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Vishnu Deo Sai
CM Chhattisgarh

Chhattisgarh to implement 'Improved Rice Scheme'

Secretary highlights that the Government of India is working layout plans.

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: A one-day state-level workshop was organized today at the New Circuit House, Civil Lines, Raipur, to effectively implement the Government of India's new 'Improved Rice Scheme' in Chhattisgarh.

The workshop was chaired by Ms. Reena Baba Saheb Kangale, Secretary of the Department of Food, Civil Supplies, and Consumer Protection. Representatives from the Chhattisgarh Rice Mill Association, Food Corporation of India (FCI), Markfed, and rice millers from across the state participated in the event.



Addressing the workshop, Food Secretary Ms. Reena Baba Saheb Kangale highlighted that the Government of India is working layout plans to implement the 'Improved

Rice Scheme' on a priority basis in the upcoming Kharif season. To achieve this, it is essential for the state's rice mills to undergo technological upgrades to meet the specified standards. She

assured the millers that their suggestions and challenges would be thoroughly reviewed and necessary proposals would be forwarded to the central government. Through detailed presentations during the session, officials outlined the specific provisions of the scheme slated for the Kharif Marketing Year 2026-27. These included quality parameters, storage management, contracting processes, costing, and execution strategies. Notably, officials briefed the attendees on the strict quality standards, which dictate a maximum of 10% broken grains for Raw

(Arwa) rice and 5% broken grains for Parboiled (Usna) rice. Representatives from the Chhattisgarh Rice Mill Association—including President Kanti Lal Bothra, General Secretary Vishnu Bindal and Treasurer Ramesh Agarwal—actively raised practical concerns faced by the industry. The millers brought attention to crucial issues such as promoting the cultivation of advanced paddy varieties within the state, accelerating rake movements managed by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) apart from addressing rising milling costs.

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Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

POLITICAL STATEMENTS

'Rambhadracharya's regular commentary has compromised the dignity of the saintly tradition'

RAIPUR: Senior spokesperson of the Chhattisgarh Pradesh Congress Committee, Ghanshyam Raju Tiwari, has strongly reacted to the continuous political statements made by Jagadguru Rambhadracharya, continuous to back the assertions of Leader of the Opposition, Dr. Charandas Mahant. Tiwari stated that the position of saints and spiritual gurus in India has historically remained above politics and universally respected. However, he claimed that Jagadguru Rambhadracharya's regular commentary has compromised the dignity of the saintly tradition, effectively positioning him as a star campaigner for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) through remarks that appear designed to benefit the party's ideological and electoral agendas. Endorsing the stance taken by Leader of the Opposition Dr. Charandas Mahant, Tiwari raised several questions regarding the relationship between Rambhadracharya and the BJP. The senior Congress spokesperson argued that making political predictions like an electoral agent, raising slogans like "Modi alone will return" from spir-

itual stages, and predicting over 350 seats for the BJP reflects the language of a political worker rather than a saint. Tiwari further pointed out specific instances to support his claim, referencing a spiritual discourse in Meerut in September 2025, where Rambhadracharya allegedly referred to certain districts of western Uttar Pradesh as "mini Pakistan." The Congress spokesperson called such remarks communal and unparliamentary, suggesting they were intended to polarize voters for political gain. He also criticized the spiritual leader for labeling Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi's 'Mohabbat Ki Dukaan' (shop of love) initiative as a "shop of appeasement" and publicly calling opposition leaders "fools" from the stage, arguing that such behavior shows a loss of ideological neutrality. Tiwari added that a saint's true nature is to look upon everyone with equity rather than showing extreme devotion to a single political party. The Congress spokesperson accused the BJP of politically utilizing religious leaders due to a shifting political landscape.

| CHHATTISGARH CRICKET PREMIER LEAGUE SEASON 3 |

Fans stand a chance to win spectacular daily prizes

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: The third edition of the highly anticipated Chhattisgarh Cricket Premier League (CCPL) is all set to commence on June 3. Organized by the Chhattisgarh State Cricket Sangh, the tournament will run until June 14, 2026, at the Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh International Cricket Stadium in Nava Raipur. The opening clash will feature the Rai-

pur Rhinos taking on the Rajnandgaon Panthers at 9:00 PM. Ahead of the match, a grand opening ceremony packed with cultural programs will begin at 7:30 PM, featuring a special live performance by famous Bollywood actress Mouni Roy.

This season, the organizers are offering fans a massive incentive to attend. Spectators can participate in a daily lucky draw via a coupon

on the back of their physical tickets. Mega Prizes for the Opening Match (June 3) & Final Match (June 14) include a two-wheeler vehicle as 1st Prize whereas the 2nd Prize would be Rs 40,000, 3rd Prize: Rs 30,000, 4th Prize: Rs 25,000, 5th Prize: Rs 22,500, 6th Prize: Rs 20,000, 7th Prize: Rs 18,000, 8th Prize: Rs 16,500 whereas the 9th and 10th Prize would be Rs14,000 each.

BJP Corporators demand removal of Zone 10 President

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: Raipur: A major political storm has hit the Municipal Corporation after all the ward councilors of a local zone revolted against their Zonal Chairman, Sachin Meghani, demanding his immediate removal from the post.

In a significant escalation of municipal tensions, the local councilors have completely mobilized against the chairman, accusing him

of widespread dissatisfaction in governance and handling of zonal affairs. The dissenting councilors have taken an aggressive stance, threatening to completely lock down the zonal office if their demands are not addressed swiftly by the top civic administration.

The political unrest has disrupted normal operations at the zone office, causing a standstill as councilors unified to pressure the municipal leadership.

CM OFFERS CONDOLENCES

CM Sai offers heartfelt condolences to Late Rupnarayan Sinha



RAIPUR: Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai today visited the residence of the late Shri Rupnarayan Sinha—Chairman of the Chhattisgarh Yoga Commission, a senior volunteer of the Sangh, and former Divisional Organizing Secretary of the Bharatiya Janata Party—located in Kabir Nagar, Raipur. There, he offered his heartfelt condolences to the departed soul and offered his final respects. While offering floral tributes to the deceased, CM Sai met with the bereaved family members, offered them words of solace, and assured them of his unwavering support during this hour of grief. CM Sai stated

that the affection, simplicity, organizational acumen, and dedication to society demonstrated by the late Rupnarayan Sinha would forever remain alive in our memories. He made significant contributions to the organization, public service, yoga, and the promotion of Indian culture—contributions that will continue to serve as a source of inspiration for future generations. The Chief Minister remarked that his passing constitutes an irreparable loss for the BJP family, the organization, and the entire state. CM prayed to the Almighty to grant the noble soul a place at His divine feet.

Chh'garh team departs for Shuttlecock Championship



Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: A 9-member contingent from Chhattisgarh has departed for Anand Sahib Nanded, Maharashtra, to represent the state in the upcoming 4th National Sub-Junior, Junior, Youth, and Senior Shuttlecock Championship. The national-level tournament, organized by the Amateur Shuttlecock Federation of India, is scheduled to take place from May 29 to May 31. The matches will be held at the newly constructed

New Indoor Hall, located within the District Sports Complex at the Shri Guru Gobind Singh Ji Stadium in Nanded.

The Chhattisgarh squad features athletes competing across various age and skill brackets Sub-Junior Category: Devansh Mandal, Junior Category: Ashutosh Pandey, Senior Category: Nikhil Prajapati and Chandrashekhar Yadav and in Open Category: Amit Tiwari, Bhmesh Pandey, Dron Dhruv, and Akhilesh Dubey.

NIT launches PG courses on CSE and AI

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: The Department of Computer Science and Engineering at the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Raipur has officially announced the launch of two new post-graduate degrees starting from the upcoming Academic Session 2026-27.

The newly introduced courses are Master of Technology (M.Tech.) in Computer Science & Engineering (CSE) and M.Tech. in Artificial Intelligence & Data Science (AI & DS). Admissions for both of these high-demand programs will be channeled entirely through the ongoing Centralized Counselling for M.Tech./M.Arch./M.Planning (CCMT 2026) process. Eligible aspirants looking to secure a seat must com-



plete their online registration on the CCMT portal before the final deadline, which is set for Friday, June 5, up to 5:30 PM IST.

To be eligible for the application process, candidates must hold a valid Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering (GATE) score from the years 2024, 2025, or 2026 in either the Computer Science & Information Technology (CS) or Data Science & Artificial Intelligence (DA) papers. Academically, applicants are required to have completed a

BE/B.Tech. degree in relevant fields, a four-year BS degree, or a Master of Computer Applications (MCA) qualification. In terms of qualifying academic benchmarks, General, GEN-EWS, and OBC candidates must possess a minimum of 6.5 CGPA or 60% marks, while a relaxed criterion of 6.0 CGPA or 55% marks is applicable for SC, ST, and PwD candidates. Speaking on the launch, Dr. Dilip Singh Sisodia, Head of the Department of Computer Science and Engineering, stated that these contemporary M.Tech.

programs are meticulously structured to equip students with advanced technical capabilities alongside comprehensive research exposure in the fast-evolving domains of computing and AI.

FACTFILE

● Specialized digital tracking system will target zero student dropouts.

● Secondary schools will receive smart classrooms and vocational training.

ensure transparency and local accountability. During the comprehensive review of the 2026-27 budget plan, the Chief Secretary underlined the state's commitment to enhancing educational quality, accessibility, and inclusive growth. He explicitly instructed departments that the financial roadmap must move beyond brick-and-mortar school buildings to prioritize innovative methodologies that tangibly improve learning outcomes.

under the Samagra Shiksha initiative, alongside executing school construction works directly through School Management Committees to

| EDUCATION BUDGET PLAN |

Chhattisgarh education budget prioritizes quality & digital innovation

Central Chronicle News

Chief Secretary prioritizes educational quality and innovation over infrastructure.



RAIPUR: The Chhattisgarh Samagra Shiksha Executive Committee convened a high-level meeting at the Mahanadi Bhawan Ministry to review and approve the annual work plan and budget for the financial year 2026-27. Presiding over the meet-

ing, Chief Secretary Vikas Sheel emphasized a strategic shift in educational expenditure, directing officials to prioritize qualitative improvements and modern innovation over

traditional infrastructure spending. The committee extensively discussed and approved proposals regarding the rationalization and relocation of newly sanctioned projects

GUIDANCE WORKSHOP

Guidance workshop for music students

RAIPUR: Amid the intense summer heat and temperatures reaching nearly 45°C, while most students are spending their summer vacations in their hometowns, a special online Google Meet workshop was organized today at 12:00 noon to keep music students continuously motivated towards musical practice, voice development, and academic learning. A large number of vocal music students enthusiastically participated in the session.

The workshop focused on the topic "Voice Care, Correct Riyaz, and Essential Aspects of Music Practice." Detailed discussions were held on proper warm-up techniques, breath control, pitch training, shruti practice, correct posture, vocal care, daily practice planning, self-evaluation through record-

ings, and preparation strategies for competitive examinations in music.

Students were informed that summer vacation should not only be viewed as a period of rest, but also as an important opportunity for self-development, disciplined practice, and preparation for music-related competitive examinations. They were encouraged to utilize their time at home for in-depth study, listening practice, and enhancing their overall musical knowledge.

During the workshop, students were also informed that the name of Indira Kala Sangeet Vishwavidyalaya, Khairagarh has now been officially changed to Rajkumari Indira Singh Kala Sangeet Vishwavidyalaya, Khairagarh. The students welcomed this decision with happiness and appreciation.



Tribute to Pt Jawaharlal Nehru on death anniversary

RAIPUR: On the occasion of the 62nd death anniversary of India's first Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the Raipur Municipal Corporation (RMC) organized a tribute ceremony at the Gandhi Udyan complex on GE Road. RMC Culture Department Chairman Amar Gidwani and Mayor-in-Council (MIC) member Sanjana Santosh Hiyal attended the brief memorial event, offering floral tributes at the statue of Pandit Nehru to honor his legacy. The program was organized by the RMC Culture Department in coordination with Zone 4 officials.

Private firms join AMCA race

Govt kick-starts mega AMCA stealth fighter jet programme.

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: In a landmark move for India's defence industry, the government on Wednesday issued the request for proposal (RFP) for the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft, or AMCA, the country's first home-grown fifth-generation stealth fighter.

For the first time in a major fighter jet programme, the Defence Ministry has kept out state-owned Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) and invited three private players: Tata Advanced Systems, the L&T-BEL-Dynamic consortium, and the Bharat Forge-BEML-Data Patterns consortium.



The Rs 15,000 crore project will see the winning private partner build five prototypes of the AMCA at a new green-field facility in Andhra Pradesh.

This is historic as it opens fighter jet manufacturing to the private sector in India and promises faster development. It also strengthens India's push for self-reliance in cutting-edge aerospace technology.

India has been focusing on the ambitious AMCA project to develop

the medium-weight deep penetration fighter jet with advanced stealth features to bolster its air power capability.

AMCA, along with the Tejas light combat aircraft, is planned to be the mainstay of the Indian Air Force.

After the three companies submit their responses to the RFP, the selection process for the project is likely to be completed in four to five months.

The selected private defence major will

About Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft....

Once it is inducted, India will join an exclusive list of countries with fifth-generation fighters. As of May 2025, only the US (F-22 and F-35), China (J-20) and Russia (Su-57) have these. The AMCA is likely to be a single-seat twin-engine jet with advanced stealth coatings and internal weapons bays like those on US and Russian planes - the F-22, F-35, and Su-57. It is expected to have an operational ceiling of 55,000 feet and carry 1,500 kg in weapons in internal bays, with 5,500 kg more externally. The AMCA will likely carry a further 6,500 kg in fuel.

work with the Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA), an entity that operates under the defence ministry, for developing the prototypes of the aircraft.

Under the project, the government plans to build five prototypes of the Advanced Medium

Combat Aircraft (AMCA).

The IAF has been pushing for the AMCA project in view of its long-term requirement.

India's confidence in the development of the AMCA saw a significant jump after the development of the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas.

SC backs EC's power to conduct SIR

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Delivering a major victory for the Election Commission, the Supreme Court on Wednesday upheld its power to conduct a Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of voter rolls and said the exercise "breathes life" into the constitutional mandate for fair elections.

In its ruling on the intensely debated issue, a Supreme Court bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant held that the exercise advances the "constitutional imperative of free and fair elections".

The bench, also comprising Justice Joymalya Bagchi, held that the poll panel was empowered under Article 324 of the Constitution and Section 21(3) of the Representation of the People Act (RPA) to



carry out special revisions.

Disposing of a batch of petitions challenging the SIR exercise in Bihar, the apex court held that deletion from the voter list does not amount to a legal declaration that an individual is not a citizen.

The Supreme Court verdict led to sharp political reactions from across the political spectrum.

"...The Supreme Court declares SIR process legal and constitutional. It is clear that Rahul Gandhi and Congress opposed (the SIR) all through because they stood with illegal infiltrators, not with Indian voters," BJP national spokesperson Pradeep Bhandari said in a post on X.

NEWSLINE

RAIPUR

Rare Indian Giant Squirrel spotted

A rare Indian Giant Squirrel was sighted in a forest in Balodabazar-Bhatapara district, forest officials said on Wednesday. The sighting was recorded during a birding trail organised as part of a summer camp held from May 16 to 22 in the Devpur forest area, Divisional Forest Officer Dhammshil Ganveer said. The rare arboreal squirrel, also known as the Malabar Giant Squirrel, was identified by Balodabazar-based nature and bird enthusiast Hemant Verma, he said.

The sighting of the species in the Devpur forest is being seen as a positive sign of the region's rich biodiversity and healthy forest ecosystem, Ganveer said.

Karnataka CM likely to resign today

Press Trust Of India

BENGALURU: Senior Congress MLA and Chairperson of the Administrative Reforms Commission R V Deshpande on Wednesday said that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah told him he had decided to resign. The former minister, who

met Siddaramaiah at his residence, said that when some MLAs insisted he should not resign, the CM replied that he had given his word to the high command and would respect it. According to sources, a number of ministers and legislators met Siddaramaiah at his residence and held discussions with him.

Govt health spending triples to Rs 3.85 lakh cr

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Government expenditure on healthcare has nearly tripled over the last decade to Rs 3.85 lakh crore in 2022-23, while out-of-pocket spending by households on treatment has declined significantly, according to the National Health Accounts (NHA) estimates released by the



Union Health Ministry on Wednesday.

The report showed that government health expenditure increased from Rs 1.30 lakh crore in 2013-14 to Rs 3.85 lakh crore in 2022-

23, stating higher public investment in the health sector. The share of government health spending in the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) rose from 1.15 per cent in 2013-14 to 1.43 per cent in 2022-23. According to the new GDP series with base year 2022-23, the figure stands at 1.48 per cent. The ministry said the increase in public

spending has contributed to a substantial decline in out-of-pocket expenditure incurred by households on healthcare. According to the report, out-of-pocket expenditure as a share of total health expenditure fell from 64.2 per cent in 2013-14 to 43.4 per cent in 2022-23, indicating reduced financial burden on people seeking treatment.

AI flight to US returns midway

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: An Air India flight bound for San Francisco returned to New Delhi on Wednesday after developing a technical snag mid-flight, forcing the aircraft to turn back after spending more than eight hours in the air, according to the airline

and flight-tracking data. The aircraft, with around 230 passengers onboard, had been airborne for more than three hours and was flying through Chinese airspace before diverting back toward Delhi. Flight AI173, operated by a Boeing 777-300ER was carrying around 230 passengers.

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"Pond preservation is vital for tackling future water crises"

Alka Bagmar
Durg Mayor

Rajasthan's interstate cyber fraud gang busted

The gang utilized a fake WhatsApp DP of a Bhilai based company director to execute a targeted online fraud of Rs 20 lakh.

Central Chronicle News

BHILAI: The Supela Police, in a joint operation with the Anti-Crime and Cyber Unit (ACCU), dismantled an interstate cyber fraud syndicate originating from Rajasthan. The crackdown led to the arrest of six individuals who orchestrated a sophisticated online scam, defrauding a Bhilai-based firm, Sairam Wheels Private Limited, of Rs 20 lakh.

ASP Sukhnandan Rathore informed that the arrested accused are Murlu Janagal (19), Gopal Soni



Police officers addressing the media persons

(25), Moti Singh (18), Motilal Sharma (18), Banwari Sharma (28), and Pankaj Sharma (24), residents of Jodhpur and Bikaner (Rajasthan). According to the victim's complaint, the scam-

mers created a fraudulent WhatsApp profile using the photograph of the company's director. Exploiting the company's internal communication protocol for financial transactions, the fraudsters deceived the accountant into transferring Rs 20 lakh into an HDFC bank account.

Following senior directives, law enforcement launched an intensive technical investigation. The probe revealed that the organized gang operated by opening bank accounts under false per-

FASTFACTS

●Police arrested five accused and recovered Rs 1.20 lakh in cash, 6 mobiles, 10 debit cards, and multiple fraudulent banking documents.

tenses—often updating local addresses on original identities to bypass verification—and using a token system via secure apps to move illicit funds.

The suspects continuously shifted hideouts across Raipur to evade tracking.

Special Committees formed to curb arbitrary school fee hikes

Central Chronicle News

FASTFACTS

●District and block-level committees have been formed to investigate private schools forcing parents to buy overpriced uniforms and books from specific vendors.

BHILAI: Taking serious note of rising complaints against private schools forcing parents to purchase books and uniforms from specific commercial firms at exorbitant prices, the Durg district administration has launched a major initiative. To provide relief to parents and inspect unexpected fee hikes, Collector Abhijit Singh has constituted dedicated district and block-level probe committees.

The district-level panel includes Collector Abhijit Singh, District Education Officer (DEO) Arvind Kumar Mishra, and Assistant Commissioner (Commercial Tax) Rinki

Akhilesh Soni. Additionally, sub-divisional teams comprising SDMs, Block Education Officers, and GST inspectors have been set up for Durg, Dhamdha, and Patan blocks. These committees will take suo motu cognizance of violations and ensure strict legal action under the Chhattisgarh Non-Government Schools Fees Regulation Act.

NEWSLINE

DAILY OPERATIONS BMC's drive against stray cattle to prevent road accidents

BHILAI: Bhilai Nagar Municipal Corporation has launched a special campaign to curb rising road accidents and traffic disruptions caused by stray cattle.

Acting on Commissioner Rajiv Kumar Pandey's directives, the Roka Cheka team is conducting daily operations across busy routes, chowks, and market areas.

capturing cattle and relocating them to the Kosanala Gothan. Adequate fodder, water, and medical care are being provided there.

Officials noted that cattle sitting on roads often led to traffic jams and accidents, especially at night and during monsoon when roads become slippery.

Continuous monitoring is underway in Power House, Supela, Vaishali Nagar, Khursipar, and Nehru Nagar.

The corporation has appealed to cattle owners to restrain their animals, warning that strays will be seized to ensure safety and smooth traffic flow.

EXCEPTIONAL EMPATHY |

Woman Traffic Constable sets example of humanity by helping elderly woman

Central Chronicle News

BHILAI: Demonstrating exceptional empathy alongside official duty, Durg Traffic Police personnel continue to manage city roads amidst a severe heatwave with temperatures soaring between 45°C and 46°C. On May 27, newly recruited woman constable Keshar Sahu was deployed at Rajendra Park Chowk when she noticed an elderly woman visibly distressed and collapsing from extreme thirst.

Moving swiftly, Constable



Sahu utilized her personal water supply to quench the elderly woman's thirst, offering immediate relief from the scorching sun. This compassionate act by the Durg Traffic Police has

HIGHLIGHT

● Amid a blistering 46°C heatwave, newly recruited woman constable Keshar Sahu rushed to rescue a dehydrated elderly woman by providing her drinking water.

drawn immense appreciation from local citizens, significantly strengthening public trust in law enforcement while highlighting their commitment to social responsibility beyond routine traffic regulation.

Public grievance camps rescheduled

BHILAI: In compliance with state directives under 'Su-Shasan Tihar 2026', Durg Collector Abhijit Singh has rescheduled the public grievance redressal camps originally slated for May 28, due to the public holiday for Eid-ul-Zuha (Bakrid). To ensure public convenience, the camp at Somni Community Hall (Bhilai-Charoda) will now be held on May 29. The Zone-4 Shivaji Nagar camp (Bhilai) is deferred to June 2.

Public grievance camps rescheduled

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WATER CONSERVATION STRENGTHENED |

Shakti Nagar pond deepening and pitching works progressing

Central Chronicle News

BHILAI: Durg Municipal Corporation is undertaking deepening and pitching works at Shakti Nagar pond in Ward No 17 to strengthen water structures and promote conservation.

Mayor Alka Bagmar inspected the site along with Public Works Incharge Dev Narayan Chandrakar,



Ward Councillor Suruchi Umre, Arun Singh, and officials. The project, sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 45 lakh, is progress-

ing rapidly with a completion target of 15-20 days. Officials stated that once finished, the pond will provide stronger water retention and safer structures, boosting conservation efforts. The Mayor directed strict adherence to quality and timelines, stressing that pond preservation is vital for tackling future water crises.

Bhilai Municipal Corporation demolishes illegal shop

Central Chronicle News

BHILAI: Bhilai Nagar Municipal Corporation carried out action against an illegally constructed shop near the Nandini Road overbridge. Following a complaint and site inspection, officials found that Altaf had built a new shop without permission, obstructing road arrangements. Acting on Commissioner



Rajeev Kumar Pandey's directives, the demolition squad and zone team reached the site

and removed the unauthorized structure with staff support. The corporation clarified that strict

action will continue against any construction or encroachment undertaken without statutory approval.

Citizens have been urged to obtain necessary permissions before establishing shops, failing which legal measures will be enforced. Revenue officials and demolition squad members were present during the operation.

ASSESSING DISASTER PREPAREDNESS |

BSP conducts Safety Mock Drill

Central Chronicle News

BHILAI: SAIL Bhilai Steel Plant organised a comprehensive safety mock drill at the Forging and Brazing Section of the Roll Turning Shop (RTS) Department to assess disaster preparedness for a potential Coke Oven Gas leak. The exercise aimed to train employees in prompt emergency response and strengthen department-



tal disaster management readiness. SK Gupta, GM (RTS), acted as Chief Controller, supervising the drill that simulated a gas

leak scenario. Employees and emergency teams practiced coordinated rescue and safety measures under controlled

conditions. The successful exercise was supported by multiple departments and agencies. Key participants included Sanjay Dhawas, ACFO (Fire Services), Vijay Dewangan (Gas Safety), SK Pandey (CISF), KR Sahu (Safety Engineering), Sunil Shukla, AGM & DSO (RSM), Anuradha Saha (HR/Mills Zone 2), and Swatantra Kumar (Civil Defence), along with RTS officials and personnel.

COLLECTOR JANDARSHAN |

Collector orders inspections after villagers raise infrastructure and livelihood issues

Central Chronicle News

BHILAI: During the weekly Jandarshan program on Wednesday, Durg Collector Abhijit Singh addressed 96 public grievances at the district office. Key representations included residents of Morid village, who submitted an application demanding the reconstruction of a canal



bridge. They highlighted that recent road cementation had leveled the road with the bridge, causing

frequent accidents and severe waterlogging. Additionally, fishermen from Santra village requested the registration of a new fisheries cooperative society. They alleged that the existing old society sub-leases local ponds to outsiders instead of practicing fish farming itself causing economic losses to local fishermen.

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MIC approves urban, welfare, infra initiatives

The Rs 9.95 crore 'Divyang Park' for differently-abled residents was moved to a more central location in Tikrapara.

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: In a comprehensive sweep of civic policy, the Raipur Municipal Corporation's Mayor-in-Council (MIC) on Wednesday approved a massive slate of 27 development and welfare projects. Chief among the decisions was the relocation of a landmark Rs 9.95 crore park for the differently-abled to the heart of the city, the clearance of nearly 200 new social security pensions, and the approval of a multi-crore public-private partnership (PPP) project to redevelop the old municipal headquarters under the federal Urban Challenge Fund.

Presided over by Mayor Meenal Choubey, the meeting at the municipal headquarters brought together top administrative and technical leadership, including Municipal Commissioner Sambit Mishra, to fast-track city-wide upgrades. In a direct effort to strengthen the local safety net, the MIC greenlit 146 new pension cases under the Destitute Pension Scheme and 51 new cases under the National Family Benefit Scheme.

Administrative processes regarding the issuance of caste certificates were also streamlined. To ensure the smooth rollout of these expanded ser-



FASTFACTS

- The council cleared 197 new social security pensions and approved Rs 25.33 lakh to hire specialized urban planning staff.

VICES, the council approved a budget of Rs 25.33 lakh to hire specialized human resources—including an urban planner and technical assistants—via a placement agency for one year. The meeting marked a major strategic shift for the city's landmark Rs 9.95 crore 'Divyang Park'—a specialized medical and recreational facility designed to assist nearly seven lakh differently-abled residents across 27 categories.

Following directives from Raipur MP Brijmohan Agrawal, the council voted to move the project from its originally pro-

Sanitation and Civic Administration

Aligning with federal cleanliness targets, the MIC ratified the 2025-26 solid waste management action plan funded by the 15th Finance Commission's Million Plus City allocation. Under the Swachh Bharat Mission Urban 2.0, officials also relocated a proposed 10-seater aspirational toilet facility from the Mahamaya Temple area to Tilak Nagar, Gudhiyari to optimize public utility.

posed site in Daldal Seoni to a centralized location near Naraiya Pond at Sidhartha Colony, Tikrapara, maximizing geographic accessibility.

CG RERA warns public against cyber fraud

RAIPUR: The Chhattisgarh Real Estate Regulatory Authority (CG RERA) has issued a vital public advisory warning citizens, allottees, and promoters to remain highly vigilant against escalating cyber fraud and financial scams. The regulatory body stepped in after learning that unauthorized individuals have been falsely identifying themselves as CG RERA officials and employees. These imposters are actively contacting individuals to demand money and orchestrate fraudulent financial transactions under the guise of official regulatory procedures. In its directive, CG RERA categorically stated that the authority never instructs anyone to deposit funds or fees into personal bank accounts, mobile numbers, UPI IDs, or any other private channels.

Severe thunderstorm rips through Raipur disrupting power and toppling trees

Central Chronicle News

High-velocity winds and heavy rain disrupted Raipur's power supply and uprooted trees.



FASTFACTS

- The storm followed intense afternoon heat on the third day of Nau Tapa.
- The Meteorological Department issued severe weather and thunderstorm alerts for multiple Chhattisgarh districts.

The tempest brought down numerous trees and large hoarding structures across major inter-

sections, which severely crippled the city's power distribution network.

Extensive power outages were reported from a majority of neighborhoods as uprooted trees snapped overhead electricity lines. Prominent locations including the Press Complex, Mekahara Hospital campus, and Medical College Square witnessed large trees and promotional flex banners collapsing onto the roads, temporarily hindering traffic movement.

Police Commi honors good samaritans for saving road accident

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: In a move to encourage public participation in road safety, Police Commissioner Sanjeev Shukla honored five Good Samaritans on Wednesday for their timely intervention in saving the lives of road accident victims. The citizens were presented with mementos and appreciation certificates at an official ceremony. To inspire the general public, the Police Commissioner also directed officials to feature these individuals on large hoardings across major roads and intersections throughout the city.

Among those recognized was Gagan-deep Singh Arora from Shankar Nagar, who rescued a female

scooterist after she lost control and crashed near the VIP Turning on Vidhan Sabha Road on the night of May 24. He provided her with water and safely handed her over to her family members.

Another citizen, Rajesh Kumar Chaudhary from Kabir Nagar, was honored for promptly utilizing the Dial 112 emergency service on May 24 to rush an injured motorcyclist to the hospital following a road mishap. Similarly, Hemchand Yadav from Azad Chowk demonstrated exemplary citizenship by using Dial 112 to secure immediate medical transport for a motorcyclist and pillion rider who were critically injured in a crash near the local Ola showroom.

Class 6th admission under Utkarsh Yojana postponed

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: The admission process for Class 6th under the Chief Minister Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Student Utkarsh Yojana (formerly known as the Jawahar Utkarsh Yojana) for the academic session 2026-27 has been postponed due to unavoidable circumstances. A directive to this effect has been issued from Nava Raipur to all district collectors. According to the official

communication, guidelines for conducting the entrance examination were previously issued on May 14, 2026, with instructions given to the Assistant Commissioner of Tribal Development for widespread publicity. Departmental officials stated that the postponement is a result of ongoing delays in the empanelment of participating institutions and the overall admission process for the upcoming session.

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Bilaspur Region

Collector orders strict legal action on fund misappropriation

On Tuesday, Collector Kunal Dudawat took a time-limit meeting with all the departments in the Collectorate.

Central Chronicle News

KORBA: Collector Mr. Kunal Dudawat convened a time-bound review meeting on Tuesday to assess the functioning of various departments and review pending cases under the Time-Limit (TL) mechanism. During the meeting, he issued strict instructions against the misuse of government funds and warned officials that any diversion of funds allocated for specific development works would not be tolerated under any circumstances. The Collector directed all Sub-Divisional Magistrates (SDMs) to register FIRs and initiate legal proceedings against Sarpanchs, Secretaries, and contractors found guilty of embezzling funds meant for village development projects instead of utilizing them for their intended government purposes.

Reviewing the implementation of the Pradhan Mantri SVANidhi Scheme, Mr. Dudawat instructed Janpad CEOs and Chief Municipal Officers (CMOs) of urban local bodies to coordinate with banks to ensure timely delivery of benefits to eligible



Collector reviews pending cases in TL meeting

During Tuesday's time-bound review meeting, Collector Mr. Kunal Dudawat reviewed various pending matters related to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), the Chief Minister's 'Jan Darshan' public outreach program, Human Rights cases, and applications received under the Collector's own 'Jan Darshan' initiative. He directed officials to ensure the prompt resolution of all pending cases and instructed them to communicate the outcomes to the concerned applicants without delay. Emphasizing accountability and transparency in public service delivery, the Collector also instructed officials to ensure that applications received during the 'Sushasan Tihar' (Good Governance Festival) are resolved efficiently, within the stipulated time frame, and with high quality standards.

beneficiaries. He further directed that show-cause notices be issued to the CEO of Korba Janpad and the CMO of Katghora if progress in the scheme remained unsatisfactory.

The Collector also

reviewed infrastructure-related projects and instructed all construction agencies to upload detailed project information on the district administration's construction portal. He

FACTFILE

● He instructed the officials to file FIRs against those who are misusing the government funds.

directed agencies such as the Public Works Department (PWD) and Rural Engineering Services (RES) to complete approved school buildings before the commencement of the new academic session while maintaining high-quality standards. Expressing displeasure over negligence in the construction of the Swami Atmanand School building, he ordered show-cause notices against the Executive Engineer (EE), Sub-Divisional Officer (SDO), and Assistant Engineer of the PWD.

Regarding the construction of schools, health centers, and Anganwadi buildings, the Collector instructed officials to coordinate effectively to ensure water availability at construction sites and include borewell provisions in project estimates wherever necessary.

Government revises Bakrid holiday to May 28

KORBA: The Government of Chhattisgarh has partially amended the date of the mandatory public holiday for Eid-ul-Zuha (Bakrid). The General Administration Department issued a revised notification on Tuesday announcing the change. According to the earlier notification, the public holiday for Bakrid had been scheduled for Wednesday, May 27, 2026. However, after revising the order, the State Government has now declared Thursday, May 28, 2026, as the official public and general holiday for the festival instead of May 27.

Wheelchair and aids given to Hiralal

KORBA: The Department of Social Welfare, Korba, has issued an official clarification regarding a news report published in a local newspaper alleging that Mr. Hiralal Chauhan, an elderly resident of the Prashanti Old Age Home in Korba, had not been provided with a wheelchair. Refuting the claim, the Deputy Director of the Department stated that after identification and certification by the Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO), Jabalpur, Mr. Chauhan was provided with both a commode chair and a standard foldable wheelchair on December 19, 2025.

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

ADMINISTRATION RETURNS EMPTY-HANDED Political intervention halts administration action on illegal encroachment removal



MUNGELI: A municipal and administrative team that arrived on Tuesday to remove an alleged illegal encroachment at Apollo Pharmacy near the Old Bus Stand had to return without taking action after facing intense political opposition at the site. The incident has triggered public criticism and raised questions over the administration's preparedness and approach

toward anti-encroachment drives. According to sources, the administration had received complaints regarding encroachment by the pharmacy operating near the Old Bus Stand. Acting on the complaint, officials reached the location with a team to initiate proceedings. However, as soon as the officials attempted to begin the operation, the atmosphere turned tense.

MEETING

Collector stresses sensitivity, speed in grievance redressal process

MCB: Collector and District Magistrate Ms. Santan Devi Jangde conducted a weekly 'Jan Darshan' public interaction program on Tuesday at the Collectorate conference hall following the time-limit review meeting. Citizens from different parts of the district attended the program and submitted applications related to various public grievances and demands. The program was attended by District Panchayat CEO Ankita Som, Additional Collectors Namrata Dongre and Anil Kumar Sidar, along with SDMs, Janpad CEOs, Tehsildars, and officials from multiple departments.

A total of 21 applications were received during the Jan Darshan, covering issues such as land disputes, compensation payments, honorariums, ration distribution, pensions, housing, illegal mining, Jal Jeevan Mission-related complaints, and other civic concerns. After hearing the applicants, the Collector directed the concerned departments to ensure quality disposal of the cases within a stipulated timeframe. Among the applicants, Ankur Tiwari of Singrauli sought payment of his pending honorarium, while Ram Prasad of Jhagra-khand raised a land dispute matter.

SUSHASAN TIHAR

Mungeli administration organizes Samadhan Shivirs for swift grievance resolution

MUNGELI: Under the aegis of 'Sushasan Tihar 2026' and under the guidance of Collector Kundan Kumar, cluster-wise 'Samadhan Shivirs' (Resolution Camps) are being organized across various villages in the district to ensure last-mile delivery of government schemes. At these camps, multiple departments are distributing essential materials to eligible beneficiaries and providing detailed information about welfare schemes. Alongside service delivery, a strong focus is being placed on public awareness regarding sanitation and environmental protection under the 'Swachh Gaon - Swachh Jivan' campaign. As part of this initiative, villagers are being sensitized about waste segregation, composting, and scientific solid waste management practices. Continuing the campaign, a comprehensive awareness program on the Solid Waste Management Rules 2026 was organized at the Thakurikapa cluster under the Mungeli development block during a Good Governance Camp. A 'Kala Jatha' cultural troupe played an active role in spreading awareness through songs, street plays, and cultural performances, effectively communicating messages related to cleanliness and environmental conservation.

Radiographer posts list of candidates released

KORBA: The Chief Medical and Health Officer (CMHO), Korba, has released the provisional list of eligible and ineligible candidates for recruitment to six Radiographer posts under the District Mineral Trust Fund (DMT). The vacancies include two posts for the Unreserved category, one for Scheduled Caste, two for Scheduled Tribe, and one for Other Backward Class candidates. The list has been displayed on the office notice board and uploaded on the official District Korba website, District Korba, for candidates' review.

Applicants have been instructed to carefully verify their details and submit any claims or objections, along with relevant supporting documents, to the office by 5:00 PM on June 5, 2026. The department clarified that objections received after the deadline will not be entertained.

| COLLECTOR HOLDS WEEKLY TL MEETING |

Collector cracks down on pending Sushasan Tihar applications

Central Chronicle News

MCB: A comprehensive review of administrative functioning and pending public grievance cases was conducted during a time-limit meeting held at the Collectorate conference hall under the chairmanship of Collector Ms. Santan Devi Jangde. The meeting was attended by District Panchayat CEO Ankita Som, Additional Collectors Namrata Dongre and Anil Kumar Sidar, along with SDMs, Janpad CEOs, Tehsildars, and district-level officials from various departments. The Collector issued strict instructions for the prompt and quality resolution of all pending cases.

Reviewing the 'Sushasan Tihar' initiative, the Collector directed officials to ensure that all applications received under the campaign are resolved within 30 days.



She emphasized that the initiative should not remain limited to camps alone and that public grievances from district to village level must be addressed sensitively at the same level where the applications were submitted. The Food Department was instructed to resolve pending ration card cases within three days, while departments were directed to regularly review the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi Scheme and complete onboarding on the RTI portal. During the review of grievances received under the Chief Minister's and Collector's 'Jan Darshan' programs,

issues related to financial assistance, land disputes, encroachments, illegal mining, appointments, ration cards, and social concerns were discussed, with instructions for immediate action. The Collector directed the Forest Department to ensure speedy disbursement of 50,000 assistance to a person injured in a bear attack. During the Education Department review, directions were issued to compile information regarding school repairs, new schools, and approved schemes. Action was also ordered against a teacher from Ghagra-Ramanujnagar who

FACTFILE

● She was disappointed with the pending status of Sushasan Tihar applications.

has reportedly remained absent for three years. In a major step toward water conservation, the Collector made rainwater harvesting systems mandatory in all government buildings and instructed officials to repair non-functional systems immediately. She also warned officials against merely formal resolutions of complaints on the PM and CG portals, stressing that complainants must receive actual relief. The meeting further reviewed Mahtari Vandan, Ayushman, Aadhaar update drives, cervical cancer vaccination, PM Surya Ghar Yojana, PM-JANMAN Housing Scheme, AgriStack, and paddy procurement operations.

MLA'S ADVICE TO GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS REGARDING APPLICATIONS

MLA directs officials to prioritize resolution of public grievances promptly

BAIKUNTHPUR: Under the 'Good Governance Festival (Sushasan Tihar) 2026' initiative, public grievance redressal camps are being continuously organized across Korea district to ensure timely resolution of citizens' issues at the local level. In this series, a camp was held last Tuesday at Phulpur village under Baikunthpur Janpad Panchayat. Villagers from 15 nearby villages participated in large numbers, where they received information about various government schemes and submitted applications for grievance redressal. A total of 180 applications were received during the camp, out of which 32 were resolved on the spot. Various departmental stalls were also set up to provide scheme-related information and extend benefits to eligible beneficiaries. The camp was attended by District Panchayat CEO Dr. Ashutosh Chaturvedi, local public representatives, officials, staff, and a large number of villagers.

During the event, MLA Bhaiyalal Rajwade reviewed departmental progress with officials from Anganwadi Services, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, Forest, Mining, Electricity, Revenue, Food & Civil Supplies, and Public Health Engineering departments. He directed officials to ensure timely completion of all pending works and emphasized that these camps aim to



prevent citizens from making repeated visits to government offices by resolving their issues locally.

Collector Roktima Yadav also addressed the gathering, urging villagers to take precautions during the intense summer heat and encouraging farmers to complete their AgriStack registration before the upcoming agricultural season. Under the 'Mor Gaon, Mor Pani' campaign, he appealed for the construction of soak pits in households and farms to promote rainwater harvesting and groundwater recharge.

| FAULTY CONSTRUCTIONS PRACTICES IN ACTION |

Footpath project faces criticism for poor quality

Central Chronicle News

MUNGELI: Serious concerns regarding negligence and poor-quality construction have surfaced in the ongoing footpath project from Daupara Chowk to the Collector's residence in Mungeli. The approximately 2-kilometer-long roadside footpath is being constructed under the 15th Finance Commission at a sanctioned

cost of nearly 51 lakh. The work order for the project was issued on March 30, but even in the initial phase, questions are being raised about the durability and quality of the construction.

According to local observations, proper curing and water sprinkling are not being carried out despite the intense summer heat. Trenches dug for preparing the base reportedly did not



“No laxity will be tolerated in development works; immediate action will be taken against any substandard construction.”
Hori Singh Thakur
CMO

receive adequate watering, and even after the gravel base was laid, no

water was sprinkled as required under standard construction practices. Technical experts state that proper curing is essential for maintaining structural strength and bonding, and neglecting this process can significantly weaken the footpath.

Concerns have also been raised regarding the quality of construction materials being used at the site.

Fun & Focus



Daily Horoscope

ARIES

Avoid overeating and visit a health club regularly to stay fit. Monetary gains will be from one than one source. Give priorities to the needs of family members. Involve yourself to share their joy and sorrow to realize them that you care for them. Today, students should avoid postponing their work until tomorrow, and complete their tasks in free time.

Gemini

Avoid high calorie diet and be religious towards your exercise. Those who are married may have to spend a lot of money on the education of their children today. A good day to revive old contacts and relations. New partnership would be promising today. Today, you can spend most of your time on things that are not necessary or important.

Leo

Health can bloom by sharing happiness with others. Investment made today will enhance your prosperity and financial security. Associate today with experienced people and learn from what they have to say. Today, you can come back from office and get indulged in some of your favorite hobbies. This will calm you down.

Libra

A very good day from health point of view. Your cheerful state of mind will give you the desired tonic and keep you confident. Financial hassles will be eased out with the help of your friends. Make sure you have approval of others before you make changes to your home environment. Your spouse is truly your angel, and you will know this today.

Sagittarius

Sheer pleasure and enjoyment for those venturing out to have fun. Together with your spouse, you can discuss finances and plan your wealth for your future. Your loved ones are happy and you should plan something with them for the evening. Health of your spouse might go down a little bit.

Aquarius

You should spend your extra time in pursuing your hobbies or doing things that you enjoy the most. You should get involved into activities that help you come in contact with people who have similar taste. Take advantage of new moneymaking ideas that strike your mind today. Do not go as per the advice of outsiders.

Taurus

Avoid high calorie diet and stick to your exercise. You could find yourself in an exciting new situation-which will also bring you financial gains. Misunderstandings with those you love get resolved. It is right time to channelise your energy to achieve professional targets. Be original in your conversation as putting up an act would get you no where.

Cancer

Find the solace in the company of children. The therapeutic powers of children not only those of your own family but even the off-springs of others can give you solace and calm your anxiety. Speculation will bring in profits. Do not let your friends take advantage of your generous behaviour. Personal relationship may break due to difference of opinions.

Virgo

Realize your true potentials as you are not lacking strength but will. You will come up with brilliant new ideas that will bring financial gains. You need to take a break from your monotonous schedule and those who were very busy for the last few days will finally get to enjoy their own time. Relatives of your spouse might disturb the harmony of your marital bliss.

Scorpio

Go out for a long walk for the sake of your good health. Those who were spending money without thinking much till now can understand its importance in life, as an urgent need can arise. Younger brother or sister may seek your advice. Do not be outspoken and emotional during business meetings.

Capricorn

Start meditation and yoga for physical gain especially mental toughness. Today, you can seek advice from the seniors of your family about finance management and savings and use them in your daily life. An old friend makes a pleasant visit later in the day. Today, you will spend the best time of your life with your spouse.

Pisces

Health will be perfect today. Although your financial position improves but the outflow of money will still create hindrance in executing your projects. Visit friends who need your assistance. Give tiny bits of kindness and love to make it a special day

SCIENCE WATCH

The Unfathomed Mountain for science



Mount Kailash is a 6,638-meter peak in the Tibetan Himalayas and acts as a geographic hub, serving as the source of four rivers: the Indus, Sutlej, Brahmaputra, and Karnali. The Mountain is a sphere which scientist have failed to access.

Climbing on the Mount is a taboo



There are strict prohibitions to climb the mountain, out of respect for the beliefs of millions of pilgrims, and scientific reasons. The sole ascender is a Tibetan mystic Milarepa who managed to reach the summit in the 11th century.

Mt Kailash has a striking symmetry



The mountain features a striking, near-perfect pyramidal shape with four distinct faces pointing to the cardinal directions and while surrounding peaks are composed of sedimentary rock, Kailash is made of a distinct, dark black rock.

MAY 28 - THE DAY IN HISTORY May 28 is celebrated in India as the birth anniversary of freedom fighter Vinayak Damodar Savarkar, and also the day when Alan Turing submitted his foundational paper, "On Computable Numbers," which formally introduced the concept of the "Universal Turing Machine" and laid the mathematical groundwork for modern computer science.

It also marks the anniversaries of key events like Jawaharlal Nehru's 1964 cremation, the 1965 Dhori mine disaster, and the 2010 Jnaneshwari Express derailment.

The same day in 1934, the Dionne quintuplets were born in Ontario, Canada. They were the first quintuplets in history to survive infancy and became a massive global phenomenon.

On May 28, in 1999, Leonardo da Vinci's masterpiece, The Last Supper, was put back on public display in Milan, Italy, after 21 years of meticulous restoration work.

On this day in 2014, Dr. Maya Angelou, an American memoirist, popular poet, and civil rights activist, died.

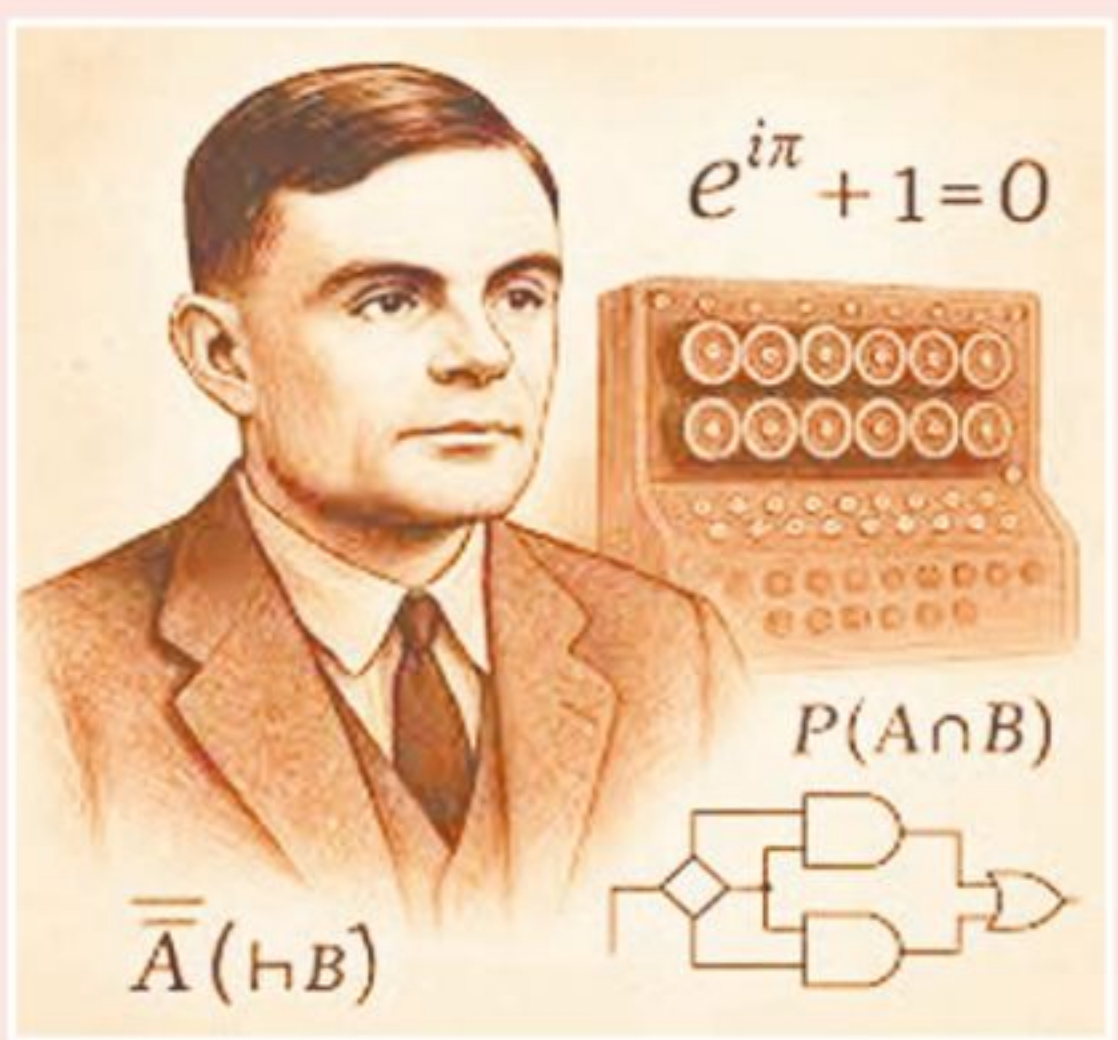
Colour Television (1928)

Baird adds two electron beams to create coloured moving images.

Colour television is possible because the human brain can convert a grid of differently colour dots (usually known as pixels, short for picture elements) into a complete colour image. Colour television cathode ray tubes have three electron beams, as opposed to the single electron beam in a black and white TV. The screen is coated with red, green and blue phosphor dots placed behind the holes of the tube's shadow mask. All the observed colours are combinations of the red, green and blue signals (that is, if all dots are firing, the image appears white).

The fact that colour television is essentially only three times more complicated than black and white television means that the basic invention processes for the two devices almost took place simultaneously. John Logie Baird is recognized as a leading pioneer in the development of television, alongside Philo Farnsworth, and in 1928 Baird first demonstrated the transmission of colour images.

One of the early important commercial considerations was that the signals that transmitted the colour pictures should not



only result in colour images on 'colour TV' sets, but should also be rendered as black and white images on mono sets. Development was slow, and sales of shadow-masked RCA cathode ray tube colour TV sets only started in 1954. The sets were extremely expensive and typically cost more than \$1000. The 1961 Sunday evening transmission of 'Walt Disney's Wonderful World of Colour' encouraged U.S. citizens to buy colour TVs. Only by 1972 were colour TV sales exceeding black and white.

DREAM DESTINATION

Samarkand or Samarqand, in Uzbekistan, is one of the world's oldest cities in league with Rome and Babylon. It was founded somewhere between the 8th and 7th centuries BC. Samarkand was the capital of Mongolian conqueror Timur's empire. It is a cradle of world culture and architecture. Among the curiosities are the Registan mosque, Bibi-Khanum mosque, Shakhi-Zinda compound and Gur-Emir ensemble, and Ulugh-Beg's Observatory. Samarkand was reportedly a trade centre on the Silk Road between China and the Mediterranean, right up to India.



TELL ME WHY?



Why milk is called a complete food?

Milk is dubbed a complete diet because it naturally contains all six essential nutrients—proteins, carbohydrates, fats, vitamins, minerals, and water—required to sustain life and support growth.



- 1) By what time the south-west monsoon engulfs the entire Indian sub-continent?
- 2) The Archean System in Karnataka is known as _____.
- 3) The Nilgiris, the Parasnath, the Girnar and Rajmahal are examples of which type of mountain?
- 4) Which company became the first Indian firm to be enlisted on the NYSE?
- 5) What dance is performed by women of Punjab that has sons with tales of squabbles between womenfolk of a family?
- 6) What major development in the world of communication did Sony bring about in 1957?
- 7) The Karun River, recently in news due to the presence of bull sharks, is located in which country?

ANSWERS -
(1) 15th July (2) Dharwar System (3) Residual or Dissected Mountains (4) IICIC (5) Gidda (6) The marketing of the first pocket sized transistor radio (7) Iran

- Rama Quiz

YES OR NO

- 1) A game of polo is divided into periods of around seven minutes each, called 'chukkas'.
- 2) Advantage, in tennis, is the point scored immediately after a deuce.
- 3) In Formula One racing, waving of a yellow flag means 'Stop'.
- 4) A 'try' is a manner of scoring points in Rugby Union and Rugby League Football.
- 5) In cricket, a pink ball is used in day-night Test matches.

ANSWERS -
(1) Yes (2) Yes (3) No (Indicates danger, and warns drivers to slow down) (4) Yes (5) Yes

FACT OF THE DAY



The grenadier fish (specifically the roughhead grenadier or onion-eyed grenadier) is widely celebrated for having the largest eye-to-head ratio of any animal on the planet.

WORD OF THE DAY

Esoteric

Meaning- Esoteric means something that is understood by only a small group of people with special knowledge.

Example- The professor's lecture on quantum physics was too esoteric for most students to understand. **Synonyms-** Abstract, Obscure, Specialized, Cryptic and Arcane. **Antonyms-** Simple, Clear, Common, Obvious and Popular.



Across

- 1 Opening ploy in chess (6)
- 4 Canal boats (6)
- 8 Wash in clean water (5)
- 9 Be without hope (7)
- 10 Charged with an offence (7)
- 11 Burdened (5)
- 12 Bargain-priced (4-5)
- 17 Overhanging roof edges (5)
- 19 Instigated (7)
- 21 Make damp (7)
- 22 Group of lions (5)
- 23 A small quake (6)
- 24 Without payment (6)

Down

- 1 European language (6)
- 2 Threatened (7)
- 3 Notions (5)
- 5 Exonerate (7)
- 6 Sentry (5)
- 7 Dash (6)
- 9 Inference (9)
- 13 Italian rice dish (7)
- 14 Lover of one's country (7)
- 15 Protective headgear (6)
- 16 Vipers (6)
- 18 Put into words (5)
- 20 High-spirited escapade (5)



CROSSWORD SOLUTION-



SUDOKU-



SUDOKU SOLUTION-



DAILY WORD SEARCH

Hoagy

Hobbyhorse

Hombre

Hobo

Hollyhock

Hobnob

Hoopla

Howitzer

Hominy

Hoard

Hobgoblin

Hockey

Hoopoe

Hoarse

Hoedown

Horseshoe

Hoax

Hogback

Hosanna

Hobbit

Hokum

Hotpot





World Bank engagement could transform Mizoram's infrastructure, bamboo economy, and sustainable development aspirations into impactful, long-term growth opportunities.

Vanlalvena
Rajya Sabha MP

President Murmu honors Nuwal with Padma Shri



President Droupadi Murmu confers the Padma Shri on Solar Group chairman Satyanarayan Nuwal during a Civil Investiture Ceremony, at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi, PTI.

Foodgrain output to hit record 376.56 mn ton in 2025-26

India's foodgrain output is projected to hit a record 376.56 million tonnes in 2025-26, driven by bumper rice, wheat and maize.

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: India's foodgrain production is estimated to rise 5 per cent to record 376.56 million tonnes in the 2025-26 crop year ending June, mainly driven by an all-time high output of rice, wheat and maize, according to government data released on Wednesday. Better monsoon rains in 2025, along with the government's positive initiatives such as a hike in minimum support price (MSP), helped in achieving bumper

production. Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan credited farmers for this historic achievement. As per the third advance estimates of major agricultural crops for 2025-26 released by the agriculture ministry, the country's wheat production is estimated to rise by 2.29 per cent to a record 120.65 million tonnes in 2025-26 crop year (July-June) despite some crop damage due to unseasonal rains and hailstorms. Wheat produc-

NUMBER

2.29%

Record foodgrain harvest reflects better monsoon, higher MSP, and resilient crop productivity.

tion stood at 117.94 million tonnes in 2024-25.

The ministry had always maintained that the country's wheat production remains "stable and resilient despite localised dam-

age" caused by unseasonal rainfall and hailstorms. The total foodgrain production is projected to increase to 376.56 million tonnes for 2025-26 from 357.73 million tonnes in the previous year. "This marks the highest-ever foodgrain production in the country's history," the ministry said in a statement. "The Third Advance Estimates clearly indicate that the production position of foodgrains, major cereals, oilseeds and commercial crops in the country remains robust,

with several crops projected to achieve record production levels," he said. Chouhan noted that agricultural research undertaken by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and its institutions played a crucial role in enhancing the production of major crops.

These institutes developed climate-resilient crop varieties, rainfed production technologies and disseminated research outcomes to farmers at the grassroots level, he added.

Insurance sector may face impact if West Asia crisis prolongs: LIC chief

Press Trust Of India

HIGHLIGHT

We hope the crisis is resolved at the earliest so that the situation returns to normalcy as quickly as possible.

returns to normalcy as quickly as possible. That is what we are looking forward to."

He further said if the broader segment of economy is impacted, the insurance industry cannot remain isolated.

If society as a whole gets affected and the income of people and their saving capacity get affected, naturally it may affect the insurance industry, he said.

It is noted that various segments of the economy, especially the energy sector, have been hit after the West Asia war broke out on February 28 raising fear slowdown in economic growth and rising inflation.

But in case the crisis continues for a longer time, he said, "It will certainly have a cascading impact on individuals, affecting both their spending and saving patterns. We hope the crisis is resolved at the earliest so that the situation

AI, IndiGo, AI Express cut domestic flights amid rising fuel costs

Press Trust Of India

Faced with spiralling costs, Air India, IndiGo and Air India Express have also resorted to rationalisation of domestic routes for the coming months.

NEW DELHI: Air India, IndiGo, and Air India Express are temporarily reducing their domestic flights by 10 to 22 per cent in the coming months, as the airlines seek to deal with the impact of surging jet fuel prices and relatively lower travel demand, according to officials.

In the wake of the West Asia conflict, which started in late February, airlines have been facing multiple headwinds, including costlier fuel and airspace curbs, which pushed up their operational costs.

Faced with spiralling

FLIGHTS CUT



costs, Air India, IndiGo and Air India Express have also resorted to rationalisation of domestic routes for the coming months.

Officials said Air India is cutting 20-22 per cent of its domestic flights for June and July, and Air India Express is reducing 10 per cent of the domestic services for June. In the case of Air India and Air India Express, flight reductions are compared to the planned services in the summer schedule for the respective months.

IndiGo is cutting 12-15 per cent of domestic flights for the September quarter, and this is in comparison to the planned services in the summer schedule for the given quarter, officials said.

They noted that the rationalisation of domestic flights has been mainly driven by higher fuel prices and lower demand.

Air India operates around 4,400 weekly flights. Out of them, about 3,600 are domestic, and 800 are international services.

OIL EXPLORATION

7.72 lakh Ayushman Bharat cards issued in Delhi

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: More than 7.72 lakh Ayushman Bharat cards have been created in Delhi, while over 46,900 beneficiaries have availed treatment under the health insurance scheme.

According to an official statement issued on Wednesday, 34,715 claims worth Rs 86.22 crore have also been settled under the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Aro-

gya Yojana (AB PM-JAY). A total of 7,72,129 Ayushman Bharat health cards have been issued in Delhi, including 2,90,475 cards under the Vaya Vandana Scheme (VVS) and 4,81,654 under the non-VVS category.

It further added that beneficiaries are eligible for up to Rs 10 lakh cashless healthcare coverage, including Rs 5 lakh under the Centre's AB PM-JAY scheme and an additional Rs 5 lakh cover provided

by the Delhi government. Healthcare services under the scheme are currently being provided through a network of 233 empanelled hospitals, including 181 private and 52 government hospitals across the national capital.

"The Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY scheme is emerging as a strong pillar of accessible healthcare in Delhi. Our focus remains on ensuring seamless treatment, wider aware-

ness and timely benefits for every eligible citizen through a robust healthcare network," Delhi's Health Minister Pankaj Singh said.

The minister also reviewed measures being taken in view of the ongoing heatwave situation in the city.

The statement said ICU beds, emergency services, dedicated wards, mobile relief units, hospitals, polyclinics and Ayushman Arogya Mandirs have been

placed on alert across Delhi in view of prevailing heatwave conditions.

Lok Nayak Hospital (LNJP) has earmarked four dedicated beds in casualty and 10 beds in the E-ICU for heat-related patients, while a 70-bed disaster ward has been kept on standby. Adequate stocks of cooling pads, cold saline and ORS have also been arranged for treatment of patients suffering from heat stroke and related illnesses, it added.

BizBriefs

BEST OF THE REST

STOCK MARKET DECLINE

Stock markets decline for 2nd day on selling in oil & gas, banking shares; Sensex down 142 pts



MUMBAI: Stock markets closed lower for the second consecutive day on Wednesday as investors remained cautious amid conflicting geopolitical signals from the West Asia and fresh foreign fund outflows. In a volatile trade, the 30-share BSE Sensex declined 141.90 points, or 0.19 per cent, to settle at 75,867.80, with 20 of its constituents ending higher and 10 with losses. During the day, it hit a high of 76,224.68 and a low of 75,748.21, gyrating 476.47 points. The 50-share NSE Nifty skidded 6.55 points, or 0.03 per cent, to end at 23,907.15. Sensex had dropped by 479.26 points and Nifty by 118 points on Tuesday. Financials, oil & gas, IT and private banking shares were the major drag while energy, metals, and auto shares advanced, capping the downside. Among 30 Sensex firms, HDFC Bank fell the most by 2.63 per

cent. Infosys, ITC, Hindustan Unilever, Reliance Industries and ICICI Bank were also among the major laggards. Power Grid, Eternal, NTPC and Tata Steel were the major gainers. "Investor sentiment remained cautious amid lingering concerns surrounding the fragile US-Iran truce and elevated crude oil prices," Ajit Mishra - SVP, Research, Religare Broking Ltd said. "Indian equity markets ended largely subdued as investors adopted a wait-and-watch approach amid conflicting geopolitical signals from the Middle East. "While indications of continued diplomatic engagement between the US and Iran helped stabilise sentiment and limit aggressive selling pressure, the absence of any concrete breakthrough kept risk appetite restrained," Ponnudi R, CEO of Enrich Money, an online trading and wealth tech firm, said.

COAL INDIA

Coal India OFS: Institutional investors put in Rs 19,000 cr bids

NEW DELHI: Institutional investors on Wednesday lapped up Coal India shares, putting in bids worth about Rs 19,000 crore on the first day of the issue. The government is selling over 12.32 crore, or up to 2 per cent stake, in Coal India at a floor price of Rs 412 a share. The issue includes a green-shoe option of 1 per cent. Retail investors will bid in the OFS on May 29. Non-retail or institutional investors subscribed to more than 45.15 crore shares or over 8 times the shares reserved for them at an indicative price of Rs 436.69 per share, much higher than the set floor price. At this indicative price, bids of over 45.15 crore shares amount to around Rs 19,000 crore. With this massive investor interest, the government is likely to exercise the green-shoe option in the Offer For Sale (OFS). The floor price of Rs 412 per share is at a 10 per cent discount over Tuesday's closing price of Rs 458.25 on the BSE. On Wednesday, shares of Coal India closed at Rs 462.90, up 1.01 per cent over the previous close on BSE. Coal India is the second OFS of a public sector company in the current fiscal year.

ONGC

ONGC bets on gas-led growth as premium pricing boosts profitability

NEW DELHI: State-run oil and gas producer ONGC said it expects natural gas to become an increasingly dominant and profitable part of its business as new high-priced gas production ramps up and domestic demand continues to rise.

Speaking at an investor call, ONGC chairman and CEO Arun Kumar Singh said the company now produces and sells more gas than oil, with gas contributing higher earnings because of favourable pricing reforms and lower handling costs.

'New well gas' - production from newly drilled wells that receive pricing linked to 12 per cent of crude oil prices - accounted for roughly 20 per cent of gas volumes last year and is expected to rise to 25-30 per cent this year before climbing further over the next few years.

"At crude prices of around USD 90 a barrel, new well gas realises nearly USD 10.8 per million British thermal unit in the domestic market," he said adding that India was among the highest-paying gas markets globally for such production.

WORK CULTURE MOVEMENT

Goa Leads India's New Work Culture Movement with Beachside Shackathon

PANAJI: Goa successfully hosted the inaugural edition of 'Goa Shackathon' at Baga Beach, North Goa, transforming Goa's coastline into a live workspace for India's next generation of startups, creators, innovators and digital professionals. The event, held on May 21-22, 2026, saw over 500 participants attend across the two days for an immersive experience blending work, collaboration and lifestyle. Organized by the Department of Information Technology, Electronics and Communications (DITE&C) and the Startup & IT Promotion Cell (SITPC), the event strengthened Goa's growing identity as India's leading workation destination and a rising center for startups, creators, digital nomads and entrepreneurship. The initiative also reflected the larger national shift towards flexible, technology-enabled and digitally empowered work cultures championed under Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji's Digital India vision. The event was inaugurated by Hon'ble Chief Minister of Goa, Dr. Pramod Sawant, along with Hon'ble Minister for Tourism & Information Technology, Electronics & Communications, Shri Rohan Khaunte. The formal ceremony was



also attended by Shri. Michael Lobo, MLA Calangute; Shri. Santosh Sukhadeve, IAS, Secretary IT; Shri Kabir Shirdgaonkar, Director, DITE&C alongside senior government officials and industry leaders. Over the two-day event, Hon'ble Minister Shri. Rohan Khaunte interacted with local and visiting creators, startups, digital professionals and entrepreneurs, emphasising Goa's vision for a future-ready digital economy. Speaking on the initiative, he said, "Goa is moving beyond traditional tourism to build a robust, future-ready digital economy. Professionals are choosing Goa as their base as they're drawn to the freedom, inspiration and quality of life our state offers.



"Electoral rolls are not mere lists; they are the foundation stones of democracy"

[Supreme Court observation (2026)]

| OUR VIEW |

Supreme Court Validates SIR, Quells Citizenship Fears

In a landmark ruling delivered on May 27, 2026, the Supreme Court of India upheld the Election Commission's nationwide Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, affirming that electoral integrity cannot be compromised in a democracy. The judgment, delivered by Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi, situates the exercise firmly within the constitutional mandate of Article 324 and the statutory framework of the Representation of the People Act, 1950. The Court's reasoning is clear: free and fair elections rest on the accuracy of electoral rolls. With India's demographic churn—migration, urbanisation, and large scale additions and deletions—the need for a comprehensive revision was overdue. More than four decades had passed since the last intensive exercise, leaving voter lists vulnerable to duplication and error. By validating the SIR, the judiciary has reinforced the principle that procedural rigor is not a luxury but a necessity in safeguarding democracy. Critics, however, remain wary. Civil society groups such as the Association for Democratic Reforms argued that the SIR resembled an NRC style scrutiny, raising fears of exclusion and bureaucratic overreach. The Court addressed these anxieties by clarifying that the Election Commission's verification of documents pertains only to voter eligibility, not to citizenship adjudication. This distinction is crucial: electoral rolls are about enfranchisement, not nationality. The ruling also underscores the importance of safeguards. Notices, hearings, and appeals are built into the process, ensuring that citizens have recourse against wrongful deletions. Yet, the challenge lies in implementation. India's administrative machinery must balance efficiency with sensitivity, ensuring that no eligible voter is disenfranchised due to procedural lapses. Symbolically, the verdict represents a judicial endorsement of institutional autonomy. In an era when electoral credibility is often questioned, the Court has lent weight to the Election Commission's authority, while reminding it of its responsibility to act fairly and transparently. Ultimately, the SIR ruling is a reminder that democracy is not static. It must adapt to demographic realities while preserving inclusivity. The Supreme Court has chosen to trust the Election Commission's intent, but the true test will be in execution—whether the revision strengthens faith in the ballot or deepens suspicion of exclusion.

| GUEST VIEW |

Reschedule workplace timings from next summer

This Indian summer has been quite harsh. Officegoers, labourers, children and home-makers have all been affected to varying degrees by the sizzling heat. The month of May has particularly been severe on the common man. Keeping in mind the excruciating ordeal faced by the people, governmental authorities and private players should join hands to revise workplace timings from next summer because the situation is not expected to change for the better. A 7am to 2 pm timing would be convenient for most, especially in May.

This will render commuting easy and individuals can dedicate more time to their families. Productivity stands to augment because for every degree increase in external temperature above 20 degree Celsius, the work productivity falls by 2 to 3 percent, as per the World Health Organisation. Work from home is definitely an option. All offices can do away with the "dress culture" if any, to enable workers to wear "summer friendly" clothes. Continuous availability of cool and clean water, airconditioners and fans should be ensured. Workers may be asked to avail short breaks to beat the heat. Special care needs to be taken of the elderly employees with pre-existing health conditions. Since no part of India is spared of the sweltering heat, a uniform policy is highly desirable.



Ganapathi Bhat, Akola

Inflation is often discussed as a statistical movement in prices, but for ordinary households, it is a lived economic reality. It affects the kitchen budget before it appears in policy debates; it reduces purchasing power before it disturbs macroeconomic projections; and it weakens savings, consumption, investment, and, eventually, the momentum of economic growth. When food, fuel, transport and daily-use goods become costlier, the impact does not remain confined to individual families. It travels through markets, industries, employment and the broader economy.

According to the latest data released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, retail inflation rose to 3.48 per cent in April 2026 from 3.40 per cent in March. Food inflation stood at 4.20 per cent, a concern because food accounts for a significant share of expenditure for low- and middle-income households. Rural inflation was recorded at 3.74 per cent, compared to 3.16 per cent in urban areas, indicating that the burden is relatively heavier on rural families and small-town consumers.

While retail inflation remains within the Reserve Bank of India's tolerance band, the greater concern is wholesale inflation. Data from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry show that the wholesale price index-based inflation rose sharply to 8.30 per cent in April 2026 from 3.88 per cent in March. Such a steep increase signals rising input costs for producers. When raw materials, fuel, transport and manufacturing

expenses rise, companies may absorb the pressure for a limited period, but eventually a part of this burden is passed on to consumers. Thus, elevated wholesale inflation often serves as a warning sign of future retail inflation.

Fuel inflation is perhaps the most sensitive component of the present price pressure. The rise in crude oil, petrol, diesel and LPG prices affects much more than personal mobility. It increases freight charges, agricultural costs, industrial expenses, construction costs, delivery charges and retail distribution expenses. When transport becomes expensive, the prices of vegetables, fruits, milk, food grains, medicines, cement, and other essential goods also begin to rise. In this sense, fuel inflation acts as a cost multiplier across the economy.

India's dependence on imported crude oil makes the situation more complex. Whenever global oil prices rise, India's import bill increases, the trade deficit widens, and pressure builds on the rupee. A weaker rupee makes imports of oil, gas, fertilisers, machinery, electronic goods, and medicines more expensive. This further increases production costs and deepens the inflationary cycle. Therefore, inflation is not merely a domestic demand-supply issue; it is also linked to global geopolitics, energy security and foreign exchange management.

The most immediate victims of inflation are low- and middle-income families. A large part of their income is spent on food, rent, transport, education and healthcare. Unlike higher-income house-



Satish Singh,
Senior Banking and Economic Columnist, Mumbai

holds, they have little room to adjust their spending. When prices rise, these families first cut down on discretionary spending such as travel, entertainment, eating out, clothing, electronics and other non-essential consumption. If inflation persists, savings begin to shrink, and long-term plans are postponed. Buying a house, purchasing a vehicle, funding higher education, starting a small business or investing in insurance and retirement products may all be delayed.

This weakening of household savings has wider economic implications. Household savings have traditionally been an important pillar of India's financial stability. If inflation erodes savings, it can affect bank deposits, investment capacity and capital formation. At the same time, reduced consumption hurts demand in sectors such as FMCG, automobiles, hospitality, airlines, paints, cement, real estate and retail trade. When sales weaken, companies may reduce production, postpone new investment, and slow hiring. Thus, inflation can gradually move from household distress to industrial slowdown.

The social consequences are equally serious. When essential goods become expensive, poorer families may compromise on nutrition, preventive healthcare and children's education. This affects human development and widens inequality. For the affluent, inflation may mean a marginal reduction in lifestyle choices; for the poor, it can become a question of dignity and survival. Therefore, inflation is not only a matter of monetary policy; it is also a question of social justice. The government and the Reserve

Bank of India face a difficult balancing act. If interest rates are kept high to control inflation, borrowing becomes costlier and growth may slow. If rates are eased too much to support growth, inflationary pressures may become harder to contain. The challenge, therefore, lies in maintaining a careful balance between price stability and growth support. Policy must be neither complacent nor excessively restrictive.

In the present circumstances, India needs a multi-pronged strategy. Reducing import dependence, strengthening energy security, expanding renewable energy and improving food supply chains must become policy priorities. Better storage facilities, cold chains, logistics and transport infrastructure can help control food inflation. Similarly, promoting domestic manufacturing in critical sectors can reduce vulnerability to imported inflation.

Inflation is not just an economic number; it is a pressure felt in the kitchen, the marketplace, the factory and the national income accounts. If it remains elevated for long, it will weaken household savings, suppress demand, slow investment, affect employment and reduce the pace of economic growth. Controlling inflation, therefore, is not merely a technical policy objective. It is essential for protecting ordinary citizens, sustaining consumption, encouraging investment and ensuring stable, inclusive growth.

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

Porn Addiction - The Hidden Epidemic Among Youth

Unchecked exposure harms a child's emotional well-being and fills young minds with distorted ideas about intimacy and relationships.



Vinod Chandrashekhar
Dixit, Writer and
Cartoonist

Porn addiction has become alarmingly common today. Parents must move beyond silence and initiate open, non-judgmental conversations with their children. When children feel heard instead of judged, they are more likely to share their struggles. Disturbed parents and spouses are increasingly seeking professional help, and schools too are reporting growing concern. Unchecked exposure harms a child's emotional well-being and fills young minds with distorted ideas about intimacy and relationships.

This is not an easy habit to break. Once the appetite for pornography develops, it tends to escalate rather than fade. The Central Bureau of Investigation recently dismantled an international child pornography racket that operated for two years through a WhatsApp group of 119 members across 18 countries.



While society continues to debate the social and moral acceptability of adult pornography, child sexual exploitation is universally recognized as a heinous crime with no justification.

Excessive restrictions during adolescence often backfire, driving curiosity underground. When obscenity is packaged as a commodity, it threatens to erode the ethical bedrock of a healthy society. For this reason, age-appropriate sex education should be made compulsory before puberty. Children need to understand their bodies, consent, personal boundaries, and the risks of the online world. Yet most schools remain focused only on academics, with little emphasis on counselling or life skills. The strongest safeguard is parental engagement. Free time

should be spent interacting with children, not lost to television or separate screens. The influence of cinema, OTT platforms, and even advertisements on impressionable youth cannot be ignored. Many films and ads border on soft porn, normalizing behaviour that children are not equipped to process. At the same time, the internet in every pocket has erased privacy. Children often take money for "study material" but spend it watching porn at cyber cafes. Peer pressure further drives secretive access, and many fall into addiction without realizing the long-term impact on values, attitudes, and health.

Schools are ideal spaces to provide factual answers about sex and safety. With teenage pregnancies, abortions, and STIs on

the rise, silence is dangerous. But our conservative culture makes it hard for children to approach parents or teachers, leaving them vulnerable to misinformation and predators. A holistic approach is needed. Standard textbooks on reproductive health and digital safety should be accessible online. Hesitation in classrooms can be reduced if women teachers guide girls and male teachers guide boys, creating a comfortable space for questions.

Legally, the POCSO Act, 2012 under Section 13 criminalizes using children for pornographic purposes, with jail terms up to five years. Still, the government has told the Supreme Court that a complete ban on internet porn isn't practical, and cross-border enforcement remains difficult. The

IT Act needs amendments to better curb access, transmission, and publishing of child sexual abuse material. Cyber etiquette and digital safety must also become part of school curricula to sensitize children early.

Parents have a critical role in monitoring online activity and noting behavioural changes that may signal abuse or addiction. People must be educated to spot trauma and intervene quickly. Children are gentle and vulnerable. They deserve protection from traffickers, abusers, and online predators. Sex education is not about encouraging sexual activity. It is about building values, teaching self-protection, and helping children understand healthy relationships. When abuse can come from relatives, friends, or strangers, awareness becomes the first line of defence.

Banning pornography alone is not the solution. What we need is a combination of open dialogue at home, effective counselling in schools, updated syllabi, strict law enforcement, and widespread public awareness. Academicians and policymakers must work together to design education that reflects today's digital reality. Only through education, empathy, and vigilance can we curb child pornography and raise a healthier, safer generation.

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

YOUR LETTERS

Sitharaman's Three Fs: Myopic Math

The Finance Minister's dismissive defense ignores a brewing macroeconomic storm. Blaming external factors for the 3F crisis—Fuel, Fertiliser, and Foreign Exchange—masks systemic vulnerabilities. The rupee has plunged 5% since February toward 97 per dollar, while foreign investors dumped \$24 billion in assets. Burning \$40 billion in reserves to prop up the currency is unsustainable. Instead of lecturing citizens, the government must incentivize manufacturing, diversify energy imports, and hike interest rates before resilience collapses into regression.

Vijaykumar HK, Raichur

QUAD: A Testbed for India's Strategic Autonomy

In view of the instability in West-Asia and the rise in tensions in the Indo-Pacific, the recent Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD) meeting of foreign ministers focused on energy security, maritime stability and financial supply chains. Important mineral agreements were signed between India and the United States on the sidelines of the Quad meeting. The port in Fiji will enhance logistics cooperation. The existence of the Quad is essential to counter China's expansionist policies, which requires trusted and transparent partnership.

Nabnit Panigrahi, Raygada, Odisha

Send your articles (600-650 words) and letters (70-80 words) for this page on: editorialcc007@gmail.com The letters can be edited or rewritten for clarity.

OTT Watch



Netflix documentary
revives old texts
Mackenzie Shirilla's text messages to Dominic Russo have resurfaced after Netflix's The Crash began streaming. The messages, shown during the investigation, reveal emotional exchanges and include a widely discussed line that has reignited debate online.



Naseeruddin Shah leads Titan series
Made in India - A Titan Story trailer is out, featuring Naseeruddin Shah and Jim Sarbh in a drama about Titan's inspiring journey. The series explores ambition, vision, and India's brand-building legacy, streaming on Amazon MX Player from June 3.



ZEE5 drops Roommates comedy drama
Roommates is a Kannada comedy-drama premiering on ZEE5 on May 27, 2026. It follows four friends whose lives spiral into chaos after a cricket-ground dispute escalates into an ego clash under their landlord's supervision.



Office Office returns with season 2
Office Office returns for Season 2 with Shruti Sharma in the lead role. The actress shared she grew up watching the iconic sitcom and described the opportunity as deeply nostalgic, emotional, and surreal.



Star Plus Sairaab first glimpse out
Sairaab promo has been released, starring Madirakshi Mundle and Rohit Chandel. The musical drama explores love, healing, and second chances through the emotional journey of Dr. Noyonika and Rockstar Ishaan.

CLOSE UP

Tusshar Kapoor calls 'Golmaal 5' a joyful experience

He also opened up about Lucky's origin and his experience working with Akshay Kumar.

Central Chronicle News

Tusshar Kapoor has shared major updates on the progress of Golmaal 5.

Tusshar Kapoor has shared an update on the upcoming Golmaal 5, revealing that the shoot is already 80-90% complete. In an interview, he said reuniting with the cast and crew has been a joyful experience and called it a "fun ride." He praised director Rohit Shetty for his discipline, energy, and tireless work ethic, adding that he often arrives before the team and continues working even after pack-up, inspiring everyone on set.

Tusshar also spoke about his popular character Lucky from the Golmaal franchise, known for communicating through humorous sounds instead of dialogue. He shared that the character was not originally part of the script and was added later during development. Writer Neeraj Vora first imagined Lucky as a silent role, but actor Sharman Joshi suggested making him more expressive with vocal sounds instead of complete silence. Tusshar trained with theatre expert Vikas Kadam, who helped refine the idea and shaped Lucky



Tusshar Kapoor back as Lucky in Golmaal 5



into a quirky, mischievous character loved by audiences.

He said fans still connect him strongly with Lucky and often ask him to perform the character's signature expressions and sounds. Tusshar admitted that the role has become one of the most memorable parts of his career and continues to bring him affection from viewers across generations.

The actor also teased that the film will feature Akshay Kumar in a special role, adding a major highlight to the story. He expressed excitement about working with Akshay again and said their scenes together are very special for him.

HOLLYWOOD

Idris Elba dismisses rumours of playing James Bond

Central Chronicle News

British actor Idris Elba has dismissed long-standing speculation linking him to the role of James Bond, stating that he was never in the running for the iconic franchise. Speaking in an interview with People magazine, Elba clarified that his name was not part of any official casting race and that ongoing rumours about his selection are inaccurate. In recent weeks, Amazon MGM Studios has officially begun the search for the next James Bond following its expanded control over the franchise, marking a major transition for the long-running series. The

studio has reportedly brought in casting director Nina Gold, known for her work on Game of Thrones and The Crown, to assist in selecting the next 007, while development continues under

HIGHLIGHT

Idris Elba has finally addressed long-running rumours about playing James Bond.

Amazon MGM's oversight. The upcoming film, tentatively titled Bond 26, will be directed by Denis Villeneuve with a screenplay by Steven Knight, and produced by Amy Pascal and David Heyman, marking a sig-



Was never in the race: Idris Elba

nificant creative shift for the franchise. The James Bond franchise, which began in 1962, has previously been led by actors including Sean Connery, Roger Moore, Pierce Brosnan, Timothy Dalton and Daniel Craig across multiple eras of the series. Elba, meanwhile, will next appear in Masters of the Universe, continuing his slate of high-profile Hollywood projects. Despite ongoing speculation, Elba's comments effectively put to rest any association with the Bond role, reinforcing that casting decisions are moving in a new direction as the franchise prepares for its next chapter under Amazon MGM.

CineBriefs

BEST OF THE REST

Web Series

Aamir Khan Film
'Sitaare Zameen Par'
on TV

Following its phenomenal theatrical and digital success, Sitaare Zameen Par starring Aamir Khan is all set for its World Television Premiere on Sony MAX on Sunday, 31st May at 1 PM. Filled with joy, laughter, and emotion, the film promises to bring families across the country together for a heart-warming watch at home. It connects with audiences through simple, honest storytelling that celebrates every family's uniqueness, warmth, and "sabka apna normal," while opening meaningful conversations around inclusion and acceptance.

Bollywood pairs

Twin joy for Divyanka and Vivek Dahiya



Television actors Divyanka Tripathi and Vivek Dahiya have welcomed twin baby boys, marking a joyful new chapter in their lives. The couple announced the news through a social media post, sharing their happiness at becoming parents after 10 years of marriage. Vivek Dahiya expressed his emotions, referring to the arrival of their sons as a deeply special moment for the family. The announcement was met with widespread congratulations and warm wishes from fans and industry peers.



Fashion

Janhvi Kapoor
gives Banarasi saree a glamorous twist

Janhvi Kapoor brings a modern twist to traditional Banarasi weave in her latest promotional look, turning heritage fabric into a strapless gown with a matching dupatta. The ensemble features a structured corset bodice, pastel-toned floral Banarasi motifs, and a soft, flowing silhouette that balances elegance with contemporary glamour. Styled with minimal oxidised jewellery and a sleek bun, the look highlights refined sophistication. Her soft glam makeup enhances the dreamy aesthetic, while the dupatta adds movement and grace.

Trending on Insta

@kajol

Kajol looks back
at 'Fanaa' journey

Kajol marked 20 years of Fanaa on social media, sharing nostalgic memories from the film's Poland shoot. She posted stills with Aamir Khan and recalled filming in -27°C temperatures, joking about light outfits in extreme cold.





Art & Culture

TRADITIONAL CRAFTSMANSHIP

Ancient Thewa Art of Rajasthan is pure craftsmanship

Rajasthan's ancient Thewa craft transforms gold and glass into timeless artistic jewellery.

Thewa is one of India's most exquisite traditional jewellery crafts, blending finely carved gold with vibrant coloured glass to create timeless wearable art. Originating nearly 400 years ago in Rajasthan's Pratapgarh, the craft was born when a king challenged jeweller Nathulal Soni to transform coloured glass pieces into something extraordinary. The result became Thewa, a rare art form celebrated for its intricate detailing and royal elegance. 28-year-old artisan Raghav Rajsoni proudly carries forward this centuries-old legacy as a sixth-generation craftsman. Working from his family workshop, he carefully handcrafts each piece using techniques passed down through generations. His late father, Mahesh Rajsoni, received the Padma Shri in 2015 for preserving and promoting the craft. Thewa jewellery requires extraordinary patience and precision. Even a tiny motif can take several days to complete.



HIGHLIGHT

● Raghav Rajsoni preserves traditional Thewa artistry through modern jewellery designs beautifully.

Traditional designs often feature elephants, royal processions, mythology, and floral patterns delicately carved onto gold foil and fused onto colourful glass surfaces.

Royal Thewa craft still shines brightly

While the craft once flourished under royal patronage, rising gold prices and changing market trends pushed artisans to innovate.

Raghav has successfully adapted Thewa for modern audiences by creating contemporary pendants, rings, cufflinks, brooches, and minimal jewellery while preserving the original technique. He has also represented India internationally in countries like Kazakhstan, Paris, and Moscow, helping showcase India's rich artistic heritage globally.

More than jewellery, Thewa represents history, craftsmanship, and cultural identity. By keeping these rare arts alive, young artisans like Raghav Rajsoni ensure that one of Rajasthan's most treasured traditions continues to shine for future generations. The craft also inspires younger artists to value handmade artistry in an increasingly fast-paced and machine-driven modern world.

Cultural Hues

Iconic survivor artifacts join Smithsonian

The National Museum of American History has acquired iconic props from the reality show Survivor following its 50th season. The collection includes immunity necklaces, torch snuffers, tribal masks, and challenge items spanning its 25-year history. These artifacts highlight the show's major influence on American pop culture, entertainment, and reality TV storytelling since its debut in 2000. Museum experts note that Survivor helped shape modern competition formats and audience engagement, making it one of the most influential reality shows in television history today.



Ancient arctic skeletons tell tragic stories

Benjamin Franklin designed the Libertas Americana medal to honor France's support during the American Revolutionary War. It shows Lady Liberty with flowing hair and Minerva protecting infant Hercules, symbolizing America's victory over Britain. The medal reflects friendship and gratitude between the two nations. Now, for the U.S. 250th anniversary, the Paris Mint is refreshing this historic design. It celebrates freedom, shared history, and the strong diplomatic bond between France and the United States.



Ancient British treasure changes history

A huge Iron Age hoard found in Yorkshire, England, is changing what we know about ancient Britain. Called the Melsomby Hoard, it includes around 800 artifacts like horse gear, cauldrons, wagons, beads, and a mysterious mirror linked to female power. Researchers believe it may have belonged to a powerful tribe during Roman times. The mirror could have been used by a queen or elite woman, showing wealth, status, and cultural connections across Europe.



Ancient stone jars reveal human stories

Archaeologists in Laos discovered bones and teeth from at least 37 people inside a giant stone jar at the mysterious Plain of Jars. The finding offers fresh clues about the centuries-old burial site, believed to date between the 9th and 12th centuries. Researchers think the jars were used in multigenerational funeral rituals, where human remains were placed together over hundreds of years. Scientists also found beads, tools, and artefacts linked to ancient trade routes, revealing connections between Laos, India, and Mesopotamia centuries ago.



Ancient business notebook found in Latrine

Archaeologists in Paderborn uncovered an 800-year-old leather notebook inside a medieval latrine, surprising researchers with its excellent condition. The wax-and-wood booklet still contained readable Latin cursive writing, likely linked to business records of an upper-class merchant. Its tightly bound leather cover helped preserve the pages for centuries underground. Experts believe the notebook may have accidentally fallen into the toilet long ago. The rare discovery offers fascinating insights into medieval trade, writing practices, and everyday life in Germany centuries earlier.



Thousand-year-old dingo story discovered

Archaeologists in Australia discovered the remains of a nearly 1,000-year-old dingo that was deeply cared for by the ancestors of the Barkindji people. The animal had survived serious injuries, likely caused by a kangaroo kick, suggesting humans nursed it back to health. After the dingo died, the community continued honouring it for nearly 500 years by placing river mussel shells at its burial site. Researchers say the discovery highlights the strong emotional and spiritual bond between Aboriginal communities and dingoes across generations.



Taiwan Travelogue bags Booker Prize

Taiwan Travelogue has created history by becoming the first novel translated from Mandarin Chinese to win the prestigious International Booker Prize 2026. Written by Taiwanese author Yang Shuang-zi, the novel explores food, music, identity, and love during Japan's occupation of Taiwan in 1938. The story follows Japanese writer Aoyama Chizuru, who develops a deep connection with her Taiwanese interpreter during her year-long stay. The English translation introduced global readers to Yang's work for the first time. The award celebrates outstanding fiction translated into English and published in the United Kingdom or Ireland.



connection with her Taiwanese interpreter during her year-long stay. The English translation introduced global readers to Yang's work for the first time. The award celebrates outstanding fiction translated into English and published in the United Kingdom or Ireland.

MASTERPIECE

Inside India's first museum bar in Bengaluru



Bar Cameo, located inside Bengaluru's Museum of Art and Photography, is being called India's first bar inside a museum. Situated on the rooftop overlooking the lush Cubbon Park, the 60-seater space combines art, culture, and nightlife in a unique setting. The bar features vintage Air India posters, ruby-red swivel chairs, mirrored ceilings, dim lighting, and vinyl-led music, creating a stylish yet relaxed atmosphere.

| PADMA SHRI 2026 |

Taga Ram Bheel takes Algoza music on global stage

HIGHLIGHT

● The soulful sound of Algoza continues preserving Rajasthan's rich and ancient desert musical heritage.

simultaneously one producing the melody while the other creates a continuous drone rhythm. Together, they create a deeply hypnotic and soulful sound associated with desert folk music. Despite its simple appearance, the Algoza is extremely difficult to master.

Musicians use circular breathing, a specialised technique that allows uninterrupted airflow while playing. This creates the instrument's



Rajasthan's folk spirit lives through Algoza

signature seamless rhythm and flowing melody. Learning the art often takes years of practice and dedication. For generations, the Algoza has been played during weddings, village festivals, storytelling sessions, and devotional gatherings across Rajasthan. Its earthy sound is often described as the musical heartbeat of the Thar Desert. Born in Jaisalmer's Moolsagar village, Taga Ram Bheel began practising the instrument during childhood and mastered it at a young age. Over the decades, he performed across more than 35 countries, introducing global audiences to Rajasthan's folk traditions.

Central Chronicle News

The haunting sound of the Algoza has echoed across Rajasthan's Thar Desert for centuries, carrying with it stories, traditions, and the spirit of folk culture. This ancient wind instrument recently returned to national attention after veteran folk artist Taga Ram Bheel received the Padma Shri 2026 for preserving and promoting the rare musical tradition. The Algoza, also known as Algoza, is a traditional double-flute instrument popular in Rajasthan, Punjab, Sindh, and neighbouring desert regions. It consists of two wooden pipes played



Fun banter should never become hate. Please don't abuse families, colleagues or students; cricketers and their loved ones deserve respect.

Shresta Iyer
Shreyas Iyer's sister

RCB collective firepower makes them complete unit

Mo Bobat praised RCB's collective strength, fearless approach and Patidar's leadership after Bengaluru stormed into another IPL final with a dominant playoff win.

Press Trust Of India

Bobat hailed RCB's depth. Patidar's explosive captaincy and senior players' composure after the massive Qualifier 1 win.

DHARAMSALA: Royal Challengers Bengaluru director of cricket Mo Bobat credited the side's collective contributions and fearless brand of cricket after the defending champions crushed Gujarat Titans in Qualifier 1 to reach a second straight IPL final.

RCB posted a mammoth 254 for five before bowling out GT for 162, sealing a 92-run victory on Tuesday. Skipper Rajat Patidar led the charge with a blazing unbeaten 93 off 33 balls, while the bowlers combined effectively to complete a commanding performance. Bobat said the most satisfying feature of RCB's run over the past two seasons had been the number of players delivering in important moments. "I'm especially pleased that we've got a number of people contributing to wins. We're not too dependent on one or two players with the bat or one or two with the ball," Bobat said. He added that when everyone understands and fulfils their roles, results usu-



ally follow. According to him, RCB's ability to perform as a unit has made them a more complete team. Bobat reserved high praise for Patidar, whose counter-attacking knock broke Gujarat's rhythm after Bengaluru lost early wickets. He said the captain's form gave the entire dressing room extra belief. "He's certainly batting brilliantly right now and that was a really special knock today," Bobat said, adding that Patidar had shown calmness, awareness and maturity under pressure. Bobat said Patidar's biggest improvement this season had been his ability to choose the right moments to attack. Against GT, he first rebuilt the innings, then accelerated powerfully. "That takes discipline and sophistication in thinking and planning," he said. Explaining RCB's aggressive batting approach, Bobat said it came from respect for Gujarat's strong top order. Bengaluru wanted to push the match beyond GT's reach rather than leave the door open. He also underlined the value of experienced players such as Virat Kohli, Krunal Pandya, Josh Hazlewood and Bhuvneshwar Kumar, saying successful teams need cricketers who walk towards pressure and execute calmly.

Veteran sports administrator Randhir Singh dies

NEW DELHI: Veteran sports administrator and India's first shooting gold-medallist in Asian Games, Randhir Singh, died here on Wednesday after battling age-related ailments. He was 79 and had undergone hospitalisation for several days before breathing his last at his residence here. Singh is survived by his wife Vinita and three daughters - Mahima, Sunaina and Rajeshwari, who is also a shooter. Singh recently quit his position as the President of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) due to health issues. He was elected for a four-year term in 2024, having already served the body as Secretary General from 1991 to 2015. "With deep sorrow, we share the sad news of the passing of Raja Randhir Singh, who left for his heavenly abode today.

| HARMANPREET RETURNS STRONGLY |

Harmanpreet returns to lead India in FIH Pro League's European leg

Press Trust Of India

Harmanpreet returns to lead India's European Pro League campaign before World Cup.

NEW DELHI: Captain and ace drag-flicker Harmanpreet Singh on Wednesday returned to lead a 24-member Indian men's hockey squad for the European leg of next month's FIH Pro League, which will be a crucial preparatory competition ahead of the World Cup in August.

Harmanpreet had missed the Hobart leg of the Pro League in February citing personal reasons. The Indians will first travel to Brussels for training and a friendly match from June 7 to 9.

Following this short camp, the squad will be in Rotterdam in the Netherlands from June 10 for the Pro League matches against Germany and the Netherlands scheduled for June 14 to 21.

Thereafter, the Indian team will fly to London, where it will face Pakistan and England in the Pro



League from June 23 to 28.

The squad features a blend of seasoned veterans and young tal-

FACTFILE

• India will face Germany, Netherlands, Pakistan and England in crucial Pro League matches.

• Squad blends senior experience and young talent to strengthen World Cup preparations.

ent to solidify the core team heading into the World Cup, which begins August 15.

India's captain and leader of the defence Harmanpreet will be backed by a robust unit comprising Amit Rohidas, Jarmanpreet Singh, Jugraj Singh and young defender Amandeep Lakra.

The mid-field will be anchored by the experienced duo of Hardik Singh, Manpreet Singh and Vivek Sagar Prasad, besides Raj Kumar Pal.

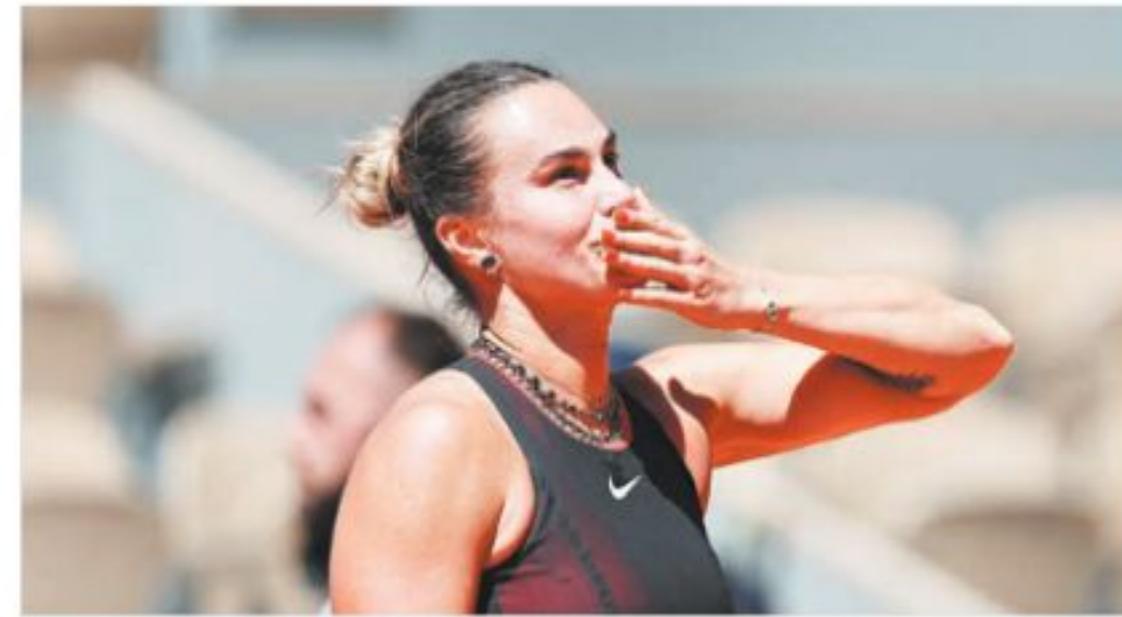
The forward line features explosive attackers, including Mandeep Singh, Sukhjeet Singh, Abhishek and Selvam Karthi.

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

STARS MOVE AHEAD

Sabalenka sparkles as Gauff, Osaka and Sinner advance in Paris



PARIS: Aryna Sabalenka brought both power and sparkle to the French Open, wearing diamond necklaces during her 6-4, 6-2 first-round win over Jessica Bouzas Maneiro in hot conditions. The world No. 1 said looking good on court helped her feel confident and perform better. Coco Gauff opened her title defence with a 6-4, 6-0 win over Taylor Townsend, while

Naomi Osaka beat Laura Siegemund in straight sets. Jannik Sinner extended his winning streak to 30 matches by defeating Clement Tabur. Daniil Medvedev suffered another early Roland Garros exit, losing to Adam Walton in five sets. French teenager Moise Kouame impressed on debut, beating Marin Cilic to earn his first Grand Slam victory. **PTI**

GLOBAL CHESS STAGE

Nihal Sarin seals Esports World Cup Chess qualification berth



MUMBAI: Indian Grandmaster Nihal Sarin, representing S8UL, has qualified for the chess event of the Esports World Cup in Paris through the Champions Chess Tour leaderboard. Nihal joins teammate Aravindh Chithambaram as only the second Indian to qualify so far. The

chess event, scheduled from August 11 to 15, carries a USD 1.5 million prize pool. After narrowly missing direct qualification in the Chess.com Open, Nihal collected crucial leaderboard points through consistent performances in the Titled Tuesday Grand Prix circuit. **PTI**

INDIANS STRUGGLE EARLY

Gukesh, Praggnanandhaa stumble as Firouzja leads Norway Chess standings



OSLO: Indian stars D Gukesh and R Praggnanandhaa endured a difficult second day at Norway Chess, with both suffering setbacks in contrasting fashion. Gukesh pressed Wesley So for 116 moves in classical play but failed to convert his advantage before losing the Armageddon. Despite the result, he remained

joint second with So on 2.5 points. Praggnanandhaa also began promisingly against Alireza Firouzja, but the Frenchman fought back superbly despite an ankle injury to win and move to the top with six points. Magnus Carlsen opened his account by beating Vincent Keymer in Armageddon. **PTI**

FAREWELL BARCELONA ICON

Women's soccer star Alexia Putellas leaves Barcelona after 14 seasons



MADRID: Two-time Ballon d'Or winner Alexia Putellas is leaving Barcelona after 14 remarkable seasons, ending one of the most influential chapters in women's football. Barcelona said Putellas will officially bid farewell at Camp Nou, where the club will honour her legacy as a role model on and off the field. The 32-year-old recently helped Barcelona win another Cham-

pions League title, their fourth in six seasons. Since joining from Levante in 2012, Putellas played 507 matches, scored a club-record 232 goals and won 38 trophies, including four Champions League titles and 10 Spanish league crowns. Putellas called her Barcelona journey "a perfect story," saying she had given everything for the club's colours. **PTI**

| INDIAN PREMIER LEAGUE |

Scoreboard pressure, poor fielding cost GT against RCB: Glenn Phillips

Press Trust Of India

DHARAMSALA: Gujarat Titans batter Glenn Phillips admitted that scoreboard pressure and sloppy fielding hurt his side badly in the crushing 92-run defeat to Royal Challengers Bengaluru in IPL Qualifier 1, but insisted the team would quickly move on ahead of the Eliminator. Chasing a daunting

Chasing 250 is always tough. Scoreboard pressure is huge, and very few teams manage it without everything going right.

Glenn Phillips
Gujarat Titans batter

total after Rajat Patidar's explosive unbeaten 93 powered RCB to 254 for five, GT crumbled to 162



all out as their top order failed to cope with the mounting pressure.

Phillips, who did not feature in the match, said the target became

increasingly difficult after RCB's early strikes with the ball.

"250 any day is a tough ask to chase without everything going your way. There's obviously a huge amount of scoreboard pressure when you're trying to chase 250 and very few teams have done it," Phillips said after the game on Tuesday.

"We went out there

and gave it everything. Unfortunately, when you're trying to chase 250, everything has to go right and obviously it didn't," he added.

Phillips felt the surface itself was not impossible for batting despite the massive first-innings total. "It obviously produced plenty of runs for Rajat and a couple of the other boys in the RCB side.

Sports News

Prannoy stuns Christie, Lakshya beat Lu in Singapore Open

Indian shuttlers HS Prannoy and Lakshya Sen stormed into Singapore Open second round with impressive victories, while Dhruv-Tanisha advanced despite mixed results elsewhere Wednesday.

Press Trust Of India

Prannoy shocks Christie; Lakshya cruises ahead, while Srikanth exits after tough battle.

SINGAPORE: Star Indian shuttlers HS Prannoy and Lakshya Sen advanced to the men's singles second round with stunning wins at the USD 1,000,000 Singapore Open Super 750 badminton tournament here on Wednesday.

Prannoy, a 2023 World Championships and Asian Games bronze medallist, produced a composed performance to prevail 10-21 21-12 21-18 over the world No. 5 Jonathan Christie of Indonesia in just over an hour.

It was the 33-year-old Indian's first win over Christie in five years, having last defeated him at the 2021 Indonesia Open.

Prannoy, who played epic roles in India's 2022 Thomas Cup triumph and the recent bronze medal win in Denmark, will face Singapore's former world champion Loh Kean Yew



next.

Later in the day, Lakshya, a 2021 World Cham-

pionships bronze winner, saw off world No. 24 Lu Guang Zu 21-17 21-15 in

42 minutes to set up a second-round clash with second seeded Thai Kun-

lavut Vitidsarn.

The Indian mixed doubles pair of Dhruv Kapila and Tanisha Crasto also advanced to the second round after beating Malaysia's Wong Tien Ci and Lim Chiew Sien 21-14, 20-22, 21-13 in their opening match.

However, Kidambi Srikanth and Malvika Bansod couldn't cross the opening hurdle.

Srikanth, a former world No. 1 and a 2021 World Championships silver medallist, fought his heart out before succumbing 20-22 21-19 17-21 to local hero Loh Kean Yew, who avenged last week's loss to the Indian.

Malvika, who is on a comeback trail after recovering from an ACL injury, also couldn't go the distance despite putting up a brave effort, losing 21-11 19-21 12-21 to Chinese Taipei's Lin Hsiang Ti.

In women's doubles, Panda sisters - Rutaparna and Swetaparna - lost 9-21 17-21 to Thailand's P. Aiamvareesri-sakul and S. Janpeng in another match.

Swiatek improves career record at French Open to 42-3



Press Trust Of India

The four-time champion eliminated 35th-ranked Sara Bejlek 6-2, 6-3 to reach the third round on Wednesday.

PARIS: Iga Swiatek has improved her career record at the French Open to 42-3.

The four-time champion eliminated 35th-ranked Sara Bejlek

6-2, 6-3 to reach the third round on Wednesday.

Swiatek won Roland Garros in 2020, 2022, 2023 and 2024.

With a heat wave still a factor in Paris, seventh-seeded Elina Svitolina extended a run of solid form with a 6-0, 6-4 victory over Kaitlin Quevedo.

Svitolina is on an eight-match winning streak after raising the Italian Open trophy.

Also, 11th-seeded Belinda Bencic beat

American opponent Caty McNally 6-4, 6-0.

For the fourth straight day of this year's tournament, the temperature was forecast to rise to at least 32 degrees Celsius (90 Fahrenheit).

Later Wednesday, 39-year-old Novak Djokovic faced 74th-ranked French player Valentin Royer, while second-seeded Alexander Zverev was playing Tomas Machac in the night session on Court Philippe-Chatrier.

INDIAN PREMIER LEAGUE

Patidar ignites India T20 call up debate after Dharamsala special

Press Trust Of India

Albeit in an incomparable format, Patidar chose the same picturesque Dhau-ladhar backdrop to ignite a debate on his national comeback with a T20 blitz that powered RCB to their second successive final.



comeback with a T20 blitz that powered RCB to their second successive final.

With Patidar on course to lead RCB to a back-to-back title as captain in his best-ever IPL season with the bat, calls for his inclusion in India's T20 squad had already begun. After

a 33-ball 93, it has grown multifold.

India under Suryakumar Yadav are a World Cup winning outfit but such is the amount of ready talent available in T20s, his place in the side is under scanner due to a prolonged lean patch.

Shreyas Iyer's supporters want him back in the team as captain and after the match winning show on Tuesday night, Patidar's camp want him in the side for the next series.

"I would have two or three guys in the team and build the squad around them. Rajat is one of them," Ambati Rayudu told ESPN-cricinfo.

Patidar had collected 21 runs from his first 13 balls before hammering 72 off the next 20 to decisively tilt the game in RCB's favour versus a predictable Gujarat Titans. The 254-5 proved well beyond the reach of an otherwise effective but one-dimensional GT batting line-up led by Shubman Gill.

Esha Singh wins gold with world record

MUNICH: Three-time world championship medallist Esha Singh bossed the women's 25m pistol final with a world record score of 43 as she clinched the gold to open India's medal account on the second day of the ISSF World Cup here on Wednesday. In a power-packed final, the 21-year-old Esha shot perfect fives in half of the 10 series of five shots, leaving home favourite and former world champion Doreen Vennekamp, a full five shots behind for silver. Bulgarian Miroslava Mincheva won the bronze in a field where reigning Olympic champion Yang Jilin bowed out in fifth. It was also India's first medal of the Munich World Cup after two days of competition at the Olympic Shooting range here. It was Esha's fourth individual world cup medal. "Munich meant a lot to me. Everyone knows the kind of competition that goes on here, especially in pistol.

GIKESH STAYS CALM

India beat Australia in shootout to win second match of friendly series

Press Trust Of India

Indian women fought back brilliantly, defeating Australia in shootout to level friendly series.

PERTH: The Indian women's hockey team came

from behind to force a 1-1 draw before registering a 4-2 win in the shootout against Australia to level the four-match friendly series 1-1 here on Wednesday. After an entertaining start to the game, Australia took the lead, courtesy a goal from Olivia Downes (10th minute) at the Perth

Hockey Stadium. But the Indian team upped the ante by creating opportunities from a series of penalty corners and putting the Australians under pressure.

The home team's resistance was finally broken in the final quarter as Sushila Chanu Pukhrabam (46th)

found the back of the net, bringing India back on level terms.

The visitors prevailed 4-2 in the shootout with goals from Navneet Kaur, Ishika Chaudhary, Annu and Rutuja Dadaso Pisal.

The third match of the series will be played on Friday.

THREE MTCH SERIES

India hope to regain rhythm in series against England

Press Trust Of India

India seek consistency against England before crucial women's T20 World Cup campaign begins.

CHELMSFORD: India will look to regain consistency and finalise their combination in the final dress rehearsal for next month's women's T20 World Cup when they take on hosts England in a three-match series starting here on Thursday.

With the global event set to begin on June 12, the tour assumes added significance for Harman-



preet Kaur's side, which has shown flashes of brilliance over the past year but has struggled to maintain momentum consistently.

India's preparations for the T20 World Cup have been a mixed bag. They began strongly with a commanding 5-0 clean sweep over Sri Lanka

at home last December before scripting history in Australia by clinching a 2-1 T20I series victory, their first bilateral series win there in a decade.

The triumph in Australia was seen as a major step forward for a side that has often struggled overseas, especially in pressure situations.

HIGHLIGHT

• Historic Australia series triumph boosted confidence despite disappointing South Africa tour setbacks recently.

The batters' aggressive approach and the bowlers' discipline offered encouraging signs in the lead-up to the World Cup.

However, the momentum dropped during the subsequent South Africa tour where India endured a disappointing 1-4 defeat in conditions that exposed several concerns ahead of the marquee tournament.

healthcare

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World



Climate change, pollution pose major challenges for Himalayas.

Ramchandra Paudel
Nepal's President

Nepal Everest Challenges



Everest climbers pose for a group photo during the 'Everest Summiters Summit' in Kathmandu, Nepal.

Trump gathers Cabinet seeking deal to end war

President Trump is meeting with his Cabinet to finalize a deal with Iran to reopen the Strait of Hormuz and reduce its nuclear capability, though crucial details remain unresolved.

Press Trust Of India

WASHINGTON : President Donald Trump will meet with his Cabinet on Wednesday at a precarious moment for talks aimed at ending the war with Iran, just days after insisting that his administration and Tehran had "largely negotiated" a settlement but with the negotiations still in a state of flux.

As he prepares to muddle with his top aides, Trump is projecting confidence that he's closing in on a deal that will reopen the Strait of Hormuz and provide



President Donald Trump departs Walter Reed National Military Medical Center.

him a credible argument that Iran's nuclear capability has been diminished enough to declare victory, winding down

a conflict that's been politically unpopular for Republicans. But as things stand, Trump also risks finding closure to

FASTFACTS

● Trump faces intense criticism, including from some of his own backers, who worry the current terms will leave Iran's hard-line leadership emboldened.

his war of choice comes with an unsatisfactory ending. The emerging deal puts off many critical issues to be resolved later and has already exposed the Republican president to fierce criticism – even from some of his own

supporters – that Iran's hard-line leaders will emerge from the conflict battered but emboldened. It all comes to a head just as the midterm elections to determine control of Congress come into focus and as Republicans worry that rising costs and fuel prices are darkening the American electorate's mood. Talks were further complicated after U.S. forces carried out what the Pentagon called "defensive" strikes on missile launch sites and mine-laying boats in southern Iran on Monday.

Israel kills new Hamas military leader

DEIR AL-BALAH : Israel said Wednesday it targeted and killed the new leader of Hamas' military wing during air-strikes in Gaza City less than two weeks after killing his predecessor.

Israel's Defense Minister Israel Katz and the Israeli military said the strikes carried out Tuesday killed Mohammed Odeh. Hamas did not comment on Odeh.

At least five people were killed and 12 injured in Tuesday's strike on a market including Odeh, his wife, son and daughter and another woman, local hospitals said. The attack came on the eve of Eid al-Adha, a major Muslim holiday.

Hungary's parliament votes to remain member of ICC

Press Trust Of India

Hungary's parliament voted to remain a member of the International Criminal Court (ICC), reversing a previous decision by former Prime Minister Viktor Orbán to withdraw.

BUDAPEST: Hungary's parliament voted on Wednesday to remain a member of the International Criminal Court, reversing a decision by the previous government of Viktor Orbán to withdraw from the global tribunal.



Hungary's new Prime Minister Peter Magyar delivers a speech after the inaugural session in Budapest, Hungary. (AP Photo)

Orbán's government announced last year that Hungary would quit the ICC, the world's only permanent global court for war crimes and geno-

cide, shortly after a state visit by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu which went ahead despite an ICC warrant for his arrest

FASTFACTS

● The bill to stay in the ICC was submitted by the new Prime Minister, Péter Magyar, passing with 133 votes from his ruling Fidesz party.

over alleged war crimes in connection with Israel's war in the Gaza Strip. The ICC and other international organizations criticized Orbán's government for failing to detain Netanyahu. Orbán accused the ICC of becoming a "political court."

| SPAIN PROBE |

Spanish police raid ruling party Hqs

Press Trust Of India

BARCELONA : Spanish police are searching the headquarters of the ruling Socialist Party as part of an ongoing investigation into possible financial wrongdoing, the Civil Guard said Wednesday.

The raid on the office in central Madrid is another blow to the party of Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez, whose Socialists have been hammered by a series of corruption scandals.

The Civil Guard told The Associated Press that the police were



under judicial orders to find material relevant to a National Court probe into accusations of corruption against former

party members and other individuals.

The police said the search is strictly limited to a probe led by

confiscate diverse documentation and electronic archives
Santiago Pedraz
National Court Judge

National Court judge Santiago Pedraz into the possible wrongdoing of Socialist party member Leire Diez.

The case against Diez started in 2025 when audio recordings

appeared in Spanish media of her apparent involvement in attempts to discredit a member of the Civil Guard's anti-corruption unit.

Further reports linked her to alleged attempts to influence the work of state prosecutors. The judge's probe is targeted on seeing if she received payments from the party to allegedly carry out these efforts.

The Socialist party said she was acting on her own. Diez, who has left the party, has denied wrongdoing.

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

LAOS CAVE RESCUE

Five villagers missing in flooded Laos cave for more than week have been found alive, rescuers say



BANGKOK: Five villagers stuck in a flooded cave in central Laos for more than a week were found alive, rescuers said Wednesday, but two others are missing.

The villagers entered the cave in Xaisomboun province on May 19, but heavy rain triggered flash flooding that blocked the exit and trapped seven people, according to Lao and Thai rescue teams involved in the operation.

Bounkham Luanglath of the Lao organisation Rescue Volunteer for People, which has been working closely with local authorities in the rescue efforts, told The Associated Press that five people were found safe and alive, but two more are still missing, and the search for them will continue.

"I'm still shaking. Our team made it happen," he said in a voice message.

A video posted by a Thai rescue group involved in the mission appeared to show the moment divers emerged from the water and discovered the trapped villagers. In the footage, the villagers, each wearing a headlamp, were sitting on a rock surrounded by floodwater.

Other videos showed rescuers inside and outside the cave cheering, jumping around and hugging each other in joy after the discovery.

Rescue workers from neighbouring Thailand arrived at the site over the weekend. Those helping out include divers from several nations who took part in the complicated 2018 rescue in northern Thailand of 12 school-boys and their soccer coach who were trapped for more than two weeks in a cave before being safely extricated.

RUSSIA UKRAINE WAR

Russian lawmakers want banks, their staff to help fight Ukrainian drones

KYIV: Russian bank staff and branches could be joining the fight against Ukrainian drone attacks under an ambitious plan approved by the country's lower house of parliament. The banks would bear the cost of installing electronic jamming systems on their premises while selected employees would also shoot down incoming drones, according to the draft bill passed in its third and final reading Tuesday. The bill, which state news agency Interfax said was first presented last August and later expanded in scope.

CHINA QUAD

China Tells Quad to Stop Meddling in Neighborhood

BEIJING: China on Wednesday reacted strongly to the Quad Ministerial meeting that voiced serious concerns over the situation in the East and South China Sea, saying they should stop meddling in maritime affairs in its neighbourhood.

The situation in the East China Sea and the South China Sea is generally stable, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning told a media briefing here while responding to a question on the Quad meeting in Delhi.

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