carried out on the orders of Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Rajnesh Singh and under the guidance of Additional Superintendent of Police (Traffic) Richa Mishra.

FASTFACTS

- Traffic police carred out public destruction drive at Police Lines. The cases registered in this were disposed of via court under Motor Vehicles Act.

NEWSLINE

FINE

Rs 5.24 Lakh collected from WT passengers

BILASPUR: The Bilaspur Division of South East Central Railway (SECR) recovered Rs 5,24,445 in fines from 615 passengers found travelling without valid tickets or with irregular tickets during an intensive ticket-checking campaign. The drive was conducted to discourage ticketless travel and ensure safer and more organised journeys for genuine ticket-holding passengers.

Under the guidance of Senior Divisional Commercial Manager Anurag Kumar Singh, an intensive block-checking (Naka) operation was carried out across the Bilaspur-Champa-Raigarh-Brajrajnagar and Bilaspur-Bhatapara sections.

The checking team included Chief Ticket Inspectors, Deputy Chief Ticket Inspectors and Travelling Ticket Examiners (TTEs).

During the campaign, railway officials thoroughly inspected 25 trains and registered 615 cases of ticketing violations. A total penalty of Rs 5,24,445 was collected from the passengers concerned. According to railway officials, the recovery included Rs 4,07,810 from 443 cases of ticketless travel.

Free health check-up camp benefits over 80 villagers

Central Chronicle News

The patients were benefited with eye and cataract screening alongside general check-up in the camp.



BILASPUR: More than 80 villagers received free medical checkups and consultation services at a health camp organised by Pranusha Health Care Samiti in Baghelkapa village under Belgahna Gram Panchayat on November 22. The camp was organised with the objective of providing basic healthcare facilities to rural residents and spreading awareness about preventive healthcare. Several medical services were made available to villagers during the camp, including eye examinations, cataract screening, general health checkups and basic vital assessments. A large number of local residents, including elderly people and women, participated in the programme and benefited from the free medical facilities. Special attention was given to eye-related problems, particularly cataracts, which often remain undetected in rural areas because of limited access to medical services. People were also advised about the importance of regular health checkups, maintaining proper eye care and seeking medical attention whenever symptoms of illness appear. Doctors and health workers explained the importance of early detection and timely treatment of diseases. They also encouraged villagers to adopt healthy habits and not ignore common health problems, particularly those associated with old age.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Brajesh Patel of Pranusha Health Care said that extending healthcare services to rural and remote areas was among the organisation's important social objectives.

FASTFACTS

- Over 80 villagers undergo free checkups at health camp in Baghelkapa
- Organized by Pranusha Health Care Samiti under Belgahna panchayat;

| GRIEVANCES |

SEC Rly GM holds meeting with Employees Association

Central Chronicle News

Railway officials and association representatives discussed employee welfare, staff concerns and organisational matters.



FILE PHOTO

BILASPUR: An informal meeting with office-bearers and representatives of the South East Central Railway (SECR) Other Backward Classes Employees Association was held on Tuesday at the SECR headquarters in Bilaspur.

The meeting was chaired by General Manager Tarun Prakash and focused on employee welfare, staff interests and organisational issues.

Association Zonal President B. Appala Naidu and General Secretary Hanumantu Prasad Rao attended the meeting along with representatives from the Bilaspur, Raipur and Nagpur divisions and other office-bearers of the organisation. Principal Chief Personnel Officer (PCPO) Darshneet B. Ahluwalia was also present, along with principal heads of various departments and senior railway officials. During the interaction, association representatives placed several issues concerning employee welfare, working conditions, staff interests and organisational matters before the General Manager and the concerned departmental heads.

The issues were discussed in detail, with both sides exchanging views on possible solutions and measures for improving employee welfare. Senior officials from various departments participated in the discussions, ensuring that the concerns raised by the association received attention from the respective authorities.

Those present included the Chief Personnel Officer (Administration), Deputy Chief Personnel Officer (Welfare), Principal Chief Medical Director, Principal Financial Advisor, Principal Chief Electrical Engineer, Principal Chief Security Commissioner, Deputy General Manager (General) and Secretary to the General Manager, besides other heads of departments and senior headquarters officials.

The meeting provided a platform for direct interaction between the employees' association and railway administration on matters affecting staff welfare and organisational functioning.

FASTFACTS

- General Manager Tarun Prakash chaired the interaction attended by representatives from three divisions.

SUICIDE

Man commits suicide in Sarkanda

BILASPUR: A 44-year-old man allegedly died by suicide by hanging himself at his residence in the Sarkanda police station area following a domestic dispute with his wife. Upon receiving information about the incident, police arrived at the scene, brought down the body, conducted an inquest (panchnama), and sent it for a post-mortem examination.

According to Station House Officer Naresh Chauhan, the deceased has been identified as Vinay Kumbhaj (44), son of Tumnath Kumbhaj and a resident of Hanuman Nagar Marg on Bahtarai Road. Following an argument over an issue, Vinay's wife left for her parental home. Shortly after she departed, Vinay hanged himself inside the house.

| LAURELS |

Bilaspur Police Petrol Pump ranks first in CG-MP

Central Chronicle News



BILASPUR: The police-operated petrol pump in Bilaspur has secured the first position across Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh for its outstanding performance in the sale of petroleum products and commercial operations.

The achievement has brought recognition to the Bilaspur Police Department and its team managing the Police Welfare Petrol Pump. According to officials, the top ranking reflects efficient management, responsible commercial operations, a strong spirit of public service and the consistent efforts of the entire team. The performance was assessed on the basis of petroleum product sales and other operational parameters. The achievement has been attributed to the dedication of police personnel and employees associated with the facility, who have maintained a high level of commitment in their daily responsibilities. The nozzle operators, who directly interact with customers and handle fuel dispensing operations, have also played an important role in ensuring smooth functioning. Deputy Inspector General (DIG) and Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Rajnesh Singh congratulated all officers and personnel associated with the Bilaspur Police Department on this accomplishment. He particularly appreciated the efforts of the staff deployed at the Police Welfare Petrol Pump and its nozzle operators.

"The police staff deployed at Police Welfare Petrol Pump needs to be lauded."

Rajnesh Singh
SSP, Bilspur

UTD students stage protest at ABV University

Central Chronicle News

BILASPUR: Students of the University Teaching Department (UTD) at Atal Bihari Vajpayee University staged a protest against the university administration over a seven-point charter of demands. Gathering in large numbers, the students gheraoed the university premises to raise concerns regarding academic facilities, campus security, and administrative mismanagement. Vice-Chancellor Prof. Lalit Prakash Pateriya personally arrived to hold discussions with the protesting students, and following talks in the presence of heads of departments, consensus was reached on most of the demands. Key demands put forward by the students included providing adequate gaps between examinations for difficult subjects, ensuring Wi-Fi and high-speed internet in campus and guaranteeing smooth functioning of existing CCTV cameras.

CROSSING

Bellari Rly crossing to remain closed

BILASPUR: The railway administration has decided to close Manned Level Crossing No. 298 (Bellari Phatak), located at kilometer 601/15-17 in the Bhupdeopur station yard under the Bilaspur Division of South East Central Railway, to road traffic for three days to carry out annual maintenance work.The crossing will remain closed from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM on November 26, 27, and 28, 2026. During the maintenance period, motorists can use the nearby Level Crossing No. 299 (Bhupdeopur Phatak) as an alternative route for road traffic.



25 नवम्बर

छत्तीसगढ़ के यशस्वी उप मुख्यमंत्री

माननीय

श्री अरुण साव जी

को जन्मदिन की हार्दिक बधाई एवं

शुभकामनाएं

लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी विभाग
अंतर्गत 03 वर्ष की उपलब्धियां

- जनजातीय क्षेत्रों में बेहतर सेवा हेतु अंबिकापुर में परिक्षेत्र कार्यालय , जशपुर में मंडल कार्यालय तथा कोंडागांव में खंड कार्यालय (वि/याँ) स्वीकृत किया गया।
- 117 उप अभियंताओं के पदों पर सीधी भर्ती की गई।
- 103 अन्य पदों पर नियमित एवम सीधी भर्ती कर युवाओं को रोजगार दिया गया।
- पेयजल सुविधा विस्तार हेतु 10528 नलकूप खनन कर हैंडपंप की स्थापना की गई।
- कम जल आवक क्षमता वाले 2500 नलकूपों में हाइड्रोफ्रैक्चरिंग कर जल आवक में वृद्धि की गई ।

जल जीवन मिशन अंतर्गत 03 वर्ष की उपलब्धियां

- नवीन क्रियाशील घरेलू नल कनेक्शन प्रदाय करते हुए तथा पुराने अक्रियाशील कनेक्शनों को क्रियाशील कर लगभग 15.51 लाख से ज्यादा घरों में स्वच्छ पेयजल उपलब्ध कराया गया।
- 6,412 से ज्यादा ग्रामों के समस्त परिवारों में क्रियाशील नल कनेक्शन देते हुए "हर-घर-जल" घोषित किया गया।
- जलापूर्ति के लिए लगभग 13,838 से अधिक योजनाओं का भौतिक निर्माण कार्य पूर्ण किया गया।
- पूर्ण हो चुकी 11,483 से ज्यादा योजनाओं को संचालन और रख-रखाव के लिए ग्राम-पंचायतों को हस्तांतरित किया गया।
- जल जीवन मिशन के 6,258 से अधिक योजनाओं में नवीन स्त्रोत का निर्माण किया गया।
- 6,664 से अधिक उच्च स्तरीय आर.सी.सी. टंकीयों का निर्माण कार्य पूर्ण किया गया।
- 05 समूह जल प्रदाय योजनाओं का कार्य सफलतापूर्वक पूर्ण किया गया।







यशवंत जैन
प्रदेश महामंत्री, भारतीय जनता पार्टी (छ. ग)



अखिलेश सोनी
प्रदेश महामंत्री, भारतीय जनता पार्टी (छ. ग)



नवीन मार्कण्डेय
प्रदेश महामंत्री, भारतीय जनता पार्टी (छ. ग)



राम गर्ग
प्रदेश कोषाध्यक्ष, भारतीय जनता पार्टी (छ. ग)

Amidst our commitment to strengthening healthcare facilities, it is a matter of pride for us to honor the 'Mitanin' sisters.

Shyam Bihari Jaiswal
Home Minister -Ch'garh



Bilaspur Region

Collector reviews schemes, pending cases weekly

Collector Jayshree Jain held a weekly time-limit review meeting at the Collectorate.

Central Chronicle News

SAKTI: Collector Jayshree Jain chaired a weekly time-bound review meeting at the Collectorate, reviewing public welfare schemes, departmental activities and pending cases. Superintendent of Police (SP) Prafulla Thakur also attended and issued directions to maintain law and order across the district.

With the Kharif marketing season 2026-27 paddy procurement underway, the Collector directed administrative and police officials to conduct regular inspections of procurement centres, particularly sensitive locations. SDMs, SDOPs, Tehsildars and SHOs were instructed to form joint teams and conduct day and night patrolling to prevent illegal transportation, storage and sale of paddy. The SP warned that middlemen and unscrupulous traders could become active as procurement increases. The Collector reviewed arrangements at procurement centres, directing officials to ensure adequate gunny bags, storage space, electronic weighing machines, biometric devices, computers, CCTV cameras, drinking water, toilets and other essential facilities. Nodal officers were instructed to inspect centres regularly and submit weekly reports. She also directed the Excise Department and police to take strict action against illegal liquor production and transportation. Arrangements for upcoming fairs, religious events and traffic management were also reviewed. The meeting covered preparations for Panch and Sarpanch by-elections and the Census Master Trainer workshop scheduled for December 2-4. The Collector instructed all departments to adopt the e-Office system for transparent and efficient functioning.



HIGHLIGHT

- She reviewed departmental schemes and pending cases during the meeting.

Reviewing development and welfare initiatives, she assessed the JalJeevan Mission, Ayushman Bharat, Nikshay Poshan Yojana, HPV vaccination, Swamitva Yojana and Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana.

3 killed after being struck by a truck

Central Chronicle News

MANENDRAGARH: Three people died in a horrific road accident on National Highway (NH) 43 on Tuesday morning. Near Imli Golai, a speeding truck struck a motorcycle carrying three individuals. The impact was so severe that the motorcycle became wedged under the truck and was dragged for approximately 200 meters.

The young man driving the motorcycle died on the spot, while another young woman succumbed to injuries while being transported to the hospital. A third person—a young woman who had sustained critical injuries—passed away in the ambulance while being transferred to Ambikapur. Consequently, the death toll from the accident has reached three. According to the information received, Bhumika, a resident of Barbaspur, had come to attend an 'Annaprashan' (first solid food) ceremony at the home of her friend, Pramila. On Tuesday morning, feeling unwell, Bhumika, Pramila, and Bhavan Kumar travelled to the 220-bed Civil Hospital in Manendragarh for medical treatment.

After receiving care, the three set off for Naugai on a motorcycle.



SELECTED

Anuradha selected for Science Cong

SURAJPUR: Anuradha, a student of Government Higher Secondary School, Krishnapur, in the Ramanujnagar block of Surajpur district, has brought laurels to the dist by securing selection for the national level at the 32nd National Children's Science Congress-2026. The state-level event concluded at PanditRavishankar Shukla University, Raipur, where Anuradha impressed the judges with her outstanding scientific project and effective presentation.

PROCUREMENT

MSP paddy purchase going on smoothly

KORBA: Paddy procurement under the Minimum Support Price (MSP) scheme for the Kharif marketing year 2026-27 is progressing smoothly across the district. Procurement is being carried out through 73 centres operated by 60 cooperative societies. District Food Officer G.S. Kanwar informed that 9,409.20 quintals of paddy have been procured since November 15. On November 23 alone, 2,272.80 quintals were purchased, while tokens have been issued for procuring 3,522 quintals on November 25.

| ACTION TAKEN ON ILLEGAL PADDY |

146 quintals seized in illegal paddy crackdown

Central Chronicle News

RAIGARH: The Raigarh district administration has intensified its crackdown on illegal paddy storage and the sale of old-season produce during MSP procurement.

Under Collector Mayank Chaturvedi's directions, a joint team from the Revenue, Food and Mandi departments conducted inspections at two locations, seizing over 146 quintals of paddy. During an inspection in Kasdol village of Tamnar block, officials seized 350 bags, weighing 140 quintals, illegally stored at a shop-cum-godown owned by Yudhishthir Sahu. Action was initiated under the Agricultural Produce Market Act. In another incident at Lipti Service Cooperative Society, officials rejected 17 bags of old-season paddy brought by farmer JitendraKhuntia of Golabuda village and placed them in safe custody.



So far, 2,528 quintals of paddy have been seized across the district. The administration said inspections would continue to prevent irregularities and protect genuine farmers' interests.

Rs109 cr approved for bypass construction

GPM: The Public Works Department has granted revised administrative approval of Rs 108.86 crore for the construction of the Pendra Bypass in Gaurela-Pendra-Marwahi district. Following the approval of Dy CM and Public Works Minister Arun Sao, the state government has issued an official circular from the Ministry to the Engineer-in-Chief, sanctioning the revised project funds. Emphasising the importance of quality construction, Sao has directed officials to ensure that only quality materials are used.

| SECRETARY IN-CHARGE INSPECTS PPCS |

Pingua emphasizes transparent, farmer-friendly paddy purchase

Central Chronicle News

BILASPUR: Additional Chief Secretary and Bilaspur district In-charge Secretary Manoj Kumar Pingua inspected five paddy procurement centres at Birkona, Sendri, Semartal, Ranigaon and Saida on Monday. He stressed transparent procurement and warned of strict action against irregularities.

Collector Sanjay Agrawal and Zila Panchayat CEO Sandeep Agrawal accompanied him. Pingua reviewed facilities, checked electronic weighing machines and directed nodal officers to conduct daily inspections. He also instructed officials to display monitoring committee members' names and contact numbers prominently. Considering recent rainfall and waterlogging, he directed officials to issue fresh tokens to farmers unable to sell their produce on scheduled dates.

RO appointed for panchayat polls

KORIYA: Collector and District Election Officer Roktima Yadav has appointed Tehsildar Pranjal Mishra as Returning Officer and Janpad Panchayat Baikunthpur CEO A. Panna as Assistant Returning Officer for the three-tier Panchayat general elections and by-elections scheduled for December 2026. The appointment order, issued on November 19, came into immediate effect.

32 cases, 1,441 quintals seized

Central Chronicle News

DHAMTARI: The Dhamtari district administration has intensified surveillance to prevent illegal storage, transportation and recycling of paddy during MSP procurement.

So far, 32 cases have been registered and 1,441.05 quintals of illegal paddy seized. Action is being taken under the Mandi Act, 1972.

To prevent illegal paddy transportation from Odisha, six checkposts have been established at Borai (Ghutkel), Banspani, Banraud, Sankra, Jaitpuri and Mohera.

HIGHLIGHT

- 32 cases have been registered and 1,441.05 quintals of illegal paddy seized.

Personnel from the Forest, Mandi and Revenue departments, along with Nagar Sainiks, are monitoring vehicles and verifying documents. Special flying squads comprising officials from five departments—Revenue, Food, Mandi, Cooperative and Agriculture—are conducting inspections at warehouses, commercial establishments and suspicious storage locations.

The administration warned that strict action would be taken against violators and appealed to farmers to follow prescribed procurement procedures and report suspicious activities to authorities.

Raut Nacha Mahotsav cancelled as tribute to Dr Yadav

BILASPUR: The Raut Nacha Mahotsav scheduled for November 28 has been postponed following the sudden demise of Dr Kalicharan Yadav, a senior community leader, social stalwart and guiding force behind the Raut Nacha Mahotsav Committee, Bilaspur.

Expressing grief over his demise, Raut Nacha troupe leaders, organising committees and prominent members of the Yadav community unanimously decided to cancel the district-level festival as a mark of respect. They also resolved that no Raut Nacha performances or Raut Baja programmes would be held in any village or elsewhere across Bilaspur district this year.



Instead, a collective tribute meeting and condolence gathering will be organised on November 28 at 2 pm at Lal Bahadur Shastri School Ground, Bilaspur. Members of the Yadav community, Raut Nach troupe leaders, social organisations, office-bearers, well-wishers and associates of the late Dr Yadav have been urged to attend and pay their respects.

| RAM TEMPLE COMING IN RAMGARH |

Minister reviews Shri Ram Temple work

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: A major initiative is underway to strengthen the religious and cultural identity of Ramgarh in Surguja district, with the construction of a grand Shri Ram Temple inspired by the Ayodhya temple.

State Tourism, Culture and Religious Trusts Minister Rajesh Agrawal visited the historic site to inspect the ongoing construction and review its progress. He directed officials to maintain high construction standards and ensure timely completion.



The Minister recalled that he had earlier announced the temple project and performed its bhumipujan. Expressing happiness over the progress, he said the temple represents the faith, devotion and sentiments of local residents. He added that Lord Ram's ideals of truth, righteousness, duty and public welfare continue to inspire society.

The temple will strengthen the region's spiritual identity and cultural heritage. Ramgarh holds immense historical, archaeological and religious significance.



Fun & Focus

IT'S QUIZ TIME

1) Between 1834 and 1920, millions of Indians were taken as indentured laborers to plantations in different parts of the world. In which former destination do people of Indian origin today form more than 65% of the population, the highest proportion among such countries?



2) The 2018 film Andhadhun, starring Ayushmann Khurrana, was inspired by a French short film and became a major critical success. At the 66th National Film Awards, it won three awards, including Best Hindi Film. Who directed this suspense thriller?



3) In the Sundara Kanda of the Valmiki Ramayana, Hanuman was captured in Lanka and his tail was set on fire. Which rakshasa minister advised Ravana not to kill Hanuman, saying that killing a messenger was against dharma?



4) Which Olympic sport has its roots in the ancient Japanese sword-fighting traditions of the samurai and is practiced using a bamboo sword called a shinai and protective armor known as bogu?



5) Which country officially recognized 37 different languages in its 2009 Constitution, making it one of the countries with the highest number of constitutionally recognized languages in the world?



6) Which Indian state capital gets its name from the historic fort, built by a king of the Jitari dynasty, and literally means "Fort of Bricks"?



7) What is the significance of Hansa-3, developed by CSIR-National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL), Bengaluru, in 1993?



Answers-

(1) Mauritius (2) Sriram Raghavan (3) Vibhishana (4) Kendo (5) Bolivia (6) Itanagar (7) India's first indigenous two-seater light trainer aircraft

RamaQuiz

SCIENCE WATCH

Parrots & Macaws - How do they talk?



Parrots and macaws talk without vocal cords by using a special Y-shaped voice box called a syrinx and a super-powered brain built for copying sounds. These colourful birds shape air inside their throats and move their thick, muscular tongues to mimic everything from human speech to ringing phones.

The Champion Talkers



Parrots have thick, flexible tongues that help push air around inside their curved beaks to shape clear consonant and vowel sounds. Smaller African Grey and Amazon parrots are usually the champion talkers.

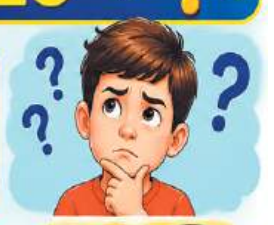
Their Brain is Unique



Parrot brains have unique outer rings—called "shells"—wrapped around their vocal learning centers. These extra brain layers help them remember and copy complicated noises much better than other birds.

VERBAL ANALOGIES

1) Baffle : Confuse :: Assuage : ?
(B) Worsen (C) Soothe (D) Provoke (D) Delay



2) Sedative: Pain :: Antidote : ?
(A) Poison (B) Cure (C) Symptom (D) Infection



3) Laconic : Words :: Miserly : ?
(A) Time (B) Money (C) Noise (D) Anger



ANSWER-
1 – B – Baffle is a stronger form of confuse; assuage means to soothe/ease.
2 – A - Sedative counters pain; an antidote counters poison.
3 – B - Laconic means sparing with words; miserly means sparing with money.

TELL ME WHY?

Why does fog appear?

Fog appears when warm, moist air cools down near the ground, turning invisible water vapour into millions of tiny floating water droplets.

Meteorologists call it fog when you can see less than 1 kilometer (0.6 miles) ahead. If you can see farther than that, it is usually called mist.



NOVEMBER 25-THE DAY IN HISTORY

1. Key events on November 25 in Indian history include the 1866 inauguration of the Allahabad High Court and the 1948, establishment of the National Cadet Corps (NCC).
2. Same day in 1987 is remembered as the day when Major Ramaswamy Parameswaran showed extraordinary valor during Operation Pawan in Sri Lanka, earning a posthumous Param Vir Chakra.
3. On November 25, 1999, social activist Baba Amte was selected for the Gandhi Peace Prize.
4. This very day in 1952, Agatha Christie's play The Mousetrap opens in London, beginning the longest continuously running play in history.



Daily Horoscope

Aries
Keep your patience as your continuous effort coupled with common sense and understanding will guarantee your success. As you have spent a lot in the past, you may have to face the consequences in your present. As a result, you'll be in dire need of money but to no avail. Someone close to you will be in a highly unpredictable mood.

Taurus
You will have abundance of energy- but work pressure seems to get you irritated. Financial problems ruin your ability to think constructively. Get everybody to your big party-You'll have that extra bit of energy today which will make you organize events for your group. Do not sign any business/legal document without reading between the lines.

Gemini
Health will be perfect despite a hectic day. Use your innovative idea to make some extra money. Develop your power of usefulness with positive thoughts and your speech with a number of suggestions to benefit your family members. Don't be eager to let others know how you feel today.

Cancer
Keep your poise as you are likely to confront some difficulties otherwise-it may put you in some serious trouble. Especially control your anger which is nothing but a short madness. New sources of income will generate through people you know. You will find friends supportive-but be careful of what you say. Wrong communication or a message might make your day dull.

Leo
Your childhood memories would keep you engaged. In the process you could give yourself unnecessary mental tension. One of your major anxiety and stress will stem from having lost the capacity to be occasionally childlike. Finances improve later in the day. A family get-together will see you occupy the center stage.

Virgo
Today you will have ample of the time to do things to improve your health and looks Financial position will improve through speculation or unexpected gains. Activities with friends will be enjoyable- but do not volunteer to spend-otherwise you will reach home with empty pockets. Time, work, money, friends, family, relatives; all on one side and you with your partner will be on other side today.

Libra
Today you will be full of energy-Whatever you do-you will be able to do it in half the time you generally take. Today, your siblings can ask you for your financial help, but helping them can add to your financial burden. However, the situation will soon improve. Friends and family members provide you with assistance and love. Time to refresh your friendship by reminding good times you shared.

Scorpio
Too much excitement and explosive passions could harm your nervous system. Control your emotions to avoid this. If you had invested in any land overseas, then it can be sold today at a good price, which will help you earn profits. A dispute is likely to occur between family members regarding money matters. You should advise all family members to be clear about finances and cashflow.

Sagittarius
Some of you who have been working overtime lately and with your energy lagging-the last thing you want today is a day of stress and dilemma. A new financial deal will get finalized and fresh money rolls in. Auspicious day for giving and receiving gifts from those you love. Love life could be little tough. There's little time to rest today-as pending task will keep you occupied.

Capricorn
A day when you will be able to relax. Massage your body with oil to give relief to your muscles. Today will prove to be economically better than the rest of the days and you will earn enough money. The day starts with good news from close relatives or friends. Your boyfriend or girlfriend may remain angry today because of their familial conditions. Try to calm them down by talking.

Aquarius
Quit smoking as it would help you to remain physically sound. A friend of yours can ask you to lend a big amount today. You helping him out can financially cripple you. A long-awaited message from a distant relative will convey good news for the entire family and especially for you. One-sided infatuation will prove disastrous today.

Pisces
Your strong resilience and fearlessness will tremendously enhance the power of mental faculties. Keep this momentum going so that it would encourage you to keep any situation under control. People who had invested their money in the past are likely to benefit from that investment today.

MAP POINTING

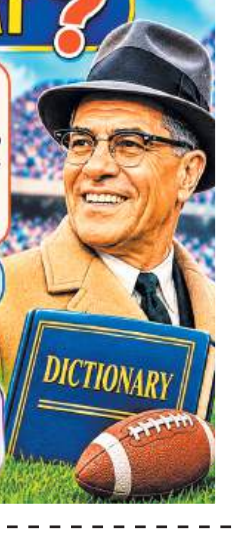
This island nation in East Asia consists of four main islands—Honshu, Hokkaido, Kyushu, and Shikoku—and lies in the Pacific Ocean.



ANSWER - Japan

WHO SAID THAT?

"The only place where success comes before work is in the dictionary."



WHO – Vince Lombardi (Football Coach)
WHEN – Undocumented
CONTEXT - Achievement requires preparation, discipline, and sustained effort rather than happening before the work is done.

LOGICAL REASONING

In a certain code, ROAD is written as URDG. How is SWAN written in that code?

A - VZDQ | B - VZDP
C - UZCQ | D - VZCQ

ANSWER - A. VZDQ

EXPLANATION
Each letter is shifted forward by 3 positions in the alphabet:
S (+3) → V
W (+3) → Z
A (+3) → D
N (+3) → Q
SWAN → VZDQ



WORD OF THE DAY

Quixotic

Meaning – Extremely idealistic; unrealistic and impractical

Example - His quixotic quest for Mission Moon was admirable but unrealistic

Synonyms – Idealistic, impractical, dreamy

Antonyms – Practical, realistic, pragmatic



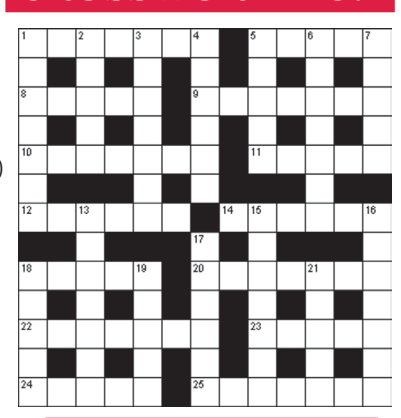
CROSSWORD -287

Across

1 Leaf vegetable (7)
5 Floribundas, hybrid teas, etc. (5)
8 Carmen, for example (5)
9 Gin and vermouth cocktail (7)
10 Result (7)
11 In music, slow and dignified (5)
12 Terminate (6)
14 Almost unconscious state (6)
18 Steady, sober (5)
20 Accelerate (5,2)
22 Dorset resort (7)
23 Fleshy parts of ears (5)
24 Furious (5)
25 Opposer of technology (7)

Down

1 Behave ostentatiously (4,3)
2 Incompetent (5)
3 Perplexed (2,1,4)
4 Picnic basket (6)
5 Of the country (5)
6 Rider's footrest (7)
7 Irish county (5)
13 North American falls (7)
15 Increased threefold (7)
16 Quick sharp reply (7)
17 Also (2,4)
18 Japanese cold rice dish (5)
19 Male duck (5)
21 One of the United Arab Emirates (5)



CROSSWORD SOLUTION- 286



SUDOKU- 287

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

SUDOKU SOLUTION- 286

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

DAILY WORD SEARCH

- Habitat
- Hamburger
- Harem
- Hackle
- Hamlet
- Harmony
- Hacksaw
- Hammer
- Harpist
- Haggis
- Hammock
- Harpoon
- Hairdo
- Hamper
- Hatbox
- Halo
- Hamster
- Havoc
- Half
- Handle
- Hazard
- Halter
- Hangar
- Hazel

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

Business



Nvidia's Huang reinstatement among most consequential world market decisions.

Uday Kotak
Founder of Kotak Mahindra Bank



Union Minister for Communications and Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia in a group photograph during the Telecom Startups and MSME Conclave, organised by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), at Bharat Mandapam, in New Delhi on November 24, 2026.

Scindia announces advisory panel for startups, MSMEs

Telecom Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia announces regular consultations with startups and MSMEs to resolve industry challenges, promote indigenous technologies and strengthen domestic manufacturing.

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Union Communications Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia has announced the formation of an advisory group to address issues faced by startups and micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in the telecommunications sector on November 24. The proposed panel will hold regular meetings with the minister to discuss industry concerns and find solutions to challenges affecting their growth.

Making the announcement at the Telecom Startups and MSME Conclave, Scindia said the advisory group would function on the lines of the existing panel for telecom service providers (TSPs). He said startups and MSMEs would have an opportunity to directly raise their concerns and discuss difficulties with the government. The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) already has advisory panels for various segments of the telecom industry, with periodic reviews conducted by Scindia and Minister of State for Communications Chandra Sekhar Pemmasani. During the conclave, several startups and MSMEs showcased their technological capabilities and highlighted issues affecting the development and commercialisation of indigenous products. A major demand was government support for conducting trials and facilitating the commercial deployment of locally developed technologies. Indigenous semiconductor companies, including Atantri Semiconductors, Agilink Systems, Silizium Circuits, Signalchip and Aheesa, presented details of their patents and chip production progress. They also sought market support to encourage the adoption of domestically manufactured chipsets in telecom equipment.

Meanwhile, telecom network technology companies Wisig Networks and Lekha Wireless highlighted their preparedness to contribute to the development and deployment of 6G technologies.

NUMBER

24

- New panel to address industry concerns and accelerate indigenous telecom technology development.

Motorola launches Edge 70 Neo with premium features

Press Trust Of India

Motorola unveils AI-powered smartphone with 7,000 mAh battery

MUMBAI: Motorola has launched its new premium smartphone, the motorola edge 70 neo, in India, starting at Rs. 34,999. The device combines AI-powered photography, a quad-curved design, advanced display technology and a high-capacity battery, targeting consumers seeking premium features and performance. The smartphone features a 50MP Sony LYTIA 710 primary camera with Optical Image Stabilisation (OIS), AI-powered image enhancement and motion detection for sharper photographs. It also supports 4K video recording, 10x Super Zoom and a 32MP front camera. Additional photography features include Night Vision, Portrait Mode and multiple AI-powered editing tools through Google Photos.



Speaking on the launch, Motorola India Managing Director T.M. Narasimhan said the smartphone reflects the company's commitment to meaningful innovation through AI-powered photography, thoughtful design, reliable performance and everyday durability. The motorola edge 70 neo stands out with its combination of a 7,000mAh battery, 144Hz AMOLED display and Sony camera technology.

Its premium design and durability features add to its appeal in the competitive mid-premium smartphone segment.

| PRICE HIKE |

Automakers announce fresh price hikes from Dec

Press Trust Of India

Rising input costs prompt automobile companies to increase prices.



NEW DELHI: Major automobile manufacturers, including Maruti Suzuki, Tata Motors, Hyundai and Audi, have announced fresh vehicle price hikes amid rising input and commodity costs, putting additional financial pressure on customers. The revisions, scheduled between November 22 and January 1, 2027, are aimed at partially offsetting higher production expenses and protecting profit margins. Maruti Suzuki India, the country's largest carmaker, implemented an average price increase of around 0.31 per cent on a volume-weighted basis for select models from November 22. The company said sustained cost-reduction efforts had helped absorb part of the increased expenses, but passing on a portion of the burden had become necessary. Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles (TMPV) announced an average price hike of 0.5 per cent across its entire portfolio, covering petrol, diesel and electric vehicles, effective December 1.

The increase will vary across models and variants. This marks the company's fourth price revision in the current financial year. Hyundai Motor India will increase prices of select models and variants by up to Rs 8,000 from December 1. The company attributed the revision to a significant rise in input costs. This will be in addition to the 1.4 per cent increase implemented so far during the current calendar year. Meanwhile, luxury carmaker Audi India has announced an increase of up to 2 per cent in ex-showroom prices across its model range from January 1, 2027. The company said the decision was driven by rising input costs. Audi had earlier implemented a similar hike from April 1, 2026. The price revisions come at a time when automobile manufacturers are facing pressure on profitability despite healthy vehicle sales.

FACTFILE

- Customers face higher vehicle purchase costs.

| JENSEN HUANG RETURNS AS NVIDIA'S CEO |

Global markets mixed after Wall Street's strong rebound

Press Trust Of India

Asian markets rally as global stocks show mixed trends.

HONG KONG: Global stock markets traded mixed on Tuesday following a strong rally on Wall Street, driven by a sharp recovery in technology stocks after news surrounding Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang. US stock futures edged higher, while declining crude oil prices provided some relief to energy markets. In early European trading, Germany's DAX slipped 0.1 per cent to 25,318.38, while Britain's FTSE 100 declined 0.1 per cent to 10,471.15. France's CAC 40 gained 0.2 per cent to 8,064.47. Futures for the S&P 500 and Dow Jones Industrial Average advanced 0.1 per cent each. Asian markets witnessed significant gains, led by Taiwan's Taiex, which surged nearly 9 per cent, supported by strong performances in semiconductor stocks. The Kospi in South Korea climbed 6.3 per cent to 5,006.03, while Japan's Nikkei 225 advanced 3.9 per cent to 58,644.63. However, Hong Kong's Hang Seng fell 0.8 per cent to 22,205.65. Shanghai's Composite index gained 0.2 per cent, while Australia's S&P/ASX 200 rose 1.8 per cent. Indian markets remained closed for a holiday.



On Wall Street, Nvidia spearheaded Monday's rally, with its shares jumping 31.5 per cent. The S&P 500 surged 4.7 per cent, the Nasdaq Composite gained 6.5 per cent and the Dow Jones Industrial Average advanced nearly 3 per cent. The rally followed developments concerning Nvidia co-founder Jensen Huang's return as CEO, which reportedly boosted investor sentiment towards artificial intelligence and semiconductor stocks. The company's board is also investigating potential national security concerns surrounding the matter.

FACTFILE

- Chip stocks lead strong market recovery.

BizBriefs

BEST OF THE REST

MARKETS RALLY SHARPLY BY NEARLY 11 PC

Investors become richer by Rs 34.61 lakh crore this month



NEW DELHI: Equity markets have rallied sharply this month, with the BSE Sensex climbing nearly 11 per cent, making equity investors richer by Rs 34.61 lakh crore amid strong foreign fund inflows, lower crude oil prices, better-than-expected Q2 earnings and a global sell-off in AI-linked stocks. The 30-share BSE benchmark Sensex jumped 7,976.46 points, or 10.71 per cent till November 23.

Following the bullish trend in equities, the market capitalisation of BSE-listed companies has surged by Rs 34.61 lakh crore to Rs 5,08,98,444.87 crore (USD 5.48 trillion) this month. Foreign investors have emerged as a major driver behind markets rally, with net investments crossing the Rs 1 lakh crore mark to reach Rs 1.27 lakh crore in November so far, marking the highest-ever monthly inflow.

The strong inflows come after Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) withdrew Rs 34,843 crore in October and Rs 35,861 crore in September, according to data available with the NSDL. "The dramatic change in the FII stance towards India, rupee appreciation and better-than-expected impressive earnings growth have combined to boost market sentiments, strongly supported by fundamentals. This month, so far, India has been the best-performing large market in the world," V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Investments Limited, said.

ELECTRIC TRUCK MARKET

Olectra to enter electric truck market with 6 models from Q1 FY28

NEW DELHI: Olectra Greentech is preparing to enter the electric truck market with the launch of six models planned from the first quarter of the financial year 2028, according to a senior company official. This comes as the electric bus maker looks to expand its presence in the commercial vehicles segment. Olectra is going to focus on the medium and heavy commercial vehicle segments.

The company is working on 10-12 prototypes for testing across different locations and expects to launch one truck every quarter starting from the April-June period, Olectra Greentech Managing Director Mahesh Babu told PTI in an interview. "Our truck development has started. This month we are making our first prototype. We are building 10-12 prototypes to test at various locations. And we are expecting the launch from the first quarter of the next financial year," he said. Mahesh noted that the company is developing six models, with plans to launch one in every quarter.

HIRING DEMAND

Hiring demand rises 19 pc in October, led by jobs: Report



MUMBAI: Hiring demand in October rose 19 per cent year-on-year, driven mainly by job postings in banking and finance, a report said Tuesday.

In October, Indian job postings on Indeed rose 1.8 per cent sequentially, the fourth consecutive monthly gain, and were 19 per cent higher than in the same month last year, according to a report by global job site Indeed. While postings have been volatile recently, hiring intensity across India remains elevated, with postings still 94 per cent above pre-pandemic levels. The report revealed that while hiring trends varied across occupations, the broader labour market remained strong.

TO STRENGTHEN URBAN CLEANLINESS

Nestle India inaugurates 'Clean Corridor Gurugram' initiative



NEW DELHI: As part of its continued commitment to environmental sustainability and community well-being, Nestle India inaugurated 'Clean Corridor Gurugram', an initiative aimed at supporting improved cleanliness and upkeep of a 16-km stretch along the National Highway, between Ambience Mall and Rajiv Chowk in Gurugram. This stretch serves as a vital arterial link for thousands of people who commute daily between Delhi and Gurugram for work, connecting communities and workplaces across the National Capital Region.

With air quality across Delhi-NCR deteriorating, particularly during the approaching winter months, the need for sustained efforts to keep public spaces clean is increasingly important. The initiative combines mechanised sweeping, water sprinkling and daily waste collection by eight on-ground workers to address dust and solid waste along the corridor. It also includes the beautification of IFFCO Chowk through hanging planters and regular cleanliness drives.

The project was initiated as a pilot in September 2026 to establish a baseline and assess the impact of these interventions. Since its commencement, the sweeping vehicle, operating twice daily along the stretch, has collected approximately 226 tonnes of dust across 95 trips. Additionally, the eight-member ground team, working from 9 am to 5 pm, has collected approximately 67 tonnes of plastic and other solid waste over 42 days.

The initiative comes at a time when air quality and environmental pollution remain important concerns across Delhi-NCR. Through Clean Corridor Gurugram, Nestlé India aims to contribute to cleaner public spaces through sustained, structured interventions and collective efforts involving relevant stakeholders. Speaking at the inauguration, Rao Inderjit Singh, Union Minister of State (I/C) for Statistics & Programme Implementation and Planning, and MoS for Culture, said, "Cleaner urban spaces and a healthier environment are a shared responsibility. Partnerships between government, industry and communities are essential to driving meaningful change. What matters is not just taking actions but sustaining these efforts over time to make a lasting difference."

Nation News

Cong infighting erupts over cyberattacks allegations

Kasaragod MP Rajmohan Unnithan launches a fresh attack on LS colleague Shafi Parambil

Press Trust Of India

KASARAGOD: Factional differences within the Congress became open while the party-led UDF government completed six months in office, with senior leader and Kasaragod MP Rajmohan Unnithan launching a fresh attack on his Lok Sabha colleague Shafi Parambil over alleged cyberattacks against him.

While talking to reporters here, Unnithan alleged that Parambil's followers were behind the online campaign against him and warned that he would reveal several secrets if the attacks continued.

He also lashed out at the state Congress leadership for remaining silent, saying that despite his being a senior leader and a Lok Sabha member, no one in the party had condemned the alleged cyberbullying or asked those responsible to stop it.

Without directly naming ousted Congress leader Rahul Mamkoottathil, Unnithan apparently referred to him as a "disciple" and Shafi as his "mentor".

"I know that the cyberattacks are being orchestrated from a house in Adoor," he said, in an apparent reference to Mamkoottathil, who is considered close to Shafi Parambil, the Vadakara MP.



MP Rajmohan Unnithan and MP Shafi Parambil

The senior leader alleged that he understood the "disciple" had stepped in on behalf of his "mentor".

Mamkoottathil, a former MLA of Palakkad, was expelled from the Congress some time back following multiple sexual assault allegations by women.

The latest outburst follows certain recent remarks made by Unnithan against Parambil over the latter's political affiliations.

Unnithan had earlier said that Parambil was not part of the 'A' group in the Congress, which was led by former Chief Minister Oommen Chandy and that believing otherwise would be foolish.

Unnithan threatens to reveal several uncomfortable truths

The MP reiterated that if the cyberattacks continued, he would be forced to disclose several truths, adding that he had many secrets recorded in his diary. The public exchange has brought the factional tensions within the state Congress into sharper focus, at a time the Congress-led government completed six months in office. There was no immediate response from Shafi Parambil and Rahul Mamkoottathil. Chandy Oommen, son of former Chief Minister Oommen Chandy, meanwhile, backed Rajmohan Unnithan's claim. Speaking to reporters in Kottayam, the MLA said there was no doubt that Unnithan had extended strong support to his family when allegations against his father were at their peak. He recalled how Unnithan had appeared on various television channels to defend Oommen Chandy and the family, facing attacks from the CPI(M) in the process.

HIGHLIGHT

- No immediate response from Shafi Parambil and Rahul Mamkoottathil
- Chandy Oommen backed Rajmohan Unnithan's claim

More stories

MUMBAI: As short-form storytelling continues to expand the entertainment landscape, Tata Play Binge Shots is strengthening its micro-drama offering with the addition of Alright! TV, the OTT platform of digital entertainment company Rusk Media, bringing a catalogue of 100+ titles to viewers through the Tata Play Binge app. Alright! TV adds a diverse selection of short-form fiction and non-fiction content, spanning romance, drama, dating, music and reality-led formats. Micro-dramas have rapidly emerged as a defining entertainment trend for modern digital audiences, delivering high-stakes plots, addictive cliffhangers, and short episodic narratives designed to fit seamlessly into daily routines. By bringing Alright! TV into the Binge Shots ecosystem, Tata Play Binge is curating a powerhouse library tailored specifically for on-the-go viewing. The expanded catalogue features titles such as Dude, Backpackers and returning series such as Delhi vs Mumbai Season 2, Mohalle Wala Pyaar Season 2 and Roomies Again, adding to the platform's selection of romance, relationship-led narratives and youth-focused stories. With the addition of Alright! TV, Tata Play Binge Shots continues to broaden its short-form entertainment catalogue, bringing together diverse stories and formats for viewers looking for accessible, bite-sized content.

ECoR honours seven employees

Press Trust Of India

Recognised for identifying safety-related defects and taking timely action to prevent possible mishaps.

BHUBANESWAR: East Coast Railway (ECoR) General Manager Parmeshwar Funkwal felicitated seven railway employees for their exceptional alertness, presence of mind and dedication to duty in preventing potential safety hazards and saving a fellow employee's life during August-October 2026. Four employees – Akash Rathore, Rakesh Kumar, Prasan Ranjan Sethy and Samay Murmu – were recognised for identifying safety-related defects and taking timely action to prevent possible mishaps.

Akash Rathore, Track Maintainer-IV at Araku, detected abnormal track conditions during night patrolling between Borra Guhalu and Karakavalasa. Rakesh Kumar, Station Master, identified a hot axle in a passing train and immediately alerted the loco pilot.

Prasan Ranjan Sethy, Assistant (C&W) at Khurda Road, detected a broken outer primary spring in Coach B7 of Train No. 12503 Agartala Humsafar Express. Samay Murmu, Track Maintainer-I at Nilakantheswar, detected a crack in an AT weld joint in the station yard.

A group award was presented to Loco Pilot Srinibas Swain of Puri, Loco Pilot Sunil Kumar and Senior Assistant Loco Pilot Imran Ahamad, both of Jakhapura, for saving the life of Assistant Loco Pilot Dusmanta Sahoo on August 23.

While operating Train No. 12277 Shatabdi Express, Swain noticed that Sahoo had suddenly lost consciousness. He immediately stopped the train at Kenduapada and initiated cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), with assistance from the other two crew members and a woman doctor travelling on board.

After Sahoo showed signs of recovery, the crew accompanied him to Bhubaneswar, ensuring his timely admission to Manipal Hospital for further treatment.

Funkwal appreciated the employees' vigilance, teamwork and commitment, emphasising the vital role of frontline railway personnel in ensuring safe train operations.

He urged all employees to maintain the highest standards of alertness and dedication in discharging their duties.

FASTFACTS

- A group award was presented to Loco Pilot Srinibas Swain
- Funkwal Commends Employees' Vigilance and Dedication

NEWSLINE

NEW DELHI

'Political humiliation'



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has said he felt disgusted with the way his mother Sonia Gandhi was "brutalised, humiliated and abused" in politics, and that he may talk about it one day.

He made the remarks during a conversation with his mother and his sister Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, a video of which was shared by them on social media platforms on Tuesday.

In the video, Rahul Gandhi says he told his mother that there were many things that she should have written in her memoir "Belonging: A Journey Of Love" such as how she was attacked and about the true nature of a lot of those people.

Rahul Gandhi says his mother has been kind to many people in the book as that's her way.

"I saw my mother being brutalised, humiliated and abused in a way that you know it's crazy. The type of absolute filth that you know even the most so-called honourable people which has not been said and she will not say, maybe I will say one day but the pettiness, the nastiness, the abuse of a woman, as a son, I found that to be completely disgusting," he says. Sonia Gandhi says she let it go as in old age one tends to put the past behind. Praising her mother, Priyanka Gandhi says that she was actually making a supreme effort to assimilate into our culture.

"I have never seen mama behaving badly and doing anything that even is sort of would not be expected in that norm, doing everything possible, at the same time just being attacked basically because you're born somewhere else," she says.

In the video shared days after the launch of

'Bali Jatra will get UNESCO status'

Press Trust Of India

Murmu is the first President to inaugurate the Cuttack Bali Jatra

CUTTACK: President Droupadi Murmu on Tuesday said the Bali Jatra in Odisha's Cuttack should find a place on UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage list, asserting that it is the only festival in the country which is rooted in maritime history.

Murmu made the remarks after inaugurating the annual trade fair here in the evening. Governor Braj Mohan Ram and Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi were also present on the occasion.

"We observe festivals across the year, which are based on religion, culture or agriculture. But, Bali Jatra in Odisha is the only historic event that is celebrated as a festival. There should be no doubt it will one day get the UNESCO status (Intangible Cultural Heritage list), and the world's recognition," she said.

Though the Cuttack Bali Jatra has been included in India's National Inventory of Intangible Cultural Heritage, it is yet to get the UNESCO status, officials said. Murmu is the first President to inaugurate the Cuttack Bali Jatra, they said.

The Cuttack district administration is organising the annual Bali Jatra from November 24 to December 1. The event witnessed more than 50 lakh visitors in previous years and the number is expected to touch 60 lakh this time, the officials said.

The President arrived in Odisha on Tuesday afternoon on a two-day visit.

| SEAMLESS TOLLING |

Barrier-less tolling boosts NHAI revenue 20%

Press Trust Of India

Barrier-less toll revenue rises 19.84 per cent

NEW DELHI: NHAI's net toll revenue during the May-October period of 2026 through Multi-Lane Free Flow (MLFF) based barrier-less tolling system increased 19.84 per cent to Rs 538.95 crore across seven operational fee plazas.

The MLFF tolling system was launched at Choryasi Fee Plaza in Gujarat on May 1, 2026. It was later operationalised at Mundka, Daulatpura, Gharaunda, Manoharpura, Shahjahanpur, Paranur. Nemili and Chenasamudram fee plazas went live in November 2026.



In absolute terms, the plazas (excluding Nemili and Chenasamudram) have generated cumulative net revenue of Rs 538.95 crore, as against Rs 449.72 crore in the corresponding pre-MLFF period of 2025.

"As on October 31, 2026, the cumulative performance across these seven plazas indicates an increase of 19.84 per cent in net revenue to NHAI, compared to the corresponding pre-MLFF baseline. Transaction volumes have also registered significant growth," NHAI said in a statement.

The state-owned agency said while the transition to barrier-less tolling has resulted in significant operational and financial gains, instances have also been reported of certain vehicle owners deliberately masking, concealing or tampering with their vehicle registration number plates to evade toll payment.

"NHAI has taken serious cognizance of such instances and is closely coordinating with the concerned state governments and enforcement agencies to ensure strict action against such defaulters," NHAI said.

FASTFACTS

- MLFF tolling system launched at Choryasi Fee Plaza in Gujarat on May 1, 2026
- NHAI coordinates action against toll defaulters

Holy dip

VARANASI: A sea of devotees gathered at Varanasi's bow-shaped ghats along the Ganga on Tuesday, filling the sky with chants of 'Har Har Mahadev' and 'Har Har Gange' on Kartik Purnima.

According to an official statement, Kashi, known for its spiritual heritage, witnessed a display of faith as pilgrims from across the country took a holy dip in the River Ganga and offered Arghya to Surya Dev, praying for their families' happiness and prosperity. The festival was also celebrated in various cities across Uttar Pradesh, including Balia, Deoria and Hapur. Devotees began arriving for the holy dip in the river on the occasion, late at night. People arriving at the ghats with their families performed religious ceremonies and made charitable donations. With Kartik Purnima, the month-long Kartik Snan also came to an end.

| SOCIO-ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION |

'Waqf assets can benefit Muslims'

SRINAGAR: Union minister Kiren Rijiju on Monday said that effectively utilising the country's over nine lakh Waqf properties for public welfare holds the potential to bring about a major socio-economic transformation of the Muslim community.

"There are more than 9 lakh Waqf properties in the country. If all these Waqf properties are converted for the welfare of the Muslim community, it can transform the entire situation in the Muslim community," the Union minority affairs minister told reporters after an event at the Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST) here.



More than 9 lakh Waqf properties in the country

Kiren Rijiju
Union minister

Rijiju said the people who are needful, "those who are helpless, the poor people among the Muslim community",

will get tremendous support if all the Waqf properties are managed for their welfare -- the way the Jammu and Kashmir Waqf Board has done.

He said when the central government passed the Waqf Amendment Act, the opposition criticised it and tried to explain it to people in the wrong way.

"We don't take it badly; in a democracy, everyone

'Brothers reunited again'

Press Trust Of India

CHANDIGARH: "Brothers have reunited again," Union minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said on Tuesday after BJP and SAD announced they would jointly contest the 2027 Punjab Assembly polls, marking the return of the oldest NDA ally after six years.

This is a natural alliance, a bond that transcends lifetimes, Chouhan added. Chouhan's remarks came while speaking to reporters on the sidelines of a 'Kisan Choupal' in Booh Havelian village, Tarn Taran district, Punjab. When asked about the



reunion of SAD and BJP, Chouhan said, "It is a very good thing. I believe two brothers have reunited again."

The Union minister asked the people of Punjab, who have seen Congress and AAP governments, to give their "blessings" to the SAD-BJP alliance in the upcoming Punjab assembly polls.

CHANGE OF NAME

IT IS INFORMED TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT I HEENA BEGAM W/O SHEKH FARUKH RESIDENCE OF HOUSE NO 41, WARD 11, GOVIND NAGAR KE PICHHE, SANT KABIR DAS NAGAR, SIRGITTI, PO SIRGITTI, BILASPUR, C.G. 495004 HAVE CHANGED MY OLD NAME HEENA BEGAM W/O SHEKH FARUKH, SO IN FUTURE I SHOULD BE RECOGNIZED BY MY NEW NAME HINA BEGAM W/O SHEKH FARUKH IN ALL GOVERNMENT AND OTHER DOCUMENTS.

HINA BEGAM
HOUSE NO 41, WARD 11, GOVIND NAGAR KE PICHHE, SANT KABIR DAS NAGAR, SIRGITTI, PO SIRGITTI, BILASPUR, C.G. 495004

CHANGE OF NAME

IT IS INFORMED TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT I GAYATRI DUBEY W/O PRATIK BUDHIA RESIDENT OF TIWARI CHAL RAJENDRA NAGAR BEHIND HARI BHUMI PRESS NEHRU CHOWK BILASPUR (C.G.)-495001 HAVE CHANGED MY OLD NAME GAYATRI DUBEY W/o PRATIK BUDHIA, SO IN FUTURE I SHOULD BE RECOGNIZED BY MY NEW NAME GEET BUDHIA W/O PRATIK BUDHDA IN ALL GOVERNMENT AND OTHER DOCUMENTS.

GEET BUDHIA
TIWARI CHAL, RAJENDRA NAGAR BEHIND HARD BHUMI PRESS NEHRU CHOWK BILASPUR (C.G.)-495001

न्यायालय नजूल तहसीलदार मनेन्द्रगढ़
जिला-मनेन्द्रगढ़-चिरमिरी-भरतपुर (छ.ग.)
(शेख अफजल हुसैन प्रति छ.ग. शासन)
//ईश्तहार//
रा.प्र.क्र./202607330100009/अ-32/25-26
एतद् द्वारा सर्व साधारण जनता ग्राम चनवारीडांड, प.ह.नं. 13, रा.नि.मं. मनेन्द्रगढ़ (ग्रा.), तहसील मनेन्द्रगढ़, जिला-एम.सी.बी. (छ.ग.) को सूचित किया जाता है कि आवेदक शेख अफजल हुसैन आ. कुर्बान अली निवासी मनेन्द्रगढ़ मौहारपारा तहसील मनेन्द्रगढ़ जिला एम.सी.बी. (छ.ग.) के द्वारा ग्राम चनवारीडांड प.ह.नं.13 तहसील मनेन्द्रगढ़ स्थित भूमि खसरा नंबर 486/3, 487/1, 487/5, 488/4 रकबा क्रमशः 0.0100, 0.0250, 0.020, 0.0100 हे. भूमि शासकीय पट्टे में प्राप्त कृषि भूमि को आबंटन पश्चात 20 वर्ष की अवधि पूर्ण होने तथा वर्तमान तक काबिज काश्त होने के कारण भूमिस्वामी अधिकार प्रदान करने हेतु निर्धारित प्रारूप-अ में आवेदन कलेक्टर महोदय जिला एम.सी.बी. (छ.ग.) के न्यायालय में प्रस्तुत कर निवेदन किया गया है। आवेदन पत्र के साथ निर्धारित प्रारूप-ब में शपथ पत्र तथा बी-1, खसरा, नक्शा, फार्म "ए" की छायाप्रति प्रस्तुत किया है। उक्त प्रकरण अनुविभागीय अधिकारी (रा.) महोदय मनेन्द्रगढ़ के माध्यम से छ.ग. भू.रा.सं. 1959 के प्रावधान अनुरूप व कृषि भूमिस्वामी अधिकार नियम 2023 के अनुरूप जांच कर, दावा आपत्ति सुनकर नियमानुसार अभिमत सहित जाँच प्रतिवेदन हेतु इस न्यायालय को प्राप्त हुआ है। अतएव उक्त संबंध में यदि किसी भी व्यक्ति / पक्षकार को आपत्ति/दावा पेश करना है तो दिनांक 8/12/2026 तक इस न्यायालय में पेश कर सकता है। निर्धारित तिथि के बाद प्राप्त किसी भी प्रकार का आपत्ति अथवा दावा स्वीकार नहीं किया जावेगा।
आज दिनांक 23/11/2026 को मेरे हस्ताक्षर एवं न्यायालय की पदमुद्रा द्वारा जारी किया गया।
नजूल तहसीलदार मनेन्द्रगढ़
जिला- एम. सी. बी. (छ.ग.)

Central Chronicle

Since 1974 Volume 14 No. 236

Comment

QUOTE FROM THE QUOTABLE

"Let us not seek the Republican answer or the Democratic answer, but the right answer. Let us not seek to fix the blame for the past."

[John F. Kennedy]

| OUR VIEW |

Sindh unrest tests Pakistan's federal unity

The growing resistance to the proposed division of Sindh has exposed deep-rooted tensions within Pakistan's federal structure. Thousands of Sindhi nationalists marching through Karachi and other cities reflect concerns over territorial integrity, cultural identity, economic rights and political representation. What has been presented as administrative restructuring threatens to become another contentious chapter in Pakistan's troubled relationship with its provinces. The proposal to increase Pakistan's existing four provinces to between 12 and 15 may appear administratively attractive. Smaller provinces could potentially improve governance, public service delivery and regional representation. However, such restructuring cannot succeed without broad public consultation, constitutional safeguards and the consent of affected communities. Sindh is not merely an administrative territory; it possesses a distinct language, cultural heritage and civilisational history spanning centuries. The opposition expressed by the Pakistan Peoples Party, Sindhi nationalist organisations and religious political groups demonstrates the depth of regional apprehensions. The possibility of separating Karachi, Pakistan's commercial powerhouse, from Sindh has further intensified anxieties regarding economic resources and political influence. Nationalist allegations of exploitation of Sindh's natural resources, agricultural land and coastal territories also deserve transparent examination. The perceived dominance of Punjab in Pakistan's political and military establishment has historically contributed to grievances among smaller provinces. Ignoring such concerns could strengthen separatist sentiments rather than promote national integration. Pakistan's leadership must recognise the historical lessons of Bangladesh's emergence in 1971. Political alienation, economic disparities and inadequate accommodation of regional aspirations can have profound consequences for national unity. Meanwhile, threats of economic blockades, armed resistance and confrontations between rival political groups risk aggravating an already delicate situation. Administrative reforms should emerge from democratic consensus rather than institutional pressure. Any proposal concerning provincial boundaries must respect constitutional procedures, regional identities and the legitimate interests of all ethnic communities, including Karachi's diverse population. Pakistan already faces considerable economic, security and political challenges. Opening another front of internal confrontation could further undermine its stability. Meaningful dialogue, equitable resource distribution, greater provincial autonomy and transparent decision-making offer constructive alternatives to confrontation. Ultimately, national integration cannot be achieved through administrative engineering alone. It requires mutual trust, constitutional dignity and genuine respect for the aspirations of diverse communities.

| GUEST VIEW |

Violence against women is an epidemic

Gender inequality and sexual violence are two condemnable offshoots of patriarchy. Although violence against women and girls (VAWG) has reached pandemic proportions, it remains largely unreported due to stigma. The United Nations (UN), through its 2000 resolution 54/134, declared November 25 as the " International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women". On November 25, 1960, three of the Mirabal sisters of the Dominican Republic were murdered on the orders of Rafael Trujillo Molina, the dictator who ruled the nation for 31 years. Gender -based and sexual violence against women includes, among other forms, unwelcome sexual advance, rape, child sexual abuse, forced marriage, trafficking and female genital mutilation. About three quarters of countries worldwide have outlawed domestic violence, while roughly 49 countries are yet to do so.



Dr Ganapathi Bhat

Another contentious issue is early marriages. The longer the duration of a marriage, the greater the likelihood of domestic violence. A shocking statistic reveals that 750 million girls are married off before they turn 18. Only 150 nations have criminalised marital rape, leaving around 34 countries where it remains legal or exempt from prosecution. In general, dismal conviction rates have added to women's woes.

Press freedom is democracy's strongest foundation

The true strength of democracy lies not in the authority of those who govern, but in the safety and freedom of those who question them. Democracy flourishes when journalists can openly scrutinise government policies, administrative failures, corruption and decisions affecting citizens. When criticism is considered hostility and dissent invites intimidation, democratic institutions become vulnerable. Press freedom is not merely a journalist's privilege but the public's fundamental right to know. Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution guarantees freedom of expression, while landmark Supreme Court judgments have recognised press freedom as an essential component of democratic liberty.

Journalism's responsibility extends beyond reporting events. It must uncover hidden truths, expose irregularities and amplify the voices of vulnerable communities. Publicising government achievements is relatively easy, but investigating corruption, administrative negligence and policy failures requires professional courage. When journalists question authorities and demand accountability, they strengthen democracy. Governments may disagree with criticism, but disagreement must never become a justification for suppressing independent reporting.

The contemporary media faces serious challenges concerning safety, independence and credibility. Journalists encounter pressure through advertising restrictions, litigation, denial of official access, institutional interference and physical intimidation. Independent and local journalists are particularly vulnerable because they often lack financial resources, legal assistance and organisational protection. Their contribution to exposing grassroots corruption and administrative failures deserves greater recognition and institutional support. Violence against journalists represents an alarming threat to democratic expression. The murder of Gauri Lankesh in 2017 raised disturbing questions about the safety of independent voices. Attacks on journalists create fear beyond individual victims, discouraging others from pursuing sensitive investigations. Such intimidation encourages self-censorship, which can prove more damaging than direct restrictions because important truths remain unreported.

The digital revolution has expanded journalism's reach while creating additional challenges. Online trolling, threats, character assassination and organised harassment have become instruments of intimidation. Women journalists frequently face gender-based abuse and attacks on their personal dignity. Disagreement with reporting is legitimate, but targeting journalists and their families undermines constructive democratic debate. Social media platforms must address organised harassment without compromising legitimate freedom of expression.



Dr. Priyanka Saurabh
PhD (Political Science), is a poet and social thinker.

Digital surveillance poses another significant challenge. Confidential sources are indispensable to investigative journalism, particularly when exposing corruption and administrative misconduct. Fear of surveillance can discourage whistleblowers from sharing information. The Pegasus controversy brought concerns surrounding privacy, surveillance and journalistic independence into national discourse. Protecting confidential sources remains essential for maintaining public trust and investigative integrity.

Internet shutdowns and restrictions on digital content also affect news gathering and dissemination. In Anuradha Bhasin v. Union of India (2020), the Supreme Court emphasised proportionality and review of internet restrictions. While national security and public order are legitimate concerns, prolonged and indiscriminate restrictions can undermine democratic communication.

Economic pressures further threaten editorial independence. Advertising revenues increasingly flow towards technology platforms, while traditional media organisations struggle financially. Social media algorithms often favour sensationalism over substantive reporting. Financial vulnerability can increase dependence on advertisers and influential interests, potentially compromising editorial autonomy.

Press freedom, however, must accompany professional responsibility. Journalists cannot claim immunity for misinformation, defamation or incitement. Article 19(2) permits reasonable restrictions, but such measures must remain lawful, necessary and proportionate. Criticism of government policies should never automatically be equated with hostility towards the nation.

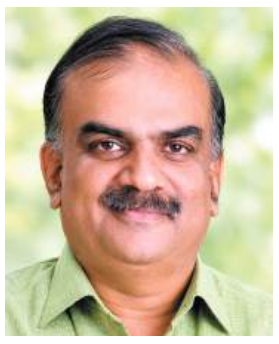
Protecting journalism requires more than constitutional guarantees. Authorities must investigate attacks promptly, establish safeguards for legitimate reporting and ensure accountability. Independent journalists need affordable legal assistance, digital security training and institutional protection. Media organisations must prioritise employee safety, financial stability and mental well-being while maintaining rigorous ethical standards.

Journalists are neither permanent opponents nor unconditional supporters of governments. Their primary allegiance must remain with truth, constitutional values and public interest. Responsible journalism strengthens governance by exposing shortcomings and encouraging corrective action. Elections alone cannot sustain a vibrant democracy; informed citizens, accountable institutions and an independent press are equally indispensable. Governments may change, but the people's right to know must remain inviolable. Protecting those who question authority ultimately means protecting democracy itself.

India, New Zealand celebrate sporting brotherhood

A century of sporting exchanges between India and New Zealand reflects the enduring power of games to strengthen diplomatic relations, cultural understanding and mutual respect.

India and New Zealand are celebrating a remarkable milestone in their bilateral relationship, marking 100 years of sporting friendship. The historic association dates back to the 1926 Indian Army hockey tour of New Zealand, featuring legendary hockey wizard Major Dhyan Chand. On June 26, 1926, the Indian Army team played its first international Test against New Zealand at Lancaster Park in Christchurch, registering an impressive 5-2 victory. The three-match series ended with one victory each and a draw, laying the foundation for a century of sporting exchanges.



Dr. Vasisht M.C.



To commemorate this historic occasion, both countries have organised a month-long programme titled "100 Years of Unity Through Sport" across Auckland, Christchurch, Hamilton, Tauranga and Wellington. The celebrations highlight the significant role of sports in strengthening diplomatic ties and promoting cultural exchanges.

Despite its relatively small population, New Zealand has emerged as a formidable sporting nation. Its athletes have secured numerous Olympic medals, with rowing and athletics among its most successful disciplines. At the 2024 Paris Olympics, New Zealand bagged 20 medals, including 10 gold, seven silver and three bronze, finishing 11th in the overall medal standings. Such achievements demonstrate the country's sporting excellence, systematic training and commitment to nurturing talent.

New Zealand has also established its credentials in football, hockey, rugby and cricket. Its national football team, popularly known as the All Whites, has participated in three FIFA World Cups, including the 2026 edition. In cricket, the Black Caps have consistently challenged traditional powerhouses, reaching consecutive ODI World Cup finals in 2015 and 2019. Their disciplined approach, competitive spirit and sportsmanship have earned widespread international admiration.

The centenary celebrations have brought several sporting disciplines under a common platform. The India-New Zealand Under-20 Rugby Series, organised at the Rajgir Sports Complex in Bihar in October 2026, provided young athletes with valuable international exposure while promoting friendship through sporting diplomacy. The New Zealand cricket team also introduced a special limited-edition Kotahitanga ODI jersey, designed collaboratively by Indian and New Zealand artists. The initiative symbolises unity, cultural harmony and shared sporting traditions. Tours involving India's senior cricket team and India A further underline the growing sporting engagement between the two nations.

Hockey, which laid the foundation for this historic relationship, remains central to the celebrations. The Indian men's hockey squad, led by Sanjay and comprising promising youngsters alongside experienced India A players, toured New Zealand in November. The scheduled football friendly series involving India's Blue Tigers also represents an important chapter in bilateral sporting cooperation, marking India's maiden football tour of New Zealand.

Beyond competition, these exchanges offer considerable opportunities for knowledge sharing, coaching development, youth engagement and improvement in sporting infrastructure. India can draw valuable lessons from New Zealand's successful sporting ecosystem, particularly its emphasis on grassroots development, fitness and professional excellence.

Sport possesses an extraordinary ability to transcend geographical boundaries, cultural differences and political disagreements. It builds bridges between communities and fosters mutual understanding. The centenary of India-New Zealand sporting relations is not merely a celebration of past achievements but an opportunity to shape a stronger future. May this enduring friendship continue to flourish, inspiring generations of athletes and bringing both nations closer through the universal language of sport.

YOURLETTERS

Ensure safety of packaged drinking water

The detection of potentially carcinogenic polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) in a Bisleri drinking water sample by FSSAI raises serious public health concerns. Although the company maintains that its products are safe and subsequent tests reportedly revealed no quality issues, the incident cannot be taken lightly. Consumers purchase packaged water trusting its purity and safety. Authorities must conduct regular inspections, enforce stringent quality standards and ensure timely recall of contaminated batches. Public health must never be compromised for commercial interests.

Yash Pal Ralhan, Jalandhar

Development at the cost of ecology

Unchecked infrastructure development is threatening India's ecological balance. Karnataka, home to 6,395 wild elephants, has only seven fragmented corridors, with human-elephant conflicts claiming 170 lives over five years. Mining, highways, railway projects and illegal encroachments are destroying natural habitats, forcing wildlife into human settlements. Farmers and animals bear the consequences of indiscriminate development. Monetary compensation alone cannot address this crisis. Authorities must restore encroached wildlife corridors, regulate destructive projects and prioritise environmental conservation to prevent irreversible damage to biodiversity and ecosystems.

Dr. Vijaykumar H K, Raichur

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.

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Nation



"Murder was deliberately orchestrated, atmosphere carefully created."

Rahul Gandhi,
Leader of Opposition

Knife attack injures nine Delhi cops, assailant held

On Monday, a 30-year-old man committed a violent stabbing spree at an Old Delhi police station.

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: A 30-year-old man named Nabeel went on a violent stabbing spree in Old Delhi on Monday, injuring nine police personnel before being apprehended following a brief encounter. The incident began around 2:30 pm when Nabeel, a resident of Kala Mahal, arrived at the Jama Masjid police station after being summoned for counselling over a family dispute. His mother and sister had lodged a complaint against the unemployed man for frequently quarrelling with them over money. Although both women were present at the station, Nabeel reportedly did not notice them. Carrying a concealed knife in his pocket, he entered the duty officer's room and demanded to know who had summoned him. When Investigating Officer Sub-Inspector Ajay identified himself and



tried to initiate a conversation, Nabeel suddenly pulled out the blade and attacked him without provocation. As other officers rushed in to rescue Ajay and overpower the assailant, Nabeel slashed four more personnel—Sub-Inspector Arvind, Head Constable Harender, Assistant Sub-Inspector Shri Krishna, and Head Constable Baljeet—before fleeing the premises amid widespread panic.

While escaping through nearby lanes, Nabeel threatened a commuter at knifepoint, snatched his scooter, and fled toward the ChitliQabar area. Multiple police teams, including the Anti-Auto Theft Squad and Special Staff, launched a massive manhunt. Around 4:30 pm, a joint team tracked him down to Haveli Azam Khan in ChitliQabar. When surrounded, Nabeel refused to surrender and attacked the approaching officers, injuring four Special Staff constables: Ankit, Jayant, Lokesh, and Parminder. In self-defence, the police team resorted to controlled firing, discharging eight rounds aimed below the waist. Six bullets struck Nabeel in his legs, allowing officers to finally subdue and arrest him.

All nine injured policemen were hospitalized; the five attacked at the station were admitted to Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, where four required immediate surgery, while the four constables and Nabeel—who suffered significant blood loss—were taken to LokNayak Jai Prakash Hospital. Senior officials, including Delhi Police Commissioner Anurag Kumar and Deputy Commissioner of Police RohitRajbir Singh, visited the injured personnel, while a forensic team inspected the crime scene.

HIGHLIGHT

- While trying to control and apprehend him, 9 policemen got injured.

Political row

AMARAVATI: YSRCP chief YS Jagan Mohan Reddy has criticised the Chandrababu Naidu-led Andhra Pradesh government over the demolition of the centuries-old AbhayaAnjaneyaSwamy temple at Anjaneyapuram in Tirupati district for National Highway 716 expansion. Calling it an attack on Hindu devotees' faith, Jagan questioned the coalition government's commitment to protecting Sanatana Dharma. He cited previous temple demolitions in Tirumala, Vijayawada and Badvel, alleging that heritage sites were being destroyed without exploring alternatives.

Former TTD chairman B Karunakar Reddy also condemned the demolition, claiming the highway alignment could have been modified to save the temple. He highlighted its historical and spiritual significance, linking it to sage Agastya and saint Annamacharya.

However, government sources said the demolition followed months of consultations and local consent. The main idol was shifted after rituals, while Rs 59.3 lakh and 50 cents of alternative land were provided for constructing a new temple.

Passengers safe

HARDOI: Around 80 passengers travelling from Haryana's Panipat to Bihar had a narrow escape on Tuesday morning after their bus fell into a trench between the two carriageways of the Ganga Expressway in Uttar Pradesh.

According to police, the accident occurred near Hadha-Malikpur village when the speeding bus apparently went out of control, broke through a roadside railing and plunged into the trench.

Shahabad Circle Officer Santosh Singh confirmed that all passengers were safe and no serious injuries were reported. Although police estimated that around 80 people were travelling in the sleeper bus, some eyewitnesses claimed the number could be higher.

Following the incident, Dial 112 police personnel and a team from the Uttar Pradesh Expressways Industrial Development Authority (UPEIDA) rushed to the spot.

The UPEIDA team used a crane to retrieve the damaged bus from the trench. It was later moved to the toll plaza control room, police said.

| NEW LAW LAUNCHED |

'Three-year prison sentence for abandoning parents over property'

Press Trust Of India

On Tuesday, Keralam Chief Minister, VD Satheesan launched a new law in the state.



KOLLAM: Keralam Chief Minister V D Satheesan has announced that children who neglect or abuse their parents after acquiring their property will face up to three years of imprisonment under a new legislation passed by the state Assembly in October. The proposed law aims to strengthen the rights, care and protection of senior citizens in the state.

Satheesan highlighted the key provision while inaugurating a state-of-the-art residential facility for elderly men, named Pithrumandiram, at Gandhi Bhavan in Pathanapuram. The facility was constructed at a cost of Rs 20 crore. Addressing the gathering, the Chief Minister said the legislation includes a special provision to punish children who abandon or neglect their parents after taking possession of their property. He clarified that the law would come into force after receiving the Governor's assent.

"You all should not be worried. I have deliberately added a provision in the legislation which mandates a three-year jail term for those children who neglect their parents after acquiring all their property," Satheesan said, assuring senior citizens that strict action would be taken against offenders. He emphasised that parents make enormous sacrifices and endure numerous hardships to raise their children. However, some children tend to abandon their elderly parents after achieving financial success and social status.

Satheesan said such behaviour should not become part of Keralam's social culture. He called for a society where children respect, care for and support their parents during old age.

"My biggest dream is that no elderly person in Keralam should be isolated," he said.

The Chief Minister also recalled that the first decision taken by the UDF government after assuming office was to establish a dedicated department for senior citizens, which he described as the first of its kind in the country.

He further praised LuLu Group Chairman M A Yusuff Ali for financially supporting the construction of the Rs 20-crore residential facility. Appreciating his philanthropic activities, Satheesan said that helping people in need was a responsibility that wealthy individuals should embrace.

He noted that Yusuff Ali had consistently extended support to disadvantaged sections of society.

FASTFACTS

- The law states that children who will abandon their parents over property dispute will be awarded a 3-year prison sentence.

| PRAYERS OFFERED |

Nitin visits Gurudwara Rakab Ganj on Guru Nanak Jayanti

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: BJP national president NitinNabin on Tuesday visited GurdwaraRakabGanj in New Delhi and offered prayers on the occasion of the 557th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev, the founder of Sikhism and the first Sikh Guru. The ParkashPurab of Guru Nanak Dev is being observed across the country on November 24.

Speaking to reporters after offering prayers, Nabin highlighted the teachings of the Sikh Gurus and emphasised their message of humanity, equality, service and social harmony.

He said Prime Minister NarendraModi had recently demonstrated his commitment to promoting Sikh heritage and development by highlighting the development of a gurdwara in Manila and spreading the message of the Sikh community across the world.

Nabin said that India could progress only when people from all sections of society work together. He also highlighted the importance of the Sikh tradition of langar, where people from different backgrounds sit together and share meals without discrimination.



"Together, citizens aim to advance India."

NitinNabin,
BJP National President

"The tradition of langar teaches us how people from every section of society can come together. This itself conveys a very important message to all of us," he said.

Extending greetings to citizens on the auspicious occasion, Nabin paid tribute to the Sikh community for its dedication to humanity and spirit of selfless service. He expressed hope that people across the country would follow these values for the progress of society.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister NarendraModi also extended greetings on Guru Nanak Dev'sParkashPurab through a social media message.

Modi said the timeless teachings of Guru Nanak Dev continue to guide humanity and inspire people to embrace simplicity, harmony, kindness and dedication to the welfare of others.

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

SC'S RULING

Supreme Court says previous conviction bars bail solely on grounds of speedy trial right



NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court has ruled that an accused with criminal antecedents and a previous conviction cannot be granted bail merely on the grounds of violation of the right to a speedy trial. The court emphasised that judicial authorities must balance an accused person's fundamental rights with the interests of society and victims. A bench comprising Justices Prashant Kumar Mishra and Shree Chandrashekhar made the observation while setting aside a Punjab and Haryana High Court order granting bail to an accused in a murder case.

The apex court observed that although the right to a speedy trial is an integral part of Article 21 of the Constitution, courts must also consider the seriousness of the offence, the accused's criminal history and the interests of the victim's family.

The case arose from an appeal filed by the father of the deceased, challenging the High Court's January 2026 order granting bail to the accused, who had spent more than five years in custody. **PTI**

HALTED

3 water schemes halted in HP over chicken waste in Seri Nala

SHIMLA: Three drinking water supply schemes have been suspended in Himachal Pradesh's Solan district after sacks containing chicken bones and remains were found dumped in the Seri nala, which flows into the Gambharriver. The incident has raised concerns over water contamination and is likely to affect around 5,000-6,000 people. According to officials, sacks filled with chicken remains were dumped at three different locations near the Gambharbridge on the Waknaghat-Mamlig road. Several bones were also found scattered in the stream and along its banks. Following the discovery, the Jal Shakti Department suspended water supply schemes serving Dumaher, Kot-Sihard and Serighat as a precautionary measure. The closure is expected to worsen the water shortage in Mamlig, Sayari, Sayarighat, Dumaher and nearby rural areas. After receiving information, officials from the administration, police and Jal Shakti Department, led by SDO Ain Singh Thakur, visited the site. **PTI**

DEMAND PLACED

Punjab Congress chief urges centre to reopen Kartarpur corridor



CHANDIGARH: Punjab Congress chief Pargat Singh has written to Prime Minister NarendraModi, urging the Centre to reopen the Kartarpur Corridor and resume cross-border trade through the Attari-Wagah border.

In a letter sent on Monday, Singh highlighted the religious significance of the Kartarpur Corridor for the Sikh community, stating that GurdwaraDarbar Sahib in Pakistan is closely associated with the life and teachings of Guru Nanak Dev, the founder of Sikhism. He said the closure of the corridor had disappointed millions of devotees who wished to visit the historic shrine and pay their respects. The Jalandhar Cantt MLA urged the Centre to initiate diplomatic discussions with Pakistan and explore a safe and mutually acceptable arrangement for reopening the corridor at the earliest. **PTI**

FIRE BREAKS OUT

New forest blazes erupt along LoCin Poonch as efforts continue to contain Balakote fire



MENDHAR/JAMMU: Fresh forest fires were reported along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district on Tuesday, even as firefighting operations continued for the third consecutive day in the neighbouringBalakote sector. Officials said no casualties had been reported so far.

The fire initially broke out in the Lanjote forest area of Balakote, ahead of the border fence, on Sunday evening. Despite continuous efforts to control the blaze, flames continued to spread, damaging trees and other vegetation across the affected forest areas.

On Tuesday morning, fresh fires were reported from the Gohlad Top and ChajjlaPatri forest areas in the Mendhar sector, raising concerns about the spread of fires across forest stretches along the LoC.

Officials said the difficult terrain and inaccessible locations had made it impossible to deploy fire tenders. Instead, personnel were using fire beaters to contain the flames and prevent them from spreading to adjoining areas. Meanwhile, security has been strengthened in both affected sectors, with security forces maintaining heightened vigilance and closely monitoring the situation. Officials said additional alertness had been maintained along vulnerable stretches of the LoC to prevent terrorists from taking advantage of the situation and attempting infiltration across the border.

SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE

Tender Notice No.: Sr. DMM/SECR/Raipur, Tender No. 82265234.

Name of Work: Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Off Loco Test Kit for Locomotives of BHEL Make. **Qty:** 1 Nos. **Closing: 18.12.2026, 10.30 AM. (1)** For more information Pls. visit Web site **(www.ireps.gov.in). (2)** Any other queries related to tender contract to office of Sr.DMM/SECR/Raipur DRM Railway Complex Near RVH Colony WRS/Raipur, Pin- 492008 (C.G) on Working Day Monday-Friday 9.30AM to 6.00 PM and Phone No-0771-2252258/9752877790.

Sr. DMM/SECR/
PR/R/Sr.DMM/PCN/264 Raipur.

South East Central Railway @secrail

SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE FOR MECHANIZED CLEANING

Sri. No. (1) E-Tender No. DRM-ENGG-BSP-T-189-26-27, Date. 18.11.2026.

Work: Mechanized cleaning of overhead, underground & PVC/RCC domestic tanks in BSP Railway Settlement for period of 03 years under the jurisdiction of Sr.DEN/Settlement/Bilaspur.

Tender Value: ₹ 1,21,88,900.00/-. **EMD :** ₹ 2,43,800.00/-. **Completion Period : 36 Months.**

Start date of Submission of Tender: From **01/12/2026. Last date of Submission of Tender:** Upto **11.00 hrs.** on **15/12/2026.**

The complete information of above e-Tender Notices is available over website **https:// www.ireps.gov.in.** Bids other than e-bids shall not be accepted against above Tenders.

Divil. Railway Manager (Engg.)
CPR/10/502 S.E.C. Railway, Bilaspur.

South East Central Railway @secrail

CHHATTISGARH STATE POWER TRANSMISSTION COMPANY LIMITED
(A Govt. of Chhattisgarh Undertaking) (A Successor Company of CSEB)
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER (STORE & PURCHASE)
Third Floor, SLDC Building, CSPTCL, Daganiya Raipur-492013
Website- www.cspc.co.in Phone No.- 0771-2574240/4106 /4239

No.02-16/CE/TR-26/ S&P/22/I/761764/2026 Raipur, Date:- 23-11-2026

E-TENDER NOTICE

Online tenders are invited by undersigned through CSPTCL e-bidding system (SAP SRM) for deployment of following manpower for CE (S&P) CSPTCL, Raipur for a period of One Years.

SN	Tender No./RFX No.	Particulars	Qty.	Due date & time
1	TR-26/S&P/22 (RFx. No- 8100055373)	Computer Operator	05 Nos.	14/12/2026 (15.30 Hrs.)
		Peon	03 Nos.	

The details of NIT can be viewed from our website www.cspc.co.in.and the Tender Documents can be viewed and downloaded online from our E-bidding portal:-https://ebidding.cspcl.co.in:50724/irj/portal. Any amendment/corrigendum, if required will be displayed on our website only.

Chief Engineer (S&P)
CSPTCL: Raipur

SAVE ELECTRICITY S-49870/2

"I think somewhere I look for that. I look for at least one scene in a film that kind of, of course, you can't get in every film. Uh! But especially if it's an intense film or you know, I look for at least one scene that I feel is so challenging that I don't know how I'm going to pull it off."

Kriti Sanon



&Glitters

OTT Watch



Panchayat may soon arrive in Cinemas

The makers of 'Panchayat' hope to bring the popular comedy-drama to the big screen. TVF President Vijay Koshy revealed the idea dates back to 2016, expressing hope that the entire cast will reunite for the film.



Bigg Boss 20 finale shifts to January

Salman Khan's 'Bigg Boss 20' may get a two-to-four-week extension, potentially shifting its December 20 finale to January 2027. However, the makers have not officially confirmed the reported change or revised finale date yet.



Apple TV announces Timberlake series

Justin Timberlake will revisit his fame, career and controversies in Apple TV's four-part documentary, 'TIMBERLAKE'. Directed by Fisher Stevens, the series premieres December 11, featuring personal reflections, exclusive interviews and unseen archival footage.



Fawad-Mahira series gets Netflix

Netflix has listed Fawad Khan and Mahira Khan's Pakistani drama 'Jo Bachay Hain Sang Samait Lo' for December 4. However, its India release remains uncertain due to government restrictions on Pakistani streaming content.



Hanuman Ansh arrives on SonyLIV

'Hanuman Ansh' premieres on SonyLIV on November 27. The series follows a grieving boy who seeks divine help to reunite with his mother, embarking on a spiritual journey that teaches him love, compassion and selfless service.

CLOSE UP

Ayan Mukerji on creative connections with Ranbir

Ayan Mukerji recalls how shared perspectives brought him closer to Ranbir Kapoor.

Central Chronicle News

The filmmaker reflects on their three-film journey and creative connection.



Ayan Mukerji with Ranbir Kapoor.

Filmmaker Ayan Mukerji has revealed that his successful three-film collaboration with actor Ranbir Kapoor happened organically, as they discovered a natural creative connection while working on their first film together, Wake Up Sid (2009). Mukerji said he realised that he and Kapoor shared similar experiences, age groups and perspectives on life. The session was moderated by journalist Puja Talwar. "With Ranbir, it happened very organically in my life. I wrote 'Wake Up Sid' and I met him on that film. We discovered while making that film that we were the same age. We came from a similar part of Bombay. We had a very similar mind space, head space," the filmmaker said. He added that their similar backgrounds and understanding helped them connect naturally, paving the way for their next collaboration, Yeh Jawaani Hai Deewani (2013). The duo later reunited for the fantasy adventure film Brahmastra (2022). Mukerji, who is the son of late actor Deb Mukherji and grandson of producer Sashadhar Mukherjee, described himself as fortunate to have worked with Kapoor on three films. He also praised the actor's abilities, calling him a great performer and a valuable creative partner. However, the filmmaker clarified that he does not follow a rule of making films exclusively with Kapoor. He remains open to collaborating with other actors depending on the story and characters he wishes to explore.



"I hope that if an idea comes to me to write a story about an older guy, or now about a younger guy because I am getting older, then we will find the collaboration that's right for that. But it's not something that I follow that I have to make a film only with Ranbir," he said.

CineBriefs

BEST OF THE REST

Bollywood

Harshvardhan Rane reunites with Anshul Garg

Actor Harshvardhan Rane is reuniting with producer Anshul Garg for their upcoming film 'Majnu', following the success of their previous collaboration, 'Ek Deewane Ki Deewaniyat'. The makers announced the project on social media, sharing a video featuring the actor and producer together. Produced under Desi Music Factory (DMF), the film is scheduled to go on floors on December 1, 2026. Garg said their previous experience encouraged them to explore another story together. He expressed excitement about the project, adding that the production house aims to bring stories that connect with audiences. Further details about the film remain under wraps.

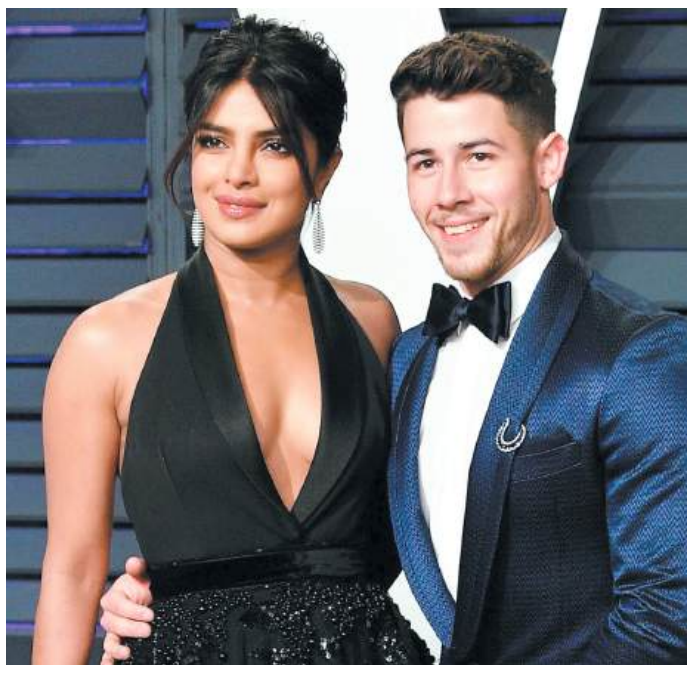
Web Series

Netflix brings back its hit heist thriller franchise

Netflix has announced that the sequel to its 2023 hit thriller 'Chor Nikal Ke Bhaaga' will premiere on December 17. Produced by Maddock Films and directed by Ajay Singh, the film features Yami Gautam, Sunny Kaushal and Sharad Kelkar reprising their roles, while Shreya Chaudhary joins the cast as a new addition. Moving away from the aircraft-based heist of the first instalment, the sequel unfolds aboard a sprawling cruise ship, where an invaluable crown becomes the centre of a dangerous game of deception. The film promises unexpected twists, thrilling confrontations and a fresh storyline that expands the franchise with new challenges for audiences.

The bollywood hot pair

Priyanka recalls Nick's funny reaction to Hajmola



Priyanka Chopra once shared a hilarious anecdote about husband Nick Jonas trying Hajmola for the first time. The actress recalled how curious Nick was about the popular Indian digestive candy. Priyanka revealed that she keeps a drawer filled with aam papad, Hajmola and other chatpata treats at home. When Nick asked about its contents, she playfully warned him that some things were beyond his understanding. However, his curiosity eventually won, and he decided to try Hajmola. Recalling his reaction, Priyanka said Nick wondered why it smelled like farts. His unexpected response left everyone amused.

Fashion

Sharvari brings royal charm in cobalt blue Anarkali

Sharvari is embracing royal festive fashion in a stunning cobalt blue JJ Valaya Anarkali. Featuring intricate gold embroidery, elaborate dabka work and floral motifs, the ensemble celebrates traditional Indian craftsmanship. She paired it with a richly embellished sheer dupatta, adding to its regal appeal. For accessories, the actor chose traditional gold earrings with kundan-inspired detailing and an ornate ring from Maya Sanghavi Jewels.



| HOLLYWOOD |

Macaulay Culkin returns for new 'Home Alone' sequel

Central Chronicle News

A new 'Home Alone' sequel is reportedly in early development at 20th Century Studios, with Macaulay Culkin set to return as Kevin McCallister more than three decades after last playing the character. The upcoming film is expected to explore Kevin's life as a father, offering a fresh perspective on the childhood experiences that made him famous. The idea reportedly came from Culkin himself. The actor met Disney Motion Pictures president David Greenbaum over the summer and pitched a story examining how Kevin's unusual childhood shaped his personality and approach to parenthood. Having become a father, Culkin is interested in exploring how his character would raise a family after being accidentally left behind as a child and defending his home from burglars. Seth Rogen and Evan Goldberg are attached to write and produce the project through their banner, Point Grey Pictures. They are working with Culkin to develop the concept into a screenplay. Plot details, other cast members and the possible return of familiar characters have not yet been revealed. There is no confirmation about whether Chris Columbus, who directed the first two films, will return. The original 'Home Alone' was released in 1990 and turned Culkin into an international child star.



Macaulay Culkin return as Kevin McCalliste

HIGHLIGHT

- **Macaulay Culkin is set to reprise Kevin McCallister in a new Home Alone sequel.**

Trending on Insta



@gulpanag

Gul Panag turns little girl again with family

Gul Panag cherished becoming a little girl again while attending niece Sanjana's wedding. Sharing glimpses, the actress celebrated being surrounded by her Punjabi family, enjoying the warmth of loved ones who knew her growing up.

@therealemraan

Emraan Hashmi and Aditya Datt celebrate three decades

Filmmaker Aditya Datt celebrated 30 years of friendship with Emraan Hashmi, sharing nostalgic behind-the-scenes pictures. Recalling their 'Zeher' days, Datt reflected on shared memories, struggles and laughter, while celebrating their latest collaboration, 'Gunmaaster G9'.



"At work, you are professionals, but how do you blend these two worlds without feeling guilty all the time?"

Kiara Advani
Actor



Bella





Successful women stand out through habits.

THE BEAUTIFUL ME

Secrets of success that confident women walk with

Success often begins with small habits practised consistently every single day.

Success and financial independence are rarely achieved overnight. Women who build successful careers and strong financial foundations often share certain habits that help them stay focused, confident and ahead of the curve. Their approach to life is shaped by discipline, continuous learning and a willingness to improve. These everyday practices can help any woman become more independent, productive and confident.



Successful women understand that time is precious. They plan their schedules, priorities important tasks and avoid unnecessary distractions. This helps them stay organized and make better use of their day. They also believe in continuous learning. Reading books, exploring new subjects and developing professional skills help them remain informed and discover new opportunities.

Financial awareness is another important aspect of building wealth. They track expenses, maintain savings, understand investments and make thoughtful financial decisions. Confidence also allows them to take risks, express their opinions and make important choices. Rather than allowing failures to discourage them, they treat setbacks as learning experiences.

HIGHLIGHT

- **Discover the habits that help women grow personally, professionally and financially.**

They understand that good health supports long-term success. Regular exercise, nutritious meals and adequate sleep help maintain energy and productivity. They also surround themselves with positive, ambitious people who encourage personal and professional growth.

Having clear goals keeps them focused. They break bigger ambitions into smaller targets and work consistently towards achieving them. They also invest in themselves through education, professional training and personal development, recognizing the importance of continuous self-improvement.



Most importantly, successful women remain persistent even when circumstances become difficult. They understand that challenges and disappointments are part of the journey. Patience, determination and consistent effort help them move forward. Adopting these habits can gradually transform the way women approach their careers, finances and personal lives, helping them build a more confident and independent future.

Skin-infused makeup is changing beauty routines



Makeup is no longer just about covering imperfections or enhancing appearance. Women are increasingly looking for cosmetics that offer skincare benefits alongside colour and coverage. This growing trend, known as skinification of makeup, combines beauty products with ingredients such as hyaluronic acid, niacinamide, peptides and SPF. Foundations, concealers and tinted moisturisers are now being designed to hydrate, protect and nourish the skin. The shift reflects changing beauty preferences, with consumers seeking lighter formulas and multifunctional products. Instead of choosing between skincare and makeup, women now want products that deliver both in one simple routine.

Myth or Truth: Diabetes diet myth: Fruits are not the enemy

People with diabetes do not need to eliminate fruits from their diet, says an endocrinologist, debunking a common misconception. Although fruits contain natural sugars, they also provide fibre, vitamins, minerals and antioxidants. Fibre slows sugar absorption and helps prevent sudden blood glucose spikes. Guava, apple, pear, orange, papaya and berries can be included in appropriate portions. Even bananas, mangoes and grapes need not be completely avoided. However, whole fruits are preferable to juices, which contain less fibre and may raise blood sugar faster. Pairing fruit with nuts or unsweetened yoghurt can improve satiety. Portion control and individual glucose monitoring remain important.

| FASHION |

Effortless celebrity glow with soft glam makeup

Central Chronicle News

Bollywood's beauty mood is moving towards a softer finish. Instead of heavy foundation, sharply sculpted cheeks and dramatic eyes, celebrities are embracing fresh-looking skin, gentle colour and subtle definition. From Alia Bhatt's understated appearances to Deepika Padukone's radiant looks, soft glam shows how touches can enhance natural features without making makeup feel overdone.

The appeal of this trend lies in its versatility. It works for everyday outings, festive gatherings, weddings and evening parties, while allowing your skin and personality to remain visible. The aim is not to hide every mark or create a polished mask, but to build a balanced look with a healthy glow.

Begin by cleansing and moisturising your face. During the day, apply sunscreen before makeup. Choose a lightweight foundation or skin tint and blend a thin layer evenly. Use concealer only where you need extra coverage, such as under the eyes or around blemishes. A light base helps retain a natural finish. Next, add a soft pink, peach or rose blush to the apples of your cheeks, blending it gently upwards. A touch of highlighter on the high points of the face can bring luminosity. Avoid heavy contouring; a little bronzer, blended well, is enough to add warmth. For the eyes, choose neutral brown or champagne shades and softly define the lash line with brown kajal or eyeliner. Curl your lashes and apply mascara for an open effect. Finish with a nude, rosy or muted berry lip colour. A little gloss can add freshness.



Bollywood's soft glam makeup trend is taking over.

HIGHLIGHT

Heavy makeup is taking a backseat as Bollywood embraces softer, more natural beauty.
Take inspiration from celebrity looks and create a radiant finish with minimal effort.

Soft glam can be adapted to your comfort and occasion. Build colour gradually, blend carefully and remember that the goal is enhancement, not transformation. The look also suits different skin tones and personal styles.

Diva Dazzle

BEST OF THE REST

Celebs

Kangana serves elegance in ivory saree

Kangana Ranaut recently visited the Taj Mahal in Agra with her family, turning the sightseeing outing into a stylish fashion moment. She chose an embroidered ivory saree that reflected understated traditional elegance. A printed shawl added colour and texture to her otherwise neutral ensemble.
The actress completed her look with a luxurious Hermès Birkin bag in a complementary taupe-grey shade, dark sunglasses and a neatly styled hairstyle. A deep lip colour and small bindi added a graceful finishing touch. Her simple yet sophisticated appearance offered a beautiful blend of Indian tradition and luxury fashion.

Achiever

Reble emerges as a rising youth icon

Meghalaya-based rapper and singer Daiaphi Lamare, popularly known as Reble, has won the Youth Icon award, marking a significant milestone in her musical journey. Known for her multilingual rap performances, she has brought the musical identity of Northeast India to a wider audience. Reble gained wider recognition for her contribution to Aditya Dhar's film Dhurandhar, introducing her music to more listeners. She competed in the Youth Icon category alongside comedian Samay Raina, actor Mamitha Baiju, music composer Sai Abhyankkar and digital creator Dharna Durga. Her achievement celebrates her growing influence and highlights the rising presence of Northeast Indian artists in the country's entertainment industry.

The Inspirors

Ananya Birla inspires women to follow dreams



Ananya Birla has made history in her family by becoming the first woman in seven generations to pursue a professional career. Speaking about her journey, she revealed that no woman in her family had worked before her. Her decision to build a career and start her own business highlights the importance of challenging traditional expectations. Breaking family patterns, however, can come with emotional pressure, fear of disappointing loved ones and the need for acceptance.Her journey inspires women to follow their ambitions, embrace independence and remember that choosing a different path is a powerful step towards change.

Wellness

HPV Vaccination: Key facts for women's



The HPV vaccine is an important preventive measure against human papillomavirus, a common infection linked to cervical cancer. Vaccination is recommended for girls between 9 and 14 years, as the immune response is strongest at this age. However, women up to 26 years can also receive the vaccine, while those aged 27 to 45 may consider it after consulting a doctor. Besides vaccination, certain precautions can help reduce the risk of HPV infection. Using condoms during sexual activity lowers transmission chances, although it does not provide complete protection. Maintaining intimate hygiene is also important for overall reproductive health. Regular cervical screening should not be overlooked, even after vaccination.

Divas on Insta



Viral Beauty hack

Homemade Neem shampoo for dandruff relief

Make a homemade anti-dandruff shampoo by boiling soaked shikakai, reetha, fenugreek seeds and neem leaves in water for 10-15 minutes. Cool, remove the seeds, grind and strain the mixture. Add fresh aloe vera gel, mix well and apply twice weekly.

Viral Cleaning hack

Say goodbye to cracked heels this winter

Winter dryness can leave heels rough, cracked and painful. Simple household remedies like coconut oil, petroleum jelly, aloe vera and shea butter can help moisturise dry feet. Regular application, especially before bedtime, may soften heels and improve skin hydration.



Sports



Inappropriate, defensive strategy possibly cost India chance of qualifying for WTC finals.

Venkatesh Prasad,
Former seamer

Harbhajan wants ICC, Boards to step in to curb players' conduct

The India-Pakistan clash was marked by a series of tense moments.

Press Trust Of India



MUMBAI: Former spinner Harbhajan Singh on Tuesday called for the ICC and the respective cricket Boards to step in and curb the behaviour of India and Pakistan players during their matches, saying the reactions from both sides set a "shameful" example for the next generation.

Referring to the heated exchanges during India A's 48-run defeat to Pakistan A in the Asia Cup Rising Stars match in Doha on Sunday, Harbhajan said the conduct of players from both teams was not appropriate.

"The ICC and the respective Boards need to step in. The reactions of both Pakistan and Indian players after winning, and what happened, are not right. It is shameful and sets a bad example for the next generation," Harbhajan said during the launch of the HSBC Golfing League. The India-Pakistan clash was marked by a series of tense moments. India A captain Tilak Varma and Pakistan A skipper Abdul Samad did not shake hands at the toss, while a mix-up in announcing the toss result briefly caused confusion before Pakistan A were confirmed having won the toss.

The tension spilled onto the field during Pakistan A's innings, with India pacer Harshit Rana involved in heated verbal exchanges with Pakistan openers Shamyl Hussain and Maaz Sadaqat. After taking Hussain's catch off Ayush Badoni's bowling, Rana gave him an animated send-off and followed it up with another aggressive celebration after dismissing Rohail Nazir. The exchanges continued later in the match, and when Rana was dismissed for a duck, Pakistan spinner Sufyan Moqim appeared to exchange words with him as he walked back, with a teammate stepping in to restrain Moqim. Harbhajan also questioned India's decision to sign off on a draw in the first Test against New Zealand with 15 overs still remaining in the day's play, saying he would have preferred the team to bowl for the remaining 90 deliveries.

"I would have bowled those 15 overs. Anil Kumble's approach was always to fight till the last ball. I remember Michael Clarke taking two wickets in the last two overs in Sydney. You never know what can happen in those 15 overs," he said.

On the 2018 ball-tampering scandal involving Australia, Harbhajan said reverse swing had traditionally been associated with Pakistan and India, but other teams perhaps used unfair means to tamper with the ball.

"This is a very old thing. Pakistan and India were being told for a long time that reverse swing has come from there. This work is done from there. "This is not a new thing. We have made such a big thing about it. Australia was doing it earlier. England was doing it. South Africa was doing it. Wherever the ball is reversing, there must be something being done to it. "How much they do naturally or what they have done with sandpaper, that is bad. If you try to make the ball reverse naturally, it takes some time for the ball to start moving.

"But if you get the ball to reverse in the 10th over, then it is understood that it cannot be done without the ball being tampered with. Australia is not as simple as they used to be. And their players too."

Harbhajan also felt that perhaps the entire Australian team was aware of what was happening in South Africa.

"I am saying from the first day that they should not be given so much respect that they keep it on their head. They have also played the game. They have also done all these things.

"And now they have been caught or things have come to light, and they are saying that they did not know. It is not possible that you are living in one house and you do not know about your brother or sister, who is living there or not. Everybody was part of it, I believe.

"If it is in the team, then it is a collective thing."

HIGHLIGHT

- India A captain Tilak Varma and Pakistan A skipper Abdul Samad did not shake hands at the toss, while a mix-up in announcing the toss result briefly caused confusion before Pakistan A were confirmed having won the toss.

Peshawar set for international cricket revival

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board has decided to revive the Arbab Niaz stadium in Peshawar as an international venue. The stadium last hosted an international match in 2006. Security concerns and militancy in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province have forced the PCB not to schedule any international games in Peshawar since 2006, although some domestic first-class matches have been held at the venue in recent seasons. The stadium was renamed Imran Khan Stadium by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf provincial government in 2025, but the provincial governor restored its original name this week. The PCB has now announced that it will host some matches of a domestic triangular series involving the Pakistan senior, Shaheens and Under-19 teams in Peshawar in December. It has also confirmed that the next edition of the Pakistan Super League will have its opening ceremony and match at the Arbab Niaz stadium in March.

|SYED MUSHTAQ ALI TROPHY|

Arya slams 68-ball 181 as Delhi hammer TN by 116 runs

Press Trust Of India

He now jointly holds the record for the most sixes in a men's T20 innings.



INDORE: Delhi captain Priyansh Arya unleashed a breathtaking display of power-hitting with a 68-ball 181, the second-highest individual score in men's T20 cricket, as his team hammered Tamil Nadu by 116 runs in a Group B match of the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy here on Tuesday.

Invited to bat, Arya went on a six-hitting rampage, bludgeoning the Tamil Nadu attack with a record-equalling 19 maximums to power Delhi to a mammoth 275 for five.

He now jointly holds the record for the most sixes in a men's T20 innings, alongside New Zealand's Finn Allen.

The Delhi spinners then bamboozled Tamil Nadu to bowl them out for 159 in 18.3 overs.

Coming off a half-century in the previous game, Arya picked up from where he had left off.

He raced to an 18-ball fifty as Delhi plundered 94 runs in the powerplay, with the opener taking apart the bowling attack by smashing 22 runs off both the fourth and fifth overs, bowled by R Silambarasan and Sai Kishore, respectively.

With a strike rate of over 250, Arya continued his assault to reach his third T20 century in just 36 balls before bringing up the 150-run mark off 60 deliveries.

Besides his 19 sixes, Arya also hit seven fours before falling to M Siddharth in the penultimate over.

The 25-year-old fell just seven runs short of the all-time record of 188 not out, held by South African Lhuan-dre Gilbert Pretorius, who achieved the feat in the CSA Pro20 Cup last month. Arya also eclipsed Kiran Navgire's 76-ball 162, scored in the Women's Senior T20 Trophy in 2021, to become the highest individual scorer among Indians in T20 cricket.

He also went past KL Rahul's record for the highest individual score by an Indian in men's T20 cricket.

Chasing the mammoth target, Tamil Nadu were left reeling against Delhi's spin barrage, with Digvesh Rathi (4/37), Suyash Sharma (3/21) and Mayank Rawat (1/46) sharing eight wickets between them.

FASTFACTS

- Delhi: 275/5; 20 overs (Priyansh Arya 181, Anuj Rawat 29 not out; R Rajkumar 1/31) beat Tamil Nadu 159; 18.3 overs (Tushar Raheja 31, Shahrukh Khan 30; Digvesh Rathi 4/37) by 116 runs.

| SINCE RETIREMENT |

'Cricket was part of my life, not the heart of it'

Press Trust Of India

CHRISTCHURCH: Adam Parore had no inkling that an Indian team was touring New Zealand until he happened to walk past Virat Kohli at the Wellington airport lounge, where he was waiting for his flight to Auckland.

"I was at the Koru lounge and I just saw Virat Kohli walk past me. I asked a friend, 'Isn't that Virat?' "And then I saw a few more Indian boys and it dawned upon me that India was touring New Zealand. That's how much I am cut off from cricket," Parore said, breaking into laughter as he spoke to PTI while driving down to Tauranga for some downtime.

At 54, Parore is a content man. A trained lawyer who works in corporate finance and private equity, he now inhabits a world far removed from the Eden Parks, the Premadasas, the Chinnaswamys, the WACAs and the Newlands, where he once turned out as a New Zealand international in 78 Tests and 179 ODIs between 1990 and 2002. "It's been a very long time. It's 20-25 years (since retirement). It certainly has been anything but boring, I can assure you of that. No, I don't miss it," Parore says slowly but with great clarity. For him, cricket was certainly a part of his life, but not the heart of it.



'I knew cricket wasn't going to go on forever'.

Adam Parore,
New Zealand cricketer

"It was one of those things that was very important to me at that time.

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

POSITION OF THE GOVERNING BODY UNCHANGED

ICC has no plans to review saliva ban despite calls from Shubman Gill



NEW DELHI: The International Cricket Council doesn't plan to review its ban on applying saliva to the ball due to health and cricketing reasons despite calls from Indian captain Shubman Gill. Following the drawn first Test on a benign pitch at the Basin Reserve in Wellington, Gill complained that the Kookaburra ball was getting soft too early and said allowing players to use saliva to shine the ball could have helped the bowlers in the batting friendly conditions. PTI understands that the position of the governing body remains unchanged on the subject. The ban was first introduced in 2020 to protect the health of players and match officials following the COVID-19 pandemic and was made permanent in the ICC playing conditions a couple of years later.

INDIAN PREMIER LEAGUE SEASON

Mhambrey, Rajiv Kumar to join Punjab Kings coaching staff



NEW DELHI: Punjab Kings are set to appoint Paras Mhambrey as their bowling coach and Rajiv Kumar as fielding coach ahead of the upcoming Indian Premier League season.

The duo will replace Australia's James Hopes and Brad Haddin, who left their roles as bowling and fielding coaches respectively, last month.

Mhambrey's appointment comes after Mumbai Indians parted ways with him last month. The 54-year-old will reunite with PBKS head coach Ricky Ponting, having previously worked under the Australian at Mumbai Indians in 2015.

Mhambrey brings considerable experience, having served as India's bowling coach under Rahul Dravid from 2021 to 2024. Kumar, meanwhile, was released by former champions Chennai Super Kings, where he served as assistant coach.

Punjab Kings are still chasing their maiden IPL title, having reached the final in 2014 and 2025. The Shreyas Iyer-led side failed to make the playoffs last season, finishing fifth.

FAMILIARITY WITH THE CHRISTCHURCH VENUE

Kiwi all-rounder Mitchell expecting more bounce at Hagley Oval



CHRISTCHURCH: After a stalemate at the Basin Reserve, where only 24 wickets fell and the pitch gradually became slower and lower, New Zealand all-rounder Daryl Mitchell is expecting a better contest between bat and ball at the Hagley Oval, with the surface likely to offer more bounce in the second Test against India.

Mitchell, who scored an unbeaten 49 to help New Zealand save the first Test, said the Basin Reserve surface had not behaved quite as expected, particularly after starting with a generous covering of grass.

"I think the nature of the base and surface at Basin Reserve is such that it usually looks pretty green at the start. We probably didn't expect it to get that slow and low over the course of five days, but now we're here at Hagley and I'm sure there might be a bit of bounce in this one," Mitchell said.

Mitchell acknowledged the effort put in by India's bowlers on the final day, when they kept pushing for a victory before the two teams eventually agreed to a draw.

PREMIER LEAGUE SOCCER

Brentford routs 10-man Everton 4-0 to mar Moyes' record-breaking night



LONDON: Keane Lewis-Potter scored with two deflected shots in the first half as Brentford hammered 10-man Everton 4-0 to climb into sixth place in the Premier League.

The double by Lewis-Potter had put Brentford in full control even before Everton captain James Tarkowski was sent off shortly before the half-time break after a VAR review for his high challenge on Yehor Yarmoliuk.

Vitaly Janelt added the third with a 30-meter strike in the 67th before a late goal by Fabio Carvalho rounded off the win for the home side, which moved one point and three places above Everton. Everton manager David Moyes was marking a club record 593rd game in charge, breaking the mark held by Harry Catterick, but was given little reason to celebrate. Lewis-Potters first after 23 minutes took a big deflection up and over Jordan Pickford and his second, through a packed penalty box, also changed direction after hitting Thierno Barry on the way in.

Sports News

Sensational Sooryavanshi shatters host of world records

The 15-year-old slammed the fastest List A hundred (off 28 balls) and easily the fastest double hundred (off 52 balls).

Press Trust Of India

Harpreet Singh Bhatia, who played first-class cricket in India as recently as last year, anchored the UAE to 249 for eight against India A with an emotional 130 off 144 balls.



DOHA: Boy wonder Vaibhav Sooryavanshi shattered a plethora of records in his superhuman 53-ball 204 as India A gunned down UAE's 250 in an astonishing 14.2 overs in a Group B game of the the Rising Stars Asia Cup here on Tuesday.

The 15-year-old slammed the fastest List A hundred (off 28 balls) and easily the fastest double hundred (off 52 balls) in a sensational effort that included a mind-boggling 28 sixes, the most in all professional cricket.

Harpreet Singh Bhatia, who played first-class cricket in India as recently as last year, anchored the UAE to 249 for eight against India A with an emotional 130 off 144 balls.

Having got out out early in the first two games, Sooryavanshi made rather short work of the target with a barrage of sixes. Whether it was spin or pace, Sooryavanshi just stood still and clobbered it out of the park. "I didn't score in the first two games. After assessing the wicket, I thought there was not much for bowlers so I decided to back my game. Mindset was same as every game, wanted to bat long," Sooryavanshi told the host broadcaster.

After the loss to Pakistan in the previous game, India A found themselves in a must win situation. Pakistan have already qualified for the semifinals and India are also expected to make the cut following their second win in three matches.

While Sooryavanshi reached his first 100 off 28 balls, the second 100 came off just 24 balls. While he beat Jake Fraser McGurk's fastest hundred feat by one ball, he comfortably surpassed Chad Bowes' 103-ball double hundred for Canterbury.

With the left-hander in a league of his own, there was very little the UAE bowlers could do. Sooryavanshi was dropped in the 11th over, allowing him to complete his 200.

Earlier Bhatia, who represented India at the U-19 level besides playing 86 first-class games in the country of his birth, became a UAE citizen earlier this year. The left-hander played shots all around the park and particularly enjoyed taking on India pacer Harshit Rana, hitting him for a couple of sixes down the ground.

The first six, off a slower ball, brought him his seventh List A hundred.

Overall, Harpreet hit 12 boundaries and four sixes. He was understandably emotional after completing three figures against the team from his native country.

Harpreet was dismissed by left-arm pacer Arshad Khan in the 47th over. With four wickets, Arshad (4/43 in 10 overs) was the pick of the bowlers for India A.

India A were in a must-win situation, having lost to Pakistan Shaheens in their previous game.

HIGHLIGHT

- **Under the ICC's eligibility criteria, Harpreet would have needed to reside in the UAE for three years to meet the playing qualification requirements, but he ended up making his international debut in April on the basis of his UAE passport.**

India-born Harpreet Bhatia scores emotional hundred for UAE against native country

Doha: Harpreet Singh Bhatia, who played first-class cricket in India as recently as last year, anchored the UAE to 249 for eight against India A with an emotional 130 off 144 balls in a Group B match of the Rising Stars Asia Cup here on Tuesday.

The 35-year-old, who represented India at the U-19 level besides playing 86 first-class games in the country of his birth, became a UAE citizen earlier this year. He represented Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh in domestic cricket in India. He also featured in nine IPL matches for different teams, including Punjab Kings, Kolkata Knight Riders and Rising Pune Supergiants, besides playing club cricket in the UK. Harpreet held the UAE innings together after they lost their openers cheaply.

Mini Jr National Badminton Championship Inaugurated

Central Chronicle News

Young Shuttlers shine in opening round



RAIPUR: Intense action unfolded in the Under-11 Boys' and Girls' Singles Round of 64 matches, with top shuttlers from across the country advancing to the next stage in the Mini Junior National Badminton Championship, organised by the Chhattisgarh Badminton Association here on Tuesday.

In the Boys' Singles (Under-11) Round of 64, Asim M of Tamil Nadu delivered a dominant performance, blanking Tripura's Subhadeep Hazra 15-0, 15-0. Host state Chhattisgarh saw mixed fortunes; Vedansh Sharma registered a comfortable 15-4, 15-6 victory over Nirvaan Choudhury of Tripura, while Darsheel Khodiyar, Aariz Khan, and Aniket Singh bowed out after fighting hard against Riosanganba Soubam (Manipur, 15-12, 15-12), Hayan Muhammad (Kerala, 15-6, 15-13), and Saheer Sheikh (Andhra Pradesh, 15-6, 15-8), respectively.

Several tightly contested three-game thrillers highlighted the boys' draw. Andhra Pradesh's Ved Vachan Nandipati edged past Telangana's Vedansh Reddy Vippagunta 15-10, 13-15, 15-12, while Maharashtra's Raghav Nivarti rallied from a game down to defeat Ayush Anand of Chandigarh 13-15, 16-14, 15-12. Similarly, Ayan Sukhija (Punjab) overcame Adarsh (Himachal Pradesh) 15-1, 10-15, 15-6, and Gautam Yuvraj (Tamil Nadu) fought back to beat Nirbhay Thakkar (Gujarat) 6-15, 15-4, 15-9.

Other winners advancing in the boys' category included Medhansh Sharma (Bihar), who defeated Aditya (Himachal Pradesh) 15-12, 15-6; Shaunak Hrishikesh Kelkar (Maharashtra), who beat Aarav Vinoj (Andaman & Nicobar) 15-4, 15-2; Nitanta Gopal Rawat (Uttarakhand), who overcame Rudraniket Samrat (Chandigarh) 15-6, 15-13; Anbuselvan Rassa (Puducherry), who beat Shlok Sameer Utagi (Goa) 15-8, 15-11; and Advait Patidar (Madhya Pradesh), who eased past Huzaif Gani (Jammu & Kashmir) 15-4, 15-2. Josip Nade (Arunachal Pradesh), Ayush Dalal (Haryana), Aahil Roshan Rahman (West Bengal), Harshit Saikia (Assam), Ishaan Vasishtha Vasipalli (Gujarat), Onish Khandelwal (Uttar Pradesh), Pratyush (Uttar Pradesh), Alok Ambawata (Haryana), Adam Naujas (Kerala), Delrick Pukhramabam (Manipur), Sarthak Kaushal (Jammu & Kashmir), Lakshit Rewar (Rajasthan), Anish Bollu (Telangana), Sharva Shenvi (Goa), Reyansh Rishik Sai Yaganti (Karnataka), and Mayur Nirban Kashyap (Assam) also secured straight-game victories to progress.

The Mini Junior National Badminton Championship, organised by the Chhattisgarh Badminton Association, was inaugurated by Chhattisgarh Sports and Youth Welfare Minister Arun Sao. Speaking at the ceremony, Sao interacted with the young athletes, emphasising the importance of discipline in sports. He also assured the association that construction work on the Chief Minister-approved Badminton Academy would commence at the earliest.

| SYED MUSHTAQ ALI T20 TROPHY |

Record-breaking Khare powers Chh'garh past Goa in thriller

Central Chronicle News



RAIPUR/KOLKATA: A monumental, record-shattering century from Amandeep Khare propelled Chhattisgarh to a thrilling four-wicket win over Goa in their fifth match of the Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 Trophy 2026-27 at the Jadavpur University Second Campus ground on Tuesday. Chasing a steep target of 197 after electing to field first, Chhattisgarh held their nerve to cross the line at 197/6 with just a single delivery to spare. Khare was the undisputed architect of the chase, tearing into the Goa attack for a breathtaking 116 off just 62 balls. His innings was studded with nine boundaries and seven towering sixes—a new state record, surpassing the previous best of six sixes in a T20 innings by a Chhattisgarh batter. With this maiden T20 hundred, Khare etched his name into the record books as the first batter to score a century across all three formats for Chhattisgarh. The knock takes his overall tally for the state to 23 centuries—comprising 17 in multi-day cricket, five in one-dayers, and one in T20s—while also making him only the second Chhattisgarh player to hit a century in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy.

Khare set the foundation early alongside Ayush Pandey (18) in a brisk 86-run opening stand.

PT Usha opts out of IOA presidential race

NEW DELHI: Sprint legend PT Usha will not seek re-election as president of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA), bringing her four-year tenure to an end when the new executive council takes charge on December 5. Usha, who became the first woman president of the IOA on December 10, 2022, did not file her nomination papers for the top post before the 4.30pm deadline on Tuesday. Archery Association of India Secretary General Virendra Sachdeva and Olympic medallist shooter Gagan Narang filed their nominations for the president's post on Tuesday.

| ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS |

India to field 70-member team for inaugural BIMSTEC U-23 meet

Press Trust Of India

BHUBANESWAR: More than 200 athletes from six countries will compete in the first BIMSTEC Under-23 Athletics Championships, beginning at the Kalinga Stadium here on Wednesday.

The three-day track and field competition will see athletes from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and hosts India competing in 32 medal events.

India will field a 70-member contingent, selected from the recently concluded Under-23 Indian Open in Ludhiana and the Junior Nationals in Chennai.

The 32 medal events, evenly distributed between men and women, will feature 210 athletes.

Sri Lanka (59 athletes), Bangladesh (36) and Nepal (31) will have sizeable contingents, including medallists from Asian age-group championships.

Several Indian medallists from the 2026 Asian Under-23 Championships will also compete in the event.

Prominent among them are Khelo India athlete and discus thrower Bharatpreet Singh and Priya. All eyes will be on 2026 Asian junior silver medallist triple jumper Sadhana Ravi and 2023 Asian Youth 1500m silver medallist Rahul Sarnaliya.

The BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) meet, a symbol of regional sporting cooperation, is being conducted by the Athletics Federation of India under the auspices of the Union Ministry of External Affairs and the

Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, in collaboration with their counterparts in Odisha.

"Sport brings people together and is a great medium for people-to-people connect. With this competition, our athletes will get international exposure, so it's a win-win situation for us," said Bhupendra Singh Poonia, Commissioner-cum-Secretary of the Sports and Youth Services Department, Odisha government.

HIGHLIGHT

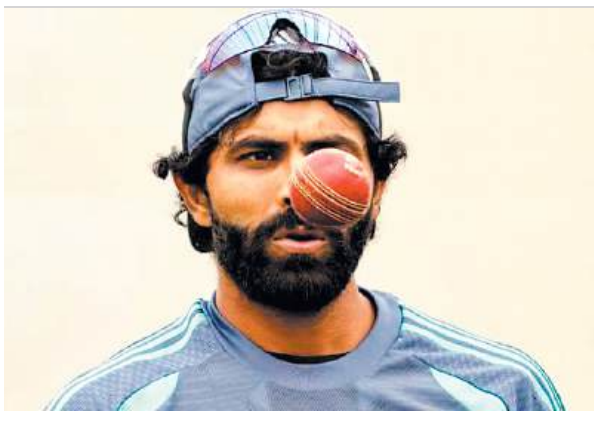
- **The BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) meet, a symbol of regional sporting cooperation.**

| INDIA VS NZ 2ND TEST |

Jadeja could replace Anshul Kamboj in Christchurch

Press Trust Of India

India needed Kamboj the bowler to deliver, but the Haryana pacer did not appear to have enough in his arsenal to seriously trouble the New Zealand batters.



CHRISTCHURCH: India's hopes of reaching the World Test Championship final have suffered a setback following the drawn opening Test in Wellington, and the team management could be forced to reassess Anshul Kamboj's place in the playing XI ahead of the series decider here from Friday.

If bright sunshine and a lifeless Basin Reserve pitch made life difficult for bowlers, the Hagley Oval surface could also flatten out, with daytime temperatures in Christchurch expected to hover around 30 degrees over the next few days.

While the Basin Reserve pitch blunted India's four-pronged pace attack, Kamboj failed to make a convincing impression as a bowler, which remains his primary skill set, despite contributing a brisk 38 off 41 balls to India's record 720 for nine declared.

Although he picked up three wickets across the two innings, there were few occasions when he looked capable of unsettling the Black Caps. He generated neither significant swing nor enough seam movement to create doubts in the batters' minds. His short-ball strategy also lacked menace because of his limited pace, while his speed tended to drop considerably during his second and third spells. The team management has not spelt out its plans, but it is unlikely to abandon its preference for playing four fast bowlers.

That, however, presents a selection dilemma. Kamboj's largely restrictive, wicket-to-wicket approach could prove ineffective in Test cricket, where accomplished batters have the patience to wear down bowlers who lack the ability to consistently create opportunities.

With several left-handers in the New Zealand batting line-up, Washington Sundar's off-spin is likely to remain ahead of Ravindra Jadeja's left-arm spin in the pecking order. But the equation could change if the heat takes its toll and cracks develop on the surface despite the 14mm grass covering.

The Indian team management essentially has two options -- stick with the same XI, as captain Shubman Gill indicated at the post-match press conference on Monday, or bring in either Jadeja or young pacer Gurnoor Brar, depending on its assessment of the surface.

Hesson draws line on senior Pak stars, signals end of road for many

Press Trust Of India

KARACHI: Pakistan head coach Mike Hesson has signalled the end of the international careers of several senior players, including former captains Mohammad Rizwan and Shan Masood, opener Imam-ul-Haq and spinner Noman Ali, as he looks to rebuild the national teams across formats.

A well-placed source in the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) said Hesson, who enjoys the backing of chairman Mohsin Naqvi, has been given a free hand to overhaul the team. It seems Hesson has made it clear that he is unwilling to look back at several senior players who have fallen out of favour. Rizwan, Shan, Imam and Noman, along with Saim Ayub, pacers Mohammad Ali and Khurram Shahzad and all-rounder Aamer Jamal, were among the notable omissions from the PCB's recently announced central contracts list.

When the contracts were announced in Lahore, senior selector Aaqib Javed, with Hesson present, had maintained that the awarding of central contracts and a player's selection for the national team were two separate matters.

He had said any player could still be considered for selection in any format, responding to a question about Rizwan's exclusion. However, the source said on Tuesday that Hesson had conveyed to the selectors and Naqvi that most of the senior players left out of the contracts list had played their last matches for Pakistan.

"It is curtains for Rizwan, Shan, Noman, Imam and others. That is at least what Hesson has made clear to the selectors and the chairman. He will not look back and wants to rebuild the Test and white-ball squads," the source said. Even strong performances in domestic cricket are unlikely to change Hesson's mind on these players, the source added.

World



No talks with US until its 7 conditions are met.

Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf
Iran's chief negotiator

Sheikh Hasina plans return to Bangladesh on December 16

Hasina, 79, has also asked the Bangladesh government to arrange her air travel from New Delhi on the national carrier, her spokesperson said in a statement.

Press Trust Of India



DHAKA: Ousted Bangladesh prime minister Sheikh Hasina plans to return home on December 16, the day the country celebrates its victory over Pakistan in the 1971 Liberation War, her spokesperson Syed Mozammel Ali said on Tuesday. Hasina, 79, has also asked the Bangladesh government to arrange her air travel from New Delhi on the national carrier, her spokesperson said in a statement.

The statement has triggered strong reactions in Dhaka with the government saying that she would be brought back "in handcuffs" and treated under the same laws applicable to any other convicted fugitive staying abroad. Hasina's spokesperson Ali said she had requested the necessary travel documents from the Bangladesh High Commission in New Delhi through communications sent by her lawyer on November 9 and 19. "She has further indicated that her return will be on Bangladesh's Victory Day on December 16th, coinciding with the end of the Liberation War in 1971. Sheikh Hasina has insisted that she would return on the flag carrier of Bangladesh, Biman Airlines," Ali said in the statement shared with PTI.

"Since Sheikh Hasina was flown to India on a Bangladesh aircraft on August 5, 2024, she now calls upon the Government to arrange for her air transport from Delhi back to Dhaka," he said.

Ali said the government had a responsibility to facilitate her return, alleging that she had been exiled in violation of the Constitution.

"Having exiled her contrary to the Constitution under such circumstances, it is now the responsibility of the Government to make possible her return to Bangladesh on Victory Day on December 16," he said.

Hasina has been living in India since fleeing Bangladesh on August 5, 2024, following a student-led uprising that toppled her 15-year government. In November 2025, Hasina was sentenced to death in absentia for crimes against humanity over the 2024 crackdown on protesters.

Bangladesh has been seeking her extradition from India, while New Delhi has maintained that Dhaka's request is being examined through a legal process. The issue has emerged as a source of tension between the two countries, with Dhaka insisting that Hasina be returned under a bilateral extradition treaty.

She has rejected the charges and said she intends to return to Bangladesh and surrender before a court. Her lawyers had earlier approached the Bangladesh mission in New Delhi seeking a fresh passport and national identity card to facilitate her return. The Bangladesh government rejected her request for fresh travel documents earlier this month, which triggered unrest in the country.

Hasina has repeatedly expressed her desire to return to Bangladesh, while acknowledging the risks involved. "I know that they may put me in jail or they may kill me, anything may happen, but still I have to go back," she told a gathering of journalists in New Delhi through an audio link on August 5. India had enjoyed close relations with Hasina during her 15 years in power and hoped that the formation of a new government in Bangladesh would provide an opportunity to reset ties, which deteriorated sharply after her ouster. However, since taking office in February, Bangladesh PM Rahman is yet to visit India despite an invitation.

FASTFACTS

- Dhaka Vows Extradition, Handcuffed Return for Fugitive
- Lawyer Seeks Travel Documents Twice

House arrest

LAHORE: Pakistan's Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman was placed under house arrest in Lahore on Tuesday to prevent him from attending a lawyers' event, the party said.

Maulana Rehman has recently stepped up his criticism of the military establishment, particularly Army Chief Field Marshal Asim Munir, over issues including rare earth minerals and the imposition of governor's rule in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. In a post on X, the JUI-F said Maulana Rehman had arrived in Lahore on Monday night and was scheduled to address lawyers at an event organised by the Lahore High Court Bar Association on Tuesday. However, police personnel deployed outside his residence prevented him from leaving, it added.

JUI-F spokesperson Hafiz Ghazanfar Aziz said around 3,000 policemen had been deployed in the housing society where the party chief's residence is located in Lahore. He also alleged that the party's central secretariat in Islamabad had been besieged by police. Condemning the action, he described it as an "attack on civil liberties and constitutional rights".

| HISTORIC MILESTONE |

Pakistani astronaut set for historic Chinese space station visit

Press Trust Of India



Ali, a 40-year-old pilot and payload specialist, was named a crew member of the Shenzhou-24 mission on Tue.

ISLAMABAD: Mohammad Zeeshan Ali is set to make history as the first Pakistani national to enter space and the first foreign astronaut to board China's Tiangong space station. Ali, a 40-year-old pilot and payload specialist, was named a crew member of the Shenzhou-24 mission on Tuesday, which is scheduled to launch on Wednesday.

He will be the first foreign national to board Beijing's Tiangong space station, the China Manned Space Agency (CMSA) announced.

"Pakistani astronaut Mohammad Zeeshan Ali is the first foreign national to visit Tiangong," CMSA Spokesperson Zhang Jingbo said during a press conference. Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Mao Ning said the Pakistani astronaut was also the first international crew member to join China's manned space programme. "China's Shenzhou-24 crew -- Chinese astronauts Tang Hongbo, Wu Yi, and Pakistani astronaut Muhammad Zeeshan Ali -- is set to launch on Nov. 25, 2026. Ali will become the first foreign astronaut to visit the Tiangong space station and the first international crew member in China's manned space program," Mao said in a post on X.

Pakistan's Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal, who is currently in China, called Ali "Pakistan's first astronaut". Zhang said that the Long March-2F rocket that will carry the crew into space will soon be filled with propellant.

"The crew is in good condition and the space station is functioning normally, meeting all requirements for the mission," he said. According to the CMSA, the Pakistani astronaut will serve as a payload specialist during the mission and return aboard the Shenzhou-23 spacecraft, which docked with the Tiangong space station in May.

China's astronaut Tang will command the mission, with Wu serving as the mission pilot and Ali taking on the role of payload specialist, according to the CMSA. The crewed spaceship is scheduled to be launched at 8:18 am (Beijing Time and 5:18 am Pakistan Time) on Wednesday from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in northwest China. Ali is expected to spend around a week in space, conducting various experiments alongside the Chinese crew. During the mission, the crew will conduct around 90 experiments, CMSA said. The Chinese space agency said the mission's objectives included conducting an orbital rotation with the crew of the earlier Shenzhou-23 mission, carrying out routine operations and maintenance of the Chinese space station, and continuing space science research, including experiments involving space payloads.

The crew currently aboard the Tiangong space station is led by 40-year-old Zhu Yangzhu, Lai Ka-ying and Zhang Zhiyuan, also 40. Lai is Hong Kong's first astronaut and the only woman currently aboard the space station.

FASTFACTS

- 1st foreign national to board Beijing's Tiangong space station
- Spaceship will be launched at 8:18 am (Beijing Time and 5:18 am Pakistan Time) on Wed.

| CONTROVERSIAL REINSTATEMENT |

Jensen Huang discloses more affairs before return

Press Trust Of India



> **I've made some very terrible mistakes.**
>
> **Jensen Huang**
> Nvidia co-founder

WASHINGTON: Jensen Huang has reportedly admitted to having additional affairs during a meeting with Nvidia's board on Sunday, the Wall Street Journal reported.

The meeting took place a day before the Nvidia co-founder was reinstated as its CEO, following his short-lived departure over his affair with a suspected Chinese spy. According to report, Jensen informed the board about additional affairs, besides the three previously reported by news portals. According to the WSJ, which cited people familiar with the discussion, the 63-year-old expressed regret over his conduct during the marathon meeting. Nonetheless, when Huang returned to office on Monday, he was greeted with cheers of, "we love you, Jensen!". Huang replied, "I'm terribly sorry for putting all of you through all of this. I've made some very terrible mistakes and I'm going to work on coming back." Sharing a video on X showing crowds of employees cheering for Huang, Tesla CEO Elon Musk wrote, "Everyone I know at Nvidia wanted Jensen back, and it shows." According to a statement from Nvidia's Board of Directors, the board voted unanimously in favour of Huang's reinstatement following a series of discussions and meetings with him. The board said it was satisfied with his candour and ability to lead the company.

Congressional Outcry Over Reinstatement Meanwhile, Democratic leader and Speaker-designate Hakeem Jeffries criticised Nvidia's decision to reinstate Jensen Huang as its Chief Executive Officer, calling the move "indefensible, irresponsible and incomprehensible" and vowing a swift and thorough congressional investigation into alleged business malfeasance by the company.

In a statement shared on X, Jeffries said Congress would not be deterred from conducting a wide-ranging investigation into Nvidia and what he described as the corrupt abuse of power by Howard Lutnick and the Department of Commerce. "The decision by the NVIDIA board to reinstate Jensen Huang is indefensible, irresponsible and incomprehensible.

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

CYBER SCARE

Pakistan cybercrime agency arrests teen in Lahore over college bomb threat



LAHORE: Pakistan's anti-cybercrime agency has arrested a 17-year-old student for allegedly plotting to blow up his educational institution using an improvised explosive device, following information shared by the US Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and Claude AI, an official said on Tuesday.

According to National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA) Additional Director Lahore Atif Ameer, the suspect was arrested from his residence on Bedian Road on Monday after the agency received information from the FBI and Claude AI about his conversations with the chatbot concerning the preparation of explosives and an alleged attack on a government educational institution. The teenager had sought guidance from Claude on mixing chemicals, including potassium ammonium nitrate and sugar, to prepare an explosive device capable of damaging a major building.

Claude, developed by US-based artificial intelligence company Anthropic, is a generative AI chatbot capable of answering questions, analysing information and assisting with writing and coding. "The suspect, a first-year student at a Lahore college, had expressed his intention to carry out the attack while enjoying a cup of coffee," he said. He said the agency had recovered the laptop allegedly used by the suspect to access the AI platform. The device contained data relating to the conversations. However, no explosives or weapons were recovered during the raid. The NCCIA has registered a case against the suspect under relevant provisions of the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (PECA) 2016 and the Pakistan Penal Code. The official said a psychological assessment had also been conducted to determine what prompted the teenager to contemplate the alleged attack, while forensic examination of his mobile phone was under way.

The NCCIA has yet to establish whether the suspect had a personal grudge against the institution or whether the alleged plan had progressed beyond online discussions. Ameer said threatening or violent content shared on AI platforms, including ChatGPT, DeepSeek and Claude, could be reported to law enforcement agencies.

BRITISH AUTHORS SHINE

British authors dominate Children's Booker Prize shortlist

LONDON: British authors dominate the inaugural Children's Booker Prize 2027 shortlist unveiled on Tuesday, with a winner to be picked from the "Great Eight" books by a mixed panel of adult and children judges. British Pakistani author Iqbal Hussain's 'The Night I Borrowed Time' is in the running alongside British author Guy Bass and illustrator David Roberts for 'The Worst Thing That Could Possibly Happen'.

Another British writer-illustrator duo, Liz Hyder and Tom de Freston, are shortlisted for 'The Teller of Tall Tales', with Catherine Bruton's 'Tadpole Summer' and Mikey Please's 'The Rambler's Curse' completing the UK line up.

Irish British author Eoin Colfer Andrew Donkin is shortlisted for his illustrated book 'War' along with Italian illustrator Giovanni Rigano and Irish author Jessica Scott-Whyte is in the running for her illustrated book 'Séamus Almost Famous' along with British illustrator Becka Moor, with Australian author Shaun Tan for 'Hometown' completing the top eight selections.

NAVAL DIPLOMACY

ICG ship arrives in eastern Sri Lanka for two-day visit

COLOMBO: Indian Coast Guard ship Sujay, a Samarth-class offshore patrol vessel, has arrived in Trincomalee in eastern Sri Lanka for a two-day visit, the Indian High Commission in Colombo said on Tuesday. The ship arrived on Monday. The visit aims to support operational turnaround and transport participants in a joint international cycling expedition organised by the National Cadet Corps of India and Sri Lanka, the mission said.

During the visit, the ship's crew will engage with personnel of the Sri Lanka Navy and Sri Lanka Coast Guard (SLCG) through professional and sporting interactions. The vessel will also provide practical training to SLCG personnel on deploying pollution response equipment, the High Commission said.

It said visits by Indian Navy and Coast Guard vessels to Sri Lanka reflected the close ties between the maritime forces of the two countries.

Such engagements are in line with India's 'Neighbourhood First' policy and its vision of 'Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions' (MAHASAGAR), it added.

Conflict Intensifies

Russian strike on Ukraine kills 2, wounds children as Kyiv explains its attack in Libya



KYIV: A Russian nighttime attack on the southern Ukrainian city of Zaporizhzhia killed two civilians and wounded 44 others, including four children, officials said Tuesday, as officials in Ukraine and Libya debated the legitimacy of an unprecedented Ukrainian strike on a Russian warship docked in Benghazi.

The Zaporizhzhia attack destroyed a private house and partially destroyed a five-story apartment building, according to Mykhailo Semikin, the head of the Zaporizhzhia Regional Military Administration. The youngest wounded child was less than a year old, he said, adding that the others were ages 4, 6 and 16. The Ukrainian military is sending reinforcements to the Zaporizhzhia region, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Tuesday, which lies on the roughly 1,250-kilometre front line snaking through eastern and southern Ukraine.

Russia and Ukraine have escalated their aerial strikes in recent months even as they engage in US-mediated talks to end the war that began with Moscow's full-scale invasion of its neighbour nearly five years ago.

The United Nations says the war has killed close to 18,000 Ukrainian civilians and wounded more than 57,000 others since the all-out war broke out on February 24, 2022. Hundreds of thousands of soldiers from both sides are believed to have died on the battlefield.