



**NATION**  
Doctors felicitated under Atmanirbhar Pg 07



# Central Chronicle

## 'Will be CM for full-term'

Shivakumar said he will fulfill the directions of the Congress high command.

Press Trust Of India

**BENGALURU:** Siddaramaiah on Wednesday asserted that he will be the Chief Minister of Karnataka for a full five-year term, following which a reconciled D K Shivakumar, said he will support him as he has "no option", indicating a truce between the two for the time being.

Shivakumar also said he will fulfill the directions of the Congress high command.

The remarks by both the leaders came even as Congress General Secretary in-charge of Karnataka, Randeep Singh Surjewala, continued his one-on-one meetings with the party MLAs for the third consecutive day in the wake of internal bickering in the party's state unit over the chief minister's position.

Responding to a question about whether Surjewala's meetings will bring down disgruntlement in the party, Shivakumar said: "There is no disgruntlement in the party. He (Surjewala) is



K'taka CM Siddaramaiah with Dy CM DK at a programme on Wednesday.

### Cong united; govt stable for 5 years

Siddaramaiah  
Karnataka CM

fixing accountability on matters related to the party and the organisation and how to prepare for elections from now itself."

Earlier in Chikkaballapura, Siddaramaiah said the Congress party was united and the party's government will be in

### 'What option I have? Have to stand by him'

"What option do I have? I have to stand by him, support him (Siddaramaiah). I don't have any objection to it. Whatever the party high command tells and whatever it desires, it will be fulfilled."

power "solid as a rock" for five years.

"Yes, I will be. Why do you have doubts?" Siddaramaiah said in response to a question by reporters whether he will be the chief minister for five years.

Asked about the chief minister's statement, Shivakumar responded: "What option do I have? I have to stand by him, support him (Siddaramaiah). I don't have any objection to it. Whatever the party high command

tells and whatever it desires, it will be fulfilled."

There has been speculation within political circles, especially within the ruling Congress, about the Chief Minister change later this year, with some of the Shivakumar supporters pushing for his elevation, citing a power-sharing agreement involving Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar.

There was stiff competition between Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar for the chief minister's post after the declaration of Assembly election results in May 2023, and the Congress had managed to convince the latter and made him the Deputy CM.

There were some reports at the time that a compromise had been reached based on a "rotational chief minister formula," according to which Shivakumar will become the chief minister after two-and-a-half years, but there was no official confirmation by the party.

## Reservation charts at 9 pm for 5 am-2 pm trains next day

**NEW DELHI:** The railways will prepare seat reservation charts at 9 pm for trains starting journeys between 5 am and 2 pm the next day, while for the rest, the list will be prepared eight hours in advance.

Since 2015, the first reservation charts have been prepared at least four hours before the scheduled departure of the train after the Railway Ministry, for the first time, framed norms in this matter.

According to the ministry, the latest change has been made for passenger convenience.

"For the trains with departure between 0500 hours and 1400 hours, the first reservation chart will be prepared preferably by 21:00 of the previous day," the Railway Board directed all zones in a July 2 circular.

For the trains with departure between 14:00 and 23:59 and 00:00 and 5:00, the first reservation chart will be prepared preferably eight hours in advance."

The circular instructed the zones to issue necessary instructions to all concerned accordingly, but did not mention any definite date of its implementation, nor did it mention any change in the preparation of the second reservation chart.

"Once the chart is ready eight hours before the train's departure, if seats/berths still remain vacant, passengers can book these under current booking facilities.

The second chart is prepared 30 minutes to five minutes before the train's departure, and this is mainly for passengers opting for tickets under the current booking," a railway official said.

"Prior to 2015, there was no fixed time schedule for chart preparation, and zones were following varying norms. The Railway Board decided to standardise it to facilitate passengers to plan their journey well in time," an official said.

Asked the reason for increasing the time gap between chart preparation and the train's departure, officials said that although there was no feedback from the passengers to enhance the time gap, it was felt by the ministry to provide more time to passengers to plan their journey.

The Railway Board had also run a pilot project in the Bikaner Rail Division for preparing a reservation chart 24 hours in advance, and based on that experience, an eight-hour gap was finalised.

**NEWSLINE**

**NEW DELHI**  
54% ODF+ model achieved

While 80 per cent of villages targeted under the Swachh Bharat Mission-Grameen (SBM-G) are open defecation free and have solid and liquid waste managements systems in place, only 54 per cent are officially verified, a government review found. The data was presented at the National Rural Sanitation Workshop held in New Delhi on Wednesday. The review also showed that grey water management has reached 91 per cent national coverage, with more than 20 states and Union territories crossing the 95 per cent mark.



**Art & Culture**  
Chaudhary's soul: Mame Khan on preserving musical roots

Mame Khan doesn't just perform music he lives it. Hailing from Rajasthan's Manganiyar community, Khan has become a global torchbearer of Indian folk music, a tradition passed down through generations like precious heirlooms.

## Villager killed by naxals

**BIJAPUR:** A 38-year-old man was dragged out of his home and killed allegedly by Naxalites in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district on suspicion that he was a police informer, an official said on Wednesday. The incident took place on the intervening night of Tuesday-Wednesday in Perampalli village under Usoor police station limits when the victim, Kawasi Hunga, was at his house, said the police official. As per preliminary information, five Maoists, clad in uniform, stormed into Hunga's house and dragged him out. They then accused him of acting as a police informer and hacked him to death using a sharp-edged weapon, he said. On being alerted about the murder on Wednesday morning, a police team was dispatched to the spot and the body was sent for post-mortem examination, the official said.

**PRIVATE MEDICAL COLLEGE RECOGNITION**

## CBI arrests three doctors in college bribe case

Press Trust Of India

CBI conducted searches at more than 40 locations.

**NEW DELHI:** The CBI has arrested three doctors for allegedly taking bribes of Rs 55 lakh to give favourable reports for the recognition of a private medical college in Chhattisgarh, officials said Tuesday.

The CBI conducted searches at more than 40 locations across Karnataka, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, and Madhya Pradesh in connection with the case, they said. The agency has also arrested three others for alleged involvement in the bribery ring, the officials said. "A case was registered against the office-bearers of Shri



The arrested accused were presented by CBI in Raipur's special court.

### How CBI acted.....

On Wednesday, CBI presented all the accused in Raipur's Special Court. From where CBI can take the accused on remand. According to CBI, this raid is related to Shri Rawatpura Sarkar Institute of Medical Sciences and Research located in Nava Raipur.

Rawatpura Sarkar Institute of Medical Sciences and Research, Nava Raipur, Chhattisgarh, inspecting

doctors, and other intermediaries for manipulating the statutory inspection process conducted for rec-

**FACTFILE**

• CBI caught 6 with Rs 55 lakh bribe.

ognition of the medical college, in return for bribes," a CBI spokesperson said in a statement.

"The CBI apprehended six individuals while they were transacting the bribe amount of Rs 55 lakh. As demanded by the inspecting doctors, the bribe amount was delivered in Bengaluru," she said.

The spokesperson said the assessors allegedly gave favourable reports to various medical colleges in exchange for illegal gratification. The CBI got the information about the collusion of Shri Rawatpura Sarkar Institute office bearers and inspecting doctors.

**UNDP STUDY**

## 'Renewables, devp can ease poverty for 193 million'

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** A new study by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has revealed that aligning renewable energy goals with broader development policies could lift 193 million people out of extreme poverty by 2060, while unlocking USD 20.4 trillion in

cumulative savings for the global economy.

The study, conducted by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), University of Denver's Pardee Institute and Octopus Energy, was set up to explore how time-bound renewable energy targets, backed by coherent policies and financing mechanisms, could



unlock triple wins: cutting emissions, boosting economies and delivering real social benefits.

The report simulated three scenarios to assess

**NUMBER**

**50**

• Global energy system remains dependent on fossil fuels, accounting for over 50 per cent of primary energy by 2060.

outcomes for emissions, economic growth, and social progress. In a busi-

ness-as-usual scenario, the global energy system remains dependent on fossil fuels, accounting for over 50 per cent of primary energy by 2060.

This trajectory would push global warming to 2.6°C, exacerbating poverty, malnutrition and lack of access to essential services like electricity, safe water and sanitation.

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Providing quality education to every child is the priority of the central government.

Brijmohan Agarwal  
Raipur LS MP

## Demand for umbrellas shoots up



Roadside vendors in Raipur have witnessed a significant rise in the sale of umbrellas with Monsoon rain.

# Liquor Scam: Rs 1500 cr labeled as 'Party Fund'

EOW alleges Rs 1500 crore from liquor scam was funneled as 'party fund'.

Central Chronicle News

**RAIPUR:** Massive revelations have emerged from the Economic Offences Wing's (EOW) second chargesheet in Chhattisgarh's Rs 2161 crore liquor scam. According to the supplementary challan, over Rs 1500 crore from the proceeds of the scam was recorded under the category of "party fund," though the EOW has not yet confirmed which political party it was meant for.

The most explosive detail: along with former Excise Minister Kawasi Lakhma, another top Congress leader alleg-

### HIGHLIGHT

● Former minister, unnamed Congress leader accused of receiving Rs 20 crore monthly; opposition demands disclosure.

edly received Rs 10 crore twice every month. While the name of this leader remains undisclosed officially, the financial trail and testimonies point to deep political entanglement. The EOW investigation has unearthed a sprawling network that began operating in February 2019. Initially, one truck

with 800 liquor cartons was moved illegally each month, but that quickly escalated to 400 trucks monthly – each carton sold for as much as Rs 3880. Over 60 lakh cartons of spurious liquor are estimated to have been sold in a single year, according to the EOW's findings.

The state was divided into 8 operational zones covering 15 districts, where liquor with fake holograms was distributed directly from factories. Syndicate members, including Amit Singh (nephew of Arvind Singh), Anurag Dwivedi, Navneet Gupta,

and Satyendra Prakash Garg, ran the illicit supply chain without raising bills – bypassing official records.

In an elaborate forgery operation, duplicate holograms were supplied by Amit Singh, Deepak Duari, and Prakash Sharma. These were then affixed by employees of Sumit Facilities Company, operated by businessman Siddharth Singhania, who allegedly charged 8 paise per fake hologram.

To collect the scam money, a dedicated team led by Vikas Agarwal alias Subbu, Singhania, and Amit Singh was formed.

## State Govt bans share trading by employees

**RAIPUR:** In a significant move impacting thousands of state employees, the Chhattisgarh government has issued a formal order banning all forms of active share trading by government officers and staff. The decision, effective from June 30, was published through a gazette notification by the General Administration Department and marks a sharp shift in investment freedom for public servants. According to the new directive, government employees can no longer engage in intraday trading, BTST (Buy Today, Sell Tomorrow), futures and options (F&O), or cryptocurrency transactions. These activities have now been classified as "misconduct" under Clause (1) of Sub-Rule (5) of Section 19 of the Chhattisgarh Civil Services Conduct Rules, 1965. While the order restricts speculative and high-risk financial behavior, employees are still permitted to invest in mutual funds, listed company stocks (on a long-term basis), and debentures – provided such investments do not amount to frequent buying and selling or trading behavior.

The government's rationale behind the move is to prevent conflicts of interest, misuse of insider information.

## Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

### LOAN OFFERS FOR MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS

## Bank of Maharashtra celebrates Doctors' Day with special honours



**RAIPUR:** On the occasion of National Doctors' Day, Bank of Maharashtra's Raipur Zone extended heartfelt gratitude to the medical fraternity by organising a series of special events across all 58 of its branches in the region.

The celebration reflected not only appreciation for doctors' service but also the bank's commitment to supporting healthcare professionals through tailored financial solutions. Branch officials visited doctors

in their respective service areas, acknowledging their unwavering dedication, compassion, and critical role in safeguarding public health.

As a mark of respect, doctors were honoured with mementoes and bouquets during the visits, with many touched by the gesture of personal recognition. Reinforcing its support beyond symbolism, the bank has introduced special loan schemes exclusively for doctors.

### FOUNDATION DAY

## Shree Medishine Hospital marks 14 years of service with free OPD



**RAIPUR:** Shree Medishine Super Specialist Hospital, a prominent name in hi-tech healthcare in Chhattisgarh, is celebrating 14 years of dedicated service. On the occasion of its foundation day, July 3, the hospital is organizing a free OPD and diagnostic camp offering Bone Mineral Density (BMD) and uric acid tests for all visiting patients. Extending the spirit of service beyond the day's event, the hospital has also announced a month-long free OPD service, available from 6 pm to 8 pm daily between July 3 and August 3. Patients

can avail of this facility through prior registration. Hospital Director Dr. Sushil Sharma, an Orthopedic and Joint Replacement Surgeon, and Director Mrs. Katyayani Sharma shared that Shree Medishine was founded on principles of care, commitment, and service. Today, it stands tall as one of the leading technologically advanced hospitals in Central India. Over the years, the hospital has introduced several medical innovations, including Chhattisgarh's first Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy (HBOT) unit.

## Rice distribution deadline extended till July 31

Central Chronicle News

Ch'garh extends rice distribution under Chawal Utsav to July 31.

**RAIPUR:** Bringing major relief to millions of ration card holders across Chhattisgarh, the state government has extended the deadline for distribution of rice under the Chawal Utsav scheme from June 30 to July 31, 2025. The extension comes after sustained demand from several states, including Chhattisgarh, prompting the Union Government to grant additional time for food grain distribution. Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Protection Minister Dayaldas Baghel confirmed the development, stating that the decision was approved by the Department of Food and Public Distribution,

### FACTFILE

● 86% beneficiaries received rations; 11 lakh families expected to be covered in the coming week.

Government of India, via a letter issued on June 30. The Chhattisgarh Food Department has since sent official instructions to all district collectors to ensure the continued rice distribution. As part of the extended schedule, three months' worth of rice – for June to August 2025 – is being provided to ration card holders. Initially, the distribution window was to close on June 30, but logistical and accessibility concerns led to the date being pushed forward. So far, 70.04 lakh families, or 86% of the total 81.03 lakh ration card holders in the state, have collected their rice.

### | BHARATMALA SCAM |

## 400+ land compensation claims under probe

Central Chronicle News

Over Rs 600 crore scam under investigation; officials accused of inflating land compensation in highway project.



### FACTFILE

● EOW probing claims in Raipur, Durg divisions; notices issued, accused officials still absconding.

being sent to complainants to record their statements, while field-level data and compensation records are being sought from local Patwaris.

The scam, which centers around the Visakhapatnam-Raipur corridor under the Bharatmala Project, allegedly resulted in a loss of Rs 600 crore to

the state exchequer. Former SDM Nirbhay Kumar Sahu, along with two tehsildars and three patwaris, is accused of orchestrating inflated land compensations in collusion with land dealers. In some cases, compensation amounts were reportedly increased several times over the actual value. The controversy erupted earlier this year, leading to the suspension of the accused officials in March. At the time of suspension, Nirbhay Kumar Sahu was serving as Commissioner of Jagdalpur Municipal Corporation.

### | IGNITING SAFETY CONCERNS |

## Workers caught riding on mixer machine

Central Chronicle News

**RAIPUR:** In a shocking display of negligence, around 10 workers were seen dangerously riding on top of a concrete mixer machine this morning on the busy Arang-Kharora main road near Amethi village. The act, caught on camera, has once again highlighted the alarming disregard for traffic rules and personal safety despite repeated road accidents in the region.

The Arang-Kharora stretch is known for its heavy traffic, with a constant flow of two-wheelers, four-wheelers, commercial cargo vehicles, and buses. Frequent accidents on this route have raised red flags for both commuters and authorities. However, incidents like this suggest that awareness and enforcement remain lacking. Eyewitnesses reported being stunned at the sight of the workers perched atop a moving construc-



tion vehicle, risking their lives amidst high-speed traffic. The video footage of the incident has gone viral on social media, prompting public outrage and renewed calls for stricter road safety enforcement. Authorities

### FACTFILE

● Viral video shows workers dangerously riding on mixer machine on busy Arang-Kharora road.

had recently imposed a ban on transporting passengers in cargo vehicles following a deadly road accident in Kharora. Despite the restrictions, such violations continue, pointing to a deep-rooted issue of public apathy and

weak implementation. Traffic police and district administration have yet to issue a formal statement regarding this specific incident, but sources say action may be taken against the driver and contractor responsible for the unsafe transport. The recurring nature of such incidents has raised concerns about the effectiveness of safety campaigns and the need for stronger deterrence through fines, vehicle seizures, and prosecution.

### DOCTORS' DAY CELEBRATIONS

## Ramakrishna Care celebrates Doctors' Day with music, games

**RAIPUR:** Ramakrishna Care Hospital, one of Raipur's leading healthcare institutions, celebrated National Doctors' Day with great joy and heartfelt gratitude, honoring the tireless dedication and contribution of its doctors. The celebration turned into a lively gathering filled with laughter, camaraderie, and soulful music, offering a welcome break from the hospital's daily routine. The event featured a variety of entertainment activities and games that had the doctors and staff engaged throughout the day. Games like "Guess the Word" and "Pictionary" brought out a spirit of fun and friendly competition, helping the hospital's healthcare heroes unwind and enjoy some light-hearted moments together. Adding a personal and emotional touch to the celebration, several doctors showcased their musical talents by singing together, filling the



hall with a warm, melodic vibe. The highlight of the event was a cake-cutting ceremony, attended by senior doctors, department heads, and hospital management – all united in their appreciation for the medical fraternity. Ramakrishna Care Hospital has long been committed not only to providing world-class healthcare but also to nurturing a culture of respect and well-being for its medical staff.

### ON NATIONAL DOCTORS' AND CA DAY

## CAIT honours eminent city Doctors and Chartered Accountants

**RAIPUR:** On the occasion of National Doctors' Day and Chartered Accountants Day, the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) honoured the city's leading doctors and chartered accountants in a special felicitation ceremony held at CAIT's state office. The event reflected the organisation's gratitude towards two vital professional communities contributing immensely to public health and economic growth. CAIT National Vice Chairman Amar Parwani, State Executive Chairman Jitendra Doshi, State President Parmanand Jain, State General Secretary Surinder Singh, and State Treasurer Ajay Agarwal led the honours. Parwani highlighted the importance of July 1 – commemorating Dr B.C. Roy, a pioneer in Indian medicine and the former Chief Minister of



Bengal, whose birthday is observed as National Doctors' Day. "Doctors are not just healthcare providers; they are the backbone of humanity," he said.

On Chartered Accountants Day, Parwani acknowledged the role of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) and lauded the CA community's influence on India's fiscal strength. "Chartered Accountants are the architects of financial discipline and policy," he added.

## Raipur News

# Ch'garh leads nation with 18% GST growth

Chief Minister Sai vows crackdown on Tax evasion.

Central Chronicle News

**RAIPUR:** Chhattisgarh has achieved the highest Goods and Services Tax (GST) growth rate in the country, recording a remarkable 18% increase over the previous fiscal year. This impressive performance was highlighted during a review meeting held on Wednesday at Mantralaya's Mahanadi Bhawan, where Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai directed the Commercial Tax (GST) Department to escalate measures against tax evasion and ensure the swift recovery of outstanding dues.

Chief Minister Sai emphasized the critical role of public revenues in national and state development, urging all taxpayers to fulfill their obligations honestly. He issued a stern warning, stating that strict action would be taken against any entity engaging in GST fraud, bogus billing, dual accounting practices, or misapplication of tax rates for illicit gains.

Officials informed the Chief Minister that in the fiscal year 2024-25, Chhattisgarh successfully mobilized a total tax revenue of Rs 23,448



crore from GST and VAT. This figure represents nearly 38% of the state's

## GST offices established in all 33 districts

The Chief Minister also reviewed recent enforcement actions, including the recovery of evaded taxes. Officials attributed the consistent growth in collections to targeted drives and technolo-

gy-led monitoring. It was also noted that GST offices have now been established in all 33 districts, contributing to improved transparency and the timely delivery of taxpayer services.

Commercial Tax (GST) Minister O.P. Choudhary provided comprehensive departmental updates. Chief Minister Sai com-

mended the department's initiatives aimed at streamlining pro-

cesses, particularly raising the significant reduction in average GST registration time from 13 days to just 2 days, a move that greatly enhances the ease of doing business in the state.

The meeting saw the attendance of key offi-

### FASTFACTS

• Officials informed the Chief Minister that in the fiscal year 2024-25, Chhattisgarh successfully mobilized a total tax revenue of Rs 23,448 crore from GST and VAT.

• CM also reviewed recent enforcement actions, including the recovery of evaded taxes.

cial, including Chief Secretary Amitabh Jain, Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister Subodh Kumar Singh, Secretary to CM Mukesh Kumar Bansal, Secretary to CM Rahul Bhagat, and Commissioner of Commercial Tax Pushpendra Meena, among others.

## Guv Deka condoles demise of ex-Guv S. Dutt

**RAIPUR:** Chhattisgarh Governor Ramen Deka has expressed deep condolences on the demise of former Governor of the state Shekhar Dutt. Governor Deka said in his condolence message that Dutt was not only an efficient administrator but also a true soldier and patriot. He performed every responsibility from the army to the administration with full devotion and patriotism. His contribution to the development of the state of Chhattisgarh will always be unforgettable. The Governor has expressed deep condolences to his bereaved family while praying for the peace of the departed soul.

Late Shekhar Dutt started his career with the Indian Army. He joined the army in 1966 and courageously participated in the Indo-Pak war of 1971. For bravery and excellent leadership in this war, he was awarded the Vishisht Seva Medal, the Army Medal given for gallantry. After taking voluntary retirement from the army, he was selected in the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) and worked on many high positions in the then Madhya Pradesh state and the Central Government.

It is noteworthy that Shekhar Dutt held the post of Governor of Chhattisgarh from 23 January 2010 to 1 July 2014.

## Cong's 'Kisan, Jawan, Samvidhan' meeting on July 7

Central Chronicle News

**RAIPUR:** State Congress President Deepak Baij informed that on July 7, the Congress has organized a 'Kisan, Jawan, Samvidhan' meeting in the Science College ground of the capital. Congress National President Mallikarjun Kharge, Organization General Secretary Venugopal will address this meeting. The objective of this meeting is to raise the voice of farmers and soldiers across the country including Chhattisgarh and to take it to the public in the way the autonomy of the Constitution and constitutional institutions is being attacked by the Modi government at the Center. More than 25000 people will attend this meeting from across the state.

State Congress President Deepak Baij said that the decision to give incentives to farmers who grow pulses and oilseeds in the Kharif sea-



son is a new fraud against farmers. According to the climate of Chhattisgarh, growing paddy is the most profitable crop for farmers in Kharif. If the government is unable to provide seeds and fertilizers for Kharif crops, then incentives are being given under the incentive scheme so that farmers do not grow paddy and the government does not have to buy paddy at Rs 3100.

Farmers have started the sowing process in the entire state, but this government has not been able to make proper arrangements for fertilizers and seeds in the state.

## 2,798 Teachers elevated to Principal roles

Central Chronicle News

**RAIPUR:** In a significant development for Chhattisgarh's education sector, the School Education Department has announced the pro-

motion of 2,798 teachers to the post of Principal (Higher Secondary School). This move comes after the High Court lifted its stay order, paving the way for these long-awaited advancements.

## Mule Bank account gang exposed under Operation Cyber Shield



Central Chronicle News

**RAIPUR:** Chhattisgarh Police's 'Operation Cyber Shield' is being run against cyber crime has got a big success. Police has arrested the main accused who operated mule bank account through fake SIM card from Gondia, Maharashtra.

IG Raipur Range Amresh Mishra had instructed the Range Cyber Police Station to take firm action on the basis of technical evidence against the main accused involved in cyber crimes. On this instruction, crime number

44/25 was registered and investigation was being done regarding 104 mule bank accounts related to Utkarsh Small Finance Bank in Civil Line Police Station Raipur.

Investigation revealed that mule bank accounts were being operated through fake SIM cards. Based on the technical information received from SIM service providers, 24 POS agents were arrested earlier. Based on the information received from them and technical analysis, the police have arrested the main SIM buyer accused Kuldeep Bagde alias Monu from Gondia (Maharashtra).

## Police nabs murder accused

**RAIPUR:** Police has arrested absconding accused Rinku Athwani in the case of murder of his wife in New Rajendra Nagar police station area. On June 21, 2025, the accused had attacked his wife Ishita Athwani with a sharp weapon due to a domestic dispute, in which the woman was seriously injured. The police produced the accused in the court and sent him to jail.

According to the information received, Ishita Athwani, a resident of Deepak Colony, had a love marriage with Rinku Athwani in the year 2019. Both also have a 5-year-old daughter, whose mental condition is not good.

There was often a dispute between the two regarding the girl's illness.

On June 21, there was a fight over the same matter. During this, Rinku attacked his wife with a sharp weapon and seriously injured her and fled from the spot.

## 'Mediation for the Nation' campaign launched to clear pending cases

Central Chronicle News

CJ stressed the importance of the Mediation Monitoring Committee submitting its reports in a timely manner.

**RAIPUR:** To streamline, expedite, and make judicial processes more public-friendly in Chhattisgarh, a significant virtual meeting was held today under the chairmanship of Chief Justice Ramesh Sinha of the Chhattisgarh High Court. The meeting aimed to ensure the effective implementation of the "Mediation for the Nation" campaign, which seeks to resolve pending legal cases.

The virtual gathering saw the participation of all Principal District Judges, Principal Judges of Family Courts, the Judge of the Commercial Court Raipur, the Member Secretary



of the Chhattisgarh State Legal Services Authority, Bilaspur and the Secretaries of all District Legal Services Authorities.

In his address, Chief Justice Ramesh Sinha emphasized that mediation is not just an alternative dispute resolution system but a powerful tool to make justice accessible and effective. He stated that mediation can reduce the number of pending cases and provide satisfactory solutions to litigants. He instructed all courts to identify and refer more cases for mediation and to systematically implement the referral process. He

also stressed the importance of the Mediation Monitoring Committee submitting its reports in a timely manner.

The meeting was co-chaired by Justice Parth Prateem Sahu, Chairman of the Chhattisgarh High Court's Mediation and Conciliation Monitoring Committee, along with committee members Justice Naresh Kumar Chandravanshi and Justice Radhakishan Agrawal. During the session, crucial guidelines concerning the role and processes of mediation centers, as well as case identification, were

### FASTFACTS

• This campaign marks a significant step towards making the judicial system in Chhattisgarh more effective.

shared. This campaign marks a significant step towards making the judicial system in Chhattisgarh more effective. By promoting mediation as a robust alternative, the meeting underscored the importance of effectively implementing this process at all levels across the state.

FOUNDATION DAY |

## IAF to dazzle Raipur skies on Foundation Day

Central Chronicle News

**RAIPUR:** This year's Chhattisgarh State Foundation Day, on November 1, 2025, will feature a spectacular event in the capital city of Raipur. At the initiative of Raipur MP and senior BJP leader Brijmohan Agrawal, the Indian Air Force's (IAF) renowned 'Surya Kiran' Aerobatic Display Team will perform a grand aerial show over the city. This event is expected to ignite a sense of patri-



otism, inspiration, and pride among the youth and citizens of Chhattisgarh.

The approval for this special display was granted by Defence Min-

ister Rajnath Singh. He stated that the 'Surya Kiran' team would be made available for the performance in Raipur at the requested time, following the necessary practice and safety standards set by the Indian Air Force.

MP Brijmohan Agrawal expressed his delight, stating, "Chhattisgarh State Foundation Day is a day of pride and self-respect for us. The performance by the Indian Air Force's Surya Kiran team

in the capital on this day will be an unforgettable moment for the people of the state. This event will further strengthen national consciousness, discipline, and patriotism among the youth. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to Defence Minister Rajnath Singh for this historic decision."

This inspiring and glorious military presentation on the state's foundation day in Raipur will be a significant highlight. Preparations for the

## "Chhattisgarh State Foundation Day is a day of pride and self-respect for all of us."

Brijmohan Agrawal

LS MP.

event will be coordinated between the state administration, the Indian Air Force, and the Ministry of Defence.

## Accused nabbed with banned narcotic substance Doda

Central Chronicle News

**RAIPUR:** An interstate accused from Punjab has been arrested with the banned drug doda. The team of Anti-Crime and Cyber Unit received information that a person near Kota Maidan in Virdi Colony under Saraswati Nagar police station area has kept the banned drug doda with him and is trying to sell it.

Under the guidance of senior officers, a joint team of Anti Crime and Cyber Unit and Saraswati Nagar Police Station went to the said place

and while tracing the person matching the description given by the informer, identified and nabbed the person. During interrogation, the person disclosed his name to be German Singh, resident of Kabir Nagar, Raipur. When the team members searched the bag kept with him, the bag was found to contain banned drug doda. On demanding valid documents from German Singh regarding possession and sale of doda, he was continuously trying to mislead the team members by not presenting any documents of any kind.

### NEWSLINE

#### AWARDED

PhD awarded to Bichitrnanda Panda



**RAIPUR:** Amity University Chhattisgarh has awarded the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree upon Bichitrnanda Panda for his research on international news in the context of digital media. His doctoral thesis, titled "An Analytical Study of International News in the Indian Digital Media", was conducted under the supervision of Dr. Kunnathully Nakulan Kishore.

The research thesis was highly appreciated by eminent academicians Prof. (Dr.) Atanu Mohapatra, Professor of Media and Communication at the Centre for Diaspora Studies, Central University of Gujarat, Gandhinagar, and Prof. (Dr.) Ashish Kulshrestha, Professor and Head, Department of Mass Communication, SGRR University, Dehradun.

#### HONORED

14 Karatekas awarded Black belts



**RAIPUR:** Demonstrating discipline, dedication, and excellence in the field of karate, a total of 14 karatekas, including Chaitanya Yadu, were honored with the prestigious Black Belt at a grand ceremony organized by Seiko Kai Karate International Raipur. Additionally, 51 karatekas were awarded Color Belts.

Chaitanya Yadu, an 11th-grade student at Holy Cross Senior Secondary School Kampa in the capital, has brought pride to Chhattisgarh by showcasing his skills in about a dozen state and national karate competitions under the guidance of Sen Sai Aditya Tiwari. His achievement serves as an inspiration to the younger generation.

#### BADMINTON TOURNAMENT

Aliya, Diya won matches of Sub-Jr, Jr Categories



**RAIPUR:** The Raipur District Badminton Association today released the first-round results of the highly anticipated District Sub-Junior and Junior Badminton Tournament. Young talents showcased their skills across various age groups, with several thrilling matches played.

In the Under-11 Girls' Singles, Aliya Tamrakar defeated Ashita Mishra 15-11, 13-15, 15-13 whereas Diya Agarwal triumphed over Nishishth Shukla 15-8, 15-14.

# Bhilai



“Facilities will be improved in the ChandulalChandrakar Memorial Government Medical College and Hospital.”

Satyanarayan Rathore  
(Divisional Commissioner)

## Rationalisation boosts edu quality in Durg district

Number of teachers in primary schools has significantly increased in rural areas.



A primary school classroom.

Central Chronicle News

### FASTFACTS

- Regular conduct of classes ensure improved guidance for students.
- Teachers have been redeployed based on the number of students.

**BHILAI:** The school education system in Durg district has received a significant boost with the successful implementation of a teacher rationalization, transfer and posting initiative. This strategic move has led to a substantial increase in the number of teachers across schools, ensuring regular conduct of classes and improved guidance for students in all subjects.

The initiative, undertaken in alignment with the National Education Policy 2020 and the Right to Education Act 2009, focused on the rational-

ization of schools to guarantee adequate teacher availability. Under this plan, teachers have been redeployed based on student enrollment numbers. This not only provided much-needed educators to previously teacher-less schools but also addressed the

### Improvement in Durg Block

Durg Block has also seen improvements, with two teachers now deployed after counseling in primary schools such as Government Primary School Khada, Kelabadi, Industrial Area Borai, Bhathpara Utai, Borsi, Abadeeparanjigiri, Government Primary School Subhash Wambay Awas Urla, Naveen Bajrangnagar Urla, Machandur, Basin, Achatibatha, Government Primary School Shramik Nagar Chhawani, Masabhath, Malood, Chandkhuribhatha and BadiparaPisegaon.

demand for subject specialists. A key outcome of this rationalization is the significant reduction in single-teacher schools, promising a marked improvement in the quality of education and comprehensive learning facilities for students.

Previously, the primary schools across Durg, Patan, and Dhamdha development blocks collectively had only 56 teachers. Following a comprehensive counseling process, this number has now risen to an impressive 103.

## Teachers doubled in Patan and Dhamdha

**BHILAI:** This comprehensive teacher deployment initiative is expected to significantly elevate the standard of primary education across Durg district. In Patan Block, schools like Government Primary School Rewagahan (42 students), Government Primary School Barbaspur (32 students), and Primary School Dagania (19), which previously operated with just one teacher each, now have dedicated teachers assigned based on student strength. Similarly, a host of other primary schools including Government Primary Schools Kouhi, Deeh, Dewada, Pahandor, BhathparaKouhi, Kumhali, Boys Primary School Jangaon M, Vishwabank Colony, Pahanda, Chicha, Jangaon R, Rengakathora, Shukladeeh, Aktai, Karga, and Gatapar, which also had only one teacher each, now benefit from the appointment of two teachers after the counselling drive. The Dhamdha Block also reaped the benefits, with one teacher each being deployed in Government Primary School Basni (57), Government Primary School Pendri (24), Government Primary School Bhimbhour (20), and Government Primary School Sukhrikhurd (19).

## Committee takes key decisions for eqpt procurement



Central Chronicle News

**BHILAI:** The 9th meeting of the Management Committee and Autonomous Committee of ChandulalChandrakar Memorial Government Medical College, Kachandur, Durg, was held on Wednesday. Divisional Commissioner Satyanarayan Rathore chaired the meeting. During the meeting, discussions focused on the compliance report of decisions made in the eighth meeting of the college.

Instructions were issued to relevant departments for essential initiatives, including street lighting on the access roads to the hospital and college; installing fencing wire in front of the girls' hostel entrance; arranging city bus services for transportation between the city and the college/hospital; strengthening the drain located on the college's access road; deploying police forces at the hospital; installing directional boards for

hospital promotion at intersections, etc.

Discussions also took place regarding the payment of outstanding dues to the Chhattisgarh State Power Distribution Company. As per the meeting agenda, several key decisions were made regarding infrastructure and equipment procurement. Electrification work for the boys' hostel will be carried out as per the estimates received from the Public Works Department.

Interactive panels and LED TVs for the lecture halls, furniture for hostels, ACs, water coolers, Aquaguards, UPS systems, and cleaning machines for the college, and video/audio systems for lecture halls will be procured. CCTV cameras will be installed in front of the hostel building within the college premises and in front of the college itself. The construction of a lift in the girls' hostel will proceed as per the estimates received from the Public Works Department.

### NEWSLINE

#### CONMEN

## Three arrested for extortion



**BHILAI:** Police have arrested three individuals, including a notorious criminal, for allegedly posing as Crime Branch officers and extorting Rs 24,000 from an accountant in a mobile theft case. The accused reportedly used intimidation and physical assault to coerce the victim into paying. The arrested individuals have been identified as Bhupendra Soni (41) of Bajrang Para, Kohka; Vedant Chourasia (25) of Housing Board Kohka; and Shoeb Khan alias Aman (28) of Arya Nagar Kohka. Police have seized two motorcycles, three mobile phones, and Rs 3000 in cash, totaling approximately Rs 1.50 lakh in assets. Police had received a complaint from Durga Prasad Nayak (38) of Nehru Nagar East on June 27. He received a call from Vedant Chourasia, who claimed to be from the Bhilai Crime Branch. Chourasia informed Nayak that his friend, Kishore Kumar alias Rocky MBBS, had been apprehended and that Nayak's mobile number was also implicated in the case.

## Research Methodology workshop kicks off at Mansa College



Central Chronicle News

**BHILAI:** A four-day workshop on “Research Methodology (Hands-on Guide - To Research Work & Documentation)” commenced at Mansa Education College Bhilai on Wednesday. The workshop, scheduled to run until July 5, 2025, was inaugurated by Professor BG Singh (former Vice-Chancellor of Pandit Sundarlal Sharma Open University, Bilaspur), along with Sanjeev Saxena, Director of Mansa Education College Bhilai, and Professor Smita Saxena, Principal of Mansa Edu-

cation College Bhilai. The ceremony began with the worship of Maa Saraswati and the lighting of the lamp. Dr Ritika Soni provided a detailed overview of the workshop, after which Professor BG Singh extended his heartfelt best wishes to all participants. On the first day, Professor Singh delivered an insightful address, focusing on critical aspects of research. He elaborated on what constitutes research, effective methods for problem selection, the process of formulating objectives, and the construction of hypotheses.

## Online tender process begins for Ahatas

**BHILAI:** The Durg district administration has commenced the online tender process for the licensing of ‘ahatas’ (designated drinking areas attached to liquor shops) for country liquor and foreign liquor retail outlets. These licenses are for the remaining period of the financial year 2025-26 and for the entire financial year 2026-27, specifically for those outlets not covered by existing arrangements. Assistant Excise Commissioner informed that interested applicants can apply online for these licenses. The invitation covers Group No 06 - Utai (CS-2 (g-Ahata) Utai & FL-1 (b-Ahata) Utai and Group No 36 - KugdaKumhari (CS-2 (g-Composite Ahata) KugdaKumhari. The submission of tenders will begin at 10:30 AM on July 4, 2025, and will remain open continuously, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

## The training themed on “Smart City Governance” focuses on innovation and inclusive urban leadership.

**BHILAI:** A national-level training and consultation program on urban governance began in Gurugram, Haryana, bringing together mayors and heads of urban local bodies (ULBs) from across the country. Themed “Smart City Governance,” the two-day conference aims to strengthen municipal leadership and promote best practices in urban administration. Durg Mayor Alka Baghmar, along with key members of the Municipal Corpo-

### NATIONAL INITIATIVE TO EMPOWER ULBS

## Durg Mayor attends national urban governancemeet

Central Chronicle News



The mayor with key members of MIC.

ration's Mayor-in-Council (MIC), has departed to participate. The delegation includes Fire Department in-charge Gyaneshwar Tamrakar, Revenue Department in-charge Shekhar Chandrakar, and Women and Child Development in-charge Shashi Dwarka Sahu.

Organized by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, the program is part of a national initiative to empower ULBs as engines of inclu-

sive and sustainable development. Representatives from all states and union territories are attending the conference, which features expert sessions, policy discussions, and peer learning. The program is structured around five thematic pillars: Urban Local Bodies as pillars of democracy, focusing on model practices and procedural codes for council functioning; engines of inclusive growth, enhancing

### FASTFACTS

- Mayors and ULB heads from all states and UTs, including Durg's delegation are participating
- Focus is on five pillars—democracy, growth, empowerment, innovation, and Vision 2047.

municipal administration to fulfill constitutional mandates; architects of 21st century India, aligning governance with the national vision of a developed India by 2047; instruments of women empowerment, promoting women's leadership in civic and political spheres; and hubs of innovation and best practices, encouraging innovation to improve citizen

## SHARE TRADING SCAM Accused arrested from Haryana



**BHILAI:** Police have apprehended a person from Karnal, Haryana, in connection with an online share market trading fraud amounting to Rs 4,152,500. The accused allegedly used deceptive tactics and electronic resources to trick the victim. The arrested individual has been identified as Sahil Singhla of Main Bazar, Karnal, Haryana. Investigations revealed that Singhla had misleadingly put up a “Durga Enterprises” board at his location in Karnal to deceive potential victims.

The accused repeatedly tried to mislead the cops to evade arrest. Cyber fraud complaints are registered against him in 12 police stations across different states in India. Police had received a complaint from Mayankpuri Goswami of Vidyut Nagar, Padmanabhpur.

The accused contacted Goswami on mobile and enticed him with the promise of high profits by investing in the share market, sending him a link to join a trading website and facilitating his registration. Subsequently, through repeated promises of doubling his money, and utilizing computers and electronic means in a deceptive manner, the accused defrauded Goswami of a total of Rs 41,52,500.

### MARTYRS' DAY

## Martyrs' Day observed in memory of 1992 Bhilai Firing victims

Central Chronicle News

**BHILAI:** Thousands of workers and farmers from across Chhattisgarh gathered on July 01 to observe Martyrs' Day, marking the 33rd anniversary of the 1992 Bhilai Firing on workers—one of the most defining moments in the state's labour history. The event was organised under the banner of Chhattisgarh Mukti Morcha Mazdoor Karyakarta Samiti.

It could be recalled that on July 1, 1992, police opened

fire on protesting workers at Bhilai Power House during a peaceful demonstration led by labour leader Shankar Guha Niyogi. Sixteen workers were killed and hundreds injured. Since then, July 1 has been observed annually as Shaheed Diwas to honour their sacrifice and reaffirm the struggle for workers' rights. This year's commemoration began with a tribute at the railway



platform, where workers and martyr families paid homage with tearful eyes. At 1:00pm, a

procession moved from Lal Maidan to Niyogi Chowk, culminating in a public meeting where

participants pledged to uphold the martyrs' vision of justice and dignity. Speakers con-

demned the government's alleged anti-people policies, including the transfer of natural resources to corporate entities, denial of minimum wages, and rising communal polarization. Concerns were raised over the repression of Adivasi communities, violations of human rights, and the continued neglect of municipal workers and displaced residents of Hospital Sector (Sec-

tor-09). Cultural groups Nawa Anjor and Rela performed people's songs, while slogans were raised against ACC and Adani, reflecting growing resistance to corporate encroachment. Leaders including Janak Lal Thakur, Suk Lal Sahu, Bhimrao Bagde, and Kaladas-Dehriya addressed the gathering. The event concluded with a collective vow to carry forward the legacy of the 1992 martyrs and continue the fight for a just and equitable society.

## N-E-W-S



Surjewala in Karnataka to 'prepare grounds' for Siddaramaiah's resignation.

**B Y Vijayendra**  
Karnataka BJP president

## Rath Yatra in Maharashtra's Solapur



People take part in the annual Rath Yatra festival celebration organised by ISKCON, in Solapur, Maharashtra, Wednesday. PTI

# Insult of Ambedkar by Lalu no small error: Rajnath Singh

He also claimed that Bihar has made "unprecedented success" in the last couple of decades during which the state was ruled by NDA.

Press Trust Of India

**PATNA:** Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday asserted that the "insult" of Babasaheb Ambedkar by RJD president Lalu Prasad was "no small error" and showed a "mindset of disrespect for Dalits".

The former BJP president made the remark at the party's state executive meeting here, which was held barely a couple of months ahead of the assembly polls in Bihar.

"Lalu Prasad had a portrait of Babasaheb

Ambedkar placed at his feet. This was no small error but reflective of a mindset of disrespect for Dalits... Bihar has been cheated by people who hide their feudal attitude under the cloak of socialism," Singh said.

The former Bihar chief minister has been drawing flak over a video clip in which a portrait of Ambedkar was seen close to his feet when people were visiting his residence to greet him on his 78th birthday.

At a rally in Siwan district last month,

### HIGHLIGHT

● The former Bihar chief minister has been drawing flak over a video clip in which a portrait of Ambedkar was seen close to his feet when people were visiting his residence to greet him on his 78th birthday.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi tore into the RJD supremo, asserting he will "never be forgiven by the people of Bihar and the country", even

as the party insisted that the portrait was being held by a supporter and blamed "camera angle" for the confusion.

Earlier, before the meeting had started, Bihar BJP president Dilip Jaiswal had told reporters that a resolution condemning the RJD supremo will be passed at the state executive.

Singh, who as the chief guest delivered a speech that was more than an hour long, also charged Prasad with "duplicitous" by claiming to be a disciple of Karpoori Thakur

"but using abusive language against the OBC icon while in private".

"I am not making this up. All this has been mentioned in detail by veteran journalist Sanjiv Thakur in his book 'Brothers Bihari'," claimed Singh.

"While Lalu Prasad was in power, he never bothered to do anything in the memory of Karpoori Thakur. It was Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who conferred Bharat Ratna on this great son of Bihar," the Union minister pointed out.

## Trucks start plying after repair work

**AIZAWL:** Trucks started plying on a portion of a key national highway in Mizoram on Wednesday, six days after a transport association blocked the dilapidated road to repair it, officials said. Kolasib unit of Mizoram Tipper Association (MTA) has carried out repairing work of NH-6/306 on the Sairang-Kawnpui sector, which was badly damaged during rains between June 26 and June 30, preventing tankers and trucks carrying essential commodities from plying. National Highway-306 is the primary lifeline of Mizoram, connecting Aizawl with Assam's Silchar town. A portion of the highway is also called NH-6. The blockade caused by the repairing work has affected the supply of essential commodities, resulting in a shortage of fuel in the state for the past six days, the officials said.

## Kharge slams Centre over pending disaster relief funds for Himachal

Press Trust Of India

Kharge said the news of loss of life and property due to heavy rainfall and landslides in Himachal Pradesh in the past several days is extremely distressing.

**NEW DELHI:** Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Wednesday accused the Centre of meting out step-motherly treatment to Himachal Pradesh and demanded the immediate release of pending disaster relief funds to the state.

"We demand from the central government that the disaster relief funds pending for Himachal Pradesh for the past few years be released with



immediate effect," he said in a post on X.

"Even before this year's rainfall, the Himachal government had demanded a total relief package of Rs 9000 crore from the Centre. In the 2023 tragedy, the Congress state government had released special assistance of Rs 4500 crore, whereas the Modi government at the Cen-

tre provided only Rs 433 crore to the state.

"Now, the Modi government has recently announced Rs 2000 crore for 2023 in a hurry, and the BJP is busy taking credit for it, but the relief amount is still pending. This is the step-motherly treatment of the BJP towards Himachal," the Congress chief said.

It is hoped that this

### HIGHLIGHT

● He also expressed grief over reports of several people losing their lives due to heavy rains and landslides in the hill state and urged Congress workers to extend all possible help to those affected.

time, instead of taking credit, the BJP will take action in providing help for the losses, he said.

The government and administration is engaged in relief and rescue operations on a war footing, he said. "My deepest condolences to the families of the victims. I appeal to Congress leaders and workers to provide every possible assistance to the public," he said.

## 'Enhanced measures to strengthen Aadhaar process'

Press Trust Of India

**IMPHAL:** Former Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh on Wednesday asserted the urgent need for strict verification mechanisms and close coordination between Aadhaar issuing authorities, ILP enforcement agencies, and local administrative bodies to ensure that identity doc-

These efforts are critical to safeguarding our integrity and identity.

**N Biren Singh**  
Former Manipur CM

uments are issued only to those who are rightfully entitled. In a post on X, Singh wrote: "I



appreciate the enhanced measures undertaken by the State Government to strengthen and streamline the Aadhaar issuance process in Manipur.

These efforts are critical to safeguarding our integrity and identity."

Singh's remark came a day after the state adopted one of the most stringent processes for issuing Aadhaar cards to adults aimed at ensuring robust scrutiny and enhanced security in line with the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and UIDAI guidelines.

Officials said, "Each case of adult Aadhaar has to be mandatorily scrutinised and approved only at the level of state HQ in the office of Special Secretary (Home)."

According to Singh, it is equally important to remember that Manipur is a state where the ILP system is in place to regulate the entry and stay of non-residents.

## Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

### MAINTAINING PUBLIC TOILETS

#### Delhi HC raps civic bodies over poor state of public loos



**NEW DELHI:** The Delhi High Court on Wednesday chided municipal bodies for showing "complete apathy and insensitivity" in maintaining public toilets in the capital.

A bench of Chief Justice D K Upadhyaya and Tushar Rao Gedela called it "hurting and unfortunate" as it examined photos of Delhi's public conveniences.

"The municipal authorities and development bodies like MCD, DDA and NDMC have exhibited a complete apathy, insensitivity and even dereliction of duty so far as the maintenance of public conveniences is concerned," it said.

The bench found it unfortunate to deal with the plea seeking adequate and appropriate toilet and conveniences to the public at large.

The PIL of Jan Sewa Welfare Society, a registered NGO, sought directions to the municipal authorities to

ensure availability of hygienic public toilets with clean water and electricity in the capital.

Following previous directions, the authorities filed their status reports detailing their steps on the issue.

When the petitioner's counsel referred to the photos of a few public toilets, the court noted the absence of any adequate and requisite action on the authorities' part.

"They need not be reminded repeatedly of their primary responsibility of providing adequate public conveniences under law, the court said.

"After all, the municipal bodies and development agencies are created by the legislature for the benefit of the general populace and they function on public money. It is hurting and unfortunate to note the conditions of toilets depicted in the photographs tendered by the counsel appearing on behalf of the petitioner," the order said. PTI

### CASE REGISTERED

#### Engineering college principal threatened over 'ban' on hijab

**CHHATRAPATI SAMBHAJINAGAR:** A case of criminal intimidation has been registered here against six unidentified persons for allegedly threatening the principal of a local engineering college for 'not allowing' girls to wear the hijab.

College authorities denied that there was any such ban, stating that restrictions were imposed only during examinations.

The incident took place at the People's Education Society's (PES) Engineering College on Monday, following which principal Abhijit Wadekar lodged a complaint at the Cantonment police station, said a police official.

A group of six men entered the college around 1.45 pm while examinations were underway, and asked him "why do you not allow our people to wear hijab", the complainant claimed.

They also allegedly used swear-words and threatened him while shouting slogans. PTI

### RAHUL GANDHI ALLEGES

#### Govt not taking steps to help farmers 'struggling with fertilizers': Congress



**NEW DELHI:** Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday accused the government of not taking any steps to help the farmers who are "struggling with shortage of essential fertilizers" like DAP and urea as China has "stopped the supply" of speciality fertilizers imported from there.

Gandhi said on the one hand, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is printing his photos on fertilizer bags, and on the other hand, farmers are becoming dependent on 'Made in China'.

India is an agriculture state and farmers are the backbone of our economy. But, this backbone is bending due to foreign dependency. PTI

### Copyright infringement

#### SC exempts filmmaker Sujoy Ghosh from appearing in Jharkhand court

**NEW DELHI:** The Supreme Court on Wednesday granted exemption to filmmaker Sujoy Ghosh from appearing personally before a Jharkhand court in a copyright infringement case over his movie Kahaani 2.

A bench of Justices P S Narasimha and R Mahadevan issued notice to the Jharkhand government on Ghosh's plea to quash the case pending before the court of chief judicial magistrate Hazaribagh.

Ghosh challenged an April 22 order of the Jharkhand High Court refusing to quash the proceedings pending against him.

The filmmaker had then moved against the magistrate order of June 7, 2018, holding a prima facie case of copyright infringement against him under Section 63 of the Copyright Act, 1957.

The high court dismissed Ghosh's plea on April 22 observing it would not conduct a "mini-trial" at the quashing stage and the issues could be tested during trial.

The high court refused to evaluate



the merits or compare the two scripts at the current stage.

The complainant, Umesh Prasad Mehta, had written a script of film "Sabak" which was certified by the Notary Public of Hazaribagh for obtaining its copyright.

The complainant met Ghosh and obtained a recommendation letter, which was essential for obtaining the copyright of a film script.

Ghosh allegedly kept the photocopy of the script of the complainant and knowingly infringed the copyright of the complainant by producing a film with Kahani 2. PTI

There should be proper update of files in the office of Revenue and due action be taken against pending cases of encroachment, mutation etc.

Ajit Vasant  
Collector Korba



# Chhattisgarh

## Sahu reviews govt schemes and prog

On Tuesday, Union Minister of State, Tokhan Sahu chaired a meeting involving officials from Disha & City Level Vigilance and Monitoring Committees.



### FACTFILE

● In the meeting, the progress of various schemes and programs were thoroughly reviewed by the Union Minister.

monitoring under PM Janman Yojana and PMGSY. Quality work, transparency, and timely benefits under schemes like the Jal Jeevan Mission and PM Krishi Sinchai Yojana were stressed. Sahu also directed the formation of monitoring teams involving local representatives.

In education, he called for identifying underperforming students and providing remedial

education, along with a serious review of the rationalization process. Under the Adarsh Gram Yojana, public representatives were asked to stay informed and ensure proper monitoring of work. The meeting also addressed agriculture, animal husbandry, fisheries, and food distribution. MLA Mohle urged plans for seed and fertilizer distribution to unregistered farmers. Updates were shared on seed distribution, fish production, and ration delivery under the "Chawal Utsav."

Concerns were raised over Anganwadi centres still using wood for cooking despite gas stove availability. Health depart-

ments were instructed to stock essential medicines and monitor seasonal diseases. Transparency in Jan Aushadhi Kendras and quality patient meals were also emphasized. Collector Kundan Kumar reported that wage payments from the last meeting had been completed, over 3,000 toilets built under Swachh Bharat, and 1 lakh health cards issued. All 22 PMGSY works have started, and "Bihan Dukan" outlets were launched to support self-help groups.

The meeting concluded with a commitment to ensure timely and quality implementation of all welfare schemes.

### Booth-level officers national training by July 17

**KORBA:** As per the directives of the Election Commission of India and the Chief Electoral Officer, Chhattisgarh, a National Training Program for Booth Level Officers (BLO Supervisors) will be conducted at the assembly level from 3rd to 17th July 2025. Under the guidance of Collector and District Election Officer Ajit Vasant, Deputy Collector Mrs. Rashmi Verma (Mobile: 9993832278) has been appointed as the District Level Training Nodal Officer for Korba.

### Schools & colleges to host ECI innovation awareness camps

**KORBA:** As per the instructions of the Election Commission of India, to ensure wider public awareness of electoral innovations and encourage youth voter registration, camps are to be organized in all schools and colleges. Under the direction of Collector and District Election Officer Ajit Vasant, the Deputy District Election Officer, Korba, has instructed the Principal and District SVEEP Nodal Officer of Government E.V. PG College, Korba, to conduct these camps.

## Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

### SEED DISTRIBUTION

#### Free peanut seed distribution underway to empower farmers

**MCB:** With the objective of expanding oilseed cultivation and enhancing farmers' income, free distribution of improved peanut seeds has begun in the district under the National Mission on Edible Oil. High-quality seeds developed through scientific methods are being provided to selected farmers to give a new boost to oilseed production in the region. As part of this initiative, a seed distribution program was organized on June 29 in Gram Panchayat Bundeli and Gram Panchayat Chirapani of Manendragarh development block. The event was attended by District Panchayat member Ramjit Lakra (Bhagat Babu), District Member Surendra Singh Markam, Ramashankar Singh, sarpanches of the respective Gram Panchayats, public representatives, and officials from the Agriculture Department.

### INSPECTION

#### Food deptt conduct thorough inspections of eateries to ensure hygiene



**MCB:** Under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and Rules 2011, a strict campaign against adulterated food is being carried out across the district. As per the instructions of Controller Food and Drug Administration, Chhattisgarh, Deepak Kumar Agrawal, and Chief Medical and Health Officer cum Ex-Officio Deputy Director, Dr. Avinash Khare, continuous and intensive inspections are being conducted at food establishments.

### Leaflet Released by Collector

#### Collector launches leaflet for National Student Environment Competition



**MUNGELI:** Under the Environment Conservation Activity Plan of Chhattisgarh Province, the leaflet for the National Student Environment Competition 2025 was officially released by Collector Kundan Kumar, Superintendent of Police Bhojram Patel, and District Panchayat CEO Prabhakar Pandey. The competition will run from 1st July to 21st August 2025.

In the first phase, a quiz will be held during this period, and results will be announced on 30th August. Students from primary school to postgraduate, research level, and others are eligible to participate. To register, students can download the Eco Mitram app from the Play Store, take part in the quiz, and download their participation certificates.

## Public reps & banks join Nikshay Mitra initiative

**KOREA:** On Tuesday, at District Hospital Baikunthpur, District Panchayat member Mrs. Geeta Rajwade adopted five TB patients from Baikunthpur development block, committing to provide them with nutritious food for six months. Having been a TB patient herself, she expressed deep empathy and pledged ongoing support. Additionally, State Bank of India, Baikunthpur, also joined as a 'Nikshay Mitra' by ensuring nutritional support for five TB patients. Chief Medical and Health Officer Dr. Prashant Singh informed that 107 TB patients are currently under treatment in the district, requiring both medication and nutrition. Civil Surgeon Dr. Ayush Jaiswal and other officials were present on the occasion.

### REVIEWS OF FLAGSHIP SCHEMES

## Flagship schemes under Collector's scrutiny

### Central Chronicle News

**BILASPUR:** Collector Sanjay Agrawal reviewed the progress of government flagship schemes during the weekly TL meeting held on Tuesday. He emphasized that no classes should be held in dilapidated school buildings and directed officials to report such cases immediately for repair fund allocation.

He also reviewed preparations for the mass tree plantation program scheduled for July 5, assigning department-wise responsibilities. The collector stressed that all citizens should participate, and under the Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam campaign, large trees should be planted for easier protection. He noted that while planting is simple, ensur-



### FACTFILE

● Ban imposed on registration of illegal plotting.

ing the tree's survival requires community involvement. Massive plantation drives will take place in Birkona and Rajkishore Nagar, where about 12,000 saplings will be planted. The collector instructed departments

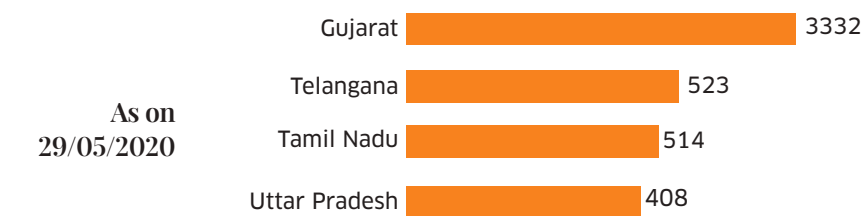
to prioritize water conservation and tree plantation efforts during the rainy season. To support persons with disabilities, he directed that special camps be organized across clusters of 40-50 gram panchayats for easier access to government schemes and certificates, with coordinated efforts from the District Panchayat, Health, and Social Welfare Departments.

He urged speedy resolution of pending RBC 6-4 and hit-and-run cases, highlighting that 2 lakh is provided as assistance in unidentified vehicle death cases. He instructed officials to send such cases for approval promptly.

To facilitate youth services, the RTO was directed to organize learning license camps in all government and private colleges.

### The Day's NUMBERS

#### NUMBER OF PHARMACEUTICAL DRUG MANUFACTURERS IN INDIA



Source-PIB

### KINGPIN ARRESTED

#### Brown Sugar kingpin caught in Sasaram under 'Drug-Free India Fortnight'

**MUNGELI:** Under the "Drug Free India Fortnight" campaign and "Operation Baaz," Mungeli Police took decisive action against illegal drug activities. On 18th June, based on informer tips, a joint team of Cyber Cell and City Kotwali Police arrested two individuals, Lucky alias Avi Pathak (22) and Deepak Vishwakarma (20), from Pulpara Ramgopal Tiwari Ward, Mungeli. They were caught selling 30 grams of brown sugar worth Rs. 1.5 lakh. Both were arrested under the NDPS Act and sent to jail.

Following interrogation and technical evidence, the police identified the main supplier as Karan Kumar Bind, 21, resident of Sasaram, Rohtas, Bihar. On 30th June, Karan Bind was apprehended in Sasaram. Police seized one pistol, two magazines, 11 live cartridges, and two mobile phones from him. He was arrested and sent on judicial remand.

The operation was conducted under the guidance of Mungeli Superintendent of Police Bhojram Patel. Key officers involved included Sub Inspector Girija Shankar Yadav, Sub Inspector Sushil Kumar Banchhor, Sub Inspector Nandlal Paikra, Assistant Sub Inspector Ishwar Singh Rajput, and several constables.

### WORKS INAUGURATED

#### MoS coal Satish Chandra Dubey inaugurates works during Korea visit



**BAIKUNTHPUR:** Union Minister of State for Coal, Satish Chandra Dubey, visited Korea district for a one-day visit on Tuesday. He was warmly welcomed by local MLA Bhaiyalal Rajwade, SECL CMD Haris Duhan, Korea Collector Mrs. Chandan Tripathi, Superintendent of Police Ravi Kurre, SECL General Manager B.N. Jha, District Panchayat CEO Dr. Ashutosh Pandey, and others.

During the visit, the minister planted a sapling in the name of his mother, encouraging everyone to contribute to tree plantation efforts. He inaugurated several development projects undertaken by SECL, including the main mechanical fan house, aimed at strengthening ventilation inside the mines, and a ladies' bio-toilet for women's convenience. Additionally, he performed the Bhoomi Pujan for upcoming development works.

### COMPENSATION CANCELLED

## 'Investigation uncovers 152 fictitious houses'

### Central Chronicle News

**KORBA:** During a recent survey of assets on land acquired in village Malgaon for SECL Deepka's expansion project, 152 fictitious houses were identified in the compensation list. Acting on the instructions of Collector Ajit Vasant, an investigation was conducted by SDM Katghora Rohit Singh, revenue staff, and SECL Deepka officials,

revealing serious discrepancies.

The land, measuring 63.795 hectares, was acquired under the Coal Bearing Area (Acquisition and Development) Act, 1957, via Notification No. 3095 dated 24.11.2004. A survey of the land in 2022-23 led to the creation of 1,638 measurement books, based on which compensation calculations were prepared. However, during the



**Do not make payment for the assets of 152 imaginary houses under any circumstances**

Rohit Singh  
SDM

physical displacement of assets in May 2025, 78 houses listed for compensation were found nonex-

istent. Another 74 houses were also flagged as imaginary based on Google Earth images from 2018

to 2022. Altogether, 152 houses were determined to be fictitious.

In response, the SDM has written to the Chief General Manager of SECL Dipka, directing immediate cancellation of compensation for all 152 houses and recovery of any amounts already disbursed within 15 days. SECL has also been asked to submit a report to the SDM office within three days.

# Stringent measures taken for quality education: Singh

Assembly Speaker Dr Raman Singh participated in school admission festival in village Parmalkasa

Central Chronicle News

**RAJNANDGAON:** Assembly Speaker Dr. Raman Singh here participated in the district level school admission festival, inauguration and Bhoomi Pujan program organized in village Parmalkasa. Assembly Speaker Dr. Raman Singh inaugurated Mahila Bhawan Parmalkasa, Bor Khan Awas Para Parmalkasa and laid the foundation stone of Community Bhawan Sahu Para and Community Bhawan Parmalkasa.

In the Shala Parvash Utsav, the senior politician, admitted the newly admitted children to school by applying tilak and feeding them sweets and distributed textbooks uniforms and cycles to the newly admitted girl students of 9th class under the Chief Minister Saraswati Cycle Scheme. In the program, Dr. Raman Singh announced the upgradation of High School Parmalkasa to Higher Secondary School from this academic session and also distributed the keys of the houses built under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana to the beneficiaries. Along with this, ration cards were distributed to the bene-



## FASTFACTS

● Sarpanch Parmila Sahu also addressed the program

● Bicycles distributed under CM Saraswati Cycle Scheme

ficiaries and sanitation kits were distributed to the beneficiaries. He also planted a sapling in the school premises under the name of 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam'. On this occasion, MP Santosh Pandey, Mayor Madhusudan Yadav, District Panchayat President Kiran Vaishnav and other public representatives

## 1336 govt schools operating in district

Collector Dr. Sarveshwar Narendra Bhure gave information that 1336 government schools are operating in the district, in which 1 lakh 40 thousand children are studying. He told that this year, under the Acharya Vinoba Bhawe Teacher Reform Program, a special program will be run for the quality of education of children from class 1st to 12th. He told that the team of Sampark Foundation is already working, due to which education is being done in digital way. Along with this, free material will be provided for the preparation of NEET and JEE and efforts are being made to do good work in the field of education. On this occasion, District Cooperative Central Bank Sachin Baghel, Chairman Janpad Panchayat Pratima Chandrakar, District Panchayat Vice President Kiran Sahu, CEO District Panchayat Suruchi Singh, District Education Officer Pravas Singh Baghel along with a large number of public representatives, school children, teachers and villagers were present.

planted a sapling in the school premises under the name of 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam'.

## Financial assistance of Rs 4 lakh approved

**BALODABAZAR:** District Collector Deepak Soni has approved financial assistance grant amount of Rs 4 lakh for the natural disaster affected family under Revenue Book Circular 6-4. He has given instructions to the concerned Drawing and Disbursing Officer to deposit the said amount in the bank account of the legal heir of the deceased. According to information received, Gaiduram Dhruv, son of Balbhaddar Dhruv, resident of village Koliari under Balodabazar tehsil, died due to drowning in a pond.

## Grant amount approved for disaster affected

**RAJNANDGAON:** District Collector Dr. Sarveshwar Narendra Bhure has approved grant amount for disaster affected people of Dongargarh and Dongargaon under relief head in relation to natural calamities. Under this, Rs 3 lakh 60 thousand has been approved for complete damage of 2 houses due to heavy rains in Dongargarh tehsil and Rs 4 thousand for partial damage of one house due to heavy rains in Dongargaon tehsil, Rs 3200 for partial damage of one hut due to heavy rains, Rs 10 thousand for damage of 2 crops due to heavy rains and landslides, Rs 4 lakh assistance grant has been approved for loss of life due to drowning in river water.

## Doctors felicitated under Atmanirbhar Khairagarh campaign



Central Chronicle News

## HIGHLIGHT

● Atmanirbhar Khairagarh campaign felicitated doctors of the district on National Doctor's Day.

**KHAIRAGARH:** On the occasion of World Doctors Day, members of various charitable organisations of the city, with the spirit of Atmanirbhar Khairagarh, honoured the doctors providing medical services in the city of Khairagarh and congratulated and wished them. The convener members of the Atmanirbhar Khairagarh campaign reached Khair-

ragarh Civil Hospital and honoured the doctors dedicated to the service of patients by presenting them a rose flower and expressed their gratitude by congratulating and wishing them for their better service.

## Public Darshan Program resolves public grievances

**RAJNANDGAON:** District Collector Dr. Sarveshwar Narendra Bhure seriously listened to the complaints and problems of the general public that came from different places of the district in the weekly public darshan organized in the Collectorate meeting room. The Collector has directed the concerned departmental officers to resolve all the applications received with

priority and instructed officials to resolve the problems of the citizens and provide those benefits from various government schemes. After reviewing the applications, instructions were given to provide benefits of government schemes to the eligible beneficiaries as per the rules. The Collector also directed all the officers to provide the applications related to their department and resolve them soon.

## Collector reviews departmental works



Central Chronicle News

**BALODABAZAR:** District Collector Deepak Soni reviewed the departmental works in the time-bound meeting on Tuesday. While reviewing the pending cases under the Revenue Department, he directed to bring progress in the resolution by taking them to court regularly and said that along with field work, SDM and Tehsildar should also sit regularly in the court and get the cases resolved by hearing them. He directed to complete all the demarcation cases by 15th July and similarly, he also asked to expedite the resolution of RBC 6-4 and land acquisition cases. The Collector

said that sand excavation is prohibited till 15th October and instructed to keep a constant vigil on sand excavation and illegal transportation during the prohibited period. The Collector also reviewed the massive tree plantation program during the rainy season and directed the officials of the Horticulture and Forest Department to provide saplings as per the demand. Along with this, he also asked to plant trees in the tehsil office premises, school and Anganwadi premises. He directed the officials of the Public Works Department to get road erosion and culverts damaged due to heavy rains repaired immediately and.

## List of candidates of Child Helpline released

**RAJNANDGAON:** Under Mission Vatsalya Yojana, the selected and priority list has been released after the skill test and written examination for recruitment to the posts of Project Coordinator, Counsellor, Child Helpline Supervisor, Caseworker of Child Helpline Rajnandgaon.

## District Panchayat GA Meeting on July 11

**RAJNANDGAON:** The meeting of the District Panchayat General Assembly has been organized on 11th July 2025 at 12 noon in the meeting hall of District Panchayat Rajnandgaon. In the meeting, discussions will be held regarding the schemes and programs run by various departments. The District Panchayat Chairman, Vice Chairman and other members were requested to be present in the meeting and the officers have been asked to be present with the necessary information.

## PG Chemistry on hold in Govt. Rajivlochan College

Central Chronicle News

MSc in Chemistry being awaited by students who have completed graduation in Science stream

**RAJIM:** Post Graduation in Chemistry as a specialisation and allied subject under Life Sciences is being awaited by many eligible students of the region in Govt. Rajiv Lochan College. Hundreds of students are waiting for this course and many were confident that the course will start from this session itself, but the new education session has started and still the order has not come from the Higher Education Department.

Students Rupendra Sen, Hemant Yadav, Somesh Sahu, Luv Dhruv, Thaneshwar Sahu, Anchal Rajput, Hemlata Sahu,



## FASTFACTS

● In the last 53 years, PG in many subjects have been demanded by students and Unions

Danish Sahu, Khushboo Dhidhi, Lileshwari Yadav, Chandni Devangan, Geetika Devangan, Ganeshwari Chelak said that our BSc has been completed

and after that we are planning to do MSc from this college. In the last session itself, there was a discussion that Chemistry will be introduced in MSc from this session but we are disappointed as the order has not come yet. In the last 53 years, MSc Chemistry course has not been started and this has become a matter of concern for this area and

if students want to study further in this subject, they have to take refuge in other cities apart from Raipur district. For higher education, till now only MA is available and apart from Economics, Political Science, Sociology, Hindi Literature, and M.Com. Botany, Physics in MSc Science Group, self-financed courses are limited to MSW, PGDCA, and Yoga.

TALKS - POLITICS |

## Internal rift in BJP Kopara Mandal

Central Chronicle News

**CHHURA:** There are reports of internal rifts and resentment among workers in BJP Kopara Mandal. Party workers are raising questions on the working style of Bharatiya Janata Party Gariaband District President Anil Chandrakar and many grass root workers have condemned the working style of the President and accused him of apartheid within the organisation.



The workers have accused of change in organisational behaviour after Chandrakar becoming the District President, which has caused disap-

pointment and resentment among the staunch BJP workers of the area. Even in the district level programs, the old workers are not getting

**The workers of the villages are also feeling neglected**  
Senior Party Official

information and there is accusation vice versa by both the officials of Kopara Mandal Organization and Mandal level. Both the booth presidents are not able to inform the senior workers of the Mandal and workers are being

ignored repeatedly in the Kopara Mandal level programs. In booth number 207, a senior worker of Patel community told that our booth president resigned from his post at the time of elections and the new president has not been appointed yet and in the Mandal, the outline of the program is being made by only a few selected people and decisions are being taken without holding Shakti Kendra and Mandal level meetings.

## Gamblers arrested in Putpura jungles

Central Chronicle News

**KATGI:** Under the direction of Superintendent of Police of the district, Bhavna Gupta, an ambitious scheme "Samadhan Cell" has been started in the district to quickly resolve the complaints and problems of the common people, under which is being made by only a few selected people and decisions are being taken without holding Shakti Kendra and Mandal level meetings.

26,210 and 52 cards, 02 four wheelers, 05 motorcycles and 08 mobile phones were seized from the accused gamblers. A case was registered against the accused gamblers in Kasdol Police Station under Section 13 of Gambling Act, CG. Action has been taken by registering a crime under Section 3(2) of the Gambling (Prohibition) Act 2022. During interrogation of the accused and witness in the case and investigation of the case.

## NEWSLINE

### FOOD DEPARTMENT

14 LPG cylinders seized



**BALODABAZAR:** On the instructions of Collector Deepak Soni, the Food Department is taking action against illegal storage and sale of domestic gas cylinders in the district. In this sequence, on Monday, the Food Department team raided various establishments and seized 14 domestic gas cylinders. 04 filled and 03 empty domestic gas cylinders were seized from Sakshi CSC Center, 04 filled and 03 empty domestic gas cylinders from Sakhi Center Roma Nagdev, total 08 filled and 06 empty gas cylinders were seized and action was taken under the provisions of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (Supply and Distribution Regulation) Order 2000.

### DOCTORS DAY

Doctors honoured on National Doctors Day



**ARANG:** Chhattisgarh State Health Employees Union organized a felicitation program on "National Doctors Day" at the Community Health Center. All the doctors of Block Arang were honoured by Block President Salik Naurange. The doctors who were honored included Block Medical Officer Dr. Vijay Laxmi Anant, Senior Medical Officer Dr. V.K. Chandravanshi, Dr. Anandi Toppo, Dr. Ramnarayan Das, Dr. Nandlal Bhuvarya, Pediatrician Dr. Sagar, Dr. Swapnil Chandrakar, Dr. Devendra Banjare, Dr. Bhupesh Gendre.

### EK PED MAE KE NAAM

Ravindra Choubey plants saplings in Sandipani Academy



**DHAMDDHA:** Under World Environment Day, the National Service Scheme unit of Sandipani Academy Ahoti planted trees under the awareness campaign "One tree in the name of mother in the presence of chief guest Ravindra Choubey (former cabinet minister of Chhattisgarh government). Ravindra Choubey was welcomed by the college director Mahendra Choubey, administrative officer Sudhir Tiwari, Principal of Education Department Dr. Swati Srivastava and Principal of Nursing Department Prof. Akanksha Gottlieb. In this campaign, Avinash Choubey, Shivendra Choubey, Rajiv Gupta (former Municipal Council President), Jalam Patel (Former District Member), Suresh Mudpar, Neelu Tamrakar extended their cooperation.

# Business



PVR INOX plans to add 200 screens in 2 yrs.

Sanjeev Kumar Bijli  
ED, PVR INOX

## BizBriefs

BEST OF THE REST

HOW THE MARKET'S BEHAVE TODAY?

### Stock markets end lower; HDFC Bank, foreign fund outflows drag



**MUMBAI:** Benchmark BSE Sensex declined by 287 points on Wednesday due to profit selling in HDFC Bank, L&T and Reliance Industries shares and caution ahead of the impending US tariff deadline. Paring its early gains, the BSE Sensex closed lower by 287.60 points or 0.34 per cent at 83,409.69. During the day, it dropped 546.52 points or 0.65 per cent to 83,150.77. The 50-share NSE Nifty declined by 88.40 points or 0.35 per cent to settle at 25,453.40.

Flight of foreign capital from equities and a mixed trend in global equities impacted market sentiment, traders said. Among Sensex pack, Bajaj Finserv, Larsen & Toubro, Bajaj Finance, HDFC Bank, Bharat Electronics and Kotak Mahindra Bank were the major laggards. However, Tata Steel, Asian Paints, UltraTech Cement, and Trent were the biggest gainers. Mixed global cues, particularly ahead of the impending tariff deadline, are driving investor caution.

#### FOR SOLAR PUMPING SYSTEMS

### C.R.I. Solar secures major multi-state orders worth Rs 210 crores

**MUMBAI:** CRI Solar, a division of CRI Pumps and a frontrunner in renewable energy-driven water solutions, has secured significant orders from Maharashtra Energy Development Agency (MEDA), Haryana Renewable Energy Development Agency (HAREDA) and Punjab Energy Development Agency (PEDA)—for the supply, installation and commissioning of 6,894 solar pumping systems, cumulatively valued at Rs 210 crores. These prestigious orders represent a unified effort to strengthen sustainable irrigation infrastructure across India's agricultural heartlands. These engagements underscore CRI's growing role in supporting both central and state governments in advancing their renewable energy and agricultural productivity goals. Commenting on this significant milestone, Mr. G. Soundararajan, Chairman of CRI Group, said: "This consolidated achievement reflects CRI's unwavering commitment to enabling clean, reliable and sustainable water access across India's rural and agrarian landscapes. These projects go beyond infrastructure—they are enablers of rural prosperity, energy efficiency and environmental responsibility."

#### RECORD ALERT

### Skoda Auto India achieves its highest-ever half-yearly sales



**MUMBAI:** Skoda Auto India is keeping its foot on the accelerator as it celebrates its 25th anniversary in India and 130th year globally. With 36,194 units sold in the first half of 2025, Skoda Auto has achieved its highest half-yearly sales in its 25-year history in India. Commenting on the achievement, Ashish Gupta, Brand Director, Skoda Auto India, said, "Our landmark half-yearly sales reflect the strong acceptance of Skoda products and services by customers in India. Our customers love to explore the world around them every day. With the addition of the Kylaq to our portfolio, we now enable their journeys even more through an 'SUV For Everyone', as well as our sedan offering. Our aim is to get 'closer' to our customers in India with our accessible products, services, and touchpoints across the country."

#### SALES GROWTH

### Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India sells 4,29,147 units in June 2025

**GURUGRAM:** Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India announced its sales numbers for the month of June 2025. The company's total sales for June'25 stood at 4,29,147 units. This includes domestic sales of 3,88,812 units and 40,335 units exports. It is worth mentioning that HMSI's YTD FY26 (April'25 - June'25) total sales stand at 13,75,120 units. This includes domestic sales of 12,28,961 units and 1,46,159 units exports. HMSI's Key Highlights of June 2025, Road Safety: Expanding road safety awareness in India, HMSI promoted campaigns in 12 locations across India- Jamnagar (Gujarat), Satna (Madhya Pradesh), Kota (Rajasthan), Sangamner and Ratnagiri (Maharashtra), Kanyakumari (Tamil Nadu), Gokarna (Karnataka), Ambikapur (Chhattisgarh), Bhawanipatna (Odisha), Vijayawada (Andhra Pradesh), Midnapore (West Bengal) and Gurugram (Haryana). Additionally, HMSI celebrated the 11th anniversary of its Traffic Training Park (TTP) in Bhubaneswar and 6th Anniversary of Traffic Training Park in Tiruchirappalli, advancing its efforts towards responsible road habits. HMSI also hosted a Summer Camp at Delhi Traffic Training Park with interactive sessions and engagements like safe riding theory, road safety games and cycling practice, etc. fostering early awareness around responsible road behaviour. CSR: HMSI marked Environment Week 2025 with



a series of sustainability-focused activities across its nationwide network, beginning 5th June (World Environment Day). As part of the week-long celebration, HMSI's dealerships and service outlets across India actively engaged with customers and local communities with key activities including distribution of saplings to all customers visiting at dealership, awareness campaigns on the harmful impact of plastic pollution and tree plantation drives across multiple cities and towns. Additionally, Honda India Foundation celebrated International Yoga Day at the Honda Samajik Vikas Kendra in Naurangpur, Gurgaon (Haryana), promoting health, wellness, and mindfulness among participants. Over 200 participants from nearby villages joined for guided yoga sessions that encouraged harmony between individual well-being and collective health. Product: HMSI introduced the new 2025 XL750 Transalp at Rs. 10,99,990, ex-showroom Gurugram (Haryana).



The Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Hardeep Singh Puri attends the 77th Chartered Accountants Day at Bharat Mandapam, in New Delhi. PTI

# Crude oil prices stabilize at \$67/Barrel: Puri

Minister Puri says crude oil stabilizing at \$67 per barrel as India sources from 40 countries; highlights energy security and biofuel achievements.

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Tuesday said crude oil prices are back at USD 67 per barrel and are likely to remain around that level. Speaking at the 77th Foundation Day of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI), Puri also said India increased biofuel blending and is sourcing crude oil from 40 countries as against 27 earlier. He said when the tensions were at their

peak in the Gulf region recently, many tried to be alarmist about the crude oil prices moving northwards. "I said nothing will happen. Oil prices sahi rahenge (will remain stable). Don't worry. And the price of oil is back to USD 67 a barrel. Why do I say that? ...there is enough oil available in the world," the minister said. Moreover, Puri added India has diversified its crude oil sourcing. "We used to buy oil from 27 countries, we are buying it from 40 countries," he said. The min-

#### NUMBER

# 77

● Hardeep Puri confirms crude oil prices have stabilized at \$67 per barrel, citing global supply stability and India's diversified import strategy.

ister also spoke in detail about the achievements made by the country in bio-fuel blending, and meeting targets ahead of schedule. "We are the

second-highest biofuel blending nation in the world. And today, when I look at it, any day you could raise it from 20 per cent to 25 per cent and 30 per cent. You have to just do your consultation and take what is along," he said. Puri further said green hydrogen is the fuel of the future. In his address, the minister also listed the achievements of the Modi government during the past 11 years.

He said the ministry's flagship Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana, has delivered over 16.5 crore LPG

connections since 2014, empowering women, reducing indoor air pollution, and promoting public health. The growing market capitalisation of Oil & Gas PSUs—nearly doubling to Rs 8.79 lakh crore since 2014—reflects the sector's robust performance and the trust of investors, he said. He further said that in the past 11 years, India has risen from the eleventh to the fourth largest economy in the world. He said India's GDP has more than doubled—from USD 2.1 trillion in 2014 to USD 4.3 trillion in 2025.

#### GREEN STEEL TRANSITION

## 'Tata Steel confident of green steel transition'

Press Trust Of India

Tata Steel to complete UK, Netherlands green steel shift with EAF by end of decade.



Tata Steel Chairman N Chandrasekaran

**NEW DELHI:** Tata Steel is confident of completing its transition to green steel manufacturing in the UK and Netherlands as per schedule, the company's Chairman N Chandrasekaran said on Wednesday. He made the remarks while addressing the shareholders at the company's 118th Annual General Meeting (AGM).

"We remain confident that the transition to green steel making in the UK and the Netherlands will happen as per our plans, in the next few years," Chandrasekaran said. In the UK, the company has progressed toward low-emission steelmaking with

the decommissioning of two blast furnaces at Port Talbot, paving the way to transition to state-of-the-art Electric Arc Furnace-based steelmaking by fiscal 2028, supported by 500 million pounds of UK government funding.

In the Netherlands, the company is in discussions with the Dutch government for financial and policy-level support on our decarbonisation plan. Tata Steel has also launched a cost transformation programme, targeting savings of 500 million euros in fiscal 2026. These efforts aim to position Tata Steel Nederland

#### FACTFILE

● Company targets 500 million pounds savings via transformation plan; seeks Dutch policy support for decarbonisation.

as one of Europe's most efficient and sustainable steelmakers. India-based Tata Steel owns the UK's largest steelworks of 3 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) at Port Talbot in South Wales. As part of its efforts to reduce carbon emissions, the company is transitioning from the blast furnace route to the low-emission electric arc furnace process, which will utilise the locally available scrap. The company's upstream operations in the UK have been shut, and Tata Steel is using substrate from India and Netherlands operations to service existing customers in the UK.

#### BEST PV MODEL

## Creta emerges as best selling PV model

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** Hyundai Motor India Ltd (HMIL) has announced that its flagship SUV, the Hyundai Creta, emerged as the best-selling passenger vehicle (PV) in the country for June 2025, marking a major milestone for the brand. With 15,786 units sold, the Creta led the sales charts, edging

out strong competitors from rival automakers. According to industry sources, Maruti Suzuki's Dzire secured the second position with 15,484 units, while the Maruti Brezza, another compact SUV, came in third with 14,507 units sold during the same period.

The sales triumph comes as the Creta celebrates its 10th anni-



versary in the Indian market, solidifying its legacy as one of the most trusted and popular SUVs. "Over the last decade, brand Creta has consistently redef-

ined the SUV space and remained a strong pillar of Hyundai's growth in India. Becoming the best-selling model in June 2025, exactly as it completes ten years in the country, is a testament to the love and trust that Indian customers have placed in the brand," said Tarun Garg, Whole-Time Director and COO of HMIL.

Launched in 2015, the Hyundai Creta has evolved through various design and feature upgrades, maintaining strong appeal among urban and semi-urban buyers.

With its modern styling, advanced features, and reliable performance, it continues to be a top choice in the mid-size SUV segment.

# 'Pension system needs urgent reforms'

Serving central govt pensioners has exceeded the total serving employees.

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** Union Minister of State for Personnel Jitendra Singh on Wednesday said the pension administration requires urgent institutional coordination and systemic reforms, asserting that the number of serving central government pensioners has exceeded the total serving employees.

In a significant move aimed at reducing pension-related legal disputes and ensuring swifter justice for the country's growing population of retired government employees, he said in no case should the vital energies of "our elder citizens be allowed to be consumed inconsequentially for avoidable reasons".

Chairing the first-ever national workshop on pension litigation, organised by the Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare at Vigyan Bhawan here, Singh underlined the Centre's firm commitment to pensioners' welfare, while also drawing attention to the mounting pressure on government finances due to litigation.

He said with over 60 lakh pensioners today — a figure that now exceeds



Union Minister Jitendra Singh.

the number of serving central government employees — the challenges of pension administration have entered a new phase that requires urgent institutional coordination and systemic reforms, according to a Personnel Ministry statement.

## 'Ensure pensioners not left to navigate legal complexities in old age'

"Pursuit of happiness," he said, "should extend to our retirees," urging all stakeholders to work collectively to ensure that pensioners are not left to navigate legal complexities in their twilight years.

As part of the workshop proceedings, Union minister Singh launched a set of key publications and initiatives aimed at enhancing awareness and grievance redressal mechanisms related to pension

litigation often arises from misinterpretation of rules, and unresolved grievances can lead to unnecessary hardship for senior citizens," he said.

Currently, over 300 pension-related cases are pending in various forums, with nearly 70 per cent before the Central Administrative Tribunals (CAT), Singh said.

The minister acknowledged that the government is impleaded in nearly all of these cases, indicating the systemic nature of the problem.

"Litigation is usually the last resort, not the first," he said, cautioning

against underestimating the grievances of pensioners.

Joining the workshop virtually, Attorney General of India R Venkatarmani stressed the need for a structured national approach to litigation management, with a special focus on pension disputes.

He proposed an ambitious target of achieving "zero pension litigation" by 2028 through anticipatory administrative measures, timely grievance resolution and a culture of accountability.

Emphasising the unique nature of pension litigation compared

### HIGHLIGHT

● AI can help, but human intelligence must guide welfare.

Matters. These included a compendium of case studies on pension litigation, a flyer on pension litigation and a booklet on last year's special campaign on family pensioners' grievances. Singh also reflected on how, in many cases, both winning and losing parties

in tribunals often appeal further, underlining the depth of discontent and the challenge of resolution. To address these concerns, the workshop focused on legal training for nodal officers, stronger real-time coordination with the Department of Legal Affairs and the potential use of technology — including Artificial Intelligence (AI)-driven dashboards and repositories — to improve decision-making and case tracking.

## Infosys employee held

**BENGALURU:** A 30-year-old Infosys employee was arrested on Wednesday for allegedly "filming" a female colleague inside the women's washroom at the company's Electronic City campus, police said. The accused, identified as Swapnil Nagesh Mali, a Senior Associate Consultant from Sangli, Maharashtra, was caught by HR personnel and handed over to the police.

## NCP (SP) leader Hiray joins BJP

**MUMBAI:** Nationalist Congress Party (SP) leader and former Maharashtra MLA Apoorv Hiray on Wednesday joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) along with hundreds of his supporters, saying he was impressed by the saffron outfit's development-oriented vision. Hiray formally entered the BJP at the party's state headquarters in Mumbai in the presence of newly-elected Maharash-

tra BJP president Ravindra Chavan and senior minister Chandrakant Patil.

The induction of the former NCP (SP) MLA, who hails from Nashik in north Maharashtra, into the lead ruling coalition constituent had been widely speculated in recent days and it came ahead of the upcoming local body elections in Maharashtra.

Speaking on the occasion, Hiray said he joined the BJP to contribute to the holistic development of

rural and urban areas.

"I took this decision due to the insistence of rural and urban workers and the BJP's development-oriented vision," said the former legislator, who had served as state vice-president of the Sharad Pawar-led opposition party. Meanwhile, Sawkar Madnaik, a prominent farmer leader and long-time associate of former Lok Sabha MP Raju Shetti, also joined the BJP, which heads the Mahayuti government in the state.

**AU SMALL FINANCE BANK LIMITED** (A Scheduled Commercial Bank)  
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**APPENDIX IV [SEE RULE 8(I)] POSSESSION NOTICE**

Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the AU Small Finance Bank Limited (A Scheduled Commercial Bank) under the "Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (Act, 2002 (54 of 2002))" and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued demand notice on the date as mentioned below calling upon the borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the said notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice as per the details given in below table:-

Name of Borrower/Co-Borrower/ Mortgagee/Guarantor/Loan A/c No.	13(2) Notice Date & Amount	Description of Mortgaged Property	Date of Possession Taken
(Loan A/c No.) L9001060832138822, Mohit General Stores (Borrower), Smt.Kanta Sharma (Co-Borrower), Smt.Kavita Sharma (Co-Borrower) Hitendra Sharma (Co-Borrower)	10-Dec-24 ₹ 2,27,207/- Rs. Two Lac Twenty-Seven Thousand Two Hundred Seven Only as on 07-Dec-24	All That Part And Parcel Of Residential/Commercial Property Land / Building / Structure And Fixtures Property Situated At- Plot No 1479, New Khurshidar Awashi Yojna Ward No 36, Tehsil - Bhilal, Distt- Durg, Chattisgarh Admeasuring 22.27 Sqmtr. East: Road, West: Land Of Rajendra, North: Way, South: Land Of Kanhaiya	27-Jun-25
(Loan A/c No.) L9001060138945281, Tuman Lal Khutel (Borrower), Smt. Kera Bai Khuntel (Co-Borrower)	12-Feb-25 ₹ 20,79,039/- Rs. Twenty Lac Seventy-Nine Thousand Thirty-Nine Only as on 10-Feb-25	All That Part And Parcel Of Residential/Commercial Property Land / Building / Structure And Fixtures Property Situated At- Khasra No- 575/15, Ph No- 15, Vill- Berla, Ward No- 15, Tehsil- Berla, Dist- Bemetara, Chhattisgarh Admeasuring 1071 Sqft. East: Land Of Seller, West: Plot Of Gangadhar, North: Street, South: Land Of Seller	27-Jun-25
(Loan A/c No.) L9001060134795200, Smt.Soniya Devi Mishra (Borrower), Smt.Nikita Mishra (Co-Borrower)	16-May-24 ₹ 6,86,547/- Rs. Six Lac Eighty-Six Thousand Five Hundred Forty-Seven Only as on 13-May-24	All That Part And Parcel Of Residential/Commercial Property Land / Building / Structure And Fixtures Property Situated At- Khasra No 1719 Part Abadi Land, Ph No 09, Gram - Dhamda, Tehsil - Dhamda , Distt- Durg, Chattisgarh Admeasuring 750 Sq.Ft East: Property Of Mishra , West: Property Of Ajay Mishra , North: Gali , South: House Of Vijay Kumar	27-Jun-25
(Loan A/c No.) L9001060126171273, S B & Associates (Borrower), Prakash Kumar Soni (Co-Borrower), Sammy Thakur (Co-Borrower) Gunjan Thakur (Co-Borrower)	14-Feb-25 ₹ 26,78,026/- Rs. Twenty-Six Lac Seventy-Eight Thousand Twenty-Six Only as on 10-Feb-25	All That Part And Parcel Of Residential/Commercial Property Land / Building / Structure And Fixtures Property Situated At- Khasra No- 229/41, Vill- Udaypur, Tehsil - Udaypur, Dist- Surguja, Chattisgarh Admeasuring 0.020 Hect. East: Land Of Nand Lal & Others, West: H/O Sandeep, North: Land Of Meena, South: Rest Land Of Vendor	27-Jun-25
(Loan A/c No.) L9001060141315135, Suresh Kumar Panjwani (Borrower), Harsh Kumar Panjwani (Co-Borrower)	18-Apr-25 ₹ 12,97,502/- Rs. Twelve Lac Ninety-Seven Thousand Five Hundred Two Only as on 15-Apr-25	All That Part And Parcel Of Residential/Commercial Property Land / Building / Structure And Fixtures Property Situated At- Property Khasra No. 317-1, 319-1, 321-1, Piece & 317-1, 319-1, 321-1, Piece, Village- Avarethi, P.H. No. 10, Baloda Bazar, Village- Bhatpara, Mahasati, Chattisgarh Admeasuring 574 Sqft	28-Jun-25

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, therefore notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein above mentioned table in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said (Act 2002) read with Rule 8 of the said rule on the date mentioned in the above table. "The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub section (8) of section 13 of the Act read with rule 8 (6), in respect of time available, i.e. 30 days from this intimation, to redeem the secured assets."

The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the AU Small Finance Bank Limited (A Scheduled Commercial Bank) for the amount and interest thereon mentioned in the above table.

Date : 02/07/2025  
 Place : Chattisgarh

Authorized Officer AU Small Finance Bank Limited

# Arunachal is India's 'largest' carbon sink: Khandu

Press Trust Of India

An ecological powerhouse aiding climate fight and net-zero goal.

**ITANAGAR:** Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu on Wednesday claimed that the frontier state holds the distinction of being India's largest carbon sink, an ecological powerhouse playing a pivotal role in combating climate change and aiding the country's march toward net-zero emissions.

In a social media post as part of his administration's 'PEMA 3.0 - Year of Reforms and Growth' campaign, Khandu highlighted that Arunachal Pradesh contributes a remarkable 14.38 per cent



to India's total carbon sequestration.

With an impressive 79 per cent forest cover, the state currently boasts a carbon stock of 1,021 million tonnes, the highest in the country, the chief minister claimed.

"This rich carbon stock is critical for India to meet its net-zero emissions target by 2070," Khandu wrote, underlining Arunachal's silent yet substantial contribution to national climate goals.

While the state's vast

### FASTFACTS

● Arunachal's quiet but key role in climate goals.

● CM's post highlights 'PEMA 3.0' governance milestones.

green cover makes it a top carbon sink, the impacts of climate change are already visible and increasingly real, necessitating urgent action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

"From the lungs of the Himalayas, Arunachal Pradesh plays a crucial role in India's journey towards Net-Zero emission by 2070," the chief minister said in another social media post. Khandu's remarks not only spotlight the ecological

value of Arunachal's forests but also align with national and global climate priorities.

### NAME CHANGE NOTICE

It is informed to all that I Mohan Jaiswal son of Shree Sahasram Jaiswal 54 years old resident Bhartiya Nagar Bilaspur, Tahsil & District Bilaspur C.G., announced that I have changed my old name, Mohan Lal Jaiswal to Mohan Jaiswal.

So I Must be known and identified with my new name Mohan Jaiswal in all my Government, Semi-Government and other official documents. My ADHAR No. is 8065 0163 9869.

Mohan Jaiswal  
 House No.639, Main Road  
 Bhartiya Nagar Ward No.24  
 Bilaspur (C.G.)  
 Mob. No.95896 50000

ALLEGATION |

# 'Significant surge in divisive politics' in Kerala

Press Trust Of India

**THIRUVANANTHAPURAM:** Kerala Cultural Affairs Minister Saji Cherian on Wednesday claimed there is a "significant surge in divisive politics" in the state, citing recent protests against Zumba dance and demands to rename the Suresh Gopi-starrer Janaki vs The State of Kerala as examples. Speaking at an event, Cherian alleged that certain vested interests were deliberately spreading "contempt

and animosity in society". "Divisive politics is rising on a large scale in Kerala," he claimed. Referring to the protests, Cherian pointed out that while one group opposes Zumba in schools, another is targeting the film 'Janaki', claiming its title disrespects a goddess. Sources said the film, directed by Pravin Narayanan, was denied screening clearance because 'Janaki' — another name for Goddess Sita — can't be used for such a character. Cherian criticised the

Congress-led UDF for supporting demands to review the government's decision to introduce Zumba in schools as part of its anti-drugs campaign. He questioned, "Whose interests were they protecting..."

Zumba, a high-energy fitness programme introduced in schools by the General Education Department as part of its anti-drug initiative, is facing opposition from certain Muslim groups, who claim it goes against "moral values".

**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 PROVISOR 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 mortgaged 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	45099420006188	1) Mrs. Khushboo Tiwari, W/o. Mahendra Tiwari, 2) Mr. Mahendra Tiwari, S/o. Laxmi Prasad Tiwari	14.05.2024	25.04.2025	Rs. 36,50,591.76 (Rupees Thirty Six Lakh Fifty Thousand Five Hundred Ninety One and Seventy Six Paise Only) as of 08.06.2025	05.07.2025 09.00 AM to 05.30 PM	Rs. 28,95,000/- (Rupees Twenty Eight Lakh Ninety Five Thousand Only)	Rs. 2,89,500/- (Rupees Two Lakh Eighty Nine Thousand Five Hundred Only)	05.08.2025 @ 11.00 AM to 02.00 PM	04.08.2025 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:** All that piece and parcel of the land bearing Flat No.C-304, on Third Floor, having super built up area of 965 Sq.ft. (89.584 Sq.mtrs.) in the building known & styled as 'Sanjay Heights' C-Block, constructed on the diverted land bearing Sheet No.2, Plot No.212/1, out of Survey No.26/5 (Included Khasra No.27/1), admeasuring area 67707 Sq.ft., situated at Mouza Chantidih (Rajawra Colony), P.H. No.33, Ward No.52, Shahid Mangal Singh Pandey Ward, R.N.M. Sarkanda, Vikas Khand Bilha, within the limits of Nagar Nigam Bilaspur, Tehsil & Dist. Bilaspur (C.G.). Bounded by: East by: Passage, West by: Open Sky, North by: Open Sky and South by: Passage.

The properties are being held on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "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](http://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](mailto:info@bankauctions.in) / [vikas@bankauctions.in](mailto:vikas@bankauctions.in). For further details on terms and conditions to take part in e-auction proceedings and for any query relating to property please contact Jana Small Finance Bank officers Mr. Ajay Naik (Mob. No.9960946887) & Mr. Mahendra Bramhane (Mob. No.9029290202). 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/ Guarantors/ Mortgagees about e-auction scheduled for the mortgaged properties. The Borrower/ Guarantor/ Mortgagee 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: 03.07.2025. Place: Bilaspur

Sd/- Authorized Officer, Jana Small Finance Bank Limited



## QUOTE FROM THE QUOTABLE

"Success is not final, failure is not fatal: It is the courage to continue that counts."

[ Winston Churchill ]

## Comment

## The Emerging Industrial Area of Peninsular India: Dandakaranya

That part of the Indian peninsular region which was called cursed land by sages in the Sat Yuga (Padma Purana, Srishti Khand), it was believed that the land has turned black due to being cursed. Today this land has become a blessing. The main part of India's mineral revenue is coming from here, which is called Dandakaranya. Even today there are many places in this land where it is not possible for humans to reach. Mineral resources are available in abundance in the south of Chhattisgarh, east of Maharashtra, north of Telangana, north west of Andhra Pradesh and south west part of Odisha.

This region is attracting big industrialists. Mining of iron ore (Bailla Dila, Rao ghat), graphite, granite, corundum and bauxite in Bastar division of Chhattisgarh has become a revenue provider for this state. A uranium power plant is proposed in Kanker district. Nagarnar steel industry in Bastar is moving towards its maximum target of 30 MT (up to 2030) with the highest production capacity. There was a time in Maharashtra when no industrialist considered Gadchiroli suitable for industry. Changes over time have given Gadchiroli a new name. The foundation of Surjagarh iron ore mining and steel industry is being laid by Triveni Group. After this, a competition has started. Currently, Jindal Group has signed an MOU

with the Maharashtra government for a steel plant to produce about 25 MT of steel. In future, all the steel industries in Gadchiroli can produce more than 40 MT of steel. India aims to have 300 MT by 2030 up from the current 145 MT.

The foundation of new industries is being laid in the Malkangiri (iron based) and Nava rangpur (bauxite and graphite based) areas of Orisha. Granite and bauxite deposits have been found at some places in East Godavari, West Godavari and Rajahmundry areas of Andhra Pradesh. Dandakaranya extends up to Kottagudem area of Telangana, where some deposits of graphite and coal have been found in different areas. Eucalyptus cultivation in Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana is linked to ITC company, whose production (paper mill) unit is in Bhadrachalam. Many projects in this area have been stopped due to various reasons, the most prominent among them being Tata's Lohandiguda (CG) project (steel industry) and Dilmili(CG) projects (steel industry). At present, there is talk of restarting the Bodghat (CG) project. The flow of great rivers like Shabri, Indravati, Godavari not only makes this area green, but construction of dams is necessary to stop the water. Construction of dams will generate hydroelectricity. Electricity can be supplied to other states, which will also increase revenue.

Herbs and various types of fiber-based plants are found in abundance in Dandakaranya. Herbs are also being cultivated by the tribals, which has given rise to employment opportunities due to the reasonable prices they get. More than 30 herbs are being purchased through the government.

The states in India where the maximum investments have been made in 2024-25 include Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh in the top 10 major states. The governments of these states have changed their industrial policies and increased investment. Mineral based industries were given priority in the Second Five Year Plan (1956-61). Due to the new industrial policy and flexible rules for land acquisition of tribals, small industries are expanding, currently in this area. On an average, 30000 graduates from higher education and 5000 students from technical education come from every year (figures are estimated) from this area. All the government, non-government and grant-in-aid institutions and industries should provide maximum employment to the youth of the region by maintaining harmony between the use of human resources and proper exploitation of minerals. The corridor we are talking about has tribal communities in abundance in that area. For their development, the governments of these states and the central

government should jointly focus on industry-based education.

Dandakaranya is served by Northeast Railway on one side and South-Central Railway on the other. The people of Dandakaranya have repeatedly demanded to connect Gadchiroli, Narayanpur, Bijapur, Dantewada, Jagdalpur, Kottagudem and Nava rangpur with both the railway lines. In fact, the development of this region after the construction of this corridor will fulfill the vision of Developed India 2047.

Conservation of wildlife is also a major issue in this region as Dandakaranya has two main tiger reserve areas. Tandoba-Andhari (Maharashtra) and Indravati Tiger Reserve Area (Chhattisgarh). A part of the core area of some sanctuary areas of Telangana and Odisha also falls here. Promotion of tourism along with industry will make this development story even better. Dandakaranya is the same area for which the Home Minister of the country has spoken about March 2026, certainly if there is a problem then there will be a solution too. If we try to connect people with employment, the village itself will write the story of development. With the success of the project, the common people automatically get basic facilities like education, health, housing, drinking water, road and telecommunication. Many schemes of the central government are directly linked to the development of common citizens.



Dr Roopesh Kumar Sinha

Lecturer, Polytechnic Dantewada

## OUR VIEW |

## Trump's Ceasefire Declarations: Diplomacy or Political Theatre?

In 2025, Donald Trump has cast himself as a global dealmaker once again—not through trade wars or tariffs, but through a string of high-profile ceasefire declarations. From Kyiv to Kashmir to Gaza, his promises have ricocheted across headlines, stirring hope, skepticism, and no shortage of spectacle. It began in January, when Trump boldly claimed he could end the Russia-Ukraine war "within 24 hours." His team initiated talks, but by February, negotiations had collapsed—reportedly over U.S. commercial interests in Ukraine's mineral sector. The war continues, and the promise remains unfulfilled. In May, Trump turned his attention to South Asia. As tensions flared between India and Pakistan, he declared that his intervention "stopped a nuclear war," crediting his threat to suspend trade deals. Indian officials, however, attributed the de-escalation to direct military diplomacy, not U.S. pressure. The claim remains disputed and politically charged. Then came Gaza. On July 1, Trump announced that Israel had agreed to a 60-day ceasefire, pending Hamas's approval. The deal, brokered with Qatar and Egypt, includes the release of hostages and a roadmap to permanent peace. Trump warned Hamas: "It will not get better—it will only get worse" if they reject the offer. The world now waits to see if this latest declaration will hold or unravel. From Kyiv to Kashmir to Gaza, Trump's ceasefire declarations have been headline-grabbing—but their outcomes remain mixed. Is he reshaping global diplomacy or simply rewriting the script of political spectacle? His approach blends urgency with bravado, diplomacy with disruption. For some, it's a refreshing break from bureaucratic inertia. For others, it's a dangerous oversimplification of deeply rooted, generational conflicts. In a world hungry for peace but wary of performance, Trump's declarations walk a fine line between statesmanship and showmanship. Whether they lead to lasting peace or fade into political theater, one thing is certain: the world is watching—closely, critically, and with cautious hope.

## GUEST VIEW |

## Delhi's Fuel Ban Targets Aging Vehicles

Delhi's decision to ban fuel for end-of-life vehicles (ELVs) from July 1, 2025, marks a long-awaited enforcement of environmental policy. Petrol vehicles older than 15 years and diesel ones over 10 will be impounded, aided by ANPR cameras at fuel stations. While this crackdown addresses Delhi's severe pollution—largely driven by its 80+ lakh registered vehicles, including 41 lakh aging two-wheelers—it raises valid concerns. Many vehicles, especially those bought in the 2000s, are well-maintained, reliable, and capable of running cleanly for 25-30 years. Blanket scrapping ignores this, benefiting car manufacturers more than the environment. Why not enforce stricter emission norms and mandate retrofitting instead? Two-stroke engines deserve retirement, but four-stroke ones can be upgraded to meet modern standards. Globally, countries like the U.S. and those in Europe allow older vehicles to run,



Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee

provided they pass annual fitness and emission tests. This balances environmental responsibility with economic practicality. India should adopt a similar model—prioritizing fitness over age. Forced scrapping not only burdens citizens but also adds to manufacturing-related pollution. A more nuanced, tech-driven approach would better serve both the planet and the people.

## Halfway Into 2025: Change, Challenge &amp; Continuity

In just six months, the world has witnessed decisive elections, space breakthroughs, deepening conflicts, and cultural shifts—framed by the fast-moving current of the digital age. Astha Singh, Raipur

As we step into July, the first half of 2025 leaves behind a trail of tremors, triumphs, and turning points. In just six months, the world has witnessed decisive elections, space breakthroughs, deepening conflicts, and cultural shifts—framed by the rapid pace of the digital age. Here's a panoramic look at what shaped January to June 2025.

India began the year with signs of political transformation. The Lok Sabha elections, held in April-May, delivered a clear mandate, reshaping alliances and prompting legacy parties to rethink strategies. Youth-focused policies, nationalism, and governance reforms dominated discussions.

In the U.S., the Biden-Trump rematch took form, reigniting global interest in America's polarizing political theatre. As campaign rhetoric intensified, the world braced for another unpredictable contest.

Global tensions escalated. The Israel-Iran confrontation stirred anxiety and spawned viral #WWIII memes—a reflection of a generation's coping

humor. Meanwhile, the Russia-Ukraine war dragged into its third year, testing the limits of diplomacy and public focus.

The G7 Summit in Canada and the delayed New York Gaza Peace Conference aimed to broker calm, but peace remained elusive in a world teetering between confrontation and compromise.

The European Space Agency's Solar Orbiter captured the first-ever images of the Sun's south pole—an astronomical feat that fascinated scientists. Meanwhile, India's ISRO drew attention as it prepared for Chandrayaan-4 and the manned Gaganyaan mission.

Adding to the global space narrative, Indian-origin astronaut Sunita Williams returned

## Midyear Review: A Look Back at the First Half of 2025

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North India's severe heatwave. The delayed New York Gaza Peace Conference aimed to broker calm, but peace remained elusive in a world teetering between confrontation and compromise.

North India's severe heatwave, with temperatures soaring past 48°C. June's extreme weather highlighting nature's fragile balance and humanity's unpreparedness.

World Environment Day and World Oceans Day renewed focus on plastic waste and marine life.

A national tragedy—on mid-June an Air India fang 787 crash sparking nationwide mourning and prompting safety audits.

Artificial Intelligence tools like GPT-5 and Sora reshaping everyday life, blending machine intelligence with daily routines.

Mythological sci-fi epic Kalki 2893 AD became a cinematic penname.

As July begins, the first half of 2025 was an unfolud—unnojogetable. As July begins, the world finds itself midway through a story still unfolding. Whether participants or observers, we are all living history in real time.

Here's to the next six months—may they be wiser, calmer, and just as meaningful.

from the International Space Station aboard Boeing's Starliner. Her mission highlighted human resilience and the quiet power of representation.

North India battled a severe heatwave, with temperatures soaring past 48°C. The early monsoon brought relief—but also flash floods and urban chaos. June's extreme weather highlighted nature's fragile balance and humanity's unpreparedness. World Environment Day and World Oceans Day renewed focus on plastic waste and marine life, urging action from boardrooms to beach clean-ups.

A national tragedy struck in mid-June when an Air India Boeing 787 crashed, claiming many lives. The incident sparked nationwide mourning and prompted safety audits, grounding several aircraft. It was a stark reminder that technological progress demands vigilant oversight.

Artificial Intelligence continued reshaping everyday life. Tools like GPT-5 and Sora redefined content creation and interaction, while the "Work from Hills" trend reflected a shift toward mindful living after years of burnout. AI-powered home appliances gained popularity, blending machine intelligence with daily routines.

Mythological sci-fi epic Kalki 2898 AD became a cinematic phenomenon, while regional films and OTT content continued to flourish. The cultural apex was Maha Kumbh 2025 in Prayagraj, which united millions in a shared spiritual pulse.

Across art, books, and music, minimalism and introspection echoed a generation's quest for meaning in an age of excess.

The first half of 2025 was a whirlwind—unsettling, yet unforgettable. As July begins, the world finds itself midway through a story still unfolding. Whether participants or observers, we are all living history in real time.

Here's to the next six months—may they be wiser, calmer, and just as meaningful.

## YOUR LETTERS

## A Cry Silenced by Hunger

A heart-wrenching tragedy unfolded in Jalpaiguri, where a mother, desperate and unable to find food or milk for her crying infant, threw him into the river. Her act, unimaginable to most, reflects the devastating depths of poverty that can strip away all hope. When survival eclipses humanity, society must reckon with its failure. No mother should face such a choice. Poverty is not just deprivation—it's a disaster demanding urgent compassion and action.

Subhan Salimi, Mumbai

## Education calls attention

Lata, a Class 10 student at a government-run school in Kullu, Himachal Pradesh, was unable to answer questions about India's capital or President, asked by CM Sukhvinder Sukhu. This raises serious concerns about our education system. Who bears responsibility for shaping children's futures? They are the pioneers and architects of tomorrow. Ignoring their education not only jeopardizes their lives but tarnishes the nation's future. The government must urgently address this educational crisis. Want a sharper or more emotional version?

Muhammad, Mumbai

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

# Nation



“Raj Thackeray may take over Shiv Sena (UBT) if he joins hands with Uddhav.”  
**Narayan Rane**  
Union Minister

## BizBriefs

BEST OF THE REST

# ‘Is working for Dalits, farmers anti-national’

Parliament panel meet on land acquisition act ended abruptly as BJP opposed Patkar’s presence.

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** A day after BJP MPs walked out of a parliamentary panel meeting she was invited to, activist Medha Patkar on Wednesday hit back, asking if standing up for Dalits, Adivasis, farmers and labourers now counts as “anti-national”.

A meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Rural Development and Panchayati Raj to discuss the implementation of the land acquisition act ended abruptly on Tuesday as BJP MPs protested against the panel’s decision to hear Patkar, who had led protests against raising the height of the Sardar Sarovar Dam in Gujarat under the banner of ‘Narmada Bachao Andolan’.

The panel, headed by Congress MP Saptagiri Sanakar Ulaka, had called Patkar to hear her views on the implementation and effectiveness of the land acquisition law enacted by Parliament when the Congress-led UPA government was in power in 2013.

Former Union minister and BJP MP Parshotam Rupala was joined by other lawmakers from his party as they walked out of the meeting, with



Activist Medha Patkar.

### HIGHLIGHT

● Congress-led panel called Patkar to speak on 2013 land law.

● Patkar said she earlier took part in talks on the 2013 land law.

some dubbing Patkar as “anti-national”. A BJP MP even said he had no idea that leaders from Pakistan could also be called to such a meeting. “What is the charge of being anti-national? We are working with Dalits, Adivasis, farmers, labourers... Is that something anti-national? To protect their rights under the law and the Constitution, and the human rights, which are above the constitutional rights,” Patkar told PTI. “And even if whatever we are saying is wrong, they can oppose it. But that doesn’t mean that they can call us anti-national or ‘urban naxals’. This democratic process includes the parliamentary standing committee proceedings,” she added.

Patkar said she has participated in parliamentary panel discussions earlier

and has been part of consultations carried out by the government for framing the Land Acquisition Act of 2013. “Even when Sumitra Mahajan was in the Chair, we were given a good hearing,” she said, referring to the former Lok Sabha Speaker and BJP leader. Patkar said they were invited to appear before the panel, made their submissions, and all due process was followed.

She said she was informed that a communication was sent by the secretary general of the Lok Sabha to the chairperson – Congress MP Ulaka – to cancel the meeting due to a lack of quorum. The activist said she was told by officials that 17 MPs had come for the meeting, and questioned how there was a lack of quorum.

“The written letter that the secretary general gave to the chairman to cancel the meeting gave only one reason that there is no quorum. The fact that I was invited to appear was not mentioned as the reason,” she said. Former prime minister H D Deve Gowda’s Janata Dal (Secular), which is a part of the BJP-led NDA, also participated in the meeting but not in the walkout, Patkar said.

## Passengers booked

**THANE:** A case has been registered against 68 passengers, including seven women, after they blocked a train in Maharashtra’s Thane district alleging frequent delays, an official said on Wednesday. The incident, which further delayed the train for about 40 minutes, took place at Bhiwandi Road station on Monday night. According to the Government Railway Police (GRP) official from Dombivali, the Panvel-Dahanu MEMU (Mainline Electric Multiple Unit) reached the station at 9.08 pm instead of its scheduled arrival at 8.05 pm.

Alleging repeated delays, a group of passengers protested in front of the train. They claimed that long-distance trains were being given priority over their local shuttle. “The Panvel-Dahanu MEMU is critical for daily commuters travelling between Palghar, Dahanu, Boisar, and job hubs like Thane, Bhiwandi, and Panvel. However, this train often reaches late due to operational scheduling, as long-distance trains are allowed to pass ahead of it,” the GRP official said. The protest, which involved 61 men and seven women, disrupted train operations until about 9.45 pm. The protesters dispersed after repeated attempts by the Railway Protection Force (RPF), allowing the shuttle to proceed towards Dahanu.

### GOVT WATER BODY

## ‘11 river sites across India breach flood warning levels’

**NEW DELHI:** Water levels at 11 river monitoring stations across India have breached the warning level, but none have reached the danger or extreme flood thresholds, the Central Water Commission (CWC) said on Wednesday. This alert is part of the commission’s daily flood bulletin released by the Central Flood Control Room. The bulletin indicates there are currently no sites in the “severe” or “extreme” flood situation categories, meaning that no location has reached or surpassed its danger mark or highest historical flood level. However, 12 sites in Assam, Bihar, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, and Uttar Pradesh were flagged for “above-normal” flood situations, where water levels have crossed the warning threshold but remain below danger levels. In Assam, the Kushiara River in Karimganj and the Brahmaputra at Neamatihat in Jorhat are among those nearing concern levels.

### UNJUST, UNNECESSARY

## ‘School mergers may hit poor, marginalised students’

**LUCKNOW:** Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) president Mayawati on Wednesday said the Uttar Pradesh government’s move to merge or consolidate primary schools under the Basic Education Council will disproportionately harm the poor and marginalised children. In a post on X, Mayawati termed the decision “unjust, unnecessary, and clearly anti-poor at first glance,” adding that the move will deprive crores of children from economically weaker backgrounds of accessible and affordable education near their homes. She wrote, “The decision taken by the Basic Shiksha Parishad, Uttar Pradesh, under the guise of school merging/consolidation, to shut down a large number of primary schools is not in the interest of poor children” and demanded immediate withdrawal of the decision.



## AMARNATH YATRA

### CRPF deploys women ‘May I Help You’ teams, mountain rescue units



**JAMMU:** The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) has deployed a special ‘May I Help You’ women personnel team to assist Amarnath Yatra pilgrims who take the Baltal route to reach the cave shrine in Jammu and Kashmir, officials said on Wednesday. The paramilitary force has pooled in the highest number of troops for the annual pilgrimage that was flagged off by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha from Jammu on Wednesday. Of 581 Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) companies deployed for the yatra, 219 are from the CRPF, while the rest are from forces like the BSF, ITBP, CISF, and SSB. The pilgrimage to the 3,880-metre high shrine will commence on July 3 from the Kashmir valley via two tracks – the traditional 48-km Nunwan-Pahalgam route in Anantnag district and the 14-km shorter but steeper Baltal route in the Ganderbal district.

The CRPF has deployed a team of its women personnel wearing ‘May I Help You’ embossed orange vests along

‘Domail’. These teams will be stationed at vital locations, officials said. “The force is committed to conducting a safe Amarnath Yatra for the pilgrims in coordination with all stakeholders. All our teams are tasked to render timely assistance to the pilgrims and also provide a strong security cover,” CRPF deputy inspector general and joint nodal officer for the Yatra, Sudhir Kumar, said.

Kumar, who supervised the yatra last year too, said all security arrangements are in place for the event, taking place against the backdrop of the April 22 gunning down of 26 men in Pahalgam in a terrorist attack. The CRPF has also deployed a team comprising 30 personnel as part of its mountain rescue teams (MRTs) along the two journey tracks. They will help in rescuing pilgrims in case of medical complications, which usually occur due to high altitude, and respond to any natural or man-made disaster, a senior officer said. The yatra will conclude on August 9.

## Rain-induced landslides

**KORAPUT:** Normal life in Odisha’s Koraput district was thrown out of gear on Wednesday due to heavy rainfall triggered by a low-pressure system, leading to landslides in several areas and affecting train services, officials said.

The East Coast Railway (ECoR) cancelled two trains – the Jagdalpur-Bhubaneswar Hirakhand Express and the Kirandul-Visakhapatnam Night Express – after a portion of the railway track between Koraput and Jeypore was blocked by landslides.

In a statement, ECoR said that due to incessant rains, landslides occurred between Maliguda-Jarati stations in the Koraput-Kirandul line of Waltair Division. Railway officials rushed to the site to assess the damage and begin restoration work.

### ONE YEAR AFTER HATHRAS STAMPEDE

# Victim families still in mourning as legal battle continues

Press Trust Of India

If Baba had powers, he would’ve done a miracle that day.



FILE PHOTO

**HATHRAS:** “If Baba really had any powers, he would have shown a miracle that day,” says Vinod, who lost three generations of his family—his mother, wife and daughter—in a stampede that claimed 121 lives during a religious congregation a year ago.

Vinod, 46, runs a shop in Sokhana village in Uttar Pradesh’s Hathras district and manages daily chores that come with taking care of three children. But the grief wears him down. “Kuch nahi, bas mitti kharab ho rahi hai (There’s nothing left, just my life is crumbling).” On

July 2, 2024, lakhs of followers gathered for a sat-sang of self-styled godman Suraj Pal alias Bhole Baba in Mughal Garhi village of Sikandra Rao area. Permission was granted only for 80,000 people, but over 2.5 lakh reportedly attended.

Chaos erupted after the event when devotees surged towards Bhole Baba’s vehicle, allegedly to touch his feet and the ground he walked on.

On the slippery field, the uncontrolled crowd crush left 121 dead, mostly women and children. Vinod’s mother Jaywati, wife Rajkumari, and daughter Bhoomi were among them.

Jugnu from Navipur, who lost his mother Munni Devi, says the sorrow will haunt him forever. “She didn’t deserve to die like that.” Investigations into the stampede revealed massive lapses in planning

### FACTFILE

● Permission was for 80,000, but over 2.5 lakh attended.

● 31 hearings held; next on July 19 as charge arguments continue.

and crowd control, with insufficient exit routes and no effective security plan. A year on, families of victims remain devastated, the tragedy continues to be in public memory, as court hearings carry on, and the road to accountability still seems some distance away.

### CONCERN

# ‘Need for more organised Aizawl’

Press Trust Of India

**AIZAWL:** Mizoram Chief Minister Lalduhoma on Wednesday expressed the need for developing the state capital Aizawl into a more organised and disciplined city.

During a meeting with leaders of Aizawl Local Councils, Lalduhoma noted the growing concern over groups of teenage gangs who often indulge in group fights and violent confrontations, according to an official statement. Local Councils function under the Local Adminis-



“Concern over violent teen gangs.”  
**Lalduhoma**  
Mizoram CM

tration Department of the state government. Calling the teenage gangs unruly and anti-social elements, the chief minister said the issue must be addressed immediately. He emphasised the importance of

and children. He urged the Local Councils to work in close coordination with community volunteers within their respective areas and to take a proactive role in promoting peace and social discipline.

Regarding the issue of Inner Line Permit (ILP), the chief minister emphasised the need for Local Councils (LCs) to play a supportive role in enforcing the law, especially in issuing No Objection Certificates. He suggested that the LCs exercise greater responsibility and caution while issuing NOCs.

## कार्यालय मुख्य अभियंता, लो.नि.वि., राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग परिक्षेत्र, रायपुर (छ.ग.)

दिनांक : 30.06.2025

सहान श्रेणी में पंजीकृत टेकेंदारों से निम्नलिखित निर्माण कार्य हेतु ऑनलाईन (Online) निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है:-

क्र.	नि.आ.सू.क्र. दिनांक	सिस्टम आई.डी. क्र.	कार्य का नाम	कार्य की अनुमानित लागत जी.एस.टी. सहित
1.	72/CE/NH/ITC/44-55/2025 (1st Call)	2025 MoRTH-866407.1	Balance Works of Rehabilitation and upgradation of NH-43 (New NH-30) from Km 162+120 to Km 173+500 length 11.380 Km. (Keshal Bypass) 4-Lane with Paved shoulder in the State of Chhattisgarh under NHDP-IV through Engineering, Procurement & Construction (EPC) Basis	Rs. 268.54 Cr.
2.	73/CE/NH/ITC/44-40/2024 (3rd Call)	2025 MoRTH-866676.1	Balance Periodic Renewal Work in km. 14.200 to 25.530 and 31.540 to 55.700 = 35.480 km. on N.H. 30 (Old N.H. 221) Jagdalpur-Sukma Road on EPC mode in the state of Chhattisgarh on EPC Mode ("EPC") basis.	Rs. 14.695 Cr.

निविदा डाउनलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि स. क्र. 1 हेतु दिनांक 14.08.2025 सुबह 11.00 बजे तक है तथा स. क्र. 2 हेतु दिनांक 30.07.2025 सुबह 11.00 बजे तक है

उपरोक्त निर्माण कार्य की निविदा की सामान्य शर्तें, धरोहर शर्तें, विस्तृत निविदा विज्ञापन, निविदा दस्तावेज व अन्य जानकारी सख्त परिवहन एवं राजमार्ग मंत्रालय (MORT&H) के ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट वेब पोर्टल <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app> से डाउनलोड की जा सकती है।

मुख्य अभियंता  
लो.नि.वि., राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग परिक्षेत्र,  
रायपुर (छ.ग.)  
G-252601894/2

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियंता लोक निर्माण विभाग, बिलासपुर मंडल, बिलासपुर			
ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट निविदा सूचना Portal : <a href="http://eproc.cgstate.gov.in">http://eproc.cgstate.gov.in</a>			
क्र.	नि.आ.सू. क्र.	कार्य का नाम	लागत (लाख में)
1	137	वर्ष 2025-26 के वार्षिक संभारण मद अंतर्गत उपसंभाग क्र.-1 बिलासपुर के अंतर्गत विभिन्न मार्गों में विशेष मरम्मत कार्य। प्रथम आमंत्रण	69.94
2	138	वर्ष 2025-26 के वार्षिक संभारण मद अंतर्गत उपसंभाग क्र.-2 बिलासपुर के अंतर्गत विभिन्न सड़कों के विभिन्न मरम्मत, सुदृढीकरण एवं चौड़ीकरण तथा पुलों एवं पुलियों की विशेष मरम्मत कार्य। प्रथम आमंत्रण	80.00
3	139	वर्ष 2025-26 के वार्षिक संभारण मद अंतर्गत उपसंभाग क्र.-2 बिलासपुर के अंतर्गत विभिन्न सड़कों के विभिन्न मरम्मत, सुदृढीकरण एवं चौड़ीकरण तथा पुलों एवं पुलियों की विशेष मरम्मत कार्य। प्रथम आमंत्रण	50.00
4	140	लोकरी उपसंभाग अंतर्गत आवासीय एवं गैर आवासीय मकानों का साधारण मरम्मत कार्य। प्रथम आमंत्रण मुंगेली संभाग, मुंगेली।	60.00
5	141	चापा संभाग, चापा के अंतर्गत आवासीय एवं गैर आवासीय मकानों का विशेष मरम्मत कार्य। प्रथम आमंत्रण। चापा संभाग, चापा।	39.98
6	142	उपसंभाग जौजरी के अंतर्गत विभिन्न मार्गों में साधारण मरम्मत कार्य। प्रथम आमंत्रण। चापा संभाग, चापा।	20.00
7	143	व्यावहार न्यायालय कटघोटा जिला कोरवा के न्यायिक अधिकारियों हेतु 01 नया की टाईप एवं 02 नए एक टाईप शास्त्रीय आवासगृह का निर्माण कार्य की ऑनलाईन निविदा आमंत्रण बाबर। प्रथम आमंत्रण। कोरवा संभाग कोरवा।	153.54

निविदा में भाग लेने की प्रक्रिया एवं निविदा के संबंध में विस्तृत जानकारी विभाग के उपरोक्त वेबसाइट में देखे जा सकते हैं।

अधीक्षण अभियंता  
लो.नि.वि., बिलासपुर मंडल, बिलासपुर  
G-252601931/1

"I am very fortunate to be getting the opportunity to play such amazing roles and work with such talented filmmakers. Stories like 'The Kerala Story' or fictional ones like Reeta Sanyal, I will do my best to make it as realistic as possible. I'm very lucky that creative filmmakers are offering me such varied roles."

Adah Sharma  
Actress



# & Glitters

CLOSE UP

## Aankhon Ki Gustaakhiyan: Shanaya Kapoor's acting launch

Shanaya Kapoor is finally stepping into the spotlight with her much-anticipated Bollywood debut.

Central Chronicle News

**She makes her first on-screen appearance in Aankhon Ki Gustaakhiyan, opposite Vikrant Massey.**

After a three-year wait, Shanaya Kapoor is finally stepping into Bollywood with Aankhon Ki Gustaakhiyan, opposite Vikrant Massey. Though originally slated to debut with Karan Johar's shelved Bedhadak, Shanaya says the delay only made her journey richer. "It's overwhelming, but I believe it was all meant to happen this way," the 25-year-old told P.TI. Playing Saba, a visually impaired girl, in this musical romance, Shanaya immersed herself in the role by visiting a blind school, a deeply moving experience that helped her value life more deeply. "You realise the blessings you often take for granted," she reflected. Being a star kid, Shanaya is no stranger to public scrutiny. "I take criticism positively. It helps me grow," she said, adding that she filters out noise related to appearance and focuses on feedback that improves her craft. "I've grown up in a film family, but I know I have to prove myself on my own," she added confidently.



Shanaya Kapoor lands dream debut opposite Vikrant Massey.



Shanaya's busy slate post-Aankhon Ki Gustaakhiyan

Directed by Santosh Singh and written by Mansi Bagla and Niranjan Iyengar, Aankhon Ki Gustaakhiyan is produced by Mansi and Varun Bagla. Post-debut, Shanaya's

schedule is packed with survival thriller Tu Yaa Main, Vrushabha with Mohanlal, and the Student of the Year web series. Excited and grounded, Shanaya is ready to prove herself, one honest performance at a time.



HOLLYWOOD

## The Devil Wears Prada 2 production kicks off without major star

Central Chronicle News

The wait is over The Devil Wears Prada 2 has officially begun filming, with a theatrical release date set for May 1. Disney's 20th Century Studios confirmed the news via Instagram, sparking global excitement. The sequel reunites the powerhouse original cast Meryl Streep as the formidable Miranda Priestly, Anne Hathaway as Andy Sachs, Emily Blunt as the iconic Emily Charlton, and Stanley Tucci as the beloved Nigel along with returning director David Frankel and producer Wendy Finerman. However, not everyone is back. Adrien Grenier, who played Andy's boyfriend Nate, will not

be returning. In the original, the couple had reconciled by the end, but sources reveal Nate won't appear in the follow-up. This development hints at a possible fresh chapter in Andy's personal life.

HIGHLIGHT

● **Miranda Priestly is back The Devil Wears Prada 2 has officially begun filming.**

Adding more intrigue, Kenneth Branagh joins the cast as Miranda's new husband. In the original film, Miranda tearfully admitted her third husband filed for divorce, marking her most vulnerable scene. Branagh's addition suggests Miranda's personal



Meryl Streep as Miranda Priestly in The Devil Wears Prada.

storyline will take center stage in the sequel. While the plot is still under wraps, expectations are sky-high. Based on Lauren Weisberger's bestselling novel, the 2006 film became a pop-culture staple, grossing \$326.7 million globally and earning Meryl an Oscar nomination and Golden Globe win. The sequel promises the same blend of fashion, power, and personal transformation that made the first film iconic. With most of the original cast returning and fresh talent joining in, The Devil Wears Prada 2 is shaping up to be a stylish cinematic event no one will want to miss.

## CineBriefs

BEST OF THE REST

Web Series

### Four More Shots Please! Gets ready for the big finish

Prime Video has officially announced the fourth and final season of its International Emmy-nominated series Four More Shots Please! Starring Sayani Gupta, Kirti Kulhari, Bani J, and Maanvi Gargro, the upcoming season will continue to explore themes of identity, independence, and enduring friendship. Created by Rangita and Ishita Pritish Nandy, the season introduces new characters and signature "girls trips," promising fresh energy and emotional depth. Written by Devika Bhagat, with dialogues by Ishita Moitra and direction by Arunima Sharma and Neha Parti Matiyani, the series also features Lisa Ray, Rajeev Siddhartha, Prateik Patil, Ankur Rathee, and Milind Soman.

Bollywood pairs

### The unspoken battle: Kareena and Saif after the stabbing



Kareena Kapoor Khan has finally opened up about the traumatic night her husband, Saif Ali Khan, was stabbed by an intruder in January. The assailant broke into their home, entered little Jeh's room, and was confronted by Saif, who was injured in the scuffle. Kareena admitted she was extremely anxious for months and is still trying to process what happened. Speaking to Barkha Dutt, she slammed the media's "utter garbage" coverage and questioned public appetite for such tragedy. "We haven't come to terms with it completely," she said.



Fashion

### Dragonfly dreams and tulle twirls: Sara owns the spotlight

Sara Ali Khan dazzled in a blush pink mini dress during the promotions of Metro...In Dino. Designed by Sunaina Khera, the delicate tulle dress featured hand-embroidered beads and 3D dragonfly motifs, giving it a romantic, ethereal vibe. Styled by Tanya Ghavri, the look was completed with nude heels, a sleek updo, winged eyeliner, and soft pink lips. The halter neckline with a back bow added playful elegance. On Instagram, Sara twirled with joy, captioning her moment with poetic flair.

## Trending on Insta

@siddhantchaturvedi

### Siddhant Chaturvedi's nostalgic ode to rains

Siddhant Chaturvedi's Instagram post captures childhood monsoon nostalgia forgetting umbrellas, using exam pads as shields, flaunting windcheaters, and splashing puddles. The 'Gully Boy' actor relives those carefree rainy-day joys we all fondly remember.



## O.T.T Watch



### Season 2 reveals enduring difficulties for CA

Half CA Season 2 offers a heartfelt glimpse into Archie Mehta's journey, capturing the intense pressure of Articleship, emotional burnout, and study struggles, while celebrating small wins like the first salary and newfound independence.



### Babita Ji's enduring presence

Munmun Dutta has denied rumours of quitting Taarak Mehta Ka Ooltah Chashmah. Sharing a video from the sets, she confirmed she's still part of the show, putting an end to speculation about her absence in recent episodes.



### Classic chaos unleashed in BB19 teaser

Bigg Boss 19 returns with a nostalgic 'Rewind' theme, secret room revival, and audience-driven nominations. Hosted by Salman Khan, the new season promises fresh celebrity faces, unexpected twists, and heightened drama.



### Bharti takes the spotlight on Laughter Chefs

Bharti Singh received a heart-warming birthday surprise on the sets of Laughter Chefs as her mother, son Gola, and in-laws arrived unexpectedly with a band baaja, leaving the host overwhelmed with joy during the special episode.



### Ms. Briganza encounters Mr. Malhotra again

Archana Puran Singh and Anupam Kher relived their Kuch Kuch Hota Hai chemistry on The Great Indian Kapil Show, sharing flirty banter and laughs, leaving fans nostalgic and entertained with their playful reunion.



# Art & Culture

MAME KHAN'S INFLUENCE IN THE MUSIC INDUSTRY

## Chaudhary's soul: Mame Khan on preserving musical roots

Rajasthani folk singer and the voice behind the hit song, Chaudhary, Mame Khan has dreams of bringing Rajasthani folk music to the global audiences.



For Mame Khan, folk music goes beyond words.

Mame Khan doesn't just perform music he lives it. Hailing from Rajasthan's Manganiyar community, Khan has become a global torchbearer of Indian folk music, a tradition passed down through generations like precious heirlooms. But for him, it's not just about heritage it's about emotion, storytelling, and human connection. With iconic tracks like Chaudhary, Khan never imagined he'd help ignite a modern folk music wave. The collaboration with Amit Trivedi fused diverse regional influences into one unforgettable song, blending Mand Raag's soulful notes with vibrant Rajasthani rhythms. Today, it stands as a testament to how traditional music can resonate universally. His favourite? Loli, a lullaby composed by his father. It was his first lesson in music, and he performs it at every show. "It uplifts," he says, "it comforts." When he sang it in France, the language didn't matter audiences felt its soul.



### HIGHLIGHT

● Mame Khan brings the timeless spirit of Rajasthani folk to the global stage, singing stories that echo through generations.

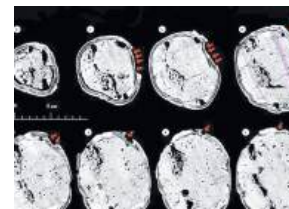
For Khan, folk music isn't a career it's a way of life. Wearing his safa and playing traditional instruments like the khartal and sarangi, he brings not just sound but a whole cul-

tural experience to audiences worldwide. Every performance becomes a celebration of identity and belonging. Now, in collaboration with Jet Synthesys' Global Music Junction, Mame Khan is ready to take his legacy further. "I can sing and tell stories," he says, "but they know how to make it reach the world." Together, they're determined to preserve folk's emotional truth and ensure it travels across continents. Through his music, Mame Khan proves that folk doesn't need translation it only needs a heart willing to listen.

## Cultural Hues

### Echoes of truth: One skull, dual narratives, a muted finish

Archaeologists in Iran uncovered a 6,000-year-old skull belonging to a young woman with an intentionally moulded, cone-shaped head. Found at the Chega Sofla cemetery, her skull showed no signs of healing, indicating a fatal blow from a blunt object. While it's unclear if the injury was accidental or intentional, the discovery sheds light on early cultural practices like cranial modification and hints at the complex, sometimes violent, lives of prehistoric communities in ancient Iran.



### The 40,000-year-old wonder weapon

A boomerang carved from mammoth tusk, found in Poland's Obłazowa Cave in 1985, is now believed to be 39,000 to 42,000 years old far older than previously thought. Likely crafted by early Homo sapiens, it features decorative markings and traces of red pigment, suggesting ceremonial use. The artefact predates Australia's oldest wooden boomerangs by 30,000 years. This rare find reveals the symbolic creativity of Ice Age humans and offers a deeper look into Europe's early cultural practices.



### The face of the past: A 10,500-year-old woman reconstructed

Archaeologists in Belgium have reconstructed the face of a 10,500-year-old Mesolithic woman using ancient DNA and artistic expertise. Discovered in the Margaux cave in 1988, her remains revealed blue eyes, dark hair, and lighter skin than previously believed for the era. Her group was likely nomadic, living off fish and wild game. The facial model will tour Belgian museums, with the public voting on her name Margo, Freya, or Mos'anne connecting the ancient past to present-day imagination.



### From dust to bloom: A 2,000-year-old garden's revival

In Pompeii, archaeologists have restored a 2,000-year-old "perfume garden" once used to experiment with scents. Known as the Garden of Hercules, the site features thousands of roses, violets, cherry trees, and a shaded alcove for dining. Remains of trellises, olive trees, and irrigation channels hint at the daily labour once carried out here. Though small in size, the garden holds a fragrant legacy revealing how beauty, craftsmanship, and cultivation shaped ancient Roman life.



### The embroidered chronicle: A sleeve's imperial narrative

A remarkable auction in Paris showcased over 100 objects tied to Napoleon Bonaparte, selling for nearly \$10 million. From a sauce-stained sleeve and handwritten divorce papers to a gold and ebony seal looted at Waterloo, the items offered rare glimpses into Napoleon's public power and private life. A red First Consul coat sleeve, stained by a servant, revealed the human behind the emperor. This collection isn't just history it's Napoleon's world, pieced together in intimate, tactile fragments that shaped an empire.



### The impossible solved: World's toughest jigsaw conquered

Archaeologists in London have pieced together what they call the "world's most difficult jigsaw puzzle": thousands of shattered fresco fragments from a Roman villa dating back 1,800 years. Originally found in a pit in Londinium, the pieces once adorned the lavish walls of a wealthy home. Reconstructed over months, the frescoes reveal birds, fruit, lyres, and rare yellow hues. They also bear graffiti and a Latin inscription, hinting at artistic signatures and life in Roman Britain's elite suburb.



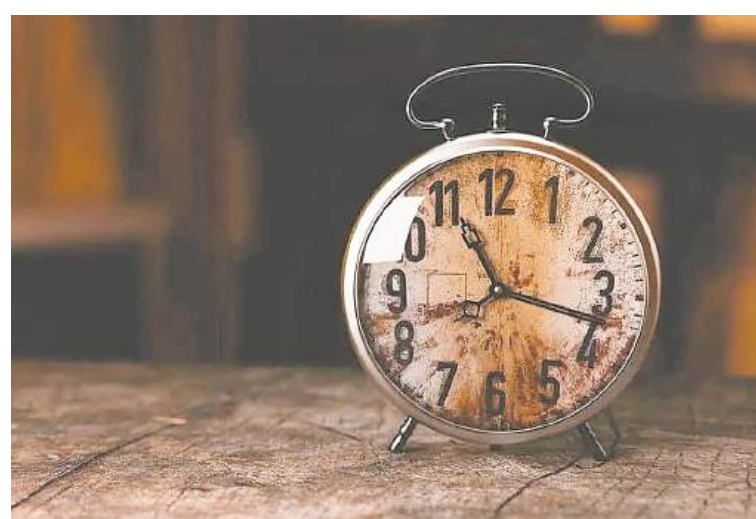
### Breaking ground: The bold start of women's media

On February 27, 1693, London saw the birth of The Ladies' Mercury the world's first magazine made just for women. It was only a single sheet and lasted just four issues, but it made history. For the first time, women could write in with questions on love, courtship, and morality and receive honest, uncensored answers. One reader asked if a bride could pretend to be a virgin; another, if a betrayed husband could ethically take a mistress. Bold yet respectful, it gave women a printed voice. That small, fearless publication sparked a silent revolution one that still echoes in women's media today.



### MASTERPIECE

## Ringling through time: The noisy evolution of the alarm clock



Long before smartphones buzzed us awake, waking up on time was a noisy challenge. In ancient times, people used water clocks, pebbles, or even sunlight to measure time. During the Industrial Revolution, factory workers in Europe relied on "knocker-uppers" humans hired to tap windows with sticks or shoot peas at glass to wake people. Mechanical alarm clocks followed, some with built-in bells loud enough to jolt the heaviest sleepers.

### INDIAN HANDICRAFTS AT THE GLOBAL STAGE

## The artisan's ascent: Highlighting Indian handicrafts for global recognition

### HIGHLIGHT

● Kolhapuri chappals on Prada's runway might look like fashion forwardness but they also carry a deeper cultural dilemma.

um-worthy it's runway-ready. With the right marketing, handcrafted pieces like lehengas, dupattas, and juttis can go global as themselves, not stripped of identity. Today's fashion consumers don't just buy products they buy stories. And Indian artisans have countless, compelling ones to offer. What's needed is integration. If Indian handicrafts plug into the global



India's Kolhapuri Chappal at Prada SS26 menswear show.

high-fashion supply chain, artisans don't just survive they thrive. Strategic collaborations between European fashion houses and Indian karigars could ensure that the value created is shared fairly and that the spotlight falls where it's due. The Veblen effect where a higher price enhances allure can finally reward craftsmanship instead of only designer labels. Rather than outsourcing production or borrowing motifs, the fashion world can evolve through creative clusters built around skill, not just market location. These hubs could rise in Jaipur or Kanchipuram, not just Paris or Milan.

Central Chronicle News



"I feel alone out there sometimes. I'm struggling mentally and keep falling back into the same hole I've been trying to escape."

Alexander Zverev  
Tennis player

## Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

GUIRASSY STRIKES TWICE

### Guirassy's brace sends Dortmund through past spirited Monterrey challenge



**ATLANTA (US):** Serhou Guirassy struck twice in the first half as Borussia Dortmund defeated Monterrey 2-1 in the Club World Cup round of 16 in Atlanta. Both goals were set up by Karim Adeyemi, with Guirassy finishing smartly in the 14th and 24th minutes. Monterrey rallied through Germán Berterame's header early in the second half and dominated possession, but Dortmund held firm. Jobe Bellingham's yellow card rules him out of the quarterfinal clash against Real Madrid, setting up a potential family face-off with Jude Bellingham. The win means Dortmund join four other European clubs in the last eight. **PTI**

MBAPPE RETURNS STRONG

### Mbappe makes debut as Real Madrid edge Juventus in Club World Cup



**MIAMI GARDENS (US):** Kylian Mbappé finally made his Club World Cup debut as Real Madrid defeated Juventus 1-0 to enter the quarterfinals in Miami Gardens. Mbappé, recovering from a gastrointestinal illness, replaced Gonzalo García in the 68th minute. García had scored the lone goal—a header in the first half—and now has four goals in the tournament. Mbappé received a warm reception, waved to the fans, and linked up well with Vinícius Júnior, though he didn't score. **PTI**

SEEDS CRASH OUT

### Wimbledon day two Chaos: Gauff, Zverev among 23 seeded players eliminated



**LONDON:** Wimbledon's second day brought stunning exits as 23 seeded players were ousted, tying a Grand Slam record. Among them were No. 2 Coco Gauff, No. 3 Alexander Zverev, and No. 3 Jessica Pegula. Gauff lost in straight sets to Dayana Yastremska, while Zverev fell to Arthur Rinderknech in a five-set thriller lasting over four hours. Rinderknech, ranked 72nd, saved nine break points and fired 25 aces, earning his first top-5 win. Also out were Lorenzo Musetti, Zheng Qinwen, Karolina Muchova, and Marta Kostyuk. Petra Kvitová bid farewell after a loss to Emma Navarro. **PTI**

GOLDEN INDIAN MOMENT

### Divyanshi Bhowmick creates history with U-15 gold at Asian Championships



**TASHKENT:** Divyanshi Bhowmick created history by winning India's first U-15 girls' singles gold in 36 years at the Asian Youth Table Tennis Championships in Tashkent. The 14-year-old defeated China's Zhu Qihui 4-2 in the final, completing a sensational run that included victories over three Chinese players—an unprecedented achievement for India in youth table tennis. Seeded second, Divyanshi also secured a place at the World Youth Championships. Her thrilling semifinal win against Liu Ziling was the turning point in India's campaign. **PTI**

# Rodrigues, Amanjot help India breach fortress Bristol

India continued their impressive white-ball form as Amanjot Kaur and Jemimah Rodrigues guided the visitors to a 24-run victory over England in the second T20I in Bristol.

Press Trust Of India

Spinners and run outs derailed England's chase despite Beaumont's gritty fifty in Bristol.

**BRISTOL:** India's dominance in the white-ball tour continued as Amanjot Kaur and Jemimah Rodrigues delivered match-winning fifties to script a commanding 24-run win over England in the second T20I on Tuesday night. With this victory, Harmanpreet Kaur's side surged to a 2-0 lead in the five-match series, having blown England away by a record 97-run margin in the opener.

Opting to bat first after being put in, India recovered from a shaky start to post a formidable 181 for 4. Opener Shafali Verma (3), last match's centurion Smriti Mandhana (13), and skipper Harmanpreet Kaur (1) fell cheaply within the powerplay, leaving India reeling at 31 for 3. But the duo of Jemimah Rodrigues (63 off 41) and Amanjot Kaur (63\* off 40) rebuilt the innings with a vital 93-run fourth-wicket stand.

Rodrigues played fluently, striking nine boundaries and a six before falling in the 15th over. Amanjot carried on, combining with Richa



Ghosh (32\* off 22 balls) for a 57-run unbeaten partnership that lifted India to their second-highest total in women's T20Is at this venue. The team added 117 runs in the final 10 overs, showcasing their aggressive intent.

In the chase, England were rocked early. Sophia Dunkley was run out for 1 in the first over, and Deepti Sharma immediately followed it up by dismissing Danni Wyatt-Hodge for the same score. Amanjot then made an impact with the ball, removing Nat Sciver-Brunton to leave England tottering at 17 for 3 in the fourth over.

Tammy Beaumont (54 off 35) and Amy Jones (32) tried to steady the innings with a 70-run partnership, but left-arm spinner Shree Charani (2/28) dismissed Jones in the 15th over, triggering England's slide. Sophie Ecclestone's late flourish (35) wasn't enough to save the hosts, who finished at 157 for 7 in 20 overs.

India were sharp in the field, effecting three run-outs and supporting their bowlers well. "It was a special team effort. Jemimah and Amanjot's partnership set the tone, and our spinners delivered. Spin is our strength," said captain Harmanpreet after the match.

FAREWELL, WIMBLEDON QUEEN |

## Petra Kvitová bids emotional farewell to Wimbledon

Press Trust Of India

Petra Kvitová said goodbye to Wimbledon, ending a glorious chapter in her Grand Slam journey.

**LONDON:** Two-time Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitová bid an emotional farewell to her favorite Grand Slam, following a second-round defeat to America's Emma Navarro on No. 1 Court. The 35-year-old Czech, who captured titles in 2011 and 2014, confirmed this will be her final appearance at the All England Club, with retirement planned after the U.S. Open in September.

Kvitová, who returned to the tour after mater-



nity leave, was granted a wild-card entry this year. Her 6-3, 6-1 loss to 10th-seeded Navarro was met with a standing ovation as the crowd celebrated her legacy.

"This place holds the best memories I could wish for," said Kvitová, tearfully. "I never dreamed of winning a Wimbledon and I won it twice."

Navarro praised her opponent, calling Kvitová's return after motherhood and her career suc-

### FACTFILE

● Kvitová lost to Emma Navarro, marking her final appearance at Wimbledon.

● Two-time champion reflects emotionally on memories and upcoming retirement plans.

cess "an inspiring story."

Kvitová's Wimbledon victories were iconic—beating Maria Sharapova in the 2011 final and Eugénie Bouchard in 2014 with commanding performances. She called Wimbledon "the best tournament in the world," vowing to return in the future—not as a competitor, but perhaps as a fan or guest.

JUSTICE, PROCESS, INTEGRITY |

## Sammy seeks justice amid assault allegations

Press Trust Of India

**ST GEORGE'S:** West Indies head coach Darren Sammy has called for justice and due process in the wake of serious sexual assault allegations against a current West Indies cricketer. A report by Guyana's Kaieteur News last week revealed that 11 women, including a

"We believe in justice, but we also believe in the right process. It's vital we let the system work before reaching conclusions," said Sammy.

Darren Sammy West Indies head coach teenager, have accused the unnamed player of



sexual offences, some dating back to 2023. No official charges have yet been filed.

Speaking ahead of the

second Test against Australia, Sammy acknowledged the situation's seriousness and emphasized the importance of legal protocol. "We are aware of what's being said. I've spoken with my players and what I can say is that we stand for justice," said Sammy.

However, he cautioned against premature judgments. "There's

a process that must be respected. These are allegations and until things are confirmed through legal means, we have to let it play out."

When asked if Cricket West Indies had launched an internal probe, Sammy declined comment, stating, "I'm pretty sure they are doing what they can to ensure the right process is followed."

Sports News

# Jaiswal misses ton as India steady progress

India reached a solid 182/3 at tea on Day 1 of the second Test, with Yashasvi Jaiswal narrowly missing a deserved century.



Press Trust Of India

Gill, Pant steady India as England bowlers struggle to make further breakthroughs.

**BIRMINGHAM:** India ended the second session of Day 1 at 182 for 3 in the second Test against England at Edgbaston, with Yashasvi Jaiswal falling agonizingly short of a century. The left-handed opener scored a fluent 87 off 107 balls before falling to a loose shot, edging a short and wide delivery from Ben Stokes to Jamie Smith behind the stumps.

Jaiswal's dismissal halted what was a commanding innings, filled with elegant cover drives and confident pulls. Alongside him, Karun Nair (31 off 50) added 80 runs for the second wicket after KL Rahul (2) was dismissed early by Chris Woakes, playing onto his stumps.

Captain Shubman Gill looked composed and was unbeaten on 42 off 109 balls at tea, with Rishabh Pant giving him company on 14. The duo added 37 runs for the fourth wicket, ensuring that India didn't suffer another blow before the interval.

Gill negotiated England's pace attack calmly, stepping out against Shoaib Bashir to loft him over extra cover, while Pant struck a six over mid-on against the same bowler.

Nair, promoted to No.3, played some elegant drives before falling to Brydon Carse just before lunch, caught at second slip by Harry Brook. Carse also troubled Jaiswal with sharp bouncers aimed at his ribs, but the southpaw weathered the storm with confidence.

Stokes' decision to bowl first under overcast skies appeared justified early on, but India's batters adapted quickly. The pitch offered seam movement during the initial hour, but not much swing, and the English bowlers failed to sustain pressure through the day. India made three changes for this Test, resting Jasprit Bumrah and bringing in debutant Akash Deep. Sai Sudharsan made way for all-rounder Washington Sundar, and Nitish Kumar Reddy replaced Sharul Thakur. Kuldeep Yadav was once again ignored.

Meanwhile, a noticeable adjustment was made to the boundary dimensions, which caught attention before the toss.

# Shastri slams India for resting fit Bumrah

Press Trust Of India

Ravi Shastri questioned India's logic of resting Jasprit Bumrah for a crucial second Test match.



**BIRMINGHAM:** Former India head coach Ravi Shastri has voiced strong criticism over the team management's decision to rest ace pacer Jasprit Bumrah for the second Test against England, despite the bowler being fully fit and fresh from a seven-day break.

Shastri, speaking to Sky Sports, was visibly stunned at Bumrah's absence in what he considers a critical match for India, especially given the team's dismal Test record since October last year – just one win in their last nine outings. India, led by Shubman Gill in this series, had already lost the opening Test in Leeds by five wickets.

"You've lost three against New Zealand, three against Australia, and now the first one here. You want to bounce back, and you rest the world's best fast bowler? It's hard to believe," Shastri said.

Bumrah had bagged a five-wicket haul in the first Test, reaffirming his match-winning impact. Shubman Gill stated at the toss that Bumrah was rested to manage workload, keeping the Lord's

**FASTFACTS**

- Shastri believes Bumrah's exclusion weakens India during their worst Test run in a decade.
- He insists selection should rest with captain and coach, not workload-based player decisions.

player shouldn't be left to the player alone. "It should be the captain and coach deciding the XI. In a series-defining game, Bumrah must play," he asserted.

India had earlier announced Bumrah would feature in only three Tests of the five-match series to manage his fitness. However, Shastri believes strategic needs should override such predetermined limits.

Bumrah, who returned from injury earlier this year, became the first Asian fast bowler to reach 150 wickets in SENA countries during the Leeds Test – a feat that underscores his indispensable value.

Test in mind.

Shastri, however, questioned this logic. "This is the game to play. Make it 1-1, then offer him rest. Do you think he'll sit out if you win this one? No chance," he added.

The former coach stressed that the decision to rest such a crucial

**| WORLD BOXING CUP |**

## Minakshi, Pooja assure India two medals on Day 3

Press Trust Of India

India secured two medals as Minakshi and Pooja Rani advanced to the World Boxing Cup semifinals.



**ASTANA (KAZAKHSTAN):** Pugilists Minakshi (48kg) and Pooja Rani (80kg) guaranteed India of two medals by progressing to the semifinals in their respective categories on the third day of the World Boxing Cup here on Wednesday.

Minakshi sealed her place in the semifinals with a dominant 5:0 win over Chinese Taipei's Guo Yi-Xuan, showing sharp movement and clean

scoring throughout the quarterfinal bout. Pooja Rani followed with a gritty 4:1 split decision victory over Kazakhstan's Gulsaya Yerzhan in the 80kg division, securing her berth in the final four and guaranteeing a podium finish.

Earlier in the day, Anamika (51kg) moved

into the quarterfinals with a composed performance against Turkey's Aysen Taskin, keeping India's momentum alive. In the men's draw, Jadu-mani Singh fought hard in a close contest but lost narrowly to Philippines' Jay Bryan Baricuatro, bringing his campaign to a close.

## India beat Iraq 5-0

**CHIANG MAI:** The Indian women's football team produced another commanding performance in the AFC Women's Asian Cup 2026 Qualifiers, thrashing Iraq 5-0 here on Wednesday. India led 2-0 at half-time. First-half goals from Sangita Basfore and Manisha set the tone before a dominant second half saw Karthika Angamuthu, Phanjoubam Nirmala Devi, and Nongmaithem Ratanbala Devi add to the scoreline, taking India's goal tally to an impressive 22 from three games, all without conceding a single one. With this result, the Blue Tigresses remain unbeaten. India are currently atop Group B with nine points and a goal difference of +22.

**| TARGETING OLYMPIC GLORY |**

## Anjum, Saurabh back in India reckoning after shooting trials

Press Trust Of India

India's top shooters made strong comebacks during recent national selection trials in Dehradun.



**NEW DELHI:** Olympians Anjum Moudgil and Saurabh Chaudhary have stormed back into national reckoning after impressive performances in the National Shooting Trials 3&4 held in Dehradun.

Anjum, a two-time Olympian, missed the initial international circuit this season but bounced back with a strong show in the women's 50m rifle

3-positions event. She now ranks third behind world record holder Sift Kaur Samra and Ashi Chouksey, replacing Paris-bound Shriyanka Sadangi in the NRAI's lat-

est Group A rankings.

Saurabh Chaudhary, the former Asian Games gold medallist, reclaimed the top spot in men's 10m air pistol with a 583.93 average, ahead of

**HIGHLIGHT**

● Saurabh regains India No.1 ranking in men's 10m air pistol category after trials.

● Anjum returns to top-three in 3P rifle after missing first half of season.

Aditya Malra and Anmol Jain.

In women's 10m air rifle, Mehuli Ghosh surged back to No.1 with a 633.65 average, edging past Elavenil Valarivan. Suruchi led the women's 10m air pistol with a commanding 10-point margin.

**| POWERING GRAND AMBITIONS |**

## Preparation for classical chess requires a lot of effort: Praggnanandhaa

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** Indian teenage Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa has opened up about the growing shift among top players like Magnus Carlsen and Hikaru Nakamura away from classical chess. He believes the intense mental and physical demands of the long-format game are prompting many to prefer rapid and freestyle formats.



"Classical chess preparation is exhausting. Everyone is so well-prepared that you're forced into hours of study before every game," said

the 19-year-old, who has already clinched three classical titles this year – Tata Steel Masters, Superbet Classic, and Uz Chess Cup. He acknowledged that the energy drain from continuous participation

in classical tournaments often leads to burnout. "You're forced to prepare three-four hours before each match, and it's not something everyone enjoys," he noted, expressing a personal preference for freestyle

formats where pre-game preparation is minimal.

Despite his love for rapid and freestyle chess, Praggnanandhaa emphasized that classical chess remains the gold standard of the sport.

He also credited his recent growth and stability in the chess circuit to support from Adani Sportsline. "They've supported me for one and a half years, even when results weren't great," he shared. "Travel, training, and building a professional team – all of it needs financial backing. Adani's support made a big difference."

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# World



My conversation with US Energy Secretary Chris Wright reflected the shared commitment to strengthen India-US energy ties and explore innovative solutions for sustainable and secure energy futures.

**S Jaishankar**  
External Affairs Minister

## Young girl gazes over ruins of shattered Gaza home



A Palestinian girl stands atop the rubble of the Al-Aimawi family's home that was destroyed by Israeli airstrikes in Al-Zawaideh, Gaza Strip.

# Iran suspends ties with UN Nuclear watchdog IAEA

Iran has suspended cooperation with the UN nuclear watchdog after strikes on key facilities, escalating tensions and limiting international oversight of its nuclear program.

Press Trust Of India

**DUBAI:** Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian on Wednesday ordered a suspension of cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), days after American and Israeli airstrikes struck Iran's most crucial nuclear facilities. The suspension is expected to further restrict the IAEA's ability to monitor Tehran's uranium enrichment program, which has reached

near weapons-grade levels. Though the order provided no clear timeline or procedural details, it follows a new law passed by Iran's parliament and approved by the Guardian Council.

The law mandates an immediate halt to collaboration under the Non-proliferation Treaty and related safeguards, citing security concerns for nuclear facilities and scientists. Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi indicated

### HIGHLIGHT

● Iran's suspension risks escalating regional tensions and undermining international nuclear monitoring and diplomatic trust.

that while Iran remains diplomatically open, renewed negotiations with the U.S. are unlikely in the near term. "The doors of diplomacy will never slam shut," he said,

though he downplayed the prospect of quick talks. The Vienna-based IAEA has yet to receive official instructions from Tehran, and inspectors reportedly remain in the country. However, the move sparked global alarm. Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Sa'ar condemned Iran's decision, calling it a "scandalous renunciation" of its international nuclear obligations and urging European powers to trigger the nuclear

deal's snapback sanctions mechanism. Despite fears, Iran's actions stop short of abandoning the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty altogether. Analysts had feared a full withdrawal and an open sprint toward weaponization.

Iran's 2015 nuclear deal capped enrichment at 3.67%, but after the U.S. unilaterally withdrew from the pact in 2018 under Donald Trump, Iran gradually increased enrichment up to 60%.

## 4 govt officials killed in blast in Pak's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

**PESHAWAR:** Four government officials, including an assistant commissioner, were killed and 11 others injured in a bomb blast in Pakistan's restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province on Wednesday, police said. The blast, which occurred near Mela Ground in Khar Tehsil in the Bajaur tribal district bordering Afghanistan, targeted the vehicle of Assistant Commissioner of Bajaur district's Nawagai tehsil Faisal Sultan. The other deceased were identified as Assistant Sub-Inspector Noor Hakeem, Levies Tehsildar Wakil Khan and Constable Rasheed. Security forces swiftly cordoned off the area, while a search operation and investigation into the attack are underway.

## China rejects Dalai Lama's chosen reincarnation authority

Press Trust Of India

China has firmly rejected the Dalai Lama's recent declaration that only his office's Gaden Phodrang Trust will have the authority to choose his reincarnation.

**BEIJING:** In a sharp rebuke to the Tibetan spiritual leadership, China on Wednesday rejected the Dalai Lama's newly announced succession plan, declaring that any future reincarnation must be approved by Beijing under the "Golden Urn" system. The move intensifies an already fraught ideological battle between the Chinese Communist Party and the Tibetan religious community over the right to determine the future of Tibetan Buddhism. The



Dalai Lama, days ahead of his 90th birthday, asserted that only the Gaden Phodrang Trust—established by his office in 2015—will have the authority to identify his reincarnation. China responded through Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning, stating that the process must conform to state laws, traditional Chinese religious procedures, and Communist Party oversight.

### FASTFACTS

● Dalai Lama insists Gaden Trust alone will choose his spiritual successor.

● China demands reincarnation follow state rules, not Tibetan Buddhist religious traditions.

China maintains that the reincarnation of the Dalai Lama must follow the Golden Urn ritual intro-

duced in the 18th century and codified in Chinese regulations in 2007. The Dalai Lama, however, was himself identified outside this process. Tensions are likely to escalate internationally, especially with the United States, whose 2020 Tibetan Policy and Support Act affirms support for the Dalai Lama's autonomy in religious matters.

The state-run Xinhua agency reiterated that any succession outside Chinese control "lacks legitimacy." Meanwhile, China's appointed Panchen Lama recently met President Xi Jinping, pledging loyalty to the Communist Party.

China's emphasis on the "sinicisation" of religion—requiring faiths to align with Chinese values—continues to undermine Tibetan autonomy.

### JUSTICE, PROTEST, REPERCUSSIONS |

## Hasina sentenced, faces crimes against humanity

Press Trust Of India

**DHAKA:** Bangladesh's deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina was sentenced to six months in jail for contempt of court by the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) on Wednesday. The tribunal ruled that her leaked phone remarks threatened witnesses and undermined the judiciary. The sentence will take effect

upon her arrest or voluntary surrender, said chief prosecutor Mohammad Tajul Islam.

Currently residing in India, Hasina is also being tried in absentia for alleged crimes against humanity, including the murder of student protester Abu Sayeed in Rangpur University. His death ignited a massive protest movement that led to her ouster on August 5 last



**I have had 227 cases filed against me—so I've received a licence to kill 227 people.**  
Chief prosecutor Mohammad Tajul Islam

year after nearly 16 years in power. Hasina allegedly fled Bangladesh secretly on a

military aircraft. On August 8, Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus returned from Paris to lead an interim

government formed by Students Against Discrimination (SAD).

Hasina's state-appointed lawyer denied the charges. The ICT termed her audio remark—"I've had 227 cases filed against me, so I've received a licence to kill 227 people"—as contemptuous and fear-inducing. Up to 1,400 people reportedly died during last year's crackdown on protests.

## Wildfire kills 2 people in Spain

**BARCELONA:** Two people died in a rapidly spreading wildfire in Spain's Lleida province amid a severe European heatwave. Firefighters brought the blaze under control. The fire generated a 14,000-metre-high ash and smoke plume, the largest ever recorded by Catalonia's firefighting authorities.



## Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

### SUCCUMBED

## Indian-origin woman killed in UK street assault tragedy

**LONDON:** A 56-year-old Indian-origin woman succumbed to a head injury suffered during an assault while out on a street in the eastern England city of Leicester and a 23-year-old male suspect charged with her murder has been remanded in custody. Nila Patel died in hospital from her injuries last week after being attacked as a pedestrian and Leicester Police has said a post-mortem examination gave the "provisional cause" of her death as a head injury. Michael Chuwemeka appeared before Leicester Crown Court sitting at Loughborough on Tuesday charged with her murder and also faces additional charges of dangerous driving, possession with intent to supply Class B or banned drugs, attempted grievous bodily harm relating to a prior incident and assault of an emergency worker following an alleged assault on a police officer after his arrest on June 24.

### REJECTING SILENT OPPRESSION

## Imran Khan urges uprising, rejects slavery behind bars

**LAHORE:** Pakistan's jailed former prime minister Imran Khan has said he will prefer to live in the dark cell of a prison, instead of accepting slavery, as he urged his supporters to stage protests against the hybrid regime. Khan called on the workers of his party, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), to stage an uprising against the current regime after Ashura, the 10th day of mourning in Moharram to commemorate the 7th-century martyrdom of the Prophet's grandson, Imam Hussein, which falls on July 6 this year. "To the entire nation, especially PTI workers and supporters, I urge them to rise against this tyrannical system after Ashura," Khan posted on X on Tuesday. "I would rather live in a dark prison cell than accept this slavery," added Khan, who has been in jail for nearly two years in multiple cases.



### SHIP CAPSIZED

## Oil-drilling ship capsized in Gulf of Suez, killing at least 4 crewmen, says Egypt



**CAIRO:** An oil-drilling ship capsized in the Gulf of Suez, killing at least four crewmen and leaving four others missing, authorities said Wednesday. The drilling ship overturned Tuesday evening off the city of Ras Ghareb, on the African side of the Gulf of Suez, the Red Sea's northwestern arm and a crucial shipping route, the Petroleum Ministry said in a statement. There were 30 workers on board when the drilling ship capsized, said Amr Hanafy, governor of the Red Sea province. Rescue teams recovered four bodies and rescued two 22 others who were taken to hospitals, he said. He said ships from the Egyptian navy joined the search-and-rescue efforts which were still ongoing overnight for four missing

crewmen. It wasn't immediately clear what caused the drilling ship to capsize and authorities say investigations were ongoing. Local media reported it was being tugged for excavations in another area when it overturned. The capsizing happened in an area called Gabel el-Zeit, a prominent Egyptian oil production site around 300 kilometres south of the Suez Canal, the ministry said in a statement. The capsizing didn't disrupt vessels transiting through the canal, which links the Gulf of Suez to the Mediterranean Sea, Adm. Ossam Rabei, head of the canal authority, said. Rabei said in a statement that 33 vessels were scheduled to transit Wednesday through the global waterway.

### HELICOPTER CRASH TRAGEDY

## African Union military helicopter crashes in Somalia's capital, killing at least 3

**MOGADISHU:** At least three people were killed when a military helicopter serving the African Union peacekeeping mission in Somalia crashed Wednesday at the airport in the Lower Shabelle region with eight people on board. At least three people have been confirmed killed, said Artan Mohamed, who heads the immigration office at Mogadishu's Aden Abdulle airport. The helicopter originally belonged to the Ugandan Air Force but was being operated by the African Union peacekeeping mission, he said. Ahmed

Moalim Hassan, director-general of the Somalia Civil Aviation Authority, told state media that investigations are underway to determine the full extent of casualties and damage. "Once the situation is under control and the fire is extinguished by the firefighters, we will know more," he said. "The firefighting team is still working to contain the fire—most of it has been put out, but there is still smoke, which we hope will be cleared soon." Aviation officer Omar Farah, who was among the first to reach the wreckage, told the AP the he "saw the helicopter spinning and then it fell very fast." There

was "a huge explosion and smoke everywhere," said Abdurrahim Ali, a nearby resident who also witnessed the crash.

Minor delays were reported at the airport, but flights and other operations have since resumed.

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