Central Chronicle

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Cyclone Akvan makes landfall along Odisha coast

The India Meteorological Department said the landfall process started around 8 am and was completed by 11.20 am.

Press Trust Of India

BHUBANESWAR: Cyclone Akvan made landfall near Gopalpur along the Odisha coast on Friday morning, bringing with it heavy rainfall, the IMD said. However, no major damage or loss of life has been reported in the state so far due to the weather system, state Disaster Management Minister Suresh Pujari said. The India Meteorological Department (IMD), in a bulletin, said the landfall process started around 8 am and was completed by 11.20 am. "Cyclonic storm 'Akvan' crossed south coastal Odisha and north Andhra Pradesh close to Gopalpur with wind speed of 70-80 kmph gusting to 90 kmph between 7.30 am and 8.30 am. The landfall process has completed," the IMD said in its 11.20 am bulletin. The current wind speed of the cyclone remains at about 60-70 kmph gusting to 80 kmph along and off the southern Odisha coast, while wind intensity during commencement of the landfall was 70-90 kmph, it said.



An area waterlogged following incessant rainfall as Cyclone "Akvan" apporoaches, at Baidyanathpur, in Ganjam district, Odisha, Friday.

HIGHLIGHT

- **Iran suggested the name 'Akvan' as part of the naming system for cyclones in the North Indian Ocean.**

Cyclone to bring heavy rain over south Bengal till Saturday morning: IMD

Kolkata: Cyclone Akvan, which weakened into a deep depression after making landfall near Gopalpur in Odisha, is likely to bring heavy to very heavy rain across south Bengal till Saturday morning, the IMD said on Friday.

HC refuses to entertain plea alleging forceful conversion in Chh'garh

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The high court said the Chhattisgarh High Court would be the appropriate forum to examine the grievance of the petitioner.



NEW DELHI: For want of territorial jurisdiction, the Delhi High Court has refused to entertain a plea alleging forceful religious conversion of Adivasi families living in Chhattisgarh from Christianity to Hinduism.

Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma rejected the submission of the petitioner that the Delhi High Court has the jurisdiction to entertain the petition since it was challenging an order of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) which has its office in Delhi.

"It is also undisputed that NHRC deals with complaints of violation of human rights from across the country, which can be lodged online from any part of India, as was done in the present case. If the contention of the petitioner were to be accepted, every order of the NHRC, concerning an incident anywhere in the country, would be amenable to challenge before this court merely because the NHRC has its office at New Delhi," Justice Sharma said in a November 19 judgment.

The court was hearing a petition in which it was stated that the petitioner and other Adivasi families of village Chitlanar in Chhattisgarh's Sukma district have been peacefully practising Christianity for about 18 years and have been cultivating their ancestral lands for their livelihood.

It was alleged that in March 2026, a mob including local panchayat members allegedly entered the homes of the Christian Adivasi families and demanded that they either convert to Hinduism or leave the village.

Prime Minister attends SCO Civilisation Forum inauguration ceremony

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NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday attended the inauguration ceremony of the first SCO Civilisation Dialogue Forum that aims to celebrate the rich and interconnected civilisational heritage of the region, strengthen people-to-people ties and promote cross-cultural dialogue and cooperation. Prior to the inauguration ceremony, PM Modi visited the exhibition, the 'Mahabharat Scroll Pavilion -- Anant: A Rare 18th Century Mahabharata Scroll' which showcased an illustrated scroll reflecting India's rich epic and artistic traditions. He later also visited the exhibition, titled 'Astitva - The Essence of our Existence', which offers an immersive account of Delhi's history through archaeological evidence dating from 1,200 BC to 1200 CE, including excavated remains, artefacts, architectural fragments and other significant discoveries. Union Culture Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat arrived at the Forum venue earlier and greeted various delegates.


PM Modi interacts with an exhibitor during the inauguration of the First SCO Civilisational Dialogue Forum at Purana Qila, in New Delhi

Hours before the inauguration of the first SCO Civilisation Dialogue Forum hosted at the historic Purana Quila here, the MEA on Friday said this is a "multilateral event within the SCO framework", for which invitations were extended to all members of the grouping, including Pakistan.

| RAHUL SLAMS PM'S FICCI ADDRESS |

'Not accusations against industry leaders but own confession'

Press Trust Of India

Gandhi claimed that Modi took offence as he didn't get any applause for the speech.



NEW DELHI: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday attacked Prime Minister Narendra Modi over his remarks on job creation and salary structure during his address at FICCI, saying these were not accusations against industry leaders but his own confession for creating monopolies and destroying the level playing field. Gandhi took to X to hit out at Modi. The Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha said, "Yesterday, Modi ji was taunting industrialists: 'We cut taxes, yet you neither raised wages nor created jobs.' Modi ji, these aren't accusations against them -- they're your own confession."

"You say, 'Your appetite is so enormous that no matter how much you are given, it is never enough.' Well said. The whole country knows whose hunger this is. Those who were handed over airports, ports, mines, forests, electricity, coal, roads - how many jobs did they create," he asked.

NEWSLINE

DANTEWADA

Landslide damages NMDC mining waste dump, village road

A landslide in Bailadila hills range in Chhattisgarh's Dantewada district caused a National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) mining waste dump to collapse and debris to flow downhill, though no loss of life or property was reported in the incident, officials said on Friday.

The landslide, which occurred on the night of November 18, affected the waste dump and the road connecting Loha village with Kirandul, said a statement by NMDC, a central public sector undertaking.

NMDC, which operates iron ore mines in Bailadila hills in Kirandul and Bacheli areas of Dantewada in the state's Bastar region, said the debris travelled through a stream for around 2-3 km before settling on level ground.

JAMTARA

4 arrested for duping people with fake cashback offers

Four people were arrested in Jharkhand's Jamtara district for allegedly cheating people online by posing as customer care executives and offering cashback on UPI payments, police said on Friday. The arrests were made following raids at three locations on Thursday, they said. The accused allegedly targeted people with fake cashback offers on PhonePe and tricked them into downloading malware under the pretext of updating their account details, Superintendent of Police Shambhu Kumar Singh said. Police seized eight mobile phones and 13 fake SIM cards from their possession, he said.

Devuthani Ekadashi in Prayagraj


People offer prayers in Yamuna river to observe 'Devuthani Ekadashi', in Prayagraj, Friday.

| DEEPATHOON ROW |

SC permits lamp lighting atop Thiruparankundram hill

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Friday permitted the lighting of the traditional Karthigai Deepam lamp on November 24 as a one-time measure at Deepathoon, a stone pillar atop Thiruparankundram hill in in Tamil Nadu's Madurai.

A bench of justices Aravind Kumar and Vipul M Pancholi said only authorised persons from Devasthanam (temple administration) and government officials can go for the lamp lighting and ordered authorities to deploy necessary security if required. It restrained public from going to the place and said no procession, public congregation, slogan-raising or demonstration shall be allowed during the ceremony. The top court, however, stayed portions of the judgement that had upheld the direction to restore the practice of lighting the lamp at Deepathoon. The apex court said the permission granted by it cannot be relied on by any party as evidence of any established custom.



| AI OPPORTUNITIES |

'90 pc employers expanding tech workforce'

Press Trust Of India

The survey comprised 1,100 interviews, with 100 respondents per market, among senior business AI-specialised entry-level tech roles and technology decision-makers responsible for workforce planning and digital talent strategy.

MUMBAI: As many as 90 per cent of Indian employers are increasing their technology workforce to scale services and generate new revenue through artificial intelligence (AI), the second-highest proportion globally after the US, according to a report. The findings of talent company Randstad's global report, Tech Talent in Transition: Building the AI-Ready Workforce, are based on primary research conducted in the first half of August 2026 across 11 markets -- Australia, Belgium, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Spain, the UK, and the US.

"90 per cent of Indian employers are increasing tech headcount to scale services and generate new revenue through AI. This is second only to the United States (93 per cent) and above the global average of 86 per cent," the report said.

The report also found 50 per cent of employers in India agreed they routinely lose top tech talent to higher-paying competitors, while 53 per cent have successfully absorbed talent displaced by tech sector layoffs, though 39 per cent noted that salary expectations remain a barrier.

AI-qualified developers in India can command more than double the entry-level compensation of traditional developers, compared with a global premium of up to 79 per cent.

Prasar Bharati launches script-pitching lab to tap storytellers beyond metros

PANAJI: Prasar Bharati has launched a script-pitching lab during the ongoing International Film Festival of India (IFFI) to identify and nurture aspiring scriptwriters from smaller towns and rural areas, its chairman Prasoon Joshi said on Friday. Speaking on the red carpet of the 57th IFFI here, the noted lyricist and screenwriter said the initiative aims to take creative platforms to storytellers in "deep India" rather than limiting opportunities to metropolitan centres like Mumbai, Delhi and Bengaluru. "The stories are not only going to come from metros or Mumbai, Delhi or Bengaluru. I think authentic stories are going to come from deep India, and we have to reach out to those people," he said. Joshi said the initiative was conceived after he joined Prasar Bharati to take creative platforms to aspiring storytellers rather than expect them to approach established institutions. Selected writers under the initiative would receive guidance and support to develop their scripts, he said, adding that it was the programme's first year and he hoped it would grow through collective participation. Joshi said many aspiring writers had stories waiting to be told but lacked access to platforms that could help them enter the film industry.

Raipur



The true strength of Chhattisgarh lies in its hardworking farmers, talented youth, women, and skilled artisans.

Ramen Deka
Governor Ch'garh

'New face of a 'New Ch'garh' unveiled at Bharat Mandapam'

Chhattisgarh State Day celebrated with great fervor with Governor and CM

Central Chronicle News

NEW DELHI: It was an evening filled with Chhattisgarh's rich art and culture at the 45th India International Trade Fair (IITF) in Bharat Mandapam, where artists from Chhattisgarh mesmerized hundreds of spectators with their performances at the amphitheatre on the occasion of the Chhattisgarh Day celebration.

During the grand cultural event organized for Chhattisgarh State Day, local folk artists enthralled the audience with captivating performances of traditional dances and folk music. Chhattisgarh Governor Ramen Deka was the chief guest and Chief



Minister Vishnu Deo Sai presided over the function. The event offered a mesmerizing glimpse into Chhattisgarh's distinct cultural identity, rich tribal traditions, and vibrant folk arts in the national capital.

Addressing the event, Governor Ramen Deka stated that Chhattisgarh is a state with immense potential for development, characterized by its abundant natural resources, agriculture, industry, and a rich cultural heritage. The state offers vast investment opportunities in sectors such as steel, cement, energy, aluminium, food processing, and manufacturing. Through the new Industrial Development Policy 2024-30, the state is actively promoting investment, job creation, and entrepreneurship. The Governor urged industrialists and investors–both from within the country and abroad–to capitalize on the opportunities in Chhattisgarh and become partners in the state's progress. Emphasizing the importance of agro-based industries, as well as the processing and value addition of minor forest produce, he noted that development in these areas would boost the income of local residents and strengthen the rural economy.

Speaking at the event, Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai observed that the identity of Chhattisgarh is undergoing a transformation. Regions like Bastar–once discussed primarily in the context of Naxalism and various challenges–are now emerging with a new identity, defined by their rich tribal heritage, vibrant folk culture, natural beauty, and promising new avenues for development.

HIGHLIGHT

- **CM Sai stated that, for the first time since the state's formation, he attended the IITF accompanied by such a large number of his cabinet colleagues.**

State govt will support cyclone-affected farmers: CM

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: State Government stands firmly with every farmer affected by Cyclone 'Akvan', said Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai. Sai said that farmers need not worry, as crop damage caused by the cyclone will be assessed through surveys and every eligible farmer will be provided assistance in accordance with the prescribed rules.

CM Sai said that the State Government has directed all District Collectors to conduct surveys to assess crop damage in cyclone-affected areas. Based on the survey findings, affected farmers will receive financial assistance, as admissible, under the provisions of the Revenue Book Circular (RBC) 6-4.

Farmers whose crops are insured will be assisted in securing the eligible insurance claim amount in accordance with the provisions of the relevant Crop Insurance Scheme. CM Sai reiterated that every necessary step will be taken to ensure that affected farmers receive the aid, as provisioned under the prescribed rules.



HIGHLIGHT

- **Farmers whose crops are insured will be assisted in securing the eligible insurance claim amount in accordance with the provisions of the relevant Crop Insurance Scheme.**

CM Sai condoles demise of UP CM Yogi Adityanath's mother

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai has expressed deep sorrow over the demise of Smt. Savitri Devi, the revered mother of Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, and paid his humble tributes to her.

In a post on his social media handle X, Chief Minister Sai said that a mother holds the highest place in one's life. For a son, his mother is his entire world. A mother's selfless love, affection and blessings are life's greatest treasure, and their absence can never truly be compensated for.

CM Sai said that in this hour of grief, his heartfelt condolences are with Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and his bereaved family. CM Sai also prayed to Baba Kedarnath to grant the departed soul a place at His divine feet and give the grieving family the strength to bear this immense loss.

It is notable here that Savitri Devi breathed her last on Friday morning at around 10:45 AM at the age of 91. She had been unwell for a long time. Her younger son, Mahendra Singh Bisht, stated that his mother was experiencing difficulty breathing that morning.

HNLU to host national conference on Dec 15

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: Hidayatullah National Law University (HNLU), Raipur, will organise its Second National Conference on "Human Rights, Scientific Innovations and the Right to Health: Aligning Global Commitments and National Public Healthcare Policies" on December 15, 2026, through the online mode. The conference is being jointly organised by the university's Centre for Law and Human Rights, Centre for Law and Sciences, and Centre for Law and Public Health. Academicians, faculty members, researchers, scholars and students from across the country have been invited to participate and contribute their research-based insights. Against the backdrop of rapid advancements in science and medical technology, the conference aims to examine the critical intersections of human rights, scientific innovation and public health governance. It will provide a national platform for academic deliberations on practical strategies to bridge international human rights frameworks with domestic healthcare policies, ensuring equitable access to emerging medical advancements and strengthening public healthcare systems.

The deliberations will focus on the need to align global human rights commitments with national public health priorities while addressing the challenges and opportunities arising from scientific and technological developments in healthcare.

| CHILDREN'S SCIENCE CONGRESS |

24th state-level Children's Science Congress begins

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: With the objective of fostering a scientific temper, a research-oriented mindset, and a spirit of innovation among the children of Chhattisgarh, the 24th State-Level Children's Science Congress–held as part of the 32nd National Children's Science Congress-2026–was inaugurated today at Pt. Ravishankar Shukla University, Raipur. Organized by the Chhattisgarh Council of Science and Technology (CCOST), the event features young scientists from various districts across the state, who will showcase their scientific talent through research projects and innovative ideas. The inauguration ceremony was attended by Mr. O.P. Vyas, Vice-Chancellor and Director of the Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee International Institute of Information Technology (IIIT); Mr. Sachchidanand Shukla, Vice-Chancellor of Pt. Ravishankar Shukla University; and Mr. Prashant Kavishwar, Director General of the Chhattisgarh Council of Science and Technology. Addressing the young scientists, OP Vyas, Vice-Chancellor of the Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee IIIT, shared insights from his own academic and research journey.



He emphasized that fundamental science serves as the bedrock for new research and inventions in the fields of science and technology. Curiosity, logical reasoning, and the ability to analyze problems are essential for scientific progress.

| SCIENCE WORKING MODEL COMPETITION 5.0 |

'Young innovators from to compete today'

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: To encourage scientific curiosity, creativity, and innovation among young learners, Kalinga University is set to organise the Science Working Model Competition 5.0 on 21st November 2026. The competition will bring together school students from Classes 9 to 12 across Chhattisgarh, giving them a platform to turn scientific concepts into practical working models and present their innovative ideas.

The initiative aims to take science learning beyond textbooks and encourage students to explore how scientific principles can be applied to real-world challenges. Through this competition, participants will get an opportunity to develop their ideas, experiment with different concepts, and demonstrate their understanding of science, technology, and innovation through working models.

The competition will feature a wide range of themes, including Science for Sustainable Living, Technology for Everyday Life, Health, Wellness & Human Life, Agriculture & Food Technology, Artificial Intelligence, Robotics & Automation, Future of Smart Cities, Clean Energy & Green Future, Water Conservation & Management, Environment, Climate & Biodiversity, and Innovations for a Better Tomorrow. These themes are designed to encourage students to explore emerging technologies, sustainable solutions, and practical innovations relevant to everyday life and the future. Adding further value to the competition, a total prize pool of 62,000 will be awarded to outstanding participants. The best working model will also be considered for incubation support through the Kalinga Incubation Foundation (KIF), offering students an opportunity to take their innovative ideas beyond the competition and explore their potential for further development.

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

DIWALI GET-TOGETHER OF RADA

RADA's grand Diwali get-together concludes with great joy and enthusiasm



RAIPUR: Continuing its annual tradition, the Raipur Automobile Dealers Association (RADA) hosted a grand Diwali get-together. Automobile dealers from Raipur and various other cities across the state participated in the event with great enthusiasm, accompanied by their families.

During the celebration, members and their families exchanged warm Diwali wishes and lit lamps, sharing in the joy and festive spirit of the occasion. The entire venue glowed with the light of the lamps, reflecting a sense of harmony and close-knit, familial warmth. On this occasion, RADA President Kailash Khemani extended his heartfelt Diwali greetings to all members and their families, wishing them happiness, prosperity, and well-being. He expressed his sincere gratitude to the entire RADA team, office-bearers, and everyone involved in organizing the event for making it such a successful and memorable experience. He remarked that RADA's true strength lies in its unity, mutual cooperation, and the strong, family-like bonds shared among its members.

A special 'Kids Game Zone' was set up for the children, where they thoroughly enjoyed various games and entertaining activities. Additionally, family-oriented games were organized, in which members and their families participated with great zeal.

ROBOTEX INT'NL GRAND FINAL IN S. KOREA

Raipur's Parakram Sinha and Moh. Gaus Ansari selected for International Robotics competition

RAIPUR: Two promising students from Chhattisgarh are set to bring laurels to the country and the state by showcasing their technical talent on an international platform. Parakram Sinha and Mohammad Gaus Ansari, Class 7 students of Vedic International School in Raipur, have been selected for the Robotex International Grand Final, scheduled to be held in South Korea on November 28 and 29, 2026. Both students will represent India in this prestigious international competition.

The two students paid a courtesy call on CM Vishnu Deo Sai at his Residential Office here. Welcoming their achievement, CM Sai encouraged both students and extended his best wishes for an outstanding performance at the international event. CM Sai said



that children in Chhattisgarh have no dearth of talent and capability. Given the right opportunities, encouragement, and guidance, they can make their mark at national and international levels, he noted, adding that achieving success in a modern technical field like robotics at such a young age is inspiring for other students as well.

MOCKDRILL

Joint disaster mgmt mock drill held at Maroda (MXA)

RAIPUR: The railway administration follows a regular practice of training its frontline staff, the Railway Disaster Management Team, and local citizens through practical exercises (mock drills). These exercises demonstrate the procedures to be followed during emergencies on trains, ensuring that participants are equipped to carry out rescue and relief operations efficiently in the event of an accident. Frontline staff, the Railway Disaster Management Team–comprising Accident Relief Trains (ART) and Accident Relief Medical Vans (ARMV)–along with local citizens, play a crucial role in such rescue efforts.

In this context, a joint mock drill was conducted today, Friday, November 20, 2026, at Maroda. The exercise involved the National Disaster



Response Force (NDRF) battalion from Mundali (Cuttack, Odisha), the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), the Safety Department of the Raipur Division, the Railway Disaster Management Team (ART/ARMV), and the Civil Defence organization. Participants included personnel from the NDRF, SDRF, Civil Defence, Scouts and Guides, the ART/ARMV team, the Railway Medical team, and representatives from the Commercial, Mechanical, Telecommunications, Electrical, and other departments.

SONU NIGAM GOES LIVE MIDAIR

Sonu Nigam's melodies fill the skies, passengers delight in the experience

RAIPUR: On November 20, passengers travelling from Raipur to Mumbai on an IndiGo flight had the unique opportunity to enjoy a live musical performance by Bollywood singer Sonu Nigam. At the request of the passengers, he sang several songs, briefly transforming the cabin into a concert venue. The passengers thoroughly enjoyed the performance and captured the special moment on their mobile phones; the video is now going viral on social media. It was the passengers themselves who had requested Sonu Nigam to sing.

He obliged by performing popular tracks such as "Har Ghadi Badal Rahi Hai Zindagi" and "Bijuriya." The passengers were thrilled to see him singing in their midst, and many took the chance to snap selfies with him. A social media user named Kamlesh Jain shared the video, prompting comments from others who remarked that it felt like a concert had taken place right on the flight. Many expressed how fortunate they felt to have travelled with Sonu Nigam and heard him perform live. Sonu Nigam had been in Raipur to attend the 'Oriana Fest' at AIIMS Raipur on November 19, where he gave a performance. He was returning to Mumbai on November 20 when this memorable encounter occurred on the IndiGo flight. Sonu Nigam is one of the most popular singers in the Hindi film music industry, having lent his voice to a diverse range of songs throughout his career, including romantic, patriotic, and devotional tracks. 'Kal Ho Naa Ho', 'Sandese Aate Hain', 'Yeh Dil Deewana', 'Suraj Hua Maddham', and 'Abhi Mujh Mein Kahin' are among his popular songs. He was awarded the Padma Shri in 2022.



Raipur News

Ch'garh wins 5 National PM SVANidhi awards

Ranks first nationally in fastest movers category

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: Chhattisgarh has achieved major national recognition for the effective implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) scheme and its sustained efforts toward the economic empowerment of street vendors.

At the 'SVANidhi Samman Awards 2026' organised by the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs at the Dr. Ambedkar International Centre in New Delhi on Friday, Chhattisgarh was honoured with five national awards. The state secured first place nationally in the 'Fastest Movers' category and second place in the 'Innovation and Best Practices' category. Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Urban Administration and Development, Arun Sao, received both state-level national awards. Three urban local bodies from Chhattisgarh including Bilaspur, Bade Bacheli, and Dantewada were also conferred national honours at the ceremony. Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs Manohar Lal and Union Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs Tokhan Sahu were present on the occasion.



FAST FACTS

- Chhattisgarh and 3 urban local bodies honoured at SVANidhi Samman Awards 2026 in New Delhi
- State gains national recognition for effective implementation and economic empowerment of street vendors

Principal Secretary of the Urban Administration and Development Department Sonmoni Borah, Director of Urban Administration and Development Nilesh Mahadev Kshirsagar, and Deputy Chief Executive Officer (Mission) of the State Urban Development Agency (SUDA) Sunil Agrahari accompanied the Deputy Chief Minister during the award ceremony.

In the 'Digital Adoption' category under the SVANidhi Samman Awards 2026, three urban local bodies from Chhattisgarh delivered outstanding performances. In the category of urban local bodies with a population of less than one lakh, Municipal Council Bade Bacheli secured first place in the country, while Municipal Council Dantewada ranked second. Meanwhile, in the category of urban local bodies with a population between one lakh and 10 lakh, Municipal Corporation Bilaspur achieved second place at the national level. This achievement highlights the state's concerted efforts to integrate street vendors into digital transactions, provide institutional credit facilities, and strengthen their livelihoods. Deputy Chief Minister Arun Sao said that winning two state-level national awards along with national recognition for Bilaspur, Bade Bacheli, and Dantewada in the Digital Adoption category reflects the efficient functioning and dedicated efforts of the urban local bodies.

Through the PM SVANidhi scheme, street vendors are being provided better access to institutional credit, digital transactions, and self-employment opportunities, he said, adding that the recognition will inspire urban local bodies to work with even greater commitment to bring positive change to the lives of street vendors.

CM hails Chhattisgarh's 5 National awards

Expressing happiness over the accomplishment, Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai said that the PM SVANidhi scheme, operated under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is playing a vital role in making small businesses financially self-reliant. He noted that winning five national awards is a matter of pride for the entire state, adding that securing first position nationally in the Fastest Movers category and second in Innovation and Best Practices is the outcome of effective implementation and innovative initiatives in Chhattisgarh.

MCH performs 48 surgeries in 2 days

RAIPUR: Emergency and routine surgical services continued uninterrupted at Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar Memorial Hospital (Medical College Hospital) in Raipur on November 18 and 19, with a total of 48 operations performed over the two days. According to a report from the hospital's Department of Anaesthesiology, the 48 procedures included 27 routine surgeries and 21 emergency operations. The hospital conducted 24 surgeries on each of the two days, ensuring continuity of surgical services. On November 18, a total of 16 routine procedures were performed in various operation theatres, along with eight emergency surgeries. On November 19, the hospital conducted 11 routine and 13 emergency operations. The 11 scheduled surgeries performed on November 19 were conducted in the Major Operation Theatre, ENT, Orthopaedics, Oncology and Thoracoscopy operation theatres, covering different medical specialties.



Clerical staff renew demand for higher pay scale

Central Chronicle News



RAIPUR: The long-pending demand for removing pay anomalies in the clerical cadre of Chhattisgarh has resurfaced, with employees seeking a higher pay scale, including a Grade Pay of Rs 2,800 for Assistant Grade-3 posts. The demand, which dates back nearly 45 years, is once again gaining attention ahead of the implementation of recommendations of the Eighth Pay Commission.

According to documents cited by clerical employees' organisations, the pay disparity originated in 1981, when undivided Madhya Pradesh revised the pay scales of teachers, patwaris and other field-level employees, while the clerical cadre did not receive a corresponding revision. The disparity, they claim, continued through the Fourth, Fifth, Sixth and Seventh Pay Commissions without a permanent resolution. At present, Assistant Grade-3 employees in Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh are placed in Pay Level-4 with a Grade Pay of Rs 1,900 and an initial basic salary of Rs 19,500. Employees point out that certain other states follow a different pay structure, with an initial basic salary of Rs 19,900 under Level-2 of the central pay matrix. They argue that the existing arrangement does not adequately recognise the qualifications and responsibilities associated with their posts.The recruitment requirements for Assistant Grade-3 include graduation and computer qualifications such as PGDCA or DCA. Employees have also raised concerns over the mandatory Hindi typing test, which requires a speed of 5,000 key depressions per hour. According to clerical organisations, failure to clear the test can affect annual increments and promotion prospects, with some employees reportedly remaining on the initial basic pay of Rs 19,500 for several years.

Efforts to address the disparity have continued for decades. The Brahmaswaroop Committee was constituted in 1999 to examine the pay anomalies.

NEWSLINE

ILLEGAL PARKING

RMC, Traffic Police remove illegal parking

RAIPUR: The Raipur Municipal Corporation's Zone 4 Town Planning Department, in coordination with the Traffic Police, is conducting joint drives to remove vehicles parked illegally at identified locations to improve traffic movement.

According to the civic body, such drives are undertaken periodically to clear unauthorised parking and ease traffic congestion. Action is also being initiated against abandoned and unserviceable vehicles, as well as those whose owners cannot be contacted.

The Zone 4 office sends details, including vehicle registration numbers and types, to the Additional Superintendent of Police/ Commissionerate, seeking challan action, notification to vehicle owners and removal of the vehicles. The civic body also conducts public announcements from time to time, urging vehicle owners to remove illegally parked vehicles and cooperate in maintaining smooth traffic movement.

Real-time digital monitoring improves door-to-door waste collection



Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: The Raipur Municipal Corporation has introduced a real-time digital monitoring system for door-to-door garbage collection vehicles to improve operational efficiency, ensure timely waste collection and address field-level problems more effectively. Under the new technology-driven system, the movement, timings and designated routes of garbage collection vehicles are being continuously monitored. The initiative is expected to make waste collection services more efficient, transparent and accountable. Earlier, vehicle monitoring was largely carried out manually, making it difficult to obtain accurate information about scheduled operations, route compliance and area-wise coverage. Delays or deviations from designated routes were not always detected promptly, often affecting waste collection services.

With the new system, the activities of every door-to-door garbage collection vehicle are tracked in real time. If a vehicle remains stationary at a particular location beyond the prescribed time, an alert is immediately generated at the Control and Command Centre, enabling officials to take timely corrective action.

Legal awareness camp promotes drug-free living among students

Central Chronicle News



RAIPUR: A drug de-addiction awareness camp was organised at the State-Level Tribal Boys' Hostel in Pensionbada, Raipur, under the guidance of the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Raipur, to educate students and the public about the harmful effects of substance abuse and related legal provisions.

The camp was conducted by Paralegal Volunteer Mohini Deep, who highlighted the adverse impact of drug and alcohol addiction on individual health, family relationships and society. Addressing the participants, Deep said substance abuse not only destroys an individual's health and future but also contributes to family disputes and rising criminal activities. She explained that the consumption of alcohol, tobacco, cannabis and other intoxicating substances exposes young people to serious health risks while placing an additional financial burden on their families.

She also provided information about free legal assistance and rehabilitation facilities available under the National Legal Services Authority's (NALSA) scheme for combating drug abuse.

The participants were briefed on the stringent provisions and penalties under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act relating to drug trafficking, illegal sale and other prohibited activities involving narcotic substances.

Deep explained that individuals affected by substance abuse and their family members could seek free legal advice and assistance from the District Legal Services Authority. She also informed participants about the process of connecting individuals willing to overcome addiction with government-run de-addiction and rehabilitation centres.

At the conclusion of the programme, participants took a pledge to stay away from intoxicating substances and contribute towards building a drug-free society.

Ch'garh athletes eligible for Rs 3 lakh assistance

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: Athletes representing Chhattisgarh in international sporting events, including the Olympics, World Cups, Asian Games and Commonwealth Games, can receive financial assistance of up to Rs 3 lakh for travel expenses and high-quality sports equipment under the Chhattisgarh Kreeda Protsahan Yojana. The Department of Sports and Youth Welfare has invited applications from eligible athletes for the financial year 2026-27. The last date for submitting applications is November 30. Under the scheme, financial assistance will be provided towards actual travel expenses and the cost of sports equipment, subject to a maximum of Rs 3 lakh. The admissible amount will be whichever is lower between the actual expenditure incurred or the prescribed ceiling. For sports equipment, assistance will be determined on the basis of the amount sought by the athlete or the market price of the equipment, whichever is lower. The initiative aims to support state athletes participating in international competitions by helping them meet travel costs and procure essential sporting resources.

To qualify, applicants must be native residents of Chhattisgarh and must represent the state in the concerned international competition. An athlete can receive the incentive only once in a financial year. Applicants must submit the relevant selection letter and proof of participation in the competition. Travel expenses will be assessed against actual tickets and supporting documents, while authenticated quotations and price details will be required for sports equipment. The application must include personal details such as the athlete's name, date of birth, age, address, contact information and bank account details.



| VANDE MATARAM CAMP |

Youth from 6 states get a glimpse of Ch'garh's tribal heritage

Central Chronicle News



RAIPUR: Youth from six states and Union Territories participating in the Vande Mataram Camp in Chhattisgarh explored the state's rich tribal culture, historical legacy and indigenous traditions during a field visit to prominent cultural and heritage sites in Raipur on Wednesday.

The seven-day camp, being organised by MY Bharat, Raipur, from November 17 to 23, has brought together participants from Tripura, Maharashtra, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, Telangana and Jammu & Kashmir, offering them an opportunity to experience the cultural diversity of Chhattisgarh and engage with young people from different parts of the country. The participants visited the Tribal Museum in Nava Raipur, the Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh Memorial and Tribal Freedom Fighters Museum, and Purkhauti Muktangan. At the Tribal Museum, the youth explored the lifestyle, traditions, attire, ornaments, folk art and cultural practices of various tribal communities of Chhattisgarh. The exhibits provided an insight into the state's indigenous heritage and the diversity of its tribal traditions. The visit to the Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh Memorial and Tribal Freedom Fighters Museum acquainted participants with the life and sacrifice of Veer Narayan Singh and the contribution of tribal freedom fighters to India's struggle for independence. The historical accounts highlighted the role played by tribal communities in resisting colonial rule and inspired the participants with stories of courage, sacrifice and patriotism. At Purkhauti Muktangan, the participants witnessed representations of Chhattisgarh's folk traditions.

Civic body repairs Oxizone garden lighting



Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: The Raipur Municipal Corporation has undertaken repair work on streetlights and garden lights at the city's Oxizone Garden to ensure proper illumination and prevent inconvenience to visitors. A joint team from the civic body's Zone 4 office and the headquarters' Electrical Department carried out the repair work at the garden on October 14, 2026. According to the Municipal Corporation, electrical installations, streetlights and other lighting facilities within the garden premises are inspected periodically. Maintenance and repair work is undertaken whenever required to ensure adequate illumination throughout the premises.

Bilaspur



"We are rectifying land records to ensure all eligible farmer can sell their paddy crop."

Sanjay Agrawal
Collector, Bilaspur

Land records rectified for paddy procurement

The district administration has launched a special campaign to correct land records and resolve discrepancies before the ongoing paddy procurement season.

Central Chronicle News

BILASPUR: The district administration has launched an extensive campaign to rectify discrepancies in farmers' land records to ensure that no eligible farmer is deprived of the opportunity to sell paddy during the ongoing procurement season. The initiative follows complaints regarding zero land area in registration records, discrepancies in recorded agricultural holdings and instances where crops other than paddy have been entered against cultivated land.

Taking serious note of these complaints, Collector Sanjay Agrawal has directed officials to undertake a district-wide exercise to identify and correct errors in the records. Revenue officials and employees of cooperative societies are conducting field-level inspections and verifying the actual cultivated areas to ensure that farmers can sell their produce according to their genuine agricultural holdings.

The administration has assured that the correction process will be completed at the earliest and no eligible farmer will be left out of the paddy procurement process because of discrepancies in official records.



FASTFACTS

- Records of 810 affected farmers at Pounsara and Semartal procurement centres have been corrected.
- Physical verification and technical corrections are underway to resolve the remaining 318 farmers' complaints.

As part of the campaign, problems concerning 810 farmers have already been resolved out of a total of 1,128 affected farmers registered at the Pounsara and Semartal paddy procurement centres. The remaining 318 cases are being examined through physical verification and necessary technical corrections. Under the supervision of the Sub-Divisional Officer (Revenue), Bilaspur, revenue officials and cooperative society employees are working together to expedite the process. At the Pounsara procurement centre, the Tehsildar of Beltara personally inspected the records and reviewed the complaints. Of the 714 farmers affected by discrepancies in their recorded agricultural holdings, corrections have been completed in the records of 484 farmers. The remaining 230 cases are being examined through physical verification with the assistance of revenue inspectors, cooperative society officials and other field staff. The administration also resolved the land-record problem of local farmer Gokul Prasad Sonwani immediately after examining his case. Collector Sanjay Agrawal has instructed officials to examine farmers' complaints on priority and ensure necessary corrections in the records. Cases requiring technical intervention at the government level are being forwarded in the prescribed format along with verification reports.

Tehsildars visited paddy society in Semartal

The Additional Tehsildar and Naib Tehsildar conducted an inspection at the cooperative society in Semartal. Of the 414 affected farmers, the problems of 326 have been resolved, while physical verification is continuing in the remaining 88 cases. During the inspection, officials also interacted with farmer Aniruddh Verma, who confirmed that his complaint had been resolved immediately.

Cyclone Akwan causes drizzle

BILASPUR: The impact of severe cyclonic storm Akwan, formed over the Bay of Bengal, has begun affecting weather conditions across Chhattisgarh. Overcast skies over the past three days have altered the local climate, culminating in a late-evening drizzle in Bilaspur on Thursday and temporarily halting the drop in nighttime temperatures. According to the Meteorological Department, light to moderate rainfall, along with heavy showers and thundershowers at isolated places, is likely across several districts of the state on November 20 and 21. Cold weather is expected to intensify once the cyclone's effect subsides and skies clear. On Thursday, clouds hovered over Bilaspur since morning, though the chill felt slightly sharper compared to the previous two days, prompting residents to bundle up in warm clothing as cold winds blew in the evening. On November 19, the city recorded a minimum temperature of 14 degrees Celsius–2.6 degrees below normal–while Ambikapur logged the state's lowest minimum temperature at 7.6 degrees Celsius. Initially projected to make landfall along the Andhra Pradesh coast on Thursday, Cyclone Akwan altered its trajectory and is now expected to cross the coast.

Farmers to get equal input fund of Rs 13,893 per acre: Chandel



Central Chronicle News

BILASPUR: Farmers received the price difference up to Rs 3,100 per quintal over the Minimum Support Price (MSP) on a maximum procurement of 21 quintals of paddy per acre under the Krishak Unnati Yojana. However, under the revised framework, farmers will now be provided a uniform input assistance amount of Rs 13,893 per acre. Former Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly Narayan Chandel shared this information during a press conference held at the District BJP Office today. Chandel explained that this decision grants farmers the flexibility to sell paddy according to their needs and convenience, ensuring they still receive the stipulated incentive amount even if they sell a smaller quantity relative to their registered acreage. Calling it a significant step by the state government toward boosting farmers' income, ensuring financial security, and encouraging agriculture, he added that the scheme also promotes crop diversification so farmers can transition toward profitable alternative crops. Elaborating on incentives for crop diversification, Chandel stated that the assistance for farmers opting for alternative crops in place of paddy has been increased from Rs 11,000 to Rs 15,000 per acre, with over 52,000 farmers having already registered more than 28,000 hectares under this component. Additionally, farmers cultivating crops other than paddy–such as pulses, oilseeds, maize, kodo, kutki, ragi, and cotton–will receive Rs 10,000 per acre, a provision under which 4,26,185 farmers have registered over 2.06 lakh hectares so far. he noted that between 2023 and 2025, the state govt disbursed Rs 35,904.90 crore to more than 25 lakh farmers across Chhattisgarh for Kharif crops.

FASTFACTS

- Farmers will get a uniform input assistance worth of Rs 13,893 per acre,said BJP leader Narayan Chandel.

NEWSLINE

SURVEY

Digital crop survey errors hit farmers

BILASPUR: Even as BJP leaders tour districts across Chhattisgarh to highlight pro-farmer policies and the Krishak Unnati Yojana for paddy procurement at Minimum Support Price (MSP), glaring discrepancies in government crop records have left farmers distressed.

Following the Digital Crop Survey (DCS), widespread complaints have emerged of standing paddy crops being erroneously recorded as coriander (dhaniya) and registered agricultural acreage (rakba) being drastically reduced or wiped out.

As paddy procurement gets underway, instances of flawed records are surfacing across the state. In Bilaspur district's Beltara assembly constituency alone, 1,128 farmers at the Pausara and Semartal procurement centers have reportedly been affected by record errors, with 195 of them allegedly having their acreage entered as zero. Aggrieved farmers recently approached the District Collector seeking urgent rectification.

The issue has drawn widespread attention following reports of similar lapses in Janjgir and Mahasamund districts.

Two 33 KV lines to be laid from Birkona to eliminate low-voltage

Central Chronicle News

BILASPUR: To streamline the city's power distribution system and eliminate overloading issues, the power distribution company has decided to construct two new substations in Bilaspur. Approval has been granted for setting up 33/11 kV substations in two key areas–Shankar Nagar and Kududand along the Arpa riverbank–with required funds already released by the headquarters. Once these substations and new lines are operational, the city's power distribution capacity will see a significant boost, directly benefiting thousands of consumers. Under the approved plan, Rs 3.52 crore will be spent on the Shankar Nagar substation and Rs 3.43 crore on the Kududand substation near the Arpa River. Officials stated that construction work will commence shortly, with preparations underway to charge and commission both substations by next Diwali. In addition, two new 33 kV power lines will be laid at a cost of Rs 1.80 crore to ensure uninterrupted electricity supply. The first line will run from the 132 kV Birkona substation to Ashok Nagar, while the second line will extend from Birkona into the city interior. Upon completion of these projects, the number of feeders in the city will increase from 20 to 22, easing the extra load on existing substations and lines and providing major relief from tripping and low-voltage problems, particularly during summer. Ganesh Nagar Substation to Become Operational Next Month, In further relief for residents, construction of the new 33/11 kV substation in Ganesh Nagar has entered its final phase. The power distribution company has set a target to commission the facility by December, which is expected to end frequent power fluctuations in adjoining colonies. Executive Director A.K. Ambast stated that approval has been received for two new substations in the city.



FASTFACTS

- Two new 33 kV lines would be laid from Birkona to eliminate low-voltage and tripping issues in the region.

| OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH RULES |

HC questions state govt over delay in framing health rules

Central Chronicle News

High Court expresses displeasure over state government's identical reply in three hearings on occupational health rules

BILASPUR: The Chhattisgarh High Court has expressed strong displeasure over the state government's delay in framing rules to protect workers falling ill due to industrial pollution. During a hearing on Thursday, a Division Bench headed by the Chief Justice questioned the government over the prolonged delay in finalising the occupational health hazard rules.

During the proceedings, the state government informed the court that the process of framing the Occupational Health Hazard Rules, 2026, had reached its final stage. The government's counsel submitted that the draft rules had already been sent to the Law Ministry for examination and had received legal vetting. The file is now awaiting final approval at the ministerial level. The government assured the court that the rules would be notified and published immediately after receiving the necessary clearance. However, the Chief Justice expressed dissatisfaction with the explanation, observing that the government had been giving the same assurance during the previous three hearings without taking any concrete action. The court questioned how long the rules would remain at the final stage and why they had not been implemented despite repeated assurances. The bench took serious note of the delay and directed the state government to complete the rule-making process and clearly explain its position. In response, the government reiterated that the file was currently before the concerned minister for final approval and that the notification would be issued shortly. The court's observations underline the need for timely implementation of occupational health safeguards for workers exposed to industrial pollution and hazardous working conditions.



FASTFACTS

- Division Bench questions delay in enacting regulations to protect workers from industrial pollution; state says 2026 draft rules await final ministerial approval

OFFENCE

Two youth rob man of valuables

BILASPUR: Two youths allegedly robbed a man of valuables worth approximately Rs 60,000 after taking a lift on his two-wheeler on the pretext of helping him under the Torwa police station limits. Police have registered a case based on the victim's complaint and launched a search to nab the culprits.

According to the complaint lodged with Torwa police, Somesh, a resident living opposite Ram Tent House in Deoridih, works as an Area Sales Manager. Around 7:45 PM on November 14, he was returning home on his Activa scooter after dropping off poha at a friend's house in Lalkhadan Mahmand. While passing near the liquor shop on the main road, he suddenly lost balance and fell off his two-wheeler.

TRAIN ING

ITI to provide free computer training

BILASPUR: Government Women's ITI, Koni, will provide free computer training to women and girls under the Chief Minister's Skill Development Scheme.

Applications have been invited for 30 seats in the Digital Mitra (Computer) course. The training programme will have a total duration of 240 hours. Interested candidates can submit their applications in the prescribed format by November 27, 2026. Applicants must have passed Class 12 to be eligible for admission.

| ARPA RIVER |

Drone survey to begin for revival of Arpa River

Central Chronicle News

BILASPUR: A fresh initiative is set to begin to make the Arpa River perennial and pollution-free, with the Water Resources Department planning a drone survey at an estimated cost of Rs 20 lakh once the ongoing paddy harvest concludes. Conducted with the assistance of experts from the National Institute of Technology (NIT), the scientific study will assess the river's current condition, water flow, and obstructions to draft a comprehensive master plan for essential structures and interventions.

The primary goal is to ensure a continuous flow of clean water in the Arpa even after the monsoon season, preventing the river from turning into a stagnant pool of sewage, said the nodal officer of Water Resources Department. . Currently, survey operations are awaiting the completion of paddy harvesting in adjoining fields. Earlier, the District Panchayat had attempted to restore the Arpa's flow by reviving 72 streams connected to the river to boost natural water inflow.

However, despite spending lakhs of rupees, the initiative failed to yield the expected results, leaving the challenge of maintaining natural post-monsoon flow unresolved. The Arpa's biggest issue is the drying up of natural water flow once the rainy season ends, leaving large stretches filled with untreated municipal sewage.



"The primary goal is to ensure a continuous flow of clean water in the Arpa River."

Nodal Officer
Water Resources Dept

Angered by love marriage, father & son stab daughter

Central Chronicle News

BILASPUR: Enraged over his daughter's love marriage, a man, along with his son, launched a brutal knife attack on his daughter and son-in-law in the Civil Lines police station area. Three other members of the groom's family who intervened to rescue the couple were also stabbed before the father-son duo fled the scene. Police rushed the injured to the hospital, where the couple remains in critical condition. According to police, Shahid Ali, a driver residing in Mangla Dhuripara, lives with his family, including his son Sameer Ali, who works for a dairy company. Around a year ago, Sameer entered into a love marriage with a young woman from the same neighborhood, and the couple has been living together since. On Thursday night, while Sameer was at home with his wife and family, his father-in-law, Balram Kashyap, arrived at the house accompanied by his son, with his face covered in a gamchha (scarf).

N-E-W-S



India's first indigenous H5N1 bird flu vaccine, developed by ICAR & National Institute of High Security Animal Diseases, Bhopal."

Shivraj Singh Chouhan
Union Minister

Prez Murmu stresses integrated approach for health security

President highlights cooperation between medical disciplines to strengthen disease prevention and public healthcare.

Press Trust Of India



NEW DELHI: President Droupadi Murmu on Friday called for closer cooperation among human medicine, veterinary science and environmental research, saying an integrated approach was essential to advance the concept of One Health. She was addressing the 12th convocation of Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Medical Sciences and Dr Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital in New Delhi.

The President said human beings, animals, plants and the environment were closely connected, and a health problem in one area could affect others. Several infectious diseases pass from animals to humans, while air and water pollution, climate change and environmental imbalances also pose serious threats. She said coordination among specialists from different disciplines could improve disease prevention, enable early detection and strengthen preparedness for future health emergencies. Murmu stressed that social, economic, nutritional and environmental conditions must be considered while preventing and treating diseases. She called for research that responds to local health challenges and encourages preventive measures suited to the needs of different communities. The President noted that the National Health Policy, revised in 2017, placed greater emphasis on preventive and promotive healthcare alongside treatment.

HIGHLIGHT

- **Murmu urges graduating doctors to improve affordable healthcare access, particularly for disadvantaged communities.**

She also referred to the growing burden of non-communicable diseases, including mental stress, diabetes and cancer, and said prevention required sustained attention. The government's healthcare initiatives over the past decade had expanded services from primary to tertiary levels, she said.

Rural sanitation aims accessible toilets and improved hygiene

Central Chronicle News



NEW DELHI: The Ministry of Jal Shakti has launched a nationwide campaign to improve the condition, accessibility and maintenance of toilets in rural India, with special attention to women, girl students and persons with disabilities. The initiative, titled Swachh Shauchalay - Garimamay Bhavishya, was launched on World Toilet Day, November 19, under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen). The ministry issued details of the campaign on Friday. The drive will continue until December 10, Human Rights Day. The Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation has also introduced an online reporting module through which states and Union Territories can submit progress updates. The campaign seeks to assess community sanitation complexes and toilets in schools, Anganwadi centres, Panchayat buildings and other public institutions, and arrange repairs or restoration wherever necessary.

FASTFACTS

- **States must assess community toilets, undertake repairs and strengthen sanitation facilities before December 10.**

NEWSLINE

BULANDSHAHR

Gangster killed in encounter

A wanted gangster was killed in an encounter involving the Delhi Police and the Noida Special Task Force in Bulandshahr. The deceased was identified as Naseem Durrani, who was allegedly involved in several criminal cases. Police said he was suspected of having a role in the November 16 murder of Sameer, who was shot dead outside the Sonia Vihar camp office of Delhi Law Minister Kapil Mishra. According to investigators, Durrani had around 25 criminal cases registered against him. He was also suspected of having links with the Chhota Shakeel gang. Acting on intelligence inputs, the police teams launched a joint operation to arrest him.

NOIDA

Noida man held after encounter

A 20-year-old man has been arrested by Noida Police following an encounter in connection with the alleged sexual assault of a 12-year-old girl. Police said the accused was apprehended after an operation launched to trace him following the registration of a complaint. He allegedly attempted to evade arrest, leading to an exchange of fire with the police team.

An illegal pistol and a motorcycle were recovered from the accused.

SAHARANPUR

Theft case solved, valuables recovered

Saharanpur Police have arrested two men in connection with a burglary at the residence of a jewellery businessman and recovered valuables worth approximately Rs 45 lakh. The theft had triggered an investigation after jewellery and other expensive articles were reported missing from the house.

Police said investigators examined CCTV footage and gathered information about the suspected movements of the accused. Surveillance and intelligence inputs helped the team identify the alleged burglars. Both suspects were subsequently arrested.

NEW DELHI

Six accused held in drug racket

The Narcotics Control Bureau, in coordination with the United States Drug Enforcement Administration, has arrested six people in a major operation against an international drug trafficking network. The operation, named Monsoon Thunder, involved searches at several locations in Hyderabad, Delhi, Kolkata and Lucknow between November 4 and 13. Investigators examined the suspected movement of psychotropic and opioid medicines through parcel and courier networks. Officials said the network was allegedly involved in the distribution of nearly five lakh tablets between June 2022 and November 2026.

| INDIGENOUS VACCINE |

India launches first indigenous H5N1 vaccine for poultry disease

Press Trust Of India

India introduces its first indigenous H5N1 vaccine to strengthen poultry health and disease prevention.



BHOPAL: The Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan dedicated the vaccine, developed by ICAR-National Institute of High Security Animal Diseases (ICAR-NIHSAD), Bhopal, to the nation on November 20. The vaccine has been developed against the H5N1 virus, Clade 2.3.2.1a, responsible for several bird flu outbreaks among poultry. It is an inactivated vaccine intended to strengthen protection of chickens against highly pathogenic avian influenza. The development marks an important step towards strengthening India's domestic veterinary healthcare capabilities.

Audit of digital payment ordered

CHANDIGARH: The Haryana government has directed all departments to conduct an audit of their online portals and digital payment systems to prevent financial fraud. The decision follows concerns over the growing risks associated with online transactions and the possibility of security weaknesses in government payment platforms.

Chief Secretary Anurag Rastogi has instructed departments to examine their existing digital systems and identify vulnerabilities that could be exploited by fraudsters.

| YAMUNA POLLUTION |

Centre approves two Delhi sewage plants to reduce Yamuna pollution

Press Trust Of India



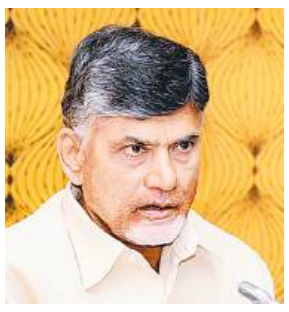
NEW DELHI: The Centre has approved two sewage treatment plants in Delhi with a combined capacity of 250 million litres per day at an estimated cost of Rs 874.49 crore.

The projects are intended to reduce the discharge of untreated sewage into the Yamuna and narrow the gap between sewage generation and treatment capacity in the capital. The approval was granted by the empowered committee of the National Mission for Clean Ganga. One plant, with a capacity of 159 million litres per day, will be constructed at Rithala at a cost of Rs 509.54 crore. The second, with a capacity of 91 million litres per day, will come up near the outfall of Sen Nursing Home Drain close to Indraprastha Metro Station. Its estimated cost is Rs 362.95 crore. Both projects will be funded under the Namami Gange Mission-III and implemented through a hybrid annuity model under a public-private partnership arrangement. The facilities are expected to treat additional sewage before it reaches the river, particularly along one of its heavily polluted stretches. The approval comes amid continuing concern over the condition of the Yamuna in Delhi.

| CYCLONE AKVAN |

Andhra CM reviews cyclone response after Akvan crosses coastal region

Press Trust Of India



VIJAYAWADA: Cyclone Akvan crossed the south Odisha coast and north Andhra Pradesh near Gopalpur on Friday morning, bringing heavy rainfall and strong winds to coastal districts. The India Meteorological Department said the system crossed between 7.30 am and 8.30 am, with winds of 70 to 80 kilometres per hour and gusts reaching 90 kilometres per hour. Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu had placed coastal districts on high alert ahead of the storm and directed administrations to prepare for heavy rain, flooding and disruption. National and State Disaster Response Force teams were positioned in vulnerable areas, while electricity restoration crews were asked to remain ready with poles, transformers and conductors. The state administration advised fishermen not to venture into the sea and urged coastal residents to follow official warnings. Authorities monitored fishing boats along the 1,053-kilometre coastline and issued voice alerts to fishing communities. Farmers were advised to harvest mature crops where possible and clear drainage channels to prevent waterlogging.

Guruvayur Indrasen pays homage to legendary tusker



Temple elephant Guruvayur Indrasen pays homage before the statue of the legendary tusker, left, during the annual memorial ceremony as part of the Ekadasi celebrations at the Sree Krishna Temple in Guruvayur, in Friday

| START-UP POLICY |

Assam Cabinet clears municipal boards, startup policy and farm subsidies



GUWAHATI: The Assam Cabinet has approved the creation of six new municipal boards and a series of measures covering agriculture, higher education, land administration and local governance. The decisions were taken at a meeting chaired by Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Thursday and reported on Friday. The new municipal boards will be established at Laluk, Harmutty-Banderdewa, Ghilamara, Majuli, Udharbond and Mirza-Bijoynagar. The Cabinet also approved expansion and ward delimitation in 23 existing urban local bodies. Amendments to laws governing the Matak, Kamatapur and Moran autonomous councils will enable elections to their general councils on a non-political party basis.

Gujarat CM visits tribal household during Dahod district outreach programme



GANDHINAGAR: Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel visited a tribal household in Dahod district during his three-day tour of the region, interacting with residents and reviewing the reach of welfare programmes in remote settlements. The visit took place at the home of Jaswantsinh Rathod in Bhamatalai Faliya of Garbada taluka, where the family welcomed the Chief Minister. According to the Chief Minister's Office, Patel spent time with the family and listened to traditional tribal devotional songs. He also shared local food with the household, an interaction intended to understand community life and the impact of public welfare initiatives at the village level. Villagers spoke with him during the visit and discussed local conditions.

The Chief Minister's district tour has focused on direct engagement with residents and assessing the implementation of government programmes in tribal areas.

| CHEETAH CUBS |

Four cheetah cubs born; population reaches 62

Press Trust Of India



BHOPAL: India's cheetah population has risen to 62 after a female brought from Botswana gave birth to four cubs in the wild at Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh on Friday. The mother, identified as KOMG 3, is two-and-a-half years old and is the first female cheetah from Botswana to give birth in India. Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav announced the development, describing it as an important milestone for Project Cheetah. The female had spent more than four months in the wild before giving birth under natural conditions. The four cubs are reported to be healthy. The birth is the second recorded instance of cheetahs reproducing in the wild since the reintroduction programme began in 2022. With the latest additions, the country's total population stands at 62, including 43 cheetahs born in India. The development is significant because successful reproduction in natural conditions is an important indicator of the programme's long-term progress.

Delhi Police foil planned influencer attack; 2 held

NEW DELHI: Delhi Police have arrested two armed men and detained a minor for allegedly planning an attack on a social media influencer in the Nizamuddin area. The arrests followed an investigation into information about a possible assault being organised by members of a criminal network. Police suspect that the accused were connected with the Rashid Cablewala gang. During the operation, officers recovered five semi-automatic pistols and ammunition from the accused. Investigators are examining whether the weapons were arranged specifically for the planned attack or were part of a wider criminal operation.

The education provided through the NCC is not limited to military training alone; rather, it provides qualities such as courage, concentration, and discipline.

OP Choudhary
FM - Ch'garh



Bilaspur Region

Dist youth festival showcases folk culture and talent

A district-level youth festival was held in Korba under chief guest Lakhan Lal Dewangan.

Central Chronicle News

KORBA: A district-level Youth Festival was organised with great enthusiasm at Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru Auditorium, ITI Chowk, Rampur, showcasing the artistic talent and cultural heritage of young people from all five development blocks of Korba district.

Chhattisgarh Cabinet Minister for Commerce, Industry, Labour, Excise and Public Sector Undertakings, Lakhan Lal Dewangan, attended the event as the chief guest. The festival was organised by the District Administration and the Department



of Sports and Youth Welfare. Addressing the gathering, Dewangan said the festival provides an important platform for young people to showcase their abilities in art, culture and creative activities. He encouraged the youth to contribute towards PM Narendra Modi's vision of Viksit Bharat 2047 through hard work, innovation and dedication. He also highlighted the state government's efforts under Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai to promote opportunities for youth in education, science, sports and culture.

Speaking about farmers' welfare, Dewangan said paddy procurement for the Kharif marketing year 2026-27 was being carried out at Rs 3,100 per quintal, up to 21 quintals per acre. He also mentioned the provision of Rs 13,839 per acre as input assistance under specified conditions. Mayor Sanjudevi Rajput and Zila Panchayat President Dr Pawan Singh also addressed the gathering and encouraged participants.

Winners and Runners-up

- **Folk Dance:** Muskan Rani Kanwar and team (PG College, Korba) won, while Thirman Das and team were runners-up.
- **Folk Songs:** Kanhaiya Lal's team from Podi-Uprora won, followed by Thirman Das's team.
- **Painting:** Ankit Kumar Kanwar won, while Alisha Tiyu was runner-up.
- **Poetry:** Richa Swarnkar won, followed by Aastha Gupta.
- **Reel Challenge:** Richa Swarnkar secured first place, while Tarun Shrivas was runner-up.
- **Traditional Attire:** Archana Lakra and Jai Verudkar were declared winners.
- **Street Play:** Lovely Sidar's team from Pali won, while Aastha's team from Prayas Residential School, Dingapur, secured second place.

Pradeep Tamrakar pays tribute to Indira Gandhi

Central Chronicle News

TAKHATPUR: The birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was observed by the Congress Seva Dal with a programme that began with the garlanding of her portrait, followed by the singing of 'Vande Mataram'. The event was presided over by Lala Ram Patel.

Addressing the gathering, Patel highlighted Indira Gandhi's contributions, particularly the nationalisation of 14 major banks in 1969, which expanded banking facilities for ordinary citizens and farmers. He also recalled her role in promoting the Green Revolution to make India self-reliant in food production. Congress Seva Dal State General Secretary Pradeep Tamrakar said Indira Gandhi sacrificed her life for the nation. He highlighted key developments during her tenure, including the 1971 war, the creation of Bangladesh, abolition of privy purses and India's first successful nuclear test at Pokhran in 1974.

FASTFACTS

- On Thursday, the Congress Seva Dal observed the birth anniversary of former PM Indira Gandhi.
- Pradeep Tamrakar stated that the late PM sacrificed her life for the country's security.

CASES REGISTERED

Rs 5000 fine collected under COTPA

SURAJPUR: Under the National Tobacco Control Programme, a joint team of the Food and Drug Administration and Police Department conducted an enforcement drive in Bishrampur on Nov 17 to curb tobacco consumption and smoking in public places. Acting on the Collector's instructions and under the guidance of the Chief Medical and Health Officer, the team registered 50 cases under the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA), 2003, and collected Rs 5,000 in fines. During the campaign, officials educated shopkeepers and citizens about restrictions on smoking and tobacco consumption in public places.

| SUCCESSFUL KNEE REPLACEMENT |

Shivaay Hospital holds successful knee replacement

Central Chronicle News

KORBA: At the age of 77, when knee pain begins to slow down one's life–making walking difficult and turning simple, everyday tasks into major challenges–a glimmer of hope feels like a true blessing. This is the story of 77-year-old Meena Manoharrao Deshmukh from Korba, who sought medical treatment to find relief from severe knee issues. She underwent a successful double knee replacement



at Shivaay Hospital, located in TP Nagar. The surgery was performed by senior joint replacement surgeon Dr. Santosh Rathore (MS Ortho). To ensure a smooth recovery, the patient underwent a regimen of regular physiotherapy. Under the guidance of Dr. Aman Srivastava, she received 15 consecutive days of physiotherapy. Following the treatment, Meena Deshmukh is showing clear progress in returning to her normal daily activities.

The decision to undergo a double knee replacement was driven by the hope for a better quality of life. The medical team at Shivaay Hospital meticulously planned and executed both the surgery and the subsequent recovery process.

Baikunthpur job fair on Nov 26

KORIYA: The District Employment and Self-Employment Guidance Centre, Baikunthpur, will organise a one-day job fair on Nov 26, 2026, offering 172 vacancies across four private-sector employers. The fair will be held at the employment centre premises behind the Zila Panchayat office in the Collectorate complex, near Garhkalewa. SBI Life will offer two Sales Officer positions and 20 commission-based Life Mitra posts. Palak Foundation has 25 Care Taker vacancies, while Vedanta Skill School Limited will recruit 25 candidates for Hotel Management roles.

| TRIBAL PRIDE DAY CELEBRATED |

MlLA honours tribal heritage

Central Chronicle News

MUNGELI: District-level Tribal Pride Day (Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas) was celebrated with enthusiasm at Kabir Bhavan in Lormi, highlighting tribal culture, traditions and contributions to India's freedom struggle and nation-building.

Chhattisgarh Cabinet Minister and district incharge Lakhanlal Dewangan attended as the chief guest. He paid tribute to tribal heroes, including Veer Narayan Singh, Gend Singh and Mata Rajmohini Devi, recalling



their sacrifices in protecting the country's water, forests and land.

Dewangan highlighted government initiatives for tribal welfare, including the Pradhan Mantri Janman Yojana, and stressed the importance of tribal development.

Zila Panchayat President Shrikant Pandey and Collector Amrit Vikas Topno also emphasised preserving tribal heritage and drawing inspiration from freedom fighters such as Bhagwan Birsa Munda.

Students who excelled in district-level drawing and essay-writing competitions were honoured with school bags.

PADDY PROCUREMENT

Smooth paddy purchase at MSP

KORBA: Paddy procurement at Minimum Support Price (MSP) for the Kharif marketing year 2026-27 is progressing smoothly across the district through 73 procurement centres operated by 60 cooperative societies. District Food Officer G S Kanwar informed that 5,756 quintals of paddy were procured on November 19. For November 20, a total of 67 tokens were issued across 32 cooperative societies for the procurement of 192.44 metric tonnes of paddy. Collector Kunal Dudawat has directed officials to ensure proper arrangements at all procurement centres.

| INSPECTION OF SWEETS SHOPS |

12 food samples collected ahead of Diwali

Central Chronicle News

KORIYA: Ahead of Diwali, the Food and Drug Administration collected 12 samples of sweets, khoya and namkeen from eight food establishments in Koriya district between November 3 and 5.

Samples included rasgulla, peda, chamcham, sonpapdi, laddus, barfi and other food items. The Food Safety Officer informed the Deputy Director on November 19 that further action would be taken based on laboratory reports.



Meanwhile, Chief Medical and Health Officer Dr Balwant Singh reviewed national health programmes following instructions from Collector Roktima Yadav.

He directed health officials to ensure pregnancy registration within the first 12 weeks, timely identification of high-risk pregnancies and regular monitoring. He also stressed institutional deliveries, timely vaccination and proper recording of health data. Maternal and infant mortality reduction, TB, leprosy and non-communicable disease programmes were also reviewed.

| TRIBAL PRIDE DAY CELEBRATED |

Kelhari celebrates tribal pride; Rs 45 lakh announced for devp

Central Chronicle News

MCB: The Manendragarh-Chirmiri-Bharatpur (MCB) district administration celebrated the 151st birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda as Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas at Swami Atmanand School grounds in Kelhari.

Bharatpur-Sonhat MLA Renuka Singh attended as the chief guest and announced Rs 45 lakh for installing statues of



tribal icons. Rs 15 lakh each was allocated for statues of Bhagwan Birsa Munda in Manendragarh, Rani Durgavati in Bharatpur and Veer Narayan Singh in Khadgawan. Addressing the gathering, Singh highlighted the sacrifices of tribal freedom fighters and the importance of preserving tribal culture, traditions and languages. She also highlighted development initiatives under the Pradhan Mantri Janman Yojana.

Traditional folk dances, songs and tribal art performances were major attractions. Departmental stalls showcased handicrafts, jewellery and local cuisine.

MEETING

KAGSMM elections on Monday

MASTURI: An important meeting of the Kendriya Adivasi Gond Samaj Malhar Mahasabha, Masturi block of Bilaspur dist, will be held on Monday, Nov 23, at 5 PM at Gondwana Bhawan in Manikchauri. The meeting will be attended by Mahasabha office-bearers and representatives of all affiliated sub-centres. The main agenda is the election or nomination of a new president following the demise of former president Pratap Singh Nag.

FM credits Modi for honouring tribal heritage

JASHPUR: Janjatiya Gaurav Divas was celebrated at Sarna Ethnic Resort in Balchapar, Jashpur, to mark the birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda.

Finance Minister and district in-charge OP Choudhary attended as the chief guest and paid tribute to tribal freedom fighters. Choudhary highlighted the contributions of tribal heroes



and the government's initiatives for tribal welfare. He also discussed development projects in Jashpur, including a medical college in Kunkuri, Nalanda Parisar and improved road and healthcare facilities. Encouraging students, he urged youth to dream big and prepare for competitive examinations, stating that even children from small villages can become IAS and IPS officers.

He announced grants of Rs 10,000 each for cultural groups participating in the programme. Tribal families, national-level cricket achievers and women beneficiaries of the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana were also honoured.

Central Bank organises Mega MSME credit outreach camp

AMBIKAPUR: A Mega MSME Credit Outreach Camp was organized by the Central Bank of India, Regional Office, Ambikapur, on Nov 20, at the Government Polytechnic College, Ambikapur. The objective of the event was to provide information about the bank's various MSME loan schemes to local entrepreneurs, busi-



ness owners, and individuals aspiring to start new businesses, as well as to promote self-employment and entrepreneurship. The event was presided over by R. J. Pandey, Principal of the Government Polytechnic College, Ambikapur. The chief guests included Santosh Singh (CA), President of the CA Association, Ambikapur, and Ashwini Shukla, Assistant Director at the District Trade and Industries Centre (DIC), Surguja.

YOUTH PARLIAMENT

Tanushree tops Mungeli youth Parliament

MUNGELI: The 'Mera Yuva Bharat' initiative, under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, organised a district-level 'Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament' at Sakshi Bhawan, Mungeli. The theme was "Drug-Free Youth for a Developed India," focusing on the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.

The programme was held under the guidance of Deputy Director Nitin Sharma. Janpad Panchayat President Ramkamal Singh Parihar attended as the chief guest. Participants presented their views within three minutes each, with judges evaluating their understanding, creativity, expression and time management.

| NATIONAL WATER AWARDS CONTENDER |

Central team evaluates water conservation initiatives

Central Chronicle News

SURAJPUR: Surajpur district is gaining national recognition for its efforts in water conservation, groundwater recharge and effective water management.

As part of the 7th National Water Awards 2026, organised by the Union Ministry of Jal



Shakti, a two-member central team visited the district to inspect water conservation structures and livelihood activities. The team comprised Ghanshyam Patel, Deputy Director, Indian Engineering Services, and Dheeraj Kumar Hans, Assistant Director. Following the district's shortlisting, the officials conducted field inspections to assess the impact of various initiatives. Final winners will be selected by a jury based on the inspection report.

The team visited Kuberpur, Silphili, Devipur, Masira, Chandaura and Kedarpur villages across different blocks. Officials inspected water-harvesting wells, contour trenches, gabion check dams, earthen dams and Amrit Sarovars.

In Chandaura, villagers informed the team that water availability had improved significantly following the construction of conservation structures.

965 paddy sacks seized from two warehouses

RAIGARH: Acting on the instructions of Raigarh Collector Mayank Chaturvedi, the district administration has intensified inspections to prevent illegal storage of paddy by traders and middlemen during the procurement season.

In a recent operation, a joint administrative team seized 965 sacks of paddy from two warehouses in Jhagarpur village under Lailunga tehsil. The team, led by Lailunga SDM Rakesh Kumar Verma and comprising a Food Inspector and Naib Tehsildar, found 900 sacks stored in a warehouse belonging to Santosh Agrawal and 65 sacks in another warehouse owned by Vikas Agrawal.

Fun&Focus

IT'S QUIZ TIME

1. In the Mahabharata, Ashwatthama had a divine gem, or Mani, on his forehead that gave him special powers. After his attack on the Pandava camp, he was forced to surrender it. To whom was the gem given?



2. Which Indian sportsperson made history on September 13, 2026, by winning the men's individual recurve gold medal at the Hyundai Archery World Cup Final in Saltillo, Mexico?



3. In 2024, which European country approved a law allowing full-time employees to request a four-day work week without a reduction in salary?



4. Anant Nag, recently conferred the Dadasaheb Phalke Award, has acted in over 300 films across several Indian languages. His first feature was the Kannada film Sankalpa (1973), followed by Ankur (1974). He also acted in several popular television series. Which was the first television series in which he appeared?



5. Who was the first Indian woman to receive a PhD in a scientific discipline completing her doctorate at Cambridge University in 1939?



6. The Bodo community of Assam has a traditional rice-based drink made by fermenting rice with the bark of a local tree. It is mildly alcoholic and is traditionally served during festivals, ceremonies and social gatherings. What is this drink called that has got a GI tag?



7. Which African country is the world's largest producer of cocoa beans, supplying nearly 40% of the world's cocoa and making its harvest crucial to the global chocolate industry?



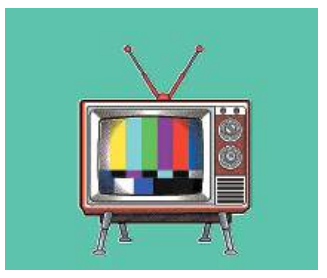
Answers-

(1) Yudhishthira (2) Dhiraj Bommadevara (3) Belgium
(4) Malgudi Days (5) Kamala Sohonie (6) Jou (7) Cote d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast)

RamaQuiz

SCIENCE WATCH

The Basic Science of Television



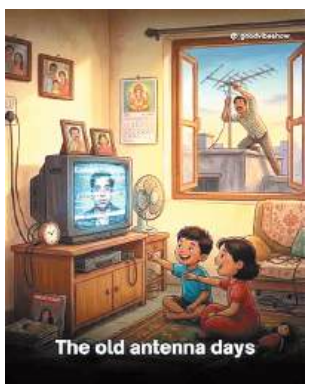
Television turns light, sound, and invisible signals into moving pictures and audio inside your home. The screens are made of thousands or millions of tiny dots called pixels that light up in different colours to build a picture. Today is World Television Day.

A Teenager's Big Idea



In 1921, 14-year-old Philo Farnsworth got the idea for electronic TV while plowing rows in a field. He drew his TV idea on a chalkboard for his high school chemistry teacher, who later helped him conceptualise the idea. Beyond television, Farnsworth earned around 300 patents during his life and later built a fusion device called the fusor too.

TV in India



Experimental TV broadcasting in India started in Delhi on September 15, 1959, and in 1975–1976 a satellite project (SITE) helped beam educational shows to rural areas. Doordarshan was India's first TV channel. For many years, it was the only channel people could watch.

THE LEGEND – "The Fearless Queen' – Rani Abbakka



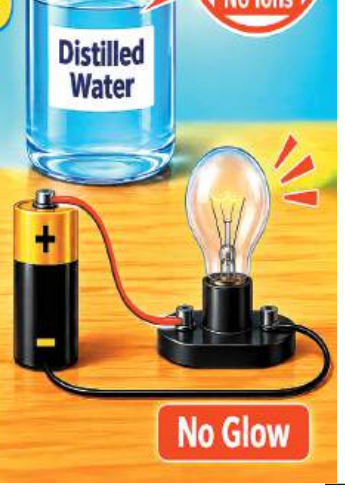
1. Rani Abbakka Chowta was a brave 16th-century queen from Ullal in coastal Karnataka, India, who fought against Portuguese invaders for more than 40 years.
2. People called her "Abhaya Rani," which means "The Fearless Queen," because she refused to back down.
3. She ruled the port town of Ullal (near Mangaluru) from around 1525 to 1570. Because Ullal was a busy trading port on the Arabian Sea, the Portuguese wanted to take it over, and Abbakka stopped their attacks again and again.
4. When Portuguese forces marched into Ullal in 1568, Abbakka escaped and gathered around 200 soldiers for a surprise night attack. Her team defeated Portuguese General Peixoto and captured 70 soldiers.
5. She also teamed up with other rulers, like the Zamorin of Calicut, to stand up against the Portuguese.
6. Though Abbakka followed Jainism, her army and court included people of different faiths and backgrounds and local fisherfolk who knew the sea well.
7. Her stories live on through folk songs and colorful Yakshagana dance-dramas in Karnataka. India has also honored her with a special stamp, statues, a Coast Guard patrol ship named ICGS Rani Abbakka, and a comic book in Amar Chitra Katha.

TELL ME WHY?

Why doesn't distilled water conduct electricity?

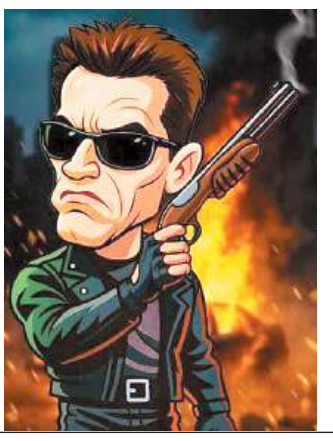
Distilled water does not conduct electricity well because it lacks ions–tiny charged particles that carry electric current through a liquid.

Electric current needs "stepping stones" and when electricity flows through water when charged particles (ions) move from one place to another. Without them, electric current gets blocked.



NOVEMBER 21-THE DAY IN HISTORY

1. November 21 marks several major milestones in Indian history, including the launch of India's first sounding rocket from Thumba in 1963 and the 1962 Sino-Indian War ceasefire.
2. Same day in 1947, independent India issued its first postage stamp and Nobel laureate physicist Sir C. V. Raman passed away in 1970.
3. On Novemver 21, 1971: Indian forces and the Mukti Bahini engaged Pakistani forces in the Battle of Garibpur ahead of the full-scale 1971 war.
4. Also on this day in 1976 Sylvester Stallone's boxing drama Rocky debuted in New York City and Thomas Edison announced his invention of the phonograph, capable of recording and playing back sound in 1877.



Daily Horoscope

Aries
Try to relax in-between work and avoid late nights. Investment made today will enhance your prosperity and financial security. Guests crowd your house for a pleasant and wonderful evening. You will know today that the love of your partner is truly soulful for you. Today, you'll plan to reorganize your house and clean the mess.

Taurus
Take special care while sitting to avoid an injury. Further good posture not only enhances one's personality but also plays an important role in improving health and confidence. Due to a function being organized at home, you will have to spend a lot of money today. This can negatively affect your financial condition.

Gemini
A wonderful day to do things that would make you feel good about yourself. New moneymaking opportunities will be lucrative. Give proper time to your family. Let them feel that you care for them. Sped your quality time with them. Don't give any chance to complain. Don't forget to forgive your beloved today.

Cancer
Today is not a very high-energy day for you and you will get irritated over small matters. It is possible for you to face money-related problems today, but with your understanding and wisdom, you can turn the tables and transform your loss into profit. You need to spend some time with children and teach them good values and let them know their responsibilities.

Leo
Sheer pleasure and enjoyment for you- as you set about to enjoy life to the fullest. Travel for some prove hectic and stressful-but financially rewarding. Family members will be supportive but highly demanding. Wrong communication might create a trouble today, but you will be able to manage it by sitting and talking.

Virgo
Smile as it is best antidote for all your problems. Be secretive about your investments and about your future goals. Do not rush after fantasies and try being more realistic-Spend some time with your friends-as it will do a world of good. Be original in your appearance and behaviour. Today, to make good use of the free time.

Libra
Evening with friends will be pleasant but take care of excessive eating and hard drinks. If you were about to take a loan and had been engaged in this work for a long time, then today is your lucky day. Children will demand more attention-but will behave supportive and caring. You will make up your mind to do some of your favourite things today.

Scorpio
Cultivate a generous attitude towards life. There is no use of complaining and getting upset over your living conditions. It is the beggarly thinking which destroys the fragrance of life and kills the hope of living a content life. Your financial life will prosper today. Along with that, you can get rid of your debts or ongoing loans.

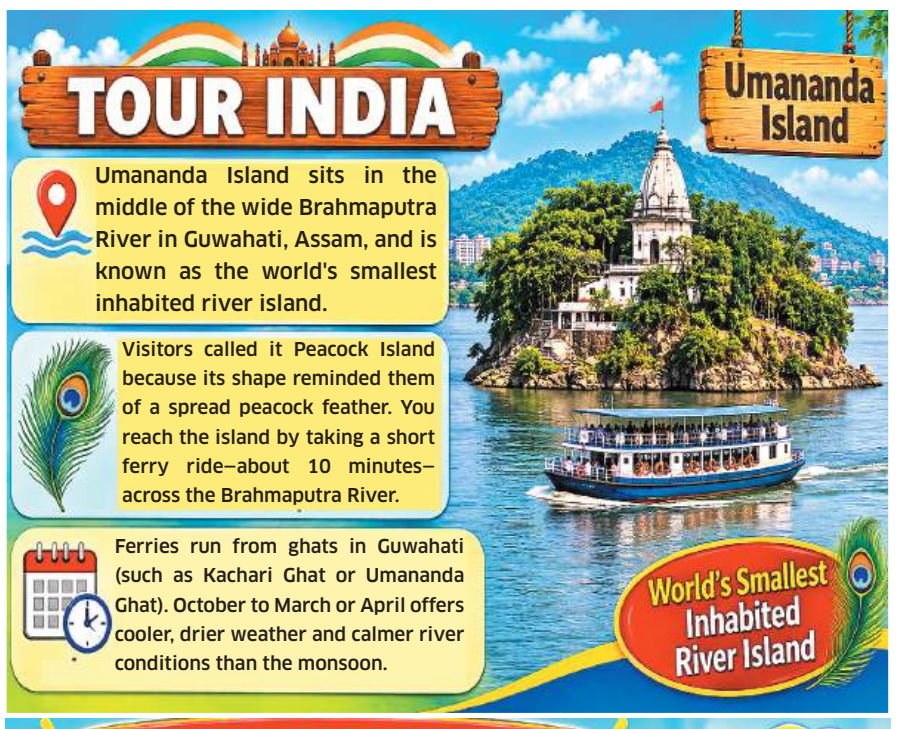
Sagittarius
Don't hesitate to express your views. Let not allow confidence deficiency take over you as it will only complicate your problem and could retard your progress. Express yourself to regain your confidence and smile hearty to tackle the problem. You know the importance of money very well, which is why the money you save today will be useful in the future and get out of any major difficulty.

Capricorn
You need to exhibit extreme courage and strength as you face some traumas. You could easily overcome these by your optimistic attitude. Invest wisely. Grandchildren would be a source of immense pleasure. You are likely to be misunderstood in lover affair. Seminars and exhibitions will provide you with new knowledge and contacts.

Aquarius
Your generous attitude would be a blessing in disguise as you are likely to be liberated from many vices like doubt, disloyalty, depression, and lack of faith, greed, attachment, egoism, and jealousy. Financial hassles will be eased out with the help of your friends. Emotional risk will go in your favour.

Pisces
You are going to enjoy the pleasure of leisure. Today will prove to be economically better than the rest of the days and you will earn enough money. Short trip to the relative brings moment of comfort and relaxation from your daily hectic schedule Romance will cloud your mind as you meet your sweetheart. Efforts made to improve your looks.

TOUR INDIA



Umananda Island sits in the middle of the wide Brahmaputra River in Guwahati, Assam, and is known as the world's smallest inhabited river island.

Visitors called it Peacock Island because its shape reminded them of a spread peacock feather. You reach the island by taking a short ferry ride–about 10 minutes–across the Brahmaputra River.

Ferries run from ghats in Guwahati (such as Kachari Ghat or Umananda Ghat). October to March or April offers cooler, drier weather and calmer river conditions than the monsoon.

PHRASE FACT FINDER

"Let the cat out of the bag"



Meaning: To reveal a secret by mistake.

Example: I let the cat out of the bag about the surprise party when I asked what everyone likes.

ANIMAL KINGDOM

Cousins of Cheetah – The Jaguarundi



The Jaguarundi is a wild cat with a long, slender body and short legs about twice the size of a house cat and is mostly active during the daytime.

Jaguarundis don't have spots or stripes as adults. Their fur usually comes in shades of grey, brown, black, or reddish-brown.

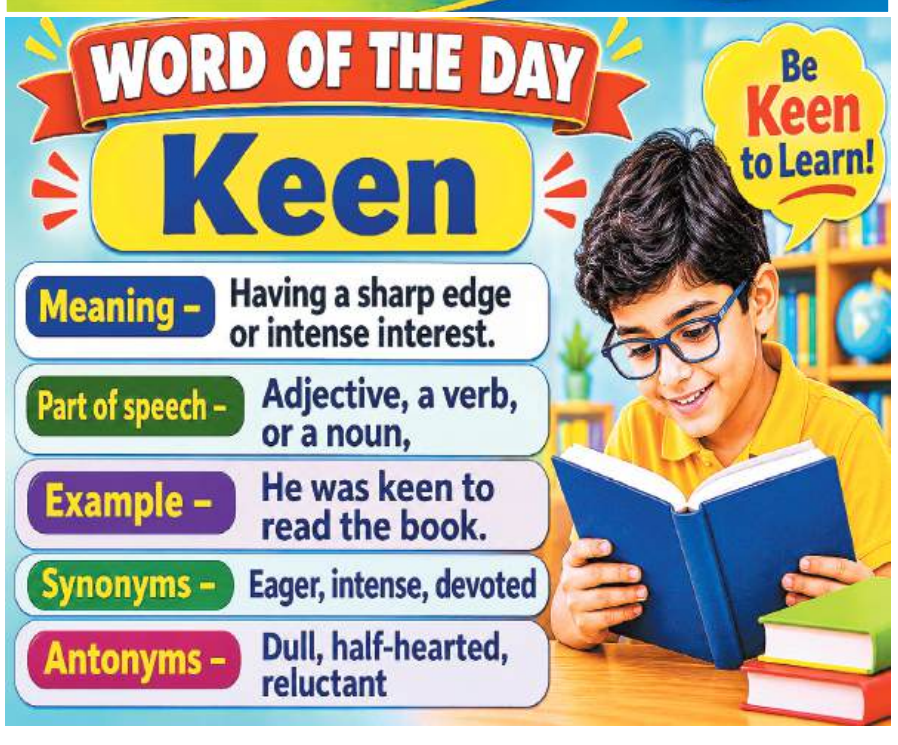
While many wild cats hunt at night, Jaguarundis often hunt during the day and early evening.

They usually stay on the ground to hunt, can jump over 6 feet (2 meters) high to catch birds, and are strong swimmers.

Jaguarundis can make around 13 different sounds, including purrs, chirps, whistles, and yaps.

WORD OF THE DAY

Keen



Meaning – Having a sharp edge or intense interest.
Part of speech – Adjective, a verb, or a noun,
Example – He was keen to read the book.
Synonyms – Eager, intense, devoted
Antonyms – Dull, half-hearted, reluctant

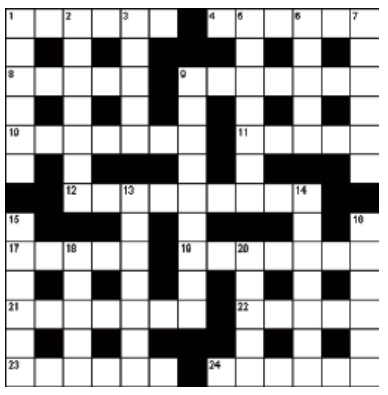
CROSSWORD -283

Across

1 Without risk (6)
4 Afternoon snooze (6)
8 Come clean (3,2)
9 Eye make-up (7)
10 Oriental (7)
11 iPod manufacturer (5)
12 Vigorous (9)
17 Proverb (5)
19 Cattle thief (7)
21 Huge (7)
22 Assumed name (5)
23 Rider's seat (6)
24 Implored (6)

Down

1 Brief period of rain (6)
2 Adroitness (7)
3 Pass into disuse (5)
5 Jiffy (7)
6 Skin of the head (5)
7 Flabbergasted (6)
9 Collection of wild animals (9)
13 Everlasting (7)
14 Vocation (7)
15 Rudiments (6)
16 Rubbed out (6)
18 Media (anag.) (5)
20 Digging tool (5)



CROSSWORD SOLUTION- 282

1 W	A	S	P		3 A	S	S	5 E	S	6 S	7 E	D
E		C		2 P		T		L		C		O
5 T	R	A	W	L	E	R		10 G	R	A	N	D
H		N		E		E		A		R		O
11 E	X	T	R	A		12 S	T	R	O	L	L	
R				S		S				E		13 W
14 B	E	16 A	V	E	R		17 C	A	T	T	L	E
Y		G				18 C		B				E
	19 B	A	N	20 I	S	H		21 S	H	22 A	R	K
23 F		I		D		A		E		G		D
24 L	A	N	C	E		25 S	A	N	G	R	I	A
E		S		S		E		T		E		Y
26 A	L	T	I	T	U	D	E		27 L	E	S	S

SUDOKU- 283

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SUDOKU SOLUTION- 282

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

DAILY WORD SEARCH

- Achaea
- Colchis
- Lycia
- Aeolis
- Corinth
- Lydia
- Argos
- Delphi
- Macedonia
- Assyria
- Egypt
- Nubia
- Athens
- Etruria
- Persia
- Babylon
- Ionia
- Rhodes
- Bactria
- Ithaca
- Sparta
- Carthage
- Knossos
- Sumeria
- Chaldea
- Latium
- Thebes

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

Business



There is a strong need for deeper India-Italy cooperation in semiconductors, AI and automobiles."

Piyush Goyal
Commerce Minister

FM Sitharaman holds labour sector talks ahead of Budget

The Finance Minister sought recommendations from employment and labour representatives as consultations continued ahead of the Union Budget for 2027-28.



Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday chaired the eighth pre-Budget consultation with stakeholders from the employment and labour sectors as the government continued its exercise to gather suggestions for the Union Budget 2027-28. The discussions formed part of the Finance Ministry's annual consultations with representatives of different sectors before the preparation of the Budget.

The Finance Ministry said in a post on X that Sitharaman, who also holds the Corporate Affairs portfolio, chaired the meeting with representatives of the employment and labour sectors. The consultation focused on issues and recommendations concerning these sectors in the context of the forthcoming Budget. The Secretary of the Department of Economic Affairs and senior officials from the Ministry of Labour and Employment also attended the meeting. However, the ministry did not disclose the specific suggestions or recommendations made by participants during the discussions. The employment and labour sectors are significant to the government's broader objectives of job creation, skill development, productivity improvement and economic growth. The previous Union Budget for 2026-27 had highlighted the notification of Labour Codes as part of more than 350 reforms intended to promote employment, improve productivity and accelerate economic development.

The 2026-27 Budget had also proposed setting up a high-powered standing committee on "Education to Employment and Enterprise". The proposed committee was intended to examine the services sector and explore ways to strengthen its contribution to the economy.

NUMBER

350

- The meeting was the eighth consultation in the Finance Ministry's pre-Budget exercise.
- The previous Union Budget for 2026-27 had highlighted the Labour Codes as part of over 350 reforms.

SpiceJet nods Rs 5,500 cr fundraising for operations

Press Trust Of India

SpiceJet Airlines has approved a proposal to raise up to Rs 5,500 crore to improve its financial position



FACTFILE

- The proposed fundraising is expected to involve equity and other permitted financial instruments.

NEW DELHI: Financially troubled airline SpiceJet has approved a proposal to raise up to Rs 5,500 crore to improve its financial position, strengthen operations and support its long-term revival strategy. The decision was taken at a board meeting. The proposed fundraising is expected to involve equity and other permitted financial instruments, subject to applicable regulatory requirements and necessary approvals.

The airline has been struggling with financial and operational difficulties, including liquidity constraints, grounded aircraft, flight cancellations and delays in expanding its fleet. The fresh capital is intended to address several of these challenges and provide resources for restoring operational capacity.

SpiceJet has also proposed increasing its authorised share capital from Rs 2,000 crore to Rs 7,500 crore. The number of authorised equity shares is expected to increase from 200 crore to 750 crore, providing the company with greater flexibility to raise additional capital.

| MOST VALUABLE COMPANNY |

Anthropic's record IPO propels company valuation to $1.5 trillion

Agencies

IPO priced at $83 per share; record $81.3 billion raised.



NEW YORK: Anthropic, the creator of the AI chatbot 'Claude', has raised a record $81.3 billion (approximately Rs 7 lakh crore) in its initial public offering (IPO). With this, it has become one of the most valuable companies in the world. The five-year-old company is now valued at approximately $1.5 trillion (Rs 140 lakh crore). Anthropic is the first company focused on artificial intelligence (AI) to go public. This IPO serves as a significant indicator of growing investor confidence in the AI sector.

Despite currently operating at a loss, the company set its IPO price at $83 per share. Due to immense enthusiasm among investors, more shares were sold than originally planned. This development has turned the seven founders who launched Anthropic in 2021 into billionaires overnight. The company's valuation places it ahead of Walmart and Samsung, and on par with Tesla and Meta. Driven by strong demand, the size of the share offering was increased by 19%, reaching 980 million shares. This IPO has surpassed the previous record of $75 billion set by SpaceX. The company's shares will be traded on the Nasdaq; market pricing is reported to be approximately 20% above the IPO price.

Rapid revenue growth over the past year

In the first nine months of this year, ending in September, the company's revenue reached $33 billion. This growth is attributed to its rapid market expansion, driven by its ability to perform tasks such as coding, writing, and information analysis with high efficiency.

$100,000 in revenue from 11,900 customers

Anthropic's rapid growth rate is fueled by the surging demand for its 'Claude' AI models. As of September 30, the company had 11,900 customers, generating $100,000 in revenue over the preceding 12 months. However, during the same period, the company's total losses also climbed to $104 billion.

| ASSET MONETISATION |

Govt aims Rs 2.9 lakh cr thru asset monetisation

Press Trust Of India

Steel industry seeks fair trade and predictable policies

NEW DELHI: The Centre is expecting to generate approximately Rs 2.9 lakh crore through its asset monetisation programme during the financial year 2026-27, with highways, power, ports, coal and mining emerging as the major contributors. The initiative is part of the National Monetisation Pipeline 2.0, which aims to unlock the economic value of existing government-owned infrastructure and public assets by bringing private investment into their operation and development.

The five-year programme has an estimated monetisation potential of Rs 16.72 lakh crore across 12 sectors. It also envisages direct private-sector investment of approximately Rs 5.8 lakh crore. For FY27, the original monetisation target was Rs 3.26 lakh crore. However, government sources expect to achieve approximately 80 to 90 per cent of this target, potentially generating around Rs 2.9 lakh crore.



The highway sector is expected to make the largest contribution. The National Highways Authority of India is targeting approximately Rs 1 lakh crore through the Build-Operate-Transfer model and Infrastructure Investment Trusts. Of this amount, around Rs 60,000 crore could come through the BOT model, under which private companies undertake the construction, financing and maintenance of highway projects in exchange for specified commercial rights.

BizBriefs

BEST OF THE REST

STOCK MARKET

Sensex jumps 898 points, Nifty crosses 25,800 as banks rally on return of foreign inflows



MUMBAI: Indian equity benchmarks ended sharply higher on Friday, extending gains for the second consecutive session as banking and financial stocks led the rally on expectations of improving foreign institutional investor (FII) flows. The Sensex surged 897.96 points, or 1.08 per cent, to close at 83,919.71, while the Nifty advanced 286.30 points, or 1.12 per cent, to settle at 25,800.60.

Commenting on Nifty technical outlook, experts said that the index is now approaching the crucial 25,800 resistance zone, and a decisive breakout followed by sustained trading above this level will be essential to extend the ongoing momentum towards the 26,000 mark. "On the downside, 25,700-25,600 is likely to act as the immediate support zone, followed by 25,500, which had repeatedly acted as a resistance hurdle in previous sessions," analysts noted. Market sentiment remained upbeat as investors increased exposure to banking shares amid signs of a revival in foreign fund inflows, helping the key indices maintain upward momentum through the trading session. Among the Nifty constituents, Apollo Hospitals Enterprise, Axis Bank and Max Healthcare Institute emerged as the top gainers, supporting the benchmark's advance. The rally, however, was relatively muted in the broader market. The Nifty Mid-Cap 100 index rose 0.66 per cent, while the Nifty SmallCap 100 index slipped 0.13 per cent.

IPO

Arohan Financial Services secures SEBI approval for IPO

NEW DELHI: Microfinance institution Arohan Financial Services has received Sebi's approval to garner funds through an initial public offering (IPO), an update with the markets regulator showed on Friday. The proposed IPO comprises a fresh issue of shares worth Rs 600 crore and an offer for sale (OFS) of 4.04 crore shares by existing investors, according to the draft red herring prospectus (DRHP).

US Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association, a retirement financial services firm, Michael & Susan Dell Foundation, Aavishkaar Goodwell India Microfinance Development Company-II Ltd, Tano Capital, TR Capital III Mauritius, and Danish Sustainable Development Goals Investment Fund, among other existing investors, will offload shares. According to an update, the company filed preliminary IPO papers with Sebi in May. After examining the draft offer documents, the regulator issued its final observation on November 13, paving the way for the company to proceed with the next stage of the IPO process.

APPROVAL

Zelio E-Mobility gets BSE nod for Rs 168 cr fundraise

MUMBAI: Electric mobility company Zelio E-Mobility on Friday said it has received "in-principle" approval from BSE Limited for its proposed Rs 168 crore fundraise plan. The proposed capital raise is aimed at supporting the company's next phase of expansion across India as it witnesses strong financial growth and expands its manufacturing capabilities, with four operational plants and an increased annual production capacity of approximately 3.12 lakh units, it said.

The company proposes to issue up to 9.73 lakh equity shares at a floor price of Rs 853 per share to four non-promoter institutional and private investors, aggregating approximately Rs 83 crore, it said. The proposed allottees include Motilal Oswal Financial Services at Rs 40.1 crore, Calliope Capital Advisors LLP at Rs 31.4 crore, Param Value Investments at Rs 8.5 crore, and Hem Growth Opportunities Fund at nearly Rs 3 crore, Zelio said.

SHIPPING SERVICES

DP World expands export connectivity through new rail and shipping services

NEW DELHI: Global logistics company DP World has expanded its Indian trade connectivity through a dedicated export rail service linking the National Capital Region with Mundra Port and an additional weekly shipping service connecting Cochin and Colombo. The initiatives are aimed at improving cargo movement, strengthening supply-chain reliability and providing Indian exporters with better access to international markets.

The new rail service has been introduced for Ocean Network Express (ONE) and will operate twice a week through the Dedicated Freight Corridor. It will connect DP World's inland container depots at Panipat, Pali and Modinagar with Mundra Port in Gujarat. The service will have a capacity of up to 180 twenty-foot equivalent units per trip. Its departure schedules will be aligned with international vessel movements, allowing exporters to coordinate inland transportation with overseas shipping requirements.

The National Capital Region is an important manufacturing and export centre, with substantial industrial activity involving automobiles, auto components, fast-moving consumer goods, textiles and other manufactured products. The dedicated rail arrangement is expected to provide exporters with more predictable transportation schedules and reduce uncertainties associated with moving containers from inland manufacturing locations to seaports. The company has also introduced a second weekly shipping service between Cochin and Colombo through Bengal Tiger Line. The service, known as SIS, operates on the Mangalore-Cochin-Colombo-Mangalore route. The inaugural vessel, M.V. TC SYMPHONY, arrived at DP World's International Container Transshipment Terminal at Cochin. The vessel has a capacity of approximately 1,000 TEUs. The additional sailing is expected to provide businesses in southern India with greater flexibility in planning export and import shipments. It will also improve access to regional shipping networks through Colombo, which is an important transshipment centre. DP World said the expansion would strengthen India's multimodal logistics infrastructure by integrating inland transportation, container terminals and international shipping services.



Nation News

Court can't regulate 'consanguineous marriages'

SC asks Centre to respond on bringing in law on marriages between those closely related by blood.

Press Trust Of India

The plea urged the apex court to clarify that these directions were meant to be preventive and regulatory, and were not designed to criminalise existing marriages or retrospectively unsettle their legal status.



NEW DELHI: Saying it did not want to direct but only sensitise the government, the Supreme Court on Friday asked the Centre for its response on the "desirability" of bringing in legislation on marriages between those who are closely related by blood. A bench of Chief Justice Surya Kant and justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana also noted that the court can't regulate such 'consanguineous marriages'.

It observed that regulating such marriages through social reform legislation falls exclusively within the domain of the legislature. The top court was hearing a plea filed by Charvi S, a law student residing in Bengaluru, who urged it to consider whether the law should continue to permit a practice that exposes children to foreseeable and avoidable genetic harm simply because it is customary.

"We are issuing notice for the limited purpose of impressing upon the Union of India to consider the desirability of bringing a suitable legislation, or to ensure wide publicity through different channels, including a proper curriculum...," the bench said.

"We can issue notice for the limited purpose of impressing upon the Union of India to consider the need for a suitable legislation. We will not direct them. We will only sensitise them," the bench observed.

The plea, filed through advocate Anjuman Tripathy, said recent medical studies indicate that 'consanguineous marriages' significantly increase homozygosity, which raises the likelihood of recessive genetic conditions, congenital malformations, sensory impairments, developmental disabilities, infant deaths, and other negative outcomes in children.

'Rename Nagpur as Deekshabhoomi'

MUMBAI: Amid the Maharashtra government's move to change the name of Dadar Metro station in Mumbai to Chaityabhoomi, Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut on Friday demanded that the name of Nagpur be changed to Deekshabhoomi. Dr B R Ambedkar, the chief architect of the Constitution, converted to Buddhism along with his followers in Nagpur in October 1956. Talking to reporters, Raut said, "Change the name of Nagpur to Deekshabhoomi. The chief minister should bring a proposal and we will support it. Social revolution in Dr Ambedkar's life began at Deekshabhoomi in Nagpur. We will stand by the government on this if there is any conflict on the issue," Raut said. Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has said the Dadar Metro station in Mumbai would be renamed as Chaityabhoomi after completing the necessary procedures.

HC upholds head constable's life term in double murder case

Press Trust Of India

In September 2011, Tomar allegedly fatally shot Amarjeet Singh Chadha on SPM Marg here and snatched his gold chains.



NEW DELHI: The Delhi High Court has upheld the life sentence of a police head constable in a 2011 case of double murder and robbery, saying a person entrusted with the duty to protect lives of citizens instead abused his "position of trust" to commit a heinous offence.

A bench of justices Navin Chawla and Ravinder Dudeja dismissed the appeal of Ajay Kumar Tomar, challenging the trial court orders on his conviction and sentence in the case. In September 2011, Tomar allegedly fatally shot Amarjeet Singh Chadha on SPM Marg here and snatched his gold chains. It was alleged that Tomar, who was wearing a Delhi Police uniform, impersonated a sub-inspector. He then also shot a civilian motorcyclist Sunny, who was helping a nearby beat constable apprehend him shortly after the incident.

Tomar was caught after he jumped from a bridge to escape and two pistols, three broken golden chains and three lockets, i.e. the robbed articles, were recovered from him. "Undoubtedly, the offence committed by the appellant is heinous and has resulted in the loss of two human lives. The appellant was a police officer, entrusted by the State with the duty of protecting the lives and property of citizens and upholding the rule of law," said the court in the judgement dated November 17.

"The abuse of such position of trust constitutes a significant aggravating circumstance when viewed against the fact that he himself became the perpetrator of two murders; one committed in furtherance of his greed and the other of an innocent civilian, namely, Sunny, during the course of his escape," the court added. The court, however, held that even such aggravating circumstances were not enough for a sentence of death penalty, as it dismissed appeals by the State as well as the son of the deceased for enhancement of sentence.

| UTTAR PRADESH ASSEMBLY POLLS |

Akhilesh discusses seat-sharing with AAP, CPI(ML) ahead of UP polls

Press Trust Of India

AAP is outside the INDIA opposition bloc, with Singh announcing the party's exit from the alliance in July last year.



NEW DELHI: Samajwadi Party (SP) chief Akhilesh Yadav held separate meetings with AAP's Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh and CPI(ML) Liberation general secretary Dipankar Bhattacharyya over the last two days amid moves to explore seat-sharing for the 2027 Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls.

Yadav met Bhattacharyya on Thursday and Singh on Friday, ahead of formal seat-sharing talks between the SP and the Congress. The possibility of bringing prominent faces of the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) protests in the opposition's poll campaign came up in the discussions, sources said.

With discussions still at a preliminary stage, the AAP and the CPI(ML) Liberation are waiting for the SP to settle its seat-sharing arrangement with the Congress. It is understood that both are likely to pitch for a few seats on the ground that campaigning by prominent faces of the CJP agitation can help the SP. CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke and Ashutosh Ranka, another prominent face of the outfit, have previously worked with the AAP. Neha Bora, president of the All India Students' Association (AISA), the student wing of the CPI(ML) Liberation, has emerged as a prominent face of the student protests demanding the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar.

Ahead of the 2022 Uttar Pradesh assembly polls, Singh had met Yadav to discuss a possible alliance. Those talks fell through over seat-sharing, and the AAP contested independently, without winning a seat.

FASTFACTS

- In the 2022 Assembly polls, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) retained power with 255 seats, while the SP won 111 seats. The Congress, which fought on its own, won two of the 399 seats it contested.

'Want delimitation issue to be resolved through dialogue'



Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Congress on Friday said it wants the issue of delimitation to be resolved through dialogue with all political parties but the government has not been in touch with the opposition on the matter. Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said according to the information he has, the government has not even shared any concrete proposal on delimitation with any of the NDA allies of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). He said the Congress believes in the four-point formula on delimitation, under which the 543 Lok Sabha seats should remain, the state-wise distribution of seats should be maintained at the present level, one-third (182) of the existing seats should be reserved for women and there should be a 25-year freeze on all the above-mentioned points.

CAN FIN HOMES LTD.
Besides Canara Bank, Near 36 City Mall, Mangla Chowk, Bilaspur (C.G.), Ph: 07752-404571, 7625079235, Email: bilaspur@canfinhomes.com, CIN- L85110KA1987PLC008699

APPENDIX- IV-A [proviso to rule 8 (6)]
Sale notice for sale of immovable property

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

NOTICE is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive/physical (mention whichever is applicable) possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Can Fin Homes Ltd., Bilaspur Branch, will be sold by holding e-auction on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on **24/12/2026,** for recovery of **Rs. 18,35,409 (Rupees Eighteen Lakh Thirty Five Thousand Four Hundred Nine Only)** due to Can Fin Homes Ltd. from **Mr. ANIL KUMAR RAY (Borrower) and (Co-Borrower),** as on 19/11/2026, together with further interest and other charges thereon. The reserve price will be **Rs. 12,00,000/- (Rupees Twelve Lakh only)** and the earnest money deposit will be **Rs. 1,20,000/- (Rupees One Lakh Twenty Thousand)**

SCHEDULE OF THE MORTGAGED PROPERTY

Property Situated at Khata No. 309/6, Kailash Vihar, Mouza - Hanfa , P.H. No. 44, RNM. & Tehsil - Sakri, Dist -Bilaspur (C.G) 495001, Plot Area- 900 Sq Ft.
Encumbrances on property-Nil
The detailed terms and conditions of the sale are provided in the official website of Can Fin Homes Ltd.,
(https://www.canfinhomes.com/SearchAuction.aspx).
Link for participating in e-auction: https://www.auctionbazaar.com

Date: 21.11.2026 Sd/-
Place: Bilaspur Authorised Officer
Can Fin Homes Ltd.

CAN FIN HOMES LTD.
Besides Canara Bank, Near 36 City Mall, Mangla Chowk, Bilaspur (C.G.), Ph: 07752-404571, 7625079235, Email: bilaspur@canfinhomes.com, CIN- L85110KA1987PLC008699

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SCHEDULE OF THE MORTGAGED PROPERTY

Property Situated at Khata No. 309/7 , Kailash Vihar, Mouza- Hanfa , P.H. No. 44, RNM & Tehsil- Sakri, Dist - Bilaspur (C.G.), Plot Area- 900 Sq Ft
Encumbrances on property-Nil
The detailed terms and conditions of the sale are provided in the official website of Can Fin Homes Ltd.,
(https://www.canfinhomes.com/SearchAuction.aspx).
Link for participating in e-auction: https://www.auctionbazaar.com

Date: 21.11.2026 Sd/-
Place: Bilaspur Authorised Officer
Can Fin Homes Ltd.

CAN FIN HOMES LTD.
Besides Canara Bank, Near 36 City Mall, Mangla Chowk, Bilaspur (C.G.), Ph: 07752-404571, 7625079235, Email: bilaspur@canfinhomes.com, CIN- L85110KA1987PLC008699

POSSESSION NOTICE [(Rule 8(1)] (For Immovable Property)

The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Can Fin Homes Ltd. under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of the powers under the said Act and Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a demand notice dated 03-09-2026 calling upon the **Borrower - Mr. KANTA YADAV and Co-Borrower- Mrs. SEETA YADAV** to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being **Rs. 9,40,845 /- (Rupees Nine Lakh Forty Thousand Eight Hundred Forty Five Only)** with further interest at contractual rates, till date of realization within 60 days from the date of the said notice.

The Borrower Having Failed to Repay the Amount, Notice is Hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Possession of the property Described Herein below in exercise of Power Conferred under section 13(4) of the Said Act Read with Rule 8 of the security interest Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this the **16th day of November of the year 2026.**

The Borrower's Attention is Invited to Provisions of Sub-Sections (8) of Section 13 of the Act, In Respect of time Available, to Redeem the Secured Assets. The Borrower in Particular and the Public in General is Hereby cautioned not to deal with the Property and any Dealing with Property will be Subject to the Charge of CFHL for An Amount of **Rs. 9,40,845 /- (Rupees Nine Lakh Forty Thousand Eight Hundred Forty Five Only)** and interest thereon.

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Description of immovable property

Property Situated at Kh No. 300/1(part) Near Yadunandan Nagar , Near Sai Vihar Colony , Mauja Ghuru, P.H. No. 63, RNM / Tah- Sakari, Dist-Bilaspur, Plot area 1236 sq ft. Boundaries:- East: Nistari Road, West: Land Of Dewangan, North: Land of seller, South: Land of seller

Date: 21.11.2026 Sd/-
Place: Bilaspur Authorised Officer
Can Fin Homes Ltd.

JANA SMALL FINANCE BANK
(A Scheduled Commercial Bank)
Registered Office: The Fairway, Ground & First Floor, Survey No.10/1, 11/2 & 12/2B, Off Domlur, Koramangla Inner Ring Road, Next to EGL Business Park, Challaghatta, Bangalore-560071. Branch Office: Malay Heights, 1st Floor, Above IDBI Bank, In front of RBI, Mahadevghat Road, Sundar Nagar, Raipur (C.G.)-492001.

DEMAND NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF SARFAESI ACT, 2002.

Whereas you the below mentioned Borrower's, Co-Borrower's, Guarantor's and Mortgagors have availed loans from **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited,** by mortgaging your immovable properties. Consequent to default committed by you all, your loan account has been classified as **Non Performing Asset,** whereas **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** being a secured creditor under the Act, and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(2) of the said Act read with rule 2 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued **Demand notice** calling upon the Borrower's/ Co-Borrower's/ Guarantor's/ Mortgagors as mentioned in column No.2 to repay the amount mentioned in the notices with future interest thereon within **60 days** from the date of notice, but the notices could not be served on some of them for various reasons.

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ Mortgagor	Loan Account No. & Loan Amount	Details of the Security to be enforced	Date of NPA & Demand Notice date	Amount Due in Rs. / as on
1	1) Mr. Mirza Sufiyan Beg, S/o. Mirza Hanif Beg, 2) Mrs. Fareen Begam, W/o. Mirza Sufiyan Beg	Loan Account Nos. 45099610002303 Loan Amount: Rs.11,94,000/-	**Immovable Property:** All that piece and parcel of Diverted Land bearing Plot No.117/13, total admeasuring area of 786 Sq.ft. (73.048 Sq.mtrs.), Parts of Khasra No.819/32 & 820/23, situated at Ward No.15, Vivekananda Ward, Mouza Tifra, P.H. No.40/27, Sheet No.28, R.N.M. Sirgitti, within the limits of Nagar Palik Nigam Bilaspur, Block Bilha, Tehsil & District Bilaspur (C.G.). **Bounded by: East by:** House of Mo. Sadik, **West by:** House of Navdeep Chopda, **North by:** 25 Ft. wide Nistari Rasta and **South by:** Mo. Wahid and Suman Kesari's Land.	01.11.2026 & 16.11.2026	Rs.12,34,891.78 (Rupees Twelve Lakh Thirty Four Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety One and Seventy Eight Paise Only) as on 12.11.2026
2	1) Mr. Anurag Jain, S/o. Kirti Bardhan Jain, 2) Mrs. Prachi Jain, W/o. Anurag Jain, 3) Mrs. Jyoti Jain, W/o. Kirti Bardhan Jain	Loan Account Nos. 45099430000707 45099410001233 Loan Amount: Rs.17,00,000/-	**Immovable Property:** All that piece and parcel of land bearing Part of Khasra No.450/12, total admeasuring area of 1500 Sq.ft., (139.405 Sq.mtrs.), situated at 200 meters from Mungeli Main Road, Mouja Ushlapur, P.H. No.45, R.N.M. Sakari, Vikas Khand Takhatpur, Tehsil Takhatpur & District Bilaspur (C.G.). **Bounded by: East by:** Land of Badri, **West by:** Land of Ganeshi Bai, **North by:** Land of Sahu and **South by:** 15 Feet Road.	01.11.2026 & 13.11.2026	Rs.16,24,527.18 (Rupees Sixteen Lakh Twenty Four Thousand Five Hundred Twenty Seven and Eighteen Paise Only) as on 04.11.2026

Notice is therefore given to the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor & Mortgagor as mentioned in Column No.2, calling upon them to make payment of the aggregate amount as shown in column No.6, against all the respective Borrower/ Co-Borrower within **60 days** of Publication of this notice as the said amount is found payable in relation to the respective loan account as on the date shown in Column No.6. It is made clear that if the aggregate amount together with future interest and other amounts which may become payable till the date of payment, is not paid, **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** shall be constrained to take appropriate action for enforcement of security interest upon properties as described in Column No.4. Please note that this publication is made without prejudice to such rights and remedies as are available to **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** against the Borrower's/ Co-Borrower's/ Guarantor's/ Mortgagors of the said financials under the law, you are further requested to note that as per section 13(13) of the said act, you are restrained/ prohibited from disposing of or dealing with the above security or transferring by way of sale, lease or otherwise of the secured asset without prior consent of Secured Creditor.

Date: 20.11.2026, Place: Bilaspur (C.G.) **Sd/- Authorised Officer, For Jana Small Finance Bank Limited**

Asset Reconstruction Company (India) Ltd. (Arcil)
Acting in its capacity as Trustee of various Arcil Trusts
Arcil Office: The Ruby, 10th Floor, 29, Senapati Bapat Marg, Dadar (West) Mumbai-400028
Website: https://auction.arcil.co.in; CIN-U65999MH2002PLC134884

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR SALE THROUGH ONLINE E-AUCTION IN EXERCISE OF THE POWERS UNDER THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002 (SARFAESI ACT) READ WITH RULES 6, 8 & 9 OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and to the Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagor(s), in particular, that the below described immovable property/ies mortgaged/ charged to the **Asset Reconstruction Company (India) Limited, acting in its capacity as Trustee of various Arcil Trusts ("ARCIL")** (pursuant to the assignment of financial asset vide registered Assignment Agreements), will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is", "Whatever there is"** and **"Without recourse basis"** by way of online e-auction, for recovery of outstanding dues of together with further interest, charges and costs etc., as detailed below in terms of the provisions of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 ("Act") read with Rules6, 8 and 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 ("Rules").

Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/s/ Guarantor/s/ Mortgager/s	LAN No. & Selling Bank	Trust Name	Outstanding amount as per SARFAESI Notice dated 04.09.2024	Possession type and date	Date of Inspection	Type of Property and Area	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	Reserve Price	Date & Time of E-Auction
Borrower: Mr. Rajesh Kumar Singh, S/o. Surendra Prasad Singh, Co-Borrowers: Mrs. Nishu Singh, W/o. Rajesh Kumar Singh	45099420002341 & Jana Small Finance Bank Ltd.	Arcil - Trust -2026 - 005 ("Arcil")	Rs.34,65,065.30 (Rupees Thirty Four Lakh Sixty Five Thousand Sixty Five and Thirty Paise Only) as on 03-09-2024	Physical Possession 27-12-2024	as per request	Residential & 3000 Sq.ft	Rs.3,12,100/- (Rupees Three Lakh Twelve Thousand One Hundred Only)	Rs.31,21,000/- (Rupees Thirty One Lakh Twenty One Thousand Only)	On 12-01-2027 at 04.30 PM

Description of the Secured Asset being auctioned: All that piece and parcel of diverted land bearing Plot No.03, total admeasuring area of 3000 Sq.ft., (278.810 Sq.mtrs.), Out of Khasra No.528/2, Mouza Bodari, Star No.60, P.H. No.01, Ward No.02, R.N.M. Bilha, situated at Pandit Ravishankar Shukla Nagar, within the limits of Nagar Panchayat Bodari, Tehsil Bodari& District Bilaspur (C.G.). **Bounded by: East by:** Remaining Land of Seller, **West by:** Land of Rao, **North by:** Road and **South by:** Land of Shankarlal Verma.

Pending Litigations known to ARCIL: NA	Demand Draft to be made in name of: Arcil-Trust-2026-005	RTGS details: Bank A/C No. 57500001745611, Bank Name: HDFC, IFSC: HDFC0000542, Branch Address: Kamala Mills Compound
Encumbrances/ Dues known to ARCIL: NA	Bid Increment amount: As mentioned in the BID document	
Last Date for submission of Bid: Same day 2 hours before Auction	Payable at Par	

Name of Contact person & number: Mr. Akshansh Shukla (Mob. No.6260305012), Mr. Ranjan Naik (Mob. No.9590858249) & Mr. Sanjay Saini (Mob. No.9981544885)

Terms and Conditions:

The Auction Sale is being conducted through e-auction through the website https://auction.arcil.co.in and as per the Terms and Conditions of the Bid Document, and as per the procedure set out therein.

1. The **Authorised Officer ("AO")/ ARCIL** shall not be held responsible for internet connectivity, network problems, system crash down, power failure etc.
2. At any stage of the auction, the AO may accept/reject/modify/cancel the bid/offer or post-pone the Auction without assigning any reason thereof and without any prior notice.
3. The successful purchaser/ bidder shall bear any statutory dues, taxes, fees payable, applicable GST on the purchase consideration, stamp duty, registration fees, etc. that is required to be paid in order to get the secured asset conveyed/ delivered in his/her/its favour as per the applicable law.
4. The intending bidders should make their own independent enquiries/ due diligence regarding encumbrances, title of secured asset and claims/rights/dues affecting the secured assets, including statutory dues, etc., prior to submitting their bid. The auction advertisement does not constitute and will not constitute any commitment or any representation of **ARCIL.** The Authorized Officer of **ARCIL** shall not be responsible in any way for any third-party claims/rights/dues.
5. The particulars specified in the auction notice published in the newspaper have been stated to the best of the information of the undersigned; however undersigned shall not be responsible / liable for any error, misstatement or omission.
6. The Borrower/ Guarantors/ Mortgagors, who are liable for the said outstanding dues, shall treat this Sale Notice as a notice under Rules 8 and 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, about the holding of the above mentioned auction sale.
7. In the event, the auction scheduled hereinabove fails for any reason whatsoever, ARCIL has the right to sell the secured asset by any other methods under the provisions of Rule 8(5) of the Rules and the Act.

Place: Bilaspur, Date: 21.11.2026 **Sd/- Authorized Officer, Asset Reconstruction Company (India) Ltd.**

इंडियन बैंक Indian Bank
इलाहाबाद ALLAHABAD
Indian Bank
Branch : Kodri
E-AUCTION
On 23.12.2026, Time 10.00 AM to 5.00 PM

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

Notice of sale under Rule 6(2) & 8(6)/9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement Rules) 2002 under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, **Possession** of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Indian Bank, **Branch : Kodri,** Secured Creditor, will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is",** and **"Whatever there is"** on the date mentioned above, for recovery of amount due to the Indian Bank, **Branch : Kodri,** Secured Creditor, from Borrower and Guarantors as mentioned below.

The specific details of the assets which are intended to be brought to sale are enumerated below:

Sl. No.	Name & Address of the Borrower (s) & Guarantor (s) & Branch Name	Outstanding Amount	Reserve Price	EMD	Bid incremental amount	Property ID No.
1.	**M/s Hindustan Poultry Farm** Prop Md. Sahabuddin. At Baheliya Tola, Mouza - Sarbahara, R.N.M. Gaurella, Tehsil - Pendra Road, Dist - Gaurella Pendra Marwahi, C.G. 495117, **Md. Sahabuddin** S/o Mr. Md. Samsuddin, Ward No.-15, Azad Chowk, Pendra, Dist - Gaurella Pendra Marwahi, C.G.-495117	Rs. 1,50,59,666.25 as on 20.11.2026 + Intt. & other charges	Rs. 1,35,80,000/-	Rs. 13,58,000/-	Rs. 10,000/-	IDIB5012 3841329
	Details / description of Mortgaged Assets :- All the Part and Parcel of the Property : Kh. No. 860/4/G/2 (New Kh- 860/15), PH. No-20, Ward No. 15, Baheliya Tola. Mauza Sarbahara, R.N.M. Gaurella, Tehsil Pendra Road, Dist - Gaurela Pendra Marwahi (C.G.) 495117, admeasuring area of Diverted Land 3 Acre / 130680 Sq. Ft. **Boundaries :-** North : Land of Harun Raseed, South : Land of Abdul Waheed, East : Land of Abdul Waheed, West : Govt Land.		Contact Person :- Abhilash Rana Mob.: 7077008386			

For Any Enquiry Contact : 7077008386

Note : This Notice is also for Borrower / Guarantor / Mortgagor & Legal Heirs

Bidders are advised to visit the website (**https://baanknet.com**) of our e auction service provider PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd to participate in online bid. For Technical Assistance Please call PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd Helpdesk No. 8291220220, Email ID: - **support.baanknet@psballiance.com** and other help line numbers available in service providers help desk. For Registration status with PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd. and EMD status, please contact **support.baanknet@psballiance.com.**

For property details and photograph of the property and auction terms and conditions please visit: **https://baanknet.com** and for clarifications related to this portal, please contact Helpdesk No. **8291220220**

Bidders are advised to use Property ID Number mentioned above while searching for the property in the website with **https://baanknet.com**

Place : Bilaspur, Date : 20.11.2026 **Authorised Officer, Indian Bank**

Central Chronicle

Since 1974 Volume 14 No. 232

Comment

QUOTE FROM THE QUOTABLE

"Be the change that you wish to see in the world, for true transformation begins within ourselves first."

[Mahatma Gandhi]

| OUR VIEW |

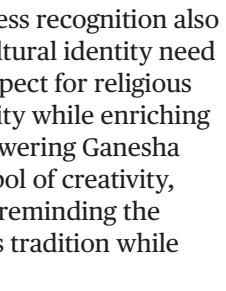
Bali's Ganesha statue celebrates cultural harmony worldwide

The unveiling of a magnificent 50-foot Lord Ganesha sculpture in Bali, Indonesia, is much more than an architectural achievement. It represents the enduring power of cultural heritage, religious coexistence and artistic innovation in a world increasingly divided by differences. The sculpture, standing 15.315 metres tall, has entered the Guinness World Records as the world's tallest supported synthetic rattan sculpture, bringing international recognition to Bali's remarkable craftsmanship. Created by Alas Harum Bali in Gianyar, the towering artwork depicts Lord Ganesha, revered as the deity of wisdom, prosperity and new beginnings. Its uniqueness lies not merely in its impressive height but also in the innovative use of synthetic rattan, demonstrating how traditional artistic expressions can embrace modern materials and techniques. The achievement carries special significance because Indonesia is the world's largest Muslim-majority nation, while Bali remains predominantly Hindu. This religious diversity illustrates how different faiths and cultural traditions can coexist within a shared national identity. Indonesia's historical connections with Hinduism and Buddhism remain visible through its temples, monuments, literature and performing arts. Bali's cultural landscape offers remarkable examples of this continuity. Ancient Hindu temples, including Besakih and Tanah Lot, attract visitors worldwide, while traditional performances based on the Ramayana and Mahabharata preserve centuries-old artistic traditions. The celebrated Kecak dance demonstrates how mythology continues to inspire contemporary cultural expression. Beyond religious symbolism, the Ganesha sculpture offers valuable opportunities for tourism, local employment and international cultural exchange. Such landmarks can strengthen regional economies while encouraging younger generations to appreciate traditional craftsmanship. However, preserving cultural authenticity must remain a priority. Monumental attractions should complement, rather than overshadow, the spiritual traditions and environmental character that make Bali distinctive. Responsible tourism and community participation are essential to ensuring lasting benefits. The Guinness recognition also highlights an important message: cultural identity need not become a source of division. Respect for religious diversity can strengthen national unity while enriching humanity's shared heritage. Bali's towering Ganesha ultimately stands as a powerful symbol of creativity, coexistence and cultural continuity, reminding the world that genuine progress respects tradition while embracing innovation.

| GUEST VIEW |

Bilkis Bano case raises fresh judicial concerns

The Bilkis Bano case has returned to the spotlight after the Supreme Court suspended the sentences of two convicted rapists and murderers, granting them bail pending their appeals. A bench of Justices M M Sundresh and Prasanna B Varale considered that Bipinchand Kanaiyalal Joshi and Pradip Ramanlal Modhiya had spent over 17 years in prison, while one suffered from a severe disability. Although the apex court possesses the legal authority to suspend sentences, the decision raises serious questions about justice, accountability and public confidence in judicial institutions. Bilkis Bano, five months pregnant during the 2002 Gujarat riots, was gang-raped, while seven family members, including her three-year-old daughter, were murdered. The Supreme Court had earlier played a decisive role in securing justice by ordering a CBI investigation after the police initially closed the case. In 2024, it also quashed the Gujarat government's remission granted to the convicts. That judgment strongly emphasised the judiciary's responsibility to uphold the rule of law without discrimination. While humanitarian considerations deserve attention, the gravity of the crimes cannot be overlooked. Judicial compassion must remain consistent with accountability, victims' rights and society's faith in impartial justice.



Yash Pal Ralhan

Two Locks on Europe's Steel Door: What CBAM and Quotas Mean for India's Exporters

India's iron and steel exports to the European Union fell 19.8 per cent by volume in April-September 2026, to 1.53 million tonnes from 1.91 million a year earlier, according to a Moneycontrol analysis of commerce ministry data published on November 2, 2026. September was the sharpest month: shipments halved, down 50.4 per cent to 197,433 tonnes. The fall coincides with two European measures that now apply together for the first time, a carbon levy and tighter import quotas.

The quota lock

On July 1, 2026, Regulation (EU) 2026/1384 replaced the EU's steel safeguard, which expired on June 30, 2026. According to the European Commission, the new system cuts duty-free import quotas by about 47 per cent against the 2024 reference system, to 18.3 million tonnes a year. It also doubles the duty on imports above quota to 50 per cent, from 25 per cent, and covers 30 product categories, up from 28.

India's share has shrunk with the total. Analysis by the London School of Economics' Grantham Research Institute, cited by Moneycontrol, puts India's country-specific quota at about 1.94 million tonnes, down roughly 30 per cent from 2.79 million. Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said on October 22 that India has secured over 1.9 million tonnes under country-specific and residual quotas. India exported 3.8 million tonnes of steel worth $3.4 billion to the EU in 2025-26, so the quota is roughly half of last year's volume, though the two figures may not cover identical product categories.

The carbon lock

The Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) entered its definitive phase on January 1, 2026. Importers must buy certificates priced from EU carbon-market auctions. The Commission set the third-quarter 2026 price at EUR 82.32 a tonne of embedded carbon, up from EUR 75.28 in the second quarter. Certificates for 2026 imports go on sale from February 2027, so the first bills are still ahead.

Indian steelmakers have paid no domestic carbon price that could be offset against that charge. Climate Decode reported on October 20 that a second draft of targets for 255 iron and steel units under India's Carbon Credit Trading Scheme was published in June, and that no final notification had been found. CBAM allows a deduction for carbon prices paid at home, but no Indian certificate has yet traded. Business Standard described CBAM as the longest-standing sticking point in the India-EU trade talks.



Divyam Aggarwal
Indian Institute of Management Raipur



Dr. Sanjeev Prashar
Indian Institute of Management Raipur



Dr. Archana Parashar
Indian Institute of Management Raipur

What the trade deal does and does not change

India and the EU announced their free trade agreement on January 27, 2026. Mr Goyal said on October 22 that it will be signed before the end of 2026 and could take effect in the first quarter of 2027. Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal met European Commission trade and customs officials in Brussels on November 2 to discuss implementation.

The agreement does not exempt Indian exports from CBAM. According to India's Commerce Ministry, as described by Climate Decode, its CBAM annexure extends to India any future flexibility the EU grants and opens a dialogue on India's carbon price. The two sides also agreed to build capacity in India for CBAM verification, including recognition of Indian verification agencies.

Where the steel is going instead

Moneycontrol reports that exports to Africa and the Americas rose sharply over the same period, which points to a shift in destinations rather than a collapse in output. The article adds that changes in demand and shipment timing could also explain part of the September drop, so one month does not settle the trend.

For Indian mills the choice is becoming clearer. Cutting emissions per tonne helps with CBAM but does nothing about the quota, and the quota is the harder constraint in the near term. Exporters that cannot do both will keep moving volume to markets with fewer conditions. This is an assessment based on the figures above, not an official projection.

Beyond Caste and Creed: Reclaiming India's Humanity

India's rich diversity faces growing threats from caste prejudice, religious intolerance and divisive politics, demanding renewed commitment to constitutional equality, fraternity, justice and human dignity.



Dr. Kolahalam Ramkishore



India's greatest civilisational strength lies in its diversity. People belonging to different religions, castes, languages and cultural traditions have coexisted for centuries. Yet, this pluralistic heritage is increasingly being exploited for political mobilisation, social dominance and communal polarisation. Over the past twelve years, caste and religious identities have become powerful instruments of division, threatening constitutional democracy and the idea of an inclusive India.

Politics of Division

The Constitution guarantees equality, prohibits untouchability and upholds fraternity. Nevertheless, caste hierarchies and religious prejudices continue to influence public life. Political parties, instead of prioritising unemployment, education, healthcare and economic inequality, frequently exploit religious sentiments and caste loyalties to consolidate vote banks. An independent report by the Centre for the Study of Organised Hate recorded 1,165 hate-speech incidents in 2024, including 462 attributed to political leaders. Such developments underline the urgent need for responsible political leadership.

Violence and the Erosion of Justice

The lynching of Mohammad Akhlaq in Dadri (2015), the assault on Pehlu Khan in Rajasthan (2017), the communal violence in Delhi (2020) and the ethnic conflict in Manipur (2023 onwards) expose the devastating consequences of identity-based hatred. Manipur witnessed hundreds of deaths, displacement and widespread destruction.

According to the National Crime Records Bureau, 57,789 crimes against Scheduled Castes and 12,960 against Scheduled Tribes were registered in 2023. These figures reveal the persistence of caste-based oppression, even though many incidents remain unreported.

The growing bulldozer culture in certain States has further weakened the rule of law. Demolishing properties merely because their occupants are accused of offences amounts to punishment without trial. In November 2024, the Supreme Court emphasised due process, prior notice and the protection of constitutional rights. Justice cannot be replaced by executive vengeance.

Love Beyond Caste and Religion

Inter-caste and interfaith marriages continue to face intimidation, social ostracism and violence. The murder of Pranay in Telangana in 2018, following his marriage to Amrutha, exposed the brutality of caste supremacy. Honour killings and threats against young couples demonstrate how family prestige is sometimes placed above individual freedom. In the Shakti Vahini case (2018), the Supreme Court affirmed the right of consenting adults to choose their partners. Family honour cannot justify violence or interference in personal choices.

Caste Beyond National Borders

Disturbingly, caste discrimination has travelled with sections of the Indian diaspora. Caste-based associations and exclusive social networks have emerged in countries such as the United States, Britain and Canada. Seattle became the first American city to prohibit caste discrimination through a municipal ordinance in 2023. Such developments should prompt India to confront a prejudice that contradicts its democratic and civilisational values.

Textbooks and Ideological Influence

Education must nurture scientific temper, critical thinking and constitutional morality. However, changes in NCERT textbooks in 2023, involving the removal or reduction of portions relating to Mughal history, communal violence and social movements, raised concerns about ideological influence. Curriculum rationalisation should not become historical sanitisation. Children deserve an objective understanding of history, including uncomfortable truths. Cultural preservation must never become a pretext for glorifying one community or marginalising another.

Change Must Begin at Home

Caste and religious prejudices are often transmitted through everyday family conversations. Children who hear derogatory remarks about other communities gradually internalise discrimination. Parents must cultivate respect, empathy and equality, encourage friendships across communities and support inter-caste and interfaith marriages.

Governments must enforce laws impartially, protect vulnerable communities and punish hate crimes. Schools should teach constitutional values and India's composite heritage. Political parties must reject divisive rhetoric, while the media should counter misinformation and communal propaganda. Community organisations and religious leaders must promote dialogue, collective activities and mutual respect.

India's civilisation has been enriched by Buddhism, Jainism, Sufi traditions, the Bhakti movements, Guru Nanak, Mahatma Gandhi and B.R. Ambedkar. Their enduring message is compassion, equality and human dignity.

The Constitution promises justice, liberty, equality and fraternity. These must become living principles rather than ornamental words. Let us pass on humanity, not caste pride, to future generations. Religion must inspire compassion, not hatred; diversity must unite, not divide. An India that respects every individual beyond caste, creed and community is the true India envisioned by its Constitution.

YOURLETTERS

Lukaku leaves lasting legacy beyond football achievements

Romelu Lukaku concludes his remarkable international football career with 94 goals, becoming the fifth-highest scorer in men's football history. Beyond his outstanding sporting achievements, Lukaku is admired for his multilingual abilities, speaking English, Italian, Spanish, French, Dutch, Portuguese, Swahili and Lingala. His diverse cultural understanding reflects an inclusive outlook. A vocal opponent of racism, he actively supported the Black Lives Matter movement. Lukaku remains an inspiration, demonstrating that sporting excellence and social responsibility can go hand in hand.

K. Chatterjee, Kolkata

Reckless development threatens India's fragile ecological balance

India's aggressive infrastructure expansion increasingly threatens its ecological stability. Karnataka, home to 6,395 wild elephants, has only seven fragmented corridors, contributing to human-wildlife conflicts that claimed 170 lives over five years. Unregulated mining, highways, railways and encroachments continue destroying natural habitats, forcing wildlife into human settlements. While corporations benefit from development projects, farmers and animals suffer devastating consequences. Financial compensation cannot restore lost lives.

Dr. Vijaykumar H. K., Raichur

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

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Nation



"Please appreciate the transformation that India is going through, that it has in fact undergone, especially since 2014, which makes it easier and more efficient to do business."

S. Jaishankar, EAM

'Cyclone Akvan brings light rain to Jharkhand'

On Friday, parts of Jharkhand experienced light rain after cyclone Akvan hit Gopalpur in Odisha.

Press Trust Of India



RANCHI: Parts of Jharkhand experienced light rainfall on Friday morning under the influence of Cyclone Akvan, prompting some district administrations to suspend primary classes in schools as a precautionary measure, an official said.

The landfall process of the cyclone began near Gopalpur in Odisha around 8 am. According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), rainfall intensity in Jharkhand is expected to increase during the afternoon, with several districts likely to witness heavy to very heavy rainfall. The IMD has issued an orange alert for heavy rainfall in five districts, including Dhanbad, Bokaro, Seraikela-Kharsawan, East Singhbhum and West Singhbhum, until 8.30 am on Saturday. A yellow alert has also been issued for Lohardaga, Gumla, Simdega, Ranchi, Khunti, Ramgarh and Jamtara for the same period.

In view of the anticipated weather conditions, the administrations of East Singhbhum and Seraikela-Kharsawan have ordered the suspension of primary classes in schools on Friday.

Ranchi Meteorological Centre Deputy Director Abhishek Anand said rainfall could intensify later in the day, with some districts likely to receive very heavy showers. Thunderstorms accompanied by lightning and gusty winds reaching speeds of up to 50 kmph are also expected in isolated areas. He added that weather conditions are likely to improve from November 22, while clear skies are expected from November 23.

Meanwhile, the Jharkhand Disaster Management Department has placed all districts on high alert to deal with any possible impact of the cyclone. Disaster Management Minister Irfan Ansari said district authorities have been instructed to remain vigilant and take necessary precautions.

The government's primary concern is the potential damage to standing paddy crops across the state. Ansari said nearly 25 per cent of the paddy crop has been harvested, while around 75 per cent is still standing in the fields.

HIGHLIGHT

- Several district administrations suspended primary classes in schools due to the cyclonic effects.

Savitri Devi passes away

DEHRADUN: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's mother, Savitri Devi, passed away on Friday at her native village of Panchur in Uttarakhand's Pauri Garhwal district. Pauri Garhwal Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Sarvesh Panwar confirmed her death and said the local administration was in contact with the family. Her last rites are likely to be performed in Haridwar on Saturday. Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami expressed grief over her demise through a social media post, describing the news as deeply painful and heartbreaking.

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

JJA AMENDMENT

Chennithala seeks center's nod to amend Juvenile Justice Act



THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Keralam Home Minister Ramesh Chennithala has urged the Centre to amend the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015, citing a rise in violent crimes involving minors and the need to address the concerns of victims. In separate letters dated November 17 to Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Union Women and Child Development Minister Annapurna Devi, Chennithala called for a review of the legislation, particularly its provisions concerning juveniles involved in serious offences. The minister said the Act was originally designed to protect the rights and welfare of children in conflict with the law. However, he pointed out that violent offences involving minors below 18 years had increased considerably over the past decade. While acknowledging the child-friendly approach of the existing legislation, Chennithala said it appeared insensitive to the suffering of victims of serious crimes. He stressed the need to balance juvenile rights with victims' concerns.

PM TO INAUGURATE NITISH SETU

PM Modi to inaugurate Nitish Setu in Bihar



PATNA: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Bihar's Vaishali district on Saturday to inaugurate the Rs 5,500-crore six-lane bridge over the Ganga, named 'Nitish Setu' after former Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, officials said.

This will be Modi's first visit to Bihar since May, when he attended a function marking the expansion of the state cabinet headed by Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary.

The 9.76-km-long bridge connects Bidupur block in Vaishali district with Kachchi Dargah on the outskirts of Patna. Including approach roads, its total length is nearly 20 km.

The project was conceived during Nitish Kumar's tenure. He commissioned it in 2012, while construction began in 2015 after the state secured financial assistance from the Asian Development Bank (ADB). The bank provided Rs 3,472.15 crore, while the Bihar government contributed Rs 2,099.54 crore from its own resources.

HIGHLIGHT

- The bridge has been named after the former Chief Minister Nitish Kumar.

The state government expects the bridge to significantly improve connectivity and boost the agricultural economy of north Bihar. It will facilitate faster transportation of litchis, bananas, maize, vegetables and other agricultural produce from the region.

STALIN HITS OUT AT TVK GOVT

Moorthy is a distraction from drug busts: Stalin

CHENNAI: DMK president M K Stalin on Friday accused the ruling TVK government of using police raids against former minister P Moorthy to divert public and media attention from major drug seizures by central agencies in Tamil Nadu. Police searched Moorthy's residence in Madurai in connection with two alleged illegal quarrying cases that reportedly caused a loss of Rs 5.39 crore to the state exchequer. In a post on X, Stalin alleged that the raids were aimed at shifting attention from major drug-smuggling operations being busted by Union government agencies in the state. He was referring to the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence's seizure of 70 kg of heroin, worth approximately Rs 140 crore, from a vehicle during a check in Madhavaram on Thursday.

कार्यालय नगर पालिक निगम, बिलासपुर (छ.ग.)

निविदा विज्ञप्ति

क्र.13/न.पा.नि./सिटी बस/2026-27 दिनांक 19.11.2026

कार्यालय नगर पालिक निगम बिलासपुर में 01 बस के मरम्मत कार्य हेतु संबंधित फर्म/एजेन्सी/ मरम्मतकर्ता से सीलबंद निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

01. निविदा जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि - 10/12/2026 सायंकाल 4:00 बजे तक

02. निविदा खोलने की तिथि - 11/12/2026 सायंकाल 12:30 बजे तक

क्र.	विवरण	अनुमानित लागत राशि	अमानत राशि	निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य
1	01 सिटी बस की सामाग्री (स्पेयर्स पार्ट्स) क्रय किये जाने हेतु	9.98 लाख	7500.00	750.00

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कार्यपालन अधियंता
न.पा.नि. बिलासपुर (छ.ग.)

पर्यावरण संरक्षण हेतु पॉलीथीन का उपयोग न करें।

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE

Baba Gangnath Marg, Munirka, New Delhi-110 067

F.No: A-12043/6/2026-Admin I

VACANCY NOTIFICATION

The National Institute of Health and Family Welfare, an autonomous Institute funded by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of India. The NIHFW is an apex Technical Institute for promoting Health and Family Welfare Programmes in the country through Education and Training, Research and Evaluation, Consultancy, Advisory and Specialized Services.

Applications are invited from the Citizens of India for filling up the regular posts on Direct Recruitment basis in NIHFW:

S.No.	Name of Post	Pay Matrix Level	No. of post
1.	Professor (Social Science)	Academic Pay Level-14	01
2.	Reader (Operation Research)	Academic Pay Level-12	01
3.	Assistant Professor (Education & Training) [Non-Medical]	Academic Pay Level-10	01
4.	Assistant Professor (RHM-Clinic) [Medical]	Academic Pay Level-10	01

For further details & Hindi version of this advertisement, please refer to our Institute's website: www.nihfw.ac.in. The last date for receipt of applications shall be three (04) weeks from the date of publication of the Advertisement in the Employment News.

CBC 17153/11/0008/2627 Director, NIHFW

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE

Baba Gangnath Marg, Munirka, New Delhi-110 067

F.No. A-12037/3/2025-Admin I

VACANCY NOTICE

The National Institute of Health and Family Welfare, an autonomous Institute funded by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of India. The NIHFW is an apex Technical Institute for promoting Health and Family Welfare Programmes in the country through Education and Training, Research and Evaluation, Consultancy, Advisory and Specialized Services.

Applications are invited by the Director, NIHFW from the citizens of India for following deputation posts in NIHFW:

S. No.	Name of Post	Pay Matrix Level	No. of post (s)	Category	Method of Recruitment	Mode of application
1.	Account s Officer	Pay Matrix Level – 07	02	UR	Deputation	Annexure-I
2.	Account ant	Pay Matrix Level – 06	05	UR	Deputation	Annexure-I
3.	Program mer	Pay Matrix Level - 07	02	UR	Deputation /failing which Direct recruitment	For Deputation Annexure-I For Direct Recruitment Annexure-II

The Last date of receiving of Application is 45 Days from the date of publication of Advertisement in the Employment News.

The details are available on Institute's website: www.nihfw.ac.in

CBC 17153/11/0006/2627 Director, NIHFW

AAVAS FINANCIERS LIMITED

(CIN:L65922RJ2011PLC034297) Regd. & Corp. Office: 201-202, 2nd Floor, South End Square, Mansarovar Industrial Area, Jaipur. 302020

SAPNE AAPKE SAATH HAMAARA

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
Puja Chakradhari, Laxminarayan Laxminarayan (A/C NO.) 241213104237251	5 Sep 26 Rs. 1034100/- 4 Sep 26	Ph. No. 22/27, Khasra No.-1154/213, Nagar Palika Bemetara, Mouza -Bemetara, Ward No.- 17, Tehsil & Dist. Bemetara, Chhattisgarh (In)- 491335 / **Admeasuring 200 Sq. Ft.**	Symbolic Possession Taken On 17 Nov 26

Place : Chattisgarh Date: 21-11-2026 Authorised Officer Aavas Financiers Limited

बैंक ऑफ़ 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 movable properties

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

The auction will be online e-auction through website https://baanknet.com on 09.12.2026 between 02.00 PM to 6.00 PM

Sr. No.	Name of Branch / Contact No.	Details of Borrower / Guarantor	Brief Description of the Asset to be sold	Years	Total Dues (Rs.)	Reserve Price / Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Amount (in Rs. Actual)
01	Jashpur Branch Jashpur 7797201001	MR. SHIVPRASAD RAM S/O MR. BUDHRAM, GRAM-VASUDEV PUR CHARAIDAND DIST - JASHPUR, C.G.- 496225	TATA TIGOR XM 1.2 RTN BS6PH2 CAR RC No. CG 14 MU 1751	2024	Rs. 7,19,144/- +interest & other charges	Rs. 3,15,000.00 Rs. 31,500.00
02	Jashpur Branch Jashpur 7797201001	SUNITA SAHARE ADDRESS: BALACHHAPAR JASHPUR, CHHATTISGARH 496331	TATA TIGOR XM 1.2 RTN Reg. No. CG 14 MS 5725	2023	Rs. 5,31,282/- +interest & other charges	Rs. 3,24,000.00 Rs. 32,400.00
03	Jashpur Branch Jashpur 7797201001	MR. AAKIB KHAN ADDRESS: BHELWATOLI, JASHPUR (CG) - 496334	TATA NEXON SMART +PMT Reg. No. CG 14 MS 9977	2023	Rs. 8,30,402/- +interest & other charges	Rs. 4,86,000.00 Rs. 48,600.00
04	Jashpur Branch Jashpur 7797201001	MRS. PRITI TIGGA ADDRESS: GINABAHAR, JASHPUR NAGAR CHHATISGARH - 496225	TATA TIAGO XZ+ 1.2 RTN BS6 Registration No.: CG 14 MS 0590	2022	Rs. 5,29,503.90 +interest & other charges	Rs. 2,91,600.00 Rs. 29,160.00
05	Jashpur Branch Jashpur 7797201001	MR. SEVAK SHUKLA ADDRESS: 104 SAKARDEGA RAIGARH CHHATISGARH - 496331	TATA ALTROZ XM +1.2P BS6PH2 Registration No. CG 14 MS 6128	2023	Rs.7,26,450/- +interest & other charges	Rs. 3,64,500.00 Rs. 36,450.00

The last date for submission of EMD shall be on 09.12.2026 till 06.00PM. The interested bidders may inspect the asset at site on any working day within working hours with prior appointment. Bid increment amount will be Rs. 5,000/- (Rupees Five Thousands Only). All further detailed terms & conditions of sale can be accessed from our website of e-auction agency https://baanknet.com.

STATUTORY 15 DAYS SALE NOTICE. The Borrowers/Guarantors are hereby given notice to pay the sum mentioned as above before the date of auction, failing which the property will be auctioned and balance if any will be recovered with interest and cost from them by legal avenues.

Date: 21.11.2026, Place: Bilaspur (C.G.) Authorised Officer, Bank of Baroda

बैंक ऑफ़ 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.bank.in

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 6(2) & 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable/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) / Mortgagor(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: 09.12.2026 FROM 02.00PM TO 06.00PM

Sr. No.	Name & Address of Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagor(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	1. M/s Vedanshi Publication Prop. Mr. Ajeet Kumar Sahu S/o Mr. Fagulal Sahu, Vill. Khajuri Nawagaon, Kathakoni, Takhatpur Road, Bilaspur, (CG) - 495001 2. Mrs.Pamita Sahu W/o Mr. Ajeet Kumar Sahu (Guarantor), 32 Nariyara, PO Nariyara Sub Dist. - Malkharoda Dist. Janjgir Champa C.G. - 495691 3. Mr. Fagulal Sahu S/o Mr. Roopsai, Address - 32 Nariyara, PO Nariyara, Sub Dist. - Malkharoda, Dist.- Janjgir Champa, C.G. - 495691. Bilaspur Mungeli Road Branch	Equitable Mortgage of diverted residential land situated at Kh No. 666/16, admeasuring area 1200 sq ft at Plot No. 83 Mouza Mendra, P H No. 42, RNM Sakri, Vikaskhand and Tehsil Takhatpur, Dist. Bilaspur, CG belonging to Mrs.Pamita Sahu W/o Mr. Ajeet Kumar Sahu. Boundary: North: Land of Previous Owner, South: Land of Previous Owner, East: Road West: Land of Previous Owner.	Rs. 46,72,636.17 + interest + other charges	Rs. 8,74,800.00 Rs. 87,480.00 Rs. 10,000.00	Physical Possession
		Equitable mortgage of Residential Diverted land situated at Kh No.- 263/43 admeasuring area 1896 sq ft located at Plot No. 40/04, Kh No. 263/43, P H No. 40, Mouza Tifra, RNM Bilaspur, Vikaskhand Bilha, Tehsil & Dist. Bilaspur, C.G. in the name of Mr. Fagulal Sahu S/o Mr.Roopsai and Mr. Ajeet Kumar Sahu S/o Mr. Fagulal Sahu. Boundary: North : Diwal of Shamshan Ghat, South : Land of Vivekanand Suman, East: Land of Nazru Khan, West: Nistari Road.		Rs. 24,78,600.00 Rs. 2,47,860.00 Rs. 10,000.00	Physical Possession
02	Mrs. Priyanka Dulani W/o Late Shri Harish Kumar Dulani Address: House No. - 246, Ward No. 06, Near New Sabji Market, Manendragarh, MCB, Chhattisgarh – 497442 Branch:MANENDRAGARH	Equitable Mortgage of Residential Flat No. - 209, Second Floor, Welcome Heights, Part of Kh No.- 438/99 and 441/4 situated at Vill.- Pandri Tarai, Shankar Nagar, Ward No. 31, PH No. 109, Raipur in name of Mrs. Priyanka Dulani W/o Late Shri Harish Kumar Dulani. Boundaries: North: Astha Apartment & Seller's Property, South: Road & Pathak Land East : Samshanghat Wall, West: Road & Other's Land.	Rs. 13,81,161.49 + interest + other charges	Rs. 15,39,000.00 Rs. 1,53,900.00 Rs. 10,000.00	Physical Possession
03	MR. RAMESH CHAND PANDEY Address: EWS 11, 305 Sec.- 29, Naya Raipur, Raipur, C.G. - 492002 Branch: Janjgir	Residential landed property of land area - 590.72 Sq.Ft. having Plot No.-F-04, Kh. No.- 1922/1, P.H. No.- 02, R.N.M. Champa, Situated at 'DB Tanishqa" Mauza- Seoni, Tehsil-Champa, District : Janjgir - Champa, State - Chhattisgarh. Boundaries of the property : As Per Sale Deed- North : Plot No.-3, South : Plot No.- 5, East : Sellers Plot, West : Road.	Rs. 17,56,762.00 + interest + other charges	Rs. 11,50,200.00 Rs. 1,15,020.00 Rs. 10,000.00	Physical Possession
04	Mr. Dharmendra Singade S/o Mr. Bhau Das Singade House No.- 249, TIFRA Panchasil Colony Tifra Bilaspur, C.G. - 495223 Mrs. Nisha Singhade R/o R B Green Vihar, Yadunandan Nagar, Tifra Bilaspur, C.G. 495223, | BRANCH: TILAKNAGAR	EM of Residential land belonging to Mr. Dharmendra Singade admeasuring 1365 sqft at Khasra No. - 304/7 situated at Village Ghuru, PC No. - 61 RIC Sakri, Tehsil - Takhatpur, Dist.- Bilaspur, C.G. Boundary of the Property: North : Land of Dhiraj Suryavansi, South : Land of seller, East: Nistari Road, West: Land of Gulab Singh.	Rs. 17,95,272.00 + interest + other charges	Rs. 18,79,200.00 Rs. 1,87,920.00 Rs. 10,000.00	Physical Possession

Property Inspection Date & Time 08.12.2026, 01pm To 4pm (with prior appointment). 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 Phone No. - 07752-310231.

Date: 21.11.2026, Place: Bilaspur (C.G.) Authorised Officer, Bank of Baroda

"When a male-led film flops, nobody says that we shouldn't be making 'male-centric' films. So, I am not going to stop choosing films that are women-led. When you take these gambles, you always risk falling flat on your face. But there's an equally good chance that you might fly."

Alia Bhatt



&Glitters

OTT Watch



Sacred Jewel brings Goryeo era drama

Korean historical epic Sacred Jewel, starring Ahn Bo-hyun, will premiere on Prime Video on December 5. Set during the Goryeo dynasty, the 14-episode series follow a dangerous mission to retrieve a miraculous sacred jewel.



Shashi Tharoor's hosting debut

Shashi Tharoor will make his television hosting debut with Discovery's four-part docuseries Itihasa: Ramayana Beyond Borders, premiering December 7. The series explores the epic's cultural journey across Asia and its diverse interpretations.



Anbil Avan blends romance with thrills

Anbil Avan is streaming on SonyLIV. Starring Ashok Selvan and Preity Mukhundhan, this Tamil romantic action thriller follows a married couple whose dream of running a hilltop homestay turns into a fight against an influential local figure.



A dangerous game of secrets and lies

Perfect Liars is streaming on Prime Video. This Spanish young-adult thriller follows Jude Derry, a determined student who challenges three wealthy brothers at an elite university, uncovering hidden secrets that threaten their powerful family empire.



Love and ambition face a new reality

Teen Tigada is streaming on ZEE5. Starring Prasanna Bisht and Danesh Razvi, this drama follows an aspiring cricketer and a musician whose promising careers face uncertainty after an unexpected pregnancy changes their relationship.

CLOSE UP

Ayushmann calls Salman Khan the ultimate 'Prem'

Ayushmann shares his thoughts on playing Prem in Barjatya's upcoming film.

Central Chronicle News

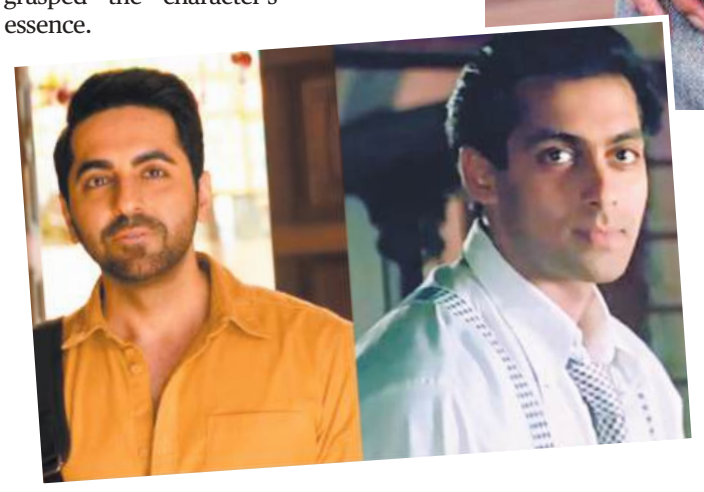
He calls Salman the original Prem and praises his unforgettable screen presence.



Ayushmann Khurrana in Yeh Prem Mol Liya



Ayushmann Khurrana believes nobody can match Salman Khan when portraying Prem on screen. At the trailer launch of Yeh Prem Mol Liya the actor spoke about stepping into the character created by filmmaker Sooraj Barjatya and acknowledged Salman's legacy. Addressing comparisons with Salman, Ayushmann said, "Firstly, nobody can be a better Prem than Salman Bhai. He is the OG Prem. We all idealise him as Prem." He added that playing the character carries responsibility because Prem represents the qualities of an ideal man. According to Ayushmann, a Prem should be sensitive, kind and emotionally available. He believes the world needs such men, making the character relevant today. The actor said portraying someone who stands by his values requires understanding what makes a person good. Director Sooraj Barjatya revealed that Ayushmann was his first choice when the film's subject came to him. Praising his simplicity and understanding, the filmmaker said the actor quickly grasped the character's essence.



He explained that Salman and Ayushmann bring their individual personalities to the role, adding that Ayushmann has created a distinct version of Prem.

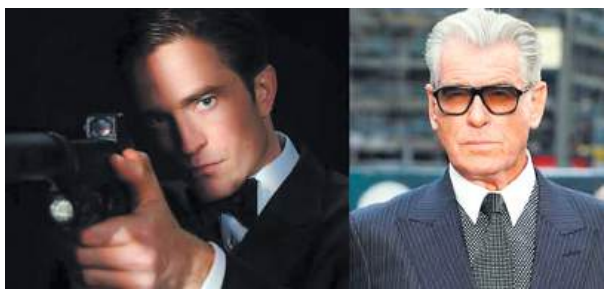
The trailer also prompted comparisons with Karan Johar's Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani, as Ayushmann's character attempts to bring two families together. The actor said the stories were different and pointed out that Prem stands firmly by his wife. Co-star Seema Pahwa agreed that the films explore different family dynamics.

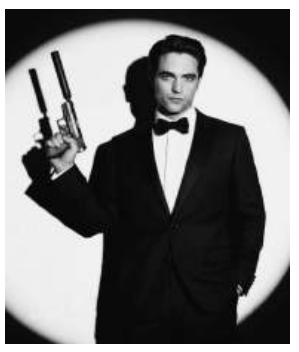
Yeh Prem Mol Liya stars Ayushmann Khurrana and Sharvari. The supporting cast includes Anupam Kher, Seema Pahwa, Supriya Pathak, Saumya Tandon and Swanand Kirkire. Directed by Sooraj Barjatya, the film releases in theatres on November 27.

| HOLLYWOOD |

Pierce Brosnan welcomes the new 'James Bond'

Central Chronicle News





Pierce Brosnan welcomed Robert Pattinson

HIGHLIGHT

- **Pierce Brosnan extends a warm welcome to Robert Pattinson as Bond.**

Pierce Brosnan has welcomed Robert Pattinson to the world of James Bond. Brosnan, who played the British spy in four films, shared a heartfelt message for his former Remember Me co-star on Instagram, alongside a picture of Pattinson from the announcement. "Dear Robert, welcome to the world of Bond. You are going to be magnificent. I have fond memories of our time together making Remember Me," Brosnan wrote. He praised Pattinson's career, saying it had been a joy to watch him build a remarkable body of work and grow from strength to strength. The veteran actor ended his note by encouraging him to enjoy the experience. Brosnan portrayed 007 between 1995 and 2002, appearing in GoldenEye, Tomorrow Never Dies, The World Is Not Enough and Die Another Day. Daniel Craig took over the role in 2006 with Casino Royale and played Bond in five films, concluding his run with No Time to Die in 2021. Pattinson becomes the seventh actor to portray the secret agent, following Sean Connery, George Lazenby, Roger Moore, Timothy Dalton, Brosnan and Craig. Connery first appeared as Bond in Dr No in 1962, launching a screen legacy that has continued for more than six decades. Several of Pattinson's former co-stars have also welcomed his casting. Elizabeth Debicki, who worked with him on Tenet, and Rami Malek, his co-star in the Twilight franchise, have shared their support. The announcement ends months of speculation over the role. Names previously linked to the part included Callum Turner, Jack Lowden, Nicholas Hoult, Josh O'Connor, Tom Francis, Aaron Taylor-Johnson, Harris Dickinson and Harry Styles. Dune filmmaker Denis Villeneuve is set to direct the highly anticipated upcoming Bond film for Amazon MGM.

CineBriefs

BEST OF THE REST

Web Series

Tabu to Star in Netflix series Tunnel Men

Actor Tabu is set to feature in YRF Entertainment's upcoming Netflix series Tunnel Men, inspired by the 2023 Uttarakhand tunnel rescue operation. The fictionalised drama will revisit the 17-day mission during which 41 workers trapped inside the collapsed Silkyara tunnel were rescued. The series will explore themes of resilience, teamwork and hope. Shiv Rawail, known for directing The Railway Men, will serve as showrunner. Tabu, whose career spans over three decades, has delivered acclaimed performances in films such as Maachis, Chandni Bar, Haider and Andhadhun. The project marks another collaboration between YRF Entertainment and Netflix.

Hot Pair

Yami Gautam praises husband Aditya Dhar



Yami Gautam showered praise on husband and filmmaker Aditya Dhar, calling him a rare combination of integrity, honesty, passion and hard work. She admired his ability to remain kind despite difficult experiences and appreciated his positive attitude towards people. Yami also highlighted his dedication, revealing how he works tirelessly with complete commitment towards filmmaking. Aditya responded humorously, saying her compliments might save him from doing household chores. He also praised Yami's talent, calling her a wonderful human being with a golden heart and immense untapped potential. The couple also received the Champion of Bharat Story honour.



fashion

Alia Bhatt stuns in strapless ruby-red Sabyasachi gown

Alia Bhatt made a striking fashion statement in a custom ruby-red Sabyasachi gown. The strapless, floor-length creation featured a fitted bodice and dramatic mermaid-style flare, complemented by a matching satin belt with a delicate bow detail. She accessorised with an elaborate antique-finished gemstone choker, keeping other jewellery minimal. For her beauty look, Alia opted for voluminous brunette waves, softly smoky eyes, luminous makeup, sculpted cheekbones and a muted lip shade. The elegant ensemble beautifully combined classic glamour with contemporary sophistication, highlighting how a rich colour and statement jewellery can elevate an otherwise understated look.

Trending on Insta

@priyankachopra

Priyanka shares Malti's adorable Gayatri Mantra recital

Priyanka Chopra shares an adorable video of daughter Malti Marie reciting the Gayatri Mantra, offering a glimpse into how she is introducing Indian traditions to her little one. The actress posted family moments, vacation pictures and behind-the-scenes glimpses on Instagram.





Lifestyle

LIFE MATTERS

When spirituality meets the restless world

Beyond everyday ambitions, people are discovering the value of inner peace.



A journey towards inner peace

In a world shaped by busy schedules, constant notifications and endless expectations, people are looking for ways to slow down and reconnect with themselves. Spirituality, once viewed through religious rituals, is finding a place in life across generations. From reading the Bhagavad Gita and practising meditation to chanting, yoga and visiting sacred destinations, individuals are exploring ancient wisdom. This interest is visible in travel trends: spiritual journeys accounted for more than 53 per cent of tourist trips to spiritual destinations in India in FY26. Yet, the appeal goes beyond pilgrimage. For many, it is an opportunity to pause, reflect and seek meaning beyond milestones. The Bhagavad Gita offers lessons that remain relevant amid pressures. Lord Krishna's advice to perform one's duties sincerely without becoming attached to the outcome encourages a balanced approach to success

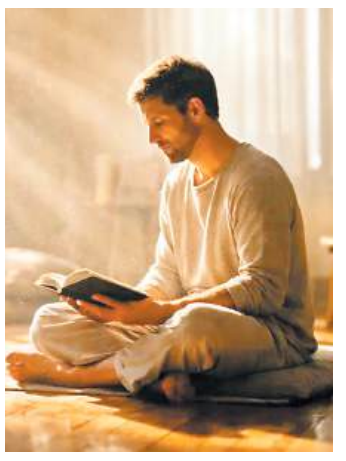


HIGHLIGHT

- From the Bhagavad Gita to meditation, the journey begins within.

and disappointment. Whether facing work challenges, family responsibilities or personal setbacks, this teaching reminds us to focus on our actions while accepting that not everything is within our control. Spiritual practices can bring pauses into busy routines. Meditation encourages stillness, chanting helps direct attention, and yoga builds awareness of the connection between body and mind. Collective activities such as kirtan foster belonging, while seva, or selfless service, nurtures compassion. Importantly, spirituality does not require anyone to withdraw from everyday life or abandon ambitions. Its value lies in the perspective it brings to experiences: patience during uncertainty, gratitude for everyday





moments and kindness in relationships.

Perhaps this renewed interest in ancient teachings reflects a universal realisation. Achievements and material comforts can enrich life, but they do not always guarantee contentment. Sometimes, feeling fulfilled begins not by chasing more, but by making space to look within.

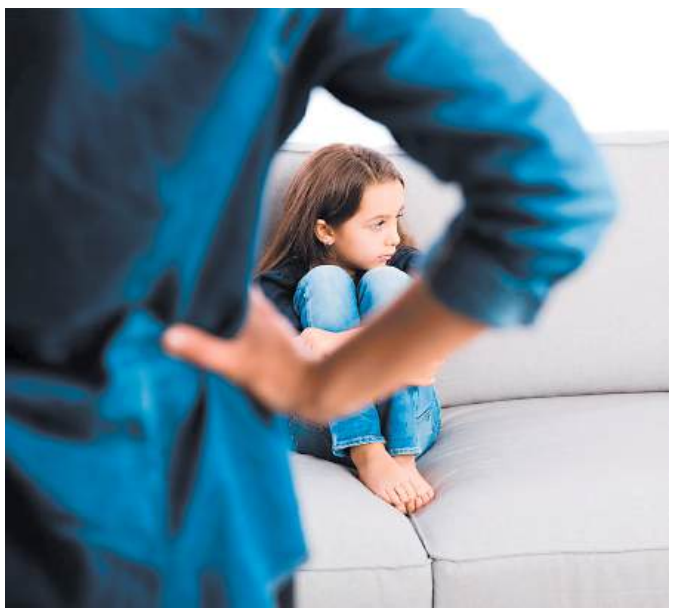
Hakini Mudra: A simple gesture for better focus



Struggling with stress, restlessness or difficulty concentrating? Hakini Mudra, also known as the Brain Power Mudra, is a traditional yoga hand gesture associated with mental clarity, awareness and focus. Practised by gently bringing the fingertips of both hands together, it is commonly included in meditation routines. Named after Goddess Hakini, associated with the third-eye chakra, this mudra encourages mindful breathing and attention. It may help create a calming pause amid everyday distractions and promote relaxation. To practise, sit comfortably with your back straight, touch all fingertips gently and breathe naturally for a few minutes without applying pressure. Regular practice can become a simple addition to your daily wellness routine.

RELATIONSHIP

Why saying no is an important part of parenting



Saying no to children can often leave parents feeling guilty, especially when requests come with tears or disappointment. However, setting boundaries is an essential part of healthy parenting. Whether it involves screen time, toys, bedtime or daily habits, consistent limits help children develop patience, discipline and emotional resilience. Learning to wait also teaches them delayed gratification and helps them understand that not every wish can be fulfilled immediately. Parents can make refusals easier by explaining their decisions calmly, acknowledging children's feelings and offering alternatives. A loving no can teach valuable life lessons without making children feel rejected or unloved.

| DECOR |

The Art of Creating Homes That Age Beautifully

Central Chronicle News

The secret to beautiful interiors lies in balancing style and practicality.

Pinterest has become a favourite destination for homeowners seeking interior inspiration. From furniture silhouettes to cosy colour palettes, the platform offers endless ideas. However, recreating every trending look may not be practical. A beautiful home balances aesthetics, comfort and functionality.

Curved furniture can introduce elegance into interiors. Rounded sofas, accent chairs and coffee tables bring softness to a room while creating an inviting atmosphere. Choose well-proportioned pieces that suit the space and are comfortable for everyday use, rather than selecting shapes simply because they look striking online. Natural materials such as wood, stone, cane and textured fabrics add warmth and character. Their finishes bring depth to a room and work well with changing styles. A wooden console, stone coffee table or textured upholstery can remain relevant long after a trend has faded. Lighting plays an important role in defining a home's personality. Instead of relying on a ceiling fixture, combine floor lamps, table lights and ambient lighting to create depth and make spaces more welcoming. A sculptural lamp can become a decorative feature while serving a practical purpose. Warm neutrals such as cream, beige, sand



Focus on those Pinterest trend which are evergreen



FACTFILE

- From curved furniture to layered lighting, timeless details make all the difference.

and earthy brown offer a versatile foundation. Pair these shades with colourful cushions, artwork and accessories to refresh interiors without replacing furniture pieces.

Investing in statement furniture is worthwhile. A selected coffee table, console or accent chair can give a room its identity. Prioritising quality, comfort and practical designs over temporary trends helps interiors remain appealing for years. Ultimately, a Pinterest-inspired home should reflect personal taste rather than replicate online aesthetics. The best interiors combine visual appeal with everyday comfort, adapt to changing needs and continue to feel inviting long after trends change.

GadgetPick

TRENDING PERSONAL-TECH

Xiaomi Clip Open-Ear Earbuds



About:
The Xiaomi Clip Open-Ear Earbuds feature a lightweight clip-on design that rests comfortably on the outer ear. They allow users to enjoy music while remaining aware of their surroundings.
Key Features:
Each earbud weighs 5.5g and features an 11mm driver with LHDC 5.0 support. Four microphones ensure clearer calls, while directional audio reduces sound leakage. The IP57-rated earbuds offer nine hours of playback, extending to 38 hours with the charging case. Apple Find My support adds convenience.

Lenovo Googlebook 15



About:
The Lenovo Googlebook 15 is a lightweight 15.3-inch laptop designed around Gemini Intelligence. It supports connectivity with Android smartphones and comes bundled with a Lenovo AI Mouse.
Key Features:
Its 2.8K OLED touchscreen offers a 120Hz refresh rate, complemented by four Dolby Atmos speakers. Gemini-powered features simplify tasks, while phone integration enables easy file and app access. Weighing 2.84 pounds, it houses a 70Wh battery. Facial recognition, fingerprint login and a physical camera shutter add security and privacy.

Chargerless Ray Health Tracker



About:
The Chargerless Ray Health Tracker is a lightweight, 7-gram wearable band that uses solar energy to monitor sleep, heart health and daily activity. It requires no charging cable or monthly subscription.
Key Features:
Its built-in solar cell converts sunlight into power, while a 60-day energy reserve ensures continuous tracking. It monitors sleep stages, heart rate, HRV and body temperature to generate a readiness score. The IP68-rated stainless steel design supports swimming and sauna use. Its app offers lifetime updates and syncs with Apple Health and Google Health Connect.

JIMMY BX8 Pro Anti-mite UV Mattress Vacuum Cleaner



About:
The JIMMY BX8 Pro is a corded mattress vacuum cleaner designed to remove dust mites, pet dander and allergens using powerful suction, UV-C light and heat technology.
Key Features:
Its dual motors deliver 17,000Pa suction, while a brushroll loosens embedded dirt. UV-C light targets 99.9% of bacteria, and 65°C graphene heating helps remove moisture. A built-in diffuser releases an aroma mist to reduce odours. The 0.5L washable dust cup, LED dust display and five-stage HEPA-grade filtration enhance cleaning convenience.

Eufy Window Camera E10



About:
The eufy Window Camera E10 is a 2.5K security camera designed to monitor porches and driveways from inside a window. Its adhesive mounting system requires no drilling or monthly subscription.
Key Features:
Its reusable mounting sticker allows easy installation, while a 25-degree adjustable tilt improves outdoor visibility. Anti-reflection stickers reduce window glare, and the f/1.0 lens captures colour night footage. AI alerts identify people, vehicles and pets, while custom activity zones filter unwanted notifications. It supports continuous recording on microSD cards up to 256GB.

Xiaomi Smart Band 11



About:
The Xiaomi Smart Band 11 is a slim fitness tracker featuring a 1.72-inch AMOLED display. It monitors workouts, heart rate and sleep, offering up to 21 days of battery life on a single charge.
Key Features:
Its lightweight 9.99mm body ensures comfortable wear, while the 2,000-nit display offers clear visibility outdoors. An upgraded heart rate sensor supports underwater monitoring, and the 5ATM rating makes it suitable for swimming. With over 150 sports modes, Bluetooth heart rate sharing and detailed sleep insights, it supports everyday fitness tracking.

Sports



"Bumrah is incredible and the biggest threat. His snappy action makes you feel you are late on the ball."

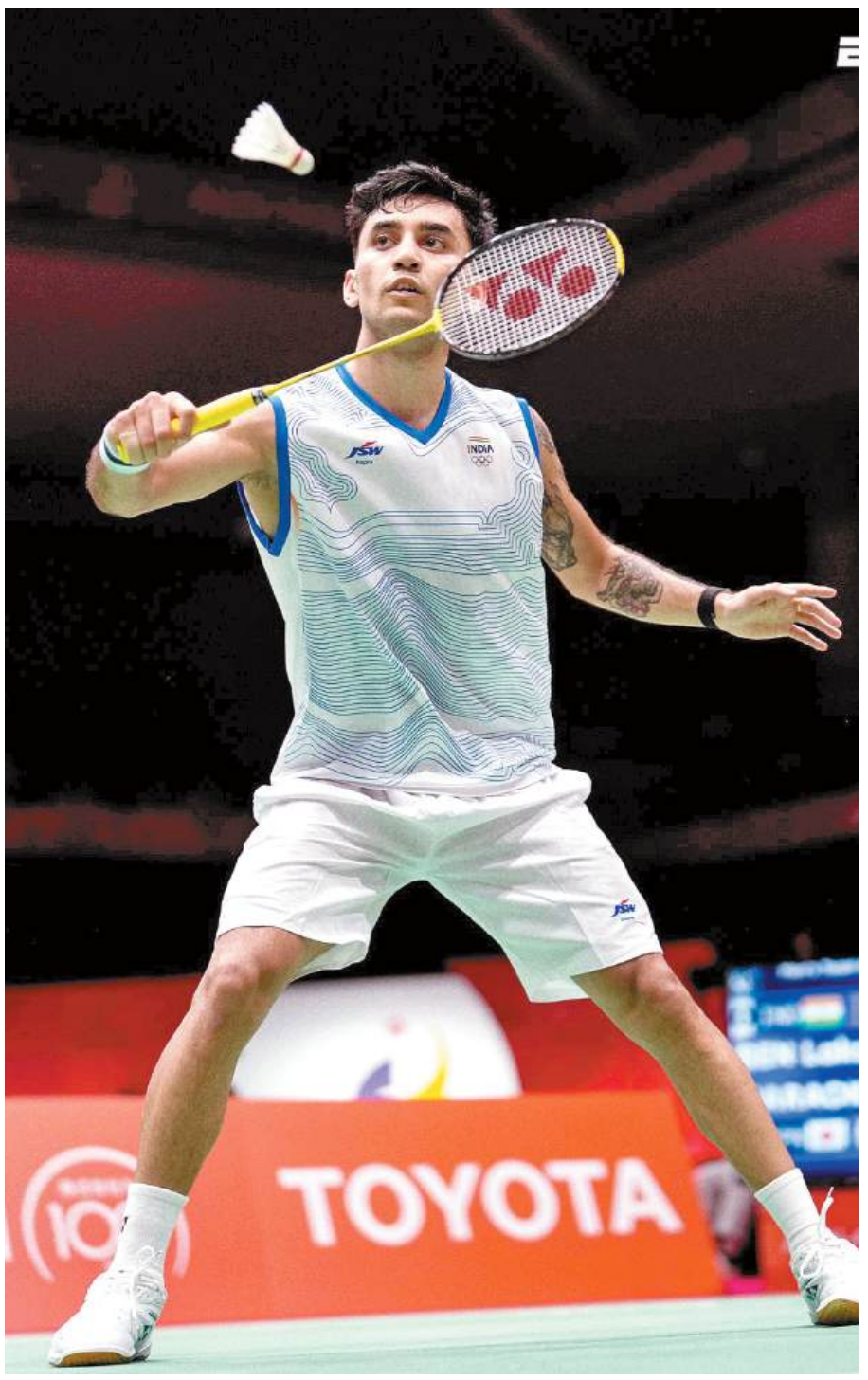
Glenn Phillips
New Zealand all-rounder

Lakshya Sen, Satwik-Chirag storm into Hong Kong Open semifinals

Indian badminton stars Lakshya Sen and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy-Chirag Shetty advanced to the Hong Kong Open semifinals after hard-fought victories, while rising talent Rakshitha Ramraj suffered a quarterfinal defeat.

Press Trust Of India

Satwik-Chirag overcome Chinese challenge, keeping India's men's doubles title hopes alive.



KOWLOON: India's Lakshya Sen continued his remarkable winning streak, advancing to the Hong Kong Open men's singles semifinals with a convincing three-game victory over Singapore's former world champion Loh Kean Yew on Friday.

The 25-year-old from Almora defeated eighth seed Loh 21-17, 10-21, 21-13 in the Super 500 tournament's quarterfinals, further underlining his impressive form this season.

Lakshya, who has already secured qualification for the season-ending BWF World Tour Finals in Hangzhou, entered the tournament following consecutive triumphs at the Hylo Open and Kumamoto Masters Japan.

The 2022 Commonwealth Games champion will next face the winner of the quarterfinal between Denmark's Anders Antonsen and China's third seed Zhu Xuan Chen.

Meanwhile, India's formidable men's doubles combination of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty also booked a semifinal berth after overcoming China's Hu Ke Yuan and Lin Xiang Yi.

The fifth-seeded Indian pair registered a 21-12, 13-21, 21-16 victory in 59 minutes. After comfortably winning the opening game, they stumbled in the second before regaining control in the decider.

Having already captured Super 750 titles at the Singapore and China Opens this season, Satwik and Chirag will face either Denmark's Daniel Lundgaard-Mads Vestergaard or Malaysia's Man Wei Chong-Tee Kai Wun.

However, India's promising women's singles player Rakshitha Ramraj saw her impressive campaign end following a 19-21, 16-21 quarterfinal defeat against Thailand's fifth seed Pornpawee Chochuwong.

Rakshitha had earlier produced a stunning upset against China's second seed Chen Yu Fei, winning 21-18, 24-22, after defeating Denmark's Mia Blichfeldt in the opening round.

Despite experiencing soreness in her legs, Rakshitha expressed satisfaction with her performance and acknowledged that her opponent's superior experience made the difference.

She described the tournament as an important learning experience and expressed confidence ahead of the Syed Modi International in Lucknow.

Argentine football body eyes Centre of Excellence in Navi Mumbai

THANE: The Argentine Football Association (AFA) is exploring a collaboration with the Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation (NMMC) to set up a 'Centre of Excellence' to impart international-standard football training across schools and academies in the city, officials said on Friday. An AFA delegation recently visited the NMMC headquarters to hold detailed deliberations on the initiative, noting that Navi Mumbai's modern sports infrastructure makes it a priority destination in India, an official release stated. To take the proposal forward, the AFA delegation was asked to submit a detailed project report outlining the overall framework, implementation methodology, required infrastructure and the support expected from the civic body.

| PAKISTAN CELEBRATE VICTORY |

Pakistan crush Sri Lanka to end two-year Test series drought

Press Trust Of India

Pakistan defeated Sri Lanka convincingly, securing their first Test series since 2024.



RAWALPINDI: Pakistan registered a commanding eight-wicket victory over Sri Lanka in the second Test on Friday, securing their first Test series triumph in two years.

Chasing a modest target of 90, Pakistan reached 90/2 in just 13 overs on the fourth morning, clinching the two-match series 1-0.

Azan Awais remained unbeaten on 32, while allrounder Aamer Jamal smashed an unbeaten 34 off 22 deliveries, including five boundaries and a six.

Earlier, Sri Lanka were dismissed for 316 in their second innings, with Mohammad Abbas claiming 3/55. Abbas finished with six wickets for 69 runs across both innings, compensating for injured paceman Saqib Khan's absence.

Sri Lanka's Milan Rathnayake remained unbeaten on 66, but his resistance could not prevent defeat.

Pakistan had established control after dismissing Sri Lanka for just 98 in the first innings, securing a massive 227-run advantage.

Captain Babar Azam praised his inexperienced side, particularly the youngsters who seized their opportunities.

The victory marked Pakistan's third win in 11 matches during the current World Test Championship cycle.

Sri Lankan captain Kusal Mendis acknowledged his team's batting failures.

Pakistan's previous Test series victory came against England in 2024.

| NAND ADVISES GUKESH |

Anand urges Gukesh to relax ahead of world title defence

Press Trust Of India



BUDAPEST: Chess legend Viswanathan Anand has advised reigning world champion D Gukesh to relax and enjoy his game ahead of his title defence against Uzbekistan's Javokhir Sindarov in Geneva next week.

"I have told him that sometimes it's better to let go and just relax, because no amount of worrying is going to fix some things," Anand said.

The 20-year-old Gukesh has struggled for consistency since winning the world championship, slipping to 26th in the rankings with a rating of 2710.

He finished last or joint last at the Prague Masters, Norway Chess and Chennai Grand Masters this year.

Anand, who has mentored several Indian youngsters through the Westbridge Anand Chess Academy, emphasised that excessive worrying cannot improve performance.

> **"I have told him that sometimes it's better to let go and just relax, because no amount of worrying is going to fix some things."**
>
> **Viswanathan Anand**
> Five-time world chess champion

The five-time world champion also praised R Vaishali's performances at the Total Chess World Championship Tour Pilot in Budapest.

Vaishali defeated Wesley So and Hans Niemann in blitz before overcoming Arjun Erigaisi in Fast Classical.

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

JAYAWARDENE JOINS CAPITALS

Mahela Jayawardene joins Delhi Capitals as WPL Director of Cricket



NEW DELHI: Delhi Capitals on Friday appointed former Sri Lankan captain Mahela Jayawardene as Director of Cricket for its Women's Premier League team ahead of the 2027 season. Jayawardene will oversee cricketing operations, including team strategy, talent identification and development of players and coaching staff. The Sri Lankan legend, who guided Mumbai Indians to three IPL titles, expressed excitement about his new responsibility. He emphasised building on Delhi Capitals' strengths, improving consistency and developing a title-winning side. Delhi Capitals co-owner Kiran Kumar Grandhi said Jayawardene's experience and strategic leadership would strengthen the women's setup. Co-owner Parth Jindal welcomed the appointment, describing Jayawardene as one of cricket's finest minds whose achievements as a player, captain and coach would benefit the franchise. **PTI**

GUKESH FACES SINDAROV

Gukesh faces tough challenge against Sindarov in World Chess Championship



GENEVA: Defending champion D Gukesh faces a formidable challenge against in-form Uzbek grandmaster Javokhir Sindarov in the FIDE World Chess Championship beginning November 24. Gukesh, who defeated China's Ding Liren in 2024, enters the contest ranked 26th with 2710 rating points, while Sindarov stands fourth with 2782. Sindarov's impressive victories in the World Cup and Candidates tournament make him a strong contender. The championship features 14 classical games, with the first player reaching 7.5 points winning the title. Tiebreaks will determine the champion if necessary. The USD 2.5 million prize fund offers USD 200,000 for each victory. Gukesh is expected to receive guidance from longtime trainer Grzegorz Gajewski during the prestigious contest at Fondation Martin Bodmer in Cologny. **PTI**

TOTAL CHESS PILOT

Carlsen records first Fast Classic win, Praggnanandhaa defeats Abhimanyu Mishra



BUDAPEST: World No. 1 Magnus Carlsen registered his first Fast Classic victory at the Total Chess World Championship Tour Pilot, while India's R Praggnanandhaa defeated Abhimanyu Mishra 12-8. Carlsen overturned a 3-9 deficit against Vladislav Artemiev to win 11-9, improving his live rating to 2804. However, Indian grandmasters Arjun Erigaisi and R Vaishali suffered defeats. Erigaisi lost 5.5-14.5 to Haik Martirosyan despite a promising start, while Vaishali went down 4-16 against Nodirbek Abdusattorov. Meanwhile, Dutch grandmaster Anish Giri defeated Alireza Firouzja 11-9 to take the opening-day lead in the final. Fabiano Caruana also secured an 11-9 advantage over Maxime Vachier-Lagrave in their third-place contest. **PTI**

SHELTON ADVANCES CONFIDENTLY

Shelton advances to ATP Finals semifinals, sets up Alcaraz showdown



TURIN: American Ben Shelton advanced to the ATP Finals semifinals after defeating Rafael Jodar 7-6 (8), 7-5, with Alexander Zverev's victory over Arthur Fils securing his qualification. Shelton, who fired 14 aces, will face Carlos Alcaraz in a rematch of their thrilling US Open quarterfinal. Alcaraz subsequently defeated Shelton in the Paris Masters final. Zverev maintained his unbeaten group record by overcoming Fils 6-4, 7-6 (6), despite experiencing discomfort in his previously injured right ankle. The German will meet either Daniil Medvedev or Frances Tiafoe in the semifinals. Meanwhile, Alcaraz faces fitness concerns after requiring treatment for his left thigh during his victory over Medvedev. Shelton's qualification marks a significant improvement over his winless ATP Finals debut last year. **PTI**

Sports News

Yashasvi Jaiswal, Rahul turn the tables after Nicholls' 175

Yashasvi Jaiswal's attacking 85 and KL Rahul's unbeaten half-century helped India stage a strong comeback after Henry Nicholls and Glenn Phillips powered New Zealand to 368 in Wellington.

Press Trust Of India

Jaiswal smashes 16 boundaries as India reaches 159/1 on second day.



WELLINGTON: Yashasvi Jaiswal produced a dazzling display of stroke-play, smashing 85 off 89 deliveries as India mounted a spirited counterattack against New Zealand on the second day of the opening Test at Basin Reserve on Friday.

India reached 159/1 at stumps, responding strongly to New Zealand's first-innings total of 368, built around Henry Nicholls' unbeaten 175 and Glenn Phillips' magnificent 118.

Jaiswal and KL Rahul, unbeaten on 52, added 130 runs for the opening wicket, India's first century opening partnership in New Zealand since Navjot Sidhu and Nayan Mongia's 102-run stand at Hamilton in 1994.

The Indian openers began cautiously, failing to score during the first four overs before unleashing an aggressive assault on the New Zealand bowling attack.

Jaiswal struck 16 boundaries, including a memorable straight drive off Jacob Duffy that brought up his half-century. His elegant cover drives and innovative ramp shots repeatedly frustrated the hosts.

Rahul provided excellent support, allowing Jaiswal to dominate while maintaining a steady scoring rate.

However, Matt Henry eventually dismissed Jaiswal after captain Tom Latham instructed wicketkeeper Tom Blundell to stand closer to the stumps. The left-hander edged a delivery into Blundell's gloves.

Devdutt Padikkal, unbeaten on 16, joined Rahul as India ended the day 209 runs behind.

Earlier, Nicholls anchored New Zealand's innings with an extraordinary unbeaten 175, spending nearly ten hours at the crease.

His crucial 216-run sixth-wicket partnership with Phillips rescued the hosts from a precarious 70/5.

Phillips struck 118 off 216 deliveries before Akash Deep produced a superb delivery that moved away after pitching and clipped his off-stump.

Jasprit Bumrah emerged as India's leading wicket-taker, claiming 4/92 from 29 overs, while Akash Deep returned impressive figures of 3/53.

However, Prasidh Krishna struggled with consistency, conceding 100 runs in 26 overs while taking one wicket. Anshul Kamboj claimed 2/69 but failed to maintain sustained pressure.

India's inability to exploit the second new ball allowed New Zealand to establish a competitive total. Despite those bowling concerns, India's aggressive batting response shifted the momentum considerably.

With Rahul well settled and Padikkal providing support, India will aim to erase the deficit and establish control on the third day.

India eye continued dominance against South Korea in hockey



Press Trust Of India

Defending champions India seek another victory against South Korea in Bhopal showdown.

BHOPAL: Defending champions India will aim to extend their continental dominance when they face South Korea in their second round-robin match of the Women's Asian Champions Trophy hockey tournament here on Saturday.

India began their campaign impressively, defeating Malaysia 4-1 on Thursday, and will look to maintain their winning momentum against fellow three-time champions South Korea.

Both teams have won the tournament three times, making them the joint-most successful sides in the competition's history. India claimed their titles in 2016, 2023 and 2024.

Led by captain Salima Tete and coached by Sjoerd Marijne, India enter the tournament following their gold medal triumph at the 2026 Asian Games, which secured qualification for the Los Angeles 2028 Olympics.

Against Malaysia, India recovered from an early deficit through goals from Mumtaz Khan, Salima Tete, debutant Puja Sahoo and Lalremsiami.

Marijne particularly praised Puja, who impressed with her defensive abilities, accurate passing and penalty-corner execution during her senior international debut.

The coach is also focusing on developing squad depth, resting experienced goalkeeper Savita Punia and defender Ishika Chaudhary while rotating Bichu Devi and Bansari Solanki.

India will enter Saturday's contest as favourites, having defeated South Korea 2-0 in the Asian Games semifinals and 3-2 in the 2024 Asian Champions Trophy.

World rankings also favour India, placed seventh, while South Korea occupy 17th position.

However, Marijne cautioned against early nervousness, particularly when playing before home supporters.

He stressed that India must convert scoring opportunities more efficiently after taking time to settle against Malaysia.

A victory would strengthen India's position in the six-team tournament and boost their confidence ahead of tougher encounters.

| INDIA DOMINATE NEPAL |

India Rising Stars crush Nepal by 306 runs

Press Trust Of India

Prince Yadav's five-wicket haul helps India register massive victory over Nepal convincingly.



DOHA: India Rising Stars produced a sensational all-round performance, thrashing Nepal by 306 runs in a completely one-sided encounter.

Batting first, India posted an imposing 332/9 in 50 overs, powered by magnificent centuries from Kumar Kushagra and captain Tilak Varma.

Kushagra smashed 117 off 102 deliveries, including 10 boundaries and five sixes, while Tilak contributed 107 off 113 balls. The pair added 206 runs for the fourth wicket.

Suryansh Shedge provided a blistering finish with an unbeaten 36 off just 14 balls. Nepal's Lalit Rajbanshi and Sandeep Lamichhane claimed three wickets each.

Chasing 333, Nepal suffered a spectacular batting collapse, getting bundled out for just 26 runs in 11.3 overs.

Prince Yadav delivered exceptional figures of 5/6 in five overs, while Harshit Rana captured 4/16.

Shahbaz Ahmed claimed the final wicket as India completed a crushing victory.

Lakshya sets up girls singles final against Shaina

GANGTOK: Karnataka's Lakshya Rajesh set up the girls singles final against defending champion Shaina Manimuthu while Gnana Dattu TT will face Telangana's Akhil Reddy Bobba in the boys' singles at the junior national badminton championships. Lakshya, seeded eighth, upset second seed Parul Choudhary of Rajasthan 15-10 15-7 in the semifinals while her statement Shaina had to fight hard to get the better of 2025 Asian U-17 gold medallist Diksha SR 15-12 15-17 17-15 in a 45-minute encounter to reach the final. In the boy's singles semi-final, Gnana Dattu eased past Rudhar Pratap Singh Rana 15-7 15-6 while Akhil Reddy upset second seed Bornil Akash Changmai 15-13 7-15 15-6 to set up an all-Telangana summit clash.

| AKASH CREDITS GAMBHIR |

Gambhir's constant support helped me regain confidence: Akash Deep

Press Trust Of India

Akash Deep credits Gautam Gambhir's constant encouragement during his lengthy injury rehabilitation.



WELLINGTON: Indian pacer Akash Deep has credited head coach Gautam Gambhir for providing constant encouragement during his lengthy rehabilitation from a back stress fracture.

Returning to Test cricket after being sidelined since August 2025, Akash impressed with figures of 3/53 as India dismissed New Zealand for 368 in the opening Test.

Speaking after Friday's second day's play, the Bengal pacer revealed that Gambhir regularly checked on his recovery at the BCCI Centre of Excellence.

"GG sir used to follow up during that period and he would take updates," Akash said.

The rehabilitation period helped him improve his fitness and bowling skills, while performances for India A restored his confidence.

His dismissal of centurion Glenn Phillips, with a delivery that moved away and clipped off-stump, highlighted his impressive comeback.

Akash stressed the importance of patience, consistent line and length, and restricting runs.

He also praised India's aggressive batting approach, saying attacking batters put opposition bowlers under pressure.

FASTFACTS

- Gambhir regularly monitored Akash Deep's recovery during rehabilitation at BCCI's Centre of Excellence.
- Akash Deep claims three wickets on Test comeback against New Zealand in Wellington.

| PONTING BACKS HARDIK |

Hardik's arrival makes Punjab Kings stronger: Ponting

Press Trust Of India

Ricky Ponting believes Hardik Pandya's inclusion strengthens Punjab Kings' IPL 2027 prospects.



NEW DELHI: Punjab Kings head coach Ricky Ponting believes the addition of star all-rounder Hardik Pandya has transformed the franchise into a well-balanced unit ahead of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2027 season.

Pandya joined Punjab Kings from Mumbai Indians through a high-profile trade involving Indian pacer Arshdeep Singh, bringing valuable experience and versatility to the squad.

Ponting said the franchise had focused on maintaining continuity while making strategic changes before next year's mega auction.

Speaking to JioStar, the former Australian captain revealed that Punjab Kings had retained 19 players and released six, aiming to preserve the team's core throughout the three-year cycle.

Pandya, acquired for Rs 18 crore, significantly strengthens Punjab's all-round options alongside Marco Jansen, Marcus Stoinis, Azmatullah Omarzai, Suryansh Shedge, Shashank Singh and Cooper Connolly.

Ponting expressed satisfaction with the squad's balance, particularly its combination of pace-bowling and spin-bowling all-rounders.

He believes the presence of several versatile players will provide greater flexibility in team selection and help Punjab adapt to different match situations.

The coach emphasised that retaining a strong core while adding experienced performers would place the franchise in a favourable position for the upcoming season.

Meanwhile, Rajasthan Royals head coach Kumar Sangakkara explained the franchise's difficult decision to release West Indies batter Shimron Hetmyer.

Raunil Kukar wins maiden PGTI title with two-shot victory in Digboi

DIGBOI: Bengaluru's Raunil Kukar clinched his maiden DP World PGTI title with a two-shot victory at the IndianOil SERVO Masters Golf tournament here on Friday. Kukar (70-65-70-67), who began the final round in a three-way tie for the lead with Kapurthala's Yuvraj Singh and Mhow's Om Prakash Chouhan, carded a five-under 67 to finish at 16-under 272 and emerge champion in the season-opening event of the 2026-27 DP World PGTI calendar. Twenty-two-year-old Anshul Kabthiyal (67-72-71-64) returned the lowest round of the tournament, an eight-under 64 featuring nine birdies and a bogey, to finish runner-up at 14-under 274.

| BLIND CRICKET ASIA CUP |

India boycott ceremony after Pakistan awarded Blind Cricket Asia Cup

Press Trust Of India

India protests Pakistan's controversial title victory after rain washes out final.

NEW DELHI: The Indian blind cricket team boycotted the presentation ceremony of the men's Blind Cricket Asia Cup in Dhaka on Friday after Pakistan were declared champions despite the final being washed out without a single ball being bowled.

The controversial decision sparked strong objections from the Cricket Association for the Blind in India (CABI), which maintained that both teams should have been declared joint winners.

Pakistan were awarded the trophy on the basis of a superior net run rate, a decision that Indian officials strongly questioned.

CABI general secretary Shailendra Yadav condemned the outcome, accusing Pakistan of unilaterally declaring themselves champions while disregarding the World Blind Cricket Council (WBCC) Technical Committee's position.

Yadav argued that net run rate was applicable during qualifying rounds and certain tournament stages but could not automatically determine the winner of a final that never commenced.

He insisted that the outcome should have been decided strictly according to tournament regulations and the Technical Committee's recommendations.

According to Yadav, possible solutions included scheduling a reserve day, sharing the trophy or adopting another officially authorised resolution.

CABI further alleged that WBCC president and Pakistan Blind Cricket Council president Sultan Shah overruled the Technical Committee's decision to declare India and Pakistan joint champions.

The association claimed that this intervention compelled the match referee to announce Pakistan as the tournament winners.

World



Russian missile's crash in Poland likely intentional provocation.

Donald Tusk
Polish Prime Minister

Russia bombards Ukraine following Kerch Bridge attack

Russia fired over 400 drones and 110 missiles across Ukraine, killing at least 8 civilians.



A woman walks through rubble in front of a heavily damaged building in Kyiv, Ukraine, Friday. (AP Photo)

Press Trust Of India

KYIV: Russian missiles and drones hammered targets across Ukraine in a prolonged nighttime attack, officials said Friday, hours after Vladimir Putin vowed to retaliate against Kyiv for aerial strikes this week on a bridge linking occupied Crimea with the Russian mainland that is vital for Moscow's war effort.

The strikes killed at least eight Ukrainian civilians and wounded more than two dozen, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said, as Russia fired more than 400 drones and over 110 missiles, 27 of them ballistic and some carrying cluster warheads that scatter dozens of smaller bomblets across a wide area. The attack fit the pattern of Moscow's heavy responses to eye-catching Ukrainian attacks, such as the one on the Kerch Bridge, and added to uncertainty about the prospects for ongoing U.S.-mediated efforts to end the war, which began after Russia's February 2022 full-scale invasion of its neighbor. Both sides have continued to bombard each other even as U.S. President Donald Trump and his envoys work to find a settlement.

Trump discussed the war at a summit in China on Thursday with Putin and Chinese leader Xi Jinping, according to his envoy Steve Witkoff. Another envoy, Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner, told European leaders that the United States believes Russia is "comfortable" with NATO-like security guarantees for postwar Ukraine, in what could be a step toward compromise. Zelenskyy appeared unimpressed with Moscow's strategy of attempting to redefine international security arrangements.

He said on Friday on X that Russia launched the overnight attack "following weak meetings in China and the actual failure of (Putin's) attempt to somehow 'redraw' the world."

FASTFACTS

- The bombardment followed Vladimir Putin's vow to retaliate for Ukrainian strikes on the Kerch Bridge.
- Winter power grid attacks forced emergency outages across 11 regions and reduced nuclear generation.

European leaders are worried about Trump-Putin ties

European leaders' concerns about Moscow's broader ambitions on the continent have added tension to relations with Trump over his recent conciliatory approach to Putin.

In the latest incident exacerbating European worries, the Polish military said after the Russian attacks on Ukraine that it was looking into a "suspected violation" of the country's airspace on Friday morning. The incident coincided with an exercise in Poland involving thousands of European troops to prepare for a potential postwar mission in Ukraine.

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha said the incident "demonstrates the threats posed by Russian aggression to the whole of Europe and the transatlantic community." "While Moscow tries to initiate discussions about the 'new security architecture of Europe,' Russian missiles and drones directly undermine the existing security order in Europe," Sybiha said on X. "The first step toward strengthening it would probably be to cease such attacks." Europe's wariness is shared by Moscow.

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

POLAND MILITARY EXERCISE

European troops from 11 countries drill in Poland for potential postwar Ukraine mission



NOWA DEBA: Thousands of European troops are taking part in an unprecedented military exercise in southeastern Poland to prepare for a potential postwar mission in Ukraine aimed at helping to stabilise the country and rebuild its military once the war ends. Led by France and the UK, the multinational force is a non-NATO military initiative of the so-called Coalition of the Willing, a wider political group of 37 nations supporting Ukraine.

The two-week exercise that began on Nov. 9 is for the first time checking this coalition's ability to deploy in Ukraine once the war ends. It is aimed both at testing deployment plans and sending a message to Russia and the Trump administration that European countries are stepping up militarily. The exercise took place as leaders from Ukraine and nearly 40 other delegations met in Berlin to underline their support for Kyiv and explore Ukraine's postwar security arrangements. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy wants to ensure that Russia doesn't invade again, while Moscow wants to keep the NATO military alliance away from its borders.

US envoy Jared Kushner said Thursday he believes Russia is "comfortable" with NATO-like security guarantees for postwar Ukraine. Kushner and fellow US envoy Steve Witkoff were in Berlin to reassure European leaders about US President Donald Trump's discussions on ending the nearly 5-year-old war at his historic trilateral talks with Russian leader Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping.

SAUDI INTERCEPTS MISSILES

Saudi Arabia intercepts more Yemen Houthi missiles and drones

DUBAI: Saudi Arabia said on Friday that Iran-backed Houthi rebels had fired more missiles and drones at the kingdom, days after it launched a major air campaign across Houthi-controlled parts of Yemen. Meanwhile, in Iraq, troops deployed to a militia stronghold south of Baghdad, the country's capital, after the government apparently reached a compromise with a powerful Iran-backed militia it accused of smuggling oil.

Iraqi security forces set up a command headquarters on the outskirts of the Jurf al-Sakhar area south of Baghdad, long a stronghold of an Iran-backed militia, Kataib Hezbollah, on Friday. The area had been the source of rising tensions, with the government calling for the militia to withdraw amid allegations that it was using the area for oil smuggling. Kataib Hezbollah had threatened to fight security forces if they attempted an incursion. Two Iraqi officials, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorised to comment publicly, said the government and Kataib Hezbollah had reached an agreement under which security forces could

BANGLA MYANMAR ROHINGYA

B'desh asks Myanmar to compensate Rohingyas, ensure their safe return

DHAKA: Bangladesh on Friday called on Myanmar to compensate the Rohingya people for crimes committed against them and ensure their safe, voluntary and dignified return following the International Court of Justice's genocide ruling. In a landmark judgment, the ICJ on Thursday ruled that Myanmar committed "genocide" against the minority Rohingya in the northern Rakhine state during the 2017 "clearance operations".

For the first time in its 80-year history, the ICJ, also dubbed the UN's top court, found a state responsible for committing genocide under the 1948 Genocide Convention and handed down the unprecedented ruling. Addressing Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar's Ukhiya, Bangladesh's Foreign Minister Khalilur Rahman said that the ICJ's judgment on the atrocities against them in Myanmar is a historic moment and it should mark the beginning of their journey towards justice and a safe return home, the state-run BSS news agency reported. "The judgment is final and binding and cannot be appealed," said Rahman, who also presides over the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

SKorea confirms 1st case of cholera in 10 years

SEOUL: South Korea on Friday reported its first case of cholera in 10 years, with health authorities urging people to take precautionary measures, use only safe water and wash their food properly.

The Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency said health workers confirmed cholera from test samples of a person who had visited a hospital emergency room in the southeastern port city of Changwon earlier this month, showing symptoms of vomiting and diarrhea.

The agency said the unidentified person, who recovered and was discharged on Tuesday, had not travelled overseas in the past two months.

| EUROPE PROTESTS |

Nationwide Italian strike & student protests disrupt public services

Press Trust Of India

CGIL and grassroots unions launched a 24-hour strike across more than 100 Italian cities over wages and living costs.



Stidents march in downton Rome during a general strike called by labor unions to protest against the government's budget bill, Friday. (AP Photo)

ROME: A nationwide strike was expected to disrupt schools, hospitals and local transport across Italy on Friday as workers and students began marching in dozens of cities to demand higher wages, lower living costs and greater social protections.

The 24-hour strike, called by Italy's largest trade union, CGIL, was set to bring demonstrations to more than 100 cities, from Milan and Turin in the north to Naples, Palermo and Rome. Protesters denounced stagnant wages, rising living costs and what organisers called the government's failure to strengthen public services and worker protections.

The labour action coincided with an International Day of Student Mobilisation, with organisers planning demonstrations in more than 45 Italian cities. Student groups joined workers in calling for greater investment in education, measures to ease the cost-of-living crisis and policies aimed at reducing inequality.

FASTFACTS

- Schools, hospitals, and public transport faced major disruptions across both public and private sectors.
- Students joined workers demanding education investment and welfare funding, backed by opposition leaders criticizing the government.

| EU UK SUMMIT |

UK, EU hold rare summit to strengthen ties

Press Trust Of India



BRUSSELS: A decade after the people of Britain voted to leave the European Union, top EU officials are meeting with Prime Minister Andy Burnham on Friday, looking to mend more fences, and just perhaps, to pave the way for them to get back together.

Burnham is scheduled to hold just under an hour of talks in Brussels with European Council President Antonio Costa and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen. Then they'll all meet in a plenary session with UK government ministers and European commissioners. Burnham has described the rare EU-UK summit – only the second since Britain became the first country to leave the world's biggest trading bloc – as a step toward undoing a decade of damage caused by the divorce.

> **"The Brexit we were given has not worked. We have lost more than we gained."**
>
> **Andy Burnham**
> UK Prime Minister

"The Brexit we were given has not worked. We have lost more than we gained," he said this week.

Burnham has said all options should be on the table for future relations, including rejoining the now-27-nation bloc. But he's stressed that reversing Brexit is just one possible outcome, and far from imminent. It would need the backing not just of British voters, but the unanimous support of a mistrustful EU. Still, he has broken a long political code of silence on the option of rejoining. Ahead of the meeting, von der Leyen said she wanted it to be "a summit of ambition and concrete results. More opportunities for young people. Easier agrifood trade. And a stronger cooperation on economic security."

Burnham pitched the package of agreements expected to be agreed Friday as a way of "cutting costs, keeping prices down in the supermarkets and creating opportunities for young people." He said "a closer partnership with Europe is good for working people, good for Britain and good for Europe."

MYANMAR ROHINGYA GENOCIDE

Myanmar dismisses UN court's ruling on its responsibility for Rohingya genocide as 'unfair'



BANGKOK: Myanmar's government on Friday dismissed a landmark judgment by the United Nations' top court finding the country guilty of genocide against its Rohingya minority as "unfair," while opponents called upon the international community to follow through to ensure justice is done.

Khine Khine Soe, spokeswoman for President Min Aung Hlaing, noted that judges had only voted nine-to-six on Thursday to find Myanmar committed genocide against the Muslim minority Rohingya in a brutal 2017 military operation. "Not all 15 judges agreed with the decision," she told reporters in the capital Naypyitaw. "So it was not a decision made unanimously. I would say that it was unfair." The ruling by The Hague-based International Court of Justice, or ICJ, was the first time the court has ruled that a state committed genocide. Myanmar's government has denied the allegation, claiming it acted against insurgents in the 2017 military operation in northern Rakhine state.

The case focused on the military's so-called "clearance operations" in Rakhine state in 2017 when the democratically-elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi was in power. Min Aung Hlaing, who was commander in chief at the time, seized power from Suu Kyi in 2021 and has since consolidated his control of the government, being elected president earlier this year in a vote critics said was neither free nor fair.