

WEEKEND

Central Chronicle



Page 12

India's ambitions extend beyond borders : PM

India is dreaming big and its youth aspires to reach the sky.

Press Trust Of India

THE HAGUE: Describing India as a "land of opportunities", Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said that the country is undergoing an "unprecedented transformation" and its aspirations are "no longer limited to its borders".

Addressing the Indian community in The Hague, the Prime Minister also said that India is dreaming big and its youth aspires to reach the sky.

"India of the 21st century is a land of opportunities. India is both technology-driven and humanity-driven. India is becoming as modern as it is ancient. Therefore, this is also the time to reconnect with the villages of your ancestors in India, and to participate in the journey towards a developed India," Modi said in his over 40-minute speech.

He urged all "friends of India" in the Netherlands to deepen their



PM Modi, center, poses with Netherlands's King Willem Alexander, second right, and Queen Maxima, second left, at Huis ten Bosch Palace in The Hague, Netherlands.

engagement with India. "This will strengthen India's capabilities, and it will also bring greater returns on your investments - and this is Modi's guarantee," he said, amid applause from the audience.

"Today, our India too is dreaming on a very grand scale. Today, the nation is saying - we do not seek merely transformation; we seek the best. And not only the best, we want the fastest. That is

India blends tech and humanity.

Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

why, when aspirations in India are unlimited, our efforts too are becoming limitless," he said.

Modi said the youth of India aspire to touch the skies now, and cited that as a reason behind India's startup ecosystem getting stronger. "Now we are

the third-largest startup ecosystem in the world," he added. "Today, India's aspirations are not limited merely to its own borders. India wishes to host the Olympics, become a global manufacturing hub, emerge as a leader in green energy, and serve as an engine of growth for the world," he said.

Modi said that India is passing through a phase of "unprecedented transformation".

PM highlights sports ties with Netherlands

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday highlighted how sports remain a strong link connecting India with the Netherlands, citing examples of cricket and hockey, in his address to members of the Indian diaspora. Addressing the Indian community in The Hague on Saturday, the prime minister said, "Another link between our friendship that isn't discussed as often is sports. Our two countries are working together extensively in the field of sports." Highlighting the Indian community's involvement in Dutch cricket, Modi praised the performance of the Netherlands team in the recent T20 World Cup co-hosted by India and Sri Lanka.

CBSE makes three language must for Class 9 and 10

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has announced major changes in the language scheme for Classes 9 and 10 from the academic session 2026-27 onwards. In a circular issued on May 15, 2026, the board said the revised structure has been aligned with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and the National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCF-SE) 2023.



According to the notification, the study of three languages, R1, R2, and R3, will become compulsory for students of Class 9 and 10 from July 1, 2026. The board has also clarified that at least two of these languages must be native Indian languages.

The board stated that the decision was taken after reviewing the

recently released NCERT syllabus for Class 9 and 10 for the 2026-27 academic year. The current academic session has already started in April 2026, but CBSE said a transitional approach will be followed for implementation.

Under the revised language policy, students who wish to study a foreign language may choose it only if the other two selected languages are native Indian languages. Foreign languages may also be studied as an additional fourth language.

CBI arrests lecturer involved in NEET paper setting

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The CBI on Saturday arrested a biology lecturer who was part of the National Testing Agency's (NTA) paper-setting committee for NEET-UG held on May 3, officials said.

The arrest was made on the basis of questioning of alleged kingpin P V Kulkarni and other accused in the paper leak case, they said.

The biology lecturer Manisha Mandhare was



arrested here after being questioned by the agency at its headquarters, they said. She was allegedly involved in the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (Undergraduate) examination process and was appointed by the NTA as an expert, they said.

NEWSLINE

JABALPUR
Judiciary should run 24x7 for people: CJI

Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant on Saturday said it was time for the judiciary to address the pain and aspirations of the common man through an immediate relief-giving mechanism, and stressed the need for the judicial system to function like hospitals that work round-the-clock.



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फूट

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"3% paddy support price hike is unjust to farmers."
Sushil Anand Shukla
PCC Communication Head.

Massive LPG irregularities unearthed, 3 Gas Agencies under scanner

Food Department raids three Raipur gas agencies, uncovering massive LPG stock irregularities and missing cylinders.

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: A major irregularity in the supply and distribution of LPG cylinders has surfaced in Raipur amid growing concerns over cooking gas availability across the country. Acting on complaints regarding possible black marketing and stock manipulation, the Food Department conducted simultaneous raids on three prominent gas agencies in the city and uncovered serious discrepancies between official records and physical stock. The most significant violations were detected at Maurya Gas Agency located in Narhada. During the inspection,



officials recovered 883 domestic cylinders and 53 commercial cylinders that were allegedly absent from official records. The investigation further revealed that warehouse stock registers and daily inventory records were either incomplete or improperly maintained. Officials also found several short-

comings in mandatory documentation procedures. Considering the seriousness of the violations, the Food Department sealed the premises and launched a detailed investigation. The enforcement drive was simultaneously carried out at Kanha Gas Agency and Lakshmi Gas Agency. The raids were con-

ducted under the supervision of Assistant Director Sachin Markam and Assistant Food Officer Devendra Bagga. Teams thoroughly inspected the offices and warehouses of both agencies, where officials reportedly found differences between digital records and the actual physical stock available on site. According to sources associated with the investigation, significant irregularities were observed across all three agencies, raising suspicion of large-scale negligence and possible manipulation within the LPG distribution system. However, authorities have not yet officially disclosed the total number

HIGHLIGHT

• Hundreds of LPG cylinders missing; agencies sealed after Food Department raids.

of cylinders seized during the raids. Following the crackdown, speculation is growing that the case could be linked to a wider gas distribution scam operating beyond the local level. Investigative agencies are now discreetly examining the entire supply chain and network connected with the agencies under scrutiny. Raipur Additional Collector Kirtiman Singh Rathore confirmed that serious irregularities had been detected during the investigation.

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

GRAND FELICITATION CEREMONY

NII Goel World School hosts grand felicitation ceremony for Class 12 achievers



RAIPUR: NII Goel World School proudly organized a grand Felicitation Program to honour the outstanding achievements of its Class 12 students. The event was marked by pride and celebration as students, accompanied by their parents, were warmly welcomed with bouquets by the school management and staff. The ceremony was graced by Director Administration Mr. S. K. Tomar and Principal Dr. Avinash Pandey, who congratulated the students on their remarkable performance and extended their best wishes for a bright and successful future. In their address, they appreciated the dedication of the students, the unwavering

support of parents, and the consistent guidance provided by the faculty members. The school proudly recognized its top achievers, including - Navya Paliwal (97.5%), Prince Thakur (97.5%), Lahar Thakwani (97.25%), Anya Agrawal (97.25%), Khushi Jain (96.75%), Khyati Bhattar (96.75%), Pritansha Agrawal (96.5%), Jai Kishan Agarwal (96.25%), Pranvi Agrawal (96%), Vihaan Bhojasiya (96%), Arnab Agrawal (96%), Deboshree Sen (95.75%), Shambhavi Verma (95.75%), Shruti Chowdhury (95.5%), Sneha Dhingani (95.5%), Vanshika Saraogi (95.5%), Mridul Agrawal (95.5%), Raghav Agrawal (95.5%), Ragini Ahuja (95.5%), and Khushi Ladha (95.25%).

Scrap dealer arrested for buying stolen electrical goods

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: Tikrapara Police have arrested a scrap dealer for allegedly purchasing stolen electrical equipment from two juvenile delinquents involved in a theft at an under-construction house in Mathpura. Police recovered stolen property worth Rs 82,000 during the operation.

The case was registered at Tikrapara Police Station under Crime No. 417/2026 under Sections 331(4), 305, and 317(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita after com-



plainant Ravikant Verma reported the theft on May 14. According to the complaint, unidentified persons stole a grinder machine, drill machine, and electrical wiring from his under-construction property. Acting on the directives of Deputy Commissioner of Police (West Zone) Sandeep Patel,

Additional DCP Rahul Dev Sharma, and ACP Navneet Patil, Tikrapara Police launched an investigation under the leadership of Station In-charge Inspector Rajesh Kumar Maral. Using technical surveillance and interrogation of suspects, police identified two juvenile boys involved in the theft. During questioning, the juveniles confessed to stealing the items and transporting them on an Activa scooter bearing registration number CG 04 PZ 6805 before selling the goods to a scrap dealer in Shankar Nagar.

Amit Shah on two-day visit to Ch'garh from today

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: Union Home Minister Amit Shah is scheduled to arrive in Raipur on the night of May 17 as part of his two-day visit to Chhattisgarh. According to the official itinerary, Shah will land at Raipur Airport at around 8:30 PM and proceed directly to a hotel in Nava Raipur, where he will stay overnight.

On the morning of May 18, the Union Home Minister will attend a program at the Police Parade Ground in Raipur at 10:30 AM. During the event, he will flag off newly inducted vehicles for the 'Dial 112' emergency



response service fleet aimed at strengthening public safety and emergency response systems in the state.

Later in the day, at around 12:20 PM, Amit Shah will depart for Jagdalpur. After reaching Bastar division headquarters, he is scheduled to inaugurate a Jan Suvidha Kendra at Netnar.

Two arrested in mobile robbery case by Police

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: Kharora Police of Raipur Rural district have arrested two accused involved in a mobile phone robbery case and seized stolen items along with the motorcycle and weapon used in the crime. The action was carried out under the direction of the Superintendent of Police (Raipur Rural), guidance of the Additional Superintendent of Police (Rural), and supervision of the SDOP (Vidhan Sabha), Raipur. The accused have been identified as Surendra alias Chhotu Mandavi (27) and Ravi Mandavi (28), both residents of Nilja Derapara under Kharora Police Station limits. The case has been registered at Kharora Police Station under Crime No.



235/26 under Sections 309(4), 309(6), and 3(5) of the BNS. According to police officials, the complainant reported that on the night of May 14, at around 9:30 PM, he and his companion Shubham Dhruvanshi were returning from Saragaon to Pavni on a motorcycle when two unidentified persons intercepted them near the Baans Tal square. The accused allegedly robbed a Vivo Y18i mobile phone worth around Rs 8,000, an SBI ATM card, and Rs 1,200 cash kept inside the mobile cover.

Arun Dev Gautam confirmed as Chhattisgarh DGP

Central Chronicle News

Chhattisgarh government officially appoints Arun Dev Gautam as State Director General of Police permanently.

RAIPUR: The Chhattisgarh government has officially appointed Arun Dev Gautam as the Director General of Police (Head of Police Force), putting an end to speculation regarding the state's top police leadership. The Home Department issued the formal order extending his tenure and confirming his appointment to the post. Arun Dev Gautam, a senior IPS officer of the 1992 batch, had



been serving as the Acting DGP prior to this decision. The appointment is being viewed as politically and administratively significant, particularly as Union Home Minister Amit Shah is scheduled to visit Chhattisgarh shortly. The state government's decision reflects confidence in Gautam's administrative capabilities and extensive policing experience. Arun Dev Gautam originally belonged to the

HIGHLIGHT

• 1992-batch IPS officer Arun Dev Gautam officially confirmed as Chhattisgarh DGP.

Madhya Pradesh cadre but opted for the Chhattisgarh cadre following the formation of the state in 2000. Over the years, he has held several important positions and served as Superintendent of Police in multiple districts, earning recognition for his effective administrative and policing strategies. One of the most challenging phases of his career came after the deadly Jhiram Ghati Naxal Attack, when he was appointed Inspector General of Bastar.

RED ALERT IN RAIPUR

Hailstorm, heavy rain lash Chhattisgarh

Central Chronicle News

Heavy rain, hailstorm and strong winds disrupt normal life statewide.

RAIPUR: Chhattisgarh witnessed a dramatic change in weather conditions on Saturday evening as heavy rainfall, thunderstorms, gusty winds, and hailstorms lashed several parts of the state, including the capital city

Raipur. The sudden spell of severe weather led to waterlogging on major roads, disruption of traffic movement, and power outages in many localities after strong winds reportedly damaged electricity lines. Residents in several areas of Raipur experienced hail accompanied by lightning and thunder, creating panic-like conditions for some time. According to the Meteorological Centre in Raipur, the unusual weather activity—normally seen



after the onset of monsoon in mid-June—has arrived unusually early this year. For nearly two weeks, many districts of Chhattisgarh have been witnessing intermittent rainfall, cloudy skies, thun-

HIGHLIGHT

• Red, orange alerts issued as storms batter several Chhattisgarh districts.

derstorms, and hailstorms. While the sudden change has brought significant relief from the scorching summer heat, it has also disrupted day-to-day activities across the state. The Meteorological Department issued 'Red Alert' warnings for Rai-

pur, Durg, Bilaspur, Balod, Bemetara, Rajnandgaon, KOG, Kabirdham, Mungeli, Janjgir-Champa, and several districts of Bastar division, forecasting severe thunderstorms, heavy rainfall, and strong surface winds. An 'Orange Alert' was also issued for districts including Balodabazar, Dhamtari, Gariaband, Mahasamund, Korba, Raigarh, Surguja, and Jashpur, warning of moderate dust storms, lightning, and rain.

RAIPUR: In a significant step towards preventing juvenile delinquency and rehabilitating children in conflict with the law, the Raipur Police Commissionerate on Friday launched the "Navoday - Towards a New Dawn" program in collaboration with UNICEF and the Council for Social Justice. The initiative aims to identify children involved in criminal activities and help reintegrate them into the social mainstream through counseling, support, and welfare assistance. Under the first phase, a "Diversification Program" will assess the children's family conditions, social environment, and psychological state to facilitate positive behavioral changes and prevent

repeat offences. As part of the program, eight departments, including the District Administration, Education, Health, Women and Child Development, and Labour departments, will work together to extend the benefits of government welfare schemes to affected children and their families. Child Welfare Officers and the Juvenile Justice Board will also provide legal protection and support. Initially, the campaign will focus on the Telibandha, Ganj, Khamtarai, Tikrapara, and DD Nagar police station areas. Police Commissioner Dr. Sanjeev Shukla urged parents and society to remain vigilant and help create a safe and supportive environment for children.

FUEL CRISIS PROTEST

Congress protests fuel crisis, blames BJP for mismanagement

RAIPUR: The Congress party on Saturday staged widespread protests across Raipur over the ongoing petrol and diesel shortage, accusing the BJP-led Central and State governments of failing to manage the crisis effectively. Demonstrations were organized at petrol pumps and major intersections across all 12 Congress blocks in the city under the leadership of City District Congress Committee President Shrikumar Shankar Menon. Raising slogans against the government, Congress workers alleged that the fuel shortage has created chaos and severe inconvenience for the public. Party leaders claimed that people are being forced to stand in long queues for hours to obtain petrol and diesel, while transportation, trade, and daily activities have been badly affected.



Addressing protesters, Menon said the government should have made timely alternative arrangements to avoid such a situation. He alleged that administrative failure and lack of foresight by the BJP government had pushed citizens into hardship and uncertainty. He asserted that Congress would continue to raise the issue as the voice of the common people. Protests were held at Amanaka, Kushalpur, Mowa, Telibandha, Fafadih, Shankar Nagar, Ramnagar, Gudhiyari, Ring Road, Police Lines, Kalibadi, and Veerabhadra Nagar.

'NAVODAY' INITIATIVE

Raipur Police launch 'Navoday' initiative for juvenile rehabilitation



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New fiscal discipline measures rolled out

Government pushes spending rationalisation till September 2026



Central Chronicle News

Austerity, Digital Governance and Resource efficiency at core of new Finance Department directives

RAIPUR: In a significant move aimed at ensuring fiscal prudence and strengthening financial discipline in government expenditure, the Finance Department of the Chhattisgarh Government has issued a fresh set of directives focused on curbing unnecessary spending and promoting optimal utilisation of public resources. According to the guidelines, all departments, Divisional Commissioners, Collectors and Heads of Departments have been instructed to ensure judicious use of government resources and maintain strict control over avoidable expenditures. The directives, issued by Finance Department Secretary

Greater use of IGOT Karmayogi Portal

The Finance Department has also encouraged wider use of the IGOT Karmayogi portal for training programmes in place of conventional physical sessions. Departments have been directed to upload their training modules and courses on the portal. The Finance Department has instructed all concerned authorities to ensure strict compliance with the guidelines. The government believes these measures will not only help reduce expenditure but also significantly enhance administrative efficiency, accountability and effective governance.

tary Dr. Rohit Yadav, are aimed at ensuring efficient management of the state's financial resources and establish greater discipline in public spending.

The instructions have come into immediate effect and will remain operational till September 30, 2026. As per the guidelines, only vehicles deemed absolutely essential will be permitted in the carcade of the Chief Minister, members of the Cabinet, and office-bearers of corporations, boards and commissions. The government has also called for restrained use of

other official resources. The state government has directed departments to initiate phased conversion of government vehicles into electric vehicles.

The move is expected to reduce fuel expenditure while contributing to environmental conservation efforts. Instructions have been issued to keep expenditure on petrol and diesel at a minimum.

Vehicle pooling arrangements will also be implemented for officials travelling in the same direction to reduce operational costs.

'Art of Giving' to distribute Volleyball kits and nets

RAIPUR: To mark its 13th Foundation Day, the philanthropic organization 'Art of Giving' will host a sports kit distribution event at the Hatkeshwar Volleyball Ground, Mahadev Chat, Raipur on Sunday evening at 5:00 PM. Volleyballs and nets will be distributed to various sports clubs across Chhattisgarh to encourage young athletes and promote sports at the grass-roots level.

The organization was founded on May 17, 2013, in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, by the renowned educationist and humanitarian Dr. Achyuta Samanta. Grounded in the philosophy of "Share to Shine," the foundation works globally to foster mutual cooperation, brotherhood, education, love, respect, and support for those in need. In continuation of this mission, volleyball equipment will be presented to players from Raipur and surrounding districts. The distribution will be carried out by Rajesh Munat, former Cabinet Minister, current MLA of Raipur West, and former President of the Chhattisgarh State Volleyball Association. A distinguished lineup of guests will be present on the occasion, including Manoj Verma, Mahesh Gajda, Gajraj Pagariya, Dr. Vikram Singh Sisodia, Ajatshatru (IPS), Smritik Rajnala (IPS) and several others.

Preparations intensifed for Bastar's 1st Residential Sports Academy

Central Chronicle News

Director of the Department of Sports and Youth Welfare, conducted an official visit to Jagdalpur.

RAIPUR: Preparations are underway to launch the first residential sports academy for boys in the Bastar region during the current financial year. Spearheaded by the Department of Sports and Youth Welfare, the academy will offer specialized training in athletics, football, and archery.

To review the ground-work and inspect the existing infrastructure, Tanuja Salam, Director of the Department of Sports and Youth Welfare, conducted an official visit to Jagdalpur. During her visit, the Director



assessed critical arrangements including player accommodation, catering services, selection trial procedures, schooling facilities, transportation, sports equipment, and other essential amenities. She held detailed discussions with Sports Officer Sushant Paul to review the academy's operational readiness. While inspecting the premises, Salam issued key directives to ensure a high-quality environment and premium facilities for the young athletes. She

HIGHLIGHT

• Salam also interacted directly with the players to understand their needs and requirements.

emphasized that the establishment of this residential sports academy in Bastar will provide local, naturally talented athletes with top-tier training and resources, enabling them to excel and win medals at both state and national levels.

NEWSLINE

SPECIAL COURTS

Ch'garh sets up 27 special courts for fast-track child abuse trials

RAIPUR: Chhattisgarh government has re-notified 27 special courts across the state. Aimed at ensuring timely justice for victims, the Law and Legislative Affairs Department has issued official orders to restructure these courts based on their funding sources—categorizing them into state-funded and centrally funded fast-track institutions. According to the notification issued by Principal Secretary Sushma Sawant, cases under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act and general rape cases will now be handled by distinct courts to streamline the judicial process.

Municipal Commissioner inspects pre-monsoon drain cleaning drive

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: Municipal Commissioner Sambit Mishra conducted an intensive inspection across several wards in Raipur on Saturday to review the progress of pre-monsoon drain cleaning. During his three-and-a-half-hour review, he directed zone commissioners to accelerate the cleaning process to ensure smooth drainage before the rainy season begins.



He also authorized the use of Poclain machines for deeper cleaning of major stormwater drains where necessary. In Zone 8, Commissioner Mishra inspected Udaya Society in Tatibandh. He

instructed Zone Commissioner Rajeshwari Patel and Executive Engineer Atul Chopra to conduct an immediate survey of the area to resolve water-logging issues. They were directed to draft a Detailed

Project Report for a new drain construction and to coordinate with the State Public Works Department to ensure immediate clearance of the existing channels. Additionally, he advised officials to coordinate with the National Highway Authority of India to broaden the drains near Tatibandh Dhacha Bhavan and the electricity office line to facilitate better water flow.

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Bilaspur



"I am making all efforts to save fuel following an appeal made by PM Narendra Modi."

Tokahn Sahu
MoS for Housing

Villagers availing sushasan camps in big numbers: MLA

Good governance camps are ensuring welfare schemes and grievance redressal services reach citizens living in remote rural and forest regions.

Central Chronicle News

BILASPUR: Sushasan Tihar camps are being organised across the district since May 1, ensuring that government welfare schemes and grievance redressal services reach people in both urban and remote rural regions.

As part of the campaign, a Sushasan Tihar camp was organised at Nevsa village in Bilha development block. Sushant Shukla attended the programme as the chief guest and inspected stalls set up by various government departments. He interacted with villagers and appealed to them to take maximum advantage of government welfare schemes and pub-



lic service initiatives being offered through the camps. Addressing the gathering, Shukla said the governance camps were helping citizens living in cities as well as remote forest areas gain awareness about welfare schemes and receive their benefits directly. He said the state government launched Su-Shasan Tihar under

the leadership of the Chief Minister to ensure that public grievances are heard promptly and resolved efficiently at the grassroots level. He stated that the initiative was strengthening public confidence in governance by taking administrative services directly to villages. According to him, people are becoming

increasingly aware of welfare programmes and are coming forward to benefit from them. He also said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's guarantees and the state government's governance initiatives are contributing significantly to the development of Chhattisgarh. Officials informed that the Nevsa camp received a total of 467 applications related to public demands and grievances, out of which 219 were resolved on the spot. Beneficiaries were also provided allocation letters, approval documents and financial assistance under various welfare schemes during the programme.

Under the Ujjwala Yojana, beneficiary Nir-

HIGHLIGHT

• Government camps resolved hundreds of public grievances and distributed benefits among rural beneficiaries efficiently.

mala Dheewar received benefits from the Food Department. Approval orders under different pension schemes were distributed to nine beneficiaries, while two farmers received loan assistance. Nine beneficiaries were handed housing completion certificates, and two women beneficiaries received cheques of Rs 20,000 each under the Mahtari Jan Yojana through the Labour Department.

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

STUDENTS BRING LAURELS

Krishna Public School students excel in CBSE Class 12 results



BILASPUR: Krishna Public School students delivered an outstanding performance in the CBSE Class 12 Board Examination 2026, achieving excellent results and bringing pride to the institution through their academic accomplishments.

According to the results released by the school, Navya Saraf emerged as the school topper by securing an impressive 96.2 per cent marks. Gopal Yadav secured the second position with 95.4 per cent, while Saksham Shrivastava closely followed with 95.2 per cent marks. Sakshi Bachani also performed exceptionally well by scoring 94.6 per cent marks.

Among the other high achievers, Kanak Verma secured 91.8 per cent, Vrushali Dubey obtained 91.6 per cent and Samridhi Agrawal

scored 91.4 per cent marks. Urja Jain achieved 90.8 per cent, while Arna Bhonsle secured 90.6 per cent marks in the examination.

Several students also entered the 90 per cent category, including Aaj Sharda Sahu, Jaizlin Nagi, Shriya Jaiswal, Siddharth Tamboli, Aditya Rathore and Anushka Tiwari, all of whom secured 90 per cent marks and earned appreciation from teachers and parents.

School authorities stated that the remarkable performance reflected the students' dedication, discipline and consistent hard work throughout the academic session. They also credited the success to the institution's quality teaching methods, continuous academic guidance and supportive learning environment.

CJ performs virtual Bhoomi Pujan for court buildings

Central Chronicle News

BILASPUR: Chief Justice of Chhattisgarh High Court Ramesh Sinha virtually performed the 'Bhoomi-pujan' and foundation laying ceremony for a new Family Court building in Manendragarh and residential quarters for judicial employees in Janakpur, marking another step towards strengthening judicial infrastructure in Chhattisgarh. Justice Parth Prateem Sahu also joined the programme. During the virtual event, the Chief Justice reviewed detailed visuals and plans of the proposed projects and expressed sat-



FACT FILE

• A new Family Court building would be constructed in Manendragarh and residential quarters for judicial employees in Janakpur.

isfaction over the efforts being made to improve judicial infrastructure in

the state. He observed that well-equipped court buildings and quality residential facilities for employees are essential for ensuring efficient functioning of the judiciary and better public service delivery. Justice Sinha emphasised that modern infrastructure would help create a convenient working environment for judges, court staff and litigants.

Storms, rain damage summer paddy crop

Central Chronicle News

BILASPUR: Unseasonal rain and repeated storms have badly affected summer paddy cultivation in Bilaspur district, where farmers are growing crops without any official administrative agreement, leaving them exposed to losses without compensation or insurance support.

This year, summer paddy has been cultivated in around 10,155 hectares across the district. However, officials have not entered into any formal agreement for the crop, forcing farmers to

FACT FILE

• Over 10,000 hectares under cultivation, no assurance of compensation or insurance relief

cultivate entirely at their own risk. Since March, the district has witnessed multiple rounds of thunderstorms, strong winds and untimely rain, causing damage to standing crops. In several areas, heavy winds flattened mature paddy crops, while rainwater accumulation in low-lying fields increased fears of severe losses before harvesting.

Cong demands adequate supply of fertilizers



Central Chronicle News

BILASPUR: The first monthly meeting of Block Congress Committee Rural Takhatpur was held, where party workers expressed strong resentment over shortage of fertiliser, rising diesel prices, power cuts and irrigation water problems affecting farmers.

During the meeting, Congress leaders alleged that farmers were facing hardships from all sides while the government had failed to address their basic needs. A con-

demnation resolution against the government was unanimously passed demanding adequate supply of fertiliser, uninterrupted electricity and irrigation water, and relief from rising diesel prices. Addressing the gathering, Block Congress Committee Rural Takhatpur president Abhyuday Tiwari said farmers were being neglected despite being the backbone of the country. He said the Congress would continue to raise farmers' issues and stand with them in every struggle.

NTPC Sipat begins 'Girl Empowerment Mission'

Central Chronicle News

BILASPUR: NTPC Sipat inaugurated the Girl Empowerment Mission (GEM)-2026 on 16 May 2026 with great enthusiasm. The four-week fully residential programme was inaugurated by Chief Guest Rajnesh Singh, IPS, DIG & SSP, Bilaspur, in the presence of Shri Swapan Kumar Mandal, BUH, NTPC Sipat.

Organised under the CSR initiative of NTPC Limited, GEM-2026 will benefit around 130 girls from 38 government schools of project-affected villages who have recently passed Class 5. The month-long fully residential programme has been designed for



the holistic development of girls in the 10-12 years age group through exposure to academics, computer education, yoga, sports, self-defence, arts, music, discipline, hygiene, communication skills, time management, and personality development.

During the inaugural ceremony, the participating girls presented musical and cultural dance performances. Former participants from the

FACT FILE

• The programme was launched by SSP Rajnesh Singh in the presence of Swapan Kumar Mandal, BUH, NTPC Sipat.

GEM 2022 batch, Ms. Divyanshi Maichanya and Ms. Chinki Patanwar, currently studying in Class 10 at Bal Bharati Public School, also shared their experiences and highlighted how the programme helped improve their confidence, personality, communication skills, and overall development. Their inspiring stories encouraged the newly enrolled girls to make the best use of the opportunity.

WORKSHOP HELD

Oath administered on water conservation

Central Chronicle News

BILASPUR: Emphasising the need for collective efforts to tackle declining groundwater levels and rising environmental challenges, Collector Sanjay Agrawal on Friday administered an oath on water conservation and cleanliness during a district-level workshop on groundwater conservation and solid waste management.

The programme was



organised at Pt Devkinandan Dixit Auditorium under the 'Zero Waste' theme and attended by public representatives, officials, sarpanches, engineers,

builders and urban local body representatives from across the district. Belara MLA Sushant Shukla attended the programme as chief guest, while Mas-

turi MLA Dilip Lahariya, Mayor Pooja Vidhani, District Panchayat president Rajesh Suryavanshi, SSP Rajnesh Singh, Municipal Commissioner Prakash Kumar Sarve and District Panchayat CEO Sandeep Agrawal were also present. Addressing the gathering, MLA Sushant Shukla said water conservation and cleanliness should become a mass movement rather than remaining limited to government campaigns.

He stressed the importance of rainwater harvesting, pond conservation and plantation drives in view of rapidly declining groundwater levels.

Collector Sanjay Agrawal said excessive extraction of groundwater has become a serious concern and future water security would depend on strengthening rainwater harvesting structures and local water bodies in both urban and rural areas.

OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE

Trimurti Public School shines again in Class 12 board exam results



BILASPUR: Trimurti Public School, a CBSE-affiliated residential school, once again registered an impressive performance in the Class 12 board examinations, with several students securing excellent marks and bringing laurels to the institution. According to the results announced by the school management, Shraddha Singraul secured the first position in the school by scoring 91.4 per cent marks. Yugal Bagmar stood second with 90 per cent, while Tarun Dembra secured third position with 88 per cent marks.

Among other meritorious students, Nitya Agrawal scored 86 per cent and earned appreciation for her consistent academic performance. Kunal Vaishnav also secured commendable marks in the examinations. Ashwin Sharma obtained 79.8 per cent, while Akanksha Nirmalkar secured 78.8 per cent marks. Pushp Kumari scored 77 per cent, Sanskar Sahu achieved 76.4 per cent and Riya Divya secured 76.2 per cent marks.

School authorities said the excel-

lent results reflected the dedication, discipline and hard work of students along with the continuous support and guidance provided by experienced teachers and parents throughout the academic session.

The management stated that students performed remarkably well despite changes in the examination and evaluation pattern, including the increasing use of online assessments and revised academic methods introduced by the board. Teachers of the school worked consistently to help students adapt to the updated examination system and maintain strong academic standards.

Additional Director Jitendra Nigam and Principal Sushant Swapan Deb-nath congratulated all successful students for their achievements and wished them success in their future academic and professional pursuits.

Parents and staff members also expressed happiness over the school's strong board examination performance this year.

GIRLS OUTSHINE BOYS

Girls out-perform boys in CBSE Class 12 results: girls capture merit list in Bilaspur

BILASPUR: Students of leading private schools in Bilaspur delivered an impressive performance in the CBSE Class 12 board examinations, with several students scoring above 95 percent across Science, Commerce and Humanities streams. As seen in previous years, girl students continued to dominate the merit rankings. Among the top achievers, Brilliant Public School student Shreyansh Khakha emerged as one of the city toppers by securing 98.2 percent in the Science stream. At Delhi Public School Bilaspur, Srishti Pandey secured 96.8 percent to become the school topper. The school recorded a 100 percent pass result, with all 179 students successfully clearing the examination. Three students scored above 95 percent, while 17 students secured marks between 90 and 95 percent. Students from Burgess English School also performed strongly. Archita Ramani scored 95.6 percent, while Krish Sahuja and Anisha Sahu secured 94.2 percent each. Deepak Desh recorded 94 percent and Vinayak Mishra achieved 93.6 percent. Jain International School continued its tradition of 100 percent results. Vijay Kumar Markam scored 95.6 percent, Vipul Soni secured 94.8



percent, Amar Agrawal obtained 94 percent and Ayushi Kathuria achieved 91.2 percent. At LCIT Public School, Humanities students stood out prominently. Prakhar Pandey topped the stream with 96.6 percent, followed by Lavanya Kumar with 94.8 percent and Shreya Chauhan with 93.4 percent. Brilliant Public School also saw strong overall results, with 35 students scoring above 85 percent. In Commerce, Lakshya Chauhan scored 96.4 percent, while Riddhima Tripathi secured 92.6 percent in Humanities. In Science, Anukarsh Sahu and Shreyansh Rudrakar both scored 94.4 percent. According to the regional CBSE data, the overall pass percentage stood at 80.88 percent. Girls outperformed boys with a pass percentage of 82.44 percent, compared to 79.44 percent among boys. Out of 34,187 registered students, 27,489 successfully passed the examination.



"A plan has been initiated to bring 20 offices under Ministry of Commerce & Industry at one place in Mumbai."

Piyush Goyal
Union Minister

Op Ragepill: India makes first-ever Captagon seizure

Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced India's first-ever Captagon seizure during a major anti-narcotics operation conducted nationwide successfully.

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday announced India's first-ever seizure of Captagon, a banned synthetic stimulant often referred to internationally as the "Jihadi Drug", in an operation valued at Rs 182 crore.

In a post on X, Shah said the seizure was made under "Operation Ragepill" and described it as a major achievement in the Centre's anti-narcotics campaign. "Modi govt is resolved for a 'Drug-Free India'. Glad to share



that through 'Operation RAGEPILL', our agencies have achieved the first-ever seizure of Captagon, the so-called 'Jihadi Drug', worth Rs 182 crore," he said. The Home Minister said the consignment was meant for the Middle East and confirmed that a foreign national had been arrested in connection

HIGHLIGHT

● **Operation Ragepill uncovers banned Captagon consignment intended for Middle Eastern markets.**

● **Foreign national arrested after agencies seize synthetic drugs worth Rs 182 crore.**

with the case.

Reiterating the government's "zero tolerance against drugs" policy, Shah said authorities would continue to act firmly against narcotics trafficking through or

into India. "I repeat we will clamp down on every gram of drugs entering India or leaving the country using our territory as the transit route," he said while congratulating officers of the Narcotics Control Bureau.

Captagon is a banned synthetic stimulant that has been linked internationally to organised crime networks and conflict zones in parts of West Asia. Indian enforcement agencies have in recent years stepped up surveillance against synthetic drugs and transnational narcotics syndicates oper-

ating through maritime and air cargo routes.

The latest operation comes amid a series of major anti-drug crackdowns conducted by the NCB over the past year. Earlier this month, the agency seized 349 kg of high-grade cocaine worth Rs 1,745 crore in Mumbai after tracing what officials described as a large international narcotics network. In another operation, the NCB recovered high-grade cocaine, ganja and cannabis gummies in Mumbai in a seizure estimated to be worth around Rs 200 crore.

Tech-based reforms must for future governance: Singh

Press Trust Of India

Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh urged governance institutes to embrace technology-driven, performance-oriented administrative reforms nationwide.

NEW DELHI: Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh called for a major transformation of Administrative Training Institutes (ATIs) and governance institutions across the country, urging them to move away from "stereotype models" and evolve into modern, technology-driven centres of governance and capacity building.

Addressing the concluding session of the National Departmental



FAST FACTS

● **Mission Karmayogi entering advanced phase with AI-enabled governance reforms focus.**

Summit on "Institutionalising Capacity Building: From Training to Performance-Linked Governance" through virtual mode, the Minister said governance institutions must break silos, encourage free thinking and adopt integrated approaches to remain relevant in a rapidly changing administrative environment.

NEW DELHI

Cars, scooters gutted in fire, none injured

At least 10 cars and two scooters were gutted when fire broke out at an MCD parking lot in Bihari Colony in the Shahdara area on Friday evening, officials said. According to the Delhi Fire Services (DFS), a call was received at 4:57 pm, following which four fire tenders were rushed to the spot in East Delhi.

A DFS official said thick black smoke was billowing from the site, which soon turned into a massive blaze engulfing several parked vehicles. "At least 10 cars and two scooters were gutted in the fire. Cooling operations were still underway till late evening to ensure that no fresh flare-up took place," the official said. Firefighters doused the blaze after sustained efforts, police said. The fire created panic in the locality as flames rapidly spread from one vehicle to another. However, officials reported no casualties in the incident.

NASHIK

Ramkund area closed till Jul 16

The Nashik Municipal Corporation on Friday announced temporary closure of Goda Ghat area between May 16 and July 16 for improvement and development works. An official said a public notice regarding temporary closure of entry and movement of common citizens in Goda Ghat area has been issued.

"These works on the banks of Godavari river are part of the Ramkal Path project being implemented by NMC. After a meeting, Purohit Mahasangh office-bearers have decided to conduct funerary rituals in temporary sheds," he said. The temporary sheds are at Yashwant Maharaj Patangan (ground) and Bhaji Patangan (ground) Gandhi Talao (lake) and Asthi Kund, the official informed.

GANGTOK

Labourer crushed to death under machine

A 45-year-old labourer working with the General Reserve Engineer Force (GREF) died after being crushed under a machine in Sikkim's Pakyong district, police said. The deceased was identified as Grawang Sherpa, a resident of Naya Busty in Phadamchen, they said.

The incident took place on Thursday when Sherpa and other labourers were moving a compressor machine at the site in Zuluk. During the process, the machine slipped and fell on him, they said. He was immediately rushed to the Military Hospital at Zuluk, where doctors declared him dead, they added. A case was registered under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), police said. The body was brought to Gangtok on Friday for post-mortem examination, they said.

TRANSPARENCY DEMANDED

Stakeholders demand dividing NEET into 2 parts

Press Trust Of India

KOTA: Students and the teaching fraternity in Rajasthan's coaching hub of Kota on Friday demanded the deployment of the Army to conduct the NEET UG for medical admissions transparently, and introducing a two-tier system in line with the JEE.

They also welcomed the Centre's announcement to hold the NEET UG 2006 re-exam on June 21, days after the National Testing



Agency (NTA) cancelled the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (Undergraduate), or NEET, held on May 3 amid allegations of paper leak. Puja, a NEET aspirant from Kota, said, "I feel the Army should be deployed to conduct exams like NEET as it is

the number one and most trusted force in the country. Chances of paper leaks will decrease significantly if the test is held under the Army's supervision."

Puja also said that with more than a month to go for the re-exam, she would try her best to rectify the mistakes she made in the May 3 test. Another NEET aspirant, Komal Vishnoi from Barmer, said she would have to start her preparations all over again for the re-test on June 21.

3 workers die while cleaning plant

KALOL: Three workers died of asphyxiation while cleaning an underground tank of an Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP) at a factory in Gujarat's Gandhinagar district, police said. The incident occurred late Thursday night when four workers were cleaning an ETP tank at Mafatal Gujarat Industries in Saij area. The deceased were identified as Amit Parihar (32), and Amarkumar Shrivastav (37) and Shivnath Dubey (44).

FLOOD HITS ASSAM

Assam: 23,000 people affected by floods as IMD forecasts more rain

Press Trust Of India

GUWAHATI: More than 23,000 people have been affected by urban floods in Assam as rains lashed several parts of the state, while the IMD warned of more showers, official sources said. The Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA), in its bulletin, said urban floods have been reported from the three districts of Kamrup (Metropolitan), Sribhumi and Cachar. Four revenue circles and 12 villages have



been inundated in these districts, affecting 23,619 people. The worst-hit has been Cachar district, where 15,617 people have been affected, followed by Sribhumi with 8,002 flood-hit people, according to the bulletin. There

were no reports of deaths or people missing in the urban floods in the last 24 hours, the ASDMA said. Fifty-three marooned people and three animals were rescued by a State Disaster Relief Force boat in Sribhumi district.

CYBER SLAVERY

1600 Bihar people staying in Southeast Asian countries after expiry of visas

Press Trust Of India

PATNA: Around 1,600 people hailing from Bihar, who visited several Southeast Asian countries, are staying there even after expiry of their visas and are also trapping the youth from the state to make them work as cyber slaves, officials said. Cyber slavery is a form of human trafficking



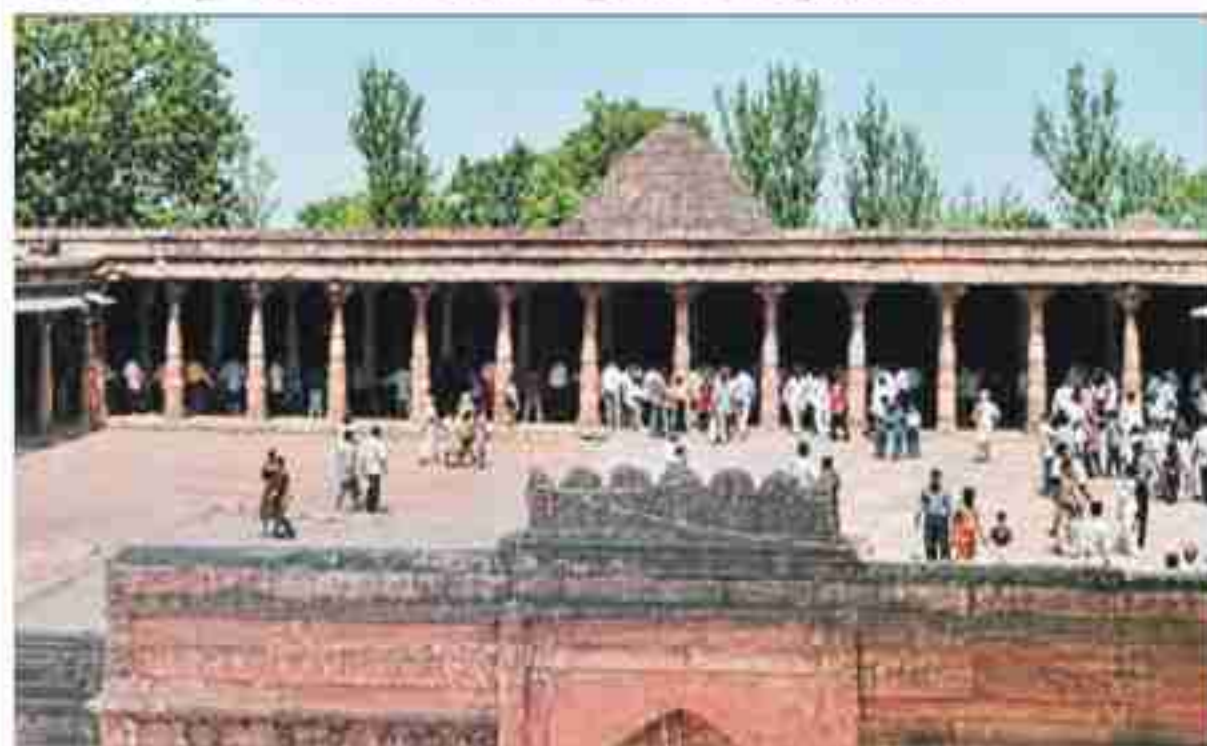
where organised criminal networks lure jobseekers—often across international borders—and confine them. Victims

have their passports confiscated and are forced to commit online fraud under the threat of violence.

"Analysis of data by Cyber Crime and Security cell has revealed that most of the fraud committed by cyber slaves has its origin in Southeast Asian countries like Cambodia, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam and Laos," Inspector General of Police of Cyber Crime and Security cell of Bihar police, Ranjeet Kumar Mishra said.

"The police are collecting details of around 1,600 people from Bihar, who visited various Southeast Asian countries, but are still staying there even after expiry of their visas", Mishra told reporters here.

Court permits worship at Bhojshala



The Indore Bench of the Madhya Pradesh High Court has delivered a historic verdict, granting the Hindu side the right to worship and recognising the complex as belonging to Raja Bhoj.

Prudent use of fuel needed to achieve self-reliance in energy sector: Raj CM

JAIPUR: Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel Sharma stressed the need for prudent use of fuel and resources to achieve self-reliance, and said that future challenges can be tackled only by adopting clean and alternative energy sources. Addressing the Rajasthan Energy Con-



clave here, Sharma said saving every drop of fuel

was a collective responsibility, and called for wider adoption of public transport and electric vehicles.

"Energy conservation and fuel saving are matters linked with public participation. Petrol and diesel conservation is the need of the hour, and future

energy challenges can be addressed only by adopting clean and alternative energy sources," he said. The chief minister arrived at the event in an electric vehicle, projecting a message of fuel conservation, environmental protection and promotion of green energy.

Cancellation of paper causes stress and prolonged pressure to NEET aspirants

NEW DELHI: For NEET aspirants, the cancellation of the paper has not just meant another test date, but the return of prolonged pressure and emotional fatigue that comes with months of preparation. Students reacting to the Centre's announcement of a re-examination on June 21 said the decision,



though aimed at ensuring fairness after allegations of irregularities, has left many of them mentally drained and anxious about having to

restart their preparation cycle.

Dilpreet, a student staying in Old Rajinder Nagar, described the situation as "mentally harassing" for aspirants. "If examinations cannot be conducted properly, then students' time should not be wasted. Many students spend years preparing for this exam.

CENSUS

1.34 lakh submit self enumeration in Delhi

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Around 50,000 enumerators will visit households in MCD wards from Saturday, under houselisting phase of Census 2027, officials said. The self enumeration exercise in 250 wards of Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) concluded on Friday, with 1.34 lakh

persons submitting census details online, they said.

There are around 30-32 lakh houses in MCD areas. The wards have been mapped into around 46,000 houselisting blocks. Each houselisting block comprises 180-200 houses, an official tasked with Census work said. To verify the authentic-



ity of census personnel and supervisors, people can check their identity cards and appointment letters, and can also scan the QR code printed on

their identity cards, he said. Self enumeration exercise was already completed in the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) and Delhi Cantt areas. The houselisting phase was also wrapped up in these areas on Friday.

A total of 1,54,127 persons attempted self-enumeration during the exer-

cise between May 1-15, out of which 1,32,840 completed filling their details in the city, barring NDMC and Delhi Cantt areas, according to officials. The South West district registered the highest number of total self-enumeration cases at 26,475, followed closely by North West at 26,155 and North East at 24,027 cases.

CM Suvendu orders crackdown on 'broker raj'

KOLKATA: Expressing concern over complaints of "broker raj" at state-run hospitals, West Bengal CM Suvendu Adhikari on Friday asked officers to take strict action. At a meeting attended by Health Department officials, principals and superintendents of major state-run hospitals, along with senior doctors having administrative

responsibilities, Adhikari also issued directives aimed at curbing irregular patient referrals. He directed hospitals to enhance capacity and improve transparency in the admission process. All state-run hospitals have been asked to install display boards showing the total number of beds available and those currently occupied, an official said.

Pradhan Mantri Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana is an ambitious initiative aimed at providing free electricity to every household in the country.

Jitendra Yadav
Collector - Rajnandgaon



Bilaspur Region

Collector questions principals over exam results accountability

On Friday, a meeting of school principals with the Collector was held in the Collectorate.



Central Chronicle News

MCB: A review meeting regarding the district Education Department's board examination results was held on Friday at the District Collectorate conference hall under the chairmanship of Collector and District Magistrate Ms. Santan Devi Jangde. Senior administrative and education officials, including Additional Collectors, the District Education Officer, Block Education Officers, BRCs, principals, and departmental staff, attended the meeting.

The Collector conducted a detailed review of the examination results of High Schools and Higher Secondary Schools, supplementary

FACTFILE

Underperforming schools were reprimanded; outstanding schools were rewarded.

examination preparations, academic quality, student attendance, teacher accountability, and preparations for the upcoming academic session. Expressing serious displeasure over the poor performance of several schools, she stated that negligence toward children's education would not be tolerated. She emphasized that teachers must work with dedication to shape the future of every child and warned that principals, teachers, and officials of schools

repeatedly delivering weak results would be held accountable.

Schools including High School Barwahi, High School Raunk, Higher Secondary School Devgarh, High School Semariha, Higher Secondary School Bharatpur, High School Tilauli, Higher Secondary School Kuwarpur, and Higher Secondary School Kotadol were identified for poor performance. The Collector directed officials to conduct subject-wise analyses to identify reasons behind student failures and prepare corrective strategies. She instructed schools to organize bridge courses and special classes in Mathematics, Science, and Sanskrit for academ-

ically weak students.

Special focus was placed on supplementary and opportunity examinations. The Collector ordered that all eligible students must submit applications and directed schools to begin special coaching classes from May 18, 2026. She stressed that no student should be left behind and instructed teachers to ensure regular tests, homework, and focused preparation for supplementary candidates.

The Collector also emphasized regular parent-teacher meetings, monitoring of low-attendance students, and ensuring 100 percent enrollment across the district.

Jandarshan grievance cell meets every Tuesday

KORIYA: As per the directives of Collector and District Magistrate Roktima Yadav, the time-bound review meeting at the Collectorate office will now be held every Tuesday. Following the review meeting, the 'Jan Darshan' public grievance redressal program will also be organized every Tuesday in the Collectorate auditorium.

According to information from the district administration, this minor change in the schedule has been introduced to ensure the quicker and more effective resolution of public grievances and administrative issues.

Employment centre announces monthly job fair

MUNGELI: With the aim of providing employment opportunities to educated unemployed youth of the district, the District Employment and Self-Employment Guidance Center will organize a Job Fair on May 22 at the District Employment Office situated in the District Project Livelihood College campus, Jamkor. The Job Fair will be conducted from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

SPELLBOUND PERFORMANCE

St.Xavier's High School Bharni, Bilaspur delivers outstanding results in CBSE Class XII exam



BILASPUR: The result of St.Xavier's High School Bharni, Bilaspur was spellbound on May 13, 2026 the result of C.B.S.E Class-XII was announced in which 162 students had appeared. The result of the toppers are Anvesha Agrawal 97%, Anshika Gupta 94% Tejas Vilas Sah 93.6%, Aruna Kanwar 92%, Aanya Gupta 91%, Prashant Sindey 92%, Saksham Sharma 91.6%, P.Anshika Rao 90.4%, Mamta Markam 90%, Soumya Tekam 90%, ten students secured 90% and above, 38th students secured 80% and above, 49th students secured 70% and above and 49th students secured 60% and above.

The students express their credit for success in this exam to their Principal, Teachers and Parents for always giving good guidance and for always giving strong support for them. The result of school is amazing. Dr.G.S.Patnaik(Chairman cum Managing Director), Director Mrs.Lekhashree Patnaik, Director Miss.Divyashree Patnaik, Dr.B.B.Mahata (CEO cum Principal), Vice Principal Mr. Dinesh Singh Bist, Head Mistress Mrs.Nancy Christine Parakh and all teachers have congratulated to all the bright stars and wish them all the success for their future endeavours.

LAND SURVEY

Land survey announced for border revenue record updates districtwide

MCB: The process for conducting a land survey of unsurveyed land in the district is set to begin soon, as per a notification issued by the Land Records Branch of the Collector's Office. The survey operations will initially be carried out in several areas of Manendragarh Tehsil, marking an important step toward the systematic organization and updating of revenue and land records. According to the order published in the Chhattisgarh Government Gazette, the survey will cover unsurveyed land falling between Nai Ledri village under Patwari Circle No. 16 (Manendragarh) and the villages of Tendudand, Gidhadand, Jhagrakhand, and the Hasdeo River under Patwari Circle No. 15. For this purpose, a dedicated survey team has been constituted at the departmental level. The team will undertake field visits to carry out demarcation, verification of records, and other technical survey-related tasks.

The district administration has stated that detailed information regarding the survey will be shared with the public through the official district website and local newspapers so that residents of the affected areas can remain informed and prepare the required documents in advance.

CRISIS

District faces worsening power and water crisis tensions rise

MUNGELI: Frequent power cuts in the district have become a serious concern for the general public, especially during the intense summer heat. The recurring outages are not only disrupting daily life but are also severely affecting the water supply system, leaving residents struggling for basic necessities.

In both urban and rural areas, tap water remains the primary source of household supply. However, the availability of water is directly dependent on electricity, as motors are required to pump water from overhead tanks and pipelines. Ironically, power cuts often coincide with the scheduled timings of water supply in the morning and evening, resulting in complete disruption of water distribution. As a result, not a single drop of water reaches many households during these hours.

With temperatures crossing 40 degrees Celsius, water demand has increased significantly, but erratic electricity supply has further worsened the crisis. Residents report that they are unable to store sufficient water, and whatever little is available gets exhausted quickly.

District Junior Chess Championship May 17

MUNGELI: The District Junior Ranking Chess Championship will be organized on Sunday, May 17, at Agar High School from 9:30 AM under the auspices of the District Chess Association. Boys and girls below 19 years of age are eligible to participate in the tournament.

Outstanding performers in the championship will be honored with cash prizes, winner's trophies, and certificates. Participants must carry photocopies of their Aadhaar Card and Birth Certificate to take part in the competition. The prize distribution ceremony will be held at 4:30 PM.

The organizers informed that talented players identified during the tournament will also be provided advanced training to prepare them for participation in state and national-level chess competitions.

Raigarh law order strengthened under SSP Shashimohan Singh

Central Chronicle News

RAIGARH: A noticeable transformation is being witnessed across Raigarh district, where discussions about law and order now frequently revolve around Superintendent of Police Shashimohan Singh. The growing public confidence is not the result of publicity or political rhetoric, but of a firm and action-oriented policing approach that has strengthened the district's administrative and security framework in a short span of time.

Under his leadership, the police administration has intensified action against illegal betting, gambling, scrap rackets, cybercrime, murder, robbery, kidnapping, and crimes against women. These sustained crackdowns have disrupted criminal networks that had operated openly for years. Criminal elements



are increasingly realizing that the law in Raigarh is not merely symbolic, but actively enforced on the ground.

Shashimohan Singh's style of functioning has been marked by discipline, swift decision-making, and visible results rather than media-driven theatrics. Without yielding to political influence or

FACTFILE

SSP Shashimohan Singh has infused new energy into the police department through his aggressive approach.

pressure from powerful groups, he has sent a clear message that no individual stands above the law. Campaigns such as "Aaghaat," "Ankush," and "Prahaar" have created a strong deterrent against anti-social activities and significantly tightened the district's policing mechanism.

Continuous monitoring from police stations to field operations has improved accountability and discipline within the force. The alertness and responsiveness of the police department have increased considerably, while opportunities for criminals to evade action have steadily reduced.

This renewed efficiency has also strengthened public trust in the police administration. Traders and businessmen now feel more secure, women are experiencing a safer environment, and young citizens are gradually developing a positive perception of the police force. A major aspect of Shashimohan Singh's leadership has been his emphasis on "social policing." By participating directly in sports events, awareness drives, and public outreach programs, he has narrowed the long-standing gap between the police and the public. His ability to maintain a balance between firmness and sensitivity has distinguished his administration.

Today, Raigarh is witnessing not only stricter policing but also a broader social change in public perception.

COLLECTOR HONOURS CENSUS OFFICIALS

Officials honoured for outstanding census contribution

Central Chronicle News

MUNGELI: Collector Kundan Kumar honored 60 enumerators, supervisors, census assistants, and charge officers for their outstanding contribution to Census 2027 during a ceremony held at the Maniyari Conference Hall in the District Collectorate. Certificates of appreciation were presented to officials who completed census duties with sincerity, accuracy,

and dedication despite challenging circumstances.

Addressing the gathering, the Collector described Census 2027 as a historic and highly significant campaign for the future planning and development of both the district and the nation. He emphasized that accurate and transparent digital data collected by enumerators would play a crucial role in shaping government policies,



development schemes, and resource allocation over the next decade. He praised the district's enumerators and supervisors for setting an excellent example through their committed work.

Among those spe-

"Despite having a disability, I prioritized the census work and completed it successfully within the given timeframe."

Vijay Kumar Nirmalkar
Enumerator

cially honored were Shubham Bakhtani, Charge Officer of Nagar Panchayat Jarhagaon,

Census Assistant Vikas Sahu, Ghanshyam Prasad Sharma, Charge Officer of Nagar Panchayat Sargaon, and Census Assistant Rakesh Kaushik, along with several other officials. The Collector also directed officials to issue a show-cause notice to the District Statistics Officer for negligence in census work.

During the program, enumerators shared their experiences.

VINAY CHAUHAN FELICITATES WORLD CHAMPION DIVYANSHU

VC Vinay Chauhan honours world shooting champion Divyanshu Dewangan



RAIGARH: On Tuesday, the platform of Nandkumar Patel University (NKPUP) hosted a felicitation ceremony for Divyanshu Dewangan, who brought laurels to the nation in world shooting sports. The event went beyond a simple honour ceremony and reflected the university's evolving work culture and youth-focused vision.

Vice-Chancellor Prof. Vinay Chauhan addressed the gathering with confidence and a forward-looking approach, stating that NKPUP is no longer limited to conducting examinations and awarding degrees. He emphasized that the university is steadily transforming into an institution that identifies, nurtures, and promotes talent. During the event, World Champion Divyanshu Dewangan was

felicitated along with his parents and family members. The Vice-Chancellor remarked that such young achievers are not only the pride of their cities or states but also serve as an inspiration for the entire nation. He also announced that Divyanshu would be associated with university campaigns on youth awareness, de-addiction, and promotion of a healthy and positive lifestyle. Prof. Chauhan issued directions to affiliated colleges to ensure that students are not restricted to academics alone. He stressed the importance of encouraging participation in sports, cultural activities, leadership development, innovation, and social engagement, highlighting that the future belongs to multidimensional youth development.

Fun & Focus



Daily Horoscope

ARIES

Expectant mother should take special care while walking on floor. You'll come to understand the fact today that investing often proves to be very beneficial for you, as any old investment made by you an offer profitable returns. Do not share your personal matters with the casual acquaintances. Quite complicated life for romance today.

Gemini

Start meditation and yoga for physical gain especially mental toughness. If you are planning on hanging out with your friends, then spend money thoughtfully, as you are likely to suffer from money loss. A better understanding with your spouse brings in happiness-peace and prosperity at home. You are likely to be misunderstood in love affair.

Leo

Blood pressure patients should be extra careful about their health while travelling in a crowded bus. Increase in income from past investment is foreseen. Do not let your friends take advantage of your generous behaviour. Sharing food with beloved in candlelight. If you are married and have children, then they can complain to you regarding you not being able to give them ample time.

Libra

Your fondest dream will materialize. But keep your excitement under control as too much happiness may cause some problems. Today, you are likely to attain benefits from the help of your brother or sister. Your problems will be serious- but people around you will not notice the pain you are going through-Probably they feel it is none of their business.

Sagittarius

Likely to face some setback as you are unable to go in an important assignment due to health problem. But use your rationale to propel you. Today, you can come across a person in a party who can give you some important advice to strengthen your economic side. Sisterly affection will encourage you. But you should not lose your temper over trifles as it would only harm your interests.

Aquarius

Health requires some attention. Investment concerning your residence will be profitable. Health of an aged person in the family might cause some tension. No one can separate your love. Sports is an important part of life, but do not get too much involved that it affects your education. Your spouse will put efforts in making you happy today.

Taurus

Pleasure trips and social get-togethers will keep you relaxed and happy. Today, your account will be credited with the money from your debtor without any prior notice, which can surprise you and make you happy. Pending household jobs will take up some of your time. You may be overwhelmed by proposing as it unburdens you.

Cancer

Only you know what is best for you- so be strong and bold and take quick decisions and be prepared to live with the results. It should be well understood that in the hour of grief, your accumulated wealth will only help you tackle the situation. Hence, start saving from today and avoid excessive spending. Love is the feeling to be felt and shared with your beloved.

Virgo

Fear may mar your happiness. You need to understand that it is the product of our own thoughts and imagination. It kills spontaneity- blot out joy of living and handicap our efficiency- so better nip it in the bud before it makes you a coward. Financial hassles seem to get over as your parents extend support. Do not neglect your social life.

Scorpio

Go out for a long walk for the sake of your good health. Don't even try to lend money to anyone today, and if necessary, then take it in writing about the time duration in which s/he will repay the amount. A better understanding with your spouse brings in happiness-peace and prosperity at home. Be careful your romantic partner may flatter you- don't leave me alone in this lonely world.

Capricorn

Today you feel relaxed and in the right mood to enjoy. Involving yourself in large group will be highly entertaining- but your expenses will take an up-trend. Family problem should be given top priority. You need to discuss it without delay because once this is sorted out- the life at home will be much easier to cope and you would not find any difficulty in influencing your family members.

Pisces

Likely to suffer from a persistent pain in neck/back. Don't ignore it especially when it is accompanied by general weakness. Rest will be very important today. Your creative talents will prove to be highly lucrative if put to proper use. A family get-together will see you occupy the center stage. Erratic behaviour of your darling might make your mood upset.

WHO's mental disease list.

Same day in 1540, Sher Shah Suri was crowned ruler of Hindustan, known for constructing the Grand Trunk Road.

The day also marks the birthday of Edward Jenner, pioneering doctor who developed the smallpox vaccine, while also of Sugar Ray Leonard, Olympic gold medallist and legendary boxer.

On May 17, in 1673, explorers Louis Jolliet and Jacques Marquette begin their exploration of the Mississippi River.

SCIENCE WATCH

She revolutionized biotechnology



Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw (Biocon) pioneered the biotech industry in India. She is a first-generation entrepreneur with over 4 decades of experience in biotechnology. Other leaders include Dr. Sudha Warrier (Curo Stem Cellutions) and Ranjana Srivastava (Nextec Lifesciences).

He is the patriarch of Indian IT Industry



Faqr Chand Kohli (TCS) is regarded as the "Patriarch of TCS" and a leader in the IT revolution; he pushed for the development of Indian language computing. He ingeniously applied his knowledge of System Engineering gained at MIT.

They mastered EV innovations



Modern EV Innovators, Tarun Mehta & Swapnil Jain - Ather Energy developed high-performance E-scooters with indigenous Li-ion battery technology. They secured E funding of \$128 million led by National Investment and Infrastructure Fund Ltd. which was a turning point.

10 COMMON SIGNS OF GENIUS



1) Insatiable Curiosity: You have a relentless desire to know how and why things work, often questioning fundamental assumptions.

2) High Adaptability: You easily adjust to new situations and are flexible in the face of change, often thriving in chaotic environments.

3) Creative Thinking (Connecting Dots): You see patterns and connections where

others don't, often connecting disparate fields to solve problems.

4) Embracing Failure: You treat mistakes as learning opportunities, possessing the resilience to try again until you succeed.

5) Intense Focus: You can enter a state of "flow" and concentrate on a specific topic or problem for hours, disregarding distractions.

6) Intellectual Humility: You know that there is a lot you don't know, and you are comfortable saying "I don't know".

7) Comfort with Solitude: You enjoy being alone and appreciate quiet time to think, often creating your best work in isolation.

8) High Open-Mindedness: You are open to new ideas and willing to change your opinion

based on new information.

9) Profound Empathy/Sensitivity: You are highly sensitive to emotions, both your own and others', and notice subtle shifts in people.

10) The "Night Owl" Tendency: You often have an irregular, later sleep schedule because your brain remains active and engaged, seeking stimulation at night.

THE FIVE FAQ

- _____ is credited with designing the first bicycle.
- Sprite, the real-life cat, was an inspiration for _____ comic-strip character.
- The historic place of Seringapatnam is situated along the banks of _____.
- On hot days, _____ can increase its body temperature by 4.2 degrees to reduce water loss from perspiration.
- The 'bhand jashna' or 'a festival of clowns' is a folk theatre of _____ state.

very, (4) Ostrich, (5) Jammu and Kashmir.

ANSWERS -

RIDDLE ?

- I RUN WITHOUT LEGS,
- I SING WITHOUT A VOICE,
- I CUT THROUGH MOUNTAINS,
- BUT I AM SOFT TO TOUCH.

ANSWER

WHAT AM I?

WATER

May 17, historically is known for the 1540 Battle of Kannauj, the 1987 retirement of Sunil Gavaskar, and the 2014 BJP election victory. It is also recognized globally as World Hypertension Day and World Telecommunication Day.

Other key historical events include the 1814 signing of Norway's Constitution, the 1861 capture of the first colour photograph taken by Thomas Sutton, featuring a tartan ribbon, and the 1990 removal of homosexuality from the



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WORD OF THE DAY

Quintessential

MEANING: Describes the most perfect, typical, or pure example of a quality or class.

EXAMPLE: "The Eiffel Tower is the quintessential symbol of Paris".

SYNONYMS: Archetypal | Exemplary | Typical | Classic | Definitive | Paradigmatic

ANTONYMS: Atypical | Irregular | Subpar | Unique | Ordinary

FACT OF THE DAY

RABINDRANATH TAGORE'S ELDER BROTHER, JYOTIRINDRANATH TAGORE, BUILT A HOUSE IN RANCHI'S MORHABADI HILL, WHICH IS NOW AFFECTIONATELY CALLED THE TAGORE HILL.

Across
1. Woodwind instrument (4)
3. Paper size (8)
9. Small salty fish (7)
10. Person under age (5)
11. Cloth (5)
12. Whole (6)
14. Severe food shortage (6)
15. Handsome Greek god (6)
19. Ailing (6)
21. Derby venue (5)
24. Raise aloft (5)
25. Scoundrel (7)
26. Opposite (8)
27. Adhesive (4)

Down
1. Intermittently (2,3,3)
2. When expected (2,3)
4. Gas essential for life (6)
5. Restrict (5)
6. In the middle (7)
7. South American country (4)
8. Venom (6)
13. Begin (8)
15. Allude to (7)
17. Spanish rice dish (6)
18. Ingenious (6)
20. Go in (5)
22. Little (5)
23. Smart (4)



Affix
Annex
Apex
Beeswax
Borax
Calyx
Cashbox
Climax
Crux
Detox
Duplex
Flax
Helix
Hoax
Latex
Lynx

Matrix
Minx
Onyx
Oryx
Reflex
Sphinx
Syntax
Telex
Xerox

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



Development finance must evolve to be catalytic and support sustainable growth
Anuradha Thakur
Economic Affairs Secretary

India-China FICCI event in Shanghai



Indian Consul General in Shanghai Pratik Mathur and others during a meeting with the Indian and Chinese industry representatives, including a delegation from the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), in Shanghai.

India-UK trade pact faces steel hurdle: Rajesh

Britain's reduced tariff-free steel import quotas may delay India-UK CETA implementation despite both nations targeting bilateral trade growth by 2030.

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: India and the UK are working on a "unique and creative solution" to address issues arising from Britain's recent steel safeguard measure, which is delaying the operationalisation of the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA).

The two countries, on July 24, 2025, signed the pact, under which 99 per cent of Indian exports would enter the UK duty-free, while India will

NUMBER 99

● India, UK working on British steel issue to operationalise trade pact: Commerce Secy

told reporters here. From 1 July 2026, the UK will limit tariff-free steel imports, reducing overall quota volumes by 60 per cent compared to the steel safeguard measure. Any imports above these levels will then face a 50 per cent tariff. The measure will apply to imports of steel products that can also be made in the UK. Earlier, Britain had safeguard measures that also imposed import quotas. The new measures reduce that quota. India's exports of iron and steel and their products to the UK stood at USD 893.4 million in 2025-26, accounting for a significant share of the USD 13.4 billion in total merchandise exports to the UK. The CETA was vetted by both houses of the UK's Parliament in March.

In India, the Union Cabinet approves trade agreements.

Now, both sides must agree on a date for the Entry into Force (EIF) of the agreement. Both sides are looking to double the bilateral trade from the current USD 56 billion by 2030.

Think tank GTRI said the UK's decision to cut tariff-free steel import quotas by 60 per cent from July 1, 2026, may become a sticking point for the India-UK Free Trade Agreement.

BizBriefs

BEST OF THE REST

FOREX RESERVES DURING WEEK ENDED MAY 8

India's forex reserves jump by USD 6.295 billion to USD 696.988 billion



MUMBAI: India's forex reserves jumped by USD 6.295 billion to USD 696.988 billion during the week ended May 8, the Reserve Bank said on Friday. The overall reserves had dropped by USD 7.794 billion to USD 690.693 billion in the previous reporting week. The forex kitty had expanded to an all-time high of USD 728.494 billion during the week ended February 27 this year, before the onset of the West Asia crisis, which led to several weeks of drop, as the rupee came under pressure and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had to intervene in

the forex market through dollar sales. For the week ended May 8, foreign currency assets, a major component of the reserves, increased by USD 562 million to USD 552.387 billion, the central bank's data showed. Expressed in dollar terms, the foreign currency assets include the effects of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units, such as the euro, pound, and yen, held in the foreign exchange reserves. Value of gold reserves jumped by USD 5.637 billion to USD 120.853 billion during the week, the RBI said.

Q4 RESULTS

SAIL Q4 net profit grows over 42 pc to Rs 1,680 crore

NEW DELHI: State-owned steel maker SAIL on Friday posted an over 42 per cent rise in standalone net profit to Rs 1,680 crore during the March quarter of FY26, citing higher revenues. The company had reported a net profit of Rs 1,178 crore in the year-ago period, Steel Authority of India Ltd (SAIL) said in a statement. During January-March, the company's revenue from operations increased to Rs 30,813 crore from Rs 29,316 crore recorded in the fourth quarter of the preceding 2024-25 financial year. The company's board also approved a final dividend of Rs 2.35 per equity share for FY26. Annual net profit stood at Rs 3,223 crore as against Rs 2,148 crore registered in FY25. Revenue from operations was at Rs 1,10,810 crore during FY 26 as against Rs 1,02,478 crore a year ago. In FY26, SAIL produced 19.43 million tonnes of steel as against 19.17 million tonnes in FY25. The company reported annual sales of 19.93 million tonnes in FY26, up from 17.89 million tonnes in 2024-25. The company's CMD, A K Panda, stated: "The growth in sales volumes, coupled with a reduction in inventory and borrowings, has reinforced our profitability, with PBT and PAT registering growth of 44 per cent and 50.5 per cent over the corresponding previous year, respectively."

WINDFALL TAX

Govt imposes windfall tax on petrol exports: cuts levy on diesel, ATF



NEW DELHI: The government on Friday imposed a windfall gains tax of Rs 3/litre on the export of petrol, while reducing the levy on diesel to Rs 16.5/litre and aviation turbine fuel to Rs 16/litre effective May 16. The Finance Ministry, in a notification, said that the road and infrastructure cess will be nil on exports of petrol and diesel. Also, there is no change in the existing duty rates on petrol and diesel cleared for domestic consumption. The special additional excise duty (SAED) on petrol at Rs 3/litre has been imposed for the first time since the start of the West Asia crisis. The duty on export of diesel has been reduced to Rs 16.5 per litre, from Rs 23 per litre, and aviation turbine fuel to Rs 16 per litre from Rs 33 per litre. The government, on March 26, imposed an export duty on diesel at Rs 21.50 a litre, and on ATF at Rs 29.5 a litre.

Vodafone Idea reports Rs 51,970 crore Q4 profit

Press Trust Of India

Vodafone Idea posts record quarterly profit driven by exceptional accounting gains.

MUMBAI: Debt-ridden Vodafone Idea Ltd reported a consolidated net profit of Rs 51,970 crore in the January-March quarter of FY26, compared with a loss of Rs 5,286 crore in the previous quarter. The company said the jump in profit was mainly due to an exceptional gain of Rs 51,976 crore arising from AGR re-assessment and recognition of the present value of future AGR payments.

The telecom firm's revenue from operations stood at Rs 11,332 crore during the quarter, marginally higher than Rs 11,323 crore recorded in the previous quarter. EBITDA rose 1.5 per cent quarter-on-quarter to Rs

Gold, Silver imports surge sharply in April

Press Trust Of India

India's gold and silver imports witnessed massive surge during April amid rising global precious metal prices.

NEW DELHI: India's gold imports surged 81.69 per cent year-on-year to USD 5.62 billion in April, driven by high prices of the precious metal, though imports may decline in the coming months following the government's sharp increase in customs duty on the yellow metal. According to the commerce ministry data, silver imports jumped 157.16 per cent to USD 411 million during the month under review. Gold imports rose 24 per cent to hit an all-time high of USD 71.98 billion in 2025-26. In volume terms, however, the imports dipped 4.76 per cent to 721.03 tonnes. The government has increased import duty on precious metals from 6 per cent to 15 per cent effective May 13.

"With the higher import duty on gold and silver, there will definitely be some impact in terms of lower imports during the year. We need to wait and watch how much it will be," Commerce Secretary

Rajesh Agrawal told reporters here. However, in the case of silver, the impact of a higher duty may be relatively lower due to its extensive industrial usage.

"But definitely the consumption-based requirement of gold and silver should go down based on this duty rise," Agrawal said.

On gold import from the UAE, he said it fell both in value and volume despite the higher unit value in 2025-26, leading to a significant drop in the UAE's share of India's overall gold imports.



FACTFILE

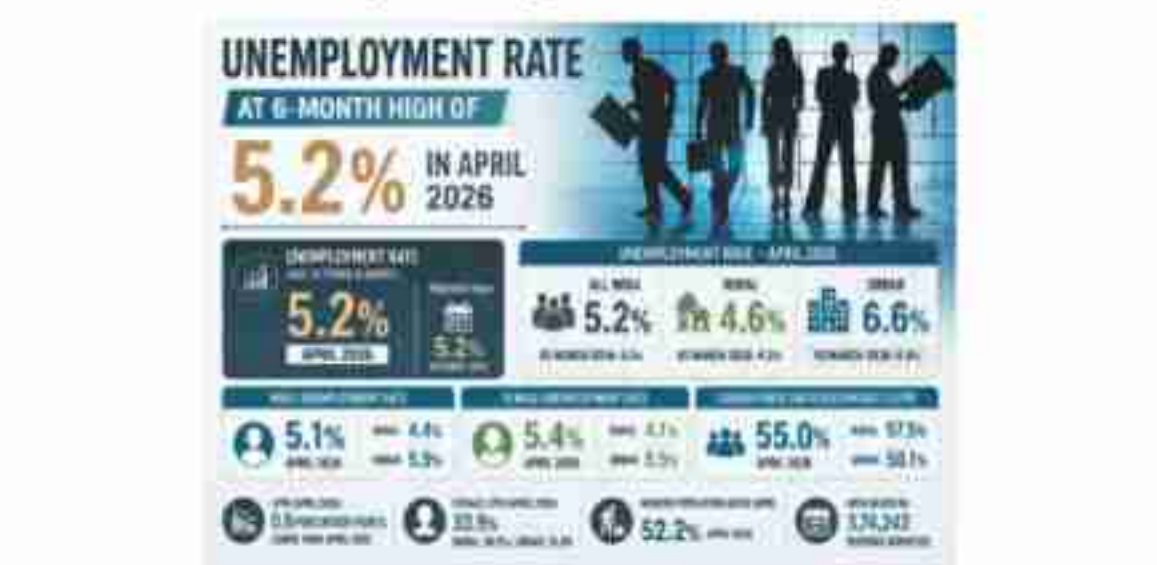
● Gold Imports rose 82 percent, while silver imports jumped 157 percent in April.

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UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

Unemployment rate at 6-month high of 5.2 pc in April: Govt survey



KOLKATA: India's unemployment rate (UR) among persons of age 15 years and above hit a six-month high of 5.2 per cent in April, showed the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) released on Friday. The previous high of UR was recorded at 5.2 per cent in October 2025, as per the 13th Monthly Bulletin of PLFS for April 2026, released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. The UR or joblessness among persons aged 15 years and above remained broadly stable at 5.2 per cent in April 2026, compared to 5.1 per cent in both March 2026 and April 2025. Urban UR eased marginally to 6.6 per cent in April 2026 from 6.8 per cent in March 2026, while the rural UR increased slightly to 4.6 per cent from 4.3 per cent during the same period. UR in both rural and urban areas maintained broadly the same level on a

year-on-year comparison, it stated. The UR among males aged 15 years and above stood at 5.1 per cent in April 2026, compared to 5 per cent in March 2026 and 5.2 per cent in April 2025. Rural male UR estimated at 4.4 per cent in March, 2026 against 4.7 per cent in April, 2026.. The urban male UR declined from 6.1 per cent to 5.9 per cent during the same period. On a year-on-year basis, overall male UR was lower by 0.1 percentage point. The UR among females aged 15 years and above was recorded at 5.4 per cent in April 2026, compared to 5.3 per cent in March 2026 and 5 per cent in April 2025. Rural female UR stood at 4.1 per cent compared to 4.4 per cent over the month. The urban female UR declined from 9.0 per cent to 8.5 per cent. Compared to April 2025, overall female UR was higher by 0.4 percentage points.

Housing sales dip 2pc in Jan-Mar in top 8 cities

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Housing sales in January-March fell 2 per cent annually to nearly 96,000 units across eight major cities amid slowdown in demand and less fresh supply of low-cost homes, according to PropTiger. On Saturday, real estate consultant PropTiger, which has recently been acquired by listed entity

HOUSING SALES DIP 2% IN JAN-MAR IN TOP 8 CITIES

Aurum PropTech Ltd, released 'Real INSIGHT - Residential Q1 2026' report that tracks eight key cities -- Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi-NCR, Hyderabad, Kolkata, MMR (Mumbai, Navi Mumbai and Thane) and Pune. As per the data, the sales of residential properties declined 2 per cent to 95,973 units during January-March 2026 from 98,095 units in the year-ago period across these eight major cities. New supply remained flat at 93,065 units during the first quarter of 2026 calendar year from 93,144 units in the year-ago period. "The Indian residential market has transitioned into a structurally more disciplined phase. Growth today is increasingly being driven by demand quality, inventory discipline, and buyer confidence rather than speculative expansion," said Prakash Tejwani, CEO of PropTiger.



Kerala's 'Amma Manasu' sets maternal mental care model

Amma Manasu: Maternal Mental Care Initiative.

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Kerala's "Amma Manasu" programme has emerged as a model for integrating perinatal depression screening into routine maternal care, even as gaps in screening, diagnosis and follow-up services continue to affect women's health globally, according to a report by the World Economic Forum (WEF).

The "Amma Manasu" (Mother's Mind) programme is a state-wide maternal mental healthcare initiative aimed at integrating mental health screening and support into routine antenatal and postnatal care.

The report, published in collaboration with the McKinsey Health Institute (MHI), provides a comprehensive roadmap for improving women's health by closing gaps in care delivery.

"In Kerala, India, the government integrated perinatal depression screening and management into routine antenatal and postnatal care through programmes such as Amma Manasu, delivered by public health nurses and linked to the National Health Mission. These state-led models show how maternal mental health services can be embedded within publicly financed maternal care systems," the report stated.

It noted that governments, as primary stewards of national health systems, play a key role in updating clinical guidelines, financing care delivery models, strengthening health-care workforces, including community health worker programmes, and supporting integrated care models and accountability mechanisms to close gaps in care delivery.



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Healthy foods

KALLAKURICHI: Mumbai: Ritika Samaddar, Regional Head - Dietetics at Max Healthcare, highlighted the importance of nutrition in maintaining heart health amid rising cases of lifestyle-related diseases. She identified five key superfoods - almonds, fatty fish, leafy greens, legumes, and fruits - as essential for supporting cardiovascular wellness. Almonds, rich in vitamin E and healthy fats, help lower bad cholesterol, while fatty fish like salmon and mackerel provide omega-3 fatty acids that regulate blood pressure and heart rhythm. Leafy greens such as spinach and kale improve circulation, and legumes aid in controlling cholesterol and blood sugar levels. Fruits, packed with antioxidants, protect blood vessels and reduce inflammation.

Shifting focus

MUMBAI: India's banking sector is shifting focus from front-end customer experience (CX) to "Business Experience" (BX), the robust backend systems that ensure reliability and trust, said Lakshman Velayutham of Ujivan Small Finance Bank. While digital apps and instant services have become standard, the real differentiator lies in strong core banking, compliance as an advantage, and efficient partner ecosystems. Experts stress the need for "boring but critical" investments like process automation, cybersecurity, and data-driven decision-making.

AFFIDAVIT

I, MAYA DEVI is Wife No. 149310177 RANK HAU NAME JAI SINGH OF UNIT 23 MECH REGD C/O 36 APC Presently Residing AT WARD NO.01, BADLYA, AJMER STATE RAJASTHAN PIN 305025. do hereby solemnly affirm and declare as under:- 1. That my Date of Birth is 04-08-1984 as recorded in my Husband service record in Army. That my date of birth is 01-03-1988. (One, March, Nineteen Hundred Eighty Eight). 2. That I am producing this Affidavit for the purpose of evidence for my date of birth. 3. That both Date of Birth 04-08-1984 AND 01-03-1988 pertain to one and the same person. 4. That I shall at all times hereinafter in all records, deeds and writing and in all proceeding dealing with transactions, private as well as under all occasions what so ever be known as only 01-03-1988 (New Date of birth). 5. That what is stated above is true and correct to best of my knowledge and belief and nothing has been concealed therein. Dated: 23-05-2025 Place: Farzapur Signature of Deponent VERIFICATION: I, the deponent above named, do hereby solemnly declare and verify that the contents of the above affidavit are true to the best of my knowledge and belief and nothing has been concealed therein. Signature of Deponent

Need of the hour is 'Pariksha ki Samiksha': Congress

Press Trust Of India

Congress for the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education's recommendations on the NTA.

NEW DELHI: Amid the NEET cancellation row, the Congress on Saturday claimed that Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan doesn't appear to be cut out for the task and said that while Prime Minister Narendra Modi gives great publicity to his annual "Pariksha pe Charcha" extravaganza, what is needed is "Pariksha ki Samiksha (review of exams)". Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh flagged the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education's recommendations on the National Testing Agency (NTA), sharing a media report on it on X.

"The Modi Government's education ecosystem - populated by third-rate academic mediocrities - has proven itself to be supremely incompetent, politicised, and corrupt over the last few years," Ramesh alleged.

"Every passing month brings up a new crisis - the NCERT textbook row, the UGC's draft regulations on the appointment of VCs, the constant paper leaks, the NAAC bribery scandal, the ICHR scam, the blatantly unconstitutional withholding of Samagra Shiksha funds, the absentee Vice Chancellors appointed in several key Central Universities, and the large-scale vacancies in teaching positions in higher educational institutions," he said.

Now it is evident that the Education Ministry's incompetence is matched only by its minister's arrogance, Ramesh said. "When asked by the media why his Ministry did not heed the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education's recommendations on the NTA, the Minister refused to take the Parliamentary Standing Committee's report seriously because it has 'members from the opposition'," he said.

The fact is that of the 30 members of Parliament, 17 are from the BJP itself, Ramesh pointed

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The fact is that of the 30 members of Parliament, 17 are from the BJP itself, Ramesh pointed

FASTFACTS

● Cong alleges the education system is incompetent and politicised.

● Cong alleges Ministry incompetence and minister's arrogance.

out. Part of the committee's recommendations includes a reiteration of the K Radhakrishnan Expert Committee's report that the minister's refusal to acknowledge the Parliamentary Standing Committee is a dismissal of his own party's MPs and the Indian Parliament's bipartisan traditions, Ramesh said.

"The PM takes great pride and gives great publicity to his annual Pariksha pe Charcha extravaganza. What the need of the hour is a 'Pariksha ki Samiksha'. The Education Minister doesn't appear to be cut out for the task," the Congress leader claimed. His remarks came a day after Union Education Minister announced that the NEET-UG re-examination would be held on June 21.

| ANNOUNCEMENT |

Andhra CM Naidu promises cash incentives for third, fourth child

Press Trust Of India

Part of efforts to reverse the state's declining population trend.

NARASANNAPETA: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Saturday announced incentives of Rs 30,000 for the birth of a third child and Rs 40,000 for a fourth, as part of efforts to reverse the state's declining population trend. Addressing a public meeting at Narsannapeta in Srikakulam district, Naidu said the government had taken the decision and would announce further details within a month.

"I have made a new decision. We will provide Rs 30,000 immediately



Andhra CM Chandrababu Naidu.

after the birth of a third child and Rs 40,000 for a fourth child. Isn't this the right decision?" Naidu said on the sidelines of the SwarnaAndhra-Swach Andhra cleanliness programme. Although he had once advocated population control measures, the CM said the time had now come for society to work together to increase the birth rate.

Naidu's latest announcement follows an earlier proposal to provide a Rs 25,000 incentive for the birth of a second child. On March 5, the CM informed the Assembly that the state government was considering an incentive of Rs 25,000 for couples having a second child.

However, Health Minister Satya Kumar Yadav later told PTI that the government had decided to extend the incentives to families

having a third child and beyond. According to Naidu, some couples are opting to have only one child as their incomes rise, while others choose to have a second child only if their firstborn is not a boy.

FASTFACTS

● Naidu said, the govt would announce further details soon.

● Rs 30k for third child, Rs 40k for fourth.

having a third child and beyond.

According to Naidu, some couples are opting to have only one child as their incomes rise, while others choose to have a second child only if their firstborn is not a boy.

having a third child and beyond.

TRN ENERGY PRIVATE LIMITED
Regd. Office: 18 Vasanta Enclave, Rao Tula Ram Marg, New Delhi - 110057/Corporate Office: 7th Floor, Corporate Tower, Ambience Mall NH-8, Gurugram-122302 (Haryana) Ph: 0124-2719000, Fax: 0124-2719185 Email: trnenergy@acbindia.com; info@trnenergy.com

INVITATION OF BIDS

Ref. No.: TRNEPL/ASH/2026-27/02 Dated: 15.05.2026
TRN Energy Pvt. Ltd. is having 2x300MW Coal based Thermal Power Plant located near Vill: Bhengari, PO: Nawapara (Tenda), Tehsil: Gharghoda, Dist: Raigarh in the state of Chhattisgarh. The plant site is well connected with Road Network. Nawapara (Tenda) is on Chhal-Gharghoda road and very near to the plant. The place is around 42KM away from Raigarh and 32KM away from Kharisia, which are the nearest towns.

Through advisory dated 15th March 2024, Ministry of Power has directed to the Thermal Power Plants to prepare a panel of transportation agency every year based on competitive bidding for transportation to Road Projects / Embankments / mines etc. in slabs, which may be used for period FY 2026-27.

In this connection, M/s TRN Energy Pvt. Ltd. invites bids from reputed and experienced vendors for Ash Utilisation of 5,00,000 MT Ash to The Road Projects in FY26-27. The validity of the tender is up to 21.05.2026 @ 14:00 Hrs. Details are under:-

Sr. No.	Description of the Job	Tender ID	Last date of Bid submission
1	Ash Utilisation to NHAI Road Project in FY 2026-27 from 2x300MW TRN Energy TPP Raigarh, Chhattisgarh	1066	21.05.2026 @ 14:00 Hrs.

Detailed scope of work, terms and conditions are furnished in the NIT document. Please visit web site <https://eprocurement.mjunction.in/epspropartner/openarea/tender-list> and refer respective tender ID for qualifying criteria and other details. The complete offer along with technical details should be submitted by the bidder on-line on Mjunction website as per the timeline mentioned in the above table. Contact details: Name: Sunil Kumar Contact No. 9868392867 Email Id: sunil.kumar@acbindia.com

'SP-Cong alliance may face 2027 setback'

Press Trust Of India

HAPUR: Slamming the Congress and the Samajwadi Party, senior BJP leader Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi on Saturday said the arrogance of the "feudal syndicate" is repeatedly suffering electoral setbacks, and they are in for a "rude shock" as they will yet again fail to garner public mandate when Uttar Pradesh goes to polls next year. The former Union minister also said the nationalist resolve and dedication of crores of diligent BJP workers have transformed the party into a global brand of good governance and inclu-

sive empowerment. The BJP's immense popularity and wide-spread acceptance have completely swept away the "mischievous legacy and conspiratorial politics of the anti-BJP cartel", Naqvi claimed while addressing the inaugural session of the two-day Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Prashikshan Mahaabhiyan here. In a scathing attack on the opposition, Naqvi said that by sidelining decades of politics driven by communal polarisation, a new era of inclusive empowerment has pierced through the strongholds of the "power-hungry chieftains".

बैंक ऑफ बड़ोदा
Bank of Baroda

Regional Office - Bilaspur, 1st floor, TR Complex, Opposite SBI, RAJKISHORE NAGAR, LINGIYADIH, BILASPUR - 495006 (C.G.), PH: 07752-310229/ 310231, E-mail: recovery.bilaspur@bankofbaroda.com

E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of movable properties

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of movable Assets under agreement of Hypothecation of movable assets. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described movable assets charged to the Secured Creditor, possession of which has been taken by the Bank, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis for recovery of below mentioned account(s). The details of Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)/Secured Asset(s)/Dues/Reserve Price/Ethereum date & Time, EMD and Bid Increase Amount are mentioned below.

The auction will be online e-auction through website <https://baanknet.com> on 04.06.2026 between 02.00 PM to 6.00PM

Sr. No.	Name of Branch / Contact No.	Details of Borrower / Guarantor	Brief Description of the Asset to be sold	Years	Total Dues (Rs.)	Reserve Price / Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Amount (in Rs. Actual)
01	Jaashpur Branch Jaashpur 779201001	MR. ABDUL LATIF ANSARI S/O MR. NASRUDDIN ANSARI H NO. 104, BHAGALPUR, DIST. - JASHPUR CHHATTISGARH, 496225	TATA ALTROZ XZ +OS 1.2P BS6PH2 CAR (RC No. CG 14 MS 9952)	2023	Rs. 10,89,376/- +Interest & other charges	Rs. 5,60,000/- Rs. 56,000/-
02	Jaashpur Branch Jaashpur 779201001	MR. DEVAMAND MISHRA S/O MR. VIJAY BHUSHAN MISHRA, WARD NO. 5, MAIN ROAD, VILLAGE TAPKARA FARSAHAR, DIST. - JASHPUR CHHATTISGARH, 496227	TATA SAFARI XT 2.0 L KRYOTEC BSVI CAR	2023	Rs. 17,46,091/- +Interest & other charges	Rs. 9,00,000/- Rs. 90,000/-

The last date for submission of EMD shall be on 04.06.2026 till 12.00 PM. The interested bidders may inspect the asset at site between 1.00 p.m. and 4.00 p.m. on 02.06.2026. Bid increment amount will be Rs. 10,000/- (Rupees Ten Thousands Only). All further detailed terms & conditions of sale can be accessed from our website of e-auction agency <https://baanknet.com>. STATUTORY 15 DAYS SALE NOTICE. The Borrowers/Guarantors are hereby given notice to pay the sum mentioned as above before the date of auction, failing which the property will be auctioned and balance if any will be recovered with interest and cost from them by legal avenues. Date: 17.05.2026, Place: Bilaspur (C.G.)

Authorised Officer, Bank of Baroda



"Diplomacy is the art of building bridges where walls once stood"

[Shimon Peres]

| OUR VIEW |

India's Global Footsteps: PM Modi in the Netherlands

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visit to the Netherlands marks another significant stride in India's expanding global outreach. Addressing the Indian diaspora in The Hague, he spoke of India's aspirations to host the Olympics and emerge as a global manufacturing hub. Beyond symbolism, the visit reflects India's determination to position itself as a confident, responsible player in the international arena. The Netherlands, with its strong tradition of trade, innovation, and sustainability, offers India a valuable partner in Europe. The two nations share interests in renewable energy, water management, and advanced technology—areas where collaboration can directly benefit India's developmental goals. Modi's emphasis on India's youthful energy and entrepreneurial spirit resonated with the diaspora, reinforcing the idea that India's rise is not just about economics but about cultural confidence and civic responsibility. At a time when global politics is marked by uncertainty, India's outreach to Europe carries strategic weight. Strengthening ties with the Netherlands is also a gateway to deeper engagement with the European Union. For India, this means greater access to markets, technology, and investment. For Europe, it means a reliable partner in Asia committed to peace, stability, and sustainable growth. The diaspora dimension of the visit cannot be overlooked. The Indian community in the Netherlands has long contributed to cultural exchange and economic vitality. Modi's interaction with them was not merely ceremonial; it was a reminder that India's global identity is enriched by its people abroad. Their success stories reflect the values of resilience and innovation that India seeks to project on the world stage. Yet, the visit also raises questions about delivery. Aspirations to host the Olympics or become a manufacturing hub must be matched with systemic reforms—better infrastructure, transparent governance, and inclusive growth. Diplomacy can open doors, but domestic discipline must sustain credibility. In essence, Modi's Netherlands visit was more than a diplomatic stopover. It was a statement of intent: India seeks to be seen not only as a rising economy but as a nation ready to shoulder global responsibilities. The challenge now lies in turning words into action, ensuring that India's promises abroad are matched by progress at home.

| GUEST VIEW |

Keep Tension at Bay, Guard Health

It is high time people take note of the deaths and disabilities caused by the "silent killer" of the world known as "hypertension" because the World Health Organisation (WHO) has said that nearly 80 percent of those with high blood pressure across the globe are bearing the brunt of inadequate treatment. A mere 37 percent of Indians with hypertension are diagnosed and only 30 percent receive treatment despite the availability of a plethora of anti-hypertensive drugs, the best physicians and reams of articles written about its perils. The danger of hypertension is exemplified by the "rule of halves"—one half of the global population is diagnosed with hypertension, one half of the diagnosed receive treatment and only one half is treated to sustainably normal levels. Untreated hypertension can cause the heart to enlarge and make its vessels inefficient to pump blood leading to casualties. This is especially unfortunate considering the simple and effective ways to prevent as well as control the crippling condition exist. Life-style modifications like regular physical activity, balanced diet with low salt and sugar intake, minimal alcohol consumption and smoking, low levels of stress, and regular intake of medicines under supervision go a long way. May 17 is observed as World Hypertension Day, a reminder to act against this silent but devastating threat.



Ganapathi Bhat, Akola

The true progress of a nation is not measured merely by rising GDP figures, glittering skylines, or technological achievements. It is equally reflected in the dignity, participation, and economic strength of its women. In recent years, India has witnessed a profound transformation in the social and economic role of women. This change is gradually evolving into one of the country's most significant silent revolutions. Women today are no longer confined to traditional domestic roles. They are increasingly becoming active contributors to India's economic growth through education, entrepreneurship, skilled employment, and digital participation. From banking and administration to technology, healthcare, academia, defence, media, and startups, women are expanding their presence across sectors once considered inaccessible to them.

A recent "Ecowrap" report by the State Bank of India highlights the changing employment dynamics among women-led households in India. According to the report, the quality of employment among women has improved significantly, with many shifting away from uncertain daily wage labour towards stable salaried jobs that offer greater dignity and financial security. The probability of women securing regular employment has increased by 4.4%, while dependence on casual labour has declined by 4.2%. This transition represents far more than a statistical improvement. It reflects rising confidence, financial independence, and greater bargaining power within households and society. In urban India, the shift is even more visible. Women-headed households have seen a nearly 10% increase in access to regular salaried employment, indicating that women are increasingly entering organised sectors such as banking, corporate services, education,

administration, and institutional employment.

Rural India, too, is undergoing a meaningful transformation. Traditionally dependent on agricultural labour and informal work, many rural women are now moving towards self-employment, micro-enterprises, dairy businesses, food processing, handicrafts, and small-scale entrepreneurship. Women-led rural households are gradually reducing their dependence on daily wage labour and building more sustainable sources of income. Education has emerged as the most powerful catalyst behind this transformation. For decades, women's education in India was often treated as secondary to domestic responsibilities. Today, however, women are excelling in engineering, medicine, law, management, science, research, and public administration. Education has not merely provided degrees; it has created awareness, confidence, and aspirations. Unsurprisingly, women with higher educational qualifications are far more likely to secure stable and well-paying jobs.

India's female labour force participation rate has now reached nearly 40%. Rural women's participation stands at 45.9%, while urban participation remains significantly lower at 27.7%. This disparity underlines the need for safer workplaces, flexible employment opportunities, improved childcare support, and more inclusive urban work environments that encourage women's sustained participation in the workforce. Government-led financial inclusion initiatives have also played a critical role in strengthening women's economic independence. The Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana has connected millions of women to the formal banking system for the first time. As of January 2025, over 545 million Jan Dhan accounts had been opened, with nearly



Satish Singh, Senior Banking and Economic Columnist

56% belonging to women. This has enabled direct transfers of government benefits, encouraged savings habits, expanded access to digital banking, and reduced dependence on informal moneylenders, particularly in rural India. Similarly, the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana has significantly boosted women's entrepreneurship. Millions of women have used collateral-free loans to establish small businesses such as beauty parlours, tailoring units, food enterprises, dairy ventures, online businesses, and handicraft production. Women are no longer merely job seekers; increasingly, they are becoming job creators.

Self-Help Groups (SHGs) have further strengthened grassroots economic empowerment. Through collective savings, access to bank credit, and community-based enterprises, women across rural India have built sustainable livelihoods in sectors such as incense-stick manufacturing, handicrafts, food processing, dairy farming, and agriculture. Beyond financial gains, SHGs have enhanced women's confidence, social participation, and decision-making abilities within families and communities.

The digital revolution has accelerated this process further. Affordable smartphones, internet access, online banking, and digital payments have enabled women to participate directly in economic activities. Social media platforms, e-commerce marketplaces, YouTube, and digital content creation have opened entirely new opportunities for women entrepreneurs, especially in smaller towns and rural regions. Yet, this transformation has also brought certain social challenges into focus. Working women often face the dual burden of professional responsibilities and domestic expectations. Many continue to shoulder disproportionate caregiving responsibilities, resulting in stress, emotional exhaustion, and work-life imbalance. In some

households, traditional mindsets and gender insecurities create friction as women gain greater economic independence. Concerns are also occasionally raised regarding changing family structures, delayed marriages, smaller families, and reduced intergenerational bonding in urban settings. However, such concerns should not be interpreted as arguments against women's empowerment. The real issue lies not in women's progress but in society's inability to adapt quickly to changing gender roles and shared responsibilities.

A modern and progressive society cannot expect women to contribute equally to the economy while continuing to bear unequal domestic burdens. True empowerment requires institutional support, workplace safety, equal opportunities, affordable childcare systems, and a broader cultural shift towards partnership within families. Women's economic empowerment is not merely a gender issue; it is fundamentally an issue of national development. Studies across the world consistently show that higher female workforce participation strengthens GDP growth, improves family welfare, enhances children's education, and creates healthier social outcomes. India's future growth story cannot be written without the active participation of its women. Men and women are not competitors but complementary partners in nation-building. A society progresses sustainably only when both move forward together with equality, dignity, and mutual respect. The rise of self-reliant women in India is therefore not just a social phenomenon. It is the foundation of a stronger economy, a more inclusive society, and a more confident nation.

The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the newspaper

Cows Dying on Roads, Society Turns Away

Garbage strewn streets, starving cows, and plastic filled stomachs reflect not just civic failure but society's deep moral decline



Priyanka Saurabh, Columnist & Social Thinker

A horrifying scene has become commonplace in almost every Indian city—cows rummaging through garbage heaps, calves swallowing plastic, and animals wandering amid filth. Society worships the cow as "mother," yet those same cows die on the streets from hunger, disease, and neglect. This is not just a sanitation failure but a stark reminder of our social insensitivity and duplicity.

Each morning, cattle owners release their cows after milking. These animals roam streets and dumps, consuming rotten vegetables, plastic bags, and medical



waste. Operations often reveal kilograms of plastic inside their stomachs, yet society remains unmoved. For many breeders, cows are mere "milking machines." Once abandoned, their responsibility ends. This greed and inhumanity expose the ugliest face of our culture.

Ironically, the cow is the most rousing emotion in the country. From political to religious platforms, "Mother Cow" is hailed. Social media is flooded with videos of people feeding cows, but true love would ensure no cow

starves or eats plastic. Instead, stray animals now threaten human lives too. Thousands are injured in road accidents each year, often fatally, when animals suddenly appear at night. Yet neither administration nor society acts seriously.

Municipal corporations periodically announce campaigns, but the problem is never tackled at its root. A few animals are sent to shelters, action is shown briefly, and then normalcy returns. The real issue is accountability. Why are cattle owners not penalized

for abandoning animals? This crisis extends beyond animals. Open garbage heaps breed mosquitoes and infections, clog drains during rains, and trigger disease outbreaks. Still, citizens shirk responsibility, blaming the government alone. India boasts of "smart cities" with malls and highways, but true development means dignity and safety for both humans and animals. Cities where cows forage in garbage reflect moral decline, not progress.

Our biggest failing is turning sensitivity into performance.

Compassion is displayed before cameras, but systemic change is ignored. Politics exploits cow sentiment for votes, yet policies remain absent. Cows are claimed to be spent on shelters, but stray numbers rise. Where is the money going? Who is accountable? The saddest consequence is the desensitization of children. Growing up amid injured animals and filth, their senses dull to cruelty. A society that cannot be kind to its animals cannot remain humane toward humans.

The solution is clear but requires willpower. Livestock owners must be held responsible—mandatory registration of animals and heavy fines for abandonment. Municipal bodies must modernize waste management, enforce bans on plastic misuse, and audit cow shelters transparently. Citizens must also change behaviour: stop littering, reduce plastic use, and embrace civic discipline. Garbage strewn streets and starving cows are not just spectacles of mismanagement; they mirror our moral decay. There is endless noise about cows, but silence about their suffering. Until this hypocrisy ends, neither will cities be clean, nor animals safe, nor society truly humane.

YOUR LETTERS

The strategic cooperation agreement between India and the UAE is important at a time when West Asia is disrupting energy supply chains. The agreement will enhance energy security, enhance strategic petroleum reserves, and will create new opportunities in LNG/LPG storage facilities in India. The partnership is expected to play a larger role in regional stability/economic growth and technological advancement. This cooperation is built on trust, innovation and shared prosperity. India should also focus on its own energy resources for self-reliance.

Nabhit Panigrahi, Raygada, Odisha

Diplomacy in Action: PM's UAE Outreach

Prime Minister Modi's recent visit to the UAE marks another milestone in India's growing global outreach. Strengthening economic, energy, and cultural ties with the Gulf nation enhances India's strategic presence and benefits millions of Indian expatriates. The partnership reflects mutual trust and shared aspirations for stability and progress in the region. Such diplomacy not only boosts trade and investment but also reinforces India's image as a responsible global partner committed to peace and development.

P Basanti, Bhilai

Send your articles (600-650 words) and letters (70-80 words) for this page on: editorialcc07@gmail.com. The letters can be edited or rewritten for clarity.



Sikkim made rapid progress on all fronts.
C P Radhakrishnan
Vice President

Revive India-B'desh trade ties: Sangma

Important to remind people of the historical cooperation between the two countries, including India's support to Bangladesh during difficult times.

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: India and Bangladesh have initiated dialogue at the 'local level' to reset ties, Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad Sangma has said, while calling for reviving people-to-people engagement and trade between the two countries.

Interacting with a group of journalists here on Friday, Sangma said it was important to remind people of the historical cooperation between the two countries, including India's support to Bangladesh during difficult times.

He also called for more cultural exchanges and reopening of border haats that were shut in the aftermath of the 2024 political unrest in the neighbouring country.

"It is already happening. The process has started. Dialogues are taking place at the local level, people are talking and discussing," Sangma said in response to a question on talks between India and Bangladesh.

He was speaking on the sidelines of the curtain raiser event for the North East India Infrastructure Summit and Exhibition,



Meghalaya CM Conrad Sangma at Lokapriya Gopinath Bardoloi International Airport.

which will be held in Shillong on June 11-12. "I firmly believe the current phase with Bangladesh is temporary, but in the long run, we will have to work with Bangladesh. This is good for us and Bangladesh as well and I believe there is huge potential and opportunities," the chief minister said. Sangma's remarks come at a time when India and Bangladesh are seeking to restore momentum in bilateral engagement after relations were strained following the ouster of former Bangladesh prime minister Sheikh Hasina and the subsequent transition in Dhaka, during which political-level interactions with New Delhi remained limited.

In April, Bangladesh Foreign Minister Khalur Rahman, along with Humayun Kabir, Foreign Affairs Adviser to Bangladesh Prime Minister Tarique Rahman, visited New Delhi in his first official trip to India after assuming office.

BJP foreign affairs department in-charge Vijay Chauthaiwale had said last month that Rahman, also the chairman of Bangladesh's ruling BNP, had written a letter to BJP president Nitin Nabin.

"There is some top-level interest to initiate dialogue between the two parties, as far as political dialogue is concerned," Chauthaiwale had said while speaking at a conference organised by the

HIGHLIGHT

- Sangma sought reopening of border haats and cultural ties.
- Sangma said Bangladesh links can boost the Northeast economy.

Hudson Institute in Washington, D.C. on April 24. Sangma said connectivity projects linking the region with Bangladesh could provide a major economic boost to the northeast.

He specifically referred to connectivity between Hili in West Bengal and Mahendraganj in Meghalaya through a proposed corridor in Bangladesh and said access to the Chittagong port could transform trade and logistics for the region.

"I think the normal economic activities that used to take place, whether it is just the basic border haats, or the movement of basic trade that used to take place earlier, should be reactivated," he said.

Concerns related to infiltration and illegal immigration must be addressed through strong safeguards and monitoring mechanisms, he added.

NSUI stages protest

NEW DELHI: The NSUI on Saturday staged a protest outside the National Testing Agency (NTA) headquarters over alleged irregularities in the NEET examination process, demanding immediate dissolution of the agency and resignation of the Union Education Minister. Members of the National Students' Union of India (NSUI) participated in the demonstration held under the banner of "NTA Haila Bol", led by the organisation's national president Vinod Jakhar.

The organisation alleged that three students had reportedly died by suicide due to examination-related stress and blamed the NTA and the Centre for the situation.

Protesters raised slogans against the NTA and accused the agency and the Centre of failing to ensure a fair and transparent examination process.

Addressing the gathering, Jakhar alleged that repeated incidents of paper leaks, cancellation of examinations and administrative lapses had created anxiety and uncertainty among students preparing for competitive exams.

"The negligence of the Central Government and the failure of NTA have shattered the dreams of millions of hardworking students," he said.

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

'MISQUOTED BY MEDIA'

CJI Surya Kant clarifies 'parasites' remarks, says 'pained' over media reports

NEW DELHI: Chief Justice of India Surya Kant on Saturday issued a strongly worded clarification on his 'parasites' remarks, saying he was "pained" by media reports that suggested he criticised youth.

"I am pained to read how a section of the media has misquoted my oral observations made during the hearing of a frivolous case yesterday," the CJI said in a statement.

Kant emphasised that his remarks were specifically directed at individuals entering the legal profession through "fake and



bogus degrees" and were "misquoted by a section of the media." The clarification follows a controversy during a hearing on Friday, when the CJI used words like "parasites" and "cockroaches" while pulling up a lawyer for his plea seeking senior designation. PTI

Registration open

NEW DELHI: The University of Delhi on Saturday has opened registrations for admission to its two-year postgraduate programmes for the 2026-27 academic session, an official statement said.

The application process will continue from May 16 to June 7, the university said, adding that admissions to the programmes will be conducted through the CSAS portal based solely on CUET-PG 2026 scores in the relevant test papers.

The university has also introduced an auto-integration feature for candidates' credentials and CUET scores through the DigLocker/API Setu platform from this year, the statement said. The integration would provide a uniform authentication mechanism for government services under the Digital India initiative, while strengthening data security and reducing duplication, it said, adding that the step would also strengthen security.

Vaishnaw announces major rly expansion initiatives for Odisha

Press Trust Of India

Major rail and connectivity projects in Odisha under PM Modi.

BHUBANESWAR: Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw highlighted major railway infrastructure and connectivity initiatives being undertaken across Odisha under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Announcing the introduction of the new 18407/18408 Puri-Koraput-Puri Tri-Weekly Express, Vaishnaw said the service will, for the first time, provide direct rail connectivity between Puri and large parts of western and southern Odisha.

The train will operate via Khurda Road, Bhubaneswar, Angul,



Sambalpur, Bargarh Road, Balangir, Titlagarh, Kesinga, Muniguda, Rayagada, Tikiri, Laxmipur Road, Kakiriguma and Damanjodi, significantly benefiting passengers from coastal, western and southern Odisha. The service will improve connectivity for pilgrimage, tourism, education, healthcare, employment and business travel, particularly for the KBK region and tribal-dominated districts. Highlighting Odisha's railway growth, Vaishnaw informed that

railway projects worth nearly Rs 90,000 crore are presently under execution in the State. Key projects include the Junagarh-Nabarangpur, Nabarangpur-Jeypore, Jeypore-Malkangiri, Bargarh-Nuapada, Gunupur-Therubali, Khurda Road-Balangir and Bimalgarh-Talcher rail line projects. He stated that the long-pending Khurda Road-Balangir Rail Line project is progressing rapidly and targeted for completion by 2027. The Minister also highlighted the

HIGHLIGHT

- Vaishnaw said Rs 90,000 crore rail projects are underway.
- Minister highlighted four-lining of Howrah-Chennai route in Odisha.

ongoing four lining works on the Howrah-Chennai main corridor through Odisha. He stated that after completion of the new lines and major capacity enhancement works, Odisha will have the capability to run nearly 500 additional trains in the future. Vaishnaw further informed that 59 railway stations across Odisha are being redeveloped under the Amrit Station Scheme, including Bhubaneswar, Puri, Sambalpur, Berhampur, Talcher and Baripada stations.

NATIONAL INTEREST

'SIR will help eliminate bogus voters'

Press Trust Of India

BENGALURU: Leader of the Opposition in the Karnataka Assembly, R Ashoka, said on Saturday that the SIR process aims to eliminate bogus voters and serves the national interest and security.

Expressing confidence that the SIR would also address the issue of illegal Bangladeshi immigrants, the BJP leader questioned those opposing the exercise, asking: "Why do they fear the process?"



Karnataka will begin the next phase of the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls from June 20, covering more than 5.55 crore electors. According to the Elec-

Muslim groups opposing the SIR.

R Ashoka
LoP in Karnataka Assembly

tion Commission of India, the exercise will include a month-long house-to-house verification drive by Booth Level Officers (BLOs) from June 30.

"Some Muslim organisations have made remarks opposing the SIR. There are over 2 crore illegal Bangladeshi

immigrants in India," Ashoka said. "Most of them are in West Bengal, followed by Assam and Bihar. More than 10 lakh Bangladeshis are living illegally in Karnataka. If anyone challenges me on this, I am ready to personally show them areas in Bengaluru where they are residing," he added.

Speaking to reporters, he said that the Bengaluru Police, under the current commissioner, had identified around 250 illegal Bangladeshi

immigrants and handed them over to security agencies for repatriation to Bangladesh.

He added that they were flown from Bengaluru to the border at a cost of Rs 65 lakh. "This is on record. It happened within the last month or so," he said. "Congress leaders, including Minister Zameer Ahmed Khan, claim there is not even a single illegal Bangladeshi immigrant in the state, but the reality is different."

भारत का राजपत्र

The Gazette of India

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CG-CG-E-06052026-272218

EXTRAORDINARY

भाग II-खण्ड 3-उप-खण्ड (II)

PART II-Section 3-Sub-section (II)

शुक्रवार 17 मई 2026

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नई दिल्ली, शुक्रवार, मई 2, 2026/वैशाख 12, 1948

NEW DELHI, SATURDAY, MAY 2, 2026/VAISAKHA 12, 1948

MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

(South East Central Railway)

NOTIFICATION

Bilaspur, the 27th April, 2026

Notice Under Section 20A of the Railway Act, 1989

S.O. 2178(E). In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 20(A) of the Railway Act, 1989 (24 of 1989) (hereinafter referred to as the said act), the Central Government after being satisfied that for the public purpose, the land brief description of which is given in the schedule annexed hereto is required for execution of Special Railway Project, namely for Up-gradation of existing 1x25KV Traction System to 2x25KV OHE with AT feeder arrangement between Jharsuguda-Raigarh, Raigarh-Champa, Champa-Gevra Road, Champa-Bilaspur, Tilda-Bilaspur, Tilda-Durg, Durg-Darekasa, Darekasa-Mundikota Mundikota-Nagpur, Bilaspur-Pendra Road-Anuppur & Raipur-Lakholi sections over SEC Railway to meet 3000MT loading target in the state of Odisha, Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra over SEC railway, hereby declares its intention to acquire such land.

Any person interested in the said land may within a period of 30 days from the date of publication of this notification in the official gazette, raise objection to the acquisition of such land for the aforesaid purpose under sub-section (1) of section 20 (D) of the said act.

Every objection shall be made to the competent authority namely, Sub Divisional Magistrate (Revenue) Raigarh, District- Raigarh, Chhattisgarh in writing and shall set out grounds thereof and the competent authority shall give the objector an opportunity of being heard, either in person or through a legal practitioner and may after hearing all such objections and after making such further enquiry, if any as the competent authority thinks necessary by order either allow or disallow the objections.

Any order made by the competent authority under sub-section (2) of section 20 (D) of the said act shall be final. The land plans and other details of the land covered under this notification are available and can be inspected by the interested person at the aforesaid office of the competent authority.

Brief description of the land to be acquired, with or without structure, falling within the proposed Special Railway Project namely for Up-gradation of existing 1x25KV Traction System to 2x25KV OHE with AT feeder arrangement between Jharsuguda-Raigarh, Raigarh-Champa, Champa-Gevra Road, Champa-Bilaspur, Tilda-Bilaspur, Tilda-Durg, Durg-Darekasa, Darekasa-Mundikota Mundikota-Nagpur, Bilaspur-Pendra Road-Anuppur & Raipur-Lakholi sections over South East Central Railway to meet 3000 MT loading target in the state of Chhattisgarh. Details of land being acquired with or without structure in the state of Chhattisgarh -

District - Raigarh			State - Chhattisgarh				
S N	SOM (Rev.)/ Competent Authority	Name of Tehsil Name of Village	Bhumi Swami ka Naam Nature of Land	Khasra No.	Total Area (in Hec)	Acquired Area (in Hec)	
I	SOM (Rev) Raigarh (Dist. - Raigarh)	Raigarh Muralipali	Kaushal, Rupa pita Jalail, Panchmati pati Jalail	Krishti	371	0.261	
			Kaushal, Rupa pita Jalail, Panchmati pati Jalail	Krishti	377/6	0.233	
			Nand Kumar pita Mahpat	Krishti	378/4	0.252	
			Shankar pita Lekhrum	Krishti	312/2	0.212	
			Sahaniram, Kewda, Nankidape pita Buddhu	Krishti	313/1	0.228	
			Sahaniram, Kewda, Nankidape pita Buddhu	Krishti	313/3	0.245	
			Ganeshram, Umashankar, Samaru pita Nankiram Naunbai pati Nankiram	Krishti	313/2	0.240	
			Vijay kumar, Bhuvaneshwari, Santoshi pita Paitram, Tej Kumar pati Paitram	Krishti	316	0.281	
			Virendra kumar, Umesh kumar pita Banshilal, Tarabai pati Banshilal	Krishti	317/1	0.249	
			Hemkumar pita Sundarlal	Krishti	317/2	0.224	
			Hemkumar pita Sundarlal	Krishti	340/3	0.126	
			Hemkumar pita Sundarlal	Krishti	340/4	0.121	
			Hemkumar pita Sundarlal	Krishti	341/1	0.281	
			Hemkumar pita Sundarlal	Krishti	342	0.154	
			Kriparam, Rupa pita Jalail, Panchmati pati Jalail	Krishti	317/3	0.232	
			Kriparam, Rupa pita Jalail, Panchmati pati Jalail	Krishti	318/3	0.252	
			Nilamber, Roopital pita Bulmukund	Krishti	317/4	0.121	
			Nilamber, Roopital pita Bulmukund	Krishti	317/5	0.253	
			Parasram pita nathuram	Krishti	318/1	0.274	
			Parasram pita nathuram	Krishti	336/2	0.219	
			Sukhlal pita Radheyshyam	Krishti	337	0.236	
			Rajesh kumar pita Pravlud	Krishti	334/1	0.210	
			Anjana, Vandana, Sanjana pita Mohitlal	Krishti	338/2	0.125	
			Anjana, Vandana, Sanjana pita Mohitlal	Krishti	339	0.219	
			Maribodi pita Sundarlal	Krishti	341/2	0.281	
			Netram pita Ramlal, Tanvirati pati Ramlal	Krishti	343/1	0.293	
			Chhatar singh, Kishanachandra pita Hiralal, Padam Kunwar pati Hiralal	Krishti	343/2	0.273	
			Bhawanishankar Purushottam pita Shishupal, Aalekhmati pati Shishupal	Krishti	340/1	0.134	
			Bhawanishankar Purushottam pita Shishupal, Aalekhmati pati Shishupal	Krishti	340/3	0.289	
					2.568	2.146	

[F. No. CPM/Elc. /BSP/2x25KV OHE/Land Acquisition/20 A/2045]

CPR/10/106

MUDIT BHATNAGAR, Chief Administrative Officer (Const.)



Weekend

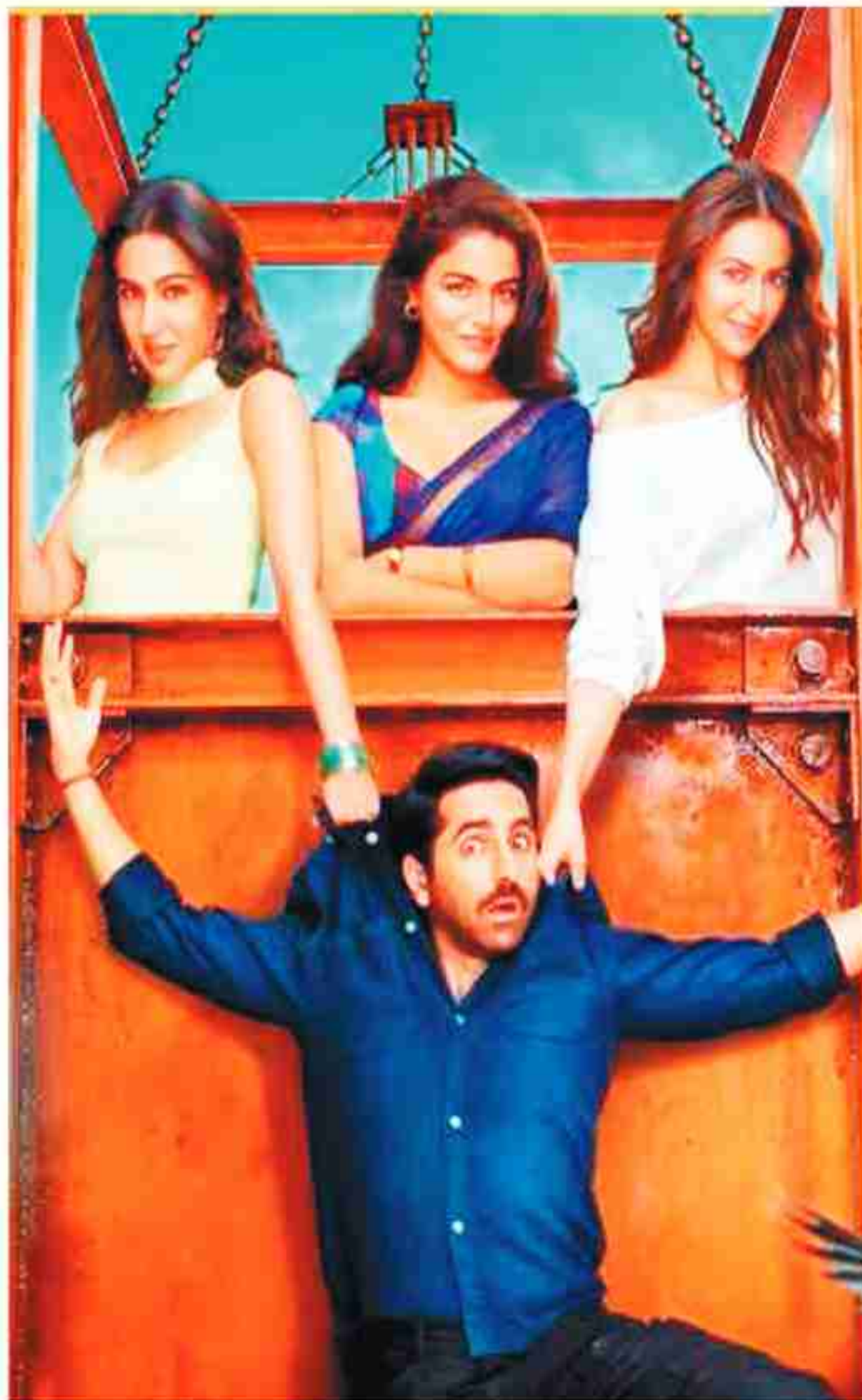


SUNDAY
Bilaspur, May 17, 2026

THE SUNDAY REVIEW

‘Pati Patni Aur Woh Do’ is absolute comedy chaos

Featuring Sara Ali Khan, Wamiqa Gabbi and Rakul Preet Singh, the film keeps audiences entertained with comedy and suspense.



A still from the film

Ayushmann Khurrana returns with another light-hearted entertainer in *Pati Patni Aur Woh Do*, a film that mixes comedy, confusion and relationship drama in an engaging way. Directed by Mudassar Aziz, the movie released in the theatres on May 15 and serves as the second installment of the popular *Pati Patni Aur Woh* franchise. Along with Ayushmann, the film stars Sara Ali Khan, Wamiqa Gabbi and Rakul Preet Singh in important roles.

The story revolves around Prajapati Pandey, played by Ayushmann Khurrana, who works as a first officer and unexpectedly finds himself trapped between three women. Wamiqa Gabbi plays his

HIGHLIGHT

● *Pati Patni Aur Woh Do* offer a fun ride packed with laughter and emotional twists.

journalist wife, while Sara Ali Khan appears as his old friend whose sudden entry changes his life completely. Rakul Preet Singh plays the wife's close friend and Ayushmann's colleague, adding more twists to the already messy situation.

The film begins on an unusual note with a leopard-catching sequence, which quickly grabs attention. Soon after, the comedy starts building when Ayushmann's character tries to help Sara Ali Khan's character during a difficult situation. However, one

lie and one misunderstanding lead to another, creating chaos in his married life. His wife, being a journalist, starts investigating the truth, which adds suspense along with humor.

Ayushmann Khurrana once again proves why he is known for choosing relatable and entertaining scripts. His comic timing feels natural and keeps the audience engaged throughout. Sara Ali Khan brings charm and energy, while Wamiqa Gabbi delivers a confident performance as a smart and suspicious wife. Rakul Preet Singh also does well in her supporting role.

Overall, *Pati Patni Aur Woh Do* is a fun family entertainer filled with comedy, drama and confusion.

| SOUTH |

RJ Balaji's 'Karuppu' struggles to balance

Central Chronicle News

Karuppu is a nostalgic yet uneven fantasy courtroom drama that blends devotion with mass commercial storytelling, rooted in a familiar corruption-versus-common-man conflict. Directed by RJ Balaji, the film revisits the emotional texture of 90s and early 2000s Amman cinema, but repackages it into a stylised mainstream entertainer. The story follows a father-daughter duo whose urgent medical journey to Chennai is derailed inside a corrupt legal system. What begins as a simple crisis slowly expands into a courtroom battle exposing bribery, manipulation, and moral decay. Suriya as Saravanan brings restrained intensity and strong screen presence, carrying several portions with ease. RJ Balaji, playing a morally corrupt lawyer, adds sharpness and grit to the narrative. The first half is engag-



Suriya Sivakumar in a still from the movie *Karuppu*

HIGHLIGHT

● A mythological courtroom drama with real ambition and a Suriya who is clearly hungry, this film earns its whistles.

ing, neatly setting up the fantasy layer and emotional stakes, but the second half loses grip due to convenient



writing and inconsistent logic that weakens impact. Technically, GK Vishnu's visuals are rich and vibrant, while Sai Abhyankar's music elevates the mass moments effectively. The film also benefits from nostalgic callbacks and pop culture references that land naturally. However, Trisha's performance is let down by jarring dubbing, affecting immersion.

Despite its flaws, *Karuppu* delivers moments of entertainment powered by performances and emotional weight. The courtroom portions highlight systemic corruption but often feel simplified in execution. Suriya's charisma remains the film's strongest anchor, lifting predictable stretches. *Karuppu* ultimately works as a one-time watch with nostalgic appeal, but lacks consistency in storytelling depth. Overall, it remains entertaining but inconsistent leaving both nostalgia and disappointment behind for viewers alike.

PixelView

WHAT TO WATCH HOMEBOUND



Inspector Avinash: Season 2

Cast: Randeep Hooda, Abhimanyu Singh, Urvashi Rautela, Rajnesh Duggal and Amit Sial

Where to watch: streaming on JioHotstar. Set in 1990s Uttar Pradesh, the new season follows Inspector Avinash as both his personal and

professional life begin to fall apart. With his marriage struggling and his son getting caught in a murder case, the officer faces one of the toughest battles of his life. Packed with action, crime and emotional conflict, the series is likely to appeal to viewers who enjoy intense cop dramas and gritty storytelling.



Couture

Cast: Angelina Jolie

Where to watch: streaming on Lionsgate Play.

Set against the glamorous backdrop of Paris Fashion Week, the film tells the story of three women from very different backgrounds whose lives unexpectedly intersect. At the

centre is Maxine, played by Angelina Jolie, an American filmmaker dealing with a deeply personal health crisis while working on a major fashion project. Blending emotion, drama and the high-fashion world, *Couture* may appeal to viewers who enjoy character-driven stories with glamour and emotional depth.



The Crash

Cast: No major cast featured

Where to watch: streaming on Netflix.

The *Crash* is a chilling true-crime documentary based on the shocking Mackenzie Shirilla case. What initially appeared to be a tragic

road accident later turned into a disturbing criminal investigation. The documentary explores how Shirilla allegedly drove her car into a brick wall, killing her boyfriend Dominic Russo and his friend Davion Flanagan. Filled with courtroom details and emotional testimonies, the film offers an intense look into one of America's most talked-about recent cases.



Exam

Cast: Dushara Vijayan, Abbas and Aditi Balan

Where to watch: streaming on Amazon Prime Video.

Exam is an intense crime drama that follows a young woman who pretends to be a police officer to uncover a massive

Regional Public Service Exam scam. What starts as a dangerous undercover mission soon exposes a deep-rooted network of corruption connected to powerful people. Packed with suspense, investigation and emotional tension, the series may appeal to viewers who enjoy gritty thrillers and stories based on crime, power and hidden conspiracies.



Nemesis

Cast: Y'lan Noel and Matthew Law

Where to watch: streaming on JioHotstar.

Nemesis follows an LAPD detective who becomes obsessed with tracking down a master thief behind a series

of daring robberies. What begins as an investigation soon turns into a tense cat-and-mouse chase where both men constantly try to outsmart each other. Filled with suspense, action and psychological tension, the thriller may appeal to viewers who enjoy gripping crime dramas and intense detective stories.

"The trouble with opportunity is, it never announces when it comes. It's only after it's gone, you'd realize that you missed it."

Uday Kotak



youthZone

SPECIAL OF THE WEEK

Niharika Jain redefining influencer culture like never before

Niharika Jain keeps social media real despite growing fame and glamorous opportunities today.

At 29, Niharika Jain is proving that authenticity still matters in today's creator economy. As she prepares to walk the red carpet at the Cannes Film Festival, the influencer wants her audience to see everything, including the panic, confusion and behind the scenes chaos that usually stays hidden behind glamorous social media posts. With more than 1.6 million YouTube subscribers and thousands of Instagram followers, Niharika has built a strong connection with young audiences through relatable fashion, beauty, travel and lifestyle content. Before becoming a full-time creator, she spent years working behind the scenes on reality shows and fashion choreography projects. Her journey started on TikTok with simple posing tutorials that helped girls feel more confident in front of cameras. One of her earliest videos quickly became viral and completely changed her career path. For



Niharika Jain debut at Cannes 2026

Niharika, success is not only about numbers or glamorous opportunities. Through her women-focused wellness community, "Wake Up With Me," she encourages followers to practice meditation, grounding habits and self-care routines. Hearing stories from young women who overcame difficult phases through the community became one of the most emotional moments of her journey. Niharika also launched her handcrafted jewellery brand Dumroo, inspired by spirituality and self-expression. Although she admits social media can feel exhausting because trends constantly change, she believes honesty creates long-term trust. Instead of accepting every brand collaboration, she now chooses partnerships she genuinely connects with, making authenticity her biggest strength online today. Her journey reflects how younger audiences now prefer creators who feel honest.

HIGHLIGHT

• The creator believes honesty and relatability build stronger audience connections than perfection online.



| RESPECT - LISTEN - UNDERSTAND |

The Art of Balanced Conversation

Central Chronicle News

Balanced communication helps people share opinions respectfully while understanding different viewpoints clearly.

Balanced communication is the ability to express your thoughts clearly while respecting the views of others. It is not about proving yourself right or winning an argument. It is about creating understanding, building trust, and keeping conversations healthy, even during disagreements. The first step toward bal-

anced communication is adopting a learning mindset. Instead of listening only to reply, listen to understand. When you approach a discussion with curiosity, you become more open to new ideas and less likely to react defensively.

It is also important to acknowledge the other person's point of view. Simple words such as "I understand what you mean" or "That is a valid concern" can make the other person feel respected. When people feel heard, they are more willing to listen to your side too.

Asking open-ended questions is another useful habit. Questions like "How do you

HIGHLIGHT

• Listen, respect, question, pause, understand, and find common ground during disagreements.

see this situation?" or "Why do you feel that way?" help you understand the reason behind someone's opinion. They also keep the conversation calm and meaningful.

Emotional control plays a major role in communication. Anger, frustration, or impatience can quickly turn a discussion into a conflict. Taking a pause, breathing deeply, and choosing words carefully can prevent unnecessary damage.



Finally, balanced communication grows when both sides focus on common ground. Shared goals help people move from conflict to cooperation. In every conversation,

politeness and respect matter. When you value another person's perspective while expressing your own, communication becomes balanced, effective, and truly human.

YOUTHCAREER

Dream career pathways

Netflix debuts safe gaming app for children

Netflix has launched a new kids-focused gaming app called "Netflix Playground," expanding its push into interactive entertainment. The app features games based on popular children's characters like Peppa Pig and Sesame Street, aiming to create a safe, engaging space for young users. Netflix says the platform is designed to be curated for parents; ensuring kids are entertained, enriched, and protected. It includes parental controls, no ads, and no in-app purchases. While analysts remain cautious about Netflix's gaming growth, this marks a strong step forward.



Van life inspires youth to travel and live free

Van life is becoming a growing trend among youth who love freedom and travel. Instead of traditional living, many are converting vans into mini homes with beds, kitchens, and storage spaces. This lifestyle allows them to travel freely, work remotely, and explore new places without fixed accommodation costs. Popular on social media, van life represents minimalism, adventure, and independence. Young people are sharing their journeys online, inspiring others to choose experiences over possessions and embrace life on the road.



'The Road to Better Habits' is a game changer

Darius Foroux's The Road to Better Habits explains that big life changes begin with small, consistent actions. The book teaches that we become what we repeatedly do, so improving daily habits is key. It suggests first removing bad habits, then adopting one good habit at a time. Starting should be extremely easy, like wearing running shoes or reading one paragraph. Tracking progress builds motivation, while setbacks should not break consistency. Overall, it is a simple, practical guide to building discipline.



Ube drink becomes latest youth café craze

Move over matcha, the purple yam beverage is becoming the latest viral trend among youth. Made from ube, this bright purple drink is gaining popularity in cafés and all-over social media. Its eye-catching colour, sweet flavour, and aesthetic appeal make it perfect for Instagram and Reels, attracting Gen Z and young café lovers. Available as lattes, shakes, and iced drinks, it blends taste with style. This trendy beverage is quickly turning into a favourite choice for a new generation.

BUILD TRUST
EMPOWER PEOPLE

BE ACCOUNTABLE
OWN YOUR ACTIONS

SUPPORT FIRST
LEAD WITH CARE

GIVE FEEDBACK
INSPIRE GROWTH

SHOW EMPATHY
BE HUMAN, ALWAYS

PROTECT ENERGY
PREVENT BURNOUT

CONNECT DEEPLY
BUILD REAL RELATIONSHIPS

KIND LEADERS BUILD GREAT TEAMS

LEAD WITH KINDNESS.
LEAD WITH IMPACT.

| TRAILBLAZER |

The Quiet Power of Kind Leadership

Central Chronicle News

Kind leaders inspire trust, empower teams, and create workplaces driven by compassion.

Kind leadership is not weakness; it is strength expressed with wisdom, empathy, and responsibility. A kind leader does not depend on fear or control to get results. Instead, such a leader builds trust, encourages ownership, and creates an environment where people feel valued, safe, and motivated to give their best.

One of the most important qualities of a kind leader is radical trust. Rather than micromanaging every task, they give team members the freedom to take responsibility and make decisions. This builds confidence and a sense of

ownership.

A kind leader also practices vulnerable accountability. They are not afraid to admit mistakes or say, "I was wrong." This honesty removes ego from leadership and teaches the team that accountability is a sign of strength.

Another powerful skill is a support-first mindset. Instead of only asking for progress reports, kind leaders ask, "How can I help?" More importantly, they act on the answer.

They also create psychological safety through gentle but honest feedback. They correct mistakes privately, respectfully, and constructively, separating the action from the person.

Kind leaders understand the value of empathetic check-ins. They support people not only during success but also during difficult days, showing that employees are

HIGHLIGHT

• Trust, empathy, accountability, support, authenticity, and protection transform teams into high-performers consistently.

humans before they are workers.

They also protect their team's energy by preventing burnout, unnecessary pressure, and distractions. This helps people stay focused, balanced, and productive.

Finally, kind leaders build authentic human connections. They do not hide behind titles or act like perfect machines. Their honesty, warmth, and humanity inspire loyalty and trust.

In today's workplace, kindness is not just a soft quality. It is a leadership advantage that creates stronger teams, better performance, and healthier work cultures.

Sports



Carrying a paper with something written on it motivates me, reflects my mindset and helps me manifest wickets for the team.

Akash Singh
LSG pacer

Satwik-Chirag reach Thailand Open final after thriller

Satwik and Chirag battled past Malaysia's Goh and Izzuddin in a pulsating semifinal to enter their third Thailand Open men's doubles final.



Press Trust Of India

Indian duo wins 19-21, 22-20, 21-16, reaches first final this season after 82-minute battle.

BANGKOK: India's star men's doubles pair Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty produced a spirited fight-back to enter the Thailand Open Super 500 final, defeating Malaysia's Goh Sze Fei and Nur Izzuddin in a gripping semifinal on Saturday.

The world No. 4 Indian

combination, champions here in 2019 and 2024, recovered from a game down to beat the world No. 9 Malaysians 19-21, 22-20, 21-16 in a draining contest that lasted 82 minutes.

It was Satwik and Chirag's third final appearance at the USD 500,000 event and their first summit clash of the season. They will next face either Indonesia's Leo Rolly Carnando and Daniel Marthin or China's He Ji Ting and Ren Xiang Yu.

The Indians entered the match with a strong

7-2 head-to-head record against Goh and Izzuddin, but the Malaysians had beaten them at last year's India Open. That made Saturday's encounter intense from the start.

Goh and Izzuddin began sharply, controlling the net and taking an early lead. Though Satwik and Chirag fought back to 5-5, the Malaysians stayed ahead, leading 11-8 at the break. Chirag's errors helped them stretch the advantage to 15-9. The Indians narrowed the gap, but Satwik's net

error gave Malaysia the

opening game.

The second game was equally tense. Satwik and Chirag mixed the pace well and led 10-9 before the interval. The Malaysians levelled repeatedly, but Chirag's power helped India move ahead 19-16. After wasting two game points, the Indians showed composure in a fierce rally at 20-20 and forced a decider when Izzuddin hit wide.

In the final game, Satwik took charge with aggressive smashing. From 5-5, the Indians won six straight points

as the Malaysians committed errors. Leading 11-5, they kept the pressure on and moved to 19-14. Satwik then earned five match points with a cross-court smash before Chirag sealed victory with a confident finish.

The win marked their eighth over the Malaysian pair and underlined their ability to stay calm in pressure moments. After recently speaking about badminton's limited visibility in India, Satwik and Chirag let their performance make the loudest statement.

| RAIN-HIT SEMIFINALS |

Ruud storms into Italian Open final amid rain drama

Press Trust Of India

Casper Ruud crushed Luciano Darderi to enter his first Italian Open final.

ROME: Casper Ruud reached his first Italian Open final with a commanding 6-1, 6-1 win over home favourite Luciano Darderi on Friday, staying composed despite a rain interruption of nearly two hours.

The semifinal was suspended when Ruud was leading 4-1 in the opening set, but the delay did little to disturb his rhythm. Once play resumed on the red clay of the Foro Italico, the Norwegian controlled the rallies with consistency, depth and



patience, giving Darderi little room to recover.

Ruud, a two-time French Open finalist, will face either world No. 1 Jannik Sinner or former No. 1 Daniil Medvedev in Sunday's final. Their semifinal was also affected by rain and will resume on Saturday, with Sinner leading 6-2, 5-7, 4-2.

The Rome tournament is the final major clay-court warm-up before the French Open begins in nine days. Ruud, once ranked world No. 2 and now No. 25, will return to the top 20 on Monday after his strong run. He has dropped only one set in Rome this year, against Karen Khachanov in the quarterfinals.

FACTFILE

• Ruud defeated Darderi 6-1, 6-1 after staying sharp through rain delay.

• Sinner led Medvedev in another semifinal before rain forced Saturday resumption.

Darderi, ranked 20th and born in Argentina to a family of Italian descent, had fought through demanding matches earlier in the tournament. He saved four match points against Alexander Zverev in the fourth round and then won another marathon quarterfinal against Rafael Jodar that finished at 2 a.m.

| MUST-WIN MODE |

It's like every game is a final: CSK coach Hussey

Press Trust Of India

LUCKNOW: Chennai Super Kings batting coach Michael Hussey said the team must treat every remaining IPL league match as a final after its defeat to Lucknow Super Giants left its playoff hopes uncertain.

The five-time champions are on 12 points

from 13 matches and now need to win their last two games, while also depending on other

results to stay in the top-four race.

CSK were beaten by



an already-eliminated LSG side, with Mitchell Marsh smashing 90 off 38 balls to help the hosts chase 188 comfortably on a pitch offering pace and bounce.

Hussey said the pressure at this stage was not only on CSK but also on other teams fighting for playoff spots. He added that the uncertainty made the tournament

exciting, as several sides still had a mathematical chance to qualify.

The former Australian batter felt CSK's batters did well to post 187 in challenging conditions against a strong pace attack. However, he admitted the bowlers failed to strike early, allowing Marsh and Josh Inglis to build momentum.

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

VILLA SEAL SPOT

Watkins double fires Villa back into Champions League football



BIRMINGHAM: Ollie Watkins struck twice as Aston Villa defeated Liverpool 4-2 at Villa Park on Friday to secure Champions League football next season. The victory, coming five days before Villa's Europa League final against Freiburg, guaranteed Unai Emery's side a top-five Premier League finish. Liverpool started brighter, but Villa took the lead before

halftime through Morgan Rogers after a clever corner routine. Virgil van Dijk equalised early in the second half, yet Villa responded strongly. Watkins had one effort ruled out for offside before scoring after Dominik Szoboszlai's slip sparked a counterattack. He added another from close range in the 73rd minute, continuing his fine league form. **PTI**

PRAGG TAKES CHARGE

Praggnanandhaa beats Sindarov to share Super Classic lead



BUCHAREST: Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa produced a fine win with black pieces, defeating in-form Javokhir Sindarov in the second round of the Super Chess Classic on Friday. In a game that seemed headed for a draw after repeated moves, Praggnanandhaa stayed

alert and seized his chance. Sindarov chose an old Italian opening line and later sacrificed a piece, hoping to create pressure against the black king. However, Praggnanandhaa defended accurately, complicated the position and gradually consolidated with an extra piece. **PTI**

INDIAN PREMIER LEAGUE

LSG skipper Pant fined Rs 12 lakh for team's slow over-rate vs CSK

LUCKNOW: Lucknow Super Giants skipper Rishabh Pant has been fined Rs 12 lakh after his team maintained a slow over-rate during their IPL match against Chennai Super Kings. LSG beat CSK by seven wickets on Friday. "As this was his team's first offence of the season under Article 2.22 of the IPL's Code of Conduct, which pertains to minimum over-rate offences, Rishabh Pant was fined INR 12 lakhs," an IPL media release stated. **PTI**



SUNDAY SUSPENSE BATTLE

Sooryavanshi faces Starc challenge in Capitals-Royals must-win clash



NEW DELHI: Vaibhav Sooryavanshi's fearless batting will face a stern Mitchell Starc examination when Rajasthan Royals meet Delhi Capitals in a crucial IPL clash on Sunday. Delhi, with 10 points from 12 games, will be knocked out with another defeat, while Rajasthan, on 12 points from 11 matches, need victory to strengthen their playoff push.

Sooryavanshi has become the tournament's biggest teenage attraction, smashing 440 runs at a strike rate of 236.55 with 40 sixes. His first appearance at Kotla has generated huge excitement. However, Starc's early swing and seam could test his technique. Delhi's bigger worry remains their weak bowling, with Axar Patel and Kuldeep Yadav lacking bite. **PTI**

Sports News

RCB out to seal play-off berth, Punjab Kings to arrest freefall

RCB eye a playoff berth in Dharamsala, banking on Virat Kohli's form and Punjab Kings' bowling struggles amid mounting pressure on Shreyas Iyer's side.

Press Trust Of India

SRH pacer Praful Hinge says fame means little with-out consistent hard work.

DHARAMSALA: Royal Challengers Bengaluru would look to exploit vulnerabilities of a profligate Punjab Kings bowling line up to seal a play-off berth in the Indian Premier League here on Sunday.

In the only day game scheduled at the scenic Dharamsala stadium, the top draw without an iota doubt is Virat Kohli, fresh off a hundred in the previous game.

A sizeable number of fans have already made their way up to the mountains from Delhi and Punjab to see the larger than life Kohli bat in the breathtaking backdrop of Dharmadhar range. The limited infrastructure in place in the city is pushed to its limits.

Defending champions, the only team which has maintained consistency throughout the tournament,



Royal Challengers Bengaluru's Virat Kohli plays a shot during a practice session.

ment, are clear favourites against Punjab Kings, who are in a freefall having lost five games in a row after being the most dominant team in the first half of the tournament.

While RCB are sitting comfortable on the points table, a sixth loss for Punjab Kings would effectively shut the playoff door on the Shreyas Iyer-led side.

In both the games played here, Punjab Kings failed to defend 210 and 200 after failing to control the last five overs. In fact, they have lost the most the numbers of games (10) after posting 200 plus total in the format's history.

The team needs to rejig its bowling combination with the likes of Xavier Bartlett and Marco Jansen proving expensive throughout the tournament. Arshdeep Singh has managed to bring his economy rate under 10 with his frugal returns in the last game while Azmatullah Omarzai made instant impact with bat and ball in his first game of the season.

Vijaykumar Vyshak has been out of the side and perhaps the team goes back

to him in search of much needed control in the middle and death overs.

The batting department, which has done well overall, is not firing on all cylinders in the last few games but it is the bowling that has let the team down repeatedly.

The pitch has offered seam movement thus far and was on the slower side in the MI-PBKS fixture.

RCB, on other hand, are playing like a well oiled machine. Kohli, at 37 years of age, continues to redefine consistency, having smashed a 60-ball 105 against KKR in Raipur.

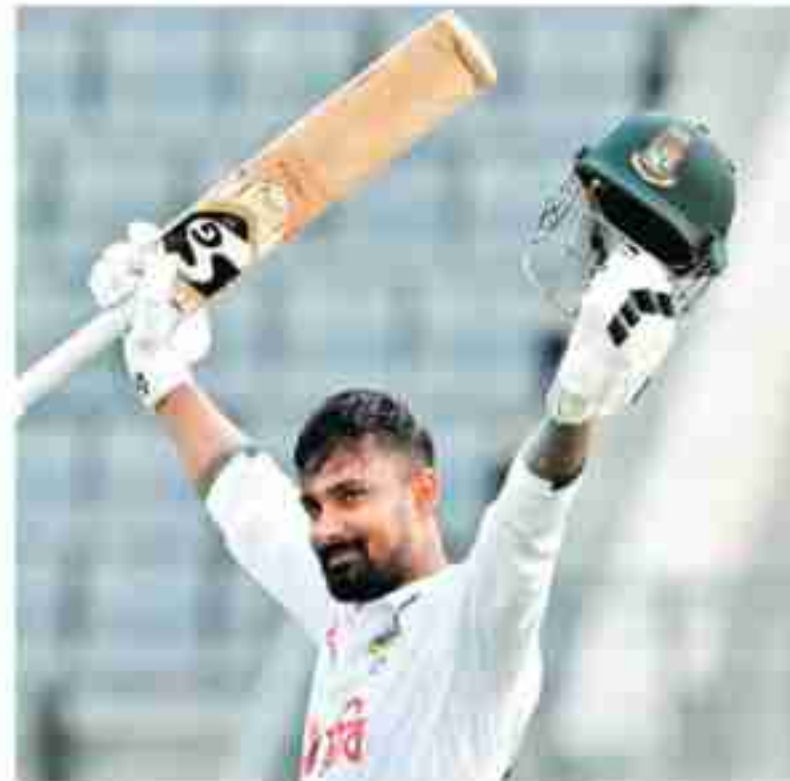
Their pace department including Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Josh Hazlewood will enjoy bowling on the Dharamsala given the conditions.

"We have played well in the tournament and I think everyone came in the different stage and doing [well] for the team. I think that's a great sign. And being at the top of the table, it's always a good thing. Good for the team. And as I said, we are taking just one game at a time, one step at a time," said captain Rajat Patidar.

Litton Das century rescues Bangladesh on opening day of 2nd test against Pakistan

Press Trust Of India

Litton Das' composed century lifted Bangladesh after Pakistan's pacers struck early hard.



SYLHET: Wicketkeeper-batter Litton Das produced a superb rescue act as Bangladesh recovered from a shaky start to post 278 all out on the opening day of the second and final Test against Pakistan in Sylhet on Saturday.

Put in to bat after Pakistan won the toss, Bangladesh were immediately under pressure when Mohammad Abbas removed Mahmudul Hasan for a duck with only the second ball of the innings. Debutant Tanzid Hasan showed promise with a fluent 26, but he too fell after offering a return catch to Abbas.

Pakistan's pace attack kept Bangladesh on the back foot. Khuram Shahzad, replacing Shaheen Shah Afridi, impressed with 4-81, while Abbas returned 3-45. Hasan Ali, despite being stretched out

FAST FACTS

• Litton smashed 126 as Bangladesh recovered from 116-6 to reach 278.

• Pakistan ended day one safely at 21-0, trailing Bangladesh by 257.

after an awkward fall in his first over, came back strongly to claim 2-49.

Bangladesh slipped to 63-3 when Mominul Haque was bowled for 22. Captain Najmul Hossain Shanto and Mushfiqur Rahim tried to steady the innings, but both

departed before making a major impact. At 116-6, Bangladesh looked in danger of collapsing cheaply.

Litton then took charge with calmness and authority. He added 60 runs with Tajul Islam for the seventh wicket and gradually shifted momentum. After reaching his half-century off 93 balls, Litton accelerated beautifully, completing his sixth Test hundred in 135 deliveries.

His 126 off 159 balls, featuring 16 fours and two sixes, became the backbone of Bangladesh's innings, especially as no other batter crossed 30.

ASIAN WEIGHTLIFTING CHAMPIONSHIPS

India's medal haul rises to four as Sanjana claims bronze

Press Trust Of India

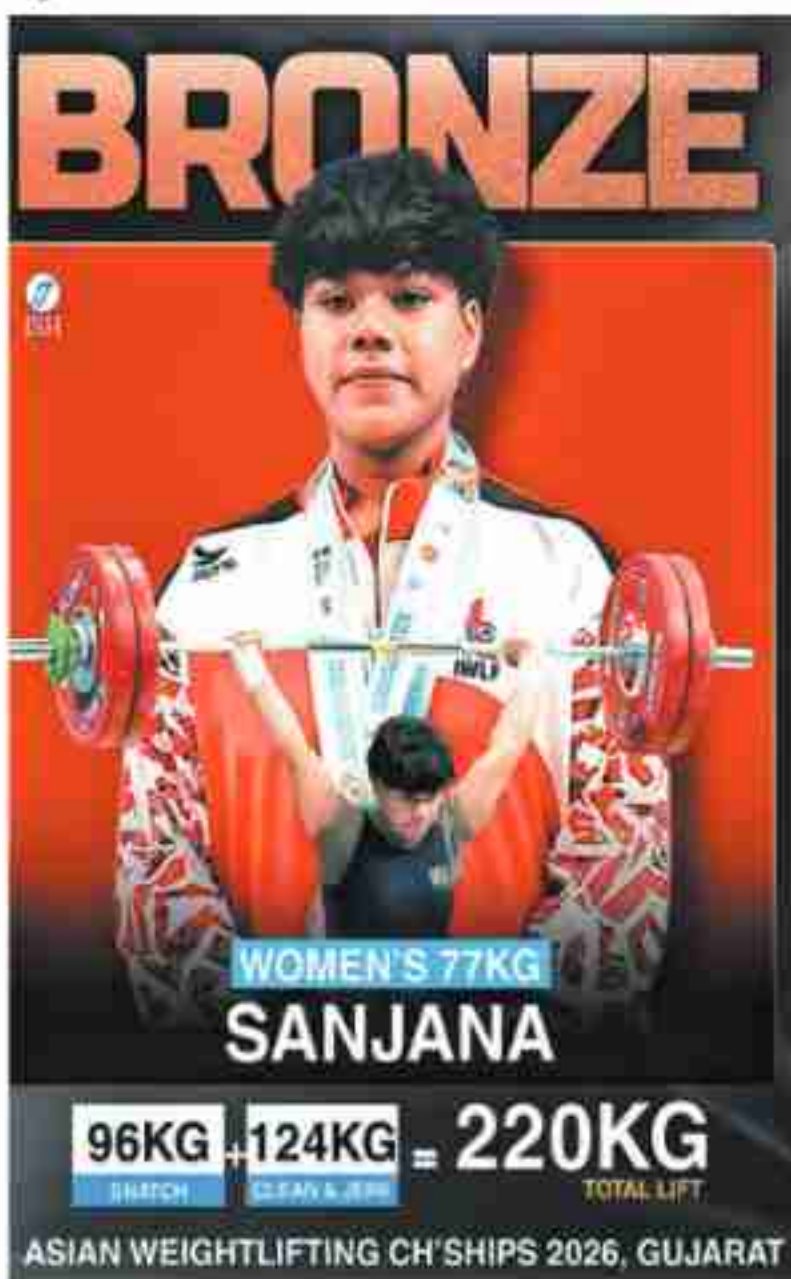
Sanjana lifted 220kg to win women's 77kg bronze at Asian Weightlifting Championships.

GANDHINAGAR: Sanjana added a fourth medal to India's tally at the Asian Weightlifting Championships, clinching bronze in the women's 77kg category here on Saturday.

Sanjana registered a total lift of 220kg (96kg in snatch and 124kg in clean and jerk) to finish third in a four-lifter field.

China's Gulfang Liao won the gold medal with a combined effort of 265kg (118kg+147kg), while North Korea's Kyong Ryong Kim claimed silver with a total of 260kg (115kg+145kg).

With her podium finish, Sanjana joined Komal Kohar (48kg), Gyaneshwari Yadav (53kg) and Ajith Narayana (71kg), all of whom have won bronze medals for India at the ongoing continental championships.



In the women's 86kg category, the other Indian in action, Vanshita Verma, finished fourth with a total lift of 220kg.

China's Cuiting Peng secured the gold medal with a total lift of 270kg.

Veer Ahlawat and Saptak Talwar miss the cut

GIRONA: India's Veer Ahlawat and Saptak Talwar endured disappointment at the Challenge de Catalunya as both golfers missed the halfway cut. Ahlawat produced a strong second-round response, carding a bogey-free four-under 69 after an opening even-par 71. However, his two-round total of four-under was still one shot short of the cut, which was set at five-under par. Talwar had a difficult start to the tournament with an opening 86. He improved considerably in the second round, shooting one-under 71, but the recovery was not enough to keep him in contention. Meanwhile, Christofer Bloomstrand of Sweden surged into the lead with the day's best score, an eight-under 64. The 34-year-old moved to 13-under overall after rounds of 67 and 64. Bloomstrand's impressive round included six birdies and an eagle, helping him open a two-stroke lead over the field.

MOTIVATION FOR HOCKEY

PM Modi's support motivates Indian women's hockey team: Coach Marijne

Press Trust Of India

PM Modi's recognition has boosted Marijne and India's women's hockey team.

NEW DELHI: Indian women's hockey chief coach

Sjoerd Marijne said he felt honoured and grateful after Prime Minister Narendra Modi praised his role in shaping the team's progress during an address to the Indian community in The Hague.

PM Modi highlighted

the contribution of Dutch coaches to Indian hockey and credited Marijne for playing a key role in the women's team's rise. He also urged fans to support India at the upcoming FIH Hockey World Cup, to be held in the Netherlands and Belgium

from August 15 to 30.

Marijne said he received a video of the PM's speech and felt deeply encouraged by the recognition. He added that the praise does not create pressure, but motivates the team to perform better.

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Parul runs 2nd career-best time in 3000m steeplechase to finish 7th in Shanghai DL

SHANGHAI: National record holder Parul Chaudhary ran her second career-best 3000m steeplechase race to finish seventh in the season-opening Diamond League meeting here on Saturday. The 31-year-old Parul clocked 9 minutes 12.84 seconds in a quality field. Uganda's 2021 Tokyo Olympic champion Peruth Chemutai won the title in 8:51.47 as world champion Faith Cherotich of Kenya finished just 0.01 behind in 8:51.48. Tunisia's Marwa Bouzayani was third in 8:58.09. Ethiopia's Kena Tufa was the fourth competitor to run sub-9 minute, clocking 8:59.66 for a fourth-place finish. This was Parul's season-opening race and first after the World Championships in September 2025 in Tokyo, where she had failed to make it to the final round. Her national record stands at 9:12.46 which she clocked in 2025. She also holds the 5000m national record. Parul had won a 3000m steeplechase silver and 5000m gold in the Hangzhou Asian Games in 2023.

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World



Islamic State group leader was killed in a joint US-Nigerian mission.
Donald Trump
US President

Putin to visit Xi Jinping after Trump's Beijing trip

Russian President Vladimir Putin will embark on a two-day trip to Beijing on May 19-20 to meet with Chinese leader Xi Jinping.

Press Trust Of India

MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin will meet with Chinese leader Xi Jinping on a two-day trip to Beijing next week, the Kremlin said Saturday. The announcement comes less than 24 hours after US President Donald Trump finished his own state visit to China, where he also met Xi to discuss trade and the US-Israel war in Iran. In a state-

ment, the Kremlin said that Putin's trip, planned for May 19-20, had been scheduled to coincide with the 25th anniversary of the 2001 Sino-Russian Treaty of Friendship. It said that the two leaders would discuss bilateral relations as well as "key international and regional issues" and economic cooperation. Relations between China and Russia have deepened in recent years, particularly since



the start of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in early 2022, which left

HIGHLIGHT

• The announcement follows US President Donald Trump's state visit to China and coincides with the 25th anniversary of the Sino-Russian Treaty of Friendship.

Moscow shunned on the global stage and heavily reliant on Beijing for trade due to Western sanctions. When Putin visited China

in September 2025, Xi welcomed his counterpart as an "old friend." Putin also addressed Xi as "dear friend." The Russian leader is also scheduled to visit China for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in the city of Shenzhen in November. Ukraine repatriated the bodies of fallen soldiers on Saturday following an earlier exchange with Moscow involving prisoners of war.

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

ISRAEL UAE EXPLAINER

As Netanyahu spotlights Israel's ties to UAE, its rulers prefer to be discreet



JERUSALEM: The tight relationship between Israel and the United Arab Emirates is typically managed discreetly. But this week, it was thrust into the open, illuminating tensions underlying the alliance as the Iran war embroils the entire region.

The US Ambassador to Israel, Mike Huckabee, first brought attention to the strengthening ties between Israel and the UAE by revealing that Israel had sent Iron Dome air-defence weapons and personnel to operate them to help protect the UAE from Iranian attacks. Then, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he had quietly visited the UAE during the war, prompting a hasty public denial from the Gulf nation. As Netanyahu and the Trump administration ballyhoo their alliances as part of an effort to bolster the region's anti-Iran factions, the Gulf states prefer to downplay these partnerships — a sign of how public ties to Israel remain deeply controversial in the region. Netanyahu's decision to reveal his wartime trip to Abu Dhabi rocked the boat, particularly coming

after Huckabee confirmed military cooperation between the two countries. Reports swirled that Israel's security chiefs had also visited.

The UAE's official WAM news agency posted an article denying "reports circulating" about the visit. The agency wrote that the country's relations with Israel "are public and conducted within the framework of the well-known and officially declared Abraham Accords, and are not based on non-transparent or unofficial arrangements." The report also denied any Israeli military delegation was received in the UAE.

"It complicates Abu Dhabi's war-time-frame posture by forcing it into the open — which is why the denial was issued so quickly and worded so carefully," said Hesham Alghannam, a Saudi Arabia-based scholar at the Malcolm H. Kerr Carnegie Middle East Center. Though the UAE normalised relations with Israel in 2020, its rulers like to keep the alliance somewhat quiet. **PTI**

Pope to visit France in September

ROME: Pope Leo XIV is adding another trip to his already busy 2026 travel schedule, making a four-day visit to France at the end of September that also includes a visit to the UN culture agency. The Vatican confirmed Saturday the September 25-28 trip, which will be Leo's fourth foreign voyage of the year: Leo made a day trip to Monaco in March, visited four African nations in April and is due to visit Spain and the Canary Islands in June.

| MALDIVES DIVE ACCIDENT |

Maldives divers search for 4 missing Italians in underwater cave

Press Trust Of India

Four Italian divers are feared dead and missing inside an underwater cave in the Maldives' Vaavu Atoll.

COLOMBO: Divers in the Maldives searched Saturday for four Italian divers believed dead deep inside an underwater cave after rough weather repeatedly hampered the effort the previous day.



Maldives Presidential Spokesman Mohammed Hussain Shareef said that the searchers have pre-

pared a plan based on their progress exploring the cave on Friday. Italy's Foreign Ministry said ear-

FACTFILE

• Maldives search teams are navigating rough weather to explore the 50-meter-deep cave, with one body already recovered.

lier that the dive group are believed to died while exploring a cave at a depth of about 50 metres in Vaavu Atoll on Thursday.

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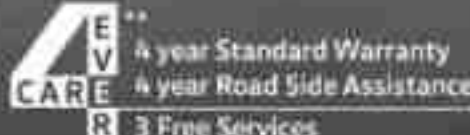
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