



# Central Chronicle

## PM Rashtriya Bal Puraskar for 14-year-old judo player

Yogita has carved out a distinct identity for herself in judo, overcoming severe personal loss and social challenges.

Press Trust Of India

Yogita is currently training at Sports Authority of India's National Centre of Excellence in Bhopal and is regarded as one of the emerging judo talents in the country, the official said.

**RAIPUR/KONDAGAON:** From a remote, Maoist-affected village in Chhattisgarh's Kondagaon district to being honoured with the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar for her outstanding sporting achievements, the journey of 14-year-old judo player Yogita Mandavi is one of grit, resilience and quiet determination. The award was conferred by President Droupadi Murmu at a ceremony held at Vigyan Bhavan in New Delhi on Friday, where children from across the country were recognised for excel-



President Droupadi Murmu conferred award to Yogita at a ceremony held at Vigyan Bhavan in New Delhi on Friday.

### HIGHLIGHT

● **The Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar is a prestigious national honour conferred annually for exceptional excellence in Bravery, Art & Culture, Environment, Social Service, Science & Technology, and Sports.**

lence in fields such as sports, innovation, social service, art and culture. Born in Hirri village under the Farasgaon block of Kondagaon, Yogita has carved out a distinct identity for herself in judo at the national level, overcoming severe personal loss and social challenges. Yogita was barely four years old when she lost

### President Murmu confers PM Rashtriya Bal Puraskar to 20 children

**New Delhi:** President Droupadi Murmu on Friday conferred the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar to 20 children for their exceptional achievements in the fields of Bravery, Social Service, Environment, Sports, Art & Culture and Science & Technology at a ceremony held in New Delhi. Speaking on the occasion, she congratulated the recipients of the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar and said the award winning children have brought pride to their families, communities, and the entire country. President Murmu expressed confidence that these awards will inspire all children across the country, and stated that this award has been presented to them for their encouragement.

her father Mayaram Mandavi and mother Sukmati Mandavi, a government official said. She was subsequently raised under the care of her uncle and aunt before being admitted, in January 2021, to the girls' home run by the Chhattisgarh State Child Welfare Council in Kondagaon, with the support of the district

administration, he added. "Life at the shelter marked a turning point. At the age of 10, Yogita took up judo and soon displayed remarkable talent. Within a year, she began winning medals at the state level, signalling the arrival of a promising sportsperson. Her rise has been steady and impressive," the official said.

## Fresh snowfall blankets Mughal Road in Shopian



A view of the snow-covered Mughal Road that connects Shopian district with Poonch-Rajouri, after the season's fresh snowfall, in Shopian, J & K, Friday.

## Centre redresses over 800 long-pending grievances at Pension Adalat

**NEW DELHI:** More than 800 long-pending grievances were redressed during a recently held Pension Adalat, officials said on Friday. The 15th Pension Adalat, a single platform for the redressal of long-pending pension-related grievances of Central government pensioners, was conducted on Wednesday at the Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA) to redress the grievances of super senior and family pensioners. As many as 1,087 grievances, pertaining to 30 departments/minis-

tries, including defence, home, finance, posts, housing and urban affairs, civil aviation, etc., were taken up in the Adalat, of which 815 were resolved on the spot, underscoring the efficiency of the initiative in delivering timely justice to pensioners, an official statement said. The day-long event was headed by Rachana Shah, Secretary, Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare. Many heart-warming success stories came out of the 15th Pension Adalat. In one such case, Pritam Singh

from Rewari in Haryana raised grievances related to non-payment of General Provident Fund (GPF), leave encashment, and gratuity pending for over 114 days. "Singh voiced his concern over the phone. It was apprised by the officers in the Border Security Force (BSF) that the case has been resolved and arrears amounting to Rs 68,10,192 will be credited to the account of the pensioner at the earliest," said the statement issued by the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.

### | INDIA GATE PROTEST CASE |

## Agitation on Kartavya Path Delhi court grants bail to six accused

Press Trust Of India

It directed the accused persons to furnish a bail bond and surety bond of Rs 50,000 each.

**NEW DELHI:** A Delhi court on Friday granted bail to six protesters arrested in connection with the agitation on Kartavya Path, where slogans were allegedly raised in support of slain Maoist commander Madvi Hidma, saying they were not required for further investigation.

Additional Sessions Judge Amit Bansal was hearing the bail plea of Ilakkiya, Ayisha Wafiya, Ravjot Kaur, Gurkirat Kaur, Abhinash Satyapathi and Kranti. "The applicants (six accused people) have already suffered a custody of about one

month each, and it seems from the submissions that they are not required for any further investigation." "No reasonable apprehension has been shown by the prosecution that there is a threat of tampering

### FACTFILE

● **According to the police, 23 protesters were arrested in two separate cases lodged at the Parliament Street and Kartavya Path police stations.**

with the witnesses or that the applicants are a flight risk," the court said. It said that none of the accused persons were members of the banned Maoist student organisation, Radical Student Union (RSU). "It is not the case of the prosecution



in the reply to the bail applications that BSECM (Bhagat Singh Chhatra Ekta Manch) or Himkhand (of whom the applicants were members) is a banned group or organisation," the court said. Other conditions of bail included the accused persons not leaving India, not tampering with evidence, joining the investigation when required and appearing before the station house officer (SHO) of Kartavya Path police station every second Wednesday, until the police filed its charge-sheet. In its order, the court

noted the prosecution's case, according to which, "on November 23, the applicants participated in a protest affiliated with Students' Federation of India (SFI), BSECM and Himkhand, which was under the banner of Delhi Coordination Committee for clean air operating under the social media account the Himkhand."

It noted that during the protest, "they allegedly sat on C-Hexagon road, blocked traffic, obstructed the police officials from performing their duties, raised slogans unrelated to pollution and during the protest, applicant Aiyashah Wafiya Midhath handed over a pepper spray to one co-accused, Akshay, who sprayed it on the face of Constable Ishant, causing him simple injuries".

### | PAN MASALA ADS CASE |

## Court orders forensic test of Salman's sign on power of attorney

Press Trust Of India

**KOTA:** A consumer court in Rajasthan's Kota on Friday ordered Bollywood Actor Salman Khan's personal appearance in a "misleading" pan masala advertisement case and forensic examination of the signature on power of attorney submitted before the court. The court noted that next hearing on the matter will be on January 20. The complainant, advocate Indra Mohan Singh Honey, who is also a BJP leader, on October 15 filed a complaint in Kota consumer court alleging that Rajshree Pan Masala and Khan are misleading the people with advertisement of pan masala in the name of "saffron-infused cardamom" and saffron-infused pan masala. He argued that when saffron costs Rs 4 lakh per kilogram, how can it be



available in a pan masala pouch of Rs 5? The actor and the company are misleading the public and the youths getting attracted towards consuming pan masala and falling victim to serious diseases like cancer.

On the previous hearing on December 9, the petitioner had raised objections to Khan's signature on the power of attorney and reply to the court notice submitted before the court and demanded an investigation into the matter. Hearing the pan masala advertisement case, the consumer court on Friday

ordered forensic examination of the actor's signature and directed him to appear in person before the court on January 20 along with advocate RC Choubey, who notarized the power of attorney and reply.

"The power of attorney and reply submitted on behalf of the actor did not bear his signature. Khan's signature differed from those he had signed in Jodhpur jail and in the court there," the petitioner said. We objected to Khan's signature and demanded an FSL examination of the signature and his personal appearance. The court accepted our objection, he told PTI. Singh said he would also register a case of forgery of documents against the actor and others involved as the same forged documents were presented to the court.

### NEWSLINE

#### HAZARIBAG

### 4 arrested for sextortion

Jharkhand's Hazaribag police on Friday arrested four youths for allegedly indulging in sextortion and blackmail under the pretext of providing escort services, officials said. Hazaribag SP Anjani Anjan said the police received information on Thursday about a group operating from Nutannagar area within Hazaribag Mufassil police station area. "They were using mobile numbers to place advertisements on fake websites offering escort services and fraudulently accepting money via UPI," the SP said. The SP said a Special Investigation Team (SIT) was formed under Sub-Divisional Police Officer (SDPO) Hazaribag Amit Kumar Anand, which also comprised officer-in-charge of Mufassil police station.



### Lifestyle

### Internet cools in 2025 with Green lattes and Kunafa chocolate

In 2025, "cool" didn't whisper it popped, posed, and begged to be double-tapped. Taste was no longer about cultivating a rare palate or collecting hard-to-find things.

### | ENFORCEMENT DRIVE |

## 28 buses impounded as Govt steps up anti-pollution drive

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** The Delhi Transport Department on Friday intensified its anti-pollution enforcement drive under the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP), impounding 28 buses, including interstate vehicles, in a day for violating emission norms, officials said. Enforcement agencies inspected 4,927 vehicles across the

city in the past 24 hours and issued 3,970 challans, they said.

Of these, 2,390 challans were issued by the Delhi Traffic Police for Pollution Under Control Certificate (PUCC) violations, 285 by transport enforcement teams, and 1,114 were filed through automatic number plate recognition cameras.

Eleven vehicles were penalised for GRAP vio-

lations by the Transport Department, while the traffic police issued 170 GRAP-related challans. As many as 238 vehicles were allowed to ply after compliance, according to officials statement. The department said around 100 goods vehicles have been impounded so far this month for pollution-related violations as enforcement has been tightened at key conges-

tion points and city entry locations, including Kashmiri Gate, Geeta Colony and Mori Gate.

Taking a tough stand against irregularities at Pollution Under Control (PUC) centres, the Transport Department said 28 centres have been suspended so far, while licences of two have been cancelled. Action has also been initiated against two more centres.

In one case of alleged malpractice, a police complaint was lodged at Gokulpuri police station against a PUC centre accused of issuing forged certificates, the statement reads. Transport Minister Pankaj Kumar Singh said strict enforcement against polluting vehicles would continue, while ensuring that citizens are not inconvenienced at PUC centres.

## Earthquake of 4.6 magnitude recorded

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**AHMEDABAD:** An earthquake of 4.6 magnitude hit Kutch district in Gujarat early Friday morning, creating panic among residents, though no casualty or damage to properties was reported, officials said. It was recorded at 4:30 am with its epicentre around 22 kilometres West North

West (WNW) from Rapar in Kutch district, the Gandhinagar-based Institute of Seismological Research (ISR) said. The earthquake was followed by two tremors of 2.5 and 3 magnitude in the same region, the ISR said in its update. No casualty or damage to property was reported, a Kutch district disaster management official said.



## Traffic congestion at city's Tatibandh chowk



The day-to-day traffic congestion at city's busiest Tatibandh chowk causes traffic-jam for hours, leaving people with no patience.

# ED files final prosecution complaint in liquor 'scam'

In the alleged liquor scam case in Chhattisgarh, ED has named 59 persons, taking the total accused to 81.

Central Chronicle News

**RAIPUR:** The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Friday filed a final prosecution complaint in the alleged liquor scam case in Chhattisgarh, naming 59 persons, taking the total number of accused in the money laundering case to 81.

The final prosecution complaint was filed before the PMLA court here complying with the directions of the Supreme Court, the ED's counsel Saurabh Kumar Pande informed.

Earlier, 22 persons were named accused in the case

### FACTFILE

● The prosecution complaint summary runs into 315 pages with documents of around 29,800 pages.

and several of them were arrested. After completing the investigation related to those accused, prosecution complaints were filed against them in the past, he said. The final prosecution complaint has now been filed against 59 more persons against whom investigation has been completed, Pande said.

The 59 include then deputy secretary at Chief Minister's office Soumya Chaurasia, former IAS officer Niranjana Das, liquor licence holders, distributors and excise department officials, he said.

The prosecution complaint summary runs into 315 pages with documents of around 29,800 pages. The material includes direct evidence obtained through banking channels, documents showing attempts at money laundering, backdoor and purpose-driven entries, as well as digital evidence such as communication

records, he said. Then commissioner of state excise department Niranjana Das allegedly facilitated the smooth operation of the liquor scam and ensured no punitive action was taken anywhere, allowing the scam to continue unhindered, he said. Pande said the total proceeds of crime involved in the case are estimated to be around Rs 3,000 crore. The liquor "scam" in the state, according to the ED, was orchestrated between 2019 and 2022 when Chhattisgarh was governed by the Bhupesh Baghel-led Congress government.

## RTO e-Challan Scam: public urged to be vigilant

**RAIPUR:** In view of the increasing cases of cyber fraud in Chhattisgarh under the guise of RTO e-Challans, the Office of the Transport Commissioner, Chhattisgarh, has appealed to the general public to be vigilant. According to the department, a new scam related to e-Challans has surfaced in the state recently, in which fraudsters are creating cloned pages of the Transport Department's official website, sending fake messages to people, and defrauding them by tricking them into making online payments. The Transport Department stated that cybercriminals are sending misleading and intimidating messages (SMS/WhatsApp) related to e-Challans to the public, instilling fear of traffic rule violations. These messages contain a link, which people are asked to click. Clicking on the link either leads to the theft of personal information or money being withdrawn from the victim's bank account. In many cases, attempts are also being made to hack mobile phones by sending .apk files or suspicious short links (such as links sent from a personal number). The Transport Commissioner's office has clarified that only the official website should be used for paying RTO challans. Citizens should only visit the <https://echallan.parivahan.gov.in> website to check and pay their genuine e-Challans.

## Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

### NATIONAL CONSUMER DAY

## Chhattisgarh Chamber and DRUCC members inspect Raipur Railway Station

**RAIPUR:** On the occasion of National Consumer Day on Dec 24, with the aim of raising awareness about passengers' rights and facilities, Chhattisgarh Chamber of Commerce and Industries (CCCI) State President Satish Thourani, along with Chhattisgarh Chamber of Commerce and Industries and DRUCC members Lokesh Chandrakant Jain and Jitendra Shad-ija, conducted a detailed inspection of Raipur Junction. During this time, the team interacted directly with passengers and took their feedback on the station's facilities. The inspection team took stock of the basic facilities available for passengers in the station premises, focusing mainly on the following points: Food and Hygiene: The cleanliness of the waiting hall, the availability of rate lists at food stalls, and the quality of food items were checked. Drinking Water and Seat-



ing Arrangements: The availability of RO water was observed, along with adequate seating arrangements for women, disabled people, and those in need. Modern Facilities: The functioning of escalators, lifts, and EV vehicles for the convenience of passengers was checked. Ticketing System: The functionality of the UTS machines installed for local ticket booking was tested to save passengers from long queues. Traffic Management: Suggestions were sought from passengers for improving traffic management outside and within the station premises.

### BLOOD DONATION CAMP

## Raheja Group organises large scale blood donation camp

**RAIPUR:** Raheja Group, a leading real estate developer in Raipur, successfully organized a large-scale blood donation camp at Club Nirvana in Kachna on Dec 25, to commemorate the birthday of the group's Managing Director, Sanjay Raheja. This special initiative was undertaken to ensure timely blood availability for needy and underprivileged patients in the city and to support local healthcare services. Employees and associates of the Raheja Group participated enthusiastically in the camp, fulfilling their social responsibility. All the group's employees and partners united to make this campaign a successful humanitarian mission, and they were honoured with certificates for their generous contribution. During the event, strict safety and hygiene standards were maintained under the supervision of medical experts. Through this collective effort, a significant number of



blood units were collected, which will be made available to various hospitals and blood banks in Raipur for emergency medical needs.

Speaking about this initiative, Sanjay Raheja, Managing Director of the Raheja Group, said, "The success of today's camp is a clear symbol of our social commitment as an organization. Our primary goal was to ensure the availability of blood for the most vulnerable and needy sections of society. I am proud of my associates and employees who stepped forward today to help our community through this selfless service."

### DOCUMENTARY RELEASE

## CM releases documentary honouring the inspirational life of late Rajni Dattatreya Upasane

**RAIPUR:** Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai released the documentary titled "Untold Story of Late Rajni Dattatreya Upasane" at his Residence Office today. The documentary chronicles the inspiring life and legacy of Raipur's first woman MLA, the late Smt. Rajni Dattatreya Upasane.

On the occasion, Chief Minister Sai paid rich tribute to Late Smt. Upasane's enduring contributions to society, public service, and politics. He said that her life stood as a powerful symbol of struggle, dedication, and unwavering commitment to public welfare. From safeguarding democratic values during the Emergency to her significant role in the develop-



ment of Raipur and the upliftment of women and marginalized sections, her contributions continue to inspire generations. Chief Minister Shri Sai added that the documentary would serve as a meaningful medium to acquaint future generations with her life's work and her persona.

On the occasion, Late Smt. Upasane's relatives including Shri Sachchidanand Upasane were also present.

### GOVT ENSURES TRANSPARENCY IN PDS

## State Govt takes decisive action to ensure transparency in foodgrain distribution

**RAIPUR:** Chhattisgarh Government has taken firm steps to ensure transparency and accountability in the Public Distribution System (PDS). Under the current system, foodgrains are being distributed to ration cardholders through e-POS machines using Aadhaar-based authentication. Beneficiaries receive their entitled rations only after biometric verification, ensuring that supplies reach genuine and eligible recipients. Ensuring transparency and accountability in food distribution remains a top priority of the State Government.

To strengthen monitoring, the Directorate of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Protection has constituted inspection teams to conduct regular checks of fair price shops across the district. During these inspections, special attention was paid to distribution processes, record maintenance, and Aadhaar authentication compliance. During the course of inspection, irregularities were detected at cer-

tain fair price shops. Taking these violations seriously, the authorities initiated strict action against the concerned shop operators in accordance with prescribed control provisions. The government has made it clear that negligence or malpractice in the public distribution system will not be tolerated under any circumstances.

The District Food Controller, Raipur, has cancelled the operations of Fair Price Shop ID No. 441001314 – Maa Bhagwati Khadya Suraksha Poshan Evam Upbhokta Sahkari Samiti, Byron Bazar – and Fair Price Shop ID No. 441001256 – Shri Jai Sheeta Kali Khadya Suraksha Poshan Evam Upbhokta Sahkari Samiti, Badaipara. Both have been attached to other fair price shops for further operations.

Additionally, Fair Price Shop ID No. 441001148 – Doodhadhari Mahila Prathamik Sahkari Upbhokta Bhandar, Mahamaya Mandir Ward No. 62 – has been penalized with a fine of Rs 7,000.

### | WORKSHOP ON HYDROPONICS |

## Three-day workshop on Hydroponics technology held

Central Chronicle News

**CSFDC is utilizing hydroponics technology for plant production and training to promote soilless farming.**

**RAIPUR:** The Chhattisgarh State Forest Development Corporation (CSFDC) is utilizing hydroponics technology for plant production and training to promote soilless farming, conserve water and land, and enhance the livelihoods of women's self-help groups (SHGs) and farmers. A three-day training workshop on hydroponics technology was organized by the Chhattisgarh State Forest Development Corporation from December 18 to 20, 2025. The objec-



### FACTFILE

● During the three-day training, participants learned various hydroponic methods through hands-on experience.

tive of this workshop was to impart knowledge on plant production using modern and scientific methods and to promote nursery development. During the workshop, participants received practical training on

planting saplings in trays using a mixture of media such as cocopeat, vermicompost, and soilrite in the correct proportions. Various species of plants with soft stems (softwood) and hard stems (hardwood) were planted. Participants were also taught how to prepare and use nutrient solutions for better plant growth. During the three-day training, participants learned various hydroponic methods through hands-on experience.

### | GREEN PACKAGING |

## New Green Packaging initiative in Bastar industries

Central Chronicle News

**RAIPUR:** A significant and forward-looking initiative has been launched in Bastar district to steer industrial development towards an environmentally friendly direction. On Friday, a special awareness workshop was organized at the Perna Hall of the Collectorate in Jagdalpur under the Rising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) scheme. The objective of this work-

shop was to educate micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and self-help groups in the district about the importance of green packaging and to encourage them to adopt this innovation.

A large number of local entrepreneurs, budding businessmen, and representatives of self-help groups participated in the workshop, exploring future possibilities in the field of packaging material manufacturing. During the program, sub-



ject matter experts from the Quality Council of India and CIPET Raipur shared technical information related to green packaging. They elaborated on methods for preparing eco-friendly packaging from locally available natural and

**Green packaging is not only a means of environmental protection but can also be a powerful tool for economic development and job creation.**

**Prateek Jain**  
CEO District Panchayat

recyclable materials, the cost benefits, and the

growing demand for such packaging in the market.

Addressing the workshop, the Chief Executive Officer of the District Panchayat, Prateek Jain, said that green packaging is not only a means of environmental protection but can also be a powerful tool for economic development and job creation. He said that this initiative will give Bastar products a unique identity in the global market and increase the competitiveness of local enterprises.



# Congress holds “Wisdom Yagna” at NIT Chaupati site targeting Sao, Munat

Targeting BJP’s “stubbornness,” leaders accused MLA Munat’s whims of forcing the relocation without proper preparation, causing widespread chaos.



Central Chronicle News

**RAIPUR:** Congress workers performed a “sadbudhi yagna” at the demolished NIT Chaupati site, holding posters of Deputy CM Arun Sao and BJP MLA Rajesh Munat during the ritual to protest the hasty relocation that has troubled vendors and locals.

Targeting BJP’s “stubbornness,” leaders accused MLA Rajesh Munat’s whims of forcing the relocation without proper preparation, causing widespread chaos. The November 21 demolition amid heavy protests saw Congress workers sitting in front of bulldozers, leading to scuffles with police and arrests—some sent to Central Jail.

**FASTFACTS**

- Targeting BJP’s “stubbornness,” leaders accused MLA Rajesh Munat’s whims of forcing the relocation without proper preparation, causing widespread chaos.

Despite the structures being razed, the new Aamanaka site remains unfinished, plagued by poor lighting, uncleanness, and incomplete facilities.

Vendors continue struggling at the half-ready spot, while Congress demands Rs 6.12 crore recovery from Sao and Munat, questioning Sao’s prior assembly claim that the food court was legal. “Power arrogance crushed business dreams and youth

futures,” fumed former MLA Vikas Upadhyay, warning of escalated action. Mayor Meenal Choubey responded post-protest, assuring rapid fixes for lighting, cleaning, and amenities to reopen soon. Yet, on-ground reality shows darkness and mess, fueling Congress’s offensive against BJP.

NIT Chaupati, a bustling hub for street food and evening crowds, supported dozens of small vendors who invested heavily in stalls and equipment. Relocation promises fell short, leaving families without income during peak season. Congress highlighted how the abrupt move ignored vendor consultations, violating due process.

## Drug peddler nabbed with MDMA at Siddharth Chowk



**RAIPUR:** Raipur Kotwali police arrested Abdul Karim alias Sameer, a Patan-based drug trafficker supplying MDMA for New Year’s parties, seizing 4 grams 790 mg of the drug worth Rs 55,000 from near Naraiya Talab at Siddharth Chowk.

The 26-year-old from Bhatapara, Patan, was caught red-handed delivering the contraband. Interrogation revealed clients and suppliers in Durg and Raipur; police are hunting them down. A mobile phone was also recovered, with charges filed under Section 21A of the Narcotic Drugs Act.

Under “Operation Nishchay,” the Anti-Crime and Cyber Unit has busted 94 cases, arresting 217 suspects and seizing ganja (617 kg), banned tablets (5,329), various drugs including MDMA (40g+), chittita (812g), cocaine (24g), and more—total value Rs 3.85 crore including cash, vehicles, and phones.

Police suspect a larger syndicate and continue grilling Karim for leads on party supplies to outer farmhouses and clubs ahead of New Year celebrations.

## Pakhi Bhatt shines as Chhattisgarh clinches gold in All India Civil Services Tennis

Central Chronicle News

**RAIPUR:** In a historic display of skill and determination, the Chhattisgarh women’s team emerged victorious at the All India Civil Services Tennis Tournament, defeating Rajasthan 2-1 in the final to secure the Gold medal.

This victory is particularly significant as it marks the first time a women’s team category was included in the Civil Services tournament, making Chhattisgarh the inaugural champions of the event. The final was a roller-coaster of talent and resilience. Pakhi Bhatt gave Chhattisgarh a flying start by defeating Rajasthan’s Suman with a crushing 9-0 scoreline in her singles match. After teammate Mukta Meshram lost her singles match to Rajasthan’s Nikita (3-9), the pressure shifted to the



doubles decider. Pakhi Bhatt once again rose to the occasion. Delivering a powerhouse performance in the doubles match, she led the team to a 9-3 victory, sealing the Gold medal for the state. Throughout the tournament, Pakhi remained undefeated, playing a pivotal role in guiding Chhattisgarh to the championship round. Pakhi Bhatt is no stranger to the podium. She has a stellar track record, having won three Gold medals annually

for the past two years at the All India Forest Meet. She is widely regarded as one of the finest female athletes in Chhattisgarh.

Senior forest officials, including Ms. Shalini Raina, Mr. Alok Tiwari, and Ms. Sangeeta Rajagopalan, extended their heartfelt congratulations to Pakhi and the team. They noted that this achievement is not just a proud moment for the state but will also serve as a powerful inspiration for the next generation of women athletes.

## MP pushes port upgrades, net zero in Andaman

Central Chronicle News

**RAIPUR:** Parliament’s Estimates Committee member and MP Brijmohan Agrawal visited Swaraj Island (Havelock) in Andaman-Nicobar, urging faster execution of Rs 620 crore port projects and reviewing petroleum firms’ net zero initiatives.

In meetings with Ports, Shipping and Waterways Ministry officials, local administration, and stake-



holders, Agrawal stressed modern, secure, sustainable port infrastructure to tackle the islands’ geographic challenges. He called for timely rebuilding of old jetties and port expansions to boost mari-

time connectivity, tourism, trade, and blue economy growth.

Later, with Petroleum Ministry reps, ONGC, PSUs, and administrators, he assessed “net zero” efforts.

## NEWSLINE

### TRAINING

**Census 2027 training kicks off in Raipur**



**RAIPUR:** Officials and staff underwent hands-on training in Raipur for the upcoming Census-2027, focusing on seamless execution, digital data collection, and field-level efficiency to ensure accurate population mapping. The session highlighted census as a cornerstone of governance, gathering vital demographic, social, and economic data that fuels policy decisions, development schemes, and resource allocation nationwide. Trainees received detailed guidance on census phases, door-to-door surveys, digital tools for data capture, privacy protocols, and timely operations. Discussions also tackled potential hurdles like remote access or data inaccuracies, with practical solutions shared. District Census Officer Manish Mishra, Assistant Ramnarayan Verma, and Directorate’s Ashish Mishra led the program alongside all zone charge officers, stressing unwavering integrity, transparency, and precision from every team member.

Authorities aim for a glitch-free 2027 census, building on past lessons to deliver reliable stats for India’s planning. The training marks the start of intensive preparations across Chhattisgarh.

## PROPERTY TAX

# Online property tax payment facility available in 53 urban local bodies

Central Chronicle News

**Urban Administration Department’s initiative to modernise local self-governance and provide doorstep services to citizens**

**RAIPUR:** In order to fulfil the objective of modernising local self-governance and providing citizens with services from the comfort of their homes, the Urban Administration and Development Department is continuously introducing new initiatives. Hence, an online property tax payment facility has been made available in 53 urban local bodies across the state. The facility allows citizens to pay property tax anytime from home or work, eliminating the need to visit offices or stand in queues. To provide citizens the facility of paying property tax from home,

the Urban Administration and Development Department launched this service in 46 new urban local bodies in August this year. Earlier, the online property tax payment facility was available only in seven municipal corporations of the state—Raipur, Durg, Bilaspur, Korba and Raigarh. In August 2025, the facility was launched in three more municipal corporations—Birgaon, Bilhail-Charoda and Dhamtari—along with 43 municipal councils. Through the GIS-based Property Tax Live Portal, online property tax payments can now be made in 53 urban local bodies across the state. Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai launched the GIS-based Property Tax Live Portal for 43 municipal councils on August 12 this year during the ‘Swachhta Sangam’ programme organised by the Urban Administration and Development Department in Bilaspur. Since August

2025, citizens in the municipal councils of Tilda-Neora, Gobranawapara, Arang, Gariaband, Balodabazar, Bhatapara, Mahasamund, Bagbahara, Saraipali, Kumhari, Ahiwara, Jamul, Balod, Dalli Rajhara, Bemetara, Dongargarh, Khairagarh, Kawardha, Kondagaon, Narayanpur, Kanker, Kirandul, Bade Bacheli, Dantewada, Sukma, Bijapur, Takhatpur, Ratanpur, Mungeli, Dipka, Katghora, Janjgir-Naila, Champa, Sakti, Akaltara, Kharsia, Saran-

garh, Jashpur Nagar, Balrampur, Surajpur, Manendragarh, Baikunthpur and Shivpur Charcha are availing the facility of online property tax payment.

Expressing his satisfaction over the initiative, CM Sai said that providing transparent, simple and convenient services to all citizens of Chhattisgarh is the highest priority of state government. The online property tax payment facility in urban local bodies is a major step in this direction.

## Crackdown on illegal sand mining: 5 tractors seized

Central Chronicle News

**RAIPUR:** Chhattisgarh forest officials seized five tractor-trailers loaded with illegal sand from the Arpa River, intensifying crackdown on illegal mining under strict orders from Forest Minister Kedar Kashyap. In a swift operation by the Kota Project Division team in Bilaspur, patrols caught the vehicles red-handed during a night watch in Compartment No. P-1586 at Kalmitar Beat. The haul included about 11 cubic meters of sand, with cases registered under Section

33(1k) of the Indian Forest Act 1927. Vehicle owners now face forest crime charges, and the tractors are being processed for confiscation. Investigators found owners had removed number plates to hide identities, but chassis numbers helped trace them via transport department records. The raid, led by Project Officer Vaibhav Sahu under Regional GM Abhishek Singh and Divisional Manager Satyadev Sharma, highlights round-the-clock vigilance boosting forest protection. Managing Director Premkumar praised the team.

**Baidyanath**  
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# Bhilai



Hanuman Chalisa serves as the essence of human life and a weapon against unrighteousness, Pt  
Dhirendra Krishna Shastri

## Over 2.57 Lakh metric tonnes of paddy procured in Durg

The ‘Tunhar Token’ app, now operational 24/7, has revolutionized the process.



A procurement centre in Durg District.

Central Chronicle News

**BHILAI:** Driven by the state government's transparent and farmer-centric policies, paddy procurement in Durg district has gained significant momentum. As of December 26, 2025, the district has successfully purchased 2,57,796.52 metric tonnes of paddy, valued at approximately Rs 61,116.18 lakh. This achievement is attributed to the simplified digital “Tunhar Token” system, which removes previous time constraints, enabling farmers to book sales slots round-the-

### FASTFACTS

- Farmers can secure sale slots anytime from their mobile devices.
- Online payments worth Rs 54096.16 lakh disbursed to farmers.

clock. The promptness of the current administration has left the farming community highly satisfied. So far, 48,629 farmers have benefited from timely online payments totaling Rs 54,096.16 lakh. Furthermore, the logistics of the operation remain robust; over

### Procurement success

The district administration has issued DO/TO (Delivery Orders) for 75432.80 metric tonnes, ensuring that procurement centers do not become overcrowded. With over 3.7 million gunny bags in stock and a 24/7 digital booking system, the process has successfully eliminated the influence of middlemen and long waiting queues.

53,240 metric tonnes of paddy have already been lifted from procurement centers, making space for new arrivals. In a notable display of honesty and cooperation, 24,577 farmers have voluntarily surrendered 466.79 hectares of surplus land area after selling their

yield, effectively blocking middlemen from exploiting the system. The district administration has ensured that all centers are well-equipped, currently maintaining a stock of over 37.59 lakh gunny bags (bardana) to facilitate a smooth and uninterrupted harvest season.

## Last date for Rabi crop insurance

**BHILAI:** Following the directives of Collector Abhijit Singh, the District Agriculture Department has issued an urgent appeal to farmers to enroll in the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) for the Rabi 2025-26 season. The scheme aims to safeguard farmers against financial losses caused by natural calamities such as drought, hailstorms, unseasonal rain, and pests. The final date for insuring notified crops—including Gram, Linseed, Mustard, and both Irrigated and Unirrigated Wheat—is December 31, 2025. Farmers can register through Cooperative Societies, commercial banks, or Public Service Centers (Lok Seva Kendras). Non-loanee farmers are required to submit their latest Aadhaar card, bank passbook, land ownership documents (B-1/ Panchsala), and a sowing certificate. Loanee farmers must ensure their Aadhaar and mobile numbers are updated in bank records to avail of the benefits. The premium rates remain highly affordable at 1.5% of the scale of finance. For instance, the farmer's share for Gram is Rs 630 per hectare, while for Irrigated Wheat, it is Rs 570 per hectare. Given the history of unseasonal rain and hailstorms between January and March, the administration urges farmers not to wait until the final day and secure their livelihoods immediately.

## Mayor reviews development works in Durg



Central Chronicle News

**BHILAI:** A crucial review meeting of ongoing development works was held at the Mayor's Chamber of the Municipal Corporation under the chairmanship of Mayor Alka Baghmar. The meeting focused on projects being implemented across the city, including works under the 15th Finance Commission, road asphaltting, cemented streets, drainage construction, installation of street lights, paving blocks, drinking water arrangements, and beautification initiatives. The Mayor directed officials to complete all tasks within stipulated timelines while maintaining quality standards. She emphasized that negligence in development works would not be tolerated and that providing better civic amenities to residents remains the Corporation's foremost priority.

Detailed discussions were held on the progress of ongoing and proposed schemes. Mayor Baghmar reviewed road construction, water supply systems, beautification projects, and other citizen-centric facilities. She instructed officials to work with coordination and ensure regular monitoring of projects to achieve timely results. The meeting was attended by key officials and representatives, including Public Works In Charge Dev Narayan Chandrakar, Councillor Suruchi Umre, Assistant Engineers Girish Diwan and Sanjay Thakur, along with Rajendra Dhabale, Karan Yadav, Harishankar Sahu, Pankaj Sahu, Aparna Mishra, Vikas Damah, and other officers. The session reflected the Corporation's commitment to strengthening infrastructure and enhancing civic services for the people of Durg.

### NEWSLINE

#### HIT-AND-RUN

### School employee killed

**BHILAI:** In a tragic hit-and-run incident early Friday morning, a female employee of Krishna Public School (KPS) Durg lost her life at Pulgaon Chowk. The victim, identified as 50-year-old Uttara Deshmukh, a resident of Kolhiyapuri, was on her way to work when the accident occurred. According to Pulgaon Station House Officer (SHO) Amit Adani, the incident took place around 7:00 AM while Deshmukh was crossing the road on foot. A speeding unidentified vehicle struck her with such force that she died on the spot. Upon receiving the information, police reached the scene and sent the body for post-mortem. The driver of the vehicle fled the scene immediately after the collision. Pulgaon Police have filed a case against the unknown driver and launched a search operation.

#### SMUGGLING

### 3 more arrested

**BHILAI:** Under the ongoing operation against illegal narcotics, Durg Police have achieved a major breakthrough by arresting three more members of an organized drug syndicate. The accused, identified as Ghanshyam Kaushik (38), Roshan Sao (38), and Md Sarfaraz Khan (24), were apprehended from the Bhilai area on December 25. Investigations revealed a highly organized “supply chain” operating from Punjab to Chhattisgarh. The gang used encrypted WhatsApp calls to coordinate and process payments through both cash and online modes. To date, 33 individuals have been arrested in connection with a case lodged under the NDPS Act and BNS. The police seized four mobile phones used for drug peddling during the latest raid. The Anti-Crime and Cyber Unit (ACCU) and Mohan Nagar Police confirmed that the suspects worked as a cohesive unit to procure and sell “Chitta” (Heroin).

#### TRAFFIC POLICE

### Heavy fines imposed

**BHILAI:** Durg Traffic Police have intensified their crackdown on traffic violators under Operation Suraksha. On December 23, a truck driver, Ganesh Ram (41), was caught driving drunk in a ‘No-Entry’ zone between Nandini Road and Powerhouse Chowk. The court subsequently slapped him with a Rs 30,000 fine. Similarly, at Patel Chowk, another heavy vehicle driver, Saruk Khan (26), tested positive for alcohol consumption while violating no-entry rules. The court imposed a penalty of Rs 32,000 on him. In a third instance, Dhanush Sahu (33) was fined Rs 11,000 for triple-riding and reckless driving under the influence of alcohol. Traffic authorities have warned that strict surveillance will continue. Penalties for drunk driving, overloading, and no-entry violations will remain severe to ensure a safer commuting environment across the district.

## St Xavier's Shanti Nagar celebrates Annual Function



Central Chronicle News

**BHILAI:** St Xavier's School, Shanti Nagar, Bhilai celebrated its Annual Function the other day with grandeur and enthusiasm, showcasing the diverse talents of its students through a vibrant cultural program filled with creativity, discipline, and youthful energy. The event featured captivating dance performances, melodious songs, skits, and other cultural presentations that reflected the imagination, teamwork, and dedication of the young participants. The occasion was graced by Abhishek Mishra, Parishad of Ward No. 14, Shanti Nagar, as Chief Guest.

Special Guests included Rev Fr Sabu Joseph, Parish Priest of Sector 6, and Rev Fr Sebastian Kallath, Parish Priest of Durg. Parents, guardians, alumni, and well-wishers attended in large numbers, adding to the festive spirit of the evening.

The school management, teachers, and students worked in close coordination to ensure the success of the program. The celebration highlighted the institution's commitment to holistic education, cultural enrichment, and the all-round development of its students, making the day a memorable milestone in the school's calendar.

## Applications for PM-AJAY

**BHILAI:** The District Antyavasayi Cooperative Society, Durg, has invited applications under the Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojana (PM-AJAY) to empower the Scheduled Caste community through self-employment. Interested candidates looking to establish their own ventures can apply until January 12, 2026. To be eligible, the applicant must be a native of Durg district, belong to the Scheduled Caste category, and be between 18 and 50 years of age. The family's annual income must not exceed Rs 2.50 lakh, and the applicant must not have any outstanding government loans. Successful applicants will receive a bank-linked loan of at least Rs 1 lakh, supported by a government subsidy of 50% of the loan amount (capped at Rs 50,000). The scheme covers a wide range of trades, from grocery stores and tailoring to motor mechanics and poultry farming.

## Lord Hanuman is inseparable from Lord Ram: Pt. Shastri

Central Chronicle News

**Bageshwar Sarkar urged devotees to carry both the “Mala” and “Bhala” to protect Sanatan Dharma.**

**BHILAI:** The industrial city of Bhilai witnessed an overwhelming sea of devotees on the second day of the Divya Hanumant Katha, led by the internationally renowned spiritual orator, Pandit Dhirendra Shastri of Bageshwar Dham.

During the discourse, Pandit Shastri provided a profound explanation of the sixth verse of the Hanuman Chalisa, “Hath Bajra O DhawjaBiraje.” Addressing the current global scenario and the safety of the community,



Kaushalya Sai seeking blessings from Pt Shastri.

### FASTFACTS

- Shastri explains the deep essence of the Hanuman Chalisa.
- Divya Darbar is scheduled for December 27 at 1:00 PM.

he stated that to protect Sanatan Dharma, it is essential for Hindus to keep both the “Mala” (devotion) and the “Bhala” (strength/protection) together. He emphasized that

Hanuman's devotion to Lord Ram is the ultimate symbol of service, noting that “Lord Ram is incomplete without Hanuman.” According to Shastri, every word of the Hanuman Chalisa serves as the essence of human life and a weapon against unrighteousness.

The event was graced by several prominent figures, including Kaushalya Devi Sai (wife of CM Vishnu Deo Sai), BJP National Vice President Saroj Pandey, MP

Vijay Baghel, and Mayors Neeraj Pal and Alka Baghmar. Other dignitaries like MLA Doman Lal Korsewada and former officials also sought blessings. Organized under the leadership of Rakesh Pandey of the Seva Samarpan Sanstha, the atmosphere remained electric with devotional bhajans.

Looking ahead, the Divya Darbar is scheduled for Saturday at 1:00 PM, where Pandit Shastri will address the grievances of devotees through his signature “parchi” system, followed by the continuation of the Katha.

Held near the Jayanti Stadium, the event saw a massive gathering of followers from Durg, Raipur, Rajnandgaon, and neighbouring states, all converging to seek spiritual solace.

### | ANNUAL BONANZA |

## DAV Public School, HUDCO hosts “Shaurya Unfolds”

Central Chronicle News

**BHILAI:** DAV Public School, HUDCO, Bhilai celebrated its Annual Bonanza under the theme “Shaurya: A Salute to Courage”, dedicated to the valor of Indian soldiers. The Senior Wing presented stirring performances that highlighted discipline, service, and patriotism, instilling pride among the audience.

Chief Guest Shri Satya Narayan Rathore (IAS, Commissioner, Durg

Division) and Guest of Honour Madam Usha Kiran Rathore graced the occasion. The program commenced with lamp lighting, State Anthem, and DAV Gaan. Distinguished dignitaries from Arya Samaj and academia added to its significance.

Principal Shri Prashant Kumar, Regional Officer cum Principal, presented the Annual Report, outlining milestones achieved. The cultural program opened with a welcome dance, followed by thematic acts.



Wings of Wisdom celebrated education's power to inspire citizens. The Silent Sky paid tribute to the tragic Ahmeda-

bad air crash, while the Hindi skit Chanakya Niti aur Bharat Varsh ka Uday emphasized strategic thinking and ethical

leadership. The English play The Last Lesson portrayed a child's realization of parental guidance. Operation Sindoor

stood out as a poignant act showcasing courage and love for the nation. Fusion classical and folk dances from Haryana and Gujarat enthralled the audience, symbolizing India's cultural unity.

The evening also witnessed the crowning of Miss and Master DAV—Disha Shadija and Yathartha Tamrakar—and the release of the 16th edition of the school magazine Spectrum - A Mirror of Young Minds. Awards recognized outstanding students, achievers in

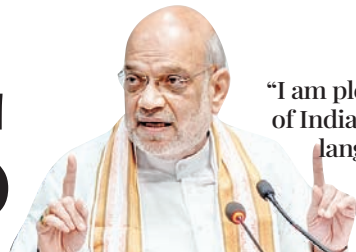
academics and sports, and commendations for teachers and alumni.

In his address, the Chief Guest emphasized courage as integrity, compassion, and perseverance, highlighting meditation's role in holistic growth and India's vision as Vishwaguru.

The program concluded with a vote of thanks by Head Boy Akshat Nair and the National Anthem, leaving the audience with pride and gratitude for the nation's heroes.



# N-E-W-S



"I am pleased to know that Constitution of India has been published in Santhali language as well. This is major accomplishment."

**Amit Shah**  
Union Home minister

## PM Modi meets Rashtriya Bal Puraskar winners



Artists perform during an event on 'Veer Baal Diwas', in New Delhi. Prime Minister Narendra Modi also attended the event. PTI

# Will move Supreme Court, says Unnao rape survivor's mother

Unnao rape survivor's mother protests in Delhi, vows Supreme Court challenge against suspension of life sentence for convict Kuldeep Sengar

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** The Unnao rape survivor's mother on Friday said she will approach the Supreme Court challenging the suspension of life term of convict Kuldeep Sengar as she participated in a protest outside the Delhi High Court against the last week's verdict. Activists from the All India Democratic Women's Association along with activist Yogita Bhayana and the survivor's mother held a protest outside the court, demanding cancellation of the bail of Sengar, an expelled BJP MLA.

Speaking to PTI, the survivor's mother said she had come to the high court to protest as her daughter had endured immense suffering. "I am not blaming the entire high court, but only the two judges whose decision has shattered our trust," she said. The mother added that earlier judges had delivered justice to the family, but the accused had now been granted bail. "This is an injustice towards our family. We will approach the Supreme Court, as I have faith in it," she told PTI. Scores of protesters gathered

### HIGHLIGHT

● **Survivor's mother says bail shattered trust, insists justice denied, Supreme Court intervene.**

● **Protesters demand cancellation of Kuldeep Sengar's bail, allege injustice, raise slogans nationwide.**

outside the high court holding placards saying: "Kuldeep Sengar ki umar kaid ki saza barkaraar rahe" and "Mahilaon ki garima ke saath khilwad nahi chalega" They also raised slogans such as

"Balatkariyo ko sanrakshan dena band kro" and "Gunehgaron ko bachana band karo" (stop protecting rapists and convicts) in support of the Unnao rape survivor.

Criticizing the central government over the ruling, one of the protesters said, "How can the BJP government or the court give him bail. They have to dismiss his bail or this government must go." "This is not a coincidence that the bail was granted just two days before court holidays. This is a planned move. The citizens of this country

are not foolish. Till how long will they continue to deceive us...", another woman said. Demanding the cancellation of Sengar's bail, another protester said, "He has raped a girl and killed her father because of which she is still in this condition. Stop giving protection to the rapist and protect the victims." As the agitators continued their protest, the Delhi Police announced through microphone that demonstration in front of the Delhi High Court is not allowed, warning them of legal action.

## Bus Accident: Death toll rises to seven

**BENGALURU:** The death toll in the tragic bus accident in Karnataka's Chitradurga district rose to seven on Thursday after the driver of the ill-fated sleeper coach bus succumbed to his injuries in the early hours of the day. The horrific accident occurred on Wednesday when the bus collided with a container truck, triggering a massive fire that engulfed both vehicles.

At least six passengers were burnt alive on the spot, while 21 others sustained severe burn injuries and were rushed to nearby hospitals for treatment. Officials said five charred bodies were recovered from the bus, while one body was found inside the container truck. With the driver's death, the toll increased further, underscoring the scale of the tragedy.

### | TRIPURA SPEAKER DIES |

# PM Modi condoles demise of Tripura Speaker BB Sen

Press Trust Of India

**PM Modi mourns Tripura Speaker Biswa Bandhu Sen, recalls development work service**

**NEW DELHI:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday expressed grief over the passing of Tripura Legislative Assembly Speaker Biswa Bandhu Sen, remembering him for his contribution to the state's development and commitment to public service. In a post on X, the Prime Minister said, "Pained by the passing of Shri Biswa Bandhu Sen Ji, Speaker of the Tripura Assembly. He will be remembered for his efforts to boost Tripura's



progress and commitment to numerous social causes. My thoughts are with his family and admirers in this sad hour. Om Shanti." Sen passed away on Friday morning after undergoing treatment for several months at a private hospital in Bengaluru. He was 72 and is survived by his wife, a son, and a daughter. He had been serving as the 11th Speaker of the Tripura

Legislative Assembly since June 21, 2018. Sen suffered a brain haemorrhage on August 8 at Agartala railway station and was initially treated in Agartala before being shifted to Bengaluru for advanced medical care. Union Home Minister Amit Shah also expressed condolences. "The demise of Biswa Bandhu Sen Ji the Speaker of the Tripura Legislative Assembly is deeply

### FACTFILE

● **Tripura Assembly Speaker Sen dies at 72; Amit Shah calls loss grave.**

saddening. A committed leader who dedicated several years of his life to public service, Sen Ji's passing away is a grave loss to the state's political arena. My thoughts are with his bereaved family, friends, and admirers. Om Shanti Shanti Shanti," said Shah.

Union Health Minister and BJP President J.P. Nadda said Sen worked closely with the people and made valuable contributions to Tripura's progress, adding that his service would be remembered with respect.

### | GOOD GOVERNANCE DAY |

## VP Radhakrishnan highlights Vajpayee's legacy

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** Vice President C. P. Radhakrishnan participated as the chief guest at the Good Governance Day celebrations held at Siri Fort Auditorium in Delhi, marking the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Addressing the gathering, the Vice President described



Vajpayee as a visionary leader, accomplished poet and a committed servant of the people, whose governance was anchored in democratic

values, constitutional morality and national consensus. He said Vajpayee's unmatched oratory, humility and commitment to democracy

“Vajpayee's governance was anchored in democratic values and constitutional morality.”

**C. P. Radhakrishnan**  
Vice President

helped guide the country through complex domes-

tic and foreign policy challenges. Radhakrishnan emphasised that good governance was central to Vajpayee's political philosophy and formed the foundation of a strong and prosperous India. He noted that Vajpayee's approach to governance was rooted in transparency, accountability, inclusivity and service to all sections of society.

## Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

### ATAL CANTEEN

## Delhi ministers Sirsa and Pankaj Singh inaugurate 'Atal Canteens' in their constituencies



**NEW DELHI:** Following the formal launch of the 'Atal Canteen' scheme by Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta in Lajpat Nagar, several Delhi Ministers on Thursday inaugurated similar facilities in their respective constituencies, an official said. Environment Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa inaugurated an Atal Canteen in Shyam Nagar, Rajouri Garden, marking a step towards providing affordable, hygienic and nutritious meals to daily wage workers and the needy at a subsidised price of Rs 5. Sirsa thanked the Chief Minister and Prime Minister Narendra Modi for ensuring that the promise of dignified, low-cost meals for the working class and underprivileged is implemented on the ground. Addressing local residents, Sirsa said each Atal Canteen is designed to reflect former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's vision of prioritising service to the poorest. He

added that every canteen will cater to at least 1,000 people twice a day. "Our effort through these canteens is to ensure that no one in Delhi sleeps hungry and that every hardworking citizen has access to a clean and wholesome meal," Sirsa said.

Transport Minister Pankaj Kumar Singh inaugurated an Atal Canteen at JJC, Indra Camp-3, Vikaspuri. It was also announced that three Atal Canteens will be opened in the Vikaspuri Assembly constituency in the coming days to further expand access to affordable meals. Each Atal Canteen will serve up to 1,000 plates daily on a first-come, first-served basis, operating in two shifts – from 12 noon to 2 p.m. and from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. The menu will include seasonal vegetables, rice or millets, roti, dal and pickle to ensure nutritious and hygienic meals for the underprivileged. **PTI**

### BRAWL

## Patients in trouble as IGMC doctors go on mass leave

**SHIMLA:** Patients at Indira Gandhi Medical College here were left inconvenienced on Friday as the prominent doctors' body went on a one-day mass casual leave to protest the termination of a medic following a brawl with a patient. Regular services, including outpatient departments (OPD), were disrupted, causing considerable delays and inconvenience to many patients, especially those from remote areas. Emergency services remained operational. This comes after the Himachal Pradesh government had on Wednesday terminated the services of Dr Raghav Narula for his alleged involvement in a physical fight with a patient, Arjun Singh, on Monday. This came after a video of the confrontation, which took place in the pulmonary ward of IGMC on Monday, surfaced, showing the doctor punching the patient in the face while Singh was attempting to kick the doctor. Singh, who had gone to the hospital for a bronchoscopy and complained of breathlessness alleged that the dispute started over the doctor's choice of words. **PTI**

### SUBMARINE

## Prez Murmu to undertake sea sortie in submarine on 28



**NEW DELHI:** President Droupadi Murmu will undertake a sea sortie in a submarine from Karwar Harbour in Karnataka on December 28, her office has said. The sortie is scheduled during her four-day visit to Goa, Karnataka and Jharkhand from Saturday.

President Murmu will leave for Goa in the evening of December 27, the Rashtrapati Bhavan said in a statement issued on Friday. "On December 28, the President will take a sea sortie in a submarine from Karwar Harbour, Karnataka," it said.

Murmu will grace the centenary celebrations of Ol Chiki at Jamshedpur, Jharkhand on Monday. "On the same day, she will also address the 15th convocation ceremony of NIT, Jamshedpur," the statement said. **PTI**

### MAHARASHTRA CIVIC POLLS

## Pune polls: NCP (SP) leader Jagtap joins Cong after opposing tie-up with Ajit Pawar's NCP



**MUMBAI:** Former Pune mayor and Nationalist Congress Party (SP) city president Prashant Jagtap on Friday joined the Congress, a move the party said would strengthen it ahead of Maharashtra municipal elections scheduled for January 15. Jagtap joined the Congress in the presence of Maharashtra Pradesh Congress Committee president Harshwardhan Sapkal at party headquarters Tilak Bhavan here. Several office-bearers of the NCP (SP) from Pune also switched over to the Congress along with Jagtap.

Welcoming Jagtap, Sapkal said the Congress represents the ideologi-

cal legacy of Shivaji Maharaj, Shahu Maharaj, Jyotiba Phule and B.R. Ambedkar, and is committed to an ideological struggle. "Some political parties today focus only on power and money to win elections. People usually salute the rising sun, but Prashant Jagtap has joined the Congress for ideological reasons," Sapkal said. Leader of the Congress Legislature Party Vijay Wadettiwar said Jagtap refused to align with "communal forces" and chose the Congress without compromising on ideology. "Several offers were made to Jagtap, but he remained committed to progressive values. If such leaders stand with us, 2029 will be ours," Wadettiwar said. Former minister Naseem Khan said the country is facing serious challenges related to democracy, the Constitution, farmers, women, unemployment and law and order. He alleged that casteism and corruption are on the rise and accused the BJP of misleading people and following a policy of breaking parties. "Only the Congress ideology can save the country," Khan said. **PTI**



Beginning a day with the National Song not only provides positive energy, but it also develops dedication and responsibility towards the work.

Amit Kumar  
Collector Sukma



# Chhattisgarh

## Minister hails Atal Bihari Vajpayee as a visionary leader

On Thursday, the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Late Atal Bihari Vajpayee was held in Korba.



Central Chronicle News

**KORBA:** On Thursday, tributes were paid to Bharat Ratna and former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee on his birth anniversary. The program took place at Atal Parisar, near Vivekananda Park, where the chief guest, Minister of Industry, Commerce, Labor, Excise, and Public Undertakings, Lakhanlal Dewangan, along with public representatives and officials, offered floral tributes at Vajpayee's statue.

Lakhanlal Dewangan

### FACTFILE

● **Lakhanlal Dewangan spoke highly about the former Prime Minister and called him a visionary leader.**

emphasized the importance of Atal Bihari Vajpayee's legacy, describing him as a visionary leader, powerful orator, and respected figure across all political parties. Dewangan stated that Atal's leadership led India to historic advancements in sectors like roads, education, and nuclear power. He also credited Vaj-

payee for the formation of Chhattisgarh, noting that the state is now progressing towards a bright future due to his efforts.

The minister expressed gratitude to Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai for initiating the construction of Atal Parisar in urban bodies across the state. He particularly praised the Korba Atal Parisar, calling it one of the best complexes in Chhattisgarh. Dewangan also acknowledged the role of former Chief Minister Dr. Raman Singh, who had launched the con-

struction of Atal Chowks in every village. Furthermore, he highlighted how Prime Minister Narendra Modi is carrying forward Atal's vision of development, with India now emerging as a strong economic force on the global stage.

As part of the Good Governance Day celebrations, a camp organized by the Municipal Corporation received 618 applications from citizens, resolving 162 of them immediately. Work is underway to address the remaining requests.

### Special prayer service draws large gathering

**MUNGELI:** The Christian community celebrated Christmas with great joy on Thursday. The church was beautifully decorated with colorful lights and garlands, creating a festive atmosphere. A special prayer service was held, led by the church pastor, and attended by Christians from the town and surrounding areas.

In his message, the pastor spoke about the significance of Lord Jesus' birth for all of humanity. He emphasized that Christmas, also called the Great Day, is a gospel of joy, according to the Bible.

### Addl Collector chairs Jandarshan for grievance redressal

**MUNGELI:** A public grievance redressal program was held at the District Collectorate on Tuesday to address the issues and demands of villagers, the poor, and common citizens. Under the guidance of Collector Kundan Kumar, Additional Collector G.L. Yadav engaged with the people, listening to their grievances and directing concerned officers to resolve them as per the rules and within the stipulated time frame. Over 150 applications were received, covering issues related to government schemes and community concerns.

## Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

### GRAM SABHA HELD IN KORIYA

## Developed India through comprehensive rural devp under G-RAM-G



**BAIKUNTHPUR:** The Viksit Bharat G-Ram-G scheme will be implemented in Koriya district with the aim of strengthening rural development. To ensure widespread public awareness, extensive discussions were held in Gram Sabhas across the district. These meetings, organized in every Gram Panchayat, provided valuable information to elected representatives, registered laborer families, and rural residents about the evolving nature of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA), now known as G-Ram-G.

Koriya District Collector, Mrs. Chandan Tripathi, had instructed that the Gram Sabhas focus on educating villagers about the PESA Act and provide comprehensive details on the G-Ram-G scheme's integrated framework. This scheme is designed to enhance employment opportunities and livelihood security in rural areas. The State Government has issued directives to widely publicize the key elements of the G-Ram-G, which is part of the "Developed India Employment and Livelihood Guarantee Mission Rural Act 2025."

### GOOD GOVERNANCE

## Good governance prog organized at Atal Chowk

**ODGI:** A Good Governance Day program was organized at Atal Chowk in Gram Panchayat Lanjit on Thursday to commemorate the birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna, former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. The event began with floral tributes to Atal's portrait, followed by a discussion forum focused on his principles and contributions. Sarpanch Dharam Singh Ayam, in his address, highlighted that Atal Bihari Vajpayee was not only a great leader but also a symbol of good governance, patriotism, and democratic values. He emphasized that Atal's ideas continue to inspire the nation to pursue honesty, transparency, and public service. He further urged that the principles of good governance should be applied even at the Gram Panchayat level to ensure sustainable development and welfare for the public. Sarpanch Ayam also appealed to the youth to draw inspiration from Atal's leadership and actively participate in nation-building and social development. During the program, other elected representatives also shared their thoughts on Atal Bihari Vajpayee's legacy, shedding light on his significant contributions to the country.

### SCHEME

## CEO sets deadlines for PMSMBY goals in official meet

**MUNGELI:** Following instructions from Collector Kundan Kumar, District Panchayat CEO Prabhakar Pandey held a meeting with officials to review the progress of the Pradhan Mantri Suryaghar Muft Bijli Yojana (PMSMBY) (Prime Minister's Solar Home Free Electricity Scheme). CEO Pandey emphasized that the scheme is a top priority for the central government and warned that negligence would not be tolerated. He stated that strict action would be taken against those responsible if targets are not met within the specified timeframe.

The CEO expressed dissatisfaction with the slow progress in the Godkhamhi, Manoharapur, Fasterpur, and Temri areas, where processing of applications and installations was lagging. Notices were issued to Junior Engineers Aman Meher and Upendra Kashyap for their lack of progress. The meeting revealed that although 13,496 applications had been received, only 770 vendor selections, 87 installations, 69 inspections, and 59 subsidy disbursements had been completed. This performance was deemed unsatisfactory.

## Ch'garh govt dedicates Atal complexes to 115 cities

**MCB:** A historic event was held in Chhattisgarh on the 101st birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee. On this occasion, newly constructed Atal Complexes in 115 urban bodies of the state were inaugurated simultaneously. Chief Minister Vishnudeo Sai launched the complexes through video conferencing from Raipur, with all urban bodies, including Manendragarh-Chirmiri-Bharatpur, virtually connected. During the program in Manendragarh, former Parliamentary Secretary Champa Devi Pawle highlighted Atal's contributions, such as the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, Chhattisgarh's formation, and his vision for bridging the gap between villages and cities.

### | WORLD RECORD HOLDERS REACH KORIYA |

## Limca world record team arrives to promote int'nl peace

Central Chronicle News

**BAIKUNTHPUR:** Four key members of the Limca Book of World Records-holding World Peace World Foot March team—Awadh Bihari Lal, Jitendra Pratap, Mahendra Pratap, and mountaineer Govinda Nand—visited Korea district in Chhattisgarh and paid a courtesy visit to Collector Mrs. Chandan Tripathi. The team is conducting public awareness campaigns to promote various government welfare schemes across the country, including both state and central initiatives. Their campaign, which spans 33 districts, is aimed at educating the public through the World Peace World Foot March and Chariot March.

The team has already completed a remarkable 452,000 kilometers in



11 countries, a historic achievement that earned them recognition in the Limca Book of World Records. In 2018, they accomplished another milestone by reaching the base camp of Mount Everest, the world's highest peak, during their foot march. Their journey has focused on environmental conservation, and the team has planted over 145 million saplings. They have also conducted public awareness campaigns,

visiting schools, colleges, villages, and public places to engage the community.

The World Peace World Foot March has already covered approximately 600 districts across the country, including 13 districts in Uttarakhand, 75 districts in Uttar Pradesh, and 33 districts each in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Gujarat. Additionally, the team has successfully completed the march in

### FACTFILE

● **The team has completed a total of 452,000 kms spanning 11 countries.**

the Union Territories of Daman and Diu and Goa, as well as 36 districts of Maharashtra. In Chhattisgarh, they have completed the march in 28 of the 33 districts. Upon reaching Korea district, the team organized various public awareness programs, including a significant event in the district headquarters, Baikunthpur, on December 24. The World Peace World Foot March was launched by Awadh Bihari Lal on July 30, 1980, in Kheri district, Uttar Pradesh. In 2001, the current members joined, and the team has grown to include 20 members.

### | RARE BIRD SPOTTED |

## Secretive Ruddy-breasted Crake spotted in Ch'garh

Central Chronicle News

**BAIKUNTHPUR:** The recent sighting of the Ruddy-breasted Crake in Korea district has become a notable attraction for nature enthusiasts and ornithologists. This elusive bird, rarely seen due to its secretive nature and agility, is a key indicator of a healthy ecosystem. Known scientifically as *Porzana fusca*, the Ruddy-breasted



Crake belongs to the rail family. It features a deep reddish-brown chest and neck, a brownish-olive back, red eyes, and a short tail. Its large, strong



legs help it navigate swiftly through grass and marshy areas.

Mainly found in South and Southeast Asia, the Ruddy-breasted Crake is

“The sighting of such birds indicates that the local wetland ecosystem is still thriving.”

Mrs. Chandan Tripathi  
Collector

recorded in India's wetlands in Northeast, East, and Central regions. In Korea district, it thrives in waterlogged fields,

marshes, and areas with dense vegetation. This shy bird is most active during the early morning and evening, foraging for insects, small snails, larvae, and plant seeds. When threatened, it prefers to hide in bushes rather than fly away. It builds its nest in tall grasses during the monsoon season, laying 4-6 eggs, and is highly protective of its young.

### INSPECTION OF PPC

## Collector reviews Banki and Nirjam procurement centers



**MUNGELI:** Collector Kundan Kumar conducted a surprise inspection of the paddy procurement centers at Banki and Nirjam to ensure transparency and smooth functioning of the procurement system at minimum support price (MSP) in the district. He reviewed various aspects of the procurement process, including the total quantity of paddy procured, availability of gunny bags, farmer registration, issuance of delivery orders, land area declarations, and available facilities. The Collector emphasized the importance of transparency and instructed officials to expedite the lifting of paddy to avoid any inconvenience to farmers.

During his visit to the Banki center, the Collector interacted with farmers to understand the ground situation and inspected the paddy

weighing system. He was angered when a complaint surfaced that the center in-charge was making farmers weigh and unload paddy themselves without providing laborers. The Collector reprimanded the in-charge and ordered an immediate inquiry, directing the in-charge's removal. He also addressed concerns related to land area declarations and warned of strict action against any irregularities.

At the Nirjam center, the Collector focused on the quality of the paddy and instructed that substandard paddy should not be accepted. He interacted with farmers to gather feedback on the procurement process and urged them not to fall for middlemen. He also directed officials to maintain cleanliness, order, and discipline at the center.



# Good Governance Day on Atal Bihari Vajpayee’s birth anniversary

Assembly Speaker Dr. Raman Singh participated in the pediatric heart check-up camp.

Central Chronicle News

**RAJNANDGAON:** On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Pandit Atal Bihari Vajpayee, a district-level child heart disease health check-up camp was organized under Good Governance Day at the Bharat Ratna Late Atal Bihari Vajpayee Memorial Medical College and associated hospital in Rajnandgaon. The camp was held in collaboration with Shri Satya Sai Sanjeevani Hospital, Nava Raipur. Assembly Speaker Dr. Raman Singh participated in the event and remembered the contributions of Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

Dr. Singh shared that expert doctors from Shri Satya Sai Sanjeevani Hospital were screening children’s hearts at the camp. Through echo and ECG tests, it was found that around 45 children were suffering from congenital heart disease, which affects their growth and development. Dr. Singh emphasized that early detection is key to effective treatment, and the necessary surgeries will ensure the children’s healthy future. He assured parents that their children would receive free treatment, with continuous follow-up care. Since its



### FASTFACTS

● On Thursday, Good Governance Day was celebrated in Rajnandgaon.

establishment, the Shri Satya Sai Sanjeevani Hospital in Nava Raipur has treated over 21,000 patients from 22 countries, offering free treatment to children suffering from serious illnesses. The hospital, which opened in 2013, performs complex surgeries usually done in major metropolitan cities like Delhi and Chennai, providing life-changing care to both Indian and international patients.

## Kotni to host grand Guru Ghasidas Jayanti celebrations on Dec 29th

**ARANG:** Guru Ghasi Das Baba’s birth anniversary will be celebrated on December 29th in Kotni village, Naya Raipur. The ceremony will begin at 3 PM with the lighting of lamps and prayers at the Guru Gaddi (sacred seat). Following the prayers at 4 PM, there will be captivating performances of the traditional Panthi dance. In the evening, a cultural program will be presented by Lok Arpan.

The event will be presided over by Avinash Makhija and organized with the support of the entire Satnami community of Kotni. Komal Makhija, Social Media In-charge and a member of the All India Satnam Sena, shared these details.

## Four held for transporting ganja on motorcycles

Central Chronicle News

**BASNA:** Sankara police achieved a major success in their anti-drug campaign by arresting four individuals smuggling ganja on motorcycles. The action took place near Guru Ghasidas Chowk on NH-53 road during a roadblock set up by the police after receiving a tip-off about the smuggling.

On December 25, 2025, two motorcycles arrived at the spot as described by the informant. When signaled to stop, the riders attempted to flee but were quickly apprehended.

The arrested individuals were carrying 20 kg of ganja, including 15 kg worth approximately Rs.1.5 lakh and 5 kg worth Rs.50,000. The accused were identified as Pusu Lal (32), Vijay (27), Vinod (37), and Hariram (23), all residents of Balaghat, Madhya Pradesh. The police seized items worth Rs.3.71 lakh, including the ganja, two motorcycles, mobile phones, and cash.

A case has been filed under the NDPS Act, and further investigation is underway to identify other individuals involved in the drug trade.

## Hemant Khute honored at Raipur Lok Sabha MP sports festival

**RAIPUR:** The closing ceremony and prize distribution of the Raipur Lok Sabha MP Sports Festival took place at Deen Dayal Auditorium in Raipur. The event was held under the chief patronage of Chief Minister Vishnudeo Sai, with MP Brijmohan Agrawal presiding and BJP State President Kiran Singh Deo in attendance.

During the ceremony, several prominent sports personalities from Chhattisgarh were honored. Hemant Khute, a national chess

player, coach, author, and State Secretary of the Chhattisgarh State Chess Association, was recognized for his significant contributions to chess. He has been promoting the game for over 33 years, providing free chess training to school children and running the Knight Chess Club without charge.

MP Brijmohan Agrawal and MLA Sunil Soni presented Khute with a certificate of appreciation and a shawl in recognition of his dedicated service to the sport.

## Gurukul senior wing celebrates 22nd annual day Srijan with grandeur



Central Chronicle News

**KAWARDHA:** Gurukul Public School, Kawardha, celebrated its annual day “Srijan” with vibrant performances by students. The event was attended by the Chairman, office bearers, directors, principal, teachers, and a large number of students. Guests of honor included Ms. Kriti Gupta, Captain of the Chhattisgarh Senior Women’s Cricket Team, Ms. Ishwari Sahu, President of Janpad Panchayat, and Mr. Kailash Chandravanshi.

The program began with the garlanding of Goddess Saraswati’s portrait and the lighting of lamps. School Principal Manoj

Rai presented the annual report and highlighted the school’s achievements. Talented students were honored for excellence in various fields. Cultural programs by students from classes 2nd to 8th showcased themes like art, culture, and action, including performances on Shivaji, Dashavatar, and Jai Jawan - Jai Kisan. The performances received much appreciation, with special praise for the World Hunger and Bahubali presentations. The event concluded with the national anthem. Mementos were presented to guests, and a vote of thanks was given by administrator Manoj Gonade.

## Jharia Yadav Samaj discusses local issues with Ahiwara MLA

**NANDINI AHIWARA:** The Chhattisgarh Jharia Yadav Samaj from Godhi area met with MLA Rajmahant Doman Lal Korsewara to invite him as the chief guest for their upcoming event. The event will include a social conference, talent recognition ceremony, youth introduction program, and an ideal marriage ceremony. It is scheduled to take place on Sunday, February 8, 2026, in the village of Chetuwa, under the Godhi area. The meeting, which took place in a cordial atmosphere, was attended by several community leaders. Among those present were District Executive President Mangal Prasad Yadav, Godhi Area President Yashpal Yadav, Vice President Pawan Yadav, Youth Wing Vice President Sandeep Yadav, Organizing Secretary Manohar Yadav, Chetuwa Secretary Ramdular Yadav, and Asidhara Area President Rajesh Yadav.

## Basna’s newly constructed Atal Parisar opens to public

Central Chronicle News

On Thursday, on the occasion of Good Governance Day, CM Vishnu Deo Sai inaugurated an Atal Parisar in Basna.

**BASNA:** The virtual inauguration of the newly constructed Atal Parisar in Basna Nagar Panchayat, located on Arekel Road, was held on Thursday in a dignified ceremony. Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh, Vishnu Deo Sai, was the Chief Guest and inaugurated the complex by cutting the ribbon at the Atal Parisar in Raipur. Along with the Basna inauguration, 115 other Atal Parisar complexes across various cities and towns of Chhattisgarh were also virtually inaugurated. The program was presided over by Deputy Chief Minister Arun Sao, with Speaker of the Legislative Assem-



### FASTFACTS

● CM Sai spoke on the achievements of former Prime Minister Late Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

bly, Dr. Raman Singh, attending as the special guest.

Key dignitaries included Member of Parliament Rookumari Choudhary, MLA Basna Dr. Sampat Agarwal,

Basna Nagar Panchayat President Dr. Khushboo Abhishek Agarwal, Vice President Sheet Gupta, senior physician Dr. N.K. Agarwal, BJP District Vice President Ramesh Agarwal, and other prominent public representatives, councilors, and a large number of Basna residents. Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai praised the efforts behind the Atal Parisar, stating, “Atal

Bihari Vajpayee gave the country direction towards development and good governance. This complex, built in his name, will foster social and cultural development across Chhattisgarh.” Speaker Dr. Raman Singh emphasized that Atal Bihari Vajpayee was a leader beyond politics, and projects like Atal Parisar are key to preserving his legacy.

| AGRICULTURAL CENTERS SEALED |

## Four centers sealed for fertilizer irregularities

Central Chronicle News

**KHAIRAGARH:** With the commencement of the Rabi season 2025-26, the Agriculture Department has launched a vigorous crackdown on fertilizer and seed vendors attempting to deceive farmers. Acting swiftly, the administration banned sales and seized materials from four agricultural centers in Khairagarh-Chhuikhadan-Gandai district, which were

found to be in violation of the Fertilizer Control Order. This decisive action has shaken up illegal and negligent vendors in the district. The department is conducting a continuous inspection campaign to ensure farmers receive quality fertilizers, seeds, and pesticides on time.

On December 24, 2025, surprise raids were conducted at Maurya Krishi Kendra (Dauchaura),

Sagar Krishi Kendra (Piplakachhar), Vikas Krishi Kendra (Gadaghat), and Janvi Krishi Kendra (Gadaghat) under Khairagarh development block. During these raids, major irregularities were uncovered, including the absence of stock registers, source certificates, price lists, and cash/credit memos. These violations were deemed clear breaches of the Fertilizer Control Order, resulting in an

“No compromise will be tolerated with regard to the interests of the farmers.”  
Agriculture Department

immediate sales ban and the seizure of materials. Show cause notices were issued to the concerned operators.

The raids were carried out by a joint team

led by Sub-Divisional Agriculture Officer Virendra Dahariya and Assistant Director Lukman Sahu, under the guidance of Deputy Director of Agriculture Mr. Solanki. The Agriculture Department has issued a stern warning that no leniency will be shown to vendors who neglect farmers’ interests. This action has been widely appreciated by farmers, while agricultural traders across the district are on alert.

## NSS camp offers eye check ups and veterinary care

Central Chronicle News

**KHARORA:** A seven-day special camp organized by the National Service Scheme (NSS) unit in Asaunda village provided valuable services to the local community. The M.G.M. Eye Institute offered free eye examinations and treatment to the villagers. Eye specialists, including Kirti Dewangan, Bhumika Jaiswal (Optometrist), and Khemmin Sahu, conducted thorough eye exams and provided necessary treatments, including

spectacles and medicines, for both villagers and NSS volunteers. In addition to treatment, the villagers were educated on eye health and encouraged to adopt healthier lifestyles. The Animal Husbandry Department team, led by Rashmi Gupta (Assistant Veterinary Officer), also conducted essential animal care services. They treated 13 animals, distributed medicine to 97 animals, performed one castration, and provided treatment for one case of Lumpy Skin Disease and nine other cases.

### NEWSLINE

#### GOOD GOVERNANCE DAY

*Tribute program held at Atal Complex on Atal’s birth anniversary*



**BEMETARA:** A tribute program was held on Thursday at the Atal Complex in Bemetara to commemorate the birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna, former Prime Minister, and the late Atal Bihari Vajpayee. The event was graced by Bemetara MLA Deepesh Sahu, who participated as the chief guest. Along with BJP members, MLA Sahu lit a lamp and offered heartfelt tributes to the portrait of the revered Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

In his address, MLA Deepesh Sahu highlighted Atal Bihari Vajpayee’s remarkable leadership and unwavering commitment to nationalist ideology, democratic values, and governance. He described Vajpayee as a symbol of sensitive leadership and visionary thinking, whose historical decisions in the nation’s interest continue to inspire citizens.

#### INSPECTION

*Collector and CEO conduct joint inspection of development and welfare projects*



**BIJAPUR:** Collector Mr. Sambit Mishra and CEO of the District Panchayat Mrs. Namrata Chaubey conducted an inspection of the rehabilitation center, central library, and government garment factory. During their visit to the rehabilitation center, they inquired about the well-being of the rehabilitated individuals and reviewed the necessary documents being prepared for them, including the stipends, kit bags, and other support provided.

#### MEETING

*Village women’s organization general meeting successfully concludes in Charoda*



**ARANG:** On Wednesday, the Charoda Village Women’s Organization held its general meeting, with enthusiastic participation from women across all the village’s women’s groups. The event featured several engaging activities, including balloon blowing, bindi application, and the traditional Sua dance, which were the main attractions of the day. The meeting was a lively occasion, showcasing the spirit and unity of the women involved in the organization.





“Policy reforms, new labour codes, digital innovation, and rising exports have strengthened India’s position as a trusted global partner.”

**Piyush Goyal**  
Commerce Minister

## Navi Mumbai Airport starts flight operations



An aircraft accorded a ceremonial water cannon salute as Navi Mumbai International Airport commenced commercial flight operations. PTI

# Entry for duplicate securities doubled to 10 Lakh, says SEBI

SEBI unveils investor-friendly reforms to simplify duplicate securities issuance and ease compliance under the Basic Services Demat Account framework.

Press Trust Of India

**MUMBAI:** In a significant move aimed at improving ease of investing and reducing procedural bottlenecks, capital markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has announced a series of reforms related to the issuance of duplicate securities and the Basic Services Demat Account (BSDA) framework. The changes are intended to enhance investor convenience, streamline regulatory processes and lower com-

### NUMBER

10

● SEBI doubles simplified documentation threshold for duplicate securities to Rs 10 lakh.

pliance burdens for both investors and market intermediaries. One of the key reforms pertains to the issuance of duplicate securities. SEBI has doubled the monetary threshold for

availing a simplified documentation process to Rs 10 lakh from the earlier limit of Rs 5 lakh. Under the revised norms, investors holding securities valued up to Rs 10 lakh will now be required to submit fewer documents when applying for duplicate securities in cases such as loss, theft or damage of original certificates. The regulator said the move will help address inconsistencies across issuers and depositories, while making the process faster, more efficient and investor-

friendly.

Market participants believe this step will particularly benefit retail investors, who often face delays and complexity in completing extensive paperwork for relatively small-value holdings. By reducing documentation requirements, SEBI aims to cut turnaround time and improve overall investor experience.

SEBI has also announced relaxations in the Basic Services Demat Account framework. Under the revised guidelines, Zero Coupon

Zero Principal (ZCZP) bonds and delisted securities will be excluded from the valuation threshold used to determine eligibility for BSDA accounts. Earlier, the inclusion of such instruments often pushed investors beyond the permissible limits, resulting in the loss of BSDA benefits. The regulator stated that the exclusion of these instruments is aimed at further enhancing the BSDA facility, which is designed to offer low-cost demat services to small investors.

## Tractor wholesale volume may grow 15-17 pc this fiscal: ICRA

Press Trust Of India

Tractor wholesale volumes seen rising 15-17% this fiscal, says ICRA.

### FACTFILE

● GST reduction, good monsoon, pre-buying ahead of norms boost the demand.

**MUMBAI:** Wholesale tractor volumes are expected to grow 15-17 per cent in the current financial year, significantly higher than the earlier estimate of 8-10 per cent, driven by a combination of supportive policy measures and improving rural demand conditions, rating agency ICRA said on Friday. The upward revision follows the tractor industry's strong performance in recent months. Wholesale volumes recorded a sharp year-on-year growth of 30.1 per cent in November, while cumulative volumes for the April-November period rose 19.2 per cent compared to the corresponding period last year. The sustained momentum

prompted ICRA to reassess demand prospects for the sector. According to the agency, the improved outlook reflects strengthening demand fundamentals supported by favourable economic and regulatory factors. The tractor industry is currently witnessing a phase of recovery and expansion, aided by policy interventions, positive agricultural output expectations and evolving market dynamics. A key driver behind the demand surge has been the reduction in the Goods and Services Tax (GST) on tractors to 5 per cent. ICRA noted that the lower tax rate has significantly improved tractor affordability for farmers.

### | FOAID MUMBAI 2025 |

## VOX showcases architectural design innovation at FOAID

Press Trust Of India

VOX showcases design-led ceiling, wall systems at FOAID Mumbai 2025.



### FACTFILE

● Architecture ideas initiative highlights ceilings as defining architectural design elements.

rary interiors and built environments. Beyond the product display, VOX's participation was anchored in its continued partnership with FOAID through the Architecture Ideas initiative. Conceived as a platform to recognise conceptual clarity and future-focused thinking, the initiative places architects and designers at the centre of the conversation. By prior-

itising design intent and built work over individual endorsements, it supports a design-first approach that engages meaningfully with the architecture and interiors community. This year, the initiative introduced a dedicated category titled 'VOX Ceilings as a Design Statement', developed in collaboration with FOAID. The category was conceived to highlight ceilings as a defining architectural element, often referred to as the fifth surface, that plays a critical role in shaping spatial experience and visual identity, yet remains underrecognized in mainstream design.

## GeM's auction module fetches Rs 2,200 Crore

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** The Government e-Marketplace (GeM) has significantly strengthened the disposal of government assets through its Forward Auction module by enabling online competitive bidding and enhancing transparency in the process, the Ministry of Commerce and Indus-

try said on Thursday. The digital initiative has emerged as a key tool for efficient asset monetisation by government departments across the country. According to the ministry, the Forward Auction module has facilitated auctions worth more than Rs 2,200 crore between 2021 and November 2025. During this period, over 13,000



auctions were successfully conducted through the platform, reflecting growing adoption of digital auction mechanisms by central and state gov-

ernment entities.

The ministry further stated that the module has onboarded more than 23,000 registered bidders, ensuring wide participation and competitive price discovery. In addition, more than 17,000 auctioneers, including various government departments and public sector undertakings, have used the

platform to dispose of surplus or obsolete assets in a structured and transparent manner. The Forward Auction module is designed as a fully digital bidding process that allows government organisations to sell assets such as scrap material, electronic waste, outdated vehicles, old machinery and leasehold properties to the highest bidder.

## BizBriefs

BEST OF THE REST

### INDIAN MARKET

## Sensex falls by 367 points, Nifty dips to settle at 26,042: Both indices remain under pressure



**MUMBAI:** Benchmark domestic equity indices, the Sensex and the Nifty, ended the session on a bearish note today. Both indices opened in negative territory and remained under pressure throughout the trading session. The Sensex fell by 367 points or 0.43 per cent, to close at 85 thousand and 41, while the Nifty dipped 100 points or 0.38 per cent, to settle at 26 thousand and 42. The broader market indices at the Bombay Stock Exchange also closed in negative zone. The Mid-Cap index settled nearly 0.2 per cent down and the Small-Cap index lost over 0.3 per cent. Earlier the equity markets had ended lower yesterday, as investors adopted a cautious approach during the holiday-shortened trading week, refraining from taking fresh positions in the absence of strong domestic or global cues. Muted participation, combined with profit-booking in select sectors and the expiry of Sensex derivatives, kept benchmark indices under pressure throughout the session. The BSE Sensex closed at 85,041.45, reg-

istering a decline of 367.25 points, or 0.43 per cent. Meanwhile, the NSE Nifty slipped 99.80 points, or 0.38 per cent, to settle at 26,042.30. Market participants largely remained on the sidelines, tracking global trends and awaiting clearer triggers for directional movement. Analysts noted that technical resistance remains firm in the 26,200-26,330 range on the Nifty. Repeated rejections near this zone indicate sustained selling pressure at higher levels, limiting any meaningful upside in the near term. The cautious sentiment was further aggravated by weakness in heavyweight stocks across key sectors. Information technology stocks bore the brunt of the sell-off, with the Nifty IT index declining 1.03 per cent. Stocks such as HCL Technologies faced notable selling pressure, reflecting concerns over global demand and currency-related headwinds. Automobile stocks also remained under stress, with the Nifty Auto index ending 0.52 per cent lower, dragged by profit-taking after recent gains.

### LIQUOR

#### KSBC records

#### Rs 333 cr liquor sales in Christmas-NY season

**KOTTAYAM:** As Kerala celebrated Christmas, the Kerala State Beverages Corporation (KSBC) recorded liquor sales worth Rs 333 crore through its BEVCO outlets during the first four days of the festive season, officials said on Friday. The KSBC on Friday released data on liquor sales during the Christmas-New Year season, which began on December 22. According to the data, liquor worth Rs 332.62 crore was sold through KSBC liquor shops and warehouses during the four-day period. Sales during the first four days registered an increase of 18.99 per cent compared to the corresponding period last year, when sales stood at Rs 229.54 crore. The highest single-day sale was recorded on December 24, when liquor worth Rs 114.45 crore was sold. Sales on December 22 stood at Rs 77.62 crore, followed by Rs 81.34 crore on December 23 and Rs 59.21 crore on December 25.

The KSBC considers the period from December 22 to 31 as the Christmas-New Year festive season. KSBC officials said liquor sales are expected to rise further on December 30 and 31, as part of the New Year celebrations. During the 12-day Onam festive season this year, the KSBC had recorded liquor sales of Rs 970.74 crore.

### FOREX

#### Forex reserves

#### rise by USD 4.36 bn to USD 693 bn



**MUMBAI:** India's foreign exchange reserves rose sharply by USD 4.368 billion to USD 693.318 billion during the week ended December 19, according to data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday. The increase reflects gains across key reserve components, including foreign currency assets and gold holdings. In the previous reporting week, the country's forex reserves had increased by a relatively modest USD 1.689 billion to USD 688.949 billion, indicating a stronger build-up in the latest period. Analysts said the rise provides a comfortable cushion against external shocks and strengthens India's external sector stability. Foreign currency assets (FCAs), which constitute the largest share of the forex reserves, rose by USD 1.641 billion to USD 559.428 billion during the week. The RBI clarified that FCAs, expressed in dollar terms, also reflect the impact of appreciation or depreciation of major non-US currencies such as the euro, pound sterling and Japanese yen held in the reserves.

### GOLD-PRICE

## Paisabazaar and YES BANK announce upgraded Credit Card with more dining and travel benefits

**MUMBAI:** Paisabazaar, India's largest consumer credit marketplace and free credit score platform, and YES BANK, India's sixth largest private sector bank, have announced the launch of the upgraded YES BANK Paisabazaar PaisaSave Credit Card. This co-created credit card now offers one of the highest dining and travel cashback benefits in its category. With a powerful 6% cashback on dining and travel spends, the revamped PaisaSave Credit Card delivers strong value with no joining fee, making it an ideal choice for consumers who are avid travellers, foodies and frequent diners. The upgraded card also offers savings on day-to-day spends and is one of the most rewarding lifestyle credit cards in its segment for new-age India. Customers can earn up to Rs. 3,000 cashback per month through accelerated 6% benefits on dining and travel. Beyond this cap, all spends in these categories continue to



earn 1% cashback. In addition, users can instantly activate a virtual YES BANK PaisaSave RuPay Credit Card, allowing seamless UPI-based credit payments for everyday transactions. Mr. Anil Singh, Country Head - Credit Cards and Merchant Acquiring, YES BANK, said, "As spending on dining and travel continues to grow, credit card users are seeking meaningful rewards that truly add value to these experiences. We are pleased to present the new PaisaSave Credit Card, in partnership with Paisabazaar, which brings premium benefits and propositions designed to elevate everyday financial experiences for consumers across segments."









QUOTE FROM THE QUOTABLE

“Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high, knowledge is truly free.”

[ Rabindranath Tagore ]

| OUR VIEW |

# Minority Safety Tests Bangladesh’s Democratic Commitments

India’s unusually firm public intervention on the worsening situation in Bangladesh marks a moment that cannot be dismissed as routine diplomatic posturing. When New Delhi flags “unremitting hostility” against minorities, it is not merely responding to isolated incidents but pointing to a deeper, systemic failure that threatens Bangladesh’s social fabric and democratic credibility. The concern articulated by the Ministry of External Affairs is anchored in disturbing facts. Documented cases of killings, arson and land-grab targeting Hindus, Christians and Buddhists have crossed alarming thresholds. These are not episodic law-and-order lapses but sustained patterns of intimidation that create fear among vulnerable communities. To reduce them to media exaggeration or political crossfire is to deny lived realities. Equally significant is India’s rejection of attempts to redirect blame through anti-India rhetoric. Internal security, public order and minority protection are sovereign responsibilities of the Bangladeshi state. Externalising these failures neither protects minorities nor restores public confidence. Instead, it deepens mistrust and fuels nationalist diversion at the cost of accountability. The recent lynchings in Mymensingh and Rajbari have intensified anxieties amid political uncertainty following the fall of the Sheikh Hasina government. Political transition, however, cannot become an excuse for lawlessness. In times of flux, the test of governance lies precisely in safeguarding those most at risk. India’s position on political developments, including the return of Tarique Rahman and the role of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party, remains measured. Support for free, fair and inclusive elections reflects a consistent belief that legitimacy flows from democratic consent, not street power or majoritarian intimidation. New Delhi’s stance is not adversarial but principled. Its emphasis on historical ties, shared liberation memories and people-to-people bonds underscores a desire for stability, not discord. Yet friendship does not demand silence in the face of injustice. By clearly stating that minority safety is non-negotiable, India signals that democratic norms, human dignity and equal citizenship must form the foundation of Bangladesh’s future. Ultimately, Bangladesh’s credibility—regionally and globally—will be judged by how it protects its minorities.

| GUEST VIEW |

# Unmatched Sacrifice, Eternal Message of Courage

The saga of sacrifice associated with the tenth Sikh Guru and his family stands without parallel, not just in India’s history but across the moral landscape of the world. It is a story that transcends time, geography and faith, speaking directly to the conscience of humanity. Few chapters in human history reflect such steadfast commitment to righteousness in the face of overwhelming personal loss. The martyrdom of the Sahibzadas, Baba Zorawar Singh and Baba Fateh Singh, remains one of the most stirring examples of courage. Despite their tender age, they faced unspeakable brutality with unshakeable resolve. Their refusal to abandon their faith, even under the gravest threat, sends a powerful message: that truth and justice are worth every sacrifice. Their bravery continues to inspire generations to stand firm against oppression and injustice. These sacrifices were never acts of despair but conscious choices rooted in the protection of humanity and moral values. They remind society that principles must never be compromised for comfort or fear. Observing Veer Bal Diwas is therefore not merely an act of remembrance; it is a reaffirmation of collective responsibility. On this day, remembering all Sikh Gurus and the sacrifices of their families is essential.



Devendra Fadnavis

# Comment Kerala Voters’ Local Message To The Three Fronts

Local body elections before the general election is a gamble and the ruling Left Front (LDF) ventured to take that in Kerala and suffered an unexpected defeat in the hands of Congress led United Democratic Front (UDF). The summary of the results being Left lost, Congress gained and BJP got acceptability in Kerala.

This shock was unbearable for the LDF and Left leadership is clueless and confused in their reaction to the loss. While the leader of LDF Pinarayi Vijayan and the CPM maintained stoic silence CPI is blaming CPM for the defeat of LDF. The CPI holds the handling of Sabarimala gold theft case by the Chief Minister as the prime reason for the defeat. The accused in the temple theft case was an official handpicked by CM Pinarayi Vijayan, the CPI points out. The message of communists being thieves of God’s property went into the Hindu voter mind and that lead to vote against the LDF feel state CPI secretary Binoy Viswam. He sought views from the Kerala public, an unusual from a political party, asking the people to write to the CPI either by post or mail their views on dismal performance of Left parties. Coming from a communist party which boasts of working among the people on daily basis, it is surprising, that it failed to read the public mood.

LDF is in serious trouble as it was under attack on more than one front. Current defeat is the result of anti-incumbency coupled with the changing political dynamics of the Kerala. The Congress led UDF made the voter to believe that Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan is in tacit understanding with the BJP leadership in Delhi, as his own family is facing probe by central agencies like CBI and ED. Muslim voters believed that despite Pinarayi Vijayan’s Muslim appeasement policies and actions. Christians, the influential minority religious group of Kerala, peeved at the way the Muslim community is pampered by the LDF by supporting the Waqf claims on the Christian church properties.

Christian families are now convinced that their girls are targets of Love Jihad youth. LDF leaders including the CM Pinarayi Vijayan consistently rejected the Love Jihad in Kerala and argued that it was the pure love between girl and boy beyond religious barriers. The Christian community question of “if it a love then why the Muslim girls are not loving boys outside their own community and there were no reports of Muslim girls eloping with Hindu or Christian boys?” remained unanswered from the Left. Muslims gone back to Congress and some section of Christians sided with BJP in solidarity with Hindu families, who are the main targeted victims of Love Jihad in Kerala.

The Hindu vote which used to be divided on the caste lines, benefitting both LDF and UDF, seems to have not happened that way but they voted as Hindus favouring NDA lead by BJP. Though the NDA remained distant third, the BJP has made a big statement by capturing the Tiruvananthapuram Municipal Corporation ending the CPM’s 45 year rule and that is more hurtful for the Left. The LDF and UDF have failed to live up to their rhetoric of ‘No entry for BJP into Kerala’. Earlier elections saw tacit cooperation between UDF and LDF to defeat BJP candidates. This



Dr Duggaraju Srinivasa Rao

time such a cooperation is apparently not there as both LDF and UDF seriously fought the semi-final before the coming final of assembly election in 2026. In such a scenario the task of BJP lead NDA became quite easy to gain some seats. LDF campaign was largely defensive, instead of projecting its track record on development including elimination of ‘extreme poverty’ in the state, the CPM focussed on Congress’s association with the Jamaat-e Islam affiliate Welfare party of India and the allegation of sexual misconduct of Congress MLA Rahul to claim ladies vote. BJP, UDF campaign on temple gold theft issue over shadowed Left.

The results have lessons to all the three fronts, as each front gained in other front’s strong holds and lost where they expected to score well. Obviously local issues dominated in voting. The clear message is that Kerala is no more a bipolar political state, with the BJP emerging as a force in both urban and rural areas. The front which reenergises in the coming crucial four months and runs the campaign will gain in early ’26 elections.

# Air Pollution’s Silent Siege on Public Health

Air pollution has quietly overtaken infectious diseases as India’s gravest health threat, triggering a long-term crisis that demands urgent medical and policy intervention. *By Aparna Bose*



Air pollution has emerged as India’s most severe public health challenge since Covid, silently inflicting long-term damage and threatening to overwhelm an already strained healthcare system unless urgent action follows. For doctors tracking respiratory and cardiac trends globally, the warning signs are unmistakable. Air pollution is no longer just an environmental concern; it is a slow-burning health emergency. Medical experts caution that a vast reservoir of undiagnosed airway disease is steadily accumulating, particularly in North India, where prolonged exposure to toxic air has already compromised lung health for millions.

Clinicians emphasise that what hospitals are currently witnessing represents only a fraction of the real problem. Behind rising outpatient queues lies an invisible epidemic of chronic respiratory illness that often goes untreated until it becomes severe. December alone saw a 20-30 per cent surge in respiratory cases in Delhi hospitals, including first-time patients and young adults—an alarming shift that underlines how deeply pollution is affecting newer generations. While policy debates continue, doctors argue that the science is no longer ambiguous. There is overwhelming global evidence linking polluted air to respiratory, cardiovascular, neurological and systemic diseases. The

steady rise in heart ailments over the past decade, they note, cannot be explained by lifestyle factors alone. Toxic emissions from road transport and aviation have played a far greater role than is often acknowledged.

The government has recognised that the transport sector accounts for a significant share of urban pollution, with Union minister Nitin Gadkari recently admitting that fossil fuel dependence is a major contributor. Yet, parliamentary statements maintaining the absence of conclusive data linking air quality indices directly to disease have frustrated health professionals, who warn that such caution risks dangerous complacency. Doctors stress that pollution control, while essential, is no longer sufficient on its own. Years of sustained exposure mean that prevention must now be matched with early detection and structured treatment. They point to India’s success in tackling tuberculosis through nationwide screening and treatment programmes as proof that large-scale public health interventions are possible when urgency is recognised.

Cardiologists add that pollution-related damage often progresses silently. Fine particulate matter such as PM2.5 is invisible, making exposure difficult for individuals to perceive or monitor. Early symptoms—fatigue, headaches, mild coughs or recurrent infections—are frequently dismissed, even though they may signal the onset of chronic disease. Data from Parliament show over two lakh acute respiratory illness cases in Delhi alone over three years, with tens of thousands hospitalised. Globally, PM2.5 pollution caused over 17 lakh deaths in India in 2022, according to the The Lancet Countdown. Studies by the International Council on Clean Transportation suggest that strong transport-emission policies could save millions of lives worldwide. The message from the medical community is clear: clean air must become a core public health priority. Delays will only deepen human suffering and economic loss, turning today’s warning into tomorrow’s irreversible crisis.

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## YOUR LETTERS

### Self-reflection gives meaning to passing time

As another year nears its end, it is time to pause and reflect. Life moves relentlessly forward, and these remaining days define the year’s true essence. Self-introspection about personal growth, achievements, losses, time wasted on social media, and spiritual development is essential. Without conscious planning and discipline, days slip away without purpose. The real celebration of the New Year lies not in festivity but in recognising the value of each moment and regretting time squandered meaninglessly. Thoughtful scheduling can shape a more fulfilling and purposeful future.

Nadim, Amroha

### Selective nationalism fuels dangerous communal hypocrisy

Communalising incidents abroad by branding entire communities as extremists, while ignoring or justifying violence at home, exposes stark hypocrisy. Claims of nationalism ring hollow when citizens are attacked for language, identity or faith. Silence over killings within India, coupled with loud condemnation of foreign events, reflects selective outrage and dangerous bias. Such attitudes weaken democracy and normalise intolerance. True nationalism must uphold justice, dignity and human life equally, not selectively promote hatred disguised as patriotism.

Kajal Chatterjee, Kolkata

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





Sacrifices of Guru Gobind Singh, Sahibzadas unparalleled not only in the history of India but that of the world.

Devendra Fadnavis  
Maharashtra Chief Minister

# HC reduces man’s death penalty in minor’s rape, murder

The court said any sentence to be proportionate must be stable and balanced like a table.

Press Trust Of India

**CHANDIGARH:** The Punjab and Haryana High Court has commuted a man's death sentence for the rape and murder of a five-and-a-half-year-old girl to rigorous imprisonment for life, and acquitted his mother, observing there is no IPC section to punish her for “trying to protect her Raja beta”.

Sentencing the convict to rigorous imprisonment for life with 30 years of jail without remission, the court opined that the murder was, apparently, because of panic to destroy the evidence of rape and not a premeditated act. It also increased the fine amount to Rs 30 lakh. Pronouncing the verdict, the bench of

Justices Anoop Chitkara and Sukhvinder Kaur also observed that family members, especially mothers, often have such blind love for their “precious” sons that, no matter how imperfect or villainous they might be, they are still regarded as ‘Raja Betas’.

While acquitting the mother of all charges against her, the judges pointed out that she prioritised shielding her son instead of informing the police or seeking justice for the victim. “This social attitude, however appalling, is not new; it is deeply embedded in the region's patriarchal mindset and culture,” they said.

The high court, in its December 23 verdict,

## HIGHLIGHT

● **A trial court in 2020 condemned Virender alias Bholu to death and sentenced his mother Kamla Devi to rigorous imprisonment for conspiracy and destruction of evidence in the 2018 rape and murder case.**

observed that while deterrence through threat of death may still be a promising strategy in some frightful areas of murderous crime, to espouse a monolithic theory of its deterrent efficacy is unscientific.

“So we think it right to shift the emphasis, to accept composite factors of penal strat-

egy and not to put all the punitive eggs in the ‘hanging’ basket but hopefully to try the humane mix,” it said.

“It appears that the subsequent murder was because of panic to destroy evidence of rape and not a premeditated act. Therefore, the convict's life should not be taken away by the judi-

cial process, and instead, to save the children and females, he can be incapacitated by imposing a suitable sentence that is also proportionate to the heinous and gruesome crime of raping and killing a girl aged five-and-a-half years, whom the accused was well familiar with,” the high court stated.

## Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

### PROCEEDINGS OF THE CASE

#### Court frames charges against two accused of attacking Delhi CM

**NEW DELHI:** Setting the stage for trial, a Delhi court on Friday formally framed charges against two persons accused of attacking Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta at a public event earlier this year. Additional Sessions Judge Ekta Gauba Mann said the proceedings of the case will be in camera since the victim is a public figure. The judge formally framed charges against Sakriya Rajeshbhai Khimjibhai and Tahsin Raza Rafiullah Shaikh, who pleaded not guilty to the charges, after they were physically produced in the court.

Earlier on December 20, the court had ordered the framing of charges against the duo under various penal provisions, including attempt to murder, saying there was a prima facie case against them. The judge said that prima facie all ingredients for the offence punishable under BNS Sections 61(2) (criminal conspiracy), 221 (obstructing public servant in discharge of public functions), 132 (using criminal force on a public servant while they are executing their duty), 109(1) (attempt to murder) are made out against both the accused.

## GLOBAL HERITAGE SITE |

### ‘Rs 500 crore allocated to develop Rakhigarhi’

Press Trust Of India

**HANSI:** Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Friday announced that the Centre has allocated Rs 500 crore in the Union Budget for the development of Rakhigarhi, aiming to give the site global recognition. Addressing the second state-level Rakhigarhi Mahotsav here, Saini said that the state government is making continuous efforts to position the Harappan-era site on both the national and international tourism map. Additionally, the government is working towards Rakhigarhi's inclusion in the UNESCO World Heritage List. Saini



also assured that the demands raised by the Rakhigarhi and Rakhi Shahpur gram panchayats would be forwarded to the concerned departments for prompt action. In a significant announcement, the chief minister revealed that both Rakhigarhi and Rakhi Shahpur villages would receive a grant of Rs 21 lakh each.

He also inaugurated the Harappan Knowledge Centre. Saini emphasised that Rakhigarhi is one of the most important sites of the Indus-Saraswati civilisation, showcasing advanced urban planning, sanitation, and water management practices of ancient India. He expressed pride in the fact that such a major centre of ancient civilisation is located in Haryana.

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Saini said, India is making significant progress while simultaneously taking pride in its cultural heritage.

## AFFIDAVIT

I Rukhamani Bai (Adhar No.-6767 5224 9725) M/o No.-14864556H Sep/MT Shesh Narayan, Rio Vill. Auri Post-Jamgaon R. Th.-Palatan, Dist.-Durg (C.G.) 491223. Do hereby solemnly affirm and declare as under-

1. That I am Permanent resident of above said address.
2. That my correct and correct name in Rukhamani Bai and Date of Birth 01.01.1974
3. That as per my Aadhar card and other documents my correct name in Rukhamani Bai and Date of Birth 01.01.1974 but in my Son Part-II Order my name in wrongly mentioned as Rukhamani Bai and Date of Birth 05.11.1974
4. That Rukhamani Bai and Date of Birth 01.01.1974 and Rukhamani Bai and Date of Birth 05.11.1974, both name and Date of Birth one and the same person that is
5. That I-am illiterate and no education certificates available
6. That will be solely responsible for any illegal activity if any my name. That above statement is true and correct

Verification  
That the above said statement of mine are true and correct to I nothing has been concealed therein, rect to the best at my knowledge and belief. Verified at Durg on this day. Vide Affidavit No. U758543 Date 16.12.2025 before Noraty Durg.

DEPONENT

## NAME CHANGE

IT IS INFORMED TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT I, **ROMA D/o SURAJ KUMAR SAO RESIDENT OF PLOT NO.-17 RAMLALITA BASERA,G.E ROAD, PADUM NAGAR CHARODA BHILAI DURG, CHHATTISGARH 490025** HAVE CHANGED MY OLD NAME **ROMA D/O SURAJ KUMAR SAO, SO IN FUTURE I SHOULD BE RECOGNIZED BY MY NEW NAME THAT IS ROMA SAO D/o SURAJ KUMAR SAO IN ALL THE GOVERNMENT AND OTHER DOCUMENTS.**

**ROMA SAO**  
PLOT NO.-17 RAMLALITA BASERA,G.E ROAD, PADUM NAGAR CHARODA BHILAI, DURG, CHHATTISGARH 490025

## NAME CHANGE

IT IS INFORMED TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT I, **ANJU DEVI W/o SURAJ KUMAR SAO RESIDENT OF PLOT NO.-17 RAMLALITA BASERA,G.E ROAD, PADUM NAGAR CHARODA BHILAI, DURG, CHHATTISGARH 490025** HAVE CHANGED MY OLD NAME **ANJU DEVI W/O SURAJ KUMAR SAO,SO IN FUTURE I SHOULD BE RECOGNIZED BY MY NEW NAME THAT IS ANJU DEVI SAO W/O SURAJ KUMAR SAO IN ALL THE GOVERNMENT AND OTHER DOCUMENTS.**

**ANJU DEVI SAO**  
PLOT NO.-17 RAMLALITA BASERA,G.E ROAD, PADUM NAGAR CHARODA BHILAI,DURG, CHHATTISGARH 490025

## AU SMALL FINANCE BANK LIMITED

(A Scheduled Commercial Bank)

Regd. Office: 19-A, Dhuleshwar Garden, Ajmer Road, Jaipur - 302001

### APPENDIX IV (SEE RULE 8(1)) POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property)

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 dated 12-Jan-23 calling upon the Borrower **Chandra Kumar Sahu (Borrower)**, **Ram Kumar Sahu (Co-Borrower)**, (Loan Account No. **L9001060128195870**) to repay the amount mentioned in the notices being in **Rs. 10,50,464/- (Rs. Ten Lac Fifty Thousand Four Hundred Sixty-Four Only)** a within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower/co-borrower/mortgagor/guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower/mortgagor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Sub-section (4) of section 13 of Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this **23rd day of December of the year 2025.** The borrower/co-borrower/mortgagor/guarantor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the **AU Small Finance Bank Limited (A Scheduled Commercial Bank)** for an amount of **Rs. 10,50,464/- (Rs. Ten Lac Fifty Thousand Four Hundred Sixty-Four Only)** as on 10-Jan-23 and interest and expenses thereon until full payment.

“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.”

#### Description of immovable properties

All That Part And Parcel Of Residential/Commercial Property Land / Building / Structure And Fixtures of Property Situated At House No. 3, Nazul Sheet No. 47-B Plot No. 48-4 Nazul Mohalla Mungeli, MPL Colony Council Limit Subhash Nagar Chhattisgarh Admeasuring 657 Sqft Owned by Ram Kumar Sahu having four Boundaries: East: House Of Nemin Bal, West: House Of Rajkumar, North: Gali, South: House Of Patel

Date : 23-Dec-25  
Place : Chhattisgarh

Authorised Officer  
AU Small Finance Bank Limited

## PUBLIC NOTICE

(In Relation of Immovable Residential Apartment bearing Flat No. 401, on the Fourth Floor, in Block-G, super Built-up Area 2085 Sq. Ft. Comprised in Khassa No. 1822, 1822, 1822-183, 1821, 1828 & 1822 Situated at “Maruti Lifestyle Apartment” Mouja Kota, Mohoba Bazar, Ramkrishna Paramhans Ward, Ward No. 02, P. H. No. 107, R.I.C. Raipur-1, Tahsil & District Raipur (C.G.)

This is inform to General Public that the Original previous sale deed executed by M/s Avinash Developers Pvt. Ltd. in favour of Smt. Vanita Singhal W/o Shri Deepak Kumar Singhal vide Volume No. 59180, Document Sl. No. 367-G, Dated 14/05/2013 duly registered in the Office of Sub-Registrar, Raipur (C.G.) have been lost/Misplaced by Smt. Vanita Singhal W/o Shri Deepak Kumar Singhal Written intimation duly given in the Police Station, Saraswati Nagar, District Raipur (C.G.) on 05/01/2022

Now, My Client Shri Deepak Kumar Singhal S/o Shri Nagarmal Singhal has applied for Loan if any Person/Bank/ Corporation/Society/Institution/Govt. or No Govt. Authority etc., having an interest in the said Property or any part thereof may make their claim/ objections with documentary proof to the undersigned office within 07 Days from the Date of Publication, without any reference to such claim and the same, if any shall be considered as waived & My client shall be enable to create mortgage on said property.

Please take Notice  
Date:26-12-2025  
Place:-Raipur

Ashtutosh Mishra (Advocate)  
F-3, Modern Complex, Near Lalgauna City Mart, Motibag Chowk, Raipur (C.G.) Mobile No.-94255-48998 Phone (0771) 238998 (O)

## AFFIDAVIT

I Dwarika Prasad Sahu (Adhar No.-3613 2372 7263) F/o No.-14864556H Sep/MT Shesh Narayan R/o Vill. Auri, Post.- Jamgaon R. Th.-Palatan, Dist.-Durg (C.G.) 491223, Do hereby solemnly affirm and declare as under-

1. That I am Permanent resident of above said address.
2. That my correct and correct name in Dwarika Prasad Sahu
3. That as per my Aadhar card and other documents my correct name in Dwarika Prasad Sahu but in my Son Part-II Order my name in wrongly mentioned as Dwarika Prasad
4. That Dwarika Prasad Sahu and Dwarika Prasad both name one and the same person that is me.
5. That I will be solely responsible for any illegal activity if any my name.
6. That above statement is true and correct

Verification  
That the above said statement of mine are future and correct to the best, knowledge and belief nothing has been concealed therein. Verified at Durg on this day. Vide Affidavit No. U758544 Date 16.12.2025 before Noraty Durg.

DEPONENT

## OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER

### PUBLIC WORK DEPARTMENT, BILASPUR CIRCLE

### BILASPUR, CHHATTISGARH

### निविदा निरस्तीकरण सूचना

इस कार्यालय के निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना क्रमांक 411 दिनांक 17.11.2025 को अप्रोडिक्स 2.10 की कड़िका 4.6 के तहत अपरिहार्य कारणवश निरस्त किया जाता है।

अधीक्षण अभियंता  
लोक निर्माण विभाग  
बिलासपुर मण्डल, बिलासपुर

G-252605715/1

## कार्यालय नगर पंचायत छुरा, जिला-गरियाबंद (छ.ग.)

Email ID: cmochooraa@rediffmail.com, Phone No.-07701299439

क्रमांक / 1258 / नॉपॉ / लोनिनॉपॉ / छुरा, दिनांक: 24.12.2025

### !! मैनुअल पद्धति से निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना !!

एतद द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि कार्यालय नगर पंचायत छुरा अंतर्गत CGPWD में एकीकृत पंजीकृत संस्था / फर्म / ठेकेदारों की श्रेणी "D" तथा "D" से उच्च से विभिन्न निर्माण कार्य कराये जाने हेतु अयोध्यालक्षणा के कार्यालय में मैनुअल निविदा फार्म "A" में पंजीकृत डाक / स्पीड पोस्ट के माध्यम से आमंत्रित की जाती है-

- निविदा हेतु आवश्यक जानकारी निम्नानुसार है-
- (1) निविदा प्रपत्र भेज आवेदन करने का दिनांक - 05.01.2026 कार्यालयीन अवधि तक।
  - (2) कोरा निविदा प्रपत्र माफ करने का दिनांक - 09.01.2026 कार्यालयीन अवधि तक।
  - (3) निविदा प्रपत्र प्रारत होने की अंतिम दिनांक - 19.01.2026 दोप. 3:00 बजे तक।
  - (4) निविदा प्रपत्र खोले जाने का दिनांक - 20.01.2026 दोप. 12:00 बजे से।

क्र.	कार्य का नाम	अनुमानित कुल लागत राशि (लाख में)
1	नगर पंचायत छुरा में ओवरसंचना मद अंतर्गत विभिन्न वार्ड में शौड/सीसीटी शौड निर्माण कार्य। (कुल कार्य संख्या 17 कार्य)	95.31

टीप- निविदा से संबंधित अन्य विमाम एवं शर्तें कार्यालयीन अवधि में देखी जा सकती है। साथ ही यह जानकारी विभागीय वेबसाइट <https://uad.cg.gov.in> पर देखी जा सकती है। किसी भी प्रकार का संशोधन सूचना विभागीय वेबसाइट एवं कार्यालयीन सूचना पटल पर प्रसारित की जायेगी, प्रेषक से समाचार में प्रकाशित नहीं होगी।

मुख्य नगरपालिका अधिकारी,  
नगर पंचायत छुरा  
जिला-गरियाबंद (छ.ग.)

## POSSESSION NOTICE

(for immovable property)

Whereas,

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of **SAMMAAN CAPITAL LIMITED (CIN:L65922DL2005PLC136029)** (formerly known as **INDIABULLS HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED**) under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notice dated 18.12.2021 calling upon the Borrower(s) **CHETAN PRASAD PROPRIETOR CG ART GALLERY and JIYA NOOR** to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice being in **Rs. 47,47,277.57 (Rupees Forty Seven Lakhs Forty Seven Thousand Two Hundred Seventy Seven and Paise Fifty Seven Only)** against Loan Account No. **HLHDMT00445580** as on 30.11.2021 and interest thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice.

The Borrower(s) having failed to repay the amount, Notice is hereby given to the Borrower(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken **Possession** of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Sub-Section (4) of section 13 of the Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on **23.12.2025.**

The Borrower(s) 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 **SAMMAAN CAPITAL LIMITED** (formerly known as **INDIABULLS HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED**) for an amount of **Rs. 47,47,277.57 (Rupees Forty Seven Lakhs Forty Seven Thousand Two Hundred Seventy Seven and Paise Fifty Seven Only)** as on 30.11.2021 and interest thereon.

The Borrowers' attention is invited to provisions of Sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the Act in respect of time available, to redeem the Secured Assets.

### DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

HOUSE NO. HIG II/ 562, ADMEASURING 185.74 SQUARE METERS, PART OF KHASRA NO. 589, 597, P.H.N 71/16, SITUATED IN NEW RAIPUR TOWNSHIP, SECTOR 29, RAIPUR-492001, CHHATTISGARH, AND WHICH IS BOUNDED AS FOLLOWS:

EAST : HIG II/569 WEST : 10 METER WIDE ROAD  
NORTH : HIG II/563 SOUTH : HIG II/561

Date : 23.12.2025  
Place : RAIPUR

Authorised Officer  
SAMMAAN CAPITAL LIMITED  
(FORMERLY KNOWN AS INDIABULLS HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED)

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known to the public at large that a property bearing Survey No.-1581/32, admeasuring-1250 Sq. Ft. situated at Professor's Colony, Village- Raipur, P.H.No.-106-A, Mahamaya Mandir Ward No.-42 (Old)/5(New), City, Tahsil and District Raipur (C.G.) is owned by my client Rupnarayan Kose son of Kamlesh Kose resident of Sector-03, Near Saraswati Kirana Store, Professor Colony, Kushalpur, Raipur (C.G.). There was a sale deed of his predecessors executed by and between Kamlesh Kumar Kose (Purchaser) and Sonia Bai (Seller) which was got duly registered on 27.03.1997 in Book No.-A-1, in the office of SRO, Raipur. The last page of said sale deed is missing from his records kept in his said house and he has already lodged an FIR in respect of same at concerned Police Station (Purani Basti) on 01.11.2025.

Therefore, if any person(s), society, office, bank, department or other legal entity misuses said original sale deed which causes any loss or losses any way to any person (s), institute, office, bank, department (government or semi government) or any other legal entity, must contact or write to undersigned and addressed within 07 (Seven) days from the date of publication of this notice with their objections, claims, right or interest in the aforesaid property with sufficient documentary proof thereof, failing which my client shall be free to convey/assign otherwise in any manner, his said property, as per his will. Any objection received thereafter shall not be entertained and shall not be binding on my client. Raipur (C.G.)

Date:26.12.2025  
Manish Malhotra, Advocate  
G-7, Sector-1, Avanti Vihar, Raipur (C.G.)  
Mob. 982628916

नाम परिवर्तन हेतु सार्वजनिक सूचना  
मैं, श्रीमती राम संधारी मिश्रा उर्फ रक्षिणी मिश्रा, पत्नी श्री चन्द्रश्याम मिश्रा, वर्तमान निवासी-मकान क्रमांक बी-02, ब्लाक-03, सिंगापूर सिटी, कोटा रोड, जिला रायपुर (छत्तीसगढ़) तथा स्थायी निवासी-ए-16, वार्ड-2, त्रिवेदपुरम, झूरी, प्रयागराज, उत्तर प्रदेश, आधार संख्या 360527641123, एतद द्वारा सर्वसाधारण को सूचित करती हूँ कि मेरे पुत्र अवनीश मिश्रा के अभिलेखों में मेरा नाम श्रीमती रक्षिणी मिश्रा अंकित है।

यह सूच किया जाता है कि श्रीमती राम संधारी मिश्रा तथा श्रीमती रक्षिणी मिश्रा दोनों नाम एक ही व्यक्ति अर्थात् मैं स्वयं हूँ। मैंने अब अपना नाम श्रीमती राम संधारी मिश्रा निश्चित कर लिया है अतः आज की तिथि से मेरा नाम श्रीमती राम संधारी मिश्रा हो जाना एवं माना जाए। साथ ही मेरे पुत्र अवनीश मिश्रा के अभिलेखों में मेरे नाम के रूप में जहाँ-जहाँ रक्षिणी मिश्रा, अंकित है, उसके स्थान पर श्रीमती राम संधारी मिश्रा पढ़ा एवं माना जाए। भविष्य में मेरे समस्त शासकीय, अर्थ-शासकीय, न्यायिक, वित्तीय, व्यक्तिगत एवं अन्य सभी अभिलेखों में मेरा नाम श्रीमती राम संधारी मिश्रा ही मान्य होगा।

यह नाम परिवर्तन तत्काल प्रभाव से लागू होगा तथा भविष्य में प्रत्येक प्रयोजन हेतु पूर्णतः वैध एवं मान्य रहेगा।

स्थान: रायपुर, छत्तीसगढ़

श्रीमती राम संधारी मिश्रा  
उर्फ रक्षिणी मिश्रा  
पत्नी: श्री चन्द्रश्याम मिश्रा  
वर्तमान पता: मकान क्रमांक बी-02, ब्लाक-03, सिंगापूर सिटी, कोटा रोड, जिला रायपुर (छत्तीसगढ़)

## posjab national bank

### पंजाब नैशनल बैंक

### CO-SAM, Raipur (C.G.)

### POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property)

Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the **Punjab National Bank** under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of Powers conferred under Sub-Section (12) of Section 13 read with rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement ) Rule, 2002, issued Demand Notices as below mentioned calling upon the Borrower(s) & Guarantor(s) to repay the amount mentioned in the notices and Interest thereon within 60 days from date of the receipt of the said notice. The borrowers having failed to repay the amounts, notice is hereby given to the borrowers, guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under sub section (4) of section 13 of the Act read with rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement ) Rules 2002 said rules on this the date mentioned below. The borrowers & guarantors in particular and the Public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of **Punjab National Bank** for amount mentioned below and interest thereon. The borrower's and /or guarantor's attention is invited to provisions of sub section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Sl. No.	Name & Add. of the Borrower - Branch Name	1)Date of Demand Notice & 2)Date of Possession	Outstanding Amount	Description of Immovable Property
1	Borrower- Smt. Vijay Laxmi Ekka W/o Shri George Ekka. Branch:Jagdalpur (222500)	(1)08.08.2023 (2)20.12.2025	Rs. 2,63,000.00/- as on 08.08.2023 + Intt. & Other Charges	All that part & parcel of land & building at Sheet no. 67, Plot no. 7/1 situated at Shanti Nagar ward, Jagdalpur, Dist: Bastar, (C.G.) having total area of 2650 Sq. ft.

Date : 26.12.2025, Place: Jagalpur

Authorised Officer,Punjab National Bank

## सेन्ट्रल बैंक ऑफ इंडिया

राष्ट्रवा: पदमनाभपुर, डुरा (छ.ग.)

### APPENDIX IV Rule-8(1) POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property)

Whereas  
The undersigned being the authorized officer of the Central Bank of India, under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice as below mentioned date calling upon the borrower/s to repay the amount mentioned in the notice with Interest and expenses thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement ) rules on the date mentioned below. The borrower, guarantor/s 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 Central Bank of India for the due amount as mentioned below with subsequent interest and expenses there on.

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

S. N.	Name of Borrower/ Guarantor & Address/Branch	Description of the Immovable property	Demand Notice Date/Amount
01	M/s. Shree Mobile Sales And Services, Prop. Mr. Suraj Kumar Verma, Shop No. 72/66, New Bus Stand, G. E. Road, Tah. & Dist.- Durg (C.G.) & Mr. Suraj Kumar Verma, S/o Jhumak Lal Verma, Verma. Boundaries are as under: North: House of Ravel Gi No-01, Ward No.-37, Ganjapara, Deepapara,Durg, Tah & Distt.-Durg (C.G.) and Guarantor- Smt. Rashmi Verma, W/o Suraj Kumar Verma, Gi No-01, Ward No.-37, Ganjapara, Deepapara, Durg, Tah & Distt.-Durg (C.G.) Branch: Padmanabhpur (C.G.)	All the Part and parcel of diverted Residential Land and building situated at Kh. No. 248/46, P.H.No. 56, Azad Ward no-37, Ganjapara, Durg, Tah. & Dist.- Durg (C.G.), area 247.50 sq. ft. in the name of Smt. Rashmi Verma W/o Mr. Suraj Kumar Verma. Boundaries are as under: North: House of Ravel Singh, South: House of Jheetu Sahu, East: Road, West: Plot of Ravel Singh.	23/09/2025  ₹ 16,18,769.00 Plus interest and other charges Date of Possession 22/12/2025

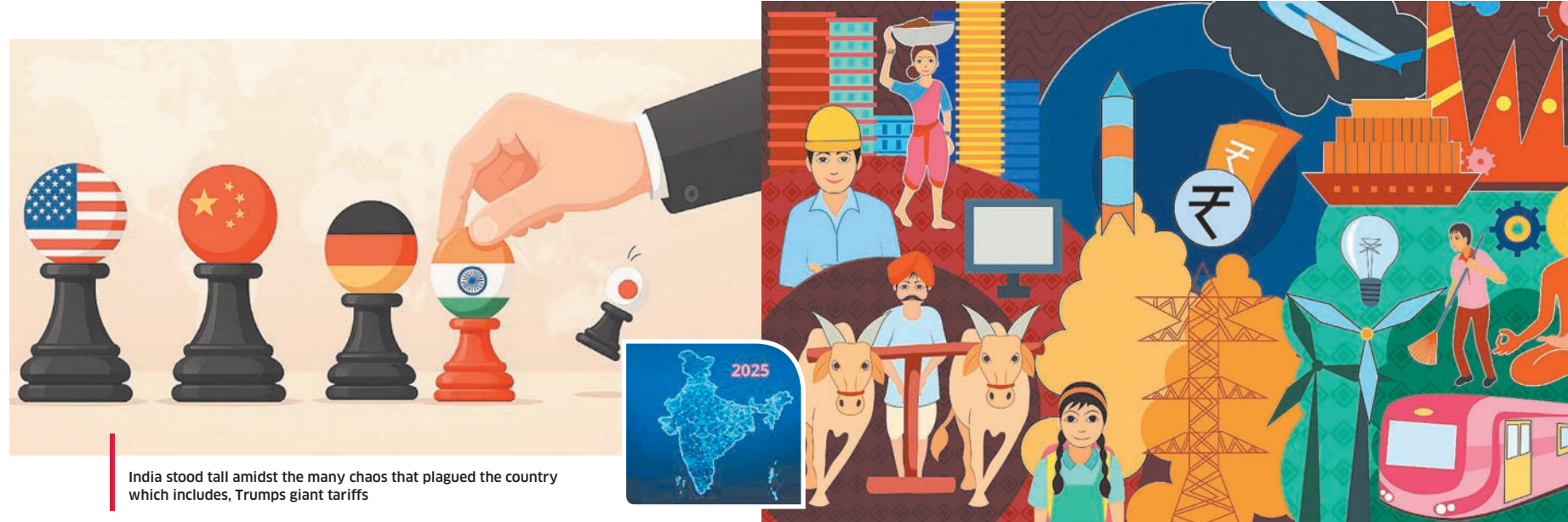
Date : 26.12.2025, Place : Padmanabhpur (C.G.)

AUTHORISED OFFICER, CENTRAL BANK OF INDIA



# Yearender

## THE YEAR OF GREAT OPTIMISM & ECONOMIC RESILIENCE



India stood tall amidst the many chaos that plagued the country which includes, Trumps giant tariffs

The year was marked by major milestones for India in the areas of space technology,



Country	Tariff
China	6%
European Union	3%
Vietnam	90%
Taiwan	61%
Japan	46%
India	52%
South Korea	50%
Thailand	72%
Switzerland	61%
Indonesia	64%
Malaysia	47%
Cambodia	97%
	10%
	60%

On July 30, 2025, U.S. President Donald Trump announced that imports from India will attract 25% tariffs from August 1, 2025, along with a penalty. However India boosted its geopolitical alignments and started a smooth sail, much to the dismay of the dollar club.

The most significant cultural event was the Maha Kumbh Mela in Prayagraj, held from January 13 to February 26, 2025. The event, which occurs with a special astrological alignment every 144 years, saw over 660 million (66 crore) people take a holy dip in the Triveni Sangam and generated a significant economic impact.





On November 21, 2025, the Union Government formally notified all four Labour Codes, ushering in major reforms in labour laws. The Code on Wages, 2019, Industrial Relations Code, 2020, Code on Social Security, 2020 and the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions (OSHC) Code, 2020 were passed by the parliament between 2019 and 2020 and are likely to be fully operational from April 1, 2026.



### FDI in

The Lok Sabha, on December 16, 2025, passed a Bill that proposes to increase Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the insurance sector from 74% to 100%. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said that allowing 100% FDI would pave way for further capital infusion, better technology, and that people would have access to better insurance products. The FDI limit for insurance companies was raised from 26% to 49% in 2015 and from 49% to 74% in 2021.



On November 14, 2025, the Union Government notified large parts of the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act, 2023, addressing the need for a law to protect people's data privacy. The centre worked towards operationalising the DPDP Act by through consultations and outlining draft rules governing consent, data fiduciaries, penalties, and compliance timelines. While the Act itself had been passed in 2023, the year 2025 marked the transition from legalisation to compliance as business houses started preparing for actual compliance, through data audits, consent frameworks, and governance structures.

### Gaganyaan Program




2025 was declared the "Gaganyaan Year" by the ISRO Chairman, with intensive ground testing conducted throughout the year. The crucial first uncrewed test flight (G1 mission), featuring the half-humanoid robot Vyommitra to simulate human responses, is slated for a December 2025 launch, paving the way for a manned mission in early 2027. India successfully achieved autonomous space docking with its Space Docking Experiment (SpaDeX) satellites in January 2025, becoming the fourth nation to master the technology.

India women's cricket team clinched their maiden ICC Women's World Cup title. After coming close on multiple occasions in the past, the team finally crossed the finish line, rewriting history. Divya Deshmukh's rise to the top of world chess stood out as a moment of pure brilliance. By winning the FIDE Women's World Cup, she etched her name into Indian chess history. India's sports scene was highlighted by the inaugural Kho-Kho World Cup in New Delhi, featuring 16 countries.




### Quantum Computing




The first fully "Make-in-India" 32-bit microprocessors for space applications were developed and handed over to ISRO. The country also saw The NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) satellite, and maintained its position as the world's fastest-growing major economy, with GDP growth of about 6.7 to 6.9 per cent projected for the fiscal year.

### GST turns into



The government introduced significant reforms, including simplifying the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime to a three-rate structure (5%, 18%, and 40% for luxury goods), implementing four new labour codes, and raising the income tax exemption limit. The year saw robust infrastructure spending, growth in manufacturing aided by Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes, and a booming digital economy with a surge in UPI transactions.



A leap towards modernization In 2025, India will see significant transport infrastructure upgrades. The Jewar Airport in Greater Noida will open in April, followed by the Navi Mumbai International Airport in May, enhancing air travel. The country's longest expressway, connecting Delhi and Mumbai, will be completed, cutting travel time to 12 hours. Additionally, Space Aura will launch India's first commercial space tourism venture, offering rides in a space balloon reaching 35 km, marking a new era for space exploration in India.



On July 15, 2025, American electric vehicle company Tesla officially commenced business operations in India by opening its first 'experience centre' at Bandra-Kurla Complex (BKC), Mumbai. The next month it opened its second experience centre in Delhi's Aerocity coupled with the city's first Tesla charging station.





# Lifestyle

LIFE MATTERS

## Internet cools in 2025 with Green lattes and Kunafa chocolate

In 2025, cool wasn’t worn or owned it was styled, photographed, and instantly recognisable.



In 2025, “cool” didn’t whisper it popped, posed, and begged to be double-tapped. Taste was no longer about cultivating a rare palate or collecting hard-to-find things. It was visual, hyper-shareable, and instantly recognisable. If it photographed well, travelled easily, and fit the grid, it mattered. If it didn’t, it disappeared. Enter the year’s holy trinity: radioactive-green matcha, pistachio-loaded kunafa chocolate and unapologetically “ugly-cute” toys. These weren’t just trends; they were cultural shortcuts. A matcha latte in a clear glass wasn’t merely a drink it was a lifestyle cue. Spotted beside laptops, Pilate’s socks, and art books, it signalled wellness, discipline, and a globally tuned in sensibility. Matcha didn’t just fuel mornings; it framed identities. Food, too, became performance art. Kunafa chocolate bars cracked open for slow-motion reels turned



In 2025, these objects formed the Instagram grid of the year.



badges of honour. Childish yet knowing, they softened high fashion’s seriousness and proved that in 2025, taste had a sense of humour. Being in on the joke was the point.

Together, these objects built the visual grammar of the year. They signalled access, mobility, and algorithmic fluency more than ownership or originality. Cool in 2025 wasn’t about standing apart it was about knowing exactly what to show, how to show it, and when to post. In a world ruled by the grid, taste became a performance, and everyone knew their angles.



indulgence into spectacle. The thrill wasn’t only in the crunch or the pistachio filling, but in capturing that perfect break, that ooze, that moment worthy of a repost. Flavour took a backseat to virality, and desert became content.

Then there were the toys. Labubu monster charms, deliberately awkward and oddly adorable, swung from luxury handbags like ironic

### Head down, pain up: The silent surge of tech neck

Tech Neck Syndrome is a growing health concern linked to prolonged screen use and poor posture in everyday life. Doctors say constantly looking down at phones, tablets, and laptops strains the cervical spine, leading to neck pain, stiffness, headaches, and shoulder discomfort. Over time, forward head posture increases pressure on neck muscles and joints, sometimes causing reduced mobility and chronic pain.

KID

## Ergonomic classrooms: Supporting kids’ bodies and brains



Ergonomic furniture in schools can play a crucial role in children’s learning and long-term health. With increasing screen time and heavy schoolbags, even young students experience neck and back pain. Ergonomics, the science of designing spaces to fit the human body, ensures comfort, reduces fatigue, and supports proper posture. Research shows classrooms with well-designed furniture, lighting, and layouts improve attention, motivation, and engagement.

| LIFESTYLE |

## Create space that imbibes calmness and nature

Central Chronicle News

From calming color palettes to personalized decor, these five design tips bring warmth and style to any home.

Akshay Kumar and Twinkle Khanna’s Mumbai sea-facing residence in Juhu is a masterclass in effortless style and comfort. The couple’s home radiates calm, combining art, natural textures, and thoughtful decor to create a space that is both stylish and deeply lived-in. Here’s how you can borrow some of their design secrets for your own home.

### 1. Embrace a calm, earthy palette

Soft neutrals like beige, off-white, mocha, and muted grey form a serene backdrop that allows furniture, art, and decor to shine. These tones create harmony, making rooms feel timeless and inviting.

### 2. Bring nature indoors

Incorporate indoor plants, wooden furniture, natural fabrics, and textures like linen or cotton. Greenery adds vibrancy, while wood and organic materials introduce warmth and a grounded, earthy feel even in urban apartments.

### 3. Showcase art and personal pieces

Curate artworks, prints, sculptures, or photographs



Serenity meets style at Akshay and Twinkle’s home.

that reflect your personality. Avoid overcrowding walls; instead, let a few standout pieces create focal points. Personal touches instantly make a house feel like a home.

### 4. Create cozy, functional corners

Design small nooks for reading, relaxing, or working a comfy chair by a window, a daybed, or a swing. These spaces add warmth and purpose, encouraging quiet reflection or leisurely downtime.

### 5. Focus on lighting

Soft, ambient lighting combined with abundant natural light enhances the home’s airy, inviting atmosphere.

## GadgetPick

TRENDING PERSONAL-TECH

### HUAWEI MatePad 12 X Tablet

About:

The HUAWEI MatePad 12 X is a slim, portable tablet for creativity, productivity, and entertainment. Its PaperMatte display and HUAWEI M-Pencil support ensure comfortable, precise usage.

Key Features:

12-inch PaperMatte display with up to 1000 nits brightness and reduced reflections, low blue light and flicker-free technology for eye comfort, HUAWEI M-Pencil (3rd gen) with NearLink for accurate, low-latency writing and drawing, built-in HUAWEI Notes and GoPaint apps with smart tools, multiple brushes, custom canvases, 10,100 mAh battery with 66W SuperCharge, lightweight design for reading, drawing, light office work, and daily entertainment anywhere.



### IKEA VÄSTMÄRKE Wireless Charger

About:

The IKEA VÄSTMÄRKE is a playful, compact wireless charger designed for convenience and style. Its donut-shaped design fits desks, nightstands, or bags, keeping your space organized while delivering reliable power.

Key Features:

Compact donut form adds a bright accent while saving space. Built-in cable storage keeps cords tidy. Qi 2.0 wireless charging supports iPhone 8+ and Samsung Galaxy S6+. Magnetic alignment ensures stable charging. Safety features protect against short-circuit, overheating, and overload. Silicone surface offers soft touch and secure grip for easy, clutter-free charging.



### Tetris: My Play Watch Gaming Smart Watch

About:

The Tetris: My Play Watch brings classic arcade fun to your wrist. This retro gaming smart watch combines simple game play with light fitness tracking, letting you enjoy Tetris and basic health stats without distractions.

Key Features:

Built-in Tetris lets you play on a compact 1.91-inch TFT touch screen. No WiFi, Bluetooth, or notifications keeps focus on gaming and fitness. Track heart rate, steps, and calories through a playful Tetris-themed interface. Authentic Tetris sounds enhance alarms, timers, and game play. Bright, colorful display ensures clear visuals for both games and watch faces, perfect for nostalgia and casual fitness.



### Huawei FreeClip 2

About:

The Huawei FreeClip 2 offers open-ear comfort and clear audio for music, calls, and podcasts. Lightweight and secure, these earbuds are perfect for daily use, workouts, and multitasking.

Key Features:

C-bridge design with skin-friendly silicone and shape-memory alloy keeps each 5.1 g earbud stable. Comfort Bean shape ensures a snug fit. Dual-diaphragm 10.8 mm driver with NPU processing delivers crisp sound. Adaptive volume, 3-mic noise cancellation, and reverse sound waves enhance calls. P57 water resistance, 9-hour battery (38 with case), and swipe, tap, and head motion controls make listening effortless.



### Xiaomi Robot Vacuum S40 Pro

About:

The Xiaomi Robot Vacuum S40 Pro offers efficient, whole-home cleaning with strong suction, precise edge coverage, and smart app control. Ideal for busy households, it combines convenience with thorough floor care.

Key Features:

15,000 Pa suction lifts dust, crumbs, and hair from floors and carpets. Dual edge-cleaning arms and rotary mopping pads tackle corners and stains with minimal water marks. 5,200 mAh battery, 430 mL dustbin, and 310 mL water tank clean up to 180 m² per charge. LDS laser mapping, 129° obstacle sensing, carpet lift, and app control ensure safe, room-by-room navigation.



### Strength Mirror AEKE K1 AI-Powered Smart Home Gym

About:

The Strength Mirror AEKE K1 brings AI-powered personal training, immersive workouts, and professional results to your home. This all-in-one gym delivers personalized coaching, diverse exercises, and subscription-free access.

Key Features:

Real-time posture correction and 6D motion tracking provide smart coaching. Personalized plans adjust exercises with smart weight guidance and five power modes. Train with 320+ movements, 200+ courses, and 100+ plans for strength, cardio, yoga, HIIT, and rehab. 43 4K UHD touch screen and 2.1 Hi-Fi sound create cinematic workouts. Foldable design occupies just 0.3 for easy storage.







A Test pitch must reward skill on both sides; when batters have little chance, the contest tilts unfairly and diminishes the true spirit of cricket.  
**Michael Vaughan**  
Former England captain

# 20 wickets tumble in chaotic Ashes Boxing Day

A frenetic opening day at Melbourne delivered relentless drama as bowlers dominated, records fell, and momentum swung wildly in the fourth Ashes Test.



Press Trust Of India

Record MCG crowd witnessed relentless pace, seam movement and dramatic batting collapses from both sides.

**MELBOURNE:** Day one of the fourth Ashes Test produced extraordinary theatre as 20 wickets fell in a single, breathless day, leaving Australia narrowly ahead despite being dismissed for just 152. England's reply of 110 ensured the hosts secured a 42-run first-innings lead on a pitch that offered pro-

nounced seam movement and variable bounce from the outset. The action unfolded before a world-record crowd of 94,199 at the iconic Melbourne Cricket Ground, eclipsing the attendance record set during the 2015 World Cup final. Australia finished the day at 4 without loss in their second innings, stretching their overall lead to 46 after surviving a tense final over under fading light. England seized early control through a fiery spell from Josh Tongue, who claimed a career-best 5 for 45. Bowling

with pace and accuracy, Tongue exploited helpful conditions to remove Australia's top order, reducing the hosts to 72 for 4 by lunch. Travis Head and Jake Weatherald fell cheaply, while Marnus Labuschagne edged behind attempting to play away from his body. Captain Steve Smith endured a rare lapse, losing his middle stump while driving on the up. Veteran opener Usman Khawaja attempted to rebuild but was caught behind for 29, triggering another collapse. A late partner-

ship between Cameron Green and Michael Nesar added 52 valuable runs, but England struck back swiftly. Tongue ended the innings in style by dismissing Nesar and Scott Boland in successive deliveries, briefly lifting English spirits after earlier defeats in the series. Australia responded with equal intensity. England were rocked to 8 for 3 inside five overs as Mitchell Starc and Nesar found sharp movement. Zak Crawley, Jacob Bethell and Ben Duckett departed quickly, and when Joe

Root edged behind for a duck, England were staring at another disastrous collapse. Harry Brook counter-attacked bravely, smashing 41 from 34 balls to inject urgency and hope. His partnership with skipper Ben Stokes threatened to change the tone, but the resistance was short-lived. Scott Boland's accuracy proved decisive as he dismissed Brook, Jamie Smith and Will Jacks in quick succession. Nesar then removed Stokes, ending England's innings and restoring Australian control.

## ISL clubs seek roadmap amid ongoing uncertainty

**NEW DELHI:** Indian Super League (ISL) clubs have formally sought clarity from the All India Football Federation on the immediate and long-term structure of India's top domestic football competition ahead of a key meeting. The request comes after the 2025-26 ISL season was put on hold following disagreements over renewal of the Master Rights Agreement between AIFF and former league organisers FSDL, whose contract expires in December 2025. The issue, which even required Supreme Court of India intervention, has deepened uncertainty after a tender for ISL's commercial rights failed to attract bidders.

## CHAMPION'S MINDSET

In my book, definitely Gukesh is a youngster: Magnus Carlsen

Press Trust Of India

**DOHA:** Five-time world champion Magnus Carlsen made his intentions unmistakably clear ahead of the FIDE World Rapid and Blitz Championship, declaring that neither fatherhood nor the surge of young challengers has dulled his competitive edge. The Norwegian,

**I'm here to win as always; fatherhood hasn't changed my hunger or mindset at all.**  
**Magnus Carlsen**  
Five-time world champion.  
who remains the dominant force in world chess, said he has

arrived in Doha with the same singular objective – to win.

Sharing the stage with India's classical world champion D. Gukesh, Carlsen brushed aside suggestions that age or life changes have altered his outlook. Reflecting on Gukesh's rapid rise, including a notable win over him earlier this year, Carlsen candidly remarked that he still views the Indian as a "youngster," noting that

he was already a top-50 player when Gukesh was born. Carlsen acknowledged that facing youngsters brings unpredictability, as their improvement curve is steep and constant. He added that rapid and blitz events often throw up surprise contenders who challenge established hierarchies.

## Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

### CHRISTMAS CHEER SHARED

## Smriti and Jemimah spread Christmas Cheer in Indian Camp



**THIRUVANANTHAPURAM:** India's women's cricket camp witnessed a warm festive moment as Smriti Mandhana and Jemimah Rodrigues shared Christmas cheer during preparations for the ongoing T20I series against Sri Lanka Women. Rodrigues delighted fans by posting a photograph of herself and Mandhana wearing Santa hats and bright red-and-green festive outfits, a

light-hearted break from the grind of training. Despite the intensity of a five-match series, which India currently leads 2-0, the Indian camp found time to celebrate togetherness and camaraderie. In another picture shared online, Rodrigues is seen being joyfully lifted by Mandhana and fast bowler Arundhati Reddy, captioned simply, "Home away from home." **PTI**

### FESTIVE CRICKET CHEER

## 'Santa' Sachin spreads Christmas cheer as cricketers share festive moments



**MUMBAI:** Christmas celebrations found a special sparkle as India's cricket stars shared warm, personal moments with fans. Legendary batter Sachin Tendulkar delighted followers by posting a cheerful photograph with his pet dogs, jokingly captioning that to them he is always "Santa," because

he arrives bearing treats. Former all-rounder Yuvraj Singh shared a cosy family picture, sending out heartfelt wishes and spreading festive warmth. Batter Shikhar Dhawan joined in by posting a Christmas greeting alongside his partner Sophie Shine, capturing the season's joy. **PTI**

### DREAM DEAL REALISED

## RCB recruit Mangesh Yadav reflects after Rs 5.2crore IPL deal auction



**BANGALORE:** Uncapped all-rounder Mangesh Yadav has described his Rs 5.2 crore signing with Royal Challengers Bengaluru as a life-changing moment after the Indian Premier League 2026 auction in Abu Dhabi. One of 35 uncapped Indians picked, the Madhya Pradesh pacer impressed scouts with his pace,

yorkers and lower-order hitting. Yadav rose to prominence in the Madhya Pradesh Premier League and later delivered telling performances in domestic T20 tournaments. Likely to step in as cover for Yash Dayal, he admitted he expected just one bid and was overwhelmed by intense franchise interest. **PTI**

### ROOTS OVER REPUTATION

## Why Luca Zidane chose Algeria over France international football allegiance



**PARIS:** Luca Zidane, son of French legend Zinedine Zidane, has explained his decision to switch international allegiance from France to Algeria national football team, citing family roots and emotional connection. Though he represented France at junior levels, Luca chose Algeria at 27, a move fully backed

by his grandfather, whose heritage strongly shaped the family's identity. He said Algerian culture was always present at home, making the choice deeply personal rather than professional. Luca has since become Algeria's first-choice goalkeeper and featured in their Africa Cup of Nations opener against Sudan. **PTI**







## Sydney Hobart Yacht Race kicks off on Boxing Day



In this photo provided by the Cruising Yacht Club of Australia, competitors make a start in the Sydney Hobart yacht race in Sydney, Friday, Dec. 26, 2025. AP/PTI

# Protesters block Dhaka Junction for Hadi killing justice

Activists from Inqilab Moncho and July Moncho blocked Shahbagh intersection after Friday prayers, halting traffic since 2:30 pm.

Press Trust Of India

**DHAKA/NEW DELHI:** Bangladesh's slain radical leader Sharif Osman Hadi's party activists on Friday blocked one of Dhaka's busiest intersections, demanding justice for his killing, disrupting traffic in the capital for several hours. After Friday prayers, leaders and supporters of Inqilab Moncho and July Moncho, joined by students and members of the public, brought out

a protest procession from the Dhaka University Central Mosque and marched towards Shahbagh, where they staged a sit-in demonstration, The Daily Star newspaper reported. Md Moniruzzaman, officer-in-charge of Shahbagh Police Station, said the agitators began blocking the intersection at around 2:30 pm local time and traffic has remained suspended since then. The protesters blocked the main roads at Shahbagh, bringing vehic-

### HIGHLIGHT

- They renamed it 'Shaheed Osman Hadi Chatter' and vowed to stay until justice for Hadi, shot Dec 12 and died in Singapore.

- Hadi, July Uprising leader and anti-India critic, was parliamentary candidate; group demands Home and Law Advisers resign.

ular movement in the area to a complete halt. Addressing the demonstrators, Inqilab Moncho Member Secretary Abdullah Al Jaber said the group would continue the blockade until justice was ensured for Hadi's killing, adding that protesters were prepared to stay overnight at the site if necessary. "From today, we declare this Shahbagh as 'Shaheed Osman Hadi Chatter'. Our movement will not leave the streets until justice is ensured for

Hadi's killing," Al Jaber was quoted as saying by The Dhaka Tribune newspaper. Shahbagh is a strategic junction connecting several key parts of Dhaka, and blockades there often cause widespread traffic congestion across the city.

## Kremlin offers France deal on imprisoned scholar Vinatier

Press Trust Of India

Kremlin contacted France with an offer on Laurent Vinatier, a French scholar sentenced to 3 years for not registering as foreign agent while gathering military info.

**MOSCOW:** The Kremlin on Thursday said it was in contact with the French authorities over the fate of a French political scholar serving a three-year sentence in Russia and reportedly facing new charges of espionage.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters that Russia has made "an offer to the French" regarding Laurent Vinatier, arrested in Moscow last year and convicted of collecting military information, and that "the ball



French citizen Laurent Vinatier sits in a cage prior to a court session at the Zamoskvoretsky District Court in Moscow, Russia. (AP Photo/, File)

### FASTFACTS

- Peskov says ball is in France's court; Putin promised to review case after query.

- France demands immediate release, slams sentence and Russia's foreign agent laws amid Ukraine tensions.

is now in France's court". He refused to provide details, citing the sensitivity of the matter.

French President Emmanuel Macron is following Vinatier's situation closely, his office said in a statement. French Foreign Ministry spokesperson Pascal Confavreux said on Thursday that all government services are fully mobilised to provide

consular support to Vinatier and push for his liberation as soon as possible.

Peskov's remarks come after journalist Jérôme Garro of the French TF1 TV channel asked President Vladimir Putin during his annual news conference on December 19 whether Vinatier's family could hope for a presidential pardon or his release in a prisoner exchange. Putin said he knew "nothing" about the case, but promised to look into it.

Vinatier was arrested in Moscow in June 2024. Russian authorities accused him of failing to register as a "foreign agent" while collecting information about Russia's "military and military-technical activities" that could be used to the detriment of national security.

| MYANMAR ELECTION |

## Myanmar's 1st election in 5 years amid coup criticism

Press Trust Of India

**BANGKOK:** Myanmar will hold the first phase of a general election on Sunday, its first vote in five years and an exercise that critics say will neither restore the country's fragile democracy undone by a 2021 army takeover, nor end a devastating civil war triggered by the nation's harsh military rule. The military has framed the polls as a return to mul-



ti-party democracy, likely seeking to add a facade of legitimacy to its rule, which began after the army four years ago ousted the elected

government of Aung San Suu Kyi. The takeover triggered widespread popular opposition that has grown into a civil war. The fighting

**"These elections are not credible at all."**

**Richard Horsey**  
Myanmar analyst for the International Crisis Group

has complicated holding the polls in many contested areas. Voting will be held in different parts of the country in three phases, with the second on Jan. 11 and the third on Jan. 25.

Meeting with Trump to happen in 'near future'.  
Volodymyr Zelenskyy  
Ukrainian President

## Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

*MALAYSIA SCANDAL RAZAK*

### Former Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak convicted in trial over IMDB corruption scandal



**PUTRAJAYA:** Imprisoned former Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak was convicted Friday following a corruption trial tied to multibillion-dollar looting of the IMDB state investment fund. The nation's High Court found Najib, 72, guilty on four counts of abuse of power. Rulings on additional charges of money laundering were still being delivered Friday afternoon.

Authorities said he siphoned more than \$700 million into his personal bank accounts from the IMDB fund. Najib denied any wrongdoing and had maintained the funds were a political donation from Saudi Arabia and that he had been misled by rogue financiers led by Low Taek Jho. Low, thought to be the scandal's mastermind, remains at large.

Justice Collin Lawrence Sequerah said Najib's claim of a Saudi donation was "incapable of belief". Four letters purportedly from the Saudi donor were forged and evidence clearly showed the funds originated from IMDB, he said. He rejected defence

arguments that Najib was an unwitting victim, duped by former IMDB officials and Low. Witness testimonies had pointed to an "unmistakable bond" between Najib and Low, who had played a pivotal role in the scandal and operated as "the proxy, the conduit, the intermediary and the facilitator" for Najib in IMDB, the judge said.

The judge noted that Najib failed to take steps to verify the origin of the massive funds nor took action against Low. Instead, Najib used the money despite its suspicious origins and also took steps to protect his position, including by removing the then-attorney general and anti-corruption chief investigating the case, he said.

"The accused was no country bumpkin," Sequerah said. "Any attempt to paint the accused as an ignoramus who was hopelessly unaware of the misdeeds going around him must therefore, fail miserably." Najib, dressed in a blue suit, appeared calm and at times wrote in his notebook.



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