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Central Chronicle

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'I proudly declare India is Naxal-free'

Government fully committed to permanent peace, last-mile development in Bastar.

Press Trust Of India

JAGDALPUR: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday said the government is fully committed to establishing permanent peace in Bastar region and ensuring that development reaches the last person. Shah, who is on a three-day visit to Chhattisgarh since Sunday, paid tributes at Amar Vatika in Jagdalpur, the headquarters of Bastar district, to more than 1,000 security personnel who laid down their lives in the fight against Maoism, an official statement said. Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai was also present on the occasion. "The sacrifices of our jawans in establishing peace, security and development in Bastar region will never be forgotten. The sacrifice of brave personnel who laid down their lives for the security of the nation will never go in vain," the statement quoted Shah as saying. "Both the Centre and the state government are working with full commitment to ensure lasting peace and development reaches the last person," Shah said in his first visit to Chhattisgarh after the state was declared free from armed Maoists on March 31. During the programme at Amar Vatika, Shah met family members of security personnel Kalendra Prasad Nayak and Pawan Kumar Mandavi, who were killed in a Maoist attack in Bijapur district. He assured them of all support from the government, the statement said.

The Union home minister also interacted with security personnel and praised their courage, dedication and commitment, it added.

Chief Minister Sai said the sacrifices of the martyred personnel would never be forgotten and asserted the state government was committed to the welfare, dignity and security of their families.

"Bastar is now moving towards a new era of peace, trust and development, and security forces have played a crucial role in this transformation," Sai said. (More News on pg 03)

Union Home Minister Amit Shah pays tribute at Amar Vatika, in Jagdalpur.

'India 'by and large' free from three internal security problems'

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday asserted that India is now "by and large" free from three main internal security problems of Naxalism, terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir and insurgency in the Northeast. Shah, who is on a three-day tour of Chhattisgarh, his first after the country was declared free from Maoist violence in March, urged the people of Bastar to "accept" about 3,000 surrendered Naxals and help in their assimilation into the national mainstream.

Shah meets family members of martyrs

During the programme at Amar Vatika, Shah met family members of security personnel Kalendra Prasad Nayak and Pawan Kumar Mandavi, who were killed in a Maoist attack in Bijapur district. He assured them of all support from the government, the statement said.

Shah to chair 26th CZC meeting today

The minister will chair the 26th central zonal council (CZC) meeting in Jagdalpur, the headquarters of Bastar district, on Tuesday that will see the participation of four chief ministers of Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

Woman killed as bus overturns

JAGDALPUR: A woman was killed and more than 20 persons were injured when a bus overturned on a highway in Bastar district on Monday, police said. The accident took place in the early hours when the private bus was heading from the state capital Raipur to Sukma, a police official said. According to preliminary information, more than 35 passengers were travelling in the bus. The vehicle went out of control and overturned after the driver apparently dozed off, he said. Most passengers were asleep when the accident occurred on National Highway-30 in the Bastar police station limits, the official said. A woman, identified as Padmani Chandravanshi, a resident of Kawardha, died on the spot. She was posted as a teacher in the Dornapal area of Sukma district, the police said. More than 20 passengers were reported to be injured in the incident. Locals and police personnel rescued passengers trapped inside the overturned bus, the official said.

| CHANGE OF GUARD |

V D Satheesan takes oath as Kerala Chief Minister

Press Trust Of India

20-member Cabinet, featuring a mix of experienced leaders and new entrants, was also sworn in by Governor

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Vadasseri Damodara Menon Satheesan, who steered the Congress-led UDF back to power in Kerala after a decade by unseating the Left Front, took oath as chief minister on Monday at a packed and politically charged ceremony held at the Central Stadium here.

His 20-member Cabinet, featuring a mix of experienced leaders and new entrants, was also sworn in by Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar, with senior Congress leader Ramesh Chennithala—once seen as a contender for the top post—among those inducted.

The ceremony drew a wide spectrum of political leaders, including Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and party leader Rahul Gandhi, with alliance partners such as the IUML, the UDF's second-largest constituent, securing adequate representation in the new ministry, signalling a careful balancing of coalition interests in the new government.

13 dead in mishap

PALGHAR: A tempo packed with guests heading for an engagement ceremony collided with a speeding container trailer on Monday on the Mumbai-Ahmedabad Highway in Maharashtra's Palghar district, killing 13 people and injuring 20 others, officials said. A motorcycle was also caught in the pile-up caused by the trailer going out of control, they added. Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis announced compensation of Rs 5 lakh each to the kin of the deceased.

PM Modi for dialogue over military action for lasting peace

Press Trust Of India

OSLO: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday called for a resolution of the West Asia crisis and the Ukraine conflict through dialogue and diplomacy, asserting that military action alone cannot achieve lasting peace. Modi made the remarks after holding wide-ranging talks with Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Store that focused on boosting the overall trajectory of bilateral relations. "India and Norway, both, believe in a rules-based order, dialogue, and diplomacy. We agree that no issue can be resolved through military conflict alone," Modi said in his televised statement to the media.

PM Modi, right, receives Norway's top honour, the Grand Cross of the Royal Norwegian Order of Merit.

PM receives Norway's highest civilian honour

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was on Monday conferred with Norway's highest civilian honour, the Grand Cross of the Royal Norwegian Order of Merit, for his contribution in advancing the India-Norway relationship and his leadership.

NEWSLINE

NEW DELHI

Ebola outbreak

Surveillance and preparedness measures are being strengthened at points of entry and across the public health system as a matter of caution amid the recent Ebola outbreak in parts of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Uganda, official sources said on Monday. They said the Union Health Ministry is closely monitoring developments after the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the outbreak a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC). Senior officials of the Union Health Ministry, including representatives from the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP), ICMR and other concerned divisions, have reviewed the evolving situation and initiated precautionary public health measures, sources said.

NEW DELHI

Provisional answer key

In a first, the Union Public Service Commission will release the provisional answer key for the Civil Services (Preliminary) Examination 2026 soon after the test. The move is aimed at enhancing transparency and upholding the highest standards of conduct of the examination, the Commission announced on Monday. This new reform has been introduced to address the long-standing demand from candidates for publication of provisional answer keys, it said. This step is also part of the Commission's commitment to ensuring transparency, accountability, and strengthening candidates' confidence in the examination system, the UPSC said in a

Scenic beauty

A boatman is silhouetted against the setting sun at the Sangam, the confluence of the Ganga, Yamuna and mythical Saraswati rivers, in Prayagraj.

| MAJOR POLICY SHIFT IN BENGAL |

No more welfare funds for Imams, temple priests: WB Govt

Press Trust Of India

Announcing the state government's decisions, Women, Child, and Social Welfare Minister Agnimitra Paul said all decisions will take effect starting June 1.

KOLKATA: Signalling a sharp policy shift, the West Bengal cabinet on Monday decided to discontinue religion-based assistance to imams and others, roll out the 'Annapurna' financial support scheme for women and set up two panels to look into cases of corruption and crimes against women during the TMC rule. The cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari, also approved free travel for women on government-run buses, the scrapping of the existing state OBC list and the constitution of the Seventh State Pay Commission to revise state employees' salaries upward. Announcing the state government's decisions, Women, Child, and Social Welfare Minister Agnimitra Paul said all decisions will take effect starting June 1.

| WEEKEND RUSH |

Tourists rush to hill stations in summer

Press Trust Of India

DEHRADUN: More than 45,000 vehicles entered Dehradun over the past two days amid massive weekend tourist-rush towards Mussoorie, Chakrata and Rishikesh, officials said on Monday.

Data released by the police showed 13,500 buses and tempo travellers, 26,000 cars and 5,700 motorcycles passed through the district during Saturday and Sunday. A significant number of these vehicles moved towards Mussoorie, which recorded 2,870 cars, 59 buses and tempo travellers, and 1,700 two-wheelers during the weekend, officials said.

NUMBER

45,000

- More than 45,000 vehicles entered Dehradun over the past two days.

According to officials, the heavy influx on the Delhi-Dehradun Expressway and Premnagar Highway prompted authorities to divide major routes into four super zones, 10 zones and 19 sectors. Circle officer-rank personnel supervised each super zone, while inspectors and local outpost in-charges managed the individual zones and sectors. Senior police officials prepared a multi-tier traffic diversion plan using three distinct routing strategies, which included a dedicated entry and exit system for vehicles and utilised the alternate Kimadi route for Mussoorie-bound traffic to prevent gridlocks, they said.

Godbole couple honoured for decades of tribal service

RAIPUR: Dr. Ramchandra Godbole and his wife Mrs Sunita Godbole have been widely recognised for over four decades of dedicated service to tribal communities in Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh. Working extensively in Bastar's remote and Naxal-affected regions, the couple has played a crucial role in delivering healthcare and improving nutrition among tribal populations. Both of them will be conferred the Padma Shri by President Droupadi Murmu on May 25. Dr. Godbole, an Ayurvedic doctor, has treated thousands of critically ill patients and organised over 100 medical camps, benefiting more than 9,000 people. Mrs Godbole has been instrumental in promoting women's health, education, and nutrition, helping hundreds of children overcome malnutrition.

Their grassroots efforts, including awareness drives and health initiatives, have significantly improved lives in underserved areas, earning them several prestigious awards and official recognition.

Raipur

Knife attack at Good Governance event exposes governance reality.

Deepak Baij
PCC Head

Canal Road expansion triggers protest

Families oppose eviction drive over proposed Canal Road expansion.

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: Tension prevailed at the Municipal Corporation office in the state capital on Monday after hundreds of residents from areas falling along the proposed Canal Road 2.0 project staged a massive protest against the planned demolition of their homes. The agitating families gheraoed the Municipal Corporation office and raised slogans opposing the proposed 80-foot-wide road connecting Gurumukh Nagar (Pachpedi Naka) to Bhatagaon.

The protesters alleged that nearly 1,300 families are likely to be displaced under the road expansion project. According to the residents, authorities have already begun conducting surveys in the area without issuing any prior notice to the affected households. The families claimed that preparations for demolition are underway despite the absence of proper communication and rehabilitation measures.

During the protest, residents strongly opposed the proposed 80-foot-wide road, asserting that an existing 30-foot-wide corridor is already available for the project. They questioned the necessity of widening the road further at the cost of rendering thousands homeless. Protesters maintained that they are not against development, but objected to what they described as "forced displacement" without following due process.

FACTFILE

- Residents allege demolition survey underway without prior official notice issued.

Several women and elderly residents participating in the demonstration alleged that displacement norms and rehabilitation policies are being ignored. They stated that many families have been residing in the locality for nearly four decades and have built their homes and livelihoods there over the years. Protesters warned that they would intensify their agitation if the administration proceeds with demolition without holding discussions with affected residents. The demonstrators reiterated their stand, declaring that they neither want the proposed 80-foot-wide road nor are willing to vacate their homes. The issue has now emerged as a major civic and rehabilitation concern in the capital, with affected families demanding transparency, proper notice, and rehabilitation before any further action is taken.

Talk on Chhattisgarhi Literature by Vijay Mishra

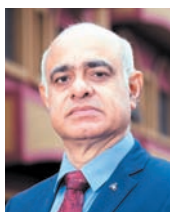
RAIPUR: A special talk on Chhattisgarhi literature by Vijay Mishra 'Amit' will be broadcast on May 19 as part of All India Radio Raipur's literary magazine programme Mor Bhuiyan. The talk, titled "Contribution of Dr. Paleshwar Prasad Sharma to the Development of Chhattisgarhi Language," highlights the literary legacy of the noted scholar. The programme will also feature a short story by Mansingh Maulik and a poem by Toshan Churendra. Mor Bhuiyan is edited by Programme Officer Mahendra Kumar Sahu. The broadcast is scheduled for Tuesday at 8:30 am on All India Radio Raipur. Dr. Paleshwar Prasad Sharma is a distinguished literary figure of Chhattisgarh, known for his extensive writings on the state's history and socio-cultural life.

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

MAJOR MILESTONE ACHIEVED

DPS Raipur Principal invited to Germany for Global Education leadership address



RAIPUR: DPS Raipur has achieved a major milestone in the field of education as the school's Principal, Raghunath Mukherjee, has received a prestigious international invitation from Germany's renowned Ferdinand-Sauerbruch School Group to speak on School Management and Educational Leadership. The achievement is being viewed as a matter of pride not only for DPS Raipur but also for the Indian education system. During his international address, Mukherjee will present the innovative educational practices, academic vision, and holistic development model adopted by DPS Raipur. He is expected to highlight how modern teaching methodologies, disciplined learning environments, and positive academic culture are helping students prepare for global challenges. The presentation will also focus on the active role of school management, teachers, and parents in building an inclusive and progressive educational ecosystem. Mukherjee will explain how DPS Raipur integrates co-curricular activities with academics to develop leadership qualities, moral values, and a global outlook among students. The school management stated that the visit represents the growing international recognition of India's evolving education system and innovative learning approach. Officials noted that DPS Group schools are already functioning globally in countries such as the UK, France, and Sri Lanka through academic and cultural exchange programs. Pro-Vice Chairman Baldev Singh Bhatia, General Secretary Vijay Shah, and member Pukhraj Jain congratulated Mukherjee, describing the invitation as a proud moment for Chhattisgarh and Indian education on the global stage.

LOAN SANCTION LETTERS DISTRIBUTED

Indian Bank distributes loan sanction letters worth Rs 800 crore

RAIPUR: Indian Bank organised a special loan sanction letter distribution camp in Raipur on May 16, 2026, reaffirming its commitment to customer-focused banking services and financial inclusion. During the camp, loan sanction letters worth nearly Rs 800 crore were distributed among eligible customers under various banking and financial schemes. The event witnessed the virtual presence of Mr. Sujay Mallick, Chief General Manager, and Ms. Kanaka S, Zonal General Manager (Bhubaneswar), who joined the program from the Bank's Corporate Office. Officials informed that similar camps were simultaneously organized across four zones functioning under the jurisdiction of the Zonal General Manager's Office in Bhubaneswar, including the Raipur zone. Addressing the gathering, Chief General Manager, Sujay Mallick highlighted Indian Bank's continued efforts to provide quality banking services and easy access to credit facilities for customers. He stated that the bank remains dedicated to offering loans at competitive interest rates while ensuring smooth and hassle-free processes for borrowers. He also assured customers that the bank would continue introducing customer-friendly financial solutions tailored to individual and business requirements.

Speaking on the occasion, Zonal Manager Mr. Rupesh Agarwal thanked customers for their trust in the bank and reiterated Indian Bank's commitment to providing efficient and reliable banking services in the future. The camp witnessed enthusiastic participation from customers and bank officials alike.

Police arrest MLA Kaushik's mobile snatching accused

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: Raipur Police arrested the accused involved in snatching the mobile phone of former Chhattisgarh Assembly Speaker and BJP MLA Dharamlal Kaushik within eight hours of the incident. Police also recovered the stolen mobile phone and seized the motorcycle used in the crime. According to officials, the incident occurred on the morning of May 18 when Dharamlal Kaushik had stepped out from his official residence for a routine morning walk. At around 7:15 am, near the PWD Arch Bridge, a motorcycle-borne youth allegedly snatched his mobile phone and fled from the spot. Following the incident, senior police officials immediately reached the crime scene and launched an intensive investigation. Joint teams from the Crime Branch and multiple police stations were formed to trace the accused. Police examined footage from hundreds of CCTV cameras installed around the crime scene and nearby routes. Technical surveillance and local intelligence were also used to identify the suspect.

SC grants bail to Anil Tuteja

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: In a major development in the high-profile Chhattisgarh liquor scam case, the Supreme Court on Monday granted bail to retired IAS officer Anil Tuteja, who had been in jail since January 2024. The apex court's decision came during a hearing conducted by a bench headed by the Chief Justice of India along with Justice Surya Kant and Justice Bagchi.

Anil Tuteja was arrested in connection with the alleged liquor scam that has remained one of the most discussed corruption cases in Chhattisgarh in recent years. During the hearing, the Supreme Court observed the circumstances of the case and granted bail with strict conditions.

Adequate fuel availability assured

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: The Chhattisgarh Government has clarified that there is no shortage of petrol or diesel in the state and appealed to citizens not to panic or indulge in unnecessary fuel hoarding. Officials stated that sufficient stocks of fuel are available and continuous supplies are being maintained across all districts to meet rising demand. According to the Food Department, the state currently has around 32.86 million liters of petrol and 77.57 million liters of diesel in stock.

A review meeting was held by the Director of the Food Department with representatives of oil companies, during which instructions were issued to prioritize fuel supply to petrol pumps facing low stock levels.

Officials informed that 2,516 petrol pumps are operational across Chhattisgarh for uninterrupted fuel distribution. Due to sudden increased demand on May 13 and 14, petrol sales rose by 43 percent, while diesel sales witnessed a 22 percent increase.

| NBA ACCREDITATION |

Kalinga University MBA Prog gets NBA accreditation

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: Kalinga University has achieved a major academic milestone as its Master of Business Administration (MBA) Programme has been accredited by the National Board of Accreditation. This prestigious recognition highlights the university's commitment towards academic excellence, quality assurance, industry-oriented education, and continuous improvement in management studies.

The NBA accreditation has been awarded following a rigorous evaluation process carried out by expert peer teams that assessed various academic and institutional parameters including curriculum design, teaching-learning processes, faculty quality, research and innovation, student performance, placement achievements, infrastructure, governance, and implementation of Outcome-Based Education (OBE).

NBA accreditation is internationally recognised and aligned with global quality standards. As NBA is a permanent signatory member of the Washington Accord, the accreditation strengthens the global credibility and academic standing of programmes offered by Indian institutions. Expressing happiness over the achievement, the university leadership congratulated the Internal Quality Assurance Cell, Department of Management, faculty members, students, alumni, industry collaborators, and administrative staff for their collective efforts and unwavering dedication.

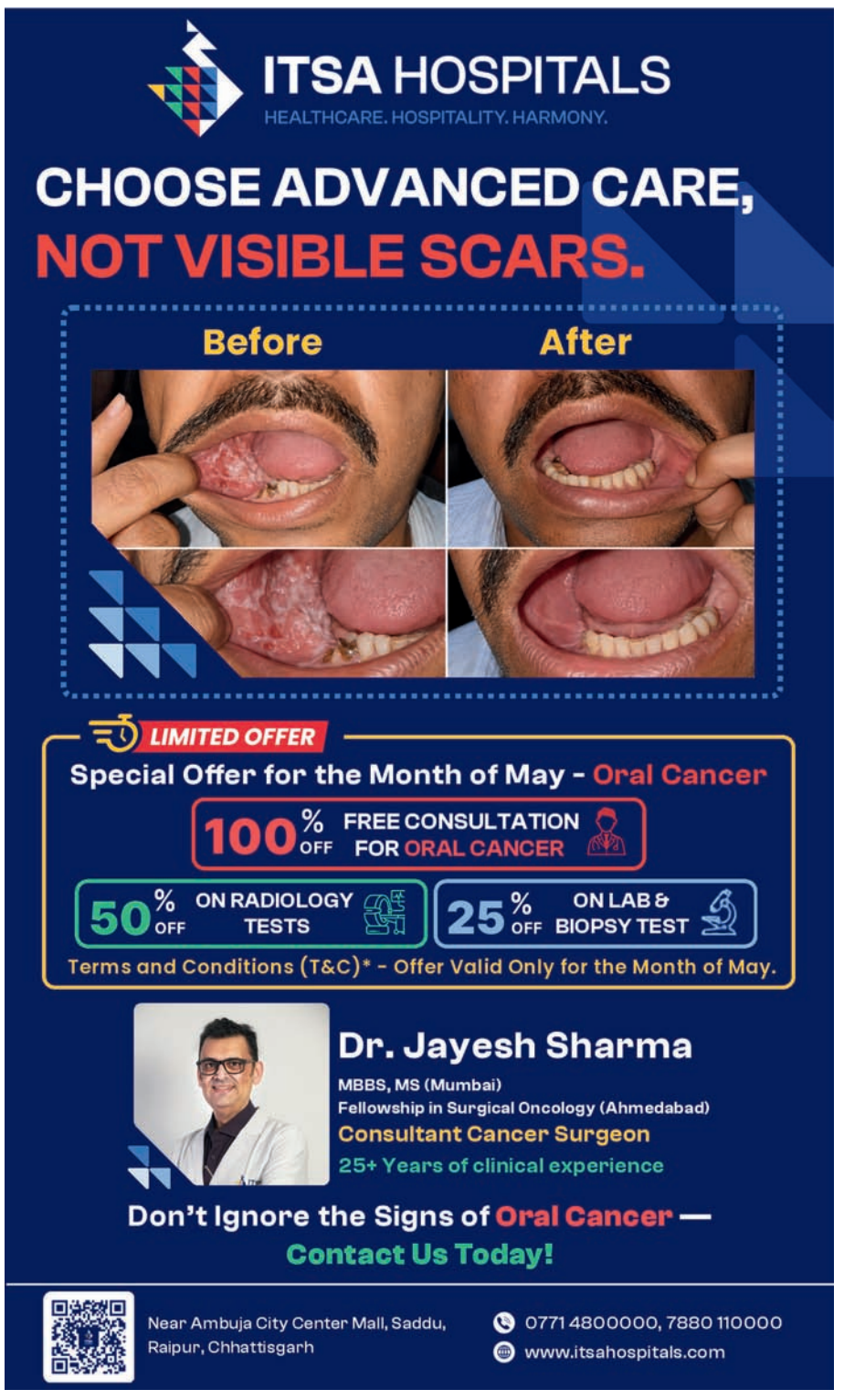
| COMPREHENSIVE WORKSHOP |

CII hosts workshop on CBAM, industrial decarbonization

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Chhattisgarh State Council, organized a comprehensive workshop on "Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), Hedging the Future Power Tariff & Industrial Decarbonization" at Hotel Hyatt, Raipur, on Monday. The event aimed to prepare industries in the state for evolving global sustainability standards and the transition towards environmentally responsible industrial practices.

The inaugural session was addressed by Bajrang Goel, Chairman of CII Chhattisgarh State Council, and Anand Singhania, Vice Chairman of the Council. Both leaders stressed the urgent need for industries to proactively align with global carbon regulations and adopt sustainable business models to remain competitive in international markets. A key attraction of the workshop was the participation of representatives from the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency. The delegation shared detailed insights into the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), explaining its implications for Indian exporters and the importance of carbon accounting, compliance strategies, and sustainable production systems. Adding financial perspectives to the discussion, Shuvam Sekhar Pati, Senior Manager at the National Stock Exchange of India Ltd, elaborated on strategies for hedging future power tariffs and managing rising industrial energy costs effectively. The workshop also featured expert sessions on renewable energy adoption, green steel production, and net-zero initiatives. Prabhakar, Senior Counsellor at JMK Research & Analytics, presented the business potential of renewable energy procurement for secondary steel industries.



Raipur News

Shah launches CG Dial-112 and mobile forensic vans

Chhattisgarh Gets Major Technology Push in Emergency Response and Scientific Investigation.

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: In a significant step towards strengthening public safety through advanced technology and evidence-based policing, Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah on Monday launched Chhattisgarh Police's next-generation CG Dial-112 emergency response service and flagged off a fleet of modern mobile forensic vans at Mana Police Parade Ground in Raipur.

Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai, Deputy Chief Minister and Home Minister Vijay Sharma, Chhattisgarh Assembly Speaker Dr. Raman Singh, Director General of Police Shri Arun Dev Gautam, MLAs, public representatives and senior police officials were present on the occasion. The initiative aims to strengthen emergency response systems, expand scientific investigation capabilities and modernise law enforcement infrastructure in the State in line with the new criminal laws.

During the programme, the Union Home Minister flagged off 400 advanced Dial-112 emergency response vehicles and 32 mobile forensic vans for deployment across the State. Additionally, 33 specialised surveillance vehicles and 60 highway patrol vehicles were also launched to strengthen field-level monitoring and emergency response operations. Launched under the theme "Ekke Number, Sabbo Bar", the upgraded Dial-112 system integrates police, fire and medical emergency services under a single platform to ensure faster and more coordinated assistance during emergencies.

Operational since 2018, the Dial-112 service has now been expanded to all 33 districts of Chhattisgarh from its earlier coverage of only 16 districts. The new and upgraded system has been technologically enhanced to provide quicker response and greater operational efficiency.

As part of the technological upgrade, Artificial Intelligence-based location identification technology has been integrated into the system, enabling authorities to accurately identify the real-time geographical location of people in distress. The service will operate round the clock through GIS-based monitoring systems, advanced vehicle tracking systems, SIP trunk technology and automatic caller location identification mechanisms. All 33 district coordination centres across the State have been connected to the integrated network for seamless communication and coordination.

To ensure uninterrupted operation of emergency calls and data systems, a second control centre based on an alternate backup mechanism has also been activated at Police Headquarters in Nava Raipur in addition to the primary control centre at Civil Lines.

FASTFACT

- Advanced Dial-112 service expanded from 16 to all 33 districts.

Dial-112 and forensic vans modernize policing

The integrated Dial-112 service and mobile forensic laboratory initiative is being viewed as a landmark step towards modernising policing systems, expanding scientific investigation infrastructure, ensuring transparent and time-bound investigation and further strengthening public confidence in law enforcement and justice delivery across Chhattisgarh.

Residents swelter under intense heat, humidity

RAIPUR: Residents across Raipur and several other parts of Chhattisgarh reeled under intense heat and highly humid weather throughout Monday, even as the Meteorological Centre in Raipur issued a mixed forecast predicting immediate thunderstorms followed by a severe heat wave later this week. Despite a minor drop of 1 to 2°C in maximum temperatures over the past 24 hours, oppressive humidity kept residents highly uncomfortable. Bilaspur recorded the state's highest maximum temperature at 39.5°C, while Raipur's Lalpur station hit 38.7°C with relative humidity peaking at 63%.

RMC demolishes illegal structures, reclaims land

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: The Raipur Municipal Corporation (RMC) launched a major anti-encroachment drive across multiple zones today, demolishing illegal structures and reclaiming valuable government land following directives from Municipal Commissioner Sambit Mishra. In Zone 3, the Town Planning Department deployed JCB machines to demolish an illegal structure built over 750 square feet of government land near Jal Bhole Complex on Pandri Main Road, located within Guru Govind Singh Ward Number 29. The action was taken under the guidance of Zone Commissioner Preeti Singh, Executive Engineer Ishwar Lal Tavare, Assistant Engineer Naresh Sahu, and Sub-Engineer Poonam Sahu.

Stolen Rs 19-crore Avalokiteshvara idol returning to Ch'garh from US

RAIPUR: On the occasion of World Museum Day, a matter of immense pride has come to light for the cultural heritage of Chhattisgarh. The rare bronze idol of Lord Avalokiteshvara, which was stolen from the Mahant Ghasidas Memorial Museum in Raipur, is all set to return to the state. Valued at approximately Rs 19 crore, this historic idol is currently being brought back to India from the United States, and the state government is actively taking steps to reinstate it in the Raipur museum.

Chhattisgarh Tourism, Culture, and Endowment Minister Rajesh Agrawal has written a letter to Union Culture Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, requesting the return of the idol to the state. While the artifact is yet to arrive in India, the state government will expedite the process of bringing it to Raipur once it lands. Minister Agrawal is also preparing to visit Delhi to personally receive the idol.

In recent years, the United States has returned 657 ancient and historic artifacts valued at around 14 million dollars to India. This rare bronze idol of Avalokiteshvara, stolen from the Raipur museum and smuggled to the US, is part of this precious returned heritage.

NEWSLINE

TRAIN SERVICES

Raipur-Tadoki MEMU train gets more coaches

RAIPUR: The railway administration has announced a significant capacity upgrade and extended stoppage times for the Raipur-Antagarh-Tadoki MEMU Passenger Special (Train No. 68764/68765), effective May 18, 2026. Fulfilling a primary demand from commuters on this route, the train will now operate with 12 coaches instead of its previous eight-coach composition to provide much-needed relief from overcrowding. Local traffic and commercial inspectors are currently gathering direct passenger feedback to help guide future operational choices. In addition to the expanded seating capacity, the railways have extended the stoppage duration by an additional two minutes at four key stations with shorter platform lengths: Risama, Gunderdehi, Latabor, and Kusumkasa. Previously, the train halted at these stations for just one minute; with this adjustment, it will now stop for a total of three minutes, allowing passengers to board and de-board safely.

Bhilai

"Transparent governance and public-friendly schemes are driving up public trust in the government."

Lalit Chandrakar
(MLA, Durg Rural)

Police bust multi-crore IPL betting racket in Hyderabad

Police detected transactions worth over Rs 5 crore across multiple bank accounts, alongside 63 pending cyber complaints linked to these accounts.

Central Chronicle News

BHILAI: The Chhawani Police and the Anti-Crime and Cyber Unit (ACCU) of Durg dismantled a major inter-state IPL betting syndicate, arresting 13 individuals operating out of Hyderabad. Acting on a tip-off following the initial arrest of two suspects in Charoda, authorities uncovered a highly organized network utilizing fraudulently obtained bank accounts for illegal gambling operations.

SSP Vijay Agrawal informed that the mastermind, Kunal Verma, orchestrated a system where locals from slum areas were paid Rs 25,000 per bank account. These "mule accounts," along with associated SIM cards, ATMs, and cheque books, were then used to facilitate high-volume deposits and withdrawals for online betting platforms like Sat Sport and Crack Plus.

SSP Vijay Agrawal addressing the media persons.

A subsequent raid at residential complexes in Alkapuram and Shamshabad, Hyderabad, led to the arrest of 13 accused, including Verma and key operator Rohit Chauhan. Other accused are Vicky Kumar Sahu (24); Abhishek Bharti (23), Gufraan Khan (32), Rajkumar Paswan (27), Tukeshwar Sahu (21), Zed Khan (25), K Srinu (25), Sheikh Saddam (24), Vikas Rai (21), Vikas Nishad (20) and Pratik Patel (20).

Police seized 9 laptops, 46 mobile phones, 107 ATM cards, 23 passbooks, and Rs 2.57 lakh in cash, total assets being valued around Rs 10 lakh. Financial audits revealed transactions exceeding Rs 5 crore. The accused face charges under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) for organized crime and cheating, alongside the Chhattisgarh Gambling Prohibition Act. This marks the 14th major action taken by Durg Police this IPL season.

FAST FACTS

- Mastermind Kunal Verma was arrested for procuring mule accounts from low-income individuals to funnel illicit gambling funds.

Generic Medical Stores to remain open on 20th

Central Chronicle News

BHILAI: In view of the one-day nationwide strike called by the All India Organization of Chemists and Druggists Association on May 20, the Durg district administration has issued an essential health advisory for citizens. Private pharmacies across the district will remain closed to protest online pharmacies, following formal notification by the District Durg Chemist and Druggist Association to the Collector's office.

Following directives from Collector Abhijit Singh, the Food and Drug Administration has urged patients, especially those requiring regular maintenance medications for chronic conditions like diabetes, hypertension, and cardiac ailments, to stock up on life-saving drugs in advance.

To prevent any emergency, the administration has ordered all Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Kendras, Shri Dhanwantari Generic Medical Stores, and government hospital pharmacies to stay mandatory open. The chemist association has also been requested to maintain a humanitarian approach and ensure emergency medicine supplies are not disrupted during the peaceful protest.

HIGHLIGHT

- All government hospital pharmacies, Jan Aushadhi Kendras, and Dhanwantari Generic Stores will remain operational.

NEWSLINE

SECURITY DRIVE

Seven held with weapons

BHILAI: Amid heavy public footfall at the Muslim community's Urs festival under the City Kotwali limits, a joint police team launched a major security sweep to maintain law and order. Officers from City Kotwali, Mohan Nagar, and Padmanabhpur police stations continuously patrolled the venue and intercepted suspicious individuals. During the intensive frisking operation, seven suspects–including individuals from Durg, Rajnandgaon, and Dhamtari–were apprehended carrying illegal sharp-edged weapons. Police seized seven weapons and registered separate cases under the Arms Act and BNS to deter anti-social elements and ensure public safety.

| HIT AND RUN |

Driver arrested for culpable homicide after killing two at red light

Central Chronicle News

BHILAI: The Supela Police arrested 28-year-old Sagar Jaiswal for culpable homicide after his speeding car rammed into motorists at Chandra Maurya Chowk on Sunday afternoon. Driving a black Ford car (CG-07-BR-0571) under the influence, Jaiswal violated a red traffic signal and crashed into two-wheelers waiting at the junction.

The impact killed Noor Khan and Manohar Kumar Gonade, while Salim Ali sustained critical injuries. Jaiswal, a resident of Jamul who has a prior criminal record under the NDPS Act at Mohan Nagar station, fled the scene but was later cornered and arrested by the police. Authorities have seized the vehicle, registering a case under Sections 105, 125(a), and 128 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) alongside the Motor Vehicles Act.

HIGHLIGHT

- The accused, a repeat offender previously arrested under the NDPS Act, jumped a red light in a speeding Ford car, killing two motorists and critically injuring another.

Camps in Bhilai& Jamul today

BHILAI: Under the guidance of Collector Abhijit Singh, the Durg district administration is organizing special 'Sushasan Tihar-2026' public grievance redressal camps on Tuesday, May 19, in Bhilai and Jamul. In Bhilai Municipal Corporation (Zone-02, Vaishali Nagar), the camp will be held at the Housing Board Suryakund Community Hall, covering wards 21 to 25, including Kailash Nagar, Kurud, Ghasidas Nagar, and Jawahar Nagar.

| CBSE RESULTS |

Mar Baselios Vidhya Bhavan achieves stellar results in Class 12th CBSE Exams

Central Chronicle News

BHILAI: Students of Mar Baselios Vidhya Bhavan, Kailash Nagar, Bhilai, delivered an outstanding performance in the CBSE Class 12 examinations. The school achieved a commendable overall pass percentage of 97.63% (including compartment), while registering a perfect 100% pass rate in both the Mathematics and Biology streams.

Gitanjali Dewangan from the Commerce stream emerged as the school topper with an impressive 93.6% , followed closely by Toshi Dilliwar (Biology) at 89.6%, and Sanya Bajaj (Commerce) along with Gargi Janghel (Biology) at 87.8%. Top individual subject scores included Gitanjali Dewangan scoring 98 in both Economics and IP, and Srishti Bharti securing 96 in English.

School Manager Bishop HG Alexios Mar Eusebius Metropolitan, Principal Father Jacob Thomas, and the management congratulated the students and teachers for this remarkable academic milestone.

MOBILE REFUSAL

Son attacks parents with sickle

BHILAI: In a shocking incident in the Jamul police station area of Durg, a youth identified as Rakesh Sahu attacked his parents with a sickle after his father refused to give him a mobile phone. The incident occurred while Dinesh Sahu (50) and Khileshwari Sahu (47) were preparing to take Rakesh for his ongoing medical treatment at Chandulal Chandrakar Medical College in Kurud. Rakesh lost his temper and repeatedly struck his father and mother with the weapon.

| PENDING CASES |

Strict instructions issued on 1,200 pending cases

Central Chronicle News

BHILAI: The Bhilai Municipal Corporation Commissioner and City Project Manager, Rajeev Kumar Pandey, issued strict directives via video conferencing regarding 1,200 pending cases at the State Bank of India's main branch. In compliance, a crucial meeting was held at SBI Sector 1 with the Lead Bank Manager's representative present. Scheme in charge Avinash Harit and Nodal Officer Anil Singh emphasized that all pending applications under the Pradhan Mantri Swanidhi Yojana must be examined and resolved swiftly. Officials stressed that timely approval and disbursement are vital to ensure street vendors and small shopkeepers benefit as intended. They warned that delays undermine the scheme's purpose. Bank representatives assured that a special campaign will be launched to clear all pending cases promptly.

| EXEMPLARY SERVICE |

BSP felicitates 49 firefighters for courageous service

Central Chronicle News

BHILAI: Bhilai Steel Plant organised a felicitation ceremony at its Central Fire Station to honour 49 fire service personnel for exceptional courage and rescue operations during recent major fire incidents. The programme, held under the guidance of Debadatta Satpathy, CGM (Safety & Fire Services), and BK Mahapatra, Chief Fire Officer, recognised the fearless commitment of firefighters who controlled severe outbreaks under hazardous conditions.

Addressing the gathering, Satpathy praised their bravery and urged strict adherence to personal safety and PPE use. Mahapatra presented a technical analysis stressing operational discipline to prevent accidents. Senior officials including SB Dhawas, Addl. CFO, and GSS Kiran, Dy. CFO, attended. The event concluded with a vote of thanks, marking gratitude for their exemplary service.

TRAFFIC POLICE

Injured woman rescued

BHILAI: On Sunday, a traffic patrolling team led by Inspector PD Chandra responded swiftly to a road accident at Rajendra Park Chowk under the Urs Pak area. An e-rickshaw (CG07CR5041) and a Bullet motorcycle (CG09JQ2921) collided at the intersection. A 47-year-old e-rickshaw passenger, Chhaya Tiwari, sustained a leg fracture in the crash. The traffic team immediately placed her in their patrolling vehicle and moved her to the Durg District Hospital for treatment. Both accident vehicles were handed over to the Mohan Nagar police for further legal action.

Green net installed to protect cattle from heat

Central Chronicle News

BHILAI: In Zone 1 Nehru Nagar, Bhilai Municipal Corporation has arranged special facilities at the Gauthan for cattle care. The "Nayi Udaan" women's committee manages the shelter, providing medical services and daily upkeep. At the KosanalaGauthan, stray cattle are housed with water and fodder supplied by the Corporation. Two sheds are being built inside the premises, one already completed and the other nearing completion. Considering the intense summer, green nets have been installed to shield animals from heat, offering relief during peak temperatures. Several cow care volunteers have also donated fodder and nets. Presently, all essential facilities are being provided, and the Corporation has appealed to citizens to contribute fodder and other materials voluntarily for animal welfare.

BMC Commissioner inspects drain widening work

Central Chronicle News

BHILAI: Bhilai Municipal Corporation Commissioner Rajeev Kumar Pandey inspected the ongoing drain returning wall construction and encroachment removal in Zone 01, Nehru Nagar. Accompanied by the zonal team, he cycled through Model Town Vinoba Nagar and MJ College, Junwani, to review progress. He noted that heavy rainfall often causes waterlogging, troubling residents, and emphasized timely completion of the wall to improve drainage. During inspection near MJ College, unauthorized boundary wall and gate construction was found adjacent to Prime Minister Housing.

MISHAP

Biker killed in road accident

BHILAI: A tragic road accident under the Pulgaon police station area claimed the life of a bike rider near the Kotni Shani temple. The deceased has been identified as Chandrika Prasad Joshi (40), a resident of Nagpura village. According to the police, Joshi was returning home on his Hero Honda Deluxe (CG07 LK 2074) on May 16 after finishing his shift at the FCI Godown in Durg. At around 7:06 PM, a speeding car (CG 07 AJ 4596) coming from Nagpura hit his bike. Joshi sustained severe injuries and was rushed to the Durg District Hospital, where doctors declared him dead.

| SUSASAN TIHAR |

SusasanTihar Camp resolves 147 applications in Purai

Central Chronicle News

BHILAI: Under Susasan Tihar 2026, a grievance redressal camp was organized at Government Higher Secondary School, Purai, in Janpad Panchayat Durg. Villagers submitted 441 applications relating to various issues, of which 147 were resolved on the spot. The remaining cases will be addressed within the stipulated timeframe.

Residents from Machandur, Chirpoti, Pauwara, Kodia, Kokdi, Hanoda, Purai, Khopli, Dumardih, Ghughsidih, Umarpoti, Katro, Borigarka, and Kargadih participated, submitting requests at departmental stalls.

Durg Rural MLA Lalit Chandrakar and Collector Abhijeet Singh interacted with villagers, stressing the government's commitment under Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai to deliver welfare schemes transparently and promptly. Beneficiaries received pensions, housing approvals, and symbolic cheques.

Six pregnant women were given nutrition baskets, while three families received certificates under the National Family Assistance scheme. Two elderly citizens were granted pension cheques, one beneficiary received a PMAY approval letter, and six families were handed house keys. Sanitary napkins were distributed to adolescent girls.

'Dial 112 expansion strengthens security'

BHILAI: Chhattisgarh's security framework has received historic reinforcement with the expansion of Dial 112 services. Union Home Minister Amit Shah flagged off nearly 400 advanced Dial 112 vehicles, enhancing law and order and emergency response across the state. Welcoming the initiative, BJP Durg district spokesperson Nitesh Sahu said it reflects the leadership and vision of Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai and Home Minister Vijay Sharma. He emphasized that the double engine government's commitment ensures citizens receive swift and effective assistance.

N-E-W-S

"Railway has launched Rs 400 crore developmental projects in Rajasthan under Amrit Bharat Station Scheme."

Ashwini Vaishnaw
Union Minister

Sufficient crude oil stock available in country: Govt

Government assures stable fuel supply, sufficient reserves, and normal refinery operations despite West Asia crisis-related import disruptions.

Press Trust Of India

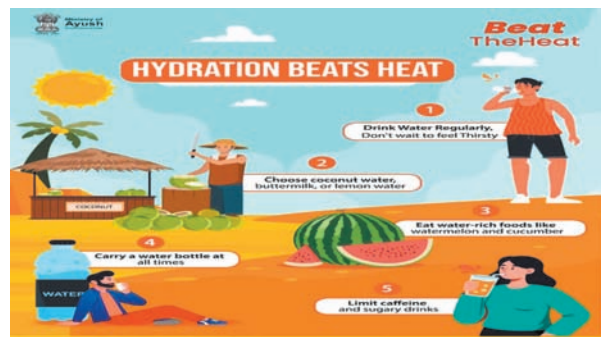
NEW DELHI: The government has said that refineries in the country are operating normally and India has sufficient crude inventories despite the import disruption due to the ongoing West Asia crisis. Addressing the Inter-Ministerial Briefing in New Delhi today on Recent Developments in West Asia, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Sujata Sharma said that the country has sufficient stock of petrol, diesel, LPG and natural gas. She highlighted that no dry outs have been reported in any LPG distributorship but due to the spreading of rumours, panic buying has been observed in some parts of the country. She informed that immediate actions are being taken to replenish the supplies at the identified retail LPG outlets. The Secretary said that over seven lakh PNG connections have been gasified since March, adding that infrastructure has been created for two lakh seventy six thousand connections. The Secretary also highlighted that in

the last four days around one lakh seventy two thousand domestic LPG cylinders were delivered in the country. She said that since the start of this month, around one lakh eight thousand tonnes of commercial LPG were sold. The Secretary further noted that over one lakh ninety thousand 5 kg cylinders were sold in the last four days. Joint Secretary, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Aparna S Sharma said that availability of fertilizer for the Kharif season is more than 50 percent across the states. The Joint Secretary said that over two hundred Lakh Metric Tonnes of fertilizers is available across the country. She clarified that there has been no change in Maximum Retail Price of major fertilizers. She said that domestic production after the crisis period has been substantial, about 86.2 Lakh Metric Tonnes and more than 22 Lakh Metric Tonnes of imports have reached the shore.

HIGHLIGHT

- India has adequate petrol, diesel, LPG stocks; refineries operating normally nationwide.
- Over 1.72 lakh LPG cylinders delivered in four days ensuring supply stability.

Heatwave advisory issued as temp soars in north India



Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Amid rising temperatures and intensifying heatwave conditions across several parts of the country, the Ministry of Ayush, in coordination with the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), has issued a comprehensive public health advisory to help citizens protect themselves from extreme heat and heat-related illnesses.

The advisory comes as the India Meteorological Department (IMD) forecast severe heat and dry weather across Delhi-NCR and several northern and central states till May 23, with temperatures in the national capital region (NCR) likely to touch 45 degrees Celsius.

DELHI

Major cyber fraud racket busted

Delhi Police has busted a large interstate cyber fraud racket operating through fake investment schemes and online trading platforms. According to official inputs, the accused allegedly targeted individuals across multiple states by creating fraudulent applications promising high returns on stock and crypto investments. Victims were induced to transfer money into multiple shell accounts controlled by the gang. Police officials stated that the network used sophisticated digital tools, VPNs, and fake customer support numbers to avoid detection.

MUMBAI

Drug trafficking module exposed

Mumbai Police has uncovered a drug trafficking module operating through courier networks and private delivery channels. Officials reported that the gang was allegedly involved in distributing banned narcotic substances across Maharashtra and nearby states. Acting on intelligence inputs, police carried out coordinated raids in multiple city locations. Large quantities of suspected narcotics, packaging materials, and digital transaction records were seized. Investigators believe the network was operating in a structured manner using coded communication to evade surveillance. Preliminary interrogation indicates that the group sourced drugs from outside the state and distributed them through small local agents.

CHENNAI

Fake job scam network exposed

Chennai Cyber Crime Police has exposed a fake job recruitment scam that targeted unemployed youth through social media platforms and online advertisements. The accused allegedly promised overseas employment opportunities in exchange for registration fees and processing charges.

| ASHA WORKERS |

'UDF's hike for ASHA workers falls short of poll promise'

Press Trust Of India

Balagopal, said the UDF had assured ASHA workers that their demands would be addressed, if the alliance came to power.

KOTTAYAM: Hours after the new UDF government in Kerala announced a Rs 3,000 increase in the honorarium of ASHA workers, former Finance Minister K N Balagopal on Monday criticised the move, saying

it fell short of the promises made by the Congress-led front during the Assembly election campaign. In a Facebook post, Balagopal, a CPI(M) leader, said the UDF had assured ASHA workers that their demands would be addressed in the very first Cabinet meeting if the alliance came to power. The workers had staged a months-long protest in front of the Secretariat during the previous Left government, demanding that their monthly honorarium be raised to Rs 21,000 and that a retirement benefit of Rs 5 lakh be introduced. "However, after assuming power, the action taken by him turned out to be a huge disappointment. What has now been announced is only a Rs 3,000 increase," the Kottarakkara MLA wrote, referring to Chief Minister V D Satheesan.

ATM fraud gang busted

KOLKATA: The state police have arrested members of an ATM fraud gang involved in cloning debit cards and stealing cash from unsuspecting customers. The gang allegedly installed skimming devices on ATM machines to capture card data and PIN information. According to officials, the accused were operating across multiple districts and using fake identities to withdraw money from victims' accounts. Several cloned cards, electronic devices, and cash were recovered during police raids.

| BETTING GANG |

Cyber-crime police get breakthrough: Online betting racket busted

Press Trust Of India

HYDERABAD: Cybercrime police in Hyderabad have successfully dismantled a large online betting and gambling racket that was operating across multiple digital platforms and targeting users through social media advertisements and messaging applications. According to verified reports from law enforcement agencies, the racket had been functioning through a network of coordinated handlers who promoted

illegal betting applications disguised as investment or gaming platforms promising high returns. Following weeks of surveillance and digital tracking, police arrested several individuals linked to the operation and seized mobile phones, laptops, bank account details, and digital payment records used for collecting funds from victims. Investigations revealed that the network was operating across multiple states and had created a structured system for onboarding users, processing payments, and distributing illegal profits among operators.

Civic body elections in Kullu

People stand in queue to cast their vote at a polling station during the Civic body elections, in Kullu, Himachal Pradesh.

| DELHI JAL BOARD |

BJP MLA Satish Upadhyay nominated as Delhi Jal Board vice-chairman

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Former president of Delhi BJP and party MLA Satish Upadhyay has been nominated as the vice-chairman of the Delhi Jal Board (DJB), according to an official statement on Monday.

For almost a year since the BJP government came to power, the post of

vice-chairman of the DJB had been lying vacant. Along with Upadhyay, two party MLAs -- Manoj Kumar Shokeen and Ajay Mahawar -- have been nominated as members of the Board. "Members are hereby informed that Speaker, Delhi Legislative Assembly, is pleased to nominate the following MLAs as Vice Chairman and Members to Delhi Water Board as per the provisions of Delhi Water Board Act, 1998," the order said.

Speaker Vijender Gupta said their public experience and institutional understanding would contribute meaningfully towards strengthening the functioning of the Board and improving responsiveness to public concerns.

Tribunal orders Rs 30.44 lakh compensation to kin of man killed

THANE: The Motor Accident Claims Tribunal in Maharashtra's Thane has awarded a compensation of Rs 30.44 lakh to the family of a 37-year-old man killed in a road accident in 2022. In its order of May 11, a copy of which was made available on Sunday, the tribunal directed an insurance company to release the amount to the claimants first and

subsequently recover it from the party at fault. Victim Hazrat Ali Ishtiyak Ahmad, a driver, was hit by a motorcycle while walking along the Bhiwandi-Wada road on July 11, 2022. He succumbed to his injuries the next day. Advocate UR Vishwakarma appeared for Ahmad's family, while Advocate HG Patil represented the owner of the vehicle. The insurance company was represented by Advocate KV Poojari. The insurer claimed pedestrian negligence, but the tribunal dismissed the argument, noting that no evidence of contributory negligence on the part of the deceased was presented to it.

Vehicle theft ring dismantled

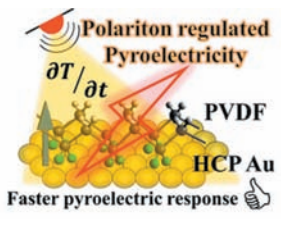
BENGALURU: Bengaluru Police has dismantled a vehicle theft ring responsible for stealing two-wheelers and cars across the city. Officials stated that the gang specialized in modifying stolen vehicles and selling them in neighboring districts. Police recovered multiple stolen vehicles during coordinated raids.

| ELECTRONICS |

Ultrathin films may power future electronics

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Scientists from Institute of Nano Science and Technology have developed an ultrathin flexible film embedded with nano-gold particles that can convert tiny temperature changes into electrical signals, opening possibilities for self-powered sensors and wearable electronic



devices. The research, supported by the Department of Science and Technology, focuses on developing lightweight, flexible and low-power materials capable of harvesting thermal energy for next-generation smart devices. The team, led by Prof. Dipankar Mandal along with researcher Sudip Naskar and collaborators, engineered ultrathin films using polyvinylidene fluoride (PVDF), a flexible polymer commonly used in electronics and sensing technologies.

Central Chronicle APPOINTMENT

SBI
State Bank of India
Central Recruitment & Promotion Department
Corporate Centre, Mumbai
Phone: 022-22820427

Scan QR to Apply

Recruitment of Specialist Cadre Officers on Regular Basis

Applications are invited from eligible Indian citizens for the following post on Regular basis:

Advertisement No.: CRPD/SCO/2026-27/05 (Regular position)

Name of Post	Number of vacancies	Grade
Trade Finance Officer	100	MMGS-II

For eligibility criteria (age, experience, job profile etc.), vacancy details, requisite fees, other details and for online submission of application as well as online payment of application fees log on to Bank's website https://sbi.bank.in/web/careers/current-openings. Refer detailed advertisement to ensure eligibility and other details before applying and remitting fees. For any query, please write to us through link "CONTACT US" → "Post Your Query" which is available on Bank's official website (https://sbi.bank.in/web/careers/post-your-query)

- DATE FOR FILING ONLINE APPLICATION & PAYMENT OF FEES: FROM 13.05.2026 to 02.06.2026.

Place: Mumbai
Date: 13.05.2026
General Manager (RP & PM)

Central Chronicle APPOINTMENT

DEV SANSKRITI COLLEGE OF EDUCATION & TECHNOLOGY
Khapri, Durg (C.G.) Mb.-7400606011

REQUIRED

Applications are invited for appointment under statute-28 of the University Durg (C.G.)

Sr. No	Name of Post	No. of Post	Qualification
1	Principal	01	1. Ph.D. Degree 2. Prof./ Asst. Prof. with a total service/ exp. of at least 15 years teaching/ research in Univ., Colleges and other institutions of high. edu. 3. A minimum of 10 research public in peer-reviewed or UGC- listed journals. 4. A minimum of 110 research score as per Appendix – II, Table – 2.
2	Professor in Education Or Associate Professor in Education (as HOD)	01	1. PG degree in Sc./Maths/Soc. Sc./Comm./Languages with minimum 55% marks. 2. M.Ed. with minimum 55% marks. 3. Ph.D. in Edu. 4. Ten years of teaching exp. in a teacher edu. institution for professor & 8 year for associate professor. 5. Any other relevant qualification prescribed by the UGC for these categories of posts. **Desirable:** Diploma or Degree in educational adm. or leadership.
3	Assistant Professor (Physics, Chemistry, Botany, Zoology)	04	1. A Master Degree with 55% marks (or an equivalent grade in a point scale wherever the grading system is followed) in concerned/ relevant/ allied subject. 2. Besides fulfilling the above qualification, the candidate must have cleared the NET conducted by the UGC or the CSIR, or a similar test accredited by the UGC, like SLET/SET or who are or have been awarded a Ph.D. Degree in accordance with the UGC (Minimum Standards and Procedure for Award of M. Phil/ Ph.D. Degree) Regulations, 2009 or 2016 and their amendments from time to time as the case may be exempted from NET/SLET/SET.
4	Assistant Professor (Computer Science)	02	**UGC Norms :-** 1. A Master Degree with 55% marks (or an equivalent grade in a point scale wherever the grading system is followed) in concerned/ relevant/ allied subject. 2. Besides fulfilling the above qualification, the candidate must have cleared the NET conducted by the UGC or the CSIR, or a similar test accredited by the UGC, like SLET/SET or who are or have been awarded a Ph.D. Degree in accordance with the UGC (Minimum Standards and Procedure for Award of M. Phil/ Ph.D. Degree) Regulations, 2009 or 2016 and their amendments from time to time as the case may be exempted from NET/SLET/SET. **AICTE Norms :-** B.E./B.Tech./B.S. & ME/ M.Tech./M.S. or integrated M.Tech. in relevant branch with first class or equivalent in any one of the degrees. **OR** B.E./ B.Tech. & MCA with first class or equivalent any one of the two degrees. **OR** Graduation of 3 years duration with maths as a compulsory subject & MCA with first class or equivalent with 2 years of relevant experience after acquiring degree of MCA.
5	Lab Assistant	01	BCA with 55% marks
6	Lab Attendants/ Helpers / Support Staff	04	Passed in 10+2 in relevant subject. (Physics, Chemistry, Botany, Zoology)

Note:- Pay scale as per UGC & CG state norms and their amendments from time to time.
Director

With shifting of CHC Churiya in new building, the health services will immprove and better health facilities would be available to citizens.

SN Rathore
Div. Comm. Rajnandgaon

Raipur Region

Dalit women denied PM-AJAY bank benefits

The PM-AJAY scheme, designed to help Dalit women financially, is not being implemented efficiently.

Central Chronicle News

CHHURA: Under the directions of the Prime Minister for the upliftment and economic empowerment of Dalit women, the "Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jati Abhyuday Yojana" (PM-AJAY) is being implemented in Gariaband district of Chhattisgarh through the District Antya Vyavasayi Cooperative Society Ltd. Application forms under the scheme are currently being distributed to eligible beneficiaries. Applicants are required to submit several documents, including an affidavit, Patwari report, income certificate, caste and domicile certificates verified by the village Sarpanch, Aadhaar card, ration card, bank passbook, and a notarized declaration along with a photocopy of the receipt of the 11 application fee. These applications are deposited in the concerned bank branches where the applicants maintain accounts.

The matter has also been brought to the attention of the Director of the Chhattisgarh Antya Vyavasayi Cooperative Finance and Development Corporation, Raipur, and the Lead Bank, Bank of Baroda, Gariaband. Under the scheme, the District Antya Vyavasayi Cooperative Development Committee facilitates loans for small business activities such as vegetable vending, fancy stores, food stalls, and clothing shops.

Several Dalit women from Barhali village in Devbhog Block, including Nu Wadi Pradhan, Lalit Bai Pradhan, Lalit Harpal, Hara Bai Pradhan, Ashtami Pradhan, and Palo Bai Pradhan, submitted their loan applications through Chhattisgarh Gramin Bank. Similarly, in Manpur Block, applicants Sangita Sona from Dhodra village and Namita Pradhan from the Scheduled Caste community submitted applications through Union Bank's Urmal branch.

According to the applicants, Chhattisgarh Gramin Bank Branch Manager Varun Dewangan visited Barhali village for inspection. During the visit, the women reportedly showed their shops, vending carts, and the places where they intended to run their businesses. Despite this verification, the applicants allege that the Branch Manager has been refusing to approve the loans based on personal assumptions and doubts.

FACTFILE

- Many regional bank managers have shut out these women due to personal biases.

The applicants further claim that the manager raised concerns over incomplete housing work in the village, including unfinished toilets and drainage systems, and expressed apprehension that the beneficiaries might use the loan amount for house construction instead of business purposes. Villagers argue that such reasoning is delaying financial support meant for poor Dalit women trying to become self-reliant.

Meanwhile, residents have also alleged that officials of the Union Bank branch in Urmal have not conducted proper site inspections. The beneficiaries say that delays in loan approval are affecting their chances of starting small businesses and improving their financial condition.

JCB, four hyvas seized illegal mining

RAJNANDGAON: Acting on the directives of Collector Jitendra Yadav, the Department of Minerals has intensified action against illegal excavation, storage, and transportation of minerals in Rajnandgaon district. As part of this drive, surprise inspections were carried out in Dhara and Mohara villages (Dongargarh Development Block), and Thelkadih, Iraikala, and Ghumka areas under Rajnandgaon tehsil. During the inspections, officials seized one JCB machine and four Hyva trucks involved in the illegal extraction and transportation of sand and murrum.

Worker removed after viral alcohol video

RAJNANDGAON: An outsourced contract employee posted at the Somni Sub-station under the Chhattisgarh State Power Distribution Company Limited has been removed from duty following a viral video showing him allegedly hosting an alcohol party during duty hours. Assistant Engineer (Sub-Division) Rajesh Kumar Sahu issued directions for the immediate removal of the employee, Dhanesh Deshmukh, and ordered that a qualified and competent replacement be appointed in his place.

Three arrested, including minor, robbery attack

ARANG: Three persons, including a minor, have been arrested and sent to jail in connection with a knife attack and robbery on a motorcyclist under Arang police station limits.

According to police, complainant Devanarayan Dahariya reported on May 15, 2026, that his younger brother Chandraprakash Dahariya was travelling on a motorcycle with his five-year-old son to Tuta village in Abhanpur when the incident occurred. Around 3 pm near the Mokhla road canal embankment at Sonpairi Bhantha, three youths allegedly blocked his path, stabbed him with a knife, and looted his mobile phone and cash. Following the complaint, police formed a special team and arrested Mukesh Nagarchi alias Kumkum (20) of Shitalapara, Kuleshwar Dhruv (22) of Paragaon, and a minor from Gobra Nawapara area.

| BULLDOZER RAZES ENCROACHMENTS IN KHAIRAGARH |

Bulldozers demolish illegal structures in Khairagarh crackdown

Central Chronicle News

KHAIRAGARH: A major anti-encroachment drive was launched in Khairagarh on Saturday amid growing concerns over illegal occupation of public spaces and worsening traffic congestion in the city. Acting under directives from the district administration, a joint team comprising officials from the Revenue Department, Municipality, and Police conducted a large-scale operation to clear encroachments from key roads and public areas.

The drive covered several busy stretches, including the area near the Court Complex, Atal Chowk, and the route from Durga Chowk to Tempo Chowk. During the operation, officials removed temporary structures such as roadside platforms, pushcarts, and other unauthorized setups that had been occupying public land and obstructing traffic movement.

Particular attention was given to the area surrounding a premium liquor shop on the main road, where the growing number of illegal snack stalls and pushcarts had led to severe congestion in the evenings. Officials reported that crowds gathering at these "chakhna" stalls were disrupting vehicular movement and increasing the risk of road accidents. As part of the action, both temporary pushcarts and permanent concrete platforms built illegally in front of shops were demolished. Street vendors, including fruit sellers operating along the roadside, were also cleared.

The Municipal administration has issued a final warning to vendors operating gupchup (pani puri) stalls and other temporary shops along main roads, directing them to voluntarily remove their encroachments by Sunday. Chief Municipal Officer Puneet Kumar Verma stated that strict action, including fines and demolition, will be taken against violators after the deadline.

FACTFILE

- Many illegal encroachments were razed to the ground during the operation.

Sub-Divisional Magistrate Tankeshwar Prasad Sahu said the drive will continue in the coming days under the guidance of Collector Indrajit Singh Chandrawal. He added that special enforcement operations will also be conducted on holidays, and penalties will be imposed for illegal parking and roadside encroachments. Officials have also instructed removal of improperly parked passenger buses at Tempo Chowk, directing them to use designated stops to ensure smoother traffic flow.

| CONGRESS' PROTEST OVER PETROL & DIESEL PRICES |

Congress stages fuel price protest Pithora

Central Chronicle News

PITHORA: Amid rising inflation and increased prices of petrol and diesel, the Pithora Congress staged a protest at a petrol pump on Bagbahara Road, raising slogans against the Central Government. Party workers and leaders expressed strong opposition to the continuous rise in fuel prices, which they said has placed an additional burden on the common people.

Former Janpad Vice-President Mukesh Yadav said the government, which came to power promising to control inflation, has instead allowed prices to reach record levels. He stated that the protest was not limited to party interests but reflected the suffering of ordinary citizens struggling to manage daily expenses. He added that rising fuel prices directly impact the cost of essential commodities, worsening the financial condition of households. He also criticised both the Central Government and the state government in Chhattisgarh, alleging failure in controlling inflation. Block Congress Committee President Karan Singh Diwan said the agitation against inflation would continue in the coming days.

> **"The very government which came to power on the promise of fighting inflation has, under its rule, shattered all previous records of high prices."**
>
> **Mukesh Yadav**
> Former Janpad Vice-President

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

CONGRESS' FOOT MARCH IN MANDIR HASOUD

Chandkhuri Congress workers hold foot march against inflation protest

MANDIR HASOUD: Under the leadership of the Mandir Hasoud Block Congress Committee (Chandkhuri), a large number of Congress workers staged a protest against the rising prices of petrol, diesel, and cooking gas. The demonstration began from the main square of Mandir Hasoud and proceeded on foot to the Chawla Petrol Pump, where the protesters raised slogans against inflation and the BJP-led governments at the Centre and in the State. Carrying party flags, banners, and placards, the workers alleged that the continuous rise in fuel and essential commodity prices has severely burdened the common people. They claimed that citizens are being forced to stand in long queues to purchase fuel and cooking gas, reflecting the worsening economic situation.

AWARDED

Pithora youth Yuvraj Sinha earns BSc Agriculture honours degree

PITHORA: Pithora resident Yuvraj Sinha has brought pride to his region by being awarded a Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) in Agriculture (Honours) degree at the 11th Convocation Ceremony of Indira Gandhi Agricultural University (IGKV), Raipur. He completed his degree with an overall score of 70.09%, marking a significant academic achievement in the field of agricultural studies. Yuvraj pursued his four-year undergraduate programme at the Shaheed Gundadhur College of Agriculture and Research Station, Jagdalpur, which functions under Indira Gandhi Agricultural University, Raipur. His consistent academic performance and dedication throughout the course enabled him to successfully complete the programme with commendable results. He is the son of Krishna Kumar Sinha and Kusum Sinha. Speaking after receiving his degree, Yuvraj expressed happiness and gratitude, stating that his success was the result of continuous hard work, discipline, and determination. He credited his achievement to the constant guidance of his professors, the encouragement of his friends, and the unwavering support and blessings of his parents, who stood by him throughout his academic journey.

ARRESTED

Police arrest two youths for committing armed robbery case

KHARORA: Raipur Rural Police have busted a robbery gang involved in targeting passersby and have arrested two biological brothers in connection with the case. The police have also recovered stolen mobile phones, an ATM card, the motorcycle used in the crime, and an illegal knife used to threaten victims during the incident.

According to police, the case was reported at Kharora Police Station on May 15. The complainant stated that on May 14 at around 9:30 pm, he and his companion Shubham Dhruvanshi were travelling on a motorcycle from Saragaon to Pavni after refuelling. Near Nilja Mod close to a bamboo depot in Saragaon village, two unidentified men on a motorcycle intercepted them. The accused allegedly threatened them and robbed a Vivo Y181 mobile phone worth about 8,000, an SBI ATM card kept in its cover, and 1,200 in cash. They also snatched a Vivo Y31 Pro mobile phone worth around 12,000 from the complainant's companion before fleeing the spot.

Following the complaint, senior police officials directed a special team under the Kharora Station In-charge to investigate the matter.

CONGRESS' NOVEL PROTEST IN DHAMDHA

Congress stages unique protest with oxen and motorcycles demonstration

DHAMDHA: In Dhamdha, Congress workers staged a strong protest against rising prices of petrol, diesel, and overall inflation. The demonstration was held at a local petrol pump, where party workers raised slogans against the Central Government and highlighted the burden of increasing fuel prices on the common people.

A striking feature of the protest was the symbolic demonstration by party leaders. Block Youth Congress President Raj Patel arrived at the petrol pump pushing a motorcycle, symbolising the impact of high fuel prices. Similarly, District Congress Committee (Rural) President Rakesh Thakur drew attention by arriving while pulling a motorcycle and wearing a traditional ox-yoke, staging a unique protest against inflation.

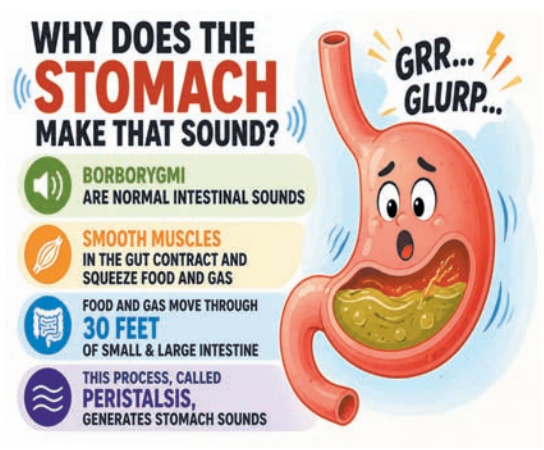
Addressing the gathering, Rakesh Thakur blamed the Central Government and Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the continuous rise in fuel prices and inflation. He said that government policies have increased the financial burden on the poor and middle class.

District General Secretary-in-charge Rajiv Gupta stated that farmers are already facing a shortage of fertilizers during the crucial agricultural season, and rising diesel prices have further worsened their situation. He said inflation has severely affected farming operations and accused both Central and State governments of failure.

Block Congress President Shivkumar Verma also criticized the government, saying the rising cost of fuel has led to increased prices of essential goods, impacting farmers, labourers, and small traders the most.

Fun&Focus

TELL ME WHY?



The noises your stomach makes, called borborygmi, are normal intestinal sounds that occur during the digestive process. "The smooth muscles that line the gut contract and squeeze food and gas through 30 feet of small intestine and large intestine. This process, called peristalsis, generates stomach sounds.

1) In which city of the country has Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah started the MBBS course in Hindi for the first time?
2) Who was the Commissioner of Census 2011?
3) The Election Commission has started a year-long voter awareness program on All India Radio. What is the name of this program?
4) The first census of independent India was conducted in 1951, how many questions were included in it?
5) What do the numbers of dots on all six faces of a dice add up to?
6) In which film would you meet the characters named Zazu, Rafiki and Sarabi?
7) World Heritage Day (International Day for Monuments and Sites) is observed every year on which day?

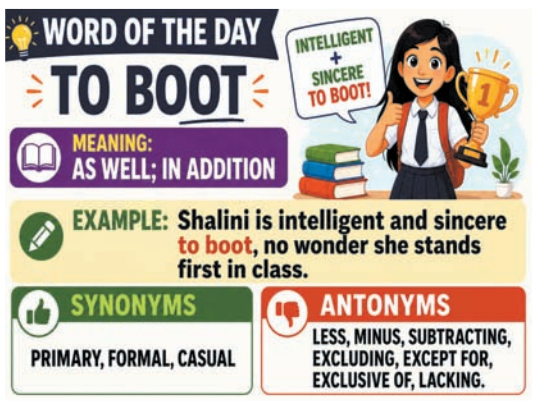
ANSWERS- (1) Bhopal (2) C Chandramouli (3) Voter Jackson (4) 14 (5) 21 (6) Disney's animated classic, The Lion King (7) April 18

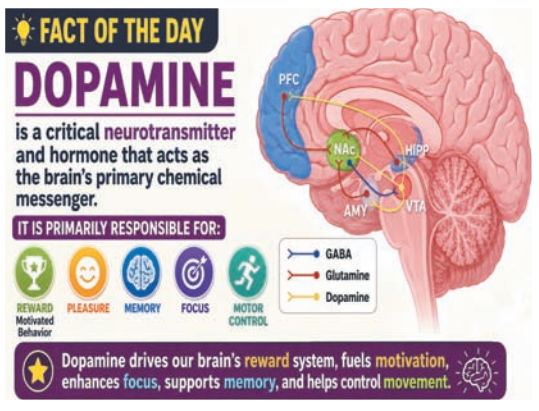
– Rama Quiz

THE FIVE FAQ

1) It is the first train in India which provides free wi-fi access_____.
2) The Rajdhani Express was introduced on 03 Mar, 1969 from New Delhi to _____.
3) Contact lenses are manufactured_____.
4) The place inspired Rudyard Kipling to write his famous novel Jungle Book in_____.
5) On 05th January 1971 between Australia and England played this game first time_____.

ANSWERS- (1) Howrah-New Delhi Rajdhani Exp, (2) Howrah, (3) Silicon-hydrogel, (4) Kanha National Park, (5) One day international cricket match.





SCIENCE WATCH

Lipstick is master class in colloid chemistry

Lipstick is composed of a precise matrix of waxes for structure, oils for moisture and finely dispersed pigments for colour. It acts as a hydrophobic barrier, engineered to remain solid at room temperature while melting to the lips.

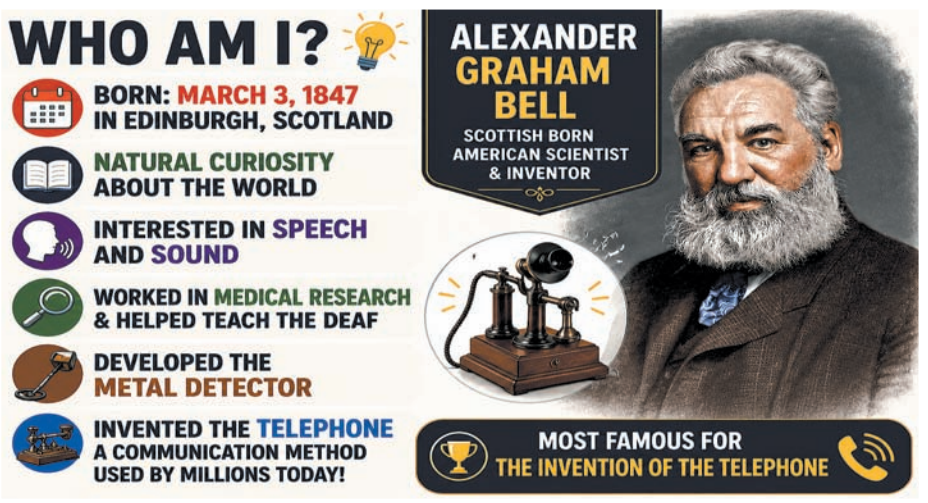
She loved her red

Vibrant colours include iron oxides used for red and brown hues, and titanium dioxide for opacity and lighter shades. Iconic actress Audrey Hepburn was known for her subtle red lipstick, which she carried in almost all of her films

Longevity lipsticks have film formers

Long-wear and transfer-proof lipsticks utilize film-forming polymers and resins. Once the lipstick is applied to the lips, volatile carrier oils evaporate; leaving behind water-resistant polymer net that locks the colour. However lipsticks are older than Queen Cleopatra herself.

1) Prioritize Quality Sleep: Aim for 7 to 9 hours of restorative rest. Good sleep sharpens memory, stabilizes mood, and boosts immune function.
2) Stay Hydrated: Drink plenty of water throughout the day to support your metabolism, maintain energy levels, and keep your skin healthy.
3) Move Your Body: Dedicate time for physical activity, whether it's a brisk 30-minute walk, yoga, or stretching. Regular movement builds endurance and reduces the risk of chronic disease.
4) Eat a Balanced Diet: Focus on whole foods, lean proteins, and plenty of greens while swapping out heavy, sugary snacks for fresh fruits.
5) Manage Screen Time: Set boundaries for your devices–especially before bed or right after waking up–to reduce digital fatigue and free up time for personal growth.
6) Practice Mindfulness or Meditation: Take 5 to 10 minutes daily for deep breathing or meditation to center your mind, lower anxiety, and increase daily focus.
7) Read and Learn Daily: Keep your mind active and delay cognitive decline by reading books, articles, or learning a new skill every day.
8) Establish a Morning Routine: Create a structured start to your day to avoid decision fatigue and boost productivity.
9) Maintain Personal Hygiene: Practice consistent self-care, such as washing hands frequently and brushing teeth twice a day, to prevent illness.
10) Practice Gratitude: Take a moment each day to reflect on what you are thankful for to improve emotional health and promote a positive outlook.



I was born on March the third 1847 in Edinburgh. As a child I displayed natural curiosity of the world. My family was long associated with the teaching of elocution. My father published The Standard Elocutionist. Although I was unable to complete my university programme, I received numerous Honorary Degrees. I had a particular interest in speech and sound. I worked extensively in medical research and invented techniques for teaching speech to the deaf. In 1881 I developed the metal detector. I experimented with electricity and sound. I developed an acoustic telegraph and drew up a patent application for it. I was the person who invented a communications method used by nearly everyone today. I am a Scottish born American scientist and inventor, most famous for the development of the telephone.

Answer- Alexander Graham Bell

Daily Horoscope

Aries
Support of highly influential people will give a big boost to your moral. If you feel that you do not have enough money, then seek the advice from an elder regarding money management and savings. Children might seek your help to complete school projects. Lovers will excessively be considerate of family feelings.

Taurus
Your jealous behaviour may make you sad and depressed. But it is a self-inflicted injury so there is no need to lament about this. Motive yourself to get rid this by sharing other's joy and unhappiness. An old friend can ask you for financial help today. However, your assistance can weaken your financial conditions.

Gemini
Throw away the gloom- which is enveloping you and disrupting your progress. A colleague of your office can steal one of your valuable items today. Hence, you need to remain careful and keep your items in check. Your pleasant behaviour would enlighten the family life. Few people can resist an individual with such a sincere smile.

Cancer
Health related problems might bring discomfort. Together with your spouse, you can discuss finances and plan your wealth for your future. Visiting guests occupy your evenings. Your devoted and unquestioned love has a magic creative power. A good day for implementing plans and signing new ventures. You need to move out and rub elbows with people at high places.

Leo
Share the family problems with your wife. Spend some amount of time for each other to rediscover and reaffirm yourself as a loving nurturant couple. Your children too will catch the vibrations of joys and peace harmony at home. This will give you greater spontaneity and freedom in your interaction with each other. Planetary placement doesn't seem favourable for you today in regard with money matters.

Virgo
Likely to get a happy news. You should not invest your money today without consulting anyone. Think before sharing your confidential information with your spouse. If possible, try to avoid as she might reveal it to someone else. Power of love gives you a reason to love. You need to use your contacts to get around seemingly difficult issues.

Libra
No need to worry about you health today. People around you will lift your morale and spirits. Investment should be avoided today. Someone close to you will be in a highly unpredictable mood. Difficult to kill your time without beloved. Looks like your seniors at work are acting angelic today. You can watch any web series on your mobile in free time today.

Scorpio
Your tremendous effort and timely support by family members would bring desired results. But keep working hard to maintain current spirit going. Those who still haven't received their salaries can get worried regarding money matters, and ask any of their friends for a loan. Your witty nature would brighten the environment around you.

Sagittarius
Avoid high calorie diet to keep yourself fit and fine Today you should focus on issues related to land, real estate, or cultural projects. Do not neglect your social life. Take some time from your busy schedule and go out to attend the party with your family. It will not only relieve your pressure but also remove your hesitation.

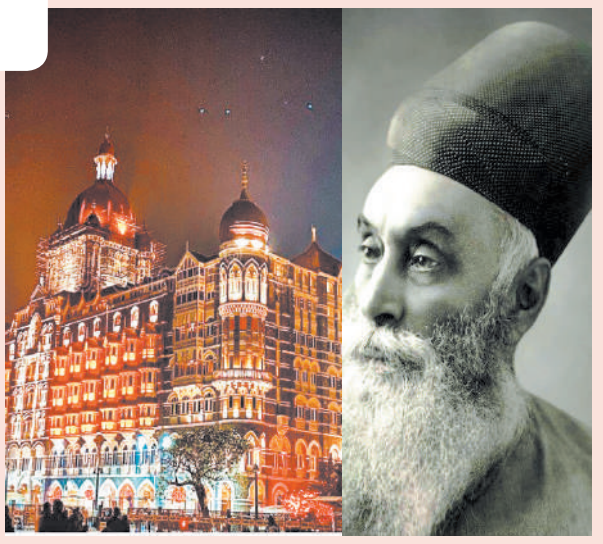
Capricorn
A wonderful day to do things that would make you feel good about yourself. Due to the placement of the Moon, your money can be spent on unnecessary things. If you wish to accumulate wealth, then talk to your spouse or parents about it. Your witty nature would brighten the environment around you. Your sweetheart is going to become your living angel today; cherish the moments.

Aquarius
Incase you have been feeling frustrated recently- you should remember that right actions and thoughts today will bring much needed relief. Investment made today will enhance your prosperity and financial security. Family responsibilities will mount, bringing tension on your mind. Relive your precious moments by going on a picnic with your beloved.

Pisces
You may control your weight by exercising. You can acquire money from an unknown source today, which will resolve many of your financial troubles. You will find friends supportive- but be careful of what you say. Sky will look brighter, flowers will seem more colorful, everything will shimmer around you; because you are in love! Backlog of correspondence will need top priority.

May 19 marks major historical moments, including the birth anniversary of the prominent 1857 Uprising leader Nana Saheb Peshwa II and the passing of visionary industrialist Jamsetji Tata.

Same day in 1954, the Government of India established the National Film Board to promote the growth and development of Indian cinema, while in 1971: The Indian Navy's first submarine base, Veer Bahu, was officially commissioned in Visakhapatnam.



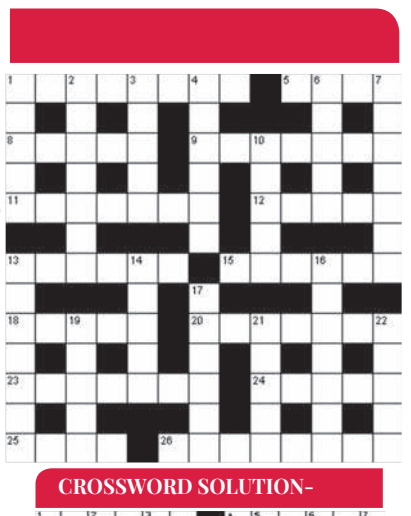
The day also saw the 1536 execution of Anne Boleyn, the 1962 "Happy Birthday, Mr. President" performance by Marilyn Monroe, and the 1862 signing of the U.S. Homestead Act.

It also marks the 1780 "Dark Day" in New England, the 1802 founding of the French Legion of Honour, and the 2009 end of the Sri Lankan Civil War.

In 1780, May 19, a mysterious, deep darkness covers the New England sky, known as New England's Dark Day and in 1963; same day Martin Luther King Jr.'s "Letter from Birmingham Jail" is published.

Across
1 Computer programs (8)
5 Aid in crime (4)
8 Fairytale monster (5)
9 Give evidence (7)
11 Light rain (7)
12 Electronic sound reproduction (5)
13 Spirit distilled from wine (6)
15 Prepared for publication (6)
18 Grown-up (5)
20 Dig up (7)
23 Uncharged atomic particle (7)
24 Great fear (5)
25 Yellow part of an egg (4)
26 Good-looking (8)

Down
1 Located (5)
2 U.S. state (7)
3 Ballroom dance (5)
4 Putrid (6)
6 Sightless (5)
7 Gland in the neck (7)
10 Sedate (5)
13 Flattery or cajoling talk (7)
14 Dissuade (5)
16 Submarine weapon (7)
17 Obsolete gold coin (6)
19 Normal (5)
21 Finished (5)
22 Be evasive (5)



SUDOKU-

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

CROSSWORD SOLUTION-

SUDOKU SOLUTION-

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

DAILY WORD SEARCH

ACCOUNT
ATM
BALANCE
BANK
BRANCH
CARD
CHARGE
CHECK
CREDIT
DEBIT
DEPOSIT
INTEREST
LOAN
OVERDRAFT
SAVINGS
SIGNATURE
STATEMENT
STUB
TRANSFER
WIRE
WITHDRAWAL

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

Business

Muthoot FinCorp to dilute minimum 10 pc stake in IPO.

Shaji Varghese
CEO, Muthoot FinCorp

The Joint Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Ms. Sujata Sharma addressing at the Inter- Ministerial Briefing on Recent Developments in West Asia at National Media Centre, in New Delhi on May 18.

India stands firm on Russian oil imports: Sujata

India signals uninterrupted Russian crude purchases, citing stable supplies, affordable pricing, energy security priorities, and compliance with non-sanctioned trade channels.

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: India has been purchasing Russian oil irrespective of US sanctions waivers and will continue to do so based on commercial viability and energy security needs, a senior petroleum ministry official said on Monday. "Regarding the American waiver on Russia, I would like to emphasise that we have been purchasing from Russia earlier, before waiver also, during waiver also, and now also," Sujata Sharma, joint secretary in the petroleum ministry, told reporters at a media briefing. Sharma said India's crude sourcing decisions were driven primarily by commercial considerations and adequate supply availability. "It is basically the commercial sense which should be there for us to purchase," she said, adding that there was no shortage of crude supplies and enough volumes had been tied up through long-term arrangements.

NUMBER

16

- India prioritises energy security and commercial interests despite expiry of temporary American sanctions waiver provisions recently.

A temporary US sanctions waiver allowing the sale and delivery of Russian seaborne crude expired on May 16, marking the second time Washington has allowed the relief measure to lapse without clarity on an extension.

The general licence, first issued by the US Treasury Department in mid-March and extended in April, was meant to ease pressure in global energy markets after the US-Israeli war against Iran triggered the largest-ever oil supply disruption.

"Whatever waiver or no waiver, it (availability) will not affect," Sharma said. Discounted Russian crude had risen to become the core of India's oil import basket since 2022, when Moscow's invasion of Ukraine triggered sweeping western sanctions and disrupted Russia's traditional export markets.

HDFC Bank may seek extension for Interim Chairman Keki Mistry

Agency

HDFC Bank likely to seek RBI approval for chairman tenure extension.

MUMBAI: HDFC Bank is likely to approach the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) seeking a 90-day extension for interim chairman Keki Mistry, as the bank has yet to finalize a successor for former chairman Atanu Chakraborty. Sources said Mistry's current tenure is scheduled to end on June 18, and the proposed extension would allow him to continue till October 18. Mistry was appointed interim chairman on March 19 following the sudden resignation of Atanu Chakraborty, who stepped down nearly a year before completion of his tenure. Chakraborty reportedly cited "fundamental incongruence" between his personal ethics and the bank's internal practices over the past two years in his resignation letter submitted to the Nomination and Remuneration Committee (NRC).

According to sources, HDFC Bank's board is yet to arrive at a unanimous decision regarding the next chairman. Informal discussions have reportedly taken place during NRC and board-level meetings, but no final name has emerged so far.

| WEST ASIA CRISIS |

Indian markets resilient amid West Asia crisis: SEBI Chief

Press Trust Of India

SEBI chief says Indian markets can withstand global geopolitical and economic shocks.

BHUBANESWAR: Volatility has shot up in the financial markets due to the ongoing West Asia conflict, but the Indian bourses have the capacity to "absorb different types of shocks", Sebi Chairman Tuhin Kanta Pandey said on Monday. When there is a crisis in one part of the world, it also impacts the rest of the globe, Pandey told reporters here on the sideline of the Regional Investors Seminar for Awareness.

"Due to the prevailing conflict in West Asia, the oil supply chain and its prices got affected in the rest of the world. All the economies have been affected by this and obviously, there are inflationary risks. Besides, spillover effect and second-order effect will also come in," he said.

HIGHLIGHT

- Domestic investors retain confidence despite volatility, foreign outflows, and geopolitical tensions globally.

"However, the advantages of a resilient Indian market are that it is able to absorb different types of shocks, and when these end, the market again resumes its normal trajectory," Pandey said. He also admitted that there have been some foreign portfolio investment outflows since September 2024, but domestic investors have "retained their confidence". Asked how SEBI is addressing threats from AI tools, Pandey said, "Most of the recent concerns around such tools are related to cybersecurity. As you know, markets rely heavily on software systems, and if cybersecurity is threatened or vulnerabilities are found in the software, there is a risk of attacks. If such attacks are successful, they can pose a serious threat to market integrity."

| BULLION MARKET |

Gold flat at Rs 1.62 lakh/10g; silver edges higher

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Gold prices remained flat at Rs 1.62 lakh per 10 grams in the national capital on Monday, while silver rates edged higher to Rs 2.76 lakh per kilogram amid fresh restrictions on imports of the white metal and weakness in the rupee. According to the All India Sarafa Association, the white metal appreciated by Rs 1,000 to Rs 2,76,000 per kg (inclusive of all taxes) from Friday's closing level of Rs 2,75,000 per kg. Gold of 99.9 per cent purity was unchanged at Rs 1,62,800 per 10 grams in the bullion market, according to the association.

Analysts said domestic bullion prices remained relatively resilient despite weakness in global markets.

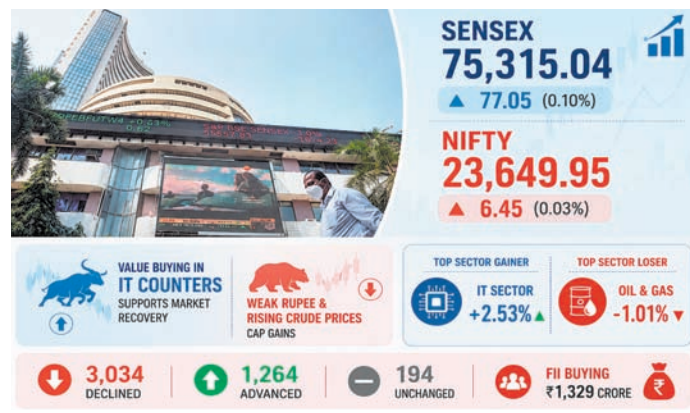
Gold prices in the domestic market traded flat on Monday, following a sharp sell-off in the previous session, tracking weakness in the international bullion market, Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst - Commodities at HDFC Securities, said. However, losses in local prices remained limited as the Indian rupee weakened further to a record low of about 96.37 against the US dollar. The weaker rupee continued to cushion the decline in domestic gold prices, he added.

*Biz*Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

How the markets behave today?

Sensex and Nifty end marginally higher on buying in IT counters



MUMBAI: Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty ended marginally higher on Monday after facing sharp losses in intraday trade, supported by value buying in IT and select blue-chip counters. However, a weak rupee against the US dollar and rising global crude prices amid escalated tensions in West Asia capped the gains, traders said. In an extremely volatile trade, the 30-share BSE Sensex increased by 77.05 points, or 0.10 per cent, to settle at 75,315.04. During the day, it taked 1,134.78 points, or 1.50 per cent, to 74,180.26. A total of 3,034 stocks declined while 1,264 advanced and 194 remained unchanged on the BSE. The 50-share NSE Nifty edged higher by 6.45 points, or 0.03 per cent, to end at 23,649.95. "Market sentiment witnessed a mild recovery from intraday lows but remained largely weak due to a mix of global and domestic pressures. The rebound was primarily supported by value buying at lower levels along with selective strength in IT and pharma stocks, which helped the indices trim part of their losses. "However, the upside remained limited as rising crude oil prices, continued weakness in the rupee near record lows, and sustained FII outflows continued to weigh on the market," Gaurav Garg, Research Analyst at Lemonn Markets Desk, said. From the Sensex firms, Tech Mahindra, Infosys, Bharti Airtel, Bajaj Finserv, Sun Pharma, HCL Tech, Bajaj Finance and Tata Consultancy Services were among the major winners. In contrast, Tata Steel, Power Grid, State Bank of India and NTPC were major laggards.

RUPEE WEAKENS

Rupee settles at record low of 96.35 against US dollar

MUMBAI: The Indian rupee weakened further and closed at a record low of 96.35 (provisional) against the US dollar on Monday, pressured by rising crude oil prices on the back of ongoing geopolitical tensions and a strong dollar. Forex traders said the global market sentiments continue to dampen amid simmering tensions between the US and Iran.

Moreover, emerging market economies, including India, continue to feel the pressure of rising crude oil prices, as elevated rates increase the outflows of US dollars, along with the outflows already happening due to FPIs, traders said. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 96.19, then fell further to 96.39 against the US dollar, registering a fall of 58 paise from its previous close. At the end of Monday's trading session, the rupee was quoted at 96.35(provisional), down 54 paise from its previous close. On Friday, the Indian rupee crashed below the 96/USD mark on Friday before closing at an all-time low of 95.81 against the US dollar.

SKILL DEVELOPMENT

'Project Sakhi' empowers rural women through skill development

SINGHITARAI: Vedanta Power's 1200 MW thermal power plant in Sakti district has launched 'Project Sakhi', a community development programme aimed at strengthening women's livelihood opportunities through skill development in tailoring.Under the initiative, nearly 120 women from Singhitarai, Nimohi, and Odekera gram panchayats have enrolled in a three-month structured tailoring training programme aimed at enhancing employability and promoting self-reliance among rural women.

Vedanta Power Chief Executive Officer Rajinder Singh Ahuja encouraged the women to make the most of the opportunity and continue honing their tailoring skills through regular practice. He said Vedanta Power remains committed to supporting communities in and around its operational areas through focused development initiatives that promote self-reliance and inclusive growth. Ahuja further added that the tailoring centres have been established to support women.

DEDICATED ELECTRIC TRUCK FLEETS

1,000 Eicher electric trucks for Amazon Now operations

MUMBAI: Amazon India announced plans to deploy around 1,000 electric trucks, developed in collaboration with Eicher Trucks and Buses, a business division of VE Commercial Vehicles (VECV), to support Amazon Now's operations across the country. The deployment is expected to be one of India's largest dedicated electric truck fleets in the ecommerce and quick commerce sectors and further strengthens Amazon's efforts to build a more sustainable transportation network.

As part of this collaboration, VECV has developed the Eicher Pro-X small truck– a compact electric truck purpose-built for high-frequency, intra-city operations. These vehicles will move goods between Amazon's fulfilment hubs, typically located in the outskirts of the city and Amazon Now micro-fulfilment centres located closer to customers. Amazon has already deployed around 50 of these trucks and plans to scale the fleet to over 1,000 electric trucks by 2028. In daily operations, these trucks are expected to cover 100-180 km and support multiple trips between facilities, with a fast-charging time of around 50 minutes. The fleet will be deployed across key cities starting with Delhi-NCR, Bengaluru and Mumbai, supporting the rapid expansion of Amazon Now, that delivers thousands of everyday essentials–from groceries and personal care items to electronic accessories and festive supplies, within minutes.

The company recently announced plan to expand Amazon Now to 100 cities across India and scale up its network to more than 1,000 micro-fulfillment centers (MFCs), bringing the ultra-fast delivery service to customers across cities including Pune, Hyderabad, Chennai, Kolkata, Jaipur, Lucknow, Kochi, Mangalore, and Vizag. Abhinav Singh, VP Operations Amazon India and Australia said.

Nation News

Scindia, Rio launch cluster based coffee project in N'land

Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia launched Nagaland's coffee value chain project alongside Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio on Monday.

Press Trust Of India

KOHIMA: Union DoNER minister Jyotiraditya Scindia and Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio on Monday jointly launched a project to develop a cluster-based coffee value chain in the state. The e-launch of the project under the broader mission 'Coffees of Nagaland' was held in New Delhi. It was attended by Union Minister of State for DoNER Sukanta Majumdar, Nagaland Deputy Chief Minister T R Zeliang, representatives of Coffee Board of India, while state government officials, farmers and entrepreneurs joined the programme from the Deputy Commissioner's office in Niuland district and Touphema Village Council Hall in Kohima district.

The project will initially focus on two pilot clusters - Tuophema in Kohima for Arabica coffee and Ghotovi in Niuland for Robusta coffee. These clusters are expected to serve as model centres for future expansion across the state. Key components of the project include the establishment of five hi-tech nurseries, expansion of 400 hectares of plantation area, construction of washing stations and roastery-cum-cafés, and setting up of a coffee quality control laboratory.

The project also includes internal roads, drip irrigation systems and blockchain-based traceability with QR codes for farm-to-cup authenticity. Addressing the programme, Scindia said the initiative marks the beginning of a transformative journey to position coffee as Nagaland's true Unique Selling Proposition (USP) while improving the livelihoods of rural communities. He said the Rs 49.48 crore project would create an end-to-end value chain from cultivation to marketing and help farmers gain better returns from premium-quality coffee. He also stated that the project is expected to increase coffee yields and generate employment opportunities in processing, roasting, brewing, tourism and related sectors.

HIGHLIGHT

- The project will initially develop Arabica and Robusta coffee clusters across Nagaland communities.
- Officials said the pilot clusters would support future coffee expansion throughout the state.

Scindia further said the initiative aligns with the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047 and promotes sustainable agroforestry practices while reducing dependence on jhum cultivation. The project also includes state-wide capacity-building programmes in collaboration with the Coffee Board of India. Farmers and entrepreneurs will receive training in plantation management, post-harvest techniques, roasting, brewing and barista skills, along with exposure visits.

An umbrella branding initiative titled 'Coffees of Nagaland - Taste of Eminence' will also be promoted through digital outreach, e-commerce and participation in national and international fairs. Speaking on the occasion, Rio thanked the Ministry of DoNER for supporting the initiative and described coffee as the USP of Nagaland. He said coffee cultivation in the state has seen steady growth since the revival of plantations in 2014-15, with production increasing from 21 metric tonne in 2021-22 to nearly 73 metric tonne in 2024-25.

Rio said the state has set a target of bringing 50,000 hectares under coffee cultivation by 2047 under the vision of Viksit Nagaland. He stated that the project would help create sustainable livelihoods, promote value addition at the farm level and strengthen Nagaland's identity as a premium coffee-producing state.

The chief minister also highlighted the integration of experiential coffee tourism through farm stays and farm-to-cup experiences, which he said would create additional opportunities for youth and entrepreneurs. Assuring full support for implementation, Rio urged farmers to adopt new technologies and actively participate in training programmes to make Nagaland coffee globally recognised.

Private bus operators seek fare hike after Kerala announces free travel for women

Press Trust Of India

PALAKKAD: Hours after Kerala Chief Minister V D Satheesan announced free travel for women on state transport corporation buses from June 15, private bus operators sought government intervention to ensure their businesses are protected. Representatives of the All Kerala Bus Operators Association told reporters that they would meet the CM and the transport minister in the coming days to present their concerns and seek government support, including a revision in bus fares.

They said they were not opposed to the travel concession for women but wanted measures to ensure the survival of private operators. They argued that their operations are regulated by the government and that they provide various concessions and implement welfare measures as directed by the state. "We want the government to take steps to ensure our survival. We will seek an increase in bus fares, as fares have not been revised in the last four years, while diesel prices have increased twice during this period. The proposed hike would also include student fares," association members said.

"As operational costs have increased, if women–who constitute a significant portion of our passengers–shift to state transport, it will become difficult for us to continue services," they added.

बैंक ऑफ इंडिया Bank of India BOI Rajnandgaon Branch :- Fawwara Chowk, Digvijay College Road, Rajnandgaon C.G.

NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13(2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of the Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (SARFAESI Act)

A notice is hereby given that the following Borrower/s (Borrower), and guarantor have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest of the loans facility obtained by them from the Bank and the loans have been classified as Non Performing Assets (NPA). The notices were issued to them under Section 13(2) of Securitization and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 on their last known addresses, now they are hereby informed by way of this public notice.

Name of the Borrower / Guarantor & Address	Details of Properties/ Address of Secured Assets to be Enforced	Date of Notice / Date of NPA	Amount outstanding (As on the date of notice)
Borrower:-M/s. Sai Fly Ash Bricks, Vill- Litiya Rajnandgaon, CG-491441. Prop: Mr. Vishnu Patel S/o. Baliram Patel, Ward No. 16, Tulsipur, Rajnandgaon, C.G.-491441	EQM of land with buildings, shed and structures, standing thereon situated at Kh No 702/1, P.H.No.- 47, Villiage Litiya, Teh & District- Rajnandgaon, CG admeasuring 65,340.00 Sqft. in the name of Mr Vishnu Patel.	17-04-2026 / 28-02-2026	₹ 632762.61/- + Intt. + Other Charges since 17-04-2026

The steps are being taken for substituted service of notice. The above Borrower(s) and /or their Guarantor(s) (whenever applicable)are hereby called upon to make payment of outstanding amount within 60 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which further steps will be taken after expiry of 60 days from the date of this notice under sub-section (4) of Section 13 of Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security interest Act, 2002.

Date : 19.05.2026, Place: Rajnandgaon **Authorized Officer, Bank of India**

ICICI Home Finance Corporate Office: ICICI Home Finance Company Limited ICICI HFC Tower, Andheri - Kurla Road, Andheri (East), Mumbai - 400059, India

Branch Office: Sky Park, Ground floor, Unit No.1, Near Canal Road Raipur - 492001

[See proviso to rule 8(6)] Notice for sale of immovable assets

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

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of ICICI Home Finance Company Ltd., will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is", as per the brief particulars given hereunder;

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s)/ Co Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Legal Heirs. Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Reserve Price / Earnest Money Deposit	Date and Time of Property Inspection	Date & Time of Auction	One Day Before Auction Date	SARFAESI Stage
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)	(H)	(I)
1.	Prakash Soni (Borrower) Bhaskar Soni, M/s Laxmi Enterprises (Co-Borrower) Loan No. NHJAG00001259016	Kh No.86/4 Ground Floor Siddhi Vinayak Ph. No. 117/53 Mouza Boriyakala RIC Raipur CG Raipur Chhattisgarh 492001	Rs. 2,59, 578/- May 15, 2026	Rs. 19,80, 000/- / Rs.1,98, 000/-	June 12, 2026 11:00 AM To 03:00 PM	June 22, 2026 02:00 PM To 03:00 PM	June 20, 2026 Before 05:00 PM	Physical Possession

The online auction will be conducted on website (URL Link- https://BidDeal.in) of our auction agency ValueTrust Capital Services Private Limited. The Mortgagors/ notice are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till June 20, 2026 before 05:00 PM else these secured assets will be sold as per above schedule.

The Prospective Bidder(s) must submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) RTGS/ Demand Draft (DD) (Refer Column E) at ICICI Home Finance Company Limited Branch Office Address mentioned on top of the article on or before June 20, 2026 before 04:00 PM. The Prospective Bidder(s) must also submit signed copy of Registration Form & Bid Terms and Conditions form at ICICI Home Finance Company Limited Branch Office Address mentioned on top of the article on or before June 20, 2026 before 05:00 PM. Earnest Money Deposit Demand Draft (DD) should be from a Nationalized/Scheduled Bank in favor of "ICICI Home Finance Company Ltd. – Auction" payable at the branch office address mentioned on top of the article.

For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the auction or submission of tenders, kindly contact ICICI Home Finance Company Limited on 9920807300.

The Authorized Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit https://www.icicihfc.com/

Date: May 19, 2026 Authorized Officer, "ICICI Home Finance Company Limited",
Place: Raipur CIN Number:- U65922MH1999PLC120106

आम सूचना

मैं अपने पक्षकार श्री जी. सुरेश पिल्लई आ. स्व. एन. जी. के. पिल्लई निवासी- क्वार्टर नं. -7 एफ, क्रास स्ट्रीट-1, सेक्टर-1 भिलाई नगर, तहसील व जिला-दुर्ग की ओर से पाये हुवे अधिकार व निर्देश के सूचित करता हूं कि मेरे पक्षकार द्वारा गिरधर चंद्राकर आ. स्व. केदारनाथ चंद्राकर निवासी : नारायण निवास के पास, मोती पारा दुर्ग, तहसील व जिला-दुर्ग अन्य-71 के शामिलात भूमिस्वामी हक व आधिपत्य की ग्राम - कोहका, प.ह.नं. 45, तहसील व जिला-दुर्ग स्थित भूमि खसरा नंबर 2577/129, 2811/2, 2812/2, 3154/2, 3155/2, 3156/2, 3157/2, 3157/3, 3158/2, 3160/2 रकबा क्रमश: 0.550, 0.390, 0.100, 1.000, 0.120, 0.180, 0.060, 0.180, 2.870, 0.300 हे. कुल रकबा 5.750 हे. संविलियन नया खसरा नंबर 15000 रकबा 5.750 हे., को उपरोक्त सभी शामिलात भूमिस्वामियों से क्रय करने का सौदा किया गया है और शीघ्र ही उपरोक्त सौदाशुदा भूमि का विक्रेतागण को बचत प्रतिफल देकर विक्रेतागण से विक्रय पत्र का निष्पादन एवं पंजीयन कराया जाना है इसलिए इस आम सूचना द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि मेरे पक्षकार के सौदाशुदा भूमि के संबंध में जिस किसी भी व्यक्ति या संस्था को कोई उजर या दावा हो तो इस आम सूचना के प्रकाशन के सात दिवस के भीतर मय दस्तावेज के मेरे कार्यालय के पते पर करें, अन्यथा उपरोक्त अवधि की समाप्ति के पश्चात् मेरा पक्षकार सौदाशुदा भूमि का विक्रय पत्र का निष्पादन एवं पंजीयन विक्रेतागण गिरधर चंद्राकर आ. स्व. केदारनाथ चंद्राकर व अन्य-71 से कराने के लिए अग्रसर हो जावेगा।

सूचना जाने।

दिनांक : 17/05/2026

हरेकृष्ण तिवारी (अधिवक्ता)
निवास एवं कार्यालय :
फरिश्ता काम्पलेक्स के सामने,
पचरीपारा, स्टेशन रोड दुर्ग (छ.ग.)

punjab national bank पंजाब नैशनल बैंक Circle Office, Raipur PLOT NO.46, SECTOR 24, NAYA RAIPUR 492018, E-MAIL: coraigad@pnb.bank.in, Ph.: 0771-2210427

PREMISES REQUIRED

Punjab National Bank requires suitable ready built and well-constructed hall type building as well as vacant plot for **Branch Dhamtari (D. No. 154920)** having Carpet area including space for **ATM (1480 sqft to 1900 sqft)** on lease /rental basis, premises should be preferably on Ground Floor and if on first floor, lift facilitybe provided for below mentioned location:

Sl. No.	Location	District	Required Carpet Area (in sq.ft.)
1.	Tikrapara / Ratnabandha, Dhamtari and nearby 1000 meters of existing branch at Main Road Dhamtari	Dhamtari, (C.G)	1480-1900 Sq.ft

Premises offered should have all clearance certificates from statutory authorities. Interested owners / registered Power of Attorney holders of such premises in the desired locality who are ready to lease out their readily available premises on long term lease basis preferably for 15 years or more may send their offers in the prescribed format available on Bank's Website **www.pnb.bank.in** or the same may be obtained from the above address during office hours. The complete offer duly sealed & signed and should reach the undersigned on or before **30/05/2026 (Saturday) 3:00 PM** at the above address. The Vacant plot will only be accepted when landlord shall construct the building at their own cost as per bank norms within the stipulated time. No brokerage will be paid by the Bank. Bank reserves the right to accept or reject any or all offers at its sole discretion without assigning any reasons whatsoever.

Date: 19.05.2026 **Circle Head**

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that my client, Smt. Soni Jha w/o Shri Mithlesh Jha had purchased a parcel of land from Smt. Kishori Kashyap w/o Shri Kewal Singh Kashyap, bearing Khasra No. 151/36, admeasuring 0.010 hectare (1100 sq. ft.), situated at Village Birgaon, Shiv Nagar, Maa Parmeshwari Mata Ward, Ward No. 25, P.H.No. 101/29/88, R.N.M. Raipur-17-Birgaon, Tehsil & District Raipur (C.G.), within the limits of Municipal Corporation Birgaon, through a registered sale deed dated 13.03.2026. The said property was purchased by Smt. Kishori Kashyap w/o Shri Kewal Singh Kashyap from Shri Tikesh Kumar Dewangan s/o Shri Hori Lal Dewangan, vide registered sale deed dated 18.07.2012. The said property (being part of earlier Khasra No. 151/2/च/6) was originally purchased by Shri Tikesh Kumar Dewangan s/o Shri Hori Lal Dewangan from Smt. Vijay Kumari w/o Shri Ravindra Sharma, vide registered sale deed dated 01.01.2008. The original sale deed dated 01.01.2008 has been lost/misplaced by my client and a complaint in this regard has already been lodged at Police Station Urla, Raipur on 30.03.2026. Therefore, any person who finds or is in possession of the said original sale deed is requested to return the same to the undersigned office, and further, any person, institution, bank, financial institution, government or semi-government body, company, corporation, Gram Panchayat, moneylender, firm, or any other entity having any claim, right, title, interest, or objection in respect of the said property or the aforesaid sale deed is hereby required to submit such claim/objection in writing along with supporting documents to the undersigned within 7 (seven) days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which it shall be presumed that no objection exists and my client shall be free to proceed with further legal action as deemed appropriate.

Ashwini Singh
Advocate
Office-A-207, Second Floor, Orrange Hive, Mowa, Dist. Raipur (C.G.) Mob. No. 9827116683

South East Central Railway

TENDER NOTICE

Tender Notice No.: SNT-R-2026-09
Date 12.05.2026

Name of work: Execution of Signaling & Telecommunication works in connection with **(1)** Construction of new 10 rooms (20 bedded) Running Room at Bhatapara in Raipur Division, **(2)** Construction of new 15 rooms (30 bedded) Running Room at Dallirajhara in Raipur Division, **(3)** Construction of new Combined crew lobby at Dallirajhara, **(4)** Provision of deficiencies of MEA at KMI, MDH & SLH **(5)** Rehabilitation, augmentation & strengthening of power supply arrangement of BMY settlement by availing 33KV power supply at Charoda and improvement of maintenance activity by relocation of substations, **(6)** Provision of one no new SSP at MXA over Raipur Division. **(7)** Setting up of mechanized laundry of capacity of 02 ton per day at coaching depot Durg **(8)** Construction of 4 unit Type IV Quarters for Sr. Supervisors at WRS Colony Raipur, **(9)** Construction of 4 unit Type-V Spl. Quarters for Officer's at WRS Colony Raipur, **(10)** Augmentation of existing amenities to facilitate Re-Development work at passenger interface area of Raipur Station, **(11)** Augmentation/ Upgradation of facilities in new as well as existing running rooms and lobbies for technical advancement of knowledge of crew for enhancement of safety in train operation in Raipur Division **(12)** Augmentation of facilities in Diesel Loco Shed, Raipur for homing of electric locomotives.

Tender Value: Rs. 28424702.62 **EMD :** Rs. 568500.00 **Completion period:** 12 (Twelve) Months. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids **upto 15.00 hours on 10.06.2026 only.** Manual offers are not allowed against these tenders. Details are available on our website: **www.ireps.gov.in.**

Divl. Sig & Telecom Engineer
S.E.C. Railway,
Raipur.

PR/R/S&T/AAA/63

South East Central Railway @secrail

Public Notice For E-Auction Cum Sale (Appendix - IV A) (Rule 8(6))

Sale of Immovable property mortgaged to IIFL Home Finance Limited (IIFL HFL) Corporate Office at Plot No.98, Udyog Vihar, Phase-IV, Gurgaon-122015. (Haryana) and **Branch Office at:- 1 st Floor, Lal Ganga City Mart, Banjari Chowk, Opposite Hotel Amit Regency, Raipur, CG 492001.** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (hereinafter "Act"). Whereas the Authorized Officer ("AO") of IIFLHFL had taken the possession of the following property/ies pursuant to the notice issued U/S 13(2) of the Act in the following loan accounts/prospect nos. with a right to sell the same on **"AS IS WHERE IS BASIS, AS IS WHAT IS BASIS AND WITHOUT RECOURSE BASIS"** for realization of IIFL-HFL's dues, The Sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the **website: www.iiflonehome.com**

Borrower(s) / Co-Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s)	Demand Notice Date and Amount	Description of the Immovable property/ Secured Asset	Date of Symbolic Possession	Reserve Price
Mr. Rahul Kumar Malla S R Group Mrs. Kusum Mallah **(Prospect No-983034)**	18/08/2025 Rs. 4013261/- (Rupees Forty Lakh Thirteen Thousand Two Hundred & Sixty One Only) **Bid Increase Amount Rs.50000/-** (Rupees Fifty Thousand Only)	All that part and parcel of the property bearing: Plot No. 1B, Khasra No. 716/2, MouzaJunwani, P.H.N. 15/21, R.N.M. Durg-1, Durg, 491001, Chhattisgarh,In Dia Area Admeasuring (IN SQ. FT.): Property Type: Land_Area, Super_Built_Up_Ar ea Property Area: 1960.00, 1670.00	09/12/2025 **Total Outstanding as On Date 12/05/26 Rs.4360477.24** (Rupees Forty Three Lakh Sixty Thousand Four Hundred Seventy Seven and Twenty Four Paise)	**Rs.7322000/-**(Rupees Seventy Three Lakh Twenty Two Thousand Only) **Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Rs.732200/-** (Rupees Seven Lakh Thirty Two Thousand Two Hundred Only)
Mr. Prashant Kumar Mrs. Gunjan Singh **(Prospect No-IL10093349)**	24/01/2024 Rs.2184615/- (Rupees Twenty One Lakh Eighty Four Thousand Six Hundred and Fifteen Only) **Bid Increase Amount Rs.40000/-** (Rupees Forty Thousand Only)	All that part and parcel of the property bearing: Plot No. Lig-76 And Lig-77, Ralas Royal Park, Part Of Kh No.15001/1, Situated At Parsada, Ph No.04, Rnm Bhilai-03, Ward No. 16, Tehsil Patan, Dist. Durg, Chhattisgarh, India, 491111. Area Admeasuring (In Sq. Ft.): Property Type: Land_Area, Saleable_Area, Super_Built_Up_Area Property Area: 1162.00,1162.00, 950.00	**Physical Possession** 25/02/2026 **Total Outstanding as on Date 12/05/26 Rs.2917618.75/-** (Rupees Twenty Nine Lakh Seven-teen Thousand Six Hundred Eighteen & Seventy Five Paise Only)	**Rs.2918000/-** (Rupees Twenty Nine Lakh Eighteen Thousand Only) **Earnest Money Deposit(EMD) Rs.291800/-** (Rupees Two Lakh Ninety One Thousand Eight Hundred Only)

Date of Inspection of property	EMD Last Date	Date/ Time of E-Auction
17/06/2026 1100 hrs -1400 hrs.	19/06/2026 till 5 pm.	22/06/2026 1100 hrs-1300 hrs.

Mode of Payment :- EMD payments are to be made vide online mode only. To make payments you have to visit **https://www.iiflonehome.com** and pay through link available for the property/ Secured Asset only. **Note:** Payment link for each property/ Secured Asset is different. Ensure you are using link of the property/ Secured Asset you intend to buy vide public auction. **For Balance Payment - Login https://www.iiflonehome.com >My Bid >Pay Balance Amount**

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:-

1. For participating in e-auction, Intending bidders required to register their details with the Service Provider **https://www. iiflonehome.com,** well in advance and has to create the login account, login ID and password. Intending bidders have to submit / send their "Tender FORM" along with the payment details towards EMD, copy of the KYC and PAN card at the above mentioned Branch Office.
2. The bidders shall improve their offer in multiple of amount mentioned under the column "Bid Increase Amount". In case bid is placed in the last 5 minutes of the closing time of the auction, the closing time will automatically get extended for 5 minutes.
3. The successful bidder should deposit 25% of the bid amount (after adjusting EMD) within 24 hours of the acceptance of bid price by the AO and the balance 75% of the bid amount within 15 days from the date of confirmation of sale by the secured creditor. All deposit and payment shall be in the prescribed mode of payment.
4. The purchaser has to bear the cess, applicable stamp duty, fees, and any other statutory dues or other dues like municipal tax, electricity charges, land and all other incidental costs, charges including all taxes and rates outgoings relating to the property.
5. The purchaser has to pay TDS application to the transaction/payment of sale amount and submit the TDS certificate with IIFL HFL.
6. **Bidders are advised to go through the website https: // www.iiflonehome.com and https://www.iifl.com/home-loans/properties-for-auction for detailed terms and conditions of auction sale & auction application form before submitting their Bids for taking part in the e-auction sale proceedings.**
7. **For details, help procedure and online training on e-auction prospective bidders may contact the service provider E mail ID:- care@iiflonehome.com, Support Helpline no.1800 2672 499.**
8. For any query related to Property details, Inspection of Property and Online bid etc. call IIFL HFL toll free no.1800 2672 499 from 09:30 hrs to 18:00 hrs between Monday to Friday or write to email:- care@iiflonehome.com.
9. Notice is hereby given to above said borrowers to collect the household articles, which were lying in the secured asset at the time of taking physical possession within 7 days, otherwise IIFL-HFL shall not be responsible for any loss of property under the circumstances.
10. Further the notice is hereby given to the Borrower/s, that in case they fail to collect the above said articles same shall be sold in accordance with Law.
11. In case of default in payment at any stage by the successful bidder / auction purchaser within the above stipulated time, the sale will be cancelled and the amount already paid will be forfeited (including EMD) and the property will be again put to sale.
12. AO reserves the rights to postpone/cancel or vary the terms and condition of tender/auction without assigning any reason thereof. In case of any dispute in tender/Auction, the decision of AO of IIFL-HFL will be final.

STATUTORY 30 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 8 (6) OF THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002

The Borrower are hereby notified to pay the sum as mentioned above along with upto dated interest and ancillary expenses before the date of Tender/Auction, failing which the property will be auctioned/sold and balance dues if any will be recovered with interest and cost

Place:- Raipur, Date: 19-May-2026 Sd/- Authorised Officer, IIFL Home Finance Limited.

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

E-AUCTION ON 08.06.2026 **Time: 11.00 am to 4.00 pm**

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

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

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

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

SCHEDULE OF THE SECURED ASSETS

SL No.	"Name of the Account, Name & Address of Borrower/ Guarantors A/c,Name of Bank Branch"	"Description of the Immovable Properties Mortgaged/ Owner's Name (mortgagers of property(ies)"	Date of Demand Notice U/s13(2) of SARFAESI ACT-2002/ Outstanding Amount as on + Intertest w.e.f / Nature of Possession/Date as per SARFAESI Act, 2002	Reserve Price / EMD / Bid Increase Amount Rs. 10000/- for every property
1	**Borrower: SHREE AGRO TECH, Partners - Sh. Rajnarayan Mishra** S/o Lt. Ramashankar Mishra, **Smt. Archana Mishra** W/o Sh. Rajnarayan Mishra, **Mortgagors - Smt. Kavita Mishra** W/o Devnarayan Mishra, **Smt. Suman Mishra** W/o Sh. Balkrishna Mishra & **M/s Shree Industries, B/o-Tatibandh, Raipur (768400), Contact: Recovery Officer : Sh. Dhaneshwar Ram, 6207257725**	**Industrial Land & Shade** situated at PH. No 102/32, Village **Tendua,** RIC Dharsiwa, Tehsil & Distt. Raipur, CG, bearing (1) Part of KH. No. 353/3, New KH. No. 353/3, Area 0.139 Hect., Owner Smt. Kavita Devi Mishra W/o Sh. Devnarayan Mishra, (ii) Part of KH. No. 353/3, New KH. No. 353/6, Area 0.093 Hect., Owner Smt. Suman Mishra W/o Sh. Balkrishna Mishra, (iii) Part of KH. No. 349/5, New KH. No. 349/11, Area 0.056 Hect, Owner Shree Industries, through Sh. Mahendra Prasad Mishra S/o Sh. Awadesh Naryan Mishra, **Total Area 0.288 Hect,** Geographic Co- ordinates:21.295789,81.584187	1) **27-07-2021** 2) **Rs 2,11,35,654.21/-** as on 27-07-2021+ intt. thereon 3) **Symbolic as on 04-03-22**	**Rs. 176.76 Lakh** / **Rs. 17.68 Lakh**
2	**M/s D A Enterprises, Prop.- Mr Dhiraj Jadwani. BO-Station Road 106600, Contact: Recovery Officer : Sh. Dhananjay Kumar, 9729791068**	**OFFICE No. 1)** Office No 221, Kh No 439/1 (Part) , Having Area 300Sqft , Situated at Lal Ganga Mansion , Ward No 37, Jawahar Nagar ,RNM -Raipur Raipur , Teh & Dist Raipur (CG) Boundaries:- North - Coridore , South -Road , East-Office No - 222, Office No 220, Geographic Co-ordinates - 21.247357, 81.634051	1) **25-11-2021** 2) **Rs 47,57,449.00/-** as on 01-11-2021 + intt. thereon 3) **Symbolic as on 30-08-22**	**Rs. 14.54 Lakh** / **Rs. 1.45 Lakh**
		OFFICE No. 2) Office No 18, Kh No 439 (Part) , having Area 205 Sqft , Situated At Lal ganga Mansion , Ward No 37, Jawahar Nagar , Raipur RNM -- Raipur , Teh & Dist Raipur (CG) Boundaries:-North-Office No 19, South-Office No -17, East -Passage, West -Open To Sky. Geographic Co-ordinates - 21.247357, 81.634051. ***Note: SA No. 704/2023 and MA No. 52/2025 is Pending for both properties.**		**Rs. 11.50 Lakh** / **Rs. 1.15 Lakh**
3	**Borrower: Smt. Snehlata Jain** W/o Sh. Sanjay Kumar Jain, **Co-Borrower: Shreya Jain** D/o Sh. Sanjay Kumar Jain, **B/o-Durg (079610), Contact: RO: Sh. Sarthak Upadhyay, 9981790493**	**Residential Flat** No. 407, 4th Floor, Block-A, Vande Matram Apartment, Smriti Nagar, Ward No. 02, Junwani, Bhilai, Distt: Durg, CG, Area: 900 Sq. Ft. Owner: Smt. Snehlata Jain W/o Sh. Sanjay Kumar Jain. Boundaries: North: Remaining Land of Seller,South: Flat No. 406, East: Flat No. 408,West: Remaining Land of Seller. Geographic Co-ordinates: 21.213606, 81.324970	1) **06-09-2022** 2) **Rs 31,57,523.12** as on 06-09-2022 + intt. thereon 3) **Physical as on 08-01-25**	**Rs. 29.16 Lakh** / **Rs. 2.91 Lakh**
4	**GCC FOOD INDUSTRIES PRIVATE LIMITED, Director- Mr. Yogesh Kumar Goyal, Mr. Suresh Kumar Goyal & Ms. Sarita Goyal, Guarantor - Mr. Raman Goyal, Mrs. Monika Goyal & Mrs. Kaushalya Goyal, BO-PANDRI (RAIPUR) - 152520, Contact: Recovery Officer : Ms. Durgawati Kumari, 7632986606**	**Property No.** 1) Factory & Land bearing Primary EM all that part & parcel, land & building bearing Kh No. 195/13-14, 247/2, 250/2-3-5, 256 (part), Ph. No. 102/31, Vill.- Bana, Tendua Road, Near Prime Ispat, RNM-Dharsiwa, Tehsil & Dist. Raipur C.G., **Area - 14114 Sqft.** in the name of M/s GCC Food Industries Pvt ltd., Owner - Mr. Suresh Kumar Goyal, Boundaries - NORTH: Land of Shakun Nishad, SOUTH: Road (Hirapur to Urla), EAST: Land of seller, WEST: Land of GCC Mineral Water Pvt. Ltd., Geographic Co-ordinates - 21.315703, 81.557021 ***(Property No. 1& 2 Will Be Sold Together.)**	1) **02-02-2023** 2) **Rs 4,44,89,975.25/-** as on 31-01-2023 + intt. thereon 3) **Physical as on 10-02-26**	**Rs. 127.03 Lakh** / **Rs. 12.71 Lakh**
		Property No. 2) Plant & Machinery at Kh No. 195/13-14, 247/2, 250/2-3-5, 256 (part), Ph. No. 102/31, Vill. Bana, Tendua Road, Near Prime Ispat, RNM-Dharsiwa, Tehsil & Dist. Raipur, Owner-M/s GCC Food Industries Pvt ltd., Owner - Mr. Suresh Kumar Goyal. Geographic Co-ordinates - 21.315703, 81.557021 ***(Property No. 1& 2 Will Be Sold Together.). *Note: SA No. 790/2023 is Pending for both properties.**		**Rs. 57.96 Lakh** / **Rs. 5.80 Lakh**
5	**Borrower: M/s Pankaj International, Proprietor: Sh. Satish Sharma** S/o Sh. Mahavir Prasad Sharma, **Guarantors: Smt. Rekha Sharma** W/o Sh. Kamlesh Kumar Sharma, **Sh. Kamlesh Sharma** S/o Sh. Mahavir Prasad Sharma and **Smt. Asha Sharma** W/o Satish Sharma, 490026, **B/o-Jaistambh Chowk, Raipur(039900), Contact: Recovery Officer : Shri Pawan Kashyap, 9770780508**	**Property No. 1)** Property bearing **Commercial Unit** over diverted land bearing Khasra No. 748, PH. No.-13, Mouza- Aklordih, Locality: Aklordih, Distt.- Durg, State: Chhattisgarh, PIN 490025, **Area: 47275 Sq.Ft.,** Owner: Sh. Satish Sharma S/o Sh. Mahavir Prasad Sharma, Boundaries- North: Land of Banshi, South: Bhilai Gramodyog Utthan, East: Jarway Khar, West: Naala; Geographic Co-ordinates: 21.241612, 81.423503 **Property No. 2) Residential House** bearing Plot No. A-3(3) situated at PH. No. 103, Sector-1, Shahid Bhagat Singh Ward No. 13, Udaya Society, Tatibandh Under Udaya Sahkari Grih Nirman Samiti, Tatibandh, Raipur, Distt.- Raipur, Chhattisgarh, PIN 492001, **Area: 4000 Sq.Ft.,** Owner: Smt. Rekha Sharma W/o Sh. Kamlesh Sharma, Boundaries- North: 30 Ft. Road, South: Plot No. A-3 (10), East: Plot No. A-3 (4), West: Plot No. A-3 (2); Geographic Co-ordinates: 21.264375, 81.573670	1) **04.11.2020** 2) **Rs. 4,59,90,574.03** /- as on 04.11.2020+ intt. thereon 3) **Physical as on 24.09.24 (For Commercial Unit) & Symbolic as on 09.09.21 (For Residential House)**	**Rs. 207.00 Lakh** / **Rs. 20.70 Lakh (For Property 1)** / **Rs. 132.00 Lakh** / **Rs. 13.20 Lakh (For Property 2)**
6	**M/s Gupta Pump House, Prop. Dilip Gupta** S/o Mr Pannalal Gupta, **BO: BORSI -205910. Contact: Recovery Officer : Sh. Dhananjay Kumar, 9729791068**	**Residential Plot** at Kh.No. 82/1, P.H. No. 18/25 at Dipara para, Kasardih, Durg in the name of Shri Dilip Gupta (Plot Area 1305 sq.ft.) Boundries :- East: Others House, West: Sellers (Santosh Devi Sethiya) Rest Land, North: Road , South: Sellers (Santosh Devi Sethiya) Residual Land." Geographic Cordinates : 21.179296, 81.372357	1) **26-04-2017** 2) **Rs 15,72,942.00/-** + intt. & Other Charges 3) **Symbolic as on 06-07-17**	**Rs. 19.96 Lakh** / **Rs. 1.99 Lakh**

For any queries Contact: Mr. Raghubansh Narayan Singh- 8789388472 -ARMB, Raipur:- Tel. No. - 0771-2210433/35

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

Important Note : 1. The auction sale will be "online through e-auction" portal **https://baanknet.com**, 2. The intending Bidders / Purchasers are requested to register on portal **(https://baanknet.com)** using their mobile number and email-id. Further, they are requested to upload requisite KYC documents. Once the KYC documents are verified by e-auction service provider (may take 2 working days), the intending Bidders/ Purchasers has to transfer the EMD amount using online mode in his Global EMD Wallet by before the **For Serial No. 01 to 06 E-Auction Date 08/06/2026** and time 11.00 AM in the portal. The registration, verification of KYC documents and transfer of EMD in wallet must be completed well in advance, before auction date. TERMS AND CONDITIONS: The sale shall be subject to the Terms & Conditions prescribed in the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 and to the following further conditions: 1. The properties are being sold on **"AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS BASIS"** 2. The particulars of Secured Assets specified in the Schedule herein above have been stated to the best of the information of the Authorised Officer, but the Authorised Officer shall not be answerable for any error, misstatement or omission in this proclamation. 3. The Sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the Website **https://baanknet.com** on **For Serial No. 01 to 06 E-Auction Date 08/06/2026** at 11.00 AM. For detailed term and conditions of the sale, please refer **https://baanknet.com** & **www.pnbindia.in**

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

Date: 19.05.2026, Place: Raipur **Authorized Officer, Punjab National Bank, Secured Creditor**

Central Chronicle

Established 1974 Volume 51 No. 223

Comment

QUOTE FROM THE QUOTABLE

"A nation's true wealth is not in its vaults, but in the confidence of its people."

[Amartya Sen]

| OUR VIEW |

India's Economic Shield Under Strain, Rupee Battles Volatility

India's foreign exchange reserves, long regarded as the nation's financial shield, have dipped by 5% to $690 billion. The Reserve Bank of India has been actively selling dollars to stabilize the rupee, but the fall raises urgent questions about resilience in an increasingly volatile global economy. Reserves are not just numbers on a balance sheet; they represent the nation's ability to withstand external shocks. Every litre of imported fuel, every ounce of gold, every smartphone assembled with foreign components depends on this cushion. When reserves shrink, the rupee weakens, inflation rises, and households feel the pinch. The recent surge in fuel prices – petrol and diesel up Rs. 3 per litre, CNG climbing Rs. 3 per kilo – is a direct reminder that global tremors ripple into the kitchens and commutes of ordinary Indians. The symbolism is stark: our "national savings account" is under strain at the very moment when geopolitical tensions and energy crises are intensifying. Drone strikes in West Asia, Brent crude crossing $100 a barrel, and escalating US-Iran hostilities all feed into the uncertainty. India's forex reserves, once celebrated as a bulwark of stability, now demand careful stewardship. The rupee, often seen as a symbol of national pride, must not be allowed to falter under external pressure. Yet this is also a test of confidence. India's economy remains robust, with strong exports, resilient remittances, and a growing services sector. But resilience cannot be taken for granted. Policymakers must balance intervention with long term reforms: diversifying energy sources, strengthening domestic manufacturing, and curbing dependence on volatile imports. Citizens, too, must recognize that economic sovereignty is not abstract – it is lived daily in the price of fuel, food, and medicines. The fall in reserves is not a crisis, but it is a warning. A shield is only effective if maintained. India must treat this moment as a call to reinforce its economic armour, ensuring that the rupee remains a symbol not of vulnerability, but of strength. Only then can India claim true stability in both its economy and its democracy. The reserves are more than figures – they are the heartbeat of national confidence.

| GUEST VIEW |

Animal Cruelty: A Wake Up Call for India

In an inclusive and cultured country like India, the recent animal cruelty data is shocking. Maharashtra alone accounts for 3,000 cases out of 9,000 reported nationwide. This raises urgent questions: why is such brutality rising in a land where food is traditionally prepared for cows and dogs? Disturbingly, cruelty is not limited to domestic animals – wild creatures too suffer. Recently, a leopard mother and her four cubs were poisoned, with authorities suspecting foul play. How did we reach a point where such atrocities are becoming normalized? The scale of violence reflects a sickening loss of empathy and co existence. Do we always need laws to enforce basic human behaviour? Punishments remain too weak to deter offenders. As an animal lover, I plead for compassion. With violence already rampant among humans, must we extend it to animals too? Denial – "Maine nahikiya" – only deepens the crisis. The level of atrocities committed shows our sick mindset and how we are losing empathy for coexistence. This issue deserves urgent attention, even in forums like Mann Ki Baat. If cruelty persists, India will face grave environmental and psychological consequences beyond repair. We must act now, with empathy and responsibility, to restore harmony. Sparing animals is not charity – it is civilization.

Dr. Chandni Shrivastava, Raipur

Man's Best Friend or Public Enemy? The Truth About Strays

The stray dog population in cities has increased dramatically, becoming a serious threat to public safety. Children are bitten on their way to school, senior citizens fear morning walks, and two wheeler riders are injured when dogs chase them. This is no longer a minor nuisance – it is a public health emergency demanding urgent, lawful action. Municipal Corporations must implement sterilization and immunization programs in partnership with animal welfare organizations, NGOs, and responsible citizens. The law is clear: only humane, government approved Animal Birth Control methods are permitted. Culling is illegal. The Supreme Court has directed that stray dogs must be released back into their original territories after sterilization, deworming, and vaccination. Only rabid or unprovoked aggressive dogs may be housed in shelters. Killing strays does not work – when one pack is removed, another moves in to exploit the food source. Globally, the only proven method is systematic sterilization of at least 70% of dogs in an area, stabilizing and reducing the population within three to four years.

Some imagine they have a "right" to remove animals without moral responsibility toward creatures that share this planet. But we are a nation that believes in ahimsa and rejects cruelty. The earth is not for humans alone. Ironically, many who tolerate spitting and urinating in public cannot accept harmless species struggling to survive. Most strays lead miserable lives, scavenging rotten food, starving, and suffering from painful diseases like mange. Some, including rabies, are communicable to humans. Hungry and territorial, many dogs chase and bark at people, creating fear and risk. Yet the root cause of the menace is our garbage, not the dogs' nature. The problem is worst where food waste is dumped on roadsides. Thus, the first step is waste management, not dog catching. Municipal authorities must clean streets daily, penalize open dumping, and encourage door to door collection of wet waste instead of roadside bins that become feeding stations. In line with Supreme Court directives, municipalities must create designated feeding areas in each ward and prohibit feeding on public streets to prevent packs near schools, markets, and hospitals. Dedicated helplines should be established for reporting bites, aggressive dogs, and violations of feeding rules, with strict action against individuals or NGOs who defy directives.

Vinod Chandrashekhar Dixit, Writer and Cartoonist

Every sterilized dog should be ear notched and tagged. NGOs must submit monthly data on dogs caught, operated, vaccinated, and released, with third party audits verifying outcomes. Resident Welfare Associations should appoint Dog Welfare Coordinators to identify unsterilized dogs, monitor feeding points, and report sick animals. Public awareness campaigns must teach children not to tease dogs and adults not to abandon pets, as 80% of "strays" are abandoned pets or their pups. Relocating dogs to "far away areas" is both illegal and ineffective. Rabies control requires mass vaccination of dogs where they live, with a target of 70% coverage annually in each zone. Municipal Commissioners should publish quarterly reports on ABC targets, budgets, and bite cases. Small, hygienic shelters must be built only for rabid, terminally ill, or proven dangerous dogs – not as dumping grounds for every complaint. Cruelty must be punished on both sides: dog catchers who use brutal methods and individuals who poison or beat dogs. Dogs have lived with humans for eternity. They guard neighbourhoods at night. As pets they are wonderful; as unmanaged strays they become a threat. But the answer is not hate – it is management. Stray dogs are part of our urban environment and teach valuable lessons in friendship, co operation, and loyalty. They offer unconditional love that humans often lack. There are countless examples of strays giving their lives for caretakers. Other creatures are not here for our selfishness. We must learn coexistence with compassion. A fistful of rice given regularly ensures a dog will guard your lane, not harm you.

The stray dog menace is grave, but solvable. The solution is not cruelty or mass culling, which is both illegal and ineffective. The solution is scientific, humane, and legally mandated: mass sterilization, mass vaccination, disciplined waste management, designated feeding, community participation, and strict accountability from Municipal authorities. Public safety and animal welfare are not opposing goals – they are achieved together. If the law protects street dogs' right to live, then the Government must ensure those laws are implemented effectively to safeguard citizens. We must act immediately, seriously, and with both sense and humanity. Only when we clean our streets and manage our compassion can we claim to be a truly civilized nation. Dogs can remain man's best friend – if we care for them the right way.

Beyond Courtrooms: Resolving Religious Disputes Through Dialogue and Harmony

India's civilizational ethos teaches that lasting harmony arises not from confrontation or coercion, but from dialogue, dignity, and constitutional respect for all.

Prof. (Dr.) Manmohan Prakash

Symbolic image harmony

India is not merely a land of geographical diversity; it is also a living example of coexistence, dialogue, and cultural harmony. For centuries, diverse faiths, philosophies, and traditions have flourished together on this soil. Alongside being the birthplace of the Sanatan, Jain, Buddhist, and Sikh traditions, India has also provided dignity, protection, and equal opportunities to Islamic, Christian, Parsi, and Jewish communities. The essence of Indian civilization has long been reflected in the principle: "Ekam Sad Vipra Bahudha Vadanti" – Truth is one, though the wise describe it in different ways.

Despite periodic social and political upheavals, the core character of Indian society has largely remained rooted in tolerance, accommodation, and dialogue. Yet history has also left behind sensitive issues that continue to influence public discourse. Along with the painful memories of Partition, disputes associated with certain religious sites have remained emotionally and politically significant in independent India. Such issues are deeply connected not only with legal claims but also with historical memory, faith, identity, and collective sentiment. In recent decades, India has demonstrated that even centuries old religious and cultural disputes can be addressed within the framework of constitutional values and judicial processes. The judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the Ram Janmabhoomi case stands as one of the most significant examples. The verdict was delivered after examining historical records, archaeological findings, and legal arguments. Equally noteworthy was the restraint, peace, and maturity displayed by citizens across the country after the judgment, which strengthened India's global image of democratic and social maturity.

Similarly, the recent judgment of the Indore Bench of the Madhya Pradesh High Court regarding the Bhojshala-Kamal Maula complex has once again brought questions related to historical religious sites into national discussion. Based on the archaeological and historical evidence presented, the Court observed the site's association with the temple of Goddess Vagdevi. Naturally, every party retains the constitutional right to challenge or appeal such decisions before higher courts. However, these developments also raise a broader social question: can certain highly sensitive religious disputes be approached not only through litigation but also through dialogue, mutual respect, and consensus building?

The cases relating to Varanasi and Mathura, presently under judicial consideration, further underline the importance of this debate. These examples reflect the deep faith Indian society places in the Constitution and the judiciary. Yet they also remind us that judicial verdicts alone may not always heal emotional and historical wounds completely. Sustainable peace and lasting harmony often require social acceptance, moral understanding, and constructive engagement among communities.

India's civilizational ethos has always valued dialogue over confrontation. If enlightened and responsible representatives from different communities initiate sincere discussions in an atmosphere of trust and mutual respect, many tensions can be reduced even before legal conclusions are reached. Respect for historical and archaeological evidence, combined with sensitivity toward religious sentiments, may open pathways toward reconciliation rather than prolonged hostility.

At the same time, any such initiative must remain firmly rooted in constitutional principles, the rule of law, and equal respect for all citizens. No resolution can endure if it emerges from fear, coercion, political polarization, or social pressure. Lasting harmony can only be achieved when solutions evolve voluntarily through mutual understanding and dignity for all concerned communities.

The Constitution of India guarantees equal rights, religious freedom, and dignity to every citizen. The judiciary remains the highest constitutional mechanism for dispute resolution, and its authority must always be respected. However, since legal proceedings in such matters often continue for years, the ideal path may lie in creating a balance between judicial processes and meaningful social dialogue. The need of the present time is not to turn historical grievances into perpetual hostility, but to transform them into opportunities for reconciliation, understanding, and national unity. When society collectively places constitutional values, social cohesion, and national interest above political or sectarian divisions, India moves closer to genuine and lasting progress. Ultimately, the success of any peaceful resolution will not belong to one community alone. It will represent a collective triumph of India's democratic maturity, constitutional wisdom, and timeless tradition of harmony through dialogue.

YOURLETTERS

One bite can change a life

World Dengue Day (or National Dengue Day in India) is observed annually on May 16. The 2026 theme: "Unite. Act. Eliminate.", focusing on pre-monsoon preparedness, removing stagnant water, and stopping mosquito breeding at the community level. Some researchers have achieved methods/treatment for dengue. The Wolbachia-method developed by Australian scientists, a two-dose vaccine 'TAK-003' and a three-dose vaccine 'Dengvaxia' manufactured by Japan, and a single-dose dengue vaccine 'Butantan-DV' developed by Brazilian researchers are the notable examples. India is developing indigenous dengue-vaccines.

Nabnit Panigrahi, Raygada, Odisha

Indian Women's Cricket: Rising to the Occasion

As the Indian women's cricket team gears up for its upcoming tour of England beginning May 28, followed by the ICC Women's T20 World Cup starting June 12, the nation's hopes soar. These athletes have redefined determination and grace, inspiring millions of young girls to dream beyond boundaries. Their growing confidence and skill deserve equal recognition, coverage, and support as their male counterparts. Let us celebrate their spirit and ensure women's cricket receives the respect it truly merits.

P Basanti, Bhilai

Send your articles (600-650 words) and letters (70-8 0 words) for this page on: **editorialcc007@gmail.com** The letters can be edited or rewritten for clarity.

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Nation

"Gujarat has performed exceptionally well across a wide spectrum of sectors: manufacturing, engineering, pharmaceuticals, ports, logistics, green energy, industrial infrastructure, and investment. The time has now come to elevate Gujarat to a position among the top three states in the service sector as well."

Amit Shah
Union Home Minister

SC flags low conviction in UAPA cases in country

SC bench made the observations while granting bail to a Jammu and Kashmir resident, Syed IftikharAndrabi, accused in a narco-terrorism case.

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Monday flagged low conviction rates under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and said that more than 90 per cent of such trials culminate in acquittals.

A bench of Justices B V Nagarathna and UjjalBhuyan made the observations while granting bail to a Jammu and Kashmir resident, Syed IftikharAndrabi, accused in a narco-terrorism case. The top court referred to data compiled by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) and said that the country-wide percentage of convictions under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) for the five years from 2019-23 hovers between 2 per cent and 6 per cent.

"In other words, there is a 94 per cent to 98 per cent possibility of acquittal in such cases in the country. When it comes to the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir, the percentage of conviction is abysmal, to say the least. "For the aforesaid period, the annual rate of conviction is always less than 1 per cent. It means that at the end of the trial, there is a 99 per cent possibility of acquittal in such cases. With such statistics staring at our face, the question is, should we continue the detention of the appellant or defer the consideration to a later stage, simply because the charges are serious?" the bench said.

FAST FACTS

- UAPA conviction rate at 2-6% (2019-23)
- At the end of trial, there is a 99 % possibility of acquittal in such cases.

The top court also said that, on due consideration, it believed that Andrabi has made out a case for the grant of bail during the pendency of the trial, as there is no recovery of cash or contraband from the person of the appellant or from the premises used by the appellant, either as his residence or place of work. "All statements implicating the appellant have been made before the police, including the confessions allegedly made by the appellant himself, which, prima facie, are self-incriminating and hit by Section 25 of the Evidence Act, 1872.

"The appellant has no prior antecedents of being connected with the narcotic trade or in terrorist activities. At least, no such material has been placed on record.

"On the contrary, it is stated that the appellant is an ardent advocate of the constitutional, federal and democratic set-up of India. He is a supporter of the Jammu and Kashmir People's Conference, a registered mainstream political party," the bench noted. Andrabi had challenged an order passed by the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, which dismissed his bail plea, saying the scrutiny of cellphone records indicated that he had been in touch with terror operatives across the border.

Narrating the sequence of events leading to the apprehension of the accused, the NIA had said that on June 11, 2020, police intercepted a car belonging to Abdul Momin Peer at Kairo Bridge, Handwara. During a search, Rs 20.01 lakh in cash and 2 kg of heroin were seized, and Peer was arrested.

Later, on his disclosure, the police arrested Andrabi and Islam-Ul-Haq Peer. Investigation revealed that the accused were allegedly involved in cross-border smuggling and supply of heroin in Jammu and Kashmir and other parts of the country after procuring the same from their associates in Pakistan, the chargesheet said. Andrabi and Abdul Momin Peer had visited Pakistan several times during 2016-17 to meet the operatives of terrorist organisations.

Over 11 lakh Mah households complete first phase of Census

MUMBAI: More than 11.14 lakh households in Maharashtra successfully completed self-enumeration for Census 2027 through the government's online facility between May 1 and 15, officials said on Monday. The online system was introduced as part of the House-Listing and Housing Census Operations to allow citizens to fill in their census details conveniently through a dedicated web portal.

According to a Press Information Bureau (PIB) release, 12,60,950 households began the self-enumeration process, while 11,14,277 completed it successfully. Pune district recorded the highest participation with 1,53,568 households completing the process, followed by Mumbai Suburban, Thane, Mumbai city, and Nashik.

Officials stated that households completing self-enumeration must share their 11-digit Self Enumeration ID (SE ID), starting with the letter "H", with enumerators during field visits. Authorities also assured that households unable to complete online registration will be covered through physical enumeration by officials from May 16 to June 14.

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

THREE FAMILY MEMBERS KILLED IN ACCIDENT

Fatal KSRTC bus-auto accident in Wayanad claims three lives

WAYANAD: Three members of a family were killed in a tragic road accident after a Kerala State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) bus collided with an autorickshaw at Vythiri in Kerala's Wayanad district on Monday morning, police said. The deceased were identified as Narayanan M A (44), his wife Shiji (46), and their son Amal (15). The family hailed from Pazhoor in Cheeral. According to police officials, the accident occurred around 7 am at Kunnathidavaka near Old Vythiri on the Kozhikode road. Police said the family was travelling in an autorickshaw driven by Narayanan when a KSRTC high-speed long-route "Minnal" bus, travelling towards Mananthavady, allegedly rammed into the vehicle. The impact of the collision left all three family members critically injured.

Local residents and emergency personnel rushed to the spot soon after the accident. The injured were immediately taken to a nearby hospital for treatment. However, despite medical efforts, all three later succumbed to their injuries, police said. The tragic incident has shocked residents of the area and raised concerns about road safety and speeding on the busy route. Police officials have launched an investigation into the accident to determine the exact circumstances that led to the collision. Vythiri Police have registered a case against the KSRTC bus driver in connection with the incident. Authorities said further legal action will be taken based on the findings of the investigation. The bodies of the deceased will be handed over to their relatives after completion of post-mortem procedures, police added.

LAKHIMPURKHERI ACCIDENT

Horrific highway crash in UP leaves 10 dead

LAKHIMPURKHERI: Ten people were killed in a tragic road accident after a van collided head-on with a truck on the Sisaiya-Lakhimpur national highway in Uttar Pradesh's LakhimpurKheri district on Monday, police said.

According to officials, the accident occurred between Unchgaon and Bharehta villages when the van was travelling from Lakhimpur towards Sisaiya. The vehicle reportedly collided with a truck coming from the opposite direction, causing severe damage to the van. Circle Officer of Dhaurahra, ShamsherBahadur Singh, said that all nine passengers travelling in the van along with the driver lost their lives in the accident.

BODY FOUND

Woman's headless body found near Gomtinagar railway tracks; probe on

LUCKNOW: A shocking incident came to light at Gomtinagar railway station in Lucknow after the headless body of a woman was recovered from a steel box inside a train, police said on Monday. The gruesome discovery has triggered a major investigation by the Government Railway Police (GRP). According to Superintendent of Police (Railways) Rohit Mishra, the body was found on Sunday during a routine inspection of the S1 coach of the 15114 Chhapra-Gomtinagar Express train. Railway staff noticed an unattended steel box along with a bag inside the coach and immediately informed the station master, the Railway Protection Force (RPF), and the GRP.

Two arrested in sisters' gangrape-suicide case

JODHPUR: Two men have been arrested in Jodhpur, Rajasthan, following the tragic suicides of two sisters who were repeatedly gang-raped and blackmailed. The elder sister ended her life on March 20, while the younger sister died after consuming pesticide atop a water tank on May 15. Before her death, the younger sister alleged that eight men had assaulted them for years, later extorting money by threatening to leak obscene videos. Despite multiple complaints filed since April, including an appeal to the Superintendent of Police, local authorities allegedly ignored the threats and failed to act. The younger sister's death triggered massive public outrage and protests demanding justice. Under mounting pressure, police arrested two of the eight accused, transferred the case to an Additional

| BJP'S CORE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD |

Odisha BJP meets to map out rural poll strategy, cabinet expansion

Press Trust Of India

BJP National President NitinNabin held a core committee meeting with the Odisha cabinet in Bhubaneswar.

FAST FACT

- Strategies were discussed regarding upcoming rural polls in the state.

BHUBANESWAR: BJP national president NitinNabin on Monday chaired a crucial meeting of the party's core committee in Odisha, where leaders discussed strategies for the upcoming panchayat elections and the possible expansion of the state council of ministers, according to party sources. The closed-door meeting was held at the BJP's state headquarters in Bhubaneswar and began around 8.30 am.

The meeting was attended by Chief Minister Mohan CharanMajhi, Deputy Chief Ministers KV Singh Deo and PravatiParida, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, Odisha BJP president ManmohanSamal, and BJP national vice-president Baijayant Panda. Senior party leaders, including MPs SambitPatra and PratapSarangi, Odisha BJP in-charge Vijay Pal Singh Tomar, co-in-charge LataUsendi, and several other office-bearers, also participated in the discussions. According to party insiders, the meeting focused on strengthening the BJP's organisational structure in Odisha ahead of next year's rural polls. Discussions were also held regarding the possible expansion of the state cabinet and the appointment of party leaders to various boards and corporations. After the meeting, BJP MP PratapSarangi said that apart from political strategy, the core committee also discussed the importance of preserving the BJP's ideology while governing the state. He stressed that the party leadership is keen on ensuring that the organisation remains connected to its core principles even after coming to power in Odisha.

NitinNabin, who arrived in Bhubaneswar on Sunday night, is on his first visit to Odisha after becoming the BJP's national president. His visit is considered politically important as the party prepares to strengthen its grassroots presence in the state.

| ADHIKARI'S FIRST JANATADARBAR |

CM Adhikari' holds 1st Janata Darbar

Press Trust Of India

KOLKATA: West Bengal Chief Minister SuvenduAdhikari on Monday held his first 'janatadarbar' after assuming office earlier this month, interacting directly with citizens and listening to their grievances and demands at a BJP office in Kolkata's Salt Lake area. The public hearing programme marked the beginning of what the BJP described as a regular initiative aimed at strengthening communication between the government and the people.

Adhikari, who took oath as West Bengal's first BJP chief minister on May 9, met several individuals during the session, including students and local residents. According to party leaders, the chief minister plans to organise such 'janatadarbars' on a regular basis to address public concerns and ensure quicker resolution of issues faced by citizens. The concept of 'janatadarbar' has been followed by several leaders in the past. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath regularly conducts similar public interaction sessions in his state, while former Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar had also organised people's hearings during his tenure. Meanwhile, the West Bengal BJP highlighted the achievements of the new "double engine" government during its first week in office.

> **"What West Bengal under TMC couldn't deliver in 15 years, the Double Engine Government has started showing in its very first week. This is the new West Bengal and the speed of real governance."**
>
> West Bengal BJP

बैंक ऑफ इंडिया Bank of India BOI

RAIPUR ZONAL OFFICE, Star House, 1st Floor, Plot Number 48, Sector-24, Naya Raipur, Chhattisgarh 492101
MEGA E-AUCTION INFORMATION
E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE OF THE MORTGAGED PROPERTIES UNDER SARFAESI ACT'2002

Vehicle Sale Notice by E-Auction (E-Auction Date - 09.06.2026)

The vehicle seized by our branch are proposed to be sold by tender on the basis of "As is Where is".

Sr.	Name of Branch & Borrower Name	Details of Vehicle	Reserve Price / Earnest Money Deposit / Bid Increment Amount
1.	Ambikapur Branch:- Mr. OM PRAKASH S/O MR. MOTI RAM	Tractor :- 1. VEHICLE NO: CG15EB9928 MAKE AND MODEL GROMAX AGRI EQUIPMENT LTD/ TRAKSTAR 536. 2. Chassis no: M9KATABAANVA02275 3. Engine no: NNA2DEJ0046	₹2,43,000 / ₹ 24,300 / ₹2000
2.	Kanker Branch:- Mr. RAMOTIN BAI NETAM	Tractor :- 1. VEHICLE NO: CG19BK9778, 2. MAKE AND MODEL: TAFE MOTORS & TRACTORS LTD MF 241 DI (2017), 3. CHASSIS NO: MEA8D061FH2141144, 4. ENGINE NO: S3251H83431, THRESHER: 4 FAN GURU HINDUSTAN.	₹3,12,000 / ₹ 31,200 / ₹2000
3.	Kanker Branch:- Mr. LACHANRAM	Tractor:- 1. VEHICLE NO: CG05AE0165, 2. MAKE AND MODEL: ESCORTS LTD-FARMTRAC6050 UMX(2017), 3. CHASSIS NO: T052382279KF, 4. ENGINE NO: E2387679	₹2,64,000 / ₹ 26,400 / ₹2000
4.	Kanker Branch:- Mr. MAHESH BAGHEL	Pik Up :- 1. VEHICLE NO: CG19BG0478, 2. MAKE AND MODEL: TATA ACE HT BSIV, 3. CHASSIS NO: MAT445553HZF20626, 4. ENGINE NO: 275ID07FSYS56875	₹1,47,000 / ₹ 14,700 / ₹2000
5.	Kanker Branch:- Mr. BHARAT BHUSHAN SHARMA S/o RAMNARAYAN SHARMA	Pik Up :- 1. VEHICLE NO: CG19BH0198, 2. MAKE AND MODEL: TATA PICK UP207RX BS IV WITH LOAD BODY(2018). 3. CHASSIS NO:MAT478014JSC03123, 4. ENGINE NO: 4SPCR10CRY612412	₹1,96,000 / ₹ 19,600 / ₹2000
6.	Kanker Branch:- Mr. SUKAL SINGH KAWDE	Tractor:- 1. VEHICLE NO: CG19BK9157, 2. MAKE AND MODEL: TAFE MOTORS & TRACTORS LTD MF 241 DI (2019), 3. CHASSIS NO: MEAD061FJ196505 , 4. ENGINE NO: S3251J62427	₹2,45,000 / ₹ 24,500 / ₹2000

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF E-AUCTION-1.The Auction Sale bidding will be online through the website https://baanknet.com **2. Bidder may visit https://baanknet.com, for Guidelines.** 3. The Bid Amount should be higher than the Reserve Price. 4. The highest/ successful bidders shall deposit 25% of bid/ purchase money adjusting the earnest money already paid immediately on the same day or next working day, after acceptance of the bid, failing which the EMD shall be forfeited. 5. The balance 75% of purchase price shall be payable on or before 15 days of confirmation of the sale by the Authorized officer or such period as agreed upon in writing solely at the discretion of the Authorized officer. In case of failure to deposit the balance amount within the prescribed period, the amount deposited shall be forfeited and the Authorized officer/bank will be at liberty to cancel the auction and conduct fresh auction.6. The EMD of the unsuccessful bidder will be returned on the closure of the e-auction sale proceedings. The EMD shall not carry any interest. 7. The Property is sold in **"AS IS WHERE IS BASIS"** and **"AS IS WHAT IT IS BASIS" and "WITHOUT ANY RECOURSE BASIS".** The intending bidders should make their own enquiries regarding any sort of liabilities.***8. The undersigned has the absolute rights and discretion to accept or reject any bid or adjourn/postpone/cancel the sale/modify any terms and conditions of the sale without any prior notice and assigning any reason.***9. The purchaser shall bear all subsequent charges . 10.The amount due is exclusive of interest and other charges. 11. Further any corrigendum will not be publish in newspaper. Interested advised to refer above website regularly. 12. The Employee's of Bank of India are barred from participation of e-auction. 13. Interested Bidders need to create their user id and password by own and it will take minimum time of 2 days therefore it is requested to the bidder to kindly create his/her user id before the last date. 14. In case of sole bidder, the bid amount quoted in his bid from must be improved by at least one bid incremental value, lest the sale shall be cancelled/ deferred. In case of single bidder, the authorized Officer should ensure that the said bidder has quoted a price which is higher than the reserve price fixed. This condition should be mentioned clearly in the notification for auction. For Inspection of above this Vehicle Please Contact, **Ambikapur Branch:- Mr. Gokul Singh Mehra 8962582747, Kanker Branch :- Mr. Rohit Kurrey-9691011075**

Date: 19.05.2026
Place : Raipur (C.G.)

Authorized Officer & Chief Manager
BANK OF INDIA

कार्यालय नगर पालिक निगम बिलासपुर (छ.ग.)
ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट द्वितीय निविदा सूचना

क्र. 08/न.पा.नि./जोन क्र. 3/2026-27 दिनांक 15/05/2026

एकीकृत पंजीयन प्रणाली अंतर्गत सक्षम श्रेणी में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से निम्नलिखित निर्माण कार्य हेतु दिनांक 01.06.2026 को सायंकाल 5:30 बजे तक ऑनलाईन (Online) निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है :-

निविदा क्रमांक/ सिस्टम टेंडर नं.	कार्य का विवरण	अनुमानित लागत (रु. लाख में)	निविदा डाउनलोड/ सबमिट करने की अंतिम तिथि
191130	वार्ड क्र. 15 समर्थ नर्सिंग हॉस्पिटल से वैशाली प्राईड, गुरु तेग बहादुर गेट से हनुमान मंदिर, वार्ड क्र. 17 जनता क्वार्टर गली में, वार्ड क्र. 18 कोन्हेर गार्डन से हमर क्लीनिक, वार्ड क्र. 20 गोदड़ी धाम गेट से ओम नगर एवं वार्ड क्र. 22 मटका चौक से लेकर मेन मुख्य डाक घर तक रोड डामरीकरण एवं नवीनीकरण कार्य।	90.04	01 / 06 / 2026
191131	वार्ड क्र. 22 मटका चौक से लेकर मेन मुख्य डाक घर तक आर.सी.सी. नाली निर्माण कार्य।	13.68	01 / 06 / 2026
191132	वार्ड क्र. 16 लक्ष्मण सुर्यवांशी के घर से सिंधी ब्यूटी पार्लर तक आर.सी.सी. नाली निर्माण कार्य।	11.94	01 / 06 / 2026

उपरोक्त प्रदाय कार्य की निविदा की सामान्य शर्तें, धरोहर राशि, विस्तृत निविदा विज्ञप्ति, निविदा दस्तावेज व अन्य जानकारी ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट वेबसाईट https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in से डाउनलोड की जा सकती है।

कार्यपालन अभियंता, जोन क्र.3
न.पा.नि. बिलासपुर (छ.ग.)

Green City, Clean City, Dream City.

"You are a product of your experiences and what you see around you. At the risk of being too serious, I've seen that marriages can also go wrong. Toh usse better hai ki aap wait karo aur sahi bande ke saath shaadi karo,"

Sara Ali Khan

&Glitters

OTT Watch

Mahvash joins India's Got Latent

RJ Mahvash confirmed joining Season 2 of India's Got Latent after accepting comedian Samay Raina's invitation. She also defended fellow creators during controversies and spoke about supporting them despite public criticism and backlash.

Avika Gor preps for KKK 15

Actress Avika Gor reached Cape Town for Khatron Ke Khiladi 15 and headed straight to the gym with Rithvik Dhanjani and Karan Wahi before the stunt-based reality show begins.

Rupali and Rajesh recreate Sarabhai magic

Rupali Ganguly and Rajesh Kumar recreated their iconic Monisha and Rosesh characters from Sarabhai vs Sarabhai in a fun social media video, delighting fans with nostalgic humour and memorable banter once again.

Stuart bloom leads multiverse chaos

HBO Max has dropped the teaser for Stuart Fails to Save the Universe, expanding The Big Bang Theory universe. It follows Stuart Bloom after a multiverse disaster as he tries to fix collapsing realities.

Black Phone 2 hits Netflix

Black Phone 2 is now streaming on Netflix. Starring Ethan Hawke, the horror sequel follows Finney and Gwen confronting the supernatural return of the terrifying Grabber at an eerie winter camp once again.

CLOSE UP

Salman Khan admits he never reads movie scripts

The superstar shared that he has never read a script throughout his film career.

Central Chronicle News

Salman continues to follow his instinct-based approach across decades in the industry.

Salman will next appear in Maatrubhumi

Salman Khan has surprised fans with a candid revelation about his unconventional approach to choosing films. The superstar shared that he has never read a script in his entire career, a statement that goes against the standard practice followed by most actors in the industry. Instead, Salman prefers to understand a project through its overall vibe, treatment, and commercial potential rather than going through detailed screenplay reading. He said, "I've never read a script in my entire life. I've written them, but I've never read them," highlights his instinct-driven creative process. His remark has sparked widespread discussion among fans and film enthusiasts about his unique decision-making style and long-standing working method. During the same conversation, Salman also addressed ongoing social media speculation about his collection of luxury watches. He clarified that not all the watches he is seen wearing belong to him, explaining that they are often borrowed from friends and acquaintances, despite frequent public curiosity about their brands and value. This clarification added a lighter note to the discussion, further highlighting his candid personality and relaxed attitude toward public perception today media.

On the professional front, Salman Khan was last seen in Sikandar (2025). He will next appear in Maatrubhumi, opposite Chitrangda Singh, a project earlier titled Battle of Galwan, with the release date yet to be announced. He is also collaborating with director Vamshi Paidipally for SVC63, which will feature Nayanthara.

| HOLLYWOOD |

John Krasinski calls Jack Ryan his most fun experience

Central Chronicle News

John Krasinski returns as CIA analyst Jack Ryan in Jack Ryan: Ghost War, the upcoming feature film expanding Prime Video's hit franchise into a larger cinematic espionage experience. After four successful seasons, the story shifts from long-form streaming drama to a high-stakes global thriller with faster pacing, bigger action set pieces, and a conspiracy spanning multiple countries. The Ryanverse now enters feature-film territory, raising the scale and intensity of the franchise.

Ahead of its May 20 premiere, Krasinski called this chapter his "most fun" experience yet playing Jack Ryan. He said moving from a series to a film changed the creative rhythm completely. With characters already established, the team could jump straight into action, tension, and emotion without long setup. This freedom allowed a tighter three-act structure and a more focused, explosive storytelling style.

HIGHLIGHT

- Krasinski is back as Jack Ryan in a bigger, more explosive global mission.

Krasinski also shared why Jack Ryan continues to resonate with him. He described the character as grounded, human, and relatable rather than a superhuman action figure. Ryan is an ordinary man in extraordinary situations, relying on intelligence, courage, and moral clarity instead of powers or fantasy abilities. That realism, he noted, keeps the role meaningful and inspiring for audiences.

John Krasinski in Jack Ryan: Ghost War

In Ghost War, Ryan is drawn into a deadly international conspiracy after a covert mission uncovers a dangerous global plot. He reunites with CIA operative Mike November (Michael Kelly) and former CIA boss James Greer (Wendell Pierce), alongside MI6 officer Emma Marlowe (Sienna Miller).

CineBriefs

BEST OF THE REST

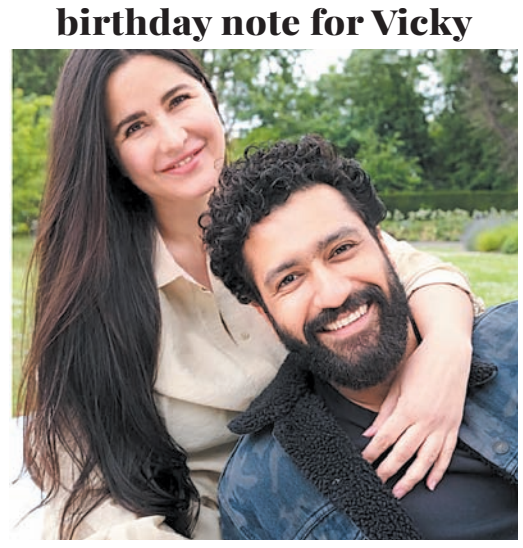
Web Series

Workplace chaos meets love in new K-Drama

Prime Video has announced the global premiere of its upcoming Korean office romance series See You at Work Tomorrow! set to release on June 22 across more than 240 countries and territories. The drama blends workplace satire with a slow-burn love story, following Cha Ji-yoon, a burnt-out product planner, and Kang Si-woo, her strict "Three-No Man" boss known for his cold exterior. As daily office routines unfold, unexpected emotions begin to surface between the two, turning mundane work life into a journey of healing and connection.

Bollywood pairs

Katrina Kaif shares sweet birthday note for Vicky



Vicky Kaushal celebrated his 38th birthday surrounded by love, peace and family moments with wife Katrina Kaif and their son Vihaan. Sharing glimpses from an intimate garden celebration, Vicky thanked fans and loved ones for making his birthday "sukoon aur pyaar se bharaa." Katrina's heartfelt note and adorable family pictures added warmth to the special occasion. The actress praised Vicky for being her pillar of strength, love and patience. Their sweet celebration completes with a cosy picnic setup and birthday cake, left fans emotional and delighted online.

Fashion

Simone Ashley revives iconic McQueen style at Cannes

Simone Ashley made a striking appearance at the 2026 Cannes Film Festival in a vintage Alexander McQueen crimson gown from the Fall 2005 collection. Styled by Rebecca Corbin-Murray, the corset-style dress featured lace detailing, a sculpted bodice, and a dramatic pleated mermaid skirt with a sweeping train. The archival piece, previously worn by Gisele Bündchen and Cate Blanchett, added fashion history to the red-carpet moment. Ashley paired it with Chaumet diamond jewelry and minimal styling, including soft waves and smoky eyes.

Trending on Insta

@rakulpreetsingh

Glam, coffee and music fill Rakul's busy day

Rakul Preet Singh shared a fun glimpse of her busy promotion schedule for Pati Patni Aur Woh Do, featuring coffee, glam sessions, dance rehearsals, meals and multiple outfit changes during TV appearances and interviews.

Excursion

TRAVELOGUE

Ladakh art Biennale is an ultimate cultural destination

Ladakh is set to become the centre of a remarkable cultural celebration in August 2026 as the sā Ladakh Biennale returns for its third edition. Scheduled from August 1 to 10, the festival will transform the stunning Leh-Kargil corridor into a large-scale open-air art experience unlike anything else in India.

Known, as the world's highest art biennale, the event moves beyond traditional museums and gallery spaces. Instead, Ladakh's dramatic landscapes, monasteries and mountain villages become part of the exhibition itself. Spread across eight locations including Leh, Kargil, Lamayuru, Basgo, Nurla and Likir, the biennale offers travellers a chance to experience contemporary art while exploring the region's breathtaking Himalayan scenery. Founded in 2023, the sā Ladakh Biennale focuses on sustainability, ecology and cultural dialogue. The word sā means "soil" in Ladakhi, reflecting the festival's strong relationship with the land and local communities. This year's theme, 'Signals from Another Star', explores ideas of memory, regeneration, climate awareness and humanity's connection with nature. The theme feels especially relevant in Ladakh, where concerns around melting glaciers, environmental changes and increasing tourism continue to grow. The 2026 edition will feature a mix of Ladakhi and international artists, creating a balance between local traditions and global artistic perspectives.

Alongside exhibitions, visitors can also attend workshops, artist residencies and community-led programmes designed to encourage deeper cultural engagement.

Ladakh is ready to host one of India's most extraordinary cultural festivals.

Ladakh biennale blends art beautifully

HIGHLIGHT

- The s Ladakh Biennale 2026 will feature exhibitions, workshops and community programmes across the region.

| TOURISM TRAVEL |

Every fridge magnet carries stories and memory

Central Chronicle News

In Indian homes, refrigerators are quietly turning into colourful travel journals. Covered with tiny magnets shaped like monuments, beaches, auto-rickshaws and city skylines, these small souvenirs are becoming one of the country's favourite ways to preserve travel memories. What once started with postcards and key chains has now evolved into a growing obsession with fridge magnets that carry stories far bigger than their size.

Their popularity lies in their simplicity. Magnets are affordable, lightweight and easy to carry home from trips across India or abroad. Yet they hold emotional value that often lasts for years. From ceramic cows bought in Switzerland to Kathakali faces from Kerala, every magnet becomes a reminder of a place, a milestone or a shared experience.

For many travellers, collecting magnets is no longer just about decoration. It is about preserving moments. A honeymoon trip, a first solo journey, a family vacation or even a dream destination inspired by Bollywood films can all live permanently on a fridge door. Some magnets arrive through personal travels, while others are thoughtful gifts brought back by friends and relatives.

The trend has especially grown among millennia's and young professionals, whose refrigerators now resemble mini travel scrapbooks filled with memories from around the world. Guests often stop to notice them, sparking conversations about journeys, stories and experiences attached to each piece.

Unlike digital photographs buried inside phone galleries, fridge magnets remain visible every day.

Every fridge magnet has a story, are you carefully listening

HIGHLIGHT

- Indian homes are turning refrigerators into colourful travel memory boards.
- Tiny keepsakes preserve journeys, memories, and meaningful family experiences.

Window View

DREAMY VISA-FREE BEACH COUNTRIES

Maldives

Overwater luxury, crystal-clear island escape

The Maldives is one of the most iconic beach destinations for Indian travellers seeking a luxury island getaway. With visa-on-arrival access for up to 30 days, it offers effortless travel convenience. The destination is famous for it's over water villas, turquoise lagoons, coral reefs and vibrant marine life. Whether you are honeymooning or planning a relaxing holiday, the Maldives delivers postcard-perfect views at every turn. Its calm beaches and premium resorts make it a top choice for short tropical vacations.

Mauritius

Coral reefs and volcanic beaches

Mauritius is a stunning island nation known for its crystal-clear waters, coral reefs and volcanic landscapes. Indian passport holders can enjoy visa-free entry for up to 90 days, making travel smooth and easy. The island is perfect for both romantic getaways and family vacations, offering beaches, water sports and cultural experiences. From luxury resorts to scenic coastal drives, Mauritius combines relaxation and adventure. Its diverse attractions make it one of the most balanced beach destinations in the Indian Ocean.

Seychelles

Granite boulders, untouched tropical beauty

Seychelles is famous for its dramatic granite rock formations, white sandy beaches and crystal-blue waters. Indian travellers can visit visa-free with a visitor's permit on arrival for up to 30 days. The islands are ideal for nature lovers and beach enthusiasts looking for peaceful, uncrowded destinations. Pristine beaches like Anse Lazio and Anse Source d'Argent make it one of the most photographed places in the world. Seychelles offers a perfect blend of luxury, nature and tranquillity.

Thailand

Vibrant beaches, nightlife, island fun

Thailand remains one of the most popular international beach destinations for Indian travellers. With its visa-free entry policy, it has become even more accessible. Beaches like Phuket, Krabi and Koh Samui offer everything from lively nightlife to peaceful island retreats. Clear waters, limestone cliffs and affordable luxury make it a favourite for all kinds of travellers. Whether you want adventure, relaxation or food experiences, and Thailand's coastal charm offers something for everyone throughout the year.

Malaysia

Emerald waters, calm island retreats

Malaysia offers a mix of modern cities and stunning tropical islands like Langkawi and the Perhentians. Indian travellers can currently enjoy visa-free entry under temporary exemption programs. Its beaches are known for emerald waters, soft sands and peaceful surroundings. From island hopping to water sports and rainforest experiences, Malaysia provides a diverse holiday experience. It is ideal for travellers looking for a balance of adventure and relaxation without heavy tourist crowds in many coastal areas.

Sports

Would love to own a team in WPL
Mohit Burman
Punjab Kings co-owner

'BCCI not a public authority under RTI Act'

The BCCI cannot be classified as a 'public authority' within the meaning of Section 2(h) of the Right to Information (RTI) Act, and the provisions of the Act are therefore inapplicable to it

Press Trust Of India

The ruling overturned the 2018 order by M. Sridhar Acharyulu that had declared BCCI a public authority under the RTI Act.

NEW DELHI: The BCCI is not a public authority under the Right to Information Act, thus it is not liable to answer any queries under the transparency law, the Central Information Commission held on Monday, overturning its own 2018 order in this regard.

Information Commissioner P R Ramesh said that the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), despite performing important public functions relating to cricket administration and India's representation in international tournaments, cannot be treated as a public authority as it is neither owned, controlled, nor substantially financed by the government "The BCCI cannot be classified as a 'public authority' within the meaning of Section 2(h) of the Right to Information (RTI) Act, and the provisions of the Act are therefore inapplicable to it in the facts and circumstances of the present case," Ramesh said in the order, dismissing an appeal seeking information about the provisions and authority under which the BCCI represents India and selects players for national and international tournaments. The ruling marked a reversal of a 2018 order of the then-information commissioner and a noted law professor, M Sridhar Acharyulu, who held BCCI to be a public authority and directed its president, secretary and committee of administrators to designate central public information officers, assistant public information officers and first appellate authorities under the RTI Act. The Central Information Commission (CIC) had also directed the BCCI to proactively disclose information under Section 4 of the law and furnish point-wise replies to the RTI applicant. The BCCI, however, had challenged the 2018 order before the Madras High Court, which, in September 2025, remitted the matter back to the CIC for reconsideration in light of the Supreme Court's observations in the BCCI vs Cricket Association of Bihar case and said the Commission should pass fresh orders after re-examining the legal position. Revisiting the issue, the CIC said that the BCCI is a private autonomous body registered under the Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act, which was not established by the Constitution, Parliament, a state legislature or through a government notification.

Lalthantluangi selected

NEW DELHI: Defender Lalthantluangi on Monday received her maiden senior team call-up for the upcoming tour of Australia, where seasoned midfielder Salima Tete will lead the Indian women's hockey team. The tour, scheduled from May 26 to 30 in Perth, is a part of preparation for the FIH Hockey Women's Nations Cup 2025-26, which will be held in Auckland from June 15-21. The Indian team heads into the tour on the back of a strong showing in Argentina earlier this year, where it displayed plenty of fight to secure two wins in the four-match series.

Salima, a bronze medallist at the 2022 Commonwealth Games and Asian Games, will have plenty of experience alongside her with the likes of Savita, Sushila Chanu Pukhrambam, Lalremsiami and Navneet Kaur, as well as exciting young talent including Sonam, Hina Bano and Lalthantluangi.

| 29-MATCH WIN STREAK |

Jannik Sinner enters French Open chasing a career Grand Slam

Press Trust Of India

From the California desert to Miami, nobody has been able to beat Jannik Sinner for three full months.

ROME: From the California desert to Miami; Monte Carlo to Madrid; and the red clay of Rome, too, nobody has been able to beat Jannik Sinner for three full months. By sweeping the first five Masters 1000 tournaments of the year, the top-ranked Sinner has dominated tennis like few other players have in the sport's recent history while amassing a 29-match winning streak.

And yet now the stakes are rising for Sinner as he attempts to complete a career Grand Slam by winning the French Open. The clay-court Grand Slam, which starts on Sunday in Paris, is the only major that Sinner hasn't won.

A couple of hours after becoming the first Italian man to win the Italian Open in 50 years on Sunday, Sinner's focus was already pivoting toward Roland Garros.

"We don't have much time to realize what we're accomplishing," Sinner said. "I said it before the start of the year: My main goal is and remains Paris.

"What we've done here and the rest of the year is incredible. I realize that. But mentally I know that now I've got to do all the right things.

FACTFILE

- Sinner dominates with five Masters titles, 29-match winning streak.
- French Open remains Sinner's only missing Grand Slam.

| INDIAN PREMIER LEAGUE |

RR can beat any team if we play to potential: Rathour

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Rajasthan Royals batting coach Vikram Rathour says his team can still qualify for the IPL play-offs by winning its remaining two league matches, asserting that the side has the ability to beat any opponent if it plays to its potential. Placed sixth in the standings with 12 points, RR face Lucknow Super Giants at home on May 19 before travelling to take on Mumbai Indians in their final league fixture on May 24. "We are planning to win every match. It's not that we are waiting for the last two matches to win. Every game is important for us and we are trying to win," Rathour said at the post-match press conference.

> **Planning to win every match**
> **Vikram Rathour**
> RR batting coach

"The situation is that we have to win both the games. Our belief is that if we are playing to our potential, we can defeat any team. That is the mindset. We need to turn up and play our best cricket," he said.

Rathour also provided an update on senior spin-all rounder Ravindra Jadeja, saying the team management had opted to rest him as a precaution because of a knee niggle. "He just had some niggle in his knee. They felt that if we give him one more game break, it will be good for him.

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

EXCLUSION CHALLENGED

Vinesh seeks relief from judiciary; Delhi HC to study WFI selection

NEW DELHI: New Delhi: The Delhi High Court on Monday said it would examine the Wrestling Federation of India's (WFI) selection policy before passing any order on wrestler Vinesh Phogat's plea seeking a fair opportunity to make a comeback to competitive wrestling. The matter came up for hearing days after Vinesh approached the court on May 14, challenging her exclusion from the national wrestling selection process amid an ongoing dispute with the WFI. Vinesh had last week reached Gonda in Uttar Pardesh for the National Open Ranking tournament, which was supposed to be her comeback event but the federation asked her to first reply to the show-cause notice.

BEST ROUND OF THE WEEK

Indian golfer Rayhan Thomas finishes T-13 at Colonial Life Charity Classic

ELGIN (USA): Indian golfer Rayhan Thomas carded 5-under 65, his best round of the week, to finish T-13 at the Colonial Life Charity Classic here. For Thomas, this was his best finish of the 2026 season. With rounds of 68-67-70-65, Thomas totalled 10-under par. Thomas began his fourth and final round with an early birdie on the second hole before dropping a shot on the fourth hole for his sole bogey of the round. A birdie on the eighth hole allowed Thomas to be at 1-under par at the turn of the round. On the back nine, Thomas made consecutive birdies on the 14th and 15th holes before making a late pair of birdies on the 17th and 18th holes to gain 10 positions in the final round and end the week at T-13.

THE FLYING KIWIS

No longer flightless, spreading football fandom at the World Cup

WELLINGTON: They call themselves the Flying Kiwis, an eclectic group of New Zealanders from around the world who, whenever their national soccer team plays a major match, assemble to provide raucous and usually outnumbered support. The deliberate irony: Kiwis – the eponymous bird from which New Zealanders take their nickname – are flightless. Since 2009 the Flying Kiwis have followed the New Zealand men's team at home and overseas and they'll be at the World Cup, offering a small island of loud, proud and distinctly Kiwi support.

In 2009, New Zealand played Bahrain in a two-game qualifying series, with the winner advancing to the 2010 World Cup in South Africa. After the first leg in Bahrain ended in a 0-0, New Zealand needed a win in the return match at home to qualify for the World Cup.

SUMMIT CLASH

'Very hard to say who will win the World Championship titles'

NEW DELHI: Former world blitz and rapid champion Anna Muzychuk has declined to pick favourites for this year's men's and women's world championship titles with Indian players D Gukesh and R Vaishali set to face tough rivals later this year, saying psychological momentum and handling pressure could prove decisive in the summit clash. Muzychuk, one of Ukraine's finest chess players who will begin her Norway Chess title defence in a few days in Oslo, said the World Championship clashes featuring defending champion Gukesh against challenger Javokhir Sindarov in the 'Open' section and Vaishali against five-time world champion Ju Wenjun in the women's event promise high drama and excitement regardless of who emerges victorious. "It will be very interesting clash. I'm looking forward to watching both of them (Open and Women's title showdowns) because the World Championship matches always stand out," said the 36-year-old Grandmaster, whose best in the classical World Championship format has been a runner-up finish in 2017.

Sports News

Selection for Afghanistan series: Bumrah, Rohit in focus

There is a short turnaround between the IPL and the one off Test which begins in Mullanpur (New Chandigarh) from June 6. The IPL final is scheduled on May 31 in Ahmedabad.

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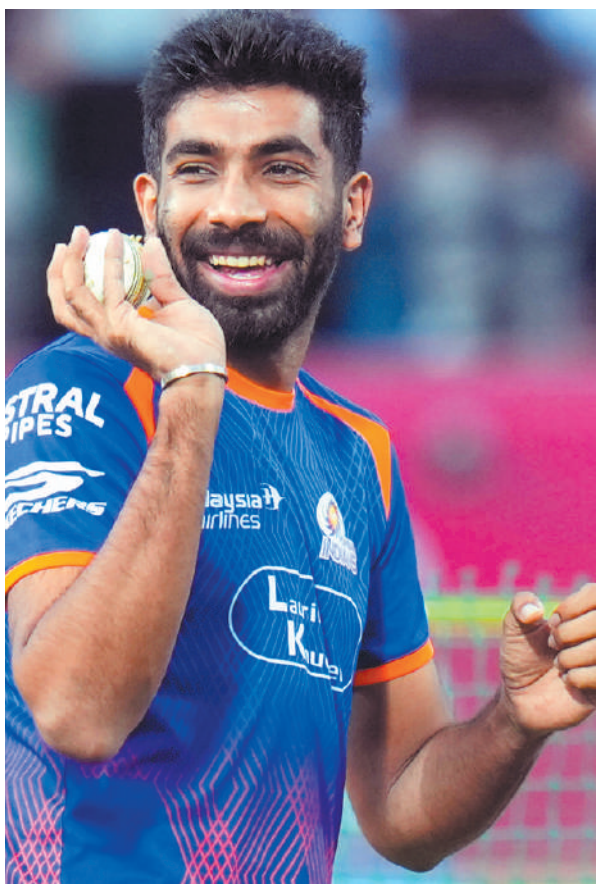
The ODI games in Dharamsala, Lucknow and Chennai on June 14, 17 and 20.



GUWAHATI: Pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah's workload management will be debated alongside the match fitness of Rohit Sharma when the national selectors pick India's squads for next month's one-off Test and three ODIs against Afghanistan, here on Tuesday.

There is a short turnaround between the IPL and the one off Test which begins in Mullanpur (New Chandigarh) from June 6. The IPL final is scheduled on May 31 in Ahmedabad.

The ODI games will take place in Dharamsala, Lucknow and Chennai on June 14, 17 and 20.

It is unlikely that Bumrah would be picked for both formats because there is no immediate rush for him to feature in ODIs. The 50-over World Cup is still a long way off (October-November, 2027).

Rohit had missed a chunk of Mumbai Indians' matches earlier in the IPL due to a hamstring injury and in the last game against Punjab Kings, he only came out to bat as an impact player. The selectors will include him in the side only if he is fully fit for 100 overs of an ODI game.

Superstar Virat Kohli, who like Rohit is now a one format player, has shown sublime form in the IPL and is expected to feature in all three ODIs against Afghanistan.

The one-off Test holds more significance considering India's troubles in the traditional format especially at home.

The batters need to find a way to tackle spin-friendly conditions. It is an aspect that has bothered them for a while now and was thoroughly exposed by South Africa in the home series last November.

India have also not been able to find a stable number three since Cheteshwar Pujara left the scene.

Sai Sudharsan got his chances but could not deliver. And now Devdutt Padikkal is expected to be given a decent run from the start of the home season.

Architect of Jammu and Kashmir's historic Ranji Trophy triumph, Aquib Nabi, is also likely to be a part of selectors' discussion for the Test team. He took 60 wickets in a stellar campaign.

Prince Yadav, who has impressed with his pace and accuracy in the ongoing IPL, can be tried in the ODI series.

If Bumrah is not part of the side, Mohammed Siraj will be the leader of the attack with Prasidh Krishna too likely to feature in it.

Like Rohit, Hardik Pandya too has been battling to stay fit in the IPL following back spasms. It remains to be seen if he is available for the ODIs.

Pakistan captain Masood joins ICC jury for all-time greats selection

Press Trust Of India

Masood's inclusion comes as a surprise to many in cricket circles

KARACHI: Pakistan's under-fire Test captain Shan Masood has been named in the jury formed by the International Cricket Council to select the greatest international cricketers of the last 25 years. Masood is the second Pakistani in the jury, the other being former pacer Wasim Akram.

Masood's inclusion comes as a surprise to many in cricket circles but a reliable source said that his nomination was made on the basis of a suggestion made by the Pakistan Cricket Board when the jury was being finalised.

Last year, Masood was offered the post of Director International Cricket and Players Affairs by the PCB but he turned it down as he wanted to complete the ICC World Test Championship cycle as captain.

But with Pakistan staring at a second defeat in the ongoing Test series in Bangladesh, Masood could be in trouble. According to a source, Masood is likely to now accept the PCB post due to his strong educational background and cricket experience. The ICC Jury comprises players from several countries including India's Ajit Agarkar, Irfan Pathan, Cheteshwar Pujara and Ravi Shastri.

The jury also includes David Gower, Ian Bishop, Mark Boucher, Carlos Braithwaite, Tom Moody, Greg Chappell, Matthew Hayden, Aaron Finch, Andrew Flower, Allan Donald, Faf du Plessis. Daniel Vettori, Ross Taylor, Shane Watson, Jonathan Trott, Tim Southee, Eoin Morgan.

FAST FACTS

- Masood was offered PCB director role last year.
- ICC jury includes Agarkar, Pathan, Pujara, Shastri.

| BANGLADESH TAKE CONTROL |

Rahim inspires B'desh to a strong lead over Pak

Press Trust Of India

Rahim struck a superb 137 off 233, smashing 12 fours and one six.

SYLHET: Mushfiqur Rahim hit a record-breaking century as Bangladesh set Pakistan a daunting 437 runs for victory in the second cricket test on Monday.

Rahim struck a superb 137 off 233, smashing 12 fours and one six to help Bangladesh post 390 in the second innings. Litton Das, followed his first-innings 126 with an elegant 69.

Mushfiqur's 14th century saw him surpass Mominul Haque to become country's most prolific test centurion.

The task Pakistan faces is stark: no other team in test cricket history has ever won a match chasing more than 418 runs.

Pakistan batted two overs on Day 3 without scoring a run before bad light forced an early stump.

Khurram Shahzad, who claimed 4-86, trapped skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto lbw with a sharp inswinger in the fourth over for Pakistan's only success in the morning session after the hosts resumed at 110-3.

Jennifer Paes passes away

NEW DELHI: Former India basketball captain and Olympian Jennifer Paes, mother of tennis legend Leander Paes, passed away on Sunday after a prolonged battle with cancer. She was 72. "She was terminally ill cancer patient and passed away on Sunday. The funeral service was held today at St Thomas Church in Kolkata," a family source said. Born Jennifer Dutton, she was the great-great-granddaughter of noted Bengali poet and dramatist Michael Madhusudan Dutt. Jennifer represented India in basketball at the 1972 Munich Olympics and later captained the national team, emerging as one of the prominent figures in Indian women's basketball.

| CONTRACT ENDS |

Real Madrid and Carvajal parting ways from next season

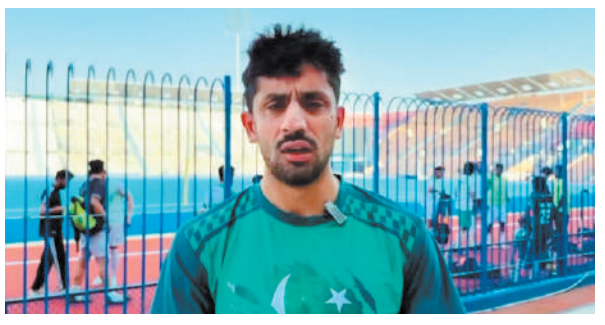
Press Trust Of India

MADRID: Veteran defender Dani Carvajal will not return to Real Madrid next season, the club said on Monday. Madrid said the club and the player "have agreed to bring an end to a wonderful chapter as a player of our club at the conclusion of the current season." Carvajal's contract ends in June. The 34-year-old right back joined Madrid in 2002 and has played 23 seasons with the Spanish powerhouse – 10 in the academy and 13 with the main squad. "Dani Carvajal is a legend and a symbol of Real Madrid and its academy," club president Florentino Pérez said. "His image alongside our beloved and remembered Alfredo Di Stéfano laying the first stone of Ciudad Real Madrid will forever remain in the hearts of all madridistas and in the history of our club. Carvajal has always exemplified the values of Real Madrid. This is and will always be his home." Carvajal played 450 matches with Madrid, the club said, scoring 14 goals and helping the club win 27 titles, including six Champions Leagues. "Real Madrid wishes to express its gratitude and affection to one of the greatest legends of our club and world football," the club said.

| TOUGH OPPONENT |

'Ready to meet India in Pro League and WC'

Press Trust Of India



HIGHLIGHT

- India-Pakistan to clash thrice in Pro League, World Cup.
- Pak to try and secure a victory against India.

LAHORE: Pakistan men's hockey team captain Ammad Shakeel Butt is ready to take on arch-rivals India in the upcoming FIH Pro League and the 2026 Hockey World Cup in Belgium and The Netherlands.

Acknowledging that the Indian hockey team is a tough opponent, Butt said Pakistan is prepared this time to give a tough fight to the the arch-rivals. "We have not been able to produce good results against India in a while now so this time we are preparing hard because if we can beat them it will give us a lot of confidence," he said.

India and Pakistan will play twice in the fourth phase of the FIH Pro League in England on June 23 and 28 before clashing again on August 19 in the World Cup.

"India is a very strong opponent and matches against them are always highly competitive. However, Pakistan also has a strong team, and we will put in our best effort to try and secure a victory against India," he said.

The World Cup, for which Pakistan has qualified after eight years, will be co-hosted by Belgium and The Netherlands from August 15 to 30.

Sixteen teams, including four-time champions Pakistan, have been divided into four pools. Pool A includes the Netherlands, Japan, Argentina, and New Zealand.

Pool B features Belgium, defending champions Germany, France, and Malaysia. Pool C includes Australia, Spain, Ireland, and South Africa, while Pool D consists of India, Pakistan, England and Wales.

Butt said that preparations for the two big events were continuing round the clock in the training camp.

The captain admitted that Pakistan need to correct the mistakes made during their last eight Pro League matches. He said the coaching staff is focusing on the team's attack, short corners, and overall fitness.

World

Modena attack raises integration concerns amid migration debate.

Matteo Piantedosi
Italy's interior minister

Russia unleashes massive aerial barrage across Ukraine

Russia targeted eight Ukrainian regions with over 500 drones and missiles, wounding dozens.

Press Trust Of India

KYIV: Russia targeted eight regions of Ukraine in its latest nighttime drone and missile barrage, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Monday, with local authorities reporting that the strikes wounded more than two dozen civilians, including three children.

Russian forces fired 524 attack drones and 22 ballistic and cruise missiles, Zelenskyy said. The city of Dnipro and the surrounding central region of Ukraine bore the brunt of the attack, officials said. The barrage continued a recent spiral of long-range strikes that have grown in scale following a May 9-11 ceasefire that US President Donald Trump said he asked Zelenskyy and Russian President Vladimir Putin to observe, but which had little impact. There is no sign that a peace deal is taking shape despite US diplomatic efforts to end Russia's invasion. Russia hammered Ukraine over several days last week, flattening a Kyiv apartment building where 24 people died. One of Ukraine's largest drone strikes on Russia killed at least four people, including three near Moscow, and wounded a dozen others, authorities said Sunday. In more than four years of war, Ukraine has built up its own long-range capabilities. It has been hitting oil facilities that represent a vital part of the Russian economy, as well as other targets deep inside Russia, making the Russian public take notice. That has increased the pressure on Putin, whose army is struggling to make progress on the battlefield and who claimed earlier this month, without providing evidence, that the war is approaching its end. On Sunday, the Russian Defence Ministry said that more than 1,000 Ukrainian drones had been shot down or jammed in the previous 24 hours, with around 80 on their way to Moscow.

A residential building is seen damaged after a Russian strike on Dnipro, Ukraine.

HIGHLIGHT

- Both nations have ramped up deep-territory strikes following a failed US-requested ceasefire.
- Ukraine has developed its first glide bomb featuring a 250-kilogram warhead to strike rear targets.

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

ISRAEL FLOTILLA

Israeli troops intercept activist flotilla attempting to breach Gaza blockade

ANKARA: The Israeli military began intercepting boats on Monday morning that are part of the latest wave of flotilla activists attempting to break the blockade of Gaza.

More than 50 vessels departed from the port in Marmaris, Turkiye, last week in what the organisers of the Global Sumud Flotilla described as the final leg of their planned journey to Gaza's shores.The organisation's livestream on Monday showed activists aboard several vessels putting on life jackets and raising their hands before a boat carrying troops approached. Israeli troops wearing tactical gear boarded the ship, and the livestream abruptly ended. Many of the ships are currently off the coast of Cyprus. Other footage showed Israeli troops on speedboats approaching and instructing the activists to move to the front of the boat. An hour before the interception, Israel's Foreign Ministry called on activists to "change course and turn back immediately."

Activists depart Turkey by boat to break Gaza blockade. (AP Photo)

"Once again, a provocation for the sake of provocation: another so-called "humanitarian aid flotilla" with no humanitarian aid," the Foreign Ministry posted on X. The Israeli military declined to comment on the ongoing operation.

ITALY MALDIVES

Italy's foreign minister says divers found bodies of 4 Italians dead in Maldives sea cave

ROMEI: Italy's Foreign Ministry said Monday rescuers have located the bodies of four Italian divers believed to be deep inside an underwater cave in a Maldive atoll. The searches had resumed on Monday after being suspended following the death of a local military diver during a perilous mission to try to reach them. Five Italian divers are believed to have died while exploring a cave at a depth of about 50 metres (160 feet) in Vaavu Atoll on Thursday, according to Italy's Foreign Ministry. The recreational diving limit in the Maldives is 30 metres (98 feet). The body of an Italian – a diving instructor – was found earlier outside the cave. Three Finnish divers had arrived in the Maldives Sunday to draw up a fresh plan in the search for the bodies of the other four, who were believed to be inside the cave system. Maldives presidential spokesperson Mohamed Hussain Shareef said the search was suspended after Mohamed Mahudhee, a member of the Maldivian National Defense Force, died of underwater decompression sickness after being transferred to a hospital in the capital on Saturday.

KENYA PROTESTS

Protesters light bonfires during transport strike in Kenya

NAIROBI: Protests erupted in Kenya's capital, Nairobi, on Monday as a nationwide public transport strike kicked off in protest at rising fuel prices. Commuters were stranded in various suburbs, and the city centre remained deserted as motorists with private vehicles opted to stay home as protesters burned tyres on major roads. The Kenya Association of Private Schools had advised its members to assess and determine the safety of learners going to school, and most schools opted for online learning. Kenya's fuel prices hit a record high on Friday, with the diesel price increasing by 23.5 per cent and petrol by 8 per cent. President William Ruto, who has been out of the country, has yet to comment on the new prices. In the last price review in April, he attributed it to the Iran war but reduced the taxes to prevent a sharp increase in price at the time. The Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry on Friday said the increased prices would affect all commodities and services in the country.

CONGO EBOLA

Congo health minister announces 3 Ebola treatment centres in Ituri amid ongoing outbreak

DAKAR: The Congolese health minister announced the opening of three treatment centres in the Ituri region in eastern Congo on Sunday evening as he visited the region amid the ongoing Ebola outbreak.

"We know that the hospitals are already under stress because of the patients," said Samuel Roger Kamba, the health minister, while visiting Bunia, the capital and largest city in Ituri. "But we are preparing to have treatment centres at all three sites in order to be able to expand our capabilities."

The World Health Organisation declared the Ebola disease outbreak a public health emergency of international concern on Sunday, after more than 300 suspected cases and 88 deaths in Congo and two in neighbouring Uganda. Although the outbreak is centred in Ituri, cases have been reported in the capital, Kinshasa, and in Goma, the largest city in eastern Congo.

In a separate statement on X on Sunday, the WHO Regional Office for Africa said that a team of 35 experts from the WHO and the Congolese Ministry of Health had arrived in Bunia, the capital of Ituri province, along with 7 tons of emergency medical supplies and equipment.