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Central Chronicle

Bilaspur | THURSDAY, November 26 , 2026 | *Fastest Growing English Daily Of Chhattisgarh* | www.centralchronicle.in | Pages: **16** | Price: **Rs. 4.00**

Cabinet approves Rs 2,632 cr postal modernisation

Postal Operations approved for 2026-31 to modernise infrastructure, enhance efficiency and support logistics, e-commerce and digital services.

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved two schemes with a total outlay of Rs 2,632 crore for the Department of Posts to boost postal network and services as well as modernise its estate infrastructure over a period of five years.

Union minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said that the Cabinet has cleared the Postal Operations Scheme with an outlay of Rs 1,141 crore and the Estates Management Scheme for the Department of Posts with an outlay of Rs 1,491 crore.



Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw speaks during a Union Cabinet briefing, in New Delhi. | Photo PTI

"Enhancement of the Postal Operations Scheme of the Department of Posts (DoP) and approval of the Estates Management Scheme for the Department of Posts have been done," Vaishnaw said. The "Postal Operations" has been approved for the 16th Finance Commission Cycle from FY 2026-27 to FY 2030-31 to strengthen postal infrastructure, improve operational efficiency and support the growing requirements of logistics, e-commerce and digital service delivery across the country, the minister said. Vaishnaw said that post offices will be developed as rural business hubs for banking services, train tickets, insurance projects, etc.

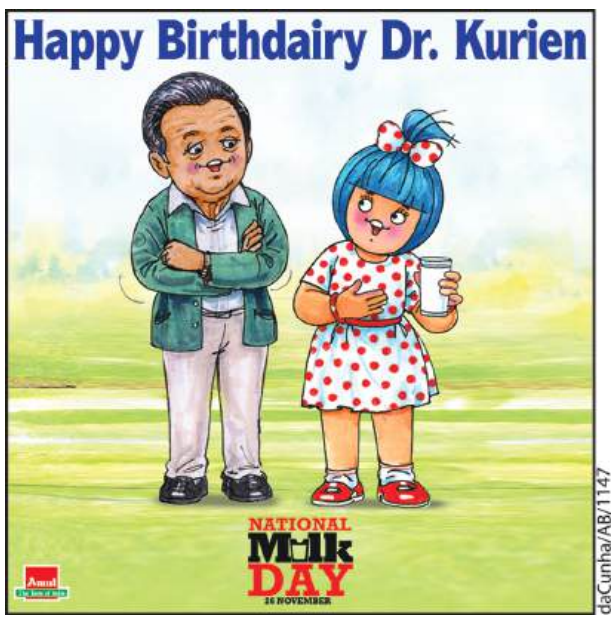
> **Enhanced focus on parcels.**
>
> **Ashwini Vaishnaw,** Union minister

"There will be an enhanced focus on parcels," he said. Union communications minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, in a social media post, said that the approval is a "glow-up" for India Post.

The postal network comprises 1.65 lakh post offices (including 1,49,385 in rural areas).

Legal battle

New Delhi: With the Mahanadi water dispute between Odisha and Chhattisgarh unresolved for nearly a decade, the Mahanadi Bachao Andolan on Wednesday warned that it may approach the Supreme Court and launch mass mobilisation if the ongoing negotiations fail to address the concerns of people dependent on the river. The dispute dates back to November 2016, when Odisha filed a complaint with the Centre over water-related projects undertaken by Chhattisgarh on the upstream stretches of the Mahanadi river. Andolan's convener Sudarsan Das said the dispute made little headway despite the formation of the Mahanadi Water Disputes Tribunal in 2018. He added that current efforts to negotiate a settlement through the Central Water Commission (CWC) did not inspire confidence.



daCunha/AB/1147

Rs 39.77 lakh cash recovered from Maoist dump

Press Trust Of India

BIJAPUR: Security forces have recovered Rs 39.77 lakh in cash, concealed in taped packets inside a steel container buried underground, from a Maoist dump in a forested area of Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district, police said on Wednesday. Acting on a tip-off, a joint team of security personnel made the recovery on Tuesday in a forest near Badepalli village under the Bhairamgarh police station area, Bijapur Superintendent of Police (SP) Umesh Prasad Gupta said.

The team comprised personnel from the District Reserve Guard (DRG), local police and the Bomb Disposal Squad (BDS), he said.

Jennifer Barreto crowned Miss Universe 2026

Press Trust Of India

First married woman & Mother to win.

SAN JUAN: History has been made at the 75th Miss Universe pageant! Jennifer Barreto of Puerto Rico has been crowned Miss Universe 2026, becoming the first married woman and mother to win the coveted international title. The 27-year-old clinched the crown on home soil in San Juan, bringing Puerto Rico its sixth Miss Universe victory and ending a 20-year wait for the country.



But Barreto's journey to the crown is anything but conventional. A psychology graduate with two master's degrees, she works with the US Department of Defense's Army Family Advocacy Program, supporting military families affected by domestic violence and child abuse. She also volunteers with healthcare organisations in Texas and Puerto Rico.

Interestingly, Barreto entered the pageant world without any previous modelling or runway experience. After beginning her preparation in 2025, she went on to win Miss Universe Puerto Rico in June 2026.

| DEEPAM ROW |

TN apologises over Deepathoon lamp row

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Tamil Nadu government on Wednesday apologised to the Supreme Court over the non-lighting of the ceremonial lamp at the disputed Deepathoon on the Thirupparankundram hill, but blamed the Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy temple authorities for not authorising a team proposed for carrying out the exercise.

On Tuesday, the annual Karthigai Deepam was lit only at its customary Uchipillayar mandapam at Thiruppa-



rankundram, and not at the stone pillar on the hill as directed by the top court. In an interim status report filed by Madurai District Collector Nishant Krishna before a bench comprising Justices Aravind Kumar and Vipul M Pancholi, the state government said the district administration had completed all arrangements for implementing the apex court's November 20 order permitting the lighting of the lamp at the Deepathoon through a restricted team authorised by the temple administration. However, the order of the apex court could not be complied with because the temple's Board of Trustees did not authorise the team proposed for carrying out the exercise and instead resolved to follow the customary practice of lighting the Karthigai Mahadeepam at its traditional location, the state government claimed in the report.

SC to hear contempt pleas soon

The SC on Wednesday said it will hear in a day or two applications seeking directions for lighting of the traditional Karthigai Deepam lamp at Deepathoon atop the Thiruparankundram hill in Madurai district.
A bench of Justices Aravind Kumar and Vipul M Pancholi said the registry will verify the filing of the applications including contempt petitions and the court will see if they can be listed on Thursday or Friday.

NEWSLINE

BIJAPUR

Two Maoists surrender

Two Maoists, including a woman, carrying a collective reward of Rs 13 lakh on their heads and active in neighbouring Odisha, surrendered in Bijapur district on Wednesday, police said. The surrendered cadres turned themselves in before senior police and CRPF officials, citing the Chhattisgarh government's Maoist Surrender and Rehabilitation Policy and the rehabilitation and skill development programmes being implemented in Bijapur, said Superintendent of Police Umesh Prasad Gupta. The Naxal duo also cited the increasing influence of security forces, disillusionment with Maoists' violent and anti-people ideology, successful rehabilitation of surrendered Maoists and rapid development in tribal areas as reasons for abandoning violence and joining the mainstream, he said.

NEW DELHI

Student stabs schoolmate

A student allegedly stabbed a fellow schoolmate four times outside a government school in northeast Delhi's Khajuri area on Wednesday afternoon, leaving him seriously injured, police said.

The injured is undergoing treatment at Jag Pravesh Chandra Hospital, while the accused has been apprehended, they said.

According to the police investigation, the attack was allegedly triggered by a revenge motive following an incident around 15 days ago, when the victim had torn the cap of another student. The accused is suspected to have attacked the boy to avenge the earlier incident, police said.

Tribute to martyrs



School students hold placards as they pay tribute to the martyrs of the 26/11 Mumbai terror attack, in Jammu.

| PREMIUM MEALS |

Airline-style meals for three Vande Bharat sleeper trains

Press Trust Of India

The meals under the pilot project are being prepared by major cloud kitchens.

NEW DELHI: The Indian Railways is moving towards serving fewer dishes with better-quality food on long-distance trains. Passengers



on three Vande Bharat sleeper trains are being served a trimmed menu as part of the pilot project that cuts the number of items served for breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

The Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) introduced a compact menu, similar to meals offered on flights. The move aims to address complaints about food quality and hygiene on long-distance trains. Currently, the system has been implemented on three Vande Bharat Sleeper routes. These are Mumbai-Bengaluru, Howrah-Kamakhya, and New Delhi-Varanasi.

According to a report, meals under the pilot project are being prepared by major cloud kitchens rather than by the railways or its existing catering vendors.

| NEW STUDY |

South Delhi homes face indoor pollution

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Simply staying indoors may not necessarily shield people from air pollution as levels of fine particulate matter (PM) inside poorly ventilated homes in south Delhi were around 50 per cent higher than those outdoors, a study finding revealed.

The study, which assessed air quality in 24 residential houses across four neighbourhoods in



south Delhi, found that indoor PM2.5 concentrations in poorly ventilated houses averaged 119.17 micrograms per cubic metre, around 50 per cent higher than the outdoor average of 79.34 micrograms per cubic metre.

NUMBER

50

- **Indoor PM levels 50% higher than outdoors.**

The research was conducted by a team of researchers from Jamia Millia Islamia in New Delhi, Jazan University in Saudi Arabia, and Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University in Rajouri, Jammu and Kashmir.

The researchers, however, did not quantify the contribution of individual sources such as cooking, traffic or dust to the measured pollution levels.

In well-ventilated houses, the indoor PM2.5 concentration stood at 77.34 micrograms per cubic metre, against 56.14 micrograms per cubic metre outdoors -- around 38 per cent higher indoors.

Ajmal Kasab's lawyers still await fees

Press Trust Of India

Lawyers represented Kasab before Bombay High Court.

MUMBAI: Eighteen years after the 26/11 terror attacks, two lawyers who set aside their other cases to represent the lone captured Pakistani terrorist Ajmal Kasab continue to await their remuneration.

Amin Solkar and Farhana Shah represented Kasab before the Bombay High Court for nine months following their appointment by the Maharashtra government in 2010. The two were nominated by the High Court and appointed by the Maharashtra State Legal Services Authority (MSLSA) via a notification on June 8, 2010, to defend Kasab in his appeal against the death penalty awarded to him by a trial court.

According to the notification, signed by the then secretary A K Sonawane, Solkar was to be paid on a par with a special public prosecutor and Shah was to receive remuneration equivalent to that of an additional public prosecutor conducting a death penalty confirmation case. Official sources pegged this amount between Rs 1,500 and Rs 2,000 per day. However, more than 15 years after the High Court proceedings concluded, both advocates say they are yet to receive their dues.

Raipur



Rs 16.54 crore collected, yet Raipur traffic chaos remains unchanged.

Dhananjay Singh Thakur
Congress Spokesperswon

Raipur Police bust Kanjar Gang, recover 125 iPhones

Two interstate gang members arrested in Rs 2-crore Apple Store heist.

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: Raipur police have arrested two members of an interstate Kanjar gang in connection with the theft of Apple products worth nearly Rs 2 crore from an Apple Store at Marine Drive. The police recovered 125 iPhones valued at around Rs 1.5 crore from Madhya Pradesh, while two other accused remain absconding. The theft occurred during the intervening night of October 31 and November 1 at I Next Innovation Pvt. Ltd. The accused allegedly lifted the store's shutter and stole 173 Apple devices,





including iPhones, watches, headphones and AirPods, besides the CCTV DVR.

Police Commissioner Dr Sanjeev Shukla directed a comprehensive investigation under the supervision of senior officers. Six special teams comprising more than 40 personnel were formed to examine CCTV footage, technical evidence and interstate criminal records. Investigators analysed over 1,000 CCTV clips covering approximately 250 kilometres, along with more than 1,100 cell IDs and millions of mobile numbers. After 25 days of continuous efforts, the police identified the gang.

FACTFILE

- 125 iPhones worth Rs 1.5 crore recovered.

The arrested accused have been identified as Rajesh Ajay Singh Jhala, alias Jhala, 43, a resident of Dewas, Madhya Pradesh, and Safan Khan, 35, of Barwani. Rajesh Jhala reportedly has more than 47 criminal cases registered against him in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.

Police said Rajesh carried out the theft with his son Raj Jhala and accomplice Rajesh Lodhi. The stolen devices were allegedly handed over to Safan Khan for disposal. Safan was arrested near Mumbai airport before he could allegedly flee abroad.

Congress threatens stir over Pendrawan Reservoir Mining

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: The controversy over mining in the Pendrawan-Bangoli reservoir area continues to intensify, with the Congress warning the state government of a major protest if the mining lease is not revoked. Former Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, along with activist Alok Shukla, issued the warning during a press conference at Rajiv Bhawan on



Wednesday.

Baghel said neither the previous Congress government nor the Raman Singh government had granted permission for mining in the reservoir area. However, the present government had leased the mine, reflecting what he termed its anti-farmer approach. Citing the Water Resources Department's report, Baghel said mining could damage the reservoir and dam. Local villagers had also demanded cancellation of the lease. He warned that Congress would join farmers in taking to the streets if the government failed to withdraw the permit. The issue would also be raised in the Assembly.

Arvind Netam alleges disrespect of tribal faith in Bailadila

Central Chronicle News



RAIPUR: Former Union Minister and prominent tribal leader Arvind Netam has alleged that the unseasonal landslide in Bailadila is linked to the neglect and disrespect of tribal deities. He accused authorities of interfering with tribal faith and questioned why the beliefs of indigenous communities were being disregarded. Netam said mining work in the area had earlier been allotted but was subsequently stopped and shifted elsewhere. However, he alleged that the present activities were ignoring tribal sentiments and removing their deities. "Your faith is faith, but what about our faith?" he asked. Referring to the Supreme Court's judgment in the Bibol Toppo vs.

Liquor Scam accused Subbu arrested in Dubai

Central Chronicle News



RAIPUR: Vikas Agarwal, alias Subbu (Shibbu), an absconding accused in the Chhattisgarh liquor scam, has reportedly been arrested in Dubai. Preparations are underway to bring him back to India from the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Agarwal had been absconding since 2023 and was arrested in Dubai around a week ago, according to sources. The UAE authorities are reportedly facilitating his return to India. A special team of the Anti-Corruption Bureau/ Economic Offences Wing (ACB/EOW), including its chief Amresh Mishra, is expected to travel to the UAE to bring him back. Documents required for the team's foreign assignment have reportedly been prepared. Agarwal is accused of collecting commissions from distilleries and FL-10A licence holders as part of the alleged liquor scam. Investigators suspect that he played a key role in the illegal funding channel linked to Anwar Dhebar. His return is expected to be significant for the ongoing investigation. ACB/EOW officials are likely to question him about alleged illegal money transactions, the network involved in the scam and the possible beneficiaries of the funds.

Investigators hope that his interrogation will help establish further links in the liquor scam and provide crucial information about the alleged financial dealings.

| BUMPER VEHICLE SALES |

Festive vehicle sales cross 1.44 lakh in Chhattisgarh

Central Chronicle News

Festive season drives bumper vehicle sales across Chhattisgarh.



RAIPUR: Chhattisgarh recorded bumper vehicle sales during the festive season, with a total of 1,44,435 vehicles sold across categories. Two-wheelers dominated purchases, while electric vehicles (EVs) also witnessed increased demand, reflecting a gradual shift in consumer preferences. Kailash Khemani, president of the Raipur Automobile Dealers Association (RADA), said this year's festive season was encouraging for the automobile industry. Vehicle sales rose by around 15 per cent compared to last year. Two-wheelers accounted for the largest share of purchases, while cars registered a market share of nearly 10 per cent. EVs and construction equipment vehicles were also purchased in significant numbers. Khemani said the demand for electric vehicles had increased, particularly for electric cars equipped with air conditioners. Although the trend was not as strong as last year, the overall response remained positive. The sales pattern in Chhattisgarh largely mirrored the national trend, with two-wheelers selling in greater numbers than four-wheelers. Vehicle purchases were concentrated in three to four major clusters, with Raipur recording the highest sales. Durg, Rajnandgaon, Bemetara, Bilaspur and Ambikapur also reported substantial purchases. Automobile dealers said vehicle ownership had expanded over the years.

| QR CODE |

Raipur Traffic Police introduces QR Code for E-Challans

Central Chronicle News

QR codes simplify e-challan checks and online payments.



RAIPUR: The Raipur Traffic Police Commissionerate has introduced a QR code facility to make checking and paying traffic e-challans easier for vehicle owners. The initiative aims to improve public convenience, reduce pending challans and promote awareness of traffic rules. ITMS cameras and traffic police regularly issue e-challans against motorists violating traffic regulations. Information about challans is also sent to vehicle owners through SMS on their registered mobile numbers. However, many challans remain pending because vehicle owners are unaware of the process to check details and make online payments. Under the new facility, motorists can scan the QR code using their mobile phones to access information about e-challans issued against their vehicles and make payments through the prescribed online channel. Under the guidance of Police Commissioner Dr. Sanjeev Shukla and the direction of Deputy Commissioner of Police (Traffic) Dr. Archana Jha, the department has started placing QR codes at prominent public locations across the city.

FACTFILE

- Scan, check and pay pending traffic challans.

DCP Traffic's appeal

DCP Traffic Dr. Archana Jha has appealed to motorists to follow traffic rules, regularly check challans issued against their vehicles and make timely payments. She urged citizens to use the QR code facility and cooperate with traffic police in maintaining safe and orderly traffic.

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

INTER-SCHOOL DEBATE

Young orators engage in spirited debate on democracy and voter rights



RAIPUR: Shri Gujarati English Medium Higher Secondary School, Raipur, organised an inter-school debate competition on November 25, providing students a vibrant platform to showcase their debating skills, confidence and analytical abilities.

The event commenced with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp and a prayer to Goddess Saraswati, followed by the welcome of the guests.

The debate centred on the topic "Strengthening Democracy or Threatening Voter Rights". Participants from various schools presented compelling arguments both for and against the motion, demonstrating impressive logical reasoning, subject knowledge and oratory skills.

The jury comprised Neelam Jain, Vice-Principal of Jain Public School, and Aseem Kumar Mishra, former Principal of DAV School. They evaluated the participants on the strength of their arguments, understanding of the subject and presentation.

Ashokbhai Patel, Vice-President of the Executive Committee of Shri Gujarati Shikshan Sangh, graced the occasion. The event was organised under the guidance of Principal Dr Shailesh Sharma, with the support of both Vice-Principals.

Gungun Singhal of N.H. Goel World School secured the first position. Akshad C. Atre of Shankara School and Sejal Pandey of Shri Gujarati English Medium School were adjudged joint runners-up. The winners were presented with prizes by Ashokbhai Patel and the jury members. All participants were also felicitated with mementoes in recognition of their enthusiastic participation.

INDUSTRY OUTREACH PROGRAMME

IEEMA's Raipur outreach builds momentum for ELECRAMA 2027



RAIPUR: The Indian Electrical and Electronics Manufacturers' Association (IEEMA) organised an industry outreach programme in Raipur on Wednesday to strengthen regional participation in ELECRAMA 2027 and highlight the growing role of the electrical equipment industry in India's energy ecosystem. The 17th edition of ELECRAMA, the world's largest electrical and electronics equipment exhibition, will be held from February 20 to 24, 2027, at India Expo Mart, Greater Noida, under the theme 'Harnessing the Power of I'. The event is expected to feature over 1,100 exhibitors, 10 country pavilions, 500 international buyers and more than 500,000 visitors. Over 25,000 B2B meetings are expected to generate business queries worth USD 25 billion. R Prakash, CEO, Easun MR Tap Changers Pvt Ltd and Chair of the Industry Buyer Outreach Committee, said rising energy demand, technological advancements and renewable energy were transforming India's power sector. ELECRAMA provides a platform to showcase innovations and explore growth opportunities. Shashi Amin, CEO-B2B Channel and Corporate Communication, Polycab India, and Vice Chair of ELECRAMA, said grid modernisation, renewable energy and efficient power distribution were creating significant opportunities for collaboration and innovation. Sembian Balasubramanian, Vice Chair, Industry Buyer Outreach, said Raipur and Chhattisgarh play an important role in India's electrical manufacturing ecosystem. The outreach aims to encourage local industry participation. Shridhar Gokhale, Mentor, Industry Buyer Outreach Committee, said ELECRAMA would help showcase emerging technologies, sustainable energy solutions and strengthen industry collaboration.

RAIPUR LITERATURE FESTIVAL

Raipur literature festival to showcase Chhattisgarh's cultural heritage



RAIPUR: The Raipur Literature Festival will be organised from January 8 to 10, 2027, to showcase Chhattisgarh's rich literary and cultural heritage on national and international platforms. Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai unveiled the festival's logo and released its poster at his residence on Wednesday in the presence of eminent literary figures. The three-day event will be held under the theme 'Young India'. Sai said Chhattisgarh has a rich tradition of literature, art, folk songs, music, languages and cultural expressions that reflect the lives and values of its people. The festival will provide an important platform for literary dialogue, creative expression and connecting the younger generation with literature. Recalling last year's festival, organised during the state's silver jubilee celebrations, the Chief Minister said it had received widespread appreciation despite being held within a limited timeframe. He called for making the upcoming edition more comprehensive, grand and dignified, with the ambition of establishing it among the country's leading literary events. Sai emphasised preserving and promoting tribal languages such as Gondi, Halbi, Kurukh and Sadri, along with folk literature and traditional knowledge. He said documenting folklore and cultural traditions would help protect the state's invaluable heritage and connect young people with their roots. The Chief Minister said the 'Young India' theme reflected the country's youth power, diversity and creative aspirations. He stressed ensuring maximum participation of young writers, poets and emerging talent, enabling them to interact with established literary figures and gain wider recognition. Senior writers and poets shared suggestions to expand the festival and praised the government's initiative to promote literature and culture. They assured their active participation in making the event successful. Several officials and literary personalities attended the logo unveiling ceremony.

Raipur News

Schoolchildren continue flouting traffic rules!

Triple riding, speeding and helmetless driving expose schoolchildren to serious road hazards.

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: A campaign launched by the Raipur police to curb frequent road accidents and reckless driving by minors appears to have lost momentum within just two to three months.

During its initial phase, action was taken against the parents of more than 150 underage drivers, while over 250 auto-rickshaws transporting schoolchildren in an unsafe and overloaded manner faced enforcement action.

However, enforcement and awareness efforts against underage driving appear to have weakened over the past two months. Groups of minors riding two-wheelers can be seen outside schools, with several speeding while commuting to and from school. Many schoolchildren are also openly indulging in triple riding, raising serious questions about police enforcement and monitoring by school managements.

During observations at various schools across the city over three to four days, schoolchildren aged between 12 and 17 were frequently seen riding two-wheelers at high speeds on main roads. Many were indulging in triple riding without helmets, even at intersections manned by traffic police personnel. The situation is particularly alarming as children are taking to the roads on motorcycles and scooters at a young age. Many also carry their friends as pillion riders while commuting to school. Speeding, triple riding and disregard for traffic regulations could lead to serious accidents. Meanwhile, overcrowding in school auto-rickshaws continues to compromise children's safety.

The pertinent question remains: if a major accident occurs, who will be held accountable – parents, school managements or vehicle drivers?



FASTFACTS

- **Police claim enforcement continues, but concerns persist over inadequate monitoring outside schools.**

Directives issued, but monitoring remains inadequate

In July, the Traffic Department convened a meeting of school principals across the capital and issued clear directives emphasising the responsibility of school managements in ensuring students' safety.

School authorities were instructed to immediately contact parents whenever minors were found riding vehicles to school or travelling in overloaded auto-rickshaws.

Although the initial campaign witnessed regular inspections and enforcement action outside schools, concerns are now being raised over the effectiveness of monitoring by school authorities and parents.

Enforcement drive to continue: DCP (Traffic)

According to Deputy Commissioner of Police (Traffic) Archana Jha, regular enforcement action was taken against underage riders and erring auto-rickshaw drivers outside schools throughout July. Similar drives were conducted in October and November to penalise traffic rule violators, she said, maintaining that the campaign remains operational. School principals were also instructed during the meeting to take cognisance of such instances of negligence and communicate directly with the parents concerned to ensure students' safety.

New postings for 9 Tehsildars, Naib Tehsildars

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: An administrative reshuffle has been carried out regarding the postings of Revenue Department officials in Raipur, the capital of Chhattisgarh.

Raipur Collector Gaurav Kumar Singh (IAS) has issued an order for new postings, involving a partial revision in the distribution of duties among the Tehsildars and Naib Tehsildars stationed in the district. Under this order, nine officials have been assigned new responsibilities.

The order issued by the Collector comes into effect immediately. Under the new arrangement, the responsibilities of revenue officials have been adjusted in areas including Raipur, Dharsiwa, Kharora, Khorpa, and Abhanpur.



Provincial workshop for 'Seva Doot Abhiyan – Sankalp Seva Samvad' held

Central Chronicle News



RAIPUR: The provincial workshop for the Bharatiya Janata Party's 'Seva Doot Abhiyan – Sankalp Seva Samvad' concluded on Wednesday at the party's state headquarters, Kushabhau Thakre Parisar, in Raipur. Senior party leaders addressed the gathering, outlining a roadmap to strengthen grassroots outreach and public service across Chhattisgarh.

Addressing the workshop, BJP National Secretary and State Co-in-charge Siddharth Shambhu described the campaign as a living example of the party's commitment to service. He emphasised that a Seva Doot's responsibility goes beyond merely organising events; it entails reaching the last person in society, listening to their grievances, and resolving them. Urging workers to treat public service as the organisation's greatest strength, he called upon them to take to the field with resolve and carry forward welfare work in mission mode.

BJP State President Kiran Deo stated that the party's organisation in Chhattisgarh stands on the foundation of service, dedication, and discipline. Through the Seva Doot Abhiyan, every worker must establish direct dialogue with citizens at their respective booths, villages, and wards, ensuring that Central and State government schemes reach the last mile. He added that approaching the public with a spirit of service will simultaneously strengthen the organisation and deepen public trust.

Highlighting the importance of structure and continuity, BJP State Organisation General Secretary Karmaveer Singh urged workers to execute the campaign systematically with discipline and team spirit so that it reaches every corner of the state effectively. Meanwhile, BJP Mahila Morcha National President and MP Roopkumari Choudhary underscored the pivotal role of women in social service.

NEWSLINE

CAMPS

EPFO to organise Camps

RAIPUR: Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO), Regional Office, Raipur, is organising special public grievance redressal and outreach camps across all 33 districts of Chhattisgarh during November under its 'Nidhi Aapke Nikat 2.0' initiative. The primary focus of this month's camps is the updation of Digital Life Certificates (DLCs) to ensure uninterrupted monthly pension payments to beneficiaries covered under the Employees' Pension Scheme (EPS).

The special camps are being organised in response to requests from pensioners' associations, various trade unions and local pensioners. They will be conducted at district panchayat offices, collectorate premises, Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) centres and other designated locations.

The initiative is aimed at extending pension-related services to the doorstep of elderly beneficiaries, particularly those residing in remote areas, eliminating the need for them to travel to the EPFO Regional Office in Raipur for submission or updation of their life certificates.

Brahmavid hosts MUN to bring Global Diplomacy to Classrooms



Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: Brahmavid The Global School successfully hosted the Second Edition of its Model United Nations (MUN) 2026-27, turning its campus into a hub of international diplomacy and critical debate. The conference opened with a ceremony hosted by Head Boy Mayank Pandey, featuring an inspiring address by Nehil Agrawal on youth leadership alongside vibrant cultural performances. Delegates debated pressing global issues across four committees. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), chaired by Anvesha Agrawal, tackled climate resilience and sustainable practices over the coming decade. Meanwhile, three committees explored the multifaceted impact of prolonged conflicts on the Global South: the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), chaired by Pihu Agrawal, examined national sovereignty and economic stability; the World Health Organisation (WHO), chaired by Ridhaan Sahu, addressed damaged healthcare systems and humanitarian medical aid; and the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC), chaired by Ishleen Kaur Chhabra, deliberated on refugee displacement and civilian protection.

2-day National Makhana workshop from today

RAIPUR: A two-day National Makhana (fox nut) Workshop will commence tomorrow, Thursday, November 26, 2026, at the College of Agriculture, Raipur. The event is being organized jointly by Indira Gandhi Agricultural University (IGAU), the National Makhana Board, and the Directorate of Horticulture and Farm Forestry, Government of Chhattisgarh, to deliberate on the potential for Makhana production and processing in Chhattisgarh. The workshop will be inaugurated by Dr. Girish Chandel, Vice-Chancellor of Indira Gandhi Agricultural University, at 11:00 AM tomorrow in the Swami Vivekananda Auditorium. The event will see the participation of approximately 250-300 farmers and members of women's self-help groups from various districts of Chhattisgarh, along with farmers from Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Odisha.

| PARAS PORTAL REVIEW |

CM directs officials to expedite key schemes at PARAS Portal review meet

Central Chronicle News

CM Vishnu Deo Sai chaired the third review meeting of the PARAS portal.



RAIPUR: Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai on Wednesday chaired the third review meeting of the PARAS portal at Mantralaya, Mahanadi Bhawan, conducting a comprehensive assessment of major government schemes, development projects, and citizen services across Chhattisgarh. Reviewing compliance with directives issued during the previous meeting, the Chief Minister instructed officials to ensure high-quality execution within stipulated timelines and directed District Collectors to include all major schemes in regular Time-Limit (TL) meetings for strict monitoring.

FASTFACTS

- **Stressing the importance of Mission AMRUT 2.0 in ensuring clean drinking water, he also reviewed urban water supply and sewerage projects.**

Taking serious note of farmer complaints regarding reductions in land acreage (rakba) during ongoing paddy procurement, CM Sai instructed all Collectors to personally investigate such grievances and ensure prompt resolution so farmers face no inconvenience while selling their produce. Reviewing the Food Department's City Gas Distribution scheme, he called for accelerating piped gas connections to households. While commending strong progress in districts such as Raipur and Bilaspur, he directed Collectors in lagging districts to take a proactive interest in advancing the project. He also emphasised raising public awareness about the safety, cost-effectiveness, and utility of Piped Natural Gas (PNG) over LPG, and promoting PNG usage in tribal hostels, school community kitchens, circuit houses, and other government institutions.

During the review of the Public Health Engineering Department's Jal Jeevan Mission, the Chief Minister underscored its vital role in providing clean tap water to every household, instructing Collectors to give it top priority and hold monthly reviews to meet targets on schedule. He directed timely payments to contractors who have completed their work, urging officials to encourage top performers while taking strict action against negligence.

Stressing the importance of Mission AMRUT 2.0 in ensuring clean drinking water, he also reviewed urban water supply and sewerage projects, ordering their timely completion.



| 5TH MINI NATIONAL BADMINTON CH'SHIPS |

Exciting action marks Mini Nat'nl Badminton Ch'ships

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: Intense court battles and thrilling three-set encounters highlighted the second-round matches of the Under-11 Boys' and Girls' Singles categories at the ongoing Yonex-Sunrise 5th Mini National Badminton Championships 2026, being hosted by the Chhattisgarh Badminton Association here. In the Under-11 Girls' Singles second round, local favourite Rubani Kaur Bhatia of Chhattisgarh thrilled the home crowd with a commanding 15-6, 15-6 win over Ruhani Gupta of Jammu & Kashmir.



Rashi Singhal (Rajasthan) caused a major upset by knocking out sixth-seeded Vini Gupta of Gujarat 15-8, 15-12, while third seed Aarushi Choudhary (Himachal Pradesh) survived a tense three-game thriller against Haryana's Devangana Silan, winning 8-15, 17-15, 15-12. Fifth seed Arya Rai (Bihar) progressed comfortably with a 15-9, 15-7 victory over Prapti (Uttarakhand), and Risha Kadian (Maharashtra) dominated her match against Ananya Banthia (Madhya Pradesh) 15-1, 15-1. Other notable winners advancing to the next round included Anya Tiwari (Punjab) who beat Shraddha Shreyanshi Swain (Odisha) 15-11, 15-2; Nivedya Aji (Kerala) defeating Tiyasha Bhattacharya (West Bengal) 15-3, 15-11; and Karnataka's Yuvika Thammaiah, who overcame Yuvika Tyagi (Haryana) 15-4, 15-5. In another hard-fought clash, Jyotsna Vinod (Karnataka) edged past Kiara Kapil Sakhare (Maharashtra) 15-11, 11-15, 15-9, while Prashmi Nisarta held off Harithra Vaithialingam (Tamil Nadu) 15-13, 18-16.

STREE Project to Empower Rural Women Entrepreneurs

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: The STREE (Skill Development through Technological Resources for Empowering Economic Growth of Women) project was inaugurated in Dhamtari on Wednesday to boost rural women's economic self-reliance. Sponsored by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR), Government of India, the initiative is implemented by the NIT Raipur Foundation for Innovation & Entrepreneurship (NITRRFIE) alongside the Dhamtari District Administration. Over the next three years, the project will train 300 rural women in Kosa silk processing, modern weaving, product development, and entrepreneurship. Speaking at the event, Dhamtari Collector Abinash Mishra assured strong district-level backing for women-led enterprises and market linkages, while NIT Raipur Director Prof. NV Ramana Rao affirmed the institute's commitment to bringing

Bilaspur



Child marriage is a social evil that hinders the physical, educational, economic, and social development of children.

Sanjay Agrawal
Collector Bilaspur

Accelerate road repair works in dist: Collector

Review of paddy procurement, piped gas connections, land acquisition, and crop damage surveys during the 'Time-Limit' (TL) meeting.

Central Chronicle News



BILASPUR: During a 'Time-Limit' (TL) meeting, Collector Sanjay Agrawal reviewed the resolution of public grievances and the progress of development projects. He directed the Electricity Department to launch a special drive to address complaints regarding broken or sagging wires, leaning utility poles, and transformer-related issues. The Collector emphasized that complaints received via the helpline serve as key indicators of ground-level problems; these should be used to identify affected areas and implement necessary improvements. The meeting was attended by Municipal Commissioner Prakash Sarve, Chief Executive Officer of the Zila Panchayat Sandeep Agrawal, Additional Collector Virendra Bahadur Panchbhai, and other departmental officials.

While reviewing paddy procurement, the Collector instructed nodal officers to conduct regular inspections of procurement centers. He directed that the names and phone numbers of monitoring committee members be clearly displayed at every center. He further ordered the commencement of procurement at the 22 centers in the district where operations have yet to begin, ensuring that the entire process can be monitored and any shortcomings addressed in a timely manner.

The expansion of piped gas connections was also discussed. It was noted that the district has set a target of 75,000 connections for the current year. This includes 40,000 connections in Bilaspur, and 8,000 connections each in Takhatpur and Ratanpur. So far, 2,700 connections have been established in the city. The Collector directed that all government institutions, including Anganwadi centers and schools, be provided with piped gas connections. It was highlighted during the meeting that using piped gas results in approximately 30 percent savings on fuel costs. The Collector directed that for lands where acquisition and compensation payments have been completed, a special drive should be conducted to record the land in the names of the respective departments in the revenue records. In cases where the land acquisition funds have already been received from the departments, the SDM must ensure immediate disbursement. Emphasizing the need to maximize the use of the 'e-Office' system, the Collector stated that progress in 'e-filing' would be a criterion for evaluating the performance of officials.

Reviewing the status of road repairs, the Collector instructed that the work be expedited, stressing that the public should not face any inconvenience in commuting. A follow-up review of the progress on road repairs is scheduled for next Tuesday afternoon. The Collector also directed that a survey of crop losses be conducted, covering both standing crops and damage occurring after harvest. It was noted that information regarding crop losses can be reported via the helpline number 14447. An official from the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (Prime Minister's Crop Insurance Scheme) provided training to revenue officials on assessing crop damage. The meeting also covered issues related to inter-departmental coordination and the implementation of various schemes.

FASTFACTS

- Collector also directed that a survey of crop losses be conducted, covering both standing crops and damage occurring after harvest.

22 PPCs yet to record first purchase

BILASPUR: Ten days have elapsed since the commencement of Minimum Support Price (MSP) paddy procurement, yet inclement weather and intermittent rainfall have dampened the pace of arrivals across Bilaspur district. Out of the 154 procurement centers in the district, purchasing has begun at 132 centers so far, while 22 centers are still awaiting their very first transaction (bohni). However, within the jurisdiction of the District Cooperative Central Bank (DCCB), Bilaspur, the highest volume of paddy procurement has been recorded at the Bilaspur center.

According to official data, a total of 4,797.04 tonnes of paddy has been procured across the district during the initial 10 days, including 1.20 tonnes of fine (patla) and 341 tonnes of Sarna varieties. The modest figures indicate that paddy inflow to procurement centers has yet to gather full momentum. Unseasonal showers have disrupted harvesting and threshing (minjai) in the fields, leaving farmers struggling to dry their harvested grain and transport it to the centers. The sluggish start is not confined to Bilaspur alone.

Finishing a race requires firm determination: Munshi



Central Chronicle News

BILASPUR: The two-day celebrations of South Eastern Coalfields Limited's (SECL) 42nd Foundation Day kicked off on Tuesday at the company's headquarters in Bilaspur. A motivational session by renowned speaker Anand Munshi served as the main highlight of the opening day, during which more than 170 awards were presented across various categories to outstanding employees, mines, areas, and departments.

Addressing the session, Anand Munshi said that starting a race is easy, but completing it demands continuous effort and firm determination. He urged employees to try new approaches in their day-to-day work and explore innovative ways to improve their performance. Speaking as the chief guest, SECL Chairman-cum-Managing Director (CMD) Harish Duhan stated that just as a soldier fulfills the duty of safeguarding the nation at the borders, contributing to the country's energy security is the national responsibility of all coal employees. He called upon the workforce to discharge their duties with this spirit and ensure steady coal supply to meet the nation's power needs. Guests of honour on the occasion included Director (Human Resources) Biranchi Das, Director (Finance) D. Sunil Kumar, Director (Technical) Operations Ramesh Chandra Mahapatra, Director (Technical) Planning & Projects Nripendra Nath, former Director (HR) R.S. Singh, and former Directors (Finance) A.R. Komawar and G. Srinivasan. Members of the Joint Consultative Committee, Welfare Board, and Safety Committee, along with office-bearers of SISTA, OBC, and SC-ST associations, and a large number of officers and employees were also present. In the mine performance awards, Sharda Mine of Sohagpur Area secured the first position in the underground mines category, followed by Pandavpara Mine of Baikunthpur Area in second place, while Khairaha Mine of Sohagpur Area and Vindhya Mine of Johilla Area jointly claimed third place.

HIGHLIGHT

- Team SECL has the capability to achieve every target, says CMD Harish Duhan; over 170 awards presented as two-day 42nd Foundation Day celebrations begin

NEWSLINE

COAL SCAM

HC seeks state's reply on Maurya's bail

BILASPUR: The High Court has sought a reply from the state government on an anticipatory bail application filed by IAS officer Jayaprakash Maurya challenging the inclusion of his name in the supplementary chargesheet filed by the Economic Offences Wing (EOW) and Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) in the Chhattisgarh coal levy scam. In the coal levy scam case, the ACB, EOW, and Enforcement Directorate (ED) had registered offenses against several accused—including former Collector Ranu Sahu, Suryakant Tiwari, and former Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel's OSD—and initiated an investigation.

DISPUTE

Two communities clash over cattle grazing

BILASPUR: A violent clash broke out between two groups in village Safribhatha under the Junapara police outpost of Takhatpur police station over a dispute involving cattle grazing and plantation on government land, leaving members from both sides injured. Following complaints from both factions, police registered counter FIRs against a total of 17 named accused and arrested them. From the first side, Safribhatha resident Naresh Pal lodged a report stating that on the evening of November 22, he was gathering cattle for grazing on the village's government land when Pawan Yadav, Biren alias Virendra Yadav, and Damru Yadav of Safribhatha, along with Govind Yadav, Prakash Yadav, Ramswaroop Yadav, Narottam Yadav, and Bhagbali Yadav of village Paijaniya in Mungeli district, arrived at the spot in an inebriated state.

Dy CM Sao offers prayers at Maa Mahamaya Temple on his birthday



Central Chronicle News

BILASPUR: On the occasion of his birthday on Wednesday, Dy Chief Minister Arun Sao, accompanied by his wife, offered prayers at the Maa Mahamaya Temple, Shri Siddhi Vinayak Temple, and Bhairo Baba Temple in Ratanpur, praying for the state's prosperity, well-being, and happiness. He visited the 'Kalyan Kunj' old-age home in Bilaspur, where he met with the elderly residents and sought their blessings.

He also visited 'Matru Chhaya'—a children's home in Kududand run by Seva Bharati—and shared moments of joy with the children. During his visit to the Kalyan Kunj old-age home, Shri Sao inquired about the well-being of the elderly residents and distributed warm clothing and fruits among them.

He spent time with the seniors and received their affectionate blessings. Following this, Sao visited the 'Matru Chhaya' children's home in Kududand. There, he spent time with the children and participated in service-oriented activities.

FASTFACTS

- Dy CM also distributed warm clothing and fruits to the elderly on his birthday, seeks their blessings

Villagers catch thief stealing tractor parts

BILASPUR: Villagers caught one of the accused red-handed while attempting to steal parts from a harvester and a tractor parked for paddy harvesting in Kapsiyakala village under the Kota police station jurisdiction. Upon receiving information, police took the apprehended suspect into custody and initiated an investigation.

According to Kota police, Devendra Kashyap, a farmer residing in Kapsiyakala, owns a harvester and a tractor for agricultural operations. Previously, Lakha Singh from Punjab used to visit the village to operate the harvester. Around 10 days ago, Lakha Singh's son, Ashu Mahra, arrived to operate the machine for the ongoing paddy harvesting season. A deal was finalized at Rs 1.05 lakh for the season, against which Kashyap had paid Rs 50,000 in advance.

| CLASHING OF EXAM DATES |

ABVU students demand postponement of B.Com exam

Central Chronicle News

The examination system of Atal Bihari Vajpayee University has once again come under scrutiny.



BILASPUR: The examination system of Atal Bihari Vajpayee University has once again come under scrutiny after the university released a schedule commencing BCom second-year examinations from December 3, directly clashing with the Chartered Accountancy (CA) examinations being conducted during the same period. The overlap has created a serious dilemma for a large number of students preparing for both examinations simultaneously. Students stated that while framing the exam timetable, the university failed to consider their academic interests, the schedules of major professional examinations, and the mandatory preparation time required before exams.

Admissions for private students at the university continued until September 30, leaving those admitted near the deadline with inadequate time to study. According to student Mayank and other candidates, they were not even given the prescribed 90-day study period before the exams were scheduled.

A dual challenge: With B.Com second-year exams coinciding with the CA exams, students face a tough challenge due to the vastly different syllabi and preparation requirements of both courses. Preparing for both simultaneously has become exceedingly difficult, and students warn that if the dates are not revised, they will be forced to compromise on either preparation or attendance in one of the exams—directly jeopardizing their academic future. Haste in fixing exam dates: Questioning the university's academic and examination functioning, students pointed out that despite admissions continuing until September 30, the administration hastily declared the main exam timetable even announcing main exam dates before conducting internal assessments.

FASTFACTS

- Students have urged the university administration to postpone the BCom second-year examinations from Dec 3 to Dec 14.

TRAINING

80-day residential skill training

BILASPURI: Under the 'Chief Minister's Construction Worker Skill Development and Family Empowerment Scheme'—administered by the Labour Department through the Chhattisgarh Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board—an 80-day residential skill training program will be provided.

This training, conducted via CIPET Raipur, will cover trades such as Assistant Machine Operator (Plastic Processing, Extrusion, and Injection Moulding).

The training program, which focuses on the manufacturing and processing of plastic products used in the construction sector, will be entirely residential; all selected trainees will be provided with hostel facilities at CIPET Raipur. To be eligible, a registered construction worker or their dependent must be between 18 and 30 years of age as of the training start date.

| AT BHAISAJHAR SPORTS COMPLEX |

Over 200 cattle locked without food or water!

Central Chronicle News





BILASPUR: A glaring case of animal cruelty and administrative negligence has surfaced in Gram Panchayat Bhaisajhar under the Kota development block of Bilaspur district, where a sports complex built for children has been converted into an unauthorized enclosure for more than 200 cattle. Locked behind closed gates without any provision for fodder or drinking water, the confined animals face severe distress, with animal bones also spotted on the premises.

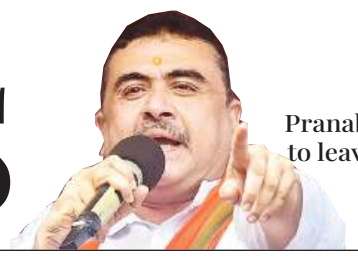
According to villagers, stray cattle from Bhaisajhar as well as neighboring villages were rounded up and shut inside the playground in the name of cattle management to protect standing paddy crops. However, the complete absence of basic necessities—fodder, clean water, and care—has sparked fears of livestock perishing from starvation and dehydration. Notably, incidents of cattle deaths caused by overcrowding and lack of food and water have been reported across the district on multiple occasions in the past. The situation also underscores delays in establishing designated cattle shelters in the region. A proposal to construct a Gaudham with a capacity of around 500 cattle at Jogisar in Kota block has remained confined to files and planning for several years. With the project yet to materialize on the ground, both farmers struggling to safeguard their harvest.

Ch'garh High Court reduces compensation by Rs 12 lakh

Central Chronicle News

BILASPUR: The Chhattisgarh High Court (HC) has revised and reduced the compensation awarded to the family of a doctor killed in a road accident from Rs 2,49,46,800 to Rs 2,37,33,211. A single bench of Justice Santosh Sharma delivered the verdict while partially allowing an appeal filed by The New India Assurance Company Limited. The insurance company had challenged the January 21, 2020 award passed by the First Additional Motor Accident Claims Tribunal, Raipur, which had ordered the payment of compensation to the deceased's family along with 7.5 percent annual interest. According to case details, on June 5, 2017, Indrajeet Singh Sidhu was travelling from Bilaspur to Korba in his Honda City car accompanied by Vijay Singh and Hemant Kumar Lahre. Near the RTO office in village Lagra, a speeding and rashly driven capsule truck rammed into their car, killing Indrajeet Singh on the spot.

N-E-W-S



Pranab Mukherjee advised me to leave TMC, work with Modi

Suvendu Adhikari

West Bengal CM

Jairam hails Satish Dhawan as institution-builder

Ramesh's remarks came following the publication of a new biography on Dhawan titled, 'Innovating For The Nation - Satish Dhawan and the Making of India's Space

Press Trust Of India



NEW DELHI: Congress leader Jairam Ramesh on Wednesday hailed Satish Dhawan's contributions to India's successful space programme, saying he was truly a phenomenon as an institution-builder, administrator, manager and mentor, and his 12-year tenure at ISRO had become legendary.

Ramesh's remarks came following the publication of a new biography on Dhawan titled, 'Innovating For The Nation - Satish Dhawan and the Making of India's Space Programme', penned by S Chandrashekhar and Y S Rajan. Ramesh, Congress general secretary in-charge of communications, said India's hugely successful space programme was first given shape in February 1962 with the creation of the Indian National Committee for Space Research (INCOSPAR). The initiative was the brainchild of Vikram Sarabhai, with the encouragement of Homi Bhabha and then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru. ISRO was subsequently established in August 1969, with Sarabhai continuing to provide inspirational leadership until his sudden demise in December 1971, Ramesh said on X.

"In February 1972, P N Haksar persuaded Indira Gandhi to lure Satish Dhawan back from Caltech in the US, where he was on a sabbatical, to lead ISRO. Dhawan, who had been Director of the Indian Institute of Science at Bangalore (as it was called then) since 1962, agreed on the condition that he be allowed to function from that city itself and also that he be allowed to hold his position at the IISc," Ramesh said.

HIGHLIGHT

- India's hugely successful space programme was first given shape in February 1962 with the creation of INCOSPAR.

21-year-old woman elected unopposed

Press Trust Of India



JAIPUR: A 21-year-old woman was elected unopposed as Zila Pramukh in Rajasthan's Jaisalmer on Wednesday after the Congress won 20 of the 21 seats in the district's Zila Parishad.

The elected candidate, Santosh Kumari, belongs to a Scheduled Tribe community and hails from a village in Jaisalmer. Kumari, who completed her Class 12 and is unmarried, was elected to the Zila Parishad from Ward No 12 on a Congress ticket, after defeating BJP candidate Laxmi by 6,137 votes.

Zila Parishad is the district-level body of the three-tier Panchayati Raj system. Its members are directly elected by voters from wards. The elected members then choose a Zila Pramukh -- the head of Zila Parishad -- from among themselves.

Zila Parishad elections across Rajasthan concluded on November 14, and the results were declared last Friday. Elections to the post of Zila Pramukh were held in 37 districts on Wednesday.

FASTFACTS

- Santosh Kumari, belongs to a Scheduled Tribe community.

NEWSLINE

MUMBAI

Cop attacked

A Mumbai-based police inspector was allegedly attacked by a group of people including two local police officials in Latur district of Maharashtra, leaving him seriously injured.

A First Information Report (FIR) has been registered based on a complaint filed by Bhagwan Bharat Naikwade (45), who hails from Dapka in Nilanga tehsil of Latur and is attached to Kalina Deputy Commissioner of Police office in Santacruz, Mumbai.

AMARAVATI

Fishermen safe

Seven fishermen from Kakinada district, who went missing during a fishing trip, have been found safe aboard their boat, which is stranded off the Andhra Pradesh coast after an engine failure. State Fisheries Minister K Atchannaidu said on Wednesday that the boat, which had set out from Yetimoga in Kakinada district, is stranded about three km from the shore near Krishnapuram on the Uppada-Tuni coast.

"We have traced the seven fishermen from Kakinada district aboard their fishing boat, which had become stranded off the Andhra Pradesh coast following an engine failure.

| NEW ARRANGEMENT |

Maharashtra Agri Credit Societies gain service status

Press Trust Of India

Rural Residents Gain Easier Access to Government Services



MUMBAI: The Maharashtra government has decided to recognise Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) across the state as 'Aaple Sarkar Seva Kendras' to enable rural residents to access various government and digital services in their villages, state minister Ashish Shelar said on Wednesday.

The decision will expand the network of government service delivery in rural areas and reduce the need for residents to travel to cities or taluka headquarters to access government services, Shelar, who holds the Electronics, Information Technology and Artificial Intelligence portfolios, said. The decision was taken at a meeting of the high-powered committee on information technology, chaired by the chief secretary, in accordance with directions issued by the Union Cooperation Ministry to designate PACS as authorised agencies for delivering state government services.

7,000 trees felled

NEW DELHI: A total of 6,894 trees were cut for highways in Jharkhand and adjoining areas, according to the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI). The figures were shared in response to RTI applications, as recorded in a Central Information Commission (CIC) order. The numbers relate to three projects – the NH-80 Mirzachowki-Farakka section, a four-lane Ganga bridge project connecting Sahibganj in Jharkhand with Manihari in Bihar, and the four-laning of NH-114A in Deoghar district.

| STRONG SIGNAL |

Send back illegal Bangladeshi Muslim immigrants: Suvendu

Press Trust Of India



COOCH BEHAR: West Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari on Wednesday directed the police to trace, "one by one", Muslim immigrants who had allegedly entered the Cooch Behar district illegally from Bangladesh and send them back, while describing Hindus fleeing the neighbouring country as refugees deserving shelter.

Addressing a programme during his visit to Cooch Behar for the Rash Mela, Adhikari told SP Manish Joshi that illegal Muslim immigrants from Bangladesh had no place in the state and must be sent back through the routes they had used to enter India.

| DAYLIGHT ATTACK |

Murder accused brutally attacked outside Pune court

Press Trust Of India



PUNE: A murder accused out on bail was brutally attacked with sharp weapons by four people outside the Shivajinagar court premises here on Wednesday afternoon, injuring him critically, police said, adding that they are ascertaining whether bullets were fired. While the assailants fled after the attack, which occurred around 1.15 pm, police recovered two pistols and a magazine from the spot, a police official said. The victim, Mandar Kiwale, visited the court for murder case-related work. He was targeted after he came out of the court premises. Following the attack, he was rushed to Sassoon General Hospital, where he is undergoing treatment, the police official said. A medical officer said a bullet grazed Kiwale's right hand and back, and he suffered serious injuries to his hands.

| OPTICAL CHARACTER RECOGNITION |

J'khand student digitises UP electoral rolls



NEW DELHI: Sarthak Sidhant, a student from Jharkhand who hogged the spotlight for flagging irregularities in CBSE's On-Screen Marking (OSM) system, has claimed to have digitised 6.8 lakh PDF files of Uttar Pradesh voter rolls published by the Election Commission of India (ECI) into a searchable format.

Sidhant said his team used Optical Character Recognition (OCR) to process every voter roll PDF published by the ECI for Uttar Pradesh. "Hello chat, we OCR'd every voter roll PDF that the ECI put out of Uttar Pradesh.

The 2024 Lok Sabha roll, both SIR rolls and the 2027 draft. 6.8 lakh PDFs, mostly scans. Now 54.8 crore rows, one table for each of the 403 constituencies," he said in a post on X. The Election Commission has so far refused to react to the claim.

While the ECI had published the electoral rolls online in April this year, the files are available only as scanned PDFs, making the search for an individual name, checking an entry or comparing voter lists across revision cycles a cumbersome exercise.

| WORLD SOIL DAY 2026 |

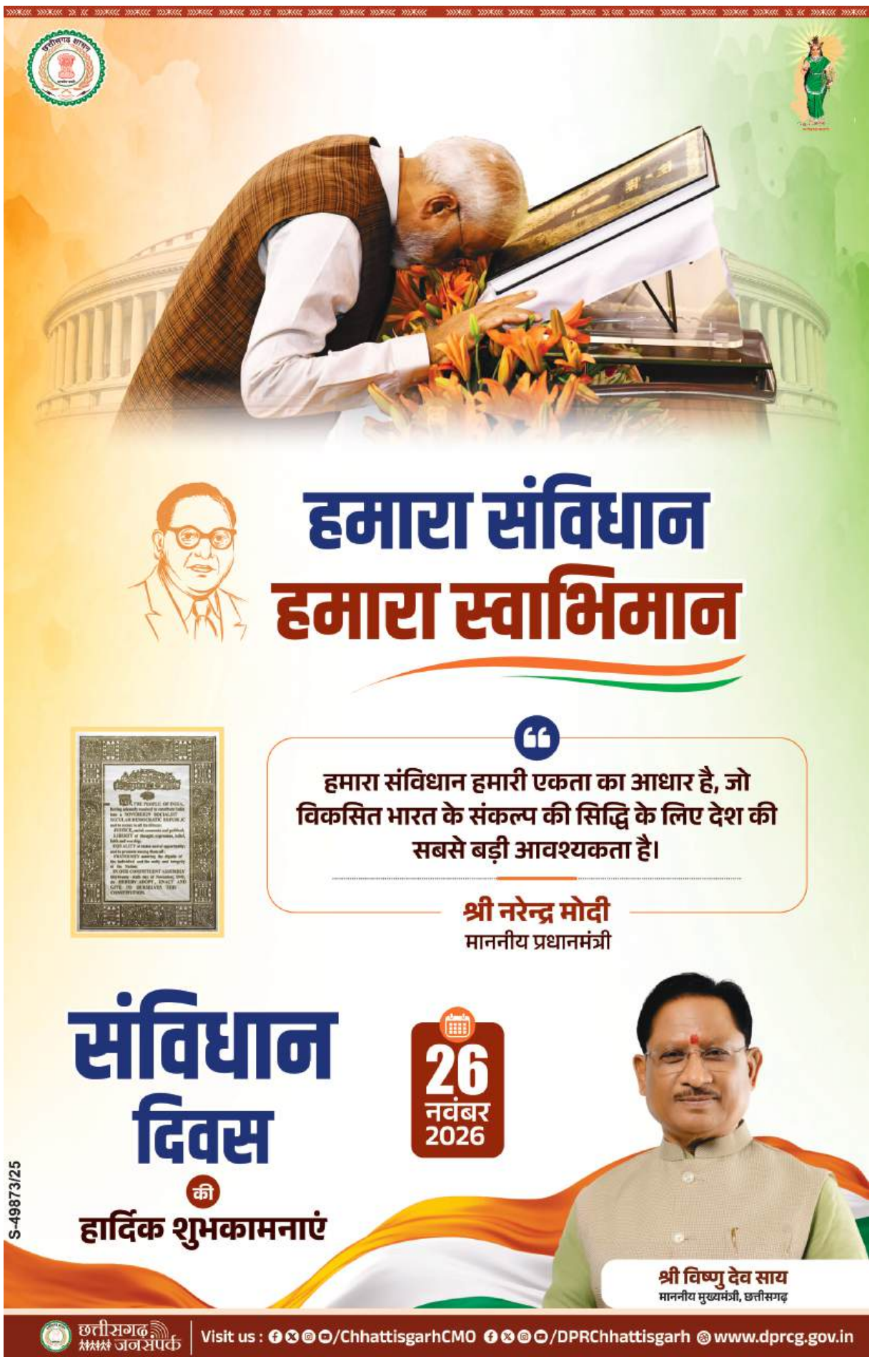
Meet on regenerative agriculture mainstreaming

Press Trust Of India



BHOPAL: Policymakers, scientists, industry leaders and farmers will meet in Bhopal on 4-5 December 2026 to chart a path for taking regenerative agriculture from pilot projects to mainstream farming and global supply chains. The programme is organised by Solidaridad, the ICAR-Indian Institute of Soil Science and The Solvent Extractors' Association of India (SEA). It will be held in Bhopal, as part of World Soil Day 2026, under the EU-India Partnership Programme "Promotion of Regenerative Agriculture Practices for a Food Secure & Climate Resilient Future."

Padma Shri Dr. Rattan Lal, Distinguished Professor of Soil Science at The Ohio State University and a globally recognised soil scientist, will deliver keynote addresses at the events.



The role of Mitanins in extending the benefits of healthcare facilities and awareness to the very last person in society is highly significant and inspiring.

Rajesh Agrawal
Minister for Tourism & Culture- Ch'garh



Bilaspur Region

Health Minister honours over 1700 Mitanin sisters

Health Minister Shyam Bihari Jaiswal attended a state-level felicitation program for Mitanins in Khadgawan under MCB.

Central Chronicle News

MCB, KHADGAWA: A grand state-level felicitation ceremony was organized at the Janpad Panchayat grounds in Khadgawan on the occasion of Mitanin Day to recognize the invaluable contributions of Mitanin sisters towards strengthening healthcare services at the grassroots level.

State Health Minister and local MLA Shyam Bihari Jaiswal attended the programme as the chief guest. A free health camp was also organized for the public. The event



celebrated 25 years of the Mitanin programme, acknowledging the dedication of community health volunteers in promoting institutional deliveries, immunization, disease prevention, maternal and child healthcare, and government health schemes. Posters showcasing their achievements were also displayed at the venue.

Addressing the gathering, Health Minister Shyam Bihari Jaiswal described Mitanin sisters as the strongest link in the state's healthcare system. He appreciated their commitment, particularly their efforts in reaching patients in remote and difficult areas, even during challenging situations such as malaria outbreaks. He emphasized that their services extend from childbirth to the final stages of life.

HIGHLIGHT

- He highlighted the important role played by Mitanins in the society.

The minister highlighted their contribution to reducing maternal and infant mortality and announced plans to establish four First Referral Unit (FRU) centres in the district to improve timely medical care for pregnant women and infants. He also announced Rs 75 lakh from the District Mineral Foundation (DMF) fund for constructing a Mitanin Bhawan at the district headquarters in Manendragarh. He further proposed a similar facility in Janakpur.

CMHO Dr. Avinash Khare highlighted the successful completion of 25 years of the programme and appreciated the Mitanins' role in national health initiatives, including tuberculosis and leprosy control.

Amrit Sarovars to celebrate Constitution Day

Central Chronicle News

JANJGIR-CHAMPA: To mark the adoption of the Constitution of India, Constitution Day will be observed on November 26 at all Amrit Sarovar sites across Janjgir-Champa district. The initiative aims to promote awareness of constitutional values, fundamental rights and duties, alongside the importance of water conservation, cleanliness and environmental protection.

Preparations are underway under the guidance of the district administration. CEOs and programme officers of all Janpad Panchayats have been directed to ensure necessary arrangements.

FASTFACTS

- In Janjgir-Champa, all the Amrit Sarovars will hold Constitution Day celebrations.
- A collective reading of the preamble will also be held on 26th November.

The programmes will involve youth, school and college students, Viksit Bharat workers, women's self-help groups and livelihood programme members.

Activities will include collective reading of the Preamble, discussions on constitutional rights and duties, and pledges for water conservation and cleanliness.

CHILDREN'S FAIR

Students showcase creativity

MUNGELI: A children's fair (Bal Mela) was organized for the first time at Government Middle School, Pratappur, in Mungeli district, with enthusiastic participation from students of Classes 1 to 8. The fair featured 40 stalls showcasing food items and entertaining games, attracting students, parents and villagers. The fair was inaugurated by village Sarpanch Rajkumar Yadav, Hempal Dhruv and lecturer Vijay Yadav through a ribbon-cutting ceremony, followed by prayers to Goddess Saraswati. Teachers Mamta Kesharwani, Leena Raj, Rajkumari Joshi and Sangeeta Tiwari explained that the initiative aimed to promote vocational skills, creativity and holistic development in accordance with the New Education Policy.

| QUESTIONS RAISED OVER PLANTATION |

Chainpur plantation proj faces serious irregularities

Central Chronicle News

MANENDRAGARH (MCB): Serious questions have been raised over a plantation project spread across approximately 37 hectares near the 18th Battalion campus in Chainpur, under the Manendragarh Forest Division.

Local residents allege that the number of saplings planted is below the prescribed target and that no fencing has been installed to protect them from livestock and wild animals.



The absence of adequate protective measures has raised concerns about sapling survival, plantation quality and the utilization of government funds. The Forest Division has reportedly set a target of planting 16 lakh saplings during 2026-27, making proper monitoring and maintenance essential. Attempts to contact DFO Sahu and concerned Ranger Vishwanathan for their comments were unsuccessful. Consequently, details regarding the number of saplings planted, project expenditure and protection arrangements remain unclear. Residents have demanded an impartial on-site inspection, verification of official records and public disclosure of findings to ensure transparency and accountability in the plantation project.

Free electrician training under CMSDS

GPM: Under the Chief Minister's Skill Development Scheme, free skill training in the Electrician (Domestic Solutions) course will be provided at the Government Industrial Training Institute (ITI), Pendra. The training programme will have a total duration of 350 hours and is open to interested young men and women who have passed Class 8 or Class 10. Eligible candidates can submit their application forms directly at the institute's office. The training will commence once 20 to 30 applications have been received.

| ACTION AGAINST SAND EXCAVATION |

Admn seize 25 sand truckloads

Central Chronicle News

JANJGIR-CHAMPA: The Janjgir-Champa district administration has intensified its crackdown on illegal sand excavation, transportation and storage.

Acting on the instructions of Collector Janmejay Mahobe, a joint team of the Revenue and Mineral Departments seized approximately 25 Hyva truckloads of illegally stored sand and a chain-mounted excavator during surprise inspections along the Hasdeo River. The inspection



team included Champa SDM Shashi Chaudhary, Tehsildar Prashant Patel and Mineral Department officials. Surprise inspections were conducted in Sonthi, Piperda, Pucheli, Khapridih, Bamhanidih and Govinda villages. During the operation, illegally stored sand was seized in Pucheli, Piperda and Bamhanidih. The chain-mounted excavator was also seized from the Pucheli and Piperda areas following information received by the team.

Collector Mahobe has directed officials to continue strict action against illegal mineral activities. The administration will maintain surveillance and conduct regular inspections to prevent illegal exploitation of river resources.

INSPECTION

Collector reviews paddy procurement

SAKTI: Collector Jayshree Jain inspected the paddy procurement centres at Kaneti and Nawapara in Malkharoda development block to review arrangements and ensure smooth procurement operations. During the inspection, she directed officials to maintain all facilities according to govt guidelines and prioritize farmers' convenience. She instructed officials to contact farmers whose registered agricultural land area was missing and complete necessary corrections through the prescribed procedure to prevent difficulties during paddy sales.

| GURU NANAK JAYANTI |

Devotion marks 557th Prakash Parv

Central Chronicle News

TAKHATPUR: The 557th birth anniversary of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji, the first Sikh Guru, was celebrated with great devotion and enthusiasm by the Sikh community. Five-day Prabhat Pheri processions were organized, followed by special religious programmes at Guru Singh Sabha Gurudwara.

The celebrations featured children's poetry recitations, group singing, religious lectures and soulful Shabad Kirtan by Ragi Jathas from Amritsar.



The Gurudwara was beautifully decorated with flowers and colourful lights. Guru ka Langar was served throughout the celebrations, with participation from Sikh, Sindhi and other communities, reflecting religious harmony. On the occasion, Sikh community president Kulwant Singh Hoora said that Guru Nanak Dev Ji's teachings remain equally relevant even after 500 years. He emphasized that humanity, simplicity, devotion and equality are essential values for society. He urged people to follow the Guru's teachings and strengthen the spirit of brotherhood and humanity.

| COLLECTOR VISITS VILLAGES |

Collector reviews village devp and hostel facilities

Central Chronicle News

MCB: Collector Ms. Santan Devi Jangde conducted surprise inspections of various Gram Panchayats in the Manendragarh development block on Tuesday to review development works and the implementation of govt welfare schemes.

During the visit, she inspected the tribal boys' sports complex in Lalpur and interacted with students regarding



available facilities and their problems. She also reviewed a mango nursery in Dangaura and the distribution of ownership land titles under the Swamitva Scheme in Kathautia. In Vishrampur, she appreciated collective farming undertaken by six beneficiaries across 18 acres, cultivating potatoes, peas, radishes, mustard and oil palm. She also inspected Panchayat buildings, Anganwadi centres and horticultural activities. At Kelhari tribal boys' hostel, she expressed displeasure over poor sanitation and directed officials to resolve water, electricity and infrastructure-related issues within two days.

ENCROACHMENT

Illegal structures removed

GPM: An anti-encroachment drive was conducted in Gaurela today under the leadership of Pendra Road Tehsildar to remove illegal encroachments in front of Lal Bangla.

A joint team comprising officials from the Revenue Department, Police Department and Gaurela Municipal Council carried out the operation. During the drive, houses and shops constructed through unauthorized occupation of government land were removed, clearing the encroached area.

Korba patta survey sparks residents' exclusion!

KORBA: A controversy has erupted over the ongoing government land patta survey in Ward No. 1 of Korba Municipal Corporation. Municipal and Revenue Dept officials recently conducted a door-to-door survey to identify eligible beneficiaries, with Nov 27 fixed as the deadline for filing claims and objections. However, residents have alleged irregularities in the prepared beneficiary list, claiming that government employees and elected representatives have been marked eligible, while the names of genuinely deserving poor families are missing. They also alleged that the



list was prepared at the residence of a public representative.

A large number of residents approached the Collector's Jan Darshan and submitted objections, demanding an impartial investigation and a fresh survey. Residents further alleged that several public servants and elected representatives have constructed permanent houses on encroached government land. They demanded action against those responsible and requested that families who have lived there for 40-50 years receive land ownership rights under the govt scheme.

Mitanins strengthen rural healthcare: Manish Banjara

MUNGELI: A special programme was organized at the Primary Health Centre in Padampur on the occasion of Mitanin Day to recognize the invaluable contributions of Mitanins to rural healthcare.

Six Mitanins were felicitated with shawls and coconuts in appreciation of their dedication and selfless service. Addressing the gathering, District Nodal Officer Dr. Manish Banjara described Mitanins as the backbone of the rural healthcare system and an important link between the Health



Department and the community. He appreciated their role in maternal and child healthcare, institutional deliveries, immunization, nutrition awareness, tuberculosis control.

CHANDLI SOCIETY

Paddy purchase formally begins

MUNGELI: Paddy procurement was formally inaugurated at the Seva Sahakari Samiti (Limited), Chandli, in the Lormi development block, with the objective of ensuring fair prices for farmers' hard work and produce. The inauguration ceremony began with traditional rituals, including the offering of coconuts, incense sticks and floral garlands. On the occasion, farmers were welcomed and honoured with flower garlands to appreciate their contribution and boost their morale. The programme was attended by Authorized Officer Sahukar Sahu, Agriculture Extension Officer Prabha Bhaskar, Sarpanch representative Dhirendra Ghritlahare.

| MAKING DHARAMPANI A MODEL HUB |

Dharampani eco-resort to boost local employment

Central Chronicle News

GPM: The Marwahi Forest Division in Gaurela-Pendra-Marwahi district has taken an important initiative to promote sustainable livelihoods and employment opportunities for local communities while ensuring environmental conservation. In this regard, a special



training programme was organized at the Van Chetna Kendra in Dharampani, under the Gaurela Forest Range, to strengthen the management and operation of the eco-resort and its dining facility.

The programme was organized under the guidance of Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Kumar Nishant. Dr. Prashant Kumar, Head of the Department of Tourism Management at Indira Gandhi National Tribal University, Amarkantak, along with two assistant professors, provided specialized training to members of the forest management committee.

During the session, experts discussed various aspects of ecotourism, including tourism management, hospitality, cleanliness, accounting, guest services, communication skills and systematic resort operations. Special emphasis was placed on developing the management capabilities and operational efficiency of committee members.

Rural development remains govt's top priority

RAIGARH: Finance Minister and Raigarh MLA OP Choudhary held a Jan Chaupal in Netanagar, Raigarh, on Tuesday, interacting directly with local residents and listening to their concerns, suggestions and demands regarding village development.

During the programme, he discussed various local issues and development requirements with villagers. He emphasized that effective village development is possible only when people's needs and opinions are given priority. He assured residents that their concerns would be taken seriously and necessary steps would be initiated to resolve them.

Fun&Focus

IT'S QUIZ TIME

1. In Ethiopia, where Arabica coffee originated, coffee is an important part of daily social life. The traditional coffee ceremony Buna Tetu, often lasting one to two hours, is a symbol of hospitality and community. What does the expression Buna Tetu literally mean?



2. The Hook-nosed Sea Snake (Enhydrinaschistosa) lives in India's coastal waters and mangrove swamps, including the Sundarbans. When threatened by predators, it uses an unusual defence mechanism. What does it do?



3. The Large Hadron Collider near Geneva is the world's most powerful particle accelerator, where scientists collide particles at extremely high speeds to study the fundamental building blocks of matter. What major particle discovery was announced from experiments at the collider in 2012?



4. Ustad Mansur was a celebrated Mughal painter renowned for his detailed paintings of rare animals, birds and around 100 varieties of flowers from Kashmir. He was honored with the title Nadir-al-Asr, meaning Unequalled of the Age. Under which Mughal emperor did he flourish?



5. In 1979, Sony modified a small cassette recorder used by journalists into a compact, playback-only stereo player that could be easily carried while walking. The idea was inspired by Sony co-founder Masaru Ibuka, who wanted to listen to music while travelling. What famous product was born from this idea?



6. In the Devi Mahatmya, Goddess Durga is described as receiving weapons and divine gifts from several gods before battling the demon Mahishasura. Which deity is said to have given her the lion as her mount?



7. India has a remarkable history in men's Olympic hockey, especially for its gold-medal success. At the 1952 Helsinki Olympics, one Indian forward produced an outstanding individual scoring performance, netting 15 goals in the tournament. Who was this legendary player?



Answers-

(1) Come drink coffee (2) Curls into a tight ball, using its tail as a decoy head (3) Higgs boson (4) Jahangir (5) Walkman (6) Himalaya (7) Balbir Singh Sr.

RamaQuiz

SCIENCE WATCH

Constitution day and Oxidation!



Indian Constitution Day is celebrated on November 26. If one sees the science behind this day then, the original handwritten copies in the Parliament Library are kept inside sealed cases filled with nitrogen gas and less than 1% oxygen. Without much oxygen, the black ink and pages cannot easily "rust" or react with air (a process called oxidation).

The Science of Conservation



Conservation scientists worked with India's National Physical Laboratory and the Getty Conservation Institute to keep the cases at about 40–50% humidity and the room around 20°C. Steady temperature and humidity stop tiny microbes and chemical reactions from making old paper brittle.

A Duty to Ask "Why?"



Article 51A(h) of the Constitution encourages every citizen to develop a scientific temper. For kids, that means being curious, asking questions, testing ideas, and checking facts instead of guessing.

REASONING & ASSERTION

Assertion (A): Sound travels faster in solids than in gases.

Reason (R): Solids are denser than gases, and higher density always increases the speed of sound.



A. A is false but R is true
B. A is true but R is false
C. Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A
D. Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A

ANSWER – B - A is true but R is false

EXPLANATION



Why A is true – Why A is true - Sound zooms through solids like metal or wood much faster than through the air.

Why R is false – Solids are heavier (denser) than gases, but extra heaviness does not make sound faster. Sound is fast in solids because solid pieces are tightly connected and springy, so they pass the sound along quickly.



TELL ME WHY?

Why do tectonic plates move?

Tectonic plates move because heat from deep inside the Earth makes hot, soft rock in the mantle slowly churn and flow, pushing and pulling the giant puzzle pieces of Earth's crust on top.

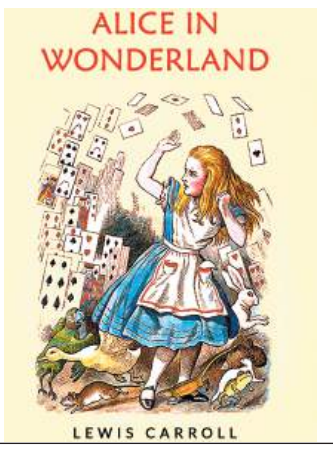
They trigger earthquakes and volcanoes.

Tectonic plates are giant, rocky slabs that make up Earth's outer shell and fit together like a giant jigsaw puzzle.



NOVEMBER 26-THE DAY IN HISTORY

1. November 26 is marked in Indian history by the adoption of the Constitution of India in 1949—observed annually as Constitution Day (Samvidhan Divas)—and the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks (26/11).
2. The day is also celebrated as National Milk Day, to honour Dr. Verghese Kurien, the architect of the White Revolution.
3. On this day in 1922, Howard Carter and Lord Carnarvon first peered into and entered the tomb of Pharaoh Tutankhamun (KV62) in Egypt's Valley of the Kings.
4. Same day in 1864,Lewis Carroll presented the original Alice manuscript to Alice Liddell.



Daily Horoscope

Aries

Motivate yourself to be more optimistic. It increases confidence and flexibility but at the same time prepare it to leave negative emotions like fear hatred jealousy revenge. Today's formula for success is to put your money on the advice of people who are innovative and hold good experience. The family's situation won't be normal as you think. Today, there is a possibility of an argument or dispute within the family.

Taurus

Don't self medicate as chances of drug dependency may increase. Due to a function being organized at home, you will have to spend a lot of money today. This can negatively affect your financial condition. Your involvement in others affairs should be avoided today. Wrong communication or a message might make your day dull.

Gemini

Suffering from a body pains is high on the card. Try to avoid any physical exertion that would put more stress on your body. Remember to take sufficeint rest. Those who were going through financial crisis for a long time can attain money from anywhere today, which will eliminate several life problems in an instant. A good day to revive old contacts and relations.

Cancer

CRise in family medical expenses cannot be ruled out. You do not understand the importance of money in life, but today, you'll realize its significance as you'll be in need of finances but won't have enough to carry out. Motivate your child to live up to your expectations. But do not expect miracles as he tries. Your encouragement would definitely boost his spirits.

Leo

Don't get upset when you confront a tricky situation. As food owes its flavour to salt-some unhappiness is essential only then you realize the value of happiness. Attend some social gathering to change your mood. If you are planning on hanging out with your friends, then spend money thoughtfully, as you are likely to suffer from money loss. Auspicious day for giving and receiving gifts from those you love.

Virgo

Health remains perfect. Today, you can get into a fight with someone close, and things can escalate to the court. Because of this, your hard-earned money will be spent. Some cleaning up around your house needs to be done immediately. You can brighten your love life by visiting some picnic spot. Good day for businessmen. A sudden trip undertaken for business purpose will yield positive results.

Libra

Domestic worries may make you anxious. Investment concerning your residence will be profitable. Social activity with your family would keep everybody in a relaxed and pleasant mood. Chances of facing agony of love on the cards today. You should behave according to the circumstances at the office today. Remain quiet if not required, as any unnecessary things said by you can get you in trouble.

Scorpio

A beneficial day and you may be able to find relief from a prolong illness. You could find yourself in an exciting new situation-which will also bring you financial gains. You are best to avoid issues that could cause arguments with loved ones. Your love partner will surprise you with something really beautiful today. Your cooperative attitude and analytical skills will be noticed.

Sagittarius

You may control your weight by exercising. Businessmen who are stepping out of their homes for work should store their money at a safe place today, as there are chances of theft. Health of your spouse may cause reason for stress and anxiety Exciting day as you receive a call from your beloved. Those who were obstructing your success way at work, will face a severe downfall today in front of your eyes.

Capricorn

Avoid oily and spicy diet. You may witness tremendous profit in business today. You can give new heights to your business today. Some of you are likely to purchase jewelry or a home appliance. Time, work, money, friends, family, relatives; all on one side and you with your partner will be on other side today, all into each other. Business contacts that you have developed recently will benefit in the long run.

Aquarius

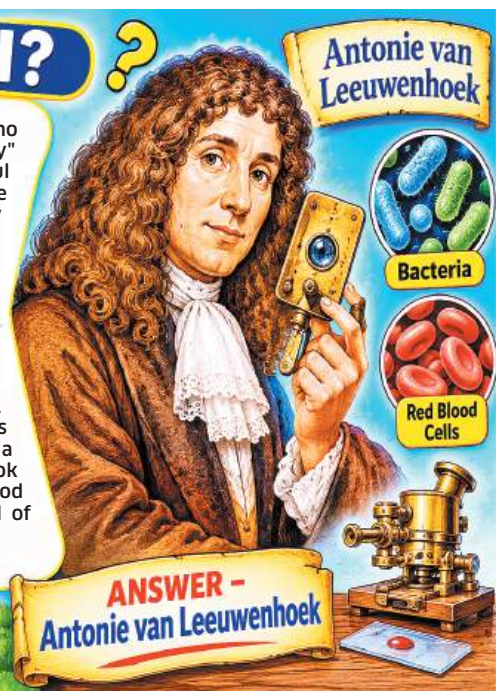
A beneficial day to work on things that will improve your health. Any issues related to money can get solved today and you can attain financial benefits. Be cautious of friends and strangers alike. Time, work, money, friends, family, relatives; all on one side and you with your partner will be on other side today, all into each other. You will be a part of something big which will win your appreciation and rewards.

Pisces

Work pressure and discord at home might bring some stress. Investment in antiques and jewelry will bring gains and prosperity. Do not neglect your social life. Take some time from your busy schedule and go out to attend the party with your family. It will not only relieve your pressure but also remove your hesitation. Could experience the pleasure of love.

Who Am I?

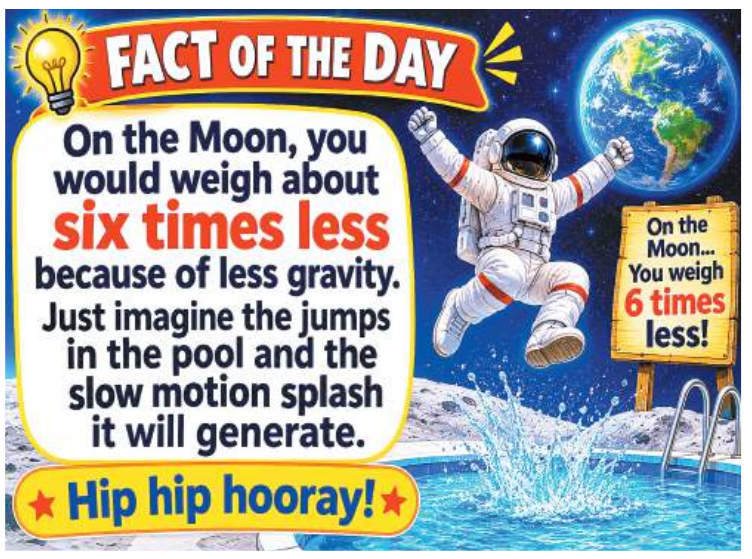
I was a Dutch cloth seller who became the "Father of Microbiology" by building tiny, super-powerful microscopes. In the 1670s, I became the very first person in history to see and describe bacteria and other invisible living things. I was the first person to clearly see and describe red blood cells flowing through tiny blood vessels. I never went to college and didn't speak English or Latin, but I wrote around 560 letters to the Royal Society in London describing everything I saw. My discoveries made me so famous that Tsar Peter the Great of Russia visited my house in 1698 just to look through my microscopes of blood flowing through an eel! I am proud of myself and my work.



FACT OF THE DAY

On the Moon, you would weigh about **six times less** because of less gravity. Just imagine the jumps in the pool and the slow motion splash it will generate.

Hip hip hooray!



PHRASE FACT FINDER

"Bent out of shape"

Meaning: To get upset about something

Example: "They got bent out of shape because they missed the bus."



WORD OF THE DAY

Reprehensible

Meaning – Deserving or causing public disgrace or shame.

Example – Dumping toxic waste into a river is reprehensible.

Part of speech – Adjective

Synonyms – Guilty, culpable, blame worthy

Antonyms – Glorious, honourable, respectable.



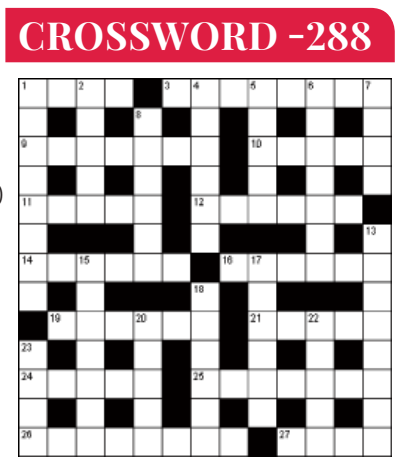
CROSSWORD -288

Across

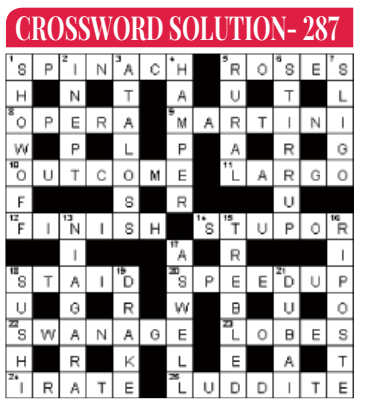
1 Japanese wrestling (4)
3 Well thought of (8)
9 Spray can (7)
10 Scolding woman (5)
11 Paved garden area (5)
12 Coarse printed cotton cloth (6)
14 Shilly-shally (6)
16 Select (6)
19 Cosset (6)
21 Close-fitting (5)
24 Leader of a Jewish congregation (5)
25 Type of lettuce (7)
26 Opening (8)
27 Tight-fisted (4)

Down

1 Disorderly rush (8)
2 Deserve (5)
4 Comfort in distress (6)
5 Painter's stand (5)
6 North African country (7)
7 Daybreak (4)
8 Hoarse (anag.) (6)
13 Five-sided shape (8)
15 Affliction (7)
17 Detestation (6)
18 Elder (6)
20 Move aimlessly (5)
22 Web-footed birds (5)
23 Operatic song (4)



CROSSWORD SOLUTION- 287



SUDOKU- 288

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

SUDOKU SOLUTION- 287

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

DAILY WORD SEARCH

- Archduke
- General
- Queen
- Bigwig
- Headman
- Rajah
- Boss
- Honcho
- Regent
- Captain
- King
- Ruler
- Chairman
- Leader
- Sovereign
- Chieftain
- Monarch
- Sultan
- Commander
- Panjandrum
- Banana
- Dignitary
- President
- Emperor
- Prince

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

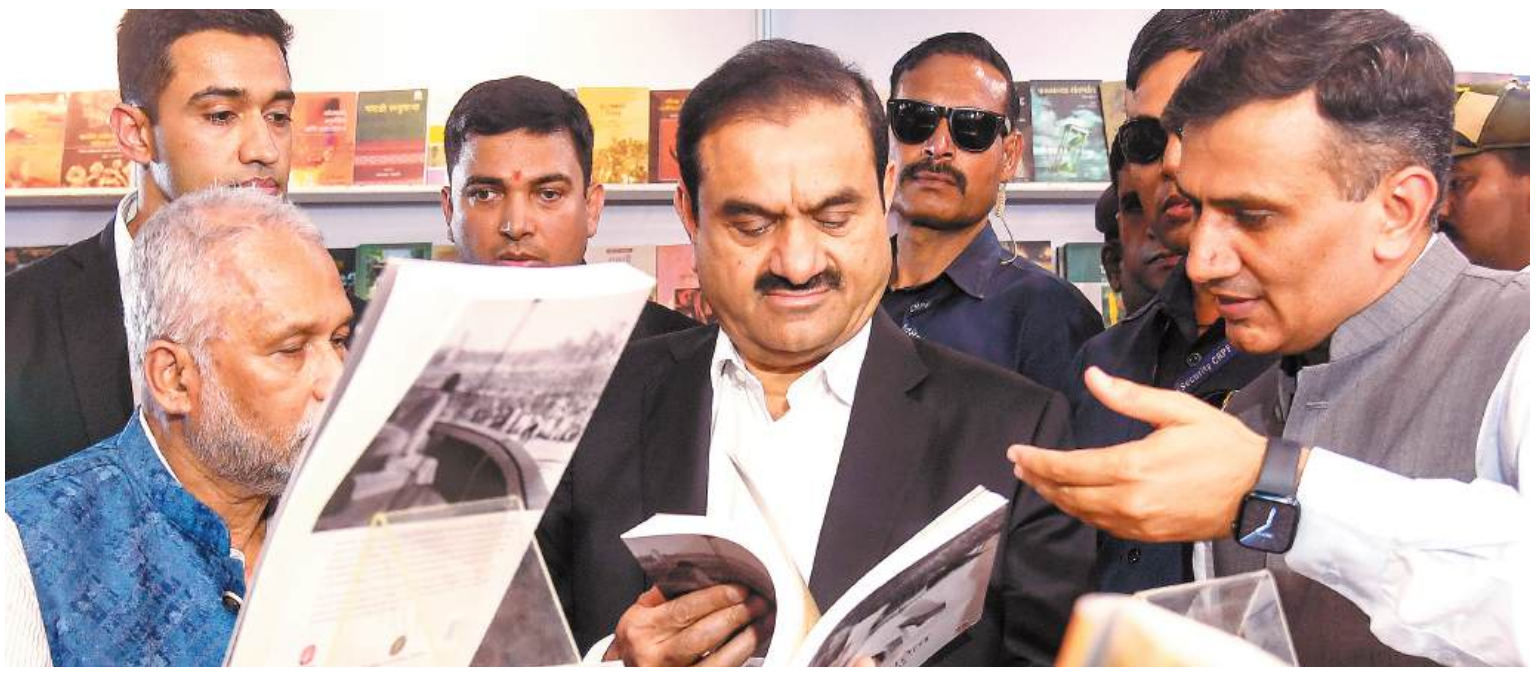
Business



India a strategic market, Saint-Gobain to make it an Asia-Pacific manufacturing hub.

Sreedhar N
CEO - APAC and India Region, Saint-Gobain

Gautam Adani visits Mumbai Book Festival



Adani Group Chairperson Gautam Adani, centre, browses 'Sardar Patel: An Illustrated Biography' at a book stall during the Mumbai Book Festival at the University of Mumbai's Kalina campus, in Mumbai, Maharashtra, Wednesday, Nov. 25.

FSSAI stresses strict compliance, urges Food industry to ensure quality

FSSAI chief Rajit Punhani urges food businesses to ensure strict compliance, accurate product labelling, transparent advertising and robust in-house quality testing.

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: FSSAI's enforcement actions against companies are not meant to spread panic but to ensure compliance with the law, the food quality watchdog's chief Rajit Punhani said on Wednesday as he sought to send out a stern message for violators.

Urging the industry to fully comply with the law, he suggested that companies must set up in-house testing mechanisms to ensure high quality of their products. The FSSAI's Chief Executive Officer told Food Business Operators (FBOs) and e-commerce companies to ensure there are no misleading claims on the labels of their products and also no misleading advertisements.

His comments come against the backdrop of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) intensifying its crackdown on businesses and e-commerce platforms for lapses in legal compliance. Last week, the watchdog sanctioned prosecution against Bisleri International for alleged quality shortfalls in packaged drinking water. "(There are a) few thoughts which might not make me very popular, but now, I have got into the habit of being unpopular amongst industry," Punhani said in his opening remarks at an event organised by industry body CII and urged food businesses to be ethical.

NUMBER

150

- FSSAI says enforcement ensures compliance, not panic; urges companies to strengthen in-house testing.

He stressed that things are "not always (only) about legal and science-based evidences". Punhani stated that the young generation have much much higher expectations and are not willing to tolerate any casual approach. "You know we have a very 'chalta hai' (casual) attitude. It's okay if one sample out of 150 samples is found, exceeding the limits. What is the big deal? "... why should we even fail in one sample? Why shouldn't the industry... be perfect. Have their in-house quality testing," he said.

While he did not take any names, the CEO's remarks alluded to the recent enforcement actions, including against Bisleri and other prominent brands.

Sebi eases KYC norms, simplifies client onboarding

Press Trust Of India

Sebi revises KYC rules to reduce paperwork and simplify investor onboarding.



NEW DELHI: Markets regulator Sebi on Wednesday came out with a series of changes to the Know Your Customer (KYC) framework to simplify the onboarding process for investors, reduce duplication of documentation and improve the sharing of client information among market intermediaries.

Under the revised framework, supplementary client information, common across intermediaries, will be centralised at the KYC Registration Agency (KRA) level, helping investors to avoid repeatedly submitting the same details when approaching different intermediaries. "Some of the supplementary information being submitted by a client in Part -II of the account opening form (AOF), which is common across intermediaries, shall now be centralised at KRA level," Sebi said in its circular.

Intermediaries will also be required to upload additional information, including the Central KYC Identifier (CKYC ID), Digital Postal Index Number (DIGIPIN), wherever available, and the expiry date of Officially Valid Documents (OVDs), to the KRA system.

| SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS |

Air India targets Rs 6,000 cr savings, eyes cargo business

Press Trust Of India

Air India targets savings, cargo expansion and tour packages.



MUMBAI: Air India Group is targeting Rs 6,000 crore in cost savings, with significant progress in cutting expenses and improving revenues, CEO Tewolde Gebremariam said on Wednesday and indicated plans to enter the dedicated freighter business to tap cargo market opportunities.

Spelling out the broad contours for the revival of the loss-making Air India and achieving operational synergies with Air India Express, Gebremariam, who took charge as the CEO and MD in October, told the staff that there is a long way to go in reaching profitability, but steps taken so far are very encouraging. During a town hall with the employees of Air India and Air India Express that went on for nearly two hours, Gebremariam said that over the last three months, the airline has recorded significant improvements in operational performance.

HIGHLIGHT

- Rs 1,500 crore savings already achieved.

According to him, Air India Group is aiming for Rs 6,000 crore in cost savings and has already identified Rs 3,500 crore worth of potential cost-saving areas. Already, around Rs 1,500 crore of cost savings have been achieved. In October, Air India set up a multidisciplinary team to identify cost-saving opportunities, with the new CEO urging the staff to embed a mindset of frugality and accountability in all their work.

To ensure operational synergies and save costs, Gebremariam said Air India and Air India Express would increasingly operate as one airline group while continuing to function independently under separate Air Operator Certificates (AOCs). Customer-facing, operational and regulatory functions will remain separate while enabling functions such as finance, human resources, information technology and centres of excellence will increasingly be managed at a group level to unlock synergies, improve efficiency and strengthen capabilities, he said.

| ENTREPRENEURSHIP NOW MAINSTREAM CAREER |

'85% of Indians aspire to become entrepreneurs'

Press Trust Of India

Entrepreneurship emerges as mainstream career choice among India's aspiring professionals.



MUMBAI: Entrepreneurship is emerging as a mainstream career choice in India, with 85 per cent of respondents expressing a desire to start their own business, nearly twice the global average, according to a report released by professional networking platform LinkedIn on Wednesday. The report found that younger generations are driving this trend, with 94 per cent of Gen Z and 90 per cent of Millennials expressing entrepreneurial ambitions. Around 70 per cent of Gen Z respondents plan to start a business or side hustle within the next three years. Entrepreneurial aspirations are strong among both women and men, with 91 per cent of women and 94 per cent of men surveyed expressing plans to start a business in the coming years.

The report is based on surveys involving 12,000 respondents across India, the US, UK, France, Germany and Australia, conducted between October 9 and 19, 2026. A separate survey covered 6,000 founders, entrepreneurs and small business owners with fewer than 50 employees.

The findings indicate that aspirations are increasingly translating into action. The number of LinkedIn members adding "Founder" to their profiles has increased 190 per cent since 2022, including a 383 per cent rise among Gen Z.

*Biz*Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

HOW THE MARKETS BEHAVE TODAY?

Sensex jumps 1,502 points, Nifty surges to 25,819 on foreign fund inflows, lower oil



MUMBAI: Benchmark equity indices ended sharply higher on Wednesday, with the Sensex rallying 1,502.29 points and the Nifty rising to 25,819.25, defying a weak trend in Asian markets, on strong foreign fund inflows, lower crude oil prices and buying in blue-chip bank stocks.

Rebounding sharply from Monday's decline, the 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 1,502.29 points or 1.82 per cent, to settle at 83,938.28. During the day, it zoomed 2,062.22 points or 2.50 per cent, to 84,498.21. The 50-share NSE Nifty surged 469.60 points, or 1.85 per cent, to end at 25,819.25. Intraday, it rallied 602 points or 2.37 per cent, to 25,951.65.

From the Sensex pack, Hindustan Unilever soared 5.94 per cent followed by Trent 3.59 per cent, ICICI Bank 3.44 per cent, InterGlobe Aviation 3.24 per cent, HDFC Bank 3.18 per cent and Bajaj Finance 3.04 per cent. Tata Steel, Bharti Airtel and Titan ended lower.

"Markets staged a sharp rebound on Wednesday, recovering strongly from Monday's sell-off and gaining nearly 2 per cent. Following a gap-up opening, the benchmark indices extended their gains during the first half of the session. However, profit-booking near Monday's high trimmed some of the upside," Ajit Mishra, SVP - Research, Religare Broking, said.

The rebound was supported by sustained foreign investor buying, easing crude oil prices and a strengthening rupee, he added. The rupee jumped 69 paise to settle at 92.16 (provisional) on Wednesday, the highest level so far in this year.

TRAVEL WEEK

Airtel launches Travel Week with roaming discounts, Visa benefits

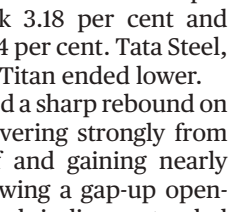
NEW DELHI: Ahead of the festive and winter travel season, Airtel is launching Airtel Travel Week from Nov 19th to Nov 25th, 2026 on the Airtel App, offering benefits such as International Roaming, visa assistance and forex on one platform. At the heart of Airtel Travel Week is a 10% discount on International Roaming packs, available to 1,000 prepaid and 1,000 postpaid users each.

Customers canparticipate in the Out of Office Contest by submitting their most creative out-of-office email for a chance to win an all-expenses-paid international trip. Two lucky winners will get the opportunity to turn their dream holiday into reality. Customers applying for a visa can also get 100% off, up to Rs 4,000, on their next visa application through Atlys for eligible Asian destinations.

For travel money, customers can get a Niyo Multicurrency Card with zero markup and free delivery. They can also avail doorstep delivery of Niyo Forex Cash at preferential rates, making it easier to arrange foreign currency before their trip.

BULLION MARKET

Silver plunges Rs 7,000 to hit fresh 1-year low; gold drops to 1.26 lakh



NEW DELHI: Silver came under heavy selling pressure on Wednesday, tumbling by Rs 7,000 to hit a fresh one-year low of Rs 1.5 lakh per kg in the national capital, while gold declined to Rs 1.26 lakh per 10 grams amid a sharp rebound in the rupee and sustained weakness in global metal markets. According to the All India Sarafa Association, the white metal dropped by Rs 7,000 to Rs 1.50 lakh per kg (inclusive of all taxes) from Rs 1.57 lakh per kg in the local market. The metal traded at this level earlier on October 3, 2025.

Gold of 99.9 per cent purity declined by Rs 800 to Rs 1,26,000 per 10 grams from Rs 1,26,800 per 10 grams on Monday. Bullion markets were closed on Tuesday for Guru Nanak Dev Jayanti. The decline in domestic prices was compounded by a sharp appreciation in the rupee, which settled at a 2026 high of 92.16 against the US dollar, supported by gains in equities and sustained foreign fund inflows, traders said.

CSR SKILL DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

Nuvoco recognises skills, promotes professional growth and sustainable livelihoods



MUMBAI: Nuvoco Vistas Corp. Ltd., India's trusted building materials company, organised a convocation ceremony for Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) participants at the Nuvoco CSR Skill Development Centre, Sonadih. Conducted under its NUVO Mason skill development initiative, the programme recognised the existing skills of local masons, supporting their professional development and sustainable livelihood opportunities. Implemented in collaboration with Orion Education Society, the initiative saw masons who successfully completed RPL training receive Certificates of Completion and Mason Toolkits.

The RPL framework focuses on assessing existing competencies and addressing skill gaps through training in modern construction practices, quality standards and occupational safety. The certification provides formal recognition of their expertise and strengthens their professional credibility.

Commenting on the initiative, Mr. Sandeep Verma, Plant Head, Sonadih Cement Plant, Nuvoco Vistas Corp. Ltd., said, "Skilled masons play a vital role in the construction ecosystem, and recognising their expertise can open up better livelihood opportunities. Through our skill development initiatives, we aim to strengthen their confidence, support their professional growth and encourage continued learning. This reflects our commitment to empowering communities around our operations." The event was attended by officials from Nuvoco's Sonadih Cement Plant and Orion Education Society, along with participating masons.

NUVO Mason is Nuvoco's flagship masonry skill development programme, aimed at equipping youth and practising masons with industry-relevant skills. During FY2025-26, the programme trained over 900 individuals across Nuvoco's cement plant locations, including over 500 masons under the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) initiative and over 350 youth through masonry, tiling and assistant mason training modules.

Nation News

‘Rajoana does not believe in Constitution, courts’

Rajoana seeks commutation citing mercy petition delay.

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Centre on Wednesday opposed in the Supreme Court a plea filed by Balwant Singh Rajoana seeking commutation of his death sentence to a life term in the 1995 assassination of the then Punjab chief minister, Beant Singh, saying he does not have faith in the Constitution or the courts.

Rajoana, who has been incarcerated for around 30 years, including on death row for over 15 years, has sought commutation of his death sentence to a life term due to the delay in deciding his mercy petition. A bench of Justices Vikram Nath, Sandeep Mehta and Aparesh Kumar Singh reserved its decision on the plea of Rajoana and asked the parties to file their written submissions within three weeks.

Appearing for the Centre, Additional Solicitor General (ASG) K M Nataraj opposed the plea and said that Rajoana has stated that he does not believe in the Constitution and does not have faith in the courts, and his statements are recorded in the trial court judgment. He submitted that Rajoana never



filed any appeal against his death sentence awarded by the trial court before the high court and never filed any mercy petition or reference against the capital punishment.

The ASG also relied on the 2025 Constitution bench opinion in the presidential reference concerning the powers of governors and the president over state bills and argued that the relief could not be granted by invoking Article 142, as Article 142 cannot substitute the constitutional powers of remission under Articles 72 and 161.

Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for Rajoana, said that the man, who was “misguided” at some point of time due to the prevailing circumstances then in Punjab, has spent around 30 years in jail and cannot be allowed to continue under the sword of death sentence.

He said that his death sentence be commuted to life term and benefit of remission be granted to him. Rohatgi accepted that Rajoana has never filed any mercy petition nor has he filed any appeal against the death sentence before the high court but the co-accused in the case have been granted bail by the top court. One other accused Jagtar Singh Hawara, who was awarded death sentence, had his sentence commuted to life by the high court, he added.

Centre opposed Rajoana’s plea for commutation of death sentence

On October 28, the Centre had opposed Rajoana’s plea for commutation of death sentence, saying such a relief cannot be granted. In September 2024, the top court sought responses from the Centre, the Punjab government and the administration of the Union Territory of Chandigarh on Rajoana’s plea. Beant Singh and 16 others were killed in a blast at the entrance of the civil secretariat in Chandigarh on August 31, 1995. A special court sentenced Rajoana to death in July 2007. Rajoana’s plea sought a direction for his release. On May 3, 2023, the apex court refused to commute his death sentence and said the competent authority could deal with his mercy plea.

HIGHLIGHT

- Special court sentenced Rajoana to death in July 2007.
- Rajoana’s plea sought a direction for his release.

Free train travel

NEW DELHI: The government has extended the complimentary train travel facility for recipients of Chakra series gallantry awards to all trains, including Vande Bharat, without changing their existing entitlements, officials said on Wednesday.

The Army shared the update in a post on X.

“Honouring valour, in a significant welfare initiative, the Ministry of Railways, in consultation with the Ministry of Defence, has enhanced the complimentary train travel facility for Chakra Series Awardees,” it said.

“The facility now extends to all trains, including Vande Bharat, without any change in their existing entitlements,” it added.

The initiative reflects a “shared commitment” to honouring the courage, sacrifice and service of the country’s “yoddhas” and recognising their invaluable contribution to the nation, the Army said.

The first three gallantry awards instituted by the government after Independence were the Param Vir Chakra, Maha Vir Chakra and Vir Chakra. They were instituted on January 26, 1950, with retrospective effect from August 15, 1947, according to the official website of gallantry awards.

Manipur-Nagaland leaders discuss cooperation

Press Trust Of India

Rio, arrived in Imphal from New Delhi, met Singh at the latter’s official residence.

IMPHAL: Manipur Chief Minister Y Khemchand Singh on Wednesday met his Nagaland counterpart Neiphiu Rio here to discuss ways to strengthen mutual trust and cooperation between the two neighbouring states. Rio, who arrived in Imphal from New Delhi, met Singh at the latter’s official residence.

In a social media post, Singh said Rio was accompanied by Nagaland MLA Achumbemo Kikon. “We held a constructive meeting to further strengthen mutual trust and cooperation between the states,” Singh said. The meeting was also attended by Manipur Deputy Chief Minister Losii Dikho and Naga People’s Front (NPF) state president and MLA Awangbou Newmai, he added.

An official statement informed that the two chief ministers discussed matters related with peace, development, and strengthening inter-state relations. They also agreed on the need to ensure uninterrupted vehicular movement along the Imphal-Dimapur highway (NH 2). Rio also invited Singh to attend the upcoming Hornbill Festival 2026, scheduled to be held from December 1 to 10, it said.

Earlier, speaking to reporters after arriving at the airport, Rio said, “The Northeast is part of the same country, and I have my party here in Manipur, along with my Naga friends. So, I’ve come to visit and also meet my counterpart, the chief minister.” Asked about the NPF’s Manipur unit demanding the resignation of Nemcha Kipgen, the other deputy chief minister, Rio said such demands were a normal feature of politics.

“Well, that is a feature of political parties. They demand their leaders’ resignations when issues are not resolved. So, they also demanded the deputy chief minister’s resignation. Those are normal features of politics,” he said. The NPF had sought Kipgen’s resignation over her husband’s alleged involvement in the ethnic conflict between the Naga and Kuki communities.

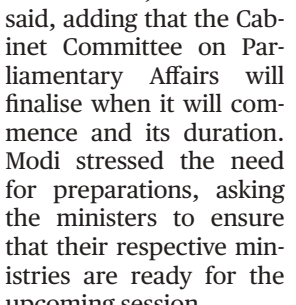
FASTFACTS

- CMs Discuss Peace, Development, Relations.
- Ensure Uninterrupted Traffic Along Imphal-Dimapur Highway.

NEWSLINE

NEW DELHI

‘Complete Parl preparations’



Prime Minister Narendra Modi is learnt to have suggested to his ministerial colleagues that they complete preparations for the next Parliament session before December 15 and advised them against undertaking foreign travel in the run-up to it, indicating that the government wants its ministers to remain available. Sources aware of the matter said the issue of the next Parliament session figured at Wednesday’s Cabinet meeting chaired by Modi.

The prime minister suggested that the session be convened before December 15, the sources said, adding that the Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs will finalise when it will commence and its duration. Modi stressed the need for preparations, asking the ministers to ensure that their respective ministries are ready for the upcoming session.

SAMBHAJINAGAR

‘Humanity’s custodian’



India always upheld humanity as its “custodian”, and though the country never ruled over other nations, its cultural influence was felt globally, Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh chief Mohan Bhagwat said on Wednesday. Bhagwat was speaking after unveiling the book “The Tortured Truth”, written by Tasneem Patel, here.

“Though humanity was never its (exclusive) property, India has been its custodian,” the RSS chief said, adding that though it never ruled over other countries, India’s cultural influence was felt far and wide. “I recently travelled abroad for the work of the Sangh. I also attended interfaith meetings abroad. Now the people there also say that India should show the way forward to others,’’ Bhagwat said. One must retain humanity despite the odds one faces in life, he said.

‘Ensure more women in legal profession’

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Chief Justice of India Justice Surya Kant has called for greater representation of women in the legal profession, asking senior advocates to ensure that at least one-third of junior lawyers in their chambers are women.

Addressing the inaugural Smt Shashi Prabha Singh Memorial Awards ceremony at the Siri Fort Sports Complex here, the CJI on Wednesday also stressed the need to appoint more women as panel lawyers to strengthen their participation and representation at the Bar.

The awards, instituted in memory of the late mother of senior advocate and former Supreme Court Bar Association president Vikas Singh, were presented to four young women advocates in recognition of their potential and contributions to litigation. The initiative also aims to provide financial assistance to help them advance their legal careers. The CJI underscored the imperative to create equitable opportunities for women in the legal profession. He urged that every senior advocate engaging juniors should ensure that at least one out of every three juniors in their chambers is a woman advocate.

Lawyer Monika Dhiman received the Nyaya Prabha Ratna award, while Huma Anjum and Priyanshi Kumari were jointly honoured with the Nyaya Prabha Gaurav award. Lawyer Kavana Rao received the Nyaya Prabha Samman. The awards were presented as part of the memorial cricket tournament, which brought together members of the Supreme Court and Delhi High Court judiciary, advocates and journalists. Legendary cricketer and India’s 1983 World Cup-winning captain Kapil Dev attended the event as the guest of honour and inaugurated the tournament.

High-level talks

NEW DELHI: The Indian and Chinese armies held high-level talks this month in the Arunachal Pradesh sector focusing on border management and addressing outstanding issues along the Line of Actual Control (LAC), the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Wednesday. The talks, believed to have spread over a number of days, were held amid reports of aggressive military posturing by Chinese troops along the frontier, especially in the Upper Subansiri region of Arunachal Pradesh.

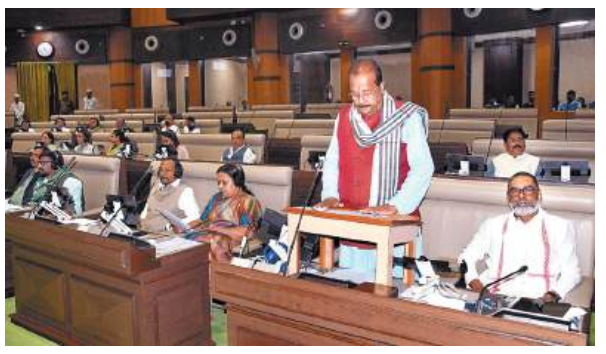
In September too, the senior military commanders of the two armies were engaged in flag talks in two sessions on both sides of the frontier in the Arunachal Pradesh sector. “India and China engage regularly through diplomatic and military mechanisms and you are well aware of those mechanisms,” MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said at his regular media briefing while responding to a question.

| IMPORTANT DECISION |

Jharkhand Assembly seeks immediate halt to SIR

Press Trust Of India

Resolution, moved by FM Radhakrishna Kishore, was passed by voice vote.



RANCHI: The Jharkhand Assembly on Wednesday passed a resolution opposing the ongoing SIR of electoral rolls and demanding its immediate halt. The resolution, moved by state Finance Minister Radhakrishna Kishore, was passed by voice vote during the first day of a two-day special session.

It will be forwarded to the Centre and other competent authorities, seeking a fresh standard operating procedure (SOP) formulated in consultation with political parties to ensure transparency. Leader of Opposition Babulal Marandi alleged that the special session was politically motivated and accused the JMM-led state government of trying to mislead people on the Special Intensive Review (SIR) issue. Moving the resolution against SIR, Kishore said voters were facing difficulties due to procedural complexities and technical shortcomings in the voter list revision process.

“Of Jharkhand’s 2.21 crore voters, 27 per cent were deemed suspicious and sent notices,” he said. Alleging that the Election Commission was “working as the Centre’s puppet”, the minister said removing Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar was “necessary to protect the Constitution”.

“There is an urgent need to halt the SIR exercise immediately and to issue a fresh standard operating procedure to ensure transparency in the process,” Kishore said. Participating in the discussion, senior BJP leader Marandi alleged that the SIR was linked to purification of electoral rolls, but the government was spreading confusion.

“While presenting details, the government said 43 lakh names were deleted from the voter list, which is 2.21 crore in total. Of them, 7.63 lakh are dead voters, 15.53 lakh have shifted, 4.38 lakh were duplicates, and 14.50 lakh were untraceable,” he claimed.

This special session has been convened to settle a political score, the former chief minister alleged. He said his party was opposed to any form of administrative negligence, but attempts to undermine the statutory powers of constitutional institutions through political manoeuvring will never be accepted.

FASTFACTS

- Babulal Marandi alleged special session was politically motivated.
- Of Jharkhand’s 2.21 cr voters, 27 pc deemed suspicious.

| ALLEGATION |

‘SP, Cong trying to undermine each other’

Press Trust Of India

LUCKNOW: Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) president Chirag Paswan on Wednesday criticised the Samajwadi Party-Congress alliance in Uttar Pradesh over alleged seat-sharing differences, alleging that the two parties were trying to undermine each other.

Paswan also said that people of Uttar Pradesh have in the past rejected the SP-Congress coalition. Reacting to alleged differences between the two parties over seat-sharing for the 2027 UP Assembly



polls, the Union minister told reporters here that it reflected a lack of mutual respect and confidence.

“When there is so much discord within an alliance, with the Congress getting only 26 seats from the Samajwadi Party against expectations of over 180 seats, it raises questions about mutual respect and self-respect,” he said. He alleged that the alliance was attempting to move forward by belittling and weakening each other rather than working together.

“Such an alliance, where partners are trying to undermine each other, is the reason why people are repeatedly rejecting them,” Paswan said.

The Samajwadi Party on Tuesday night released a list of five candidates for the assembly elections, hours after it concluded the second round of talks with the Congress on seat sharing.

“People have rejected the SP-Congress coalition.”

Chirag Paswan
LJP (Ram Vilas)

While the SP has offered 26 seats and the Congress handed a list of about 130 seats, Tuesday’s meeting in Delhi saw leaders from both parties hold deliberations seat-by-seat. The talks remained inconclusive, and two more rounds are likely to take place soon, party leaders had said.

Targeting the previous SP-Congress alliance government in UP, Paswan alleged that the coalition had pushed the state towards “goonda raj” and ruined it.

Paswan also claimed that public support was increasingly moving towards the alliance led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. “The people’s inclination towards the alliance guided by Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s vision is growing stronger,” he said.

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Having failed to repay the amount, the Notice is issued to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken symbolic possession of the property described below, by exercising powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property. Any dealings with the property will be subject to charges of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower(s)/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs)	Name of Branch
1.	Borrower Monu Agro & (Guarantor) Manish Agrawal & Rashmi Agrawal & (Mortgagor) Manish Agrawal & Shikha Agrawal/ Represented By Proprietor Manish Agrawal New Bazarpara, Jashpur Road District Jashpur Chhattisgarh Pathalgaon- 496118/ 782105500196	Khasra No. 704/1JA, Ward No. 15, Sant Vinobabhave Ward, Gram, Nagar Panchayat, Block, R.N.M. & Tehsil Pathalgaon, P.H. No. 6, Bandbast No. 127, District Jashpur, Chhattisgarh, Owned By Manish Agrawal, Shikha Agrawal (Admeasuring An Area of 0.014 Hectare or 1526 Sq Ft or 141.82 Sq Mtr, North: Land of Mahabir Agrawal, South: Main Road (N.H.) East: House of Shivprakash Gupta, West: Land of Shyama Agrawal/ Date of Symbolic: 20/11/2026	31/07/2026 Rs. 55,98,144.00/-	Pathal-gaon

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Date: November 26, 2026
Place: Pathalgaon

Sincerely Authorised Officer,
For ICICI Bank Ltd.

Central Chronicle

Since 1974 Volume 14 No. 237

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 |

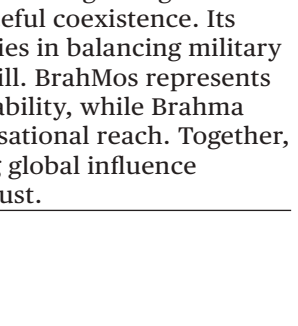
BrahMos and Brahma reshape India's influence

India's emergence as an increasingly influential Asian power reflects a strategic transformation that extends beyond economic growth and military modernisation. The combination of BrahMos-led defence diplomacy and the enduring cultural influence symbolised by Brahma demonstrates how military capabilities and civilisational heritage can complement each other in shaping international relations. The Lowy Institute's 2026 Asia Power Index places India third with an overall score of 40.5 against China's 73.6. Although China retains a substantial advantage, the narrowing power gap represents an encouraging development for New Delhi. India's growing defence partnerships and cultural outreach are helping translate its national capabilities into meaningful regional influence. The BrahMos missile has emerged as an important instrument of India's strategic diplomacy. Defence agreements with the Philippines, Vietnam and Indonesia reflect growing confidence in Indian military technology. These partnerships extend beyond commercial transactions, creating opportunities for military training, technological cooperation, maintenance and sustained strategic engagement. They also strengthen India's relevance in Southeast Asia, where maritime security remains a major concern. Equally significant is India's cultural influence. Centuries before modern diplomatic relations emerged, Indian philosophy, literature, architecture and religious traditions travelled across Southeast Asia. The Ramayana, Hindu and Buddhist traditions, temple architecture and performing arts continue to connect societies across national boundaries. Contemporary Indian cinema, yoga, education, music and diaspora networks have further strengthened these historical bonds. Unlike military power, cultural influence generates goodwill through familiarity, mutual respect and shared heritage. India must nurture these connections without allowing cultural diplomacy to become an instrument of political assertion. However, the narrowing power gap with China should not encourage complacency. China's economic strength, manufacturing capacity, infrastructure and extensive diplomatic networks remain formidable. India must address domestic economic challenges, accelerate technological innovation, strengthen indigenous defence manufacturing and improve regional connectivity to sustain its strategic momentum. India's objective should not be merely to compete with China but to emerge as a dependable partner contributing to regional stability, prosperity and peaceful coexistence. Its greatest strategic advantage lies in balancing military strength with cultural goodwill. BrahMos represents India's growing strategic capability, while Brahma symbolises its enduring civilisational reach. Together, they demonstrate that lasting global influence requires both strength and trust.

| GUEST VIEW |

Stringent Regulations Crucial to Curb Air Pollution

The Supreme Court's decisive stance on Delhi's air crisis favoring a shift exclusively to BS-VI vehicles, exploring a five-year phase-out of polluting commercial vehicles and rebuking civic bodies over building bye-law violations serves as an urgent wake-up call for every Indian city. While Delhi grabs headlines each winter, hazardous air quality is no longer confined to the national capital. Rapidly expanding Tier-2 and Tier-3 hubs across country are witnessing surging vehicular density and unchecked real estate growth. When municipal authorities turn a blind eye to building bye-law violations, unregulated construction dust and shrinking green buffers choke urban neighborhoods nationwide. Similarly older commercial fleets continue to emit toxic particulate matter across state highways and city centers alike. The apex court's suggestion of border warehousing paired with battery-operated last-mile delivery offers a scalable blueprint for urban logistics across India. However judicial intervention cannot substitute for local governance. State governments and municipal authorities must proactively adopt cleaner emission standards, expand electric public transit, and strictly penalize illegal construction before their air turns unbreathable.



A.C. Vineeth Kumar

A commitment to strengthen our Constitution

On 26th November 1949, the Constituent Assembly adopted our Constitution. Today, we remember Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar and every member of the Constituent Assembly. Their greatness lay in drawing extensively from the rich traditions and civilisational wisdom of Bharat while framing a modern Constitution.

For a nation as diverse as Bharat, with its numerous faiths, languages, customs and schools of thought, it is important that the Constitution have a resonance far beyond the precincts of Parliament and the courts. Our endeavour has been to deepen its connect with the collective consciousness of our people, especially our youth and strengthen the spirit of unity essential to India's bright future. That is why over a decade ago, our Government decided to mark 26th November as Constitution Day.

For crores of Indians, including me, the Constitution of India is an inseparable part of our life journeys. Whenever I look back at my childhood, the humble circumstances in which I grew up, the struggles that were a part of everyday life, I am filled with an overwhelming sense of gratitude towards our Constitution. That a child born into a family of modest means, with no privileges or advantages of birth, could one day be entrusted with the responsibility of serving the world's largest democracy speaks volumes about how extraordinary our Constitution is. It is due to our Constitution that circumstances of one's birth no longer determine the limits of one's future.

In our own humble way, we have sought to repay this debt of gratitude by strengthening our Constitution.

The distinguished constitutional scholar Granville Austin described our Constitution as "first and foremost a social document." The quest for social and economic justice runs through the very fabric of our Constitution. Thus, what can be more satisfying than working towards the realisation of this cherished vision of the makers of our Constitution?

A recent World Bank report highlights that nearly 50 crore Indians have moved out of poverty. Breaking free from generations of deprivation, crores of parents can now dream of a better future for their children.

When PM Awas Yojana ensures a family moves from a thatched roof to a pucca home, the constitutional promise of dignity acquires meaning.

When Ujjwala Yojana frees a mother from the hardships of a smoke-filled kitchen, we advance the ideals of equality and well-being.



Prime Minster Narendra Modi

When Ayushman Bharat enables a poor family to access quality healthcare without the fear of debt, social justice becomes a lived reality.

When MUDRA and PM-SVA-Nidhi provide collateral-free credit to small entrepreneurs and street vendors, economic justice finds expression.

When digital technology and platforms like UPI transcend all divides and place opportunities once available to a privileged few within the reach of every citizen, we advance the constitutional ideal of inclusivity.

There are many more manifestations of this constitutional vision.

The list of amendments we brought can be viewed through the same prism. The 101st Amendment ushered in GST, a long-awaited reform. The 102nd Amendment granted constitutional status to the National Commission for Backward Classes, fulfilling a long-standing dream of the marginalised sections of society.

The 103rd Amendment received broad social acceptance. By providing reservation to Economically Weaker Sections, it addressed the long-overlooked aspirations of economically disadvantaged families from communities outside the existing reservation framework.

For the first time since 1950, an updated version of our Constitution is now available in all 22 languages of the Eighth Schedule. This has brought our Constitution closer to the people.

Even after our Constitution came into force in 1950, we continued to be governed by the colonial penal code dating back to the 1860s. With the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, we have sought to bring about a fundamental shift in our criminal justice system, moving from the colonial emphasis on punishment (Dand) to a citizen-centric pursuit of justice (Nyay).

Over the past decade, we have laid special emphasis on Kartavya, or the duties of a citizen. Our civilisation has always emphasised the responsibilities that accompany every role in society. The spirit of Kartavya has found expression in several mass movements, from Swachh Bharat to water conservation and environmental protection.

However, there is another reality that I feel compelled to share. There have been occasions in our history when those entrusted with upholding the Constitution chose to weaken it. Ironically, they are the same people who had the opportunity to govern India for five decades.

This year marks 75 years since the First Amendment of 1951, when a government that was not popularly elected used its majority in the Provisional Parliament to restrict fundamental freedoms. Its timing, barely months before India's first general election, proves that it was intended to influence the electoral process and stifle public opposition. It is also 50 years since the 42nd Amendment at the height of the Emergency. This curtailed judicial review and fundamentally altered the balance of institutional powers. I would also urge youngsters to study the 38th and 39th Amendments to know what a power-hungry and anti-constitutional leadership can do.

The repeated misuse of Article 356 to dismiss elected state governments presents another troubling chapter. One party has the dubious record of imposing Article 356 almost a hundred times and one former Prime Minister has scored a half-century in this field.

The makers of our Constitution had hoped that it would be implemented in letter and spirit across India. But, for over 70 years, Articles 370 and 35A did not allow the full Constitution to be implemented in Jammu and Kashmir, thus trampling over the rights of SC, ST, OBC communities and women. It was only in 2019 that this historical wrong was corrected.

For decades, in several parts of India, particularly in tribal areas, Naxalites used the might of the gun to deny the poorest people the rights guaranteed to them by our Constitution. The successful elimination of Naxalism this year is particularly heartwarming because it has ensured that the poorest of the poor can finally exercise their constitutional rights without fear. Now, we are left only with 'Dimagi Naxals', far removed from the realities of our times but persistent in their efforts to derail our growth trajectory.

It is most appalling that the biggest party in the Opposition wants to reduce OBC reservation and bring Muslim reservations, something the makers of our Constitution, notably Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, were totally against.

The journey of our Constitution would be incomplete without recognising the remarkable women who helped shape it. But what happened earlier this year should fill our hearts with shame. A legislation aimed at giving women adequate representation in legislative bodies was disallowed from being passed by the one Opposition party, once again showing its disdain for constitutional values. I assure the Nari Shakti of India that no force can prevent us from ensuring that justice is done to them.

Our constitutional democracy has a clearly defined role for the Opposition. Sadly, the leading Opposition party seems to have become more of an Avrodh Paksh (obstructionist) than a Virodh Paksh (opposition). They should know that disrupting democratic processes is no substitute for discharging constitutional responsibilities. Today, India stands at a defining moment. As we work towards Viksit Bharat by 2047, two simple yet powerful principles can guide our collective endeavours: India First in our thinking and Kartavya (Duties) in our actions. With these as our guiding principles and the Constitution as our source of strength, we can secure a bright future for generations to come.

When Citizens Fall Silent, Democracy Dies!

Democracy thrives when citizens question authority, institutions remain independent and constitutional freedoms are protected, for public silence ultimately threatens accountability, justice and the democratic spirit.

Democracy is not merely about casting a vote every five years and granting politicians unrestricted authority. It means questioning those in power, challenging arbitrary decisions, exposing corruption and safeguarding constitutional freedoms. Elections confer a mandate to govern, not immunity from accountability. When criticism becomes an offence, dissent is equated with disloyalty and peaceful protests are treated as threats, democracy begins to decay from within.

The true strength of democracy lies in citizens' freedom to challenge authority. Demands for drinking water, better roads, healthcare, affordable education and protection against exploitation are legitimate democratic concerns. When grievances remain unaddressed, peaceful demonstrations become instruments of public accountability.

Article 19 of the Indian Constitution guarantees freedom of speech, expression and peaceful assembly. While reasonable restrictions are permissible, they must never become convenient weapons for suppressing dissent. Violence and destruction are unacceptable, but so is the intimidation of peaceful protesters.

Parliament must remain a platform for meaningful deliberation rather than numerical dominance. According to PRS Legislative Research, only 27 per cent of Bills introduced in the 18th Lok Sabha had been referred to parliamentary committees by the end of the 2025 Monsoon Session. Inadequate legislative scrutiny weakens democratic accountability and undermines parliamentary credibility.



Dr.Kolahalam Ramkishore
Associate Professor (Retired)

The independence of constitutional institutions is equally essential. Concerns over investigative agencies, electoral transparency, judicial accountability and media freedom deserve serious examination rather than political dismissal. Institutions derive legitimacy from impartiality, not government patronage.

Freedom House's 2025 report awarded India 51 out of 100 for internet freedom, while Access Now recorded 84 internet shutdowns during 2024. Such restrictions disrupt education, businesses, livelihoods and access to information. National security measures must remain necessary, proportionate and transparent.

The judiciary must ensure timely justice, while journalism must scrutinise authority instead of becoming its publicity machinery. Peaceful protests cannot replace constitutional institutions but remain indispensable safeguards when those institutions fail to respond.

Defending democracy is everyone's responsibility, irrespective of political affiliation. Political loyalty must never override constitutional values or individual conscience. Citizens who justify wrongdoing by their preferred leaders inadvertently weaken democracy.

Democracy dies gradually when Parliament abandons debate, institutions lose independence, journalists surrender scrutiny and citizens become afraid to speak. Governments must remember that citizens are not subjects, dissent is not a crime, and power is never above the Constitution.

When peaceful protest is silenced, democracy loses its soul.

YOURLETTERS

Gig workers deserve comprehensive social security

The recent government announcement on extending Employees' Provident Fund Organisation coverage to gig workers is disappointing, particularly because it remains silent on contributions from employers and the government. Making social security dependent on customer tips undermines workers' dignity. Gig workers are not beggars; they provide valuable services that make everyday life easier for millions. Authorities must compel app-based platforms to establish a comprehensive social security fund covering pensions, insurance and provident fund benefits, ensuring financial stability and dignity for these workers.

Sujit De, Kolkata

Human rights define civilisation's true progress

Jonathan Swift's Gulliver's Travels questioned the superiority of a civilisation that celebrated material advancement while neglecting the freedom and rights of its people. Unsurprisingly, Mahatma Gandhi, who consistently championed the welfare of the last person in society, found resonance in this literary masterpiece. Technological advancement and economic prosperity alone cannot determine the progress of civilisation. Until human rights, individual freedom and universal welfare become the ultimate yardsticks for measuring genuine development, Swift's three-century-old masterpiece will continue to retain its global relevance.

K. Chatterjee, Kolkata

Send your articles (600-650 words) and letters (70-80 words) for this page on: **editorcentralchronicle@gmail.com** The letters can be edited or rewritten for clarity.

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Nation



"He [Nishant Kumar] will carry the burden of being compared with his father."

Sanjay Jha,
Janata Dal (United) leader

Vijayan salutes Kalady students' stir for suspension

On Wednesday, veteran CPI(M) leader and former CM P Vijayan expressed solidarity with the students of Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit.

Press Trust Of India



THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Veteran CPI(M) leader and former Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Wednesday expressed solidarity with the recent protest by students of Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit at Kalady, describing it as a struggle to protect educational rights and public institutions. He urged the general public to extend their support to such movements aimed at safeguarding the state's education sector.

The students had launched a protest against the suspension of 16 of their fellow students, who had been barred from attending classes for more than two months. The agitation was called off after the Kerala High Court granted permission to the suspended students to appear for their semester examinations, providing significant relief to the protesting students.

In a Facebook post issued on the occasion of the 32nd anniversary of the Koothuparamba firing incident, Vijayan criticised the current United Democratic Front (UDF) government, accusing it of attempting to hand over the education sector to private players and the Sangh Parivar. He said the ongoing struggles by students were part of a larger movement to resist the commercialisation of education and protect public educational institutions.

Paying tribute to those who lost their lives in the Koothuparamba firing, Vijayan recalled the incident as a significant chapter in Kerala's history of youth resistance. The firing took place during a protest against the education policy of the then UDF government. Five Democratic Youth Federation of India (DYFI) activists–K K Rajeevan, Madhu, Shibulal, Babu and Roshan–were killed, while several others sustained injuries.

Comrade Pushpan, who suffered serious injuries during the firing, remained paralysed for nearly three decades before passing away in September 2024.

Recalling the significance of the incident, Vijayan said Koothuparamba Martyrs' Day serves as a reminder of the Left's historic resistance against attempts to commercialise education. He argued that the memories of the struggle had become particularly relevant in the present political situation, alleging that the UDF government was making concerted efforts to transfer educational institutions and opportunities into private hands and promote the influence of the Sangh Parivar.

Vijayan also linked the protest at Sanskrit University to the broader struggle for educational rights, stating that such movements were not merely about the demands of individual students but were essential for protecting public education and the future of Kerala.

HIGHLIGHT

- **The students were protesting the detention of 16 of their college mates who had been barred from attending classes at the college.**

'Buddha's life comes alive'

GANGTOK: Tathagata Tsal, popularly known as Buddha Park, in Ravangla, South Sikkim, has introduced a light and sound show based on the life and teachings of Lord Buddha to attract tourists and promote night tourism. The show commenced on Tuesday and will be organised every evening from 6 pm, offering visitors an immersive experience through captivating lights and sound.

Additional Political Secretary to the Chief Minister for Namchi district, Bishnu Sharma, said the initiative aims to encourage evening tourism, motivate visitors to extend their stay and benefit local hotels and tourism-related businesses. He also highlighted the potential of eco-tourism, stating that more than 100 projects have been developed to promote sustainable tourism and generate livelihood opportunities for local communities.

Situated at an altitude of around 7,000 feet, Buddha Park houses a 130-foot statue of Lord Buddha, consecrated by the 14th Dalai Lama on March 25, 2013.

Separate North K'taka possible within a decade

BELAGAVI: BJP MLA Balakrishna Jarkiholi has said the demand for a separate North Karnataka state could become a reality within the next five to ten years. Speaking ahead of the Karnataka Legislature's winter session, scheduled to begin in Belagavi on December 2, the Arabhavi MLA said the region's development had not reached the desired level despite the construction of the Suvarna Vidhana Soudha.Recalling former minister Umesh Katti's demand for a separate state with Belagavi as its capital, Jarkiholi said the proposal deserved consideration for comprehensive regional development.

He also urged the BJP to ensure that at least five of the nine days of the winter session were devoted to North Karnataka's issues, including irrigation, farmers' problems and drought.

Jarkiholi called upon leaders across party lines to unite for the region's development, saying much more needed to be done despite progress in infrastructure, education and irrigation.

| DAS STOPPED FROM FLYING TO UK |

Stopped from flying to UK, CJP's Saurav Das moves Delhi HC

Press Trust Of India

On Wednesday, Cockroach Janata Party co-convener Saurav Das approached the Delhi High Court.



NEW DELHI: Cockroach Janta Party co-convenor Saurav Das on Wednesday approached the Delhi High Court after allegedly being prevented from travelling to the United Kingdom to attend an event at the University of Oxford, where he was scheduled to speak about the "cockroach movement".

Das's petition was mentioned before a bench comprising Acting Chief Justice Nitin Wasudeo Sambre and Justice Sanjay Sharma for an urgent hearing. However, the bench said the matter would be listed for hearing on Thursday.

According to Das's counsel, he was stopped at the immigration counter at Delhi airport before boarding his flight to London. The counsel submitted that no official order, Look Out Circular (LOC) or travel prohibition issued by any authority was shown to him.

Seeking an urgent hearing, the lawyer told the court that Das could still reach the United Kingdom by November 27, provided the matter was addressed promptly. Responding to the request, the bench said the case could be heard the following day.

Earlier, on Monday, Das had taken to social media platform X to criticise the Centre after being prevented from boarding his scheduled 1 am flight to London. He alleged that the Narendra Modi-led government had stopped him from travelling to deliver lectures at prestigious educational institutions, including Oxford, Cambridge, the London School of Economics (LSE) and the University of Edinburgh.In his posts, Das claimed that he had been invited by the Oxford University Students' Union to participate in a panel discussion on the "cockroach movement". He also expressed disappointment over the incident, saying that Indian students had worked hard to organise the events at these universities.

Das further alleged that his passport had been flagged when he approached the immigration counter at the airport. Questioning the government's action, he asked why authorities were apprehensive about an educated young person travelling abroad to participate in intellectual discussions.

In a strongly worded social media post, Das also compared his situation with that of fugitive businessmen Nirav Modi and Vijay Mallya, sarcastically remarking that he wished he had defaulted on thousands of crores in bank loans instead of facing restrictions on international travel.

The matter is now scheduled to come up before the Delhi High Court on Thursday, where Das is seeking relief to enable him to travel to the United Kingdom and participate in the scheduled academic event.

FASTFACTS

- **He has put in a petition stating that he has been stopped from flying to the United Kingdom.**

| AMID DEEPAM ROW |

BJP accuses INDIA bloc of double standards on Constitution

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Wednesday launched a sharp attack on the INDIA alliance and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi over the Karthigai Deepam controversy in Tamil Nadu, accusing the state government of violating the Supreme Court's directions and showing disrespect towards constitutional authority.

Addressing a press conference, BJP Rajya Sabha MP Sudhanshu Trivedi alleged that the Tamil Nadu government had failed to implement the Supreme Court's order permitting the lighting of the Karthigai Deepam lamp, subject to certain conditions, on November 24. Trivedi described the incident as a serious example of contempt for constitutional authority and accused the INDIA alliance of disregarding India's cultural traditions and judicial decisions.

Targeting Rahul Gandhi and the Congress, he said that those who frequently claimed to



defend the Constitution were unwilling to respect a judgment delivered by the Supreme Court, which serves as its custodian. He further alleged that the episode exposed the INDIA bloc's double standards on constitutional values.

"I want to bring to your notice the biggest contempt for constitutional authority being committed by the INDIA alliance's TN Govt, in utter disregard of India's eternal culture."

Sudhanshu Trivedi,
BJP RS MP

The controversy centres on the lighting of the traditional festival lamp at Deepathoon, a stone pillar situated atop Thirupparankundram hill in Madurai.

The Tamil Nadu government reportedly did not permit the one-time lighting of the lamp at Deepathoon despite the Supreme Court's directions. The festival lamp was instead lit at its customary location.

The issue has escalated into a major political and legal controversy, triggering protests by BJP workers and various Hindu organisations.

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

FINE IMPOSED ON SHOPS

Sabarimala shops fined Rs 1 lakh over hygiene lapses



PATHANAMTHITTA: A joint inspection team has imposed fines totalling Rs 1 lakh in 29 cases of violations at shops and establishments in and around the Sabarimala temple during the first week of the ongoing pilgrimage season, officials said.

The inspections are being conducted by a joint team comprising officials from the Local Self-Government, Revenue, Health, Food Safety, Legal Metrology and Civil Supplies departments. The checks are being carried out during both daytime and night hours to ensure compliance with regulations. According to an official statement, most violations detected so far relate to unhygienic conditions in hotels and eateries. These include waiters not wearing gloves and head covers and poorly maintained kitchen environments. The inspection teams are also monitoring complaints of shops charging devotees more than the prescribed prices and selling goods using inaccurate weights and measures. In one incident on Sunday, stale food was seized from a hotel at Sannidhanam, the temple complex, and subsequently destroyed. A fine was also imposed on the establishment. Officials have instructed food outlets to discard rotten fruits completely instead of removing spoiled portions and using the remaining fruit to prepare juices. **PTI**

NEW STUDY

Nearly 90% of Delhi women feel unsafe near metro and bus stops

NEW DELHI: Nearly nine in 10 women, girls and LGBTQ+ people in Delhi feel unsafe walking to the nearest metro station or bus stop, according to a study conducted by gender equality organisation Centre for Equity and Inclusion (CEQUIN).

The study, based on responses from 1,588 participants, found that 87.5 per cent felt unsafe travelling to public transport stops, while 88.9 per cent reported feeling unsafe in nearby public parks after dark.

Titled Everyday Journeys: Women's and Girls' Access to Footpaths and Public Parks in Delhi, the report highlighted poor infrastructure and unsafe public spaces as major concerns. More than three-fourths of respondents reported poorly lit footpaths, while 60 per cent said footpaths were broken or missing. **PTI**

TIGER ATTACK

Panic in West Champaran after tiger kills farmer



BAGAHA: A 50-year-old farmer was killed in a tiger attack near the Valmiki Tiger Reserve in Bihar's West Champaran district, triggering protests by local residents, a senior forest official said on Wednesday. The incident occurred on Tuesday evening near Karmaha Tola, a hamlet behind Bherihari village under the Valmiki Nagar forest range. The victim, identified as Ramsagar Ram, had gone to work in his agricultural field but failed to return home until late. Concerned family members launched a search and eventually found his blood-soaked body lying in the field. **PTI**

MUFTI DEMANDS EXPLANATION FROM CM

Mehbooba questions Omar over road work at fragile Sheshnag Lake



SRINAGAR: Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti on Wednesday questioned Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah over the extension of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) for road construction near the ecologically sensitive Sheshnag Lake along the Amarnath Yatra route.

Mufti alleged that the project could damage the fragile ecosystem and put the lake and the annual pilgrimage at risk. She also demanded an explanation from the Chief Minister and the Tourism Department and urged them to withdraw the clearance.

Environmentalists have expressed concerns over construction activities near the high-altitude glacial lake in Anantnag district. Mufti had attempted to visit the construction site on Tuesday but was stopped by police.

The BRO, however, said it was carrying out post-Amarnath Yatra work in compliance with safety norms and environmental safeguards.

Meanwhile, an online petition opposing construction around Kashmir's alpine lakes, started by Zarqua Banday, reportedly gathered 1,600 signatures before disappearing from Change.org. The petition called for sustainable tourism alternatives, including guided trekking and limited-access permits.

Jammu and Kashmir Congress chief Tariq Hameed Karra also questioned the deployment of an excavator near the lake, while Kashmir's chief cleric Mirwaiz Umar Farooq urged people to unite against ecological damage. **PTI**

Mahatma Gandhi Institute for Rural Industrialization (MGIRI), Wardha - 442001
(Under Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises, Government of India)
Phone 07152 253512

Applications are invited in the prescribed format from eligible candidates for filling up contractual posts of Young Professionals in Mahatma Gandhi Institute for Rural Industrialization (MGIRI), a national-level Institute under the administrative control of the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, located at Wardha, Maharashtra.

Name and No of Post	Method of Recruitment	Remuneration	Period	Qualification
Young Professionals (12 Posts)	Contract Basis	Rs. 50,000/- (fixed)	1 year, may be extended as per institute policy	Master degree /BE /B Tech. in a relevant fields.

For details, refer to the employment news published on 05/12/2026 and the MGIRI website. Application form and other details can be downloaded from the office website, i.e., www.mgiri.org.
Note: Corrigendum, if any, issued on the above advertisement, will be published only on the MGIRI website.

CBC 25134/11/0009/2627 **I/C Administration, MGIRI**

"I think if a male superstar can ask for it, so can a female superstar. Any actor can ask for it. Nobody's putting a gun on my head to sign Deepika Padukone or Akshay Kumar. I want to sign these actors because I love their work. I respect their achievement."

Karan Johar



&Glitters

OTT Watch



Chiranjeevi brings megaverse to Netflix

Chiranjeevi is making his talk show debut with Netflix's Chiranjeevi's Megaverse. The teaser promises conversations with celebrities from cinema, sports and popular culture, blending personal stories, humour and nostalgia. The show's release date remains unconfirmed.



Panchayat season 5 trailer out now

Panchayat Season 5 trailer teases fresh political rivalries in Phulera, shifting leadership and an unexpected twist in Sachivji and Rinki's romance. Starring Jitendra Kumar, Raghubir Yadav and Neena Gupta, the series premieres December 3.



KBC winner's dream comes true

Kaun Banega Crorepati 18 winner Bhushan Thakare plans to buy back his mother's jewellery, sold to support his education. He also revealed how Amitabh Bachchan noticed his nervousness and helped him feel comfortable.



From football fields to battlefields

Netflix's The Mosquito Bowl follows four college football stars who enlist in the US Marine Corps after the Pearl Harbor attack. Leaving their sporting careers behind, they face the harsh realities of World War II and discover the strength of brotherhood and sacrifice.



Delhi 2021 revisits a dark chapter

ZEE5's Delhi 2021 captures the devastating second wave of COVID-19 through the lives of strangers brought together by a crisis. As hospitals struggle with severe shortages of oxygen and beds, their stories reveal the human cost of the pandemic.

CLOSE UP

My approach to criticism is liberating – Shruti Haasan

Shruti Haasan shares why she refuses uncomfortable costumes and choreography.

Central Chronicle News

Her comments come amid criticism surrounding Peddi's special dance number.



Shruti Haasan addresses Peddi controversy



Actor Shruti Haasan has addressed the controversy surrounding special dance numbers in mainstream cinema, emphasising personal comfort and creative freedom. Her comments come amid criticism of Buchi Babu Sana's Peddi, in which she features alongside Ram Charan and Janhvi Kapoor in the special song Hellallallo. Shruti questioned the need for dance tracks in films, explaining that she participates because she enjoys dancing and dressing up, rather than meeting external expectations. "I have always asked that question. I enjoy dancing; let me be very, very clear. I enjoy dressing up. And that's the approach that I have to it. My approach to visual sexuality has been very liberating for myself. I have never been a panderer in any capacity," she said. The actress added that she refuses costumes and choreography that make her uncomfortable. Recalling disagreements during work, she said, "When I'm not comfortable with something, I'm gonna say I'm not gonna wear this. Rest assured, I am doing it; I am comfortable with it. If I'm uncomfortable, I am not gonna do it. I've had arguments about it; I've been called difficult for it. And I am okay with it." Shruti also acknowledged discussions around item songs, the male gaze and women's portrayal. She pointed out that catering to external expectations extends beyond dance numbers and revealing outfits, describing it as part of a cultural pattern.

Meanwhile, Peddi faced social media criticism over the presentation of Janhvi Kapoor's character, Achiyamma. During Koffee With Karan Season 9, Kapoor admitted she wished she had been more vocal about refusing sequences that made her uncomfortable.



| HOLLYWOOD |

Woody Harrelson wasn't convinced about playing Haymitch

Central Chronicle News



Woody Harrelson as Haymitch Abernathy

HIGHLIGHT

- **Woody Harrelson reveals why he initially rejected his iconic Hunger Games role.**

Actor Woody Harrelson has revealed that he turned down the role of Haymitch Abernathy twice before joining The Hunger Games franchise. The actor, who played the character, said he initially felt there was not enough material for him. During a conversation with co-star Joseph Zada, who portrays a younger Haymitch in the prequel The Hunger Games: Sunrise on the Reaping, Harrelson recalled how director Gary Ross changed his mind. Harrelson described his earlier judgement as "stupid" and "arbitrary", admitting that he liked Suzanne Collins' books but questioned what the role offered. "I thought it was good, I read the books, really good, but I just don't think there's enough to do," he said. Harrelson added that Ross called him and insisted he was the only choice for the part. After speaking with the director for 10 minutes, the actor agreed. Harrelson first played Haymitch in the 2012 film The Hunger Games, directed by Ross. He returned in Catching Fire, Mockingjay - Part 1 and Mockingjay - Part 2, before reprising the role in Sunrise on the Reaping. Haymitch is a former victor from District 12, known for his cynical manner and struggles with alcohol. He becomes a mentor to Katniss Everdeen, played by Jennifer Lawrence, and Peeta Mellark, portrayed by Josh Hutcherson.

The prequel explores Haymitch's life and follows him as he is forced to compete in the second Quarter Quell, set 24 years before the original series. The film also stars McKenna Grace, Ralph Fiennes, Jesse Plemons and Elle Fanning, alongside Zada. Lawrence and Hutcherson make brief appearances. Released on November 20, Sunrise on the Reaping is the sixth film in The Hunger Games franchise.

CineBriefs

BEST OF THE REST

Web Series

Amy Poehler returns to television after 11 years

Amy Poehler is returning to television with Dig, reuniting with Parks and Recreation co-creator Mike Schur after 11 years. Set at an archaeological excavation in Greece, the workplace comedy follows a diverse group searching for rare historical artefacts while navigating personal journeys. Poehler plays Elise, a character very different from her beloved Leslie Knope. The series also stars Hugh Laurie, Geraldine Viswanathan, Antonia Thomas and Fina Strazza. Based on Kate Myers' novel Excavations, the show premieres on Peacock in the US on Monday, November 24, bringing Poehler back to television just in time for Thanksgiving.

Hot Pair

Madhuri's kindness earns Shriram's admiration



Dr Shriram Nene has revealed what he admires most about his wife, Madhuri Dixit, after 27 years of marriage. The surgeon-turned-author praised her discipline, strength and grounded nature, saying she values meaningful conversations and relationships despite her successful career. He described Madhuri as "the kindest, humblest person you'll ever meet" and said her behaviour towards others reflects her values beyond the screen. Dr Nene also credited his wife and their sons, Arin and Ryan, with influencing his latest book, 21 Days to Good Health. The couple married in 1999 and have built a family together.



Music

Salman backs Maatrubhumi's dance numbers

Salman Khan has defended the songs 'Teri Sexy Beauty' and 'Madirapan' from his upcoming film Maatrubhumi: May War Rest in Peace, questioning why soldiers are often portrayed as boring. He explained that the film explores both their courageous professional lives and lighter personal moments, including singing and dancing. Addressing criticism over the songs, Salman said soldiers also enjoy entertainment and have lives beyond the battlefield. The film explores the emotional impact of conflict on families on both sides of the border. Directed by Apoorva Lakhia, Maatrubhumi is scheduled to release on December 4, 2026.

Trending on Insta

@jasminbhasin2806

Jasmin Bhasin shuts down plastic surgery rumours

Jasmin Bhasin has dismissed plastic surgery rumours after her recent pictures sparked speculation. Explaining her changing appearance, the actress cited hectic work schedules, lack of sleep, sinus inflammation, weight gain and different makeup styles.





Art & Culture

AGE OLD CRAFTMANSHIP

One timeless saree & generations of artistry

A traditional weave, Garad reflects Bengal's enduring love for craftsmanship.







Bengal's timeless red-and-white Garad saree

HIGHLIGHT

- Its journey reveals generations of artistry, migration and evolving fashion.

As symbol of purity, tradition and craftsmanship, Bengal's Garad sari carries centuries of cultural history while adapting to changing fashion tastes. The traditional Garad sari, recognised by its undyed white body, red border and pallu, is more than a garment. Rooted in Bengal's cultural identity, this silk weave carries a legacy shaped by religious rituals, migration and generations of craftsmanship. Garad, also known as Gorod, means white. Historically, unstitched white cloth was associated with purity and worn during scriptural recitations and religious ceremonies. The combination of white and auspicious red made the sari a popular choice for pujas, weddings and Sindoor Khela celebrations. Its modern history is closely connected to Partition. Weaver communities migrated from present-day Bangladesh to Murshidabad, carrying their skills and weaving practices. Settlements such as Mirzapur became important centres for preserving and developing the craft. Traditionally woven in mulberry silk, Garad featured a simple white body with a flat red border. Changing consumer preferences, however, encouraged experimentation. Jacquard looms introduced during the 1960s brought intricate woven motifs, while Jamdani-inspired patterns added fresh character without compromising its identity. Contemporary designers have reimagined Garad through geometric patterns, updated borders and subtle colour variations. Its presence at fashion showcases, including London Fashion Week in 2020, introduced the weave to wider audiences.





Despite its appeal, the craft faces challenges. Garad received Geographical Indication recognition in 2024, but just over 600 looms remain active across its major weaving districts. Declining numbers highlight the need to support artisan communities.

Today, Garad represents more than Bengal's festive wardrobe. It is a living cultural inheritance whose future depends on preserving the skills and traditions behind every weave.

An epic unfolds through a 72-metre scroll



A rare 72-metre illustrated Mahabharata scroll, dating back to 1791, will be displayed publicly for the first time at The India Biennale 2026. Titled 'Sri Mahabharata', the manuscript features 68 miniature paintings, Sanskrit calligraphy and intricate storytelling. Presented by DAG, it will be exhibited at Purana Qila, New Delhi, from December 4 to March 21. Created using natural pigments, gold highlights and paper, the artwork reflects a blend of Mughal, Jaipur and Pahari influences. Its detailed illustrations trace the epic's journey, from divine invocations to Yudhishthira's final test of dharma. The scroll also preserves a fascinating history of regional artistic collaboration.

NASA'S HISTORIC VOYAGER 1 MISSION

A 1953 Thumri makes its mark in space



A traditional Indian thumri has travelled far beyond Earth, becoming part of NASA's historic Voyager 1 mission. Titled 'Jaat Kahan Ho', the 1953 recording was sung by renowned Jaipur-Atrauli gharana vocalist Kesarbai Kerkar. Based on Raag Bhairavi and composed in Braj Bhasha, the Holi-themed song reflects India's classical and folk music traditions. It was selected as India's only musical entry among 27 tracks included on the Golden Record launched aboard Voyager 1 in 1977. Today, the spacecraft continues its journey through interstellar space, carrying this unique musical treasure from India, approximately 26 billion kilometres away from Earth.

| TALES FROM MITHILA |

The ancient art form born of Siya Ram's wedding

Central Chronicle News



Women creating Madhubani paintings on walls.

HIGHLIGHT

- Born in Mithila's traditions, Madhubani painting celebrates Bihar's artistic heritage.

Madhubani painting, one of Bihar's folk-art traditions, originated in the Mithila region and is celebrated for intricate patterns, vibrant colours and cultural stories. Passed down through generations, the art reflects the community's connection with faith, nature and everyday life. Its history is traditionally linked to the wedding of Lord Rama and Goddess Sita. According to local belief, women in King Janaka's kingdom decorated home walls and floors to mark the auspicious occasion. These ceremonial drawings are believed to have laid the foundation for the art form, which became closely associated with Mithila's cultural identity. For centuries, Madhubani painting remained a household practice, created mainly by women on mud walls coated with cow dung. The designs appeared during festivals, weddings and religious ceremonies, preserving stories and customs through images. Over time, artists began transferring their work from walls to paper and cloth. This helped the craft reach audiences beyond Bihar. The technique is distinctive. Traditionally, artists used natural colours extracted from plants, flowers and soot. Rather than paintbrushes, they worked with fingers, bamboo sticks, cotton-wrapped twigs and matchsticks to create fine lines and detailed figures. Today, some practitioners also use artificial colours. Common subjects include Rama and Sita, Radha and Krishna, Shiva and Parvati, along with the sun, moon, fish, elephants, horses, trees and flowers. Nature and mythology remain central sources of inspiration.

Another defining feature is the absence of empty spaces. Artists fill backgrounds around central figures with leaves, flowers, vines and geometric patterns, creating lively compositions. From village walls to galleries and international collections, Madhubani painting has travelled far while retaining its regional character. Its continued practice keeps Mithila's stories, beliefs and artistic knowledge alive for new generations.

*Cultural*Hues

Ancient teeth rewrite history



Fossil discoveries in two limestone caves in southern China are changing scientists' understanding of Homo erectus. Researchers analysed nine teeth, identifying eight as belonging to the human species. Dating suggests these individuals lived between 324,000 and 184,000 years ago, surviving on mainland Asia longer than previously believed. The findings also indicate that Homo erectus could adapt to tropical rainforests, challenging theories that such habitats were beyond its capabilities.

Roman artefacts found an ancient tomb



Archaeologists have uncovered 413 artefacts from a 2,000-year-old tomb in northeastern Mongolia, revealing the Xiongnu Empire's extensive international connections. The discoveries include a glass cup believed to be Roman, silver jewellery, jade objects and a lacquered chariot. The findings suggest links with the Roman Empire, Han China and the Korean Peninsula. The tomb, known as Tomb 160, is the largest of its kind discovered in Mongolia.

Three centuries of evolving beauty



A study analysing 486 European portraits featuring 606 women, painted between 1650 and 1950, has revealed changing beauty standards. Researchers found that the perceived waist-to-hip ratio increased over three centuries, suggesting a gradual shift away from the traditionally admired hourglass figure. The findings indicate that changing social patterns, including later motherhood, smaller families and increased educational opportunities for women, may have influenced evolving preferences.



Rare abstract art breaks records

Swedish artist Hilma af Klint's rare abstract painting, Ser III No. 5, has fetched a record $12.7 million at a Stockholm auction. Created in 1920, the artwork sold for nearly 16 times its estimated value. However, the sale has sparked debate over the artist's wishes. Af Klint considered her paintings spiritual messages for humanity and hoped they would eventually be displayed together in a temple rather than scattered across private collections. Most of her works remain with her foundation.

A manuscript filled with miracles



A mysterious 16th-century manuscript titled The Book of Miracles is heading to auction, featuring 167 colourful illustrations of floods, earthquakes, comets, plagues and other unusual phenomena. Created in Germany, the manuscript reflects how medieval Europeans interpreted natural disasters and celestial events as divine warnings or signs of impending doom. Its paintings cover biblical stories and historical occurrences spanning centuries. Expected to fetch up to $1.3 million, the rare manuscript offers a fascinating glimpse into Renaissance beliefs and fears.

Hidden artwork could fetch millions



A rare 1930 painting by American artist Georgia O'Keeffe, hidden inside a Manhattan apartment closet for decades, is heading to auction with an estimated value of $3 million to $5 million. The New Mexico landscape, depicting Lobo Peak near Taos, was discovered after its elderly owner revealed its existence to her niece. Previously known mainly through a photograph, the artwork is believed to be the first in a series of three, highlighting an important phase of O'Keeffe's artistic journey.

Sports



"I did text Pat [Cummins] before (the press conference) a couple of days out, hoping he'd be able to find a middle ground."

Usman Khawaja
Former Australian batter

India A seek collective brilliance to overcome unbeaten Sri Lanka

Riding high on Vaibhav Sooryavanshi's record-breaking double century, India A will seek an improved all-round performance against unbeaten Sri Lanka in the crucial Asia Cup Rising Stars semifinal.

Press Trust Of India

India's bowling attack needs greater discipline against Sri Lanka's consistent batting line-up.



DOHA: Explosive opener Vaibhav Sooryavanshi will be the cynosure of all eyes following his record-shattering double century, but India A will need a collective performance to overcome unbeaten Sri Lanka in the Asia Cup Rising Stars semifinal here on Thursday.

Sooryavanshi's sensational 204 off just 53 deliveries against the UAE, studded with an astonishing 28 sixes and seven boundaries, powered India's remarkable resurgence following their crushing defeat against arch-rivals Pakistan.

While the youngster's extraordinary hitting prowess has strengthened India's batting credentials, concerns surrounding the team's bowling discipline and middle-order inconsistency remain ahead of the knockout encounter.

Having bundled out Nepal for a paltry 26 in their tournament opener, the Indian bowlers have struggled to maintain their dominance. Pakistan breached the 300-run mark en route to a commanding 48-run victory, while the UAE also managed a substantial 249 for eight.

Sooryavanshi's breathtaking assault on a batting-friendly surface provided considerable relief to the Indian middle order, which had come under scrutiny following the Pakistan defeat.

Ayush Badoni's indifferent form remains a worrying factor for the team management, with the talented batter registering scores of two and zero. Experienced campaigner Rinku Singh has also struggled to make an impact, managing only nine and six in his outings.

Consequently, skipper Tilak Varma will shoulder considerable responsibility in the batting department. Although the left-hander has registered centuries in both his appearances, his painstaking 149-ball hundred against Pakistan raised concerns over his scoring tempo.

Tilak will be keen to strike the right balance between anchoring the innings and maintaining the required momentum against a formidable Sri Lankan attack.

Pacers Prince Yadav and Harshit Rana have claimed seven wickets apiece in the competition, but both will need to demonstrate greater accuracy and consistency to restrict Sri Lanka's inform batters.

Despite boasting several established names, India A are yet to produce a truly comprehensive performance, something that could prove decisive at this stage of the competition.

Sri Lanka, alongside fellow semifinalists Pakistan, remain unbeaten in the tournament and possess sufficient firepower to challenge the Indian outfit.

Nishan Madushka, Lasith Croospulle and skipper Pavan Rathnayake have displayed impressive consistency with the bat, while Wanuja Sahan's bowling discipline could play a pivotal role.

India will need contributions across departments rather than relying exclusively on Sooryavanshi's explosive batting to secure a coveted berth in the summit clash.

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

EXPLOSIVE TALENT ACKNOWLEDGED

Oram hopes Sooryavanshi doesn't unleash 50-ball double ton against Kiwis



CHRISTCHURCH: New Zealand bowling coach Jacob Oram expressed admiration for teenage sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, hoping the explosive Indian batter does not unleash a double century against his team. Sooryavanshi's sensational 204 off 53 deliveries in a List A encounter reignited discussions about the relevance of ODI cricket, with Oram backing the format's future. "He's (Sooryavanshi) exciting, he's entertaining, and the more of those players involved in cricket, the better it is for the product. I just hope he doesn't get a 50-ball double hundred when we have to bowl against him," he said. Ahead of Friday's second Test against India, Oram expects greater pace, bounce and movement at Hagley Oval but cautioned that batting conditions could improve as the match progresses. **PTI**

MADRID'S MAGNIFICENT COMEBACK

Bellingham's wonder goal inspires Real Madrid's emphatic victory over PSV



MADRID: Jude Bellingham produced a moment of brilliance as Real Madrid stormed back to register a commanding 5-1 victory over PSV Eindhoven in the Champions League at the Santiago Bernabeu. Introduced at halftime, Bellingham revitalised Madrid's attack, scoring a spectacular 60th-minute goal and later setting up Vinícius Júnior. Ivan Perišić had put PSV ahead from the penalty spot in the 32nd minute before Federico Valverde equalised in the 50th. Kylian Mbappé struck twice in the 64th and 84th minutes, while Vinícius completed the rout three minutes later. "He changed the game, scored an incredible goal," Madrid coach José Mourinho said. The emphatic comeback marked Madrid's fifth consecutive Champions League victory and 10th successive triumph across all competitions. **PTI**

ILESTONE FOR MBAPPÉ

Mbappé scales Champions League milestone with another dazzling Madrid display



MADRID: French superstar Kylian Mbappé continued his sensational scoring spree, becoming the second-youngest player after Lionel Messi to reach 75 Champions League goals, according to UEFA. The 27-year-old achieved the landmark in 103 appearances, the third-fastest behind Messi and Robert Lewandowski. Mbappé has scored in all five of Real Madrid's Champions League victories this season, accumulating six goals. His overall tally stands at an impressive 19 goals in 18 appearances across competitions. The French striker also established a national record by scoring in seven consecutive Champions League appearances, including his final two outings last season. Displaying sportsmanship, Mbappé handed his player-of-the-match trophy to teammate Vinícius Júnior after the victory, while Turkish midfielder Arda Güler contributed two assists to Madrid's commanding performance. **PTI**

PEACE THROUGH SPORTS

Bindra joins Thomas Bach's global initiative to promote peace



NEW DELHI: India's Olympic gold-winning shooter Abhinav Bindra announced on Wednesday that he will serve on the council of a new peace initiative founded by International Olympic Committee (IOC) Honorary President Thomas Bach. The initiative will be formally launched on December 1, with Bindra joining Bach and former United Nations secretary general Ban Ki-moon during an online announcement. Bindra emphasised the transformative power of sport, culture and education in overcoming prejudices and bridging divisions, particularly among youngsters growing up in conflict-affected societies. The shooting legend expressed pride in contributing to the global initiative alongside fellow Olympians and distinguished personalities. Bindra became India's first individual Olympic gold medallist after winning the 10m air rifle event at the 2008 Beijing Games. **PTI**

Padukone School of Badminton ties up with iUSTUS for multi-sport academy

BENGALURU: City-based real estate developer iUSTUS on Wednesday announced the launch of a multi-sport academy in association with the Padukone School of Badminton. The iUSTUS Sports Academy aims to provide aspiring athletes with facilities, professional coaching and support, while promoting fitness, the company said in a release. Former All England champion Prakash Padukone said the right environment was key to helping young sportspersons realise their potential. "When I began my journey in badminton, my ambition was to excel at the highest level and become one of the best in the world. Having experienced that journey, I realised how important the right facilities, professional coaching, discipline and support are in helping a young sportsperson realise their potential," the badminton great said.

| CHAMPION HOLDS FIRM |

World Championship: Gukesh says preparation tougher than playing

Press Trust Of India

Defending champion Gukesh overcomes intense time pressure to secure opening-round draw.



GENEVA: Defending champion D Gukesh described preparation as the toughest aspect of competitive chess after overcoming intense time pressure to begin his World Championship title defence with a hard-fought draw against Javokhir Sindarov.

Playing with black pieces, the Indian grandmaster demonstrated remarkable composure under pressure, negotiating several challenging moments before securing a draw after 38 moves.

"It looked equal the whole time, some problems to solve but I think both of us played a very good game," Gukesh said during the post-game interaction.

The defending champion acknowledged that the clock situation had briefly caused concern but emphasised the significance of preparation.

"This is the easiest thing, to go and play the game. Before that there is so much work to do, but when u get there, you know you are home."

Sindarov, meanwhile, acknowledged Gukesh's defensive resilience despite repeatedly attempting to exploit his opponent's time constraints.

Both grandmasters stressed the importance of adapting to playing conditions rather than being overwhelmed by expectations surrounding the youngest-ever World Championship match-up.

HIGHLIGHT

- **Gukesh survives Sindarov's relentless pressure to share points after 38 testing moves.**
- **Indian champion will enjoy white pieces advantage in the crucial second game.**

| MENTOR'S MAGICAL ADVICE |

Chat with Yuvraj sir helped iron out flaws: Vaibhav Sooryavanshi

Press Trust Of India

DOHA: Indian batting sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi revealed that a 30-minute telephone conversation with his idol Yuvraj Singh helped him overcome technical shortcomings and regain confidence before his record-breaking exploits against the UAE in the Asia Cup Rising Stars tournament.

The 15-year-old smashed 204 off just 53 deliveries, hammering 28 sixes and seven fours, to rewrite the records for the fastest List A century and double century, powering India to a seven-wicket victory.

"I spoke with Yuvraj Singh sir for about half an hour. He explained to me a lot about batting. I was concerned about a few things and I spoke to him openly...that these are the issues I am facing when I am batting in the middle," Sooryavanshi said. The explosive left-hander acknowledged that recent batting failures had affected his concentration, but Yuvraj's guidance helped him rediscover his rhythm.



"I spoke with Yuvraj Singh sir for about half an hour. He explained to me a lot about batting."

Vaibhav Sooryavanshi
India A batter

Sooryavanshi also emphasised his ability to adapt across formats rather than being regarded merely as an aggressive short-format specialist.

Sports News

Treesa, Gayatri begin title defence with emphatic win

Defending champions Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand launched their hat-trick bid in style as several Indian shuttlers registered impressive victories at the Syed Modi International tournament on Wednesday.

Press Trust Of India

Tushar Suveer stuns fifth seed Justin Hoh in impressive straight-games opening victory.



LUCKNOW: Defending champions Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand launched their quest for a third successive title with a commanding victory as Indian shuttlers enjoyed a productive opening round at the Syed Modi India International Super 300 badminton tournament here on Wednesday.

The world championships bronze medallists displayed their class, outplaying qualifiers Rashmi Ganesh and Amrutha Pramuthesh 21-8, 21-7 in a one-sided women's doubles encounter.

Indian shuttlers also made significant progress in women's singles, with Tanvi Sharma, Tanya Hemanth, Isharani Baruah and Tasnim Mir advancing to the second round.

Tanya produced a spirited performance to upset seventh seed and Thailand Masters champion Devika Sihag 21-14, 18-21, 21-16, while Tasnim defeated Malvika Bansod 21-17, 21-12 in another all-Indian encounter.

Second seed Tanvi progressed after Malaysia's Goh Jin Wei retired at 2-1 in the opening game. Eighth seed Isharani overcame Indonesia's Thalita Ramadhani Wiryawan 21-12, 25-23.

However, Aakarshi Kashyap suffered an 11-21, 10-21 defeat against Malaysia's Wong Ling Ching, while Mansi Singh lost 14-21, 14-21 to Thailand's fourth seed Supanida Katethong. Anupama Upadhyaya retired against Yataweemin Ketklieng while trailing 0-3.

In men's singles, Tushar Suveer delivered a notable upset, defeating Malaysian fifth seed Justin Hoh 21-11, 21-17. Qualifier Shashwat Dalal overcame American Mark Shelley Alcala 21-14, 16-21, 21-7.

Kiran George, however, suffered a 4-21, 18-21 defeat against Indonesian fourth seed Richie Duta Richardo, while S Sankar Muthusamy Subramanian lost 17-21, 12-21 to Malaysian second seed Lee Zii Jia.

In women's doubles, eighth seeds Ashwini Bhat K and Shikha Gautam defeated Diya Bheemaiah and Baruni Parshwal 21-16, 23-21. Neysa Cariappa and Pravandhika Raghavan overcame siblings Rutaparna and Swetaparna Panda 21-17, 23-21.

Sathwik Reddy Kanapuram and Reshika Uthayasooriyan produced an impressive mixed doubles upset, defeating Malaysian sixth seeds Wong Tien Ci and Lim Chiew Sien 24-22, 14-21, 21-15.

Seventh seeds Dhruv Rawat and K Maneesha beat Mohit and Lakshita Jaglan 21-16, 21-13, while fourth seeds Rohan Kapoor and Ruthvika Gadde retired against Gregoire Deschamp and Iben Bergstein while trailing 2-8.

In men's doubles, Bhargav Ram Arigela and Viswa Tej Gobburu recovered from a game down to defeat Arya and Dhruv Thakore 16-21, 21-12, 21-15.

The encouraging opening-round performances strengthened India's hopes of securing multiple titles on home soil, with several promising youngsters joining established campaigners in the next round.

Siraj should not be dragged into selection controversy: Rajiv Shukla

Press Trust Of India

BCCI vice-president Rajeev Shukla backs team management amid Mohammed Siraj's selection controversy.



NEW DELHI: BCCI vice-president Rajeev Shukla on Wednesday dismissed the controversy surrounding Mohammed Siraj's omission from India's playing XI in the drawn Wellington Test against New Zealand, insisting the experienced pacer should not be unnecessarily dragged into selection debates.

Siraj was overlooked despite India fielding four pacers – Jasprit Bumrah, Prasidh Krishna, Akash Deep and rookie Anshul Kamboj.

The decision attracted widespread criticism after India failed to secure victory despite declaring their innings at a record 720 for nine. New Zealand survived at 239 for five, denting India's World Test Championship final qualification prospects.

Former India captain Sunil Gavaskar and former head coach Ravi Shastri questioned the omission of the 48-Test veteran, particularly considering Wellington's seam-friendly conditions.

"I don't think he (Siraj) should be dragged into any kind of controversy. That's not done. The playing XI has to be picked by the coach and captain. Bringing a player unnecessarily into these kinds of controversies is not good," Shukla told PTI.

Shukla also dismissed suggestions that non-cricketing factors influenced Siraj's omission, emphasising that team selection depends on pitch conditions and tactical requirements.

India's conservative approach under Shubman Gill has also attracted criticism, particularly after similar difficulties in forcing victory against Sri Lanka in Colombo in August.

Meanwhile, Shukla lauded teenage batting sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi for his sensational 200 off just 53 balls against the UAE.

"I would like to congratulate him for his performance against the UAE. He really played very well and created a world record because scoring 200-plus in 53 balls is not an easy thing."

|BADMINTON'S GRAND RETURN|

New Delhi to host 2028 Thomas & Uber Cup Finals

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi will welcome badminton's prestigious world team championships after 14 years.



NEW DELHI: India will host the prestigious 2028 Thomas & Uber Cup Finals in New Delhi, the Badminton World Federation (BWF) announced on Wednesday.

The tournament, which is effectively the world team championships for men and women, was last staged in India in 2014. India had famously won the Thomas Cup in 2022.

India had hosted the BWF World Championships in the national capital earlier this year.

The BWF on Wednesday confirmed several hosts for its major championships through to 2030, taking the sport's flagship tournaments across North America, Asia and Europe.

The 2027 World Championships will be played in Mississauga (Canada), the 2029 Sudirman Cup in South Korea and the 2030 Thomas & Uber Cup Finals in Paris.

BWF President Khunying Patama Leeswadtrakul said: "The hosts selected for our Major Championships represent some of the most important and strategic markets in our sport and share our ambition to deliver exceptional events that inspire athletes, engage fans and strengthen badminton's global profile.

India bag six gold medals at BIMSTEC athletics

BHUBANESWAR: India clinched six gold medals on the opening day of the BIMSTEC Under-23 athletics championships at Kalinga Stadium on Wednesday. Mrithika T won the women's 100m sprint in 12.02 seconds, while Hitesh claimed the men's 1500m title. Anurag Singh Kaler (shot put), Daksh Bishnoi (triple jump), Priya (discus throw) and Sonam Parmar (5000m) secured the remaining gold medals. Rushiprasad Desai bagged silver in the men's 100m, while Nikita Kumari and Sunita Devi finished second in their respective events.

|IPL AUCTION|

Aaryavir enters IPL auction, overseas availability raises concerns

Press Trust Of India

Aaryavir Sehwag joins 994 uncapped players registered for the upcoming IPL auction.



NEW DELHI: Legendary Indian opener Virender Sehwag's son Aaryavir is among 994 uncapped players registered for the IPL auction, scheduled for December 16 in Goa, while several overseas stars face availability concerns.

Australian pacer Scott Boland has registered at a base price of Rs 1 crore despite being unlikely to feature in the tournament. Compatriot Jhye Richardson, priced at Rs 2 crore, is available for only half the competition.

Veteran Australian opener David Warner has registered at Rs 2 crore with full availability. New Zealand's Bevon-John Jacobs is available for only 10 per cent of the tournament, while England's Sam Billings has confirmed 80 per cent availability.

Australian stars Mitchell Starc and Travis Head have opted out of IPL 2027.

Under-19 Asia Cup heroes Aaryavir and Mohit Ulva have registered at Rs 30 lakh each. Aaryavir earned the player-of-the-tournament award after amassing over 361 runs in five innings.

Experienced Indian campaigners Ishant Sharma and Nitish Rana feature in the uncapped category under the IPL's five-year international inactivity rule, with base prices of Rs 50 lakh each.

FASTFACTS

- Australian pacers Boland and Richardson register despite concerns over their tournament availability.
- Aaryavir and Mohit Ulva enter auction with Rs 30 lakh base prices.

|DOMINANT INDIAN DISPLAY|

India thrash Japan 4-0 to maintain unbeaten run

Agencies

Defending champions India outclass Japan to finish their league campaign in style.



BHOPAL: Defending champions India continued their remarkable winning streak with a commanding 4-0 victory over Japan in their final round-robin encounter of the Women's Asian Champions Trophy at the International Sports Complex in Nathu Barkheda here on Wednesday.

Lalremsiami (12th minute), Deepika (16th and 48th) and Neha (28th) found the net as India registered their fifth consecutive victory to finish the league stage unbeaten with a maximum of 15 points.

India broke the deadlock through Lalremsiami's field goal in the opening quarter before Deepika doubled the advantage with a penalty corner conversion in the 16th minute.

Neha further consolidated India's position by converting another penalty corner in the 28th minute, handing the hosts a comfortable 3-0 lead at half-time.

After a goalless third quarter, Deepika struck again in the 48th minute to complete the rout. The Indian defence remained resolute throughout the encounter, denying Japan any opportunity to reduce the deficit.

The emphatic victory further underlined India's supremacy in the tournament, having previously defeated Malaysia 4-1, South Korea 2-1, Thailand 7-0 and China 6-2.

The Salima Tete-led side will now head into the semi-finals brimming with confidence as they pursue their third consecutive Asian Champions Trophy crown and fourth overall title.

Teen sensation Danish Verma stays three clear at Atri Invitational

MUMBAI: Danish Verma of Green Fuels Vizag Dolphins GC continued to make a strong impression in his maiden season as a professional, maintaining a three-shot lead after the second round of the Atri Invitational golf event here on Wednesday. The 15-year-old Verma followed his opening eight-under 60 at the Par-68 Bombay Presidency Golf Club on Tuesday, with a four-under 64 to reach 12-under and stay firmly in control. While Verma kept the pole position, there were two superb rounds during the day and the biggest charge came from Pukhraj Singh Gill OF Unico Gurugram Tuskers GC, who fired a bogey-free 10-under 58 at the Par-68 course to climb from one-over to nine-under and sole second place.

|CRICKET BEYOND BOUNDARIES|

Sidhu leaves India-Pakistan cricketing ties decision to the government

Press Trust Of India

Navjot Singh Sidhu believes resumption of bilateral cricket depends on government approval.



DUBAI: Former India opener Navjot Singh Sidhu said the resumption of bilateral cricketing ties between India and Pakistan remains a political decision, emphasising that the government alone has the authority to determine the future course.

The two countries have not played a bilateral series since 2012-13, although they continue to face each other in ICC and Asian Cricket Council tournaments at neutral venues.

"Political matters are political matters. I say that whatever decision has to be taken politically, will be taken by the government," Sidhu told reporters during the DP World ILT20 League.

Sidhu believes cricket could serve as a diplomatic bridge whenever the government considers the circumstances appropriate.

The former opener also highlighted India's emergence as a global cricketing powerhouse, crediting the IPL for transforming the country's cricketing landscape.

World



I saw devil and heard his voice, triumphant, possessing everything.

Pope Francis
The Private Diary

China launches crewed spaceship carrying first Pak astronaut

China is currently the only country operating its own space station, which became operational in 2022.



Astronauts for the Shenzhou 24 mission, from left, Muhammad Zeeshan Ali of Pakistan, Wu Yi of China, and Tang Hongbo, of China, wave as they attend a see-off ceremony for their manned space mission at the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in northwestern China, Wednesday.

Press Trust Of India

Ali, a Pakistani Air Force pilot, will return to Earth aboard the Shenzhou-23 spacecraft after spending about a week, a short stay in orbit, along with two other Chinese astronauts.

BEIJING/JIUQUAN: China on Wednesday successfully launched its Shenzhou-24 crewed spaceship carrying three astronauts, including Pakistan's Muhammad Zeeshan Ali, the first foreign national to participate in the country's crewed space programme.

The spaceship, atop a Long March-2F carrier rocket, blasted off from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in northwest China, with officials declaring the launch successful minutes later. The participation of the Pakistani astronaut in China's space mission is part of the establishment of the 75th anniversary of China-Pakistan diplomatic ties being celebrated by the all-weather allies with close defence and economic ties. Chinese President Xi Jinping and his Pakistani counterpart Asif Ali Zardari exchanged congratulations on Wednesday on the joint spaceflight mission carried out by astronauts from the two countries.

In his message, Xi said the joint space exploration of astronauts from China and Pakistan is a vivid embodiment of the deep-rooted friendship between the two countries, as well as another important achievement in bilateral cooperation, state-run Xinhua news agency reported.

Xi said China stands ready to work with Pakistan and other countries to champion peaceful use of outer space and deepen space cooperation, it said. About 10 minutes after the launch, which was telecast live, the spaceship separated from the rocket and entered its designated orbit, the CMSA said, adding that the astronauts are in good condition. The crew comprises mission commander and spacecraft pilot Tang Hongbo, flight engineer Wu Yi and Ali, who will become the first foreign astronaut to visit China's orbiting Tiangong space station. After a few hours, the Shenzhou-24 crewed spaceship successfully docked with the Tiangong space station.

Later, the crew, including Ali, who is designated as payload specialist, entered the space station and joined the three other astronauts who have been manning the station for the past six months. Chinese astronauts typically stay at the station for about six months and are replaced by three others.

India voices concern over instrumentalisation of technology for strategic one-upmanship

United Nations: India has voiced concern over the instrumentalisation of technology for strategic one-upmanship through export control and licensing regimes, calling out the tendency to treat countries of the Global South as mere consumers as it underscored that technological transformation must not deepen existing inequalities. Addressing the Security Council high-level open debate on Maintenance of International Peace and Security on 'Conflict Resolution in an Era of Rapid Technological Change', Parvathaneni said AI systems can inadvertently perpetuate biases related to gender, language and socio-economic background. "We note with concern the emerging medium and long-term trends of technology denial and the instrumentalisation of technology for strategic one-upmanship through export control and licensing regimes, and a tendency to treat countries of the Global South as mere consumers without any agency or stake in how emerging technologies such as AI are developed, are regulated and are deployed," India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Harish Parvathaneni said.

India-Nepal joint military exercise begins in Rupandehi

KATHMANDU: A joint military training exercise between Nepal and India, focusing on disaster management, forest warfare and humanitarian assistance, commenced on Wednesday. The 20th edition of the training exercise, 'Abhyas Surya Kiran', began at Nepal Army Battle School in Saljhandi, Rupandehi district, according to a press release issued by the Nepal Army. The exercise, involving battalion-level soldiers from the two countries, will run till December 8. This year's exercise will involve personnel from the Indian Army's 12 Kumaon Regiment and the Nepali Army's Jwala Dal Battalion.

| POLITICAL TENSION |

B'desh tightens border security ahead of Hasina's planned return

Press Trust Of India

Police blamed activists of Awami League and its affiliated organisations for several of the incidents.



DHAKA: Bangladesh beefed up security across several districts, deploying 108 platoons of border paramilitary force, including 56 in deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina's home district Gopalganj, as political tensions mount over her planned return next month.

There have been incidents of violence, including arson attacks targeting trains, buses and banks, across Bangladesh in the last many days surrounding the 79-year-old politician's possible return.

Hasina has been staying in India since fleeing Dhaka in August 2024 following a student-led uprising that toppled her government. The heightened security comes amid fears that Hasina's supporters could intensify violence and sabotage in the coming days. Awami League, whose activities have been banned, is promoting a lockdown programme for November 29 and 30 through online platforms, adding to concerns over a possible escalation of tensions. In a press statement on Wednesday, the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) announced the deployment of 108 platoons in seven districts "to maintain law and order, ensure public safety and deal with any untoward situation", news portal bdnews24.com reported.

Of them, 56 platoons have been deployed in Gopalganj amid persistent unrest, the BGB said.

FASTFACTS

- Around 2,000 police personnel and 10 BGB platoons, along with personnel of the Special Response Battalion (SRB), were deployed in the district last week.

| UN TALKS END WITHOUT AGREEMENT |

Pope Leo laments lack of climate commitments

Press Trust Of India

VATICAN CITY: Pope Leo XIV on Wednesday expressed concern over the failure of United Nations climate talks to reach an agreement, saying that "extreme environmental events linked to the climate crisis are becoming increasingly frequent".

The pope has embraced defence of the environment in his papacy, taking up one of the core teachings of his predecessor, Pope Francis, whose landmark encyclical Laudato Si (Praised Be) cast care for the planet as an urgent, existential moral concern.

Leo issued an appeal during his weekly audience in St Peter's Square to "never forget the human face of the climate crisis, which affects the lives of millions of people, strikes entire communities and undermines the prospects of future generations". He called for "fundamental changes in behaviour, socioeconomic systems and the governance of our societies", directing his appeal to "the international community and to each individual".



During his recent trip to Peru, Leo demanded justice for environmental defenders killed for protecting the Amazon. Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Leo's No. 2, in a statement to COP31 recalled Leo's earlier appeal to "bear in mind the human face of the climate crisis", as a reminder that the talks were not "merely technical... but concern people's lives".

The talks in Antalya, Turkiye, ended Sunday without reaching an overarching agreement because of disputes over whether to mention the fossil fuels that cause global warming.

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

NSA MEETS MALDIVIAN DEFENCE MINISTER

Doval discusses ways to strengthen security ties



MALE: National Security Adviser Ajit Doval on Tuesday met Maldivian Defence Minister Hassan Rasheed and discussed ways to strengthen bilateral defence and security ties. The two met on the sidelines of the 8th Colombo Security Conclave in Male. They "discussed ways to strengthen defence and security cooperation between the two countries," the High Commission of India in the Maldives said in a post on X.

Separately, the Maldivian Ministry of Defence and National Service said the meeting provided an opportunity to "exchange views on matters of mutual interest and reaffirm the commitment to further strengthening the longstanding partnership and defence cooperation" between the two countries.

In August, Maldivian President Mohamed Muizzu acknowledged that India has always been "one of the closest" allies and "invaluable" partners, facilitating and providing aid "whenever Maldives has needed it".

India has maintained that the Maldives is its key maritime neighbour and an important partner in the 'Neighbourhood First' policy and Vision 'MAHASAGAR' i.e. Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions.

SRI LANKA'S LEADER

Top court to hear former president Gotabaya Rajapaksa's appeal

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka's top court on Wednesday scheduled March 5, 2027, to consider former president Gotabaya Rajapaksa's appeal seeking protection from arrest under anti-terrorism laws in connection with the 2019 Easter Sunday bombings that killed nearly 270 people.

Rajapaksa, 77, served as president from 2019 until he was forced to step down amid mass anti-government protests in mid-2022. A three-judge Supreme Court bench headed by Justice Mahinda Samayawardhena fixed March 5, 2027, to consider Rajapaksa's appeal challenging a Court of Appeal decision dismissing his petition seeking to prevent his arrest under the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA).

Rajapaksa had moved the apex court in October seeking an order to prevent the police's Criminal Investigation Department (CID) from arresting him after his passport had been impounded. Separately, the Colombo Fort Magistrate's Court on Wednesday rejected Rajapaksa's request to temporarily lift the overseas travel ban imposed on him in connection with the investigation into the Easter attacks.

INDIAN ENVOY

Doraiswami meets China's Securities Regulatory Commission

BEIJING: India's Ambassador to China Vikram Doraiswami has met the head of China's Securities Regulatory Commission and exchanged views on capital market regulations and emerging technologies.

Doraiswami met Wu Qing, Chairman of the China Securities Regulatory Commission (CSRC), on November 23, a post on X by the Indian Embassy on Wednesday said.

Both sides exchanged views on capital market regulations and emerging technologies, and on prudent and productive mobilisation of domestic savings into capital formation, it said.

Also, India's Consul General in Shanghai Pratik Mathur visited Yiwu China's global commodity hub where a large number of Indian businessmen are stationed.

"Consul General visited Yiwu and interacted with our vibrant diaspora for inauguration of a consular services camp, emphasising the importance of consular services relations with regard to servicing the needs of our citizens and Diaspora members across the region," a post on X by the consulate said.

Ahead of national election

Migration to Canary Islands breaks single-day record



BARCELONA: Departures from West Africa are seasonal, and November often sees spikes in numbers as many leave before the ocean becomes rough during winter. The seas have been calm recently, which has contributed to the high number of departures. Most of the boats that arrived on Tuesday were from Senegal and Gambia, Clavijo said. Despite the European Union's efforts in West Africa to reduce the number of migrants, many believe that leaving is their only option to find work and build a better life.

"The sailing conditions were favourable and there was a full moon, so these people looking for a better future ended up on our shores," Clavijo said. Clavijo said that El Hierro, the western-most member of the archipelago, with a population of 12,000, could not handle such a large influx of people, many of whom arrived exhausted and in poor condition. He said that overall he was satisfied with the transfer of adult migrants to mainland Spain, but added that he asked for help from other regions to take in unaccompanied minors who need to be taken care of by authorities.

Spain's conservative Popular Party is aiming to unseat the ruling Socialist-led central government in Sunday's elections. To do so, it would likely have to form a government with the far-right Vox party, which is campaigning heavily on expelling migrants and social policies that favour Spaniards over foreigners who have r ecently arrived.

Without mentioning Vox, Clavijo, who belongs to the regional Canary Coalition party, denounced any attempts to demonise the migrants, calling it "a xenophobic discourse of bad people."