Central Chronicle

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US Secy of State on 4-day India visit from today

Press Trust Of India

ROME: India and Italy on Tuesday decided to elevate their ties to special strategic partnership and enhance cooperation in areas of trade, investment and new technologies following talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Italian counterpart Giorgia Meloni.

"We deliberated extensively on enhancing India-Italy ties," PM Modi said in a joint press statement after talks with Meloni. Modi, who landed in Rome on Tuesday night on the final leg of his five-nation tour, was accorded a ceremonial military honour when he arrived for talks with Meloni.

Ahead of bilateral talks, PM Modi called on Italian President Sergio Mattarella and discussed different aspects relating to India-Italy friendship, including trade, investment and cultural linkages. They also discussed collaboration in areas such as AI, critical minerals, space and nuclear energy. Earlier, Modi said that his visit would



focus on ways to strengthen cooperation between India and Italy, with particular attention to the IMEC. In a social media post, he also said that the two sides will review the Joint Strategic Action Plan 2025-2029, a comprehensive road map for cooperation in various sectors.

Soon after PM Modi's arrival on Tuesday night, Meloni hosted him for dinner and accompanied him on a visit to the iconic Colosseum ahead of their formal talks aimed at further boosting India-Italy ties.

The two leaders have maintained close engagement in recent years, with Meloni also visiting India for the G20 Summit in 2023.

India and Italy have witnessed growing economic engagement in recent years, with bilateral trade reaching Euro 14.25 billion in 2025.

India's exports stood at Euro 8.55 billion, while Italian exports to India were recorded at Euro 5.70 billion in 2025, marking an increase of 9.42 per cent over 2024.

The two countries have set a target of annual bilateral trade of Euro 20 billion by 2029.

Italy is India's fourth-largest trading partner in the European Union and has identified India as one of the priority countries under its global trade strategy.

No 'heatwave' despite stifling temperatures in capital

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The spell of intense heat that prevailed over the capital this week showed little sign of relenting as the mercury logged above-normal temperatures on Friday, even as the weather office said no heatwave was recorded in the city. The India Meteorological Department (IMD), however, retained its alert for heatwave conditions in the capital till May 28.

It said parts of larger region comprising Punjab, Haryana and Delhi witnessed heatwave conditions on Friday, while temperatures in the capital hovered above 43 degrees Celsius.

Safdarjung, the city's base weather station, recorded a maximum of 43.3 degrees Celsius, 3.1 notches above normal and 0.3 degree lower than the previous day.

The minimum temperature settled at 29.3 degrees Celsius, 2.6 notches above normal and 2.6 degrees lower than the previous night.

For Saturday, the IMD has forecast a minimum temperature of 28 degrees Celsius and a maximum of 44 degrees Celsius, with an alert for heatwave conditions. "Till Thursday, winds were blowing from Rajasthan across the Thar Desert, making the air extremely dry and leading to a sharp spike in maximum temperatures.



Banda hottest at 46.4 deg C

LUCKNOW: The extreme heat in Uttar Pradesh showed no signs of abating on Friday, as several areas in the state recorded temperatures exceeding 45 degrees Celsius. The state capital, Lucknow, recorded a maximum temperature of 42.4 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 28.8 degrees Celsius, according to the meteorological department. Banda was the hottest city in the state, with temperatures rising to 46.4 degrees Celsius, which is 2.9 degrees above normal. Following Banda, Prayagraj recorded a high of 46.2 degrees Celsius, 4.9 degrees above normal.

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Security for Eid-ul-Azha reviewed

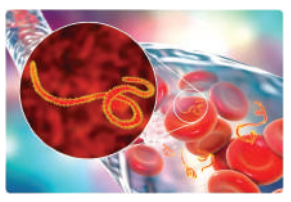
Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Kashmir Police chief VK Birdi on Friday reviewed security and logistical arrangements for the upcoming Eid-ul-Azha and the annual Amarnath yatra, a police spokesperson said. During a meeting at PCR Kashmir, district SSPs gave detailed presentations on security preparedness, deployment plans, traffic regulation, crowd management measures, and other logistical arrangements for Eid-ul-Azha celebrations and the annual Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY), the spokesperson said. Highlighting the significance of the Eid celebrations, Birdi, the Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir Zone, directed officers to implement robust crowd management measures at mosques.

No Ebola cases in India, says Karnataka Health Dept

Press Trust Of India

BENGALURU: In response to an Ebola outbreak in several African countries, the Karnataka Health Department on Friday advised individuals who have recently travelled to affected nations to undergo health monitoring and self-observation for 21 days after their return.



Clarifying that no Ebola cases have been reported in India at present, it said that, however, considering the volume of international travel and trade, the Health Department has undertaken precautionary preparedness measures. The WHO declared the ongoing outbreak of Ebola disease (ED) in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Uganda as a "Public Health Emergency of International Concern" (PHEIC) on May 17, 2026.

"The public is requested not to panic unnecessarily and to rely only on official information. Persons who have recently travelled to Ebola-affected countries should undergo health monitoring and self-observation for 21 days after returning to India," the department said in a release. Those with symptoms should immediately report to the nearest health facility, it said. Rapid Response Teams (RRTs) will undertake surveillance activities.

The State Health Department is continuously monitoring the situation and has taken all necessary precautionary and preparedness measures, it added. According to the department, Ebola is a severe viral disease that may cause symptoms such as fever, weakness, muscle pain, sore throat, headache, vomiting, diarrhoea, stomach pain, rash, and red eyes.

The disease spreads through direct contact with the blood, organs, or body fluids of infected persons, or through contaminated materials such as bedding, clothes, and syringes. It added that healthcare workers and family members or close contacts of infected individuals are at higher risk.



ITSA HOSPITALS

HEALTHCARE. HOSPITALITY. HARMONY.

Raipur



Govt must release white paper on fertilizer availability immediately.

Sushil Anand Shukla
PCC Communication Head

Three held for murder near WRS within 24 hours

Raipur Police arrested three accused within 24 hours for murdering youth Vishal Bagh.

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: In a swift breakthrough, the joint team of the Anti-Crime and Cyber Unit and Ganj Police Station arrested three accused–including two adults and one juvenile in conflict with the law–within 24 hours of registering an FIR in the murder case of Vishal Bagh alias Bittu.



The incident came to light on May 21, 2026, after police received information about a body lying near the Waltair Railway Line atop the WRS Underbridge under the jurisdiction of Ganj Police Station. Upon reaching the spot, police found the blood-stained body of Vishal Bagh, a resident of Jagriti Nagar under Khamtarai Police Station limits. Preliminary investigation indicated that the victim had been attacked with a sharp-edged weapon. Based on the evidence, police registered Crime No. 140/26 under Section 103(1) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) against unknown persons. Following directives from Deputy Commissioner of Police (Crime & Cyber) Smritik Rajnala and Deputy Commissioner of Police (Central Zone) Umesh Gupta, police launched an intensive investigation. Teams examined CCTV footage, questioned local residents, and activated informant networks. During the probe, police identified Kunal Deep and his associates as the last persons seen with the deceased. Kunal Deep was detained and, during interrogation, confessed to committing the murder along with Arvind Bagh alias Aashi and a juvenile accomplice due to an old rivalry with the victim. Police arrested all three accused and seized the knife used in the murder along with three mobile phones linked to the crime. Additional charges under Section 3(5) of the BNS and Sections 25 and 27 of the Arms Act have been added. Further investigation is underway.

FACTFILE

- Knife, mobile phones seized; juvenile among accused arrested in murder case.

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

8.122 KILOGRAMS GANJA SEIZED

Ganja worth Rs 4 lakh seized, 2 Rajasthan men arrested



RAIPUR: Under its ongoing 'Zero Tolerance' policy against narcotics, the Raipur Police Commissionerate achieved a major success by arresting two inter-state accused from Rajasthan with a huge quantity of illegal ganja near Bhathagaon Bus Stand on May 21, 2026. Police recovered 8.122 kilograms of banned narcotic substance valued at approximately Rs 4 lakh from their possession.

Acting on the directions of Deputy Commissioner of Police (West) Sandeep Kumar Patel, intensive action is being carried out across the city to curb the illegal trade of narcotic substances. The operation was conducted under the supervision of Additional DCP (West Zone) Rahul Dev Sharma and ACP (New Rajendra Nagar) Navneet Patil. According to police officials, a joint team from Tikrapara Police Station led by Acting Station In-charge Sub-Inspector Baleshwar Lahre and Assistant Sub-Inspector Umashankar Verma received information from an informant regarding two suspects attempting to sell ganja near the Sulabh Shauchalaya at Bhathagaon Bus Stand. Acting swiftly, the police team cordoned off the area and detained two individuals matching the description provided by the informant. During the search operation, officers recovered ganja in varying quantities totaling 8.122 kilograms. The arrested accused were identified as Dilsher Khan (39), son of Abdul Salam Khan, and Qasim Ali (27), son of Shaukat Ali, both residents of District Tonk, Rajasthan. Police registered a case against the accused at Tikrapara Police Station under Crime No. 442/2026, Section 20(b) of the NDPS Act. Both accused were arrested and later remanded to judicial custody. Police officials stated that the Tikrapara police team played a crucial role in successfully executing the operation.

PWD mandates HQ residency for officials

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: In a bid to accelerate infrastructure development and ensure rigorous project monitoring, the Public Works Department (PWD) has issued strict directives requiring all officials–from Sub-Divisional Officers (SDOs) to the Engineer-in-Chief (ENC)–to reside at their respective headquarters. This decision aims to guarantee the high quality and timely completion



of ongoing projects, while facilitating the immediate commencement of newly approved works.

Simultaneously, PWD Secretary Mukesh Kumar Bansal has introduced a streamlined financial mechanism to support construction agencies and contractors. Moving away from the traditional, delayed system of processing individual, bill-by-bill claims, the department will now ensure payments are cleared on a monthly basis based on executed work. To ensure uninterrupted cash flow and eliminate bureaucratic bottlenecks, Secretary Bansal has instructed the Engineer-in-Chief to pre-allocate required funds to the respective Executive Engineers for a three-month period.

Married couple consumes poison

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: A tragic incident has emerged from Abhanpur, near the state capital, where a married man and a married woman consumed poison after their alleged extramarital affair was exposed. The woman died on the spot, while the man remains in critical condition at a hospital. The deceased has been identified as 38-year-old Sharda Bharti, and the man has been identified



as 45-year-old Shiv Kumar Kurre. According to local sources, both individuals were married to different people but were involved in a romantic relationship. It is suspected that the duo planned the drastic step out of distress and social anxiety after their relationship became public knowledge.

TRAGEDY STRIKES

Tragedy strikes Raipur Jeweller: second suicide in family within a year



RAIPUR: In a heartbreaking turn of events, a prominent local jewelry merchant, Prawal Soni, allegedly committed suicide by hanging at his residence in the Sadar Bazaar area. This tragedy comes exactly one year after his wife, Sona Soni, took her own life following the suspicious death of their 12-year-old son. Upon receiving the information, Raipur Police rushed to the scene, registered a case of unnatural death, and recovered a suicide note. Preliminary investigations suggest that Prawal had been battling severe depression, trauma, and loneliness since losing his family members. The family's downward spiral began last year when their younger son unexpectedly passed away due to sudden health complications, initially suspected to be food poisoning. Traumatized by the loss, Sona Soni hanged herself days later, leaving a note stating she was "going to be with" her son. While her maternal family raised allegations of domestic abuse and suspected occult influences at the time, official investigations pointed to suicide. Now, a year later, the merchant's death has reopened old wounds. Investigators believe overwhelming grief drove Prawal to take the drastic step. The police have launched a comprehensive investigation to uncover the exact circumstances surrounding the tragedy.

Exam date clash sparks anxiety

RAIPUR: A major scheduling conflict between two crucial examinations has left hundreds of aspirants in Chhattisgarh facing severe mental distress. The D.El.Ed (Diploma in Elementary Education) Second Year Examination and the CGPSC State Service Main Examination are set to overlap, making it logistically impossible for candidates to appear for both. According to the schedules, the Chhattisgarh Board of Secondary Education (CGBSE) has slated the D.El.Ed exam for June 8, 2026. Concurrently, the CGPSC Main Examination is scheduled to take place from June 6 to June 9, 2026. Aspirants emphasize that both exams are pivotal for their careers.

| TOYOTA POWERPLAY LEAGUE |

Toyota Powerplay League promotes youth fitness, sportsmanship

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: Promoting fitness, teamwork and sportsmanship among the youth, Toyota Kirloskar Motor, in association with its authorised Raipur dealers Toyota Kirloskar Motor, Kaizen Toyota and Patni Toyota, successfully organised the 'Toyota Powerplay League' cricket tournament in the capital city. The knock-out-format tournament was held on May 17 and witnessed enthusiastic participation from eight teams representing leading gyms across Raipur. After a series of competitive matches, Cycas Fitness GE Road emerged as the champion and lifted the trophy.



The tournament was aimed at encouraging young people to adopt an active and healthy lifestyle by combining sports with fitness. Organisers said the initiative was designed to motivate youth to engage more in outdoor activities and sports in today's increasingly digital environment. The event provided fitness enthusiasts an opportunity to showcase teamwork, discipline and sporting spirit beyond gym spaces.

A major attraction during the tournament was the display of the Toyota Urban Cruiser Hyryder, Toyota's popular hybrid SUV. The vehicle drew attention from participants and visitors for its stylish design, fuel efficiency and advanced hybrid technology. Officials highlighted that the SUV reflects the smart, energetic and sustainable lifestyle preferred by modern youth. Senior officials, including Randhir Khichariya, General Manager of Kaizen Toyota, and Vishal Sharma, General Manager of Patni Toyota, remained present throughout the event to encourage participants. Representatives from both dealerships felicitated the winning team during the prize distribution ceremony, making the event a successful blend of sports, youth engagement and corporate social responsibility.

ONLINE SALES OF VACANT HOUSING

Nava Raipur Housing Scheme opens online sales to all income groups



RAIPUR: In a historic move to accelerate urban settlement and protect public assets, the Chhattisgarh Housing Board has dramatically simplified rules for the Chief Minister Housing Scheme in Nava Raipur. Residential units (flats) in Sectors 16, 30, and 34–originally built for EWS and LIG categories–are now available for purchase by individuals of all income groups, as well as public and private institutions.

Launched in 2015, the scheme faced massive setbacks when 3,335 beneficiaries cancelled their allotments by December 2025. This severely depleted the Board's financial resources and left over 500 units vacant, raising risks of vandalism. To counter this, the Council of Ministers decided that units remaining unsold after three rounds of advertisements can be sold to any income group or institution on a "First-Come, First-Served" basis through an impartial online process. Under the revised guidelines, institutions like the Mayfair Hotel Group, Health Department, and GST Department can make bulk purchases for employee housing. However, buyers outside the EWS and LIG categories will not receive government subsidies, and no structural alterations to the multi-storied flats will be permitted. Crucially, this decision will not impact the rights of the original eligible beneficiaries.

| WITH GRAND CELEBRATIONS |

Agriculture College marks 66th Foundation Day

Central Chronicle News

College of Agriculture celebrates glorious legacy with alumni, students and faculty.

RAIPUR: The historic College of Agriculture Raipur celebrated its 66th Foundation Day with grandeur and enthusiasm on Thursday, bringing together former deans, distinguished alumni, professors, administrative officials, and current students under one roof. The occasion also featured the Annual Day celebrations, Student Union oath-taking ceremony, and a special felicitation program honoring eminent alumni and former faculty members. The event was held at the Kisan Auditorium of Indira Gandhi Agricultural University, where Vice-Chancellor Dr. Girish Chandel attended as the chief guest. Addressing the gathering, Dr. Chandel highlighted the university's remarkable contribution to agricultural education, research, and extension services following the formation of Chhattisgarh. He described the College of Agriculture, Raipur, as a historic institution that has produced outstanding agricultural experts and administrators for the state and the nation. During the ceremony, newly elected Student Union office-bearers took the oath of office, integrity, and discipline. Punyashree from the M.Sc. Agricultural Statistics Department assumed office as President, while Anushka Chaurasia, a fourth-year B.Sc. student, took oath as Vice-President. In her welcome address, Dean Dr. Aarti Guhe highlighted the institution's glorious 66-year journey and achievements, describing the college as a strong tradition nurturing agricultural leadership.



FACTFILE

- Former deans, distinguished alumni and students honored during colorful cultural celebrations.

WATER CONSERVATION INITIATIVE

HDB Financial Services enables sustainable irrigation project to transform farming



RAIPUR: HDB Financial Services, in partnership with Watershed Organisation Trust (WOTR), has implemented a community-led water conservation initiative in Korba district, helping farming households in Pondikala and Sirri villages gain access to reliable irrigation throughout the year. The project includes the installation of two check dams, five community wells, and a solar-powered river lift irrigation system, bringing assured water access to 108 acres of farmland and directly benefiting 87 farming households. The intervention has helped address long-standing challenges of rain-fed agriculture, where limited irrigation previously restricted cultivation to a single crop season. With improved water availability, farmers in the region are now able to cultivate multiple crops across seasons, resulting in enhanced agricultural productivity, improved household incomes, and reduced dependence on seasonal migration for livelihood. The initiative also promotes sustainable natural resource management through the adoption of solar-powered irrigation and community-driven water budgeting practices, enabling efficient water use while reducing dependence on conventional fuel-based systems.

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Fastest Growing English Daily Of Chhattisgarh

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HC allows 2nd autopsy on Twisha Sharma by AIIMS team

The MP government has recommended a CBI investigation.

Press Trust Of India

HC notice to mother-in-law on pleas seeking bail cancellation.

JABALPUR/BHOPAL: The high-profile Twisha Sharma dowry death case saw fast-paced developments on Friday with police taking custody of her husband who was on the run for more than a week, and the Madhya Pradesh High Court ordering a second autopsy by a specialised AIIMS Delhi team as requested by her family.

The High Court also issued a notice to



Twisha's mother-in-law Giribala Singh, a former district judge, over pleas for cancellation of her bail over non-cooperation with the police.

Samarth Singh, Twisha's absconding lawyer husband, withdrew his anticipatory bail application filed in the High Court earlier in the day, and appeared at the Jabalpur district court in the evening to surrender. A team of Bhopal police took him in their custody and left with him for the state capital, his lawyers said.

Hearing a petition filed by Twisha's family, a single-bench of the High Court asked the state government to make immediate arrangements for flying a specialised team of doctors from All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Delhi, to Bhopal for the second autopsy, advocate Akur Pandey, the family's lawyer told PTI. In a related development, the Madhya Pradesh home department issued a notification stating that it has proposed to transfer the investigation of the case to the CBI.

Samarth Singh on Friday withdrew his anticipatory bail application filed in the High Court, said his lawyer Jaydeep Kaurav. With the withdrawal of the application, Singh was left with no other option but to surrender.

He had filed the anticipatory bail application after a lower court turned down his plea last week.

CBI probe recommended

The Madhya Pradesh government on Friday proposed to transfer the case involving Twisha Sharma, the Noida woman who was allegedly harassed for dowry and died last week, to the Central Bureau of Investigation, officials said. In a notification, the state government said "it proposes to transfer this (Twisha case) to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for a probe".

Businessman held after BJP leader accuses him of rape, extortion and cheating

Press Trust Of India

BILASPUR: A BJP leader in Chhattisgarh's Bilaspur district has accused a Ranchi-based businessman of raping and cheating her after allegedly inducing her to invest more than Rs 1.5 crore in a mining business, police said on Friday.

The accused, identified as Sanjay Singh, was arrested from Ranchi in neighbouring Jharkhand and brought here during the day, Bilaspur Senior Superintendent of Police Rajnesh Singh said.

An FIR was registered against him at Civil Lines police station here on May 14 on charges of rape, extortion and cheating, among others, following a complaint lodged by the woman BJP leader, the SSP said. Mobile chats, call records, financial transactions and other documents related to the case are being thoroughly examined as part of the investigation, the official added. According to the complaint, the woman had met Sanjay Singh, a resident of Ranchi and businessman, in Delhi around two years ago.

He allegedly introduced himself as a prominent industrialist and lured her into investing in a mining business by promising huge profits, police said quoting the complaint.

The accused later allegedly persuaded her to invest more than Rs 1.5 crore by offering partnership in the business and assurances of double returns.

Please ensure 8 page special health supplement with this edition

NEWSLINE

JERUSALEM

Online Yoga sessions for Indian workers

The Indian Cultural Centre in Israel has launched an online Yoga and mental wellness programme for workers and caregivers, the Indian Embassy said on Friday. "Embassy of India, in collaboration with the Ministry of AYUSH and the Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga, launched an online Yoga and Mental Wellness programme today for Indian workers/caregivers in Israel", the Embassy said in a social media post.

'Cockroach Party' launches campaign seeking Pradhan's resignation

Press Trust Of India

CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke urged followers to support an online petition demanding Pradhan's resignation.

NEW DELHI: Back with the tagline "Cockroaches Never Die" after its original X handle was withheld in India, the "Cockroach Janata Party" (CJP), a satirical social-media account, launched a campaign on Friday demanding the resignation of Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan.

The campaign, spearheaded through CJP's new X handle -- "Cockroach Is Back" -- and its Instagram platform, centres on alleged systemic failures in the education sector, particularly concerns surrounding the NEET-UG 2026 "paper-leak" controversy.



"How are you cockroaches? Everyone is saying you are doing great on the internet, but I think now it is time to do some real work. Today, we are starting a petition demanding the resignation of the education minister," Dipke said in a video message.

Calling for accountability, he said failures in the education system have adversely affected students. "It is time now to make the system accountable. It was the fault of the system that over 22 lakh students' future was impacted, it was the fault of the system that NEET students committed suicide. Whatever happens, Dharmendra Pradhan will have to resign," he said.

Dipke also claimed to have received threats amid the campaign against Pradhan, posting on social media: "Receiving death threats now."

Two minor siblings drown

JANJGIR (CG): Two minor sisters drowned while playing in a pond in a village in Chhattisgarh's Janjgir-Champa district, police said on Friday. The incident occurred in Arjuni village in the Akaltara area on Thursday when the children ventured into the pond with their grandmother, an official said. While their grandmother was washing clothes on the bank, the girls, Muskan (9) and Shruti Ratre (8), gradually moved towards the deeper ends of the pond while playing and drowned, he said. Unable to spot the children, the grandmother raised an alarm, following which villagers launched a search and pulled the girls out, the official said.

| HUMAN TRAFFICKING |

Register FIR in missing cases immediately: Apex Court

Press Trust Of India

The court said whenever a child goes missing, authorities should proceed on the presumption of kidnapping or abduction from the outset.

NEW DELHI: Noting that 47,000 children remain untraced in India as on date, the Supreme Court on Friday directed police authorities across the country to immediately register FIRs in cases of missing persons and said the anti-human trafficking units should be made fully functional within four weeks.



Issuing a slew of directions, a bench of Justices Ahsanuddin Amanullah and R Mahadevan expressed displeasure over the rise in the number of cases of missing children and said they are often victims of organised interstate trafficking syndicates.

"The Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, is directed to put in place an all-India grid connecting each and every police station in the country on one platform, which will have a special portal dedicated to human trafficking, including missing children and women.

"The concerned police stations are directed to immediately institute FIR the moment any information reaches them with regard to any person missing, without waiting for a preliminary inquiry or leaving it to the guardians of the missing persons.... The said FIR shall mandatorily incorporate the relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, relating to kidnapping/trafficking," the bench said.

NEWSLINE

LAKHIMPUR KHERI

After spate of attacks, male leopard trapped

After frequent animal attacks in the area, forest officials on Friday captured a male leopard in the buffer zone of the Dudhwa National Park, a senior official said.

The sub-divisional officer (SDO) of the Nighasan buffer zone told PTI that three human casualties have been reported in the area since March 25, with reports of frequent leopard movements at Sindhauna, Nayapurwa and Sahijana villages in Lakhimpur Kheri district.

To put a check on big cat movement in the villages, forest officials set up camera traps and cages in the area and intensified patrolling, the SDO said.

Hot summer day in Delhi



People cover themselves due to scorching heat during summer season, in New Delhi, Friday. | Photo PTI

2 Indians die while descending from Everest summit

Press Trust Of India

KATHMANDU: Two Indian mountaineers who summited Everest have died while descending, an official said on Friday.

The climbers, identified as Arun Kumar Tiwari and Sandeep Are, were exhausted while they were coming down from the peak and could not be saved despite the best efforts of their guides, said Rishi Bhandari, secretary general of the Expedition Operators Association of Nepal.

It appears that Are summited on Wednesday and Tiwari on Thursday around 5.30 pm, Bhandari told PTI.

The guides 'worked really hard' but were not able to save them, he said.

Are died on Thursday and it is not clear when Tiwari passed away.

On Wednesday, three Indians, including Are, were part of 274 climbers who summited the 8,848.86-metre peak. It was a new record for the highest number of ascents ever recorded in a day. The other two were Tulasi Reddi Palpunoori and Ajay Pal Singh Dhaliwal.

The following day, on Thursday, India's Lakshmikanta Mandal also reached the world's highest peak.



| CLASS-12 ANSWER SHEETS |

CBSE pushes deadline to obtain scanned copies to May 24

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The CBSE has extended the last date for obtaining scanned copies of the Class-12 board exam answer books till May 24, citing unprecedented traffic on its website and attempts of unauthorised interference.

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) had earlier extended the deadline from May 22 to May 23 amid complaints from students over difficulties in accessing scanned copies of the answer books through the portal.

"The CBSE website has been facing unprecedent traffic since the past few days and has also faced several attempts of unauthorised interference, which has made it prone to disruptions," the board said in a circular issued on Friday. "In an attempt to ensure that no student is left behind, the Board is extending the last date for obtaining scanned photocopy of answer book of Class XII Board Examinations," the circular added. The CBSE also said students will get up to two days after receiving the scanned copy of their answer book to apply for the next step for verification of marks or re-evaluation. "Candidates are advised to make use of the extended timeline and apply accordingly. All terms and conditions mentioned earlier remain the same," it added.

Flash floods triggered by downpour wreak havoc

Press Trust Of India

ITANAGAR: Flash floods triggered by heavy rainfall wreaked havoc in Arunachal Pradesh's Upper Subansiri district, washing away crucial bridges, damaging houses, and disrupting connectivity in several villages, officials said on Friday. The District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) has issued an advisory, urging people to refrain from venturing into rivers for fishing and other activities amid forecasts for more downpour. Among the bridges washed away were the RCC bridge at Nyo Koro near Ningping village and Longte.

Bilaspur



"The Sushasan Tihar camps in my constituency have got huge response from villagers."

Dharamjit Singh
MLA, Takhatpur

Kaushik urges villagers to avail Sushasan Tihar

Citizens received government scheme benefits and grievance solutions during Su-Shasan Tihar camp organised successfully at Bilha town.



Central Chronicle News

BILASPUR: A large number of residents participated in the Sushasan Tihar camp organised at the Mandi premises of Bilha Nagar Panchayat, where citizens received benefits of several government welfare schemes and assistance for resolving public grievances. The camp was conducted under the chief guestship of Dharamlal Kaushik in the presence of Additional Chief Secretary and district in-charge secretary Manoj Pingua.

During the programme, a total of 102 applications related to various public issues and welfare schemes were received from citizens. MLA Dharamlal Kaushik administered a cleanliness pledge to all those present at the camp and urged people to maintain hygiene and support cleanliness drives in their surroundings. Addressing the gathering, MLA Dharam Lal Kaushik said, Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai had directed officials to ensure governance reaches every village through Sushasan Tihar. He stated that the government's priority was to provide benefits of welfare schemes to every eligible person and ensure that no needy beneficiary remains deprived of assistance.

Chairman of CREDA Bhupendra Savanni said, Sushasan Tihar had become an effective platform for delivering public welfare schemes to the last person in society.

HIGHLIGHT

- More than hundred applications were received during Bilha Su-Shasan Tihar camp proceedings.
- Beneficiaries received ration cards, Ayushman cards and ownership certificates during camp activities.

Beneficiaries given ration cards

During the camp, five beneficiaries received ration cards, two received labour cards and two beneficiaries obtained assistance under women and child development schemes. Three women participated in traditional god bharai ceremonies, while 27 beneficiaries received Ayushman cards. Three people received Swamitva scheme pattas and 62 citizens underwent health check-ups.

Consumer body demands reform in MRP

BILASPUR: Akhil Bharatiya Grahak Panchayat has submitted memorandums to the administration and public representatives demanding reforms in the Maximum Retail Price (MRP) policy for medicines and consumer products. The organisation alleged that MRP rates printed on several medicines and products are arbitrarily fixed and often have no relation to actual production cost, transport expenses or reasonable profit margins. According to the memorandum, in many cases MRPs are marked 200 to 1000 percent higher than actual costs, placing a heavy burden on patients, middle-class families and senior citizens. The organisation demanded that the central government introduce a new pricing policy making it mandatory to disclose production cost and first sale price while also enacting a law to fix an upper limit for MRP determination. As part of a nationwide awareness campaign, memorandums were submitted to Amar Agrawal, Union Minister Tokhan Sahu and the Bilaspur collector. The organisation also announced plans to submit memorandums to minister Arun Sao, MLA Sushant Shukla and MLA Dharamjeet Singh.

Officials trained for CM Helpline service



Press Trust Of India

District officials received detailed training regarding upcoming Chief Minister Helpline grievance redressal service.

BILASPUR: A one-day training programme for district-level officials regarding the functioning of the upcoming Chief Minister Helpline service was organised at the prayer hall of the Water Resources Department complex on Friday. The training aimed to ensure effective implementation and smooth operation of the citizen grievance redressal system being launched by the state government.

District-level officers from various departments attended the programme, while Janpad-level officials participated through online mode. The training session was conducted in the presence of Collector Sanjay Agrawal, Chief Executive Officer of District Panchayat Sandeep Agrawal and Additional Collector Shiv Kumar Banerjee. Officials were informed that the service is currently operating in testing mode and will soon be formally launched for the public by Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai. Trainers emphasised that feedback from complainants would play a crucial role in evaluating the effectiveness of the system. Collector Sanjay Agrawal said the Chief Minister Helpline is an important public welfare initiative.

HIGHLIGHT

- Collector instructed officers to resolve complaints with sensitivity, responsibility and transparency consistently..

NEWSLINE

WASTAGE

Leaking tap causes water wastage

BILASPUR: Thousands of litres of drinking water are reportedly being wasted daily in Ward No. 68, Satnami Para of Chhoti Koni, even as several parts of Bilaspur continue to face severe water shortage during the summer season.

Local residents blamed alleged negligence by the municipal corporation for the ongoing problem.

According to residents, a public water tap installed on the main road has remained damaged for a long period. During morning and evening supply hours, water continuously leaks from the broken tap and spreads across the road and nearby pits.

Residents said temporary efforts were made to stop the leakage using cloth and plastic coverings, but the measures failed to provide a permanent solution.

PROTEST

NSUI protests against NEET paper leak

BILASPUR: Members of the National Students' Union of India staged a protest in Bilaspur against the alleged NEET-UG paper leak and demanded immediate dissolution of the National Testing Agency, accusing it of failing to conduct fair examinations. Led by district president Ranjeet Singh, NSUI workers submitted a memorandum addressed to the President of India through Bilaspur Collector Sanjay Agrawal. Protesters raised slogans against the central government, the Union education ministry and the examination agency while demanding transparency and accountability in the examination process.

NSUI leaders alleged that repeated incidents of paper leaks during recent years have weakened students' confidence in the education system and created uncertainty regarding their future. They said students require a secure, transparent and fair examination process.

REVIEW

Secretary to review devp works

BILASPUR: Sangeeta R., Secretary of the Urban Administration and Development Department, will visit Bilaspur to review ongoing development projects and civic works in the city. During the visit, she will inspect various municipal corporation projects on-site and assess the progress of major infrastructure and urban development works. A review meeting will also be held with officials to evaluate projects being implemented by both the municipal corporation and the state government. According to officials, the review agenda will include projects under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana and several other major urban development initiatives being executed in the city.

500 housing lease forms rejected in Lingiyadih

Press Trust Of India

Hundreds of Lingiyadih residents expressed anger after housing lease applications were rejected recently.

BILASPUR: More than 500 applications seeking residential land leases submitted during the Su-Shasan Tihar camp in Lingiyadih have been declared invalid by the municipal corporation, leading to strong resentment among local residents. The camp was organised on May 11 in wards 47, 48 and 52, where a large number of people applied for housing pattas under the Rajiv Gandhi Aashray Yojana.

Residents said obtaining legal housing rights remained their biggest concern, even more important than civic issues such as drinking water, electricity supply, roads and sanitation facilities. However, applicants alleged that instead of properly examining their requests based on eligibility, the municipal corporation issued notices stating that no action could be taken because there were no directives from higher authorities regarding extension of time for depositing premium amounts under the scheme.

Many residents questioned why applications were accepted during the Su-Shasan Tihar programme if authorities had no intention of processing them. People claimed the administration created expectations among poor families and later invalidated applications without proper scrutiny or hearings.

Youth drowns in pond while taking bath in Chakarbhatha

BILASPUR: A 20-year-old youth died after drowning in a pond under the Chakrabhatha police station area, police said.

According to Bhavesh Shende, station house officer of Chakrabhatha Police Station, the deceased was identified as Hemant Kaushik, a resident of Amsena-Chhatauna village.

He had gone to a pond near Bodri along with three friends for bathing.

During bathing, Hemant reportedly moved into deep water and started drowning. His friends attempted to rescue him but failed. After receiving information, police reached the spot, recovered the body and initiated panchnama proceedings.

A case has been registered and further investigation is underway.

| TOP- ANTI-TERRORISM DAY |

Govt officials take pledge against terrorism, violence

Press Trust Of India

District officials pledged commitment towards peace, unity and oppos ition against terrorism during programme.



BILASPUR: On the occasion of Anti-Terrorism Day, officers and employees at the district office premises took a pledge opposing terrorism and violence while reaffirming their commitment towards maintaining national unity, integrity and peace. The programme was organised at the district office campus on Wednesday to spread awareness against terrorism and promote democratic values among government officials and employees.

During the event, Additional District Magistrate Shiv Kumar Banerjee administered the anti-terrorism pledge to officers and staff members present at the programme. The pledge stated that terrorism is one of the greatest threats to humanity and every citizen has the responsibility to stay away from violence and extremism while strengthening peace, harmony and national unity.

Officials participating in the ceremony expressed their faith in democratic principles and constitutional values. They resolved to oppose all forms of terrorist and disruptive activities and actively contribute towards maintaining brotherhood, communal harmony and social peace in society. Speakers during the programme highlighted that awareness and public participation are essential in preventing extremism and strengthening national security.

HIGHLIGHT

- Authorities described terrorism as humanity's greatest threat requiring collective resistance and awareness efforts.

| AWARENESS CAMPAIGN |

Bio-Diversity Day held in Bharat Mata School

Central Chronicle News

BIALSPUR: The Eco Club of Bharat Mata English Medium School celebrated the International Day for Biological Diversity on May 22 with a special awareness campaign focusing on conservation of urban biodiversity. The programme aimed to spread awareness about the importance of protecting plants, animals, microorganisms and ecosystems that play a vital role in maintaining ecological balance. The campaign also highlighted environmental threats caused by pollution, deforestation, climate change and excessive exploitation of natural resources. The programme was conducted under the guidance of the Chhattisgarh Environment Conservation Board. School principal Father Saleen P. and teachers congratulated students for their efforts towards environmental awareness and conservation activities in Bilaspur. Observed globally every year, the International Day for Biological Diversity promotes understanding about environmental conservation and sustainable development. This year's theme, "Acting Locally for Global Impact," emphasised the role of local communities and initiatives in preventing biodiversity loss and protecting natural resources. Keeping the theme in focus, students associated with the school's Eco Club carried out a month-long study on Bilaspur's urban biodiversity from April 22 to May 22.



"The students joined Biodiversity Awareness Campaign under Eco Club.

Father Saleen P
principal

Acute water crisis irks Ganesh Nagar residents

TAKHATPUR: Residents of Ganesh Nagar in the Nayapara area are facing an acute drinking water crisis as rising summer temperatures continue to worsen conditions in the locality. Irregular and inadequate water supply over the past several days has disrupted daily life and forced residents to struggle for basic household needs.

Women and elderly residents were seen standing with buckets, utensils and containers for long hours in the hope of receiving water. Locals said the shortage has created serious inconvenience for families, especially during the peak summer season when demand for water has increased significantly.



Contribute to the development of the nation and society; if you possess the passion to do something for others, this sentiment will endure for a lifetime.

Jitendra Yadav
Collector Rajnandgaon



Bilaspur Region

'CM directs to solve drinking water issues'

CM Sai listens to villagers' concerns at Kushaha Gram Chaupal.

Central Chronicle News



KOREA: Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai held an interactive meeting with villagers during his surprise visit to Kushaha village in Sonhat block of Koriya district under the 'Sushasan Tihar' initiative on May 21.

During the chaupal, held under the shade of mango and peepal trees, the Chief Minister interacted warmly with the villagers and listened to their concerns about basic public services and development needs.

During the interaction, villagers offered local seasonal fruits, including tendu, satalu, char, and litchi, to the Chief Minister. Shri Sai appreciated the region's rich rural traditions and local culture.

The Chief Minister sought detailed information from villagers regarding the availability of electricity, drinking water, education, ration distribution, housing facilities, and roads.

Villagers informed the Chief Minister about difficulties related to drinking water supply and weak mobile network connectivity in the area. Taking immediate note of the concerns, CM Shri Sai directed the concerned officials to take prompt action and stated that initiatives would soon be undertaken to install mobile towers in the region.

The Chief Minister also gathered information on teachers' regular attendance in schools, the availability of doctors and staff at health centres, the implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, benefits under the Mahtari Vandan Yojana, and the public distribution system. Villagers informed him that they are receiving ration supplies and tendupatta collection payments on time. During the chaupal, villagers also demanded the construction of roads and culverts under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana. They requested the opening of a higher secondary school in the village.

CM flags off 'Kamayabi Van'

KOREA: CM Sai on Thursday flagged off the 'Kamayabi Van' during a Chaupal organised in Kushha village of Sonhat development block in Korea district under Sushasan Tihar. The initiative, being implemented under the NITI Aayog-funded 'Mission Kamayabi', aims to bring modern digital education and technology-enabled learning opportunities to students in remote and rural areas, leading to improved quality of education and enhanced learning experiences.

Online exam dates for Army recruitment announced

KORBA: The Army Recruitment Office, Raipur, has announced the dates for the Online Common Entrance Exam (CEE) for recruitment into the Indian Army for the year 2027. The online examination for various categories is scheduled to be held from June 1, 2026, to June 5, 2026, and again from June 8, 2026, to June 12, 2026. The exams will be conducted across 10 centers located in five designated cities: Bhilai, Durg, Raipur, Bilaspur, and Jagdalpur.

Admn brings relief to villagers amidst scorching heat

MCB: Amidst the scorching heat and continuously rising temperatures prevailing in the district, the drinking water crisis in rural areas has begun to deepen. In this critical situation, the District Administration and the Public Health Engineering (PHE) Department appear to be actively engaged in providing relief to the general public. In several villages—including Shivpur Gram Panchayat within the Manendragarh Development Block—the inspection, repair, and restoration of defunct handpumps are being carried out at an accelerated pace, providing significant relief to the villagers.

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

ORIENTATION PROG

Orientation, awareness prog on non-communicable diseases conclude



KORBA: Under the guidance of Collector Kunal Dudawat and the leadership of Chief Medical and Health Officer Dr. SN Keshari, a special orientation and awareness program regarding non-communicable diseases was organized for various community leaders at the District Panchayat Auditorium. This initiative was conducted through the collaborative efforts of the Korba Health Department, UNICEF Chhattisgarh, and the MCCR Trust. The objective of this camp was to enhance awareness at the community level regarding Sickle Cell Disease, Childhood Diabetes, Congenital Heart Disease, and Maternal and Child Health services, as well as to empower the role of community leadership. Approximately 40 community leaders and local representatives from various villages actively participated in this program. During the session, participants were provided with detailed information regarding the early detection of non-communicable diseases in children, the importance of timely screening and treatment, and the significance of referral services.

HEALTH CAMP

Free health camp for screening of Type-1 Diabetes

KORBA: Under the guidance of Collector Kunal Dudawat and the leadership of Chief Medical and Health Officer Dr. S.N. Keshari, a special health screening and awareness camp focusing on non-communicable diseases was organized at the Community Health Centre, Katghora. This initiative was undertaken through the collaborative efforts of the Health Department of Korba, UNICEF Chhattisgarh, and the MCCR Trust.

The objective of the program was to promote the early identification, timely diagnosis, and referral of serious health issues at the community level, as well as to enhance health awareness among the public. During this camp, 97 individuals underwent health screenings, resulting in the identification of 2 patients with Sickle Cell Disease and 15 carriers of the trait. Participants were provided with medical consultations, preliminary examinations, health education, and referral services as deemed necessary.

The camp specifically focused on raising community awareness regarding the importance of addressing Sickle Cell Disease, Childhood Diabetes (Type-1 Diabetes), Congenital Heart Disease (CHD), Maternal and Child Health, complete immunization, and regular health check-ups.

URBAN BODY POLL

Public, general holiday declared for relevant constituencies in Korba

KORBA: According to the schedule issued by the Chhattisgarh State Election Commission, the voting process for the Urban Local Body and Three-Tier Panchayat By-elections–2026 is to be conducted in Korba district. To ensure the smooth conduct of voting and to facilitate voters in exercising their franchise in the areas of the district where by-elections are scheduled, Collector and District Election Officer Kunal Dudawat has issued a significant order. Under the issued order, a public and general holiday has been declared for the relevant constituencies within the district on the day of voting–namely, Monday, June 1, 2026. This order has been issued by the District Administration in exercise of the powers conferred by various notifications of the General Administration Department (Ministry) of the Government of Chhattisgarh and the Ministry of Home Affairs of the Government of India, as well as the Explanation to Section 25 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881. Providing details regarding the areas falling under the purview of these by-elections, it has been stated that by-elections are to be held for a total of 35 vacant posts across urban local bodies and rural areas.

VB-G RAM-G to be effective in rural area from July 1

MUNGELI: Taking a significant step towards rural development and employment generation, the Central Government has announced the implementation of the "Viksit Bharat Guarantee for Employment and Livelihood Mission (Rural) Act, 2025" (VB-G-RAMJI) across rural areas nationwide, effective from July 1, 2026. Following the implementation of this new framework, this novel Act will supersede the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) of 2005. Under this new scheme, every eligible rural household will now be provided with a statutory guarantee of 125 days of employment within a financial year–an increase from the previous limit of 100 days. The objective of the scheme extends beyond merely providing wage-based employment; it also aims to facilitate the creation of durable assets.

| RAPID EMERGENCY SERVICES |

Initiative is to further bolster the security infrastructure: Mohle

Central Chronicle News

MLA Mohle flagged off ERV in Mungeli under the Central Govt's ambitious 'Emergency Response Support System' scheme.



MUNGELI: The district has received a significant gift under the Central Government's ambitious 'Emergency Response Support System' scheme. With the objective of further strengthening the district's law and order, disaster management, and rapid emergency services, the district has received seven state-of-the-art 'Dial CG 112' emergency vehicles. These vehicles were flagged off by MLA Punnulal Mohle during a ceremony held at the 'Jan Darshan' auditorium located within the District Collectorate premises.

It is noteworthy that on May 18, 400 emergency vehicles for the entire state were flagged off by Union Home Minister Amit Shah during a program held in Raipur. Continuing this initiative, the district has now received seven new modern vehicles, which will be deployed across various police stations and sensitive areas within the district. Dignitaries present at the event included District Panchayat President Shrikant Pandey and other public representatives, Collector Kundan Kumar, Senior Superintendent of Police Bhojram Patel, Divisional Forest Officer Abhinav Kumar, the District Panchayat CEO, Additional Superintendent of Police Navneet Kaur Chhabra, Deputy Superintendent of Police Harvinder Singh, Municipal Council President Rohit Shukla, District President Dinanath Kesharwani, and former Municipal Council President Shailesh Pathak.

Speaking on the occasion, MLA Mohle stated that this initiative by the Central Government is set to further bolster the security infrastructure. He noted that, through these vehicles, citizens will receive prompt assistance in the event of accidents, crimes, or any other emergency situation. The MLA described this initiative as a crucial step toward strengthening both security and the system for providing rapid assistance. He extended his congratulations and best wishes to the residents of the district.

Collector Kundan Kumar remarked that these vehicles—equipped with state-of-the-art facilities provided under the Emergency Response Support System—will lend new strength to the district's law and order and disaster management capabilities.

FACTFILE

- **Through these vehicles, citizens will receive prompt assistance in the event of accidents, crimes, or any other emergency situation, Mohle.**

TRAFFIC CONGESTION

Admn removes encroachments along roadside to streamline traffic



MUNGELI: To alleviate the pressure caused by ever-increasing traffic and illegal encroachments within the town of Mungeli–and to liberate citizens from the perennial problem of traffic congestion–the District Administration has geared up for action. To streamline and beautify the town's main Bilaspur road, the administration launched a joint operation to remove illegal encroachments situated along the roadside. This drive was conducted across the town's busiest stretch, extending from Daupara to the Collector's Residence, and up to the municipal limits.

Prior to undertaking this operation–aimed at widening the road and rendering it obstruction-free–teams from the Municipality and the Revenue Department demonstrated sensitivity by issuing public proclamations and appealing to all shopkeepers and traders. The administration urged the traders to voluntarily remove any encroachments they had established over the road or drainage systems. This appeal yielded a positive response; acting on the administration's request, many conscientious traders voluntarily dismantled their sheds, counters, and other fixtures. Subsequently, the remaining encroachments were cleared by the administrative staff under the watchful presence of a heavy police force.

In this major campaign to bring order to the town, several key departments of the District Administration joined forces to lead the charge. During this joint operation, officials and personnel from the Municipal Council, Revenue Department, Nazul Department, and Police Department were seen on the ground with their full contingents, remaining vigilant and active since early morning. Throughout the drive, haphazardly scattered debris, illegal tin sheds, and raised platforms (chabutaras) lining both sides of the road were cleared away.

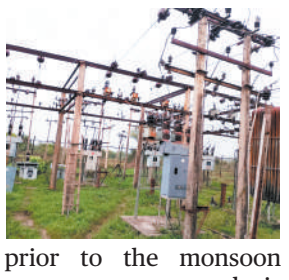
| POWER CRISIS |

'Residents find life left miserable due to power cut'

Central Chronicle News

MUNGELI: Residents of the district report that power tripping is occurring 4 to 5 times during the day and 2 to 3 times at night. Due to these frequent interruptions, people are left drenched in sweat and are compelled to rely on age-old methods–specifically, hand-held fans–to pass the time. Locals state that in this intense heat, small children, the elderly, and patients are bearing the brunt of the suffering. Furthermore, the heat and prevailing heatwave conditions are increasing the risk of ailments such as vomiting, diarrhea, and other illnesses.

Situation remains unimproved even after maintenance: Ordinary citizens are raising pertinent questions regarding the situation. They point out that every year, prior to the monsoon season, power supply is suspended for several hours under the pretext of "pre-monsoon maintenance." This year, too–specifically in the month of April–electricity was cut off for 2 to 3 hours at various power centers for the sake of maintenance work. Yet, given that power tripping continues to occur 4 to 5 times during the day and 2 to 3 times at night, people are asking: what kind of maintenance was this, exactly? Significant public outrage is also being directed at the Junior Engineer (J.E.) posted in the Setganga-Fasterpur area.



The residents find their lives made miserable by these power cuts daily. Residents

Citizens allege that whenever they attempt to call the office or the J.E. to lodge electricity-related complaints or seek information, answering the phone appears to be beneath their dignity.

World



Bangladesh wants former PM Sheikh Hasina to return through "legal procedures"

Salahuddin Ahmed
Bangladesh's Home Minister



United States Secretary of State Marco Rubio, front second left, and NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte, front left, speak with each other during a group photo at a meeting of NATO foreign ministers in Helsingborg, Sweden.

NATO allies bewildered by Trump's troop reversal

Slug-Trump reversed a recent decision to withdraw 5,000 troops from Europe, ordering them to Poland instead.

Press Trust Of India

HELSINGBORG : NATO allies and defence officials expressed bewilderment on Friday at US President Donald Trump's announcement that he would send 5,000 US troops to Poland just weeks after he ordered the same number of forces pulled out of Europe. The apparent change of mind came after weeks of statements from Trump and his administration about reducing – not increasing – the American military footprint in Europe.

Trump's initial order set off a flurry of action among military commanders and left allies already doubtful about America's commitment to Europe's security to ponder what forces they might have to backfill on NATO's eastern flank with Russia and Ukraine.

Earlier this month, the Trump administration said it was reducing levels in Europe by about 5,000 troops, and US officials confirmed about 4,000 service members were no longer deploying to Poland. The dispatch to Germany of US personnel trained to fire long-range missiles was also halted. But in a post on Truth Social on Thursday, Trump said he would send "an additional 5,000 Troops to Poland", citing his strong ties with Polish President Karol Nawrocki, whom Trump endorsed in elections last year. "It is confusing indeed, and not always easy to navigate," Swedish Foreign Minister Maria Malmer Stenergard told reporters at a meeting Friday that she was hosting of her NATO counterparts, including US Secretary of State Marco Rubio.

Ministers from the Netherlands and Norway were sanguine about Trump's latest move, as was Latvian Foreign Minister Baiba Braze, who said allies knew the US troop "posture was being reconsidered, and now there is no change of posture. For now". US defence officials also expressed confusion. "We just spent the better part of two weeks reacting to the first announcement. We don't know what this means either," said one of two officials who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive military matters.

But Rubio played down the issue. He said that "the United States continues to have global commitments that it needs to meet in terms of our force deployment, and that constantly requires us to reexamine where we put troops".

FASTFACTS

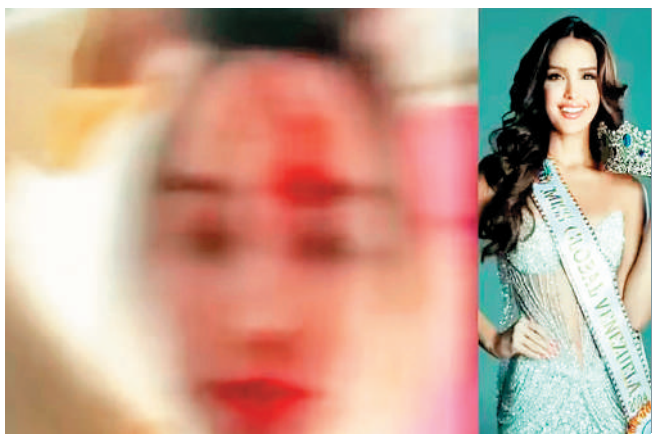
- The abrupt shift left both NATO allies and US defense officials bewildered and scrambling to adapt.
- The decision followed friction with Germany's chancellor and Trump's strong ties to Poland's president.

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

CANNES PAGEANT ATTACK

Miss Venezuela Andrea del Val brutally attacked in her Cannes hotel room



CANNES: A South American beauty queen has accused her celebrity stylist of physically attacking her in a hotel room at the Cannes Film Festival, according to The New York Post, which cited reports from Venezuelan and Mexican media outlets. Andrea del Val, 29, who holds the title of Miss Venezuela 2025, shared a video on social media showing bloody wounds on her face following the alleged incident on Tuesday.

In the video, Andrea appeared distressed with blood streaming down her face. She addressed her stylist directly, saying in Spanish: "Look, this is what Giovanni Laguna did. Congratulations, Giovanni, this is what I wanted, for you to show who you were." The footage also showed the hotel room in complete disarray, with furniture and items scattered throughout. Laguna, a 33-year-old Venezuelan stylist, can be seen sitting in a chair in the corner of the room during the video. According to The NYPost, Hotel guests heard shouting and sounds of a physical struggle and called the police, according to reports from Venezuelan and Mexican media outlets. Footage later shared by Spanish journalist Jordi Martin showed Laguna being escorted away by police officers from the hotel. Laguna is a well-known stylist within Latin American celebrity circles and beauty pageant communities. Since 2023, he has served as creative director for Miss Universe Colombia. He also has professional connections with Fatima Bosch, the Mexican Miss Universe 2025 winner, though there is no suggestion she was involved in the incident.

TAIWAN US ARMS

Taiwan receives no official notice of paused US arms sale

TAIPEI: Taiwan hasn't been notified of any pause in a planned USD 14 billion US arms sale to the self-governing island, a government official said Friday, after the acting US Navy secretary told a Senate committee in Washington that some foreign military sales were being delayed to ensure the American military has enough munitions for the Iran war.

Days after US President Donald Trump raised doubts about continuing arms sales to Taiwan, which China claims as its own territory, acting US Navy Secretary Hung Cao said Thursday that the sales would resume when the administration considers it appropriate.

"Right now we're doing a pause in order to make sure we have the munitions we need for 'Epic Fury'," Cao told the US Senate Appropriations Defence Subcommittee, referring to the Trump administration's name for the Iran operation. "Then the foreign military sales will continue when the administration deems necessary.

TANZANIA SANCTIONS

US sanctions Tanzanian police chief over human rights violations

NAIROBI: The United States has sanctioned Tanzania's police chief and barred him from entering the US, citing alleged human rights violations committed by the police force.

The sanctions announced Thursday followed a general election in October in which President Samia Suluhu Hassan won a full term with 97% of the vote after a crackdown on opposition figures. US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said in December said the country was reviewing its ties with Tanzania over repression and election violence. Rubio said the sanctions designation against police Senior Assistant Commissioner Faustine Jackson Mafwele was based on credible information he was involved in rights violations.

"One year ago, members of the (Tanzanian police) detained, tortured, and sexually assaulted Ugandan activist Agather Atuhaire and Kenyan activist Boniface Mwangi, who were in Dar es Salaam to observe the trial of opposition leader Tundu Lissu," he said in the statement. The Ugandan and Kenyan activists were arrested and detained in Tanzania in May last year.

23 terrorists killed in operations in Pakistan

PESHAWAR : Pakistani security forces killed 23 terrorists during a series of operations conducted on Wednesday and Thursday in the country's restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, the military's media wing said on Friday. The Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said troops carried out intelligence-based operations at multiple areas, including Datta Khel, Spinwam and Bannu, and engaged terrorists in intense exchanges of fire. As many as 23 terrorists were killed in these operations, it said.

According to the ISPR, a wanted militant, identified as Jan Meer alias Toor Saqib, was also killed during the operations, dealing a major blow to terrorist networks operating in the region.

| IRAN DEAL PROGRESS |

US reports slight progress on tense Iran deal negotiations

Press Trust Of India

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio reported "slight progress" in Iran talks, though the threat of renewed military action remains.



TEL AVIV : U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio said Friday there was "slight progress" during talks with Iran amid uncertainty as to whether a deal will be reached or war will resume.

He spoke days after U.S. President Donald Trump said he was holding off on a military strike on Iran because "serious negotiations" were underway. Trump has been threatening for weeks that the ceasefire reached in mid-April could end if Iran does not make a deal, with shifting parameters for striking such an agreement.

Rubio said he didn't want to exaggerate the progress, saying there had been "a little bit of movement and that's good." He said the conversations were ongoing. Still, in recent weeks there have been repeated claims of progress, yet a deal has not been reached. Trump has repeatedly set deadlines for Tehran and then backed off. But he's also previously indicated he would hold off on military action to allow talks to continue – only to turn around and launch strikes.

FASTFACTS

- Trump's decision to delay military strikes and pursue a deal has caused a "dramatic" and rare public rift with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.
- Trump claimed he called off immediate attacks at the request of Middle Eastern allies, including Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and the UAE.

KENYA FUEL PRICES

Kenyan public transport operators call off strike after president vows to reduce fuel prices



NAIROBI: Kenya's public transport operators on Friday called off a nationwide strike that had been suspended for a week to allow talks over rising fuel prices. The strike on Monday and Tuesday triggered protests in which four people were killed and more than 30 others injured after police fired live ammunition at demonstrators.

The operators met with President William Ruto on Friday and announced the strike would not resume after he pledged that diesel prices would be reduced in the upcoming monthly fuel price review in June. Ruto rejected proposals to lower fuel taxes, arguing that reducing VAT on fuel from 16 to 8 per cent had already caused significant revenue losses and that any further cuts would undermine delivery of government services.

Earlier in the week, thousands of protesters took to the streets, burning tires on major highways and blocking private vehicles from using the roads. Businesses and schools remained closed as initial negotiations between the government and transport operators failed. The strike was temporarily suspended on Tuesday to allow further discussions between the government and fuel sector stakeholders.

| HUNGARY EXPLOSION |

Explosion at Hungary petrochemical plant kills 1, injures 7

Press Trust Of India

TISZAUJVAROS : An explosion at a petrochemical plant in Hungary on Friday killed one person and injured several others, according to a statement by Hungarian energy company Mol Group, which owns the plant.

The explosion in Tiszaujvaros, in eastern Hungary, occurred during a restart of the plant following maintenance, Prime Minister Peter Magyar said in a post on social media. He added that seven people had suffered burn injuries during the blast.



Five helicopters transported the injured to hospitals in the cities of Miskolc and Debrecen, according to Minister of Economy and Energy Istvan Kapitany.

In a social media post, Kapitany wrote that a disaster response mobile laboratory did not detect any concentrations of hazardous materials above the threshold limit. Both Kapitany and Mol CEO Zsolt Hernadi are en route to the site of the explosion, Magyar said.

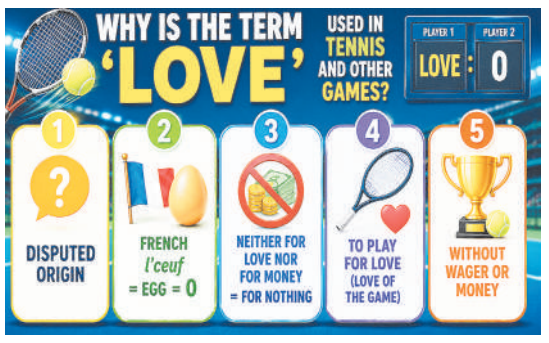
> **"We express our sincere condolences to the family of the deceased and wish the injured a speedy recovery."**
>
> **Peter Magyar**
> Prime Minister of Hungary

"We express our sincere condolences to the family of the deceased and wish the injured a speedy recovery," Magyar wrote on Facebook.

A spokesperson for the regional disaster management authority told state news agency MTI that the fire caused by the explosion at the plant had been extinguished. David Dojcsak said that cleanup operations were still underway and emergency units were securing the site.

Fun & Focus

TELL ME WHY?



The origin of this usage is disputed. Some believe that it has been derived from the French l'ceuf, which means 'the egg. An egg, because of its resemblance with 0, has long symbolized the digit. Some others say that 'love' has been derived from the English phrase 'neither for love nor for money', which means 'for nothing'. But the Oxford dictionary says that the term has been adapted from the 17th century expression 'to play for love', which meant to play for the love of the game (without any wager or money).



1) Who was the first person to build a computer?

2) How much time do presidential candidates get for election campaigns?

3) By which process is sea water purified?

4) What is the name of the author of the historical novel Vaishali Ki Nagar Vadhu?

5) Who is Japan's first robot astronaut?

6) From which state did former India Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh get elected to Rajya Sabha in 2019?

7) Established on 15th August, 1889 by Bhupendra Nath Bose it is the oldest football club in India. Name it?

ANSWERS-
(1) Charles Babbage (2) 2 weeks (3) Desalination (4) Acharya Chatursen Shastri (5) Kirobo (6) Rajasthan (7) Mohun Bagan

– Rama Quiz

THE FIVE FAQ

1) The word, _____ owes its origin to Bengali language and is used elliptically for a 'house in the Bengal style'.

2) The term, _____ is used in a popular boardgame that is an alteration of the Persian phrase, 'ShahMat' which means literally, 'the king is ambushed'.

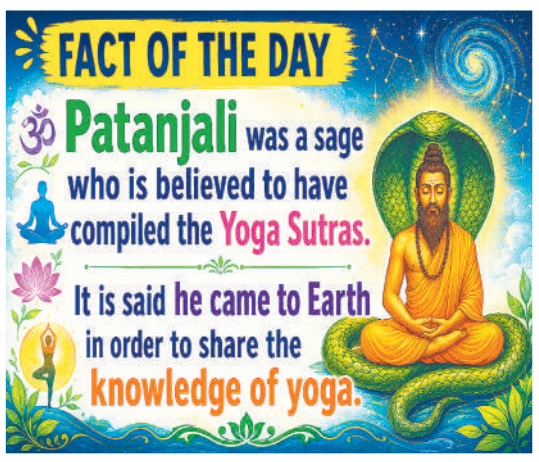
3) _____ is a minor goddess, and the wife of Agni. Her three son Pavak, Pavamana and Shuchi consume the oblations offered to the fire during sacrifices.

4) Stuart Robertson who was working as the marketing manager of England and Wales Cricket Board proposed the idea of _____ in 2002 and it was put to vote which was passed by 11 votes to 7.

5) _____is a site of an ancient forest, which is the region where Lord Krishna spent his childhood days. It is nicknamed as the 'City of Widows' after the large population of abandoned widows who seek refuge here.

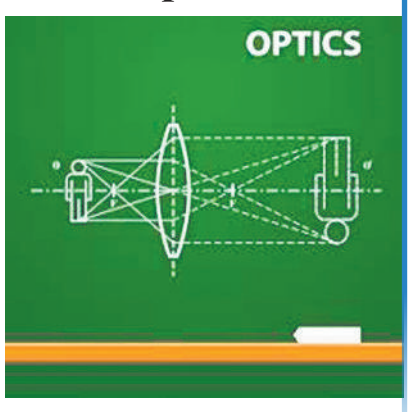
ANSWERS-
(1) Bungalow (2) Checkmate (3) Swaha (4) Twenty-20 Cricket (5) Vridavn





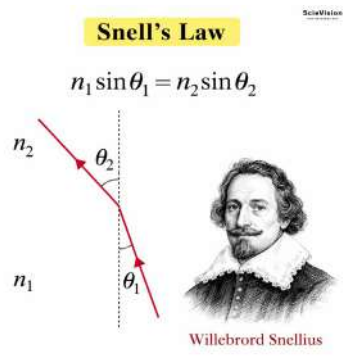
SCIENCE WATCH

What is geometrical optics?



Geometrical optics simplifies light into straight-line "rays" and is used to design imaging devices like lenses, mirrors, and telescopes. This is the science powering fiber optic internet and medical endoscopes too.

What is Snell's Law?

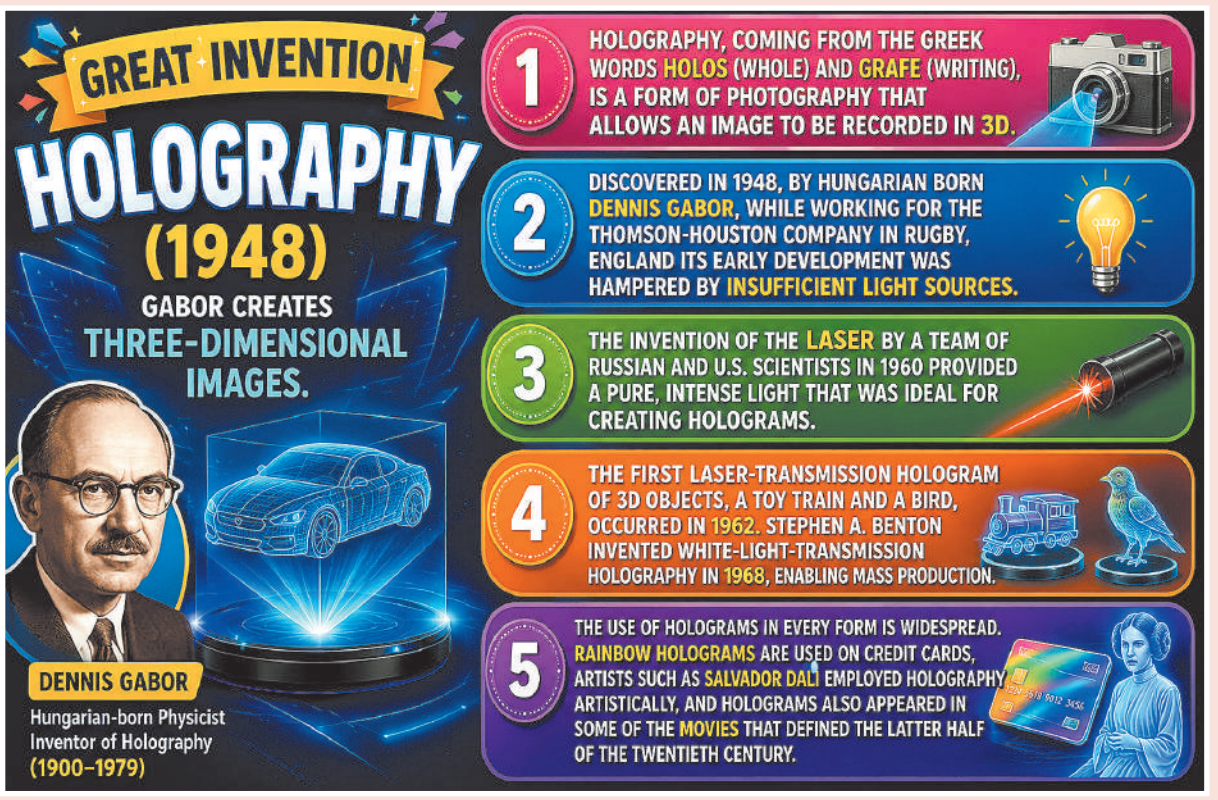


Snell's Law is a fundamental formula in optics that describes how light (or other waves) bends as it passes from one medium to another. It establishes a direct relationship between angles of incidence/refraction and refractive indices.

Do you have polarized sunglasses?



Light waves oscillate in specific directions. Polarized sunglasses use this to block harsh horizontal glare from reflecting off flat surfaces. Polarized sunglasses use special laminated filter that blocks blinding glare.



Holography, coming from the Greek words holos (whole) and grafe (writing), is a form of photography that allows an image to be recorded in 3D. Discovered in 1948, by Hungarian born Dennis Gabor, while working for the Thomson-Houston company in Rugby, England its early development was hampered by insufficient light sources

Gabor's holography stored 3D images by encoding them within a beam of light, but the mercury arc lamp he used produced variable results. The invention of the laser by a team of Russian and U.S. scientists in 1960 provided a pure, intense light that was ideal for creating holograms. The pulsed-ruby laser emits a very powerful burst of light that lasts a few nanoseconds and effectively freezes movement.

The development of the laser enabled the first experiments in optically storing and retrieving images. The first laser-transmission hologram of 3D objects, a toy train and a bird, occurred in 1962. Stephen A. Benton invented white-light-transmission holography in 1968, and this form finally enabled mass production.

Benton's technique meant that, when viewed in ordinary white light, the hologram created a three dimensional 'rainbow' image from the seven colors that make up white light.

The use of holograms in every form is widespread. Rainbow holograms are used on credit cards, artists such as Salvador Dali employed holography artistically, and holograms also appeared in some of the movies that defined the latter half of the twentieth century. Where would Star Wars be without a 3D Princess Leia begging for help, or the swoosh of a light saber?

Daily Horoscope

Aries
Maintain your mental health-which is prerequisite for spiritual life. Mind is the gateway of life because everything whether it is good/ bad comes through mind. It helps in solving life problems and endows one with requisite light. New contracts might look lucrative but will not bring gains as desired- Do not make hasty decisions when it comes to investing money.

Taurus
Your rash behaviour may spoil the relationship with wife. Think the repercussions of your behaviour before doing anything silly. If possible go away to change your mood. You will make good money today- but the rise in expenses will make it difficult for you to save. Unexpected good news from distant relatives will bring happy moments for the entire family.

Gemini
Some pressure at work and home will make you short-tempered. Those who are managing their business with their close ones or relatives need to remain very careful today, otherwise financial losses can occur. Do not be rude to your guests. It is good for you to keep up with time, but at the same time, it is important to understand the importance of family and spend as much time as you can with them.

Cancer
Avoid mental tension and stress for a happy day. Improvement in finances will make it convenient for you to make important purchases. Don't forget family obligation. Unexpected romantic inclination. Those who were very busy for the last few days will finally get to enjoy their own time. If you were craving for the love of your spouse, the day will bless you.

Leo
Don't waste your time in building castle in the air. Rather conserve your energy to do something meaningful. Today, with the help of a close relative, you can do well in your business, which will also benefit you financially. You will have great time with friends but take extra care while driving. Personal guidance will improve your relationship.

Virgo
Start your day with a little exercise- It's time you start feeling good about yourself- Make it a regular feature everyday and try to stick to it. Businessmen today may incur losses in their trade. Also, you may have to spend money to improve your business. You will find friends supportive- but be careful of what you say.

Libra
Smile as it is best antidote for all your problems. You are very likely to attain monetary benefits from your mother's side today. It is possible for your maternal uncle or maternal grandfather to help you financially. Assist your wife in domestic chores to lessen her workload. It would encourage the sense of sharing and happiness. Love and romance would keep you in a happy mood.

Scorpio
Umpteen nervous breakdowns could weaken your resistance and thinking power. Encourage yourself to fight the disease with positive thinking. If you are going on a trip, then look out for your valuables and bags, as they are likely to be stolen. Especially, keep your purse at a safe place today. Today if you try to force any decision on people you know- you will only end up harming your own interest.

Sagittarius
Your childlike nature will surface and you will be in a playful mood. Travel for some prove hectic and stressful-but financially rewarding. Your family members are likely to create a mountain out of a molehill. It is not the right time to share your personal feelings/secrets with your beloved. Correspondence needs to be handled with care.

Capricorn
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. It's another high-energy day and unexpected gains are foreseen. Your careless attitude will make parents worry. You need to take them in confidence before starting any new project.

Aquarius
Chances of your recovering from physical illness are high which will enable you to participate in sports competition. Any of your chronic diseases may bother you today, due to which you may have to go to the hospital and spend a lot of money. Keep yourself engaged in household activities. At the same time spend some time in recreation activities to keep the momentum going.

Pisces
Your personality will act like a perfume today. Certain important plans will be executed bringing you fresh financial gains. Domestic life will be peaceful and adorable Today you will stop a heart from breaking. You will try to devote your time to your lover, but due to some important work, you will not be able to do the needful.

MAY 23 - THE DAY IN HISTORY

- May 23 in Indian history is primarily celebrated for mountaineer Bachendri Pal becoming the first Indian woman to conquer Mount Everest (1984) and the historic British Cabinet approval of the Mountbatten Partition Plan (1947)
- Maharani Gayatri Devi was also born today in 1919, who was globally celebrated for her grace, style, and successful political career as a Member of Parliament.
- The day is also remembered for Komagata Maru Incident (1914, when the Japanese steamship carrying 376 passengers from Punjab–mostly Sikhs, along with Muslims and Hindus–was denied entry at Vancouver, Canada, due to racially discriminatory immigration laws, sparking a major historical standoff.

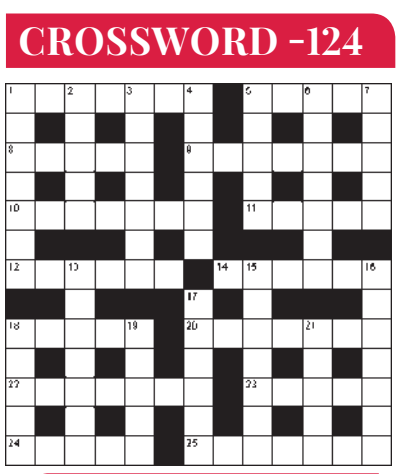


- This day also marks the Prithvi-II Test (India) of 2008, boosting the nations indigenous defence capabilities.
- Same day, delegates of the 14th Dalai Lama were forced to sign the Seventeen Point Agreement, affirming Chinese sovereignty over Tibet, while in 1995, the Java programming language was officially announced and launched, changing the landscape of digital and mobile computing.

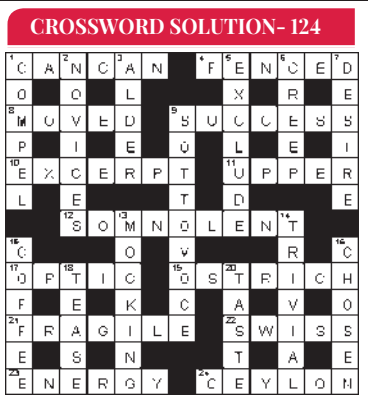
CROSSWORD -124

Across
1 Calmed with a drug (7)
5 Rubbish (5)
8 Interior (5)
9 In addition (7)
10 Abandon (7)
11 Truck (5)
12 The capital of Portugal (6)
14 Conundrum (6)
18 Wide (5)
20 Put on display (7)
22 Canadian province (7)
23 Aristocratic title (5)
24 Giddy (5)
25 Small axe (7)

Down
1 Adept (7)
2 Giver (5)
3 Violent whirling wind-storm (7)
4 Disagree (6)
5 Austrian province (5)
6 Stuck (7)
7 Hasten (5)
13 The entertainment business (4,3)
15 Dwell in (7)
16 Defunct (7)
17 Remove, separate (6)
18 Facial hair (5)
19 Unclean, soiled (5)
21 Accommodation on ship (5)



CROSSWORD SOLUTION- 124



SUDOKU- 123

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

SUDOKU SOLUTION- 123

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

DAILY WORD SEARCH

- Atom
- Flux
- Power
- Charge
- Force
- Pressure
- Curie
- Heat
- Proton
- Current
- Hertz
- Solid
- Decay
- Joule
- Spin
- Energy
- Light
- Vacuum
- Entropy
- Mass
- Volt
- Farad
- Nucleus
- Watt
- Field
- Phase
- Wave

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

Business



Flipkart's 13-minute delivery really impressive.

John Furner
Walmart Inc President and CEO

Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of FME



Joint Secretary, Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI), Devesh Deval, addressing a Press Meet on the Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme, in New Delhi on May 22.

Import duty hike to dent India's Gold demand by 50-60 tonnes

World-gold-council-forecasts-ten-percent-drop-in-india-gold-demand-for-2026-following-sharp-increase-in-customs-import-duty

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: India's gold demand is expected to contract by 50-60 tonnes this calendar year, around 10 per cent lower than the previous year, following the import duty hike, according to the World Gold Council (WGC). "Looking at 2026 as a whole, we estimate that combined jewellery and bar and coin demand could decline by around 50-60 tonnes, around 10 per cent lower than the previous year, due to the impact of the import duty hike," WGC said in its India gold market update. The gold import duty was raised sharply from 6 per cent to 15 per cent, making it the single-largest increase on record and fully reversing the duty cut of July 2024.

The Prime Minister has also appealed to consumers to avoid buying gold for a year. Other factors, such as the gold price, changes to income levels, inflation, or effects from the monsoon, would further influence annual demand, it added. "Our econometric models suggest that changes in import duties tend to impact gold demand in both the short and long term, although the impact differs across jewellery and investment products such as bars and coins. Investment demand appears more sensitive to duty changes, while jewellery demand has shown greater resilience," said WGC. WGC said jewellery consumption is influenced more by prices and inflation, and import duties have less of an impact.

This is likely because jewellery purchases are often required, particularly for weddings and social occasions, said WGC. Investment demand, on the other hand, is linked to income levels and import duties, with higher duties and restrictions tending to weigh on demand, it said, adding that in the short term, factors such as inflation and rainfall also influence investment demand alongside taxes. Further, WGC said import data points to a consistent relationship between higher import duties and the inflow of unofficial gold. Between 2013 and 2026, increases in import duty were mostly followed by higher levels of unofficial or smuggled gold, while duty reductions coincided with sharp declines in such inflows.

NUMBER 10

- A record import duty hike to 15% is projected to slash India's annual gold demand by 50-60 tonnes.

M'rashtra's economy to surpass those of Singapore, UAE in 2 to 3 years

Press Trust Of India



FACTFILE

- Maharashtra economy poised to surpass global financial hubs.

MUMBAI: Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Friday said the state is poised to surpass the economies of Singapore and the UAE in the next two to three years, driven by rapid growth in innovation, artificial intelligence, startups and infrastructure. Maharashtra was not competing with any other Indian state as it has already become the world's 30th largest economy, he said.

Speaking at the 'ImagiNxt 2026' event held at the Jio World Centre here, Fadnavis said Maharashtra has emerged as the startup and unicorn capital of India and is now the country's leading state in research, innovation and economic growth. "Maharashtra is currently a USD 660 billion economy and is the closest Indian state to achieving the target of becoming a USD 1 trillion economy," he said during an interaction. The chief minister said Maharashtra's economy has grown from around Rs 14 lakh crore in 2015 to Rs 54 lakh crore today, registering more than three-fold growth in the last decade.

"Maharashtra is not competing with any other Indian state. It has already become the world's 30th largest economy and in the next two to three years it will surpass the economies of Singapore and the UAE," Fadnavis said.

| NEW LAUNCH |

'Looking to bring more than 10 new models in India'

Press Trust Of India

Honda to launch over ten models by 2030.



Honda Cars India Marketing and Sales Vice-President Kunal Behl, President and CEO Takashi Nakajima, Director Marketing and Sales Yujiro Sugino, during the official India premiere and reveal of the new Honda ZR-V e:HEV and the launch of the updated Honda City, at Aerocity, in New Delhi, Friday, May 22.

NEW DELHI: Japanese automaker Honda plans to drive in over 10 new models, including electric vehicle and compact SUV by 2030 in India, one of the three key markets it has identified for its future growth plans, according to a senior company official. Honda Cars India Ltd (HCIL) on Friday launched the new version of its popular hybrid sedan City with introductory prices starting at Rs 11.99 lakh while also unveiling its premium SUV ZR-V in India. It will launch its first full electric vehicle in the second half of the ongoing fiscal in the country, HCIL President and CEO Takashi Nakajima told reporters here. "Recently we announced that we will be launching new models under two categories, that is, under 4 metres and the midsize category. Last time, in Japan, we mentioned ten (models) but currently, we are counting more than ten (models)," Nakajima said when asked how many new models Honda planned to launch in India going forward by 2030. In the ongoing fiscal, HCIL plans a total of six launches, including the City hybrid and the ZR-V hybrid, he said adding the launch of new City and unveiling of ZR-V mark the beginning of HCIL's new phase of accelerated growth in the market. "India is among the top three focus markets to realise Honda's future growth, which will be driven by a strong pipeline of new products and our efforts to achieve cost competitiveness," Nakajima said.

He further said," This year is a landmark year for us with six strategic launches that will sharpen our competitive edge and reinforce our brand position in the market."

| SBI STAFF STRIKE |

Bank urges customers to use digital channels

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: The country's largest lender SBI on Friday advised customers to use alternative mediums for transactions after a strike call by staff for early next week. SBI has requested its over 52 crore customers to use automated teller machines, customer service points, and prefer online banking services like YONO and UPI by the lender. The bank, which holds about a fifth of the share in the country's overall banking activities, said efforts are on to provide "essential services" in over 23,200 branches, as per a post on its handle on the micro-blogging platform 'X'. It said the All India State Bank of India Staff Federation has given a notice for a two-day strike starting May 25. "We sincerely regret any inconvenience caused," the post from SBI said. The staff has threatened the strike to press for various demands, including the recruitment of adequate employees.

SBI staff threatens nationwide strike from May 25

New Delhi: SBI staff under the aegis of the All India State Bank of India Staff Federation (AISBISF) have threatened to go on a two-day nationwide strike beginning May 25 to press for various demands, including the recruitment of adequate employees. If the strike materialises, it will affect SBI's banking operations for five days nationwide, as the fourth Saturday and Sunday fall before the strike date.

BizBriefs

BEST OF THE REST

HOW THE MARKETS BEHAVE TODAY?

Sensex, Nifty markets rebound, led by banks, positive global trends



MUMBAI: Stock markets recovered on Friday with the benchmark Sensex closing higher by nearly 232 points following buying in blue-chip bank shares amid positive global trends. The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 231.99 points, or 0.31 per cent, to settle at 75,415.35. During the day, it surged 627.61 points, or 0.83 per cent, to 75,810.97. The 50-share NSE Nifty edged higher by 64.60 points or 0.27 per cent to end at 23,719.30. Hopes of progress in the US-Iran peace negotiations added to markets' optimism, analysts said. Among 30 Sensex firms, Trent, Axis Bank, ICICI Bank, Asian Paints, Hindustan Unilever, HDFC Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank and Bajaj Finance were the major winners. Sun Pharma, ITC, Power Grid and Bharat Electronics were among the laggards. "Domestic markets traded with a mild positive bias, supported by buying at lower levels and moderately constructive global cues, expecting easing tensions in the Middle East. Globally, the AI investment theme remained the primary driver, while domestically, financial stocks led the gains," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments.

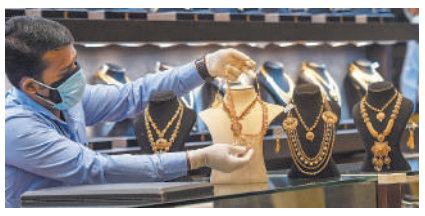
BG EXTENSION

Second BG extension granted for strategic Kerwa coal block

NEW DELHI: The authorities have granted a second extension of one month for the submission of the Bank Guarantee (BG) in connection with the allocation of the Kerwa Coal Block to Shreeji Group and Nuravi Group. The Kerwa Coal Block, spread across Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh, is considered a strategically significant coal reserve with estimated deposits of nearly 300 million tonnes of coal. The block is expected to play an important role in strengthening domestic coal production and supporting industrial and energy requirements in the region. According to sources, the additional one-month extension has been granted to facilitate the completion of pending procedural and financial formalities related to the allocation process. This is the second extension provided to the companies for the submission of the required BG documents. Industry observers believe that timely operationalization of the Kerwa Coal Block could contribute significantly towards boosting regional economic activity, employment generation, and long-term energy security. Both companies are reportedly working closely with the concerned authorities to complete all compliance requirements within the revised deadline.

BULLION MARKET

Gold drops to Rs 1.64 lakh/10g as Iran talks temper market anxiety



NEW DELHI: Gold prices retreated by Rs 600 to Rs 1.64 lakh per 10 grams in the national capital on Friday as tentative progress in US-Iran negotiations reduced precious metals buying, though unresolved tensions around the Strait of Hormuz kept traders cautious. Snapping a three-day winning streak, the yellow metal of 99.9 per cent purity depreciated by Rs 600 to Rs 1,64,900 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes), according to local marketmen. Gold prices witnessed a slight decline on Friday. The recent fluctuations in the bullion market are largely influenced by ongoing geopolitical tensions, particularly concerning US-Iran relations, alongside the volatility of the Indian rupee and movements in crude oil prices, Gaurav Garg, Research Analyst at Lemonn Markets Desk, said.

FINANCIAL RESULTS

LG Electronics India Ltd announces delivers highest-ever quarterly revenue

NEW DELHI: LG Electronics India Limited (LGE India), India's leading consumer electronics brand, announced the results for the fourth quarter of FY2026.

This quarter, LGE India delivered its highest-ever quarterly performance -delivering revenue from operations of Rs 80.54 billion in Q4 FY26 as compared to Rs 74.48 billion in Q4 FY25 with an EBITDA margin of 11.7% in Q4 FY26. The strong quarterly performance was driven by broad-based demand recovery across categories, and continued premiumization momentum led by large-panel TVs, French-door refrigerators, fully automatic washing machines, and 5-star-rated air conditioners. The company continued to maintain market leadership across key product categories while executing on its three-pillar strategy of Make-in-India, Make-for-India and Make-India-Global. YoY EBITDA margins were affected by rupee depreciation and elevated commodity prices. However, the company remains optimistic on margin improvement while maintaining focus on cost discipline, localization, and operational efficiency. On the B2B front, Information Display business recorded strong growth in Q4 FY26. In the HVAC segment, LGE India is strategically expanding its portfolio in Variable Refrigerant Flow (VRF) and Cassette AC segments. Notably, LGE India's advanced HVAC solutions are now functional at the prestigious Seva Teerth, the Prime Minister's office building, inaugurated recently.

Highlighting the results, Mr. Hong Ju Jeon, Managing Director, LG Electronics India, said, "I am happy to highlight that LG Electronics India has delivered its highest ever quarterly revenue in Q4 FY26, a testament to the strength of our brand and the resilience of our business model. Despite a complex global environment, LGE India has remained customer-focused, agile, and growth-oriented. We are navigating these macro challenges with calibrated actions and continued investment in premiumization to ensure that LGE India is well-positioned to lead this transition. Our three strategic pillars – Make-in-India, Make-for- India, and Make-India-Global are actively shaping our business. Our new Essential Series range is not only driving growth in India but will also now be exported to 22 countries in FY27. India's structural growth story remains intact, and we are both, confident and well positioned to capture the opportunities ahead."

Nation News

SC modifies order on 3 academicians

The court also observed that its comments were made in the context of the contents and not the individuals.

Press Trust Of India

The bench was hearing a suo motu (initiated on its own) case titled "In Re: Social Science textbook for Grade-8 (part-2) published by NCERT and ancillary issues".



NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Friday modified its March 11 order that had directed the Centre, states and others to disassociate from three academicians following a row over an NCERT book chapter containing "offending" contents on corruption in the judiciary. The apex court, which considered the explanation given by the three academicians, left it open to the Centre, states, Union Territories, public universities and institutions that receive funds from the central or state governments to take an independent decision on the issue without being influenced by its observations made in the March 11 order.

A bench of Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and Vipul M Pancholi also recalled a part of the March 11 order that had recorded that the three academicians -- Professor Michel Danino, Suparna Diwakar and Alok Prasanna Kumar -- had "deliberately and knowingly" misrepresented the facts in order to project a negative image of the Indian judiciary to the students of Class 8.

The bench passed the order while hearing an application filed by the three academicians, who explained their stand and said that no individual had the sole say in the drafting of the content and it was a collective process.

On March 11, acting tough against the three experts involved in the drafting of the controversial chapter in the National Council of Educational Research and Training's (NCERT) social science book for Class 8, the court had directed the Centre and all states to disassociate from them. It had directed the Centre to form a committee of domain experts within a week for the purpose of finalising the curriculum of the NCERT's legal studies for not only Class 8 but also higher classes.

FASTFACTS

- **On February 26, the apex court imposed a "blanket ban" on any further publication, reprinting or digital dissemination of the NCERT's Class 8 social science textbook that contained the "offending" contents on corruption in the judiciary, saying they have fired a gunshot and the judiciary is "bleeding".**

The bench was hearing a suo motu (initiated on its own) case titled "In Re: Social Science textbook for Grade-8 (part-2) published by NCERT and ancillary issues".

The court was earlier informed that the chapter was drafted by the textbook development team under Danino's chairmanship and consisted of members Diwakar and Kumar.

During the hearing on Friday, the bench said that the offending contents were "wholly undesirable".

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, said the central government has decided that it would not like to associate with these three academicians in the future.

The top law officer said he has come across an instance in another textbook that contains a cartoon which may not be proper for students of impressionable age.

NDA may lose a seat in Rajya Sabha

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The NDA is likely to lose one Rajya Sabha seat in the biennial elections for 26 seats in 12 states across the country, while the Congress-led opposition is set to gain three.

The Election Commission on Friday announced elections for 26 Rajya Sabha seats on June 18 following the retirement of incumbents, including former prime minister HD Deve Gowda, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and party leader Digvijaya Singh, besides two Union ministers Ravneet Singh and George Kurian.

In a statement, the EC said the elections for the Rajya Sabha seats will be held in 10 states where 24 incumbents are retiring on different dates beginning June 21 to July 19. Of the total 26 seats where elections are being held, the NDA currently has 18 and the Congress four while one seat is with the JMM and three are with the YSRCP.

The NDA is likely to get 17 seats in these elections, while the Congress will get five, the JMM two and the TVK one.

The NDA currently has 149 MPs in the upper house while the opposition has 78 and non-aligned regional parties have 17 MPs in the 244-member house.

The Rajya Sabha elections will be held in four seats each in Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat and Karnataka, three seats each in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, two seats in Jharkhand and one seat each in Manipur, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram. Besides, one seat each in Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu will also go to the polls on June 18.

The last date for filing of nominations is June 8, according to the EC.

In a separate notification, the EC also announced by-elections to fill the vacancies created by the NCP's Sunetra Pawar in Maharashtra and the AIADMK's C Ve Shanmugam in Tamil Nadu following their resignations after they were elected to the state assemblies.

While the NDA is set to bag Pawar's seat, going by its strength in the state assembly, the TVK is likely to get the lone Rajya Sabha seat from Tamil Nadu going for a bypoll. The tenure of Pawar's seat will be till July 4, 2028 while that for the Tamil Nadu seat will be till June 29, 2028.

In Jharkhand, the JMM-Congress alliance is likely to win both the seats, but the BJP which has 21 seats of its own may try to bag one seat with the help of cross-voting by four opposition members.

Census officials face hurdles in migrant-heavy neighbourhoods

Press Trust Of India

The census exercise is being carried out in phases across Delhi's districts, with officials monitoring progress daily.

NEW DELHI: Out of the total 45,864 house listing blocks (HLBs) in the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) area, enumeration is currently in progress in 30,819 blocks, officials said on Friday.

According to census officials, enumerators engaged in the ongoing census-related exercise in Delhi are facing difficulties in several outer districts of the city, with officials citing a lack of cooperation from landlords and challenges in reaching migrant populations living in rented accommodations.

The field operations began on May 16 across MCD areas of Delhi for the Houselisting and Housing Census (HLO) under Phase I of Census 2027. A single HLB contains roughly 150-200 houses.

Officials said enumerators are encountering difficulties, particularly in the outskirts of Delhi, where a large number of migrant workers and families live in rented premises or informal settlements.

FASTFACTS

- **The official added that concerns among tenants over documentation and identity disclosure have also slowed the exercise in some pockets.**

"Many landlords are either unavailable or unwilling to cooperate with enumerators for various reasons. In areas with high migrant populations, people frequently change residences, making verification and data collection more difficult," an official said.

North East district has recorded the highest number of HLBs under progress at 5,486 out of a total 5,944 blocks, followed by South East with 3,592 out of 4,491 and South West with 3,354 out of 4,229 blocks, the officials said.

The official added that concerns among tenants over documentation and identity disclosure have also slowed the exercise in some pockets.

"Census data will help form policies for the next 10 years. If enumerators are not able to collect accurate data, policy makers cannot take into account the number of people actually living in the areas, hence resulting in a deficiency in policy planning," a census official said.

To improve public participation and awareness, authorities have intensified outreach campaigns across the city. Officials said publicity measures include van campaigns, street plays (Nukkad-Nataks), radio jingles and television advertisements.

"Charge officers and district magistrate offices are also sensitising people through schools and district-level programmes so that residents cooperate with enumerators and understand the importance of the exercise," the official said.

The census exercise is being carried out in phases across Delhi's districts, with officials monitoring progress daily.

Worker suffocates

THANE: A 44-year-old worker suffocated to death while cleaning a nullah in Maharashtra's Thane district, prompting the police to register a case against a contractor and civic officials for negligence, an official said on Friday.

The victim, Subhash Navsha Dighe, a resident of Mithpada, suffocated to death after falling into a drain he was cleaing in the Shantinagar area on Thursday evening, the official said.

Based on a formal complaint lodged by the victim's daughter, the Shanti Nagar police registered a first information report under sections 106(1) (causing death by a rash or negligent act not amounting to culpable homicide) and 307 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) against construction owner-cum-contractor Balu Kharat Chandika and concerned officials of the BNMC's sanitation department.

The complaint alleged that the victim was forced to clean drains without basic life-saving gear, and the contractor failed to provide equipment, including life jackets, helmets, ropes, and boots.

Tejashwi hits out at Centre

PATNA: RJD national president Tejashwi Yadav on Friday criticised the central government for "failing" to stem depreciation of the rupee and control inflation, and accused PM Modi of "misleading" people. In a post on X, Yadav claimed that the rupee has reached its lowest level and become the weakest currency in all of Asia.

कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता, ग्रामीण यांत्रिकी सेवा, संभाग-रायपुर (छ.ग.)

ऑनलाईन पंचमबार निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना क्रमांक - 436

क्रमांक 2337/निविदा/ग्रा.यां.सेवा/2026 रायपुर, दिनांक 20/05/2026

छत्तीसगढ़ के राज्यपाल की ओर से एकीकृत पंजीयन प्रणाली के अंतर्गत (लोक निर्माण विभाग में) "द" एवं उच्च श्रेणी में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से प्रपत्र-"अ" पर दर्शित सिविल कार्य हेतु प्रमुख अभियंता, ग्रामीण यांत्रिकी सेवा द्वारा जारी दिनांक 01.11.2021 से प्रचलित प्रभावशील दर अनुसूची पर निविदा दर प्राप्त करने ऑनलाईन ई-निविदा दिनांक 27/05/2026 तक आमंत्रित की जाती है :-

स. क्र.	टेण्डर नंबर	कार्य का नाम	अनुमानित लागत राशि (रु. लाख में)	अमानत राशि	फार्म फीस
1	191392	Zonal Tender (Different Type of Civil Works i.e. but each work not exceeding cost of Rs. 30.00 lakh) at Sub Division Arang Zone-B Distt.- Raipur (C.G.)	35.00	26300	1500

उपरोक्त कार्यो की निविदा की सामान्य शर्तें, धरोहर राशि, विस्तृत निविदा, निविदा दस्तावेज व अन्य जानकारी ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट वेब पोर्टल http://eproc.cgstate.gov.in में दिनांक 20/05/2026 से देखी जा सकती है।

टीप :- मैन्युअल दस्तावेज की अंतिम तिथि 29/05/2026 सायं 5.30 तक कार्यपालन अभियंता, ग्रा.यां.सेवा, संभाग रायपुर में पहुंचना अनिवार्य है।

G-262700908/1

OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER IN CHIEF PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, NAVA RAIPUR, ATAL NAGAR

(CENTRAL TENDER CELL)
E-Procurement Tender Notice
Main Portal: https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in

Tenders are invited for the Following works:-

S. No	System Tender No./ Date	Name of Work	PAC Amount (Rupees in lacs)
1	190953 First Call 15.05.2026	Widening & Strengthening of Salfa Motimpur Dhuma Amaldiha Road Length 22.50 km.	4464.28
2	190992 First Call 15.05.2026	CONSTRUCTION OF H.L BRIDGE I/C APPROACH ROAD ACROSS LUCHKI NALLA ON AMBIKAPUR TO DARIMA ROAD	462.18
3	190994 First Call 15.05.2026	CONSTRUCTION OF HIGH LEVEL BRIDGE I/C APPROACHES ACROSS PATTHARI NALLA IN KM. 2/4 ON AMGAON-RAWASWAHI ROAD.	322.87
4	190997 First Call 15.05.2026	CONSTRUCTION OF HIGH LEVEL BRIDGE I/C APPROACHES ACROSS PARODA RIVER IN KM-3/4 ON PARODA-KONGUD ROAD.	884.65
5	191003 First Call 15.05.2026	CONSTRUCTION OF HIGH LEVEL BRIDGE I/C APPROACHES ACROSS TAMRAVAND NALLA IN KM. 9/10 ON MAKDI-AMRAVATI ROAD.	617.75
6	191009 Second Call 15.05.2026	CONSTRUCTION OF DIGITAL PLANETARIUM (CAT-III) BUILDING AT KARLI BLOCK-GEEDAM DISTT. DANTEWADA.	245.28
7	191049 First Call 15.05.2026	WIDENING WORK OF SHUKRAWARI BAZAR TO PLATFORM NO.-5 RAILWAY FATAK APPROACH ROAD, LENGTH-0.870 KM(PART-1 LENGTH 0.580 KM) AT DIST. RAIPUR (DN. NO.1, RAIPUR).	324.88
8	191099 First Call 15.05.2026	CONSTRUCTION OF COMMUNITY HALL (CLUB HOUSE) AT RESIDENTIAL CAMPLEX OF SENIOR OFFICERS AT NAVA RAIPUR ATAL NAGAR SECTOR -18 I/C. ELECTRIFICATION WORK AT DISTT. RAPUR (B&R DIVISION, NAWA RAIPUR).	2441.57
9	191161 First Call 18.05.2026	WIDENING STRENTHENING WORK OF BENDRA NAWAGAON ROAD KM 1/2 TO 3/8 = 2.80 KM I/C. CULVERTS AT DIST. DHAMTARI (DHAMTARI DN.).	482.65
10	191163 6th Call 18.05.2026	CONSTRUCTION OF HIGH LEVEL BRIDGE ACROSS SHEONATH RIVER ON TAKAM DONGAGHAT TO DANGANIA BASTI ROAD.	1529.66
11	191165 Second Call 18.05.2026	CONSTRUCTION OF H. L. BRIDGE ACROSS NAINI NALLA ON TUMGAON -SIRPUR BALDAKACHHAR ROAD KM 20/10.	865.23
12	191168 Second Call 18.05.2026	Construction of Law Building (For Ground, First & Second Floor) I/c. Water Supply, Sanitery Fittings & Electrification work at PT. Ravishankar Shukla University Raipur Under PM-USHA Component Grants to Strenghten Colleges(GSC) DISTT. RAIPUR. (Dn. no. 3, Raipur) (Deposit Work-Without Bonus and Escalation).	297.31
13	191177 Second Call 18.05.2026	Construction of New College Building at Jatga. i/c W.S.S.F. Electrification, Boundary wall & Approach Road Works. (Deposit Work-Without Bonus and Escalation).	461.22
14	191186 Second Call 18.05.2026	Construction of Badekanera Naresh Poyam House To Dongriguda Road From Km 1/2 to 4/6 = Length 3.60 Km Inc Culvert and Bridges Work Code W29754.	408.34
15	191192 First Call 18.05.2026	GAURAV PATH & BEAUTIFICATION WORK OF RAJNANDGAON GUNDARDEHI DHAMTARI NAGRI SIHAWA BORAI ROAD (S.H.-23)KM 66/8 TO 70/2=3.50 KM, FOUR LANE IN AAMDI NAGAR PANCHAYAT I/C. CULVERTS AT DIST. DHAMTARI (DHAMTARI DN.).	1926.10
16	191193 First Call 18.05.2026	WIDENING & STRENGTHENING OF CHHATI GAGRA KANDEL DEVPUR ROAD IN KM 1/2 TO 9/10 = 9.00 KM I/C. CULVERTS AT DIST. DHAMTARI (DHAMTARI DN.).	2312.46
17	191213 First Call 18.05.2026	Construction of Badminton Hall and GYM Hall at Medical College & Hospital Dimrapal Jagdalpur Ditt. Bastar (Work Code 1907920120250096) (Deposit work- without escalation and bonus).	349.24
18	191222 First Call 19.05.2026	WIDENING & STRENTHENING OF ARJUNI BHANPURI-TARSHIWA-KURRA-AMLIDIH-HASDA ROAD ON KM 6/2 TO 12/6 & 16/8 TO 20/2 = 10.00 KM. I/C. CULVERTS AT DISTT. DHAMTARI (CG).	1942.22

Last Date of Tender Downloading S.No. 10 date 29.05.2026, S.No. 06 date 01.06.2026, S.No. 02 To S.No. 05 date 05.06.2026, S.No.11 To S.No. 14 date 04.06.2026, S.No. 18 date 10.06.2026. Other Tenders Date are Schedule as date 08.06.2026. For more details on the tender and bidding process please visit the above mentioned portal.

Chief Engineer
(Central Tender Cell)
Office Of Engineer In Chief
P.W.D. Nava Raipur Atal Nagar

G-262700926/3

CHHATTISGARH STATE POWER TRANSMISSION COMPANY LTD
(A Govt. of Chhattisgarh Undertaking) CIN-U40108CT2003SGC015820 GST No. 22AADCC5773E1ZX
OFFICE OF CHIEF ENGINEER (HUMAN RESOURCE), RAIPUR
PHONE NO. (दूरभाष): 0771-2574700, 2574114 FAX NO.(फैक्स): 0771-2574700
Website (वेबसाइट): https://cspc.co.in Email (ईमेल): hr.csptcl@cspc.co.in

No. 01-01/Sec./local med./TS-227/I/423206/2026 Raipur, Date : 15-05-2026

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Online Tender through GeM)

GeM Bid No.	Description	Due Date & Time
GEM/2026/B/7543879	Tender for awarding rate contract for supply of essential and emergent Medicine for day to day requirement of CSPTCL Dispensary Dangania for the year 2026 through GeM.	05.06.2026 up to 15:00 Hrs.

Note : * The above tender will be processed through GeM portal i.e. www.gem.gov.in. ** Please see company website cspc.co.in - CSPTCL - Tender notices for any further details e.g. due date extension etc and the detailed tender document will be available on GeM Portal. **Any amendment/corrigendum, if required, will be displayed on our website only.** *** Helpline Details- In case of any problem please contact: - Tel. no.- 0771-2574114 between Business hours- 10:00 - 17:30 hrs. IST.

Chief Engineer (HR)
CSPTCL, Raipur

"SAVE ELECTRICITY" S-47907/2

F. No. 17/56/2022-FPD
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
Hazardous Substances Management Division

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jal Block, II Floor
Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj, New Delhi - 110003

Sub: Advertisement for hiring of Four (04) Research Associates on contractual basis in the 24x7 Crisis Control Room (CCR), HSM Division, MoEF&CC.

Applications are invited for Four (04) posts of Research Associate in the 24x7 Crisis Control Room (CCR) in the Hazardous Substances Management (HSM) Division, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, New Delhi on payment of consolidated monthly fee of Rs. 40,000/- per Research Associate as per MoEF&CC Guidelines dated 15.04.2025. Full details of the vacancy circular are available on the Ministry website www.moef.nic.in under the link Recruitment.

The last date of receipt of application is 21 days from the date of publication of this advertisement on the website of the Ministry.

CBC 13101/11/0001/2627 Scientist 'E'

South East Central Railway
Expression of Interest
Advertisement for outsourcing of Pathology investigation for Railway Health Unit, SEC Railway, Champa for three years.

Chief Medical Superintendent/SEC Railway, Bilaspur is inviting Expression of Interest (EOI) for Railway Health Unit, SEC Railway, Champa. Reputed Pathology investigation Centre of Champa city around 05 k.m. radius are invited for investigation facility to Railway beneficiaries on current CGHS rate (NABL / Non-NABL).

After receipt of EOI Railway will short list the offers as per laid down criteria. The centres fulfilling the pre-laid criteria will be empanelled accordingly. NABL/NABH accredited Centres will be preferred.

All willing Pathology investigation Centre of Champa around 05 k.m. radius are requested to submit (Either in person OR by registered post) EOI in the prescribed proforma within 21 days of publication of this advertisement in the office of Chief Medical Superintendent, SEC Railway, Bilaspur on all working days between 11.00 hours to 17.00 hrs. The rates of investigations will remain un-changed for further three years and any revision of rate may be considered against revision of CGHS rates only.

The qualifying criteria, prescribed proforma for application and list of investigation tests are available in the office of Chief Medical Superintendent/Bilaspur and these can also be down loaded from the website of SECR in www.secr.indianrailways.gov.in from 22.05.2026 to 12.06.2026.

CPR/10/FL/125 Additional Chief Medical Superintendent (Admin)

South East Central Railway @secrail

MGIRI
MAHATMA GANDHI INSTITUTE FOR RURAL INDUSTRIALISATION
(A National Institute under Ministry of MSME, Govt. of India)

Mahatma Gandhi Institute for Rural Industrialization (MGIRI), Wardha - 442001
(Under Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises, Government of India)
Phone 07152 253512

Applications are invited in the prescribed format from eligible candidates for filling one Group 'A' post at the Mahatma Gandhi Institute for Rural Industrialization (MGIRI), under the administrative control of MoMSME, located at Wardha, Maharashtra. The details about the post is as follows:-

Name	No of Post	Method of Recruitment	Pay (as per 7th CPC)
Senior Scientific Officer, Management & System	01	By Direct Recruitment	Pay Band 3: Rs 15600-39100/-Level 11.

For details, refer to the employment news published on 23/05/2026 and the MGIRI website. The application form and other details can be downloaded from the office website, i.e., www.mgiri.org.

Note: Corrigendum, if any, issued on the above advertisement, will be published only on the MGIRI website.

CBC 25134/12/0004/2627 I/C Admin., MGIRI

Central Chronicle

Since 1974 Volume 14 No. 53

Comment

QUOTE FROM THE QUOTABLE

"India is proving again and again that the sky is not the limit"

[Narendra Modi]

| OUR VIEW |

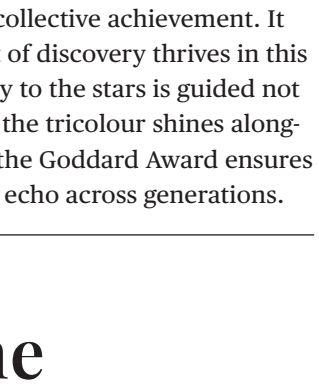
Chandrayaan 3: India's Moonshot Wins America's Highest Astronautics Honour

India's tryst with the Moon has now earned global recognition. The American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) has conferred its highest honour, the Goddard Astronautics Award, on ISRO's Chandrayaan 3 mission. This accolade, named after rocket pioneer Robert H. Goddard, is reserved for achievements that redefine the frontiers of space exploration. For India, it is more than an award; it is a validation of vision, perseverance, and scientific excellence. On August 23, 2023, Chandrayaan 3 scripted history by becoming the first mission to soft land near the Moon's south pole – a region long considered treacherous yet vital for future exploration. With this feat, India joined an elite league of spacefaring nations, but at a fraction of the cost. The mission, executed with remarkable efficiency, demonstrated that cutting edge science need not be extravagant. It showcased India's ability to innovate within constraints, a lesson the world is now applauding. The award also underscores the broader significance of Chandrayaan 3. Beyond the technical triumph, it symbolises India's emergence as a responsible global partner in space science. The mission's findings on lunar soil composition have implications for resource utilisation, sustainable exploration, and even human settlement. By sharing data openly, ISRO has strengthened international collaboration and positioned India as a hub of affordable, impactful space research. Equally important is the inspiration this recognition provides to India's youth. At a time when the country is nurturing ambitions under the Space Vision 2047, the Goddard Award affirms that Indian scientists can stand shoulder to shoulder with the best in the world. It is a reminder that curiosity, discipline, and courage can propel a nation from modest beginnings to cosmic milestones. Chandrayaan 3's honour is not just ISRO's triumph; it is India's collective achievement. It tells the world that the spirit of discovery thrives in this land, and that India's journey to the stars is guided not by profit but by purpose. As the tricolour shines alongside the Moon's south pole, the Goddard Award ensures that India's lunar legacy will echo across generations.

| GUEST VIEW |

Ban Online Alcohol Sales

The push by state governments to institutionalise online liquor delivery through e commerce platforms is a catastrophic blunder that trades public health for revenue greed. With over 160 million Indians already battling alcohol dependence, weaponising convenience will fuel an uncontrollable social crisis. Digital age verification is a farce – tech savvy minors can easily bypass loopholes, exposing an entire generation to addiction. Flooding households with home delivered alcohol will escalate domestic violence, devastate marginalised families, and turn highways into death traps. Alcohol is not an ordinary commodity; it is a proven driver of health disorders, crime, and social breakdown. By legitimising online sales, the state risks normalising excessive consumption and undermining decades of awareness campaigns. The lure of doorstep delivery will erode community safeguards, making alcohol more accessible than ever before. Governments must recognise that this policy is profit driven, not people centric. The social costs – broken homes, lost productivity, rising healthcare burdens – will far outweigh any short term revenue gains. India cannot afford to sacrifice its social fabric for convenience. The state apparatus must abandon this destructive experiment immediately. Public health, family stability, and road safety demand a clear, uncompromising stance: ban online alcohol sales before they permanently scar the nation.



Vijay kumar HK, Raichur

Building a Knowledge Superpower: The Vision of Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan

The strongest foundation of any nation's progress, prosperity, and global prestige lies in its education system. A robust, inclusive, value based, and future oriented education system propels a nation toward development, self reliance, and global leadership. Education is not merely literacy or information acquisition; it is the cornerstone of intellectual, moral, social, and emotional development. It nurtures scientific temper, constitutional values, social responsibility, environmental consciousness, and national commitment. By fostering skill development, technological competence, and leadership qualities, education transforms human resources into a powerful force for nation building.

In this context, the concept of the Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan assumes immense significance. The proposed institution has the potential not only to address limitations of India's existing higher education regulatory framework but also to usher in a transformative era of transparency, efficiency, and global competitiveness. At present, regulatory bodies such as the University Grants Commission, All India Council for Technical Education, and National Council for Teacher Education function independently, often resulting in overlapping responsibilities. The proposed foundation seeks to integrate these fragmented systems into a unified structure, thereby improving policy coherence and implementation efficiency.

India today possesses one of the world's largest youth populations–a tremendous demographic dividend. Transforming this vast youth population into a skilled, innovative, and empowered force capable of leading India toward the vision of a "Developed Nation" is among the country's greatest responsibilities. Education remains the most powerful instrument to achieve this objective. In this regard, the Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan emerges as a visionary framework capable of providing new direction and momentum to India's higher education ecosystem.

The significance of this initiative extends far beyond institutional reform. It represents a transformation in the philosophy, objectives, and outcomes of education itself. One of its most important features is the establishment of a single regulatory framework under which distinct responsibilities such as standard setting, accreditation, funding, and regulation would be managed through specialised councils. Such a system would bring greater clarity in governance while reducing unnecessary administrative burdens. The proposed foundation has the potential to cultivate a strong culture of research and innovation within universities and colleges, thereby accelerating scientific discovery, technological advancement, and startup development.

Equally important is the foundation's commitment to equity and inclusion. Persistent disparities between rural and urban educational infrastructure continue to limit opportunities for millions of students. Through policy reforms, digital education initiatives, and technology driven resources, the Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan can play a crucial role in bridging this divide and ensuring access to quality education for all. Recognising this reality, the foundation seeks to position India as a global education hub. By promoting collaborations with international universities, student exchange programs, multidisciplinary education, and global research partnerships, India can strengthen its presence in the international academic landscape.

Another noteworthy aspect is its emphasis on transparency and accountability. The performance of higher education institutions would be assessed through clearly defined parameters, ensuring quality enhancement and institutional responsibility. Digital monitoring and evaluation systems could significantly reduce corruption, bureaucratic opacity, and inefficiencies. A key vision of the National Education Policy 2020 is the promotion of multidisciplinary and holistic education. The Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan can play a decisive role in ensuring that universities transcend rigid disciplinary boundaries and foster creativity, critical thinking, and innovation. The framework also envisions the creation of a vibrant ecosystem for research and innovation. By granting greater autonomy, improved resources, and enhanced collaborative opportunities to universities and research institutions, India can move closer to becoming a global knowledge powerhouse.

Ensuring Institutional Autonomy: Institutional autonomy must remain central to the framework. Excessive centralisation could undermine creativity, academic freedom, and independence. Decision making should prioritise expert participation and remain insulated from political interference. Active Participation of States: Education is a concurrent subject within India's federal structure, making state involvement essential. Policies must reflect regional needs, linguistic diversity, and local priorities. Without cooperative federalism, the initiative may struggle to achieve broad acceptance. Strengthening Financial Support: Regulatory reform alone is insufficient without adequate investment. Higher educational institutions and research centres require sustained funding, modern infrastructure, and advanced technological resources. Increased public expenditure will be indispensable for success.

Prioritising Inclusive Education: Inclusive education must remain a national priority. Special initiatives should focus on rural areas, marginalised communities, and remote regions to bridge the digital divide and ensure equitable access to quality learning. Strengthening Industry Academia Collaboration: Education must evolve beyond theoretical instruction to become practical, industry oriented, and employment driven. Stronger collaboration between academia and industry, supported by internships, apprenticeships, and startup ecosystems, will prepare students for future challenges. Promoting Indian Languages and Knowledge Systems: The integration of Indian languages and authentic knowledge traditions should form a vital component of this framework. Encouraging education in mother tongues and regional languages will improve comprehension and accessibility while strengthening India's cultural and intellectual heritage.

From a holistic perspective, the Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan possesses the potential to become the cornerstone of India's educational transformation. It is not merely an administrative reform; it represents the possibility of a far reaching educational revolution. If implemented effectively, with due consideration to autonomy, inclusion, federal cooperation, and financial sustainability, this initiative can play a defining role in transforming India into a knowledge based, innovative, self reliant, and developed nation. By linking education with innovation, employment, entrepreneurship, and nation building, it holds immense potential to strengthen India's journey toward becoming a global knowledge superpower. More than an institutional reform, it represents a national mission to build an empowered, prosperous, and enlightened India for generations to come.



Prof. (Dr.) Arpan Bhardwaj, Vice-Chancellor, Samrat Vikramaditya University, Ujjain (M.P.)



Prof. (Dr.) Manmohan Prakash, Chairman, Governing Body,Government Holkar (Model, Autonomous) Science College, Indore (M.P.)

World Turtle Day: A Call for Conservation

Turtles and tortoises belong to the order Testudines, one of the oldest reptile groups on Earth. They have roamed the planet for over 200 million years.



Vinod Chandrashekhar Dixit, Writer and Cartoonist



To raise awareness about turtles and tortoises, their conservation needs, and the serious threats they face, we observe World Turtle Day every year on May 23. The day celebrates the beauty, diversity, and vital ecological roles these reptiles play in ecosystems worldwide. More importantly, it serves as a global call to action – urging individuals, organizations, and governments to step up and support conservation efforts.

World Turtle Day was founded in 2000 by American Tortoise Rescue, a California based non profit created by Susan Tellem and Marshall Thompson. The organization rescues, rehabilitates, and protects turtles and tortoises from abuse, illegal trade, and habitat loss. The day was launched to highlight how human activity, pollution, and environmental hazards have caused sharp declines in their populations. Each year on May 23, schools, wildlife rescue centres, zoos, and nature enthusiasts come together to educate communities, share research, and pledge to protect these remarkable animals.

Turtles and tortoises belong to the order Testudines, one of the oldest reptile groups on Earth. They have roamed the planet for over 200 million years – long before snakes, crocodiles, or alligators appeared. They survived the age of dinosaurs and multiple mass extinctions. This ancient lineage makes their conservation not just important, but urgent. If we lose them, we lose a living connection to Earth's deep past.

World Turtle Day also emphasizes the role of scientific research and sustainable habitat management. Many turtle species depend on wetlands – ecosystems that are among the most biodiverse yet most threatened on the planet. Wetlands are disappearing three times faster than forests due to drainage, pollution, and development. Protecting species like the European pond turtle (Emys orbicularis) means protecting the marshes, rivers, and coastal zones that support thousands of other plants and animals too.

Understanding the difference between turtles and tortoises is key to protecting them. While the terms are often used interchangeably, they are distinct animals with different needs. Turtles generally live in water or split time between land and water. They have flatter, streamlined shells and webbed feet or flippers for swimming. Most species live 40-80 years, though sea turtles can live longer. Tortoises are land dwellers with large, domed shells and sturdy, elephant like legs. They are herbivores, and some species are among the longest living animals on Earth – with verified lifespans of 150-190 years. Claims of 300 years are myths, but their longevity is still extraordinary.

The size range is equally remarkable. The speckled padloper tortoise measures just 3-4 inches, while the leatherback sea turtle can exceed 7 feet in length and weigh over 2,000 pounds. Turtles inhabit oceans, rivers, and lakes across every continent except Antarctica. Tortoises prefer grasslands, deserts, scrub forests, and tropical islands. Today, over half of all turtle and tortoise species are threatened with extinction. Habitat destruction, climate change, plastic pollution, illegal pet trade, and fishing bycatch are driving their decline. Because they grow slowly and reproduce late, their populations cannot recover quickly from losses.

World Turtle Day is more than a date on the calendar. It's a reminder that these quiet, ancient creatures have watched continents drift and climates shift, but they may not survive us without help. Each of us can act: cut down on single use plastics, never purchase wild caught turtles or tortoises, support wetland and beach conservation, volunteer with rescue groups, and teach children to respect wildlife. When we protect turtles and tortoises, we safeguard oceans, rivers, forests, and grasslands – and all the species that share those habitats. Their slow, steady pace carries a powerful message: conservation cannot wait. The choices we make today will decide whether these living fossils remain for our grandchildren to witness and wonder at. Let World Turtle Day be the start of that commitment.

YOURLETTERS

Ebola outbreak: A wake-up call for the world

The WHO has declared Ebola a Public Health Emergency of International Concern. The immediate need to combat Ebola is to strengthen active surveillance worldwide, deploy rapid multi-disciplinary response teams and ensure early isolation and treatment of suspected cases. Furthermore, countries should support frontline health workers/safe access to approved treatment/and build community trust to halt chains of transmission. MoHFW should issue advisory for vigilance at all entry points such as airports/seaports.

Nabnit Panigrahi, Raygada, Odisha

Cartoons, Criticism, and the Confidence of Leaders

Though K Shankar Pillai often criticised the policies of Indira Gandhi through his cartoons, when Shankar's Weekly had to fold due to financial hardships, she lamented: "I learnt a few days ago about your decision to stop Shankar's Weekly... We shall miss the journal." Jawaharlal Nehru's impeccable call of "Don't Spare Me Shankar" reflected his respect for freedom of expression and proved his tolerance towards criticism. Only a supremely liberal and confident democrat welcomes criticism.

Kajal Chatterjee, Kolkata

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

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Nation



"The NHAI has signed MoU with Norwegian Geotechnical Institute for consultancy support in Tunnel Engineering.".

Nitin Gadkari
Union Minister

CM Vijay inducts IUML Leader in coalition Govt

Tamil Nadu witnessed major coalition developments after Chief Minister Joseph Vijay expanded his diverse Cabinet ministry significantly.

Press Trust Of India



CHENNAI: Heralding a new era of coalition government, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay on Friday completed his Cabinet expansion exercise by inducting two more MLAs, including a Dalit from the VCK, making it a rainbow ministry that also has Brahmins. Senior VCK leader Vanni Arasu, a close aide of party chief Thol Thirumavalavan and IUML MLA A M Shahjahan took oath as ministers. Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar administered them the oath of office and secrecy at simple ceremony in the Lok Bhavan. Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay and others participated. The induction of VCK and the IUML legislators apparently irked the DMK and its senior leader A Raja targeted the two parties, initially with a social media post which was later allegedly deleted, and another tweet attacking them.

HIGHLIGHT

- **VCK and IUML legislators joined ministry amid sharp political exchanges Friday.**

| DIRECT TRAIN |

Jodhpur-Haridwar direct train soon:Vaishnaw

Press Trust Of India



JODHPUR: Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Friday that a direct train service between Jodhpur and Haridwar will be launched by March 2027, following strong demand from passengers. The railway minister was in Jodhpur to inaugurate a 20-coach Vande Bharat Express train, replacing the existing 8-coach service. Vaishnaw said that, keeping in mind the increasing demand from tourists and regular travellers, the new 20-coach train is being introduced.

"Based on continuous demand, we have increased its capacity from 8 coaches to 20 coaches," Vaishnaw said.

He informed that a coaching terminal for Vande Bharat Sleeper and other trains will be set up in Jodhpur, which will help increase train services in western Rajasthan. Vaishnaw also announced the extension of the Sabarmati-Jodhpur train service to Jaisalmer and the inauguration of a coaching maintenance depot there.

When local leaders gathered at the inauguration ceremony for Vande Bharat, and demanded a direct train from Jodhpur to Haridwar, Vaishnaw assured them saying he was aware of the need and that work was underway to start the service by March 2027. While the 8-coach reserved train from Jodhpur to Delhi Cantt departed at its scheduled time of 5.30 am on May 22, the inaugural run of the 20-coach train began at around 1.30 pm. "Since it is an inaugural run, it is carrying some unreserved passengers, railway officials and mediapersons. Most of the seats are unoccupied; however, once it becomes part of scheduled operations, we expect a huge response," a railway official said. Officials said the enhanced-capacity train will officially replace the 8-coach service in scheduled operations from May 25.

TMC holds meeting outside KMC

KOLKATA: Trinamool Congress councillors of the Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) on Friday conducted the civic body's monthly meeting outside its main chamber, after finding it "locked" since morning, party leaders said. The session was subsequently held in the club room of the civic body under the leadership of KMC Chairperson Mala Roy. The reason behind the chamber remaining locked was not immediately known.

"The chamber was locked since morning. After an initial discussion with the councillors, it was decided that the session would be held in the club room instead," Deputy Mayor and Councillor of Ward No 11, Atin Ghosh, said. The councillors arranged for chairs and tables on their own and began the proceedings in the club room, he said. "The session continued as scheduled. We made alternative arrangements and started the proceedings," Ghosh said.

Meanwhile, the first monthly meeting of the KMC after the recent assembly polls, scheduled for Friday, was cancelled through a notification issued on Wednesday. "There has been no clarification from the KMC Commissioner's office regarding the cancellation," a senior official of the civic body said.

PUBLIC NOTICE

In compliance to the Section 62, 86 of the Electricity Act, 2003 and applicable Chhattisgarh State Electricity Regulatory Commission (CSERC) (Multi Year Tariff Regulations), M/s. ACB (India) Ltd. has filed a Petition before the CSERC for the truing-up of variable cost for FY 2024-25 and approval of other reimbursable expenses from its 2x50 MW coal Washery Reject based thermal power plant located at Village Ratija, Tehsil Hardi Bazar, Dist.-Korba (CG)-495449 supplying five percent (5%) of net generated power at variable cost to Chhattisgarh State Power Distribution Company Limited. This petition is registered as petition no. 33/2026.

In the petition, M/s. ACB (India) Ltd. has requested the Commission to approve energy charge rate of INR 2.98/kWh for FY 2024-25 along with reimbursable charges.

Copy of this notice and the petition are available on the Commission's website www.cserc.gov.in. Hardcopy of the aforesaid petition is also available in office of the Commission and same can be purchased by paying an amount of Rs. 500/- from 11 AM to 4 PM on any working day. The copy of the petition may also be obtained by post by paying an additional amount of Rs. 100/- as postal expenses.

Persons intending to file Objections / suggestions, on the above petition, may submit the same to Secretary, Chhattisgarh State Electricity Regulatory Commission, Irrigation Colony, Shanti Nagar, Raipur 492001 (CG), E-mail: cserc.sec.cg@nic.in and/or copy to General Manager, ACB (India) Ltd, Village Ratija, Tehsil Hardi Bazaar, Dist.-Korba (CG)-495449, Email sppandey@acbindia.com within 21 days of publication of this notice. The Commission shall also conduct public hearing on the above petition for which place, date and time shall be notified separately through newspapers.

Satya Prakash Pandey
Plant Head,
M/s ACB (India) Ltd.

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

(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** had 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-fulfillment 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 & Guarantor & Address	Outstanding Amount as per Demand Notice	Details of Secured assets (NPA Date: 29.04.2026) (Notice Date:13.05.2026)
01	Choubey Colony Branch Raipur 9874527222	**M/s. Nyra Biotech Prop: Mr. Sourabh Sharma,** Ground Floor,B-12, Lalpur,Khabri Lal News Agency, Raipur, Pin – 492001, C.G. & Itwari Bazar, Naya Ganj, Ward No.- 20, Raigarh, Pin No.: 496001, C.G. Guarantor- **Mrs. Nirupama Sharma** W/o **Mr. Suresh Sharma, Mrs.Monika Sharma** W/o **Mr. Sourabh Sharma, Mr.Suresh Kumar Sharma,** Itwari Bazar, Naya Ganj, Ward No. - 20, Raigarh, Pin No. - 496001, C.G. & **Mr. Sourabh Sharma,** D-602, Floor 6,Palm Residency,Katora Talab, Raipur, Chhattisgarh	Rs. 95,77,794.71 + Unapplied interest + other charges	1. Equitable mortgage of residential open Land No. - LIG 01, Part of Kh No. - 316/1, after mutation Kh No. - 316/7, Area- 500 sqft situated in Arvind Dixit Ward No. 47, Village – Tikrapara, PH No. - 114/70, Raipur, RIC Raipur, Tahsil and Dist. - Raipur, C.G. , standing in the name of Mr. Saurabh Sharma S/o Mr. Suresh Kumar Sharma.Boundaries:North: - Khasra No. 316/4, South: - Road, East:- LIG No. 02, West: - Plot No. 02. 2. Equitable mortgage of residential open Land No. LIG 02, Part of Kh No. 316/1, after mutation Kh No.- 316/10, Area - 500 sqft situated in Arvind Dixit Ward No. 47, Village – Tikrapara, PH No. 114/70, Raipur, RIC Raipur, Tahsil and District- Raipur, C.G. standing in the name of Mrs. Monika Sharma W/o Mr. Saurabh Sharma. Boundaries: North ; - Khasra No.316/4, South:- Road, East:- LIG No. 03, West: - LIG No.01. 3. Equitable mortgage of residential open Land No. LIG 03, Part of Kh No. - 316/1, after mutation Kh No. - 316/8, Area - 500 sqft situated in Arvind Dixit Ward No.- 47, Village – Tikrapara, PH No.- 114/70, Raipur, RIC Raipur, Tahsil and District - Raipur, C.G. , Raipur standing in the name of Mr. Suresh Kumar Sharma S/o Mr. Ramkumar Sharma. Boundaries: North : - Khasra No. 316/4, South: - Road, East: - LIG No. 04, West: - LIG No. 02. 4. Equitable mortgage of residential open Land No. LIG 04, Part of Kh No.-316/1, after mutation Kh No.-316/9, Area - 500 sqft situated in Arvind Dixit Ward No. 47, Village- Tikrapara, PH No. 114/70, Raipur, RIC Raipur, Tah and District Raipur, C.G. , Raipur standing in the name of Mrs. Nirupama Sharma W/o Mr. Suresh Kumar Sharma. Boundaries: North: - Khasra No. 316/4, South: - Road, East: - Other's Plot, West: - LIG No. 03.

Date:23.05.2026, Place:Raipur, Chhattisgarh — Authorized Officer, Bank of Baroda

बैंक ऑफ महाराष्ट्र Bank of Maharashtra
भारत सरकार का उद्यम
एक परिवार एक बैंक
Zonal Office- 1st Floor, Chawla Complex, Sai (Devendra) Nagar, Raipur, Email: cmfsmc_rai@bankofmaharashtra.bank.in Mo: 9007896452

Appendix IV POSSESSION NOTICE
[For Immovable Property under the Act – Rule- 8(1)]

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Bank of Maharashtra under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Asset and Enforcement of Security Interest Act – 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Sub Section (2) of Section 13 read with rule 8 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice dated 17/02/2026 calling upon the **Borrower: - M/s Ajit Singh Jogi Poultry Farm (Prop- Mr. Ajit Singh Jogi S/o Mr. Puran Lal Jogi) Guarantor – Mr. Ajay Jogi** S/o Mr. Puran Lal Jogi. Address for Both – Ward no. 6, Mandir Chowk Borsi, Village Borsi, Post Kosa, Tehsil- Pamgarh, Dist.- Janjgir Champa, Chhattisgarh, Pin – 495663 to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice being **Total: Rs. 1768086.00 (Rupees Seventeen Lakh Sixty Eight Thousand Eighty Six only)** plus interest thereon @ contractual rate w.e.f. 17/02/2026 plus cost, charges, expenses etc. within 60 days from the date of the said Notice.

The Borrower/Guarantor having failed to repay the amount, Notice is hereby given to the Borrower/Guarantor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic Possession of the property described herein below in the exercise of the powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said Rules on this **22th May 2026.**

The Borrower/Guarantor 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 the Bank of Maharashtra, **Konar Branch** for an amount of here in above mentioned. The Borrower/Guarantor 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.

The details of the Immoveable property mortgaged to the Bank and taken Symbolic possession by the Bank are as follows: -

Name of the Executant/Owner – Mr. Ajit Singh Jogi S/o Mr. Puran Lal Jogi. Khasra No. 113/3, Village Borsi, P.H No. 03, RNM – Pamgarh, Tehsil-Pamgarh, Dist.- Janjgir Champa, Chhattisgarh, Pin – 495663, admeasuring 0.101 Hectare. Bounded as follows: -North: Govt. Land and Road, East: Land of Fekram, West: Land of Fekram, South: Land of Manaram

Date: 23.05.2026, Place: Konar — Authorised Officer & Chief Manager

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

ICICI Home Finance | Registered Office: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai- 400051
Corporate Office: ICICI HFC Tower, JB Nagar, Andheri Kurla Road, Andheri East, Mumbai- 400059
Branch Office: 1st Floor, Indira Tower, A-26, Zone II, Main Road Vyapar Vihar Bilaspur (C.G.) 495001

Whereas
The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Home Finance Company Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.
As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower 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 ICICI Home Finance Company Limited.
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.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of property/ Date of Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Jal Singh Yadav (Borrower), Dropti Yadav (Co-Borrower), Godkhami Khami Mungel Mungeli Chhattisgarh- 495334. LHBSR00001573596.	Diverted Land Situated At Mauza Godkhamhi Lormi, P.H. No. 07, Part of Khasra No. 248/7, Tehsil Lormi, District Mungeli, Chhattisgarh- 495001. Bounded By- North By- Land of Mr. Khelawan, South By- Road, East By- Land of Mr. Baiga Yadav, West By- Remaining Land of Seller./ Date of Possession- 18-May-26	24-10-2025 Rs. 37,85,992.8/-	Bilaspur
2.	Jal Singh Yadav (Borrower), Dropti Yadav (Co-Borrower), Godkhami Khami Mungel Mungeli Chhattisgarh- 495334. LHBSR00001573599.	Diverted Land Situated At Mauza Godkhamhi Lormi, P.H. No. 07, Part of Khasra No. 248/7, Tehsil Lormi, District Mungeli, Chhattisgarh- 495001. Bounded By- North By- Land of Mr. Khelawan, South By- Road, East By- Land of Mr. Baiga Yadav, West By- Remaining Land of Seller./ Date of Possession- 18-May-26	24-10-2025 Rs. 12,15,773/-	Bilaspur

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Date : May 23, 2026
Place: Bilaspur
Authorized Office
ICICI Home Finance Company Limited

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

E- AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF PROPERTIES "APPENDIX- IV-A [See proviso to Rule 8(6) & 9(1)]"

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

Sr. No.	Name & Address of Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagor(s)	Give short description of the movable / immovable property with known encumbrances, if any	Total Dues	(i) Reserve Price (ii) EMD and (iii) Bid Amount	Status of Possession (Constructive/ Physical)
01	**Mr. Ramsnehi Vishwakarma** S/o Mr. Devki Vishwakarma, Mr. Santosh Vishwakarma S/o Mr. Ramsnehi Vishwakarma and Mr. Krishna Vishwakarma S/o Mr. Ramsnehi Vishwakarma, R/o Company Bazar Ambikapur, Ps Ambikapur – Surguja, Chhattisagrh - 497001.	Residential house on plot bearing Khasra No.1321/26 Area-0.01 ¾ (13'X58') acre situated at Company Bazar Ambikapur, Nazul Sheet No.- 03, RNM Ambikapur, Tehsil-Ambikapur, District- Surguja (C.G.),Boundaries of Property: North :- Nazool Plot & house of Smt. Shyama Bai, West - House of Shri Ishwar Mistri, East -House of Shri Ramdayal Vishwakarma, South- C.C. Road.	Rs. 7,39,282.90 + interest + other charges	Rs. 14,50,000.00 Rs. 1,45,000.00 Rs. 10,000.00	Physical Possession

Date & Time of E-Auction 22.06.2026, 2.00 P.M. to 6.00 P.M. & Property Inspection Date & Time 19.06.2026, 1.00 P.M. to 4.00 P.M. For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer/visit to the online auction portal https://baanknet.com Also, prospective bidders may contact the Authorised officer on Tel No. 9025104044.

Date:23.05.2026 , Place: Bilaspur (C.G.) — Authorised Officer, Bank of Baroda

IDBI BANK CIN:L65190MH2004GOI148838 | IDBI BANK LTD. Regional Office- Bilaspur (C.G.)

APPENDIX IV [RULE 8(1)] POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Properties)

Whereas The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of IDBI BANK LIMITED under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of the Powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice(s) dated as below mentioned dates calling upon the Borrower(s)/ Mortgagor(s) as mentioned below to repay the amount mentioned in the notice and same is mentioned below within 60 days from date of the receipt of the said notice. The Borrower(s)/ Mortgagor(s) having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower(s)/ Mortgagor(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the properties described herein below, in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under sub section (4) of section 13 of the Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this the date mentioned below. The Borrower(s)/ Mortgagor(s) in particular and the Public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of IDBI BANK LIMITED, for amount mentioned below and interest thereon. The Borrowers'/ Mortgagors' 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.	Name of the Borrowers, Mortagagors	Date of 1) Demand Notice & 2) Possession Notice	Claim Amount as per demand notice	Description of the Immovable Properties
1.	**Borrower- Ravi Goswami** S/o Paras Puri Goswami & **Co-Borrower- Deepak Goswami** S/o Paras Puri Goswami	(1) 03.02.2026 (2) 20.05.2026	Rs. 23,17,599.91/- + Further Interest & Other Charges thereon	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of of. Diverted land and Building Mouza Mendra , PH No 41/42, RNM Pendari, Sheet No. 05, Khasra No. Part of 154/1, Bhukhand No. 149, Admeasuring- 1000 sqft, Tehsil- Sakri, Dist.- Bilaspur , Chhattishgarh within the Registration Sub-District- Bilaspur and District- Bilaspur. Bounded: North : Land of Seller, South: Land of Seller, East : RoadWest: Land of Mahetaru. together with all buildings and structures thereon and all plant and machinery attached to the earth or permanently fastened to anything attached to the earth.
2.	**Borrower-Amit Kumar Kaushik** S/o Ved Prasad Kaushik & **Co-Borrower- Seema Kaushik** W/o Amit Kumar Kaushik	(1) 04.02.2026 (2) 20.05.2026	Rs. 73,32,204/- + Further Interest & Other Charges thereon	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of and situated on Diverted Land Mouza Mangla, PH No. 21/35, RNM Sarkanda, Block –Bilha, Sheet No. 9, Survey No. Part of 72, Khasra No. Part of 120/12, Admeasuring- 3463 sqft. Tehsil & Dist. – Bilaspur within the Registration Sub-District- Bilaspur and District- Bilaspur. Bounded: North : Land of Kashyap, South : Land of seller, East : Land of Kashyap, West : Road. together with all buildings and structures thereon and all plant and machinery attached to the earth or permanently fastened to anything attached to the earth.
3.	**Borrower-Jitendra Singh Soni** S/o Mansingh Soni & **Co-Borrower- Shalinee Soni** W/o Jitendra Singh Soni	(1) 03.02.2026 (2) 20.05.2026	Rs. 21,56,161/- + Further Interest & Other Charges thereon	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Diverted Land and Building, P.H No. 45/60, RNM-Sakri, Mouza – Uslapur, Sheet No. 10, Bhukhand No. 96, Khasra No. 257/14, Admeasuring 810 Sqft. Tehsil- Sakri and Dist- Bilaspur Chhattishgarh within the Registration Sub-District- Bilaspur and District- Bilaspur. Bounded: North : Land of Shazad, South : Land of Nitu Mishra, East : Land of Laxminarayan, West : Road. together with all buildings and structures thereon and all plant and machinery attached to the earth or permanently fastened to anything attached to the earth.

Date : 23.05.2026, Place : Bilaspur — Authorised Officer, IDBI Bank Limited

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

E-AUCTION NOTICE

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

The undersigned as authorised officer of **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** has **taken possession** of the following property in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(4) of the SARFAESI ACT. The Borrower in particular and public at large are informed that **online auction (e-auction)** of the mortgage property in the below mentioned account for realisation of dues of the Bank will be held on **"AS IS WHERE IS BASIS"** and **"AS IS WHAT IS BASIS"** on the date as prescribed as here under.

Sr. No.	Loan Account Number	Name of Original Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor	Date of 13-2 Notice	Date of Possession	Present Outstanding balance as on	Date & Time of Inspection of the property	Reserve Price in INR	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in INR	Date and Time of E-Auction	Last Date, Time & Place for Submission of Bid
1	45099420001377 45099420001901 & 45099420007741	1) Mr. Giriraj Jaysval, S/o. Narayn Jaysval, 2) Mrs. Lakshmi Bai Jaysval, W/o. Narayan Prasad Jaysval, 3) Mrs. Jyoti Jaiswal, W/o. Giriraj Jaiswal	28.08.2025	12.11.2025	Rs.54,55,941.24 (Rupees Fifty Four Lakh Fifty Five Thousand Nine Hundred Fourty One and Twenty Four Paise Only) as of 06.05.2026	06.06.2026 09.00 AM to 05.30 PM	Rs.16,48,080/- (Rupees Sixteen Lakh Fourty Eight Thousand Eighty Only)	Rs.1,64,808/- (Rupees One Lakh Sixty Four Thousand Eight Hundred Eight Only)	12.06.2026 @ 11.00 AM to 02.00 PM	11.06.2026 before 05.00 PM Jana Small Finance Bank Limited, Malay Heights, 1st Floor, Above IDBI Bank, In front of RBI, Mahadevghat Road, Sundar Nagar, Raipur (C.G.)-492001.
	Property Description/ Schedule: (Part-'A'): All that piece and parcel of land bearing Part Khasra No.155/3, after mutation 155/31, total admeasuring area of 3488 Sq.ft. (324.284 Sq.mtrs.), situated at Gram Bodtara (Kalan), P.H. No.00026, within the limits of Grampanchayat Bodtara (Kalan), R.N.M. Lormi, Block & Tehsil Lormi, District Mungeli (C.G.). **Bounded by: East by:** Remaining Part of Seller, **West by:** Remaining Part of Seller, **North by:** Road and **South by:** Remaining Land of Seller.									
2	45099420001377 45099420001901 & 45099420007741	1) Mr. Giriraj Jaysval, S/o. Narayn Jaysval, 2) Mrs. Lakshmi Bai Jaysval, W/o. Narayan Prasad Jaysval, 3) Mrs. Jyoti Jaiswal, W/o. Giriraj Jaiswal	28.08.2025	12.11.2025	Rs.54,55,941.24 (Rupees Fifty Four Lakh Fifty Five Thousand Nine Hundred Fourty One and Twenty Four Paise Only) as of 06.05.2026	06.06.2026 09.00 AM to 05.30 PM	Rs.14,58,000/- (Rupees Fourteen Lakh Fifty Eight Thousand Only)	Rs.1,45,800/- (Rupees One Lakh Fourty Five Thousand Eight Hundred Only)	12.06.2026 @ 11.00 AM to 02.00 PM	11.06.2026 before 05.00 PM Jana Small Finance Bank Limited, Malay Heights, 1st Floor, Above IDBI Bank, In front of RBI, Mahadevghat Road, Sundar Nagar, Raipur (C.G.)-492001.
	Property Description/ Schedule: (Part-'B'): All that piece and parcel of diverted residential land bearing Layout Plot No.23, (Diversion Sheet No.3 Plot No.10), total admeasuring area of 1200 Sq.ft. (111.483 sq.mtrs.), out of Khasra No.352/6, situated at Shri Ram Park, Phase-2, Mouza Sakri, Mahal No.1, P.H. No.45, R.N.M. Sakri, Block Takhatpur, Tehsil Sakri & District Bilaspur (C.G.). **Bounded by: East by:** Colony Road, **West by:** Plot No.50, **North by:** Plot No.24 and **South by:** Plot No.22.									

The properties are being held on **"AS IS WHERE IS BASIS"** & **"AS IS WHAT IS BASIS"** and the E-Auction will be conducted **'On Line'**. All payments relating to purchase of above said property to be made in favour of **Jana Small Finance Bank.** The auction will be conducted through the Bank's approved service provider **M/s. 4 Closure** at the web portal **https://bankauctions.in** & **www.foreclosureindia.com.** For more information and For details, help, procedure and online training on e-auction, prospective bidders may contact **M/s. 4 Closure; Contact Mr. Vikas Ketele, Contact Number: 8712637550. Email id: info@bankauctions.in / vikas@bankauctions.in.** For further details on terms and conditions to take part in e-auction proceedings and any for any query relating to property please contact **Jana Small Finance Bank officers Mr. Sanjay Saini (Mob. No.9981544885), Mr. Ranjan Naik (Mob. No.6362951653) & Mr. Kaushik Bag (Mob. No.7019949040).** To the best of knowledge and information of the Authorised Officer, there are no encumbrances on the properties. However the intending bidders should make their own independent inquiries regarding the encumbrances, title of property put on prior to submitting their bid. No conditional bid will be accepted. This is also a notice to the above named Borrowers/ Guarantor's/ Mortgagors about e-auction scheduled for the mortgaged properties. The Borrower/ Guarantor/ Mortgagor are hereby notified to pay the sum as mentioned above along with up to date interest and ancillary expenses before the date of auction, failing which the property will be sold and balance dues if any will be recovered with interest and cost.

Date: 22.05.2026, Place: Bilaspur — Sd/- Authorized Officer, Jana Small Finance Bank Limited

"I always wanted to work on his films, especially because the female characters of his movies are very complex, and I always wanted to play such a character. And it is a big thing for me to be a part of the film Main Vaapas Aaunga."

Sharvari Wagh



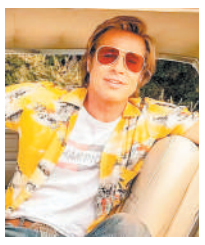
&Glitters

OTT Watch



Bhojpuri Bawaal unfiltered life series

Pawan Singh, Nirahua, Amrapali Dubey, Kajal Raghwani and Tej Pratap Yadav feature in "Bhojpuri Bawaal", India's first follow-reality show capturing real lives, fame, family, ambition, and struggles without tasks or eliminations.



Brad Pitt returns as Cliff Booth

Brad Pitt returns as Cliff Booth in David Fincher's Netflix film The Adventures of Cliff Booth, a sequel to Once Upon a Time in Hollywood, set in 1977, releasing in IMAX November 25 and Netflix December 23.



Emily in Paris ends with Season 6

Emily in Paris will end with its sixth season, now filming in Greece. Netflix confirmed the Lily Collins-led series will conclude after five seasons of romance, fashion and European drama, closing Emily Cooper's glamorous and chaotic journey.



Kartavya becomes global Netflix hit

Saif Ali Khan's Kartavya tops Netflix in India and ranks 2 in 16 countries globally. The crime drama gains praise for its gripping story, strong performances, and intense narrative exploring crime, corruption, and social issues worldwide.



Rajkumar Hirani son debuts series

Rajkumar Hirani's son Vir Hirani debuts with OTT series Pritam and Pedro, created by Hirani. Premiering July 3 on JioHotstar, it stars Arshad Warsi, Boman Irani, Vikrant Massey and Mona Singh.

CLOSE UP

Vedang Raina calls working with Imtiaz Ali an honour

Main Vaapas Aaunga marks a major milestone in Vedang Raina's acting journey.



Main Vaapas Aaunga releases in cinemas on 12th June 2026.



Vedang Raina says being part of Imtiaz Ali's upcoming film Main Vaapas Aaunga is one of the most special moments of his career. Speaking during the trailer launch event, the young actor reacted to being called the youngest hero in Imtiaz Ali's cinematic world and admitted that the title feels both exciting and emotional for him. Vedang described the opportunity as an honour and said working with the acclaimed filmmaker so early in his journey feels like a dream come true. The actor shared that becoming part of an Imtiaz Ali film would have always felt special, regardless of age or recognition. However, he admitted that joining the filmmaker's romantic universe at this stage of his career makes the experience even more memorable. Vedang also thanked the director for trusting him with such an important role in the film. In Main Vaapas Aaunga, Vedang plays the younger version of veteran actor Naseeruddin Shah's character. He confessed feeling pressure after learning he would portray a younger version of such a respected and legendary performer. According to him, acting alongside experienced names like Naseeruddin Shah and Diljit Dosanjh came with responsibility, but he tried turning that nervousness into motivation while preparing for the role. The romantic drama also stars Sharvari Wagh in a key role and explores themes of love, longing, and emotional memories. Produced by Applause Entertainment and Window Seat Films, Main Vaapas Aaunga releases in cinemas on June 12, 2026.



Vedang further shared that audiences have always connected with Imtiaz Ali's emotional storytelling style and memorable characters. He believes Main Vaapas Aaunga will offer viewers a cinematic experience filled with romance, nostalgia, and performances from its cast when it finally arrives in theatres this June.

| HOLLYWOOD |

Matt Damon to lead in Daniels' universal film

Central Chronicle News

HIGHLIGHT

- **Matt Damon joins Daniels for ambitious new science-fiction film project reportedly.**

Matt Damon is reportedly set to star in a new film from filmmaking duo Daniel Kwan and Daniel Scheinert, collectively known as Daniels. The project marks the directors' first feature since their Oscar-winning multiverse drama Everything Everywhere All at Once. Backed by Universal Pictures, the movie has reportedly been in development for the past three years and is already creating excitement among film fans worldwide. According to reports, the upcoming film will blend themes like global warming, time travel, and superheroes while unfolding across two timelines set in the 1980s and present day. The story is expected to focus on teenage protagonists, especially in the 1980s timeline. Daniels were initially interested in casting Ryan Gosling as the father of the teenagers, but the role reportedly became a point of discussion after the actor wanted a larger part in the story. Further script adjustments could have delayed production, eventually leading the filmmakers to move ahead with Damon instead. The casting has generated strong curiosity because audiences are eager to see what Daniels create after the massive success of Everything Everywhere All at Once.



Daniels return with Matt Damon

The 2022 science-fiction drama became a cultural phenomenon and dominated the 2023 Academy Awards, winning seven Oscars including Best Picture and Best Director. The film also earned acting awards for Michelle Yeoh, Ke Huy Quan, and Jamie Lee Curtis. With Damon now attached to the directors' ambitious new project, expectations are already extremely high among Hollywood audiences and industry insiders alike. Industry insiders believe the project could become another unconventional blockbuster because of Daniels' distinctive storytelling style and emotional depth. Fans are especially curious about how the filmmakers will combine science fiction, humour, and visually ambitious action sequences.

CineBriefs

BEST OF THE REST

Web Series

Shivya Pathania says SPECTRA has no scripted drama

Actress Shivya Pathania is set to host the upcoming art-based reality series SPECTRA, a show focused on creativity, nature, and emotional storytelling instead of typical television drama. Featuring seven artists creating artworks in the Himalayan landscapes, the series highlights art, self-expression, and environmental awareness. Shivya described the experience as "real, raw, and deeply special," adding that there were no scripted moments or manufactured conflicts during filming. The actress said the journey helped reconnect participants with creativity and nature.

Hot Pair

Jaya Bachchan gets real about marriage



Jaya Bachchan recently shared candid thoughts about love, marriage, and modern relationships during an interview, even joking that husband Amitabh Bachchan might call marriage the "biggest mistake" of his life. The veteran actress said she does not believe everyone needs marriage for a happy relationship and advised granddaughter Navya Naveli Nanda not to rush into it. Despite her modern views, Jaya fondly recalled falling in love with Amitabh at first sight during their early film days. Married for over five decades, the couple continues to remain one of Bollywood's most iconic and enduring celebrity relationships.



Fashion

Kajol's gown moment feels like modern royalty

Kajol once again proved that timeless glamour never goes out of style as she stunned fans in a regal wine-coloured gown at 51. Sharing glamorous new photos on Instagram, the actor embraced modern couture with effortless grace and confidence. The off-shoulder gown featured delicate lace detailing, elegant draping, and a flowing silhouette that subtly reflected classic Indian aesthetics. Kajol elevated the dramatic look with a statement diamond and polki choker, matching jewellery, and soft voluminous waves. Her glowing makeup and refined styling perfectly balanced sophistication with contemporary fashion, creating a striking appearance that blended classic Bollywood glamour beautifully elegance.

Trending on Insta

@sushmitasen47

Sushmita Sen celebrates 32 years of Miss Universe win

Sushmita Sen marked 32 years since her 1994 Miss Universe win with a heartfelt Instagram post. She thanked fans and the Philippines, expressing gratitude, love, and joy while celebrating her iconic, inspiring journey.





Lifestyle

LIFE MATTERS

From over worldly illusion to peaceful living

Gen Z is questioning hustle culture and embracing a more balanced lifestyle approach.



Gen Z choosing calm over chaos

Life for Gen Z today often feels like a non-stop race shaped by academic pressure, career uncertainty, social media comparison and emotional exhaustion. In a hyper-connected world where everything moves fast, many young people are searching for calm, focus and emotional stability.

Ancient philosophical teachings like the Bhagavad Gita are being revisited not as religious texts alone, but as practical guidance for handling stress, confusion and mental overload in modern life. Although technology has changed lifestyles, emotional struggles remain constant. Fear, anxiety, self-doubt and comparison are deeply human experiences across generations. The Gita is seen as relevant because it encourages clarity of thought, self-awareness and emotional balance in the middle of uncertainty. One of the biggest pressures today is comparison. Social media creates an illusion of constant success, where others appear more productive or fulfilled, quietly affecting self-worth and mental wellbeing. Alongside this, burnout is rising, driven not only by workload but also by pressure around expectations, outcomes and external validation. The modern hustle culture often glorifies overworking while ignoring emotional health and rest. As a result, many young people swing between overworking, motivation crashes, burnout, anxiety and emotional fatigue. This cycle leaves little space for recovery or reflection.





HIGHLIGHT

- With rising burnout and anxiety, balance is becoming a new measure of success for Gen Z.

In contrast, the philosophy of balance encourages disciplined action without attachment to results. It promotes clarity in effort, emotional steadiness and mindful ambition rather than constant pressure to perform.

Many young individuals are now shifting toward slower and more sustainable lifestyles. As awareness around mental health grows, interest in ancient wisdom and inner stability continues to rise. In today's digital noise, such teachings remind us that real stability comes not from constant hustle, but from balance.

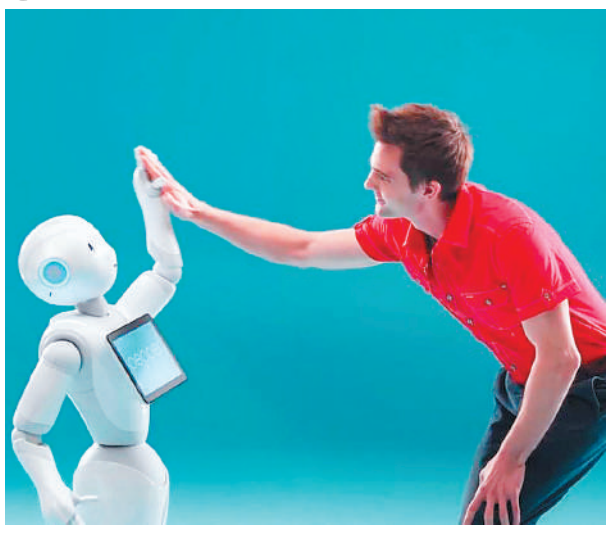
Vagus nerve trend: Science behind calm claims

The vagus nerve has become a popular focus in the wellness industry, often described as a "calm switch" that can reduce stress, anxiety and burnout. It connects the brain to major organs and helps regulate heart rate, digestion and the body's stress response through the parasympathetic system. While medical vagus nerve stimulation is used in conditions like epilepsy and depression through implanted devices, many consumer gadgets now claim similar benefits using mild electrical pulses, breathing techniques or cold exposure. Experts warn that although relaxation practices may support stress relief, most wellness products lack strong scientific evidence, and no device can act as a quick fix for anxiety or replace medical treatment.



RELATIONSHIP

When AI becomes your go-to friend



People around the world are increasingly turning to AI for friendship and emotional support, raising a big question: can machines really ease loneliness? With rising social isolation linked to modern lifestyles, remote work, and heavy screen use, many users now find comfort in AI chatbots that offer instant, judgement-free conversation anytime. These tools are designed to respond empathetically, but experts say they lack real emotional understanding. Psychologists warn that depending too much on AI may reduce real-world social interaction. Researchers suggest AI can support mental wellbeing, but it should not replace human relationships, which remain essential for true emotional connection and care.

| FINE DINE |

Indian fine dining is married to Michelin- level precision

Central Chronicle News

Chef Kunal Kapur believes fine dining now blends flavour with experiences.

Chef Kunal Kapur shares his views on how fine dining is evolving beyond just what is served on the plate. He believes modern dining is becoming an immersive experience where food, storytelling, and atmosphere work together. Speaking about Indian cuisine, he says its global journey has moved from limited perceptions to a richer appreciation of regional diversity and craft.

He adds that while presentation and innovation matter, flavour remains the most important element in any dining experience. According to Kapur, immersive dining uses lighting, sound, visuals, and live cooking to create stronger emotional connections with guests. He notes that while these elements enhance the experience, they cannot replace the importance of taste and authenticity.

The chef also highlights how Indian restaurants are gaining global recognition for storytelling and refined interpretations of traditional dishes. He stresses that innovation should preserve the emotional essence of food, even when techniques and presentations change. For him, a reinvented dish must still feel familiar and connected to memory, culture, and comfort. This balance, he adds, is what separates memorable dining from purely visual spectacle and fleeting trends in modern gastronomy.





Chef Kunal Kapur on modern dining

Ultimately, he believes fine dining is moving toward experiences that balance emotion, creativity, and most importantly, flavour. This approach reflects a broader shift in hospitality where guests seek meaningful, sensory-rich, and memorable culinary journeys that engage all human senses deeply and personally.

Kapur's collaboration with immersive dining experiences shows how chefs are expanding food beyond traditional restaurant boundaries. He says the story may draw people in, but the taste must always deliver satisfaction. In the end, he emphasises that flavour remains the soul of every unforgettable dining experience.

GadgetPick

TRENDING PERSONAL-TECH

Sony 1000X THE COLLEXION Wireless Headphones



About:
Sony's WH-1000X THE COLLEXION headphones combine luxury design, studio-quality sound, and advanced adaptive noise cancellation for immersive everyday listening..

Key Features:
The headphones feature premium metal accents, vegan leather earcups, and a comfortable wider headband. Studio-grade audio delivers balanced bass, clear mids, and detailed highs with an immersive soundstage. Spatial Audio with 360 Upmix enhances music, movies, and gaming experiences.

HONOR 600 Lite: 5G Smartphone



About:
The HONOR 600 Lite 5G combines premium durability, AI-powered features, and smooth everyday performance in a sleek modern design.

Key Features:
The smartphone features a metal-forged aluminium unibody with SGS drop resistance and IP66 protection. Its 108MP AI camera includes a dedicated button for quick controls and smart suggestions. A 6,520mAh battery with 45W fast charging supports extended daily usage. The 6.6-inch 1.5K AMOLED display offers 120Hz refresh rate and ultra-high brightness, while HONOR RAM Turbo ensures smooth multitasking with 256GB storage.

Blink Mini 2K+: Compact Indoor Security Camera



About:
The Blink Mini 2K+ offers smart indoor security with clear video quality and easy everyday home monitoring.

Key Features:
The camera captures detailed 2K footage with up to 4x digital zoom for improved visibility. Color Night Vision delivers clearer nighttime monitoring in low light conditions. Built-in two-way audio with noise cancellation supports smoother conversations while checking on family or pets. It also supports Alexa voice controls and integrates with the Blink Video Doorbell system for connected home security.

ASUS ROG Strix G18 (2026): Gaming Laptop



About:
The ASUS ROG Strix G18 (2026) delivers powerful gaming performance with immersive visuals and smooth multitasking capabilities.

Key Features:
The laptop features an 18-inch 2.5K Nebula display with a 240Hz refresh rate for smooth gameplay. Powered by the Ryzen 9 8940HX processor and 32GB DDR5 RAM, it handles gaming, streaming, and multitasking efficiently. RTX 5070 graphics support demanding titles and ray tracing. Multiple connectivity ports and the bundled Dockztorm USB hub provide added flexibility for peripherals and accessories.

Insta360 Mic Pro: Wireless Microphone



About:
The Insta360 Mic Pro delivers professional audio recording in a compact and creator-friendly wireless microphone system.

Key Features:
The microphone features a customizable E-Ink display for quick device identification and efficient battery usage. Its three-microphone array supports flexible pickup patterns for different recording situations. 32-bit float recording preserves clear audio across varying sound levels, while 32GB onboard storage provides backup recordings. Scalable routing supports multi-camera setups, and the long-lasting battery with charging case ensures extended recording sessions for creators and professionals.

nutribullet Chill Ice Cream Maker



About:
The nutribullet Chill Ice Cream Maker offers a compact and simple way to prepare homemade frozen desserts.

Key Features:
The machine uses 360 DoubleCream Blade Technology for smoother frozen treats and even mixing. Five preset modes support ice cream, gelato, sorbet, frozen yogurt, and smoothie bowls automatically. An LED display tracks churning progress in real time for easier monitoring. Its compact design saves kitchen space, while dishwasher-safe cups and lids simplify cleaning after every use.

Sports



I remain fully focused, motivated and committed to Ferrari, with retirement nowhere in my thoughts anytime soon.

Lewis Hamilton
Ferrari Driver

Punjab Kings face must-win Lucknow playoff test

Punjab Kings enter their final league match under pressure, needing victory over Lucknow Super Giants and favourable results elsewhere to keep playoff hopes alive.

Press Trust Of India

PBKS must beat LSG and hope other results go their way.



LUCKNOW: Punjab Kings will need a dramatic turnaround to keep their fading playoff hopes alive when they face already-eliminated Lucknow Super Giants in their IPL clash here on Saturday.

Punjab's season has slipped badly since their stunning 265-run chase against Delhi Capitals on April 25. After looking like serious title contenders with six wins in seven matches, last season's runners-up have now suffered six straight defeats.

Placed fifth, PBKS must win their final league match and then depend on Sunday's double-headers involving Mumbai Indians, Rajasthan Royals, Kolkata Knight Riders and Delhi Capitals. The Shreyas Iyer-led side will hope both Mumbai and Kolkata lose.

A Rajasthan win over Mumbai would end Punjab's chances, while a KKR victory over Delhi could bring net run rate into the equation. Punjab currently hold a slight NRR advantage over Kolkata.

Before worrying about calculations, PBKS must fix their own problems. Their aggressive top order, featuring Priyansh Arya, Prabhsimran Singh and Cooper Connolly, has failed to provide the explosive starts seen earlier in the tournament.

Priyansh has scored only one fifty in his last seven innings, while Prabhsimran has also lacked consistency. Connolly has shown promise but has not produced a major innings.

Captain Iyer's form has dipped too, with only one fifty during the losing streak. The middle order has lost momentum, the bowling has leaked runs, and poor fielding has added to Punjab's troubles.

LSG have also had a disappointing campaign and are out of playoff contention after just two wins in their last 10 matches. They lost by seven wickets to Rajasthan Royals in their previous game.

However, Lucknow will take confidence from their recent home wins at the Ekana Stadium against Royal Challengers Bengaluru and Chennai Super Kings.

Their biggest positives have been Mitchell Marsh and Josh Inglis, who added 109 runs in just 8.2 overs in the last match. Nicholas Pooran and skipper Rishabh Pant will look to finish the season strongly.

In bowling, LSG may consider bringing back veteran pacer Mohammed Shami after he missed the previous match.

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

CARRICK TAKES CHARGE

Manchester United hands Michael Carrick 2-year contract as head coach



MANCHESTER: Michael Carrick has been given a two-year contract as Manchester United head coach after an impressive short spell in charge. United confirmed Carrick as their seventh permanent manager since Alex Ferguson's retirement in 2013. The former United midfielder has lifted the club's fortunes, guiding them back into the Champions League places with 11 wins in 16 matches. Under him, United have beaten Manchester City, Arsenal and Liverpool, while rising to third in the Premier League after finishing 15th last season. Director of football Jason Wilcox said Carrick had earned the chance through positive results and a style matching the club's values. Carrick said United must move forward with ambition and purpose. **PTI**

TITANS STAY CLEAR

Rashid credits Gujarat Titans' clarity and adaptability for success



AHMEDABAD: Rashid Khan said Gujarat Titans have succeeded this season by staying focused on clarity, adaptability and responsibility instead of worrying about imperfections. GT entered the top two after a commanding 89-run win over Chennai Super Kings in their final league match. Rashid said every team has weak areas, but overthinking them can affect the stronger parts of performance. He praised teammates for stepping up in different situations and said Gujarat's strength lies in reading conditions quickly. Rashid credited the bowling unit, especially the pacers, for maintaining discipline and hitting good areas consistently. He said modern T20 cricket demands bowlers to stay aggressive even while defending big totals. **PTI**

DHONI COMEBACK DOUBT

He'll make decision in best interest of team: Simons on Dhoni



AHMEDABAD: Chennai Super Kings bowling coach Eric Simons said Mahendra Singh Dhoni alone will decide on his comeback, stressing that the veteran wicketkeeper-batter would only return if he feels fully fit and ready to contribute to the team. Dhoni, 44, couldn't play a single game in this edition due to a leg injury but Simons said he impressed in the nets with his clean striking. "Are you seriously asking me that question? We always are," Simons said when asked if CSK are hopeful of Dhoni's availability next year. "I mean, honestly, he has hit the ball so well. He obviously had a leg injury, which made it very difficult for him to run, so that's why he couldn't play. "But in terms of hitting the ball in the nets, he's hitting it as well as I've ever seen him hit it. **PTI**

MALAYSIA MASTERS SUPER 500

Chaliha's impressive run ends in quarterfinals at Malaysia Masters



KUALA LUMPUR: India's Ashmita Chaliha produced a spirited performance before going down narrowly to world No. 23 Line Hojmark Kjaersfeldt of Denmark in the women's singles quarterfinals of the Malaysia Masters Super 500 badminton tournament here on Friday. Returning after an eight-month rehabilitation following a medial meniscus tear in her right knee, the 71st-ranked Indian squandered a hard-fought opening game advantage to lose 23-21 18-21 11-21 to the eighth seed in a contest lasting a little over an hour at the Axiata Arena. Chaliha started brightly, opening up an 11-6 lead at the interval in the opening game. Line clawed her way back after the break to narrow the gap to 13-12 and later moved ahead 19-18, but the Indian held her nerve in a gruelling battle to pocket the game. **PTI**

Maaya to mix junior and Pro events for smooth transition

NEW DELHI: India's bright teenage tennis prospect Maaya Rajeshwaran Revathy is carefully balancing junior and professional tournaments this season as she prepares for a gradual transition to the senior circuit. The 16-year-old, who will soon compete at the junior French Open, has largely featured on the junior circuit this year, a move her coaching team says is aimed at building confidence, gaining match exposure and securing a strong junior ranking before taking a bigger leap into professional events. Maaya, who trains full-time in Spain at Rafa Nadal Academy, said the exposure to a more competitive environment in Europe has accelerated her development.

| HIDDEN IPL HEROES |

Net bowlers : The unseen architects of IPL batting fireworks revolution

Press Trust Of India

Net bowlers remain IPL's hidden workforce, shaping match-winning batting brilliance behind the scenes.



Kolkata Knight Riders' player interacts with net bowlers during a practice session. Photo: PTI

NEW DELHI: Behind the towering sixes and thrilling finishes of the Indian Premier League stands an unseen group of net bowlers who help sharpen the game's biggest stars.

These young pacers and spinners spend weeks bowling in practice sessions, often imitating Jasprit Bumrah's yorkers, Sunil Narine's mystery spin or Mitchell Starc's pace. While IPL stars earn crores, net bowlers usually receive around Rs 5,000 to Rs 7,000 per day, but the exposure is far more valuable.

For many, the biggest reward is bowling to elite batters, receiving advice from senior players and learning from top coaches. Karnataka pacer J.V. Karthik said bowling in IPL nets was never about money, but about experience.

Some have turned those chances into careers. Gurnoor Brar, Harshit Rana, Chetan Sakariya, Umran Malik, Kumar Kartikeya and Akash Madhwal all moved from net-bowling roles to bigger opportunities.

Franchises select net bowlers through domestic tournaments, state leagues, scouting and trials. KKR head scout Biju George said teams look for pace, variations and temperament before inviting bowlers for assessments.

Most net bowlers do not travel regularly with teams, but remain close to breakthrough chances when injuries arise.

In a league filled with glamour and money, they remain IPL's unsung workers, carrying ambition in kitbags and waiting for one call that could change everything.

HIGHLIGHT

- Net bowlers earn modest allowances, but gain priceless exposure against elite players.
- Several hopefuls have turned practice spells into IPL and India opportunities.

| KOHLI INSPIRED GROWTH |

Batting with Kohli made a big difference in my growth: Padikkal

Press Trust Of India

BENGALURU: Royal Challengers Bengaluru batter Devdutt Padikkal said opening with Virat Kohli during his debut IPL season played a major role in shaping his batting approach.

Padikkal, who began his IPL journey with RCB in 2020, said watching Kohli construct an innings from close range gave him valuable lessons early in his career. He said the experience helped him understand how to build a knock with clarity and control.

The Karnataka batter added that his later stints with Rajasthan Royals and Lucknow Super Giants also helped him grow, as he had to bat in different positions. Those roles taught him to read situations, handle pressure and adapt his game.

Padikkal admitted that the 2024 IPL season was mentally challenging, but said it became an important learning phase. After returning to RCB, he worked with mentor Dinesh Karthik and head coach Andy Flower to adjust his technique and mindset for white-ball cricket.



Batting with Virat Kohli taught me clarity, patience and intent, helping me grow as a stronger T20 batter.

Devdutt Padikkal
RCB Batter

He said RCB's deep batting line-up gives top-order players the freedom to attack early. Padikkal also praised teenage batter Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, calling his power-hitting ability rare and special.

Sports News

HC pulls up WFI over decision to declare Vinesh Phogat ineligible

Delhi High Court questioned WFI's decision declaring Vinesh Phogat ineligible, asking the Centre to form an expert panel for evaluation.

Press Trust Of India

Court said motherhood should not hurt an athlete's sporting career or opportunity.



NEW DELHI: The Delhi High Court on Friday pulled up the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) for its decision to declare celebrated grappler Vinesh Phogat "ineligible" from participation in domestic events and asked the Centre to constitute an expert panel to evaluate her.

A bench of Chief Justice D K Upadhyaya and Justice Tejas Karia observed that the WFI's departure from the earlier practice of permitting the participation of reputed athletes "speaks volumes," and asked the Centre to ensure that Phogat, who is seeking her return from a maternity break, is allowed to participate in the upcoming Asian Games selection trials.

The bench emphasised that motherhood is celebrated in the country, and the federation should not act with "vengeance."

It asked the Centre to constitute an expert panel to evaluate Phogat after the government counsel submitted that the framework provided by the Sports Authority of India permits relaxation of eligibility criteria in certain cases.

"Ask the experts to evaluate her chances.. Ensure that she participates," the court orally said, as it clarified it would take up the matter at 2:30 pm again to enable the government counsel to come back with further details with respect to the constitution of the team of expert.

The court was hearing Phogat's appeal against a single-judge's order of May 18 refusing her immediate relief on the issue of her participation in the selection trials on May 30-31 for this year's Asian Games despite being declared "ineligible" by the WFI.

Phogat's senior counsel urged the bench to grant her the opportunity to participate in the trials, contending that the show-cause notice issued to her on May 9, a day before her participation in a domestic event in Gonda, showed that "somebody is clutching at straws" to oust her.

The court expressed its displeasure at the show-cause notice claiming that Phogat's disqualification in the Paris Olympics was a "national shame" and questioned why it should not be presumed that the WFI changed the selection criteria for her.

Babar, Shahdab, Naseem returns to Pakistan squad for ODI series against Australia



Press Trust Of India

Pakistan recalled key stars for Australia ODIs, while Shaheen Afridi continues captaincy.

LAHORE: Senior batter Babar Azam, all-rounder Shahdab Khan and pacer Naseem Shah on Friday returned to Pakistan's ODI squad for the upcoming three-match series against Australia at home.

The Pakistani selectors have named a 16-member squad, which includes two wicket-keepers for the home series which begins on May 30 in Rawalpindi, with the remaining two games to be played in Lahore on June 2 and 4.

Left-arm fast bowler Shaheen Shah Afridi will continue to lead the ODI squad.

The selectors have dropped six players from the 15-member squad that went to Bangladesh in March and lost the series 1-2.

Mohammad Rizwan, Faheem Ashraf, Faisal Akram, Saad Masood, Mohammad Wasim junior and Hussain Talat have been dropped from the squad that went to Bangladesh while Babar, Shadab and Naseem, who were not in that team have been recalled.

Openers Fakhar Zaman and Saim Ayub were unavailable for selection as they are nursing injuries.

The selectors have also picked up two uncapped players in the revamped side, in pacer Ahmed Daniyal and all-rounder Arafat Minhas.

|RONALDO ENDS WAIT FOR TITLE|

Ronaldo ends Saudi trophy drought with 2 goals in Al-Nassr's win to clinch league title

Press Trust Of India

Ronaldo's double powered Al-Nassr to long-awaited Saudi Pro League title glory.



RIYADH: Cristiano Ronaldo has finally won a major trophy with Al-Nassr.

The 41-year-old Portugal star scored twice in a 4-1 win over Damac to help Al-Nassr clinch the Saudi Pro League title Thursday. It's the team's first major trophy since Ronaldo joined more than three years ago.

Ronaldo lifted the trophy just two days after being named in Portugal's roster for the World Cup, which would mark a record sixth appearance at the tournament.

The victory secured top spot for Al-Nassr, two points ahead of city rival Al-Hilal, which finished second despite completing the 34-game season undefeated.

Ronaldo struck his 27th and 28th league goals of the season in the second half after Sadio Mane and Kingsley Coman scored on either side of halftime to put Al-Nassr in control.

Al-Nassr was leading 2-1 when Ronaldo restored his team's two-goal cushion just past the hour mark, curling a free kick from the left side through traffic and into the net.

He added his second eight minutes from time, finishing high from close range to seal the result as celebrations began. Visibly emotional, the five-time Ballon d'Or winner was taken off to a standing ovation with three minutes remaining.

It is Al-Nassr's 11th league title and first since 2019.

HIGHLIGHT

- Ronaldo scored twice as Al-Nassr defeated Damac 4-1 to seal title.
- Al-Nassr finished two points ahead of unbeaten city rival Al-Hilal.

Geneva Open: Bhambri-Venus duo enters men's doubles final

GENEVA: India's Yuki Bhambri reached his first ATP final of the season after he and New Zealand partner Michael Venus entered the men's doubles title clash at the Geneva Open on Friday. The third-seeded Indo-Kiwi pair defeated Czech duo Petr Rikl and Adam Pavlasek 7-5, 6-3 in the semifinals. Bhambri and Venus stayed composed on crucial points and served consistently to complete the win in one hour and 12 minutes. They will face Romain Arneodo and Marc Polmans in the final. Arneodo and Polmans beat Constantin Frantzen and Robin Hasse 7-6(4), 6-2 in the other semifinal. The victory will boost Bhambri's confidence ahead of the final, as he continues to build momentum on the tour with an experienced partner like Venus.

|SUPER CHESS CLASSIC|

Fabiano Caruana defeats Praggnandhaa on dramatic day

Press Trust Of India

BUCHAREST: Indian grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa suffered his first defeat in the Super Chess Classic, losing to American top seed Fabiano Caruana in the seventh round of the Grand Chess Tour event.

The result dealt a major blow to Praggnanandhaa's hopes of finishing at the top. He opened with the queen pawn and faced the Ragozin variation in the Queen's Gambit Declined. Needing a win to stay in contention, the Indian chose a complex middle-game battle, but Caruana handled the tactics with accuracy.

The American gradually pushed Praggnanandhaa onto the defensive before launching a decisive attack on the white king. The game ended in 33 moves.

In another key result, Uzbekistan's Javokhir Sindarov defeated overnight leader Vincent Keymer in 40 moves. With two rounds remaining, Keymer, Jorden Van Foreest and Caruana share the lead with 4.5 points, while Anish Giri follows half a point behind.

|PELÉ HONOURED FOREVER|

Towering statue of Pele unveiled in Guadalajara ahead of WC

Press Trust Of India

Guadalajara unveiled a towering Pelé statue celebrating Brazil's 1970 World Cup hero.



GUADALAJARA: A large statue of soccer great Pelé was unveiled Thursday in the Mexican city of Guadalajara to commemorate his achievements with the Brazilian national team.

Pelé, who died at age 82 in 2022, won one of his three World Cup titles in Mexico at the 1970 edition of the tournament.

"This monumental figure of this great player, who played here and scored a great goal, is a great gift to the people of Jalisco and to all visitors," Jalisco Gov. Pablo Lemus said. "Pelé loved Guadalajara, and the Brazilian national team fell in love with it because the Mexican public gave them everything in 1970."

The 9.5-meter-tall (31-foot) statue is located in a public square called Plaza Brazil outside the Jalisco Stadium, which hosted matches in the 1970 and 1986 World Cups. For its 1970 title run, Brazil played its first-round, quarterfinal, and semifinal matches at the stadium before beating Italy in the final at Azteca Stadium in Mexico City.

HIGHLIGHT

- The 31-foot statue stands outside Jalisco Stadium at Plaza Brazil square.
- Guadalajara will host four first-round matches during the 2026 World Cup.



N-E-W-S



"MP Govt has handed over case regarding suspicious death of model Twisha Sharma (in Bhopal) to CBI for probe."

Dr Mohan Yadav
CM, Madhya Pradesh

CM to take final call on regional languages

Jharkhand government reviewed regional language inclusion demands during second ministerial committee meeting today.

Press Trust Of India



RANCHI: Jharkhand Finance Minister Radha Krishna Kishore on Friday said that a final call on the inclusion of regional languages in the Jharkhand Teacher Eligibility Test (J-TET) Examination will be taken by Chief Minister Hemant Soren.

The minister said this after attending the second meeting of a five-member ministerial committee, for which he served as the coordinator. The government recently constituted a high-level committee to review the inclusion of regional and local languages in the examination.

"The second meeting of the committee regarding the inclusion of regional languages, especially Bhojpuri, Magahi, and Angika in the J-TET examination was held today. We discussed the issue in detail, and a report will be submitted to chief minister in a day or two, after which he will make the final call," Kishore said. "We want tribal languages to be respected, along with Bhojpuri, Magahi, and Angika," he added.

Meanwhile, sources said the committee members could not reach a consensus at the meeting due to differences over the issue with two JMM ministers who are part of it. The committee's first meeting was held on Monday. Earlier on April 28, the cabinet gave post-facto approval to the Jharkhand Teacher Eligibility Examination Rules-2026.

HIGHLIGHT

- Chief Minister Hemant Soren will decide after receiving committee report within upcoming days.
- The State Govt wants tribal languages to be respected, along with Bhojpuri, Magahi, and Angika.

SPECIAL FEATURE ON BIRTHDAY: MAY 23



Nitin Nabin

From Grassroots Struggle to the Pinnacle: The BJP's Youngest President

When the name of 45-year-old Nitin Nabin was announced as the 16th National President of the BJP in January of this year, even the country's political pundits were taken aback. This decision represented not merely the assignment of responsibility for a single post, but a historic clarion call by the nation's largest political party to hand over the reins of a new era—and a new generation—to a young leader in the truest sense. In the words of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, "Nitin-ji belongs to that generation which has witnessed the journey from the era of radio to the age of AI." Nitin Nabin has today emerged as a major center of power.

Central Chronicle: Raipur/New Delhi

Birth, Childhood, and Upbringing

Nitin Nabin was born on May 23, 1980, into an illustrious Kayastha family in Bihar (in what is now Ranchi, the capital of Jharkhand). His childhood was spent amidst the streets of Patna and Ranchi. His father, Nabin Kishore Prasad Sinha, was one of the founding members of the Bihar BJP, a seasoned veteran of the JP Movement, and a four-time Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) from Patna West.

Education and the Foundation of Student Politics

Nitin completed his early education at the renowned St. Michael's High School and Gyan Niketan in Patna. He pursued his higher studies in Delhi, where he became associated with the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP). It was there that he grasped the nuances of student movements, learning everything from pasting posters to managing public rallies.

An Unexpected Entry into Politics

Nitin Nabin's achievements are the result of hard work, determination, and visionary thinking. Throughout his career, he has successfully handled important responsibilities and contributed significantly to organizational growth and public engagement. His strategic thinking and positive attitude have helped him earn recognition as an efficient and forward-looking leader. . The way he is heading in his political journey, he would definitely continue to inspire others through his leadership, service, and unwavering commitment toward the betterment of society and the nation.

Rise within the Organization

Nitin served as both the Bihar State President and the National General Secretary of the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM). He mobilized a formidable force of young people across colleges and urban areas. Later, serving as the 'Prabhari' (in-charge) for the 2023 Chhattisgarh Assembly elections, he quietly orchestrated the party's return to power through meticulous micro-management at the booth level. His role in strengthening the BJP in the North-Eastern states—particularly Sikkim—was personally lauded by Prime Minister Modi himself. Furthermore, during his tenure as a minister in the Nitish government, he executed exemplary work in the sectors of road construction and urban development in Bihar.

Positive Attributes

- **Direct Connect with Cadres:** Highly accessible; even the most junior party worker can meet him with ease.
- **Distanced from Controversies and Factionalism:** He remains aloof from any internal party factionalism and enjoys universal acceptability among all members.

| CAPF DEPLOYMENT |

CAPF deployment extended in West Bengal till June 20

Press Trust Of India

The Central govt has extended deployment of Central Armed Police Forces in Bengal till June 20 in the wake of post-polls violence.



KOLKATA: The Union Home Ministry has extended the deployment of Central Armed Police Forces in West Bengal till June 20 following continuing concerns over post-election violence and law and order tensions in sensitive districts of the state. Officials confirmed that around 500 companies of CAPF personnel, including forces from the CRPF, BSF, CISF, ITBP and SSB, will remain stationed in different parts of West Bengal. The deployment was initially scheduled to end earlier, but the Centre approved an extension after reviewing the security situation. Authorities stated that the forces were required to maintain peace in districts witnessing political clashes, communal tension and disturbances related to local administrative issues. Additional security arrangements were also made around important government establishments and sensitive urban areas.

IAS officers reshuffled in Bihar

PATNA: The Bihar government on Friday transferred and assigned additional responsibilities to several IAS officers. According to a notification by the general administration department, 1992-batch IAS officer Deepak Kumar Singh has been appointed principal secretary to the governor. Arvind Kumar Choudhary, a 1995-batch IAS officer and additional chief secretary in the cabinet secretariat department, has been relieved of the additional charge of the home department, the notification said.

| ALLEGATIONS |

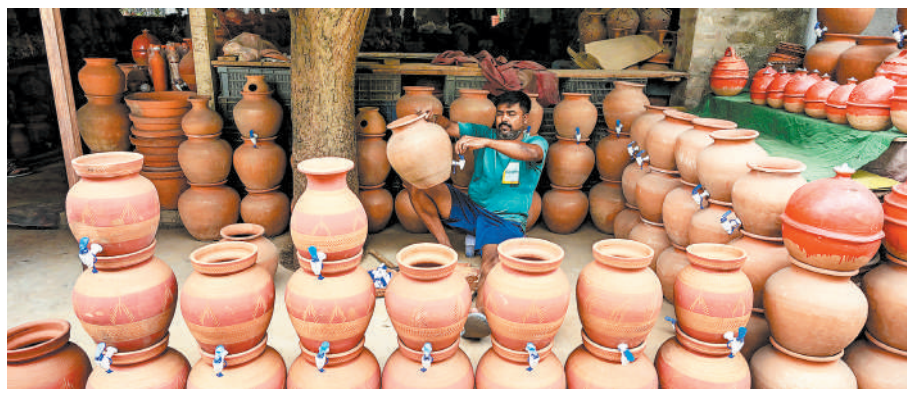
Congress targets Economic Policy, warns about affecting common people

Press Trust Of India



NEW DELHI: Political tensions intensified after Congress leader Rahul Gandhi criticised the Centre's economic policies and warned about an approaching economic crisis affecting ordinary citizens. Gandhi alleged that rising inflation, unemployment and economic instability were placing increasing pressure on the middle class and poorer sections of society. Addressing party workers and media representatives, Gandhi claimed the country was heading toward a major economic challenge and accused the government of ignoring public hardships while favouring large corporate groups. He said common people would suffer most if corrective measures were not introduced immediately. In response, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman accused the Congress party of fearmongering and attempting to obstruct economic reforms. She said responsible opposition parties should contribute constructively instead of spreading pessimism about the economy. The BJP leadership defended the government's economic record, highlighting infrastructure expansion, digital growth and welfare initiatives implemented over recent years.

Weather: Hot summer day in Nadia



Nadia: A vendor arranges earthen pots fitted with taps displayed for sale amid heat-wave conditions during the summer season, in Nadia, West Bengal, Friday, PTI.

MANDI

Jaundice outbreak triggers panic

As many as 17 cases of jaundice have been reported from Ward No 2 of the Municipal Council Sundernagar in Himachal Pradesh's Mandi district over the past few days, officials said on Friday. The outbreak has triggered panic in Sundernagar and adjoining areas. At present, one person is admitted to the Community Health Centre in Sundernagar. According to locals, many students of an ITI have also shown symptoms of jaundice, though officials are yet to confirmed the number. Executive Engineer of the Jal Shakti Division Sundernagar, Rajat Garg said the department has been collecting water from various locations, including the affected areas, since May 11.

Punjab farmers postpone Guv meeting after police crackdown during protests



CHANDIGARH: The Samyukt Kisan Morcha postponed its scheduled meeting with the Punjab Governor following recent police action against protesting farmers in Chandigarh. Farmer leaders said several members suffered injuries after police used water cannons and tear gas to disperse demonstrations earlier this week.

The meeting, originally scheduled for May 19, was expected to address several pending issues concerning farmers, including representation in the Bhakra Beas Management Board and interstate water-sharing disputes. However, farmer organisations decided to delay discussions until injured leaders recovered and internal consultations were completed.

Delhi tribunal awards Rs 48.59 lakh to family of man killed in road accident



NEW DELHI: A Delhi Motor Accident Claims Tribunal has awarded Rs 48.59 lakh compensation to the family of a man who died in a road accident in Uttar Pradesh, saying that the insurer of a tractor was liable for third-party deaths even if an attached trolley was not separately insured. Presiding Officer Vikram was hearing the claim petition filed by the family of Yogendra Kumar, who died in a road accident in Bijnor district in January 2022.

In an order dated May 21, the court said, "The evidence which has come on record, it is held that the rashness and negligence on the part of the driver of the offending vehicle, which is clearly visible." According to the claim petition, Kumar was returning home in his car on January 25, 2022, when a tractor attached to a trolley allegedly hit his vehicle. He suffered serious injuries and was declared brought dead at a hospital.

The tribunal noted that the deceased was survived by his wife, two children and mother.

| OXYGEN PARKS |

100 Oxygen-Parks to improve Delhi climate: CM Gupta

Press Trust Of India



NEW DELHI: Chief Minister Rekha Gupta announced on Friday that the Delhi government plans to develop 100 "oxygen parks" featuring dense tree cover to improve the city's climate and address pollution issues. Laying the foundation stone of the park to be developed on 3-acre land in Mukhmelpur village in north Delhi's Burari, Gupta stated that this will be the first such park in the city.

"Delhi was turned into a gas chamber for years, but nobody was concerned to take steps to address pollution in Delhi," the chief minister said and announced that her government has set a target of planting more than 70 lakh trees, shrubs and hedges across the city this year. She noted that her government has been actively working for the past year to combat pollution, and the establishment of these parks is part of that initiative. The chief minister said the parks will have dense fruit-bearing trees to provide shelter to birds and provide oxygen. "These parks with dense trees are a requirement of Delhi," she said

The park in Mukhmelpur designed with both public convenience and environmental sustainability in mind, will feature walking tracks, energy-efficient lighting, huts for seating and relaxation, a landscaped pond and a variety of shade-giving tree species. Large green lawns and open spaces will also be developed as part of the project, said a CMO statement.

BRS leader alleges delay In arrest of Sanjay's son

HYDERABAD: BRS Working President K T Rama Rao on Friday alleged that Union Minister Bandi Sanjay Kumar's son was not arrested in the POCSO case for nine days due to a tacit understanding between him and Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy. He claimed that Bageerath was arrested only after the Telangana High Court refused to grant him an interim protection from arrest. "Is there any instance of an accused in a POCSO case not being arrested for nine days? What is the understanding between both of you? Why did the Chief Minister save him (Bageerath)?" asked the BRS leader, while speaking to reporters here.

DELHI

Kangana shuts secret wedding rumours

Actor Kangana Ranaut slammed reports claiming she secretly got married after being spotted with a mangalsutra and said she is shooting for her next film. A picture of Ranaut wearing a mangalsutra went viral on Thursday, leading to speculations of getting married secretly. The actor has now clarified the same with a post on her Instagram story on Friday and assured whenever she decides to marry, it won't be secretly.