

IAF document rejects Pak's Rafale claim

Document shows maintenance planning for all 36 Rafales.

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: An Indian Air Force (IAF) document accessed by media has, yet again, belied Pakistan's claims of having shot down Rafale fighter jets during its response to Operation Sindoor.

The document shows planning is underway for the maintenance and support of all 36 Rafale fighter jets acquired from France under the 2016 Inter-Governmental Agreement. The Request for Proposal (RFP) issued by the Directorate of Engineering (Rafale) at Air Headquarters on June 15 seeks bids



for a "Bridge Support" contract from French engine-maker Safran Aircraft Engines beyond September 18, 2026. The proposal explicitly states that the IAF is operating a fleet of 36 Rafale aircraft and makes maintenance, support and flying-hour calculations based on that number. The Air Force is seeking a five-month bridge support arrangement and has asked ven-

Pakistan had repeatedly claimed through official statements and social media posts that Indian Rafales were downed during the operation in May 2025. India has consistently rejected those assertions as disinformation and propaganda.

dors to propose support for a fleet of 36 Rafales flying at a rate of 150 hours per aircraft annually. Based on these figures, the RFP calculates a total requirement of 2,250 flying hours. "The total flying hours for proposal accordingly would work out to 2250 Flying Hrs

(36 ac x 12.5 Flying Hrs/month x 5 months)," the document states. According to the RFP, the original Rafale acquisition package included maintenance resources, consumables, spares and support infrastructure sufficient for five years of fleet operations.

The Air Force has initiated the process of securing interim arrangements to ensure uninterrupted operations because that maintenance contract is coming to an end. The RFP has been sent to Safran Aircraft Engines, which manufactures the M88 engines that power Rafale fighters.

Admission portal

NEW DELHI: Delhi University is likely to open its undergraduate admission portal for the academic session 2026-27 by the end of this week and is aiming to begin the new academic session from July 21, university officials said on Wednesday, a day after the declaration of the CUET-UG 2026 results.

The Common University Entrance Test (CUET-UG) serves as the single-window entrance examination for admission to undergraduate programmes in most central universities, including Delhi University.

SCs of India, Russia sign MoU

Press Trust Of India

CJI Surya Kant, Igor Krasnov sign MoU in Moscow.

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court has signed an MoU with the top court of the Russian Federation in the field of judicial cooperation.

Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation Igor Krasnov signed the memorandum of understanding (MoU) in Moscow on Tuesday.

Accompanied by a delegation from the apex court, CJI Kant met



the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation.

"The meeting was convened in the Marble Hall of the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation in Moscow, where the deliberations commenced with a particular emphasis on the

historical and contemporary amicable relations that both nations share," a release said. According to the release, discussions highlighted the necessity for mutual cooperation to address emerging challenges, the digital transformation undertaken by the judiciaries of both countries, particularly in the integration of technology and artificial intelligence into court procedures to enhance the justice delivery system and facilitate improved access to justice, and included a brief discourse on the significance of high-quality judicial education.

Hornbill safari planned at Udanti-Sitanadi

Press Trust Of India

RAIPUR: The Chhattisgarh forest department has decided to launch a Hornbill Safari in the Udanti-Sitanadi Tiger Reserve (USTR), an initiative aimed at strengthening wildlife conservation while creating livelihood opportunities for local tribal communities, officials said on Wednesday.

The tiger reserve, spread across Gariaband and Dhamtari districts, is located around 130 km from the state capital Raipur.

The safari will be introduced in the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) villages of Odh, Amlor and Amamora at the initiative of the state's Forest Minister Kedar



HIGHLIGHT

● **Safari in PVTG villages launched by Kedar Kashyap.**

Kashyap, said USTR Deputy Director Varun Jain.

"We have started trials, and it will be rolled out formally within a month", he added.

The safari will focus on sightings of the rare Malabar Pied Hornbill, a large forest bird found in moist deciduous and evergreen forests of central India and the Western Ghats, he said.

'We need doctors in this country', says SC

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: "We need doctors in this country," the Supreme Court said on Wednesday while refusing to entertain a petition which alleged that the fee structure in private medical colleges in Rajasthan was exorbitant. A bench of Justices B V Nagarathna and Joymalya Bagchi was hearing a plea challenging an order of the Rajasthan High Court. The high court had dismissed a petition filed by a medical aspirant who alleged that tuition fee in private medical colleges in Rajasthan ranges between Rs 18.90 lakh and Rs 25 lakh per annum and it was wholly incompatible with the income ceiling of Rs 8 lakh for the



HIGHLIGHT

● **Court dismisses plea concerning fee structure.**

Economically Weaker Section (EWS) eligibility. During the hearing, the apex court said one cannot say that self-financing institutions should charge the same fee as charged by the government institutions.

The bench observed, "One person cannot say that it is exorbitant in private institutions and make it on par with government institutions."

RIISING HUMIDITY |

'Humid heat days rise in India'

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: India has witnessed an increase of dangerous humid heat days from an average of 101 days per year during the 1970s to 141 days per year between 2016-2025, according to a new analysis. A dangerous humid heat day is when the daily maximum wet-bulb temperature - a measure that combines heat and humidity to show



how stressful the environment actually feels to the human body - is 25 degrees Celsius or higher.

The rise in the number of such days is dangerous, as humid heat can compromise the body's main cooling mechanism

NUMBER

23

● **Extreme humid heat days doubled to 23 per year between 2016-25.**

(sweating) and lead to a range of serious and even fatal heat-related illnesses. The analysis was released on Wednesday by Climate Central, an independent group of

scientists and communicators who research and report the facts about changing climate and how it affects people's lives. India is not alone in experiencing an increase in the number of dangerous humid heat days.

According to the analysis, these days have more than doubled globally, from 10 days per year during the 1970s to 23 days per year between 2016-2025.

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Raipur



BJP Government fails to deliver Kerosene meant for poor.

Satyaprakash Singh
Congress spokesperson

Rani Durgavati's sacrifice inspires nation, says CM Sai

CM honors Rani Durgavati's sacrifice on martyrdom anniversary today.

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai paid floral tributes to the heroic Queen Durgavati on her martyrdom day by garlanding her statue on Canal Linking Road in the capital city. Describing her life as an eternal source of inspiration, the Chief Minister said the courage, valor and sacrifice of Queen Durgavati constitute an invaluable legacy of Indian history. Addressing the gathering, Sai said Queen Durgavati's life exemplifies patriotism, self-respect and unwavering devotion to the motherland. He stated that her



extraordinary sacrifice continues to inspire millions and encourages society to move forward with courage, confidence and a sense of duty even in challenging circumstances. The Chief Minister emphasized the importance of remembering the nation's

glorious history and great personalities. He said a society that forgets its heritage risks its future, while one that honors its heroes with gratitude ensures progress and prosperity. Recalling the life of the warrior queen, Sai said Queen Durgavati dis-

played unparalleled bravery while fighting against the mighty Mughal forces. She defended her land and honor until her last breath and embraced martyrdom rather than surrender. Her sacrifice, he added, remains one of the most inspiring chap-

FACTFILE

● Queen Durgavati's valor continues inspiring patriotism and national self-respect today.

ters of courage and self-respect in Indian history. The Chief Minister further said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the country is progressing with the vision of "Development as well as Heritage." He noted that development becomes meaningful only when accompanied by the preservation of cultural heritage and historical consciousness.

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

ILLICIT LIQUOR SEIZED

Tikrapara police nab liquor smuggler, seize 35 bottles of illicit liquor

RAIPUR: The Tikrapara police arrested a man red-handed for illegally selling country-made liquor in the Bhathagaon-Devpuri area and seized 6,300 litres of illicit liquor worth approximately Rs 3,500 from his possession.

According to police officials, acting on a tip-off received on June 24, the police were informed that Ajay Jangde, a resident of Bhathapara Devpuri, was engaged in the illegal storage and sale of liquor. The information was immediately shared with senior officers, who directed the Station House Officer of Tikrapara Police Station to verify the input and take prompt action.

Following the instructions, a joint police team conducted a confidential inquiry and raided the accused's residence in the Bhathagaon-Devpuri area. During the raid, the police caught Ajay Jangde red-handed and recovered 35 paavas of 'Sholey' brand country-made liquor, which had been stored for illegal sale.

The seized liquor amounted to 6,300 litres and was valued at around



Rs 3,500. A case has been registered against the accused under Section 34(2) of the Excise Act at Tikrapara Police Station in Crime No. 570/2026.

The accused, Ajay Jangde (33), son of Kalyan Singh Jangde and a resident of Bhathapara Devpuri, has been arrested and remanded to judicial custody. The Tikrapara police played a key role in the successful operation.

Businessman duped of Rs 10 lakh in fake Gold Necklace scam

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: A businessman from Bhillai was allegedly cheated of Rs 10 lakh after being lured into purchasing what was claimed to be a 2 kg gold necklace at a throw-away price. The DD Nagar police have registered a fraud case against a mother-son duo and launched a search to trace the accused. According to police, Dhaval Badodariya, a resident of Guru Nanak Nagar in Bhillai and a sanitaryware busi-



nessman, came in contact with accused Rajesh Prapapati through a mutual friend. Rajesh claimed that he had discovered a gold necklace weighing around 2 kg inside a brass vessel during an excavation.

To gain the victim's confidence, the accused pro-

vided small pieces of the necklace for testing on two occasions, both of which reportedly turned out to be genuine gold. Convinced by the tests, Dhaval agreed to buy the necklace. On June 23, the deal was finalized near Raipura in Raipur. The businessman allegedly handed over Rs 10 lakh in cash inside a car and received the necklace in return. The accused were later dropped near the DD Nagar police station area and fled in an e-rickshaw.

Guv inspects rehabilitation facilities at Mana Camp

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: Governor Ramen Deka visited the Divyang Rehabilitation Centre at Mana Camp and reviewed the facilities being provided for the treatment, rehabilitation and education of persons with disabilities. During the visit, he distributed tricycles to specially-abled beneficiaries and encouraged them to move forward with confidence and self-reliance. The Governor also planted a sapling on the rehabilitation centre premises. Accompanied



by Social Welfare Department Director, Ranveer Sharma and other officials, the Governor inspected the Physical Referral Rehabilitation Centre and the Cerebral Palsy Gait Lab. He examined the advanced medical equipment installed at the facility and sought detailed information about their functioning.

Urla Police crack truck theft case, accused arrested in 24 hours

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: The Urla police have solved a truck theft case within 24 hours of the registration of an FIR and arrested the accused, recovering the stolen vehicle worth approximately Rs 15 lakh. According to police, complainant Maniram Yadav, Electrical In-charge at SKS Ispat Pvt. Ltd., reported that his Hyva truck (Registration No. CG/07/CA/5157) had been entrusted to driver Bajrang-bali Maurya.

On the evening of June 20, the driver parked the truck near JA Fuels in Urla and returned home as part of his routine. However, when he came back the next morning, the vehicle was missing. Following the complaint, a case under Section 303(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya San-



hita (BNS) was registered against an unknown person at Urla Police Station. Taking the incident seriously, Deputy Commissioner of Police (North Zone) Mayank Gurjar and Assistant Commissioner of Police (Urla) Purnima Lama directed the police team to trace the vehicle and arrest the culprit at the earliest. Under the leadership of the Station Incharge, the Urla police launched an intensive investigation, questioning the complainant and driver, examining the crime scene, reviewing CCTV footage and activating local informants.

EOW files charge sheet in Chhattisgarh land Scam

Central Chronicle News

EOW files charge sheet in multi-crore housing scam.

RAIPUR: The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) has filed a comprehensive charge sheet against Rajkumar Naidu, the then Senior Cooperative Inspector and Liquidator, in connection with alleged financial irregularities and embezzlement in cooperative housing societies that reportedly caused losses exceeding Rs 4 crore.

The charge sheet, running into nearly 3,500 pages, has been submitted before the Special Court under the Prevention of Corruption Act in Raipur. The EOW has registered a case against Naidu under



FACTFILE

● Rs 4 crore loss, Rs 20 lakh embezzlement unearthed by EOW.

Sections 409 and 420 of the Indian Penal Code and relevant provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, alleging misuse of official position and criminal misconduct. According to the investigation, Naidu committed several irregularities

while serving as liquidator of the Bhairav Housing Society and the National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) Housing Society in Raipur.

The probe revealed that allotments and registrations of 13 lands in the NMDC Housing Society were cancelled without following due procedure, after which new members were inducted and the lands allegedly sold below the Collector's guideline rates.

SKILL TRAINING |

State to strengthen skill development for tribal youth: CS

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: A meeting of the Coordination and Monitoring Committee of the Department of Skill Development, Technical Education and Employment was held at Mantralaya Mahanadi Bhawan under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary Vikasheel.

The meeting focused on vocational education, skill development and rural entrepreneurship for the empowerment of poor youth, women and transgender individuals



belonging to Scheduled Tribes and other marginalized communities. The Chief Secretary directed officials to prepare a comprehensive action plan to provide skill training

and employment opportunities to these sections of society. He emphasized the need to create sustainable livelihood opportunities through institutional support and

FACTFILE

● Micro ear devices, mobile phones, SIM cards, and electronic gadgets seized.

market-oriented training programmes.

Officials informed the meeting that the Government of Chhattisgarh and the Pan IIT Alumni Reach for India Foundation have decided to establish a non-profit joint venture company. The entity will work towards the holistic development and empower-

ment of underprivileged communities through vocational education, skill development and rural entrepreneurship initiatives.

The meeting was informed that 'Kalyan Gurukuls' and 'Skill Colleges' will be established in remote and forested tribal regions of the state. Existing facilities such as ITIs and hostels will be converted into residential training centres to provide market-driven skill training to unemployed rural youth.

MEMORANDUM SUBMITTED

Chhattisgarh Chamber urges Transport Minister to amend vehicle resale rules

RAIPUR: A delegation of the Chhattisgarh Chamber of Commerce and Industries, led by State President Satish Thaurani, met Transport Minister Kedar Kashyap and submitted a memorandum seeking practical and rational amendments to the Chhattisgarh Motor Vehicle Rules, 1994, particularly concerning the resale of used vehicles. The delegation, which included office-bearers of the Chhattisgarh Automobile Reseller Association, expressed concern over the newly proposed rules, stating that they could severely impact thousands of small and medium vehicle traders across the state. They urged the government to review the provisions and frame regulations that are busi-



ness-friendly and practical. Thaurani informed the Minister that the newly imposed tax on the transfer of ownership of used vehicles has significantly slowed market activity. The delegation demanded the withdrawal of the tax and restoration of the earlier system of nominal transfer fees. They also sought the cancellation of hefty bank guarantees being demanded from dealers.

Raipur News

BJP for diverse training prog aimed at elevating workers skills

BJP concludes State Digital Training Workshop, reinforces 24/7 Public Service.

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) successfully concluded its state-level workshop for the Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay Prashikshan Mahabhiyan Digital Learning Platform today at the Kushabhau Thakre complex in Raipur. The day-long session focused on providing digital guidance to workers to streamline party operations from the booth level up to the state structure.

Addressing the workshop, BJP State President Kiran Dev rejected the notion that the party only activates during elections, emphasizing its continuous, year-round operational model. "The BJP does not operate purely in election mode. Our constructive and organizational activities run 24x7, all year long," Dev stated.

With approximately two and a half years remaining before the next state elections, Dev noted that party cadres remain perpetually prepared. He stressed that the primary objective of current campaigns is to bridge the gap between welfare policies and citizens, ensuring that intended beneficiaries on the ground actually receive government aid.

BJP State General Secretary (Organization) Pawan Sai emphasized that structural training is essential



FASTFACTS

● As part of this specialized digital drive, the party has selected and invited a core group of three key workers from each of the 90 assembly constituencies for intensive central training.

● Once fully trained at the state headquarters, these regional coordinators will return to their respective constituencies to act as master trainers.

for building sharp, proficient workers who can effectively communicate party ideology to the last person in queue. He urged the attendees to complete assigned organizational tasks within strict timelines to effectively expand the party's rural and urban footprints.

Adding to the organizational vision, State

BJP digitally empowering grassroots workers: Sao

Chhattisgarh Deputy Chief Minister Arun Sao announced that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is running a nationwide campaign to ensure its workers are fully proficient in utilizing modern technologies and digital platforms.

The Deputy Chief Minister was speaking to media personnel at the BJP state headquarters in the Kushabhau Thakre complex, Raipur, during a high-level digital learning platform meeting held under the Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay Maha-Prashikshan Abhiyan (Grand Training Campaign).

"The BJP is fundamentally a cadre-based party. We consistently organize diverse training programs specifically aimed at elevating the skills and capabilities of our ground workers," Deputy CM Sao stated.

Vice-President and Event Convenor Jagannath Panigrahi noted that digitization is the party's latest innovation to create verifiable, highly connected cadres across the state.

The workshop also highlighted key political and historical milestones including reflecting on the Emergency. State General Secretary Dr. Navin Mar-

kandey spoke on the historical impact of the 1975 Emergency, stating that it is the duty of current workers to educate the younger generation about that political crisis.

State Vice-President Nandan Jain outlined programs running from June 23 to July 6 dedicated to the legacy of Dr. Mookerjee.

SC Advocate Upadhyay to speak at lecture

RAIPUR: To honor the enduring values, sacrifice, and patriotism of the legendary freedom fighter, social reformer, and eminent advocate Late Kamal Narayan Sharma, a state-level memorial lecture and felicitation ceremony will be held on June 26 (Friday). The annual event, organized by the socio-cultural organization Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara, will commence at 4:00 PM at the Shaheed Smarak Bhavan in Raipur.

As India rapidly advances on the global stage, it concurrently navigates sophisticated domestic and external geopolitical pressures. Against this backdrop, the organizing committee has designated "Secure India - Challenges and Solutions" as the central theme for this year's symposium. The discourse is designed to spark deep analytical thinking regarding the country's defense infrastructure, strategic policy frameworks, and the critical role of public participation. The keynote address will be delivered by Ashwini Upadhyay, a prominent nationalist thinker and senior Advocate of the Supreme Court of India.

During the session, he will break down India's multi-dimensional security challenges—ranging from border management and civic harmony to legal complexities and modern cyber threats—offering pragmatic solutions tailored for the contemporary era.

Emergency is the darkest day in Indian democracy: Munat



Central Chronicle News

FASTFACTS

● Prominent opposition leaders, journalists, and activists were immediately jailed under the Maintenance of Internal Security Act (MISA).

Raebareli. The Allahabad High Court found her guilty of abusing government machinery, barring her from contesting elections for six years and ordering her to vacate office. Following a conditional stay from the Supreme Court on June 24, 1975, which restricted her voting rights in Parliament, the Emergency was declared the very next day to safeguard her position.

Prominent opposition leaders, journalists, and activists were immediately jailed under the Maintenance of Internal Security Act (MISA). Munat emphasized that the BJP remains committed to supporting the hundreds of families whose lives were upended by the atrocities of that era.

RAIPUR: Terming the 1975 Emergency a "black stain" on Indian democracy, Raipur West MLA and BJP leader Rajesh Munat stated that the Congress party can never wash away the sin of suppressing constitutional freedoms. Addressing a press conference at Ekatma Parisar led by District President Ramesh Singh Thakur, Munat recalled the horrors of the 21-month Emergency period, which was imposed 51 years ago on June 25.

"The Emergency turned the entire nation into an undeclared open prison, promoting fear, terror, and authoritarianism," Munat remarked, adding that the BJP has historically observed June 25 as 'Black Day'.

Munat highlighted that the root cause of the Emergency was the legal challenge filed by socialist leader Raj Narain against then-Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's 1971 election victory from

NEWSLINE

POSHAN VATIKAS Chh'garh to grow 'Nutrition Gardens' in 1,000 Tribal hostels



RAIPUR: In a major push to upgrade student health and campus sustainability, Chhattisgarh's Tribal and Minorities Development Department will set up "Nutrition Gardens" (Poshan Vatikas) across 1,000 state-run ashram hostels. Reviewing operations at the Mahanadi Bhawan, Principal Secretary Sonmani Borah directed officials to plant diverse fruit-bearing trees like mango, guava, papaya, and banana, alongside daily staples including tomatoes, okra, gourds, and drumsticks. The initiative aims to enrich the daily diets of residential students with organic, freshly harvested produce while fostering eco-friendly campuses. "Hostels are the backbone of our educational system. Ensuring student nutrition, robust safety infrastructure, and seamless facilities remains our top operational priority," stated Principal Secretary Borah. The review meeting, attended by Commissioner D. Rahul Venkat and other senior officials, emphasized that all textbooks, uniforms, and stationary must reach students immediately to align with the new academic session.

TRANSPARENCY

Govt Saree funds to go directly to Anganwadi workers

RAIPUR: In a major structural reform aimed at enhancing administrative transparency, Women and Child Development Minister Laxmi Rajwade announced the complete abolition of the centralized procurement system for Anganwadi uniforms. Under this new directive, the funds allocated for purchasing sarees will now be transferred directly into the bank accounts of Anganwadi workers and assistants through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT). This policy shift aligns with Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai's zero-tolerance stance on corruption and mirrors Prime Minister Narendra Modi's governance model of leveraging technology to eliminate middlemen and empower grassroots public servants.

CM Sai meets Amit Shah with proposal for AIIA

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR/NEW DELHI: Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai met Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah at Kartavya Bhawan in New Delhi on Wednesday to discuss developing Chhattisgarh into a national hub for Ayurvedic medicine, research, and higher education.

During the meeting, the Chief Minister held detailed discussions on the state's development, public welfare, and various contemporary issues, while urging for the establishment of an All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) in Chhattisgarh. State's Deputy Chief Minister, Vijay Sharma, accompanied the Chief Minister during the meeting.

The Chief Minister informed the Home Min-



ister that the All India Institutes of Ayurveda operating in New Delhi and Panaji have established themselves as centers of excellence for Ayurveda-based medicine, research, and innovation in the country. These institutes have given a new direction to healthcare services by integrating modern science with traditional medical practices and have produced a large number of skilled Ayurvedic physicians and researchers.

CM ai stated that Chhattisgarh is rich in natural resources and medicinal wealth. A vast area of the state is covered by forests, where numerous rare medicinal plants and herbs are naturally available. The tribal regions also possess a rich heritage of traditional medicinal knowledge. In this context, establishing an All India Institute of Ayurveda here could play a pivotal role in taking Ayurvedic medicine and research to new heights.

Govt steps up Cyber Security across Chh'garh

Central Chronicle News

The technical sessions featured insights from prominent national experts.



FAST FACTS

● Dr. Dhruv Gupta, Inspector General of Police, provided a briefing on the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, noting that the law is slated for full implementation by 2027.

over 120 senior officials, technical experts, and national cyber security professionals representing various government departments, boards, and corporations.

Speaking as the chief guest, Ankit Anand, Sec-

retary of the Electronics and Information Technology Department, emphasized that the success of digital governance relies heavily on public trust.

"Cyber security is no longer just a technical issue; it has become a critical strategic pillar for good governance, service continuity, and public confidence," Anand stated. He added that the state's objective is not merely to expand digital services but to ensure they are resilient, secure, and fully capable of mitigating

cyber risks.

Highlighting the core objective of the workshop, Mayank Agarwal, CEO of CHIIPS, announced that the state government is currently formulating a forward-looking cyber security roadmap. Aligning with the Government of India's official directives, the workshop focused intensely on six core themes including risk-based security assessment, state Data Center (SDC) and network security, security Operations Center (SOC) management, Zero Trust Architecture, Data governance protocols and Cyber awareness and capacity building.

OLYMPIC DAY

COA plants 2,036 saplings and honors top athletes

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: In a unique fusion of sports development and environmental preservation, Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai led a massive state celebration on International Olympic Day at Palod village in Naya Raipur.

To symbolically back India's official bid to host the 2036 Olympic Games, the Chhattisgarh Olympic Association, acting on a special request from the Indian Olympic Association (IOA), organized the planting of exactly



2,036 saplings across the region. The Chief Minister initiated the drive by planting a sacred Rudraksha sapling. "This initiative represents our dedicated promise toward building a healthier, greener, and stronger India for our future generations," Chief Minister

Sai stated. Alongside the green drive, a major athlete felicitation ceremony took place to celebrate local excellence. Setting a high benchmark for inclusivity and structural support, the association honored one male athlete, one female athlete, and one coach from

every single Olympic sport across the state.

Chief Minister Sai addressed the gathering of sports enthusiasts and coaches, emphasizing the state's ongoing efforts to decentralize sports infrastructure away from cities and deep into regional hubs. Deputy Chief Minister Arun Sao highlighted that the administration is introducing robust policy enhancements to smooth out the transition from local tournaments to international arenas. The state has implemented dedicated budget allocations for special-

ized high-performance training camps and structured cash incentives for podium finishes at national and global events.

Forest Minister Kedar Kashyap linked the sporting spirit to the state's active "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" green campaign, urging athletes and citizens alike to aggressively step up forest cover.

The high-profile event wrapped up with the presence of key dignitaries, including Skill Development Minister Guru Khushwant Saheb, Chhattisgarh Olympic Associ-

State GST unearths Rs 76 cr fake billing scam

RAIPUR: In a major crackdown on tax evasion and fraudulent billing, the Chhattisgarh State Tax Department (State GST) has arrested Aadeshwar Chouradiya, the operator of M/s Aadeshwar Trade Link based in Rajnandgaon. The enforcement action exposed an illicit Input Tax Credit (ITC) racket worth Rs 8.22 crore, which aimed to cause substantial revenue losses to the govt exchequer. According to departmental investigations, the firm allegedly recorded transactions worth approximately Rs 76 crore over the past six months solely on paper.

Central Chronicle APPOINTMENT

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Vishnu Deo Sai
CM Chhgarh

'Teacher shortage, electricity issues highlighted at Jandarshan'

Several civic and welfare-related issues were raised during the weekly public grievance hearing.

Central Chronicle News

BILASPUR: Several civic and welfare-related issues were raised during the weekly public grievance hearing (Jandarshan) held at the District Collectorate on Tuesday under the direction of Collector Sanjay Agrawal. Complaints related to housing, old-age and destitute pensions, education, electricity supply, agriculture, and land disputes were brought before officials.

The Sarpanch of Gram Panchayat Chitawar demanded the deployment of adequate teachers and the supply of study materials at the local middle school. He stated that despite submitting applications to the District Education Officer (DEO) and Block Education Officer (BEO), the issue remains unresolved, affecting students' education.

Residents of Jevra village in Masturi block complained about alleged encroachment on government land earmarked for the construction of a community hall. They urged the administration to clear the encroachment and begin construction work



FASTFACTS

● Residents of Jevra village in Masturi block complained about alleged encroachment on government land.

at the earliest. An elderly resident of Purani Basti, Sirgitti, identified as Kashi, sought restoration of her destitute pension, stating that she has not received pension benefits since January 2026. She said the delay has made it difficult to manage her daily expenses.

Residents of Wards 3, 4, and 5 of Menda village raised concerns over frequent power disruptions caused by overloading and demanded installation of a new trans-

former to improve electricity supply. Farmer Dhanwar Sahu of Chhatouna submitted a memorandum regarding the delay in obtaining an agricultural electricity connection for irrigation purposes. According to him, despite applying in March 2024, the connection has not yet been provided. Another

complaint was submitted by Ramji, a resident of Karwa village in Belgahna, who alleged that a house being constructed under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana was encroaching upon a public access route, creating difficulties for local residents. He requested an inquiry and appropriate action.

Farmers urged to adopt alternative crops

In view of the uncertainty regarding the monsoon and the likelihood of below-normal rainfall this year due to the impact of El Niño, the Agriculture Department has advised farmers to adopt alternative agricultural strategies. The department has urged farmers to select short-duration paddy varieties suited to available rainfall and water resources and to adopt water conservation techniques.

106 large institutions registered for waste mgmt

BILASPUR: To promote cleanliness and environmental conservation in the district, 106 large institutions have been registered as 'Bulk Waste Generators' (BWGs). This registration was completed via the Central Pollution Control Board's (CPCB) online portal. This move will facilitate better management of large-scale waste generation.

Collector Sanjay Agrawal stated that the cleanliness drive would succeed only if all institutions and citizens fulfilled their responsibilities. While congratulating the registered institutions, he urged other eligible entities to comply with the regulations and cooperate in building a clean Bilaspur. Mr. Sandeep Kumar Agrawal, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Zila Panchayat, emphasized that proper waste management is essential for environmental protection. He urged institutions to segregate wet and dry waste within their premises and to develop systems for processing organic waste. The district administration is continuously raising awareness among government and private institutions, hospitals, educational establishments.

Bhupesh Baghel alleges govt has ignored villages and farmers

Central Chronicle News

BILASPUR: Former Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh and senior Congress leader Bhupesh Baghel launched a sharp attack on the state government during a press conference held at the New Circuit House in Bilaspur. He accused the government of neglecting villages, farmers, and the rural economy, and asserted that the struggle to protect the rights, dignity, and self-respect of the people of Chhattisgarh would continue.

Addressing media persons, Baghel said that whether a party remains in power or not is ultimately the decision of the people, but safeguarding the rights of citizens and preserving the state's culture and self-respect remains his foremost responsibility. He stated that he would continue to stand in the front line of this fight. The former Chief Minister claimed that the present government has failed to strengthen the rural economy and has ignored the concerns of farmers and agricultural workers.

Referring to initiatives undertaken during his tenure, he said that farm loan waivers, justice-oriented welfare schemes, and a strong paddy procurement system had



helped improve the economic condition of rural Chhattisgarh. According to him, the current administration's indifference has left farmers and rural labourers feeling neglected.

Baghel also expressed concern over the law-and-order situation in the state. Citing recent administrative and social incidents, he alleged that the government has failed to ensure public safety and that rising crime and administrative shortcomings have created a sense of insecurity among citizens. He further stated that farmers, the poor, and tribal communities have always remained at the center of Congress policies. Weakening welfare schemes, he said, is damaging the economic foundation and identity of Chhattisgarh.

Calling upon party workers and supporters to remain united, Baghel announced plans for an extensive public awareness campaign across the state.

NEWSLINE

CRIME

13 arrested for repeated disputes

BILASPUR: Sakri Police have taken strict action against 13 individuals involved in repeated disputes, assaults, and activities affecting public peace in the area. The accused were arrested and produced before the court after preventive proceedings were initiated against them under Sections 170, 126, and 135(3) of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS). According to police, two rival groups had been engaged in a long-standing rivalry that frequently resulted in quarrels and physical altercations. Recently, a resident of Irani Para, Pand locality, lodged a complaint alleging that several individuals abused him, assaulted him, and threatened him with dire consequences. A criminal case was registered and an investigation was launched. A separate case involving a dispute and assault was also reported from the Saida area.

AWAAS-PLUSE-2

Awaas Plus 2 W/L approved in special Gram Sabhas

BILASPUR: Special Gram Sabhas were organized today across all 486 Gram Panchayats of the district for the interim reading, review, and approval of the system-generated permanent waiting list prepared under Awaas Plus 2.0 (Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana - Gramin). As part of this process, Sandeep Kumar Agarwal, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the District Panchayat, participated in the special Gram Sabha held at Hardi village in Bilha block. During the meeting, the list prepared under Awaas Plus 2.0 was read out and presented to the villagers, and their suggestions and objections were recorded. The total number of surveyed beneficiaries in Hardi village is 348. The special Gram Sabha was attended by the Gram Sabha Chairperson, Sarpanch Maniram Dhruv, Janpad member Manoj Yadav, Bilha Janpad Panchayat CEO Mr. Kumar Singh and others.

Accused nabbed for stealing mobile phone in train



Central Chronicle News

BILASPUR: As part of railway security operations, GRP Bilaspur has solved a mobile theft case and arrested the accused. The incident involved Train No. 17006 (Hyderabad Express), where a passenger's mobile phone was stolen. According to the information received, the complainant-Mohammad Inayat Ullah (son of Mohammad Salim Ullah,

aged 19, resident of Mangalhat, Hyderabad, Telangana)-was travelling on June 22, 2026, in Coach S-4, Berth 21. While the train was near Bilaspur Railway Station, his Realme P3 mobile phone (valued at Rs 19,424) was stolen by an unknown person. Upon receiving the complaint, GRP Bilaspur registered a case (Crime No. 73/2026) under Section 305(c) of the BNS and initiated an investigation.

Clearance of pending payments soon

BILASPUR : Payments are being processed for outstanding vehicle rental and POL (Petrol, Oil, and Lubricant) bills for vehicles requisitioned during the 2024-25 general elections for municipalities and three-tier panchayats.

The Deputy District Election Officer stated that entities or vehicle owners with pending payments may contact the District Local Election Office at the New Composite Building, Bilaspur.

Concerned parties are urged to visit the office promptly to complete the necessary formalities and receive their outstanding payments.

New students welcomed with gifts and blessings in Churrikala

Central Chronicle News

New entrants are being welcomed with traditional tilak ceremonies and warm greetings.

CHHURIKALA: With the reopening of schools after the summer vacation and the commencement of the new academic session, government and semi-government schools in the area have come alive with the cheerful presence of students. Schools are witnessing increased activity as both existing and newly admitted children return to classrooms. New entrants are being welcomed with traditional tilak ceremonies and warm greetings as part of the state's School Admis-



HIGHLIGHT

● Bhuvneshwari Singh distributed school uniforms, textbooks, notebooks, pens, compass boxes, water bottles, fruits, and sweets to the children.

sion Festival. In line with the state government's directives, admission fes-

tival activities are being organized across schools to encourage enrollment and increase student participation. Teachers are actively reaching out to parents and motivating them to enroll their children in schools. As part of the initiative, a joint admission festival was organized at the Primary School in Banchar Para of Gram Panchayat Pan-

dripani, near Nagar Panchayat Chhuri Kala, in collaboration with Jatangpur and Banchar schools.

The program was held in the presence of chief guest social worker and Congress leader Bhuvneshwari Singh, Gauri Goswami, District Congress Committee Korba Rural Media In-charge Laxman Singh Rajput, and Cluster Coordinator Ganesh Prajapati. During the event, ten children were formally admitted to Class I.

The newly enrolled students were welcomed with tilak and sweets. Bhuvneshwari Singh distributed school uniforms, textbooks, notebooks, pens, compass boxes, water bottles, fruits, and sweets to the children. Addressing the students,

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N-E-W-S



"It is a routine process. Whenever there is a special session or any session, it must be apprised to the Election Commission of India and to the state body also."

Ritabrata Banerjee
TMC leader & LoP

Notice over violations pasted on Aliganj fire building

On Wednesday, a notice was served to the owner of the Aliganj commercial building by LDA.

Press Trust Of India

LUCKNOW: The Lucknow Development Authority (LDA) on Wednesday served a notice to the owner of the Aliganj building where a devastating fire claimed 15 lives earlier this week. The notice directs the owner to submit a response within 15 days regarding alleged violations of building bylaws and the unauthorised commercial use of a structure that had been approved only for residential purposes.

According to LDA officials, the three-storey building was sanctioned as a residential property but was being used for



commercial activities, including housing an animation and gaming institute. LDA Vice Chairman Prathamesh Kumar stated that the notice was issued on June 23 and a hearing has been scheduled for July 7. He said the owner has been granted the legally mandated oppor-

tunity to present his case before any final decision is taken. Kumar explained that any response submitted by the owner would be carefully examined.

If the explanation is found unsatisfactory and a demolition order is subsequently issued, the authority will pro-

HIGHLIGHT

● A week earlier, a devastating fire claimed 15 lives in this very building.

ceed with demolishing the structure. He also announced that the LDA has formed seven special teams to conduct a city-wide drive against unauthorised commercial activities and violations of building regulations.

Officials revealed that the building had previously come under scrutiny in 2016 when authorities found that portions of the structure had been constructed beyond the approved plan and were

being used commercially. A demolition order was issued in May 2016 against the unauthorised sections. However, the order was withdrawn less than two months later after the owner claimed he had not been given an opportunity to be heard. The circumstances under which the demolition order was withdrawn are now under investigation.

The LDA has initiated an inquiry into the role of officials who handled the matter at that time and is examining records to determine why no further action was taken despite continued commercial use of the property.

'CJP a voice for youth frustration'

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Congress leader Jairam Ramesh on Wednesday described the Cockroach Janata Party (CJP) movement as an important expression of frustration among young people but stressed that established political parties must ultimately take forward the issues it has raised. In an interview with PTI Videos, the Congress general secretary said the movement had gained significant attention on social media and in the news.

However, he pointed out that CJP is not a political party and that democratic systems are ultimately sustained by organised political parties rather than protest movements alone. "Some people say it is sponsored by the deep state, while others see it as



a reflection of youth frustration. There is no way to prove either claim, but it certainly captured public attention," Ramesh said. He added that while movements play a valuable role in highlighting concerns, political parties are responsible for translating those concerns into policy and action.

The CJP has been staging a sit-in protest at Delhi's Jantar Mantar, demanding the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan over the alleged NEET-UG paper leak and examination irregularities.

NEW DELHI

DMRC begins central vista metro corridor work

The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) on Wednesday began construction work at the Central Secretariat metro station as part of the upcoming Central Vista corridor, a nearly 10-km underground stretch designed to improve connectivity to key government and administrative hubs in central Delhi.

The station is being developed under Phase V(A) of the Magenta Line extension, which runs from Janakpuri West to R K Ashram Marg. Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Manohar Lal Khattar attended the commencement ceremony along with senior officials from the ministry and DMRC.

Khattar said the corridor will significantly enhance accessibility for government employees and visitors while improving integration between major metro lines.

NEW DELHI

AAP marches in all Gujarat districts for MLA Vasava

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has announced a statewide campaign in Gujarat in support of MLA Chaitar Vasava following his conviction in a criminal case. Senior party leader Gopal Rai said on Wednesday that the campaign will begin on June 26 and include support marches across all districts of the state.

A sessions court in Narmada district recently sentenced Vasava, his wife and seven others to seven years in prison in connection with a 2023 case involving allegations of assault on forest officials and extortion. The court also imposed a fine of Rs 25,000 on each of the convicts. Reacting to the verdict, Rai, who is AAP's Gujarat in-charge, alleged that the ruling BJP was unable to accept Vasava's electoral success and claimed that the case was politically motivated. He referred to the BJP as the "EEL Party" and accused it of conspiring to secure a harsh sentence against the MLA.

| RAINS INUNDATE LOW-LYING AREAS |

Rail chaos and flooding prompt Sena MLA's appeal to Mayor

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: A day after the southwest monsoon arrived in Mumbai, heavy overnight rainfall on Wednesday caused widespread disruption across the city, leading to waterlogging, traffic congestion and delays in suburban train services. According to civic officials, several parts of the metropolis recorded more than 200 mm of rainfall in the 24-hour period ending at 8 am.

Data from the Brihan-



mumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) showed that the island city received an average of 195 mm of rainfall, while the western suburbs recorded 208 mm and the eastern suburbs 167

mm. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast moderate to heavy showers accompanied by thunderstorms and lightning over the next 24 hours.

Captured killer tigress dies

LAKHIMPUR KHERI: A four-year-old tigress that had allegedly killed two people in the buffer zone of the Dudhwa Tiger Reserve earlier this month died shortly after being captured and tranquillised by forest officials, authorities said on Wednesday. The tigress was located near Ramnagar Kalan village and tranquillised on Tuesday evening during a special operation conducted by the forest department with the assistance of veterinarians. The animal had been linked to two fatal attacks that occurred on June 14 and June 15 in the Majhgain.

| KERALA CM'S APPEAL FOR ANTI-DRUG CAMPAIGN |

Kerala seeks joint anti-drug action from neighboring states

Press Trust Of India

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Kerala Chief Minister V D Satheesan has written to the chief ministers of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry, seeking stronger inter-state cooperation to combat drug trafficking and curb the growing menace of narcotic abuse. The initiative forms part of Kerala's intensified anti-drug campaign, "Operation Toofan", which aims to eliminate drug abuse and dismantle organised trafficking networks oper-



ating within and beyond the state. According to an official release from the Chief Minister's Office (CMO), Satheesan highlighted the need for coordinated action among neighbouring states and Union Territories, noting that drug trafficking syndicates often function across state borders. He stated that intelligence-based

enforcement measures under Operation Toofan have been strengthened, with authorities actively targeting the financial networks of traffickers and confiscating assets acquired through illegal activities. In his letter, the chief minister pointed out that regions along Kerala's borders with Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry, as well as major highways, tourist hubs, educational institutions and urban distribution centres, are vulnerable to exploitation by drug cartels.

| VULTURES ARRIVE IN RANTHAMBORE |

Captive-bred vulture flies 3,334 km to Ranthambore

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: A captive-bred Indian vulture released in Maharashtra's Melghat Tiger Reserve earlier this year has successfully travelled an impressive 3,334 kilometres across multiple states, eventually reaching Rajasthan's Ranthambore Tiger Reserve, wildlife experts said on Wednesday.

The bird, a five-year-old female long-billed vulture (Gyps indicus)



named X67, was among 15 captive-bred vultures released on January 2 from the Somthana range in the Akot Wildlife Division of Melghat. Each bird was fitted with a solar-powered tracking tag to monitor its move-

ments and survival in the wild.

According to the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS), X67 remained near the release site for nearly four months, adapting to natural conditions and learning to

forage independently. On May 28, the vulture began a remarkable journey through Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.

During its 27-day migration, the bird made temporary stops at Satpura Tiger Reserve, the Bhopal region and Kuno National Park, known for India's cheetah reintroduction programme, before reaching Ranthambore Tiger Reserve on Tuesday.

DK Shivakumar inaugurates official home office



Karnataka Chief Minister DK Shivakumar offers prayers during the inauguration of the operations at the official home office in Kumarapark's 'Krishna', Bengaluru.

NSA Doval gives direct message to Wang Yi on stabilizing India-China relations

NEW DELHI: As India and China continue efforts to improve bilateral relations, National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval emphasised the importance of mutual sensitivity toward each other's core concerns during talks with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi in New Delhi. The meeting took place on Monday on the

sidelines of a gathering of security officials from BRICS nations and formed part of ongoing efforts to rebuild ties strained by the prolonged military standoff along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh.

According to External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal, Doval underlined that stable, pre-



dictable and constructive relations between India

and China are essential for building trust and fostering deeper understanding. He stressed that both countries should consistently demonstrate sensitivity towards issues that are of core concern to each other, in line with the principles of mutual sensitivity, mutual respect and mutual interests that guide bilateral engagement.

BJP rejects land scam charges against MP Chief Minister Mohan Yadav

BHOPAL: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has strongly rejected allegations made by the Congress regarding an alleged land scam involving Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav and his family. State BJP president Hemant Khandelwal described the accusations as "completely baseless" and claimed they were part of a conspiracy to weaken leaders from the Other Backward Classes (OBC) community.

The controversy erupted after Madhya Pradesh Congress president Jitu Patwari cited a media report alleging that



Yadav and his family members acquired large parcels of land after he assumed office as chief minister in December 2023. Patwari demanded an investigation by a sitting Supreme Court judge and questioned how the family's land holdings allegedly increased from around 100 acres to 335 acres.

According to him, the family purchased at least 137 plots covering approximately 168 acres, valued at nearly Rs 45 crore, in areas where road projects and land-use changes had been announced. Responding to the allegations, Khandelwal said there had been no increase in the land owned by the chief minister, his wife Seema Yadav or his son Vaibhav Yadav since 2023. He stated that Mohan Yadav continues to own 17 acres of land, while his wife's holdings remain at 12.29 acres and his son's land remains unchanged at 16 acres.

| CM LOOKING TO STREAMLINE PRAVASI PENSION |

Kerala govt to streamline pravasi welfare pension

Press Trust Of India

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: The Kerala government is considering measures to improve the efficiency and accessibility of welfare pension distribution for expatriate Malayalis, Chief Minister V D Satheesan informed the State Assembly on Wednesday. Responding to concerns raised by MLA Najeeb Kanthapuram, the chief minister acknowledged delays



in processing pension applications submitted to the Kerala Pravasi Welfare Board. He said the government is seriously concerned that a large number

"The government is examining steps to streamline and improve the distribution of Pravasi welfare pensions."

VD Satheesan
Chief Minister of Kerala

of applications received up to January 2026 remain pending,

while applications submitted after that date have not yet been processed. As a result, the government is examining ways to streamline the pension distribution system and ensure timely delivery of benefits. Satheesan noted that the Kerala Pravasi Welfare Board was established to provide social security and welfare support to expatriate Malayalis and to coordinate various welfare schemes for them.

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VK Langeh
Collector Mahasamund



Bilaspur Region

Collector orders action plans for low rainfall

On Tuesday, Collector Kunal Dudawat held a weekly review meeting with all the departments.

Central Chronicle News

KORBA: Collector Kunal Dudawat chaired a detailed departmental review meeting on Tuesday, directing officials across all departments to expedite pending work and strengthen preparedness for a likely low-rainfall monsoon season.

He reviewed pending cases from the Prime Minister's Office, Chief Minister's Jan-Darshan grievance platform and the CM Helpline, instructing time-bound resolution of complaints. Expressing concern over



the forecast of below-normal rainfall, the Collector issued a series of directives related to agriculture, drinking water supply, food security, livestock care and water conservation.

He asked departments to prepare for crop management by promoting low-water-consuming

crops such as pulses, oilseeds, Kodo-Kutki and Ragi, and directed agriculture officials to hold Gram Sabha awareness programmes. He also ordered the conduct of 'Agriculture Chaupals' in all villages with participation of Patwaris and agriculture extension officers. To address poten-

tial water scarcity, he emphasised pond deepening under the Bijiramji scheme, promotion of micro-irrigation, repair of defunct handpumps and borewells, and immediate alternative arrangements for drinking water supply. The Public Health Engineering Department was directed to establish

FASTFACTS

● **Fact File:** He reviewed pending cases related to CM Helpline, Jandarshan and other schemes.

a helpline for grievance redressal. The Collector also reviewed food grain storage and distribution, instructing SDMs and food officers to ensure smooth supply systems with daily monitoring. Livestock fodder arrangements were also discussed, with instructions issued to the concerned department.

Korba district court conducts yoga session

Central Chronicle News

HIGHLIGHT

● On Sunday, Korba's district court participated in a yoga session on the occasion of International Yoga Day.

KORBA: On June 21, International Yoga Day was observed with a yoga session organised under the guidance of the Principal District Judge and Co-Chairman of the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Korba (Chhattisgarh). The programme was held at the District and Sessions Court premises in Korba and simultaneously at the taluka levels in Katghora, Pali and Kartala.

The event saw the participation of all judges of the District and Sessions Court, members of the District Bar Association, the Legal Aid Defence Counsel, and staff of both the District Court and DLSA. At the outset, the Secretary of

the DLSA briefed participants on the significance of International Yoga Day and emphasised the importance of yoga in maintaining physical and mental well-being.

Yoga instructor Virendra Prajapati demonstrated various yoga practices and explained their health benefits, highlighting their role in improving fitness, energy and overall lifestyle. Participants actively engaged in the session under his guidance.

NEWSLINE

POLIO CAMPAIGN

Pulse Polio drive targets 51,013 children

MCB: A district-level task force committee meeting was held at the Collectorate conference hall under the chairmanship of Collector Santan Devi Jangde to ensure the 100% success of the National Pulse Polio Immunization Campaign in the district.

The meeting reviewed detailed preparations, micro-planning, public awareness activities and inter-departmental coordination for the three-day Pulse Polio campaign scheduled from June 28 to 30, 2026. Officials informed that a target has been set to administer polio drops to 51,013 children in the 0-5 age group across the district.

UNIFORMS DISTRIBUTED

'Shala Pravesh Utsav' held

MUNGELI: A 'Shala Pravesh Utsav' was organised at the Government middle School in Bachhera to welcome newly enrolled students of Classes 1 and 6. The programme began with the worship of Goddess Saraswati, the deity of knowledge, performed by the Sarpanch along with other invited guests. The event aimed to mark the beginning of the academic journey of new students in a traditional and encouraging manner. Sarpanch Chowaram Ogre, SMC President Sonuram Sahu and Surendra Sahu welcomed the children by applying tilak.

APPOINTED

Ayush Dhar Diwan leads folk society

MUNGELI: Ayush Dhar Diwan has been elected unopposed as the District President of the Chhattisgarh Film, Folk Art and Mini Theatre Cooperative Society Limited, creating a wave of enthusiasm among folk artists and members of the cultural community in the district. In the same meeting, Madhu Prasad Sahu was also elected unopposed as Vice President. The office bearers were selected unanimously during the society's meeting, where members welcomed the newly elected representatives and extended their best wishes.

WATER LEVELS

Councilor raises groundwater depletion issue

MUNGELI: Amid concerns over the continuously declining groundwater levels and worsening water crisis in the city, the young councillor of Andrews Ward No. 19 has raised a public interest demand for the restoration of a long-neglected pond. He has urged the District Collector to initiate re-excavation of the pond to improve its water storage capacity and support groundwater recharge. Councillor Roshan Soni stated that the public pond, located opposite Raj Property on Bilaspur Road, had earlier faced encroachment attempts by land mafias who sought to convert it into residential plots.

Dharmjeet Singh commits to Mookerjee's vision

Central Chronicle News

TAKHATPUR: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) observed the death anniversary of Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee as "Balidan Diwas" with reverence and respect at an event held in Mohan Vatika. Takhatpur MLA Dharmjeet Singh attended the programme as the keynote speaker. On the occasion, BJP office-bearers and workers paid floral tributes to Dr. Mukherjee's portrait and pledged



to imbibe his ideals in their personal and public life. MLA Dharmjeet Singh said that every individual should work with honesty, integrity and dedication in service to the nation and society. He urged party workers to draw inspiration from Dr. Mukher-

jee's life and philosophy, stressing that national interest must always remain paramount. Several BJP leaders, including Pradeep Kaushik, Krishna Kumar Sahu, Santosh Kaushik "Guruji" and Dinesh Rajput, also addressed the gathering.

Special Lok Adalat for cheque cases

KORBA: Under the guidance of the Principal District and Sessions Judge, who is also the Co-Chairperson of the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Korba, and in line with directives of the National Legal Services Authority (New Delhi) and the Chhattisgarh State Legal Services Authority (Bilaspur), a Special Lok Adalat will be organised on July 18, 2026, and November 21, 2026.

Additional Collector chairs weekly time-limit meeting

Central Chronicle News

MUNGELI: A time-limit review meeting was held on Tuesday in the Maniyari meeting room of the District Collectorate, where Additional Collector Mrs. Nishtha Pandey Tiwari assessed the progress of various government schemes and directed officials to ensure timely and quality disposal of pending work. The Additional Collector reviewed cases received under the CM



Helpline and instructed departments to resolve all applications within stipulated timelines. She also examined the status of grievances registered under the Good Governance Festival and directed officials to clear all pending cases within one week. During the review of preparations for the Kharif sea-

son, she enquired about the availability of seeds and fertilisers in the district. She directed concerned committees to ensure adequate stocking to avoid inconvenience to farmers. Officials informed that the district has achieved 104 per cent of its seed distribution target, securing first position in the state.

JANDARSHAN HELD AT MCB

Collector demands swift action on complaints

Central Chronicle News

MCB: Under the guidance of Collector Santan Devi Jangde, a large number of citizens from across the district participated in the 'Jan-Darshan' public grievance redressal programme held at the Collectorate meeting hall, presenting applications on various issues. The grievances covered land and revenue disputes, water supply problems, imple-



mentation of government schemes, construction works, pending payments, insurance claims, administrative complaints and other civic concerns. The Collector directed officials

of the concerned departments to ensure prompt, impartial and time-bound resolution of all applications. Several individuals submitted specific complaints, including

requests for drain repair, correction of land-related issues, maintenance of provident fund accounts in the e-Kosh system, and removal or transfer of village officials. Applications were also received regarding appointment-related matters, payment of rent for government buildings, non-payment of wages, loan delays and alleged irregularities in public works and government fund utilisation.

TAKHATPUR INCLUDED IN SMART CITY SCHEME

Takhatpur included in smart city project

Central Chronicle News

TAKHATPUR: Deputy Chief Minister Arun Sao was felicitated by municipal representatives of Takhatpur, who presented him with a portrait of Bharat Mata and a saffron scarf in recognition of the town being included under the Smart City initiative. The representatives expressed



gratitude on behalf of the municipality and residents for the Chhattisgarh government's decision to develop Takhatpur with modern urban infrastructure. The state govern-

ment has approved the development of several small and medium towns in the Bilaspur division under the Smart City scheme, with Takhatpur prominently included.

Collector orders CM helpline complaint resolution

Central Chronicle News

BAIKUNTHPUR: Collector Roktima Yadav held a time-limit review meeting at the Collectorate conference hall, where she reviewed departmental schemes, pending cases and public welfare programmes. She directed officials to complete all tasks within stipulated timelines, stressing



that timely disposal of work is essential for administrative efficiency and accountability. Reviewing CM Helpline complaints, the Collector instructed depart-

ments to resolve cases with seriousness, sensitivity and responsibility, stating that the platform should function as a genuine solution mechanism rather than a formality. She directed officials to guide applicants properly if grievances fall outside their jurisdiction and ensure quality and satisfactory resolution in all cases. She also reviewed

applications received during the mega registration camps held under the 'Vishwas-Vikas-Jan-Kalyan' campaign and ordered their priority-based disposal. Preparations for the Kharif season were assessed, with instructions to ensure timely fertiliser distribution, monitoring of supplies, and progress in Kisan Credit Card loans.

EL NINO WARNING ISSUED

District issues El Nino preparedness alert

Central Chronicle News

MCB: In view of the possibility of El Niño conditions and their potential impact on rainfall and agriculture, the district administration has initiated a comprehensive review of preparedness measures across departments. A district-level video conference will be held on June 24, 2026, at 4:30 PM under the chairmanship of Collector Santan Devi

Jangde to assess departmental readiness and formulate coordinated action plans. El Niño is a natural climatic phenomenon marked by abnormal warming of the central and eastern tropical Pacific Ocean, which influences global weather patterns, wind systems and rainfall distribution. In India, it is often associated with irregular monsoon behaviour, which can significantly affect agri-



culture, water availability, livestock management and the rural economy. Keeping these possible challenges in mind, the upcoming

review will focus on district-level risk assessment and preparedness strategies. Departments will be required to present contingency plans for Kharif crop management, including availability of seeds and fertilisers, irrigation facilities and crop diversification measures. The status of drinking water resources and water conservation efforts will also be reviewed in detail. The meeting will

further examine arrangements for livestock fodder and drinking water, technical guidance provided to farmers, functioning of cooperative societies and banking institutions, and the effective implementation of ongoing government schemes. Special emphasis will be placed on ensuring that farmers and rural communities are protected from potential adverse effects of climate variability.

Ambikapur job fair scheduled June 27

KORIYA: In accordance with the directives of the Department of Skill Development, Technical Education and Employment, the District Employment and Self-Employment Guidance Centre, Ambikapur, will organise a divisional-level job fair on June 27, 2026, at the auditorium of Rajiv Gandhi Government Post-Graduate College, Ambikapur. Several private sector companies

will participate in the event, offering recruitment opportunities for more than 2,000 vacancies. Candidates will be selected through on-the-spot interviews conducted by participating employers. Applicants with qualifications ranging from 8th, 10th and 12th pass to graduates, ITI certificate holders, diploma holders and other technical qualifications are eligible to apply for suitable posts.

Fun & Focus



Daily Horoscope

ARIES

Today is also a good day to follow religious and spiritual interest. Today, there will be a constant outflow of money, and you may face difficulties in accumulating wealth today. Fashion a sublime rhythm in your life and learn the values of surrender and art of walking straight with love and gratitude in heart. Bold steps and decisions would bring favourable rewards.

Gemini

Don't depend on fate and try to improve your health as fortune is a lazy goddess which will never come to you. It is high time for you to control your weight and restart exercising to regain your health. According to the household requirement, you can go out with your spouse to buy some valuable items, which can make your financial situation a bit tight.

Leo

You will have to make important decision today- which will make you tensed and highly nervous. Today, you are likely to attain economic benefits due to your children. This will make you very happy. Avoid arguments and confrontation and needless fault finding in others. Plant a sapling today. Your colleagues will understand you better today than everyday.

Libra

You need to put your intelligence tact and diplomacy to sort problems that trouble your mind. Although your financial conditions will remain strong today, but you'll have to keep in mind not to overspend or spend on unnecessary things. If communications and discussions don't go well- you could lose your cool and say things- which you would regret later-Think before you speak.

Sagittarius

You are likely to enjoy some sporting activity which will maintain your physical fitness. Those who are operating small-scale businesses can get any advice from their closed ones today, which can benefit them financially. Your dominating attitude towards your family members will only start useless arguments and can bring criticism.

Aquarius

Nature has bestowed remarkable confidence and intelligence in you- so use it to its best. Today, there is a possibility of gaining monetary benefits, but due to your aggressive nature, you may not be able to earn as expected. Work hard for the welfare of your family. Your actions should be dictated by love and positive vision and not by greed.

Taurus

Your hope will bloom like a rich delicate fragrant and dazzling flower. You may get into a fight with your spouse today over money-related matters. However, you will fix everything with your calm attitude. A good day to revive old contacts and relations. Your spouse might come under the adverse influence of others and fight with you, but your love and compassion will settle everything down.

Cancer

A day when you will be able to relax. Massage your body with oil to give relief to your muscles. Today you can easily raise capital- collect outstanding debts- or ask for funds to work on new projects. Daughter illness would upset your mood. Give her your love to lift her spirit as she overcomes her ailment. The power of love does have remarkable healing potentialities.

Virgo

Cheer up as good time ahead and you will have additional energy. Money position will improve later in the day. Do not share your personal matters with the casual acquaintances. Thoughts of meeting your friend after a long time may increase your heat beats like a rolling stone. The good mood of boss may make the entire environment at work quite happening.

Scorpio

Avoid overeating and keep a check on your weight. Improvement in finances is certain. Your witty nature would brighten the environment around you. You should avoid from using emotional blackmail on your mate. Good day for retailers and wholesalers. Resist associating with people that will harm your reputation.

Capricorn

Company of humorous relatives will lessen your tension and give you the much-needed relief. You are fortunate to have these kinds of relatives. Good day for real estate and financial transactions. Unexpected gifts and presents from relatives and friends. Your consistent hard work will pay really well today.

Pisces

You may get rid of your tension. Those who had invested their money on the advice of an unknown person are very likely to gain benefits today. Visiting relatives would be much better than you might imagine. Don't disappoint your lover today- as it will leave you repenting later. Associate today with experienced people and learn from what they have to say.

Tell Me Why?

Why does Lord Shiva apply Bhasma on his body?

Lord Shiva smears Bhasma (sacred ash) over his body to symbolize ultimate detachment, the impermanence of the physical world, and the burning away of ego. It serves as a reminder that the material body will eventually turn to ash, urging devotees to focus on spiritual purity and truth.

IT'S QUIZ TIME ???

1 Who is known as the poet of nature in English literature?

2 Which Indian had knowledge related to cataract surgery in India?

3 Jodan Patari Sanduk was recently granted the GI tag. It belongs to which state?

4 Who has become the first Indian to win the Russia Grand Sand Master Cup 2026?

5 Who became the world's first YouTuber to have 500 million subscribers?

6 How many goals did Just Fontaine score for France in the 1958 World Cup, still a record for a single tournament?

ANSWERS

(1) William Wordsworth (2) Sushruta (3) Gujarat (4) Sudestrik (5) Mr. Beast (6) 13

THE FIVE FAQ

- The _____ was a fortress in Paris that played an important role in the internal conflicts of France and for most of its history was used as a state prison by the kings of France.
- Mithun Chakraborty runs _____ newspaper in the film, 'Guru'.
- Machu Picchu voted as one of the New Seven Wonders of the World in a world-wide Internet Poll in 2007 is located in _____.
- Indira _____ Gandhi was the third Prime Minister of India and a central figure of the Indian National Congress party.
- In the 1860s, _____ demonstrated the germ theory of disease by eliminating bacteria from silkworms. The institute he founded in 1887 is noted for its research into micro-organisms and vaccines.

ANSWERS-

(1) Bastille (2) Swatantra (3) Peru (4) Priyadarshini (5) Louis Pasteur

FACT OF THE DAY

John Shepherd-Barron devised what is hailed as the **world's first automatic teller machine**.

The first model was built and installed in London in 1967.

SCIENCE WATCH

Science behind Vitiligo



June 25 is World Vitiligo Day which is a chronic autoimmune disorder in which the immune system mistakenly attacks and destroys melanocytes—the cells responsible for producing melanin resulting in depigmented skin.

Autoimmune response & Vitiligo



The body's immune system misidentifies melanocytes as foreign invaders and eliminates the pigment-producing cells. The onset of the disease is often triggered by environmental factors, such as severe sunburns, heavy emotional or physical stress.

Genetic Predisposition is a factor



While Vitiligo is not directly inherited, genetics play a role. Individuals with specific genetic variations related to the immune system have a higher risk of developing the condition, but it is not contagious. Indian Model Astha Shah is an empowered Vitiligo patient.

RANDOM STORY OF FIFA WORLD CUP

During the 1982 FIFA World Cup, all the participating teams could include **22 members** in their official squad. 23 among the 24 nations picked 22 footballers. However El Salvador incredibly registered **only 20**.

Their federation president Felix Mayogra Castillo opined that a 20 member squad was more than enough. So Gilberto Quinteros and Miguel González were left out. Their two places were taken by two officials of the federation. These two officials **didn't attend a single game**. They simply went away soon after arriving, to go on a paid European tour.

The two footballers eventually made the trip, but only because their teammates paid for their tickets and expenses. Each of the team members handed them **600 colones**. The two weren't officially registered though, so they travelled effectively as fans.

El Salvador lost all three group league matches. But they are mostly remembered for losing **1-10 against Hungary**. This is an image from that record breaking match!!!



7 Types of Intelligence

IQ
Logic & Analysis
The ability to think clearly and solve problems.
How to develop:
• Do puzzles & strategy games
• Learn coding & logic
• Analyse patterns & data

EQ
Emotional Intelligence
The ability to understand and manage emotions.
How to develop:
• Practice active listening
• Understand feelings
• Build empathy skills

SQ
Social Intelligence
The power to connect, influence, and build trust.
How to develop:
• Start and join conversations
• Collaborate with others
• Improve communication skills

CQ
Cultural Intelligence
The ability to adapt across cultures and diversity.
How to develop:
• Learn a new language
• Travel or explore new cultures
• Study different lifestyles

AQ
Adaptability Intelligence
The strength to thrive in change and uncertainty.
How to develop:
• Embrace change as a success
• Learn new skills quickly
• Step outside comfort zones

TQ
Tech Intelligence
The skill of leveraging technology smartly.
How to develop:
• Explore AI tools
• Upgrade digital skills
• Stay curious with new tech

FQ
Financial Intelligence
The ability to manage money and resources wisely.
How to develop:
• Track spending & budget
• Learn investing basics
• Study financial literacy

* June 25 is one

of the most consequential dates in Indian history. The most prominent event associated with this date is declaration of the nationwide Emergency in 1975.

* Same day in 1983, on June 25, the Indian cricket team, led by captain Kapil Dev, made history by winning their first-ever ICC Cricket World Cup.

* On this day was born Sucheta Kripalani, India's first female Chief Minister, while the day also saw the

death of pop icon Michael Jackson

* Same day in 1950, the Korean War began and in 1993, Kim Campbell and Tansu Çiller made history by becoming the first female Prime Ministers of Canada and Turkey, respectively.

* In 1967, the world's first live global satellite television program, titled Our World, was broadcast to 19 countries, famously featuring The Beatles premiering "All You Need Is Love".



WORD OF THE DAY

Quixotic

- MEANING** – Extremely idealistic, unrealistic, or impractical.
- EXAMPLE** – His *quixotic* plan to end all traffic jams in a week was unlikely to succeed.
- SYNONYMS** – Idealistic, Romantic, Visionary, Impractical and Dreamy.
- ANTONYMS** – Realistic, Practical, Sensible, Pragmatic and Rational.



BRAIN TEST CHALLENGE

- 8
10
14
22
?

ANSWER- 38

EXPLANATION- THE SEQUENCE FOLLOWS A RULE WHERE THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE NUMBERS DOUBLES EACH TIME:

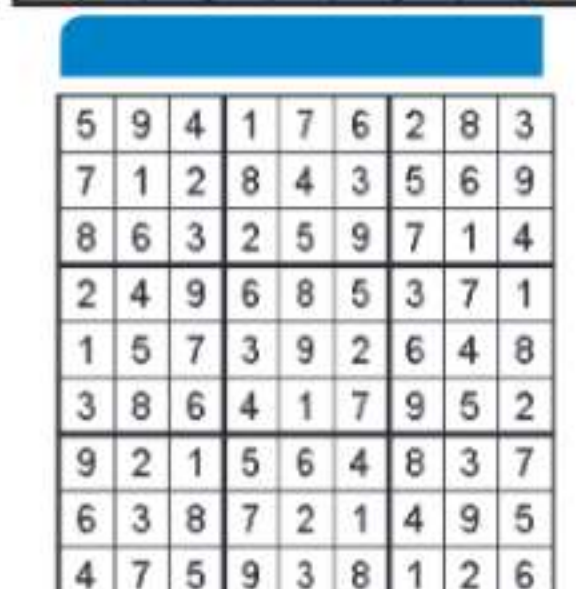
$$\begin{aligned}
 8 + 2 &= 10 \\
 10 + 4 &= 14 \\
 14 + 8 &= 22 \\
 22 + 16 &= 38
 \end{aligned}$$

Across

- Optimistic (7)
- Defame (5)
- Reddening cosmetic (5)
- Chivalrous, dashing (7)
- Idea (7)
- Beg earnestly; long for (5)
- Cunning (6)
- Derived from milk (6)
- Wherewithal (5)
- Self-consciously timid (7)
- Keepsake (7)
- Awaken (5)
- Packing case (5)
- Most costly (7)

Down

- Unorthodox believer (7)
- One of the planets (5)
- Cargo (7)
- Illuminations (6)
- Light purple colour (5)
- Flagrant (7)
- Leave undisturbed (3,2)
- Lack of red corpuscles (7)
- European country (7)
- Gather together (7)
- Overseas (6)
- Imitate (5)
- Sound practical judgment (5)
- Accidental success (5)



Agra

Hyderabad

Nagpur

Ahmadabad

Imphal

Pondicherry

Bangalore

Indore

Pune

Bhopal

Jaipur

Shillong

Chandigarh

Kanpur

Simla

Chennai

Kolkata

Srinagar

Cochin

Lucknow

Surat

Delhi

Mumbai





Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal meets United States Trade Representative Jamieson Greer during discussions on the proposed India-US trade agreement, in New Delhi on June 24.

India, US review trade pact as tariff deadline nears

New Delhi and Washington intensify negotiations on an interim trade agreement amid looming tariff changes and unresolved issues over market access.

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: India and the United States have reviewed progress on an interim bilateral trade agreement (BTA) amid growing urgency to finalise a deal before the expiration of the temporary US tariff regime on July 24. However, both sides have stopped short of indicating that all outstanding differences have been resolved. Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and visiting US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer

held a two-day ministerial meeting to discuss the first phase of the proposed trade pact. According to the Commerce Ministry, the discussions included enhanced market access, digital trade, supply chain resilience, reduction of non-tariff barriers and cooperation in strategic sectors. The two countries reaffirmed their commitment to concluding a balanced and commercially meaningful agreement that delivers benefits for businesses, farmers, workers and consumers in both

NUMBER

10

India and US push interim trade deal before tariff deadline.

nations. The ministry said substantial progress had been achieved and discussions focused on pathways to conclude an interim agreement as an important milestone toward a comprehensive BTA. Greer's visit comes at a crucial time, with both nations racing

to finalise an interim arrangement before the temporary 10 per cent US tariff imposed on imports from all countries expires next month. Following changes in the US tariff policy and a ruling by the US Supreme Court that struck down sweeping tariffs announced earlier, both countries were compelled to revisit key elements of their previously agreed framework. India is seeking preferential tariff treatment under the agreement after changes in the US tariff structure reduced the competitive

advantage it had expected over countries such as Vietnam and other ASEAN economies. The two countries formally launched BTA negotiations in February 2025 and have since held several rounds of discussions. India has proposed reducing tariffs on various US industrial and agricultural products and has also expressed its intention to purchase nearly USD 500 billion worth of US energy products, aircraft, technology products and other commodities over the next five years.

RBI in wait and watch mode: Governor

Press Trust Of India

RBI remains cautious amid global inflation and growth risks.

NEW DELHI: Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Sanjay Malhotra has said it is premature to discuss any interest rate hike at this stage, emphasizing that the central bank remains in a "wait-and-watch" mode amid uncertainties arising from global developments and inflationary pressures. In an interview, Malhotra said that if the RBI had intended to prepare markets for a rate hike, it would have changed its policy stance from "neutral" to "restrictive." Since no such change has been made, speculation about an imminent rate increase is unwarranted, he said. Earlier this month, the RBI's Monetary Policy Committee unanimously decided to



keep the benchmark repo rate unchanged at 5.25 per cent while maintaining a neutral stance. The central bank cited risks from the prolonged West Asia conflict, elevated energy prices and potential global supply chain disruptions. The RBI has revised its economic projections, lowering India's real GDP growth forecast for 2026-27 to 6.6 per cent from the earlier estimate of 6.9 per cent. Inflation is projected to rise to 5.1 per cent during the fiscal year, with retail inflation expected to peak at 5.9 per cent in the third quarter.

Sony India eyes strong festive season: Sunil Nayyar

Press Trust Of India

Sony India optimistic despite global uncertainty and cost pressures.

NEW DELHI: Consumer electronics major Sony India is optimistic about a recovery in demand during the second half of the year and expects to maintain double-digit growth despite challenges arising from global economic uncertainty and rising input costs. Managing Director Sunil Nayyar said the company is gearing up for a strong festive season and plans to launch a host of new products in the coming months to capitalize on consumer demand during Diwali. "We are super excited about the festive season and expect to deliver



blockbuster sales during Diwali," Nayyar said, adding that business conditions are expected to improve in the second half of the year. Sony India is banking on premiumisation trends, larger screen televisions and the rapid expansion of its audio business to sustain growth.

While consumer spending remains cautious and industry volumes are under pressure, the company said rising average selling prices of premium products are helping maintain value growth. Televisions continue to

HIGHLIGHT

Premium products and audio business to drive festive growth.

be the largest contributor to Sony India's revenue, although Nayyar acknowledged some pressure in the segment. However, he expressed confidence that the company's Bravia business will remain resilient, supported by increasing demand for bigger and more advanced televisions. The company reported an income of Rs 7,917.54 crore in FY25 and expects to continue its consistent double-digit growth trajectory witnessed since 2021. A major growth driver for Sony India has been its audio business, which now contributes more than 20 per cent of its overall revenue.

BULLION MARKET |

Gold declines Rs 1,200 in Delhi, silver drops

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Gold prices declined by Rs 1,200 to Rs 1.48 lakh per 10 grams in the national capital on Wednesday, and silver dropped by Rs 4,000, as the US dollar gained strength amid weak global trends. According to the All India Sarafa Association, the yellow metal of 99.9 per cent purity decreased by Rs 1,200 to Rs 1,48,100



per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes) from Tuesday's closing level of Rs 1,49,300. Silver also

extended its downward trend for the second straight day, falling Rs 4,000 to Rs 2,31,000

per kilogram (inclusive of all taxes). It had settled at Rs 2,35,000 per kg in the previous session after plunging Rs 10,500, its steepest fall in over two weeks.

Analysts said the latest losses have pushed the white metal prices to levels last seen in early April, when the metal traded at Rs 2.37 lakh per kg, as traders continue to favour dollar-denominated assets. "Gold prices extended

their decline on Wednesday, as a powerful rally in the US dollar and growing expectations of tighter monetary policy continued to pressure precious metals," Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst of Commodities at HDFC Securities, said.

In the overseas markets, spot gold slipped by USD 52.01, or 1.3 per cent, to USD 4,058.10 per ounce, while silver fell nearly 2 per cent at USD 60.48 per ounce.

BizBriefs

BEST OF THE REST

HOW THE MARKETS BEHAVE TODAY?

Markets rebound on softening crude oil prices; Sensex jumps 790 points



MUMBAI: Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty rebounded nearly 1 per cent on Wednesday after falling sharply in the previous session, propelled by softening crude oil prices and hectic buying in bank, financial and IT shares. The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 790.54 points, or 1.04 per cent, to settle at 76,991.22. During the day, it surged 989.69 points, or 1.29 per cent, to 77,190.37. The 50-share NSE Nifty climbed 197.55 points, or 0.83 per cent, to end at 24,021.65.

From the Sensex pack, InterGlobe Aviation, Trent, Tech Mahindra, Bajaj Finance, ICICI Bank, Infosys, HDFC Bank and Tata Consultancy Services were among the major winners.

In contrast, NTPC, Tata Steel, Maruti and Bharat Electronics were among the laggards. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, dropped 1.69 per cent

to USD 75.78 per barrel. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth Rs 17.86 crore on Tuesday, according to exchange data. A senior US official has said that the United States and India are "very, very close" to concluding a historic bilateral trade deal that will open the 1.4 billion-strong Indian market to American goods on reciprocal and mutually beneficial terms.

"Indian equity markets rebounded sharply from the previous session's sell-off, led by strong gains in banking stocks and a recovery in the IT sector. Sentiment improved as easing geopolitical tensions in the Middle East, and a further decline in crude oil prices helped restore risk appetite and support broader market participation," Ponnudi R, CEO of Enrich Money, an online trading and wealth tech firm, said.

FCNR(B) OPPORTUNITY DEPOSIT

IDBI Bank launches special FCNR(B) USD deposit scheme for NRIs

NEW DELHI: IDBI Bank has introduced a special FCNR(B) Opportunity Deposit in US Dollars, offering attractive returns to Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) looking for secure foreign currency investment options. The special deposit rates came into effect on June 11, 2026, and will remain available until September 30, 2026. Under the scheme, deposits of up to USD 1 million will earn an interest rate of 6 per cent for tenures ranging from three years to less than four years, increasing to 6.10 per cent for five-year deposits. For deposits exceeding USD 1 million and up to USD 5 million, interest rates range between 6.05 per cent and 6.15 per cent, while deposits above USD 5 million can earn up to 6.20 per cent for a five-year tenure. The bank said the special FCNR(B) deposit has been designed to provide NRIs with an attractive avenue to invest their foreign currency savings while benefiting from competitive returns. A key advantage of the scheme is that both the principal amount and the interest earned are fully repatriable.

LATEST INNOVATION

KFC launches 'Double Chicken Dynamite' with Korean noodles twist

NEW DELHI: Global quick-service restaurant chain KFC has introduced its latest innovation, the 'Double Chicken Dynamite', an all-chicken, no-bun burger that combines crispy chicken fillets with Korean noodles, spicy mayo and cheese. The new offering, priced from Rs 299, will be available across more than 1,400 KFC outlets in India from June 29. The Double Chicken Dynamite features two crispy Zinger chicken fillets sandwiching a layer of Korean noodles, signature spicy mayonnaise and cheese, topped with bold spices. The company says the new product is inspired by India's growing love for unconventional food combinations that initially seem unusual but quickly become crowd favourites. From fusion street foods to experimental culinary creations, Indian consumers have increasingly embraced unique flavour pairings.



FORAYS INTO ATOMIC ENERGY SECTOR

Adani Group targets 10 GW nuclear power capacity by 2035

NEW DELHI: The Adani Group plans to build 10 gigawatts (GW) of nuclear power capacity by 2035, Chairman Gautam Adani said on Wednesday, marking the conglomerate's entry into atomic energy as it expands an integrated power platform spanning thermal, renewable, hydro, gas and transmission assets.

Addressing shareholders at the group's annual general meeting, Adani said land had been identified for the nuclear venture, Adani Atomic Energy, which he described as a key part of the group's strategy to support India's long-term energy security amid growing geopolitical uncertainty and rising electricity demand. "Our entry into nuclear energy through Adani Atomic Energy is another confident step towards securing India's long-term energy future," Adani said. "With land identified and a 10 GW targeted capacity by 2035, we are positioning ourselves early to serve the growing national demand for clean, round-the-clock power," he said. The announcement comes as the conglomerate accelerates investments across the energy value chain, seeking to position itself at the centre of India's evolving energy strategy at a time when energy



security has re-emerged as a national priority. The billionaire industrialist said the group's integrated infrastructure model was designed to deliver reliable, affordable and round-the-clock power while reducing external dependencies and strengthening India's energy resilience. The comments come as the conglomerate accelerates investments across the energy value chain, from mining and fuel supply to power generation, transmission, distribution and emerging clean-energy technologies. Adani said the group invested a record more than Rs 1.5 lakh crore in infrastructure during the 2025-26 fiscal year, accounting for more than 30 per cent of India's total new private-sector capital expenditure.

Kolkata warehouse collapse: Three dead

21 people have been rescued; three of whom have perished

Press Trust Of India

KOLKATA: Three people died and 18 others were rescued after a three-storey under-construction warehouse in the Taratala area of west Kolkata collapsed on Wednesday afternoon, trapping several people underneath the rubble, West Bengal Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari said.

Adhikari, who visited the disaster site where rescue operations were underway, added that about 18 more people remained trapped under the rubble where coordinated rescue efforts were being made by state and central agencies, including the army's eastern command. The collapsed warehouse is a lease-hold property under the Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port in the city, an official said. "So far, 21 people have been rescued; three of whom have perished. The others have been admitted to SSKM Hospital where all efforts are being made to provide them with adequate medical attention," the CM said. Till reports last received, all the 18 rescued people, believed to be workers at the construction site, were admitted to the Trauma Care Centre of the state-run SSKM hospital, the condition of three among them was stated to be critical, hospital authorities said.



A team of multi-disciplinary team of doctors, involving neurologists, orthopaedics, and general medicine have been set up to attend to the injured patients who have suffered severe trauma, they added. "The roof of the warehouse located on the Transport Depot Road near

Brace Bridge in the Taratala area collapsed around noon. Some people were working at the site at the time of the incident," a Kolkata Police officer said.

'Words fail to express deep sorrow for lives lost'

"Words fail to express my sorrow for the precious lives lost in this tragedy. My deepest condolences go out to their bereaved families. The State Government stands firmly with them in this hour of unimaginable grief and we will extend all possible support to them," Adhikari said, taking to social media. Lauding the coordinated rescue operations taking place on war footing, the CM said the Army, NDRF, SDRF, Kolkata Police and KMC are jointly conduct-

HIGHLIGHT

- Army, NDRF, SDRF, police, KMC lead rescue ops.
- Design, construction flaws likely caused collapse.

ing the rescue operations to ensure every trapped worker is brought to safety as quickly as possible and wished quick recovery of the injured. Some locals alleged that large-scale illegal construction activities had been carried out in the area for some time. "We will definitely look into the causes of the accident and whether there were any irregularities. But right now, the priority is to rescue as many victims as possible," Minister Indranil Khan said. Officials of the Kolkata Municipal Corporation present at the site opined that there was prima facie evidence of design and construction flaws that may have led to the collapse.

Domestic dispute

KANPUR: A 70-year-old man allegedly shot his son dead and critically injured his daughter-in-law following a heated dispute over farming and family issues in Uttar Pradesh's Fatehpur district on Wednesday, police said.

The incident took place in Sitapur village in Bindki area, where accused Ram Khilawan Verma allegedly opened fire at his son Avnish Verma (36) and daughter-in-law Manisha (26) using his licensed double-barrel gun, they said, adding that the accused is yet to be arrested. According to police, tensions had been simmering within the family for some time over financial and farming-related matters. On Wednesday morning, an argument broke out between Manisha and her mother-in-law over a domestic issue.

IRs okays Rs 270 cr Kavach on 631 km (ECoR)

Press Trust Of India

Project covers six important railway sections of East Coast Railway

BHUBANESWAR: In a major step towards strengthening railway safety through indigenous technology, Indian Railways has approved the provision of Kavach on 631 Route Kilometres (RKM) of East Coast Railway at a cost of Rs 270 crore.

The project covers six important railway sections of East Coast Railway, namely Baghuapal-Budhapank, Haridaspur-Paradeep, Khurda Road (KUR)-Balangir, Naupada-Gunu-



pur, Lanjigarh Road-Junagarh and Bobbili-Salur. The sanctioned work forms part of Indian Railways' larger programme for deployment of Kavach with LTE-based communication backbone across the railway network.

Kavach is India's indigenously developed Automatic Train Protection (ATP) system designed to enhance safety by

preventing signal passing at danger (SPAD), over-speeding and train collisions. The system continuously monitors train movement and automatically applies brakes whenever required, significantly improving operational safety.

Installation of Kavach on these routes will help achieve a higher level of safety in train opera-

Sustainable development

NOIDA: HCL Foundation, the CSR arm of global technology company HCL Tech, has announced Edition XII of the HCL Tech Grant to support non-profits working towards sustainable, community-led development in rural India.

A total of Rs 24 crore will be awarded to NGOs across four key sectors—water, biodiversity, health and education. Four winning NGOs will receive Rs 5 crore each, while eight others will be granted Rs 50 lakh each. The last date to apply is June 30, 2026, via the official website.

Speaking on the initiative, Director Dr. Nidhi Pundhir said the grant aims to empower grassroots organizations to scale innovative solutions and drive meaningful impact nationwide.

Over the years, the HCLTech Grant has positively impacted 2.3 million lives across 61,000 villages, supporting plantation drives, land restoration and carbon reduction. So far, over Rs 203 crore has been committed under the programme. HCLFoundation will also host Pan-India Symposiums 2026 in Bhubaneswar, Chennai, Nagpur and Delhi to promote collaboration among NGOs, policymakers and corporates for nation-building through CSR.

Man stabbed to death in moving train

Press Trust Of India

Manhunt has been launched to arrest the attacker

MUMBAI: A 22-year-old man was stabbed to death allegedly by a co-passenger inside a first-class compartment of a Mumbai local train during an argument over whether the doors should be kept open amid rains, officials said on Wednesday.

A manhunt has been launched to arrest the attacker, who is on the run, they said.

Victim Mayank Lohar was fatally assaulted on Tuesday, which also marked the arrival of monsoon in the city, between Andheri and Borivali railway stations in the western suburbs, they said.

Officials said Lohar and another commuter got into an altercation as the train, a Churchgate-Nalasopara fast local, pulled into the Andheri station at 10.42 pm. One of them wanted the doors to be kept open, while the other objected, citing the rains. During the argument, the accused pulled out a sharp weapon from his possession and allegedly stabbed Lohar in the abdomen, they said.

While Lohar suffered grievous injuries, the accused jumped out of the train at Borivali station before it came to a halt and ran away. Lohar was rushed to a nearby medical facility with the help of Government Railway Police (GRP) and personnel from the Railway Protection Force (RPF), the official said.

He was then taken to a civic-run hospital, where

doctors declared him dead. The Western Railway administration said a commuter stabbed Lohar inside a first-class coach of a Churchgate-Nalasopara fast local train during a fight over the doors. Sharing more details, it said the train reached Borivali station 11.04 pm, and GRP and RPF personnel reached the coach within three minutes and mobilised medical staff, along with a stretcher and porters.

The victim was brought to the emergency medical room at

FASTFACTS

- Lohar critically injured; accused jumped, fled at Borivali.
- Taken to civic hospital, declared dead.

Borivali station at 11.22 pm, where he was examined by a doctor.

Acting on medical advice, railway authorities coordinated his transfer to Shatabdi Hospital in Kandivali by ambulance at 11.42 pm, with GRP and RPF personnel accompanying him during transit, an official said. The railway administration also secured CCTV footage and other evidence and handed them over to the investigating agencies.

Senior railway officers, including the Additional Divisional Railway Manager (Mumbai Central) and the Senior Divisional Security Commissioner, visited Borivali station around 1 am and reviewed the incident, the official said.

NEWSLINE

JUNAGADH

Lion cub found dead in Gujarat

A male Asiatic lion cub was found dead in Gujarat's Junagadh district on Wednesday, with preliminary findings indicating that the wild animal may have been killed by a person, forest officials said. The carcass of the cub, aged 7-8 months, was discovered in the Rabari Nes area near Junagadh city, according to a statement issued by Deputy Conservator of Forests Akshay Joshi.

"Preliminary examination revealed severe physical injuries on the cub's body, indicating the possibility that it was attacked," the statement said. The forest department has launched an investigation into the incident. Officials said the involvement of a local resident has come to light, and the suspect is currently absconding. "The man's mobile phone is switched off. An intensive search operation is being carried out jointly by the forest department and the police to trace him," the statement said. A post-mortem examination of the lion cub is being conducted at the Sakkarbaug Zoological Garden in Junagadh city by a panel of three veterinary doctors. Teams from the forest department, police and the Forensic Science Laboratory have reached the spot and are collecting evidence as part of a scientific investigation, it said. Further legal action will be taken based on the post-mortem report, forensic findings and other facts that emerge during the course of the investigation, officials said.

**बैंक ऑफ बड़ौदा**
Bank of Baroda

Regional Office, Jeevan Prakash L.I.C. Building, Pandri, Raipur (C.G.)
PH: 0771- 4222611, 4222612, E-mail: recovery.raipur@bankofbaroda.com

POSSESSION NOTICE (As per Appendix IV read with rule 8(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002)			
Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Bank of Baroda under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice to the following borrowers / guarantors calling upon the Borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the respective notices within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The under mentioned Borrower / Guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers/Guarantors and the Public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of section 13 of the Act read with Rule 8 and under section 14 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002.			
S/ Branch N. Name / Ph. No.	Name of Borrower/ Guarantor	Description of Property	Demand Notice Date, Amount & Symbolic / Physical Possession Date
01 Barauda Branch Raipur 9752099521	Miss Supriya Tiwari and Mr. Saurabh Tiwari (legal heirs of Lt. Mrs. Hiramani Tiwari - Borrower)	Residential Land and Building Kh No.- 1711/11, Area- 700 sqft which is situated at Mahamaya Mandir Ward No.- 62, Subhash Nagar, Parsuram Nagar, Mouja Raipur, PH No.- 106 A/82, RI Circle Raipur Tahsil and Dist.- Raipur, C.G. belonging to Mrs. Hiramani Tiwari, Bounded: North: Land of Dewangan, South: Remaining land of seller, East : Road, West : Remaining land of seller	08.08.2025 Rs. 13,82,903.00 + interest 23.06.2026 Symbolic Possession
The Borrowers / Guarantors / Mortgagees in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the above mentioned property and any dealings with the property/ies will be subject to the charge of Bank of Baroda for above mentioned amount interest and other charges thereon. The Borrower's attention is invited to provision of sub-section (6) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.			
Date: 25.06.2026, Place: Raipur, Chhattisgarh		Authorised Officer, Bank of Baroda	

**बैंक ऑफ बड़ौदा**
Bank of Baroda

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

E- AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF PROPERTIES "APPENDIX- IV-A [See proviso to Rule 8(6) & 9(1)]"
E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable/ movable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) & 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable/movable property mortgaged / charged to the Secured Creditor, possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of Bank of Baroda, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" & "Whatever there is" for recovery of below mentioned account/s. The details of Borrower(s) / Mortgagee(s) / Guarantor(s) / Secured Asset(s)/Dues/Reserve Price/e-Auction date & Time, EMD and Bid Amount are mentioned below:

DATE AND TIME OF E-AUCTION 28.07.2026 FROM 2.00PM TO 06.00PM					
Sr. No.	Name & Address of Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagee(s)	Give short description of the movable / immovable property with known encumbrances, if any	Total Dues	(i) Reserve Price (ii) EMD and (iii) Bid Amount	Status of Possession (Constructive/ Physical)
01	Mr. Bhuvneshwar Tiwari Mrs. Prity Tiwari Village - Khajuri, Navagaon, Kathakoni, Takhatpur, Bilaspur C.G. - 495001	Equitable Mortgage of diverted Residential Triple Story Building situated at Mauza - Lingiyadih, PH. No. - 20/21, R.N.M. - Bilaspur, Kh. No. - 54/571, Plot Area - 990 Sq.Ft., Plot No. - 182, Block No. - 04 at Rajsav Colony, Tahsil & District- Bilaspur, C.G., Belongs to Mr. Bhuvneshwar Tiwari. Boundaries of the property : East - Land of Tejendra Pratap, West - Land of Seller, North - Land of Motilal Gupta, South - Road	Rs. 63,50,100.00 + interest + other charges	Rs. 51,03,000.00 Rs. 5,10,300.00 Rs. 10,000.00	Physical Possession
02	Mr. Bhuvneshwar Tiwari (Borrower) Mrs. Priti Tiwari (Co-Borrower) Village - Khajuri, Navagaon, Kathakoni, Takhatpur, Bilaspur, C.G. - 495001	Equitable Mortgage of Residential land and Semi Finished House at Khasra No.-112/3, area - 638 sq ft P.C.No. 21/35, Dindayal Upadhyay Nagar Ward Mangla RIC Tehsil & Dist.- Bilaspur, C.G. in the name of Mr. Bhuvneshwar Tiwari S/o Mr. Basant Kumar Tiwari. Bounded: On the North by- Seller's Land, On the South by- Road, On the East by- land of Laxmi Kant Tiwari, On the West by seller's land.	Rs. 25,65,769.00 + interest + other charges	Rs. 16,20,000.00 Rs. 1,62,000.00 Rs. 10,000.00	Physical Possession

Property Inspection Date & Time 21.07.2026, 1.00 P.M. to 4.00 P.M. For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer/visit to the online auction portal <https://baanknet.com> Also, prospective bidders may contact the Authorised officer on Tel No. 9769746302 / 8347195669.
Date: 25.06.2026, Place: Bilaspur (C.G.)
Authorised Officer, Bank of Baroda

Aadhar Housing Finance Ltd.
Corporate Office: Office Nos. 501 & 503, 5th Floor, Lightbridge, Sakli Vihar Road, Andheri East, Mumbai Suburban (District), MH - 400072
Bilaspur Branch : 1st Floor, Krishna Sonchatra Compound, Near RNT Squire, Tarbahar Road, Bilaspur - 495004 (Chhattisgarh)
Authorised Officer : Ashwin Sharma, Mobile No. 7697112220

NOTICE FOR SALE OF PROPERTY UNDER PROVISIONS OF SARFAESI ACT, 2002 THROUGH PRIVATE TREATY
Whereas the Authorised Officer of Aadhar Housing Finance Limited (AHFL) has taken the Possession of the Secured Asset, u/s 13(4) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002. And whereas the Authorized Officer had earlier issued E auction Notices but failed to attract any successful bidders, and has now decided to sell the Secured Asset given below by way of Private Treaty. The Authorised Officer has received an offer from some interested persons in this regard for purchase of the Secured Asset. The Authorised Officer is hereby giving the Notice to the Borrowers in general, for Sale of the above said property through Private Treaty in terms of rule 8 and 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002. The Details of the Account are as follows:

Sr No.	Loan Code No./ Branch	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrowers	Demand Notice Date & Amount	Reserve Price (RP)	Total Outstanding Loan Amount As on 15-06-2026	Description of the Secured Asset
1.	(Loan Code No. 01010000267 / Bilaspur Branch)	Mayanka Devi Loniya (Borrower) Nakul Prasad Loniya (Co-Borrower)	13-05-2024 & ₹ 16,50,134/-	₹ 9,40,000/-	₹ 24,82,123/-	All that part & parcel of property bearing, Teh.-Lormi, Ramhepur To Bodtara Road, Ward No. 6, Naurangpur Mungeli, Chhattisgarh 495115. Boundaries: East: Road, West: Land of Ravi, North: House of Ravi, South: Land of naval Kishore

This is a 15 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT, 2002 which is hereby given to the Borrower (s), Co-Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the above described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Physical Possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer, will be sold by way of Private Treaty on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis to recover the amount due to Aadhar Housing Finance Ltd..
If the Borrower(s), co-borrower(s) have any buyer who is ready to purchase the secured asset at price above the given reserve price then Borrower(s), Co-borrower(s) must intimate to AHFL one day in advance before 15-07-2026 then AHFL shall give preference to him. If Borrower(s), co-borrower(s) fails to intimate one day in advance before 15-07-2026 the AHFL will proceed with sale of property at above given reserve price. The property is being sold with all the existing and future encumbrances whether known or unknown to AHFL. The Authorised Officer/ Secured Creditor shall not be responsible in any way for any third-party claims/rights/dues. The purchaser should conduct due diligence on all aspects related to the property (under sale through private treaty) to his satisfaction. The purchaser shall not be entitled to make any claim against the Authorised Officer/ Secured Creditor in this regard at a later date. The Date of Sale is fixed for 15-07-2026.
"This newspaper publication and the data contained herein is intended for general public dissemination. Any reproduction, distribution, transmission, or republication of this content, in whole or in part, in any form or by any means, whether print, digital, electronic publication in any form, e-mail or web publications, or otherwise through any mode is strictly prohibited. Any unauthorized use of the above content through any mode may result in appropriate legal action by AHFL."

Place : Chhattisgarh
Date : 25.06.2026
(Authorised Officer)
For Aadhar Housing Finance Limited



Central Chronicle

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QUOTE FROM THE QUOTABLE

"Champions keep playing until they get it right"

[Billie Jean King]

| OUR VIEW |

Transparency Must Be the Rule, Not the Exception

The exclusion of India's top table tennis player Manika Batra from the Asian Games squad has sparked a storm that goes far beyond one athlete's disappointment. It raises fundamental questions about transparency, accountability, and fairness in sports governance. Manika, ranked World No. 51 and India's second highest ranked woman paddler, was named only as a reserve despite her international record. The Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI) insists that its selection policy—50% weightage to national rankings, 40% to world rankings, and 10% to committee discretion—was applied uniformly. Yet the opacity of the process has left athletes and fans unconvinced. A nine member committee reportedly voted 5-3 against her inclusion, but whether reasons were documented or conflicts of interest disclosed remains unclear. At stake is not merely one player's career but the credibility of India's sporting institutions. Manika's demand is modest: she is not asking for reinstatement, but for a factual explanation. That such a request requires appeals to the Prime Minister and Sports Minister underscores the weakness of internal accountability mechanisms. India's sporting history is replete with examples where opaque selection processes have undermined morale and trust. The Delhi High Court's intervention in Diya Chitale's 2022 Commonwealth Games case showed that judicial oversight sometimes becomes the only recourse for athletes. This is neither healthy nor sustainable. Sports federations must recognize that athletes are not supplicants but stakeholders. They invest years of discipline, sacrifice, and national representation. To dismiss their concerns without reasoned explanation is to erode the very foundation of competitive integrity. India aspires to be a global sporting power. That ambition cannot rest on medals alone; it must rest on systems that are transparent, fair, and accountable. Selection committees must publish criteria, document deliberations, and communicate decisions clearly. Athletes deserve respect, not silence. Manika Batra's protest is a reminder that governance in sport is as important as performance on the field. If India wishes to nurture champions, it must first champion fairness. Transparency must be the rule, not the exception. Only then can India's sporting ambitions truly inspire confidence, credibility, and lasting pride among athletes and citizens alike.

| GUEST VIEW |

Bleak future for Uddhav Thackeray

The Brihanmumbai Municipal Election results early January dealt a body blow to Balasaheb Thackeray's son and Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray as the BJP-Shiv Sena (Shinde) alliance (Mahayuti) gained the voters' trust to rule Mumbai. Now, Uddhav is in the doldrums after six UBT members of parliament (MP) ditched him to join the official Shiv Sena of deputy chief minister Eknath Shinde. Make no mistake, the soft-spoken Uddhav is fighting a losing battle to remain in circulation. To make matters worse for him, Eknath Shinde is sitting pretty both in the government and within the party. He seems to be in the good books of Prime Minister Narendra Modi as well. Therefore, there are no fresh issues for Uddhav Thackeray to tackle. Also, his cousin and friend turned foe turned friend Raj Thackeray does not look politically ambitious and is satisfied by throwing punches at politicians. The only weapon left in Uddhav's armoury is clear: Balasaheb Thackeray. However, it has been more than thirteen years since the charismatic Shiv Sena founder, who struck a chord with the average Maharashtrian during his time, passed away. Another option, of course, lies in Uddhav joining hands with the BJP again although it looks highly unlikely in the near foreseeable future.



Ganapathi Bhat, Akola

Comment

Long Live Democracy: Why Remembering Freedom Matters

Fifty years since the imposition of Emergency, the nation continues to reflect upon this period—one of the darkest chapters in India's democratic history. The closing ceremony of the national commemoration of Samvidhan Hatya Diwas - Long Live Democracy (Loktantra Amar Rahe) is not merely about remembering history, but about reaffirming the enduring values that sustain our Republic. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar once observed: "The Constitution is not a mere lawyer's document; it is a vehicle of life, and its spirit is always the spirit of the age." Few statements capture the essence of our constitutional journey more powerfully. The Constitution is not simply a legal framework—it is a living covenant between citizens and institutions, rights and responsibilities, liberty and accountability.

India's democratic ethos is deeply rooted in civilizational traditions. For centuries, our society nurtured institutions of consultation, collective deliberation, and public participation. Bharat did not inherit democracy—it nurtured it. From ancient sabhas and samitis to the post-independence parliamentary system, the collective will of the people has always been central.

The Constitution transformed these traditions into a modern framework while preserving values that sustained them through generations. The Preamble remains our constitutional compass: Justice, Liberty, Equality, Fraternity. These are not merely ideals but national aspirations guiding policy, shaping insti-

tutions, and defining the relationship between State and citizen. Yet history reminds us that democracy can never be taken for granted.

The Emergency of 1975-77 was one of the most significant tests faced by independent India. It revealed how institutions falter when safeguards weaken and freedoms are curtailed. Its impact extended beyond politics, touching everyday lives and carrying a profound human cost. These experiences remind us that constitutional rights are not abstract—they directly shape dignity, liberty, and daily life. When curtailed, it is ordinary people, families, and communities who suffer most. Yet the enduring lesson of that period is resilience. The people of India demonstrated extraordinary faith in constitutional methods. Democratic processes ultimately corrected distortions. Through peaceful participation and the ballot box, citizens reaffirmed that sovereignty resides with the people. That remains the greatest strength of Indian democracy—its ability to learn, adapt, self-correct, and emerge stronger from challenges.

Recovering People's Histories

Marking this occasion, a curated exhibition serves as a visual journey through one of the most challenging times in Indian democracy—presenting archival material, stories of resistance, constitutional milestones, and people's experiences during the Emergency. A memorial lecture by veteran journalist and author Shri Ram Bahadur Rai adds contemporary relevance to the



Gajendra Singh Shekhawat,
Union Minister for Culture & Tourism,
Government of India

theme of vigilance and renewal.

In contemporary times, nearly eight decades after Independence, democracy continues to evolve. Citizens increasingly seek not only representation but participation; not only rights but responsive governance. Initiatives promoting financial inclusion, grassroots participation, and citizen-centric governance have widened the reach of institutions. At the same time, citizenship itself has become more demanding. A strong democracy depends upon informed citizens. Today, when the world calls India the "Mother of Democracy," it recognizes our civilizational journey—from the dharma of ancient kings to the will of modern voters. The exhibition on the Digital District Repository (DDR), launched under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav in 2021, highlights hundreds of lesser-known stories of sacrifice and courage. So far, DDR has documented more than 19,500 narratives. The Centre for Cultural Resources and Training (CCRT) has played a key role in curating these stories.

On this occasion, two living freedom fighters join us as embodiments of courage and sacrifice—Shri Sheshrao Laxmanrao Khot of Maharashtra, who joined the Hyderabad Liberation Movement as a student, and Shri Eddula Suryanarayana Reddy of Andhra Pradesh, who supported the freedom struggle as a child and was detained at age eleven. Their presence reminds us that freedom is not distant history but living memory.

Virasat and Cultural Continuity

Complementing this is the 11th

edition of Virasat, celebrating cultural traditions and artistic expressions that foster dialogue, diversity, and cohesion. It honours Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay—freedom fighter, cultural visionary, and institution-builder. Classical presentations draw upon traditions evolved through centuries of dialogue between generations and regions. Indian classical music itself testifies to continuity, diversity, discipline, and creative freedom—values essential to democracy.

The presentation Enajori: Loknaad - Janjatiya Samrastra ka Swar-Sangam celebrates Assam and the North-East, demonstrating unity in diversity. Equally meaningful is the thematic presentation by CCRT scholars, From Silence to Voice, From Darkness to Dawn, tracing the journey from fear and suppression to courage and democratic resurgence. Another milestone is the foundation stone for the Maharshi Dayanand Saraswati Kala Gurukul & Kalagram, envisioned as centres to study and practice India's artistic heritage. Inspired by the Gurukul tradition, these institutions embody the principle that democratic and cultural values must be passed from one generation to the next.

Democracy as a Living Tradition

Taken together, the components of Samvidhan Hatya Diwas convey a common message: democracy is not merely a political system, but a living tradition sustained by participation and protected by vigilance. As India moves towards the centenary of Independence in 2047, let us carry forward this spirit with renewed commitment.

Indian History: A Confluence of Truth, Self-Respect, and Self-Reflection

The purpose of history is not only to recount what happened but to reveal how societies responded.



Prof. (Dr.) Manmohan Prakash



History is the systematic account of humanity's evolving journey. It enables us to understand past civilizations, cultures, social structures, and political transformations. Yet this purpose is fulfilled only when history is written with accuracy, objectivity, and intellectual honesty. History is not merely a record of events and dates; it is the foundation of a nation's collective memory and vision for the future. In India, a long-standing debate persists: should the period of foreign or colonial rule be described solely as an era of subjugation, or also as one of continuous struggle and resistance? This question is closely linked to national consciousness and collective self-respect.

Respected Dr. Mohan Bhagwat, Sarsangchalak of the Rashtriya

Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), has emphasized that India's history is not merely slavery but continuous struggle. This perspective highlights the resilience and resurgence that remained active across centuries. From the late twelfth century until 1947, much of the subcontinent came under foreign rule—first by Sultanates and empires, later by British colonial administration. Local societies lost control over governance, taxation, and resources. Hence the term "subjugation" has often been used. Yet such a vast period cannot be understood only through that lens. A comprehensive study reveals that alongside domination, there were continuous processes of resistance, cultural preservation, and aspirations for freedom. At no point did Indian society passively surrender.

Medieval India offers striking examples. Even at the height of the Delhi Sultanate and Mughal Empire, resistance endured. In Rajputana, Maharana Pratap chose hardship in forests rather than submit to Akbar's power, establishing a lasting model of valour and self-respect. In the northeast, Lachit Borphukan of the Ahom Kingdom decisively halted Mughal expansion at Saraighat in 1671. In the south, the Vijayanagara Empire preserved Sanatan traditions and cultural strength. Later, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's vision of Hindavi Swarajya and the rise of Maratha power became a golden chapter of resurgence. Guru Gobind Singh Ji's establishment of the Khalsa Panth gave new direction to religious freedom and social resistance.

Under British rule, resistance became widespread. Following Plassey in 1757, uprisings such as the Sannyasi Rebellion, Chuar Rebellion, and Santhal Hul erupted. The Revolt of 1857, dismissed by colonial historians as a "Sepoy Mutiny," is remembered in Indian consciousness as the First War of Independence. Social and intellectual renaissance movements accompanied political resistance. Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Swami Dayananda Saraswati, and Swami Vivekananda advanced reform and self-awareness. In the twentieth century, the Swadeshi, Non-Cooperation, Civil Disobedience, and Quit India movements transformed the struggle into a mass movement. Dadabhai Naoroji's Drain Theory exposed the economic exploitation of colonial rule.

The writing of history itself has

been contested. Colonial narratives often portrayed Indian society as fragmented and passive. Some freedom fighters, including Bhagat Singh and Chandrashekhar Azad, were labelled "terrorists" rather than patriots. Such distortions remind us that historical interpretation is shaped by political context and must be revisited with fairness and integrity. Modern Indian historians and post-colonial scholars have shown that society consistently displayed adaptation, resistance, and reconstruction. Yet viewing the entire period only as "struggle" risks underestimating the harsh realities of subjugation and exploitation. Conversely, reducing it merely to "subjugation" obscures the courage and freedom-consciousness of countless individuals and communities.

The most meaningful approach is to recognize both subjugation and resistance. This perspective acknowledges suffering under foreign domination while honouring India's enduring tradition of resilience. The purpose of history is not only to recount what happened but to reveal how societies responded. It must be studied with balance between truth, self-respect, and reflection. Only then can history serve as a guide for present and future generations.

(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

Corporate Greed Suffocating Vulnerable Lives

The toxic ammonia leak in Tamil Nadu exposes India's industrial landscape as a slaughterhouse of convenience. Several workers dead and dozens hospitalized prove corporate profit routinely outweighs human existence. Safety compliance is dismissed as a burden while defenseless migrant labourers bear 100% of the risk. This is not accident but corporate manslaughter born of negligence and absent vigilance. A nation that celebrates growth while tolerating lethal workplaces lives an illusion. Production figures must never outweigh human survival.

DrVijaykumar HK. Raichur

Plastic Currency in India

RBI is considering a pilot project for polymer notes due to its long life, low replacement costs etc. Some countries have successfully used polymer notes. Its advantages/disadvantages need to be tested before implementation. RBI/banks should upgrade the technology of existing ATMs to be compatible with plastic currency. Public should be made aware about plastic-currency in advance. To avoid a demonetization scenario, RBI should keep both current and plastic-currency in circulation. Counterfeiting of plastic-currency should be zero.

Nabnit Panigrahi. Raygada. Odisha

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



UP becomes
revenue-surplus,
sheds 'Bimaru'
tag.

Yogi Adityanath,
UP Chief Minister

TMC MLAs laud Bengal budget

FM Swapan Dasgupta tabled the medium-term fiscal policy and fiscal strategy statements in the House, after which the budget discussion began.

Press Trust Of India

KOLKATA: Participating in a discussion on the West Bengal budget in the Assembly on Wednesday, Trinamool Congress MLA Samir Jana welcomed several welfare and infrastructure initiatives announced by the government, but said allocations for some projects appeared inadequate.

State Finance Minister Swapan Dasgupta had tabled the medium-term fiscal policy statement and fiscal policy strategy statement in the House, following which discussion on the budget commenced.

Jana, the MLA from Patharpratima, said several projects announced in the budget presented on June 22 required higher financial allocations for effective implementation.

He said expectations were high as the state now has a "double-engine government" with the same party in power at both the Centre and the state after nearly five decades.

Stating that the budget sought to address the aspirations of all sections



MC MLA Samir Jana, Dinen Roy.



of society, Jana said, "The government has tried to meet the expectations of all sections of the people and has also allocated funds for implementing these promises. It is an inclusive budget."

He also welcomed the BJP government's decision to increase dearness allowance for state government employees by 20 per cent.

"The government has made several bold announcements. We hope the Centre will provide the necessary financial support for implementation of the infrastructure projects proposed in the budget," Jana said.

He stressed the need to reduce the state's debt-to-production ratio to ensure long-term economic growth and said

the future of the state would depend on the successful implementation of proposals relating to industrialisation and employment generation.

Participating in the discussion, BJP MLA Hiranmay Chattopadhyay said the budget was not merely a financial document but a roadmap for the state's economic revival. "This budget is a blueprint for the state's rejuvenation, industrialisation, employment generation and overall development," the Shyampur MLA said.

Claiming that industrial growth had suffered during the previous regime, Chattopadhyay said Howrah, once known as the 'Sheffield of the East', and industrial centres such as Haldia, Durgapur and Kharagpur had

HIGHLIGHT

● Jana said, several June 22 budget projects need higher funding for proper implementation.

● Dinen Roy praised the BJP government for announcing an AIIMS in north Bengal.

witnessed a prolonged decline for over a decade under the TMC rule.

He also called for an outcome audit of expenditure incurred by the West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation (WBIDC).

BJP MLA Prasun Banerjee of Chanchal constituency said the budget contained several significant measures aimed at accelerating the state's development. "A holistic approach has been adopted in the budget to address the problems faced by tea garden workers. The steps are in the right direction to solve their problems," he said.

Banerjee also praised the government's initiative to install solar power systems in households under the PM Surya Ghar scheme.

SIR roll out

CHANDIGARH: The house-to-house enumeration exercise under the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls will begin across Punjab on June 25, with all preparations for the exercise complete, Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Anindita Mitra said on Wednesday. Addressing a press conference here, Mitra said booth level officers (BLOs) will visit every household to distribute pre-printed enumeration forms and assist voters in filling them. The BLOs will later collect the completed forms.

The exercise will continue till July 24.

If a household does not submit the form, the concerned BLO will make up to three visits and record the details by affixing a sticker at the residence, she said.

A total of 24,453 BLOs will cover 2.14 crore electors across the state.

So far, 1.84 crore electors, accounting for 86.02 per cent of the electorate, have already been mapped, the CEO said.

As per the Election Commission's schedule, draft electoral rolls will be published on August 3 after completion of the enumeration and rationalisation of polling stations by July 24.

Claims and objections can be filed from August 3 to September 2, while their disposal will be completed by September 28.

The final electoral rolls will be published on October 1, Mitra said.

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

Tribute to Hari Shankar Singhanian

JK Organisation organises nationwide blood donation drive



MUMBAI: Leading industrial conglomerate JK Organisation commemorated the 93rd birth anniversary of Late Shri Hari Shankar Singhanian, former President of JK Organisation and a visionary leader, by organising blood donation camps across its offices and manufacturing facilities across locations. More than 8,000 employees from various Group companies voluntarily participated in the initiative, reflecting the Organisation's enduring commitment to community welfare and social responsibility. All donors underwent essential health screenings, including blood pressure, haemoglobin and weight assessments prior to donation. In recognition of their contribution, each participant was presented with a certificate of appreciation.

The blood donation drive served as a tribute to the enduring legacy of Late Shri Hari Shankar Singhanian, whose leadership was defined by a

strong sense of purpose, nation-building and service to the society. A recipient of the Padma Bhushan, Late Shri Hari Shankar Singhanian played a pivotal role in strengthening and expanding JK Organisation, leading the establishment of new ventures and integrating several businesses into the Group's growing portfolio. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Raghupati Singhanian, Vice President, JK Organisation, said: "At JK Organisation, we have always believed that progress is meaningful only when it contributes to the well-being of our surrounding communities and the nation at large. For well over a century, JK Organisation has believed that business growth must go hand in hand with social progress. The blood donation drive organised across JKO Group companies is a meaningful expression of that philosophy and an opportunity to contribute towards a critical healthcare need."

MONEY LAUNDERING CASE

SC to hear Jacqueline Fernandez's plea in money laundering case today

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear on Thursday a plea of Bollywood actor Jacqueline Fernandez against a Delhi court order to frame charges against her in a Rs 200-crore money laundering case.

According to the apex court cause list, a bench of justices B V Nagarathna and Joymalya Bagchi is likely to hear the matter. Earlier on June 11, Justice Prashant Kumar Mishra had recused himself from hearing the actor's plea.

A Delhi court, on May 30, ordered framing of charges against the actor, alleged conman Sukesh Chandrashekar and 15 others in the

case. The trial court had also directed that charges be framed against Chandrashekar and 20 others for various offences, including under the stringent MCOCA provisions, in another case registered by the city police's special cell.

The actor moved the top court against the order. Jacqueline, whom the ED summoned several times in connection with the probe, was named an accused for the first time in a supplementary charge sheet filed by the agency.

The ED alleged in its second supplementary complaint

against Jacqueline that she was in constant touch with Chandrashekar and had received valuable gifts from him through his associate Pinky Irani.

SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

AMMENDMENT

No. Dy. CSTE/Proj./R/2026/917
Dt. 20.06.2026

The following amendment carried out in the tender notice No. PMS-10-SNT- Proj.-R-26, Date 04.06.2026.
Tender Notice No.: PMS-10-SNT- Proj.-R-26, Date 04.06.2026, **Description:** Submission of tender- Up to 15.00 Hrs. on 07.07.2026, **Now read as:** Submission of tender- Up to 15.00 Hrs. on 14.07.2026

For further details/purchase of tender document, eligibility criteria & the complete details for the above work please contact office of the Dy. CSTE/Proj./R or refer/download tender document which is available on our website: www.irops.gov.in.

Dy. Chief Signal & Tele. Engg./Proj. SEC Railway, Raipur

PR/DY.CSTE/PROJ/AN/111

South East Central Railway @secrail

Border trade

PITHORAGARH: The first batch of 26 Indian traders is expected to enter the Chinese territory of Tibet through the Lipulekh pass on June 26, marking the resumption of border trade after a six-year hiatus, according to administrative sources in Dhar-chula.

Ashish Joshi, Trade Officer and Dharchula Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM), said that 26 trade passes have been issued, which include 17 traders and nine helpers. A customs office has also been opened at Gunji to facilitate the process.

"We expect the first batch of Indian traders to reach Tibet on June 26, as they have already stored their goods in warehouses at villages near the Lipulekh pass," Joshi said.

The administration has received applications from more than 103 traders and is currently planning to issue trade passes for a second batch of 25 traders shortly.

BJP accuses Cong president Kharge, son of land grab

Press Trust Of India

Kharge, son accused of land grab via trust.

NEW DELHI: The BJP on Wednesday alleged that Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and his son Priyank Kharge have grabbed land at various locations in Karnataka by misusing their "power and influence", and asked why Chief Minister DK Shivakumar doesn't take action against them.

Addressing a press conference at the BJP headquarters here, party spokesperson Pradeep Bhandari alleged that Kharge and his son, a minister in the Karnataka government, are engaged in "land loot" in the Congress-ruled state through



their Siddhartha Vihara Trust.

"Their modus operandi is inspired by Robert Vadra and Rahul Gandhi family," he charged.

Hitting back, Priyank Kharge said the BJP is trying hard "to please the RSS".

"People are asking for the accounts of the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya, but the BJP is working overtime to demand the accountability of Lord Buddha in Kalaburagi," the Karnataka home minister charged in a post on X.

"You had five BJP

HIGHLIGHT

● Modus operandi is inspired by Robert Vadra and Rahul Gandhi family

● Priyank Kharge said, BJP is trying hard "to please the RSS".

chief ministers in Karnataka. Why did none of them act? Modi Sarkar has been in power for 12 years. If there was wrongdoing, why am I still roaming free and not in jail?" Priyank asked the BJP.

"My papers are publicly available and ready to discuss it on any platform," he said, asking Bhandari, "Now tell us, when will your political masters in the RSS show theirs?"

The BJP's attack on Kharge and his son comes a day after the Congress questioned why central probe agencies are not investigating those behind the alleged "land scam" in Madhya Pradesh and cited media reports which claimed the involvement of family members of Chief Minister Mohan Yadav.

The BJP had dismissed the allegations against Yadav as "baseless".

Bhandari on Wednesday alleged that the Congress government gave 5-acre land, worth Rs 100 crore, to Siddhartha Vihara Trust in Bengaluru for research and development in the aerospace and defence sector even though the Trust had no prior experience in such work.

CLAIM |

'Patel 'best PM India could not have'

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Jawaharlal Nehru is the best prime minister India has had while Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel is the best prime minister the country could not have, according to Congress leader Jairam Ramesh.

During an interview with PTI Videos, he also dismissed the RSS people as "fraudulent nationalists", while dubbing Prime Minister Narendra

Modi "the master of falsehoods". Giving one-word answers during a segment of the wide-ranging interview, Ramesh described Home Minister Amit Shah as being about "bluff and bluster".

Asked about who he regards as the best prime minister India has had, Ramesh said, "undoubtedly Jawaharlal Nehru".

On "best PM India could not have", Ramesh picked Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

AAVAS

FINANCIERS LIMITED

(CIN:L65922RJ2011PLCO34297) Regd. & Corp. Office: 201-202, 2nd Floor,
South End Square, Mansarovar Industrial Area, Jaipur. 302020

AAVAS

FINANCIERS LIMITED

SAFNE AAFKE SAATH SAMAJH

POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of **AAVAS FINANCIERS LIMITED** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred upon me under section 13(12) read with Rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a Demand Notice calling upon the borrowers mentioned herein below to repay the amount mentioned in the respective notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, undersigned has taken possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on me under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 9 of the said rules on the dates mentioned as below. The borrower and Guarantor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the **AAVAS FINANCIERS LIMITED** for an amount mentioned as below and further interest thereon.

Name of the Borrower	Date & Amount of Demand Notice	Description of Property	Date & Type of Possession
Neelkanth Janghel, Parmilalal Jhanghel, Dev Lal, Dhanshawari Janghel (A/C NO.) 201213101771845 & 211213102198362	8 Apr 26 Rs. 4813151/- & Rs. 480820/- 7 Apr 26	Property No. 1- Khn- 432/2, 432/4 Rnm-Atariya, P.H.N. 49, Chingli, Tehsil Khairgarh, Rajnandgaon Chhattisgarh (India)- 491885. Property No. 2- Kharsa No. 876/3 Part Issued New Kh. No. 87/4, Situated At Mousa- Gram Singhori Ph. No. 47, R.N.M. Khairaharh, Tah. Khairgarh & Dist.- Rajnandgaon, Chhattisgarh (India)- 491885 Admeasuring Property No. 1- (3) 432/2 Area 0.089 Hect. & (2) 432/4 Area 0.117 Hect. Property No. 2- Area 0.097 Hect.	Symbolic Possession Taken On 20 Jun 26
Hiraman Nayak, Sumin Bai (A/C NO.) 221213102865703	8 Apr 26 Rs. 990038/- 7 Apr 26	Property Situated At Kharsa No. 200/31, P.H. No. 8, Block- Chhuikhadan, Situated At Mouza- Gandhai, R.N.M. Chaknar, The. Gandai, Rajnandgaon Chhattisgarh (India)- 491888 / Admeasuring 648 Sq. Ft.	Symbolic Possession Taken On 20 Jun 26

Place : Chattisgarh

Date: 25-06-2026

Authorised Officer Aavas Financiers Limited

भारत सरकार कारपोरेट कार्य मंत्रालय त्वरित कॉर्पोरेट समापन प्रसंस्करण केंद्र (सी-पेस), आई.आई.सी.ए. बिल्डिंग, 7वीं मंजिल, प्लॉट P-6,7,8, से.-5, आई. एम्.टी. ग्रांटेसर, गुडगांव, हरियाणा - 122050. Email: roc.cpace@mca.gov.in		Government of India Ministry of Corporate Affairs Centre for Processing Accelerated Corporate Exit (C-PACE) IICA Building, 7th Floor, Plot P-6,7,8, Sector-5, IMT Manesar, Gurgaon, Haryana - 122050. Email: roc.cpace@mca.gov.in	
FORM No. STK --6 PUBLIC NOTICE [Pursuant to sub-section (2) and sub-section (4) of section 248 of the Companies Act, 2013 and rule 7 of the Companies (Removal of Names of Companies from the Register of Companies) Rules, 2016]			
Public:ROC/C-PACE/STK-2/248(2)/2026-27/538		Date: 17/06/2026	
Reference: In the matter of striking off or removal of names of (5) companies in the Chhattisgarh state under section 248 of the Companies Act, 2013 in respect of:			
S No.	Work Item	CIN	Company Name
1	AC3842318	U70109CT2019PTC009111	SHARE PROJECT PRIVATE LIMITED
2	AC3744912	U22209CT2023PTC014480	NV GREEN INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED
3	AC3818674	U24319CT2023PTC015198	AIRAWAT ASSOCIATES PRIVATE LIMITED
4	AC3534137	U74999CT2021PTC012280	NEETWEE TECHNOLOGIES PRIVATE LIMITED
5	AC3754581	U51909CT2021PTC012456	NIRMALA RESOURCES PRIVATE LIMITED
2. Notice is hereby given that the Registrar of Companies had received applications from the above-mentioned companies under section 248(2) of the Companies Act, 2013 for removal of its/their name (s) from the register of companies either on the ground that they have failed to commence business within one year of their incorporation or on the ground that the company(ies) is/are not carrying on any business or operation for a period of two immediately preceding financial years and has/have not made any application (s) within such period for obtaining the status of a dormant company under section 455 of the Companies Act, 2013 or the company(ies) have obtained the status of dormant company/subscribers to the memorandum have not paid the subscription which they had undertaken to pay at the time of incorporation of a company and a declaration to this effect has not been filed within one hundred and eighty days of its incorporation under subsection (1) of section 10A/ have not been carrying on any business or operations, as revealed after the physical verification carried out under sub-section (9) of section 12, but it/they do not wish to continue its/their registration as companies and have, therefore, requested for removal/strike off of its/their names from the register of companies.			
3. Accordingly, the Registrar of Companies proposes to remove or strike off the names of the above-mentioned companies from the Register of Companies.			
4. Any person objecting to the proposed removal or striking off name of the companies from the register of companies may send his or her objection to the office address mentioned here above within thirty days from the date of publication of this notice.			
CBC 07123/11/0231/2627		Irkan Tirkey Deputy Registrar Centre for Processing Accelerated Corporate Exit	

"It's comedy and I was doing comedy for the first time. So, I was really looking forward to it. They kept me away also from all the promotions. It was a good call as it made people curious as to film mein yeh kar kya rahi hai!"

Mouni Roy



&Glitters

CLOSE UP

Sonakshi says acting remains her biggest priority

Sonakshi Sinha believes acting will always come before content creation.

After spending more than 15 years in the film industry, actor Sonakshi Sinha says acting continues to be her greatest passion despite the growing popularity of digital content creation. While she enjoys connecting with fans through her YouTube channel, which boasts over a million subscribers, she does not see content creation as her primary profession or source of income. Sonakshi shared that the rise of digital platforms has allowed celebrities to engage directly with audiences in a more authentic way. However, she considers her online presence an extension of her work rather than a career shift. According to the actor, creating videos, makeup tutorials and personal vlogs feels enjoyable because it allows her to be herself. She emphasised that acting remains her first love and content creation is simply a by-product of her journey in entertainment. Reflecting on beauty standards in Indian cinema, Sonakshi described beauty as "limitless" and praised the industry for embracing individuality over the years. She noted that Indian cinema has always celebrated actresses who confidently carried their unique personalities and appearances, helping shape beauty trends and perceptions among audiences. The actor believes films continue to play an



Sonakshi chooses films over followers.



important role in influencing beauty standards while also encouraging self-expression.

When it comes to skincare, Sonakshi still follows simple advice passed down by her mother, former actor Poonam Sinha. She revealed that her mother prefers natural remedies and believes in avoiding

excessive cosmetic treatments. One of her favourite skincare practices is applying fresh aloe vera to the skin regularly.

Sonakshi was recently seen in System and continues to balance her acting career with her growing digital presence, while staying rooted in simplicity and authenticity.



| HOLLYWOOD |

Madonna breaks silence on failed Universal biopic

Central Chronicle News

HIGHLIGHT

● Madonna says her extraordinary life story needed a blockbuster-sized budget.

story required a large-scale production, but the studio was unwilling to commit the resources she believed were necessary. According to her, executives struggled to understand the scope of the story she wanted to tell, leading to tensions that eventually derailed the project. In a recent interview, Madonna said she worked exten-



sively on scripting, budgeting and casting, but negotiations with the

studio broke down over costs. She even considered relocating production to Serbia to lower expenses, yet those efforts failed to bridge the gap between her vision and the studio's expectations. The singer suggested that the company may not have fully believed in the project or her commitment to seeing it through. The film had generated significant buzz after being announced in 2022. Writers including Diablo Cody and Erin Cressida Wilson were attached at different stages, while Julia Garner was

The shelved Madonna biopic

reportedly set to portray Madonna.

Following the collapse of the film, Madonna shifted her attention to a limited series project with Netflix. However, she revealed that rights issues prevented her from reusing the screenplay developed during her time with Universal. While the biopic remains shelved, Madonna is now focused on new creative ventures, including her upcoming album, Confessions II, which is expected to mark the next chapter in her decades-long career.

CineBriefs

BEST OF THE REST

Web Series

Season 2 of Pitch to Get Rich goes bigger

India's first fashion-focused business reality show, Pitch to Get Rich, is set to return with a bigger second season and a massive Rs 100 crore investment commitment. Backed by the Fashion Entrepreneur Fund (FEF), the initiative is supported by investors and industry leaders, including Akshay Kumar and Karan Johar. The new funding pool marks a 150 per cent increase from the previous season, making it one of the largest opportunities for fashion entrepreneurs in the country. The show aims to support promising founders with capital, mentorship, industry connections and strategic guidance.

Hot Pair

Ranbir Kapoor's sweet Alpha tribute to Alia Bhatt



Ranbir Kapoor won hearts recently with a sweet gesture for wife Alia Bhatt and her upcoming film Alpha. The actor was spotted wearing a T-shirt that read, "My Wife's An Alpha," giving a stylish shout-out to the much-awaited action thriller. The thoughtful gesture quickly went viral, with fans praising Ranbir for openly supporting Alia's work. Social media users called him a "supportive husband" and Alia's "biggest cheerleader," while many admired the couple's strong bond. The moment served as another reminder of how Ranbir and Alia continue to celebrate each other's achievements, making them one of Bollywood's most loved couples.



Fashion

Khushi Kapoor sparkles in embroidered Sharara set

Khushi Kapoor made a striking fashion statement at sister Anshula Kapoor's wedding festivities in a blush pink Tarun Tahiliani sharara set worth Rs 2.09 lakh. The couture ensemble featured intricate floral embroidery, shimmering sequins and delicate beadwork, reflecting the designer's signature blend of tradition and modern elegance. Styled by Mohit Rai, Khushi elevated the look with statement emerald and diamond jewellery from Amrapali, adding a regal touch to the romantic outfit. She completed the ensemble with a beaded heart-shaped clutch and soft glam makeup.

Trending on Insta

@kareenakapoorkhan

Kareena Kapoor takes a playful dig at Bumrah

Kareena Kapoor surprised fans by flaunting her bowling skills in a playful social media post. The actress cheekily challenged Indian fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah, joking that she could give the yorker specialist some tough competition on the cricket field.



Aadimanav brings survival drama

Naked And Afraid: Aadimanav, the Indian version of the global survival franchise, follows six survivalists in Palawan as they battle harsh conditions, limited resources and physical challenges, testing their resilience, instincts and determination.



Ram Kapoor reunites with Ekta

Ram Kapoor and Ekta Kapoor reunited at the launch of Lock Upp: Sach Ya Sazaa, sparking speculation that they have moved past their reported fallout. Their warm interaction, including a hug, quickly caught fans' attention.



Alliance brings daily dose of drama

Prime Video's new reality series Alliance explores trust, strategy and betrayal as celebrity contestants form and break alliances to survive. Hosted by Kunal Kemmu, the show premieres June 26, with new episodes releasing daily.



Sanjeev Kapoor's bold demand

Celebrity chef Sanjeev Kapoor revealed he rejected MasterChef India initially after producers refused his demand to be paid Rs 1 more than Akshay Kumar. He later joined in Season 3 when makers approached him again.



The Bear ends with season 5

The final season of The Bear premieres on JioHotstar on June 26. The Emmy-winning drama follows Carmy and his team as they battle mounting pressures while striving to keep their restaurant alive and achieve culinary excellence.

I am thankful to the faculty and hands-on-experience from the University and timely guidance in my course.

Vikas Chandani
Ex-Student ICFAI University Raipur



Scholar

CAMPUS CALLING

The Rhythm of Numbers: The Silent symphony of Human Life

By- CMA (Dr.) Shilpi Gupta

Associate Professor-
Amity Business School, Amity
University, Raipur



*Campus
Calling*
THE FIRST LECTURE

Before you finish reading this sentence, your heart will have beaten at least once – a rhythm so precise it puts any metronome to shame – and in that same sliver of time, somewhere in the world, a newborn is being weighed in grams, measured in centimetres, and assigned an Apgar score that tells a room full of strangers whether it is thriving, and this is where the story of numbers and human life begins: not in a classroom or a counting house, but in the very first breath, in the annotating of a new existence with figures that will follow it, relentlessly and intimately, to the very last.

We tend to think of mathematics as something cold and academic, confined to ledgers and examinations, yet numbers pulse through human life the way blood pulses

through veins – invisibly, continuously, and with profound consequence – because by the time any of us reach adulthood we carry dozens of numerical identities: a national ID, a phone number, a salary, a credit score, a pin code guarding our savings, and a body mass index that a doctor will one day use to counsel us about mortality, and what makes this relationship so remarkable, so unlike our relationship with any other abstraction, is how deeply emotional it has become, for a number on a weighing scale can shatter a morning, a percentage on an examination paper can redirect a life, and the tally of unread messages on a screen can produce an anxiety entirely disproportionate to its mathematical value.

Historians remind us this was not always the case – ancient peoples

In their silent yet powerful way, numbers tell the story of our lives.

measured time by seasons and distance by days of walking, and numbers belonged to merchants and priests, barely grazing the lives of ordinary folk – but the invention of the mechanical clock changed everything, slicing time into equal, countable units around which human behaviour reorganised itself, making punctuality a virtue, productivity a measurable quantity, and life, for better and for worse, schedulable.

The digital age has only sharpened this tendency, for today a person's standing – in the eyes of algorithms, at least – is distilled into data points: follower counts, streaming

hours, daily steps, sleep scores, and resting heart rates reported by devices worn through the night as though existence itself required an audit.

And yet, even as we observe this colonisation of life by metrics, there is something irreducibly human in our love of number-making, because to count is, in its own quiet way, to care – parents count their children's teeth as they emerge, grandparents count the years at milestone birthdays, and cultures across the world assign luck or dread to particular numerals, seven in the West, eight in much of East Asia, thirteen in hotel corridors that simply skip from the twelfth floor to the fourteenth, as though the number itself carries a danger the building must avoid – and this is not mere superstition but a kind of poetry, a

reaching for precision when language alone feels insufficient to hold the weight of what we feel.

The wisest relationship with numbers, then, may be neither reverence nor rebellion but rhythm – using them the way a musician uses a tempo marking, as a guide rather than a cage – for the most luminous lives seem to belong to those who can read the figures clearly, act on what genuinely matters, and then, for a few unhurried and uncounted moments, simply let the arithmetic fall silent. Ultimately, numbers are far more than symbols on a page.

They are the heartbeat of modern civilization, creating a rhythm that connects time, knowledge, progress, and human experience. In their silent yet powerful way, numbers tell the story of our lives.

MATS University inaugurated International Conference



RAIPUR: The Department of English, MATS School of Arts and Humanities, MATS University, inaugurated two-day International Conference titled "Beyond Battlescapes: Representation of War in Literature, Films and Media" on 24-25 June 2026 at the Pandri Campus, MATS University, Raipur. In the conference academicians, researchers, scholars, media professionals and students from India and abroad engaged in meaningful discussions on the representation of war and conflict in literature, films and other media platforms. The conference was graced by Smruthik Rajanala, IPS, DCP Crime and Cyber, as the Chief Guest. In his address, he emphasized the role of media and literature in shaping

public understanding of conflict, security and social responsibility. He shared his experience of human side of fighting against naxalism. He also added that war id for days but narration of this war through Literature and Media remains forever. He encouraged scholars and students to critically engage with media narratives and their impact on society. Speaking on the occasion, Prof. (Dr.) K. P. Yadav, Vice Chancellor, MATS University, stated that the conference successfully facilitated meaningful scholarly discussion. He said that war affects humans irrespective of borders. Literature, Films and Media are the three mediums that narrates war stories from their angle.

COLLEGE GOSSIP: IIIT Naya Raipur IT Infrastructure at IIIT

Central Chronicle News

Raipur: IIIT-NR has truly world class, campus-wide state of the art information technology tools that are designed to meet the computing and communication needs of the institute, which has a fast, reliable and rugged computer network of more than 700 Nodes.

In order to facilitate proper teaching aid, all classrooms here are equipped with projectors and audio systems and has two smart classrooms. All the hostels, cafeteria, academic block, guest house, multipurpose hall and residences, are connected through redundant 10 gigabit fiber backbone

network. All the blocks are connected through layer 2 & 3 switches to provide 1Gbps connectivity at the user end. Wireless network with 84 indoor access points to give total campus Wi-Fi coverage. All traffic for internet both inbound and outbound passes through 1+1 redundant UTM.

Internet Access: Through a 500 Mbps Internet leased line (In ring Architecture), 1Gbps (In ring Architecture) and 100 Mbps from NKN with an active-active configuration. Internet connection range is provided through both LAN and Wi-Fi in all blocks inclusive of residences, academic, dining and hostels.

| RESEARCH SCHOLAR'S VIEWS |

The Information Battlefield: How Narratives Shape Public Attention

By | Heena Praveen- Research Scholar, Amity University, Raipur

In the digital age, information travels faster than ever before. News breaks within seconds, opinions spread across continents in minutes, and a single social media post can influence millions. While this unprecedented connectivity has empowered citizens with access to knowledge, it has also transformed the public sphere into an information battlefield where competing narratives constantly vie for attention.

A narrative is more than a collection of facts; it is the framework through which those

facts are presented and interpreted. Governments, media organizations, corporations, influencers, and activists all construct narratives to communicate their perspectives. The challenge arises when public attention becomes focused on emotionally charged controversies while more substantial issues receive comparatively little scrutiny.

Modern information ecosystems thrive on engagement. Algorithms reward content that provokes strong reactions-anger, outrage, fear, or excitement. Con-



sequently, sensational stories often dominate headlines and social media feeds, while complex subjects such as educational reforms, healthcare challenges, economic inequalities, environmental concerns, or institutional accountability struggle to attract sustained public interest.

HIGHLIGHT
The greatest challenge of the twenty-first century may not be accessing information but navigating it wisely.

This phenomenon creates an attention economy in which visibility often matters more than significance.

The consequences are profound. When citizens are constantly inundated with competing narratives, distinguishing between facts, interpretations, and misinformation becomes increasingly difficult. Public discourse

can become polarized, with individuals retreating into ideological echo chambers that reinforce existing beliefs rather than encouraging critical examination. In such an environment, truth risks becoming secondary to perception.

For today's youth, media literacy is no longer optional; it is an essential civic skill. Young people must learn to evaluate sources, verify claims, cross-check information, and recognize the difference between evidence-based reporting and opinion-driven commentary.

ZeroPeriod
THE WORLD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION

EXAM

CG CPEB exam for data entry operator on June 28

RAIPUR: The Chhattisgarh Professional Examination Board (CPEB) will be organising recruitment for vacant posts of Data Entry Operator in Chhattisgarh High Court. For this the first phase of exam will be organised on June 28 and it will be held from 10:00 am to 12:14 pm. On this day the entrance exam of PAT-PVPT -2026 will also be organised and it will be held from 10:00 am to 1:15 pm. There are total of 35 examination centres for this in the Raipur district and in this 9856 candidates will be appearing. The administration has made all arrangements to conduct the exam peacefully and to make the exam transparent, the security check too has been made strict.

EXAM

Application for ADPPO recruitment exam accepted till July 21

RAIPUR: There will be recruitment into 15 posts of Assistant District Public Prosecution Officer (ADPPO) in the Home Department of the state and for this CGPSC had given advertisement few days back. Now the application procedure for this exam has been started and the candidates can submit applications for this till July 21. Under the recruitment, the appointment will be made in 10 regular and 5 backlog posts. The selection will be based upon written exam and interview. The written exam will be of 300 marks and there will be total of 150 objective type questions.

Event of the week

EMRS, Kosambuda celebrates International Yoga Day with great enthusiasm



CHHURA: Eklavya Model Residential School (EMRS), Kosambuda celebrated International Yoga Day on June 21, 2026, with great zeal and active participation from students and staff members. The programme aimed to promote awareness about the importance of yoga in maintaining physical fitness, mental well-being, and a balanced lifestyle. The event was conducted under the guidance of the school's Physical Education teachers,

Mr. Sunil and Miss Yushmita, who led the participants through various yoga activities and explained their significance in daily life. The programme commenced with a prayer, creating a peaceful and positive atmosphere. This was followed by stretching exercises to prepare the body for yoga practice. Participants then performed Surya Namaskar, a series of postures that help improve flexibility, strength, and concentration.

Shortake: Ryan International School, Raipur

Ryan International School, Raipur, celebrates Father's Day

RAIPUR: Ryan International School (RIS), Raipur, celebrated Father's Day on 20.06.26 with immense joy, gratitude, and enthusiasm. The occasion was dedicated to honouring the unconditional love, care, and sacrifices made by fathers in shaping the lives of their children. The celebration witnessed the wholehearted participation of fathers, whose presence added warmth and happiness to the event. The students showcased their affection and admiration for their loving fathers through a series of heart-touching performances. Beautiful poems recited by the children conveyed their gratitude and love, leaving the audience deeply moved. Melodious songs dedicated to fathers echoed through the hall, creating an atmosphere of warmth and togetherness.



SchoolBuzz

Children and villagers practice Yoga in Government Middle School

Kharora: A special yoga program was organized at the Government Middle School in Bharuwadih Kala to mark International Yoga Day. Students, teachers, and local villagers participated in the event with great enthusiasm, performing various 'asanas' (postures) and 'pranayama' (breathing exercises) together. Yoga instructor Dinesh Verma spoke about the importance of yoga and its health benefits, explaining that regular practice keeps the body healthy, calms the mind, and improves concentration.



Children of Govt Middle, Primary School delighted to receive new Uniforms

Arang: The new academic session has brought joy to the children at the Government Middle and Primary School in Gukhera. Students from classes 1 to 8 were distributed free school uniforms. The children were thrilled to see the attractive changes made to the color and design of the uniforms by the Education Department. They appeared extremely excited to receive these new, modern-looking outfits.



Sports



True empowerment means supporting athletes through every life stage, allowing motherhood and professional sport to thrive together successfully.

Sachin Tendulkar
Former India Cricketer

Ronaldo shines, Colombia advance, Ghana hold England

Ronaldo double powers Portugal rout

HOUSTON: Cristiano Ronaldo silenced his critics with a brilliant two-goal display as Portugal thrashed Uzbekistan 5-0 to revive their FIFA World Cup campaign and strengthen their credentials as title contenders.

After an underwhelming performance in Portugal's opening 1-1 draw against Congo, questions had been raised about the 41-year-old's place in the starting lineup. However, coach Roberto Martinez kept faith in his star forward, and Ronaldo responded emphatically. The veteran striker opened the scoring in the sixth minute, converting a cross

from João Cancelo. The goal also saw Ronaldo become the first player in history to score in six different World Cup tournaments. Nuno Mendes doubled Portugal's lead in the 17th minute before Ronaldo struck again in the 39th minute from a Bruno Fernandes assist to make it 3-0.

Portugal continued to dominate after the break. An own goal in the 60th minute increased the advantage, while substitute Rafael Leão completed the rout with a late strike in the 87th minute. Ronaldo was named Man of the Match and came close to completing a hat-trick in stoppage time.

Cristiano Ronaldo scored twice as Portugal crushed Uzbekistan 5-0 in Houston, becoming the first player to score in six different World Cups. The victory moved Portugal to four points in Group K. Colombia secured a knockout-round berth with a 1-0 win over Congo, courtesy of Daniel Muñoz's 76th-minute strike. In Group L, Ghana frustrated England in a rain-soaked 0-0 draw despite England dominating possession and chances. Meanwhile, Croatia kept their qualification hopes alive with a 1-0 victory over Panama, as Ante Budimir netted the winner. Colombia lead Group K, while Group L remains wide open.

Ghana frustrate England in stalemate

FOXBOROUGH (US): Ghana's disciplined defence frustrated England as the teams played out a goalless draw in a rain-affected FIFA World Cup Group L match. England dominated possession and outshot Ghana 19-1 but failed to find a breakthrough against a well-organised defence marshalled by coach Carlos Queiroz. Ghana executed their game plan perfectly, earning a valuable point in the race for knockout qualification. England's best chance came in the 86th minute when

Nico O'Reilly's header struck the crossbar. Harry Kane pounced on the rebound but blasted over from close range. Ghana threatened late through Abdul Fatawu, whose run created an opportunity for Prince Adu, but defender Ezri Konsa intervened brilliantly. Goalkeeper Benjamin Asare impressed on his World Cup debut, keeping a clean sheet. The draw leaves England and Ghana level on four points, with qualification to be decided in the final round of Group L matches.



Budimir strike keeps Croatia's hopes alive

TORONTO: Josip Stanišić lifted a curving cross onto the boot of Ante Budimir, who tapped it into an open net in the 54th minute Tuesday, giving Croatia a 1-0 win over Panama in the World Cup. Croatia remains in contention for the knockout round ahead of its third and final group-stage match against Ghana on Saturday. Panama was eliminated and is still seeking its first World Cup point in two appearances. After a slow-moving first half at BMO Field, Croatia broke through Panama's strong back line after the break, with substitute Budimir finding the net just four minutes after coming on. The Vatreni nearly added another goal three minutes later when 40-year-old Luka Modrić -- making his 200th international appearance -- passed ahead to Marco Pašalić on a breakaway, but Panama goalkeeper Orlando Mosquera blocked Pašalić's shot. Panama had three straight chances in the 67th minute to knot things up. Croatia goalkeeper Dominik Livaković made a trio of dazzling saves; on the third, he just managed to get a hand on the ball and send it over the net.



Daniel Munoz sends Colombia into knockouts

Press Trust Of India

Muñoz winner sends Colombia through after hard-fought victory over Congo.

GUADALAJARA: Daniel Muñoz struck the decisive goal as Colombia edged Congo 1-0 to secure a place in the FIFA World Cup knockout stage and continue their impressive run in Group K.

The breakthrough came in the 76th minute when Muñoz capitalised on a deflected ball inside the penalty area and fired home with his left foot. The Crystal Palace defender's second goal of the tournament earned him the Man of the Match award and sealed Colombia's second consecutive victory.

Colombia dominated large portions of the contest but were repeatedly denied by Congo goalkeeper Lionel Mpasi, who produced a series of outstanding saves. The goalkeeper thwarted efforts from James Rodríguez, Luis Díaz, Johan Mojica and Gustavo Puerta, keeping the African side in the contest for most of the match.

Luis Díaz thought he had added to Colombia's lead late in the game, but two goals were dis-



HIGHLIGHT

● Crystal Palace defender scores decisive goal, earns Man of Match honors.

● Vargas' late saves preserve win as Colombia reaches knockout stage.

lowed in quick succession, one for a foul and another for offside.

Congo nearly snatched a dramatic equaliser in stoppage time. However, Colombia goalkeeper Camilo Vargas came to his team's rescue with two crucial saves, first denying Nathanael Mbuku from long range and then stopping Chancel Mbemba's header from the resulting corner.

The victory lifted Colombia to six points from two matches, guaranteeing progression to the knockout rounds. Coach Néstor Lorenzo praised his side's intensity and believed they deserved the win despite Congo's resistance.

Colombia will now face Portugal in a crucial final group match, with a draw enough to secure top spot in Group K. Congo, meanwhile, must beat Uzbekistan to keep their hopes alive.

Sooryavanshi set for historic Ireland debut: Rao

HISTORIC DEBUT BUZZ



BENGALURU: Excitement is building across Europe ahead of India's two-match T20I series against Ireland, with former India and Ireland cricketer MV Narasimha Rao describing Vaibhav Sooryavanshi's potential international debut as a historic moment.

The 15-year-old batting sensation is expected to make his India debut in Belfast on June 26, and Rao believes the buzz surrounding the youngster has reached extraordinary levels. According to him, cricket enthusiasts from different parts of Europe are trying to secure tickets to witness the teenager in action at the Stormont ground.

Rao, who represented both India and Ireland during his playing career, said Sooryavanshi's fearless batting style and immense talent have already captured global attention. He feels the left-hander could enjoy batting in

Irish conditions, where pitches are generally slower and bowlers lack extreme pace.

However, Rao believes the teenager's real challenge will come during the subsequent T20I series in England, where swinging conditions and changing weather could test his technique and temperament.

Comparing some aspects of Sooryavanshi's batting to legendary all-rounder Sir Gary Sobers, Rao praised the youngster's high backlift, quick reflexes and ability to play a wide range of shots. At the same time, he cautioned him against getting carried away by fame.

Rao advised the youngster to follow the example of Sachin Tendulkar by remaining grounded, maintaining fitness standards and continuing to work hard. He said managing expectations and staying disciplined would be crucial as Sooryavanshi begins what could be a remarkable international career.

| SELECTION ROW INTENSIFIES |

Manika demands transparency over Asian Games omission

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Indian table tennis star Manika Batra has strongly rejected claims that she is seeking special treatment after being excluded from the Asian Games squad, stating that she only wants transparency and accountability in the selection process.

The former Common-

wealth Games gold medalist warned that she could pursue legal action if the Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI) fails to provide a satisfactory explanation for what she termed an arbitrary decision. Manika again sought the intervention of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Sports Minister Manu- suksh Mandaviya, insisting that athletes deserve clear communication regarding



I am not seeking special treatment or selection, only clear answers and transparency. Athletes deserve fairness and accountability always.

Manika Batra
Indian Table Tennis Star

selection decisions.

Manika, currently ranked World No. 51, questioned the criteria used to assess player rankings and asked whether selectors considered long-term performances or only a brief ranking period. She argued that a marginal fluctuation in rankings should not automatically make an athlete ineligible.

Sports News

Treesa-Gayatri advance as Chouhan reaches US Open main draw

Indian shuttlers enjoyed a promising start at the US Open, with Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand advancing and qualifier Rounak Chouhan entering main draw.

Press Trust Of India

Treesa returns from injury, guiding Indian pair into second round successfully.

FULLERTON (US): Indian women's doubles pair of Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand advanced to the second round of the US Open Super 300 badminton tournament after overcoming Spain's Paula Lopez and Lucia Rodriguez in a three-game battle here.

Making her return after an ankle injury layoff, Treesa, partnering Gayatri, defeated the Spanish combination 21-12 14-21 21-13 in a 51-minute opening-round contest.

The Indian duo will next take on Japan's Sumire Nakade and Miyu Takahashi.

In the men's singles qualifiers, Rounak Chouhan secured his place in the main draw with two victories. He first beat France's Enogat Roy 21-19 21-16 before rallying past



Chinese Taipei's Kuo Kuan Lin 13-21 21-14 21-10.

Chouhan will now face fellow Indian S Sankar Muthusamy Subramanian in the opening round.

Treesa and Gayatri started strongly, racing to an 8-3 lead in the opening game. Although the Spaniards narrowed the gap with a four-point burst,

the Indians regained control, moving to 17-11 before comfortably taking the game.

Paula and Lucia responded well in the second game, opening up an 11-7 advantage at the interval and maintaining their edge despite a late challenge from the Indians to force a decider.

The Indian pair regained the initiative in the third game, establishing an 11-6 lead at the mid-game break. They maintained the momentum thereafter and closed out the match without much trouble.

Fifth-seeded Kidambi Srikanth is set to face compatriot Saneeth

Dayanand in the men's singles draw.

India will also have a sizeable presence in women's singles, with Rakshittha Sree Santhosh Ramraj, Shriyanshi Valishetty, Anmol Kharb, Devika Sihag, Tanya Hemanth, Aakarshi Kashyap and Tanvi Sharma featuring in the competition.

I would say I am an all-rounder now: Shafali on growing role with ball

Press Trust Of India

Shafali credits preparation and confidence for growing impact with ball.



MANCHESTER: India's explosive opener Shafali Verma believes her increasing contributions with the ball are the result of careful planning, hard work and constant preparation, and says she now sees herself as a genuine all-rounder capable of helping the team in multiple ways.

Traditionally known for her fearless batting, Shafali has recently emerged as a dependable bowling option, delivering key breakthroughs in important matches. The 22-year-old said she has always envisioned herself taking on greater responsibility and has spent years preparing for situations where she might be called upon to bowl for India. Speaking ahead of India's crucial ICC Women's T20 World Cup match against Bangladesh, Shafali said her bowling success is no coincidence. She revealed that while play-

ing domestic cricket for Haryana, she regularly thought about how she would perform if given an opportunity with the national team and often visualised match scenarios to improve her execution.

Shafali, who claimed two vital wickets in the ODI World Cup final and even opened the bowling against South Africa recently, credited her father for encouraging her to bowl from a young age. She also recalled keeping wickets in domestic cricket before developing her bowling skills.

The opener stressed that she is always ready to step up whenever

the team needs her and enjoys contributing beyond batting. Following India's six-wicket defeat to South Africa, she acknowledged the importance of the remaining league matches but said the squad remains positive and united.

Drawing confidence from India's successful comeback during last year's ODI World Cup, Shafali said the players have learned from past experiences and are focused on taking one game at a time. She also warned against underestimating Bangladesh, insisting that every opponent deserves respect and India must produce its best cricket to secure victory.

| ICC WOMEN'S T20 WORLD CUP |

Harmanpreet needs to play her natural game: Shikha Pandey

Press Trust Of India

Shikha felt a tweak in the batting order could help Harmanpreet regain her rhythm



NEW DELHI: India captain Harmanpreet Kaur needs to stop thinking about the wickets falling around her and focus on playing her natural attacking game, believes former pacer Shikha Pandey, who says the batter can transform into a completely different player once she gets settled at the crease.

India are in a tricky position ahead of their ICC Women's T20 World Cup clash against Bangladesh after suffering a defeat against South Africa in Manchester.

Speaking on JioStar's 'Game Plan', Shikha and Veda Krishnamurthy analysed Harmanpreet's strike rate, Jemimah Rodrigues' form and the possible changes India could make

to their playing XI.

Shikha felt a tweak in the batting order could help Harmanpreet regain her rhythm, suggesting the skipper could move up to number four while Jemimah Rodrigues drops down the order.

"Harmanpreet Kaur's strike rate is a cause for concern for India's middle order. If a wicket falls early, we have seen Yastika Bhatia walk in, with Jemimah Rodrigues at number four. We might see Harman come in to bat at number four and

Jemimah drop down to number five," she said.

"But wherever she bats, Harman should stop thinking about the wickets that have fallen and not try to rebuild because we have seen that when Harmanpreet Kaur is on song, she is a completely different player altogether.

"Once she gets set, we'll see those straight drives and those shots over deep mid-wicket. She is excellent against spinners, so if she can just get set, it will be great for India," she added.

Vaibhav to get separate changing room on England tour

MONTMELO: New Delhi: Teen batting sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi is set for a rather unusual experience on his maiden senior international tour, during which the 15-year-old will get a separate changing room as part of safeguarding protocols for India's upcoming T20I series in England. The teenager, who has already created a buzz with his fearless strokeplay, is set to become India's youngest international cricketer, going past the legendary Sachin Tendulkar, who made his Test debut at 16 years and 205 days in 1989. India begin their tour with a two-match T20I series against Ireland in Belfast starting on Friday, before taking on England in a five-match series from next Wednesday. The England leg of the tour will also bring with it a first-of-its-kind arrangement for the youngster.

We need to work on scoring field goals, says Marijne

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: India women's hockey chief coach Sjoerd Marijne has called for improved field-goal conversion despite the team's impressive FIH Nations Cup triumph in Auckland. India defeated hosts New

Zealand 2-0 in the final to regain a place in next season's elite FIH Pro League.

Marijne praised the team's disciplined defensive performances in the semifinal and final, saying India hardly allowed opponents any scoring opportunities. However,

he stressed that converting chances into goals remains a key area for improvement ahead of the World Cup and Asian Games later this year.

The Dutch coach said the team consistently created opportunities but needed greater com-

posure, awareness and finishing skills in crucial moments. He also highlighted improved consistency, noting that India maintained a high performance level throughout the knockout stages, an encouraging sign for future challenges.

| EASTERN SLAM |

High-octane action electrifies Day 3 in squash

Central Chronicle News

Chh'garh's Reyansh registered a dominant straight-game victory over U'khand's Atharva Rungi



stamina. The Men's Round of 32 turned into a showcase of remarkable grit, highlighted by stunning comebacks from a few game deficits. Adarsh Banodha of Madhya Pradesh rallied from behind to pull off a thrilling five-game victory against Karnataka's Aryaman Singh, while Jammu & Kashmir's Rachit Kumar

Shailya also outlasted Haryana's Harshal Rana in a similarly exhausting five-game encounter. Alongside them, standout seeds like Suraj Chand, Aryan Pratap Singh, Diwakar Singh, and Karan Yadav registered dominant victories to progress into the next stage. The junior divisions matched the intensity of

the senior bracket, with top-seeded prodigies living up to their billing. In the U-11 categories, tournament favorites Samiksha Sugumar of Karnataka and Agastya Uppal of Delhi advanced comfortably with crisp straight-game performances. Meanwhile, local contenders gave the home crowd plenty to celebrate. In the Boys U-17 matches, Chhattisgarh's Reyansh Kulshreshtha registered a comprehensive straight-game sweep over Uttarakhand's Atharva Rungi, and state-mate Arsalan Sheikh mirrored that dominance in the Boys U-19 category by dismantling Delhi's Sumiran Saku in straight sets.

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Union External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar meets Director of National Security of the Republic of Korea Wi Sung-lac. . PTI/AP

Jaishankar, South Korean FM discuss deepening strategic partnership

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and South Korean Foreign Minister Cho Hyun held extensive talks in Seoul, reviewing cooperation and regional developments.

Press Trust Of India

SEOUL: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Wednesday held talks with his South Korean counterpart Cho Hyun, focusing on bilateral cooperation and the rapidly changing global situation, the leaders said.

Jaishankar is currently in South Korea on a two-day visit -- the second leg of an ongoing foreign tour -- after having visited Mongolia.

"It is a great pleasure to be back in Seoul and to meet you and your team today for our discussions," Jaishankar said in his opening remarks, noting that the meeting

was timely, given the state of the world and the importance of the bilateral relationship.

South Korean President Lee Jae Myung's visit to India in April and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's meeting with Lee at the G7 in Evian, France last week, have provided guidance on how to advance the bilateral ties, Jaishankar said.

The talks focused on follow-up measures in the key areas of trade, investment and finance.

"As foreign ministers it is clearly our responsibility to take this relationship forward, to oversee what different parts of the government and dif-

FASTFACTS

- Leaders reviewed progress across trade, investment, defence, technology, clean energy sectors.
- Both sides agreed maintaining close coordination amid evolving global economic challenges.

ferent parts of our economy of our country do with each other in their interaction," Jaishankar added.

Jaishankar said India was fully committed to realising the potential of the bilateral relationship, which both sides

acknowledged had significant room for growth.

After the meeting, the external affairs minister in a social media post said: "We reviewed our cooperation across political, shipbuilding, trade, investments, defence, technology, clean energy, culture and P2P (people-to-people) domains."

Jaishankar also said the two of them discussed opportunities in areas like startups, fintech and multilateral forums, and exchanged views on developments in their respective regions and around the world. The discussions, held in Seoul, continued through lunch and

went on for around three hours.

Cho said President Lee's visit to India in April marked a turning point for elevating Korea-India relations to a new dimension.

"I welcome swift follow-up progress in areas such as trade, investment and finance and discussed how to build on these achievements," he said in a post on X after the meeting.

Cho highlighted India's hosting of "Korea Week" this week, and how it fulfilled Modi's commitment to directly address challenges faced by Korean businesses in India.

European powers condemn Chinese Taiwan actions

TAIPEI: Great Britain, France, and Germany issued a rare joint statement expressing alarm over "novel" Chinese coast guard activities east of Taiwan, warning these actions threaten regional stability and freedom of navigation. The European nations strongly oppose unilateral changes to the status quo through coercion, highlighting concerns over increased Chinese pressure on the self-ruled island. This statement follows recent Chinese aircraft carrier movements through the Taiwan Strait and ongoing "grey-zone" tactics, such as harassing commercial vessels. The joint move emphasizes European concerns over security in the region, demanding respect for international shipping safety.

Nirav Modi must pay up over \$11 million to BOI India: UK court

Press Trust Of India

London court upholds Bank of India claim against fugitive Nirav Modi.

LONDON: Nirav Modi has been ordered by a UK court to pay more than USD 11.5 million to Bank of India after losing a legal challenge over a personal loan guarantee linked to Firestar Diamond FZE, a Dubai-based company associated with him.

The ruling was delivered by Justice Simon Tinkler at the London Circuit Commercial Court, which found that Modi



- UK COURT ORDERS NIRAV MODI TO PAY OVER USD 11.5 MILLION
- PAYMENT DUE TO BANK OF INDIA
- INCLUDES USD 4.1 MILLION PRINCIPAL + ACCRUING INTEREST
- COURT UPHOLDS PERSONAL GUARANTEE AS ENFORCEABLE
- MODI REMAINS IN UK PRISON, FIGHTING EXTRADITION TO INDIA

had been validly served with a demand notice and remained liable under the personal guarantee. The court held that the guarantee was legally enforceable under Indian law and directed Modi to pay the principal amount of USD 4.1 million along with accrued interest.

The total liability has risen to approximately USD 11.5 million as of March 2026 and will continue to increase with further interest. Bank of India has pursued the recovery claim since 2018.

Modi, currently jailed in London while fight-

FASTFACTS

- Court upheld personal guarantee, rejecting Nirav Modi's enforceability challenge completely.

ing extradition to India in the Punjab National Bank fraud case, represented himself during much of the proceedings. He sought delays citing vision problems, depression and prison-related difficulties. The court also noted administrative lapses by prison authorities that disrupted the legal process but ultimately ruled in favour of the bank.

BRITAIN'S LEADERSHIP SHIFT |

Andy Burnham inches closer to British Prime Minister

Press Trust Of India

LONDON: Andy Burnham moved closer to becoming Britain's next prime minister without a contest after Cabinet minister Darren Jones declined to enter the leadership race. This leaves Burnham completely unchallenged, as his other primary potential rival, Wes Streeting, has already pledged his support. Nominations formally open on July 9, meaning Burnham could assume office as early as July 17 if no other opponents emerge.

Meanwhile, outgo-



ing Prime Minister Keir Starmer faced a fierce Parliamentary grilling during his weekly question session from Conservative leader Kemi Badenoch. Badenoch mocked Burnham and claimed

Labour had completely abandoned Starmer. Defending his turbulent two-year legacy against allegations of political missteps, Starmer insisted he successfully reversed years of Tory

FASTFACTS

- Keir Starmer defended his governing legacy before departing for critical European talks.

austerity and left the nation in far better shape. Following the session, Starmer departed for Berlin to discuss Ukraine and Middle East security with European allies. Jones cautioned Burnham against shifting too far left on future economic policies. He emphasized that the next Treasury chief must actively reas-

sure global financial markets, trade unions, and the general public. Burnham is widely expected to replace current Chancellor Rachel Reeves and will outline his economic vision next week. While some lawmakers pushed for a contest to test Burnham's ideas, others argued it would only highlight deep party divisions. Burnham, the former Greater Manchester mayor, recently won a parliamentary seat specifically to challenge Starmer for leadership. If a rival eventually emerges, the contest will extend until September 1.

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

INDIA-US ENERGY PARTNERSHIP

Energy cooperation most promising areas of India-US ties: Namgya Khampa



WASHINGTON: Energy cooperation has emerged as one of the most promising areas of the US and India relationship despite differences in perspective on a few issues, a senior official at the Indian mission here has said. Namgya Khampa, India's Deputy Chief of Mission in the US, was addressing an outreach event at the Capitol Hill by the Foundation for India and Indian Diaspora Studies (FIIDS) on Tuesday, when she said crude oil, LNG, LPG and civil nuclear form key areas for strengthening energy cooperation between the US and India. "We in India have a growing energy demand and the United States has energy abundance and I think that creates a natural partnership that we are committed to further deepening," Khampa said. "Crude oil, LNG, LPG, they're all contributing

significantly to India's energy security and our partnership with the US being a key factor in that. And they also support jobs and investment and economic growth and we're happy to take this cooperation further," she said. The Indian mission official also spoke about the civil nuclear cooperation between the two countries, a point that was also mentioned by a senior US State Department official. "In this context, civil nuclear cooperation is also a significant opportunity for both sides to seize and the passage of India's landmark SHANTI legislation creates new possibilities for commercial collaboration and brings us closer to realising the commercial promise of the historic civil nuclear understanding that we had reached decades ago," Khampa said.

ATTORNEY ASYLUM FRAUD

Indian-origin attorney in US to be fined \$250,000 over false asylum claims

NEW YORK: An Indian-origin attorney will be fined more than USD 250,000 by federal authorities here for allegedly filing fraudulent documents and false asylum claims on behalf of Indian nationals. Vinod Doddamani operates a nationwide practice in which he mostly represents Indian nationals and files asylum applications on their behalf before the immigration courts, the US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) said in a statement on Tuesday. US Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) announced its intention to pursue a fine of more than USD 250,000 against Doddamani, who allegedly filed false asylum claims on behalf of his clients. HSI announced five Notices of Intent to Fine against Doddamani. In support of the asylum claims, Doddamani filed "alien declarations that are identical or nearly identical in language and substance, containing the same or nearly the same factual narrative and supporting details regarding the alleged persecution".

VISIT

Bangladesh PM Rahman arrives in Beijing; to hold talks with Xi on bilateral ties

BEIJING: Bangladesh Prime Minister Tarique Rahman on Wednesday arrived in Beijing, where he will hold talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping on strengthening bilateral ties and charting the future course of relations between the two countries. Rahman arrived in the Chinese city of Dalian from Kuala Lumpur on Monday. In the coastal city, he attended the 17th Annual Meeting of the New Champions organised by the World Economic Forum (WEF), aimed at translating technological promises into economic progress and employment opportunities. Rahman on Wednesday took a high-speed train from Dalian to Beijing, where he will meet Xi, Premier Li Qiang and other senior officials in the next two days. "The leaders will chart the future course of bilateral ties" in their talks, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun told a media briefing in Beijing on Monday. "Through the visit, China looks forward to working with the new government of Bangladesh to enhance strategic communication, carry forward the traditional friendship, advance high-quality BRI cooperation, expand exchanges and cooperation in various areas."

GAMING APP

India slams Pakistan for 'unwarranted' remarks on J&K at UNSC meeting



UNITED NATIONS: India slammed Pakistan for making "unwarranted" remarks on Jammu and Kashmir at an informal UN Security Council meeting organised by Beijing and Islamabad, asserting that the union territory is a matter "strictly internal" to the country. India's Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Parvathaneni Harish, made the remarks on Tuesday at an Arria-formula meeting of the Security Council on 'Bridging the Implementation Gap: Security Council Resolutions and the Maintenance of International Peace and Security'. "I also refer to the unwarranted remarks made by the representative of Pakistan. It is incredible that a co-chair expected to be balanced and

unbiased in conduct has chosen to politicise this forum," Harish said. "I would only like to stress, for brevity of time, that the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir is a matter strictly internal to India. It has always been, is, and will remain so," he said. Harish's remarks came after Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Asim Iftikhar Ahmad, raised the Jammu and Kashmir issue during his intervention at the meeting, which was organised by the Permanent Missions of Pakistan and China to the United Nations. Pakistan is currently serving an elected two-year term as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council (UNSC) for 2025 and 2026.