Central Chronicle

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Modi, Shah to face legal action: Rahul

CEC will be removed from his post and put in jail for 'treason' in future.

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday asserted that Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar will be removed from his post and put in jail for "treason" in future over "vote chori", while Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah will face legal action and should not think of escaping the law. Addressing the INDIA bloc rally here against alleged electoral irregularities and SIR, Gandhi hailed the turnout and said it has sent a message to Prime Minister Modi, Home Minister Shah and CEC Kumar.



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi with other INDIA bloc leaders during their 'Chalo Dilli' protest rally at Ramlila Maidan, in New Delhi, Sunday.

"Amit Shah said Narendra Modi is not going anywhere. I would tell you Narendra Modi cannot go anywhere; even if he wants to go, we will not let him. "Narendra Modi ji and Amit Shah ji, understand this -- after Gyanesh Kumar, we will stand against you and don't forget that for the vote chori you have done, there will be legal action against you and Narendra Modi," he said.

'Rahul's rally hurt Sikh riot victims'



Chandigarh: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday trained guns on Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, saying his rally in Delhi on the anniversary of the 1984 anti-Sikh riots can only "rub salt in the wounds of the victims".

'Maoism-free CG attracts tourism, investment'

Press Trust Of India

Chhattisgarh contributing to India's journey towards becoming a developed nation.



RAIPUR: Chhattisgarh, once identified with Maoist violence, has been undergoing a transformation and emerging as a tourism hub and an attractive investment destination, Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said on Sunday.

He said Chhattisgarh has been contributing to India's journey towards becoming a developed nation.

"There was a time when the mention of Chhattisgarh immediately brought Maoism to people's minds. Tourists did not visit this region. But today, as the state celebrates 'Rajyotsav', Chhattisgarh has been emerging as a tourism hub," Mandaviya said while addressing the inaugural ceremony of Rajyotsav-2026, Chhattisgarh's foundation day celebrations, in Nava Raipur. Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai was also present on the occasion.

Mandaviya said Bastar is now hosting tribal sports events and the Bastar Olympics, while tourists are also visiting the region. "Chhattisgarh is changing. Today, not just national companies but multinational companies are also looking at the state as an attractive destination for investment and business," the Union Minister said.

> **State demonstrates political leadership.**
>
> **Mansukh Mandaviya,** Union Minister

He said sportspersons from Chhattisgarh have been making their mark at the national and international levels, while the state is also providing successful political leadership.

Referring to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of making India a developed nation by 2047, Mandaviya said.

Mahadev Betting App kingpin Chandrakar extradited from Oman

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has extradited the alleged kingpin in the Rs 6,000-crore Mahadev online betting app case, Sourabh Chandrakar, from Oman, officials said on Sunday.

A CBI team deputed to Oman has escorted Chandrakar back to India. He will now be produced before a special court in Raipur, Chhattisgarh, on Monday, they said.



Chandrakar was wanted in two CBI cases and one Enforcement Directorate (ED) case in which chargesheets have already been filed, a CBI spokesperson said in a statement. "Based on the Red Corner Notice issued against Sourabh Chandrakar, he was located and detained by the Royal Oman Police," the official said.

Centre extends tenure of Nilekani-led reform panel

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Centre has extended the tenure of the Nandan Nilekani-led task force working on exam reforms till January 2027, sources said. Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the constitution of the high-powered six-member committee a day after Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation as the Union education minister following massive student protests at Delhi's Jantar Mantar on July 25. The task force set up in July received over 50,000 suggestions from students, parents, teachers, academic institutions, subject matter experts, industry organisations and exam-conducting bodies.

EPFO services now on WhatsApp

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Union Labour & Employment Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Sunday rolled out EPFO services through WhatsApp. Under the EPFO Services through WhatsApp, the EPF subscribers will be able to access their PF balance, latest five transactions and passbook information through EPFO's verified WhatsApp service, besides receiving personalised guidance and assistance in completing PMVBRY-related requirements, a labour ministry statement said. This will make routine services accessible through a familiar mobile platform and reduce the need to visit EPFO offices. On the occasion of EPFO's 74th Foundation Day Celebration, the minister also launched automatic Settlement of Eligible Inoperative EPF Accounts. Subscribers having Aadhaar-verified inoperative EPF accounts with balances up to Rs 1,000 will not be required to file individual claims.

The EPFO will initiate settlement automatically after prescribed identity and bank-account verification, facilitating transfer of eligible dues to rightful beneficiaries. Approximately one lakh accounts involving Rs 5 crore are expected to benefit.



Raipur



Congress party's efforts to attain power through chaos will never succeed.

Arun Sao

Dy. CM Ch'garh

State honors recognize the state's talent: Agrawal

Tourism and Culture Minister announced 36 distinguished individuals to receive prestigious State Honors (Rajya Alankaran).

Central Chronicle News



RAIPUR: On the occasion of Chhattisgarh State Foundation Day, the 'Rajyotsav 2026' celebrations will feature the presentation of the prestigious State Honors (Rajya Alankaran) to distinguished individuals who have made remarkable contributions in fields such as art, culture, literature, journalism, sports, social service, education, agriculture, and folk arts. Tourism and Culture Minister Shri Rajesh Agrawal announced these awards during a press conference held today at the auditorium within the Mahant Ghasidas Memorial Museum complex in the capital, Raipur. State Honors were announced across 36 categories, recognizing talented individuals and organizations for their excellent work in various sectors.

Tourism and Culture Minister Rajesh Agrawal stated that the State Honors serve as a significant opportunity to express respect and gratitude toward the talent of Chhattisgarh, their exceptional achievements, and their incomparable contributions to the development of society and the state. This initiative is a vital step toward preserving the state's rich art, culture, literature, folk traditions, and social values, while also encouraging those who excel in their respective fields.

According to the announced list of state honors, the 'Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh Smriti Samman'–awarded for contributions to tribal social consciousness and upliftment–will be presented to Duman Lal Dhruva from Dhamtari district. The 'Yati Yatanlal Samman,' recognizing work in the fields of non-violence and cow protection, will be awarded to 'Vishva Geeta Dhenu Govind Pakshi Seva Dham' (Kumhari, Durg district).'Minimata Samman' - 'Lok Aastha Seva Sansthan' (represented by Lata Netam) from Gariaband. 'Guru Ghasidas Samajik Chetna evam Anusuchit Jati Utthan Samman'– Sukhchand Bhaskar from Kabirdham district. 'Thakur Pyarelal Singh Puraskar' -Dhansingh Baghel of the 'Prathmik Kuduk Machhua Sahakari Samiti Maryadit' (Chitrakot, Bastar district). The 'Maharaja Agrasen Samman,' -Babulal Agrawal from Raigarh district. The 'Pt. Ravishankar Shukla Samman'–to the 'Tejaswini Seva Pratishthan' (Nehru Nagar, Bilaspur district).

HIGHLIGHT

- **Talented individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the state's art, culture, literature, journalism, sports, social service, and various other fields will be honored.**

Star rating award ceremony for coal and lignite mines today

Central Chronicle News



RAIPUR: To promote scientific management, operational efficiency, safety, and sustainable development within the country's coal and lignite mining sector, the Union Ministry of Coal will host a 'Star Rating Award Ceremony' in Raipur on November 2, 2026. During the event, coal and lignite mines that demonstrated exceptional performance during the assessment year 2024-25 will be recognized for their noteworthy contributions. Union Minister of Coal and Mines, G. Kishan Reddy, will attend the ceremony as the Chief Guest and present the awards. Union Minister of State for Coal and Mines, Satish Chandra Dubey, will be the Guest of Honour, while the Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh, Vishnu Deo Sai, will participate as a Special Guest. The event will also be attended by the Secretary of the Ministry of Coal, Vikram Dev Dutt; Additional Secretary, Sanojh Kumar Jha; other senior officials from the Ministry; Chairpersons and Managing Directors of Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs); industry representatives; and officials from various state governments.

Under the Star Rating policy for coal mines, a comprehensive and structured framework has been established to evaluate mine performance.

New legal framework established for workers' wages

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: A new legal framework concerning wages has come into effect in Chhattisgarh. The Labour Department of the Government of Chhattisgarh published the final notification of the 'Code on Wages (Chhattisgarh) Rules, 2026'–framed under the Code on Wages, 2019–in the Extraordinary Gazette on October 28, 2026. These rules have become effective immediately upon their publication in the Gazette.

Through these new rules, the systems governing minimum wages and the payment of wages in the state have been organized under a fresh legal framework. Consequently, the 'Minimum Wages (Chhattisgarh) Rules, 1958' and the 'Chhattisgarh Payment of Wages Rules, 1962' have been superseded.

It is noteworthy that the Labour Department had previously published the draft of these rules in the Gazette on April 13, 2026, inviting objections and suggestions from the general public, labour unions, employers, and other relevant stakeholders within a 45-day period. The final rules have been notified following a thorough review of the suggestions and objections received.

UMoS Sahu on visit to Barcelona, Madrid from today

Central Chronicle News



RAIPUR/NEW DELHI. Union Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs and Member of Parliament from Bilaspur, Tokhan Sahu, will be on an official visit to Spain from November 2 to 6, 2026. During this visit, he will represent India at international events held in Barcelona and Madrid. The primary objective of this visit is to share India's experiences in housing and urban development on a global platform, study best practices in modern urban development, and explore new avenues for cooperation between India and Spain.

On November 3, Tokhan Sahu will participate in the 'Smart City Expo World Congress 2026' in Barcelona and inaugurate the 'India Pavilion.' He will lead a delegation comprising 20 senior officials from various Indian states. Senior IAS officer from Chhattisgarh, Sonmoni Borah, is also part of this delegation.

At the conference, Tokhan Sahu will speak on the theme, 'Housing for All: Building Inclusive and Sustainable Futures.' He will highlight India's efforts–under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi–to provide affordable and inclusive housing through the 'Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana.' He will also share insights on large-scale housing construction, innovation-driven financial systems, and the role of public participation.

| WORKSHOP BY HNLU-FES |

HNLU-FES organise workshop on 'Tribal People and Environmental Governance'

Central Chronicle News

HNLU, Raipur, and the FES jointly organised a two-day workshop on "Tribal People and Environmental Governance".



RAIPUR: Hidayatullah National Law University (HNLU), Raipur, and the Foundation for Ecological Security (FES) jointly organised a two-day workshop on "Tribal People and Environmental Governance", bringing community experiences and perspectives into dialogue with legal frameworks, public policy and conservation practices. Emphasising the central role of tribal communities in environmental protection, Vice-Chancellor Professor (Dr.) V. C. Vivekanandan said in his inaugural address that environmental governance must place forest-dependent communities at the centre of decision-making rather than treat them as peripheral stakeholders.

The inaugural session also featured an address by Satyajit Jena, while Professor Vishnu Konoorayar, Dean (Research), outlined the objectives and thematic scope of the workshop. Dr. Ayan Hazra, Co-convenor, welcomed the participants, followed by remarks from Satyawati.

FACTFILE

- **Discussions underscored the need to integrate the experiences and knowledge of tribal communities into institutional approaches**

| CHHATTISGARH RAJYOTSAV 2026 |

Jhara art artefacts draw visitors to Shilpgram



RAIPUR: Jhara Art artefacts have emerged as a major attraction at the Shilpgram zone of the three-day Rajyotsav organised by the State Government at the Rajyotsav Ground in Nava Raipur to mark the 26th anniversary of Chhattisgarh's formation. Various departments have set up exhibitions and stalls showcasing their schemes and achievements. The Shilpgram zone displays the state's traditional handicrafts and handmade products, drawing large crowds. Finely crafted traditional sculptures, decorative objects and folk figures made using the lost-wax technique are proving particularly popular.

Young artisan Pradeep Jhareka from Kandurpali village in Sarangarh district is exhibiting Sarbila Jhara Art artefacts at Shilpgram.

His chhind tree sculpture has become a focal point for visitors. Through this work, he has skilfully depicted the chhind tree's importance in tribal life and culture. The sculpture also portrays, in intricate detail, the traditional process of collecting sap from the tree.

Jhareka said that events such as Rajyotsav allow local artisans to showcase their craft and reach new audiences. He said visitors are showing interest in Jhara Art.

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

OVERWHELMING RESPONSE ON DAY-2

Tremendous enthusiasm continues on Day-2 of VB Tower ph-2 launch



RAIPUR: The launch of 'VB Tower Phase-2'–a prestigious commercial project located in Mowa, Raipur–continued to witness overwhelming enthusiasm from customers on its second day. Amidst an excellent response, a large number of individuals booked office spaces of their choice. With its prime, centrally located site, modern amenities, and affordable pricing, VB Tower Phase-2 is rapidly becoming a preferred destination for business owners, investors, and the startup community.

VB Tower Phase-2 is being developed as a contemporary commercial hub, designed to integrate business, investment, and modern professional lifestyle needs within a single complex. The project features amenities such as meeting rooms, conference rooms, a play area, a cafeteria, and an attractive podium garden. Furthermore, the building's open, airy, and lush green architectural design has emerged as a major draw for prospective occupants.

Expressing their delight at the strong response and high volume of bookings, company directors Yashwant Agrawal and Abhishek Agrawal stated that the launch of VB Tower Phase-2 has been a resounding success. "The enthusiasm and trust shown by the public are truly inspiring," they remarked. "In this project, we have prioritized not only a prime location and competitive pricing but also modern amenities, an optimal work environment, and abundant greenery. Every feature–from meeting and conference rooms to the cafeteria, play area, and podium garden–has been meticulously planned with professional requirements and contemporary lifestyles in mind."

They further added that the positive reception for Phase-2, following the success of VB Tower Phase-1, reflects both the deep trust of their clients and the growing demand for modern commercial spaces in Raipur.

ILLEGAL FACTORY

Police nab two from illegal firecracker factory at home



RAIPUR: In the lead-up to Diwali, police in Raipur, have taken major action against the illegal manufacturing of firecrackers. Fireworks were being produced illicitly in a residential room located above a shop in Ganesh Ram Nagar, within the jurisdiction of the Golbazar police station. Acting on a tip-off, a joint team comprising the police, the local administration, the Municipal Corporation, and the Environment Department conducted a raid, seizing a large quantity of finished and semi-finished firecrackers. Two individuals have been arrested in connection with the case, and the room used for the manufacturing has been sealed.

According to the police, information was received on Nov 1, that the operator of the 'Shiv Shakti' firecracker shop in Ganesh Ram Nagar was, with the help of others, illegally manufacturing fireworks in a residential room above his shop. These firecrackers were being prepared for sale during the Diwali festival. The police team raided the premises in Ganesh Ram Nagar and discovered that firecrackers branded 'TOP TIGER' were being manufactured in the residential room above the shop. Such production in a residential area posed a serious threat to the safety of local residents; however, the timely receipt of information and subsequent police action averted a potential disaster.

BLOOD DONATION CAMP

Health employees donate blood on Chhattisgarh Foundation Day



RAIPUR: Marking Chhattisgarh Foundation Day, the Chhattisgarh Pradesh Health Employees Association, Raipur district branch, organised a blood donation camp in collaboration with the Red Cross Blood Bank, Raipur. A total of 40 health employees voluntarily donated blood under the theme 'Hamar Chhattisgarh, Hamar Garv' and the message 'Healthy Employees, Strong Chhattisgarh'.

Raipur North MLA Purandar Mishra attended the programme as the chief guest, while Chief Medical and Health Officer (CMHO) Dr Mitlesh Choudhary and O.P. Sharma, National Vice-President of the All India Employees Federation, were present as special guests.

The MLA and CMHO inspected the camp, encouraged the donors and appreciated the humanitarian work of the Red Cross Society. The blood donors were honoured with certificates of appreciation and fruit hampers. The collected blood will be preserved at the Red Cross Blood Bank for patients in need, thalassemia patients and emergency medical requirements.

Association General Secretary S.P. Dewangan and District President Salik Naurange thanked the office-bearers, the Red Cross medical team and donors for making the initiative successful. They announced that similar service and blood donation camps would be organised every year on the occasion of Chhattisgarh Foundation Day. Several association office-bearers and members attended the programme, including Ajay Pandey, Khoman Patel, Arvind Chandrakar, Pradeep Bogi, S.S. Soni, Devendra Gaveria, Kamal Chandrakar, Gautam Ratre, Harishankar Sahu, Subhash Sahare, Swatantra Soni, Vibhasahay, Nandlal Khute, Lakshmi Banerjee, Akhilesh Rathore and Roshan Sahu, along with a large number of health employees.

Raipur News

IAF showcases valour, courage in skies over Naya Raipur

Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai witnesses Sarang Team's Thrilling Aerial Display

Central Chronicle News



FASTFACT

- Five Sarang helicopters captivate spectators with thrilling formations and daring manoeuvres

RAIPUR: On the proud occasion of Chhattisgarh's State Foundation Day, the skies over Nava Raipur witnessed the Indian Air Force's valour, courage, discipline and exceptional flying skills. Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai attended the full-dress rehearsal of the Indian Air Force's world-renowned Sarang Aerobatic Display Team at Sendh Lake in Nava Raipur today.

On the occasion, the brave personnel of the Indian Air Force's Akash Ganga Skydiving Team, Garud Commandos and Sarang Helicopter Display Team thrilled the gathering with daring manoeuvres, precise control and remarkable coordination. The captivating tricolour formations in the sky, impressive helicopter formations and the strains of 'Vande Mataram' filled the atmosphere with patriotism and national pride.

Appreciating the outstanding performance of the Air Force personnel, Chief Minister Sai said the Sarang team's participation in the state's Foundation Day celebrations is a matter of immense pride and joy. The courage, discipline, confidence and precision demonstrated by the air warriors were an inspiration to every citizen, especially young people. He said the event is not merely a display of thrilling aerial manoeuvres, but a vivid demonstration of the Indian Air Force's exceptional capabilities, rigorous training, dedication and spirit of national service. Chief Minister extended his heartfelt greetings and best wishes to the people of Chhattisgarh on the state's Foundation Day. He expressed hope that Chhattisgarh would continue to reach new heights of development, progress and prosperity. He said the spectacular performance by the Air Force personnel had further enhanced the people's enthusiasm and pride during the Foundation Day celebrations.

The skies over Nava Raipur were bearing witness to the remarkable skill, courage and coordination of the air warriors.

Chief Minister Sai said that while the helicopters' formations and daring manoeuvres may appear effortless and graceful, they are the result of detailed planning, continuous practice, intense concentration and extraordinary coordination. Each pilot must remain fully aware of both their own role and the movements of their teammates.

Main Sarang air display at Sendh Lake on Nov 2

Following today's full-dress rehearsal, the Indian Air Force's Sarang Aerobatic Display Team will present its main aerial performance at Sendh Lake in Nava Raipur tomorrow, November 2. The thrilling event, organised as part of Rajyotsav, will offer the people of Chhattisgarh a special opportunity to witness the Indian Air Force's remarkable valour, courage, discipline and flying skills at close quarters. The daring performances by the Akash Ganga Skydiving Team, Garud Commandos and Sarang team will add grandeur to the state's Foundation Day celebrations and make them even more memorable.

'Chhattisgarhiya Sable Badiya' Echoes from the Sarang Cockpit

On the occasion of Chhattisgarh's State Foundation Day, the Sarang team also expressed its special affection and respect for the state. During the aerial display, Group Captain Abhijit Kumar greeted the people of Chhattisgarh from the helicopter cockpit with the state's popular slogan, 'Chhattisgarhiya Sable Badiya'.

Akash Ganga skydivers demonstrate courage and precise control

The thrilling aerial display began with a performance by the Indian Air Force's renowned Akash Ganga Skydiving Team. Leaping from the open sky, the team members skilfully controlled their parachutes and demonstrated remarkable courage, balance and precision. As they descended from a great height, the skydivers manoeuvred their parachutes according to the designated direction and speed, making precise landings at the marked location in front of Sendh Lake. Their descent from the sky was a source of excitement and anticipation for the spectators. As the personnel landed safely at the designated spot.

Tricolour formation and 'Vande Mataram' fill the sky with patriotism

In the final phase of the aerial display, the Sarang team presented a captivating tricolour formation to the strains of 'Vande Mataram'. The vibrant colours of the national flag filled the atmosphere with national pride and patriotism. The magnificent formation left spectators deeply moved. The helicopters' remarkable coordination, the colours of the Tricolour and the patriotic song created an unforgettable spectacle.

Maoism-hit areas now centres of peace: PM

Central Chronicle News

Prime Minister Narendra Modi greets Chhattisgarh on foundation day



RAIPUR: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has greeted the people of Chhattisgarh on the state's 26th foundation day on Sunday, saying areas once affected by Maoism are now emerging as centres of peace, trust and development.

In a letter written to Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai on Saturday, Modi said decisive success against Maoism has created a new environment for development. He pointed to new airports, railway projects of over Rs 51,000 crore, welfare schemes for lakhs of families and premier educational institutions, and said Chhattisgarh would play an important role in the making of a developed India. Modi also said he is proud of the transformation taking place in Bastar.

The CM shared the letter on 'X' on Sunday and thanked the PM for his greetings, saying his affection for Chhattisgarh's soil, rich culture and hardworking people was a matter of pride and inspiration for the state. Chhattisgarh was carved out of Madhya Pradesh on November 1, 2000.

The state was declared free of Naxalism on March 31, 2026, marking the end of a four-decade-long Maoist insurgency in the region. Recalling the formation of Chhattisgarh under the visionary leadership of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Modi, in the letter, said the historic decision fulfilled the decades-old aspirations of lakhs of people and marked the beginning of a new development journey.

Chhattisgarh has been preserving its rich heritage while moving towards new heights of development. Areas once identified as part of the Maoist-affected 'Red Corridor' were now emerging as centres of peace, trust and development, he noted. Maoism had long been one of the biggest obstacles to the state's development, but decisive success had been achieved in eliminating the menace, creating a new environment for development and accelerating the expansion of connectivity and modern infrastructure, the PM said. Modi also recalled his long association with Chhattisgarh, and said he had visited the region several times even when it was part of undivided Madhya Pradesh.

NEWSLINE

RAJYOTSAV

Kaushalya Mata Vihar residents mark Rajyotsav



RAIPUR: On the occasion of Chhattisgarh State Foundation Day and Rajyotsav, a commendable green initiative dedicated to environmental conservation was organized at Kaushalya Mata Vihar, Sector-6. The Kaushalya Mata Vihar Durga Puja Committee hosted a special tree plantation drive at Durga Garden, drawing enthusiastic participation from a large number of local residents.

Organized to make Chhattisgarh's Foundation Day memorable, participants planted saplings to spread the message of environmental protection. The residents collectively pledged to keep Durga Garden lush, clean, and beautiful, committing to the regular care and nurturing of the newly planted saplings. Speaking on the occasion, committee members emphasized that Chhattisgarh is celebrated for its rich natural heritage, abundant forest resources, and greenery. Aligning with this spirit, this eco-friendly initiative serves as a tribute to the state's identity and reflects collective environmental responsibility.

FINE

Contractor fined for dumping garbage along road

RAIPUR: The Raipur Municipal Corporation's Zone 9 Health Department has imposed a fine of Rs 2,000 on tractor owner and contractor Sonu Sahu for allegedly dumping garbage along the Canal Linking Road in Avanti Vihar Colony, Ward No. 32.

According to the Municipal Corporation, the Zone 9 health team caught Sahu dumping garbage from his tractor along the roadside in Maharshi Valmiki Ward No. 32. The team immediately informed Zone 9 Commissioner Hitendra Yadav about the incident.

Acting on the Commissioner's instructions, officials imposed a penalty of Rs 2,000 on the contractor and issued a strict warning against repeating such violations in the future. The action was also taken in response to a public complaint.

Countdown for ruling power has begun, says Mahant

Central Chronicle News



RAIPUR: Leader of the Opposition in the Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly Dr. Charan Das Mahant, has hailed the massive turnout at New Delhi's historic Ramlila Maidan to defend democratic and constitutional values as truly historic. Dr. Mahant noted that citizens, youth, farmers, and workers arriving from across the country sent a clear message that attacks on democracy will no longer be tolerated under any circumstances. He stated that thunderous slogans like "Vote Chor Gaddi Chhod" and "Vote Bachao, Desh Bachao" echoing through the ground and streets shook the corridors of power. He asserted that this public indignation clearly marks the beginning of the countdown for the central BJP government. The Leader of Opposition remarked that Rahul Gandhi has consistently stood fearlessly on the front lines to defend citizens' rights, the sanctity of democratic institutions, and the Constitution of India. He added that the call to protect democracy originating from Ramlila Maidan has transformed into a pan-national movement, uniting the public to safeguard their franchise and identity. Dr. Mahant highlighted that this historic gathering is not merely a political demonstration, but a collective pledge to protect the future of the nation and its Constitution.

Sr Fencing selection trials conclude

RAIPUR: The Chhattisgarh State Fencing Association conducted selection trials today at the Bhilai Fencing Club, Ispat Bhawan Club (Sector-1), to select the state's senior men's and women's fencing squads. A total of 52 fencers across both categories from four districts participated in the trials. The performances were evaluated by technical officials and a selection committee led by NIS coaches V. Johnson Solomon and Mohnish Verma. Shortlisted athletes will attend an intensive preparatory coaching camp at the Bhilai Fencing Club from November 11 to November 25, 2026. The camp will focus on technical refinement and physical conditioning, following which the final state squad will be officially announced. The selected team will represent Chhattisgarh at the upcoming 37th Senior National Fencing Championshi.

| RESEARCH ORIENTATION WORKSHOP |

AIIMS Raipur organizes post graduate research orientation workshop

Central Chronicle News

The workshop aimed to strengthen the research knowledge of postgraduate students.



FASTFACT

- The first day featured a series of expert-led sessions addressing the fundamental components of research methodology.

RAIPUR: The Institute Research Cell (IRC), All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Raipur, successfully organised a two-day Post Graduate Research Orientation Workshop on 30 and 31 October 2026 at AIIMS Raipur. The workshop aimed to strengthen the research knowledge, methodological understanding, academic writing skills, and ethical foundations of postgraduate students, thereby equipping them to undertake high-quality, scientifically sound, and ethically responsible research during their postgraduate training.

The workshop was designed as a comprehensive academic orientation programme covering the essential stages of research, from selecting a relevant research topic and formulating a research question to developing a thesis protocol, analysing data, interpreting findings, and preparing a scientific manuscript. It also addressed important aspects of research integrity, medical ethics, reference management, and the effective use of emerging artificial intelligence (AI) tools in research and academic publication.

The inaugural session began with an overview of the Research Orientation Workshop by Dr. Ekta Khandelwal, followed by Dr.Abhiruchi Galhotra, who highlighted the importance of research in postgraduate training. Dr. Eli Mohapatra elaborated on the academic guidelines for thesis protocol preparation.

The inaugural session also included an address by the Hon'ble Executive Director, Lt Gen Ashok Jindal (Retd.), who emphasised the importance of developing a strong research culture and promoting scientific inquiry among postgraduate students.

The first day featured a series of expert-led sessions addressing the fundamental components of research methodology. Dr. Rachita Nanda discussed the selection of an appropriate thesis topic and formulation of its title, while Dr. Pugazhenthan T. delivered a session on effective literature search strategies.

Dr. Preetam Wasnik explained the process of writing a review of literature and identifying research gaps. Dr.Pranita discussed the formulation of research questions, hypotheses, and study objectives.

| RAJYOTSAV CELEBRATION |

Rajyotsav stage celebrates Chgarh's rich folk heritage

Central Chronicle News





RAIPUR: The Shilpgram stage at the Rajyotsav Mela Ground in Nava Raipur came alive with vibrant performances of folk music, traditional dance, classical art and contemporary fusion music on Sunday, showcasing the rich cultural heritage of Chhattisgarh.

Artists from various districts enthralled audiences with captivating performances, creating a colourful blend of traditional and modern art forms. The evening's major attraction was Pandavani, the state's renowned folk storytelling tradition. Chetan Devangan from Durg and Durga Sahu from Raipur presented powerful renditions based on episodes from the Mahabharata, highlighting the richness of Chhattisgarh's oral storytelling heritage.

Shivendra Mandavi of Raipur entertained the audience with folk music and guitar performances. The Rhythm Twins Band, led by Rajiv Srivastava, and a fusion band led by Santosh Kumar Sinha added a contemporary musical flavour to the celebrations.

Anupriya Sultana impressed spectators with an elegant classical dance performance, showcasing the beauty of Indian dance traditions through expressive gestures and graceful movements. Traditional folk art also remained a major attraction. Rajni Rajak from Durg presented folk theatre and Dholmaru, while Vandita Sahu from Bilaspur captivated audiences with folk songs. Payal Sahu showcased the diverse colours of Chhattisgarhi folk theatre. The performances reflected the state's cultural diversity and artistic traditions, making the Shilpgram stage a vibrant centre of Rajyotsav celebrations.

The programme also highlighted the importance of preserving and promoting Chhattisgarh's rich folk heritage for future generations.

"Congress cares only about one family's celebrations, not Rajyotsava"

Central Chronicle News



RAIPUR: Launching a sharp political attack on the Congress party, Chhattisgarh Deputy Chief Minister Arun Sao stated that the grand old party has no regard for Chhattisgarh's Rajyotsava (State Foundation Day) celebrations and is solely focused on celebrating "one particular family." Targeting the opposition, Sao said that while the people of Chhattisgarh are celebrating the state's foundation day, Congress leaders are rallying in Delhi to protect a single family. He remarked that this clearly demonstrates that for Congress, the Gandhi family takes precedence over the state and the country. He further alleged that the Congress is attempting to create an atmosphere of anarchy across the country. Highlighting the central government's achievements, the Deputy Chief Minister noted that under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, India has carved out a distinct global identity. While the world faces conflict and economic turmoil, India is advancing rapidly toward becoming a developed nation. He pointed out that India has climbed into the world's top five economies from outside the top ten.

Bhilai



"Parents are urged never to permit minors under 18 to drive motor vehicles under any circumstances."

Vijay Agrawal
(SSP, Durg)

Portfolio Judge inspects Durg Court, reviews ongoing reforms

Justice Naresh Kumar Chandravanshi inspected judicial branches and reviewed key digital initiatives, including e-evidence and e-summons.

Central Chronicle News

BHILAI: Justice Naresh Kumar Chandravanshi, Judge of the Chhattisgarh High Court and Portfolio Judge for District Court Durg, conducted the annual inspection of the Principal District and Sessions Court, Durg, accompanied by Registrar Vigilance Abdul Zahid Qureshi.

Upon arrival, Justice Chandravanshi was accorded a warm reception by Principal District and Sessions Judge K. Vinod Kujur, Family Court Principal Judge Suman Ekka, Collector Abhijit Singh, and SSP Vijay Agrawal. During the visit, the High Court Judge inspected various courtrooms, the record room, copying section, establishment branch, and nazarat, assessing judicial functioning, administrative mechanisms, and record maintenance while issuing necessary operational directives.



Justice Chandravanshi inspecting Durg District Court.

In a review meeting with judicial officers, discussions centered on enhancing judicial efficacy, streamlining case disposal, and expanding technology-driven initiatives. The officers briefed the Portfolio Judge on digital judicial milestones, highlighting e-evidence via NyayShruti, e-summons through CIS, and e-ticketing systems. A video demonstration of the newly developed digital gate pass software was also screened to showcase improved visitor entry management.

FASTFACTS

- A digital gate pass system software video was presented to demonstrate improved public access and crowd management at the court complex.

Justice Chandravanshi further held courtesy interactions with representatives of the District Bar Association and court staff unions, expressing satisfaction over the court's overall management, cleanliness, and citizen-centric digital workflow.

Collector reviews Bhilai voter list revision



Central Chronicle News

BHILAI: Ahead of the upcoming urban local body elections, Durg Collector Abhijit Singh convened a review meeting at the Bhilai Municipal Corporation auditorium to oversee the voter list revision process. The meeting centered on the resolution of claims and objections to produce a verified and error-free electoral roll. Collector Singh assessed the status of claims and objections submitted via Appendix-15 and reviewed the progress of Form-6 and Form-Ka submissions. He instructed election officials to scrutinize and rectify all errors regarding voters' names, addresses, and other vital details strictly in accordance with regulatory norms, ensuring an updated and accurate list for polling. He emphasized seamless inter-departmental coordination and strict adherence to deadlines. The session was attended by Municipal Commissioner Suruchi Singh, Additional Collector Lily Thomas, SDM Sonal David, Additional Commissioner Rajendra Kumar Dohare, Tahsildar Dikeshwar Sahu, alongside AEROs, supervisors, and Booth Level Officers.

NEWSLINE

DURG

Rajyotsava postponed

BHILAI: Following the demise of senior BJP leader and Ahiwara MLA Domanlal Korsewada, the Chhattisgarh State Foundation Day celebration scheduled for November 2 in Durg has been postponed. Preparations for the district-level event were nearing completion; however, Korsewada's passing triggered widespread grief across the region. In view of the tragedy, School Education Minister Gajendra Yadav consulted Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai to make the sensitive decision to call off the festivities in Durg district as a mark of respect to the departed leader.

ABSCONDING

Drug peddler arrested

BHILAI: In an ongoing crackdown against the illegal narcotics trade, Durg Police on Saturday arrested an absconding suspect, Rishi Dev Kumar Sahani alias "Rishi Baba" (30), from the Khursipar area. Police had registered a crime under various sections of the NDPS Act and Section 78 of the Juvenile Justice Act. Ten co-accused in the case were previously arrested and sent to judicial custody. Acting on a tip-off, a team led by Khursipar police tracked down Sahani, a resident of Balaji Nagar, and seized a mobile phone used in the offense.

UNIDENTIFIED

Body found in Shivnath

BHILAI: An unidentified man's body was recovered from the Shivnath River in Durg on Sunday after being spotted floating beneath the Bhilai-Rajnandgaon bypass bridge. Following an alert from the district control room, the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) team deployed rescue boats and life jackets to trace the body, which strong river currents were sweeping downstream. After extensive efforts, rescuers retrieved the body near the Piperchhedi-Kotni area. The body was subsequently handed over to the Nagpura police post under Pulgaon police station. Police have initiated an investigation to establish the victim's identity and determine the cause of death.

OBITUARY

Kuleshwar Prasad Swarnakar



BHILAI: Kuleshwar Prasad Swarnakar (86), a resident of LIG-3, Hudco, Bhilai, passed away on Sunday after a prolonged illness. Originally hailing from Patan, he served as the former Office Superintendent at the Russian Office in BSP's Expansion Building. Last rites were performed at the Shivnath River Crematorium. He is survived by sons Aditya Swarnakar and Ashutosh Swarnakar, son-in-law Pramod Soni and family.

| POLICE CRACK DOWN |

27 cases lodged for public drinking

Central Chronicle News

BHILAI: In an effort to curb anti-social activities and maintain law and order, Durg Police carried out a specialized district-wide crackdown on public drinking and illicit gatherings on October 31. Coordinated police units conducted intensive surveillance and security checks across major intersections, commercial markets, parks, and vulnerable public areas throughout all police stations and outposts. During the operation, 27 cases were registered against individuals found consuming alcohol in public spaces under Section 36(f) of the Chhattisgarh Excise Act. The police station breakdown includes 11 cases in Khursipar, seven in Utai, three in Kumhari, and two each in Mohan Nagar, Newai, and Jamul. Authorities urged citizens to cooperate in maintaining public peace.



FASTFACTS

- Durg Police registered 27 cases under the Chhattisgarh Excise Act during a coordinated district-wide drive targeting public drinking and loitering.

Man held with weapon

BHILAI: The Old Bhilai police on Sunday arrested a 33-year-old man for allegedly threatening and terrifying passersby with a sharp-edged concealed weapon in a public area. Acting on a tip-off that an individual was intimidating citizens near Muktidham in Dabrapara, a police team swiftly cordoned off the area and apprehended the suspect, identified as Bhagwat Sahu, a resident of Dabrapara. Police seized a sharp, dagger-like weapon (gupti) from his possession.

| COURT VERDICT |

Son jailed for bike crash, father for allowing unlicensed driving

Central Chronicle News

BHILAI: In a significant verdict underscoring parental accountability in traffic violations, the Sessions Court in Durg convicted both a motorcyclist and his father following a fatal road accident in Kohka. The incident occurred on August 4, 2025, near Indu IT School under the jurisdiction of the Smritinagar police chowki (Supela police station). Mohit Kumar Baghel, 19, riding a motorcycle (CG 07 CW-2768) rashly and negligently, collided head-on with a scooter (CG 19 A-2771). The crash claimed the life of the scooter rider, Shadan Ali, and left pillion rider Uttam Pandey critically injured. Police investigations revealed that Mohit did not possess a valid driving license, and the two-wheeler had been knowingly provided to him by his father, Mohan Lal Baghel, 54. Following a comprehensive charge-sheet and prosecution by Public Prosecutor Dron Thakur, the Sessions Court on October 31, 2026, held both men guilty. The court sentenced Mohit to up to five years of rigorous imprisonment under Section 105(2) of the BNS, alongside terms under Section 110(2) and the MV Act. Meanwhile, his father received three months of simple imprisonment and a Rs 5000 fine under Section 5/180 of the MV Act for permitting an unlicensed individual to drive.

| JEWELLERY |

Chandanmal Bothra unveils festive collection

Central Chronicle News

BHILAI: In Durg's thriving jewellery market, Chandanmal Bothra Jewellers Pvt. Ltd. has reinforced its reputation as a hallmark of tradition and consumer trust this festive season. Located at Moti Complex Chowk, beside Premmatri Parisar, the showroom presents an exclusive collection featuring intricate temple-style necklaces, classic jhumkas, and statement bridal bangles crafted for major life milestones.



Purity remains central to the brand's enduring appeal. Every gold piece is certified with BIS hallmarking and a traceable six-digit Hallmark Unique Identification (HUID) code, while diamond items carry certification from the International Gemological Institute (IGI). Bearing the motto "Varshon ke vishwas ka prateek," the jeweller provides buyers with complete authenticity. The management has also clarified that its sole showroom is in Durg, with a related establishment at Sadar Bazar, advising customers to avoid confusion with unauthorized outlets while ensuring they verify purity through the official BIS Care app.

| SCHOOL EXHIBITION |

Students present vision for Viksit Bharat

Central Chronicle News

BHILAI: Heritage International Public School in Durg hosted its annual Knowledge Canvas Exhibition 2026-27, centered on the theme "Viksit Bharat 2047." The event provided young learners with a dynamic platform to demonstrate their scientific ingenuity, research skills, and creativity through interactive exhibits and working models. The exhibition was inaugurated by Chief Guest I.P. Mishra, Chairman of Shri Shankaracharya University, alongside Guest of Honour and cybersecurity expert Dr. Sankalp Rai, and Principal Deepti Tiwari. A distinguished panel of evaluators from leading regional universities assessed interdisciplinary student projects addressing real-world challenges. Applauding the participants' innovative problem-solving and presentation skills, judges shortlisted standout entries for upcoming competitive platforms. The successful showcase highlighted the vital role of education in nation-building.



Admissions open for fire & safety courses

Central Chronicle News

BHILAI: Amid the rising demand for qualified safety personnel across factories, hospitals, and high-rise developments in Chhattisgarh, the Fire, Safety and Disaster Management Institute (FSDMI) in Bhilai has commenced admissions for its comprehensive training programmes.

The institute is offering seven diverse courses, including a B.Sc. in Fire Safety, Sanitary Health Inspector training, one-year programmes, certificate courses, and advanced diplomas such as ADIS and PDIS. These career-oriented streams cater to varied academic backgrounds, welcoming students who have cleared Class 10, Class 12, graduation, or post-graduation.



To support underprivileged learners, FSDMI has also announced fee concessions for students from economically weaker sections. Interested applicants have been advised to verify curriculum details directly with the institute.

Priya Jewellers unveils festive bill-waiver scheme

Central Chronicle News

BHILAI: Marking the festive rush between Navratri and Diwali, Priya Jewellers has launched a promotional customer scheme offering a weekly bill waiver of up to Rs 21,000. Under the "Navratri Se Deepawali" offer, one lucky shopper purchasing from the showroom will be selected every Sunday through a lottery system to receive the discount, capped at Rs 21,000.



Located on Chudi Line in Supela, the showroom deals in gold, diamond, and silver jewellery. Owner Rajkumar Soni stated that the initiative aims to make festive shopping more rewarding for local families. Emphasizing purity, the retailer highlighted its collection of BIS-hallmarked jewellery featuring traceable Hallmark Unique Identification (HUID) codes across various purities. Additionally, the store is promoting gold loan facilities to support short-term household financial needs.

|VIGILANCE WEEK|

BSP focuses on digital transparency at customer

Central Chronicle News

BHILAI: As part of Vigilance Awareness Week, the Marketing & Business Planning (M&BP) Department of SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant (BSP) organised a Customer Meet at the M&BP Conference Hall in Ispat Bhawan. The session brought together buyers of commercial rails, defective scrap, slag, pig iron, and coal chemicals, alongside senior executives from Vigilance, Finance, C&IT, Stores, and Mines. The event commenced with a welcome address by GM (Marketing) Chaitali Das and an integrity pledge administered by the Vigilance Department. Chief Guest A. K. Chakraborty, Executive Director (MM), stressed the vital need to deepen client relationships while strictly upholding statutory compliance, integrity, and commercial transparency. Key presentations outlined ongoing modernization across marketing operations: GM (Marketing) Deepti Raj detailed major digital initiatives designed to curb manual documentation, eliminate operational errors, and enhance customer interactions. Furthermore, DGM (Vigilance) Navneet Sharma educated participants on the Anti-Bribery Management System (ABMS) and related governance campaigns. Coordinated by the M&BP team, the meet successfully reinforced Bhilai Steel Plant's dedication to ethical business conduct, digital transformation, and mutually supportive, transparent partnerships with its trade stakeholders.



BSP pushes for 100% Hindi in office work

BHILAI: The 154th quarterly review meeting of the Official Language Implementation Committee at Bhilai Steel Plant was conducted under the chairmanship of Pawan Kumar, Executive Director (Human Resources) and Acting Chairman of the committee. Addressing senior officials, executive directors, and departmental heads, Kumar reminded participants that the plant has been notified since 1991 to conduct official business in Hindi. He urged all departments to strive toward 100 percent Hindi correspondence in daily administrative work and called for targeted efforts in areas currently lagging behind. To cultivate an encouraging linguistic environment, he also recommended cultural initiatives such as poetry symposiums and theatre productions.

N-E-W-S



"Northern railway Corridor will join Delhi, Agra, Kanpur, Lucknow and Ayodhya. Later it extend to Varanasi, Patna and Guwahati."

Ashwini Vaishnaw
Railway Minister

Govt extends customs duty on raw cotton imports till Dec

The Central Government has extended the customs duty exemption on cotton imports until December 31, 2026

Press Trust Of India



NEW DELHI: The Central Government has extended the customs duty exemption on cotton imports until December 31, 2026, providing additional relief to India's textile and garment industries. The earlier exemption was scheduled to expire on October 31. The extension is intended to improve the availability of raw cotton in the domestic market and help textile manufacturers manage input costs. Cotton is an important raw material for India's textile sector, supporting a wide network of farmers, ginning units, spinning mills, garment manufacturers and exporters. Changes in raw cotton prices and availability can influence production costs throughout the textile supply chain. The decision is expected to provide greater flexibility to textile manufacturers who depend on consistent supplies of cotton for their operations. It may also help businesses manage procurement requirements during a period when access to affordable raw materials remains important for maintaining competitiveness.

The textile industry contributes significantly to employment generation, exports and industrial activity across several states. Small and medium-sized manufacturing units, in particular, require stable input supplies to maintain production schedules and meet orders. The extension will remain effective for two additional months, giving manufacturers more time to plan their procurement. However, the actual benefit will depend on international cotton prices, import volumes and domestic market conditions. The government's decision reflects an effort to balance raw material availability with the requirements of the domestic manufacturing sector.

HIGHLIGHT

- **Extended exemption aims to improve cotton availability and support domestic textile industries.**

Vibrant Gujarat pitch to Dubai's trade community

Central Chronicle News

Gujarat is reaching out to the global business community ahead of the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit (VGGS) 2027.

GANDHINAGAR: Gujarat is reaching out to the global business community ahead of the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit (VGGS) 2027, sending multiple delegations to important countries to invite investors and industry leaders to participate in the state's flagship investment event.

As part of this global campaign, a high-level Gujarat Government delegation visited Dubai and held a series of meetings with the industry leaders in the UAE; cutting across various sectors including oil & gas, logistics, financial institutions, manufacturing groups and real estate. The delegation also interacted with Indian entrepreneurs and the diaspora residing in the UAE, at an event organised by the Indian People's Forum (IPF) UAE.

The presentations by the State government were followed by an interactive Q&A Session wherein the delegation addressed the queries raised by the participants.

The delegation had also covered the countries of Qatar and Oman, before concluding their Gulf visit in Dubai.

FASTFACTS

- **Gujarat Govt has sent multiple delegations to important countries to invite investors and industry leaders**

NEWSLINE

DEWAS

Villagers demand water solution

Residents of Bhamori village in Madhya Pradesh's Dewas district have approached the district Collectorate, demanding a permanent solution to their drinking water shortage. The villagers submitted a memorandum on Friday, highlighting the difficulties faced by households despite the presence of a water tank under the Nal-Jal scheme. According to residents, water supply has stopped because groundwater levels in all three local borewells have declined. Women reportedly walk between one and two kilometres every day to collect water from open wells, while several families have to purchase water from private tankers.

ANANTAPUR

Student attacked inside school

Two schoolgirls were injured after a man allegedly entered a classroom with a chainsaw and attacked students at a government school in Raptadu, Anantapur district, on Saturday.

According to police, the accused targeted a Class 10 student named Gopika. Another student, Lakshmi, sustained injuries while attempting to intervene and protect her classmate. Teachers and fellow students rushed the injured girls to a nearby hospital and informed the police.

| BANK REFORMS |

Govt constitutes high-level banking committee for Viksit Bharat 2047

Press Trust Of India

New banking panel will recommend reforms to strengthen India's financial system.



NEW DELHI: The Central Government has constituted a high-level committee on banking to recommend reforms aimed at making India's financial system more competitive, efficient and capable of supporting the country's long-term development objectives under Viksit Bharat 2047. The proposed committee will undertake a comprehensive review of the banking sector and examine structural, institutional, regulatory and legislative issues. Its recommendations are expected to help strengthen the banking system and improve its ability to respond to the changing requirements of the Indian economy.

Religious rituals mark Simhastha Kumbh Mela

NASHIK: Religious rituals marked the beginning of Simhastha Kumbh Mela in Nashik and Trimbakeshwar, Maharashtra. President Droupadi Murmu inaugurated the occasion by hoisting the main religious flag at Ramkund in Nashik.Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis hoisted the Dharma Dhwaj at Kushavarta Tirtha in Trimbakeshwar. Several senior state leaders, religious leaders, saints and other dignitaries attended the ceremonies. Before the flag-hoisting programme, the President offered prayers.

| EMPLOYMENT |

Jammu-Kashmir gives over twenty two thousand jobs through PMEGP

Press Trust Of India



SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir has generated more than 22,560 employment opportunities under the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) during the financial year 2024-25. The achievement reflects the continuing efforts to promote entrepreneurship, support small businesses and create livelihood opportunities across the Union Territory. According to official figures, a total of 2,820 projects received assistance under the programme during the financial year. The government disbursed Rs 89.41 crore as margin money subsidy to support eligible beneficiaries in establishing and expanding their business activities. The PMEGP scheme aims to encourage self-employment by providing financial assistance to individuals setting up micro-enterprises in manufacturing and service sectors.

It also seeks to strengthen the rural and urban economy by supporting first-generation entrepreneurs and small business owners. The employment generated through these projects includes opportunities for people working in different economic activities.

| MARITIME SECURITY |

India hosts BIMSTEC maritime security exercise in Andaman Nicobar Islands

Press Trust Of India



CHENNAI: India is hosting the BIMSTEC Maritime Security Exercise in Sri Vijaya Puram in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The exercise commenced on October 30 and will continue until November 3, bringing attention to regional cooperation and maritime security among countries in the Bay of Bengal region. The initiative was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the sixth BIMSTEC Summit held in Thailand. It reflects India's continued commitment to strengthening cooperation with neighbouring countries and promoting a secure maritime environment. BIMSTEC, which brings together Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand, provides an important platform for regional cooperation in areas such as connectivity, trade, security and economic development. Maritime security has become increasingly important because the Bay of Bengal and adjoining waters serve as major routes.

Relief Operation by Indian Navy



Indian Navy has been carrying out sustained relief operations for Arnab cyclone affected people in Odisha and Andhra Pradesh.

| DEVELOPMENT |

Telangana announces Rs 84790 crore development plan for Hyderabad region

HYDERABAD: Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka has announced a comprehensive development action plan worth approximately Rs 84,790 crore for Hyderabad and its surrounding areas. The initiative aims to transform Hyderabad into a world-class city while strengthening the state's economic growth and urban infrastructure. Announcing the plan at the NAREDCO Telangana Property Show at HITEX, the Deputy Chief Minister highlighted the importance of the real estate and construction sectors in generating investment and employment. He stated that projects worth nearly Rs 55,000 crore were already at different stages of design and tendering.



'Judiciary urged to improve responsiveness'

KOCHI: Chief Justice of India Surya Kant on Sunday called for introspection on whether there is room to improve the responsiveness of the judicial process in view of the growing tendency among litigants to move the Supreme Court for urgent listing or early hearing of matters pending before the High Courts. CJI Kant said that the apex court has as consistently respected the institutional autonomy of High Courts, including their authority to regulate their own rosters, but the frequency of such requests invites us to consider whether there is room to improve the responsiveness of our processes. "We must ask ourselves -- can urgent matters be identified more effectively? Can listing procedures be made more transparent and predictable? Can technology assist in prioritising cases where delay may cause irreversible prejudice "And can we ensure that a litigant's access to timely justice does not depend upon their ability to travel to the national capital?" were queries he posed during his inaugural address on the occasion of the platinum jubilee anniversary celebrations of the Kerala High Court here. Justice Kant said that constitutional justice in India does not begin and end in New Delhi.

HIGHLIGHT

- **Apex Court Respects High Courts' Institutional Autonomy**
- **India's Constitutional Justice Extends Beyond Delhi**

| BANKERS' CONCLAVE |

Bankers' Conclave focuses on credit access for farmers

Press Trust Of India



AIZAWL: Improving access to institutional credit for farmers, entrepreneurs and small businesses remains a key development priority in India's Northeast. The Northeast Bankers' Conclave 3.0 provides a platform for discussions on financing, financial inclusion and regional economic growth. Union Minister for Communications and Development of the North Eastern Region Jyotiraditya M. Scindia has highlighted the potential of Mizoram and neighbouring states to expand economic activity through stronger banking services and financial inclusion.

The conclave brings together banking institutions, government representatives and other stakeholders to examine ways of improving credit availability for micro, small and medium enterprises, agricultural producers and emerging entrepreneurs.

Access to loans can help small businesses purchase equipment, expand production, improve distribution and create employment.

Earthquake tremor recorded in Upper Siang district

UPPER SIANG: An earthquake measuring 3.9 on the Richter scale was recorded in Arunachal Pradesh's Upper Siang district early Saturday morning, according to the National Centre for Seismology.

The tremor occurred at 12:36 am on October 31, with its recorded depth estimated at eight kilometres. The seismic monitoring agency placed the location approximately 92 kilometres north of Pangin in Arunachal Pradesh.

The earthquake was included in the agency's reviewed seismic event records for Saturday. The information provides details about the tremor's magnitude, location, depth and occurrence time.

MALAPPURAM

Vigilance probes suspected bribery

The Kerala Vigilance and Anti-Corruption Bureau (VACB) has launched an investigation into suspected bribery at the Edakkara Sub-Registrar Office in Malappuram district. The development follows a surprise inspection conducted by vigilance officials on Friday evening after receiving information about alleged demands for illegal payments.

During the inspection, officials reportedly recovered Rs 36,500 from an agent working for a document writer. The money was suspected to have been brought for distribution among government employees.

CHAIBASA

Seven arrested in double murder

Police have arrested seven people in connection with the alleged murder of an elderly woman and her daughter in Jharkhand's West Singhbhum district. The incident reportedly took place on October 13 in Bada Torla village.

According to police, the victims were identified as Kuni Kui, aged 68, and her daughter Namsi Birua, aged 27. The prime accused, identified as Tribhuvan Birua, is the son of the elderly woman's first husband.

Investigators said the murders were allegedly connected to a dispute involving agricultural land and a disagreement over the boundary of a paddy field.

Ensure a transparent, well-organized, and smooth paddy procurement system in the district, and effective curbing the illegal transportation of paddy.

VK Langeh
Collector Mahasamund



Raipur Region

NHRC Special Monitor visit naxal rehabilitation centre

NHRC Special Monitor visited the Naxal Rehabilitation Centre and a garment factory operating in the district.

Central Chronicle News

BIJAPUR: During his visit to Bijapur, R. Hemant Kumar, Special Monitor for the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), New Delhi, visited the Naxal Rehabilitation Centre and a garment factory operating in the district.

He met with the rehabilitated youth and gathered detailed information about their current lives, the rehabilitation process, and their experiences since returning to the mainstream of society. At the Naxal



Rehabilitation Centre, Mr. Hemant Kumar held an informal and heartfelt dialogue with the rehabilitated youth.

He inquired about their past lives, their decision to undergo rehabilitation, their current living conditions, family circumstances, and their experiences in reintegrating into the mainstream. He also learned about the changes in their lives following rehabilitation and the facilities and support they are receiving. Discussions were held regarding their challenges, needs, employment prospects, and future plans. While listening to their experiences, the Special Monitor examined various aspects of the rehabilitation process and the efforts being made to help them establish a normal life. The primary objective of this visit was to assess the ground reality of the arrangements in place for the social reintegration of these individuals and their ability to lead a dignified life.

Subsequently, the Special Monitor visited the garment factory, where he observed activities related to garment manufacturing and tailoring, and inquired about the operations being conducted.

He spoke with the workers to learn about their training, work experience, employment opportunities, and livelihood conditions.

HIGHLIGHT

- The Special Monitor was significant for assessing rehabilitation and employment-related initiatives in the district.

National Unity Day celebrated with fervour at SJEMS



Central Chronicle News

CHHURA: St. John's English Medium School, Chhura, celebrated National Unity Day with a grand event to mark the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.Students and staff took a solemn pledge to uphold the nation's integrity and participated in an enthusiastic "Run for Unity" across the school campus.

Principal Mrs. Bindu George Jacob urged students to practice discipline and mutual harmony in their daily lives to contribute to the country's progress. The event commenced with garlanding the portraits of Maa Bharti and Sardar Patel, attended by top school leaders including Director Mr. Shaiju George Jacob, Manager Ashish George Jacob, and Academic Director Sumant Acharya. Vice-Principal Lovit Ratnakar delivered the vote of thanks, and the program concluded with the National Anthem.

APPEAL

Keep ponds clean: Nishad

CHHURA: The President of Nagar Panchayat Chhura, Lukeshwari Thansing Nishad, has appealed to the town's residents to refrain from consuming alcohol in public spaces–including the ghats of Raja Talab (and other ponds), playgrounds, market areas, and the cremation ground (muktidham). She noted that consuming alcohol by the ponds and discarding disposable cups or other trash on the concrete ghats creates filth and detracts from the town's beauty. Furthermore, drinking alcohol in significant areas such as playgrounds, market premises, and cremation grounds causes inconvenience to ordinary citizens, children, and families.

NABBED

Absconding accused nabbed

KHAIRAGARH: An accused who assaulted and injured a person with a stick–after the victim refused to give him money for alcohol–has been arrested.

According to reports, on October 4, 2026, at 12:00 PM, the accused, Chiku Patel (23, son of Jayram Patel, resident of Shiv Mandir Road, near the New Bus Stand, Khairagarh), approached the complainant, Chaitendra Tiwari, and demanded money to buy alcohol. When the complainant refused, the accused attacked him with a stick, causing injuries.

| LACK OF DISCIPLINE |

PWD officials remain absent from their District Hq's

Central Chronicle News

DONGARGAON: The negligence and arbitrary behavior of Sub-Engineers posted in the field offices of the Public Works Department (PWD) have reached an extreme.

In key administrative centers–Dongargaon, Chhuria, Khujji, Tappa, and Kumarda–these Sub-Engineers are consistently absent from their assigned headquarters, nor do they reside there. The situation is such that



the officials responsible for overseeing public construction projects are entirely missing from their offices; meanwhile, whenever senior officials visit, a superficial "facade" is created to make it appear as though everything is in order.

A recent incident at the Dongargaon Rest House complex highlights this departmental culture. Upon learning of the impending visit of PWD Secretary Mukesh Kumar Bansal (IAS), the local staff scrambled in a panic.

To avoid the Secretary's displeasure, an old, dilapidated "junk room" behind the rest house was cleaned overnight, and a banner/flex sign for the Sub-Divisional Officer (SDO) was hastily hung up.

Yashoda Verma leaves for Delhi

KHAIRAGARH: Khairagarh MLA Yashoda Nilambar Verma has departed for Delhi to participate in the 'Save the Vote, Save the Nation' ('Vote Bachao, Desh Bachao') campaign, an initiative led by the Congress party. The campaign focuses on strengthening democracy, protecting the right to vote, and ensuring transparency in the electoral process. With the involvement of various Congress leaders, the initiative aims to raise issues concerning democratic values, voters' rights, and the integrity of the voting process at the national level.

| DILAPIDATED SCHOOL BLDG |

Children forced to study in a dilapidated school building

Central Chronicle News

KHAIRAGARH: The dilapidated building of the Government Primary School in Tekapar Khurd village poses a serious threat to the safety of the children. Plaster and cement are crumbling and falling from the school's ceiling and walls.

Cracks are visible throughout the structure, and the condition of the ceiling above the entrance is particularly dire. The poor state of the building could lead to a major



accident at any moment. Alarmingly, despite this precarious condition, young children are still compelled to attend classes here. This has left both the children and their parents anxious about the possibility of a tragedy. While children should receive their education in a safe environment, the very state of this building has become a hazard.

The condition of the school building raises serious questions about the functioning of the Education Department and the local administration.

| STATE-LEVEL KARATE CH'SHIP |

Aditya from SAGES wins gold medal

Central Chronicle News

BHUKEL (BASNA): Talented individuals from rural areas are scripting new success stories through their hard work, dedication, and discipline. In this vein, Aditya Pareshwar, a promising student from Bhukel and a pupil at the Swami Atmanand Utkrisht Hindi-English Medium School (SAGES), Bhukel, has delivered an outstanding performance to win a gold medal in a karate championship.

At the 26th State-Level School Karate Championship



held in Durg, Aditya showcased exceptional talent and athletic skill to secure the gold. With this achievement, he has also qualified for the National School Karate Championship. His success has brought great joy to the school community, as well as to the residents of Bhukel and the surrounding areas.

The state-level competition featured talented athletes from various regions across the state. Amidst stiff competition, Aditya Pareshwar proved his sporting prowess by clinching the gold medal. Success in a discipline like karate–which emphasizes self-defense and self-discipline–requires not only physical fitness but also mental focus, consistent practice, self-confidence, and patience.

| SAFE CHILDHOOD CAMPAIGN|

Special legal literacy camps organized

Central Chronicle News

RAJNANDGAON: Under the direction of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA), New Delhi, and the guidance of the Chhattisgarh State Legal Services Authority, Bilaspur, the first phase of the 'Safe Childhood' campaign concluded on October 31, 2026.

To mark this, special legal literacy camps were organized in schools across Rajnandgaon and its tehsils to raise awareness among students regarding the POCSO (Protection of Children from Sexual Offences) Act. As part of the 'Safe Childhood' campaign, awareness camps were held today at Government Higher Secondary School (Kanharpuri), Wesleyan English Medium School, State School (Middle Section), and Government High School (Somni). During these sessions, judges informed students about the legal protections available to victims of sexual exploitation.



HEALTH CHECK

Free eye examination done

KHARORA: A free eye examination and health camp was organized under the joint auspices of 'Saksham' and M.R.M. Multispecialty Hospital, Kharora, with the objective of providing better healthcare facilities to those in need and raising awareness about health. Hundreds of people from the town and surrounding areas attended the camp to avail themselves of the health services. On this occasion, 25 individuals in need were provided with free spectacles. During the camp, ophthalmologist Dr. Shivkant Dubey examined the attendees and offered necessary medical advice.

Farmers struggle to save their harvest

ARANG: "The very crop for which every single grain was sown now lies submerged in water." The 'Arnav' storm has wreaked havoc on the farmers of the Arang assembly constituency.

Paddy crops, which were flourishing and awaiting harvest, have been left submerged following sudden, unseasonal rainfall. As months of hard work began to



vanish before their eyes, the patience of these farmers–the providers of our food–finally gave way. Now, the roar of diesel pumps echoes across the fields, while in other places, farmers themselves have waded into the water, struggling to gather and tie up the flattened, scattered stalks.

The paddy plants had fully developed their panicles, and in many areas, the harvest was just about to begin–but the unseasonal rain has disrupted everything. The fields are filled to the brim with water, leaving deep lines of worry etched on the farmers' brows. Prolonged waterlogging poses a severe risk that the paddy grains may turn black or begin to sprout.

Furthermore, farmers are now burdened with the additional costs of running diesel pumps and hiring extra labor to try and salvage their crops.

Cycle rally mark National Unity Day

KOSMI, (CHHURA): On the auspicious occasion of National Unity Day, Saturday, Oct 31, the Faculty of Arts and Humanities at ISBM University, Kosmi, Chhura (District Gariaband, Chhattisgarh), organized a grand and successful awareness cycle rally centered on the theme:

"National Unity, National Security, and a Drug-Free India." The



primary objective of this event was to foster awareness among students and the general public regarding national unity, integrity, social harmony, national security, and a drug-free lifestyle. The program commenced in a dignified atmosphere on the university campus.

The cycle rally was flagged off by the University Registrar, Dr. B. P. Bhol.

DEMAND

Farmer demand compensation

ARANG: In a press release, Khilesh Dewangan has demanded that the government announce compensation for farmers.

He stated that the continuous, heavy rainfall–triggered by the cyclonic storm 'Arnab'–has led to waterlogging in fields across Chhattisgarh, damaging crops that were ready for harvest.

This has caused significant financial losses for farmers. With their crops destroyed, farmers–who rely entirely on agriculture–are now facing a crisis regarding the sustenance of their families and the preparation for upcoming agricultural activities.

| VIGILANCE AWARENESS WEEK |

Integrity pledge, marathon organised in Geedam

Central Chronicle News

SUKMA: The 226 Battalion of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) organized 'Vigilance Awareness Week' in its area of operation under the theme "Integrity for Prosperity."

The primary objective of this initiative was to inculcate high moral values, transparency, and a



corruption-free society among the Force personnel and local citizens. The week commenced with an Integrity Pledge held at the Battalion Headquarters, where Second Officer-in-Command (2I/C), Mr. Meher, administered the pledge to all officers and soldiers present.

To spread the message of honesty and public accountability, the battalion also organized an 'Integrity Marathon,' in which the soldiers participated enthusiastically. Taking this campaign to the local community, 226 Battalion organized a public awareness program in Geedam village, Sukma district.

During the program, the soldiers directly interacted with the villagers and youth and explained the crucial role of vigilance, transparency, and ethical conduct in the development of the nation and society.

General council meeting held at Janpad Panchayat

MAINPUR: An important meeting of the General Council was held today in the auditorium of Janpad Panchayat Mainpur. Chaired by Janpad Panchayat President Smt. Mohana Netam, and attended by Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Gendlal Churendra, the meeting involved a comprehensive review of development initiatives for the region.

The primary focus was on strengthening basic infrastructure in rural areas. Elected representatives and officials engaged in detailed discussions regarding the most critical needs of the region: drinking water, healthcare, education, and roads.

Fun & Focus

IT'S QUIZ TIME

1. The Sundarbans gets its name from the Sundari tree, which is found widely across the mangrove forest. The vast Sundarbans delta is formed mainly by which two major river systems before they flow into the Bay of Bengal?



2. The longest ghat road in Maharashtra is also known as one of the most dangerous mountain roads in the state. Name this scenic ghat?



3. All-TIME 100 Movies is a ranking of the 100 "greatest" motion pictures that were released between March 3, 1923, the date of the first TIME issue, and early 2005. One of its supplementary lists, 10 Best Soundtracks of All Time, had a song from a 1992 Indian movie, composed by a debutant director. Which movie?



4. Which Indian city has been featured in National Geographic's "Best of the World 2027" list?



5. What is the largest variety of Dolphin called?



6. According to a sloka from Garuda Purana Maya and Avantika were two of the Pilgrimage centres. By what name do we know the cities Maya and Avantika?



7. This country is in the middle of the "Ring of Fire", where almost 90% of the world's earthquakes take place. It's the only place in the world where one see a rare rabbit called the volcano rabbit which lives near volcanoes. Which country?



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Answers-

(1) Ganga and Brahmaputra (2) Ambenali Ghat having a length of 40 kms connecting Poladpur with Mahabaleshwar (3) Roja (4) Jaipur (5) Orca or Killer Whale (6) Maya is Haridwar and Avantika is Ujjain (7) Mexico

RamaQuiz

SCIENCE WATCH

TECH MARVEL - Jet Engines



Scientists in Germany and Britain raced to build the fastest airplanes during World War II. This led to the development of the jet engine, which is the exact technology that allows commercial airplanes to fly us around the world today.

TECH MARVEL - The Rocket Race



During World War II and the Cold War, countries competed to build powerful long-range military rockets. The very same scientists and rocket technologies were later used to launch satellites into space and send the first humans to the Moon.

TECH MARVEL - The Internet and GPS



The internet started as a Cold War military project, designed to help military computers talk to each other even if a war disrupted normal phone lines. Global Positioning System (GPS) satellites were also first launched by the military to help submarines navigate.

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS	FUNDAMENTAL DUTIES
Part 3 of the Constitution of India contains the Fundamental Rights guaranteed to the citizens of India. Articles 12-35 of the Constitution of India deal with Fundamental Rights.	Article 51-A, contained in Part IV A of the Constitution of India, deals with Fundamental Duties.
Fundamental Rights were borrowed from the Constitution of the United States of America.	Fundamental Duties were taken from the Constitution of the former Soviet Union (USSR).
Fundamental Rights are defined as the basic human rights of all citizens.	The Fundamental Duties are defined as the moral obligations of all citizens.
Fundamental rights can be suspended during a national emergency. But, the rights guaranteed under Articles 20 and 21 cannot be suspended.	Fundamental Duties can be taken away. However, the need to suspend Fundamental Duties during an emergency does not arise.
The Fundamental Rights are not absolute in nature.	Fundamental Duties are absolute in nature.
Fundamental Rights and Fundamental Duties are primarily taught in Class 8 (under Social Science / Civics, Chapter 3: Our Fundamental Rights and Duties,) CBSE	
Fundamental Rights and Fundamental Duties are revisited in greater detail in Class 9 (Democratic Politics / Social Science) CBSE.	



NOVEMBER 02-THE DAY IN HISTORY

1. November 2 marks several notable milestones including the 1976 - Lok Sabha passing of the 42nd Constitutional Amendment Bill, formally defining India as a Sovereign Socialist Secular Democratic Republic and introducing fundamental duties for citizens.
2. Also on this day in 1950, India rebukes China/Mao Zedong over the invasion of Tibet.
3. On this day were born Guru Ram Das, the fourth Sikh Guru, Mahendralal Sarkar, prominent Indian physician, social reformer, and champion of homeopathy and Sohrab Modi, iconic Indian theatre and film actor.
4. On November 02, 'The Morris Worm', the first internet-distributed computer worm was released in 1988.



Daily Horoscope

Aries

Pleasure trips and social get-togethers will keep you relaxed and happy. Be careful not to get roped into dubious financial deals. Control your temper to avoid hurting the feelings of your family members. People of this zodiac sign need to take out time for themselves today, as excessive work can mentally stress you.

Taurus

Your enormous confidence and easy work schedule brings you enough time to relax today. Someone with big plans and ideas will catch your attention- Verify the credibility and authenticity of the person before making any investments. Family front could be problematic.

Gemini

Health front needs little care. Married couples may have to spend a lot of money on the education of their children today. Family responsibilities will mount- bringing tension on your mind. Today, you might get to know at work that the one you considered as your enemy is actually your wellwisher.

Cancer

Your polite behaviour will be appreciated. Many people will shower verbal praise on you. All commitments and financial transactions need to be handled carefully. You should take a break from your daily schedule and go out with your friends today. Today, you should try to complete your tasks on time.

Leo

Boundless energy and enthusiasm will grip you and you would use any given opportunity to your advantage. A new financial deal will get finalized and fresh money rolls in. You can get your own way with people if you turn on your charms and use your intelligence. Travelling will not bring immediate results.

Virgo

Special precaution should be taken especially while eating exposed food. But don't take undue stress as it would only give you mental tension. You will obtain benefits from commissions- dividends- or royalties. Your ability to act swiftly to problems will bring you recognition. Your health might suffer due to the stress.

Libra

Meditation and yoga should be practiced for spiritual as well as physical gains. Simply ignore those who approach you for business credit. Social activity with your family would keep everybody in a relaxed and pleasant mood. Listen to your inner feeling before committing to any partnership.

Scorpio

You are likely to enjoy some sporting activity which will maintain your physical fitness. You are very likely to attain monetary benefits from your mother's side today. It is possible for your maternal uncle or maternal grandfather to help you financially. Opportunities to show your skills will be with you today. Due to some reason, you may leave early from the office.

Sagittarius

Take physical education along with mental and moral only then all round development is possible. Remember a healthy mind always remains in a healthy body. Investment concerning your residence will be profitable. Avoid arguments and confrontation and needless fault finding in others.

Capricorn

Pleasure trip with your friends or family members makes you relaxed People who had invested their money in the past are likely to benefit from that investment today. Invitation in a award function of your child would be the source of happiness. You would likely to see your dream coming true as he lives upto your expectations.

Aquarius

Unwanted thoughts may occupy your mind. Try to engage yourself in physical exercise because an empty brain is a devil's workshop. Investment needs to be made with a long-term perspective. Invitation in a award function of your child would be the source of happiness. Busy natives will finally be able to spend some time alone.

Pisces

Pleasure trips and social get-togethers will keep you relaxed and happy. Investment concerning your residence will be profitable. Spend some relaxed moments with family members. Avoid raising controversial issues, if you happen to go on a date today. Good day for businessmen. A sudden trip undertaken for business purpose will yield positive results.

TELL ME WHY?

Why do we apply paint on iron articles?

We apply paint on iron particles, to prevent rusting and corrosion. Apart from that it creates a protective barrier, by blocking moisture in the air. Without oxygen and moisture reaching the metal, iron cannot undergo oxidation to form iron oxide (rust).



HOW IT IS ABBREVIATED

ABBREVIATIONS	Full Words
1) CSV	_____
2) DBMS	_____
3) DLC	_____
4) DNS	_____
5) DVD	_____



Answers-

1- Comma-Separated Values, 2- Database Management System, 3- Downloadable Content, 4- Domain Name System, 5- Digital Versatile Disc.

APTITUDE TEST

Fibonacci Series

A Fibonacci number series in an aptitude test, which follows a simple rule: each term is the sum of the two preceding numbers.

MISSING MIDDLE TERM

Question Series - 1`, 1, 2, 3, ?, 8, 13

Options: (A) 4 (B) 5 (C) 6 (D) 7

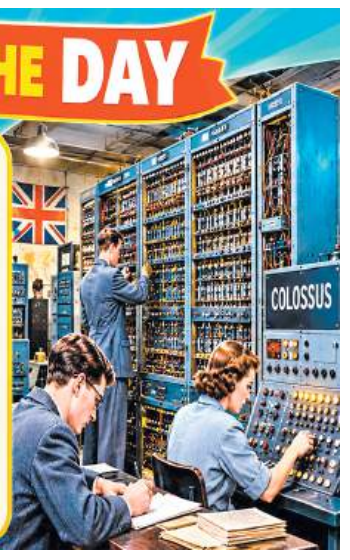
ANSWER - (B) 5

EXPLANATION - Each number is the sum of the previous two (2 + 3 = 5, and 3 + 5 = 8).



FACT OF THE DAY

During World War II, the British government gathered mathematical geniuses at a secret base. They built massive, room-sized electronic machines (like the Colossus) to crack the enemy's secret codes, paving the way for modern computers.



WORD OF THE DAY

Amiable

Meaning - Having or displaying a friendly and pleasant manner

Part of speech - Adjective

Example - He was an amiable host during the school science fair.

Synonyms - Friendly, amicable, pleasant

Antonyms - Unfriendly, hostile, rude



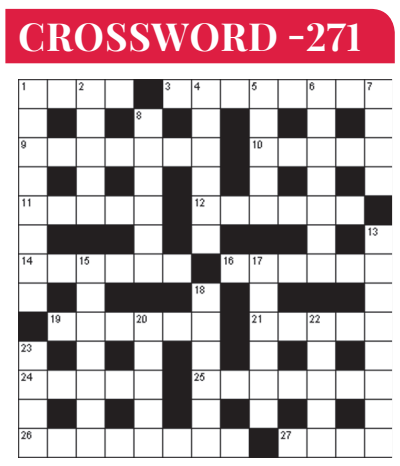
CROSSWORD -271

Across

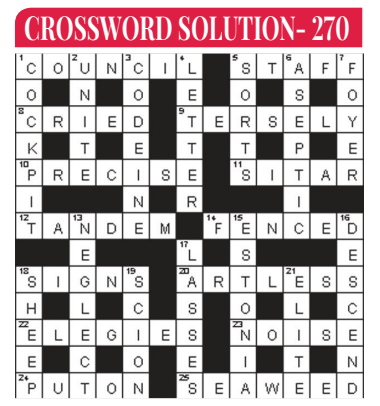
1 Broken (4)
3 Roomy (8)
9 Surgeon's knife (7)
10 Florida resort (5)
11 Swelling (5)
12 Long-haired sheepdog (6)
14 Cloth used with polish (6)
16 Citrus fruit (6)
19 Composer of the opera "Lohengrin" (6)
21 Imitate (5)
24 Annoyed (5)
25 Spanish wine cocktail (7)
26 London rail terminus (8)
27 Period before Easter (4)

Down

1 Meddler (8)
2 Animal compartment (5)
4 Insurance contract (6)
5 Ship of the desert (5)
6 Formal speech (7)
7 Lose weight (4)
8 Orb (6)
13 Trader (8)
15 Vivid red (7)
17 Gypsy (6)
18 Fast, in musical terms (6)
20 Lowest point (5)
22 Signalling code (5)
23 Forehead (4)



CROSSWORD SOLUTION- 270



SUDOKU- 271

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

SUDOKU SOLUTION- 270

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

DAILY WORD SEARCH

- Audrey
- Emilia
- Ophelia
- Bianca
- Goneril
- Perdita
- Celia
- Helena
- Portia
- Cleopatra
- Hermia
- Regan
- Cordelia
- Juliet
- Rosalind
- Cressida
- Miranda
- Viola
- Desdemona
- Olivia

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

Business



India's coal imports declined by 5.83 per cent in August 2026, falling to 104.57 million tonnes."

G Kishan Reddy
Coal Minister

Launch of AltAir House - IHCL in Kolkata



Ambuja Neotia Group Chairman Harshavardhan Neotia, right, and Indian Hotels Company Ltd (IHCL) MD & CEO Puneet Chhatwal shake hands during the launch of AltAir House in Kolkata,

Crude oil prices face another volatile week ahead: Analysts

Crude oil prices are likely to remain volatile with an upward bias in the coming week as uncertainty over US-Iran negotiations and risks to energy shipments still persist.

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Crude oil prices are likely to remain volatile with an upward bias in the coming week as uncertainty over US-Iran negotiations and risks to energy shipments through the Strait of Hormuz keep geopolitical concerns in focus, analysts said.

The US midterm election results, particularly Washington's stance towards Tehran, will be a key trigger for prices, alongside weekly crude oil stock data from the American Petroleum Institute and oil imports, they added.

"Crude oil is likely to remain volatile with an upward bias in the coming week, as geopolitical risk continues to outweigh conventional demand-side factors," said Ajit Mishra, SVP of Research at Religare Broking. Last week, crude oil futures for November delivery rose by Rs 137, or 1.4 per cent, to close at Rs 9,937 per barrel on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX).

NUMBER

137

- **Last week, crude oil futures for November delivery rose by Rs 137, or 1.4 per cent.**
- **The US midterm election results and Trump's stance towards Tehran, will be a key trigger for prices.**

"MCX crude oil futures have continued their streak of positive momentum for the fourth consecutive week, posted weekly gains of 1.4 per cent in the past week and managed to close on a positive note, driven by escalating tensions between the US and Iran and fears of supply disruptions," Choice Broking said.

The market's focus is on whether diplomatic signals from Washington and Tehran can translate into an agreement and ease the risk premium built into oil prices. Iran confirmed receiving a letter from US Vice President JD Vance aimed at reviving peace negotiations, while regional mediators returned to Tehran to facilitate a possible agreement.

US President Donald Trump said negotiations with Iran are "going fine", but added that he was "not in that much of a hurry" to make a deal. Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said talks with Qatari mediators were ongoing on a plan to reopen the Strait of Hormuz within two days if the US cooperates.

Indian Bond yield may ease to around 07 pc by March

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: Indian government bond yields could ease to 6.75-7 per cent by March 2027 even if the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) increases the benchmark interest rate by 0.50 per cent, as lower borrowing and historical yield trends are expected to support the market, according to a report.

"As per our calculation, India's 10-year G-sec yield could settle in the range of 6.75 per cent-7 per cent by end March '27," the SBI Research report said on Sunday. The 10-year government security yield is currently at around 7.43 per cent, while the spread between Indian and US 10-year government bond yields is hovering at around 2.50 per cent. SBI Research said past data since 2019 indicate that a spread of 2-3 per



HIGHLIGHT

- **Indian 10-year bond yield may ease to 6.75-7 pc by Mar despite possible rate hike, says SBI Research.**

cent is the most likely scenario. It said that even if the repo rate is increased by 0.50 per cent to 6 per cent, the 10-year yield would still remain in the range of 6.75-7 per cent, based on historical analysis of the spread between the Indian 10-year government security yield and the repo rate.

| POVERTY REDUCTION |

India demonstrates fastest poverty reduction: Goyal

Press Trust Of India

The World Bank Group's report confirms that India has demonstrated one of the fastest poverty reduction ratio in modern history.

NEW DELHI: The World Bank Group's 'October 2026 Poverty & amp; Equity Brief' confirms that India has demonstrated one of the fastest and most expansive poverty reduction in modern history, according to Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal.

The report states several significant gains, including 49.6 crore people moving above the lower-middle-income poverty line of $4.20 a day between 2011 and 2023, with the poverty rate declining from 57.7 per cent to 16.1 per cent. This has been



HIGHLIGHT

- **Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said, this has been accomplished due to targeted policy, structural reforms.**

accomplished due to targeted policy, structural reforms, and resolute governance under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Goyal said.

"Between 2011 and 2023, an astounding 49.6 crore citizens rose above the lower-middle-income poverty line ($4.20/day, 2021 PPP), driving the poverty rate down from 57.7 per cent to 16.1 per cent. Measured at $3/day (2021 PPP), extreme poverty plummeted from 27.1 per cent to 2.6 per cent," the minister posted on X.

Total employment expanded by 13.4 crore between 2017 and 2023, nearly twice the growth of the working-age population. "Rural women led this economic transformation by entering paid work in unprecedented numbers, multiplying household breadwinners and lifting family incomes.

Welfare gains swept across both geographies, with rural India progressing faster to systematically bridge the historical divide," Goyal said in a post on X. Foundational ease of living is now a reality, with electricity access reaching 99 per cent of the population.

| COAL IMPORT DECLINES |

India's coal imports declined by 5.83 per cent

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: India's coal imports declined by 5.83 per cent in August 2026, falling to 104.57 million tonnes (MT) from 111.05 MT in the corresponding month last year, according to the Ministry of Coal.

The country imported 6.48 MT less coal in August compared to the same month in 2025. The decline reflects efforts to boost domestic coal production, improve availability and reduce dependence on imported fuel.



Coal imports by power plants fell by 6.39 per cent, from 22.77 MT in August 2025 to 21.32 MT in August 2026. Imports for blending at domestic coal-based power plants registered a sharper decline of 35.23 per cent, dropping from 4.64 MT to 3 MT during the period.

However, coal imports by imported coal-based power plants, which are primarily designed to operate on imported fuel, recorded a marginal increase of 0.98 per cent, rising from 18.13 MT to 18.31 MT.

The share of imported coal in India's total coal consumption also declined from 21.20 per cent in August 2025 to 19.30 per cent in August 2026, a reduction of 1.90 percentage points.

Coking coal imports, which cater to the requirements of the steel industry, fell by 4.18 per cent, from 28.49 MT to 27.30 MT. The Ministry noted that import requirements in this category continue to be influenced by the quality and characteristics of domestic coal reserves and the specific raw material needs of the steel sector.

*Biz*Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

MARKET TRENDS

Stock markets to track geopolitical developments, oil prices and earnings this week: Analysts



NEW DELHI: Geopolitical developments, especially growing concerns about renewed conflict between the US and Iran, crude oil prices, and quarterly earnings will be the major drivers for stock markets this week, analysts said. In addition, US midterm elections, foreign investor trading activity, and macroeconomic data announcements will also be tracked by market investors.

"Markets will remain focused on the September quarter earnings season, key economic data releases and global developments this week. Investors will assess corporate performance for signs of sustained revenue growth, margin resilience and improving demand. Banking results will offer insights into credit growth, deposit mobilisation and asset quality, while automobile, consumer and industrial companies will provide a broader assessment of domestic demand conditions," Ajit Mishra, SVP - Research, Religare Broking, said. Crude oil prices will remain an important variable, with elevated levels amid geopolitical uncertainty posing risks to imported inflation, the rupee and corporate margins, he said. Movements in US Treasury yields, foreign institutional investor flows and currency markets will also influence near-term sentiment and the sustainability of the recent recovery, Mishra added. "Key events to watch this week include the US midterm elections, US PMI and India's HSBC PMI. On the earnings front, M&M, Bajaj Finserv, ITC, Dabur, Apollo Hospitals, BSE, Cummins India and Hindalco will be in focus," Siddhartha Khemka - Head of Research, Wealth Management, Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd, said.

GROWTH

L&T eyes USD 6 Bn services arms' revenue hike to 15 pc

MUMBAI: Larsen and Toubro is focusing on accelerating revenue growth in its two services arms, LTM and LTTS, to over 15 per cent from 10-11 per cent at present, a top official has said. While there have been some successes amid the changes brought about by the artificial intelligence-led disruption, companies like LTM and LTTS, which are mid-sized players in their respective industries, need to accelerate their growth, R Shankar Raman, the president and whole-time director for finance, told reporters a few days ago.

"Services has to pick up pace; we are growing at about 10-11 per cent on a year-on-year basis. For a mid-sized firm, that rate needs to go up," Raman said.

There is a need to accelerate the growth to over 15 per cent per annum for both LTM and LTTS (L&T Technology Services), which are engaged in IT services and engineering services, respectively, he said, adding that "our focus is also now to see how we can scale up the services business".

APPROVAL

Prosus investment in Sachin Bansal's Navi gets CCI nod

NEW DELHI: Competition watchdog CCI has approved Dutch investment group Prosus' proposal to acquire a stake in Sachin Bansal-led fintech firm Navi Ltd, paving the way for the investment group to deepen its presence in India's digital financial services sector.

"The proposed combination involves the acquisition of certain shareholding in Navi Ltd (target) by MIH Payments Holdings BV (acquirer)," the regulator said in a release. The Competition Commission of India (CCI) said it has approved the proposed deal.

MIH Payments Holdings BV does not undertake any business activity other than holding investments in its portfolio companies, which operate in India, the watchdog added. Prosus is a global consumer internet group and one of the world's largest technology investors. It is majority-owned by the South African multinational mass media company Naspers.

Bengaluru-based Navi is the holding company of the Navi Group, founded by Bansal in 2018 after leaving Flipkart following its sale to Walmart.

CRUDE PRICES

UAE announces reduction in petrol & diesel prices for November, despite rising crude prices

MUMBAI: The Gasoline and Diesel Prices Follow-up Committee of the UAE has approved a 5.6% reduction in petrol prices and 1.04% reduction in diesel prices for the month of November 2026. The announcement is expected to offer some relief to motorists across the emirates after a sharp increase in fuel prices in October. The surprise reduction in prices comes against the backdrop of continued volatility in international energy markets, with crude oil prices remaining elevated amid geopolitical tensions and supply disruptions in the region. Crude Oil prices touched a six-month high on Friday, with Brent Crude touching $118 a barrel and WTI settling above $104.



The UAE has followed a market-linked fuel pricing policy since August 2015, when the government deregulated petrol and diesel prices and introduced a mechanism linking domestic rates to international fuel prices. Under this system, a committee reviews global market movements every month and determines prices for the following month.

The policy was introduced to align domestic fuel prices with international market trends and to encourage efficient fuel consumption. Under the revised rates, which will come into effect from November 1, Super "98" petrol will cost AED 4.16 per litre, down from AED 4.40 in October.

Central Chronicle Classifieds

आवश्यकता है

रायपुर बलौदाबाजार मार्ग सारागांव में पेट्रोल पंप में कार्य करने के लिए अनुभवी मैनेजर एवं वर्कर की अतिशीघ्र आवश्यकता है।
संपर्क –
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9589953667

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Nation News

'Rahul acting at behest of foreign powers'

Country governed by the Constitution and not by the 'Gandhi family's law'

Press Trust Of India

CHANDIGARH: BJP chief Nitin Nabin on Sunday lashed out at Rahul Gandhi, alleging that he was acting at the behest of foreign powers to create anarchy in the country, and asserted that the country will be governed by the Constitution and not by the "Gandhi family's law".



Hitting out at the Congress over the Delhi rally on the 'vote chori' charge, he said the opposition party was targeting constitutional institutions out of frustration over not getting people's mandate.

Nabin was speaking after leading the BJP's 'Loktantra Bachao, Arajakta Hatao' padyatra in Haryana's Rohtak as part of the ruling party's counter-campaign against the opposition's narrative on alleged electoral irregularities and against the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise.

The BJP chief said that instead of seeking atonement and offering an apology for the 1984 anti-Sikh riots, the Congress has come out to protest on the anniversary of the killings in Delhi. In democracy, people's mandate is supreme, said Nabin.

"When they get this people's mandate in Himachal, when they win in Karnataka, then they say democracy has won, but when they lose in Haryana, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal, then they say democracy is in danger. "What kind of dual mentality do you have? This makes one thing clear: they want to run democracy according to the Gandhi family's law, but democracy will run in accordance with the country's constitution," he said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has always respected this country's democracy, the BJP chief said, alleging that if anyone insulted Dr B R Ambedkar, it was the Nehru-Gandhi family.

Nabin's counter came on a day opposition leaders, including Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge, at the INDIA bloc rally in Delhi, called for the ouster of PM Modi to "save democracy" and alleged that the BJP-led government at the Centre and in states were formed on stolen mandate.

"An attempt to spread anarchy in the country is being made; I always say that Rahul Gandhi is acting at the behest of foreign powers like their toolkit to challenge the country's democracy. The 140 crore people of the country are watching and they know who these people are," the BJP president said.

'Congress accused of undermining the Constitution'

He said that Rahul Gandhi carries a copy of the Constitution with him, "but in reality, who tore the Constitution to shreds? It is the Congress party". "The Allahabad High Court had set aside Indira Gandhi's election for misusing government machinery and barred her from contesting elections for six years. Who misused the government machinery? This is the Congress's legacy of stealing votes and disrespecting the people's mandate," he alleged.

HIGHLIGHT

- Can give account of every vote, from street to parliament
- Of these 13 crore voters, 2.5 crore were those who had died

Referring to the opposition's charge about 13 crore vote names being cut, he said: "Rahul Gandhi, our party workers can give you an account of every vote, from street to parliament." Nabin said that of these 13 crore voters, 2.5 crore were those who had died. "I want to ask Rahul Gandhi, why is he advocating for the vote of even those who have died? What is his intent?"

Six crore are those who have shifted from one place to another.

Cherished traditions

BENGALURU: Karwa Chauth is a celebration of love, togetherness and cherished traditions, made even morespecial with thoughtful gifts and festive preparations. From elegant ethnic wear and statement jewellery to beauty essentials, traditional sweets, puja essentials and gifts for loved ones, Amazon. in brings together a wide selection of products to make every Karwa Chauth celebration memorable. With the Amazon Great Indian Festival now live, customers can discover exciting deals across categories from popular brands including Dyson, Samsung, LoveChild by Masaba, ROSIER and Farmley. Prime members can also enjoy an additional 5% off on the largest-ever selection of lakhs of products, along with an extra Rs 250 cashback on eligible purchases.

For those planning last-minute celebrations, Amazon Now makes festive preparations more convenient with delivery in minutes across grocery, beauty, home essentials, mobile accessories and more in over 120 cities. Whether its finding the perfect outfit, adding the finishing touches to a festive look, picking up puja essentials or choosing a thoughtful gift,customers can find everything they need to celebrate Karwa Chauth on Amazon.in.

PBSSSCG hosts quiz and debate for children



Central Chronicle News

Showcasing knowledge, confidence and communication skills

FASTFACTS

- PBSSSCG Reaffirms Commitment to Youth Development

RAIPUR: The Pradeshik Bengali Samaj Seva Samiti, Chhattisgarh (PBSSSCG), organised state-level quiz and debate competitions for children on Sunday, providing a platform for young participants to showcase their knowledge, communication skills, confidence and intellectual abilities.

The quiz competition was conducted by Jayant Mukherjee, while S. Dutta coordinated the debate. The events were judged by Mili Chowdhury and Anita Banerjee.

The programme was organised under the leadership of Secretary Pratibhoo Banerjee, with the guidance and support of President Ranjan Banerjee. Sapan Kumar Ghar sponsored the awards for the winners and participants.

The Yuva Wing, Educational Wing and other wings of the organisation extended their support, ensuring the smooth conduct of the event. The programme concluded with lunch, bringing together children, parents, guests and members in a spirit of camaraderie.

The organisers said such initiatives help promote healthy competition, develop leadership and communication skills, and build confidence among children. The event reaffirmed PBSSSCG's commitment to the educational, cultural and social development of the younger generation and to strengthening community bonds across Chhattisgarh.

NEWSLINE

CHANDIGARH

'First drug-free city'



Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday said Chandigarh will be the first city in the country to become drug-free even as he lauded Chandigarh Police, saying it performed duties in an exemplary manner and set a benchmark across the country.

Since 1966, Chandigarh Police has worked tirelessly to safeguard the city, effectively writing a golden chapter in the history of policing across the nation, he said.

"I believe that over these 60 years, Chandigarh -- as the heart of the northern region -- has made a successful effort to contribute to the security of all of India," he said while addressing a gathering on the occasion of the 60th Raising Day event of Chandigarh Police.

Presenting the President's Colour to the Chandigarh Police, Shah said it is a recognition of the force's six decades of service and dedication.

Rekha Pandey appointed Director (HR) MCL

Agencies

SAMBALPUR: Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL), a subsidiary of Coal India Limited (CIL), has appointed Rekha Pandey as Director (Human Resources).

With 32 years of experience in human resource management, Pandey brings extensive expertise in employee welfare, industrial relations, workforce administration, and HR leadership within India's public sector coal mining industry. Her appointment was announced by Coal India Limited.

In her new position, Pandey assumes responsibility for the human resources function at Mahanadi Coalfields Limited, bringing more than three decades of institutional experience within the Coal India group. Her background in employee relations, corporate HR management, and workforce welfare provides relevant experience for managing people-related priorities in a large mining organization.



Before taking over as Director (HR) at MCL, Pandey served as General Manager (HR/CSR) at Coal India Limited's Corporate Office in Kolkata. In this role, she was associated with human resources and corporate social responsibility functions at the parent organization. Her experience at the corporate level further broadened her understanding of workforce management and employee welfare within Coal India's extensive operational network. Previously, Pandey spent approximately three decades at Central Coalfields Limited (CCL), another subsidiary of Coal India Limited, where she held various responsibilities in human resources management.

Sixfold increase

BENGALURU: Amazon. in has recorded a sixfold increase in two-wheeler sales compared to its average daily pace since the beginning of the Amazon Great Indian Festival 2026, reflecting a growing shift towards online shopping among vehicle buyers. Popular choices include electric vehicle brands such as Chetak and Ampere, Indian manufacturers Hero MotoCorp and Bajaj Auto, and premium international brands Triumph and KTM. The trend is gaining momentum beyond metropolitan cities, with non-metros accounting for over 60% of two-wheeler sales. Key markets include Surat, Kota, Visakhapatnam, Bhubaneswar, Prayagraj, Nellore, Warangal, Amritsar, Ludhiana, Belagavi, Kanpur and Bhilwara.

Electric two-wheeler sales have grown eightfold compared to their average daily pace, led by Chetak and Ampere.

| NATIONAL UNITY DAY |

Rashtriya Ekta Diwas observed at East Coast Railway Hqs

Press Trust Of India

National Unity Day marked with run for unity



BHUBANESWAR: East Coast Railway observed Rashtriya Ekta Diwas at its Headquarters, Rail Sadan, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar, commemorating the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. The occasion was marked by the observance of National Unity Day and a vibrant "Run for Unity" rally, led by General Manager Parmeshwar Funkwal.

On the occasion, Funkwal administered the Rashtriya Ekta Diwas Pledge to officers and employees of East Coast Railway. The pledge reaffirmed their commitment to preserve the unity, integrity and security of the nation and to uphold the ideals of national integration envisioned by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

Following the pledge-taking ceremony, the General Manager flagged off the "Run for Unity" in front of Rail Sadan. The rally witnessed enthusiastic participation from Railway officers, employees, Railway Protection Force (RPF) personnel, sports personalities and senior officials, reflecting a strong spirit of togetherness and national pride.

All Principal Heads of Departments and senior officers of ECoR were present on the occasion, reaffirming the collective commitment towards fostering unity, integrity and national integration.

The programme was coordinated by the Personnel Department of East Coast Railway.

The observance of Rashtriya Ekta Diwas serves as a reminder of the invaluable contributions of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel in unifying the nation and reinforces the shared responsibility of every citizen in preserving India's unity, integrity and security.

FASTFACTS

- GM administers Rashtriya Ekta Diwas pledge to ECoR personnel.
- Railway officials, staff, RPF and sportspersons enthusiastically participated.

NEW DELHI

'Freedom struggle'



CPI(M) general secretary M A Baby termed the INDIA bloc stir a "second freedom struggle" to save the country from the RSS.

Addressing the gathering at Ramlila Maidan here, Left leaders accused the BJP-led Centre of undermining constitutional rights and asserted that the movement against alleged irregularities in electoral processes must be taken to every corner of the country. Baby, in his address, said the massive gathering at Ramlila Maidan represented a collective rejection of the Centre's ploys to keep people from expressing their opinion, and warned Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar that their "authoritarian tactics" would not succeed.

| TRIPURA CIVIC POLLS |

'TMP to contest in alliance with BJP'

Press Trust Of India

AGARTALA: Tripura Parliamentary Affairs Minister Ratan Lal Nath on Sunday said the Tipra Motha Party (TMP) will contest the upcoming civic elections in alliance with the BJP.

The TMP, which had contested the elections to the Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council (TTAADC) alone, fought the elections to Village Committees of the tribal council in alliance with the BJP following the BJP central leadership's intervention.

"We had a fruitful meeting with the TMP leaders - Minister of State for Industries & Commerce, Brishaketu Debbarma, and senior MLA Ranjit Debbarma, at the state guest house today. They have expressed a desire to contest the civic elections. We have decided to contest the election under the NDA banner", Nath told reporters.

According to him, the outcome of the meeting would be forwarded to the party leadership for taking a final decision on seat sharing for the upcoming civic elections.



Fruitful meeting with the TMP leaders

Ratan Lal Nath

Tripura Minister

The elections to the 21 civic bodies in Tripura will be held on November 27. "The seat-sharing deal will be finalised at the BJP's core committee meeting scheduled to be held tomorrow. It is final that the BJP and its ally will contest the election under the NDA banner", he said.

Responding to the outcome of the meeting, TMP MLA Ranjit Debbarma said the party has decided to contest the civic elections in alliance with the BJP, and it was accepted by the Parliamentary Affairs Minister on behalf of the BJP.

"We want to contest in those wards where the TMP has a chance to win, and seats to be offered to us should be a respectable number. The issue is expected to be resolved by tomorrow", he said.

BJP state president Abhishek Debroy said the party has already prepared the list of candidates for the upcoming civic elections and was waiting for a nod from Delhi. The last date for filing nomination papers for the civic election is November 6.

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APPENDIX -IV [Rule 8(1)] Possession Notice (For Immovable Property)

Whereas The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the **Muthoot Fincorp Limited (MFL)**, under the Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (ACT NO.54 OF 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice to below mentioned Borrower/s / Guarantor/s. After completion of 60 days from date of receipt of the said notice, The Borrower/s / Guarantor/s having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower/s / Guarantor/s and the public in general that the undersigned has taken **Possession** of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on them under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on this.

Name of Borrower / Co-Borrower/Guarantor	Date of Demand notice	Total O/s Amount (Rs.) Future Interest Applicable	Description of Secured Asset(s)/ Immovable Property (ies)	Date of Possession
Loan A/c No. MFLSECUCTGL000005610882 Shri Omprakash Sahu (Borrower) **Dileshwari** (Co-Borrower)	05-08-2026	**Rs. 35,39,618.33** (Rupees Thirty Five lakh Thirty Nine Thousand Six Hundred Eighteen &Thirty Three Paise Only)	Abadi KH No 451/53, Area no.63.69 sq.mt. , 686 Sq.Ft. situated at village- Erra, PH No. 00015 Plot No 53 RIC Batheli Tehsil Bhakhara, Dist. Dhamtari - 493770, Chhattisgarh, India & Having Geographical Address As Per Records is Abadi KH No 451/53, Area no.63.69 sq.mt. ,686 sq.ft. situated at village- Erra, PH No.00015 Plot No 53 RIC Batheli Tehsil Bhakhara Dist. Dhamtari-493770, Chhattisgarh **Property Boundaries** North - Grass Land, South- Land Of Chandrasen , East- Road , West - Lagani Land	30-10-2026

The Borrower/s / Guarantor/s in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Muthoot Fincorp Limited (MFL), for an above mentioned demanded amount and further interest thereon.

Place : Chhatisgarh, Date : 02.11.2026

Sd/- Authorised Officer
For Muthoot Fincorp Limited

Central Chronicle

Established 1974 Volume 53 No. 28

Comment

QUOTE FROM THE QUOTABLE

"A nation's strength lies in its people's wisdom, their courage to reform, and their quest for justice."

[Raja Ram Mohan Roy]

| OUR VIEW |

Pollution Curbs Must Not Restrict Democracy

Delhi's recurring winter pollution crisis has once again exposed the serious weaknesses of urban governance, this time creating an uncomfortable confrontation between environmental enforcement, public convenience and democratic rights. Massive traffic congestion at the capital's borders during the INDIA bloc's political rally raises an important question: Can pollution-control measures be implemented without disrupting ordinary citizens and restricting political participation? The decision to prohibit older vehicles registered outside Delhi may be justified by the urgent need to reduce harmful emissions. However, environmental regulations cannot succeed through poorly coordinated enforcement. Kilometre-long queues, prolonged delays and inadequate public communication suggest that the authorities failed to anticipate the consequences of simultaneous vehicle inspections and large-scale political mobilisation. The situation becomes more troubling when opposition workers allege that pollution restrictions were selectively enforced to prevent them from reaching Ramlila Maidan. Although these allegations require independent verification, they highlight the importance of transparency and political neutrality in administrative decisions. Environmental protection must never become a convenient justification for restricting peaceful democratic activities. Delhi's pollution emergency is undoubtedly serious. Every winter, hazardous air quality threatens millions of residents, particularly children, elderly citizens and people suffering from respiratory illnesses. Restrictions on polluting vehicles, construction activities and unnecessary traffic are essential components of any effective response. Nevertheless, such interventions must be scientifically justified, consistently implemented and supported by adequate public transport alternatives. The larger failure lies in treating pollution as a seasonal emergency rather than a permanent governance challenge. Delhi requires coordinated action involving neighbouring states, improved public transportation, stricter industrial emission standards, effective dust management and sustained efforts to reduce agricultural burning. Equally important is protecting citizens from avoidable inconvenience. Advance announcements, clearly marked diversions, technology-enabled vehicle verification and separate arrangements for major public gatherings could substantially reduce disruption. Democracy and environmental responsibility are not competing priorities. Citizens have an unquestionable right to clean air, but they also deserve freedom of movement and peaceful political expression. The real test of responsible governance is not merely announcing stringent restrictions but implementing them fairly, efficiently and without political discrimination. Delhi needs cleaner air, certainly, but it also needs an administration capable of protecting public health without compromising democratic freedoms.

| GUEST VIEW |

Luxury hotels must guarantee guest safety

The tragic deaths of two foreign nationals following suspected electrocution in the swimming pool of Conrad Hotel, Bengaluru, have raised serious concerns about safety standards in luxury hospitality establishments. Another foreign guest and a pool attendant reportedly sustained injuries while attempting a rescue. Preliminary suspicions suggest electrical leakage from underwater lighting, defective water circulation equipment or improper earthing. Investigators must establish the exact cause and determine whether essential electrical safety devices were installed and functioning properly. Modern swimming pools require Residual Current Devices (RCDs), Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs), proper earthing and regular technical inspections.



Dr Ganapathi Bhat

Such precautions are indispensable wherever electricity and water come into contact. International hotel chains charge enormous amounts while promising world-class facilities and exceptional comfort. However, expensive accommodation becomes meaningless when basic safety arrangements are compromised. The tragedy also raises questions about regulatory supervision, periodic inspections and enforcement of safety requirements. Authorities must examine maintenance records, identify possible negligence and ensure accountability wherever failures are established. Multinational hospitality brands cannot escape responsibility by relying on their international reputation. Their Indian operations must maintain safety standards comparable to those expected globally.The government should introduce stricter inspections, mandatory independent safety audits and meaningful penalties for violations. Luxury must never come at the expense of human lives. Guest safety deserves absolute priority over commercial considerations and corporate prestige.

Rising debt threatens wealthy nations' economic stability

Mounting public debt and increasingly expensive borrowing are emerging as major threats to the financial stability of developed economies. Countries such as France, Italy, the United States and Japan, despite their economic strength, face growing pressure from rising interest payments, slowing growth and widening fiscal deficits. The International Monetary Fund has warned that heavy debt burdens and shrinking fiscal space could undermine economic stability.

Governments depend heavily on bond markets to finance development projects, public services and budgetary expenditure. However, when investors sell government bonds, their prices decline and yields rise, making fresh borrowing costlier. Higher interest payments consequently reduce funds available for essential public services. France's public debt stands near 120 percent of GDP, while Italy's approaches 130 percent. Although these figures appear alarming, debt sustainability depends on several factors, including economic growth, repayment schedules, interest rates and borrowing currency. Long-term fixed-rate debt offers temporary protection, but refinancing becomes expensive when existing obligations mature.

Sluggish economic growth further complicates the situation. When borrowing costs exceed economic growth, governments struggle to stabilise debt without raising taxes or reducing expenditure. Excessive spending cuts, however, may weaken investment, employment and future revenue generation.

Global energy uncertainties have intensified these challenges. Rising oil and gas prices increase industrial costs, fuel inflation and strain household budgets. Governments may need additional expenditure to protect vulnerable citizens, while persistent inflation discourages central banks from reducing interest rates.

The United States enjoys significant advantages because of the dollar's international dominance and its deep financial markets. Nevertheless, persistent fiscal deficits and increasing debt-servicing costs remain serious concerns.



Satish Singh
Senior Banking and Economic Columnist

Japan presents a different situation. Its substantial domestic investor base and historically low borrowing rates have helped manage enormous public debt. However, rising interest rates could gradually increase financial pressure as existing borrowings mature. Meanwhile, massive investments in artificial intelligence, data centres and advanced technologies are creating additional demand for capital. Such investments could boost productivity and economic growth, but excessive borrowing based on unrealistic expectations might expose companies and financial institutions to financial risks.

Governments must therefore adopt balanced fiscal strategies rather than depend exclusively on tax increases or expenditure reductions. Cutting education, healthcare, research and infrastructure spending indiscriminately could damage long-term economic prospects. Improved tax compliance, efficient expenditure management and credible medium-term fiscal planning are essential. These developments offer important lessons for India. Global interest rate fluctuations, energy prices and changing capital flows can influence domestic financial conditions. India must maintain fiscal discipline while supporting productive investments that generate employment and sustainable growth.

Greater transparency regarding public debt, government guarantees and future liabilities is equally necessary. Responsible borrowing should strengthen economic capacity rather than conceal structural financial weaknesses. Ultimately, citizens bear the consequences of excessive government indebtedness through higher taxes, weaker public services and reduced development opportunities. Economic prosperity cannot be measured merely through national wealth or impressive infrastructure. The real test lies in maintaining financial stability, managing debt responsibly and protecting future generations from accumulating obligations. Without timely reforms, even wealthy economies could face an increasingly difficult financial future.

Reform on Paper, Crisis on Campus: India's Higher Education Challenge

"India does not need higher education reforms merely on paper; it needs transformation in classrooms, laboratories, libraries and research institutions. The time has come to move from policy promises to institutional performance, from degree production to knowledge creation, and from educational expansion to genuine academic excellence."

India's higher education system stands at a critical crossroads. The introduction of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 generated considerable expectations of transforming the country's educational landscape through multidisciplinary learning, skill development, research innovation, academic flexibility and global competitiveness. It promised to make Indian universities centers of excellence and prepare young people for the emerging demands of the 21st century. However, despite these ambitious objectives, the ground realities of higher education continue to raise serious concerns. The gap between policy vision and institutional performance remains a major challenge. The fundamental question is whether Indian higher education is moving towards meaningful transformation or merely witnessing policy announcements without corresponding institutional improvements.



Dr. Rajinder Kumar Uppal



One of the most serious challenges confronting higher education institutions is the shortage of qualified faculty members. Thousands of teaching positions remain vacant across universities and colleges. Educational institutions cannot achieve academic excellence without adequate, qualified and motivated teachers. Faculty members are the backbone of any educational system, yet recruitment delays, contractual appointments, inadequate remuneration and increasing administrative responsibilities are affecting teaching quality. How can institutions deliver quality education when classrooms lack sufficient permanent teachers? The situation becomes even more concerning when we examine the quality of research and innovation. India has witnessed an increase in PhD enrolments and doctoral degree production, but the expansion of research qualifications does not automatically translate into meaningful discoveries, technological advancement or intellectual contributions. In several institutions, research is increasingly evaluated through publications, citations and degrees rather than originality, social relevance and innovation. The country needs research scholars who can solve real-world problems, develop new technologies and contribute to national development rather than merely fulfil academic requirements.

Another major concern is the employability of graduates. Every year, universities produce a large number of degree holders, but a considerable section of graduates continues to struggle to secure suitable employment. The disconnect between academic curricula and industry requirements remains evident. Many students complete their undergraduate and postgraduate education without acquiring adequate communication skills, critical thinking, digital competence, problem-solving abilities and practical exposure. A degree should open doors to opportunities, not become merely a certificate of academic attendance.

Although NEP 2020 emphasizes skill-based education, vocational training and multidisciplinary learning, implementation requires substantial investment, institutional preparedness and qualified human resources. Merely introducing new courses or modifying curricula cannot guarantee employability. Universities must establish meaningful industry partnerships, strengthen internships, promote entrepreneurship and ensure that students acquire practical competencies alongside theoretical knowledge.

The commercialization of higher education is another issue demanding urgent attention. Education is increasingly becoming expensive, particularly in institutions where financial considerations dominate academic Reform on Paper, Crisis on Campus: India's Higher Education Challengeiorities. High tuition fees, additional charges and the growing dependence on self-financing programmes can restrict access for economically weaker sections. The purpose of higher education should be knowledge creation, intellectual development and social transformation, not simply revenue generation. Educational institutions must maintain a balance between financial sustainability and their fundamental academic responsibilities.

The digital transformation of education has created new opportunities, but it has also exposed inequalities. Students from rural and economically disadvantaged backgrounds often face difficulties accessing reliable internet connectivity, modern devices and quality digital learning resources. Digital education can become a powerful instrument of inclusion only when the digital divide is effectively addressed.

The international competitiveness of Indian higher education also deserves serious consideration. India has enormous demographic potential, a large pool of talented young people and considerable intellectual resources. Yet, attracting international students, retaining outstanding researchers and developing globally recognized research institutions remain important challenges. Brain drain continues to raise questions about the research environment, professional opportunities and institutional support available to talented individuals within the country.

NEP 2020 provides an important framework for addressing many of these challenges. However, a policy document, irrespective of how ambitious its objectives may be, cannot transform the education system independently. Its success depends on effective implementation, adequate funding, institutional accountability, faculty development and sustained political and administrative commitment.

The government, regulatory authorities, universities and colleges must collectively accept responsibility for translating educational aspirations into measurable outcomes. Vacant faculty positions must be filled through transparent and timely recruitment. Research funding should encourage originality and innovation. Universities must strengthen their industry linkages, improve infrastructure and ensure that academic programmes remain relevant to changing employment requirements. Equally important is the need to restore dignity, professional security and financial recognition to teachers and researchers. A country cannot aspire to become a global knowledge leader while its intellectual workforce struggles with inadequate salaries, uncertain employment and limited research opportunities.

India's demographic dividend can become a demographic challenge if its young population receives degrees without the knowledge and skills required to participate meaningfully in economic development. Higher education must therefore move beyond enrolment figures, institutional expansion and degree production. Its real success should be measured through the quality of graduates, research contributions, innovation, employment outcomes and its impact on society.

Ultimately, the challenge before India is not merely to introduce another educational reform but to ensure that existing reforms produce visible results. NEP 2020 has outlined an ambitious vision, but the distance between that vision and institutional reality remains a matter of serious concern.

YOURLETTERS

Ozone layer protects life on Earth

The stratospheric ozone layer, located 10–25 miles above Earth, shields life from harmful ultraviolet rays. However, ground-level tropospheric ozone acts as a dangerous pollutant, affecting human health and the environment. The Montreal Protocol of 1987 aims to eliminate ozone-depleting substances, including CFCs. Its Kigali Amendment of 2016 targets HFCs, powerful greenhouse gases contributing to global warming. World Ozone Day, observed annually on September 16, reminds humanity of its collective responsibility to protect this vital atmospheric shield for future generations.

Nabnit Panigrahi, Rayagada, Odisha

Every taxpayer deserves equal dignity, respect

RJD MP Manoj Jha once rightly highlighted that even a poor person purchasing a bar of soap contributes to government revenue through indirect taxation, just like wealthy industrialists. His observation underlines an important democratic principle: every citizen contributes to the nation's economy. Whether paying direct or indirect taxes, nobody deserves inferior treatment because of financial status. Wealth should never become a measure of superiority. Society must recognise that economic inequality does not diminish anyone's dignity, citizenship rights or contribution to national development.

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



No force or power can shake NC loyalty.

Hilal Akbar Lone,
National Conference MLA

DG Prisons booked for sexual harassment

Along with the senior IPS officer, who is one of the aspirants for the DGP post in the state, a friend of his was also booked in the same case.

Press Trust Of India

BHUBANESWAR: Odisha's DG Prisons Susanta Kumar Nath was booked for allegedly sexually harassing a subordinate staff member and was shifted from the post pending an investigation, officials said on Sunday.

Along with the senior IPS officer, who is one of the aspirants for the DGP post in the state, a friend of his was also booked in the same case.

The government transferred Nath as an officer on special duty (OSD) in the Home Department, an inconsequential post, pending investigation, officials said. A case was registered against Nath and his friend, Kudleep Rath, under various sections of the BNS relating to sexual harassment, criminal intimidation and common intention.

A case was registered against the two at Choudwar Police Station in Cuttack district on October 31. Inspector Bikash Sethy was appointed the investigation officer in the matter.

According to the complaint lodged by the alleged victim, who was a jailor, Rath made phone calls and sent her "suggestive and unwelcome" messages a few times since July 2025, asking her to meet the IPS officer for dinner.



Odisha DG Prisons Susanta Kumar Nath.

The 41-year-old woman also claimed that after she rejected the invitation, she was falsely implicated in a case involving the escape of prisoners from a jail under her charge.

When contacted by PTI, the 59-year-old IPS officer of the 1993 batch did not respond to calls and messages.

He is one of the aspirants for the post of the director general of police, the selection process for which is underway at the UPSC, officials said.

According to the FIR, Nath had asked the victim to allow Rath to visit Choudwar Circle Jail in Cuttack, where she was the jailor, in July 2025. Rath took her phone number and allegedly started sending messages that were "suggestive and unwelcome". On August 29 last year, Rath allegedly telephoned the complainant and invited her to a restaurant in Cuttack for dinner with Nath. In September 2025, he again invited her to a hotel for a dinner/party as the IPS officer "wanted to meet her alone". On both occasions, she rejected the invitations, according to the complaint, a copy of which is with PTI.

"Because I declined the unwelcome personal invitation and did not comply with the demands or expectations conveyed through Rath, I am being targeted by the DG Prisons since then," she alleged in her complaint.

During the Durga Puja in October last year, two undertrial prisoners escaped from Choudwar Circle Jail. She was subsequently transferred to Kantabanji sub-jail, but she could not join immediately due to health issues.

The complainant said she joined duty in December 2025, but again fell ill and was admitted to a government hospital.

The victim alleged that her signature and documents were manipulated by the senior superintendent of the Choudwar jail to implicate her in the escape case. Later, she lodged a complaint against the jail superintendent, and the case is under investigation now, according to the FIR.

She was suspended from service in February this year, and her subsistence allowance was allegedly withheld for nearly six months, causing financial hardship to her and her two minor daughters. The allowance was released on August 4, 2026, following the intervention of the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), she said.

"The chronology of events clearly demonstrates that Nath's attempts to compel me to meet him alone at a hotel, and my refusal to submit to his sexual advances, resulted in retaliatory actions against me," the police complaint read.

HIGHLIGHT

- Nath shifted to Home Department as OSD.
- Case Registered; Inspector Sethy leads probe.

Full scholarship

NEW DELHI: The Birla Institute of Science and Technology (BITS) Pilani will begin offering full scholarships to its students who rank among the top 1,000 in the entrance exam starting in 2027, according to Group Vice Chancellor V Ramgopal Rao. Eligible candidates, whose annual family income is up to Rs 20 lakhs, will receive a full tuition scholarship for all four years, provided they maintain a minimum CGPA of 7.5 at their respective campuses.

BITSAT, a computer-based online entrance exam, is conducted for admission to integrated first-degree undergraduate programs (BE, MSc and BPharma) at BITS Pilani campuses. "The scholarship is built into the admission offer, and students do not need to apply for it after joining, so top performers can choose BITS Pilani based on aspiration and opportunity, not affordability. In 2026, the number of eligible top-500 rankers who joined BITS Pilani increased by 50 pc, and the BITSAT score needed to be in that group went up from 314 to 324," Rao told PTI. Mentioning that the effect spread beyond the students the initiative was meant for, Rao added that eligible students ranked 501 to 1,000, who were not covered, also came in larger numbers, and joiners from the top 1,000 as a whole rose by 50 per cent.

Mutilated bodies

IMPHAL: The mutilated bodies of two youths, who had gone missing from a village in Manipur's Kangpokpi district three days back, were found in a hilly stretch in adjoining Senapati on Sunday, police said.

The bodies were found stuffed in gunny bags in a banana farm during a search operation to trace the two youths, identified as T Chongloi (21) and Paoginlal Hangsing (20), who went missing from Taphou Kuki village on October 29, they said.

Following the discovery of the bodies, protesters alleging that the youths were abducted and killed by "Naga militants" clashed with security forces in the Kangpokpi district headquarters.

Security forces baton-charged the agitators who were protesting in front of the SP office and also used tear gas to disperse the mob, officials said.

| CM DIRECTS OFFICIALS |

Gear up for fresh cyclone threat over Andhra: Naidu

Press Trust Of India

Severe cyclonic storm to cross the coast near Bapatla on Nov 3 morning.



AMARAVATI: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Sunday directed officials to remain fully prepared for relief and rescue operations as another cyclone threat loomed over the state, with a severe cyclonic storm likely to cross the coast near Bapatla on November 3 morning.

Officials informed the Chief Minister that the depression over the Bay of Bengal is expected to intensify into a deep depression, develop into a cyclonic storm before strengthening into a severe cyclonic storm over the west-central Bay of Bengal by November 2.

"Another cyclone is approaching Andhra Pradesh and officials must remain fully prepared to undertake relief and rescue operations, as a severe cyclonic storm is expected to cross the coast near Bapatla on the morning of November 3," said Naidu in an official press release.

The system is likely to bring moderate to heavy rainfall, with isolated extremely heavy showers, over south and central coastal districts on November 2. Several areas may receive heavy to very heavy rainfall on November 3 and 4, with wind speeds of up to 110 kmph expected during landfall. Of the 20 mandals forecast to receive extremely heavy rainfall, nine are in Eluru district, five each in Krishna and NTR districts and one in Bapatla.

On November 3, average district rainfall is expected to be around 179 mm in Eluru, 163 mm in Krishna, 161 mm in NTR, 147 mm in West Godavari, 119 mm in Guntur and 104 mm in Bapatla, said the release.

In view of the anticipated heavy rainfall, an inflow of around 32,500 cusecs is expected at Budameru on November 3. Heavy inflows are also likely in Errakalva, Gonelavagu, Jalleru and Pampa reservoirs, among others. Preliminary estimates indicate that strong winds could damage around 15,128 electricity poles across 12 districts. Naidu directed officials to keep adequate manpower and equipment ready for relief and rescue operations and shift necessary personnel and materials to vulnerable areas in advance.

| ALLEGATION |

'Opposition leaders consistently targeted'

Press Trust Of India

DEHRADUN: Targeting the Dhami government, state Congress president Ganesh Godiyal alleged on Sunday that opposition leaders and Congress workers in Uttarakhand are being consistently targeted.

He stated that Congress will not tolerate this "repressive" style of governance under any circumstances. Godiyal emphasised that the demand for justice and impartial action regarding the Ankita Bhandari murder case remains a significant, unresolved issue for the people of Uttarakhand.



"The decision to appoint Dushyant Kumar, an accused in this case, as a governor has deeply hurt the sentiments of the people of 'Devbhoomi' Uttarakhand," he said.

Cong to oppose repressive governance.

Ganesh Godiyal,
Congress president

He urged the people of the state to recognise that the fight for justice for Ankita Bhandari is "not merely a Congress party issue, but a struggle for the identity and honour of the entire state of Uttarakhand."

"Every citizen of the state should come forward and raise their voice. The massive turnout at Delhi's Ramlila Maidan today serves as proof that the nation's citizens are fed up with the policies of the BJP government and are now seeking change," Godiyal said. He expressed confidence that, through the unity of Congress workers and public support, the battle to protect democracy and the Constitution would reach a decisive conclusion.

Godiyal also claimed that many Congress workers from Uttarakhand had set out to attend the grand rally in Delhi; however, "under pressure from the Uttar Pradesh government, the police intercepted thousands of them en route."

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

UNWAVERING SENSE OF DUTY

IRs deploys specialised manpower and heavy equipment to clear landslide debris in Kandhamal



BHUBANESWAR: Demonstrating remarkable commitment, courage and professional dedication, the East Coast Railway rescue team undertook a nearly three hour trek through challenging hilly terrain to reach the landslide affected site and extend critical assistance in the emergency response.

Their determination, teamwork and unwavering sense of duty stand as a testament to the spirit of public service and commitment to the community. Indian Railways has deployed special manpower and heavy equipment to assist the Odisha government in clearing soil, rocks and debris following a major landslide in Kandhamal. Showing immense courage, determination, and professionalism, the rescue team of the East Coast Railway reached the landslide-affected area after a trek of about three hours on difficult mountain roads and provided vital support in the emergency rescue and relief operations. This is an excellent example of their strong morale, collective performance, unwavering commitment to duty, public service, and dedication to society. **PTI**

HEAVY SNOWFALL

6 Indian tourists stranded in Nepal, rescue efforts underway

KATHMANDU: Six Indian tourists, including two women, have been stranded in the Shey-Phoksundo National Park area of Nepal since Saturday afternoon due to heavy snowfall, with security personnel mobilised and efforts underway to rescue them, officials said on Sunday. The tourists had gone to the Dho area in Shey Phoksundo Rural Municipality's Ward No. 8, around 300 km northwest of Kathmandu. The area was covered in heavy snow, according to Dolpa Chief District Officer Junu Dhakal.

Shey Phoksundo Lake, located in the rural municipality, is Nepal's deepest lake. It is situated at an altitude of 3,600 metres and has an estimated depth of 145 metres.

"We have located the area where they are stranded, and an Army helicopter is arriving to rescue them. We hope to rescue them soon," Dhakal told PTI. However, the rescue operation faced a delay after a technical problem developed in a Nepali Army helicopter stationed at Surkhet, according to a report by Nepal's Onlinekhabar news portal. **PTI**

SPECTACULAR DISPLAY

IAF's Suryakiran team performs aerobatic display over Bhavnagar lake

BHAVNAGAR: The Indian Air Force's Suryakiran Aerobatic Team (SKAT) performed a spectacular display over Bor Talav or Gaurishankar Lake, in Bhavnagar city on Sunday, involving intricate manoeuvres and close formation flying. The SKAT is recognised as Asia's only nine-aircraft aerobatic formation. Commanded by Group Captain Ajay Dasarathi, the team operates under the motto 'Sadaiva Sarvottam' (Always the Best). "Nine red-and-white Hawk Mk-132 aircraft of the Suryakiran team executed a series of intricate aerobatic manoeuvres, including close formation flying, wingtip-to-wingtip sequences, loops, rolls and inverted flying," Defence PRO Wing Commander Abhishek Kumar Tiwari said in a post on X. The aircraft left distinctive smoke trails in saffron, white and green, reflecting the colours of the national flag. The display lasted 30 to 40 minutes and was witnessed by a large number of people. The event, jointly organised by the Bhavnagar Municipal Corporation and the district administration, also featured a motivational stall providing information about career opportunities in the Indian Air Force. **PTI**

AWARENESS PROGRAMMES

Rayagada Division observes BRICS Sustainable Lifestyle Week, promoting healthy living



RAYAGADA: Rayagada Division of East Coast Railway observed BRICS Sustainable Lifestyle Week by organising a series of awareness programmes to promote healthy lifestyles among railway employees, their families and passengers on 1 November 2026.

As part of the observance, awareness programmes on adopting healthy lifestyles were conducted at Rayagada Railway Station, Railway Colony and onboard trains. Through these initiatives, railway employees and passengers were encouraged to embrace healthy habits and incorporate wellness-oriented practices into their daily lives. A special yoga session was also organised at Railway Institute, Rayagada, Koraput, Araku and at Jagadalpur highlighting the importance of yoga and physical well-being in maintaining a healthy lifestyle. The session encouraged participants to adopt yoga as part of their daily routine for promoting physical fitness and mental well-being. DRM/Rayagada, Amitabh Singhal, advised all officers and staff to actively participate in the observance of BRICS Sustainable Lifestyle Week and make healthy lifestyle practices an integral part of their daily routine. He emphasised the importance of yoga, physical fitness, healthy habits and individual responsibility in promoting the well-being of society. He also encouraged railway personnel to spread awareness among passengers and the general public about the significance of adopting healthy and sustainable lifestyles. The programmes aimed at creating awareness about the importance of healthy living and encouraging individual participation in building a healthier and more sustainable society. **PTI**

"This film offers a refreshing, witty take on a subject that feels very timely. I jumped at the opportunity to come on board as an Executive Producer to amplify this creative team and ensure their brilliant, original vision gets the spotlight it deserves,"

Priyanka Chopra



&Glitters

OTT Watch



The Diplomat returns with season five

Netflix has renewed political thriller The Diplomat for Season 5 following its fourth season's cliffhanger. Created by Debora Cahn, the series stars Keri Russell as Ambassador Kate Wyler. The upcoming chapter will explore geopolitical fallout and personal alliances.



Netflix unveils new fantasy comedy

Telugu fantasy comedy Don't Trouble the Trouble, starring Fahadh Faasil, Ssara Palekar and Saurabh Sachdeva, follows a magician whose bond with a young girl takes an unexpected turn when she discovers genuine magical powers.



Gaurav Khanna returns with new show

Star Plus has unveiled the title Dil Ki Bewafaiyaan, starring Gaurav Khanna and Shraddha Arya. Produced by Balaji Telefilms, the romantic family drama marks their first onscreen collaboration and is reportedly eyeing a November premiere.



JioHotstar takes stars to Singapore

Pratik Gandhi, Maniesh Paul, Sameera Reddy and Atul Khatri explore Singapore with their families in The Great Indian Family Holiday: Singapore Edition, a four-episode travel series streaming on JioHotstar from October 31.



New killers challenge Dexter Morgan

Michael C. Hall returns as Dexter Morgan in Season 2 of the crime drama. Caught between two killers terrorising New York, Dexter also faces a midlife crisis, while Uma Thurman, Brian Cox and Dan Stevens feature.

CLOSE UP

'Eetha' Marks Shraddha Kapoor's new cinematic journey

Shraddha Kapoor finds a meaningful story in legendary performer Vithabai's life.

Central Chronicle News

The biographical musical marks Shraddha's return after the success of Stree 2.



Shraddha explores the world of Lavani



Shraddha Kapoor has spoken about what drew her to Eetha, director Laxman Utekar's biographical musical based on celebrated Tamasha and Lavani performer Vithabai Bhau Mang Narayangaonkar. At the trailer launch in Mumbai, the actor said she was excited to explore a different world after Stree 2. Shraddha praised Utekar for choosing a subject rooted in Maharashtra's folk culture after Chhaava. She said he could have made another warrior film but instead wanted to tell a story from a different cultural landscape. The actor said she felt fortunate to be part of the project. In Eetha, Shraddha plays the renowned folk performer, whose life was shaped by stage performances, travel and personal challenges. Vithabai received Presidential honours in 1957 and 1990 for her contribution to the art form. Her life reflected the difficulties faced by artists in traditional folk entertainment. Shraddha said the film highlights performers who entertain audiences while dealing with struggles that often remain unseen. She added that her family would be proud of her association with a story connected to Marathi culture. Her father, Shakti Kapoor, and her aunt are also artists, making the subject meaningful to her. The actor also spoke about preparing for the role, explaining that she had to understand Lavani and practise extensively. Filming was temporarily halted after she injured her toe while shooting a dance sequence, but she later returned to the sets.



Directed by Utekar, Eetha also stars Randeep Hooda, Mohammed Zeeshan Ayyub, Siddharth Jadhav and Anant Joshi. Ajay-Atul has composed the music. The film is produced by Maddock Films and Kathputli Creations and is scheduled to release in theatres on December 4, 2026, later this year.

| SMALL SCREEN |

Mohit on playing 'Birju Lohar' in Mirzapur: The Movie

Central Chronicle News



Mirzapur: The Movie now streaming on Prime Video

Actor Mohit Malik has opened up about playing Birju Lohar in Mirzapur: The Movie, describing the role as challenging because of the character's flaws and morally complex decisions. The actor said he approached Birju by understanding his mindset and circumstances rather than judging his actions.

Speaking about his preparation, Mohit explained that portraying a layered character requires looking beyond simple definitions of right and wrong. He believes actors must understand what drives a character to make certain choices, even when those decisions are difficult to justify.

HIGHLIGHT

- **Birju Lohar brings new complexities to Mohit Malik's acting journey.**

"Birju is a flawed character who makes choices that may not always be right, and that is what makes him interesting to play. As actors, we cannot approach a character by simply deciding whether he is good or bad. We have to understand his mindset, his circumstances and what drives him to make certain decisions. Even when you don't agree with a character's actions, you have to find the reasoning behind them and make them believable. The challenge is to portray the character honestly without judging him," Mohit said.

He added that audiences connect with characters who feel human because of their imperfections, contradictions and emotional complexities.

CineBriefs

BEST OF THE REST

Bollywood

Anirudh exits Shah Rukh Khan's King

Composer Anirudh has reportedly exited Shah Rukh Khan's upcoming film King due to scheduling commitments in the South film industry. The decision was mutually agreed upon after discussions with the makers, who are keen to keep the film's Christmas release on schedule. Music composers Sachin-Jigar have now taken charge of the film's songs and background score. However, Anirudh has gifted Shah Rukh the film's theme track as a mark of respect. Sachin-Jigar will reportedly rework the theme for the background score. Directed by Siddharth Anand, King is among the most anticipated action films of the year.

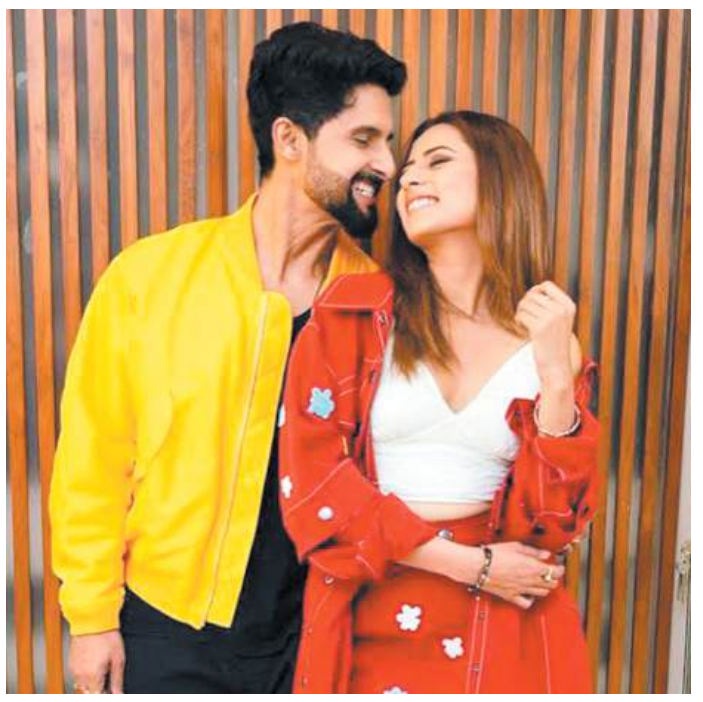
Web Series

Faisal Malik hints at wild Panchayat twists

Actor Faisal Malik has teased major twists and unexpected developments in the upcoming fifth season of Panchayat. Reprising his role as Prahlad Pandey, he revealed that every character in Phulera will experience significant changes. While the series will retain its familiar blend of comedy and emotional drama, viewers can expect a surprising new direction. Malik, who has played Prahlad for over five years, said he has developed a deep understanding of the character. He also spoke about avoiding typecasting, explaining that he does not want to repeat successful roles in every project. The series features Neena Gupta and Raghubir Yadav.

The bollywood hot pair

Ravie Dubey feels lucky to have Sargun



Actor Ravie Dubey recently expressed his admiration for wife Sargun Mehta, calling himself fortunate to have her as his life partner. Appearing on the quiz show Kaun Banega Crorepati, he praised her as a wonderful daughter, sister, loyal friend, wife and successful businesswoman. He said he is always in awe of her ability to come up with innovative ideas and turn them into reality. Ravie also admitted that he has shortcomings and may not possess all her qualities. The couple met on the sets of 12/24 Karol Bagh in 2009 and married in December 2013.

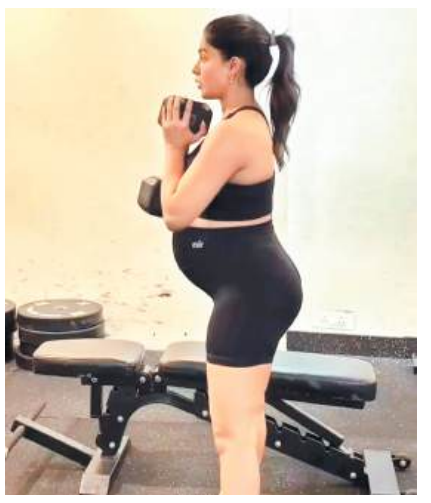
Fashion

Mrunal Thakur serves a fresh ethnic style

Mrunal Thakur offers a fresh festive fashion inspiration in an embellished olive-green saree paired with a richly embroidered burgundy blouse. The saree features delicate red motifs, ornate golden borders and colourful detailing that add charm to its flowing drape. The contrasting sleeveless blouse brings depth to the earthy colour combination. She completes the look with statement gold-toned earrings, rings and understated makeup.



Trending on Insta



@ Samantha Ruth Prabhu

Samantha Shares Glimpse of Pregnancy Workouts

Samantha Ruth Prabhu shared a pregnancy workout video as she entered her ninth month, offering a glimpse of her fitness journey. Captioning it "The final lap", she received warm wishes from actress Kriti Kharbanda.

@ Hrithik Roshan

Hrithik Roshan's Cryptic Note Grabs Attention

Hrithik Roshan shared a cryptic note on wisdom, clarity and spirituality. Alongside a close-up selfie, he reflected on life's pursuit of understanding, suggesting that ignorance may sometimes feel like bliss, even after years of searching.





Wellness

YOGA FOR HEALTH

Pollution outside? Bring Yoga in the regimen

Rising pollution is changing how we exercise and maintain everyday fitness.



As air pollution rises, outdoor workouts are becoming difficult. But poor air quality does not mean your fitness routine has to stop. On days when pollution levels are high, exercising indoors can be a practical alternative. Yoga keeps the body active, improves flexibility and builds strength. These poses can add movement to your regular daily routine while you stay indoors. Consistency matters more than intensity when building a sustainable fitness routine.

Surya Namaskar for full-body fitness

Surya Namaskar, or Sun Salutation, combines movements that engage several muscle groups. Practice can improve flexibility, circulation and ease morning stiffness. Beginners can start with a few rounds and gradually build up.

Bhujangasana to strengthen your back

Also called Cobra Pose, Bhujangasana is performed lying on the stomach and gently lifting the chest. It stretches the front of the body and strengthens back muscles. It may help people who spend long hours sitting.





HIGHLIGHT

- These five simple yoga poses bring strength, flexibility and movement indoors.

Practise yoga poses indoors.

Pawanmuktasana for digestive comfort

Lie on your back and bring your knees gently towards your chest. Pawanmuktasana may help relieve gas and bloating while stretching the lower back. Breathe comfortably throughout the practice.

Virabhadrasana for stronger legs

Warrior Pose works the thighs, hips and legs while challenging balance and stamina. Keep your front knee aligned with your ankle and avoid pushing beyond your comfort level. Practise on both sides.

Tadasana for better posture

Mountain Pose encourages an upright stance and improves body awareness. Stand tall, distribute your weight evenly and gently lengthen your spine. It builds posture awareness.

Choose a clean, well-ventilated room and practise gently. Yoga supports fitness, but does not remove indoor pollutants. If a pose causes pain, stop and seek guidance from a qualified instructor.

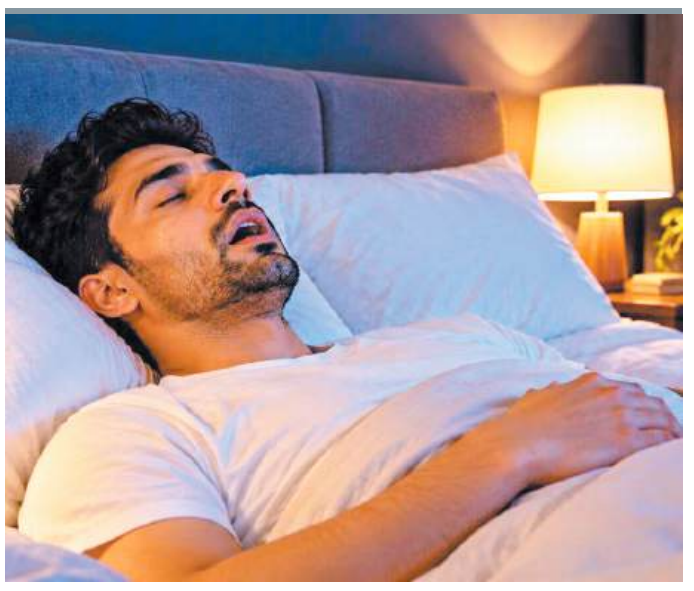
The power of Vitamin D3 for overall health



Vitamin D is important not just for strong bones but also for healthy muscles and heart function. A recent study found that Vitamin D3 may be more effective than D2 in supporting muscle and heart health. Researchers compared both forms in male mice and found that D3 showed better results. While both types help maintain Vitamin D levels, their effects on the body may differ. Vitamin D3 may offer additional benefits for muscle strength and heart function. However, consult your doctor before taking supplements to understand which type and dosage are suitable for your needs.

SNORING AT NIGHT

Snoring at night, stroke risk by day?



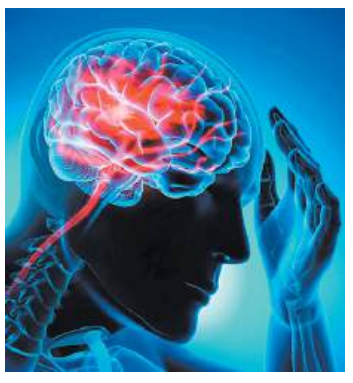
Snoring may seem harmless, but loud, persistent snoring accompanied by pauses in breathing could indicate obstructive sleep apnoea. This condition repeatedly interrupts breathing during sleep, lowering oxygen levels and putting stress on the heart and blood vessels. Over time, it can increase blood pressure, affect heart rhythm and raise the risk of an ischaemic stroke. Watch for warning signs such as gasping during sleep, morning headaches and excessive daytime sleepiness. Not everyone who snores has sleep apnoea, but persistent symptoms should not be ignored. Timely diagnosis and treatment can help reduce associated health risks.

| SELF - SILENCING |

Stroke alert - warning signs not to be overlooked

Central Chronicle News

Stroke symptoms often appear suddenly and should never be taken lightly.





Spot stroke symptoms before it's late

A stroke is a serious medical emergency that occurs when blood supply to the brain is interrupted or a blood vessel bursts. Since the brain controls everything from movement and speech to vision and memory, even a brief disruption can damage brain cells. While facial drooping is a familiar warning sign, stroke symptoms can appear in several other ways. Recognising them early can help save lives and reduce the risk of long-term disability. Here are some important warning signs everyone should know.

Sudden Weakness or Numbness

Unexpected weakness or numbness in the face, arm or leg, particularly on one side of the body, can indicate a stroke. One side of the face may also droop, making smiling difficult.

Difficulty speaking or understanding

Slurred speech, trouble finding words or difficulty understanding simple conversations can signal a problem. Do not dismiss these changes as tiredness or stress.

Sudden vision problems

Blurred vision, double vision or sudden loss of sight in one or both eyes can be warning signs that need immediate medical attention.

Severe headache and dizziness

A sudden, extremely painful headache, unexplained dizziness, loss of balance or difficulty walking may indicate a serious neurological problem.

Confusion or memory problems

Sudden confusion, memory loss or unusual behaviour can also signal a stroke. A person may struggle to understand their surroundings or perform familiar tasks.

Remember the FAST rule

FAST stands for Face, Arms, Speech and Time. Check for facial drooping, arm weakness and speech difficulties. If any appear, seek emergency medical help immediately. Call 112 in India. Note when symptoms began, and never wait for them to disappear, even if they improve within minutes.

Health Tips

DELICIOUS WAYS TO SUPPORT LUNG HEALTH



Ginger-Turmeric Carrot Soup

Ingredients
1 cup chopped carrots, ½ tsp grated ginger, ¼ tsp turmeric, 1 cup vegetable stock, ½ cup water, black pepper and salt.
Instructions
Simmer carrots, ginger, turmeric, stock and water until tender. Blend until smooth. Season with pepper and salt, then serve warm.
Benefits
Carrots provide beta-carotene, which the body converts into vitamin A. Ginger and turmeric add flavour and beneficial plant compounds. This nourishing soup supports a balanced diet, although no food can cleanse or detoxify the lungs.

Spinach-Garlic Moong Dal



Ingredients
½ cup yellow moong dal, 1 cup chopped spinach, 2 garlic cloves, ¼ tsp cumin seeds, ¼ tsp turmeric, 2 cups water and salt.
Instructions
Rinse dal and cook with water and turmeric until soft. Add spinach and simmer. In a small pan, warm a little oil, add cumin and garlic, then stir into the dal. Season and serve.
Benefits
Dal supplies protein and fibre, while spinach provides folate and vitamins. Garlic adds flavour to this comforting, nutrient-rich meal for everyday nourishment.



Broccoli-Pea Stir-Fry

Ingredients
1 cup broccoli florets, ½ cup green peas, 1 garlic clove, 1 tsp olive oil, ½ tsp lemon juice, black pepper and salt.
Instructions
Heat olive oil in a pan and sauté garlic briefly. Add broccoli and peas with a splash of water. Cover and cook until tender-crisp. Finish with lemon juice, pepper and salt. Serve warm.
Benefits
Broccoli and peas provide fibre, vitamin C and other nutrients. This quick side dish adds colourful vegetables to meals and supports overall wellbeing.

Golden Milk Oatmeal



Ingredients
½ cup rolled oats, 1 cup milk or fortified soy milk, ¼ tsp turmeric, a pinch of cinnamon, ½ banana and 1 tsp chopped almonds.
Instructions
Add oats, milk, turmeric and cinnamon to a saucepan. Simmer, stirring, until creamy. Top with sliced banana and almonds. Serve warm.
Benefits
Oats provide soluble fibre, while milk or fortified soy milk contributes protein and nutrients. Banana and almonds add potassium and healthy fats. This filling breakfast supports a balanced diet, not lung cleansing.



Kiwi-Orange Smoothie

Ingredients
1 ripe kiwi, 1 small orange, ½ cup plain yoghurt, ½ cup water and 1 tsp chia seeds.
Instructions
Peel and chop the fruits. Blend them with yoghurt and water until smooth. Pour into a glass, add chia seeds and serve immediately.
Benefits
Kiwi and orange provide vitamin C and antioxidants. Yoghurt adds protein, while chia seeds contribute fibre and healthy fats, making this smoothie a refreshing snack.

Sports



"My childhood dream was to wear India on my jersey, represent my country and make the nation proud through wrestling."

Jacob Duffy
New Zealand Fast Bowler

Indian trio Vaishnavi, Sahaja, Maaya eye glory in final Chennai Open

Vaishnavi Adkar, Sahaja Yamalapalli and Maaya Rajeshwaran Revathi aim to make their mark as Chennai hosts India's final WTA 250 tournament, offering precious opportunities to emerging homegrown talent.

Press Trust Of India

Indian youngsters seek breakthrough victories as Chennai bids farewell to WTA 250.



Legendary Indian tennis player Vijay Amritraj attends the draw ceremony of the WTA Chennai Open, at the SDAT Stadium, in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. Photo: PTI

CHENNAI: Three promising Indian players, Vaishnavi Adkar, Sahaja Yamalapalli and Maaya Rajeshwaran Revathi, will attempt to capitalise on home advantage when the Chennai Open begins Monday, marking India's farewell to the WTA 250 calendar.

The trio received wild-card entries into the singles main draw, offering valuable exposure against established international professionals. With rankings outside the world's top 300, such opportunities remain rare for India's emerging players.

World No. 334 Vaishnavi has enjoyed encouraging performances on the ITF circuit, including a runner-up finish at the W35 Monastir tournament and semifinal appearance in Tianjin. However, consistency against stronger opponents remains her biggest challenge.

Sahaja, ranked 369, has also experienced mixed results despite reaching the W35 Wichita final and semifinals in Rome and Decatur. Her previous appearances at WTA 125 events have provided useful experience.

Seventeen-year-old Maaya enters the competition following an impressive breakthrough in Lagos, where she captured her maiden professional singles title without dropping a set. She also secured the doubles crown, underlining her growing potential.

Vaishnavi begins against Britain's Jodie Burrage, while Sahaja encounters Switzerland's Simona Waltert. Maaya faces eighth-seeded Polish player Katarzyna Kawa, ranked 106.

Indian players have struggled historically at the Chennai Open, with none progressing beyond the second round during the tournament's previous editions in 2022 and 2025. Meanwhile, several prominent withdrawals have weakened the international field. Thailand's Lanlana Tararudee, Kazakhstan's Yulia Putintseva and Germany's Tatjana Maria are among those missing the tournament.

The withdrawals could benefit defending champion Janice Tjen of Indonesia, who claimed her maiden WTA singles title in Chennai last year by defeating Australia's Kimberly Birrell.

Tjen subsequently climbed to a career-high world ranking of 35 and returns hoping to successfully defend her championship.

Tamil Nadu Tennis Association president Vijay Amritraj believes the tournament remains unpredictable, with Chennai's demanding weather conditions likely to influence performances considerably.

He emphasised that physical fitness and endurance would become crucial factors as competitors battle oppressive heat and humidity.

For India's youngsters, however, the immediate priority remains gaining confidence, valuable ranking points and competitive experience.

With the tournament set to disappear from India's WTA 250 calendar, the three wild-card entrants face a significant opportunity to demonstrate their progress.

A breakthrough performance could provide fresh encouragement for Indian women's tennis as the country seeks greater international success.

Their performances may also inspire younger players hoping to compete internationally.

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

HAMILTON CELEBRATES POLE

Hamilton storms to historic Ferrari pole position at Mexico City Grand Prix



MEXICO CITY: Seven-time Formula One world champion Lewis Hamilton produced a sensational qualifying performance to secure pole position for Ferrari at the Mexico City Grand Prix on Saturday. The 41-year-old British driver bounced back from a disappointing Friday practice session to outpace Mercedes' George Russell and Ferrari teammate Charles Leclerc. Hamilton extended his remarkable Formula One record to 105 pole positions, becoming the oldest driver to achieve the feat since Mario Andretti in 1982. The achievement also ended Ferrari's 30-race pole drought, marking the Italian team's first qualifying triumph since Hungary last year. Expressing delight, Hamilton credited improved car setup and his continued passion for racing. **PTI**

DUFFY PRAISES KOHLI

It'll be awesome to play against Kohli having shared dressing room with him: Duffy



AUCKLAND: New Zealand pacer Jacob Duffy is eagerly anticipating facing Virat Kohli in the upcoming ODI series after sharing the dressing room with the Indian superstar during Royal Challengers Bengaluru's IPL triumph. Duffy praised Kohli's humility, professionalism and exceptional work ethic, describing him as remarkably down-to-earth despite his enormous popularity in India. The Kiwi pacer recalled bowling regularly to Kohli during RCB's practice sessions, gaining valuable insights into the batting legend's technique. He believes their familiarity could make their upcoming contest particularly interesting. Duffy recently bounced back from disappointing performances in the T20I series, claiming four wickets in New Zealand's fourth-match victory. With India and New Zealand beginning their five-match ODI series in Auckland on November 4, Duffy hopes to impress selectors ahead of the 2027 World Cup in South Africa. **PTI**

Lifter Usha tops 61kg Group D at World Championships

NINGBO: Indian weightlifter Usha topped Group D of the women's 61kg competition at the IWF World Championships here on Sunday. The 23-year-old lifted a total of 212kg -- 93kg in snatch and 119kg in clean and jerk -- to finish ahead of the other nine lifters in the group. Usha started with a successful 90kg snatch before failing to lift 93kg in her next attempt, but the Indian regained her composure to clear the same weight in her third and final snatch attempt. In the clean and jerk as well, Usha managed to complete two of her three attempts. After successfully heaving 115kg and 119kg easily, she faltered in her final attempt of 121kg. Her final standing will be updated after the completion of Group A.

| BOYLE LEADS RECOVERY |

Boyle's unbeaten century helps New Zealand A fight back strongly

Press Trust Of India

Matthew Boyle and Dean Foxcroft rescue hosts after disastrous early batting collapse.



HIGHLIGHT

- Boyle smashes unbeaten 107 as Foxcroft contributes 80 in remarkable recovery effort.
- Dhruv Jurel scores 105 as India A post competitive first-innings total of 346.

CHRISTCHURCH: Matthew Boyle's unbeaten century and Dean Foxcroft's fighting half-century powered New Zealand A to 218 for three against India A on the second day of their unofficial Test on Sunday.

Boyle remained unbeaten on 107 off 148 deliveries, smashing 14 boundaries and a six, while Foxcroft contributed an unbeaten 80 from 180 balls. Their unbroken 205-run fourth-wicket partnership rescued the hosts from a precarious 13 for three.

Indian pacers Mohammed Siraj and Mukesh Kumar initially dominated proceedings. Siraj removed captain Rhys Mariu for four, while Mukesh dismissed Curtis Heaphy and Tim Robinson cheaply.

However, Boyle and Foxcroft displayed remarkable resilience, frustrating the Indian attack with disciplined batting.

Mukesh finished with two wickets for 44 runs, while Siraj claimed one for 49.

Earlier, India A posted 346 in their first innings after resuming at 291 for seven.

Captain Dhruv Jurel completed a fine century, scoring 105 off 171 balls, including 11 fours and three sixes.

Akash Deep added a valuable 68, helping India strengthen their position.

For New Zealand A, Fraser Sheat claimed four wickets for 63 runs, while Brett Randell and Jarrod McKay secured two apiece.

PULISIC CELEBRATES VICTORY

Pulisic celebrates new contract with goal as Milan defeat Inter in derby



MILAN: Christian Pulisic celebrated his new five-year contract with an early goal as AC Milan defeated defending champions Inter Milan 3-1 in a thrilling Serie A derby on Saturday. The American international struck in the fourth minute, heading home Diego Moreira's cross to give Milan a dream start. Adrien Rabiot doubled the advantage six minutes later before Alessandro Bastoni reduced Inter's deficit in the 22nd minute. Moreira restored Milan's two-goal cushion with a spectacular free kick shortly before half-time. The victory marked Milan's fourth consecutive derby triumph and handed league leaders Inter their first defeat of the season. Pulisic, who extended his contract until 2031, has now scored four derby goals. The result lifted Milan to fourth place, four points behind joint leaders Inter and Lazio, strengthening their title ambitions. **PTI**

| DECISIONS OVER POPULARITY |

My job is making right decisions, says Gautam Gambhir

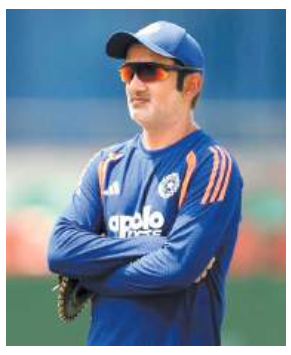
Press Trust Of India

HAMILTON: India head coach Gautam Gambhir has emphasised that his responsibility is to make correct decisions rather than popular ones, insisting that maintaining dressing-room stability remains his priority.

Speaking ahead of Sunday's fifth T20I against New Zealand, Gambhir defended his approach towards team selection despite India's impressive bench strength.

Teenage sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi has been awaiting his opportunity, with Sanju Samson and Abhishek Sharma occupying the opening positions.

Gambhir maintained that established performers deserve continued backing, as consistent opportunities help players develop confidence and security.



> **"My job is not to make everyone happy. My job is to take the right decisions, not the popular decisions."**
>
> **Gautam Gambhir**
> India head coach

India have already secured the five-match series after winning the opening three encounters.

However, Gambhir dismissed suggestions that the remaining matches lacked importance, stressing that representing the country demands complete commitment.

He praised his players for adapting quickly to challenging New Zealand conditions despite a demanding international schedule.

India arrived following consecutive home series against Afghanistan and West Indies, besides their Asian Games campaign.

ZVEREV SUFFERS SETBACK

Zverev suffers Vienna semifinal defeat despite securing world number one ranking



VIENNA: Alexander Zverev suffered a disappointing semifinal defeat against Australia's Alex de Minaur at the Erste Bank Open, just before his historic rise to the world No. 1 ranking. De Minaur defeated the German 6-4, 1-6, 7-6 (4) in a thrilling three-set encounter, dominating the deciding tiebreak after racing to a 3-0 lead. The victory strengthened De Minaur's hopes of qualifying for next month's season-ending ATP Finals. Despite the setback, Zverev will replace Jannik Sinner atop the ATP rankings on Monday, becoming the 30th player to achieve the distinction. At 29, he will also become the oldest first-time world No. 1 since 1974. De Minaur will face Spain's Carlos Alcaraz in Sunday's final after the latter defeated Daniil Medvedev 6-4, 7-6 (2) in the other semifinal, setting up an exciting championship clash in Vienna. **PTI**

Sports News

Seifert, Milne script NZ win as India take series 3-2

Tim Seifert smashed a blistering 93 as New Zealand defeated India by seven wickets in the fifth T20I at Hamilton. Despite the defeat, India clinched the five-match series 3-2, with Shreyas Iyer and Ishan Kishan scoring impressive half-centuries.

Press Trust Of India

Seifert smashes 93, Phillips remains unbeaten as New Zealand comfortably chase 192.



HAMILTON: Tim Seifert produced a spectacular batting display, smashing 93 off just 50 deliveries as New Zealand registered a convincing seven-wicket victory over India in the fifth and final T20I here on Sunday.

Chasing India's 191 for eight, the hosts reached 195 for three, with Seifert striking 11 boundaries and five sixes. Glenn Phillips provided excellent support with an unbeaten 65 off 38 balls.

Despite losing their final two matches, India secured the five-match series 3-2 after winning the opening three encounters.

New Zealand suffered an early setback when Arshdeep Singh dismissed Finn Allen. However, Seifert and Daryl Mitchell steadied the innings with a brisk 73-run partnership for the second wicket.

Mitchell hammered 29 off 16 deliveries before Varun Chakravarthy dismissed him, with Abhishek Sharma completing an excellent catch near long-on.

Seifert, initially cautious with 14 runs from 15 balls, gradually accelerated and completed his half-century in 34 deliveries.

India paid heavily for dropping him on 13, with Naman Dhir missing a straightforward opportunity near the boundary.

The explosive opener subsequently attacked Bhuvneshwar Kumar, smashing a massive 108-metre six during a destructive assault.

Seifert and Phillips added 86 runs for the third wicket before Nitish Kumar Reddy dismissed the opener, denying him a maiden T20I century.

Phillips, who reached his fifty in 29 balls, guided New Zealand comfortably home.

Earlier, India recovered from a disastrous beginning through outstanding half-centuries from Shreyas Iyer and Ishan Kishan.

The visitors lost openers Abhishek Sharma and Sanju Samson with only 19 runs on the scoreboard.

However, Iyer and Kishan counterattacked brilliantly, adding 107 runs in just over seven overs. Kishan hammered 61 off 32 balls, while skipper Iyer struck a blistering 50 from only 23 deliveries.

Their aggressive partnership threatened to push India towards a formidable total before New Zealand regained control.

Blair Tickner removed Kishan in the 11th over, while Nathan Smith dismissed Iyer shortly afterwards. India subsequently struggled to maintain their scoring momentum, managing only 57 runs during the final seven overs.

Adam Milne emerged as New Zealand's most successful bowler, claiming four wickets for just 19 runs.

The defeat exposed India's inconsistent finishing and bowling discipline, while Samson's continued struggles raised concerns ahead of the team's next T20 assignment in December. Nevertheless, India finished the series victorious, although New Zealand gained considerable confidence from their impressive comeback.

Learning from mistakes helped New Zealand: Seifert



New Zealand opener Tim Seifert credited improved decision-making and lessons from earlier defeats for his team's late resurgence against India in the five-match T20I series. Seifert smashed a brilliant 93 off 50 balls as New Zealand defeated India by seven wickets in Sunday's final encounter, chasing 192 in just 18 overs. However, India had already secured the series by winning the opening three matches. Seifert admitted that New Zealand failed to capitalise on crucial moments during the earlier games in Christchurch. He praised his teammates for adapting to different playing conditions and improving their execution under pressure. The opener acknowledged India's outstanding batting performance in Wellington, where the visitors established an unassailable 3-0 lead. Seifert also applauded pacer Adam Milne, whose impressive figures of 4/19 restricted India to 191 for eight. Despite finishing strongly, Seifert regretted that New Zealand's turnaround came too late to influence the series result.

| HARMANPREET'S HAT-TRICK HEROICS |

Harmanpreet's hat-trick powers India to victory over Malaysia

Press Trust Of India

Skipper Harmanpreet Singh scores brilliant hat-trick as India maintain unbeaten winning streak.



JALANDHAR: Captain Harmanpreet Singh struck a superb hat-trick as India defeated Malaysia 4-2 to register their fourth consecutive victory in the Asian Champions Trophy hockey tournament on Sunday.

Harmanpreet scored in the third, 33rd and 58th minutes, converting two penalty corners and a penalty stroke. Sukhjeet Singh added India's fourth goal in the 43rd minute.

Malaysia's Akhimullah Anuar equalised in the 25th minute after Harmanpreet had given India an early advantage.

The Indian skipper restored the lead shortly after halftime before Sukhjeet extended the margin with a brilliant tomahawk finish following Hardik Singh's excellent midfield interception.

Harmanpreet completed his hat-trick from the penalty spot in the closing stages, while Shello Silverius scored Malaysia's second goal.

India, who previously defeated Bangladesh, China and Japan, have already qualified for the semifinals.

The defending champions will face South Korea in their final round-robin encounter on Monday.

Pant out of third India A game as well

NEW DELHI: Wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant was on Sunday ruled out of the third and final red-ball fixture between India A and New Zealand A, starting November 7, as a precautionary measure, casting a shadow over his availability for the first Test in Wellington. Pant was earlier ruled out of the first two India A games in New Zealand after suffering a side strain in the Irani Cup. "Rishabh Pant has been ruled out of the third unofficial Test vs New Zealand A, as a precautionary measure. "Although Pant has resumed skill training and is experiencing no pain, there is still no confirmed timeline for his return to competitive cricket," said a BCCI source.

| STRAIGHT GAME WIN |

Sindhu bags Hylo Open with commanding win over Kjaersfeldt

Press Trust Of India

PV Sindhu defeats Denmark's Kjaersfeldt to claim her second title this season.



SAARBRUCKEN: Double Olympic medallist PV Sindhu clinched her second title of the season, bagging the Hylo Open Super 500 tournament with a straight game win over world No. 25 Line Hojmark Kjaersfeldt of Denmark here on Sunday.

A former world champion, Sindhu, who won the Japan Open in July and finished runner-up at the French Open last week, showed great control and quality in her stroke-play, while registering a dominating 21-12 21-14 win over eighth seed Line in the 39-minute summit clash of the USD 500,000 event.

The world No. 8 Indian thus grabbed 9200 ranking points to stay on track for the season-ending World Tour Finals.

Sindhu, seeded second here, came into the final with an overwhelming 6-1 head-to-head lead against her opponent and the Danish's only win came at the 2025 Sudirman Cup Finals.

FASTFACTS

- Indian badminton star registers commanding straight-game victory in just 39 minutes Sunday.
- Sindhu earns 9,200 ranking points, strengthening her World Tour Finals qualification hopes.

| HISTORIC VICTORY SPARKS HOCKEY CELEBRATIONS |

Mainpat Titans clinch inaugural Chhattisgarh Hockey League championship title

Central Chronicle News

Mainpat Titans defeat Sanskardhani Strikers 4-2 to become inaugural Chhattisgarh Hockey League champions.

RAIPUR: Mainpat Titans created history by winning the inaugural Chhattisgarh Hockey League title after defeating Sanskardhani Strikers 4-2 in an exciting final at the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Hockey Stadium here on Sunday.

Mohit Nayak emerged as the hero for Mainpat Titans, scoring two crucial field goals, while Prahlad and Sandeep Thakur contributed one goal each to secure the historic championship victory.

For Sanskardhani Strikers, Abhishek Yadav and Sarikh Ahmed scored through penalty corners, but their efforts proved insufficient against the determined Titans.

Prahlad found the net through a field goal, while Sandeep Thakur successfully converted a penalty corner. Mohit Nayak's double strike ultimately helped Mainpat Titans overcome their opponents and lift the prestigious trophy.

The victory marked a memorable conclusion to the league, which commenced on October 22 under the aegis of the Chhattisgarh Sports and Youth Welfare Department.

Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Mansukh Mandaviya attended the closing ceremony, highlighting the tournament's significance in promoting hockey and encouraging emerging sporting talent.

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai and Deputy Chief Minister Arun Sao also attended the concluding ceremony and joined the celebrations.

The inaugural competition featured six teams representing different regions of Chhattisgarh, providing an excellent platform for promising players to showcase their abilities.

Mainpat Titans reached the final after defeating Bailadila Bulls 3-1 in the semifinals, while Sanskardhani Strikers booked their championship berth with an impressive 6-3 victory over previously unbeaten Nyayadhani Knights.

The tournament witnessed competitive encounters, outstanding individual performances and enthusiastic spectator participation throughout its duration.

The successful staging of the league represents an important initiative towards strengthening hockey infrastructure and promoting grassroots talent across Chhattisgarh.

With Mainpat Titans lifting the inaugural trophy, the championship concluded on a celebratory note, generating considerable enthusiasm for future editions of the Chhattisgarh Hockey League.



World



"I am shocked by the violent excesses in Frankfurt, which will not go unpunished. Anyone who behaves as the attackers in downtown Frankfurt places themselves outside our society."

Boris Rhein
Governor of Hesse, Germany

French protest violence eases, scattered riots hit Germany

French protests saw fewer arrests and less severe damage compared to previous weeks, though authorities remain on high alert.

Press Trust Of India



PARIS: French authorities expressed relief Sunday after mass protests over rising living costs resulted in less violence than previous weekends. But authorities expect new demonstrations as high schools at the heart of the movement reopen Monday after their autumn break.

Germany faced its own challenges after nationwide protests Saturday ended with rioters attacking police and looting stores in some cities. Around Europe, hundreds of thousands joined overwhelmingly peaceful marches Saturday inspired by young people, despite scattered unrest.

In Paris, rioters targeted police with Molotov cocktails at the end of Saturday's march on the city's eastern edge, injuring three officers and setting a car ablaze, police said. Across town, masked groups hurled fireworks at officers at a viewpoint across from the Eiffel Tower, and police charged repeatedly, sending panicked tourists fleeing the area. Overall, however, the violence was less severe than on Oct. 17, when a city hall was torched, and more than 2,000 stores were looted in hours of violence that authorities seemed unprepared to control, or during follow-up protests Oct. 24.

Police had arrested 779 people as of Saturday night, compared with 2,628 on Oct. 17 and 1,314 last weekend. Paris and Marseille police said a handful of shops were targeted, but no major damage was reported. A national police official said Sunday authorities had prepared for a larger turnout of both peaceful marchers and troublemakers. About 70,000 police were deployed around the country.

Police are preparing for more tensions as schools reopen Monday, and as student groups and labour unions call for new nationwide protests on Tuesday and Thursday, the official told The Associated Press.

FASTFACTS

- Peaceful youth-led protests in Germany turned violent in cities like Frankfurt, Cologne, and Berlin, resulting in police clashes and looting.

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

TURKEY MILITANT LEADER

Turkey moves Kurdish militant leader Ocalan to a new part of an island prison under peace push



ISTANBUL: Turkey has moved the country's Kurdish militant leader to a newly built part of an island prison where he has been incarcerated since 1999 as part of efforts to end decades of conflict, a senior Kurdish official said.

Improving prison conditions for Abdullah Ocalan, who heads the Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK, has been a key Kurdish demand in the push to end the 42-year conflict between the militant group and Turkish authorities. Ocalan has been imprisoned in a penitentiary on the island of Imrali in the Marmara Sea – which links the Black Sea to the Aegean Sea – since he was captured in 1999. Mithat Sancar, the Kurdish official, confirmed Ocalan's relocation in an interview with Medya Haber TV on Saturday, without providing further details. He did not confirm that the newly built section of the prison has better accommodations, though his remarks appeared to indicate that. Sancar, a lawmaker for the pro-Kurdish DEM Party, also called for the peace process to be sped up and said it had been on "a pause" for the last two months.

Ocalan's move to the new facility, he said, "necessitates an acceleration of the (peace) process." Sancar is among a group of DEM Party politicians who have been regularly visiting Ocalan since the militant leader called on the PKK to disband and disarm in February 2025.

Somali pirates seize Iranian fishing vessel, raising fears of attacks on cargo ships

Press Trust Of India

MOGADISHU: Somali pirates have seized an Iranian fishing vessel carrying 23 people, the Maritime Security Centre Indian Ocean said, warning that the ship was approaching a commercial shipping lane and could become a floating base for further attacks.

The Azini was hijacked Thursday between the coastal towns of Bandar Bayla and Hafun in northeastern Somalia, a maritime security officer with the Puntland Maritime Police Force said Sunday. The officer told The Associated Press that 12 pirates seized the vessel, which was carrying 21 Iranian crew members and two Somali security guards. He spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorised to speak with the media. The crew's safety was unknown, the centre said in an alert dated Saturday. In an updated warning, it said that pirates could use the vessel as a "mother ship" to support attacks on commercial vessels.

The European Union's naval Operation Atalanta was investigating. The centre urged ships in the area to remain vigilant and report suspicious activity. The seizure follows a resurgence of Somali piracy across the Gulf of Aden and western Indian Ocean. By August, pirates had hijacked six commercial vessels since April, with some attacks taking place far from Somalia's coastline. The captures included the oil products tanker Sibu 1, seized about 136 nautical miles (252 kilometres) east of al-Mukalla, Yemen.

In September, Puntland authorities said pirates killed five crew members of the tanker MT Honour 25 before security forces recovered the vessel. The tanker had been held since April.

India's flight disruptions to Saudi Arabia continue

Press Trust Of India

DUBAI: Flight disruptions between India and Saudi Arabia continue, with Akasa Air on Sunday extending the suspension of its services to Jeddah until November 18 amid the prevailing security situation in the Gulf kingdom. The airline said flights to and from Riyadh would remain suspended until November 30.

The announcement came two days after Air India and Air India Express said their flights to and from Jeddah, Riyadh and Dammam would remain suspended until November 14. The flight disruptions have continued amid attacks on civilian and critical infrastructure in Saudi Arabia, including airports.

In a statement on October 22, the Indian Embassy in Riyadh said one Indian national was killed and two others injured in the October 21 attack on King Fahd International Airport in Dammam. Another Indian national was injured in an attack on Saudi Aramco's Shaybah oil field in the Eastern Province. The Embassy said it was in contact with Saudi authorities and would provide all possible assistance to the affected Indians.

Earlier, India had condemned attacks targeting Abha International Airport and King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh, saying the targeting of civilian infrastructure was unacceptable. Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi rebels have claimed responsibility for several attacks on Saudi targets, including airports and energy infrastructure. The group has carried out missile and drone attacks on the kingdom amid the wider regional conflict.



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