

Central Chronicle

UPI payments above Rs 2,000 face charges

The move ends the zero-MDR regime in place since January 2020.

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Ending nearly six years of a fully free Unified Payments Interface (UPI) network for merchants, the government on Tuesday introduced a 0.4 per cent transaction fee on payment above Rs 2,000, capped at Rs 300 for payments of Rs 75,000 and above, from October 15, while explicitly ring-fencing everyday person-to-person transfers from any charge.

The carefully calibrated move signals the end of an era for the world's largest real-time payments system even as the government tries to avoid alarming the hundreds of millions of



users who use it daily. Person-to-person (P2P) transfers - which make up 37 per cent of UPI's transaction volume and 70 per cent of its transaction value - will continue to attract zero charges, irrespective of size. Small-value transactions up to Rs 2,000, which the government said account for more than 95 per cent of total P2M volume, remain

untouched.

“Charges will apply only to person-to-merchant (P2M) transactions exceeding Rs 2,000,” the finance ministry said in a statement. “A nominal merchant discount rate (MDR) of 0.4 per cent will be levied on P2M transactions above Rs 2,000. This commission will be shared amongst the payment ecosystem partners


Someone has to pay the cost.
Sanjay Malhotra
RBI Governor

including banks and app providers.”

Essential and thin-margin sectors - railways, telecom, insurance, fuel and agricultural inputs - will pay a flat MDR of Rs 5 per transaction above Rs 2,000, intended to keep costs predictable for critical services; these categories account for nearly 17 per cent of P2M transaction volume but roughly 46 per cent of P2M transaction value.

The same flat-fee treatment extends to govern-

Merchant categories.....

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ment utility bill collection (electricity, water, piped gas) and educational fee payments such as school tuition and university fees above Rs 2,000, both similarly exempted below that threshold.

Free for consumers.....

“Consumers will continue to transact free of cost using UPI as they have been doing till now. Person-to-Person (P2P) transactions and Person-to-Merchant (P2M) transactions up to Rs 2,000 remain outside the scope of MDR,” NPCI said.

Payments into mutual funds, securities and through stockbrokers and dealers will attract a lighter 0.02 per cent MDR, capped at Rs 300 - a rate designed to keep the cost of investing low and encourage retail participation in formal financial markets.

CRPF’s CoBRA gets first woman IG

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: IPS officer Sanjukta Parasor has been appointed the Inspector General (IG) of the CRPF’s special jungle warfare commando unit, CoBRA, the first woman to hold the post.

Parasor is a 2006-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer from the Assam-Meghalaya cadre.

The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) headquarters issued an order to this effect last week. Parasor will succeed 1996-batch IPS officer Danesh Rana as the IG of the Commando Battalion for Resolute Action (CoBRA). “This is the first time that the ten-battalion-strong CoBRA of the CRPF will be headed by a woman officer,” a senior

officer told PTI.

Parasor previously served in the National Investigation Agency (NIA), in addition to working in her cadre state of Assam.

The CRPF raised CoBRA in 2008-09 to tackle Left Wing Extremism (LWE) in multiple Indian states, and insurgency in certain North-east states.

Two CoBRA units were recently deployed by the CRPF to check armed violence in Manipur.

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) credits the battalion’s commandos with successful intelligence-based jungle warfare and guerrilla operations against Naxals, which led to the end of Maoist violence in the country this March.

| ‘WASTE TO WEALTH’ |

Over Rs 5,100 cr generated through scrap disposal

Press Trust Of India

The campaigns seek to institutionalise “swachhata” in all govt offices.

NEW DELHI: More than Rs 5,100 crore has been generated through disposal of scrap in the last five years as part of special campaigns in government offices, the Centre said on Tuesday.

The campaigns seek to institutionalise “swachhata” in all government



offices. Since 2021, through five annual editions of the campaign and monthly secretariat reforms monitoring (up to July 2026), more than 24.20 lakh sites have been covered, over

180.48 lakh files have been weeded out or closed, generating revenue of Rs 5,102.91 crore through scrap disposal, a statement issued by the Personnel Ministry said.

| SC TO MORTH |

‘Speed governors must for commercial vehicles’

Press Trust Of India

Manufacturers must fit speed limiters at time of manufacture.

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Tuesday asked the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) to ensure due compliance with the rule which mandates the fitting of speed governors in transport vehicles.

A bench of Justices J B Pardiwala and K V Viswanathan referred to Rule 118 of the Central Motor Vehicles Rules (CMVR), 1989, which pro-



vides for speed governors in notified transport vehicles.

The top court, which is dealing with a matter seeking enforcement of road safety norms, said on May 13 that all manufacturers were duty-bound to fit a speed limiting device (SLD) at the

time of manufacture.

It had then asked the Centre to have a meeting with the manufacturers on the issue of fitting SLDs at the time of manufacturing or delivery of transport vehicles.

During the hearing on Tuesday, the bench was informed that the Centre has filed an affidavit stating that a meeting was convened in June in this regard.

“In so far as speed governors are concerned, we are of the view that the Rules, more particularly Rule 118 of the Central Motor

Vehicles Rules, 1989, itself mandates fitment of SLD/SLF (speed limiting function) in notified transport vehicles...,” the bench said.

“We impress upon the MoRTH to ensure due compliance of Rule 118 referred to above...,” it said. The top court observed that what is important for the Centre as well as the states and Union Territories is to see that when a transport vehicle is sold by a dealer, there has to be some mechanism to ensure that the same is fitted with SLD or SLF.

| KISHAU AGREEMENT SIGNED |

‘10th water dispute resolved by Centre’

Press Trust Of India

Union Home Minister Shah described the pact as a “historic agreement”.

NEW DELHI: The agreement for the long-pending Kishau Multipurpose Project was signed on Tuesday, marking the resolution of the 10th water dispute since Narendra Modi became prime minister, Union Home



Minister Amit Shah said, describing the pact as a “historic agreement”.

The chief ministers of Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Delhi and Haryana - Yogi Adityanath, Pushkar Singh Dhami, Sukhvinder Singh

Sukhu, Bhajanlal Sharma, Rekha Gupta and Nayab Singh Saini - signed the agreement in the presence of Shah and Jal Shakti Minister C R Patil, an official statement said.

Shah said the agreement would benefit all six states in one way or another and congratulated their chief ministers and Patil for playing an important role in bringing the project to this stage.

Divine Departure



A person immerses an idol of Lord Ganesh in an artificial pond at Shivaji Park after one-and-a-half days of worship during the Ganesh Chaturthi festival, in Mumbai, Tuesday.

| WILDLIFE TRIUMPH |

3,260 one-horned rhinos in Assam

Press Trust Of India

GUWAHATI: Assam is home to 3,260 one-horned rhinoceroses, which account for around 80 per cent of its global population, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said on Tuesday.

Sarma, in a social media post, said that with the state recording zero incidents of poaching (in 2025), the rhino population has been found at an impressive 3,260, as per



the latest survey.

He said there are around 4,075 one-horned rhinoceroses in the world.

“A fascinating fact: Nearly 80 per cent of the world’s one-horned rhinos are found in Assam. Our state is a vital safe

NUMBER

80

● Nearly 80 per cent of the world's one-horned rhinos are found in Assam.

haven for this once endangered species, and we remain committed to protecting them and expanding their habitat,” he added.

Reacting to the post,

Forest and Climate Change Minister Jayanta Malla Baruah termed the development a matter of immense pride and an even greater responsibility.

“Assam being home to nearly 80 per cent of the world’s one-horned rhinos reflects decades of conservation and the dedication of our front-line forest personnel and local communities,” he said in a social media post.

| CHEQUE-BOUNCE CASES |

Supreme Court grants Rajpal Yadav two-week final chance

Press Trust Of India

Court directed him to deposit Rs 2 crore with the apex court registry.

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Tuesday gave the last opportunity of two weeks to actor Rajpal Yadav to come out with a concrete proposal to pay an outstanding

amount to a private firm and directed him to deposit Rs 2 crore with the apex court registry.

The complainant alleged that, in 2013, Yadav tendered seven cheques of Rs 1.05 crore each towards settlement of financial assistance of Rs 5 crore to him for a film in 2010. The cheques were dishonoured, the firm further alleged.

According to the complainant, an agreement between the parties in 2012 stated that Yadav, his wife and their company had agreed to repay around Rs 11 crore, including interest. A bench of Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana extended his exemption from surrendering till October 5.

NEW DELHI

OTP-based digital locker

Northern Railway has introduced a self-operated, OTP-based digital locker system at four major railway stations in Delhi to provide a safe and hassle-free way for passengers to store luggage temporarily.

The stations are New Delhi (NDLS), Hazrat Nizamuddin (NZM), Delhi Junction (DLI) and Anand Vihar Terminal (ANVT).

“The lockers use a digital, OTP-based access system, allowing passengers to deposit and retrieve their belongings securely without having to carry heavy luggage during their waiting period or visits outside the station,” Himanshu Shekhar Upadhyay, chief public relations officer, Northern Railway, said. Officials said passengers can enter their mobile number on a monitor panel placed near the digital locker and verify it using the OTP.



BJP should mark Modi Birthday as unemployment, inflation day.
Deepak Baij
PCC Head

No-Flex’ Zones in Raipur become Flex-Banner hotspots

Raipur’s no-flex zones are overflowing with illegal banners.

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: Raipur’s no-flex zones are overflowing with illegal banners, exposing serious gaps in the enforcement of Municipal Corporation regulations.

Despite designated restrictions, flex banners and posters continue to dominate electricity poles, buildings and roadsides across the city. Under the Municipal Corporation’s outdoor advertisement policy, unauthorized posters and banners can attract fines, while designated sites have been identified across all ten zones. Six major routes have also been declared ‘No-Flex Zones’, including Mahila Thana-Budheshwar Temple, Telibandha Thana Chowk-Tatibandh, Kotwali-Jaistambh Chowk, Civil Lines and Pachpedi Naka-Lalpur Overbridge routes. Certain government-related displays are exempted under specified conditions.

However, the situation on the ground tells a different story. On the Mahila Thana-Budheshwar Temple route, flex banners promoting a ‘Kavi Sammelan’ and



a jewellery business were seen hanging from electricity poles. Similar displays related to Nuakhai, Bhagwat, an industrial fair and films have appeared on roads towards Tatibandh.

Government flex banners have also been installed along the Akashvani Chowk-Khazana Chowk stretch, with some positioned in the middle of the road and potentially affecting visibility. On the Ambedkar Hospital-BJP office route, political birthday greetings and congratulatory banners can be seen attached to poles and roadside structures, with several appearing unstable.

MG Road has also witnessed a proliferation of Ganesh Chaturthi and political banners. A

large banner measuring nearly 10x20 feet on a commercial building has raised concerns over its potential to fall during

strong winds or rain. The continued presence of such displays has raised questions over the Corporation’s monitoring system and the effectiveness of its special enforcement drive. Citizens are seeking clarity on the number of fines imposed, banners removed and violators identified.

The Corporation has said action against illegal banners and posters is continuing and that concerned parties are being contacted. It also plans a meeting with

HIGHLIGHT

- Rules exist, but enforcement remains visibly weak.
- Illegal banners raise safety and accountability concerns.

flex and poster printers and has mandated that printer details be displayed on banners. However, questions remain over whether stricter enforcement and accountability will finally follow.

Banner menace raises road safety concerns

The continued display of dangling flex boards and banners across Raipur has emerged as a road safety concern. Apart from damaging the city’s appearance, improperly installed banners can fall during strong winds or obstruct motorists’ visibility, potentially causing accidents. The key question is who would be held responsible if a banner causes injury or an accident. Simply declaring routes as ‘No-Flex Zones’ is insufficient unless the rules are effectively enforced. The Municipal Corporation must ensure ground-level monitoring, remove hazardous displays promptly and establish accountability for violations.

Opposition questions selective civic action

Leader of the Opposition Akash Tiwari has questioned the Raipur Municipal Corporation’s enforcement against illegal posters and flex banners, alleging discriminatory action. He said the Corporation takes action against small traders for putting up posters outside their shops, while overlooking large banners installed in restricted areas. Tiwari pointed out that dangling banners have previously contributed to accidents and stressed that the civic body must go beyond routine action by fixing accountability and ensuring strict enforcement of rules.

BJYM leader vandalizes Police Station

RAIPUR: A Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) leader allegedly created a ruckus and vandalized the Gudhiyari police station after arriving to seek the release of a vehicle carrying a DJ system.

Police have registered an FIR against BJYM District Vice President Shubhankar Dwivedi and initiated further investigation. The Congress has demanded strict action, including “bulldozer action”, against the accused.

According to police, Dwivedi had reached the station after action was taken against a person allegedly operating a DJ system beyond the permitted time limit. He reportedly pressured the police to stop the action and release the person.

TEACHER’S FELICITATION CAMPAIGN

Teacher’s Felicitation Campaign wins praise across Raipur Schools



Krishna Public School, Dunda



Delhi World Public School

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: The Teacher Felicitation Campaign organised by Navbharat-Central Chronicle and the Navbharat Suruchi Club, Raipur, to mark Teachers’ Day has received an enthusiastic response from principals, teachers and school management across the city. As part of the campaign, group photographs of teachers and faculty members were presented as keep-

sakes, while educators received Certificates of Appreciation recognising their contribution to education. Tree plantation activities were also organised, symbolising knowledge, growth and a better future.

School authorities described the initiative as a meaningful way of expressing gratitude to educators. They said teachers play a crucial role in shaping students’ futures and preparing

them for life. At Delhi World Public School, Chairman Vinay Chandrakar and Principal Vinod Pandey praised the campaign as a heartfelt and meaningful effort to recognise teachers’ contributions. They also appreciated the dedication of the Navbharat and Central Chronicle team. At Krishna Public School, Dunda, Director Ashutosh Tripathi, Principal Dr Priyanka Tripathi and Administrator Raman

Chandran congratulated the Navbharat-Central Chronicle team and commended the successful execution of the initiative. The campaign also received an encouraging response from female teachers, many of whom expressed interest in joining the Navbharat Suruchi Club. They appreciated the Club’s efforts to connect and empower women while creating opportunities for engagement and activities.

STAR ATTRACTION

50,000 coins turn Bappa into Raipur’s star attraction

Central Chronicle News

Raipur’s unique coin-clad Bappa draws devotees in Devpuri.



HIGHLIGHT

- Over 50,000 coins create stunning Ganesha idol.
- Fifteen days of craftsmanship captivate devotees.

Ganesha, leaving visitors impressed by its intricate detailing. According to committee members, Rs 1 and Rs 2 coins have been used to decorate the idol’s

face and dhoti, while Rs 5 coins have been utilised for the trunk and ears. The crown has been given a striking appearance with Rs 10 and Rs 20 coins, adding to the grandeur of the unique installation. The committee said the entire idol took around 15 days to complete. Collecting more than 50,000 coins was itself a major challenge. Members approached banks, local shopkeepers and residents of the surrounding area to gather the required coins. The initiative soon became a collective neighbourhood effort, with residents willingly contributing to the creative project. The unusual idol has since attracted a steady stream of devotees to the Devpuri

pandal. Visitors are not only seeking Bappa’s blessings but are also spending time admiring the intricate coin work and the creativity behind the installation. The coin-adorned Ganesha has thus become one of

the distinctive attractions of this year’s Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations in Raipur, demonstrating how collective participation and artistic imagination can give a traditional celebration a unique identity.

Coins’ fate after immersion yet undecided

The fate of more than 50,000 coins used to create the unique Ganesha idol in Devpuri remains undecided after the festival. The key question is whether the coins will be immersed along with the idol, recovered and distributed among needy people, or donated to a temple. Members of the Shri Shiv Shakti Yuva Samiti said no final decision has been taken so far. The committee’s office-bearers will soon hold a meeting to discuss the matter and collectively decide how the coins should be used after the immersion. The final decision will be taken after considering all aspects.

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

RAJBHASHA KIRTI AWARD

Indian Bank receives Rajbhasha Kirti Award for third year



RAIPUR: Indian Bank has been honoured with the Second Prize under the Rajbhasha Kirti Award for 2025-26 in recognition of its outstanding performance in implementing the Official Language Policy.

The award was presented during the Hindi Diwas celebrations held as part of the 6th All India Rajbhasha Conference in Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra. Executive Director of Indian Bank, Shiv Bajrang Singh, received the award from Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar and Nityanand Rai in the presence of Rajbhasha Secretary

Ansuli Arya at the SIDCO Exhibition Centre. This is the third consecutive year that Indian Bank has received the Rajbhasha Kirti Award, reflecting its continued efforts to promote Hindi in banking operations. On the occasion, the bank’s coffee table book Main Dilli Hoon was also released.

On the second day of the conference, Indian Bank’s Chennai Corporate Office, convener of the Town Official Language Implementation Committee (Banks/FIs), Chennai, received the TOLIC Rajbhasha Samman in the Best Category.

DIGITAL E-OFFERING MACHINE

Indian Overseas Bank installs Digital E-Offering machine at Baikunthpur Temple

RAIPUR/BAIKUNTHPUR: Indian Overseas Bank’s Baikunthpur Branch has installed a Digital E-Offering (QR) Machine at Shri Radha Krishna Prem Mandir, Premabag, Baikunthpur, to facilitate convenient and secure digital donations for devotees. The initiative is aimed at promoting cashless transactions and expanding the use of digital payment solutions at religious institutions. With the new facility, devotees can make offerings through UPI, QR codes and other digital payment modes without the need to carry or handle cash. The facility is expected to be particularly beneficial for devotees visiting the temple from distant places, enabling them to make donations quickly and



conveniently through digital platforms. It will also contribute to greater transparency and ease in the donation process. The Digital E-Offering Machine was inaugurated in the presence of members of the temple committee and officials of Indian Overseas Bank. During the programme, devotees were informed about the procedure for making digital offerings and the advantages of using secure electronic payment methods.

CANCER CONCLAVE

BMC to host Global Cancer Experts at Raipur Conclave

RAIPUR: BALCO Medical Centre (BMC) will host the fourth edition of the BMC Chhattisgarh Cancer Conclave from September 18 to 20 at Mayfair Lake Resorts, Naya Raipur, bringing together more than 200 national and 11 international cancer experts. Held under the theme ‘Restoring Balance to Cancer Care’, the three-day conclave will focus on breast, gynaecological and genitourinary cancers, with emphasis on patient-centric treatment and evidence-based care. The event will also mark the seventh year of the Choosing Wisely India meeting, organised in collaboration with eancer, Tata Memorial Centre, Mumbai, and the National Cancer Grid. The scientific programme will feature more than 20 panel discussions, multidisciplinary sessions, debates, case-based discussions and live breast cancer surgical demonstrations. Hands-on workshops will cover interstitial brachytherapy, clinical research and trial development, germline genetics, precision oncology, oncopathology, artificial intelligence in healthcare, and next-generation nuclear medicine and theranostics.



OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS

Dr Huma Jafri honoured with National Teachers’ Award



RAIPUR: Dr Huma Jafri has been honoured with the National Teachers’ Award by President Droupadi Murmu for her outstanding contribution to education, social service, women’s empowerment and the welfare of underprivileged children through her organisation, Shiksha Prakash Punj.

The award was presented at a special ceremony in New Delhi, where individuals from across the country were recognised for their notable contributions to education, social welfare and human development. Founded by Dr Jafri, Shiksha Prakash Punj has

been working for several years to promote education and social empowerment, including in the Bastar region of Chhattisgarh. The organisation undertakes various initiatives focused on educating children from disadvantaged communities, supporting differently-abled and economically weaker children, empowering women and generating employment opportunities. Its programmes also include expanding educational opportunities in Naxal-affected areas, promoting skill development and creating awareness among vulnerable sections of society.

Bhilai



Old Police Ground will glow with 1.25 lakh earthen lamps during the “Aashirwad Ka Diya” event on September 17.

Abhijit Singh
(Collector, Durg)

Cops feted for exceptional service in public safety and crime control

Durg SSP awarded commendation certificates and cash rewards to 22 personnel, including Nagar Sena jawans, for excellence across rescue operations, traffic management.

Central Chronicle News

BHILAI: In a bid to recognize exemplary duty and boost departmental morale, the Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Durg, felicitated 22 police personnel and Nagar Sena jawans on Tuesday with commendation certificates and cash rewards. The honours recognized significant breakthroughs in crime control, rapid emergency response, and proactive traffic management across the district.

The traffic division



SSP Vijay Agrawal felicitating a cop

earned recognition for swift, lifesaving actions. Key interventions included shifting five critical victims to medical care after an auto-rickshaw overturned on

Highway-3, as well as rescuing a woman attempting suicide near the Kharun River on August 28, 2026. Traffic personnel were also credited with clearing major road

blockades and penalizing traffic violations through 107 e-challan cases.

Additionally, personnel who combated a severe fire incident on April 21, 2026, to protect lives and property were honoured alongside tracking units that apprehended long-absconding permanent warrant targets from Bhopal and Dhamtari. Teams from Nevai and Supela police stations—alongside Dial-112 first responders—were awarded for swiftly neutralizing public threats by apprehending armed miscreants brandishing

FASTFACTS

- The recognized personnel successfully rescued accident victims, averted a suicide attempt, executed 107 e-challans, nabbed permanent warrant absconders, and arrested armed offenders.

sharp weapons. Durg Police reiterated their pledge toward sustained vigilance, urging citizens to report emergencies and armed suspects via Dial-112 immediately.

BMS blames mgmt and contractor negligence for accident



Central Chronicle News

BHILAI: Following Monday's accident at the Bhilai Steel Plant's Coke Oven, a delegation from the Bhilai Ispat Mazdoor Sangh (BMS) inspected the site and met Chief General Manager (Coke Oven and CCD) Tularam Behera. BMS President Pradeep Pal and Working President Vansh Bahadur Singh termed the incident a direct outcome of grave

safety lapses by operating authorities and contractors. The union demanded deploying only skilled labour under strict supervision, ending single-worker maintenance deployments, extending contract workers' three-month gate pass validity, and replacing dilapidated structures. CGM Tularam Behera expressed deep sorrow, confirming a comprehensive probe is underway.

NEWSLINE

ATTEMPTED MURDER

Man nabbed from Ahmedabad

BHILAI: Utai police on Tuesday arrested a 40-year-old man from Ahmedabad, Gujarat, for attempting to murder a fellow villager over an old enmity. On September 12, the accused, Kurpa Bag, attacked Rajendra Singh with a sharp-edged weapon at Baba Restaurant in Joratari village, slashing his neck before fleeing on a motorcycle. Following technical tracking and witness leads, an Utai police team traced Bag to Ahmedabad and brought him back to Durg. Police seized the weapon, getaway motorcycle, and clothes worn during the crime. Bag was booked under Section 109(I) of the BNS and remanded to judicial custody.

ILLICIT LIQUOR

Female peddler arrested

BHILAI: Khursipar police on Tuesday arrested a 20-year-old woman for illegally selling country-made liquor in the Dewar Basti area of Bhilai. Acting on a tip-off, a police team raided the location near the fish market and apprehended Nagita Markam. Officers seized 30 quarters of illicit country liquor along with Rs 100 in sale proceeds from her possession, totaling an estimated value of Rs 3,150. A case was registered under Section 34(2) of the Excise Act. Following her arrest, Markam was presented before a local court and remanded to judicial custody.

ROBBERY

Two minors detained

BHILAI: Amleshwar police and the Durg Cyber Crime unit apprehended two minors in conflict with the law from Bhatagaon, Raipur, for robbing a woman of her gold mangalsutra at knife-point. The incident occurred on September 8, when the victim was returning home along the Jheet-Khudmudi main road. The duo intercepted her on a motorcycle, threatened her with a knife to her throat, and fled with her jewellery. Following an investigation under Section 309(4) of the BNS, police tracked down the juveniles and recovered the stolen ornaments, the knife, and the getaway motorcycle.

OBITUARY

M Devki



BHILAI: Khursipar Zone 3, Utkal Nagar resident M Devki left for heavenly abode during treatment at Sector 9 Hospital. Last rites of the mortal remains were performed at Ramnagar Muktidham. She was the mother of Shesh Giri.

| OPERATION KHEMU |

Multi-agency hunt ends in safe rescue of missing police dog

Central Chronicle News

BHILAI: Security forces and local authorities successfully concluded “Operation Khemu,” a coordinated search mission that led to the safe recovery of missing police dog Khemu. The joint initiative was launched by the 7th Battalion Chhattisgarh Armed Force (CAF), Bhilai, and the Durg District Force under the guidance of SSP Vijay Agrawal.

Commandant Nivedita Pal, Deputy Commandants



Praggya Meshram and Saba Anjum informed that during the search, the Durg Cyber Cell analyzed surveillance camera footage across multiple locations to map out the canine's potential movement routes. Search parties deployed a specialized tracker dog unit along these paths. Simultaneously, pho-

tos were circulated across social media platforms and messaging groups to enlist citizen help. Backed by crucial public leads and technical tracking, police traced Khemu unharmed and subsequently held a felicitation ceremony to honour the personnel and citizens involved.

Youth held with weapon

BHILAI: Supela police on Tuesday arrested an 18-year-old youth for terrorizing commuters by brandishing a sharp iron weapon in a public area near Himalayan Complex in Akashganga. Acting on a tip-off about a man intimidating passersby to incite panic, a police team swiftly cordoned off the spot and apprehended the accused, identified as Om Nirmalkar, a resident of Katulboard. Officers recovered and seized the weapon from his possession.

83 PwDs and senior citizens register at assistive aid assessment camp

Central Chronicle News

BHILAI: An assessment and identification camp for the free distribution of assistive devices to persons with disabilities and senior citizens was held at Bhimrao Ambedkar Bhawan in Dhamdha, Durg.

Organized by the District Administration and the Social Welfare Department in collaboration with ALIMCO Raipur, the initiative is supported

| SPECIAL CAMP |



under the CSR programs of the Agriculture Insurance Company of India Limited (AIC) and Engineers India Limited (EIL). According to the Deputy Director of the Social Welfare Department, Durg, a total of 83 beneficiaries registered during the camp, covering urban

and rural areas including Kumhari, Jamul, Ahirwara, and Dhamdha. Among them, 60 beneficiaries were identified to receive 124 assistive aids, such as motorized tricycles, standard tricycles, crutches, wheelchairs, hearing aids, commode chairs, walkers, and walking sticks. A similar pre-distribution assessment camp is scheduled for September 16, 2026, at Dewangan Bhawan, Janpad Panchayat Patan.

| RESCUE |

Traffic police promptly rescue injured motorcyclist

Central Chronicle News

BHILAI: A patrolling team from Durg Traffic Police swiftly rescued a motorcyclist who crashed after dozing off while riding near Forest Avenue, Jawaharlal Udyan Chowk, on Tuesday afternoon. The motorist, who had consumed medication



earlier, lost control and fell onto the road after nodding off, sustaining leg injuries. Civic Center Zone In-charge Inspector P.D. Chandra, accompanied by constables Divya

Dev Rajdoot and Vineet Tiwari, spotted the accident during their patrol and immediately administered on-site first aid by bandaging the rider's leg. The team alerted emergency services and safely transported the injured rider to the hospital via a Dial-112 vehicle without delay.

NARAKAS Bhilai-Durg conferred ‘Best’ category Rajbhasha Protsahan Samman

Central Chronicle News

BHILAI: The Nagar Rajbhasha Karyanvayan Samiti (NARAKAS), Bhilai-Durg, was conferred the ‘NARAKAS Protsahan Samman’ in the ‘Best NARAKAS’ category for 2025-26 for its exemplary implementation of the official language policy.

The honour was pre-



sented during the All India Hindi Diwas-2026 and 6th Rajbhasha Sammelan held on September 14-15 at CIDCO Exhibition Centre, Navi Mumbai, orga-

nized by the Department of Rajbhasha, Ministry of Home Affairs. Presided over by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, the event saw BSP General

Manager Rajiv Kumar and Deputy Manager Jitendra Das Manikpuri receive the award from Secretary Anshuli Arya.

Comprising 49 Central Government member establishments, NARAKAS Bhilai-Durg was lauded by BSP leadership for its sustained commitment to promoting Hindi in official work.

Land broker arrested for cheating investor

Central Chronicle News

BHILAI: Mohan Nagar police on Tuesday arrested a 38-year-old property broker, Lokesh Khullar alias Lucky, for defrauding a local resident of Rs 10.01 lakh under the pretext of a lucrative joint land investment.

According to complainant Vijay Singh Chouhan, Khullar and



two associates persuaded him in 2024 to co-purchase a 10,000-square-foot plot in Urla, promising high returns. Chouhan paid Rs 10.01 lakh via cash and che-

ques after signing an agreement. However, the accused repeatedly delayed demarcation and registry, ultimately selling the land to a third party at a higher price without refunding Chouhan's money.

Following a complaint, police arrested Khullar and sent him to judicial remand, while launching a manhunt for two absconding accomplices.

Kakoli Roy delivers lecture on agile public procurement

Central Chronicle News

BHILAI: Kakoli Roy, General Manager (Contract Cell-Non Works) at SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant, delivered a specialized lecture on “Agile Public Procurement: Balancing Accountability with Speed in PSUs” at the Military College of Material Management (MCMM), Jabalpur. Addressed to trainee offi-



cers of the Indian Army and Indian Navy attending the Administration and Logistics Management Course (ALMC-19), the session focused on

enhancing strategic procurement skills.

Drawing from extensive PSU experience, Roy emphasized harmonizing rigorous procedural com-

pliance, transparency, and accountability with execution speed amid evolving industrial environments. She shared practical frameworks to balance governance requirements against operational exigencies. The session concluded with an engaging interactive exchange addressing specific queries on public procurement and efficiency.

| IIT BHILAI |

Researchers develop 4D-printable smart hydrogel

Central Chronicle News

BHILAI: Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bhilai have engineered an innovative multifunctional smart hydrogel capable of thermal shape transformation and wastewater decontamination. The breakthrough, detailed in the peer-reviewed journal Small Methods, paves the way for advanced



applications across soft robotics, adaptive actuators, and sustainable environmental remedi-

ation. Developed by a research team comprising Sudipta Paul, Priyank Sinha, Amul Jain, and

Dr. Sanjib Banerjee, the hydrogel is synthesized using a customized four-arm star polymer combined with acrylic acid, acrylamide, and PEGDA. The formulation can be swiftly fabricated into complex structures using UVA light, demonstrating immense potential for future 4D-printable, shape-morphing architectures. The material exhibits remarkable

shape-memory capabilities, achieving approximately 94% shape fixity and 85% shape recovery within 25 seconds upon heating, retaining consistent efficiency across multiple cycles. Demonstrating extraordinary mechanical strength, a mere one-gram sample of the dried hydrogel successfully lifted a 250-gram metallic weight repeatedly.

Light, sound and laser show on Vishwakarma Puja

BHILAI: To commemorate Shri Vishwakarma Puja 2026, SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant's Sports, Cultural & Civic Amenities Department will host a grand Light & Sound and Laser Show at Mahatma Gandhi Kala Mandir, Civic Centre, at 7 PM on September 17. The spectacle will trace Chhattisgarh's journey from its ancient heritage to its contemporary development through vibrant

performances by school students, local artistes, and technical experts. Combining cutting-edge laser and audio-visual technology with artistic choreography, the production will spotlight the state's rich culture and diverse landscape. Entry is free for all attendees. BSP has extended an open invitation to township residents and members of the BSP Collective.

N-E-W-S



“India’s commitment to embedding circular economy principles into its sustainable development framework.”

Bhopendra Yadav
Union Minister

Growth must go hand in hand with ecology: CM Patel at WCEF

Chief Minister Bhopendra Patel has said, Gujarat must pursue industrial growth without compromising its ecological resources.

Press Trust Of India

GANDHINAGAR: Gujarat must pursue industrial growth without compromising its ecological resources, Chief Minister Bhopendra Patel said on Tuesday, stressing that development and environmental protection should be treated as complementary priorities.

Addressing the World Circular Economy Forum (WCEF) 2026 in Gandhinagar, Patel said the key challenge was to achieve economic growth while ensuring efficient and responsible use of natural resources.

“Development and environment are not contradictory. We need growth as well as greenery, industry as well as ecology, prosperity as well as sustainability,” he said. Patel said Gujarat had sought to maintain this balance through initiatives in industrial development, renewable energy, waste and water management, and resource efficiency. He said the WCEF would provide the state an opportunity to showcase its experience to an international audience while learning from practices adopted elsewhere. Citing the Somnath Temple



as an example of circular economy practices in an institutional and religious setting, Patel said offerings such as flowers, bel patra, milk, water, panchamrit and clothes were processed rather

HIGHLIGHT

● Addressing the World Forum in Gandhinagar, CM Patel said, the key challenge was to achieve economic growth.

than simply discarded. “The sacred liquid generated during the temple’s abhishek is scientifically purified and made available as ‘Som-Ganga Jal’, while flowers, bel patra and other organic waste, including food waste, are converted into manure,” he said. Plastic waste is also used to make paver

blocks, with women from local Sakhi Mandals trained and involved in the process, he said.

Patel said such initiatives demonstrated that converting waste into resources could have both economic and environmental benefits. “The ‘Waste to Wealth’ approach could also contribute to rural livelihoods and give greater momentum to the rural economy,” he said.

He added that the circular economy could contribute to energy security as countries navigated changing global conditions.

PM Modi calls for forgiveness & compassion on Samvatsari

Central Chronicle News

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday extended his greetings to the people on the sacred occasion of Samvatsari, emphasising the importance of forgiveness, compassion and humility in strengthening relationships and fostering goodwill.

In a post on X, PM Modi said: “Samvatsari reminds us that forgiveness and compassion strengthen every bond. On this sacred occasion, may humility guide us and may kindness and goodwill shape our every action. Michhami Dukkadam!” Samvatsari, the concluding and most sacred day of the Jain Paryushan Parva, is observed as a day of atonement, self-purification, and reconciliation.



FASTFACTS

● PM Modi emphasised the importance of forgiveness and humility in strengthening relationships and fostering goodwill.

On this day, followers of Jainism traditionally say “Micchami Dukkadam”, a phrase that signifies seeking and granting forgiveness for any harm caused knowingly or unknowingly through thoughts, words, or actions.

NEWSLINE

SRINAGAR

Terrorists network: three arrested

Jammu and Kashmir Police have arrested three people for their alleged involvement in an overground worker network linked to Lashkar-e-Taiba. The arrests followed an investigation into suspected support being provided to terrorists operating in the region. Police said the accused allegedly assisted the militant network through activities that helped its operations. Security agencies have intensified action against over-ground workers who provide logistical support, shelter, communication assistance or other facilities to armed groups. The latest arrests are part of the continuing campaign to dismantle terrorist support networks in Jammu and Kashmir.

CHENNAI

Man nabbed for using Vijay's fake ID

A man was arrested in Rajasthan for allegedly using artificial intelligence-generated deepfake videos of Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay to lure people into a financial fraud scheme.

The case was detected by the Tamil Nadu Crime Branch-CID cybercrime team during online monitoring. Investigators found that digitally manipulated videos showing Vijay speaking in Hindi were circulated through social media platforms.

KOCHI

CM reviews draft policy for elders in Kerala

Kerala Chief Minister V D Sathesnan on Tuesday chaired a high-level meeting in Thiruvananthapuram to review the draft Kerala Policy for Elders and the proposed Kerala State Elderly Persons Care and Protection Bill, 2026. The review focused on strengthening the government’s approach towards the welfare, care and protection of senior citizens. Kerala has a rapidly ageing population, making elderly care an increasingly important area of public policy. The proposed policy is expected to address issues related to healthcare, social security and protection.

BENGALURU

Democracy is for people: Shivakumar

Karnataka Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Tuesday said democracy could turn into authoritarianism when people begin to fear their government. Speaking in Bengaluru, Shivakumar stressed the importance of ensuring dignity, equal opportunities and freedom for citizens. He said democratic institutions could function effectively only when people were able to express their views without fear.

His remarks came amid continuing political debates in Karnataka over governance, public accountability and the functioning of democratic institutions. The Chief Minister said governments should work for citizens.

Rajasthan mandate reflects people’s support for state BJP Govt, says PM

Press Trust Of India

PM Narendra Modi has hailed the Bharatiya Janata Party’s performance in the Rajasthan urban local body elections,

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has welcomed the Bharatiya Janata Party’s strong performance in the Rajasthan urban local body elections, saying the results reflected public support for the party’s policies of good gover-



nance, development and the “double-engine” government. In a post on X, Modi thanked the people of Rajasthan for giving the BJP a strong mandate in the municipal elections. He described the result as a victory of truth

over what he called the echo of lies. The Prime Minister said the election outcome showed that people in Rajasthan continued to support the policies pursued by the BJP governments at the state and central levels.

Wife, 3 daughters killed; Father held

JAIPUR: A man was arrested in Jaipur after his wife and three daughters were allegedly murdered at their home in the Kardhani area. Police identified the accused as Rahul Jha and said he was taken into custody following the discovery of the bodies. Investigators are examining the circumstances surrounding the killings and the motive behind the crime. According to police findings released on Tuesday, the accused initially suspected his eldest daughter and allegedly planned to kill her. He later decided to attack his wife and the other two daughters as well.

SC seeks centre’s consideration on tribunal members’ short extension

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Tuesday asked the Centre to consider granting a one-month extension to tribunal members whose terms are ending while replacements have not yet been appointed. The direction came during proceedings concerning vacancies and continuity in the functioning of various tri The court expressed concern that vacancies could adversely affect the functioning of tribu-



nals and lead to delays in the disposal of cases. Tribunals deal with specialised matters relating to taxation, company law, administrative disputes, financial issues and several other areas. The court observed that a shortage of members could increase the workload on existing members and cause further

delays for litigants waiting for decisions. A temporary extension could help maintain continuity until new appointments are completed. The Centre will now consider whether retiring tribunal members can be allowed to continue for a limited period when replacements are not available. The matter is significant because tribunals play an important role in providing specialised and speedy dispute resolution and also help reduce the burden on regular courts.

Lawrence Bishnoi associate arrested after deportation from Canada

Press Trust Of India

CHANDIGARH: Punjab Police have arrested an alleged close associate of jailed gangster Lawrence Bishnoi after he was deported from Canada and brought to India. The accused arrived at Delhi airport and was subsequently taken into custody by Punjab Police. Investigators are questioning him about



his alleged links with the Bishnoi gang and criminal activities associated with the network. Police

are expected to examine his role in cases involving organised crime, extortion, threats and other illegal activities. The arrest is part of continuing efforts by Indian law enforcement agencies to trace gang members and associates who have moved abroad to evade investigation. Agencies have been coordinating with foreign authorities to secure the return of

accused persons facing criminal cases in India.

The deportation is considered significant for the ongoing investigation into the wider network of the Bishnoi gang. Police are likely to question the accused about other members, financial links and criminal operations. Further action will depend on evidence collected during the investigation.

Varuna Elevated Corridor in Varanasi



The Rs 10,998-crore, 43.218-km Varuna Elevated Corridor in Varanasi is set to transform the transport network by providing a high-capacity route between NH-31 and Varanasi.

Kerala Govt reduces police security at former CM Pinarayi Vijayan’s residence



lier, two sub-inspectors and six civil police officers were deployed in

shifts to provide security at his residence. A police vehicle stationed outside

the house had also functioned as a temporary police station. The vehicle was removed earlier this month, while police protection continued at the residence. Under the new arrangement, one sub-inspector and two police personnel will be deployed when Vijayan is at home.

CM Shivakumar warns K’taka might face water shortages due to inadequate rainfall

BENGALURU: Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Tuesday warned that the state could face shortages of drinking water and electricity due to inadequate rainfall. He said the government was closely monitoring the situation and preparing a detailed assessment before seek-



ing additional assistance from the Centre. Drought has already been

declared in 100 taluks, while assessments are continuing in other areas to determine the extent of the situation.

Shivakumar said groundwater levels had declined significantly in several regions and inadequate rainfall had affected agricultural activities and crops.

KANNUR: The Kerala government has decided to reduce round-the-clock police security at the residence of former Chief Minister and Opposition Leader Pinarayi Vijayan in Kannur. Under the revised arrangement, security personnel will be deployed at the residence only when Vijayan is present. Ear-

DEFENCE SELF-RELIANCE |

Seamless alliance key to defence self-reliance:Rajnath

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh today emphasised that self-reliance in defence sector can be achieved through seamless collaboration among the Defence Forces, Research and Development institutions and the industry. He called for greater dialogue,



co-development and co-production to accelerate technology adoption

and strengthen India’s defence manufacturing ecosystem. Addressing the

DRDO-Industry Synergy Meet, ‘VIMARSH 2026’ in New Delhi, Mr Singh said that DRDO has demonstrated its capabilities in every field, from missiles to radars, combat aircraft to submarines, electronic warfare system to Artificial Intelligence. The Defence Minister said that the reforms witnessed in the defence sector over

the past few years are unprecedented and several game-changing decisions have also been taken. These include the Positive Indigenisation List, the Make in India initiative, iDEX, ADITI and the decision to allocate 25 percent of the Defence Research and Development budget to the private sector.

40th installment of Ladli Behna Yojana given in MP

BHOPAL: Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav on Tuesday released the 40th instalment of the Mukhyamantri Ladli Behna Yojana from Agar Malwa.

More than Rs 1,835 crore was directly transferred into the bank accounts of over 1.25 crore eligible women across the state.

Launched in June 2023, the scheme initially provided eligible women Rs 1,000 per month. The monthly assistance was later increased to Rs 1,250 and, from November 2025, to Rs 1,500.

With the latest instalment, the government has transferred more than Rs 65,000 crore to women beneficiaries under the scheme so far.

The joining of the youth force will infuse the organization with new energy and a new direction.

Ajay Chandrakar
MLA Kurud



Raipur Region

Over 307,495 cases settled in Lok Adalat in R'gaon

On Saturday, a national lok adalat was organized in Rajnandgaon.

Central Chronicle News

RAJNANDGAON: Under the directives of the National Legal Services Authority and the Chhattisgarh State Legal Services Authority, a National Lok Adalat was convened on September 12, 2026, across Rajnandgaon, Mohla-Manpur-Am-bagarh Chowki, and Khairagarh-Chhuikhadan-Gandai districts.

Led by Vijay Kumar Hota, Principal District Judge and Chairman of the District Legal Services Authority, Rajnandgaon, the event



featured 48 dedicated benches. The Lok Adalat successfully resolved an unprecedented total of 307,495 cases, comprising 304,034 pre-litigation matters and 3,461 court-pending disputes, generating an aggregate settlement amount

HIGHLIGHT

● Attendees at the event included judges of different courts.

including compoundable criminal offences, motor accident claims, cheque bounce disputes under Section 138 of the NI Act, matrimonial disagreements, land acquisition issues, labor cases, and revenue disputes.

Highlighting the forum's transformative human impact, several long-standing, complex cases were amicably settled. In the Family Court

of Judge Uttara Kumar Kashyap, maintenance and marital separation suits involving Sevati Bai versus Benlal Verma and Benu Kumar Dewan-gan versus Divya were successfully resolved through structured reconciliation, prompting both estranged couples to reunite and resume cohabitation.

Furthermore, in the court of Judge Shweta Patel at Chhuikhadan, an old dispute between Manoj Sahu and Shashikant Sahu concluded with mutual forgiveness and an embrace in open court.

Villagers protest alleged gau-dharsa land encroachment

Central Chronicle News

CHHURA/PANDUKA: A dispute over the alleged encroachment on a traditional cattle path (Gau-Dharsa) has surfaced in Gram Panchayat Paktiya, sparking discontent among local residents. Villagers state that the blocked land has historically served as a critical passage for livestock, and its obstruction now severely disrupts traditional animal management practices in the area. Seeking administrative intervention, the villagers submitted formal written memorandums to the Panduka Forest Range Officer, the Water Resources Department in Chhura, and the local Tehsildar. The submission



HIGHLIGHT

● A case of alleged encroachment on the traditional cattle path has come to light in Paktiya.

● Villagers of the Gram Panchayat have stood in protest of this illegal encroachment.

demands a prompt, impartial inquiry alongside an immediate on-site inspection to establish clear boundary demarcations.

SURVEILLANCE

Police escalate festive surveillance

ARANG: Ahead of the upcoming festive season, Arang police conducted intensive patrols across main roads and market areas to strengthen local security, maintain law and order, and monitor suspicious activities. Station House Officer (SHO) Naresh Sahu stated that continuous patrolling is underway to ensure the safety of citizens and local traders. During the security drive, police adopted a firm stance against potential troublemakers, detaining three individuals under preventive legal provisions due to apprehensions of peace disturbance.

DEATH

Hit-and-run claim youth's life; driver flees

ARANG: A 35-year-old motorcyclist died following a road accident on Sunday night near the Banarasi bus stand, within the jurisdiction of the Arang police station. The victim, identified as Netram Dhruvvan-shi, a resident of Banarasi village, was returning home on his motorcycle (registration CG 04 LE 0280) around 8:00 PM when an unidentified vehicle struck him.

The collision caused Dhruvvanshi to fall onto the road, resulting in severe injuries. Upon receiving information about the crash, a Dial-112 emergency response team rushed to the scene and transported the critically injured rider to the Arang Community Health Center.

Liquor shop staff busted for illegal alcohol distribution

Central Chronicle News

ARANG: In a major crackdown on illegal alcohol distribution, Arang police intercepted an Ertiga car near Ranisagar village and seized 160 pouches of desi masala liquor valued at Rs 16,000.

Acting on a tip-off on September 14, 2026, a team led by Inspector Naresh Sahu conducted a targeted blockade, confiscating the vehicle worth Rs 8 lakh alongside the illegal consignment, bringing



total seizures to Rs 8.16 lakh. Seven individuals were arrested in connection with the illicit transport and sale. Shockingly, the syndicate involved government liquor shop staff from Gullu village—including the supervisor,

Mutual consent resolves longstanding legal disputes

CHHUIKHADAN: A National Lok Adalat was successfully organized at the Civil Court in Chhuikhadan on September 12, under the guidance of Principal District and Sessions Judge Vijay Kumar Hota and TLSC Chairperson Shweta Patel. The forum aimed at resolving a wide spectrum of compoundable disputes through voluntary, mutual consent. The proceedings covered diverse legal matters, including civil suits, regular criminal cases, Motor Vehicles Act violations, traffic challans, and others.

Ganpati Bappa Morya resonates across Khairagarh

Central Chronicle News

KHAIRAGARH: Ganesh Chaturthi was celebrated with immense fervor across Khairagarh and neighboring towns, including Chhuikhadan, Gandai, and Salhewara.

Devotees welcomed Lord Ganesha into homes and public pandals accompanied by a month of traditional Dhumal troupes, musical bands, and vibrant processions. Famed for its rich artistic heritage, Khairagarh



showcased exceptional creativity in its festive displays. Key highlights include the iconic 'King of Khairagarh' at Fateh Maidan, featuring a striking illuminated red pandal. At the Banke

GANESH CHATURTHI

Lord Ganesha welcomed with devotion

KHARORA: A festive atmosphere engulfed the town of Kharora starting Sunday morning as preparations for the auspicious occasion of Ganesh Chaturthi got underway. Devotees enthusiastically flocked to markets to purchase and bring home beautifully crafted small idols of Lord Ganesha. By Sunday evening, the grand arrival of larger idols commenced across the town, sparking widespread excitement.

Kachna Dhurva College hosts induction, felicitation

Central Chronicle News

CHHURA: Kachna Dhruva College hosted a combined 'Diksharambh', 'Praveshotsav', and Teacher Felicitation Ceremony to welcome newly admitted students.

Presided over by Principal Dr. Dinesh Sahu, the event opened with traditional lamp-lighting before Goddess Saraswati. Dr. Sahu briefed students on the academic environment, discipline, and



the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, urging dedicated, regular study.

Senior faculty highlighted campus resources includ-

ing the library, NCC, NSS, sports, and cultural wings, while NSS Program Officer Rekhran Kurre encouraged nation-building initiatives. Senior students extended a warm traditional welcome to newcomers by applying tilak.

Additionally, students honored management and faculty members—including T.K. Yadu, Tarun Kumar Nirmalkar, and K.R. Sahu—with a coconut (shrifal), diary, and pen.

DEO'S SCHOOL INSPECTION

DEO conducts inspections, uncovers faults

Central Chronicle News

KHAIRAGARH: Upendra Kumar Dewan-gan, the newly appointed District Education Officer (DEO) of KCG district, conducted surprise inspections of government and private schools in the Khairagarh block to assess educational standards and infrastructure.

At Government Higher Secondary School, Badhaitola, the DEO rewarded students for correctly answering subject-related questions. However, he expressed strong



displeasure over finding the principal's office locked, a filthy adjacent toilet, non-compliant morning school timings, and a lack of inspirational slogans. Later, at Milestone Public School, he

directed staff to display motivational quotes and teach students ten new English words daily. At SAGES Boys' School, the DEO sat on the floor with students to share their mid-day meal.

Focusing on academic quality, sanitation, and discipline, DEO Dewan-gan announced a comprehensive district-wide principal and coordinator workshop scheduled for September 16 to address operational shortcomings and streamline local education standards.

Dy CM Vijay Sharma promises village devp

KAWARDHA: Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Sharma visited Chui village in Kabirdham district's Bodla block, engaging directly with residents to assess local demands and development needs.

Demonstrating the government's focus on grassroots progress, Sharma announced the construction of a new Panchayat building and



a middle school building in the village. Highlighting educational advancements, the Deputy Chief

Minister revealed that smart classrooms have been set up in 50 regional schools, with 35 more

Villagers take part in regional sports

ANWARI: In keeping with annual tradition, village Maurikala celebrated the Teeja-Pola festival with grand multi-sport competitions, organized through the collective effort of local residents.

Held near the Gram Panchayat and Government Primary School, the events drew enthusiastic participation across all age groups,



including women visiting their maternal homes for Teeja, youth, children, and elders.

The festivities kicked off at 7:00 AM on September 10 with

CONGRESS SETBACK

Kurud MLA Ajay Chandrakar inducts youths

KURUD: Reaffirming the adage that political alliances are fluid, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) dealt a significant local blow to the Congress party in the Kurud assembly constituency on Monday. Four influential youths from Bharda village—Kuldeep Sahu, Ishwar Sahu, Domendra Sahu, and Jitendra Sahu—officially severed ties with Congress to join the BJP.

The political shift holds high regional significance, as the inductees hail from a family long associated with a prominent local Congress leader in a traditional party stronghold.

DOCTOR DONATES EYES

Dr. Prahlad Dewangan sets eye donation example

Central Chronicle News

KURUD: The late Dr. Prahlad Dewangan, a revered 72-year-old senior physician at Nandanwar Dawakhana in Kurud, embodied the true spirit of lifelong medical service.

Throughout his career, he brought health, healing, and



hope to countless patients across the region. Even in death, his unwavering com-

mitment to humanity continues to shine as a beacon of inspiration, leaving behind a profound legacy of selflessness and social responsibility.

Following his passing on Sunday night, Dr. Dewangan's family took immediate action to honor a noble pledge he had made during his

lifetime: the donation of his eyes. Demonstrating exceptional sensitivity, awareness, and devotion to his final wishes, his son Dr. Manish Raja Dewangan, his daughter Dr. Shila Rani Dewan-gan, and other family members authorized the procedure, ensuring that his vision could be passed on to illuminate

someone else's world. The eye retrieval process was executed seamlessly through a coordinated medical effort led by Dr. Hemraj Dewangan, Block Medical Officer at Civil Hospital Kurud, under the expert guidance of Dr. Rajesh Suryavanshi, District Nodal Officer for Blindness Control.

Neglected maintenance, safety threaten complex

ARANG: Residents of the Housing Board multi-story flats in Sectors 27, 28, 29, and 30 of Naya Raipur are expressing deep resentment over non-existent amenities despite paying regular maintenance fees.

The six-story complexes suffer from frequent lift breakdowns, forcing children, the

elderly, and the sick to navigate six flights of stairs. Fire safety measures are severely compromised, with empty fire extinguishers left on floors as mere "showpieces." Additionally, residents face widespread wall seepage, neglected upkeep, and a complete absence of security personnel.

Fun & Focus



Daily Horoscope

ARIES

Get rid the feeling of isolation and loneliness by spending your time with your family. Today, you will understand the importance of money and how unnecessarily spending it can negatively affect your future.

Cosmic tip: Make a win-win situation work.

Gemini

Victory celebrations will give you tremendous joy. You can share this happiness with friends to enjoy your joy. An old friend can ask you for financial help today. However, your assistance can weaken your financial conditions.

Cosmic tip: Merge ambition with stability.

Leo

You are going to enjoy the pleasure of leisure. Those who commit tax evasion can get into big trouble today. Therefore, you are advised not to commit such acts. Visit to a religious place or to a relative seems likely on your cards.

Cosmic tip: Add your healing touch to life.

Libra

Sheer pleasure and enjoyment for those venturing out to have fun. Do not make rash decisions- especially when negotiating major financial deals. Let family tension not divert your attention. Bad times give us much more. As for as possible, wear white-coloured fabrics/clothes.

Cosmic tip: Keep pace in loving.

Sagittarius

You would get relief from the tensions and strains of life which you have been experiencing for long. It is right time to change your life style to permanently keep them a bay. Today, you won't need to spend your own money, as an elder of your house can help you with your finances.

Cosmic tip: Carry forward sheer obligations.

Aquarius

You may get rid from prolong illness. Today, your account will be credited with the money from your debtor without any prior notice, which can surprise you and make you happy. An old friend makes a pleasant visit later in the day. Charity and social work will attract you today.

Cosmic tip: Release an old part of you.

Taurus

Some unavoidable circumstances can give you some uneasiness. But you must try to keep your poise and should not react immediately to tackle the situation. Avoid any long-term investments and spend some pleasant moments with your good friend.

Cosmic tip: When you are at point zero..

Cancer

You have to control the way you feel. You may spend a lot today on small things around the house, which can mentally stress you out. You will be able to clear all outstanding family debts. Your magnetic-outgoing personality will put you into the limelight.

Cosmic tip: You first need to fill your cup.

Virgo

Incase you have been feeling frustrated recently- you should remember that right actions and thoughts today will bring much needed relief. Financial position will improve through speculation or unexpected gains. You should behave according to the circumstances.

Cosmic tip: You are the anchor of your tribe.

Scorpio

Selfish behaviour of a friend or an acquaintance would disturb your mental peace. Speculation will bring in profits. Some of you are likely to purchase jewelry or a home appliance. This is one of those days when you'll try to take out time for yourself from your busy schedule.

Cosmic tip: Focus on genuine connections.

Capricorn

Try to get out of your office early for some recreation. It should be well understood that in the hour of grief, your accumulated wealth will only help you tackle the situation. Hence, start saving from today and avoid excessive spending.

Cosmic tip: Your ideas are aligned.

Pisces

Avoid overeating and visit a health club regularly to stay fit. Improvement in finances is certain. Travel program made well in advanced might get postponed due to the health problems in the family. New ideas would be productive. You might do something fabulous today.

Cosmic tip: It is a good day to journal.

SCIENCE WATCH

Ozone - The nature's ward



September 16, stands to be World Ozone Day. Ozone (O₃) is a reactive gas made of three oxygen atoms that acts as a protective shield in the upper atmosphere but becomes a harmful pollutant at ground level. Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) are making the ozone thin.

Good vs. Bad Ozone



The 'Stratospheric Ozone' is the good one, located roughly 10 to 25 miles above Earth, while 'Tropospheric Ozone' is the bad one found at ground level.

Do you know the 'The Montreal Protocol'?

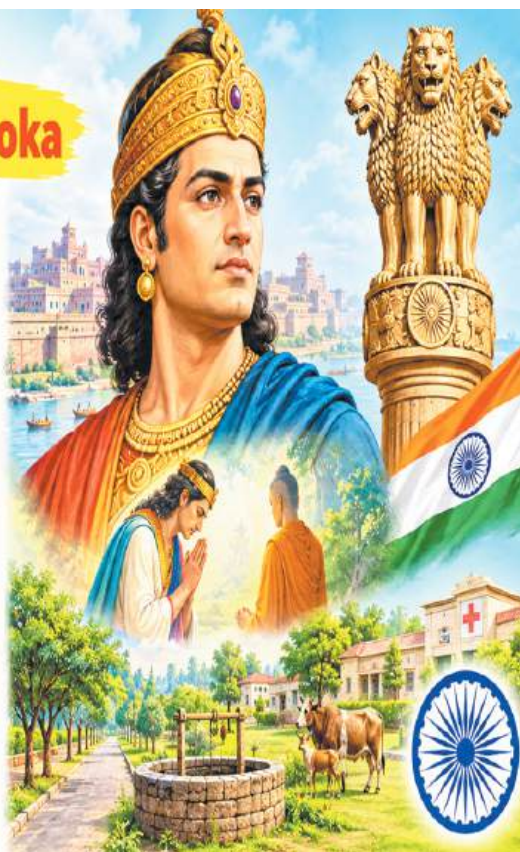


Signed in 1987, this global treaty successfully phased out ozone-depleting substances like CFCs, putting the stratospheric layer on a steady path toward recovery.

THE LEGEND

No one like - Emperor Ashoka

- 1 Emperor Ashoka, 'The Great' was the third ruler of the Mauryan Dynasty, ruling nearly the entire Indian subcontinent from roughly 268 to 232 BCE.
- 2 He was the grandson of Chandragupta Maurya and the son of King Bindusara and Janapadakalyani. His capital was at Pataliputra (modern-day Patna).
- 3 Early in his life, he was known as Chand Ashoka (Ashoka the Fierce) due to his aggressive military campaigns and ruthless temperament.
- 4 Around 260-265 BCE, he invaded the region of Kalinga, in which there was immense bloodshed, which left him deeply traumatized. Filled with remorse, Ashoka renounced armed conquest and converted to Buddhism.
- 5 He built hospitals for humans and animals, planted shade trees along roads, dug wells, and promoted vegetarianism.
- 6 The Lion Capital of the Ashoka Pillar at Sarnath serves as the official national emblem of the Republic of India, and the Ashoka Chakra appears at the center of India's flag



SEPTEMBER 16-THE DAY IN HISTORY

1. September 16 holds a significant place in Indian history, marked by Mahatma Gandhi's fast of 1932, and birth of Bharat Ratna M.S. Subbulakshmi in 1916.
2. Also was born on this day Shyam Lal Gupta 'Parshad' in 1893. He was the poet who composed the famous Indian national flag song "Vijayi Vishwa Tiranga Pyara".
3. This very day, in 1908, the General Motors Corporation was founded by William C. Durant.
4. On September 16, 2009 universal ratification of the Vienna Convention and Montreal Protocol happened in United Nations history.



IT'S QUIZ TIME

- 1 According to the Ramayana, during the final battle between Rama and Ravana, Indra sent his divine charioteer to assist Rama. Riding in Indra's celestial chariot, he brought divine weapons and helped Rama fight Ravana. Who was this celestial charioteer?
- 2 In Olympic shooting, mixed team events feature two athletes competing together. What is the composition of these teams?
- 3 Which nation is famously called the "Land of the Rising Sun" because it lies east of the Asian mainland, where the sun appears to rise first?
- 4 In which island nation did all the following popular dance forms originate - the cha-cha-cha, the Mambo, and the Salsa, though the national dance is actually a fourth, the Danzon?
- 5 Which generation followed the silent generation, which is regarded as stretching from 1928 to 1945, whose name references the number of children born after the end of World War 2?
- 6 Wilson Greatbatch was an American engineer who was working on a device to record heart sounds when he accidentally installed the wrong resistor. The resulting circuit produced rhythmic electrical pulses. This discovery led him to invent what life-saving device?
- 7 Roger Waters is a founding member of one of the most influential rock bands of all time. Known for his political activism and anti-war stance, he was the band's bassist, principal lyricist and a driving creative force behind some of rock's most visually iconic albums.



Answers

RamaQuiz

TELL ME WHY?

Why do we get up minutes before the alarm bell?

- 1 Waking up minutes before your alarm goes off happens because your body's internal biological clock learns your daily routine and starts preparing you for wakefulness ahead of time.
- 2 Your brain has a built-in timekeeper called the suprachiasmatic nucleus (SCN), which controls your schedule.



VERBAL ANALOGIES

QUESTION - What shall come in place of question mark (?) in the given analogy?

?: OZKGLK:: HEAVEN: SVZEVM

- 1 MONDAY
- 2 DONATE
- 3 FUTURE
- 4 LAPTOP
- 5 SILVER

ANSWER -

LAPTOP

Explanation - The pattern uses opposite pairs from the English alphabet (A ↔ Z, B ↔ Y, C ↔ X, etc.). You can find an opposite letter by counting backward from Z.

Applying the same reverse-alphabet rule to OZKGLK:

- O becomes L
- Z becomes A
- K becomes P
- G becomes T
- L becomes O
- K becomes P

This decodes perfectly into LAPTOP.

MAP POINTING

This mountainous, landlocked Balkan country has a compact and irregular shape and shares borders with Serbia, Kosovo, Bulgaria, Greece, and Albania.

Answer: North Macedonia



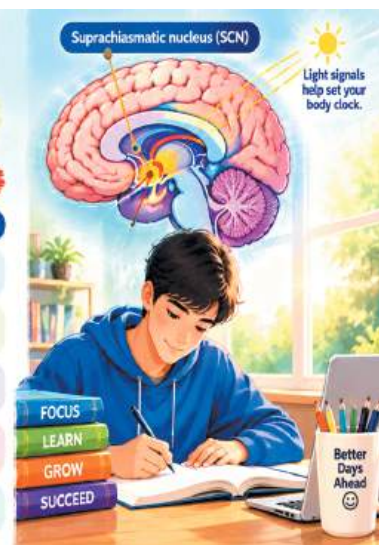
WISDOM

Do you study early in the morning?

*****If yes, half the battle is won***

The many benefits of 'Morning Study'

- 1 Fresh Mind: A good night of sleep clears the mind and helps with focus.
- 2 Fewer Interruptions: Early hours are quiet because most people are still asleep.
- 3 Better Retention: A rested brain absorbs new facts and tough concepts faster.
- 4 Early Win: Finishing hard tasks early creates a positive mood for the rest of the day.
- 5 Personal Rhythm & Consistency: Finding a regular routine matters a lot.



WORD OF THE DAY

Elegant

Meaning - Graceful and stylish in appearance or manner

Example - The child wore an elegant dress to the party

Synonyms - Graceful, refined

Antonyms - Ugly, crude



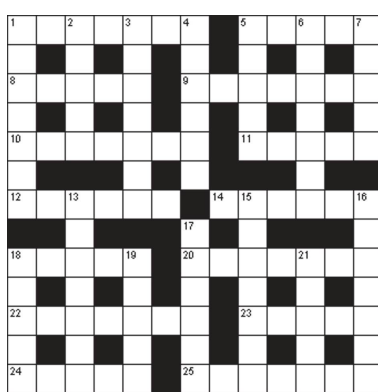
Across

- 1 Diffident (7)
- 5 Game on a green (5)
- 8 Feed a furnace (5)
- 9 Square-rigged sailing-ship (7)
- 10 Great pleasure (7)
- 11 Invited (5)
- 12 Sailors' song (6)
- 14 Promise (6)
- 18 Given medicine (5)
- 20 Able to be read (7)
- 22 Renegade (7)
- 23 Completely foreign (5)
- 24 Fop (5)
- 25 Necessary (7)

Down

- 1 Furthermore (7)
- 2 Frown angrily (5)
- 3 Cargo (7)
- 4 Illuminations (6)
- 5 Wood for model makers (5)
- 6 Destroyed (7)
- 7 Church council (5)
- 13 Refrain from voting (7)
- 15 Cases (7)
- 16 Everlasting (7)
- 17 Two-shilling coin (6)
- 18 Outmoded (5)
- 19 Barmy (5)
- 21 Short (5)

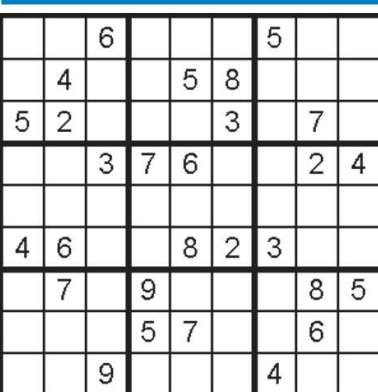
CROSSWORD -233



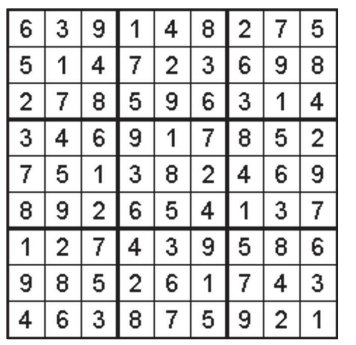
CROSSWORD SOLUTION- 232



SUDOKU- 233



SUDOKU SOLUTION- 232



DAILY WORD SEARCH

- Bare
- Flare
- Rare
- Bear
- Hair
- Snare
- Care
- Hare
- Square
- Dare
- Mare
- Stair
- Declare
- Mayor
- Stare
- Eclair
- Pair
- Ware
- Fare
- Pare
- Wear
- Fair
- Pear
- Where
- Flair
- Prayer



Business



JCB India eyes 15-20 pc export growth in FY27.
Deepak Shetty
MD and CEO, JCB India

MoU between NSTFDC and HPCL



Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Ms. Ranjana Chopra, attends the signing ceremony of the MoU between NSTFDC and HPCL for establishing computer labs in Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRSs), at Kartavya Bhawan, in New Delhi.

India's Aug exports surge 26%, trade deficit narrows

India's merchandise exports jump 26.12 per cent in August as lower gold imports help narrow trade deficit to five-month low

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The country's merchandise exports surged 26.12 per cent to USD 43.81 billion in August, driven by a jump in petroleum product shipments, while a dip in gold imports helped narrow the trade deficit to a five-month low of USD 26.86 billion.

Imports rose by 14.1 per cent year-on-year to USD 70.76 billion in August. Brent crude oil prices ranged between USD 90 and USD 94 per barrel during the last month. The growth in exports in August was the highest since June 2022, when shipments had risen 30.12 per cent. During April-August this fiscal, exports jumped 17.85 per cent year-on-year to USD 215.91 billion, and imports climbed 18.21 per cent to USD 363 billion. Merchandise trade deficit during the first five months of this fiscal widened to USD 147.09 billion as compared to USD 123.88 billion during April-August 2025-26. In August 2025, the deficit was USD 27.22 billion. In July it was USD 31.98 billion. The last low was USD 20.67 billion in March. India's gold imports



dipped to USD 2.3 billion in August from USD 5.4 billion in August 2025, registering a decline of 57.7 per cent. Briefing the media on the data, Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agarwal said the good momentum of export growth is continuing and is rather building up also. He said higher imports during the first five months of 2026-27 are being propelled by strong domestic economic expansion, rising energy requirements and the critical inputs needed to sustain the rapid growth of manufacturing sector. It has pushed the trade deficit also. The major drivers of trade deficit have been energy items like petroleum, crude and coal, coke and briquettes, and electronic goods.

HIGHLIGHT

● Exports surge on petroleum shipments as gold imports decline sharply.

On the exports front, he said a mix of commodities helped push the growth and that included engineering goods, petroleum products, chemicals and textiles. "At the same time, major demand has come from the US, EU, BRICS nations and emerging economies.

The 50-share NSE Nifty dropped 279.50 points, or 1.19 per cent, to end at 23,118.60, the lowest closing level since April 6. Among the 30 Sensex firms, Bharat Electronics tumbled 6 per cent. InterGlobe Aviation, Titan, Bajaj Finserv, Adani Ports, Mahindra & Mahindra and State Bank of India were also among the laggards. HCL Tech jumped 3.98 per cent, Infosys climbed 3.64 per cent, Tech Mahindra was up 2.31 per cent, and Tata Consultancy Services (2.18 per cent) and HDFC Bank (1.27 per cent) also rose. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, jumped 1.89 per cent to USD 107.7 per barrel.

"Domestic markets remained under pressure, extending their recent correction as elevated crude oil prices and rising global bond yields weighed on sentiment. Investors stayed cautious ahead of key central bank meetings this week, with growing expectations of further policy tightening by major economies.

FPIs withdraw Rs 5,109 cr from Govt Bonds

Press Trust Of India

Global uncertainty prompts foreign investors to exit Indian bonds.

MUMBAI: Foreign portfolio investors (FPI) pulled nearly Rs 5,109.21 crore in the last three days from government securities under the fully accessible route amid dampened sentiments due to global uncertainty. Under the fully accessible route (FAR), eligible overseas investors are allowed to buy and sell certain government securities without any cap.

According to the Clearing Corporation of India (CCIL), FPI investment in government securities under FAR stood at Rs 366,806.286 crore as on September 15, as compared to Rs 371,915.496 crore as on September 9. The investment stood at Rs 371,520.751 crore as on September 10 and Rs 366,791.286 crore as on September 11, data showed.



"We saw notable selling by FPIs in G-Secs under the FAR route. Elevated crude prices, hovering around USD 110 amid the worsening US-Iran war situation, coupled with US Treasury yields nearing the 5 per cent mark and persistent pressure on the rupee, have made Indian sovereign debt relatively less attractive to foreign portfolio investors," said Mataprasad Pandey, vice president at Choice Wealth.

NSE IPO draws strong institutional interest

Press Trust Of India

NSE anchor book demand exceeds expectations ahead of IPO.

NEW DELHI: NSE anchor book demand exceeds expectations ahead of IPO, with strong institutional interest emerging ahead of the National Stock Exchange's Rs 22,569-crore public issue, Managing Director and CEO Ashishkumar Chauhan said on Tuesday.

Chauhan said demand for the anchor book had been "much more" than initially expected. Bidding for anchor investors is scheduled for September 16, a day before the IPO opens for public subscription. The issue will remain open from September 17 to September 21, with shares expected to list on Sept 24. According to sources familiar with the matter,

global investment institutions including Goldman Sachs Asset Management, Franklin Templeton and Fidelity International have shown early interest in the anchor book. Norges Bank Investment Management, Abu Dhabi Investment Authority and GIC are also expected to participate.

The anchor book is likely to be around Rs 6,250 crore, below the earlier estimate of Rs 9,000 crore, with the final investor line-up still being finalised. Chauhan said the exchange must allocate shares among different categories of institutional investors, including domestic mutual funds, other institutions and foreign investors, under the applicable reservation framework. The much-awaited IPO is entirely an offer for sale and is set to become India's second-largest public issue, after Hyundai Motor



HIGHLIGHT

● Institutional appetite remains strong for NSE IPO.

India's Rs 27,870-crore offering in 2024. The allocation requirements for different investor categories mean the number of shares available to individual categories will remain constrained. On the possibility of NSE creating a permitted-to-trade category for its shares, Chauhan said the exchange had not applied for the facility so far. If it decides to pursue the option, NSE would consult the Securities and Exchange Board of India.

Tata Sons Board Meet to focus on Listing, Succession

Press Trust Of India

Tata Sons board faces crucial listing and succession questions.

MUMBAI: Tata Sons board faces crucial listing and succession questions, with the September 17 board meeting expected to focus on the implications of the Reserve Bank of India's recent decision, Chairman N Chandrasekaran's suc-



cession and an ongoing governance issue within Tata Trusts. The RBI recently rejected Tata Sons' application to surrender its non-banking

financial company registration. The holding company had applied in March 2024 after repaying more than Rs 21,000 crore in debt and

HIGHLIGHT

● RBI decision reshapes Tata Sons' future direction.

strengthening its balance sheet. The decision could revive discussions around the possibility of a stock market listing.

However, Tata Trusts Chairman Noel Tata has reportedly opposed any listing of Tata Sons, while the Shapoorji Palonji Group, which holds

around 18 per cent, has favoured the move. Tata Trusts collectively control about 66 per cent of Tata Sons.

Succession is another major issue. Chandrasekaran has informed the board that he does not intend to seek a third term when his current tenure ends in February 2027. There is speculation that the Nomination and Remuneration Committee could ask him to reconsider.

BizBriefs

BEST OF THE REST

HOW THE MARKET'S BEHAVE TODAY?

Sensex tanks 778 points, Nifty closes at 5-month low amid surging oil prices



MUMBAI: Benchmark Sensex tanked 778 points while the broader stock index Nifty closed at a five-month low on Tuesday amid surging oil prices, geopolitical tensions and weak trends in global markets. The 30-share BSE Sensex tumbled 777.94 points, or 1.04 per cent, to settle at a three-month low of 74,003.82, dragged by losses in blue-chip banking, auto and oil & gas shares. The index opened higher but lost steam in late-morning deals as selling gathered pace. The barometer later tanked 787.73 points, or 1.05 per cent, to a day's low of 73,994.03.

The 50-share NSE Nifty dropped 279.50 points, or 1.19 per cent, to end at 23,118.60, the lowest closing level since April 6. Among the 30 Sensex firms, Bharat Electronics tumbled 6

per cent. InterGlobe Aviation, Titan, Bajaj Finserv, Adani Ports, Mahindra & Mahindra and State Bank of India were also among the laggards. HCL Tech jumped 3.98 per cent, Infosys climbed 3.64 per cent, Tech Mahindra was up 2.31 per cent, and Tata Consultancy Services (2.18 per cent) and HDFC Bank (1.27 per cent) also rose. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, jumped 1.89 per cent to USD 107.7 per barrel.

"Domestic markets remained under pressure, extending their recent correction as elevated crude oil prices and rising global bond yields weighed on sentiment. Investors stayed cautious ahead of key central bank meetings this week, with growing expectations of further policy tightening by major economies.

TO HOLD BILATERAL TALKS

Piyush Goyal to visit US for G20 trade ministerial this month

NEW DELHI: Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal will visit the US at the end of this month to participate in the G20 trade ministerial in Milwaukee, and he is expected to hold a bilateral meeting with US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer, a top official said on Tuesday. The two-day ministerial will begin on September 30. The United States holds the 2026 G20 presidency.

Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agarwal said, "We expect during the visit, definitely there will be bilateral meetings between the ministers....Bilateral is in the offing...Once it is worked out, we will let you know.

"And whenever the bilateral takes place, I think all issues, trade issues between India and the US, will be discussed. And even the ongoing FTA (free trade agreement) negotiations and the way forward on that will definitely be on the agenda for discussion." The G20, or Group of Twenty, is an international forum that brings together the world's major advanced and emerging economies to discuss and coordinate economic policy.

BULLION MARKET

Gold plunges Rs 1,000 to hit 5-week low of Rs 1.54 lakh/10gram

NEW DELHI: Gold prices fell by Rs 1,000 to more than a month's low of Rs 1,54,400 per 10 grams in the national capital on Tuesday amid weak global trends and a strong US dollar. The precious metal previously traded around these levels on August 7, when it stood at Rs 1.54 lakh per 10 grams in the local market.

Silver prices, however, remained unchanged for the second consecutive day at Rs 2,34,600 per kilogram (inclusive of all taxes), according to local traders. "Gold edged lower on Tuesday amid weak global cues, with spot gold slipping below USD 4,300 an ounce and trading near a one-month low," said Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst - Commodities at HDFC Securities.

The decline was driven by a stronger US dollar and rising Treasury yields as elevated crude oil prices heightened inflation concerns and reinforced expectations of a Fed rate hike at this week's policy meeting, Gandhi added.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

Unemployment rate dips slightly to 5 pc in August

NEW DELHI: The overall unemployment rate (UR) among persons aged 15 years and above dropped slightly to 5 per cent in August, as per the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) data released on Tuesday. According to an official statement, the overall UR among persons aged 15 years and above declined marginally from 5.1 per cent in July to 5 per cent in August.

The UR also stood at 5.1 per cent in August 2025. During the same period, the rural unemployment rate decreased from 4.5 per cent to 4.1 per cent month-on-month, while urban UR remained almost stable at 6.8 per cent in August compared to 6.7 per cent in July.

Compared with August 2025, the overall UR and urban UR remained broadly stable in August 2026, whereas the rural UR declined by 0.2 percentage point to 4.1 per cent in August against 4.3 per cent in the same month a year ago. Since January 2026, rural UR recorded its lowest level in August, it stated. The overall UR among males aged 15 years and above declined for the third consecutive month, reaching 4.9 per cent in the month under review from 5.4 per cent in May 2026. The rural male UR declined from 4.6 per cent in July to



4.3 per cent in August, while urban male UR marginally rose from 5.9 per cent to 6.1 per cent during the same period. Among females aged 15 years and above, overall UR declined for two consecutive months to 5.1 per cent in August 2026 from 5.9 per cent in June 2026.

Rural female UR decreased from 4.3 per cent in July to 3.9 per cent in August, while urban female UR remained broadly stable compared to the previous month. A year-on-year comparison indicates that the overall unemployment rate for both males and females remained broadly unchanged in August 2026. The overall male and female UR declined in August compared to July.

India matrimonial racket busted

Amit Kumar ran fake ‘Shaadi Partner’, capped fraud.

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Delhi Police has busted a pan-India matrimonial cyber fraud racket allegedly run from Agra by a 29-year-old practising advocate, who used fake profiles, staged conversations with women posing as prospective brides and multiple payment demands to dupe men seeking marriage, officials said on Tuesday.

Amit Kumar allegedly operated a fake matchmaking service under the name “Shaadi Partner” and deliberately capped the fraud at Rs 15,000 per victim, a strategy police said was aimed at discouraging complaints.

The firm was also registered under the MSME and UP Labour Department, while banking channels and SIM cards were procured in its name, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Central) Rohit Rajbir said.

Police registered an FIR after a complainant alleged that he was lured through a website and cheated of Rs 15,000 on the pretext of registration, profile access, activation and contact unlocking charges.

Investigation into the complaint led police to a current account registered in the name of “MS Shaadi Partner Com”, into which the money had been deposited. Analysis of the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal (NCRP) database showed that the account was linked to six complaints from different parts of the country involving a similar modus operandi, police said.

A police team raided

a fully operational call centre at an apartment in Agra on September 4 and arrested a 44-year-old woman who was the proprietor of the firm on paper. Eight female tele-callers were also apprehended, officials said. During interrogation, the woman allegedly disclosed Kumar’s role in the operation. According to police, Kumar had created a layered arrangement to distancing himself from the alleged fraud. He allegedly floated the proprietorship firm “M/s Shaadi Partner Com” in the woman’s name and executed a franchise agreement with Netnexus

Solutions (OPC) Pvt Ltd. Kumar allegedly portrayed himself as the firm’s “legal advisor”, allowing him to claim that he was merely providing legal services and was not responsible for the call centre’s operations, police said. After learning about the raid, Kumar switched off his mobile phones and went underground, police said. Technical surveillance helped investigators track him to Agra.



Regional Office Raipur
Plot no 75, Sector - 24, Atal Nagar, Jagda Raipur, (C.G.)-492018
Phone: 0773 2546005

PREMISES REQUIRED ON LEASE

Union Bank of India requires a well-constructed commercial premise in ready possession/under construction preferably on Ground Floor for opening of new branches at the following locations:

Location	District	Carpet Area of Premise
Khairagarh	Khairagarh-Chhikhadn-Gandol	1400s10% Square Feet
Kurud	Dhamtari	1400s10% Square Feet
Sandri Road - Bhilai Nagar	Durg	1400-1700 Square Feet
Saddu - Raipur	Raipur	1700s10% Square Feet

Last date for submission of bids in prescribed format is 09-10-2026 up to 03:00 PM. Filled application forms to be submitted at the office address mentioned above. For further details, please visit Bank's website www.unionbankofindia.co.in / e-Procurement portal eprocure.gov.in/.

In case any bidder intends to submit offers for two or more branches, separate tender documents shall be submitted independently for each premises.

Union Bank of India reserves the right for rejecting any or all applications received without assigning any reasons whatsoever.

Date: 16.09.2026

REGIONAL HEAD

AFFIDAVIT FOR CHANGE OF DOB (SON)

I PRATAP SINGH KODOPOI Son of GO No. 005086N Rank -AEE (E&M) Name - RAJU RAM KODPOI presently unit WBW GREFF (PATHANKOT) situated at House no Vill- Shriguhan (Dabirpara) post Umradah Teh Nahargar Dist Kanke Cg pin 494335 do hereby solemnly affirm and state on oath follows -

A. That, I Am Changed my DOB From 14-08-2004 to 15-08-2004 due to incorrect my DOB mention in my father GREFF service record.

B. That, I am producing this affidavit for the purpose of evidence DOB.

C. That both DOB 14-08-2004 to 15-08-2004 pertain to one & the same person.

D. That shall at all times here after in all records, deeds and writing and in proceeding dealing with transactions, private as well as under all occasions what so ever be known as only 15-08-2004

E. That what is stated above is true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief. Nothing material has been concealed there from.

// VERIFICATION //

I the deponent above DOB do hereby solemnly declare and verify that the contents of the above affidavit are true. To the best of my knowledge and belief and nothing has been concealed or suppressed there from.

Date: 15/09/2026
Place: Nahargar
Deponent

LIC HOUSING FINANCE LTD. 2nd Floor, Shyam Square, Pandri, Raipur (C.G.) Ph: 0771-2582702

APPENDIX-(IV) RULE 8(1) POSSESSION NOTICE (IMMOVABLE PROPERTY)

Under Rule No. 8 (1) of Securitization & Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the LIC Housing Finance Ltd. under the Securitisation & Reconstruction of Assets and Enforcement of Security Act 2002 and exercise of power conferred Under Section 13 (12) read with rule (9) of the security interest (Enforcement) rules 2002. Issued a Demand Notice from LIC Housing Finance Ltd. Raipur within 60 days from the date of receipt at the said notice as mentioned below the borrower having failed to repay the amount notice is hereby given to borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described. Herein below in exercise of power conferred on him under section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said Rule's for property given below.

The borrower and public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealing with property will be subject to the charge of LIC Housing Finance Ltd. Raipur

S. Name of No. Borrower	DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY ON DEMAND NOTICE	DATE OF THE DEMAND/ POSSESSION NOTICE	AMOUNT IN DEMAND NOTICE
1) Borrower: Mr. Subham Machand and Co-Borrower: Ms. Manju Machand Loan Account No. 8003120002053	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Part of Khasra no. 325/29, Rawatpura Nagar Phase II, Mouza gram Mathpura PH No. 105/61, Chandrasekhar road ward, Ward no. 52, Raipur (C.G.) 492001. Admeasuring area- 1200 sq.ft. Bounded: North- Land of Khasra no. 325, South - Land of Shikha Sedake, East - Land of Sahu Ji, West - Road.	11.06.2026 09.09.2026	Rs. 26,79,010.00 + int. & other charges
2) Borrower: Ms. B. Tulsi Rao and Co-Borrower: Mr. Shailendra Kumar Rao, Loan Account No. 121200001364	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Plot no. 09, Block no. J, Kanha Vihar, Mouza Ammer, Ph no. 14, R.N.M Adhanpur, Tehsil- Abhanpur, Raipur (C.G.) 492001. Admeasuring area 1375 sq.ft. Bounded: North - Plot no. J-08, South - Plot no. J-10, East - Road, West - Plot no. J-18	15.06.2026 10.09.2026	Rs. 2,87,018.00 + int. & other charges

STATUTORY NOTICE: The borrower / guarantor here by notice do pay the sum mentioned above within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice failing which the aforesaid property will be auctioned and balance if any will be recovered with interest and cost from you.

Date: 16.09.2026, Place: Raipur
Authorised Officer

Aadhar Housing Finance Ltd.

Corporate Office: Office Nos. 501 & 503, 5th Floor, Lightbridge, Saki Vihar Road, Andheri East, Mumbai Suburban (Dist.), M.H. 400072
Raipur Branch: Office No.T07,T01,T02,T03,NR Developers, 3rd Floor, Forum Business Centre, Ward No.61, Near Ramchand Petrol Pump, Bhataganj Chowk, Raipur-492001, Chattisgarh



DEMAND NOTICE

UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002 READ WITH RULE 3 (1) OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002.

The undersigned is the Authorised Officer of Aadhar Housing Finance Ltd. (AHFL) under Securitisation And Reconstruction Of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (the said Act). In exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, the Authorised Officer has issued Demand Notices under section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the following Borrower(s) (the said Borrower(s)), to repay the amounts mentioned in the respective Demand Notice(s) issued to them that are also given below. In connection with above, Notice is hereby given, once again, to the said Borrower(s) to pay to AHFL, within 60 days from the publication of this Notice, the amounts indicated herein below, together with further interest as detailed in the said Demand Notice(s), from the date(s) mentioned below till the date of payment and/or realization, payable under the loan agreement read with other documents/writings, if any, executed by the said Borrower(s). As security for due repayment of the loan, the following assets have been mortgaged to AHFL by the said Borrower(s) respectively.

S. No.	Name of the Borrower / Co-Borrower & Guarantor	Demand Notice Date & Amount	Description of secured assets (Immovable property)
1	(Loan Code No. 00800001117 / Raipur Branch) Sudhir Naydoo (Borrower) Vinaya Naydoo & Devendra Naydu (Co-Borrowers)	09-09-2026 ₹ 4.54,102/-	All that piece and parcel of the property bearing, Plot no 11 Sheet no 21 survey no 1660/ 15, P H N 50, aamapara ward Tehsil dhamtari Distt Dhamtari 493773. Boundaries : East - Sellers remaining land, West - land Of Ratanlal, North - Land Of Ilaaram, South - Land of Khorbhara

If the said Borrowers shall to AHFL as aforesaid, AHFL shall proceed against the above secured assets under Section 13(4) of the Act and the applicable Rules, entirely at the risks of the said Borrowers as to the costs and consequences. The said Borrowers are prohibited under the Act from transferring the aforesaid assets, whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise without the prior written consent of AHFL. Any person who contravenes or abets contravention of the provisions of the said Act or Rules made there under, shall be liable for imprisonment and/or penalty as provided under the Act.

Sd/- Authorised Officer
For : Aadhar Housing Finance Limited

Date : 16.09.2026



International Asset Reconstruction Private Limited
CIN No.: U74999DL2002PTC117526 | E: iarc@iarc.co.in | W: www.iarc.co.in
Corporate Office: A-601, 6th Floor, 215 Atrium Andheri-Kurla Road, Andheri (East) Mumbai-400093.
Registered Office: Plot No.246, 2nd Floor, Okhla Industrial Estate Phase-II, New Delhi-110020.

POSSESSION NOTICE - APPENDIX IV (See rule 8(1)) (For Immovable Property)

Whereas, the Authorised Officer of Jana Small Finance Bank Ltd. under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) read with Rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notices to the borrower(s) Co-borrower(s) calling upon the borrowers to repay the amount mentioned against the respective names together with interest thereon at the applicable rates as mentioned in the said notices within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notices, along with future interest as applicable, incidental expenses, costs, charges etc incurred till the date of payment and/or realization.

And whereas subsequently, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of M/s. International Assets Reconstruction Company Pvt. Ltd., a company incorporated under the provisions of Companies Act, 1956 and duly registered with Reserve Bank of India (RBI) as an Asset Reconstruction Company under section 3 of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 ("The SARFAESI Act, 2002") having CIN No.U74999DL2002PTC117357 and its registered office at Plot No.246, 2nd Floor, Okhla Industrial Estate Phase-II, New Delhi-110020 and corporate office at A-601/605, 6th Floor, 215 Atrium, Kanakia Spaces, Andheri Kurla Road, Andheri (East), Mumbai, Maharashtra-400093, acting in its capacity as a Trustee of "International Assets Reconstruction Company Pvt. Ltd. RETCO-10 Trust" (hereinafter referred as IARC) has acquired the entire outstanding debt under the provisions of SARFAESI Act vide Registered Assignment Agreement dated 30-06-2026. Further the IARC vide Assignment Agreement dated 30-06-2026 transferred the said account to IARC RETCO-10 Trust for initiating/continuing the legal action.

Pursuant to the said assignment of debt/financial assets International Assets Reconstruction Company Pvt. Ltd. (IARC) has stepped into the shoes of Jana Small Finance Bank Ltd. and has become entitled to recover the entire outstanding debts and enforce the security.

The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of Section 13 of the Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 on the day, month and year mentioned below.

The borrowers in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of International Asset Reconstruction Company Pvt. Ltd. for the amount mentioned in the notice together with 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.

Sl. No.	Borrower Details	Demand Notice	Possession Date
1	1) Mr. Ramesh Senapati, S/o. Purenra Senapati, 2) Mrs. Kavita Senapati, W/o. Ramesh Senapati Loan Account Number: 4508120000022 & 331091700450701	Demand Notice dated 22.06.2026 for an amount of Rs.2,45,613.07 (Rupees Two Lakh Forty Five Thousand Six Hundred Thirteen and Seven Paise Only) as on 14.06.2026	12-09-2026
Mortgaged Property: All that piece and parcel of land bearing property bearing House No.547, total admeasuring area of 525 Sq.ft. together with construction thereon, situated at Rajiv Gandhi Nagar, Raipur Naka, Tehsil & District Durg (C.G.). Bounded by: East by: UttamBank, West by: Road, North by: Road and South by: Tekchand Sonli.			
Place: Raipur		Sd/- Authorised Officer	
Date: 15.09.2026		International Asset Reconstruction Company Pvt. Ltd.	

Tech survey

BENGALURU: Amazon India has released the third set of findings from the inaugural Best in Tech Survey. Across Smart TVs and home appliances, the findings reveal how India chooses within the brands it trusts. Picture quality is the leading feature consideration for Smart TV buyers, while energy star rating is the top priority for air conditioner and refrigerator buyers. Flexible financing is equally decisive, with 47% of large appliance buyers .

Nirvaan Birla's ‘Iraade’ gives voice to the unspoken

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: There are some emotions that never really leave us. They quietly find their way into old memories, familiar songs, late-night thoughts and the words we wished we had said. It is in this delicate space between remembering and letting go that

Nirvaan Birla's latest track, Iraade, finds its soul. Warm, romantic and deeply nostalgic, the song is an intimate reflection of love, longing and the feelings that remain long after a moment has passed. Having explored different emotional landscapes through his earlier musical releases, Nir-

vaan Birla continues to bring a deeply personal sensibility to his music with Iraade.

FORM NO. IV
[See sub-rule (2A) of rule 5]
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL AT JABALPUR
797-11, Shantikunj South Civil Lines, Jabalpur (M.P.) 482001
OA NO. 87 OF 2024

State Bank of India ...Applicant(s)

VERSUS

SHRI ROHIT MUKHARJEE & ANOTHER ...Defendant(s)

1. Shri Rohit Mukherjee, Son of Shri Partho Sarathy Mukherjee, Resident of House No. C-6, CHPL, Junwani Road, Apollo Hospital, BHILAI (C.G.), 2 M/s. Vandanaaram Builders, A Partnership firm through its Authorised Partners Shri Shrikant Khedia, Situated at Shri Sadan, A-Market, Sector-1, BHILAI (C.G.).

A Partnership firm through its Authorised Partners Shri Omprakash Sharma, Situated at Bhoi-Para, Tehsil & District -DURG (C.G.).

Whereas, OA No. 87/2024 was listed before Hon'ble Presiding Officer Whereas, this Hon'ble Tribunal is pleased to issue Summons/Notice on the said application under Section 19(4) of the Act, (OA) filed against you for recovery of debts of Rs. 24,40,582.00.

In accordance with sub section (4) of section 19 of the Act, you, the defendants are directed as under- (i) To show cause within thirty days of the service of summons as to why relief prayed for should not be granted. (ii) To disclose particulars of properties or assets other than properties and assets specified by the applicant under Serial Number 3A of the Original Application (iii) You are restrained from dealing with or disposing of secured assets or such other assets and properties disclosed under Serial Number 3A of the original application, pending hearing and disposal of the original application without the prior approval of the Tribunal. (iv) You shall be liable to account for the proceeds realized by sale of secured assets or other assets and properties in the ordinary course of business and deposit such sale proceeds in the account maintained with the bank or financial institutions holding security interest over such assets. You are also directed to the written stated with a copy thereof furnished to the applicant and to appear before registrar 12.10.2026 on 10:30 A.M. at failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence. Give under my hand and seal of the Tribunal on this 11th day of September 2026.

AUTH. OFFICER
DRT, JABALPUR

POSSESSION NOTICE (for Immovable Properties)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Asset Reconstruction Company (India) Limited acting in its capacity as Trustee of Undermentioned Trusts under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) ("said Act") and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 ("said Rules") issued a demand notice, Calling upon the following borrower/guarantor(s)/mortgagor(s) to repay the amount, details of which are mentioned in the table below

The borrower/guarantor(s)/mortgagor(s) having failed to repay the said amounts, notice is hereby given to the borrower/guarantor(s)/mortgagor(s) in particular and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the underlying Immovable Property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Sub-Section (4) of Section 13 of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on "AS IS WHERE IS & WHATEVER THERE IS BASIS" on the date mentioned below.

Sl. No.	Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantors Name	LAN No. / Trust Name/Bank Name	Demand Notice Date and Amount	Possession Date
1	Borrower: Sanjay Kumar Karke Co-Borrower: Sushila Bai	Loan A/c No. 20008510003183 & 20008510003192 Arcil-2024C-004-Trust Bandhan Bank	Rs.9,26,087.03 (Rupees Nine Lakh Twenty six Thousand Eighty Seven and Paise Three Only) as on 13.01.2026 along with future interest at the contractual rate on the aforesaid amount with effect from 14/01/2026 together with incidental expenses, cost, charges etc. Notice dated: 13-01-2026	Symbolic 10th Sep 2026
Description of Properties: All that piece and parcel of diverted land admeasuring 1173 Sq. Ft. lying and situated at Khata No.86 (part-2), Khasra No.229/21 and 232/22 (part), P.H.N No. 103, Veer Sawarkar Ward No. 01, near Heerapur Jarbay Basti, Mauja: Jarbay now Heerapur, R.N.M: Raipur-I, Tehsil and District: Raipur, Chhattisgarh. The said Land is buttled and bounded as follows: North: Vacant Land, South: Boundary Wall, East: House of Jha, West: Road.				
2	Borrower: Sanjay Kuwardadra Co-Borrower: Puja Bai Kuswadadra	Loan A/c No. 20008560001365 & 20008560001453 Arcil-2024C-004-Trust Bandhan Bank	Rs.13,07,036.12 (Rupees Thirteen Lakh Seven Thousand Thirty-Six and Paise Twelve Only) as on 30.09.2023 along with future interest at the contractual rate on the aforesaid amount with effect from 01/10/2023 together with incidental expenses, cost, charges etc. Notice dated: 25-10-2023	Symbolic 10th Sep 2026
Description of Properties: All that piece and parcel of land admeasuring about 592 sq. ft. be a little more or less lying and situated at Plot No. L 28, PH No.29/40 in Taluka: Rajnandgaon, Village: Farhad, Shree Ram Puram Colony Farhad, District: Rajnandgaon, State: Chhattisgarh, Pincode: 491441.				

The borrower/guarantor(s)/mortgagor(s) in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned that Arcil is in lawful possession of the Immovable Property mentioned above and under Section 13(13) of the SARFAESI Act, 2002, the borrower/ guarantor(s)/mortgagor(s) or any person whatsoever, shall after receipt of this notice not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise deal with/ alienate the Immovable Property, without prior written consent of Arcil and any dealings with the Immovable Property will be subject to the charge of Arcil for the amount as mentioned above along with future interest at the contractual rate on the aforesaid amount together with incidental expenses, cost, charges etc. The borrowers/guarantors/mortgagors' attention is invited to the provisions of the Sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the said Act, in respect of time available to redeem the above mentioned Immovable Property.

Place: Chhattisgarh
Date: 16-09-2026

Sd/- Authorised Officer
Asset Reconstruction Company (India) Ltd. (In capacity as Trustee)



ASSET RECONSTRUCTION COMPANY (INDIA) LTD.
CIN No. U65999MH2002PLC134884, Website: www.arcil.co.in
Registered Office: The Ruby, 10th Floor, 29 Senapati Bapat Marg, Dadar (West), Mumbai-400028. Tel: +91 2266581300. **Branch Office:** Room No. 1001, 10th Floor, Signet Tower, DN 2, Sector V, Salt Lake, Kolkata-700091, West Bengal. Phone No.03348226608

PUNJAB NATIONAL BANK E-AUCTION ON 06.10.2026

Asset Recovery Management Branch, Raipur (C.G.) Time: 11:00 am to 4:00 pm

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

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

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

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

Borrower: Jainam Clothing Private Limited, Directors: 1. Mr. Mahendra Motilal Kochhar, 2. Mr. Abhay Motilal Kochhar, Guarantors: 1. Mr. Mahendra Motilal Kochhar, 2. Mr. Abhay Kumar Motilal Kochhar, 3. Mr. Priyanshu Mahendra Kochhar, 4. Mr. Motilal Sohanlal Kochhar, 5. Mr. Heeralal Jain (Kochhar), 80-Raipur, Station Road - 106600, Contact: Recovery Officer: Shri Pawan Kashyap, 9770780508		House- Nagar Nigam House No. 22/317, Jaistambh Chowk to City Kotwali chowk, Malviya Road, Situated at Baijnathnagar, Ward no. 22, Raipur - 492001, Area - 1033 Sqft, Owner - Shri. Heera Lal Kochhar, Geographic Co-ordinates - 21.238774, 81.637274	1) 20-06-2020 2) Rs.2,50,81,376.22 as on 20-06-2020 3) Physical as on 22-05-25	Rs. 81.81 Lakh Rs. 8.18 Lakh
Borrower-GCC Food Industries Private Limited, Director- Mr. Yogesh Kumar Goyal, Mr. Suresh Kumar Goyal & Ms. Sarita Goyal, Guarantor - Mr. Ramam Goyal, Mrs. Monika Goyal & Mrs. Kaushalya Goyal, 80-Pandri (Raipur) - 152520, Contact: Recovery Officer : Ms. Durgawati Kumari, 7632986606		Property No. 1) Factory & Land bearing Primary EM all that part & parcel, land & building bearing Kh No. 195/13-14, 247/2, 250/2-3-5, 256 (part), Ph. No. 102/31, Vill.- Bana, Tendua Road, Near Prime Ispat, RNM-Dharsiva, Tehsil & Dist. Raipur C.G., Area - 14114 Sqft. in the name of M/s GCC Foods Pvt Ltd., Owner - Mr. Suresh Kumar Goyal, Boundaries - NORTH: Land of Shakun Nishad, SOUTH: Road (Hirapur to Urfal), EAST: Land of seller, WEST: Land of GCC Mineral Water Pvt. Ltd., Geographic Co-ordinates - 21.315703, 81.557021 (* Property No. 1 & 2 Will Be Sold Together).	1) 02-02-2023 2) Rs 4,44,89,975.25/- as on 31-01-2023 + intt. thereon 3) Physical as on 10-02-26	Rs. 114.32 Lakh Rs. 11.43 Lakh
Property No. 2) Plant & Machinery at Kh No. 195/13-14, 247/2, 250/2-3-5, 256 (part), Ph. No. 102/31, Village Bana, Tendua Road, Near Prime Ispat, RNM-Dharsiva, Tehsil & Dist. Raipur C.G., in the name of M/s GCC Foods Pvt Ltd., Owner - Mr. Suresh Kumar Goyal, Geographic Co-ordinates - 21.315703, 81.557021 (* Property No. 1 & 2 Will Be Sold Together). *Note: SA No. 790/2023 is Pending. *Note: 18% GST Applicable for Plant & Machinery				Rs. 52.16 Lakh Rs. 5.21 Lakh
Borrower- M/s Shri Krishna Super Bazar, Proprietor- Mr. Yogesh Kumar Goyal, Guarantors & Mortgagors- Mr. Ramam Goyal & Mrs. Monika Goyal, Branch - Telibandha, Raipur (611400) , Contact: R.O.: Sh. Dhyananjay Kumar, 9729791068		Commercial Shop situated at Khasra no. 625/4-7, 625/11, Ground Floor of Block-A, Shri Krishna Apartment, LIC Colony Road, Mowa, near Bhimrao Ambedkar ward no. 27, PH No. 109, RNM - Raipur I, Tehsil & Dist- Raipur (C.G.). Area- 1457 sq ft in the name of Mr. Ramam Goyal. Bounded: North-Passage, South - Open area, East - Open area, West-D Block and Parking. Geographic Coordinates- 21.238987, 81.643970.	1) 18-06-2022 2) Rs 1,33,64,905.00 as on 18-06-2022 + intt. thereon 3) Physical as on 23-10-25	Rs. 28.32 Lakh Rs. 2.83 Lakh
Borrower- M/s Mahadeva Intolech and IT Solutions, Prop. - Smt Swati Shahu W/o Shri Lochan Kumar Sahu. Branch - Bhilai Camp-219410 , Contact: R/O : Sh. Sarthak Upadhyay, 9981790493		Residential Open Land situated at Khasra No. 855/10 (after diversion 855/11), PH. no. 02 VIII- Sirsakala, Area- 6000 Sqft., Charoda, Tehsil-Patan, Distt.- Durg, C.G. in the name of Smt Swati Kumari W/o Shri Lochan Kumar Sahu Bounded: North-Khasra No. 823/2, South-Khasra No. 855/2, East-Khasra No. 856, West- 25 Feet Road, Geographic Co-ordinates- 21.194888, 81.451067	1) 29.01.2025 2) Rs. 36,22,513.38/- as on 29.01.2025 + intt. thereon 3) Symbolic as on 07.08.2025	Rs. 15.30 Lakh Rs. 1.53 Lakh
Borrower- M/s Prime Corporation, Prop.- Mohd. Shabbir Ahmed S/o Abdul Shakur, Guarantor- Smt. Rubina Kousar W/o Mohammed Shabbir, Branch: Shyam Nagar, Raipur 975600, Contact: R/O: Sh. Dhaneshwar Ram, 6207257725		Residential House constructed on Nazul property in Baniyapara, Ward no. 14 PH no. 16, RIC Dhamtari, Plot no. 65, 107/3, 108 Sheet no. 31 B Motor Stand, Ward No. 29 Dhamtari CG Total area- 990.29 Sqft. Owned by -Mohamed Shabbir Ahmed S/o Abdul Shakir. Bounded By : North - Land of Latif, South - Gali, East - House of Latif & Munnu Bai, West - House of Tara Bai. Geographic Co-ordinates: 20.707852, 81.548663	1) 10-04-2024 2) Rs 31,71,534.30 as on 31-03-2024 + intt. thereon 3) Symbolic as on 07-09-24	Rs. 30.77 Lakh Rs. 3.08 Lakh
Borrowers- Sh. Khushal Bhai Varu S/o Late Jetha Bhai Varu, Smt. Premila Ben Varu W/o Sh. Khushal Bhai Varu, Chetan Kumar Varu S/o Sh. Khushal Bhai Varu B/o- Anupam Nagar(296500), Contact: R/O: Shri Pawan Kashyap, 9770780508		Residential Flat No. 21, 6th Floor, KH No. 1122/6, 1123/3 Part, PH No. 110/46, Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar ward No. 27, at Golden Park, Shankar Nagar, Tehsil & Dist- Raipur (CG)- 492014, Area- 716 SQFT, Owner: Sh. Khushal Bhai Varu, & Smt. Premila Ben Varu. Geographic Co-ordinates: 21.15470, 81.40340 *Note: Serial No. 6 and 7 of both properties will be sold together.	1) 17-10-2025 2) Rs. 26,75,231.14 + intt. thereon 3) Symbolic as on 07-01-26	Rs. 26.58 Lakh Rs. 2.65 Lakh
Borrowers- Sh. Khushal Bhai Varu S/o Late Jetha Bhai Varu, Sh. Jatini Kumar Varu S/o Sh. Khushal Bhai Varu, Sh. Tapas Varu S/o Sh. Khushal Bhai Varu, Chetan Kumar Varu S/o Sh. Khushal Bhai Varu B/o- Anupam Nagar(296500), Contact: R/O: Shri Pawan Kashyap, 9770780508		Residential Flat No. 22, 6th Floor, KH No. 1122/6, 1123/3 Part, PH No. 110/46, Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar ward No. 27, at Golden Park, Shankar Nagar, Tehsil & Dist- Raipur (CG)- 492014, Area- 1000 SQFT, Owner: Sh. Chetan Varu, Jatini Varu, Tapas Varu, Khushal Bhai Varu. Geographic Co-ordinates: 21.15470, 81.40340 *Note: Serial No. 6 and 7 of both properties will be sold together.	1) 17-10-2025 2) Rs. 29,04,377.22 + intt. thereon 3) Symbolic as on 07-01-26	Rs. 27.20 Lakh Rs. 2.72 Lakh



Central Chronicle

Established 1974 Volume 51 No. 340

QUOTE FROM THE QUOTABLE

"Democracy draws its strength from inclusion, dialogue and courage"
[Margaret Alva]

| OUR VIEW |

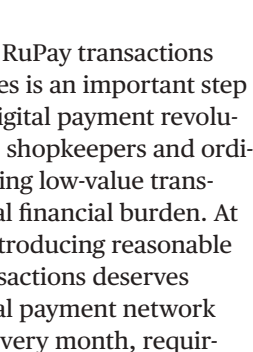
Technology Advances While Job Security Falls Behind

The continuing wave of layoffs across the technology sector is becoming a troubling contradiction of the artificial intelligence era. Companies are investing billions in AI, cloud computing and data centres while simultaneously reducing their workforces. The reported arrival of Oracle's latest global job cuts in India is another reminder that even skilled technology professionals can no longer take employment stability for granted. For nearly a year, layoffs and restructuring exercises have repeatedly surfaced across the global technology industry. Companies that expanded rapidly during earlier periods are now reassessing costs, automating functions and redirecting investments towards artificial intelligence. The result is a labour market in which some traditional roles are disappearing even as specialised positions in AI, machine learning, cybersecurity and cloud infrastructure are being created. The concern is particularly important for India. The country's technology sector employs millions directly and supports many more jobs indirectly. For decades, engineering and information technology were viewed as dependable pathways to upward mobility for the middle class. Sudden layoffs challenge that confidence, especially when experienced employees with years of service find themselves affected by restructuring decisions. Companies undoubtedly have the right to reorganise operations and respond to technological change. No business can be expected to preserve every position indefinitely when markets and technologies evolve. Yet large corporations also carry responsibilities towards employees whose work helped build their growth. Layoffs should therefore be transparent, humane and accompanied by reasonable severance, adequate notice, counselling and opportunities for retraining. The greater challenge is preparing workers for an AI-driven economy. Governments, universities and companies must recognise that yesterday's technical qualification may not guarantee tomorrow's employment. Continuous reskilling in artificial intelligence, data science, cybersecurity, cloud systems and emerging technologies must become an integral part of professional life.

| GUEST VIEW |

Sustaining India's Digital Payment Revolution

The decision to keep UPI and RuPay transactions up to Rs 2,000 free of charges is an important step towards protecting India's digital payment revolution. It ensures that small vendors, shopkeepers and ordinary consumers can continue making low-value transactions without facing an additional financial burden. At the same time, the possibility of introducing reasonable charges on larger commercial transactions deserves careful consideration. India's digital payment network processes billions of transactions every month, requiring continuous investment in servers, cybersecurity, fraud prevention, technological upgrades and reliable infrastructure. Any future fee structure, however, must be designed without discouraging digital adoption. Charges on transactions above Rs 2,000 should apply only to commercial merchants under a transparent, capped and tiered system. Individual consumers and person-to-person transfers should remain completely free. Small businesses with annual turnover below Rs 20 lakh should also be exempt so that neighbourhood traders and emerging entrepreneurs are not adversely affected. Revenue generated through charges on larger commercial payments should be reinvested in strengthening the digital payment ecosystem. Greater spending on anti-fraud technology, cybersecurity and server resilience would improve reliability and public confidence. A carefully balanced policy can protect users while ensuring that India's expanding fintech infrastructure remains financially viable, secure and sustainable.



Dr. Vijaykumar H K

Comment

Choose empathy, build humanity

The true test of a civilised society is not how people behave when life is comfortable, but how they treat one another when disagreement, pressure and uncertainty enter the picture. Whenever we exercise authority, responsibility or influence, our conduct can either strengthen another person's dignity and confidence or diminish them. Families, schools, workplaces, public institutions and digital communities function better when understanding and respect shape everyday interactions. Choosing empathy does not mean avoiding difficult conversations. It means recognising that even during disagreement, people deserve to be heard and treated with dignity. Human behaviour under stress is influenced by anxiety, insecurity, financial pressures and uncertainty about the future. Recognising these pressures does not excuse irresponsible conduct, but it can help us respond more constructively. Accountability remains essential to a healthy society, yet it need not involve humiliation. When expectations and boundaries are clear, and mistakes are addressed fairly, people are more likely to acknowledge them, learn and improve. Correction is most effective when its purpose is better behaviour rather than public punishment.

Empathy and justice are not competing values. Empathy helps us understand circumstances; justice establishes fairness, responsibility and consequences. A compassionate society can protect the vulnerable, confront wrongdoing and uphold standards without stripping people of their dignity. Firm action may sometimes be necessary, but firmness need not become cruelty. The ability to disagree strongly, set boundaries and demand

accountability while remaining respectful is a measure of social maturity.

This balance is particularly important in the digital age. Online platforms have widened access to information and public debate, but their speed can also encourage instant reactions, incomplete information and harsh judgements. A pause before responding can prevent unnecessary hostility. Checking facts, considering context and asking whether a comment adds value can transform the quality of a conversation. Digital citizenship is therefore not simply about knowing how to use technology; it is about recognising the responsibility that comes with having a public voice.

Public life also benefits from respectful questioning and constructive criticism. A healthy democracy depends on citizens being able to ask questions, seek explanations and hold institutions accountable. Criticism is not automatically hostility, just as disagreement is not disrespect. When expressed responsibly, criticism can expose shortcomings and encourage improvement. Public discourse becomes stronger when facts and civility accompany dissent, allowing competing ideas to be examined without turning every difference into a personal confrontation.

The foundations of such behaviour are often laid at home. Children learn not only from what adults tell them but from how adults behave when frustrated, disappointed or confronted with disagreement. A household in which people listen, discuss difficulties patiently and acknowledge mistakes teaches respect and responsibility by example. Older family members bring experience, while younger members



Ananthapadmanabhan

The writer is an independent columnist.

bring fresh ideas and questions. Giving each generation space to be heard can make family relationships more resilient. Educational institutions have a similar responsibility. Schools and colleges do more than impart knowledge; they help young people learn how to work with others, handle disagreement and respond to failure. A classroom where students can ask questions without fear and make mistakes without ridicule encourages curiosity and confidence. Teachers can help students understand that disagreement is a natural part of learning and that different viewpoints need not become personal conflicts. The ability to listen and reconsider is as valuable as the ability to argue a point. Workplaces, too, flourish when leadership combines empathy with clarity and accountability. Employees are more likely to contribute ideas and raise concerns when they can speak without fear of humiliation or retaliation. This does not mean lowering standards or avoiding difficult decisions. High standards become more meaningful when expectations are understood and feedback is fair. Leaders who treat problems as opportunities for collective learning, rather than occasions for blame, can strengthen trust, teamwork and performance.

The same principle applies to public service. Every interaction between a citizen and a public institution can influence trust in that institution. People approaching government offices, hospitals or civic bodies may already be dealing with uncertainty, financial strain or personal difficulty. Clear information, patient listening and courteous communication can make such encounters less stressful. Not every problem can be resolved immediately, but respectful treatment can reas-

sure citizens that their concerns have been heard. Public service is therefore measured not only by outcomes, but also by the manner in which people are treated while seeking them. The lessons of history and philosophical traditions also underline the value of compassion, patience and non-violent communication. Societies that have experienced conflict face a choice between preserving resentment and creating pathways towards reconciliation. Dialogue does not require forgetting injustice or overlooking suffering. It requires recognising that sustainable peace involves more than defeating an opponent; it also requires rebuilding trust and creating conditions in which people can live together with dignity.

Yet empathy must have boundaries. Where serious wrongdoing, abuse or injustice occurs, compassion must begin with protection. Society's first responsibility is to safeguard the vulnerable and ensure access to fair legal processes. Strong laws, due process and effective institutions provide the framework within which humane responses can operate safely. Empathy should never become an excuse for wrongdoing or a reason to deny victims justice. Rather, it can make justice more humane by keeping protection, restoration and society's long-term wellbeing in view.

Building a more empathetic society begins with ordinary choices: pausing before speaking in anger, listening without interrupting, checking information before sharing it, admitting when we are wrong and offering practical help. None of these actions is dramatic. Yet repeated across millions of daily interactions, they can influence the tone of families, workplaces, institutions and communities.

AI becomes the first frontier for mental health

Artificial intelligence is widening access to mental health support, but concerns over privacy, misinformation, emotional dependence and empathy demand strong human oversight and safeguards.



Dr. Priyanka Saurabh
PhD (Political Science),
is a poet and social thinker.

Artificial intelligence-based chatbots are increasingly becoming the first point of contact for people facing loneliness, anxiety, stress, depression, relationship difficulties or emotional distress. In India, where access to professional mental health services remains unequal, AI offers an opportunity to bridge significant gaps. However, technology should complement trained professionals rather than replace them.

India faces a shortage of mental health specialists, particularly in rural and remote regions. Treatment costs and social



stigma also prevent many people from seeking professional assistance. AI platforms, available around the clock, can provide basic information, emotional support and self-help guidance whenever required.

Digital anonymity can further encourage people who hesitate to discuss emotional difficulties with family members, friends or therapists. Chatbots may provide a comfortable first step, allowing individuals to express concerns and potentially encouraging them to seek professional care.

AI can also assist in early screening by analysing com-

munication patterns and behavioural signals that may indicate anxiety, depression or other risks. Such assessments, however, must never be treated as definitive medical diagnoses. Their purpose should be limited to identifying warning signs and directing users towards appropriate professional assistance.

Multilingual AI could prove particularly valuable in linguistically diverse India. Mental health support offered in regional languages can reach communities currently excluded by language barriers. Such technology could eventually complement govern-

ment initiatives such as Tele-MANAS, expanding preliminary support in underserved areas.

AI can also remind patients about medication, encourage healthy sleep routines, recommend stress-management exercises and support structured self-help programmes. Clinicians could use digital tools to monitor patients and identify high-risk cases, enabling scarce human resources to be deployed more effectively.

Yet these opportunities come with serious risks. Incorrect or inappropriate advice can worsen distress, particularly when users are emotionally vulnerable. Chatbots may sometimes reinforce harmful beliefs instead of challenging them appropriately. Emotional dependence is another danger when individuals begin believing that AI fully understands their experiences.

The limitations become critical in cases involving suicide or self-harm. Warning signs may be indirect or culturally specific. AI systems must therefore quickly direct high-risk users towards trained professionals, crisis helplines or emergency services rather than attempting to man-

age serious situations independently.

Privacy presents another challenge because mental health conversations contain deeply personal information. Strong safeguards must govern how such sensitive data is collected, stored, processed and shared. Algorithmic bias must also be addressed because India's cultural, linguistic and social diversity cannot be adequately represented by poorly trained systems.

Responsible development is therefore essential. Mental health AI requires clinical evaluation, regular safety audits, transparent accountability and clear protocols for human intervention during crises. AI can widen the doorway to mental healthcare, especially for people constrained by distance, language, cost or stigma. But technology cannot reproduce human empathy, clinical judgment and sustained personal care. The future should therefore be built around doctors with AI, using technology to expand access while keeping qualified human professionals firmly at the centre of treatment and critical decisions.

YOURLETTERS

Engineers shape India's bright future

Engineers' Day, observed on September 15, celebrates the birth anniversary of Sir M. Visvesvaraya and honours the invaluable contribution of engineers to nation-building. From bridges across the Jhelum in Kashmir to dams, highways, railways and digital infrastructure, engineers have transformed India's progress story. Visvesvaraya's visionary work in irrigation, flood control and water management remains inspirational. Engineers continue to drive innovation, improve lives and strengthen India's economy while often working behind the scenes.

Yashpal Ralhan, Jalandhar

India leads global vaccine manufacturing mission

India has earned global recognition as the world's largest vaccine producer and supplier by volume. Scientific research, strong disease surveillance and advanced biotechnology have made the country a vaccine powerhouse. Institutions like the Serum Institute of India and Bharat Biotech supply life-saving vaccines to more than 170 countries. India's success in developing COVID-19 vaccines showcased the dedication of its scientists and researchers, strengthening public health and boosting the nation's growing biopharmaceutical industry.

Dr Ganapathi Bhat, Akola

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.



“Rainfall is declining too much. But I am requesting there is no need for MLAs to be anxious.”

DK Shiva kumar,
Chief Minister of Karnataka

Bihar faces floods despite subpar rainfall

While the state of Bihar has received less than 30 percent of rainfall this year, the state is grappling with the problem of floods.

Press Trust Of India

PATNA: Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary stated on Tuesday that despite Bihar receiving less than 30 per cent of its average rainfall this year, the state is grappling with severe flooding. The crisis stems primarily from heavy downpours in neighboring states—including Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand—as well as continuous rainfall in the catchment areas of rivers originating in Nepal. Rising water levels in major rivers such as the Ganga, Sone, and Gandak have inundated vast areas, leaving approximately 49.72 lakh people across 15 districts severely affected.

To mitigate the immediate crisis, the Bihar government disbursed Rs 579.23 crore in direct relief assistance. Each



affected family—totaling around 8.27 lakh households—received direct bank transfers of Rs 7,000. Addressing the situation, Chief Minister Choudhary emphasized the administration’s resolve to find permanent structural solutions to Bihar’s recurring flood challenges. Despite

HIGHLIGHT

● The primary reasons for this flooding has been given to heavy downpours in UP and Jharkhand along with continuous rainfall in Nepal.

reported embankment breaches in Bhagalpur,

Begusarai, and Saran, rapid official action successfully contained the damage and secured vulnerable perimeter points.

The Disaster Management Department (DMD) reported that several key rivers are flowing well above critical danger thresholds.

Soft loans

MUMBAI: The Maharashtra Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis, approved soft loans for cooperative sugar mills on Tuesday to clear pending Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) dues for the 2025-26 season and support upcoming operations.

In another major policy move, the Cabinet sanctioned the establishment of the Maharashtra Technical Assistance Cell (Maha-TAC) to evaluate 25 major state policies and key welfare schemes alongside IIM Mumbai and CRISP.

Additional key decisions included granting a stamp duty exemption for a library building leased to the Maharashtra Sahitya Parishad in Nashik, and the free allotment of over 6,240 square metres of government land in Wardha for a commercial complex.

The Cabinet also amended the Agricultural Lands Act to return state farming corporation land in Ahilyanagar to original owners, and approved administrative funding and posts for the Mumbai Police Housing Township Project chairman’s office.

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

STEAL THE SPOTLIGHT

Independents candidates hold key in Rajasthan civic bodies



JAIPUR: A fractured mandate across several urban local bodies in Rajasthan has positioned 2,273 Independent councillors at the center of post-poll arithmetic following the recent civic elections. While the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) emerged as the single largest party state-wide by securing 4,179 out of 10,244 wards, the opposition Congress won 3,613 wards. Smaller outfits—including the Rashtriya Loktantrik Party (63), Aam Aadmi Party (42), and CPI(M) (38)—also regis-

tered presence across local boards.

Out of 10 municipal corporations, the BJP secured clear majorities in Jaipur, Udaipur, Kota, and Bhilwara, while Congress won Bikaner. However, majorities remain elusive for both primary parties in Ajmer, Alwar, Jodhpur, and Pali. In Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma’s home district of Bharatpur, Independents dominated by capturing 36 of the 65 corporation wards and sweeping several adjoining municipal councils. **PTI**

INJURED Two injured in Karkardooma firing; suspect arrested

NEW DELHI: Two men sustained gunshot wounds after two assailants opened fire near the Karkardooma Community Centre in east Delhi over a personal rivalry. Following an extensive multi-state investigation, Delhi Police arrested one of the primary suspects, identified as 22-year-old Addu, from a hideout in Ajmer, Rajasthan.

The incident occurred late on September 11 near an ice-cream shop, where a group of people had gathered after leaving a nearby cafe. Two assailants riding a scooter approached the group and discharged multiple rounds. The victims were identified as event organizer Afzar, who received three gunshot wounds, and scrap dealer Irshad, who suffered a single bullet injury. Both were rushed for emergency medical care.

CONVOCATION CEREMONY Union Finance Minister Sitharaman urges Gen Z to prioritize nation



CHENNAI: Addressing the 36th convocation of Dr M G R Educational & Research Institute, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman called upon Gen Z and Gen Alpha graduates to step into leadership roles with a strong sense of civic responsibility, urging them to prioritize national interest and ask what they can contribute to India.

MISHRA'S INTERVIEW

Ram Temple Trust clarifies Jeetendra Mishra attended interview for the post of CEO

AYODHYA: The Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust refuted claims alleging that retired Air Marshal Jitendra Mishra skipped the interview for the Ram temple CEO post, confirming he attended his scheduled in-person interaction on August 11.

The clarification follows remarks by former IPS officer Rajesh Pandey—also an applicant—who noted in a media interaction that he did not see Mishra at the venue during his own interview slot. Pandey subsequently clarified on Tuesday that his statements were misinterpreted, denying any assertion that Mishra failed to appear. In an official statement released by General Secretary Swami Govind Dev Giri, the Trust detailed that a search committee formed on July 6 processed 5,585 applications using AI screening and expert



evaluations. Sixteen candidates were shortlisted for final face-to-face interviews in Ayodhya on August 11 and 12. The committee formally recommended three top candidates on September 1: Jitendra Mishra, Sanjay Pratapsingh Vishwas Rao, and Shruti Bhardwaj. The Trust described allegations questioning Mishra’s attendance as factually incorrect, citing documented evaluation records as evidence of a transparent, merit-based selection process. **PTI**

Two injured

MUMBAI: Two individuals, including a passenger and a BEST engineering department employee, sustained injuries when a wet-leased electric bus crashed into a Metro rail pillar in Mumbai’s Goregaon area on Monday afternoon. The accident occurred around 5:00 PM near the Oberoi Mall signal under the flyover while the bus was making a right turn toward Bhayander station (East). Officials stated that the bus grazed the rear right side of a car before colliding directly with the concrete pillar. The victims—identified as BEST employee Rajendra Muralidhar Sonawane (58) and passenger Mangesh Ramchandra Modalekar (57)—suffered head and chin injuries. Accident inspection staff immediately transported both individuals to Trauma Care Hospital in Jogeshwari (East), where they received medical treatment and were subsequently discharged.

Following a formal complaint filed by the car driver, local police registered a case against the bus driver under relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

Suvendu predicts record BJP win in Nandigram

| BJP'S VICTORY |

Press Trust Of India

In West Bengal, CM Suvendu Adhikari has made a big prediction for BJP.

HALDIA: West Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari asserted on Tuesday that BJP candidate Hasirani Rath will win the upcoming Nandigram assembly by-election by an unprecedented margin. Hasirani Rath is the mother of Adhikari’s slain former personal assistant, Chandranath Rath, who was killed by assailants in North 24 Parganas earlier this year—a case currently under investigation by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

Accompanying Rath during the submission of her nomination



HIGHLIGHT

● He stated on Tuesday that the party will win with a record margin in Nandigram by polls.

papers at the SDO office, Adhikari reassured supporters that the party holds absolute strategic command in the region. The Nandigram seat fell vacant after Adhikari relinquished it to retain the Bhabanipur constituency, where he recently defeated TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee.

Addressing the electorate, the Chief Minister directly appealed to minority voters in both Nandigram and Rejinagar—constituencies with substantial minority populations—calling the October 6 by-elections a pivotal test of whether they choose to align with the current administration’s development goals. The Rejinagar seat was vacated after AJUP chief Humayun Kabir relinquished it to retain Nowda. Emphasizing his administration’s

track record over its first four months in office, Adhikari committed to fulfilling all promises outlined in the party’s Sankalp Patra (manifesto) during the remaining 56 months of the government’s tenure. Key initiatives highlight cultural preservation, heritage restoration, and widespread infrastructure growth across West Bengal.

Additionally, Adhikari pledged targeted relief for party workers, promising the withdrawal of political cases filed under the previous regime along with state support for housing, employment, and rehabilitation for families affected by past political violence. District authorities are preparing logistics for the scheduled October 6 voting across both assembly sectors.

| ADVICE FOR K'TAKA RESIDENTS |

‘Be prepared for severe drinking water crisis’

Press Trust Of India

BENGALURU: Karnataka Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Tuesday alerted citizens to prepare for severe drinking water and electricity shortages driven by an ongoing state-wide drought. Addressing reporters, the Chief Minister emphasized that rainfall across the region has dropped significantly below initial meteorological forecasts, forcing the administration to draft comprehensive mitigation strategies.

Shivakumar urged political parties and legislators against exploiting the situation through protests, assuring that the government remains fully committed to crisis management. He noted that official drought



assessments are underway across affected regions to ensure precise data reporting when central government evaluation teams conduct their field inspections. The state administration has already declared 101 taluks as drought-hit in the first phase, with additional regions expected to be added following final survey evaluations. To address the cascading

impact on agriculture and municipal services, a special session of the state legislature has been convened to evaluate farmers’ concerns and resource allocation. Additionally, an upcoming Cabinet meeting in Mangaluru will finalize further relief measures and structural support following direct consultations with agricultural stakeholders.

“Studies have been completed in some areas and reports have come, while reports for the remaining areas are being prepared.”
DK Shivakumar,
Chief Minister of Karnataka

Emergency planning is currently focused on securing drinking water infrastructure and managing energy distribution grid pressures caused by reduced hydroelectric capacity. Shivakumar reiterated that while the situation remains challenging, systematic interven-

tions are actively being deployed to support impacted communities across the state.



बैंक ऑफ बड़ोदा
Bank of Baroda

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(Publication in the Newspapers in case of return/failure of service of 60 day's Notice U/s.13 (2) of SARFAESI Act, 2002).
The Authorized Officer, Bank of Baroda has issued 60 day's Notices to under mentioned borrowers / Guarantors U/s.13(2) of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 by Registered A/D/speed post. But these Notices were returned by the Postal authorities due to the reason of refusal to take delivery/wrong address/person left the place/city. These borrowers/guarantors have given their under mentioned movable/immovable assets by way of hypothecation / mortgage as security to secure the various credit limits granted by the Bank to the borrower(s). Due to non-payment of Bank's dues and non-fulfilment of terms and conditions of the loan, default has been committed by the borrower (s) / guarantor (s) in payment of Bank loan and interest and the loan account has become NPA as per RBI guidelines. In view of the above, a 60 days Public Notice is given to the following borrower(s)/guarantor(s) to pay the bank dues as stated below alongwith interest till payment failing which the bank will be constrained to enforce its security interest without intervention of Court or Tribunal by taking recourse to one or more of the measures under Chapter – III of the Act. The borrower/guarantors are also directed by this Notice that in terms of Section 13(13) of the Act they shall not transfer by way of sale/lease or otherwise (other than in ordinary course of business) any of the secured assets charged to the bank without prior consent of the bank. The details of borrower/guarantors and secured assets is as follows, against whom the bank will start initiating action after 60 days in the event of non-payment of banks' dues by them.

Sl No.	Name of the Bank Branch & Phone No.	Name of the Borrower & address	As Per Demand Notice outstanding Amount as on 31-08-2026	(NPA Date: 09.07.2025) (Notice Date: 05.09.2026)
01	ROSARB Branch Bhilai 7723024982	Mr. Sunil Kumar Sahu (Borrower) Mrs. Neeta Sahu (Co-Borrower) LIG - 118, Old Dindayal Colony Motilal Nehru Nagar, Junwani, Nr. Shankara College, Bhilai, District- Durg, C.G. - 490020	Rs. 33,27,277.49 + Interest thereon with monthly rest and other charges	Equitable mortgage of property consisting of Land & Building bearing Khasara No. - 294/41, Ward No. - 18, PH. No. - 17/8, Kadambani Nagar, Municipality Sikola, District - Durg, C.G. Pin - 491001 in the name of Mrs. Neeta Sahu W/o Sunil Kumar Sahu. Boundaries: North: ROAD, South: Plot No. B/ 02, East: Plot No. B/ 07, West: ROAD.

Date: 16.09.2026, Place: Bhilai, Chhattisgarh**Authorized Officer, Bank of Baroda**

I thought maybe I would become everybody's best friend after this film Veer-Zaara because it's a Yash Chopra film and you had these tags coming in. And then Adi came up to me, and said, there's a reason we asked you to do it."

Divya Dutta



&Glitters

CLOSE UP

'Comedy' was a betrayal; it ate opportunities – Arshad Warsi

Arshad Warsi opens up about comedy, typecasting and exploring challenging roles.

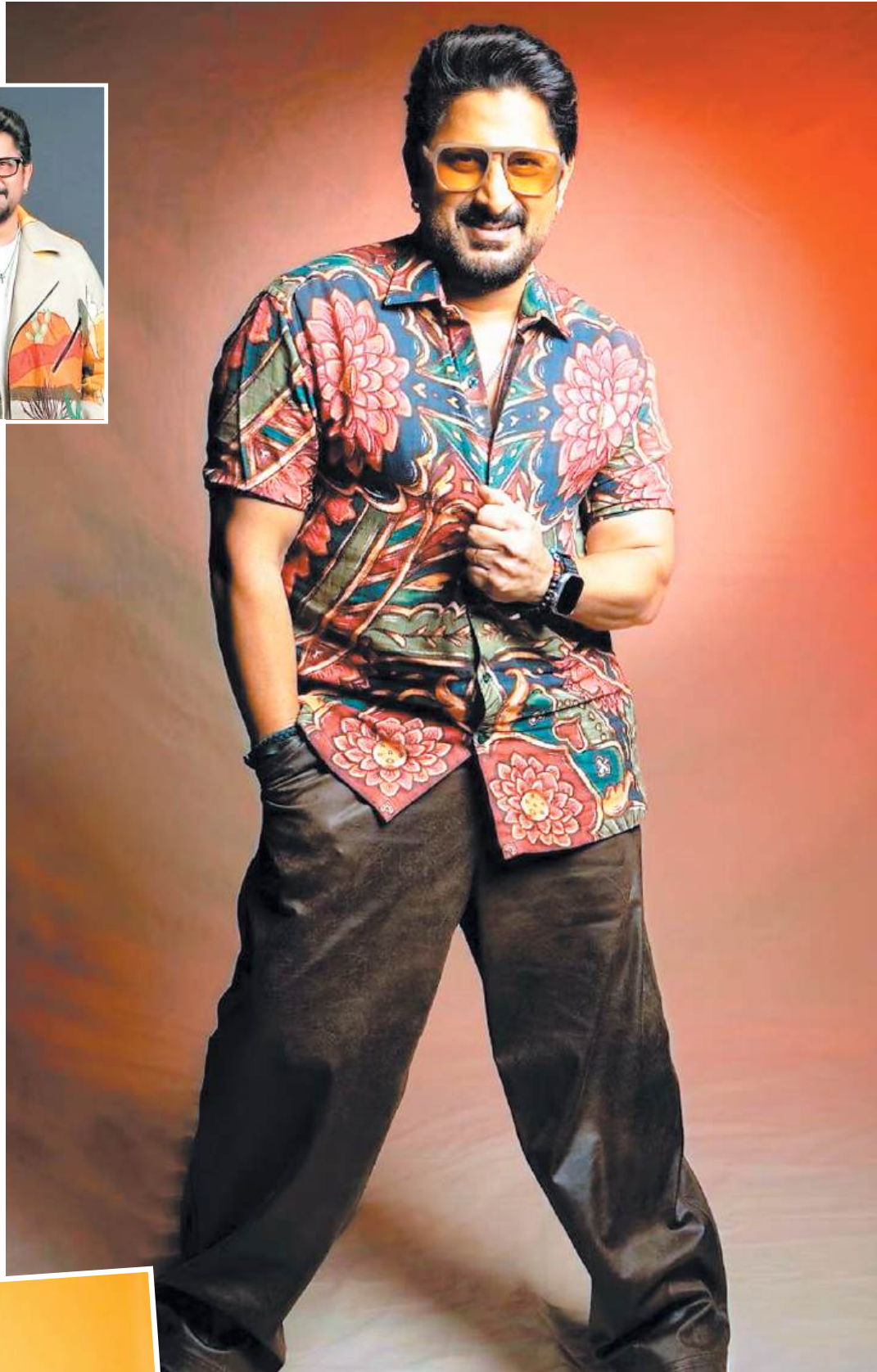
Central Chronicle News

The actor says comedy brought success, but limited his opportunities as an artist.

Arshad Warsi says being typecast as a comedian limited him as an artist, although the genre helped him build a comfortable life. The actor said he considers himself fortunate to receive opportunities to explore different characters, including a dacoit in Ghamasaan. Directed by Tigmanshu Dhulia, Ghamasaan features Warsi as Maharaj, a powerful dacoit operating in the ravines of Bundelkhand. His character is pitted against IPS officer Aditya Singh, played by Pratik Gandhi. The film is currently streaming on ZEE5. Warsi said filmmakers and audiences often place actors in fixed categories, making it difficult to break away from familiar images. He cited Akshay Kumar's transition from action to comedy and Shah Rukh Khan's move from romantic roles to action as examples. The actor said he trusted Dhulia with Ghamasaan because the filmmaker has known him since his debut film, Tere Mere Sapne. Warsi believes Dhulia was able to see the actor beyond his established comic image.



Arshad Warsi's next film is King



Warsi is currently enjoying a varied phase in his career, following his role as Gafoor in Aryan Khan's The Ba***ds of Bollywood and his appearance in Rajkumar Hirani's Pritam and Pedro. He will also feature in Shah Rukh Khan's King and the fifth instalment of Golmaal. Reflecting on his career, Warsi said comedy brought him financial success, but he never considered himself unlucky. He believes his jour-

ney has given him more than he expected and remains grateful for opportunities to experiment with challenging roles and showcase his range. He said such opportunities come rarely, making each unconventional role especially meaningful. For Warsi, continuing to work across genres is a rewarding part of his journey, allowing him to discover new dimensions of his craft creatively.

| HOLLYWOOD |

'Highsmith' role pushed my limits – Helen Mirren

Central Chronicle News

Helen Mirren has described portraying writer Patricia Highsmith in A Talent for Murder as the most challenging real-life role of her career. The British actor, who has played several prominent figures, said Highsmith was particularly difficult because of how the character is presented in the film. Highsmith, the American novelist behind dark psychological thrillers, was known for exploring guilt, morality and complex human behaviour. Her work has inspired more



than 30 films and series, including Alfred Hitchcock's Strangers on a Train and Purple Noon. In A Talent for Murder, Mirren plays the reclusive author in Switzerland, where a publisher's emissary tries to persuade her to write another Tom Ripley novel.

Mirren said she could identify with Queen Elizabeth, whom she portrayed in The Queen, while Golda Meir was also easier for her to understand. Highsmith, however, felt very different from her own personality. Mirren said the portrayal required her

HIGHLIGHT

● Helen Mirren opens up about portraying the complex and reclusive writer Patricia Highsmith.

to explore a woman who was extremely abrasive and withdrawn, particularly towards the end of her life. She believes that distance from Highsmith's personality made the role more demanding than many of the real people she has previously portrayed. Directed by Anton, the film also stars Alden Ehrenreich, Juliet Stevenson and Brid Brennan.

Helen Mirren plays Patricia Highsmith.

Gabrielle Tana, Mickey Liddell, Pete Shilaimon, Troy Lum and others are attached as producers.

A Talent for Murder is scheduled to release on October 23. The film offers a fictionalised glimpse into Highsmith's world while drawing from the legacy of an author whose unsettling stories have continued to influence cinema and television. Mirren's performance explores the complicated personality of a writer whose work has remained influential long after her death and the darker side of her private world.

CineBriefs

BEST OF THE REST

Web Series

Arjun Rampal brings depth to Tycoon role

Director Robbie Grewal says Arjun Rampal's role in Billionaire will focus on capturing the personality and mindset of its real-life inspiration rather than copying his physical appearance. The series is reportedly inspired by businessman Vijay Mallya, though Grewal has remained guarded about the connection. Grewal believes portraying a real person should go beyond looking similar. According to him, actors need to understand the character internally and bring that essence to their performance. He feels excessive focus on physical resemblance can restrict an actor's expressions and affect performance. Billionaire will explore the rise and fall of a controversial business tycoon through a human perspective.

Hot Pair

Vivek Dahiya on being Divyanka's husband



Vivek Dahiya has opened up about being introduced as Divyanka Tripathi's husband, saying he does not want respect to be forced because of their relationship. The actor said his identity was associated with Divyanka for a long time, but he remains confident his own work will eventually earn recognition. Recalling an incident where Divyanka was introduced as his wife's partner, Vivek said she wanted people to acknowledge him, but he preferred recognition to come naturally. For the actor, marriage does not diminish identities. He believes partners can support each other while allowing their careers and achievements to speak for themselves.



Music

'Ramayana' makers release first song 'Jai Jai Ram'

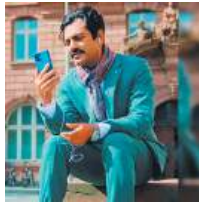
Ramayana has released Jai Jai Ram, featuring Ranbir Kapoor as Ram and Sai Pallavi as Sita. Sung by Arijit Singh and Shreya Ghoshal, the track is composed by A R Rahman and written by Kumar Vishwas. Blending an aarti's spiritual mood with music, the song captures Ram and Sita's wedding and journey in Ayodhya. Rahman said the composition retains the purity of prayer while creating an experience. Vishwas described the lyrics as simple and direct, centred on devotion, guidance and faith. Directed by Nitesh Tiwari, Ramayana stars Yash, Sunny Deol, Ravi Dubey and Arun Govil. Part, one releases on Diwali.

Trending on Insta

@taapsee

Taapsee's Beach pose leaves husband struggling

Taapsee Pannu shared a rare beach vacation glimpse with husband Mathias Boe. In playful videos, the actor attempts a fun pose by the sea while Boe hilariously struggles to support her during the stunt.



Nawazuddin's film arrives on Prime

Aditya Kripalani's Main Actor Nahin Hoon, starring Nawazuddin Siddiqui and Chitrangada Satarupa, is now streaming on Amazon Prime Video India. The film follows two strangers whose virtual acting sessions lead to an unexpected emotional connection.



Gaurav Khanna quits KKK 15

Gaurav Khanna emotionally exited Khatron Ke Khiladi 15 despite winning the elimination stunt. Citing an elbow injury, he chose to quit and save Ruhaanika Dhanwan, leaving host Rohit Shetty and fellow contestants visibly emotional during his departure.



Zakir Khan returns with Papa Yaar

Zakir Khan returns with his fourth Netflix stand-up special, Papa Yaar, releasing on September 18. The special explores his changing relationship with his father, blending childhood memories, family stories, humour and heartfelt moments.



The Scandal explores love and betrayal

The Scandal arrives on Netflix on September 18, bringing a dangerous tale of seduction and betrayal to Joseon-era Korea. The drama follows aristocrats whose cruel romantic wager spirals into unexpected emotions, jealousy and consequences.



Irumudi brings Ravi Teja to Netflix

Ravi Teja stars in Irumudi, a multilingual action drama now streaming on Netflix. The film follows an alcoholic father who takes up an Ayyappa pilgrimage while confronting his violent past and strengthening his bond with his daughter.

“Women are natural multitaskers. If you look at your mom or my mom, she might not have a job, but her job is to look after my dad, three children, the household, so many things. So, women are natural multitaskers.”

Preity Zinta



Bella



LED masks bring advanced skincare home



THE BEAUTIFUL ME

Technology of ‘LED Face Masks’ & post care

LED face masks are popular, but women should understand their benefits.

LED face masks have moved from dermatology clinics to everyday beauty routines, promising smoother, calmer and more youthful-looking skin. But before adding one to your skincare shelf, it helps to understand what the technology can realistically offer. LED therapy uses specific wavelengths of light to interact with skin cells. Red light is commonly associated with supporting collagen production, reducing inflammation and improving the appearance of fine lines and texture. Near-infrared light reaches deeper layers and is being studied for tissue repair and inflammation, while blue light is generally used for acne-related concerns.



However, not every glowing mask delivers the same results. Dermatologists recommend checking the wavelength, light intensity, treatment duration and coverage rather than choosing a device simply because it looks premium. Safety information, eye protection and appropriate regulatory certification are



HIGHLIGHT

● From skin concerns to safety, here is what women should consider.

also worth considering. For women dealing with mild acne, inflammation, early signs of ageing or uneven-looking texture, an LED mask may work

as a supportive addition to an established skincare routine. It should not, however, replace professional treatment for persistent acne, pigmentation, scarring or other skin conditions. Using the mask correctly matters too. Clean, dry skin is generally preferred unless the manufacturer advises otherwise. Apply-

ing potentially irritating or photosensitising products immediately beforehand may increase the risk of discomfort. More exposure does not mean faster results. Overuse can cause redness, irritation or pigmentation changes, particularly in sensitive or photosensitive skin. Women taking light-sensitising medication or managing light-sensitive conditions should seek dermatological advice first. Most importantly, keep expectations realistic. LED masks are unlikely to deliver an overnight transformation. With consistent use, improvements may be subtle and gradual, making the device better viewed as a skincare support rather than a miracle solution.

Think twice before using Naphthalene balls



Naphthalene balls are commonly used to protect clothes from moths, but using them around the home may carry health risks. The chemical releases vapours into the air, especially in closed or poorly ventilated spaces. Regular exposure may cause headaches, nausea, dizziness, eye or nose irritation and weakness. Higher exposure can damage red blood cells and potentially lead to anaemia. Children and pets are particularly vulnerable because they may accidentally swallow the balls, which can cause serious poisoning. Experts advise against using naphthalene balls in bedrooms, children's rooms, bathrooms or as toilet deodorisers.

Myth or Truth: Detox drinks: What does science actually say?

Detox drinks are often promoted as a quick way to remove toxins and improve digestion, skin and weight loss. The fact is that your liver and kidneys already work continuously to process and remove waste. There is no strong evidence that special juices, teas or infused waters can “cleanse” the body better than these natural

processes. Drinking water and eating fruits, vegetables and nutritious foods can support health, but they are not detox treatments. Some products may contain excessive caffeine, sugar or laxative ingredients. Instead of relying on detox drinks, focus on balanced meals, hydration, regular movement and sufficient sleep.

DivaDazzle

BEST OF THE REST

Celebs

Kareena Kapoor makes vintage fashion fresh

Kareena Kapoor Khan stepped out for the Daayra press tour in a ballet pink dress and jacket from John Galliano's Spring/Summer 1999 collection. Styled by Rhea Kapoor and Sanya Kapoor, the vintage ensemble balanced romantic softness with sharp tailoring, giving the look an edge. She paired the outfit with nude René Caovilla pumps and jewellery from Amrapali Jewels, keeping the styling understated and letting the Galliano creation remain the focus. The choice highlights the appeal of archival fashion, where iconic pieces from earlier eras are being reimagined for wardrobes. Kareena's look proves that timeless design can feel fresh.

Achiever

Anupriya Nagar's faith in Hanuman Ansh

At just 21, producer Anupriya Nagar took a leap of faith by investing her savings in Hanuman Ansh, a devotional drama inspired by Neem Karoli Baba's life and teachings. Nagar joined the project during post-production when the team needed funds to complete the film.

She said her strong emotional connection with the story encouraged her to contribute nearly one-third of the Rs 2 crore budget. Released on August 7 without much publicity, the film gained momentum through positive word of mouth and has now crossed Rs 200 crore at the box office. Nagar believes the film's success is nothing short of a miracle.

The Inspirors

Navya Nanda on building her own identity



Navya Naveli Nanda's approach to her family legacy offers an inspiring lesson for women building their own identities. Despite belonging to a prominent business and film family, she believes a surname cannot guarantee a place at the table. Her focus is on earning that seat through knowledge, hard work and responsibility.

After completing her MBA from IIM Ahmedabad, Navya has shown that privilege and personal ambition can coexist with a desire to prove oneself. Her journey reminds women that a family name may open a door, but it is determination, learning and confidence that help you build a meaningful identity of your own.

Wellness

Facial rejuvenation is taking a natural turn

Fillers are not going out of fashion, but beauty treatments are changing. Instead of simply adding volume to the face, many people now want treatments that improve skin quality, hydration and firmness. Skin boosters and collagen-stimulating treatments are becoming popular for creating a fresher, more natural look. Treatments such as radiofrequency and HIFU can also help with skin tightening. Fillers still have a role when someone needs to restore lost volume or improve facial balance. However, experts suggest using them carefully and in smaller amounts. The focus is shifting towards natural-looking results, healthy skin and enhancing your features rather than changing them completely.



| FASHION |

Give your everyday ‘Kurta’ a festive makeover

Central Chronicle News

Festive dressing does not always have to mean heavy lehengas or elaborate suits. A bright kurta can be just as striking when styled thoughtfully, while keeping you comfortable through long celebrations. Start with a colorful kurta and pair it with straight pants or palazzos. Add statement earrings, bangles, a bindi and traditional footwear for an easy festive finish. For a more traditional look, layer a simple kurta with a lightweight printed or embellished dupatta. You can also pair a longer kurta with wide-leg palazzos for a relaxed silhouette that works well for daytime gatherings. If you want something more dramatic, wear your kurta with a flowing skirt.



This combination instantly adds movement and makes a familiar outfit feel special. Keep jewellery balanced if the skirt is heavily detailed. Another easy option is to let accessories transform a simple kurta. Bright earrings, colourful bangles, kajal, a bindi and festive footwear can completely change the mood without requiring a new outfit. The key is to balance colour, comfort

and accessories. Choose fabrics that allow easy movement, avoid too many competing statement pieces and pick footwear you can wear comfortably for hours. With the right styling, even a simple kurta can become a versatile festive favourite. For evening celebrations, richer shades like wine, emerald or deep pink can make it feel more dressed up. Metallic earrings or bangles

Festive fashion with a comfortable Kurta

HIGHLIGHT

Style your favourite kurta into a comfortable, colourful festive outfit easily.

● Try these easy styling ideas using dupattas, palazzos, skirts and accessories.

add a festive touch without making the look too heavy. During daytime events, cheerful colours and breathable fabrics keep the outfit fresh.

The beauty of a kurta is its versatility. The same piece can look different with another bottom, dupatta or jewellery set. Choose an outfit that lets you move and enjoy the celebration comfortably.

Divas on Insta



Viral Beauty hack

Aloe Vera DIY for smoother-looking hair

Tame frizzy hair with this simple aloe vera DIY. Apply a thin layer of aloe vera gel to the lengths and ends, leave it on for 15-20 minutes, then rinse and wash gently with your regular shampoo.

Viral Cleaning hack

Simple hack to style a plain dupatta

Give a plain dupatta a festive makeover with this easy styling hack. Add a decorative brooch or statement pin near the shoulder or drape it along the side. It instantly adds colour, detail and personality.



Sports



Our strong defence can make it very difficult for the opponents to score.
Sjoerd Marijne
Women's hockey coach

Marijne urges team to stay sharp against lower-ranked teams

Apart from China, all other teams competing at the Asian Games are ranked below India.

By Mona Parthsarathi

At the World Cup, World No. 8 India faced higher-ranked sides such as Australia and Netherlands.

NEW DELHI: The Asian Games will pose a different challenge for the Indian women's hockey team, with lower-ranked opponents likely to offer more scoring opportunities than the top sides they faced at the World Cup, coach Sjoerd Marijne said.

"In the World Cup we had top-ranked teams, except South Africa, in our pool, while here that is not the scene. You would play lower-ranked opponents and get more opportunities to score, so we have to be effective in that way. "It's a different approach to keep being sharp and focused. The focus should be on us – what can we do better from the last match, which was against Germany in the World Cup?"

"How can we create opportunities and do better against the next opponent, Uzbekistan?" Marijne told PTI in an exclusive interview from Japan. Marijne now wants his players to use the disappointment of missing out on a World Cup semi-final as motivation to win the Asian Games gold.

"You don't get to play many World Cups and



Indian women hockey captain Salima Tete, left, hockey goalkeeper Savita Punia, centre, and hockey player Lalremsiami Hmar Zote, right, during an interactive session with media ahead of Asian Games.

HIGHLIGHT

● India's women's team finished fifth at the World Cup last month, its best performance since the inaugural edition in 1974.

to come that close to a medal and miss it is disappointing. I told them that not reaching the semis should be a motivation for the gold in the Asian Games," the Dutch coach said. "We wrote history in the World Cup. It is important that they realise they have done something extraordinary, which had not happened after 1974. Now the target is the Asian Games and let's do even better there."

The coach said increased expectations following the World Cup should be seen as a compliment rather than pressure. "It's nice to come into a position when people expect more from you. I don't see it as pres-

sure, but as a compliment. "The main thing is the mental side – staying focused on our job, the challenge ahead and how can we do better. If we are able to do that, the chance of a good outcome is bigger and better," said the 52-year-old.

Marijne also stressed the importance of acclimatisation in Japan, which is more humid than Europe, but added that adapting to different conditions was not a

major concern for a team that has played across continents.

"It's a little more humid in Japan, so acclimatisation was important. We also did some fun things like playing mini golf and team activities.

"Other teams are also coming from different countries and it's normal to constantly adjust according to the conditions, like we have played in Australia, Argentina, Europe and now Japan in different conditions," he said. Marijne identified India's disciplined defence as one of its biggest strengths from the World Cup.

"Our strong defence can make it very diffi-

cult for the opponents to score. I don't want to jinx this, but the discipline and culture we are focusing on is the basis of the success and we must not forget that.

"It's important to keep the basics right and that's what we did in the World Cup."

Marijne, under whose tutelage Indian finish fourth at the Tokyo Olympics, also urged his players to remain humble despite their newfound confidence.

"The team has confidence from the World Cup, which is good, but too much confidence is arrogance. I told them that we need to stay humble and there is no room for overconfidence. We have to keep working hard. I tell them to be connected with each other. Being a team is about continuing to work on connecting with each other and the girls are doing well in that aspect," he said.

Marijne said the team's emphasis on unity would continue to be symbolised by its "unity thread" and "crystal ball", which he introduced to the players and support staff during the World Cup.

"That will not change. It reminds them of what is required as a team and that they are there for each other," he said while showing his unity band."

| WORLD ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS |

Historic first as Nairobi wins 2029 World Athletics bid

Press Trust Of India

World Athletics research had shown Kenya was the most passionate market for track and field among those surveyed.

BUDAPEST: The World Athletics Championships are heading to Africa for the first time as Kenya's capital Nairobi was confirmed Tuesday as host of the 2029 edition of track and field's premier event.

Kenya has long been a superpower in distance running and is second on the all-time worlds medal table behind only the United States. The championships return to Germany in 2031 after a 22-year wait, with Munich hosting.

"Taking our cham-



pionships to Africa for the first time will be historic," World Athletics President Sebastian Coe said as he announced the decision following the Ultimate Championship in Hungary. "Athletics is woven into the fabric of Kenya." Salim Mvurya, the Kenyan government minister responsible for sports, said "the world will come to a country where running is more than competition, it is our national story."

"It was important that the World Athletics

Championships should come to Africa when we had the right host, the right bid and the right circumstances. Nairobi has demonstrated emphatically that this is their moment," Coe said.

The decision brings recognition of Kenya's status as a track nation, but is likely to bring extra scrutiny of the East African nation's history of top runners being busted for doping.

Marathon world record holder Ruth Chepngetich is serving

HIGHLIGHT

● The championships will use a stadium that's already being upgraded for Kenya co-hosting soccer's Africa Cup of Nations next year.

a three-year doping ban after joining the many elite-level Kenyan runners suspended over the past decade.

The 2031 championships could be a boost for Munich's campaign to host the Olympics in future. It's never hosted track worlds before, though Germany's capital Berlin did in 2009 and Stuttgart hosted in 1993.

London was unsuccessful with a bid for 2029 after last hosting in 2017, while Rome was the other losing candidate.

Judo coaches asked to attend counselling sessions

NEW DELHI: Sports Authority of India's central regional centre in Bhopal has directed two judo coaches at its National Centre of Excellence here to attend counselling sessions with the centre's sports psychologist over concerns related to their professional conduct and workplace discipline. Senior coach Ruchi Audichya and assistant coach Gitanjali Pawar have been asked to attend the sessions "till further order", according to an official communication issued by the Assistant Director of SAI NCOE, Bhopal. The communication said the coaches' "conduct, attitude, coordination, team spirit and interaction" with other coaches and athletes had not been found to be in accordance with the expected standards of professional conduct, workplace decorum and institutional protocol.

| REVIVING FORMULA 1 |

Minister announces Task Force to assess F1 revival

Press Trust Of India

The Task Force also has representation from the department of tourism and commerce among others and will include representatives from the Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra Government.

NEW DELHI: Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Tuesday announced a

Task Force to assess the challenges and feasibility of reviving Formula 1 in the country under the chairmanship of Niti Aayog Programme Director and adviser Yugal Kishore Joshi. The 10-member committee also features joint secretary (sports) Kunal besides FMSCI (Motorsports Federation of India) President, who is Arindam Ghosh at the moment with the elections



to be held during the AGM later in the month. "The Terms of reference of this committee are suggest-

ing comprehensive growth of motorsports in India, a holistic coordinated roadmap for revival of Formula 1 so that we can host a race in 2028.

"It will also carry out detailed assessment of challenges that would come in the way of reviving motorsports and identify policy interventions that would needed for this," Sports Minister Man-

sukh Mandaviya said in a media interaction here. Barring Joshi and Kunal, no other names were revealed by the Minister. India last hosted a Formula 1 race back in 2013, following which it was dropped due to bureaucratic and taxation issues. It was held at the Buddh International Circuit in Greater Noida. The new circuit owners, the Adani group, will have a seat at the table as well.

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

DOUBLES COMBINATION

Yuki Bhambri ruled out of India-Korea Davis Cup tie

SEOUL: India will be without their key doubles player Yuki Bhambri in their Davis Cup Qualifier against South Korea after the veteran was ruled out with a thigh injury, forcing the team to rethink its doubles combination days before the crucial contest.

India captain Rohit Rajpal confirmed that Bhambri will not be available for the Round 2 tie.

"Yuki Bambri is not doing too well with his thigh and may not be available to play the Davis Cup. So, we are working on that area to see what our combination is going to be, which we shouldn't be doing actually during the week before the Davis Cup. But unfortunately, we are having to do that," Rajpal said.

Bhambri had suffered a right thigh strain before his US Open main-draw match and had subsequently been doubtful for the Korea tie.

His absence is a significant blow to India's doubles plans, with Rajpal



having previously paired him with Dhakshinewar Suresh. The combination worked effectively during their previous Davis Cup outing against the Netherlands in Bengaluru.

"Last time I played Yuki and DK because Yuki's big strength is his return from ad-court. And that is the weakness for DK. And Yuki's serve is his weak point and DK has a huge serve. This opposite combination made them a very formidable pair," said Rajpal. **PTI**

ICC WOMEN'S T20I PLAYER RANKINGS

Shree Charani achieves career-best rating, Deepti climbs to No. 2



DUBAI: India spinner Shree Charani retained the top spot with career-best rating points, while compatriot Deepti Sharma climbed four places to second in the latest ICC Women's T20I Player Rankings released here on Tuesday.

Charani's outstanding 4/20 in the Women's T20 Asia Cup final against Sri Lanka lifted the left-arm spinner above

the 800-point mark for the first time to a career-best 804. These are the highest rating points ever achieved by an Indian in the ICC rankings for both batters and bowlers, surpassing former skipper Mithali Raj's previous record of 780 points in batting rankings in 2011. Charani is now just two points short of the highest rating points ever achieved by a women's T20I bowler, held by Australia's Megan Schutt in November 2018. India's bowling attack was further rewarded with Deepti moving up four places to second after finishing the Asia Cup as the tournament's leading wicket-taker with 14 scalps. Seamer Nandani Sharma has climbed 10 places to 94th following an impressive tournament with the ball, while leg-spinner Prema Rawat has made one of the biggest gains of the week, surging 50 places to 96th. **PTI**

ENGLISH COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

India pacer Mukesh Kumar joins Nottinghamshire for two County matches

NEW DELHI: In-form India pacer Mukesh Kumar has joined Nottinghamshire and will play the final two fixtures of the 2026 English County Championship season.

Mukesh has 26 international caps across all formats, including three Test matches, in which he has taken 32 wickets. "I am really pleased to sign for Nottinghamshire at an important time in the season. I can't wait to arrive in England and test myself in county cricket," said Mukesh in a release issued by the club. "I want to contribute as much as I can while I am here to help Nottinghamshire to success, and I am looking forward to working with the coaches and my new teammates," he added. His stint at Trent Bridge will be the first time in his career that he has represented a domestic side away from Bengal. "Coming to England is



always a good challenge, and I am excited by the chance to play for a new team in new conditions," he said. "I will give everything while I am part of Nottinghamshire, and I hope together, we can be successful." Nottinghamshire head coach, Peter Moores, said: "We're really excited to get Mukesh over at what is a crucial time of the season. **PTI**

WORLD ATHLETICS ULTIMATE CHAMPION

Rumesh Pathirage's javelins damaged in flight ahead of Asian Games



COLOMBO: Sri Lankan javelin thrower Rumesh Pathirage has suffered a setback ahead of the upcoming Asian Games after five of his "winning" javelins were damaged in air travel.

The 23-year-old was returning to Sri Lanka from Budapest after competing at the World Athletics Ultimate Championship on September 13 on a Turkish airline flight. "All five of my winning javelins were damaged inside

the aircraft. I was trying to use them at the upcoming Asian Games, the 2028 Olympics and the World Championship," Pathirage said.

He said he had lodged a complaint with Turkish Airlines.

The Sri Lankan, who is enjoying a breakout season, has breached the 90m mark three times this year. All three of those throws came with the javelins that were damaged.

In July, Pathirage beat two-time Olympic medallist Neeraj Chopra to win Sri Lanka's first athletics gold since 1950 at the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow. The Sri Lankan has won 11 of his last 12 international competitions, including the Diamond League Final in Brussels earlier this month. He is the favourite to win gold at the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games, starting on Saturday. **PTI**

Sports News

HI meet: Infighting and Governing Council for HIL on agenda

The notice served to Srivastava by Tirkey through his lawyer will also be up for deliberation.

By Saumojyoti S Choudhury

The meet will also discuss the possible dates for Hockey India elections.

NEW DELHI: The controversy-mired Hockey India has called an emergent Executive Board meeting on September 18 here to resolve the differences among its top officials and restructure the struggling Hockey India League to create an independent Governing Council.

HI President Dilip Tirkey and secretary Bhola Nath Singh have not been on the same page for a while following the controversy surrounding the change of Indian teams' jersey colour from blue to saffron before the recently-concluded FIH World Cup.

Tirkey said the jersey change was done without his knowledge and without the consent of the HI Executive Board.

Subsequently, he sent a show-cause notice to HI Director General, Cdr R K Srivastava and stripped him of all his powers with immediate effect, listing eight charges, with jersey change being the most prominent.

The turn of events has prompted secretary Bhola Nath to call an emergent



Executive Board Meeting. The notice issued by Tirkey gave Srivastava four weeks' time to submit his reply.

"On the advice/direction of the Hockey India President, Dr Dilip Tirkey, received via email dated 14.09.2026, the Emergent - 119th Executive Board Meeting of Hockey India will be held at 15:00 hrs on 18.09.2026 at the Hockey India Office, New Delhi," Bhola Nath wrote in an

e-mail to Executive Board members, a copy of which is in possession of PTI.

The meeting was conveyed by HI secretary Bhola Nath but the federation president Dilip Tirkey in his reply on Tuesday had clearly stated that it is the sole prerogative of the body's chief to call emergency meeting and not the secretary.

"With reference to your email, please be informed that the by-law,

as approved by HI on 20th June 2026, clearly states in the clause(16.4.2) that only the President can call an emergency meeting, not the Secretary General," Tirkey wrote in his mail to Bhola Nath and Executive Board members. "Also be informed, I am very clear in my direction to you in my earlier communications unless the DG submits his explanation, no EB meeting will be held.

"Once again, I request you to refrain from disobeying the Chair of President Hockey India and instead spreading your own decisions and judgments to the other members and creating confusion. The action taken by me are purely for the betterment of hockey, instead of any betterment of some individual and their personal interest," he further wrote. The meeting called

HI should resolve disputes amicably, will intervene if needed: Sports Ministry source

The Sports Ministry will wait for the warring factions in Hockey India to resolve their differences amicably before deciding whether an intervention from it is required.

HI President Dilip Tirkey and its secretary general Bhola Nath Singh have been locked in a public tug of war ever since the body drew criticism for changing the national teams' jersey colour from blue to saffron before the recent World Cup.

| YOUNG MANIPURI ROWER |

Tendenthoi heads to her second Asian Games with renewed confidence

Press Trust Of India

Training alongside coach Lakshmi, a former Asian Games rower whom she had admired since childhood, has given her another source of confidence.

NEW DELHI: Tendenthoi Devi Haobijam heads into her second Asian Games with a confidence that was missing when she made her debut at the Hangzhou edition three years ago, and the young Manipuri rower believes she can make a bigger impact this time.

The 23-year-old will spearhead India's challenge in the women's coxless four, rowing at



No. 3 alongside Poonam (No. 4), Aleena Anto (No. 2) and Gurbani Kaur (No. 1).

The quartet has trained and competed together since last year, giving them time to understand each other's strengths and develop as a unit.

"My first international competition was the Asian Games in 2023. My performance was good, but I wasn't very confident because I was still a junior at that time. I had to learn a lot from the seniors and take their advice," Tendenthoi stated in a release.

Calvert-Lewin decisive for Leeds

LEEDS (ENGLAND): Three goals in a 13-minute spell before half time – two featuring the commanding Dominic Calvert-Lewin – set Leeds on the way to a comprehensive 4-1 win over Newcastle to move into third place in the Premier League on Monday.

Ao Tanaka's deflected shot put Leeds ahead after 32 minutes and then man of the match Calvert-Lewin moved into top gear. The big striker has a great record of scoring against Newcastle and had also hit the net in all of Leeds' last five home matches. Calvert-Lewin was unlucky to see a 34th-minute header marked down as an own goal after brushing the head of teammate Jayden Bogle on the way in.

Syndrela Das sets sights on winning gold, breaking into top 50

Press Trust Of India

For Syndrela, focusing on mental training as well as analysing mistakes made in matches to convert them into success is the key.

MUMBAI: Syndrela Das' rapid rise has met with her call-up to the senior women's side in the Asian Games with the 17-year-old setting sights on winning the gold and breaking into the top 50 "as fast as possible".

Currently ranked No. 99 in ITTF women's singles' rankings and world No. 27 in youth girls' singles, Syndrela heads to the Asian

Book tells story behind making of ace pacer Bumrah

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: He has transformed the yorker into an art form, consistently leaving even the world's finest batters struggling to find answers. Now, the remarkable journey of India's speedster Jasprit Bumrah is set to be chronicled in a new book, "The Boom Effect", which will hit the stands next month.

Written by sports journalists Aayush Puthran and Nicholas Brookes, under Penguin Random House India's 'Play' imprint, the book explores how Bumrah transformed from an unconventional young cricketer in Ahmedabad into one of the most feared fast bowlers in world cricket.

The 32-year-old pacer's journey has defied the traditional pathway followed by Indian cricketers. He did not come through an elite academy or India's Under-19 system, and his physique and short run-up did not fit the conventional image of a fast bowler.

Growing up in Ahmedabad, Bumrah learnt much of his craft by watching fast bowlers on television and playing gully cricket. He entered structured cricket relatively late but made a rapid impact, earning



an IPL opportunity with Mumbai Indians within two years of joining a cricket academy.

"The Boom Effect", according to the publisher, traces that unlikely journey from Ahmedabad to the biggest stages of international cricket.

The authors examine the competing accounts of who first identified Bumrah's talent, his emergence in Gujarat cricket and his development at Mumbai Indians before he became the leader of India's pace attack. It is divided into three sections covering Bumrah's Gujarat years, the physical and mental aspects of his game, and the period when he emerged as a global cricketing force. Rather than offering a conventional match-by-match biography, Puthran and Brookes investigate the mechanics and thinking behind Bumrah's success,

drawing on research, published material and interviews.

"The book asks the questions that have fascinated cricket followers for more than a decade: Why does Bumrah feel faster than the speed gun suggests? What makes his action so difficult to read? How did he develop such extraordinary control? And how does he remain so composed when the pressure is at its highest?" they explained.

His bowling arsenal, including swing, seam, bounce and the yorker that has become his trademark, also receives close attention. It also looks at the setbacks that shaped his career, including injuries, concerns over the sustainability of his unusual action, doubts about his ability to succeed in Test cricket and the physical demands of leading India's fast-bowling attack.

| ASIAN GAMES |



Games in Japan's Aichi-Nagoya with a strong performance in the domestic circuit to showcase her form.

Her title wins in women's singles and U-19 girls' singles at the National Ranking Table Tennis

"For the country, of course, I am looking forward to the Asian Games and we would try to clinch the gold, of course. But personally, I would try to get into the top 50 as fast as possible," Syndrela, who played for UTT 2026 finalists Dempo Goa Challengers, told PTI in an exclusive interview.

Syndrela said her selection in the national side makes this season her "best" one yet but there still remains a lot to learn.

"I would say this season is going very well because I have been selected for the Asian Games, Commonwealth Championships and also the Youth Olympics," she said.

| CM SAI AT NAVA RAIPUR GOLF EVENT |

'Ch'garh rapidly emerging as sports destination'

Press Trust Of India

RAIPUR: Chhattisgarh has been rapidly emerging as a sports destination in the country, with the state government making efforts to regularly host major sporting events and providing athletes with better platforms to showcase their talent, Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai said on Tuesday.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the DP World PGTI Nava Raipur Open 2026 golf championship, Sai said expansion of sports infrastructure, better training and opportunities for athletes, and hosting prestigious national and international sporting events have given a fresh



impetus to the state's sporting culture.

"The hosting of a major professional golf tournament in Nava Raipur is an important achievement in this journey," he said.

Sai and former Indian cricket captain and DP World PGTI (Professional Golf Tour of India) presi-

dent Kapil Dev, a legendary former Indian cricket captain, jointly inaugurated the championship, which is being held at the Fairway Golf & Lake Resort in Nava Raipur from September 15 to 18, an official statement said. Sai expressed confidence that the DP World Nava Raipur Open 2026

would become a new identity for Chhattisgarh in the coming years and play an important role in establishing Nava Raipur as a prominent golfing destination in India and abroad, it said. The state government has been promoting sports as a means of personality development, discipline and self-confidence among youngsters and as a tool to strengthen Chhattisgarh's identity, Sai said.

He said sports infrastructure is being expanded continuously and the state has a major international-standard cricket stadium, while national-level events in various sporting disciplines are also hosted regularly. The government has

included the Mukhyamantri Khel Utkarsh Mission in the budget to identify sporting talent and provide athletes with modern training, better resources and opportunities to compete at national and international levels, Sai said.

"The government's clear resolve is that shortage of resources and opportunities should not become a hurdle for talented sportspersons," he said. Referring to the situation in Bastar, Sai said the state has achieved decisive success against Naxalism with the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the determination of Union Home Minister Amit Shah and the courage of security forces.

| EUROPEAN SUPER LEAGUE |

Camp Nou beats Wembley to host 2029 League final

Press Trust Of India

Barcelona's victory comes seven months after its formal withdrawal from legal action against UEFA linked to the Super League driven by storied clubs led by Real Madrid that quickly failed in 2021.

GENEVA: Barcelona's renovated Camp Nou was picked over Wembley Stadium in London to host the 2029 Champions League final, UEFA said Tuesday, in a further sign of their rebuilt relations after the divisive European Super League



project. The choice gives Barcelona a marquee game one year before Spain co-hosts the 2030 World Cup with Portugal and Morocco. Staging that final is a contest between Real Madrid's renovated Santiago Bernabéu home and the

115,000-seat stadium being built in Casablanca. UEFA's executive committee also confirmed the 2028 Champions League final will return to Bayern Munich's stadium, which was the only bidder, just three years after the 2025 edition.



Strikes 'close to NATO territory' showed Russian President Vladimir Putin's 'desperation and also his desire to sow fear and terror.'

Mark Rutte
NATO Secretary General

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

EU VON DER LEYEN

EU chief to lay out priorities and vision for tackling the bloc's challenges in major speech



BRUSSELS: European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen will deliver a major state of the European Union speech on Wednesday setting out her priorities for the next year and her vision for tackling the challenges faced by the world's biggest trading bloc. The content of von der Leyen's address to the European Parliament in Strasbourg, France, has been kept under wraps. Political groups in the assembly have lobbied to get their priorities and pet projects included. But the speech is likely to touch on AI, climate change and the fires that have swept Europe this summer, as well as protection for children online, Russia's war on Ukraine, conflict across the Middle East and international trade tensions. Last year, she warned that Europe must stake out its inde-

pendence as the continued to impose tariffs on the world and members if the Trump administration criticized the bloc's migration policies, warning of "civilizational erasure." "Europe is in a fight," von der Leyen said. "A fight for our values and our democracies." "Battle lines for a New World order based on power are being drawn right now," she said, adding that the EU "must fight for its place in a world in which many major powers are either ambivalent or openly hostile to Europe." The event has become an annual ritual modeled on the State of the Union addresses to Congress by U.S. presidents, but it won't be broadcast widely and few of the European Union's 450 million citizens across 27 member countries are likely to tune in.

BANGLA UNIVERSITY JINNAH

Backlash over Jinnah photographs prompts Dhaka University probe

DHAKA: Authorities at Dhaka University have launched an investigation into the display of photographs of Pakistan's founder Muhammad Ali Jinnah at its museum by a student union dominated by Jamaat-e-Islami's student wing, following social media backlash and protests by other student groups.

The Dhaka University Central Students' Union (DUCSU), whose council is dominated by Islami Chhatra Shibir, the student wing of Jamaat-e-Islami, reopened the varsity's reorganised museum on Sunday with photographs and newspaper clippings related to Jinnah and the political history of the subcontinent.

The display included photographs of Jinnah, including one from his 1948 speech at the then Racecourse Maidan in Dhaka, where he declared that Urdu would be Pakistan's sole state language.

The display drew protests from other students and student organisations, with a Dhaka University student tearing down Jinnah photographs on Monday.

PAK COURT IMRAN

Pak court seeks record of cases linked to Imran's transfer to hospital

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Federal Constitutional Court (FCC) on Tuesday sought the record of cases linked to the transfer of jailed former prime minister Imran Khan to a private hospital for treatment from the Supreme Court. The court also sought records of any similar matter taken up by high courts across the country.

The development came as a three-member bench, headed by FCC Chief Justice Aminuddin Khan and comprising Justices Ali Baqar Najafi and Aamer Farooq, heard an appeal by three Adiala jail prisoners who sought the treatment and facilities offered to Khan.

They cited the order by the Supreme Court, which last month directed the authorities to move Khan to private Shifa International Hospital. On the Supreme Court's order, Khan was taken to the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) by the authorities instead of private Shifa International Hospital on the pretext of security. The FCC cited Article 175-E of the Constitution to seek records of any similar matter taken up by high courts.

UK BABY DEATHS

Inquiry blasts hospital for failure to protect babies after nurse Lucy convicted of 7 murders

LONDON: An English judge issued a scathing report Tuesday blaming dysfunctional management and a "complete failure at all levels" to protect babies at the hospital where neonatal nurse Lucy Letby was convicted of murdering seven newborns. The inquiry into baby deaths found the Countess of Chester Hospital, in northwestern England, could have saved some infants from death and injury if staff had acted sooner when children began collapsing, Justice Kathryn Thirlwall said.

"Errors were made by nurses, doctors and managers," Thirlwall said. "There was also complete failure at all levels to invoke safeguarding procedures at any point." Letby, 36, is serving a life sentence for the murders of seven babies and attempted killing of seven others. She has maintained her innocence, and a defense team backed by dozens of scientists who have questioned the evidence against her are seeking to clear her name.

Thirlwall's inquiry did not review Letby's convictions but looked at how institutional failures exposed babies to repeatedly be harmed at the hos-

pital and how staff and management responded and treated parents. She focused on the failure of staff to intervene when it became clear someone was deliberately harming babies. "How many lives could have been saved had the hospital acted differently?" she said. "It is clear that some babies would have been saved and some attacks would have been prevented if action was taken earlier."

Letby was convicted in 2023 of the murders of seven infants and attempted murders of six others - including two attempts on one child. A case in which jurors couldn't reach a decision was retried and Letby was convicted in July of another attempted murder. She was sentenced to 15 life terms with no chance of release - only the fourth woman in the United Kingdom to receive such a term.



Denmark Royals



Denmark's King Frederik X and Queen Mary officially disembark from the Royal Yacht Dannebrog in Copenhagen. (PTI)

Japan loses contact with surveillance drone off coast

Japan's Air Self-Defense Force lost contact with an RQ-4B Global Hawk surveillance drone off the coast of Tottori prefecture.

Press Trust Of India

TOKYO: Japan's air force lost contact on Tuesday with one of its long-distance surveillance drones after it went missing during a flight off the country's northwestern coast. There was no immediate information as to what the mission of the uncrewed RQ-4B aircraft, also known as Global Hawk, was.

The Air Self-Defense Force said the drone disappeared from the radar and was last seen 50 kilometers (31 miles) off the coast of Tottori earlier in the afternoon. The drone



A Global Hawk, long-distance surveillance drone of the Japan Air Self-Defense Force.

is one of three Global Hawks owned by the air force and deployed at its Misawa Air Base in the northern prefecture of Aomori.

The drones are considered valuable because they can conduct long-

range missions and are able to fly at a height of about 60,000 feet (18.3 kilometers) and can fly continuously for up to 36 hours. They allow Japan to easily monitor areas on the Asian mainland, including North Korea

FASTFACTS

- The uncrewed aircraft is one of only three long-range Global Hawks used to monitor areas like North Korea and China.

- The incident occurs as Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi's government prepares new security strategies amid defense spending increases.

and China. Japan is trying to adapt to changing times and develop defense strategies that use drones, including

those for combat, artificial intelligence and new methods of warfare. Under its five-year plan established in 2022, the country has doubled its defense spending to about 2% of its gross domestic product to build up its Self-Defense Forces' offensive role to counter China's growing assertiveness.

Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi's government is now preparing new security and defense strategies, expected to be unveiled later this year. Beijing has criticized Japan's defense buildup as "new militarism."

| RUSSIA UKRAINE WAR |

NATO fighter jets shoot down drone over Lithuanian airspace

Press Trust Of India

NATO fighter jets intercepted and downed a drone in Lithuanian airspace for the first time near the village of Pratkunai.

VILNIUS: NATO fighter jets shot down a drone that entered Lithuanian airspace overnight, officials said Tuesday, the day after the head of NATO said strikes close to its territory would only increase its support for Ukraine in its war against Russia's full-s-



Two Eurofighter Typhoon jets perform a low-altitude flyover at Falcone-Borsellino Airport in Cinisi. (AFP)

cale invasion. Military officials in Lithuania, a NATO member, said the incident marked the first time that a drone had been shot down in its airspace.

Authorities didn't comment on the drone's origin or purpose, saying the incident needed

further investigation. The drone in Lithuania was downed near the village of Pratkunai, about 60 miles (100 kilometres) west of the capital, Vilnius, and near the Kaunas Reservoir, Lithuania's National Crisis Management Centre said Tuesday. Officials in

FASTFACTS

- Lithuanian Air Force Commander Antanas Matutis confirmed that wreckage found indicated the drone was likely carrying explosives.

NATO countries including Germany, Denmark, the United Kingdom, and Poland have in recent weeks accused Russia of involvement in acts such as drone incursions, sabotage, arson, surveillance of defence facilities and planning to use a drone carrying explosives to attack an airport.

Suspected sabotage triggers Dutch rail outage

THE HAGUE: A major outage hit parts of the Dutch railway system early Tuesday and the company that maintains the nation's rail infrastructure said it was treating the cause as possible sabotage.

Hundreds of thousands of passengers use the train network each day. The stoppages on Tuesday affected thousands of passengers mainly in the central and eastern areas of the Netherlands, but the problem also affected some services in the busiest western regions of the country. Joke van der Cruysen, a spokesperson for infrastructure company Pro-rail, told The Associated Press that there were disruptions at 24 locations.

| US SPACE WEAPONS |

US acknowledges deployment of space weapons

Press Trust Of India

WASHINGTON: The United States has confirmed for the first time that it has deployed weapons in space. Air Force Secretary Troy Meink told the Air and Space Cyber Conference in Maryland on Monday that the US has fielded "on-orbit space control weapons capable of defending the joint Force against hostile adversary action."

Meink did not detail what the weapons were or how they work. In 2024 the US said Russia was developing a new



anti-satellite weapon that could be launched from space. At the time the White House said the danger wasn't imminent.

But reports of the anti-satellite weapon

reflected longstanding worries about space threats from Russia and China, given that much US infrastructure is dependent on satellite communications.

In his remarks,

Meink also said the Air Force was adding more autonomous systems to its capabilities and predicted the service would look "radically different" by 2032. For example, he foresaw

We have fielded on-orbit space control weapons capable of defending the joint Force against hostile adversary action.
Troy Meink
Air Force Secretary

one-way attack drones replacing artillery as the "primary killer." "We are increasing readiness against existing threats," he said. Trump created the Space Force in 2019.