



N-E-W-S CM Sai joins nomination filing of ... Pg 05



# Central Chronicle

## 'West Asia crisis hits economy, people'

Modi: Indians' security is top priority in conflicts.

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday termed the prevailing situation in West Asia "worrisome" as it is having a very adverse impact on the global economy and the livelihoods of people.



PM Narendra Modi speaks in the Lok Sabha.

Making a statement on the prevailing situation in West Asia in the Lok Sabha, Modi also said that the security of Indians has been the government's biggest priority in times of conflict, and the Centre is sensitive, vigilant and also ready to

extend every assistance. "The current situation in West Asia is worrisome. This crisis has been going on for more than three weeks, having a very adverse impact on the global economy and on people's lives. The

### 'Will overcome West Asia crisis like Covid'

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said the difficult global conditions caused by the West Asia conflict are likely to persist for a long time and called upon the nation to remain prepared and united, just as it had stood together during the COVID-19 pandemic.



entire world is urging all parties to resolve this crisis as quickly as possi-

ble," Modi said. He also said that cargo movement through the Strait of Hormuz has been a challenge from the beginning of the war, yet the government is ensuring that gas and fuel supplies remain the least affected. "We all know that India imports

60 per cent of its LPG needs. Due to uncertain supply, the government is prioritising domestic supply. LPG production in the country is also being increased," he said. The prime minister also said the conflict has created unexpected challenges, including economic, humanitarian and those related to national security. The countries affected by the conflict share extensive trade relations with India. The region fulfils a significant portion of our crude oil and gas requirements, he said.

## 2 Indian LPG tankers sail through Hormuz

NEW DELHI: Two more Indian-flagged LPG tankers, carrying roughly a day's supply of the country's cooking gas, have safely navigated through the war-hit Strait of Hormuz and are expected to reach Indian shores over the next two days. LPG tankers Pine Gas and Jag Vasant, sailing close to each other, started from the Persian Gulf on Monday morning before crossing the strait, ship tracking data showed. The two ships are carrying about 92,000 tonnes of LPG, said Rajesh Kumar Sinha, Special Secretary in the Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways, at a news briefing. "The movement has started." Without disclosing the final port of destination, he said the ship typically took two to two-and-a-



half days to transit from the Gulf to India. Both the LPG tankers sailed through waters between Iran's Larak and Qeshm islands -- possibly to make their identity clear to Iranian authorities before they cross the Strait, ship tracking data showed. The two ships were among the 22 Indian flagged vessels that were stranded in the Persian Gulf after the war in the Middle East nearly closed the Strait of Hormuz -- the narrow waterway between Iran and Oman that connects the oil and gas-producing Gulf countries to the rest of the world.

### NEWSLINE

#### MADURAI

### 9 policemen guilty

A local court on Monday held guilty all the nine accused policemen in the case of custodial torture of a man and his son, leading to their deaths at Sathankulam in Thoothukudi district in the year 2020.

The First Additional District and Sessions Court Judge G Muthukumar declared that the prosecution had proven its case and held the policemen guilty of causing the death of the father-son. The quantum of sentence for the convicted policemen will be pronounced on March 30, the judge said.

On June 19, 2020, mobile phone shop owner P Jayaraj (59) and his son J Benicks (31) were taken to Sathankulam police station in connection with an alleged violation of norms to prevent the spread of a coronavirus pandemic.

## 'Trump backed down after firm warning'

Press Trust Of India

Iran called US President Trump's decision to suspend strikes on the Islamic nation's power grid as evidence of US hesitation



Abdul Majid Hakeem Ilah

DUBAI: The original deadline had been set for around 0000 GMT on Tuesday, but Trump announced on Monday that it would be pushed back. In response, Iranian state television displayed an on-screen graphic stat-

ing that the U.S. president had backed down following what it described as Iran's firm warning.

Iran's main state-aligned media moved quickly to call US President Donald Trump's decision to suspend strikes on the Islamic nation's power

grid as evidence of US hesitation. Iran alluded that it wants to take the path of deterrence rather than concession as talks crept forward.

Iran media Press TV reported there was no contact for talks with the US, whether direct or indirect. Press TV reported that a senior security official has said Trump withdrew the talks offer due to Iran's credible military threats and rising financial pressures in the US and the West.

### 4 labourers dead

PRAYAGRAJ: Four labourers were killed, and 12 were injured after being trapped under the debris following the collapse of a cold storage facility on Monday afternoon here, an official said. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath expressed grief over the incident and have announced financial assistance to the injured and ex-gratia for the kin of the deceased. District Magistrate Manish Kumar Verma told PTI, "12 labourers were injured in the incident and are receiving treatment at SRN Hospital.

## No strikes against Iran's power plants for five days: Trump

Press Trust Of India

DUBAI: President Donald Trump on Monday extended his deadline for Iran to reopen the crucial Strait of Hormuz to international shipping, saying the US would hold off on strikes against Iranian power plants for five days. Shortly after Trump made the announcement on his Truth Social site, Iranian state television put up a graphic that read: "US president backs down following Iran's firm warning." The reprieve came hours ahead of Trump's



self-imposed deadline later in the day.

Writing in all capital letters, Trump said the US and Iran have had "very good and productive conversations" that could yield "a complete and total resolution" in the

war. Talks would continue "throughout the week," he said.

Trump added that the suspension of his threat to attack power plants was "subject to the success of the ongoing meetings and discussions."

### NEW DELHI

### Terror module

Delhi Police's Special Cell has arrested a key operative of Pakistan-based terrorist Shahzad Bhatti's network and busted a module that was recruiting Indian youths through social media and grooming them for activities ranging from propaganda to terror attacks, an official said on Monday. The accused, identified as Harmandeep Singh alias Harman (18), a resident of Rampur in Uttar Pradesh, was apprehended following discreet surveillance on Bhatti and his foreign-based network, he said. "The arrest has exposed a structured terror syndicate being operated remotely from Pakistan, wherein handlers were targeting vulnerable youth in India and luring them with promises of money, recognition and a lavish lifestyle," Deputy Commissioner of Police (Special Cell) Narra Chaitanya said in a statement.

### NEW DELHI

### SC to examine identity

The Supreme Court on Monday decided to examine a significant constitutional challenge involving gender discrimination within religious personal laws, questioning whether a Parsi woman can be stripped of her religious identity following the inter-faith marriage. The top court issued notices to the Centre, Nagpur Parsi Panchayat, the Ministry of Minority Affairs, the Maharashtra government, and the Charity Commissioner on the plea filed by Dina Budhraj. A bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and justices Joy-malya Bagchi and Vipul M Pancholi heard preliminary submissions of senior advocate Shayam Divan.

## Two women killed as pickup overturns

BALOD: Two women died and several were injured when a pickup carrying villagers returning from a Chhathi naming ceremony overturned near Bhawarmara in Balod district on March 22.

What began as a joyful family occasion ended in tragedy on a dark rural road in Balod district on the night of March 22. A pickup vehicle overloaded with villagers returning home from the function lost control near Bhawar-



mara village under Mangchuwa police station jurisdiction and overturned violently. Two women died on the spot. Several others sustained injuries of varying severity and were rushed to nearby health facilities.

## Cold desert riverbank

LEH: Lt Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena on Monday launched the Indus River Green Corridor Eco-Restoration Plantation at Spituk Pharka here, an initiative aimed at restoring the ecological integrity of the Indus riverbanks and creating green buffers in the fragile desert landscape of Leh-Ladakh. This initiative is a one-of-a-kind Cold Desert River Bank Restoration Project in India, a spokesperson said.

## Illegal opium cultivation busted in Raigarh, two held

Press Trust Of India

Opium was being cultivated in a field belonging to a farmer identified as Sadhram Nagvanshi.

RAIGARH: Police have unearthed illegal opium cultivation in a village in Raigarh district, the fifth such instance in



the past 18 days, officials said on Monday. Two persons have been arrested in connection with illegal opium

cultivation in Navin Ghatgaon village under Lailunga police station limits, which was found out after the administration carried out surveillance using drones, they added.

Opium was being cultivated in a field belonging to a farmer identified as Sadhram Nagvanshi, a police offi-

cial said. "Information was also received about dried opium being stored at the residence of another villager Abhimanyu Nagvanshi. When authorities reached the location, the accused were trying to destroy the evidence. The attempt was foiled and the contraband was seized," he added.

## Govt to deploy 10,000 AC e-buses by 2027

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The government on Monday informed the Rajya Sabha that 10,000 air-conditioned e-buses would be provided to 116 cities across 26 states/UTs by the end of 2027 under the PM-eBus Sewa Scheme, and a new scheme would be launched thereafter to provide another 35,000 e-buses.

Replying to supplementary queries during



Question Hour, Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs Manohar Lal said Prime Minister Narendra Modi had on August 16, 2023, announced that the PM e-Bus Sewa scheme to provide mobility in smaller cities and tackle rising pollution.

NUMBER 116 e-buses would be provided to 116 cities across 26 states/UTs by the end of 2027

Since states were unable to provide adequate finance for e-buses, a target of a total of 10,000 buses was put under the PM e-Bus Sewa scheme for towns with a population

between 3 lakh and 40 lakh, he said. The minister said states were told to give their demands, and a selection criterion was laid down, and buses were sanctioned on the recommendations of coordination committees.

"Out of 178 cities eligible, 116 cities participated, and they were allotted buses accordingly. Only four cities qualified under the scheme in Bihar, where 400 buses have been sanctioned.

## 342 pc higher spending on ex-CM Kejriwal's bunglaow

NEW DELHI: The renovation work at former Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's then official residence, 6 Flagstaff Road, was completed for Rs 33.66 crore, 342 per cent above the estimated cost, said a CAG report tabled in the Delhi Assembly on Monday. The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) report for 2022, tabled in the Assembly by Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, also mentioned that out



### HIGHLIGHT

Out of 33.66 cr, Rs 18.88 cr was spent on "superior specifications, artistic, antique and ornamental" items.

of 33.66 crore, Rs 18.88 crore was spent on "supe-

rior specifications, artistic, antique and ornamental" items. The Flagstaff bunglaow, where Kejriwal lived as Delhi Chief Minister from 2015 to 2024, was nicknamed by the BJP as "Sheesh Mahal" to highlight alleged corruption by the Aam Aadmi Party and its national convener during the Assembly polls held in February 2025. The BJP removed the AAP from power in Delhi after a decade.

# Raipur



Rising electricity bills have badly affected common people's household budgets.

Sushil Anand Shukla  
PCC Communication Head

## Uniformity in departmental data is essential: Yadav

Workshop on data coordination among departments conclude.

Central Chronicle News

**RAIPUR:** A workshop-cum-meeting was held today at the Mantralaya (Mahanadi Bhawan) here, presided over by Bhuvanesh Yadav, Secretary of the Department of Economics and Statistics, Government of Chhattisgarh. During the meeting, comprehensive discussions were held regarding the standardization of departmental statistics at the state level and the subject of administrative data linking. Officials present at the meeting informed the gathering that the Administrative Statistics and Policy Division



of the National Statistical Office (NSO), Government of India (Delhi), has announced that a summit is being organized for national-level deliberations on the subject of administrative data linking. Representatives from various states and Union Territories are expected to participate in this summit. The conference will feature discus-

sions on the progress of data harmonization and related topics.

During the meeting, Bhuvanesh Yadav, Secretary of the Department of Economics and Statistics, urged the various departments to promptly provide their respective departmental information so that the process of data coordination can be advanced in a time-

bound manner. Speaking at the workshop, Roktima Yadav, Director of the Department of Economics and Statistics, stated that the exchange of data among departments would not only strengthen and streamline the data system but also significantly aid in the process of policy formulation. She further explained that ensuring

### FACTFILE

• The exchange of data among departments would not only strengthen and streamline the data system but also significantly aid in the process of policy formulation, says Roktima Yadav, Director of the Department of Economics and Statistics.

uniformity in data would eliminate duplication, thereby enabling the implementation of policies, schemes, and decisions based on precise data analysis.

## Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

### JOINT MEETING HELD

## All departments must coordinate to prepare for the CM's programs: Collector Dr. Gaurav Singh

**RAIPUR:** Regarding law and order and preparations for the Chief Minister's programs, Police Commissioner Mr. Sanjeev Shukla and Collector Dr. Gaurav Singh on Monday convened a joint meeting with the concerned departments and issued necessary directives.

Police Commissioner Mr. Sanjeev Shukla stated that the Chief Minister's security is paramount, and there must be absolutely no negligence in this regard. Wherever a program is scheduled, the itinerary must be obtained in advance, the venue inspected, and the organizers strictly instructed to comply with the recommendations of the Verma Commission Report. A written undertaking to this effect must be obtained from the organizers. Whether the Chief Minister's programs are private or official, the PWD Department shall be responsible for ensuring



the provision of the stage and other essential arrangements. At the program venue, the CMHO must ensure the mandatory presence of medical personnel—including those accompanying the motorcade—as well as the availability of necessary medicines in accordance with established protocols. The District Commandant shall ensure the provision of fire services and fire-fighting equipment at every event. All preparations at the Chief Minister's arrival/deboarding point must be kept robust and foolproof.

### MAA KARMA JAYANTI CELEBRATED

## Maa Karma Jayanti Mahotsav celebrated with great enthusiasm in Kota

**RAIPUR:** The "Bhakta Shiromani Maa Karma Jayanti Mahotsav" was celebrated with great enthusiasm by the Sahu Samaj in Ward-20 (Ramakrishna Paramahansa Ward), Teachers Colony, Kota. A large number of devotees, including senior citizens, youth, and children, participated in the programme, showcasing strong community unity.

The celebrations began with a Kalash Yatra, followed by pooja-archana and ceremonial lamp lighting at the newly constructed Maa Karma Bhawan. The event formally commenced with the Chhattisgarh state anthem. Guests were welcomed with traditional tilak, sandalwood paste, and garlands, while children presented vibrant cultural performances reflecting local traditions.

Ward President Bhojram Sahu expressed gratitude to MLA Rajesh Munat, Corporator Aman Thakur, and other leaders for supporting the construction of the community building.



He emphasized unity, social awareness, and respect among all sections of society, while highlighting Maa Karma's deep devotion. Corporator Aman Thakur lauded the unity of the Sahu community and shared upcoming development plans. Dr. Trishana Sahu encouraged women to realize their potential through determination and hard work.

Presiding over the event, MLA Motilal Sahu spoke about the blessings of Maa Karma and the community's progress. Several dignitaries and social workers addressed the gathering.

## Class 12 Hindi exam cancelled following paper leak claims

Central Chronicle News

**RAIPUR:** The Chhattisgarh Board of Secondary Education (CGBSE) has officially cancelled the Class 12 Hindi examination that was originally held on March 14, 2026. Following a high-level meeting of the Examination Committee on Monday, March 23, it was decided that the test would be conducted afresh on April 10, 2026. This decision comes after widespread reports and social



media claims suggested that Set B of the question paper had been leaked on March 15 and 16.

To investigate the authenticity of these claims, a written complaint was filed with the Cyber Cell, and a formal FIR was registered at the City Kotwali. While School

Education Minister Gajendra Yadav had previously expressed skepticism regarding the leak, the Board's latest move to nullify the previous exam aims to maintain the integrity of the competitive process and ensure a fair evaluation for all students. According to the revised schedule issued under order number 1520, the Higher Secondary Certificate Main Examination for Hindi will now take place on April 10, 2026, from 9:00 AM to 12:15 PM.

## 2 missing girls traced within 12 hours

Central Chronicle News

**RAIPUR:** Acting swiftly on a missing persons report, the Gudhiyari Police successfully located two girls—one minor and one adult—within 12 hours of their disappearance.

The families had approached the Gudhiyari Police Station on March 16, 2026, informing officials that the two close friends had left their homes in the Ramnagar area without noti-



fying anyone. Taking the matter seriously, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (North Zone) immediately directed officers to launch a detailed investigation. Police teams began gathering information and reviewing CCTV footage from key locations.

## Protest erupts over road widening in Gudhiyari

Central Chronicle News

**RAIPUR:** Tension gripped the Gudhiyari area of the state capital on Monday as large-scale protests broke out against an ongoing road-widening project. Hundreds of local residents, along with activists from the Congress party, Bhim Army, and Chhattisgarh Kranti Sena, staged a sit-in demonstration, blocking the road and raising slogans against the administration. The protest intensified as participants opposed the proposed widening work, alleging lack of proper consultation and concerns over displacement. The agitators were seen firmly occupying the road, bringing traffic movement in the area to a complete halt. In response to the escalating



situation, a heavy police force was deployed at the site to maintain law and order. Police personnel attempted to disperse the crowd and clear the road, but protesters remained adamant, leading to a tense standoff. Officials from the Municipal Corporation and the district administration were also present on the spot, monitoring the situation closely. Meanwhile, bulldozers and machinery were brought in, indicating preparations to proceed with the road-widening work despite the opposition.

## Int'l Conference on GST 2.0 concludes at MATS

Central Chronicle News

**International participation and expert discussions on GST 2.0 and global taxation reforms.**

**RAIPUR:** A two-day international conference on "Next Generation GST 2.0: Its Global Impact" was successfully organized by the School of Business and Management Studies, MATS University, on March 23-24 at the New Convention Hall and Circuit House, Civil Lines. The event brought together scholars, academicians, and researchers from India and abroad to deliberate on evolving taxation systems and their global economic implications. The conference



### FACTFILE

• Multiple technical sessions, keynote lectures, and research presentations enriched academic discourse.

commenced with a formal inaugural session featuring Saraswati Vandana and the national anthem. Conference Coordinator Dr. Umesh Gupta welcomed the dignitaries and outlined the objectives of the event. Prominent guests included Chancellor Gajaraj Pagariya, Vice Chancellor Prof. (Dr.) K.P.

Yadav, Director General Priyesh Pagariya, and Higher Education Minister Tankram Verma, who highlighted the transformative potential of GST 2.0 in enhancing transparency, boosting global trade, and strengthening economic frameworks. Multiple technical sessions were conducted over the two days, featuring keynote lectures from international experts including Dr. M.D. Yousof (Oman), Dr. N.K. Rajagopal (Oman), and Dr. Santosh Kumar Verma (China).

| NEW WASTE RULES FROM APRIL 1 |

## Strict compliance for events, households

Central Chronicle News

**Mandatory prior notification for events with 100+ guests; heavy fines for violations.**



**RAIPUR:** A new Solid Waste Management Policy will come into effect across Chhattisgarh from April 1, introducing stricter rules for waste disposal, segregation, and accountability. Under the revised framework, organizers

of events with 100 or more guests must inform the municipal corporation at least three days in advance. Failure to comply or improper waste handling at such gatherings could attract on-the-spot fines ranging from Rs 500 to Rs 50,000, as

per local bylaws.

The policy aligns with the newly notified Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026, issued by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, replacing the 2016 rules. A major shift under the new regime is

the mandatory four-bin waste segregation system for households, institutions, and commercial establishments, aimed at improving recycling and reducing landfill burden.

Event organizers will be held responsible for ensuring zero-waste functions by maintaining cleanliness and proper segregation at the source. Meanwhile, street vendors have been directed to keep dustbins at their stalls and dispose of waste only at designated municipal collection

points, failing which penalties will be imposed. Bulk waste generators such as residential complexes, hotels, hospitals, and educational institutions will now be required to process waste at source. Waste pickers will be formally integrated into the system through registration, identity cards, and uniforms. Additionally, manufacturers will be made accountable for sanitary waste under Extended Producer Responsibility norms.

### WATER CONSERVATION

## UltraTech boosts Water Conservation efforts in Baloda Bazar-Bhatapara

**RAIPUR:** Reinforcing its commitment to sustainable water management on World Water Day, UltraTech Cement's integrated units in Chhattisgarh—Hirmi, Rawan, Kukurdih, and Baikunth—have undertaken extensive water stewardship initiatives across Baloda Bazar-Bhatapara district and nearby regions. Hirmi Cement Works has made significant progress through its community watershed project, harvesting and recharging over 68,000 cubic metres of water in 2025 alone, with a cumulative achievement of more than 93 lakh cubic metres. The unit has also constructed 32 check dams and deepened seven ponds, benefiting over 3,200 farmers. Similarly, Rawan Cement Works has contributed over 3.3 lakh cubic metres of water recharge since inception, along with building check dams and deepening 36 ponds, positively impacting more than 31,000



farmers. Kukurdih and Baikunth units have also played a key role, collectively benefiting thousands of farmers through water harvesting and storage initiatives. At the national level, UltraTech reported harvesting and recharging over 16.2 million cubic metres of water in FY25 through its conservation projects, enhancing water access and agricultural productivity in rural areas. The company also focuses on efficient water use within its operations by recycling water, creating reservoirs in mined-out pits, and implementing rainwater harvesting systems. Overall, UltraTech has managed over 120 million cubic metres of water through its sustainability initiatives in FY25.



## IB Group drives protein awareness, strengthens India's nutrition ecosystem

**RAIPUR:** As India intensifies its focus on nutrition and protein security, IB Group, under the leadership of Managing Director Bahadur Ali, is playing a pivotal role in transforming the country's food ecosystem. Widely regarded as a pioneer of modern poultry in India, Ali has expanded IB Group into a leading integrated poultry and protein enterprise, empowering thousands of farmers and rural entrepreneurs across multiple states. The company operates with complete backward and forward integration—covering feed production, breeding, farming, processing, and nationwide distribution—ensuring quality, efficiency, and consistent supply of affordable chicken protein to consumers. To address India's persistent protein deficiency, IB Group has launched the nationwide

campaign "Har Ghar Har Din Chicken Protein." The initiative spans over 2,500 tehsils across 20 states, promoting awareness about the importance of daily protein consumption and encouraging healthier dietary habits among families. Speaking on the initiative, Bahadur Ali emphasized that protein should be viewed as a daily necessity rather than a luxury. The campaign aims to bridge the awareness gap, especially in regions where diets are largely carbohydrate-based. With chicken emerging as a sustainable and affordable protein source, IB Group continues to strengthen its farm-to-consumer value chain.

# Raipur News

## Continuous efforts underway for forest conservation: Kashyap

A workshop was organized on World Forestry Day focusing on forest conservation, tree plantation and environmental awareness.

Central Chronicle News

**RAIPUR:** On the occasion of World Forestry Day (March 21), the Forest Department—in collaboration with various organizations—organizes workshops focused on forest conservation, tree plantation, and environmental awareness. During these events, experts engage in discussions regarding scientific techniques, the significance of afforestation, and the sustainable management of forests for the future. The program's Chief Guest was the Minister for Forests and Climate Change, Kedar Kashyap. Speaking on the occasion, he remarked that the lives of the people of Chhattisgarh are deeply rooted in nature, and that continuous efforts are being undertaken to conserve and enhance the state's forests. He lauded the increase in forest cover, the rise in wildlife populations, and the achievement of establishing the state's first Ramsar Site. Furthermore, he called for the departmental schemes to be implemented in a target-oriented and phased manner. During the event, several books—published by TERI (The Energy and Resources Institute), New Delhi—covering topics such as the assessment of forest ecosystem services, climate change, and traditional knowledge were



### FASTFACTS

● Experts discuss scientific techniques, the importance of Afforestation, and Forest Management for the future.

released. On the occasion of World Forestry Day, a one-day workshop was organized by the Chhattisgarh State Climate Change Centre (under the

Department of Forests and Climate Change) at the Dandakaranya Auditorium, located within Aranya Bhawan in Naya Raipur. The program was presided over by Shri Vikas Markam, Chairman of the Chhattisgarh Local Health Traditions and Medicinal Plants Board. He emphasized that it is the duty of both the government and every member of society to

ensure that forests are neither cut down nor allowed to be destroyed.

Several senior officials were present at the event, including Additional Chief Secretary Richa Sharma; Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Head of Forest Force, V. Srinivas Rao; and Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife), Arun Kumar Pandey.

### Workshop highlights forest economics and climate resilience strategies

Technical sessions and panel discussions were also organized during the workshop. The technical sessions featured presentations on ecological services provided by forests, information regarding Green Climate Fund projects, and discussions on the financial assistance options available through NABARD. Meanwhile, during the panel discussions, experts shared their insights on the progress being made in the fields of forestry and climate change. On this occasion, stakeholders associated with the National Adaptation Fund project also shared their experiences.

It is noteworthy that the United Nations observes March 21st annually as World Forestry Day. This year's theme is "Forests and Economies," aimed at highlighting the economic and environmental significance of forests. This workshop represents a significant initiative toward promoting a forest-based economy within the state, conserving biodiversity, and raising awareness to address the challenges posed by climate change.

### Pledge of Antyodaya

**RAIPUR:** The landless agricultural labourers—the architects of Chhattisgarh's rural economy—are now entering a new era of economic security. Under the leadership of Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai, the State Government's 'Deendayal Upadhyay Landless Agricultural Laborer Welfare Scheme' is not merely a financial assistance program; it is a monumental endeavor ('Mahayagya') aimed at ensuring a life of dignity for the person standing at the very last rung of society. Under this scheme, a sum of Rs 10,000 per beneficiary will be directly transferred this year into the bank accounts of 495,965 landless beneficiaries. To facilitate this, the State Government has allocated a total provision of Rs 495.965 cr. This list of beneficiaries includes 22,028 Baiga and Gunia families, who serve as the custodians of the state's rich cultural and traditional heritage. The State Government had provided record-breaking assistance through this scheme last year as well. In 2025, a total sum of Rs 562.112 cr was distributed among 562,112 beneficiaries, at a rate of Rs 10,000 per individual. This consistent flow of statistics demonstrates the State Government's unwavering commitment to the economic empowerment of landless families.

On March 25, 2026, as CM Sai initiates the transfer of funds from the soil of Balodabazar, it will resonate as a powerful echo of 'Justice and Good Governance' across Chhattisgarh.

## Former insurgents swap weapons for pens



Central Chronicle News

**RAIPUR:** In a powerful symbol of regional transformation, 28 rehabilitated youths who once carried weapons have taken their first steps toward a peaceful future by appearing for the ULLAS Mahapariksha. Held on Sunday, March 22, 2026, the event marked a significant turning point for the Bastar district, where education is increasingly replacing the cycle of violence.

The literacy drive, organized under the ULLAS Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram, saw massive participation across the district, with a total of 25,706 candidates sitting

for the exam. The initiative aims to provide foundational literacy and numeracy to those who previously lacked access to formal schooling.

At the Adawal rehabilitation center, the participation of former insurgents signaled a major shift toward social reintegration, with observers noting that hands once used to hold guns were now holding pens to write a new future. This effort extended into the judicial system at Jagdalpur Central Jail, where 141 inmates, including 94 men and 47 women, appeared for the test to forge a new identity through literacy.

## Solemn tribute paid to Shaheed Bhagat Singh on martyrdom day

Central Chronicle News

**RAIPUR:** The city of Raipur marked the martyrdom day of Shaheed Bhagat Singh on Monday, March 23, 2026, with a dignified floral tribute ceremony at his statue located near the SRP Crossing in Shankar Nagar. Organized by the Culture Department

of the Raipur Municipal Corporation in collaboration with Zone 4, the event brought together political leaders, officials, and citizens to honor the legacy of the legendary freedom fighter.

## 72nd meeting of the DOLIC, Raipur conclude under chairmanship of DRM

Central Chronicle News

**RAIPUR:** The 72nd meeting of the Divisional Official Language Implementation Committee (DOLIC), Raipur, was held on March 23, in the Divisional Conference Hall, under the chairmanship of the Divisional Railway Manager, Dayanand. During the meeting, the progress made regarding the Official Language within the Division during the period of October-December 2025 was reviewed, in accordance with the standard agenda issued by the Railway Board. In his welcome address, Bajrang Agarwal, Additional Chief Official Language Officer and Additional Divisional Railway Manager, stated that an inspection meeting of the Divisional Office was conducted by the Parliamentary Committee on Official Language in December 2025. During this meeting, the Committee issued several guidelines, which have since been circulated to all Branch Officers via official



letters. It is expected that these guidelines will be strictly adhered to. Today, neither typing nor translation presents any difficulty; therefore, Hindi should be utilized 100% in all original correspondence. Section 3(3) of the Official Languages Act, 1963, is a highly significant provision; it must be ensured that all documents falling under this category are invariably issued in a 100% bilingual format (Hindi and English).

In his presidential address, Divisional Railway Manager Dayanand stated that a set of "Check Points" for the implementation of Official Language rules has been issued under his signature. It is imperative to ensure both the personal compliance with, and the enforcement of, these check points. With

the aid of modern AI tools, work can now be executed in Hindi with great ease; everyone should take full advantage of this facility. Furthermore, maximum use of Hindi should be made in the 'noting' section within the e-Office system. Hindi should be utilized in all official correspondence.

During their regular inspections, officers should also conduct Official Language inspections and prepare their inspection reports in Hindi. Finally, officers are directed to apprise the officials and employees of their respective departments regarding the decisions and suggestions adopted during today's meeting, and to issue necessary instructions to them in this regard.

## Youth lead grand Raipur Padyatra to honor martyrs

Central Chronicle News

**Grand MY Bharat Padyatra on Shaheed Diwas, Youth echo spirit of patriotism.**

**RAIPUR:** On the occasion of Shaheed Diwas, MY Bharat (Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India) organized a grand padyatra in the capital city, Raipur. Held under the theme "My Bharat, My Responsibility," the march commenced from Telibandha Talab Marine Drive and culminated at Shaheed Bhagat Singh Chowk, located near the Chief Minister's residence on Gaurav Path, where floral tributes were offered to the martyrs. A large number of MY Bharat youth volunteers, members of the Sikh community, and representatives from various social organiza-



tions participated in the padyatra. Carrying the national flag, participants filled the atmosphere with patriotic slogans, reflecting enthusiasm and unity throughout the route. Arpit Tiwari, State Director, MY Bharat, Chhattisgarh, stated that the objective of the padyatra was to pay homage to the great revolutionaries and martyrs, and to inspire a sense of patriotism and responsibility among the youth. He further informed that a series of activities were organized by MY Bharat

to mark Shaheed Diwas, including online quizzes on the MY Bharat portal, youth-led reels on freedom fighters, cleanliness drives, and awareness initiatives. The padyatra was led by Amarjeet Singh Chhabra, Chairman (Minister of State rank), State Minority Commission, Chhattisgarh.

Sunita Chansoriya, Professor, Durga College, Raipur, remarked that Bhagat Singh continues to be a powerful source of inspiration for the youth, and by imbibing his ideals, young citizens can contribute meaningfully towards building a Viksit Bharat.

## Seminar strengthens rail efforts against human trafficking

Central Chronicle News

**RAIPUR:** The South East Central Railway (SECR) Raipur Division hosted a comprehensive anti-human trafficking seminar at the Ullas Officers' Club in WRS Colony on Monday, March 23, 2026. This initiative follows a significant Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Railway Protection Force (RPF) and the National Commission for Women in July 2025, aimed at intensifying joint operations to pre-



vent the illegal transport of persons through the rail network.

The event was graced by Chief Guest Ms. Delina Khongdup, former member of the National Commission for Women, alongside

a panel of high-ranking officials including Raipur Police Commissioner Sanjeev Shukla, RPF Inspector General Munawwar Khurshid, and Divisional Railway Manager Dayanand.

A total of 222 partici-

pants attended, comprising RPF and GRP officers, ticket checking staff, train crews, and station porters, all of whom play a critical role as first responders in identifying suspicious activity.

During the technical sessions, speakers provided in-depth insights into the root causes of trafficking, methods for identifying potential victims and suspects, and the specific legal procedures required to prosecute offenders. Legal expert Naushina Afreen

Ali and representatives from the "Bachpan Bachao" NGO also shared strategies for effective intervention and victim support.

Railway authorities concluded the seminar by appealing for public cooperation. Citizens are urged to remain vigilant and immediately report any suspicious individuals traveling with women or children by calling the railway helpline 139 or contacting the nearest RPF, GRP, or police station.

## Brijmohan Agrawal opposes privatization of Jungle Safari

Central Chronicle News

**RAIPUR:** A delegation from the Chhattisgarh Daily Wage Forest Employees Association met with LS MP Brijmohan Agrawal to express their concerns regarding a proposal to hand over bus operations at the Jungle Safari—located in Nava Raipur—to private agencies. The delegation explained that if the bus operations are awarded to private agencies through a tender process, it would create a livelihood crisis for the drivers and guides who have



been working there for the past 10-15 years. Furthermore, they would be deprived of future opportunities for regularization and other government benefits. Terming the matter as extremely serious, MP Brijmohan Agrawal stated that, under no cir-

### NEWSLINE

#### TRIBAL GAMES

**Chhattisgarh hosts grand welcome for athletes as Khelo India Tribal Games begin**

**RAIPUR:** Chhattisgarh has transformed into a vibrant hub of athletic celebration as participants began arriving for the historic Khelo India Tribal Games on Monday, March 23, 2026. The atmosphere at Swami Vivekananda Airport in Raipur was filled with excitement as a contingent of 10 swimmers from Assam and a 17-member football team from Tamil Nadu were among the first to land. Officials from the Department of Sports and Youth Welfare, along with representatives from the Sports Authority of India (SAI), greeted the visiting athletes with roses and traditional cultural performances. This warm reception set the stage for a continuous influx of competitors from various states and union territories throughout the day.

#### HONOR

**Raipur honors revolutionary Martyr Hemu Kalani on his birth anniversary**

**RAIPUR:** City leaders and community members gathered near Kutcheri Chowk on Monday, March 23, 2026, to pay a heartfelt tribute to the young revolutionary martyr Hemu Kalani on the occasion of his birth anniversary. The memorial service, organized by the Raipur Municipal Corporation's Culture Department in coordination with Zone 2, featured a solemn floral offering ceremony at the martyr's statue. The event saw participation from prominent figures, including Raipur South MLA Sunil Soni, Raipur Mayor Meenal Choubey, and Municipal Speaker Suryakant Rathore. Other notable attendees included Amarjeet Singh Chhabra, Chairman of the State Minority Commission, former MLA Kuldeep Singh Juneja, Culture Department Chairman Amar Gidwani.

#### OBITUARY

**Omprakash Mishra**

**RAIPUR :** Omprakash Mishra, R/o Satyam Vihar Colony, breathed his last here on Monday. He was ailing for quite some time. The final rites will be performed at Mahadev crematorium on March 24 at 10:00 am. He was elder brother of Journalist Vijay Mishra of (Agradoot), Vaibhav Mishra and Richa Sharma and father of Aayam Mishra.

**HINDUSTAN PETROLEUM CORPORATION LIMITED**  
(A Maharatna Company)  
Petroleum House, 17, Janshedji Tata Road, Mumbai-400020

**CORRIGENDUM**

Ref. HPCL DCA cum CS Advt. dated 10.02.2026 & 11.02.2026. Last date extended to 21.04.2026. Visit <https://petchem.hpcl.co.in/dca-cum-cs> for further details. Helpline: 8169234083 (10 AM - 5 PM, MON - FRI except public holidays).

# Bhilai



“The first phase of house-listing census will be conducted from May 1 to 30.”

Abhijit Singh (Collector, Durg)

## Durg district activates village and block Secretariats

Village and Block-level secretariats established to resolve public issues within the community.

Central Chronicle News

**BHILAI:** In a significant move to make rural administration more transparent and accessible, Durg Collector Abhijit Singh has directed the operationalization of ‘Gram Sachivalayas’ (Village Secretariats) and ‘Khand Sachivalayas’ (Block Secretariats) across the district. This initiative aims to ensure that villagers no longer need to travel long distances for administrative work, bringing governance directly to their doorstep.



District Collectorate premises (file photo).

Aligned with the Chhattisgarh Government’s General Administration Department guidelines, these secretariats will function on designated days from Monday to Saturday. To ensure comprehensive service delivery, the presence of 11 key frontline workers—including the Panchayat Secretary, Patwari, Health Workers, Anganwadi workers, and Agriculture Extension officers—has been made mandatory at the village level.

At the block level, a structured schedule has been implemented: Durg Block will host its secretariat on the first and third Wednesdays, Dhamdha on the first and third Mondays, and Patan on the first and third Tuesdays of every month. All block-level departmental officers are required to attend these sessions. To maintain accountability, Collector Singh has mandated that progress reports be funneled through Sub-Divisional Officers (Revenue) to the District Office twice a month, ensuring a rigorous review of public grievances and developmental projects.

### FASTFACTS

● Progress reports must be submitted to the District Office by the 5th and 20th of every month for strict monitoring.

## Census 2027: Field trainers undergo intensive training



Central Chronicle News

**BHILAI:** Preparations for Census 2027 have intensified in Durg district, with a specialized training program for field trainers launching at BIT College. This initiative, overseen by Collector Abhijit Singh, is divided into two strategic phases. The first phase, running from March 23 to 25, involves 36 trainers from the Bhilai, Charoda, and Risali municipal areas. The second phase will commence from March 27 to 29, training 43 personnel from Durg Municipal Corporation and various nagar panchayats. Master Trainer Harendra Singh Bhuwal detailed the census structure, noting that the first stage—house-listing and housing census—will occur from May 1 to May 30, 2026. The final population enumeration is scheduled for February 2027.

To boost revenue and facilitate easy payments, the Bhilai Municipal Corporation organized special tax collection camps on Sunday. These camps were held at the Ram Janaki Temple in Zone 03 (Mother Teresa Nagar) and Mangal Bazar in Zone 04 (Khursipar). The corporation has reminded citizens that the final deadline for all revenue taxes, including solid waste user charges, is March 31, 2026. To assist taxpayers, all zone offices remain operational from Monday to Sunday during office hours, even on holidays.

### NEWSLINE

## BMC Tax collection camps organised

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### EXPANDED CRACKDOWN

## Police arrest two more in opium smuggling syndicate

Central Chronicle News

**BHILAI:** The Kumhari Police have intensified their crackdown on narcotics by arresting two additional suspects, Shivprasad Kumar Sahu and Resham Singh, linked to a major opium smuggling racket. This follows the March 17 arrest of Gurmel Singh, from whom 403 grams of opium and Rs 14.46 lakh were seized. Using sophisticated investigative techniques, including the analysis of bank transfers and Call Detail Records (CDR), officers tracked the network to Jharkhand and Raipur. The recent raid resulted in the recovery of 11 grams of opium and two mobile phones. Both accused were arrested on March 23, 2026, for trafficking drugs for illegal profit. A detailed investigation under the NDPS Act is currently underway to identify further links in the supply chain.



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### HIGHLIGHT

● Following the seizure of 403 grams of opium on March 17, police have arrested a key supplier and another accomplice using bank transactions and mobile CDR analysis.

23, 2026, for trafficking drugs for illegal profit. A detailed investigation under the NDPS Act is currently underway to identify further links in the supply chain.

## Free coaching for Agniveer

**BHILAI:** The Chhattisgarh Employment Department is offering free online coaching for candidates registered for the 2026 Agniveer recruitment. Aspirants must complete their Army recruitment applications by April 1, 2026, on the official portal to qualify for this benefit. The online Common Entrance Examination (CEE) is tentatively scheduled for June 1-15, 2026. Eligible students can apply for the training at the official website after ensuring their mandatory registration at the district employment exchange.

### PUBLIC MONEY MISUSE ALLEGATION

## AAP raises concerns over unnecessary Canal Road Project

Central Chronicle News

**BHILAI:** On Monday, representatives from the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Durg unit submitted a memorandum to the District Collector raising serious objections against the extension of the Canal Road project in Bhilai. The party leaders, including Meharban Singh and Jaspreet Singh, argued that the previous phase in Khursipar failed to benefit the public, serving instead as a parking lot for transport vehicles and a hub for criminal activities. The AAP has demanded a formal investigation into the project’s utility before work begins on the next phase from Power House to Vaishali Nagar. They further insisted that if the project proceeds, the administration must strictly adhere to the Rehabilitation Act to ensure proper resettlement for displaced residents, preventing the “dictatorial” displacement witnessed during earlier constructions.



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### MARTYRS DAY

## Activists protest evictions

**BHILAI:** On Monday, the Mehnatkash Awas Adhikar Sangh and Chhattisgarh Mukti Morcha held a memorial for Shaheed-e-Azam Bhagat Singh, Rajguru, and Sukhdev. Speakers, including Kaladas Deharia and Surendra Mohanty, emphasized that the martyrs envisioned a nation free from capitalist concentration and communal divide. The assembly strongly condemned the ongoing attempts to evict labourers from their long-term residences in Bhilai.

### ILLEGAL FARMING

## 8 accused apprehended in opium cultivation

Central Chronicle News

**BHILAI:** Durg Police continue their rigorous crackdown on illegal opium farming and trafficking under the NDPS Act, marking the eighth arrest in the ongoing investigation at Gram Samoda-Jhenjhari. Following the previous arrests of key accused like Vikas Bishnoi and Madrupa Ram Bishnoi, the joint police team from Pulgaon and ACCU Durg tracked down another suspect, Sukhrum Bishnoi, originally from Rajasthan. Acting on specific intelligence, officers raided the Rajasthani Bhojnalaya area in Siloda, where they discovered 670 grams of poppy straw (Doda Chura) concealed beneath the driver’s seat of a Duster vehicle. Along with the narcotics, police seized Rs 18540 in cash, an electronic weighing scale, and a mobile phone. This arrest follows the earlier recovery of Rs 42,000 from the sale of poppy husks, revealing a structured supply network. Authorities are currently conducting a detailed analysis of the trafficking links to dismantle the entire operation.



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## Adults sit for Ullas Literacy Test happily together

Central Chronicle News

**BHILAI:** Under the Ullas Literacy Programme, a Basic Literacy and Numeracy Assessment Examination was conducted on March 22, 2026. Adults aged 18 and above, who had received 200 hours of instruction from volunteer teachers, participated. Across three development blocks, 316 centers were set up, with exams scheduled between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m., each candidate allotted three hours. The atmosphere was festive, with examinees welcomed by tilak, garlands, and even band music. Participants ranged from 18 to 85 years, including couples and families appearing together. Monitoring teams ensured smooth conduct, with officials and brand ambassador Dr. Vishwanath Panigrahi visiting centers. Organized by NIOS, successful candidates will receive literacy certificates. The exam tested reading, writing, and mathematical skills.



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### SCHOLARSHIP

## Registration deadline extended

**BHILAI:** The Assistant Commissioner of Tribal Development has announced an extension for the Post-Matric Scholarship registration for the 2025-26 session. Students belonging to SC, ST (with an annual family income under Rs 2.5 lakh) and OBC categories (income under Rs 1 lakh) must apply by March 27. Following this, institutions must lock proposals by March 29 to ensure the state office receives payment vouchers by March 31. To qualify, students must possess a permanent caste certificate, domicile certificate, and their previous year’s mark sheet.

## Students shine at MGM School Graduation Ceremony

Central Chronicle News

**BHILAI:** MGM Senior Secondary School, Sector 6, celebrated the Graduation Ceremony of its Pre-Primary students with joy and enthusiasm. The event marked a milestone as young learners stepped forward in their educational journey. Distinguished guests including Very Rev. Gee Varghese Cor-Episcopa, Rev. Fr. Subin Daniel, Chief Committee members, Principal I/C Elizabeth Anitha Rajan, Headmistress Somy Sajeew, and Pre-Primary Incharge S. Geena graced the occasion. Children looked confident in caps and gowns, performing songs and dances that delighted the audience. Parents staged a play, The Pied Piper of Hamelin, while teachers presented students’ future dreams. The ceremony concluded with a vote of thanks and the National Anthem, leaving proud memories for all.



Chief Committee members, Principal I/C Elizabeth Anitha Rajan, Headmistress Somy Sajeew, and Pre-Primary Incharge S. Geena graced the occasion. Children looked confident in caps and gowns, performing songs and dances that delighted the audience. Parents staged a play, The Pied Piper of Hamelin, while teachers presented students’ future dreams. The ceremony concluded with a vote of thanks and the National Anthem, leaving proud memories for all.

## Sahu Mitra Sabha celebrates Karma Jayanti in Bhilai Nagar

Central Chronicle News

**BHILAI:** Bhilai Nagar witnessed the celebration of Karma Jayanti under the aegis of Sahu Mitra Sabha. The event began with a grand Kalash Yatra from Sahu Sanskritik Sadan, Supela, marked by large participation of women. Former Cabinet Minister Tamradhwaj Sahu and former Minister Ramshila Sahu were chief guests, while District Sahu Sangh president Chandrabhushan Sahu presided. Distinguished leaders including Ramesh Sahu, Khilawan Sahu, and Girvar Sahu Bunti attended. The program featured devotional songs, fruit art competitions, and cultural performances by girls from Kohka, Khursipar, and Housing Board units. Talented individuals excelling in education and other fields were honored. Speakers emphasized unity, moral responsibility, and women’s empowerment.



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### SILENT PROTEST STRENGTH

## Residents march 1000 steps for Township rights

Central Chronicle News

**BHILAI:** The city witnessed the second phase of the “Bhilai Bachao Andolan” as hundreds of township residents, led by Bhilai Nagar MLA Devendra Yadav, staged a silent march against the BSP Cell management the other day. The symbolic 1000-step padayatra began from Civic Centre parking and concluded at Sector-5 Chowk, covering nearly one kilometre. The protest was organized to highlight civic and livelihood issues linked to BSP township management, leaseholders, traders, and retired employees. On December 24, 2025, BSP officials had assured resolution of public concerns during discussions, but with no action forthcoming, a memorandum was submitted to the Collector. Addressing the gathering, MLA Yadav warned BSP management that if decisions in public interest are not taken within 30 days, the protestors will intensify their agitation and gherao the Ispat Bhavan. The march saw participation from Mayor Neeraj Pal, former MLA Arun Vora, former Durg Mayor RN Verma, senior Congress leaders, corporators, union representatives, and members of the House Lease Struggle Committee. Families, including children and elders, joined the padayatra, reflecting widespread discontent. The collective show of strength underlined the determination of Bhilai township residents to safeguard their rights and demand accountability from BSP management.



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## Nishu Pandey to lead media for BJP Cultural Cell

Central Chronicle News

**BHILAI:** Renowned Bhilai artist and BJP worker Nishu Pandey has been appointed as the State Media In-Charge of the BJP’s Cultural Cell. The party’s top leadership entrusted him with this responsibility, recognizing his contribution to cultural and social activities. Pandey expressed gratitude to the state leadership, Durg MP Vijay Baghel, and District President Purushottam Devangan, along with State Convener Anupam Paul and Co-Convener Sharad Srivastava for their trust. He assured that his work will focus on the upliftment of artists and that he will fulfil his duties with full responsibility.



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## Railway Employees Extend helping hand

**BHILAI:** In a heart-warming display of social responsibility, two railway employees in Bhilai have ensured that a daughter from a financially struggling family in Khursipar can marry with dignity. The family was unable to meet the essential expenses for the wedding, scheduled for the evening of March 24. JD Khan and Deepak Kumar, known for their consistent philanthropic efforts, stepped in to provide necessary rations and financial aid. The duo shared that they view community service as an extension of their professional duties.

# N-E-W-S



"The govt's push for democratisation of technology has transformed television viewing experience in India."

Ashwini Vaishnav  
Union Minister

## 'Ayushman' reaches 11.69 cr hospital admissions: Jadhav

Government reports 11.69 crore admissions under Ayushman Bharat scheme, says Prataprao Jadhav in Parliament reply Monday

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** As many as 11.69 crore hospital admissions have been authorised under the Ayushman Bharat scheme till February 28, including 6.74 crore in private hospitals, the Parliament was informed on Monday.

In a written reply in the Lok Sabha, Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Prataprao Jadhav said that strict guidelines are in place to ensure that hospitals provide treatment to beneficiaries without refusal.



In case of any denial or irregularity, patients can file complaints through the Centralised Grievance Redressal Management System or call the 24x7 toll-free helpline 14555. "As on February 28,

2026, a total of 11.69 crore hospital admissions have been authorised under the scheme, including 6.74 crore admissions in private hospitals," the minister stated.

"Under AB-PMJAY,

### HIGHLIGHT

• 6.74 crore admissions recorded in private hospitals under flagship scheme.

• Patients can report denial via helpline 14555 or grievance system.

such grievances are monitored through a three-tier grievance redressal mechanism at the District, State and National level," Jadhav added.

He added that at each level, designated nodal

officers and Grievance Redressal Committees are in place to examine and resolve the grievances. The government also highlighted that the number of hospitals empanelled under the scheme has seen a sharp rise over the years. "From 6,917 hospitals in 2018-19, the network has expanded to 36,229 hospitals as of February 28, 2026. This includes 19,483 public hospitals and 16,746 private hospitals, providing a wide healthcare network to beneficiaries across the country," Jadhav explained.

## CM Sai joins nomination filing of K Rajasekharan in Kerala



**CHENGANNUR/(KERALA):** Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai participated in the nomination filing ceremony of the BJP candidates, Kummanam Rajasekharan, from the Aranmula Assembly constituency and at the filing of nomination papers of the Bharatiya Janata Party candidate, M.V. Gopakumar, in the Chengannur Assembly constituency of Kottayam district in Kerala here on Monday.

This Assembly election marks the beginning of a decisive transformation in the politics of Kerala. Moving beyond the politics of appeasement that has persisted for years, the public is now looking towards a leadership that is dedicated to public service and possesses the capability to steer the state to new heights of development. Inspired by the new benchmarks of development and trust estab-

lished by the nation under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the BJP is rapidly emerging as the first choice of the masses in Kerala as well, CM added. CM said that 'I am fully confident that in this Assembly election, the vigilant electorate of Kerala will accord historic support to the BJP, prioritizing development, good governance, and national interest above all else.

| JYOTI-JYOT DIWAS |

## Shah pays tribute to Hargobind Sahib on Jyoti-Jyot Diwas

Press Trust Of India

**Union Home Minister Amit Shah paid tributes to Guru Hargobind Sahib on the occasion of his Jyoti-Jyot Diwas.**



and promoting the protection of humanity.

In a post on X, HM Shah highlighted that Guru Hargobind Sahib established the enduring tradition of the "Saint-Soldier," transforming Sikhism into a force

that combined spiritual strength with the courage to defend justice and human dignity. He noted that this philosophy played a crucial role in shaping the Sikh community during a challenging period in history.

The Home Minister also underscored Guru Sahib's role in reinforcing the Sikh faith through the establishment of the Akal Takht, which became a central institution for spiritual and temporal authority in Sikhism.

## Ensure prompt resolution: Raj CM

**JAIPUR:** Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma on Monday held a public hearing at his residence and directed officials to ensure prompt resolution of public grievances.

The chief minister said that people approach such hearings with expectations and officials must treat these cases with the highest priority and resolve them swiftly, according to a release. During the hearing, Sharma listened to complaints from various sections of society.

| SPECIAL DRIVE |

## Rs 9.57 cr fine imposed on traffic Violators; Special drive in Odisha

Press Trust Of India

**BHUBANESWAR:** The State Transport Authority (STA) in Odisha has imposed Rs 9.57 crore as fine on 17,831 people for violating motor vehicle norms during a special drive, an official statement said on Sunday.

The fines were imposed on the first day of the statewide drive launched on Saturday. The drive will continue till the end of this month, it said.

Joint enforcement



teams comprising officers from the transport and police departments, and the district administrations are participating in the special drive, the STA statement said.

On the first day, 17,831 e-challans were issued against persons found violating the Motor Vehi-

cles Act, 1988. A fine of Rs 9.57 crore has been imposed on these violators. Besides, 64 vehicles have been seized for serious violations of road safety rules, it said.

During the drive, special emphasis has been laid on preventing major causes of road accidents such as speeding, drunk-driving, riding without helmets, riding in the wrong direction, illegal parking, using mobile phones while driving and overloading, among others.

## BAHRAICH woman trampled to death by tusker

An 80-year-old woman was trampled to death by a tusker near the Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary in Uttar Pradesh's Bahraich district on Sunday, marking the third such fatality in the region since last month, officials said.

The victim, Kuwariya Devi, a resident of Bhanwanipur village in the Katarnia forest range, was grazing her goats near the forest edge around 11 am when the incident occurred, they said. "The woman had gone looking for one of her goats that had strayed into the forest area. She was attacked and trampled by a tusker, leading to her death on the spot," Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Apoorva Dixit told PTI.

Local residents reported that despite the woman's cries for help and attempts by nearby farmers to scare the animal away, the elephant remained at the spot for some time before retreating into the wild.

| 'ABHEDYA' APP |

## Haryana Police launches 'Abhedya' app to curb cybercrime, extortion

Press Trust Of India

**CHANDIGARH:** The Haryana Police on Saturday launched 'Abhedya', a mobile application designed to curb cybercrime,



extortion and threatening calls. Officials said this is the first mobile-based security platform of its kind in India. The application aims to protect citizens from suspicious calls,

threatening messages, stalking, and digital harassment.

With this initiative, Haryana has become the first state in the country to introduce such a measure.

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## Om Birla meets SL's Parliamentary Committee



Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla during a meeting with the Parliamentary Oversight Committee on Infra and Strategic Issues of Sri Lanka, in New Delhi on Monday. PTI

## Chakankar's resignation sent to CM: Sunetra

**MUMBAI:** NCP chief and Maharashtra deputy CM Sunetra Pawar on Saturday said she has forwarded Rupali Chakankar's resignation as state women's commission chairperson to Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis for acceptance. Chakankar, a leader of the Nationalist Congress Party, on Friday tendered her resignation after facing flak from opposition parties over her association with rape-acused 'godman' Ashok Kharat. Following a meeting with CM Fadnavis, who asked her to step down, she handed the resignation letter personally to Sunetra Pawar late in the evening. "Chakankar has tendered her resignation considering the current circumstances and ongoing investigation. To ensure that the probe is conducted in a fair and transparent manner, I have forwarded her resignation to the

Chief Minister for further process," Pawar said in a statement.

Appointed as chairperson of the Maharashtra State Women's Commission first in October 2021, Chakankar was given another three-year term in 2024. Kharat, who heads a temple trust at Sinnar and had several political leaders visit him over the years, was arrested by Nashik Police on Wednesday for allegedly repeatedly sexually assaulting a woman. As per the complainant, he called her to his office sometime in 2022 after her marriage, claiming that his astrological predictions point to a threat to her husband's life and she needed to perform certain rituals to ward it off. He then gave her a sedative-laced drink and raped her, the woman alleged, claiming that he raped her multiple times over the next three years.

**HON'BLE SUPREME COURT MONITORED HOUSING PROJECTS THROUGH LD. COURT RECEIVER**

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- Inventory-3BHK & 4BHK spacious apartments with modern amenities.
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**Aspire Centurian Park**  
Techzone-IV, Greater Noida (W), UP

- Inventory-3BHK & 4BHK spacious apartments with modern amenities.
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Or ☎: 9772907414

Please scan this QR for e-auction document

Bhoramdev Temple is not just an identity of Kabirdham, but it is an important heritage from historical and archaeological point of view.

Gopal Verma  
Collector-Kabirdham



# Raipur Region

## CM Sai honours traditions at Junwani Narmada Dham

On the 4th day of Chaitra Navratri, CM Vishnu Deo Sai offered prayers at Junwani Narmada Dham.

Central Chronicle News

**KAWARDHA:** On the auspicious Chaturthi of Chaitra Navratri, Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai participated in the Panch Kundiya Shri Rudra Mahayagna and Shri Shiv Mahapuran Katha organized at Junwani Narmada Dham in Kabirdham district. He performed the Parikrama (circumambulation) of the Yagna with devotion, adhering to traditional rituals, and offered prayers at the Vyaspath (sacred dais), seeking blessings for the happiness, peace, and prosperity of the people of Chhattisgarh. Chief Minister Sai also greeted the devotees and extended heartfelt wishes on the occasion of Chaitra Navratri.

Expressing his pleasure at participating, he highlighted the role of the Sahu community as a prosperous, educated society that has historically guided the larger community. Citing the example of the philanthropist Danveer Bhamashah and the revered Shri Satyanarayan Baba of Raigarh, he emphasized that saints and great personalities inspire societal progress. He urged collective action, stating that "just four individuals working together can transform an entire locality." Chief Minister Sai also stressed environmental responsibility through initiatives like the Bhumi Suposhan Abhiyan (Soil Enrichment



### FACTFILE

● Along with the CM, several other government dignitaries were also present.

Campaign) and proper waste management. He discussed the legacy of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), founded in 1925 in Nagpur, highlighting its focus on discipline, physical fitness, and selfless service. He elaborated on the "Five Pillars of Change" (Panch Parivartan)—Family Enlightenment (Kutumb Prabodhan), Promotion of Indigenous Values (Swadeshi), Social Harmony (Samajik Samarasata), Civic Responsibility

(Nagrik Kartavya Bodh), and Environmental Conservation. He also praised Matruhaya, a charitable initiative providing shelter and care for underprivileged children.

Chief Minister Sai highlighted ongoing spiritual projects, including the installation of 125,000 Shivlings across the state, and government pilgrimage schemes like the "Ramlala Darshan Yojana" and "Mukhyamantri Teerth Darshan Yojana," which facilitate visits to sacred sites.

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## Police register FIR in Khallari ropeway mishap

**MAHASAMUND:** The district administration has taken swift action following the ropeway accident on Sunday at Khallari, a prominent religious and tourist site in Mahasamund district. Acting on official directives, an FIR has been registered against the ropeway company—Ropeway and Resort Private Limited, Kolkata—and two local employees, Birbal Janghel and Rameshwar Yadav. The police filed the case under Sections 289.

## Illegal tree felling in Talesar forest

**CHHURA:** Illegal tree felling is rampant in the Talesar forest, yet Forest Department officials and employees appear indifferent. Officials, including Forest Ranger Santosh Chauhan and the Deputy Ranger, reportedly remain confined to their vehicles on main roads, refusing to traverse narrow forest trails, allowing the forest mafia to operate freely.

Diesel-powered cutters are used to fell valuable timber trees deep within the Pannuka Forest Range, while the officials turn a blind eye. The forest mafia dominates Talesar, Gayadbari, Pandaripani, Jargaon, Raveli, and Tilaidadar, exploiting the negligence of the authorities.

## Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

## NAXALITE PLOT THWARTED BY SECURITY FORCES Security forces foil Naxalite attack in Jagargunda



**SUKMA:** Alert personnel of the 226 Battalion successfully averted a potential tragedy today by detecting and neutralizing three powerful Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) planted by Maoists on the Jagargunda-Narsapuram axis.

During a routine Road Sweeping Operation (RSO) led by Zebra Ganpat Ram, a scout noticed a suspicious wire approximately 3.7 km south of the Jagargunda camp. The area was immediately cordoned off following stan-

dard safety protocols. Panther Beerendra Kumar, leading another platoon from the Narsapuram side, rushed to take command of the situation.

A specialized team, including a Deep Search Metal Detector (DSMD) jawan, a Bomb Detection and Disposal (BDD) squad, and a K9 unit, was deployed. K9 Nora, handled by CT/DH Bishnu Munda, gave a positive alert, which was confirmed by BDD personnel Pradip Saha and DSMD jawan Roodhar Shoree.

### LACK

## Arang faces fire safety crisis with no brigade and single sewer machine

**ARANG:** The state of basic civic amenities in the Arang Municipal Council area has once again come under scrutiny. While resources for cleaning septic tanks remain limited, the provision of a fire brigade—a critical service for emergencies—is completely absent. Currently, the municipal council possesses only one sewer suction machine with a capacity of approximately 2,500 liters. This machine is used for septic tank cleaning across the town but is available for private use only upon payment of a prescribed fee. The limited availability often results in delays, causing inconvenience to residents.

Meanwhile, the town has no fire brigade. In the event of a fire, water tankers are deployed, a method that proves inadequate during major incidents. For serious blazes, assistance must be summoned from Raipur, but the distance leads to delayed response times and increased risk of damage.

Local residents have raised concerns that, despite rapid town growth, essential civic services have not kept pace. They demand the establishment of a permanent fire brigade and additional sewer-cleaning machines.

### APPOINTED

## Aruni Dani appointed General Secretary of Durg district BJYM; party workers celebrate



**DHAMDHA:** A significant step has been taken to strengthen and reorganize the Bharatiya Janata Party Yuva Morcha (BJYM) in the Durg district with the appointment of Aruni Dani as the District General Secretary. Hailing from Dhamdha, Dani is recognized for his active engagement and dynamic working style, and his appointment has generated widespread enthusiasm among local party workers.

Aruni Dani brings a wealth of organizational experience to his new role. He previously served as a youth councillor of the Dhamdha Nagar Panchayat and is a member of the BJYM State Executive Committee. Dani has also demonstrated his strategic abilities while serving as the in-charge for the Rajnandgaon district.

## Walk-in interview on April 4 for guest teacher recruitment

**SUKMA:** Eklavya Adarsh Residential School, Errabore, is inviting applications for the recruitment of guest teachers for the academic session 2026-27. Interested and eligible candidates are requested to attend a walk-in interview on April 4, 2026, at 9:00 AM at the school campus in Errabore (Konta), District Sukma.

The recruitment covers PGT (Post Graduate Teacher) positions in Mathematics, Chemistry, and Geography, while TGT (Trained Graduate Teacher) positions are available for Science, Mathematics, and Social Science. Candidates are advised to arrive on time for the interview to ensure participation in the selection process.

It is mandatory for applicants to bring their original educational certificates along with self-attested photocopies.

### REVIEWS OF BHORAMDEV CORRIDOR

## Dy CM Vijay Sharma inspects progress on Bhoramdev Corridor project

Central Chronicle News

**KAWARDHA:** Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Sharma conducted a marathon review meeting on Sunday at the Bhoramdev Temple complex to assess the progress of the Bhoramdev Corridor construction. The meeting included officials from relevant departments and contractors involved in the project. During the session, he reviewed multiple components of the project, including the upgrade of the main temple complex, beautification of the temple pond (Sarovar), and development of Marwa Mahal, Cherki Mahal, Ramchuwa, Saroda, and the parking area. He emphasized that all work would be evaluated based on quality and timely completion, and a district-level monitoring committee has been constituted to ensure compliance. Contractors



were instructed to submit 15-day work timelines, and the committee will conduct weekly site inspections every Monday, requiring all project in-charges and engineers to be present. Strict action will be taken against any negligence.

Deputy Chief Minister Sharma directed the construction of raised platforms (Chabutras) around trees for devotees and stressed that entrance gates, pillars, and wooden doors reflect the architectural style of the Phani Nagvanshi dynasty. He also instructed grand-scale gateways and technical excellence in the pond pitching, lining, steps,

protective sheds, and aesthetically designed street-light poles. Doors and windows in the rest area should ensure ventilation, natural light, and grandeur, while artworks must showcase local character and folk culture. Parking flooring must be robust, with adequate space and well-planned shops to facilitate smooth vehicle movement. Public amenities, including drinking water and restrooms, must be prioritized throughout the corridor.

Specific instructions were given for Marwa Mahal, including entrance gates, boundary walls, artworks, and seating arrangements.

### FACTFILE

● He instructed the officials to submit reports about the project every Monday.

Updates were sought on Cherki Mahal and Ramchuwa, while the action plan for Saroda Dam included a cafeteria, steps, viewpoint, and beautification.

The meeting was attended by District Panchayat President Ishwari Sahu, Vice President Kailash Chandravanshi, MD (Tourism) Vivek Acharya, Collector Gopal Verma, Nitesh Agarwal, former District Panchayat President Videshiram Dhurve, Panchayat members Ramkumar Meravi and Ram Kinkar Verma, Janpad Panchayat Vice President Nand Shrivasi, Lokchand Sahu, Aditya Srivastava, Durgesh Dubey, and other public representatives and officials.

### ACTION TAKEN AGAINST NEGLIGENCE

## Anganwadi negligence met with strict disciplinary action

Central Chronicle News

**SUKMA:** To ensure the effective implementation of government schemes and improve departmental efficiency in Sukma district, Collector Amit Kumar has been conducting regular field inspections to review the quality of work being undertaken. Following this initiative, teachers found negligent in their duties were recently suspended. Now, Angan-

wadi centers under the Department of Women and Child Development are also being rigorously reviewed.

The Collector personally inspects the functioning of these centers, including the facilities provided to beneficiaries and Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) activities for children. During a recent inspection in the remote village of Nimalguda, villagers lodged complaints

of Karigundam, for being absent for several months and not residing in the village, resulting in the center being non-operational. Similar complaints were received against Nagmani, the worker of Palodi village, who had been operating the center irregularly while residing in Konta. Collector Amit Kumar expressed strong displeasure and directed departmental officials to take immediate disciplinary action. Following an inquiry by a departmental committee, and with approval from the Education Committee of Janpad Panchayat, Konta, the Project Officer issued orders for the termination of both workers.

The Collector has issued strict instructions to ensure the regular functioning of all Anganwadi centers, timely provision of nutritional supplements, and proper early education activities.

“The concerned worker had been absent for several months, was not residing in the village, and, consequently, the Anganwadi center was not being operated.”

Villagers against Kalmu Manju, the Anganwadi worker

## HAPPINESS PROGRAM SUCCESSFULLY ORGANIZED Unlocking life's secrets through the happiness program



**ANWARI:** The Art of Living Foundation successfully conducted a four-day "Happiness Program" at Mangal Bhawan, Bhakhara, from March 19 to March 22, held daily from 6:00 AM to 9:00 AM. Residents of Nagar Panchayat Bhakhara and neighboring villages participated enthusiastically, embracing the techniques taught during the sessions.

The program instructor, Tameshwar Sahu, explained that the course teaches yoga, pranayama, and a special breathing technique known as "Sudarshan Kriya." He highlighted that many unexplored secrets of life are hidden within the breath. Sudarshan Kriya, he noted, is a simple yet powerful practice that frees the mind from stress, fatigue, and negative emotions such as anger, anxiety, and despair, guiding it toward deep relaxation. He

emphasized that Prana, or the vital life force, is the foundation for both physical and mental well-being.

Participants shared positive experiences, reporting a profound sense of peace and renewed energy. Ramnarayan Sahu said his mind felt lighter and calmer, while Suryakant Sahu noticed improved memory. Yugal Kishore Sinha described the course as "life-blossoming," stating that it fosters inner positivity and empowerment.

Co-instructors Hirendra Sahu, Basant Bais, and Govind Yadav played key roles in ensuring the program's success. Many participants attended, including Aniruddha Sahu, Mohanlal, Raghuvir Yadav, Ajay Bais, Upendra Sahu, Roshan Sahu, Yugal Dewangan, Dugeshwar Sahu, Meena Jain, Sangita Kurre, Vinay Kumar, Rishi Kumar, and Likhan Ram.

# Fun & Focus



## Daily Horoscope

### ARIES

Today is a day for you to prioritize the things that are most important to you. You'll need to strike a balance between your career, your family, and your relationship. You may have noticed that one or more aspects have degraded as a result of a concentration on the other. According to Astrology, the thought and planning you undertake today on these matters will offer you relief as well as mental clarity.

### TAURUS

There won't be anything to be anxious about while your endurance and determination will get you through these periods. With time your troubles will fade away. Even though you might sense a little dissatisfaction it won't rattle you much. Putting on anything in grey will assist you in drawing lots of positivity and make a nice impression on people you come across during the day.

### Gemini

Respect, recognition, money, and growth may come to you in abundance, making this a great start to the week ahead. You're in a great place to put your thoughts and ideas into action. You might feel satisfied with the present direction of your life. Gemini daily horoscope recommends you use your contacts or influence to make positive changes for yourself, your organization, and others.

### Cancer

The movement of the Moon in Taurus is indicative of the possibility of getting into a quarrel with your partner or a close friend. In such situations, it's critical to learn to keep your emotions in check to avoid things getting out of hand. The best way to work these situations is to open doors of communication, say Astrology, astrologers. Wearing any light shades of green is lucky for you.

### Leo

Dear Leo, the Moon is in Taurus today, so whatever the reason is, try to stay out of a fight today, especially with those you care about. It would be best to avoid arguments and irritations because they are only momentary and could hamper your relationship. You must keep calm and refrain from initiating arguments that will only make you and your family miserable.

### Virgo

Today, the transit of the Moon in Taurus will tone down the intensity with which the usual mad rush of the day affects you. Take a break from work, relax your mind, and instead of analyzing the past worries, leave them behind and simply learn from your mistakes. Astrology astrologers predict that doing so will help get your life in perspective and make you feel much better.

### Libra

Dear Libra, with the Moon in Taurus, you may be feeling your best today. Your intellectual abilities are at their peak today, and you feel at ease and ready to take on any task. Astrology astrologers advise you to look out for distractions as there are chances that you will lose focus today. It is an excellent time to focus on the impending tasks that have lingered on for long enough.

### Scorpio

Dear Scorpio, the Moon in Taurus, so you can experience several changes in your present situation. If you find any issue with someone, refrain from indulging in arguments. The little arguments can evoke the chances of bigger disputes in life. Astrology astrologers suggest keeping your head cool in every situation to avoid unwanted problems in life.

### Sagittarius

Dear Sagittarius, as the Moon is in Taurus today, you'll have a variety of contradictory feelings today. Avoid mood swings and make an effort to be upbeat the entire day. Try anything you like to do, whether it's reading, dancing, singing to music, or simply catching up with old friends. The Astrology Astrologers inform you of the outside physical reflections of your physical expressions.

### Capricorn

Dear Capricorn, as the Moon enters Taurus today, you may need to practice exerting yourself in a variety of challenging situations. You may have a propensity to be a little passive or aggressive at times, but today you should focus on learning how to be forceful instead. According to Astrology astrologers, this strategy, when combined with a good dose of diplomacy, may get you a long way in challenging situations.

### Aquarius

Dear Aquarius, the Moon is more potent today in Taurus and might bring more vigour and enthusiasm to you. You might feel more eager to gather new things in life and go beyond the boundaries to achieve the best results. But be sure to create a good balance between your work and thoughts as well as your work and life. Be rational in your judgments to focus on your goal.

### Pisces

The presence of the Moon in Taurus may influence your imaginative and artistic nature today. Make a count of your ideas as they can be fruitful for the future. Also, try to improve your imaginative skills as great work also needs imagination for its proper implementation. It will be a great day ahead and try to avoid minor problems to maintain your peace of mind.

## SCIENCE WATCH

### Does your body emit light?



The answer is 'yes' and this phenomenon, is known as ultraweak photon emission (UPE) or biophoton emission, but the glow is very meager to be visible. This light fades away once we take the last breath.

### First self funded space tourist



Dennis Tito was the first self funded space tourist on board the Russian spacecraft Soyuz TM- 3 on April 28 2001. At age 60, he paid a reported \$20 million spending over seven days in space.

### The old world map



Ptolemy created a world map that represented the "old World" based on his treatise Geographia (c. 150 CE). It was represented between latitudes of 60 degree N and 60 degree S.

Based on the article "Awaken Your Creativity", here are the key strategies for developing and re-energizing your creative thinking:

#### 1. Prepare for New Ideas

To develop creative thinking, it is essential to keep your mind active and fresh.

**Experiment and Fail:** It is normal to experiment, fail, and try again.

**Preparation Phase:** Spend time thinking and preparing before implementing a new idea to reduce mistakes and ensure more effective results.

#### 2. Change When Stuck

When you hit a creative block, you can try adjusting your approach rather than forcing it.

**Creative Prompts:** Try using four creative prompts to spark new thoughts.

**Keep Updating:** Even when things are going well, keep updating yourself with new information and perspectives from time to time.

**Embrace Change:** If a major shift is needed, do not be afraid; embrace it with courage.

#### 3. Challenge the Norm

Don't settle for the most obvious path.

**Extreme Solutions:** Choose a problem and imagine the most unusual or extreme solution possible.



**Question Assumptions:** Question your usual thinking rules and consider how they can be challenged.

**Wordplay:** Try changing the words you use to describe a problem to generate unique ideas.

#### 4. Go Back to Old Ways

Sometimes the best solution is one you've already considered.

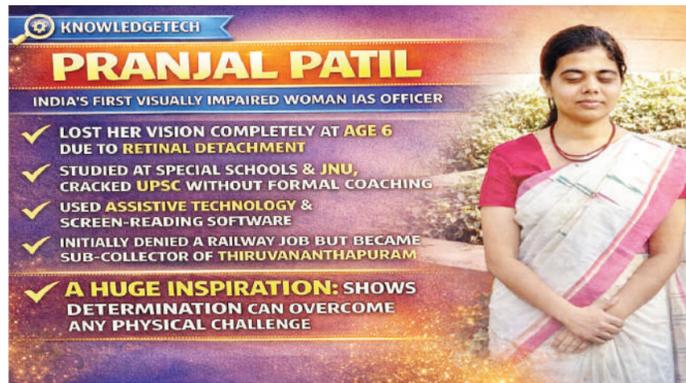
**List Past Ideas:** Compile a list of ideas that didn't work in the past, as circumstances may have changed.

**Discuss and Repurpose:** Discuss these with experienced professionals to see which old methods could be repurposed for new, effective solutions.

Pranjal Patil is India's first visually impaired woman IAS officer. She lost her eyesight at age six but cleared the UPSC civil services exam, securing AIR 773 in 2016 and improving to AIR 124 in 2017. Patil, from Maharashtra, took charge as the Sub-Collector of Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, in 2019.

Born in Ulhasnagar, Maharashtra, she lost her vision completely at the age of six due to retinal detachment.

She attended Kamla Mehta Dadar School for the Blind, graduated from St. Xavier's College, and completed her post-



graduation and M.Phil from Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU).

She cracked the UPSC exam without formal coaching, relying on assistive technology and screen-reading software.

After initially being denied a railway job due to her vision, she persevered,

cleared the UPSC, and was appointed as Assistant Collector in Ernakulam (2018) before becoming Sub-Collector in Thiruvananthapuram (2019).

She serves as a huge inspiration, demonstrating that determination can overcome any physical challenge.

## Ladybug

**COMMON NAME:** Ladybugs

**SCIENTIFIC NAME:** Coccinellidae

**TYPE:** Invertebrates

**DIET:** Omnivore

**AVERAGE LIFE SPAN IN THE WILD:** 2 to 3 years

**SIZE:** 0.3 to 0.4 inches

There are about 5,000 different species of ladybugs in the world. These much loved critters are also known as lady beetles or lady-bird beetles. They come in many different colours and patterns, but the most familiar in North America is the seven-spotted ladybug,

## ANIMAL KINGDOM



with its shiny, red-and-black body. In many cultures, ladybugs are considered good luck.

One ladybug can eat up to 5,000 insects in its lifetime! Most ladybugs have oval, dome-shaped bodies with six short legs. Depending on the species, they can have spots, stripes, or no markings at all. Seven-spotted ladybugs

are red or orange with three spots on each side and one in the middle. They have a black head with white patches on either side. Ladybugs are happy in many different habitats, including grasslands, forests, cities, suburbs, and along rivers. They are most active from spring until fall. When the weather turns cold, they look for a warm, secluded place to hibernate, such as in rotting logs, under rocks, or even inside houses. These hibernating colonies can contain thousands of ladybugs. NASA even sent a few ladybugs into space with aphids to see how aphids would escape in zero gravity.

## TELL ME WHY?



R.D. Burman was nicknamed "Pancham" because as a child, he frequently cried or hummed in the fifth note—"Pa"—of the Indian musical scale (sa re ga ma pa), which is known as Pancham. Actor Ashok Kumar is credited with popularizing this nickname, noticing the young boy's musicality early on, with "Da" being an affectionate suffix for older brother in Bengali.



- Where was the 'Abhedya Jwala' exercise conducted?
- Dadasaheb Phalke-India, Cannes Film Festival-France and BAFTA Film Festival?
- Which country has the longest sea coastline in the world?
- Satyarth-Prakash is the most important book of which society?
- Which country has the world's third largest metro network?
- Jasprit Bumrah became the brand ambassador of which brand?
- Gujarat recently launched its first sounding rocket from which place?

### ANSWERS -

1) Babina Field Firing Range (2) Britain (3) Canada (4) Arya Samaj (5) India (6) Karnataka (7) Kochi

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# Business



"Coal gasification key to India's energy security."

**G Kishan Reddy**  
Union Minister  
for coal and mines

## UK confers Knighthood insignia on Chandrasekaran



Chairman of the Tata Group Natarajan Chandrasekaran, third right, with British High Commissioner to India Lindy Cameron, third left, and others, poses after receiving the insignia of Knight Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (KBE), in New Delhi.

## No proposal for complete loan waiver for farmers: Sitharaman

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman tells Parliament no proposal for full farm loan waiver, highlights KCC loans, PM-KISAN benefits, and continued disability pension tax exemption provisions.

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** There is no proposal of a complete loan waiver for farmers under consideration with the central government, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman informed Parliament on Monday. However, she said, the government has taken several measures to strengthen the economic conditions of the farmers, including timely and adequate credit through Kisan Credit Card

(KCC), wherein crop loan up to Rs 3 lakh is provided at subsidised interest rates under the Modified Interest Subvention Scheme (MISS), with additional incentives for timely repayment. Besides, the government has enhanced collateral free short-term agricultural loans, including loans for allied activities, from Rs 1.60 lakh to Rs 2.00 lakh and ensuring adequate flow of credit from the banking system to the priority sectors of

NUMBER

3

● Govt rules out complete farm loan waiver, focuses on credit access, subsidies, insurance, and income support measures.

the economy, including agriculture, under Priority Sector Lending guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), she said in

a reply to the Lok Sabha. Additionally, the government has launched crop insurance and direct cash transfer to landholding farmers through Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN), etc. Replying to another question, Sitharaman said the exemption in respect of disability pension received by members of the armed forces, who are invalidated out of service on account of a disability attributable to, or aggravated by military

service, has existed since the framework under the Income-Tax Act, 1922, as provided vide Notification No. 878-F (Income Tax) dated March 21, 1922. When the Income-tax Act, 1961, came into force, she said, the exemption continued through the repeal and savings provisions. "With the enactment of the Income-tax Act, 2025, the earlier enactments pertaining to the Income-tax Act, 1922, and related savings provisions ceased to operate.

## India's strategic oil reserves about two-thirds full: Suresh

Press Trust Of India

**India's strategic oil reserves at about 64% capacity, covering nearly 9.5 days of supply disruptions.**

**NEW DELHI:** India's strategic oil reserves, designed to provide cover for about 9.5 days of supplies during disruptions or price shocks, are currently sitting at only two-thirds capacity, the Rajya Sabha was informed on Monday. India, the world's third-largest energy consumer and heavily dependent on imports for about 88 per cent of its crude oil needs, has built strategic underground storage facilities with a total capacity of 5.33 million tonnes across three locations -- Visakhapatnam



in Andhra Pradesh, and Mangaluru and Padur in Karnataka -- to store crude oil used for producing fuels such as petrol and diesel. "Quantity of the crude available in the caverns varies depending on market conditions," Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas Suresh Gopi said in a written reply in the Upper House. "Currently, ISPRL has around 3.372 million tonnes of crude stock available, which is around 64 per cent of the total storage capacity."

| PSU BANK MERGERS |

## No plan to merge PSU banks: MoS Finance

Press Trust Of India

**Govt confirms no proposal for PSU bank mergers: past consolidations improved efficiency and expanded business growth significantly.**

**NEW DELHI:** There is no proposal under consideration before the government on the merger or consolidation of public sector banks (PSBs) at present, Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary said on Monday. Chaudhary, in a written reply to the Lok Sabha, said the amalgamation of PSBs helped create stronger competitive banks with economies of scale and scope, while enabling the realisation of wide-ranging synergies. Leveraging



networks, better access to low-cost deposits, increased ability to support larger ticket-size lending, and competitive operations by virtue of greater financial capacity have provided the amalgamated banks a substantial rise in customer base, market reach and operational efficiency, he added. Synergy was also gained due to increased scope of operations and improvement in cost efficiency, with the adoption of best practices and digitisation, he said. The

FACTFILE

● EASE 9.0 reforms to boost AI adoption, risk management, customer service, and long-term banking capabilities.

amalgamation of PSBs, as envisaged, has contributed to improving operational efficiency and financial soundness of banks through streamlining of operations and reduction in costs, thereby resulting in increasing consolidated business of banks, the minister noted. Quoting Reserve Bank of India data, he said the consolidated total business of Bank of Baroda, in which Vijaya Bank and Dena Bank were amalgamated with effect from April 1, 2019, grew from Rs 16.1 lakh crore in March 2019 to Rs 27.0 lakh crore in March 2025.

| CREDAI-NAREDCO |

## West Asia conflict may push housing costs up

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** Realtors' bodies CREDAI and NAREDCO on Monday said developers have started to feel the pinch of the ongoing conflict in West Asia due to the short supply of some building materials, and said construction costs could rise if tensions continue for a longer period. The two associations, together representing around 20,000 developers, also expressed

concern about possible delays in the completion of real estate projects due to likely shortages of construction materials. Both, CREDAI National President Shekhar Patel and NAREDCO President Parveen Jain said the input cost could rise if war persists for longer period, resulting in an increase in housing prices as well. "The Indian real estate sector remains largely stable despite the evolving geopolitical situation,



with no significant impact on construction activity as most key raw materials are manufactured

domestically," Patel said. At present, he pointed out that some temporary supply chain disruptions

are being observed due to global energy volatility. "Certain clusters, such as the marble and tile manufacturing hub in Morbi, Gujarat, are experiencing short-term challenges owing to fuel supply constraints and elevated logistics pressures. These, however, are transitional in nature. If the situation persists for a month or longer, it may begin to reflect in input costs, leading to a gradual impact on overall pricing," Patel said.

**BizBriefs**

BEST OF THE REST

HOW THE MARKET'S BEHAVE TODAY?

**Sensex plunges 1,836 pts; Nifty down to 22,512 as war, crude oil prices continue to hit sentiments**



**MUMBAI:** Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty plummeted on Monday, in tandem with an extremely weak trend in global markets as the war in the Middle East showed no signs of a slowdown. Rising crude oil prices due to the war, which has entered its fourth week, relentless foreign fund outflows and weakness in the rupee have also made investors risk-averse. The 30-share BSE Sensex dived 1,836.57 points, or 2.46 per cent, to settle at 72,696.39. During the day, it plunged 1,974.52 points, or 2.64 per cent, to 72,558.44.

The 50-share NSE Nifty tanked 601.85 points, or 2.60 per cent, to end at 22,512.65. From the 30-Sensex firms, Titan tumbled the most by 6.24 per cent. Trent, UltraTech Cement, Bharat Electronics, InterGlobe Avia-

tion, Tata Steel, and HDFC Bank were also among the major laggards.

HCL Tech, Power Grid, Infosys, and Tech Mahindra were the winners. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, jumped 0.97 per cent to USD 113.3 per barrel. "Markets witnessed a sharp sell-off on Monday, continuing the prevailing downtrend amid weak global cues and escalating geopolitical tensions. Investor sentiment remained extremely fragile amid escalating geopolitical tensions in West Asia, which have once again pushed crude oil prices sharply higher," Ajit Mishra, SVP, Research, Religare Broking Ltd, said. The spike in oil prices, along with continued foreign institutional investor outflows and weakness in the rupee, significantly dented risk appetite, Mishra said.

SINGLE WOMAN DIRECTOR

**No single woman director in 179 govt-owned cos, public sector enterprises**

**NEW DELHI:** As many as 179 government-owned companies, including public sector enterprises, do not have a single woman director as required under the companies law, the government said on Monday. Under the Companies Act, 2013, a certain class of companies are required to have at least one woman director. Every listed company and every other public company having paid-up share capital of Rs 100 crore or more or having a turnover of Rs 300 crore or more is required to appoint at least one woman director on its board. "Out of 708 government-owned companies, including Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs), which are required to appoint at least one woman director on their boards, 529 companies have appointed at least one woman director and 179 companies have not appointed at least one woman director. "The non-compliance of minimum threshold limit of appointment of woman director are company specific and other administrative reasons," Minister of State for Corporate Affairs Harsh Malhotra in a written reply to the Lok Sabha on Monday.

ON WEAK DEMAND

**Gold tumbles Rs 9,050, silver declines by Rs 10,500/kg**



**NEW DELHI:** Gold prices slumped by Rs 9,050 to Rs 1.43 lakh per 10 grams while silver tumbled Rs 10,500 to Rs 2.30 lakh per kg in the national capital on Monday amid subdued domestic demand and weak global trends. According to the All India Sarafa Association, gold of 99.9 per cent purity plunged by Rs 9,050, or nearly 6 per cent, to Rs 1,43,600 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes) from Friday's closing level of Rs 1,52,650 per 10 grams. Silver also declined sharply by Rs 10,500, or 4.36 per cent, to Rs 2,30,000 per kg (inclusive of all taxes). The white metal had settled at Rs 2,40,500 per kg in the previous market session. "Precious metals extended last week's losses, with spot gold slipping to a four-month low in intraday trading on Monday," Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst - Commodities at HDFC Securities, said.

FOR INDIAN FARMING OPERATIONS

**Alliance launches AGRI-HAUL, India's first R-1 plus bias tractor tyre**



**MUMBAI:** Alliance, a leading global brand of agricultural and off-highway tyres, launched AGRI-HAUL, India's first-of-its-kind R-1 Plus bias tractor tyre. AGRI-HAUL's R-1 Plus tread depth, ensures longer life than standard tractor tyres, making it best-suited for Indian farming operations. Additionally, the tyre is designed to provide superior puncture protection and strong grip on the soil. "The Alliance AGRI-HAUL is a complete package, designed to perform in both agriculture and haulage applications," said Dnyutiman Chattopadhyay, Chief Technology Officer, Yokohama-ATG. "We can't wait for the Indian farmers to experience and reap the benefits of our latest offering." "We are excited to launch India's first R-1 Plus Bias tractor

tyre, perfected to suit the local farming conditions. India is a key market for us and we will continue to offer tailored solutions that solve the varied needs of Indian farming," said Anuj Thakar, Senior Vice President, India & SAARC. Key features of the Tyre include: R1 Plus design with deeper tread leading to longer tyre life, Special swing lug designed to offer superior traction during field operations, Stubble guard compound and higher under-tread providing exceptional puncture protection, Wider tread width offering a better footprint leading to higher load carrying capacity, Mud breaker design for better self-cleaning and efficient mud ejection and unique central tie bar ensuring rock solid stability and superior ride comfort.

# PMK row: SC backs HC; civil court to decide

Ramadoss seeks to bar Anbumani from using party name, flag, symbol.

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** Asking PMK founder S Ramadoss to approach the civil court, the Supreme Court on Monday upheld a Madras High Court decision dismissing his two petitions for a direction to the EC to either let his faction use the 'mango' symbol during the upcoming assembly elections in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry or freeze the symbol. Ramadoss has been fighting a legal battle to restrain his son Anbumani from using the party's name, flag or symbol. A bench of Chief Justice Surya Kant and



Justices Joydalya Bagchi and Vipul M Pancholi said that the Election Commission (EC) cannot decide a dispute over the allocation of symbols of an unregistered political party, and if the application is filed by Tuesday for remedy, the civil court may adjudicate it expeditiously. "We do not find fault with the high court order. The high court appears to be correct that a dispute over the allocation of symbols of an unregistered political party cannot be decided by the

Election Commission of India. "However, it does not mean that an aggrieved party be left remediless. Thus, the party (PMK) is at liberty to move the civil court and if such an application is filed with the civil court by tomorrow, then let it be decided expeditiously," the bench ordered.

The Pattali Makkal Katchi (PMK) party has challenged the February 20 decision of the Madras High Court dismissing two petitions filed by Ramadoss seeking a direction to the poll panel to either let his faction use the 'mango' symbol during the ensuing Assembly elections in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry or freeze the symbol altogether so that the faction led by his son Anbumani too would not be able to use it.

Senior advocate Vikas Singh, appearing for the PMK, said that if the symbol is unfrozen by the Election Commission, then anyone can be allotted the 'mango' symbol of the party by a lottery system. Senior advocates Meenakshi Arora, Mukta Gupta and Shyam Divan, appearing for different parties, said the issue can be decided by the civil court alone.

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# Congress, BJP trade charges on petrol price hike

Press Trust Of India

**BJP said the government should be praised for diversifying its energy sources.**

**FASTFACTS**

● Corporate tax collection is lower than its income tax collection.

● India's oil sources rose from 21 to 41 countries.

**NEW DELHI:** The Congress on Monday accused the government of refraining from hiking petrol prices as it had the upcoming assembly polls in sight, a charge rejected by the BJP, which said the government should instead be praised for diversifying its energy sources.

Initiating a debate on the Finance Bill in the Lok Sabha, Congress MP Amar Singh also targeted the government, saying its corporate tax collection is much lower than its income tax collection. He said even though

corporate taxes are lower, high net-worth individuals were investing abroad and not in India.

Singh also alleged that the upcoming five assembly elections were preventing the central government from hiking petroleum prices. The global crude prices have gone up due to the conflict in the Middle East, driving up petrol and diesel prices in many countries. Hitting back, BJP's

Nishikant Dubey said the government should be commended for not hiking prices of petrol and diesel but the Congress was instead questioning it. Recalling Prime Minister Narendra Modi's statement made in the House earlier in the day, Dubey said that earlier India was procuring oil from 21 countries, but the figure now stands at 41.

The BJP leader said the government has worked for years to ensure energy security, a move which should be appreciated.

He claimed that during previous Congress governments, the Benami Transactions Act and minimum alternate tax were deliberately not implemented to either appease the corporates or to browbeat them into submission.

# India nominates Living Root Bridges for UNESCO inscription

Press Trust Of India

**Living Root Bridges of Meghalaya signify harmony between humans and nature.**



whether the government has sent any proposals for the inclusion of new sites in the World Heritage List. "Yes, sir. The government has sent the following proposals to the World Heritage Centre for consideration for inclusion in the World Heritage List: Ancient Buddhist Site, Sarnath (2025-26), Jingkieng Jri/ Lyu Charai Cultural Landscape (2026-27)," he said. Locally known as Jingkieng Jri, Living Root Bridges (LRB) are Ficus-based rural connectivity and livelihood solutions within the dense subtropical moist broadleaf forest eco-region of Meghalaya in the eastern extension of the Indian Peninsular Plateau, according to its description on UNESCO's website.

**FASTFACTS**

● India seeks UNESCO tag for Sarnath Buddhist site (2025-26).

● LRBs: Ficus-based rural solutions in Meghalaya forests.

**NEW DELHI:** India has nominated 'Jingkieng Jri/ Lyu Charai Cultural Landscape', the Living Root Bridges of Meghalaya that signify harmony between humans and nature, for inscription into the UNESCO World Heritage List for the 2026-27 cycle, the government informed Parliament on Monday.

In a written response to a query in the Lok Sabha, Union Culture Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat also said the country has sent a proposal to the World Heritage Centre, seeking

# Zero landfill fires recorded in Delhi in 2025

Press Trust Of India

**The survey said a detailed protocol is now in place for controlling fires at landfill sites.**

**NEW DELHI:** The number of landfill fires in Delhi dropped to zero in 2025 from 159 in 2017, according to the Economic Survey 2025-26 tabled in the Delhi Assembly by Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Monday. The survey said a detailed protocol is now in place for controlling fires at landfill sites, leading to a sharp decline in

such incidents over the years, with increased monitoring and action against burning of waste materials and garbage in the open. To check such incidents, 622 dedicated patrolling teams were deployed during winter last year for the prevention of open burning of garbage. An anti-open burning drive was launched in coordination with stakeholder departments, it said. Open burning of biomass and solid waste remains a significant contributor to air pollution in the national capital, particularly during winters, it said.

**बैंक ऑफ़ बड़ोदा Bank of Baroda** Regional Office: DHAMTARI, First Floor, Bank of Baroda, Sonkar Plaza, Dr. Ambedkar Ward, Rudri Road, Dist.- Dhamtari- 493773 (C.G), Ph: 0788-2963574

**POSSESSION NOTICE**

Whereas the undersigned being authorized officer of the Bank of Baroda under Securitization of financial asset and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (No.54 of 2002) and in the exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 issued demand notices to the following borrowers/guarantors/legal heirs calling upon the borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the respective notices within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrowers/guarantors/legal heirs having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general that undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under section 13(4) of the said Act read with the said rules on the date mentioned in respective columns. Descriptions are as under:

| Branch Name | Name of the Borrowers / Legal Heirs   | Description of Property  | Demand Notice Date, Notice Amount & Possession date                       |
|-------------|---|--|---|
| Dhamtari    | Borrower- Praveen Sahu & Guarantor- Smt Lalita Bai W/o Laxman Sahu, Add.- Dhamtari Hatkeshar Road, Shitala Para Dhamtari Pin 493773 | All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Land and building House bearing no 32A plot no 142, Area 170 SQMTR situated AT Village Baniyapara Wrad Dhamtari, Tah- Dhamtari Dist Dhamtari in the name of Smt Lalita Bai W/o Sri Laxman Lal sahu. Bounded by, North: Nazul Gali, South: Nagar Palika Gali and Land of Ramchand, East: Land of Ramchand s/o mohan, West: Nagar Palika Gali | 17.08.2025<br>Rs. 30,06,999.81/+ Interest and other charges<br>13.03.2026 |

The borrower/guarantors/legal heirs in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the above mentioned properties. Any dealing with the properties will subject to the charge of the Bank of Baroda for above mentioned amount interest and other charges thereon.

Date: 24.03.2026, Place: Dhamtari Authorized Officer, Bank of Baroda

**ICICI Bank** Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd., BP-4, Technopolis Building, 4th Floor, Sector V, Salt Lake City, Kolkata West Bengal- 700091 CIN No: L65190G1994PLC021012, www.icicibank.com

The Authorised ICICI Bank Officer under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notices to the borrower(s) mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice. Having failed to repay the amount, the Notice is issued to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken symbolic possession of the property described below, by exercising powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property. Any dealings with the property will be subject to charges of ICICI Bank Limited.

| Sr. No. | Name of the Borrower(s)/ Loan Account Number  | Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession   | Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs) | Name of Branch |
|---------|---|--|---|----------------|
| 1.      | Lalit Bajaj (Deceased) Through It's Legal Heir/ Jaiprakash Bajaj/ House No 10 Ward Number 23 Gali Number 10, Lalbagh Sindh Colony, Rajnandgaon Lalbagh Sindh Colony Chhattisgarh Rajnandgaon 491441/ LBLI00003374465/ LBLI00003374472 | Part of 192/2, 193/1-2, 195/1, Renumbered As Khasra No. 192/28, 193/27 And 195/26 P.h.no. 35/1, Village Rajnandgaon, R.I.C. Rajnandgaon-1, Tahshil And Distict Rajnandgaon, Chhattisgarh. Admeasuring An Area of Area 0.016 Hect. North: Land of Kishor Kumar South: Seller Surplus Land East: 12 Ft. Road West: Plot of Pradeepth 3 Ft. Gali/ Date of Symbolic 18/03/2026 | November 26,2025/ Rs. 39,21,735.68/-                | Rajnandgaon    |

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

Date: March 24, 2026 Place: Rajnandgaon Sincerely Authorised Officer For ICICI Bank Ltd.

**Bandhan Bank** Bandhan Bank Limited CIN: L67190WB2014PLC204622 Registered Office: DN 32, SEC-V, Salt Lake City, Kolkata-700091

**APPENDIX IV [Rule - 8(1)] POSSESSION NOTICE (FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY)**

Whereas;

The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Bandhan Bank Limited under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) (hereinafter the "said Act") and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, (hereinafter the "said Rules") issued a demand notice dated January 06, 2026 bearing reference no. Ref: BBL/SAMR/25-26/233 and loan account no. 68230000002570 under Section 13(2) of the said Act calling upon the Borrower/Proprietor/Guarantors/ Mortgagee M/s Jay Agency (Borrower/Proprietorship), Address: Aamdi Mandir, Ward 04, Ward No. 24, Gurunanak Nagar, Durg, Chhattisgarh-491001, Mr. Ankit Ubhрани (Proprietor/Guarantor), Address: S/o Dilip Ubhрани, Residing at H. No. 486, Amdi Mandir, Ward No. 24, Kamla Niwas, Kanwar Nagar, Sindh Colony, Durg, CG-491001, Mr. Vicky Ubhрани (Guarantor), Address: S/o Dilip Ubhрани, Residing at H. No. 486, Amdi Mandir, Ward No. 24, Kamla Niwas, Kanwar Nagar, Sindh Colony, Durg, CG-491001, Mrs. Vidya Devi Ubhрани (Guarantor/Mortgagor), Address: W/o Dilip Ubhрани, Residing at H. No. 486, Amdi Mandir, Ward No. 24, Kamla Niwas, Kanwar Nagar, Sindh Colony, Durg, CG-491001 to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being is ₹53,27,541.55 (Rupees fifty three lakh twenty seven thousand five hundred forty one and fifty five paise only) is due as on November 30, 2025 payable with further applicable interest, penal interest, charges, etc. on and from December 01, 2025 thereafter as per the agreed terms within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrower/Proprietor/Guarantors/Mortgagor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower/Proprietor/Guarantors/Mortgagor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken constructive possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on this 18<sup>th</sup> day of March of the year 2026.

The Borrower/Proprietor/Guarantors/Mortgagor in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of Bandhan Bank Limited for an amount of ₹53,27,541.55 (Rupees fifty three lakh twenty seven thousand five hundred forty one and fifty five paise only) is due as on November 30, 2025 and interest thereon.

The Borrower's/Proprietor's/Guarantor's/Mortgagor's attention is invited to the provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the said Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

**Description of immovable properties**

Exclusive charge by way of Equitable Mortgage of all that piece and parcel over Self-Occupied Residential Property situated at Khasra No. 1365/1, PH No. 16/24, Ward No. 24, Amdi Nagar, Gurunanak Nagar, RNM-Durg-1, Teh & Dist-Durg, Chhattisgarh-491001 owned by Ms. Vidya Devi Ubhрани, ad-measuring 1477.08 Sq. Ft. and bounded as follows that is to say: Boundaries as per T/S & Title Deed: On or towards the North by: 25 Feet Road, On or towards the South by: 10 Feet Gali, On or towards the East by: House of Dilip Ubhрани. On or towards the West by: House of Nedumal Chawla.

together with (i) all present and future, buildings, structures of every description which are standing, erected or attached to the aforesaid premises or any part thereof and all rights to use common areas and facilities and incidental thereto, together with all present and future liberties, privileges, easements and appurtenances whatsoever to the said premises or any part thereof or usually held, occupied or enjoyed therewith or expected to belong or be appurtenant thereto; and (ii) all plant and machinery attached to the earth or permanently fastened to anything attached to the earth, and such movable parts as they may comprise of.

Date: March 18, 2026 Place: Durg, Chhattisgarh Sd/- Authorised Officer Bandhan Bank Limited

# Strong participation

**MUMBAI:** Delta Exchange, has recorded an average daily trading volume of \$6 Billion as of February 2026, highlighting the accelerating adoption of crypto derivatives across India. This growth is increasingly being driven by emerging trading hubs such as Raipur, where participation in financial markets is steadily expanding beyond traditional asset classes.

**APPOINTMENTS**

**SHRI CHANDRA NURSING INSTITUTE**  
W.No.60, STREET No.05, PUSHPAK NAGAR (KATULBOARD) DURG (C.G.)  
Approved by Regulatory Council

Application are invited for following posts

| S. No. | Name of the Post                  | Qualification and Experience As Per INC Norms   |
|--------|-----------------------------------|---|
| 01     | Principal cum Professor 01 (Post) | Experience:- M.Sc.(N), Ph. D(N) having total 15 years experience with M.Sc.(N) out of which 10 years after M.Sc.(N) in collegiate programme. Ph.D.(N) is desirable. |

**Other terms & conditions:-**  
1. Experience: As per INC Norms  
2. Pay Scale: As per State Govt. Pay Scale  
**Last date of receipt of Application:-** Within 15 Days from the date of publication of advertisement.  
**Contact-Mobile No-09993095032, 09131748332**

**कार्यालय कलेक्टर (विवाह शाखा) गरियाबंद (छत्तीसगढ़)**

**सार्वजनिक सूचना**

क्रमांक / क-748 / विवाहअधि. / 2026 गरियाबंद, दिनांक 10/03/2026

सर्व साधारण की जानकारी के लिए यह सूचित किया जाता है आवेदक सुनील कुमार बाबोदे पिता हेमंत कुमार बाबोदे उम्र 22 वर्ष निवासी ग्राम मेनपुरकला तहसील मैनुपुर जिला गरियाबंद (पत्नि) एवं आवेदिका सीता साहू पिता बहुत साहू उम्र 22 वर्ष निवासी ग्राम बोईरगांव तहसील मैनुपुर जिला गरियाबंद (पत्नि) ने हिंदू विवाह अधिनियम के अंतर्गत अपने विवाह के रजिस्ट्रेशन हेतु आवेदन प्रस्तुत किया है। उपरोक्त विवाह के रजिस्ट्रेशन में आपत्ति करने के इच्छुक कोई भी व्यक्ति इस संबंध में दिनांक 10/04/2026 के पूर्व अधोहस्ताक्षरकर्ता के समक्ष कार्यालयीन समय में उपस्थित होकर आपत्ति प्रस्तुत कर सकते हैं। निश्चित तिथि के पश्चात् प्राप्त आपत्ति पर कोई सुनवाई नहीं किया जावेगा। आज दिनांक 10/03/2026 को इस कार्यालय के मुद्रा सहित जारी किया गया। विवाह अधिकारी, जिला-गरियाबंद (छ.ग.)

**NAME CHANGE**

It is informed to the general public that I, GHANSHYAM MADHUKAR F/O MANRAKHAN MADHUKAR Resident of H. NO. 209/34, WARD NO. 08 DHANORA DURG (C.G.) have changed my old name GHANSHYAM MADHUKAR and GHANSHYAM F/O MANRAKHAN MADHUKAR, so in future I should be recognized by my new name that is GHANSHYAM MADHUKAR F/O MANRAKHAN MADHUKAR in all Goerments and other documents.

**GHANSHYAM MADHUKAR**  
Resident of H. NO. 209/34, WARD NO. 08 DHANORA DURG (DURG)

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

It is hereby informed to the general public that my client Om Prakash, son of Late Salki Ram, caste Kalar, resident of Bangajapara, Charama, Tehsil Charama, District Kanker (C.G.), is the owner of land bearing Khasra No. 562/8, area 0.11 hectare (0.25 acre / 100 sq. meters), situated at village Darghahan, Patwari Halka No. 03, R.I. Circle Charama, Tehsil Charama, District Kanker (C.G.). Previously, this land was part of Khasra No. 562/1, area 0.01 hectare (0.25 acre / 100 sq. meters), owned by Kumar, son of Cheduram, caste Kalar, resident of village Darghahan, Tehsil Charama, District Kanker (C.G.). The said land was sold by Kumar to Paritosh Vishwas, son of Dhananjay, caste Kayastha, resident of Bazaar Para, Charama, District Kanker (C.G.), through a registered sale deed recorded in Book No. 01, Volume No. 3107, pages 41 to 50, Deed No. 1337 dated 11.06.2012. Thereafter, the said land was renumbered in the revenue records as Khasra No. 562/8. Subsequently, the said land was sold by Paritosh Vishwas to my client Om Prakash through a registered sale deed recorded in Book No. 01, Volume No. 3365, pages 31 to 40, Deed No. 156 dated 08.05.2013. The original copy of the registered sale deed dated 11.06.2012 (Deed No. 1337), registered through the Sub-Registrar Office, was provided to me. However, on 10.03.2026, Om Prakash brought a photocopy of the said deed for obtaining another copy, but the original sale deed has been lost. Despite several efforts, the original document could not be found. Regarding the loss of the document, a report has been lodged at Police Station Charama on 14.03.2026 under Section 174 BNS (information of loss). Therefore, any person, bank, financial or non-financial institution, or any other entity having any claim, objection, or any other thing concerning the said lost sale deed or the concerned property is hereby requested to submit their written objection along with supporting documents within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice at my office. After the expiry of the stipulated period, any claim or objection shall not be considered binding on my client. Such objection deemed invalid and Void and shall not be tenable. Place: Kanker M. M. Nawab Advocate Date: 23.03.2026

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

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

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

| Sr. No. | Name of Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ Mortgagee   | Loan Account No. & Loan Amount   | Details of the Security to be enforced   | Date of NPA & Demand Notice date | Amount Due in Rs. / as on   |
|---------|---|--|--|----------------------------------|---|
| 1       | 1) Mr. Indrajeet Singh, S/o. Harnek Singh, 2) Mr. Harnek Singh, W/o. Swam Singh   | Loan Account No. 33109610000050 33109410000069 Loan Amount: Rs.32,57,000/- | <b>Immovable Property:</b> All that piece and parcel of land bearing part of Khasra No.683/1, total admeasuring area of 2400 Sq.ft. (223.04 Sq.mtrs.), together with construction thereon, situated at Mouza Kurud, P.H. No.50, R.N.M. Kohka, Tehsil & District Durg (C.G.). Bounded by: East by: Other's Land, West by: 25 Ft. Road, North by: 25 Ft. Road and South by: Other's Land.  | 03-03-2026 & 13-03-2026          | Rs.32,14,767.26 (Rupees Thirty Two Lakh Fourteen Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty Seven and Twenty Six Paise Only) as on 10-03-2026 |
| 2       | 1) Mr. Nand Kumar Yadav, S/o. Gendram Yadav, 2) Mrs. Malti Yadav, W/o. Nand Kumar Yadav   | Loan Account No. 45090430000018 Loan Amount: Rs.3,70,000/-                 | <b>Immovable Property:</b> All that piece and parcel of Diverted land bearing part of Abadi Khasra No.101/6, total admeasuring area of 0.032 hec., together with construction thereon, situated at Gram Bhelai, P.H. No.23, R.N.M. Jayramnagar, Tehsil Masturi & District Balod (C.G.). Bounded by: East by: Gali, West by: Gali, North by: Gali and South by: House of Shyam Sunder, Alakhram and others.                           | 03-03-2026 & 18-03-2026          | Rs.3,47,816.96 (Rupees Three Lakh Fourty Seven Thousand Eight Hundred Sixteen and Ninety Six Paise Only) as on 12-03-2026       |
| 3       | 1) Mr. Omprakash Sinha, S/o. Bhaishakhu Sinha, 2) Mrs. Dineshwari Sinha, W/o. Omprakash Sinha, 3) Mrs. Parvati Sinha, W/o. Bhaishakhu Ram Sinha | Loan Account No. 45089630000099 Loan Amount: Rs.4,55,000/-                 | <b>Immovable Property:</b> All that piece and parcel of Diverted land bearing part of Abadi Khasra No.612/2, total admeasuring area of 900 Sq.ft., together with construction thereon, situated at Mouza Devghahan, P.H. No.17, R.N.M. Arjunda, Tehsil Gunderdehi & District Balod (C.G.). Bounded by: East by: Road, West by: Pond, North by: House of Kaushal, S/o. Hagru and South by: House of Nohar Singh, S/o. Kunalala.       | 03-03-2026 & 18-03-2026          | Rs.3,41,285.43 (Rupees Three Lakh Fourty One Thousand Two Hundred Eighty Five and Fourty Three Paise Only) as on 12-03-2026     |
| 4       | 1) Mr. Sandeep Das, S/o. Jagbandhu Das, 2) Mrs. Jyoti Das, W/o. Jagbandhu Das   | Loan Account No. 450996100000721 Loan Amount: Rs.6,70,000/-                | <b>Immovable Property:</b> All that piece and parcel of Diverted land bearing part of Khasra No.326/24, total admeasuring area of 1200 Sq.ft., together with construction thereon, situated at Gram Karra, P.H. No.24, R.N.M. Masturi, Tehsil Masturi & District Balod (C.G.). Bounded by: East by: Nistari Rasta, West by: Land Purchase by Shubham Mishra, North by: Nistari Rasta and South by: Land Purchase by Sanjana Chouhan. | 03-03-2026 & 18-03-2026          | Rs.6,93,131.12 (Rupees Six Lakh Ninety Three Thousand One Hundred Thirty One and Twelve Paise Only) as on 12-03-2026            |

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

Date: 23.03.2026, Place: Raipur (C.G.) Sd/- Authorised Officer, For Jana Small Finance Bank Limited



"Crisis is a chance to do better, not just to recover."

[ Anonymous ]

| OUR VIEW |

## India's Balancing Act Amid Middle East Conflict

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's address in the Lok Sabha underscored the gravity of the escalating confrontation in West Asia involving the United States, Israel, and Iran. His words carried both urgency and reassurance, reflecting India's delicate position as a nation deeply tied to the region through energy dependence, trade routes, and the safety of its diaspora. Modi emphasized India's commitment to diplomatic engagement, urging restraint and dialogue to prevent further destabilization. The Prime Minister's concern was not abstract—it was rooted in the tangible risks to India's energy security, fertilizer imports, and essential commodities. With nearly one crore Indians living and working in the Middle East, the humanitarian dimension added weight to his appeal. The Cabinet Committee on Security's recent deliberations highlight the government's proactive stance. India is not merely reacting to global tremors; it is preparing contingency plans to safeguard supplies and shield its economy from shocks. This foresight is crucial, given how past conflicts—such as the Russia-Ukraine war—exposed vulnerabilities in global supply chains and forced India to diversify its energy imports. Yet, the challenge is profound. India must balance its strategic partnerships with the United States and Israel while maintaining its long-standing ties with Iran and the wider Arab world. This balancing act is not new, but the stakes are higher than ever. The Prime Minister's speech signals India's intent to remain a voice of moderation, advocating peace while securing national interests. For citizens, the message is clear: India is alert, engaged, and prepared. But it also serves as a reminder of how interconnected our world has become. A conflict thousands of miles away can ripple into our fuel prices, food security, and the livelihoods of millions abroad. As Modi prepares to address the Rajya Sabha, the nation watches closely. The editorial takeaway is one of cautious optimism—India's leadership is aware of the risks, committed to diplomacy, and determined to protect both its people and its economy. In times of global turbulence, such clarity of purpose is not just reassuring; it is essential.

| GUEST VIEW |

## Dangerous Elevators, Deadly Negligence

Kolkata's RG Kar Medical College has once again come under scrutiny after a tragic incident at its trauma centre. A patient's father lost his life when he and his family were trapped inside a malfunctioning lift. Reports suggest he was fatally caught either between the lift doors or between the lift and the wall, following a sudden, uncontrolled movement of the elevator. This shocking accident underscores the urgent need for rigorous monitoring and foolproof upkeep of hospital lifts. Secure electrical connections, proper lubrication of parts, and consistent temperature control for wiring cannot be taken for granted. Periodic checks of door functionality and sensors are essential, as these mechanisms are critical to passenger safety. Depending on whether a lift is residential or commercial, monthly or quarterly servicing must be mandatory. Scrupulous adherence to annual maintenance contracts (AMCs), documentation, and timely audits should never be bypassed. Hospitals, in particular, must ensure that old and jaded elevators are replaced with modern, reliable systems. Traction lifts are more effective in larger buildings, and their adoption should be encouraged. The absence of trained lift operators adds to the risk, as most are neither conversant with proper functioning nor adequately trained. Safety cannot be compromised—especially in institutions meant to save lives.



Ganapathi Bhat, Akola

# Comment

## Why Bhagat Singh Loved Hindi: A Special Connection

When we hear the name of Shaheed-e-Azam Bhagat Singh, images of revolution, sacrifice, and strong love for the country come to mind. He was a great revolutionary, a skilled writer, and a deep thinker. Through his writing, he awakened the minds of common people.

He wrote in different languages, but he gave special importance to Hindi. Bhagat Singh's mother tongue was Punjabi. He was very good at Punjabi, Hindi, Urdu, English, and Sanskrit—he could read and write all of them correctly. Still, he chose Hindi to spread his ideas across the whole country.

His first important Hindi essay was probably "The Problem of Language and Script in Punjab." He wrote it in 1924 at the age of just 17. This essay was for a competition by the Punjab Hindi Sahitya Sammelan, and he won the first prize of 50 rupees. It was later published in "Hindi Sandesh" on February 28, 1933.

In this essay, Bhagat Singh deeply analyzed the language issues in Punjab. He felt sad that language was being given a religious color. He asked: "... It has been the misfortune of our province that language has been given a religious color here."

Bhagat Singh was born in 1907 in Punjab, where Punjabi and Urdu were dominant, but Hindi was also

common in print media and Hindu families. At that time, Arya Samaj and supporters of Sanatan Dharma were promoting Hindi. Bhagat Singh's family was connected to Arya Samaj—his grandfather, Sardar Arjun Singh, was close to Dayanand Saraswati. Many Sikhs were also linked to Arya Samaj. So, learning Hindi at home, school, and college was natural.

Dr. Chandrapal Singh, a history professor at PGDAV College, Delhi University, and author of the book "Bhagat Singh - Revisited," says that the tradition of Hindi was already strong in the family.

As Bhagat Singh became active in revolutionary work, he realized that writing in Hindi would help him reach ordinary people across India easily. After joining the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA), he met revolutionaries from different parts of India, most of whom spoke Hindi. He had great respect for Chandrashekhar Azad and was very close to him.

Bhagat Singh mostly wrote about political, social, and revolutionary issues. At first, he wrote in Urdu and English, but later he turned to Hindi. He contributed to many Hindi newspapers and magazines like "Pratap," "Chand," "Kirti," and others.

To avoid arrest, he used fake names like "Balwant Singh," "Ranjit," and "Vid-

rohi." Because of this, his writings could not be collected properly, which was a big loss.

In 1925, Bhagat Singh went to Kanpur and worked at Ganesh Shankar Vidyarthi's newspaper "Pratap." He lived near the press in Pilkhana and improved his Hindi writing there. Kanpur was a major center for Hindi, so staying there made his Hindi even stronger.

His early writings were mostly about other freedom fighters and their struggles. The magazine "Chand" brought out a special issue on martyrs, and Bhagat Singh contributed to it. He stressed values like freedom, equality, justice, and communal harmony.

Bhagat Singh's writings had a deep impact on India's freedom movement, especially on the youth. His passionate, clear, and logical articles inspired thousands to join the revolution. His simple but powerful style in Hindi increased the number of readers.

While at "Pratap," he also did reporting—for example, in 1926, he came to Delhi to cover the riots in Daryaganj. Most of his articles appeared in "Kirti," "Pratap," and "Chand," where he wrote openly about revolutionary ideas, political philosophy, and social issues.

In his early days, Bhagat Singh was deeply influenced by the idea of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" (the whole world is one family). He dreamed of the world becom-

ing one family with love and mutual respect. His article "Vishwa Prem" (Universal Love) was published in "Saptāhik Matwala." In it, he explained the Sanskrit phrase meaning "The whole world is one family." This was a core idea of Sanatan Dharma, which he accepted as universal love.

Through self-study, working with Hindi-speaking revolutionaries, and journalists, Bhagat Singh became a strong Hindi writer. He was not a traditional journalist, but his contribution to Hindi journalism was priceless. It gave a new direction to the freedom movement.

It is surprising that at such a young age—and while doing revolutionary and organizational work—he wrote so much. This was possible because of his hard work, strong commitment, and smart use of opportunities.

One important thing is that Bhagat Singh used Hindi for pamphlets and announcements to spread ideas. These were distributed in public places to encourage people to join the fight for freedom.

Even in court, he used Hindi because he believed Hindi was the language of the common people, and it helped him reach more people with his message. Bhagat Singh's pen still inspires us today. It shows that language is not just for talking—it can also be a weapon for revolution.



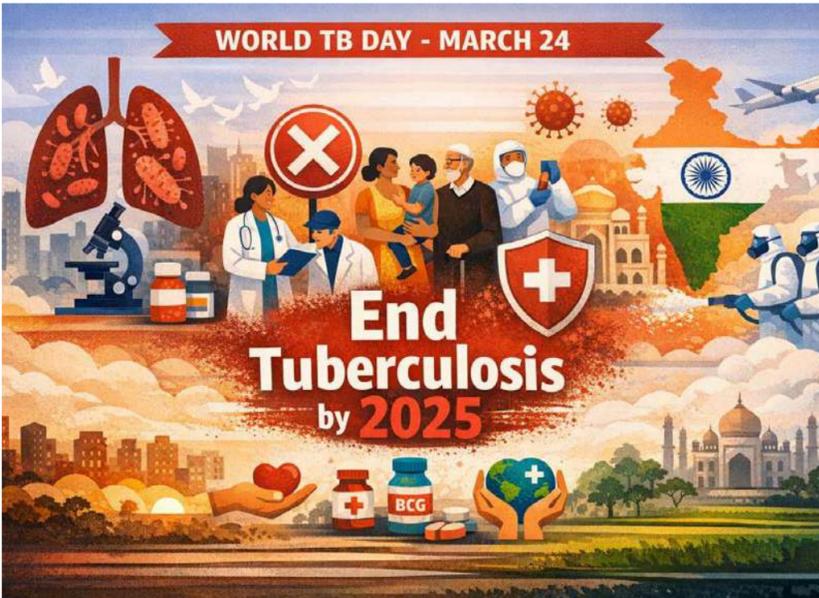
Vivek Shukla, Ex Information officer UAE Embassy, New Delhi

## The Future is TB-Free - World Tuberculosis Day

As TB represents a health problem both at the international and local levels, the world celebrates on the 24th of March every year the World TB Day.



Vinod Chandrashekhar Dixit, Free lance journalist, writer and cartoonist



Every year, we recognize World TB Day on March 24. World TB day is a global health awareness program focusing on efforts to eliminate TB worldwide. As TB represents a health problem both at the international and local levels, the world celebrates on the 24th of March every year the World TB Day. On March 24 the bacillus that causes the disease of Tuberculosis was discovered. The date marks the day in 1882 when Dr Robert Koch announced that he had discovered the bacterium that causes TB. TB is the world's deadliest infectious killer. Every second, a new person contracts TB worldwide and more than two million people annually die because of this disease. It is a day to

educate the public about the impact of TB around the world and to share successes in TB prevention and control and raise awareness of the challenges that hinder our progress toward the elimination of this devastating disease. As COVID-19 continues to have an impact on everyday life around the globe, the TB community should stay safe and healthy. Essential TB services should be sustained during the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure that gains

made in the fight against TB are not reversed. WHO has developed an advocacy and communications package to support awareness building and drive action across all levels, in the lead up to and on World TB Day..

TB is spread from person to person through the air. When people with TB cough, sneeze or spit, they propel the TB germs into the air. TB remains the world's deadliest infectious killer. Every day over 4000 people lose

their lives to TB and close to 30,000 people fall ill with this preventable and curable disease. The Government of India has committed to eliminate the prevalence of TB by 2025, with commensurate resources to rapidly reduce TB incidence prevalence and mortality in India. B infection, also known as passive TB or TB infection is not contagious. It can become active TB, so treatment is vital for an individual with hidden TB and helps to reg-

ulate the spread of TB. It is estimated that about 2 billion people are hidden. A healthy immune system often fights with TB bacteria, but if one's immunity is low, then body is unable to increase effective immunity.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is implementing the National Strategic Plan (NSP) for Tuberculosis Elimination (2017-2025). TB is an airborne disease that has a devastating effect on lungs causing fatigue, fever, and swollen lymph nodes. It can have an impact on other body parts too including kidneys, brain, and spine. BCG (Bacillus Calmette-Guerin) is the vaccine recommended for babies against TB. Ending TB requires concerted action by all sectors to provide the right services, support and enabling safe environment in the right place, at the right time. Everyone has a role to play in ending TB - individuals, communities, businesses, governments, societies. On this World TB Day, we stand with our global health partners in our firm resolve to end TB. Let us prevent the spread of this disease through disseminating health awareness in the community and providing treatment for TB patients free of charge in India is needed.

### YOUR LETTERS

#### Forests - The Lungs of our Mother Earth

International Day of Forests, celebrated annually on March 21st to raise awareness about the importance of forests/trees for the survival of humanity and the planet. 2026 Theme: "Forests and Economies", focus on the economic benefits of sustainable forest management. According to the 'Biotic Pump Theory', forests manufacture rain droplets which promote agricultural activities, increase crop yields, and conserve natural water resources. Other benefits include: carbon storage, biodiversity conservation, water management, soil protection, livelihood and economic support, air purification etc.

Nabnit Panigrahi, Raygada, Odisha

#### Negligence Turns Pilgrimage Deadly

The fatal ropeway trolley crash at Khallari Mata Temple in Mahasamund is a grim reminder of neglected safety in pilgrimage infrastructure. A snapped cable led to one death and multiple injuries. Authorities must enforce rigorous inspections, especially during high-footfall events like Navratri. Ropeway systems must meet national safety benchmarks, and emergency protocols should be mandatory. Let this tragedy not be repeated—pilgrimage must never come at the cost of lives. Public trust depends on strict safety standards being upheld.

P Basanti, Bhilai

Send your articles (600-650 words) and letters (70-80 words) for this page on: [editorialcc007@gmail.com](mailto:editorialcc007@gmail.com) The letters can be edited or rewritten for clarity.

# '438 terror victim families given job letter'

Sinha said such cases left families in silence, facing loss and social neglect.

Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday said that appointment letters have been issued to 438 terror-victim families since 2025, describing the figure not merely as a statistic but as "shattered worlds" that lost loved ones to violence. Addressing a gathering here, Sinha said each such case represented homes where "laughter was replaced by silence" and families that had to fend for themselves for years, often facing social neglect in addition to personal loss. Sinha on Monday handed over appointment letters to 37 next of kin of victims of terrorism and 29 next of kin of government employees who lost



J&K LG Manoj Sinha during the handing-over ceremony of appointment orders under SRO 43, in Jammu.

their lives in service. "So far, appointment letters have been given to 438 terror-victim families.

This is not merely a number—these are 438 shattered worlds," Sinha said while addressing the gathering. Paying tribute to the victims of terrorism, the Lieutenant Governor vowed the strongest action against the terror ecosystem and its supporters. "I pledge

## HIGHLIGHT

● LG vowed the strongest action against the terror ecosystem and its supporters.

● LG said justice means not just punishment, but healing and restoring dignity.

alone but also involves healing wounds and restoring dignity.

Sinha said that for decades, families affected by terrorism were sidelined while elements linked to terror networks allegedly received protection and benefits. Such circumstances, he said, represented a collapse of social morality and weakened law, trust and the foundations of a just society.

## Mishap

**UNNAO:** A female passenger died and at least 37 others were injured after a bus rammied into a divider and overturned on the Agra-Lucknow Expressway in Uttar Pradesh's Unnao district on Monday, police said. According to the police, the accident occurred near Nasirapur village in the Bangarmau area when the bus heading towards Lucknow and carrying about 50 passengers, went out of control and crashed into the divider. The impact was so severe that the bus's engine detached and fell onto the road, police said, adding that preliminary investigations suggest that the driver may have felt sleepy while driving the vehicle. Police said that Taravati, 55, a resident of the Goshainjan area in Lucknow, died on the spot. The injured were immediately taken to a community health centre, from where 14 critically injured individuals were referred to the District Hospital.

## Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

### STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIP

## UK Air Chief Marshal Smyth hails move for IAF to train Royal Air Force pilots



**NEW DELHI:** Britain's Air Chief Marshal Sir Harv Smyth on Monday hailed a new move that will facilitate the Indian Air Force train pilots of the UK's Royal Air Force as the two sides are looking at boosting overall defence ties in the face of emerging security challenges. The Chief of the Air Staff, presently on a three-day visit to India, held wide-ranging talks with his Indian counterpart Air Chief Marshal A P Singh and it is understood that the West Asia crisis figured in the discussion. Air Chief Marshal Smyth met Singh to discuss evolving security threats and ways to further strengthen the part-

nership between the two air forces, according to a British readout. Smyth is in India to boost military ties in the face of "emerging security challenges", it said without elaborating. In February this year, the UK and India signed an agreement under which the Indian Air Force will deploy three qualified flying instructors to Royal Air Force (RAF) Valley in the UK – the training base for British fast jet pilots. The two air chiefs will also travel to Air Force Station in Gwalior to understand IAF's operational procedures and best practices in countering new-age aerial threats.

## Blast outside home

**JAMMU:** A mysterious blast outside the house of a former sarpanch in Samba district early Monday shook the neighbourhood, officials said. The blast, whose origins are yet not known, occurred outside the residence of Jai Ram Sharma in Gawala Talab, some 10 km from the International Border in the Ghawal sector, they said. The blast damaged the house's gate, a portion of the boundary wall, and shattered window panes of several adjoining houses. No casualties were reported. A team of forensic experts took samples from the scene to ascertain the cause of the explosion, the officials said. Teams of the National Investigation Agency and the National Security Guard, accompanied by sniffer dogs, also visited the blast site.

### SIGNIFICANT MILESTONE

# East Coast Railway sets new records in freight handling

Press Trust Of India

**ECOR achieved loading target of 275 MT on 20th March 2026**

**BHUBANESWAR:** East Coast Railway has achieved a significant milestone in freight performance by achieving the loading target of 275 Million Tonnes (MT) on 20th March 2026, 11 days ahead of schedule. This achievement reflects ECoR's consistent focus on operational efficiency and excellence in freight transportation.

ECoR has loaded 275.6 Million Tonnes of freight up to 20th March 2026, registering a growth of 10.4% over the corresponding period at



249.6 Million Tonnes. Further, East Coast Railway has surpassed 250 MT of unloading on 21st March 2026, significantly improving upon last year's unloading figure of 236.5 MT during the same period. With these achievements, ECoR has set a new benchmark in both loading and unloading

performance, reflecting its strong commitment towards enhancing freight operations and contributing to the overall growth of Indian Railways. This outstanding performance reflects East Coast Railway's pivotal role in strengthening the nation's freight economy and supporting industrial

## HIGHLIGHT

● Zone registered a growth of 10.4% over the corresponding period at 249.6 MT.

● ECoR has set a new benchmark in both loading and unloading performance.

growth in its hinterland. Continuous monitoring, innovative operational practices, and the dedicated efforts of railway employees have played a key role in achieving this milestone. East Coast Railway continues to play a key role in supporting industries, ports and businesses by ensuring smooth and reliable transportation

### ASSEMBLY ELECTION

## Gaurav Gogoi files nomination from Jorhat assembly seat

**JORHAT:** Assam Congress chief Gaurav Gogoi filed his nomination papers from the Jorhat assembly seat on Monday, making his debut electoral foray in the state polls. The deputy leader of the opposition in Lok Sabha visited religious places of all communities before starting his rally from Jorhat stadium. It concluded at the district commissioner's office after around three hours, with a large number of people participating in the procession. The Jorhat MP also visited his family home in Nazir Ali area and offered prayers before the portrait of his father and former chief minister Tarun Gogoi. He will engage in a direct fight with veteran BJP politician and sitting MLA Hitendranath Goswami, who has represented the seat for five terms -- thrice consecutively since 1991 as an AGP candidate and twice since 2016 for the saffron party.

### WORLD TUBERCULOSIS DAY

## Prez appeals to work together to end tuberculosis for all

**NEW DELHI:** President Droupadi Murmu on Monday asked all stakeholders to work together with collective resolve to end tuberculosis once and for all. In a message, she said tuberculosis (TB) continues to pose a significant public health challenge, affecting millions of lives across the world.

However, TB Mukht Bharat Abhayan has made remarkable progress in expanding early diagnosis, ensuring free treatment, strengthening nutritional support and improving patient care, Murmu said on the eve of World Tuberculosis Day.

This progress underscores our shared determination and the strength of the national TB elimination programme, she said.

"I urge all stakeholders to work together with collective resolve to end tuberculosis once and for all," the President said.

### ASSURANCE

# 'Serve fearlessly; govt assures family security'

**LUCKNOW:** Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Monday assured soldiers attending the 'Janata Darshan' programme that they should serve the nation without worry, as the government will take responsibility for the safety, dignity and well-being of their families.

According to an official statement, the chief minister said, "You should serve the nation without any worry. The government is responsible for the service, facilities, security and dignity of your families as well as the 25 crore people of the state. The government has been serious about this from day one."

Adityanath interacted with soldiers who attended the 'Janata Darshan', listened to their grievances and assured them that all issues would be resolved appropriately. He asked them to return home without worry, stating that the government will



**Will ensure proper redressal of concerns.**

Yogi Adityanath  
Uttar Pradesh CM

Adityanath advised the families of patients to submit applications along with cost estimates from hospitals.

ensure proper redressal of their concerns.

The programme also saw complaints from various districts related to policing, land disputes, financial assistance and transfers. The chief minister listened to each case individually, took applications and directed officials to ensure timely resolution within a fixed time-frame.

Regarding cases seeking financial assistance for medical treatment,

**कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता**  
**मिनीमाता बांगो बांध संभाग क्र. 03 माचाडोली (छ.ग.)**  
**निविदा निरस्तीकरण आदेश**

आदेश क्र. 915/व.ले.लि./2025-26 माचाडोली, दिनांक 20/03/2026  
कार्यालय प्रमुख अभियंता, जल संसाधन विभाग, शिवनाथ मवन, सेक्टर-19, नार्थ ब्लॉक, नवा रायपुर, अटल नगर, रायपुर का पत्र क्र. 4264015/निविदा प्रकोष्ठ/2026/4273 (T.C.) नवा रायपुर, दिनांक 06.03.2026 के अनुपालन में इस कार्यालय की निविदा सूचना क्र. 12/व.ले.लि./2025-26 दिनांक 05.01.2026 सिस्टम नं. 183008 (प्रथम आमंत्रण) मिनीमाता बांगो बांध के मेसेनरी बांध से पी.एम.जी.एस.वाई. रोड चौक तक सी.सी. रोड एवं पक्की नाला का निर्माण कार्य की अनुमोदित राशि रु. 170.07 लाख कार्य के लिये आमंत्रित की गई निविदा में 03 निविदाकारों से ऑनलाईन प्राप्त दस्तावेज परीक्षणोपरांत प्रतिस्पर्धाओं में 01 निविदाकार योग्य पाया गया है।

अतः एकल निविदाकार होने के कारण निविदायें निरस्त की जाती है।  
प्रकाशन जी.क्र. 252605833  
दिनांक 07.01.2026

**कार्यपालन अभियंता**  
**मिनीमाता बांगो बांध संभाग क्र. 03**  
**माचाडोली (छ.ग.)**  
G-252607331/1

**खान मंत्रालय**  
**MINISTRY OF MINES**

**DESIGNATED OFFICER, MINISTRY OF MINES, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
GPOA-3 Netaji Nagar, New Delhi, 110023, 011-26773606

**"Invitation of Bids for Seventh Tranche for Grant of Mineral Concession of Critical and Strategic Minerals"**

In exercise of the power of auction conferred by Section 11(D) of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 to the Central Government to grant mineral concession for minerals specified in the Part D of the First Schedule and in accordance with the Mineral (Auction) Rules, 2015 as amended from time to time notified thereunder, the Government of India has directed the Designated Officer, Ministry of Mines to undertake the auction of 19 blocks in Seventh Tranche of Auction of Critical and Strategic Minerals. The notice inviting tender (NIT) has been published on MSTC e-auction portal and on the Ministry of Mines website. The commencement of sale of tender document will begin on Monday, March 30, 2026. Tender document and other details can be accessed on (<https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/mlc/nl>).

**CBC 26101/11/0009/2526**

**POSSESSION NOTICE**  
**HDFC Bank Ltd.**  
Branch: Alaska Tower, Lodihipara Road, Shankar Nagar, Raipur  
Tel: 0771-4243149/240 CIN L65920MH1994PLC080618 Website: www.hdfcbank.com

Whereas the Authorised Officer of HDFC Bank Limited (erstwhile HDFC Limited having amalgamated with HDFC Bank Limited by virtue of a Scheme of Amalgamation approved by Hon'ble NCLT-Mumbai vide order dated 17th March 2023) (HDFC), under the Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 ("said Act") and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notices under Section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the following borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) and Legal Representative(s) to pay the amounts mentioned against their respective names together with interest thereon at the applicable rates as mentioned in the said notices, within 60 days from the date of the said Notices, incidental expenses, costs, charges etc till the date of payment and / or realisation.

| Sr. No. | Name of Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative (s)   | Outstanding Dues*                   | Date of Demand Notice | Date of Possession                | Description of Immovable Property (ies)/Secured Asset(s)   |
|---------|--|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| 01.     | Mr. Chakraborty Kunal H.No. 123/P. Parijat Mongra Juhu, Block B, Talpuri, Durg Talpuri Ward 63, Bhilai Nagar, Durg - C.G. Pin-491001 - India.<br>Mr. Chakraborty Kunal Dist Healthcare Private Limited, Ghatkopar-west, A-101, Ghatkopar Industrial Estate, Lbs Marg, Ghatkopar-west Mumbai-400086.<br>Mrs. Chakraborty Tripti H.No. 123/P. Parijat Mongra Juhu Block B, Talpuri, Durg Talpuri Ward 63, Bhilai Nagar, Durg - Chhattisgarh, Pin-491001 - India.     | ₹ 4,77,291/- due as on 31-Aug-2024* | 03-Oct-2024           | 18-MAR-2026 (Physical Possession) | Flat-123/O, Floor-3 Parijat Apartments, S.No., Twin City Talpuri Housing, Board Colony, Aamdri, Ruabandha; Bhilai C.G.   |
| 02.     | Mr. Kumar Pankaj House/Bldg/Apr.288K, Village/Town/City Moh Bhatia, District- Baloda Bazar Po., Mohbhatha State Chhattisgarh, Mohbhatha - Baloda Bazar, C.G. - 493113.<br>Mr. Kumar Pankaj Ms. Pankaj Panjariya, H.No. 288 K, Mohbhatha, Mohbhatha - Baloda Bazar - 493113.<br>Mrs. Panjariya Bindu Kumari Alias Mrs. Sah Bindu Kumari, H. No. 288 K, Mohbhatha, Baloda Bazar, Chhattisgarh, Pin-493113.   | ₹ 15,30,550/- due as on 31-DEC-24*  | 31-JAN-2025           | 20-MAR-2026 (Physical Possession) | All that Piece and Parcel of Flat Admeasuring-499 Sq.Ft. Kh.No.-303/2, 303/10 Part, 303/115 at Mauza-Jangini, Flat No.-508, 2BHK, Block-B, 5th Floor "Sai Villas & Apartments" P.H.N.-44/49, RIC-Ahiwara Teh. Dhamda & Dist. Durg Chhattisgarh & Bounded By North By - Open Sky South By - Flat-507, East By-Flat No. 506, West By - Open Sky. |
| 03.     | Mr. Dewangan Jagat Ram Jugnubai Colony, Santoshi Nagar, Raipur - 492001.<br>Mr. Dewangan Jagat Ram Shyam Metallics And Energy Limited, Shyam Metallics & Energy Ltd, Vill. Pandoli, Lapanga, Sambalpur - 761016.<br>Mrs. Dewangan Kamla Bai W/o. Jagat Ram Dewangan, Makaan No. 494/1, Ward No. 20, Neem Chowk, Dewangan Mohallakurud, Champa - Janjgir Champa - 495671.   | ₹ 23,07,161/- due as on 31-DEC-24*  | 05-FEB-2025           | 20-MAR-2026 (Physical Possession) | Diverted Residential Plot Along with Construction thereon Admeasuring 1000 Sq.ft. Kh.No.-15002/1, Part-Mauza-Kumhari, Plot No.-667, Avinash Twin City, P.H.N.-53, RIC-Ahiwara and Teh. - Dandha, Dist-Durg Chhattisgarh & Bounded By North By - Land No.-668 South By - Land No.-666 East By - Land No.-1227 West By - Road Colony.            |
| 04.     | Mr. Rokkam Sridhar 558 Panchsheel Nagar East, Po. B.M.Y., Charoda, Ward 20, Bhilai Charoda Durg, Bhilai-493441.<br>Mr. Rokkam Sridhar M/s. Sri Brothers Enterprises, 01 Village Sankra, Tehsil Dharsiwa, Post Sondra, Raipur 492001.<br>Mrs. R Rajani 558 Panchsheel Nagar East, Po. B.M.Y., Charoda, Ward 20, Bhilai Charoda Durg, Bhilai-493441.<br>Mrs. R Rajani M/s. Sri Brothers Enterprises, 01 Village Sankra, Tehsil Dharsiwa, Post Sondra, Raipur 492001. | ₹ 9,23,756/- due as on 31-JAN-25*   | 25-FEB-2025           | 20-MAR-2026 (Physical Possession) | All that Piece and Parcel of Unit L-76, Admeasuring-690 Sq. Ft. Khata No.-323, Kh. No.-89/2 Part, Situated at Lotus City, P.H.N.-4, RIC-Bhilai-3, Gram-Parsada, Teh.-Palan & Dist. Durg Chhattisgarh & Bounded By-North By- Plot No. L-65, South By-Path, East By- Plot No. L-75, West By-Plot No. L-77.                                       |

\*With further interest as applicable, incidental expenses, costs, charges etc incurred till the date of payment and / or realisation. However, since the borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) and Legal Representative(s) mentioned hereinabove have failed to repay the amounts due, notice is hereby given to the borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) and Legal Representative(s) mentioned hereinabove in particular and to the public in general that the Authorised Officer of HDFC have taken possession of the immovable property (ies) / secured asset(s) described herein above in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on the dates mentioned above. The borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) and Legal Representative(s) mentioned hereinabove in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the aforesaid Immovable Property(ies) / Secured Asset(s) and any dealings with the said Immovable Property (ies) / Secured Asset(s) will be subject to the mortgage of HDFC. Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) attention is/are invited to the provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets. Copies of the Panchama drawn and Inventory made are available with the undersigned, and the said Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) is/ are requested to collect the respective copy from the undersigned on any working day during normal office hours. Place : DURG Date : 24-MAR- 2026 For HDFC Bank Ltd. Sd/- Authorised Officer

"I don't blame any of them for making the kind of decisions they make in their career that I may or may not endorse, but I get it, I see what they are going through."

Karan Johar



# & Glitters

CLOSE UP

## Anupam Kher applauds Ranveer for stellar Dhurandhar performance

Anupam Kher praises Ranveer Singh for delivering a powerful Dhurandhar performance.

Central Chronicle News

Aditya Dhar's film continues to soar at the box office with strong buzz.

Veteran actor Anupam Kher has heaped praise on filmmaker Aditya Dhar's latest outing Dhurandhar: The Revenge, calling it far more than just a cinematic spectacle. In a heartfelt social media post, Kher described the film as "an experience" and "an emotion" that lingers long after the credits roll, striking a deeply personal chord with viewers. Fronted by Ranveer Singh, the high-octane sequel has already stormed the box office, crossing the 300 crore mark domestically within days of its release. The film boasts a powerful ensemble cast including R. Madhavan, Arjun Rampal, Sanjay Dutt, Sara Arjun, and Rakesh Bedi, and has been released in multiple languages, amplifying its pan-India appeal. Sharing a video on Instagram, Kher expressed that some films transcend words, and Dhurandhar is one such story meant to be felt rather than explained. He particularly applauded Sanjay Dutt's performance, calling it "brilliant," while also lauding the entire team for crafting a film that is "powerful, magical, and deeply human."



Anupam Kher praises Ranveer Singh in Dhurandhar 2.



Responding to the veteran's glowing review, Ranveer Singh shared an emotional note of gratitude, acknowledging Kher's influence on his journey and calling the appreciation deeply meaningful. Set against the volatile backdrop of Karachi's Lyari region, the film weaves a gripping

narrative around covert intelligence missions intertwined with real-life events such as the Kandahar hijack and the 26/11 Mumbai attacks. The sequel further explores the rise of Singh's character, blending action with an introspective origin story.



SMALL SCREEN

## Alfia Jafry opines on challenging debut in "The Pyramid Scheme"

Central Chronicle News

Actor Alfia Jafry is set to make her OTT debut with the upcoming web series The Pyramid Scheme, a gripping drama exploring ambition, risk, and the consequences of chasing quick wealth. Produced by The Viral Fever, the series features a strong ensemble cast including Paramvir Cheema, Ranvir Shorey, and Shekhar Suman, offering Alfia a valuable learning experience alongside seasoned performers. The story follows Goldy, a young man whose pyramid marketing venture spirals out of control, impacting his relationships and future,

providing a tense backdrop for Alfia's debut. Fans are eager to see her performance and the energy she brings to the ensemble. The series promises intense drama, high stakes, and unexpected twists throughout. Speaking about her role, Alfia said, "Debuting with The Pyramid Scheme feels surreal. The moment I read the script, I knew I wanted to be part of it. It instantly resonated with me." She

### HIGHLIGHT

Alfia Jafry is set to shine in her first OTT project, The Pyramid Scheme.

Alfia Jafry opens up about her OTT debut



Alfia Jafry opens up about her OTT debut

reflected on working with experienced actors: "Sharing screen space with Ranvir sir and Shekhar sir has been incredible. Their discipline, craft, and energy on set are inspiring. I feel fortunate to start my digital journey with such amazing co-actors." Alfia added that the role challenged her creatively: "This role pushed me out of my comfort zone. It made me explore new layers as an actor, which I will always cherish." She is also excited to see how audiences react: "I hope people connect with my character and the story as much as I did while shooting it."

## CineBriefs

BEST OF THE REST

Web Series

### Mallika Sherawat joins cast Of The Traitors India 2

Actor Mallika Sherawat has officially joined The Traitors India Season 2, hosted by Karan Johar, as filming begins in Jaisalmer. The official contestant list is yet to be revealed, but Mallika's involvement had been widely speculated for weeks. Like the first season, Season 2 is being shot at Suryagarh Palace, a grand location that also hosted Sidharth Malhotra and Kiara Advani's wedding in 2023. Known for its intense mind games and the quest to identify traitors, the series promises high drama. Mallika was last seen in Vicky Vidya Ka Woh Wala Video alongside Rajkumar Rao and Triptii Dimri.

Bollywood pairs

### Parineeti Chopra admits having crush on husband



Actress Parineeti Chopra recently admitted on social media that she has a crush on her latest co-actor her husband, Raghav Chadha. Sharing a photo of a vanity van with his name on the door, she captioned it, "Sometimes you can have a crush on your costar," delighting fans eager to see the couple on screen together. Parineeti has often praised Raghav publicly, including calling him her "hero" for raising menstrual hygiene issues in Parliament. Married in September 2023, the couple welcomed their son Neer in October, continuing to share glimpses of their personal and professional life with fans.



Fashion

### Ananya Panday reinvents corporate look with capri pants

Actress Ananya Panday recently showcased a fresh take on corporate fashion, blending classic tailoring with playful modernity. Styled by Priyanka Kapadia, Ananya paired a crisp white oversized shirt with a slim black tie, introducing menswear-inspired elements softened by fitted black leather capri pants. Classic black pointed heels elongated her frame, while minimal accessories a Rolex Datejust and delicate earrings added subtle luxury. Her feathery bangs and fresh, luminous makeup emphasized effortless beauty, keeping attention on the silhouette.

## Trending on Insta

@theshilpashetty

### Shilpa Shetty shows balance with tasty cheat indulgence

While Shilpa Shetty maintains a strict fitness regime, she indulged on Sunday, sharing a hilarious video enjoying her cheat day with some delicious samosas, proving balance is key to her lifestyle.



### Bloodhounds season 2 hits Netflix

Bloodhounds Season 2 is set to premiere on Netflix on April 3, 2026, returning with its intense action and gripping storytelling. The Korean drama follows boxers Gun-woo and Woo-jin as they face new dangers in the underworld.



### Shefali Shah remembers Delhi Crime journey

Actress Shefali Shah celebrated seven years of her acclaimed series Delhi Crime by sharing rare behind-the-scenes glimpses. She wrote she still "basks in its stardust," reflecting on the show's enduring impact and acclaim.



### Dr. Gargi's story continues in season two

Akansha Ranjan Kapoor reprises her role as Dr. Gargi in Gram Chikitsalay 2, exploring deeper emotional layers, vulnerabilities, and resilience, as the series highlights the challenges of rural healthcare and her personal journey on Amazon Prime Video.



### Star Plus announces Mahasangam special

Star Plus announces Deshmukh Mahasangam, a special crossover of Udne Ki Aasha and Mr. and Mrs. Parshuram, where Sachin-Sailee and Shivprasad-Shalini collide, sparking family tensions, conflicts, and emotional drama in an intense, engaging episode.



### Death threats after Snape casting

Actor Paapa Essiedu revealed he received death threats after being cast as Severus Snape in HBO's Harry Potter series. He says the backlash fuels his passion and inspires him to honor the character for young fans.



# Excursion

TRAVELOGUE

## Meghalaya the serene summer retreat



As summer temperatures soar across much of the country, Meghalaya offers a welcome escape into cool, lush landscapes. Known as the “Abode of Clouds,” this northeastern gem boasts fresh mountain air, gentle rains, and verdant hills, making it an ideal destination for travellers seeking relief from the sweltering heat of city life. The state’s charm lies not only in its natural beauty but also in the variety of experiences it offers. Shillong, often called



the “Scotland of the East,” is perfect for leisurely strolls along tree-lined avenues, exploring quaint cafes, and soaking in panoramic views from viewpoints like Shillong Peak. For nature lovers, the cascading waterfalls of Elephant Falls, Bishop Falls, and Sweet Falls offer picture-perfect spots and a soothing retreat into nature. Adventure enthusiasts can trek through dense forests, navigate living root bridges, or explore the crystal-clear caves of Mawmai and Liat Prah. Meghalaya’s lighter summer showers add a magical touch, turning meadows

### HIGHLIGHT

● Adventure, relaxation and natural beauty awaits in waterfalls, hills and forests.

and valleys into vibrant, green landscapes, ideal for photography and outdoor activities. The state is also rich in culture and tradition. Local markets in Shillong and Cherrapunji brim with hand-woven textiles, bamboo crafts, and local cuisine, giving travellers a taste of authentic Meghalaya life. Sampling traditional dishes



like Jadoh and Tungrymbai adds a culinary dimension to the journey.

Whether you’re seeking tranquillity amidst rolling hills, adventure through misty forests, or simply a cool break from the heat, Meghalaya offers a rejuvenating summer getaway.

Escape city life and immerse yourself in Meghalaya’s serene summer landscapes.



Meghalaya is an ideal summer escape from extreme heat.

## WindowView

HIDDEN SUMMER ESCAPES IN INDIA



### Tawang

#### Arunachal Pradesh High-Altitude Escape

Tucked in Arunachal Pradesh, Tawang offers misty valleys, monasteries, and snow-

capped peaks, keeping summers cool. Its serene landscapes, alpine lakes, and gentle streams provide a peaceful retreat. Visitors can explore the Tawang Monastery, trek through surrounding hills, and witness vibrant local festivals. For Indian travellers seeking offbeat hill escapes, spiritual immersion, and calm amidst nature, Tawang offers a perfect combination of Himalayan beauty and cultural richness far from mainstream summer destinations.



### Ziro Valley

#### Arunachal's Hidden Green Plateau

Ziro Valley, a verdant plateau in Arunachal Pradesh, is home to the Apatani tribe and surrounded by pine forests

and terraced fields. Summer brings cool breezes, misty mornings, and vibrant greenery. Visitors can trek through villages, witness tribal customs, and capture breathtaking landscapes. For Indian travellers seeking a peaceful, offbeat summer retreat, Ziro Valley offers cultural immersion alongside natural beauty. Less frequented by tourists, the valley provides serenity, photogenic views, and a perfect escape from the heat, combining adventure, tradition, and tranquillity.



### Chopta

#### Uttarakhand's Mini Switzerland

Chopta, a quiet Uttarakhand hamlet, is surrounded by alpine meadows, dense forests, and snow-tipped peaks. Its cool summer

climate and wildflower trails make it ideal for trekking to Tungnath and Chandrashila. Birdwatching, nature walks, and photography are popular activities. Chopta remains far less crowded than nearby hill stations, offering peaceful mornings and scenic sunsets. Indian travellers seeking an offbeat, refreshing mountain escape can enjoy adventure and tranquillity here, blending Himalayan beauty, serene landscapes, and a calm environment away from urban chaos and mainstream tourist spots.



### Majuli

#### Assam River Island Cool Escape

Majuli, the world’s largest river island on the Brahmaputra, is a tranquil summer haven in Assam.

Surrounded by water, wetlands, and greenery, it hosts traditional Vaishnavite satras, tribal villages, and artisanal crafts. Indian travellers can enjoy riverside walks, cultural immersion, and photography of lush landscapes. Summer temperatures remain mild, making it a perfect break from city heat. Majuli’s slow-paced lifestyle, vibrant festivals, and serene surroundings make it an offbeat destination for nature lovers and culture enthusiasts seeking a unique, peaceful, and refreshing Indian summer escape.



### Tirthan Valley

#### Himachal's Quiet Water Paradise

Tirthan Valley, tucked in Himachal Pradesh, is a serene, offbeat destination with the Tirthan

River flowing through pine forests and quaint villages. Cool summer weather provides the perfect backdrop for fishing, trekking, and camping. Remote homestays offer authentic experiences and tranquillity away from crowds. Indian travellers can explore waterfalls, nature trails, and local cuisine while enjoying peaceful mornings by the river. With refreshing air, untouched landscapes, and adventure opportunities, Tirthan Valley is an ideal hidden Himalayan escape for those seeking a cool, rejuvenating summer retreat.

| TRAIL |

## The future of travel is blending of productivity and leisure

Central Chronicle News

Hybrid work is reshaping the way people travel, and hotels are evolving in response. No longer just places to sleep, modern hotels are becoming lifestyle ecosystems where work, wellness, and leisure coexist seamlessly. The emergence of the “hybrid traveller” someone combining business trips with personal retreats has prompted the hospitality industry to rethink design, operations, and guest experiences. Today’s travellers expect more than basic accommodation. They seek high-speed connectivity, ergonomic workspaces, and flexible public areas that serve as coworking lounges by day and social hubs by evening. Wellness has moved beyond spas and gyms, integrating natural light, calming interiors, healthy local cuisine, and activities like yoga,



Hybrid work is transforming travel and hospitality.

### HIGHLIGHT

● Travel and work are no longer separate experiences for modern guests.

guided walks, and immersive cultural experiences. Hotels are now designed to accommodate productivity, relaxation, and leisure within the



same stay. Extended stays are increasingly popular, as travellers aim to balance work commitments with personal wellbeing. Flexible spaces allow informal meetings in lounges, productive work in guest rooms, and downtime in serene areas. This shift is influencing both metropolitan and smaller destinations, where consistent comfort, connectivity, and lifestyle amenities are expected across properties. Hotels are also experimenting with curated experiences to encourage longer and more fulfilling visits. Hotels that successfully blend work, wellness, and leisure are better positioned to meet modern expectations and build guest loyalty. From coworking areas and wellness retreats to locally inspired experiences, the focus has shifted from transactional stays to meaningful, immersive ones.

# Sports



Mumbai Indians must rethink leadership and give Suryakumar Yadav captaincy to revive team balance and results.

**Kris Srikanth**  
Former India Captain

## Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

MIAMI OPEN

### Alcaraz loses to Sebastian Korda in the third round thriller



**MIAMI GARDENS (USA):** Carlos Alcaraz suffered a surprising third-round exit at the Miami Open, losing to Sebastian Korda in a closely contested three-set match on Sunday. Korda delivered an impressive performance to defeat the world No.1 6-3, 5-7, 6-4 in over two hours. Although Alcaraz staged a strong comeback in the second set, winning five straight games, Korda maintained composure and

sealed the match in the decider. This defeat marks a rare setback for Alcaraz, who had been in excellent form this season. Korda, ranked 36th, showcased belief and precision during crucial moments to outplay the top seed. Other notable results included wins for Taylor Fritz and Tommy Paul, while Aryna Sabalenka and Elena Rybakina advanced comfortably in the women's draw. **PTI**

VINIcius LEADS VICTORY

### Vinicius scores twice to lead Real Madrid to a pulsating 3-2 win over Atletico



**BARCELONA:** Vinicius Júnior scored twice to guide Real Madrid to a thrilling 3-2 victory over Atletico Madrid, keeping their La Liga title hopes alive. After facing criticism earlier this season, Vinicius delivered a standout performance, equalizing through a penalty before

scoring a decisive goal in the second half. His resurgence has been key for Madrid, especially with stars like Kylian Mbappé and Jude Bellingham sidelined. Federico Valverde also contributed with a goal but was later sent off, putting Madrid under pressure in the closing stages. **PTI**

INTER SLIP AGAIN

### Inter's Serie A lead is down to 6 points after 1-1 draw at Fiorentina



**ROME:** Inter Milan's Serie A lead was cut to six points after a 1-1 draw against Fiorentina, extending their winless streak to four matches across competitions. Inter made a perfect start as Pio Esposito scored within the opening minute. However, Fiorentina fought back strongly, with Cher Ndour netting a late equalizer

to earn a crucial point for the hosts, who remain just above the relegation zone. AC Milan and Napoli continue to apply pressure after recent victories, tightening the title race with eight rounds remaining. Meanwhile, Como strengthened its hold on a Champions League spot with a dominant 5-0 win over Pisa. **PTI**

MESSI LEADS COMEBACK

### Messi magic inspires Inter Miami to stunning comeback win



**NEW YORK:** Lionel Messi starred as Inter Miami secured a thrilling 3-2 comeback victory over New York City FC at Yankee Stadium on Sunday. Miami took an early lead through Gonzalo Luján, but NYCFC responded with goals from Nicolás Fernández and Agustín Ojeda to go ahead. Messi then turned the match around, scoring a crucial free-kick

equalizer before setting up Micael dos Santos for the winning goal. The Argentine legend's brilliance proved decisive as Miami handed NYCFC its first loss of the season. The win lifts Inter Miami into a second-place tie in the Eastern Conference. Messi's influence continues to shine, guiding Miami with experience and match-winning contributions. **PTI**

# New-look Indian Archery squad targets strong Asia Cup start

India begins the Asia Cup season in Bangkok with a young squad, aiming to test bench strength, build momentum, and maintain dominance despite absence of star archers.

Press Trust Of India

Young Indian squad blends rising teenagers with experienced returnees to test bench strength early



**BANGKOK:** India will kick-start the new international archery season with a fresh-faced squad at the Asia Cup Stage 1, banking on a blend of exciting teenagers and returning veterans instead of established stars in the tournament beginning here on Tuesday.

The team will be without Deepika Kumari, Ankita Bhakat, Dhiraj Bommadevara, Tarundeep Rai, Jyothi Surekha Vennam and Abhishek Verma as the Indian think-tank wants to use the continental opener to test bench strength ahead of a packed season culminating in the Asian Games in Japan come September-October. The top Indian archers, however, will be back in action with the World Cup's first two legs in Puebla (Mexico) and Shanghai April onwards.

Despite the absence of its marquee archers, the overall champions would be firm favourites. In the last year's opening leg, India topped the tally with eight medals, including five gold. The team will look to main-

tain its dominance on the Asia Cup circuit which has been given a miss by the world heavyweights South Korea. In Korea's, India's main rivals would be China and Bangladesh.

In recurve men's section Australia's Ryan Tyack is the top-ranked archer with a ranking of world No.27, while the women's section has Russian-born neutral athlete Nuriniso Makhmudova (No. 45) as the highest ranked archer. The spotlight will firmly be on the formidable Indian men's compound unit, spear-

headed by world No.4 Rishabh Yadav alongside Asian Games gold medalist Prathamesh Jawkar and the seasoned Rajat Chauhan. They will look to defend the title. Last year, Kushal Dalal was the individual champion. He, along with Manav Jadhao and Ganesh Thirimuru, had won the team gold. Yadav, one of India's most consistent performers, will be keen to build on his historic World Championships gold in the team event last year.

The women's compound side will enter a

rebuilding phase in the absence of Jyothi, with 20-year-old Chikitha Taniparthi leading the charge. Ranked 37th in the world, she returns to a venue where she won a team bronze last year and will be supported by comeback archers Tejal Salve and Swati Dudhwal, along with the experienced Raj Kaur. None from the women's compound side managed to win a medal in individual event in 2025 and Chikitha and Co. will look to make it count this time.

Eighteen-year-old Tejal had won a gold in the Singapore Asia Cup Leg 2 last year while 34-year-old Raj was a member of the 2019 world championship bronze medal-winning team. The 30-year-old Swati is also making a comeback, having won a gold medal at the world university championship in 2016 and a gold at the 2015 Asian Archery championship here. In recurve, the focus shifts to a young core trying to find its feet on the big stage.

INDOOR ATHLETICS BEGINS |

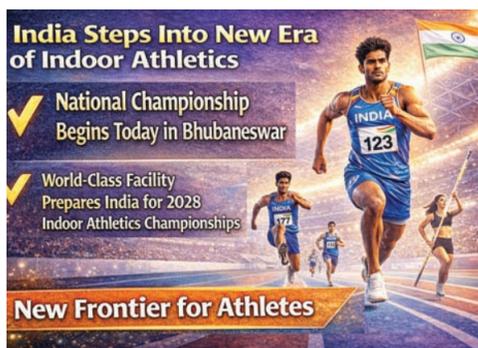
## New era of Indian indoor athletics begins in Bhubaneswar today

Press Trust Of India

India launches indoor athletics journey with first national championship in Bhubaneswar today.

**BHUBANESWAR:** India marks a historic moment as it begins its indoor athletics journey with the maiden national championship starting Tuesday in Bhubaneswar. The event signals a major step towards hosting the World Indoor Athletics Championships in 2028 at the same venue.

The two-day championship will be held at the newly built state-of-the-art indoor facility inside Kalinga Stadium, inaugurated in 2024. This marks India's first serious attempt to develop and



promote indoor track and field events, which have remained relatively unexplored due to the lack of proper infrastructure.

Indoor athletics differs significantly from outdoor formats. Events are conducted on a 200m track with banked curves inside a closed arena, ensuring stable weather conditions without wind

interference. Popular events include the 60m sprint and 60m hurdles, along with field events like long jump, high jump, pole vault, triple jump, and shot put. However, throwing events such as javelin and discus are excluded.

Around 300 athletes from across the country will participate, with strong contingents from

### FACTFILE

- World-class Bhubaneswar facility prepares India to host 2028 global indoor athletics championship successfully

- Young athletes gain exposure to unique indoor conditions with consistent track performance advantages

Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, and Maharashtra. Notable outdoor national record holders like Animesh Kujur, Mohammed Afsal, and Praveen Chitravel will compete, adapting to indoor conditions. Big names like Neeraj Chopra and Avinash Sable will not feature as their events are not part of the indoor roster.

CANDIDATES CHESS |

## Ukraine's Anna Muzychuk steps in for Humpy

Press Trust Of India

As per tournament regulations, Humpy's spot was offered to the next eligible finisher, with Anna Muzychuk securing qualification.

FIDE  
World Chess Body

determine the challengers for the world champi-



onship crowns currently held by D Gukesh (Open) and Ju Wenjun (women), is scheduled to begin in Paphos on Saturday. Humpy, a two-time Women's World Rapid Champion, pulled out of the event despite assurances from organisers, citing concerns over personal safety. Earlier this month, a British air base in Cyprus was targeted in a drone

attack, heightening security fears in the region. In a statement, FIDE confirmed that Muzychuk had been invited as Humpy's replacement. "In accordance with the tournament regulations, her (Humpy's) place was offered to the next highest finisher in the Women's Events Series 2024-25 who has not yet secured qualification.

## Sports News

# India anchors cricket as global game expands: ICC CEO

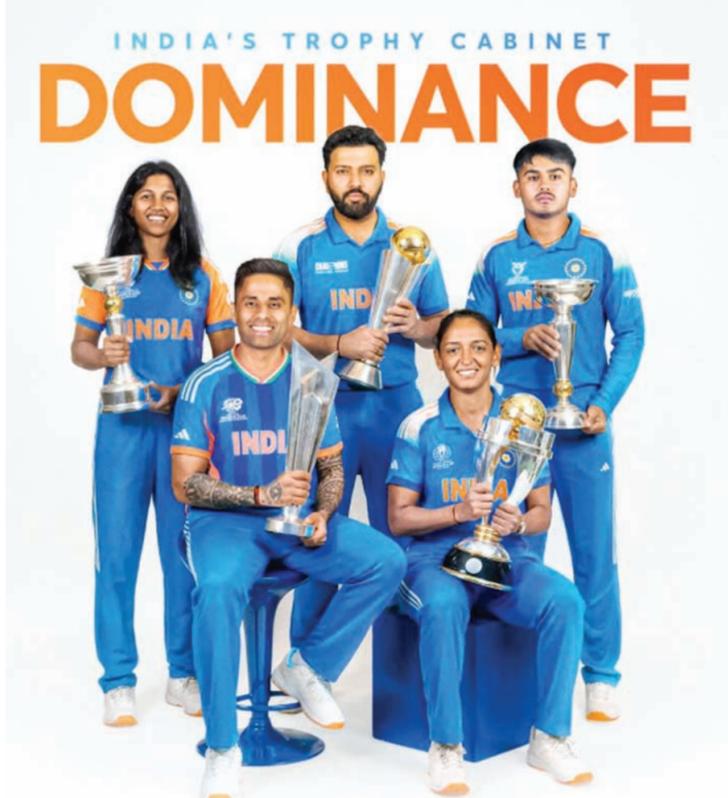
India continues to drive cricket's economic and cultural engine, yet the sport is increasingly spreading beyond its traditional strongholds into new, competitive, global territories.

Press Trust Of India

Associate nations played fearless cricket, challenging established teams and signalling a maturing global sport landscape.

**NEW DELHI:** India remains the undisputed anchor of world cricket, but the sport's reach is expanding far beyond its traditional centres, according to ICC CEO Sanjog Gupta. While India's massive fan base, financial strength, and deep-rooted passion continue to sustain the global cricketing ecosystem, recent international tournaments have demonstrated that the game is evolving into a truly global phenomenon.

The ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 served as a powerful example of this transformation. Featuring 20 teams, the tournament highlighted the growing competitiveness of Associate nations. Teams like Nepal, Italy, and the USA captured global attention with their fearless and spirited performances, often pushing established cricketing powers to their limits. These perfor-



mances were not merely surprising upsets but clear indicators of a sport that is maturing across regions.

Traditional teams also reaffirmed their capabilities. Zimbabwe and Sri Lanka, often underestimated in recent years, made strong statements

by advancing to the Super 8 stage. Zimbabwe's remarkable victory over former champions Australia and Nepal's near-upset against England underlined the narrowing gap between established and emerging cricketing nations. Even Italy, despite limited

experience, impressed with resilience and determination.

Gupta emphasized that such developments signify more than isolated success stories. They reflect a broader shift in the sport's global structure, where talent and competitiveness are

no longer confined to a few dominant nations. Cricket, once regionally concentrated, is now witnessing a steady and irreversible expansion.

Another major driver of this growth is women's cricket. India's triumph in the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2025 marked a significant milestone. Winning on home soil amplified the impact, unlocking a vast and influential audience. Gupta noted that when a market as large and passionate as India fully embraces women's cricket, it creates ripple effects worldwide, encouraging investment, participation, and visibility across countries.

Importantly, the ICC continues to focus on maintaining balance among cricket's three formats—Test matches, One Day Internationals, and T20 Internationals. Despite ongoing debates about the relevance of ODIs in a T20-dominated era, Gupta reiterated that each format serves a unique purpose. Test cricket remains the ultimate measure of skill, endurance, and strategy, while white-ball formats drive innovation, entertainment, and global outreach.

# I don't like it: Axar Patel on Impact Player rule in IPL

Press Trust Of India

Axar Patel criticises Impact Player rule, citing harm to all-rounders' development.

**NEW DELHI:** An all-rounder himself, Axar Patel on Monday became the latest Indian cricketer to criticise the Impact Player rule in the IPL with a blunt "I don't like it" response before insisting that it hurts the growth of his tribe.

Rohit Sharma and Hardik Pandya have spoken against the Impact Player rule, which allows teams to substitute anyone in the playing XI with one of the five listed substitutes at any point of the match. It was introduced in 2023 and will stay until at least 2027.

In 2024, Rohit had said that he was not a fan of the strategic rule saying it hampered the development of all-rounders in Indian cricket while the following season, Hardik said it had become too difficult to pick an all-rounder in the side unless he was equally good with both bat and ball.

Responding to a PTI query seeking his views on the rule, the Indian T20 vice-captain too weighed in on the subject ahead of his second season as Delhi



### FASTFACTS

● Impact Player rule reduces need for all-rounders, affecting team balance and opportunities.

● Axar urges fearless cricket approach, avoids comparisons with teams from different eras.

Capitals captain.

"I don't like this rule as I am all rounder myself (laughs). Earlier we used to pick all-rounder for this role (batting and bowling). Now team management goes with a particular batter or bowler, they say why do we need an all-rounder?"

"Being an all-rounder

myself I don't like it but at the same time rules are rules. We have to follow them. But personally I don't like it," said Axar.

Axar bowled only 204 balls in the last IPL season compared to 264 balls a season earlier. He said it was not because of the Impact Player rule, but a finger injury that had bothered him leading up to the IPL.

"I did not bowl a lot. It wasn't because of Impact Player. After the Champions Trophy, my spinning finger got cut. After that it got worse because of the seam of the ball. Later, it developed into a deep cut, I was not able to apply pressure and rotation on the ball.

| STARC CLEARANCE AWAITED |

# Delhi Capitals await Starc clearance before IPL

Press Trust Of India

Delhi Capitals await Starc's NOC, hopeful of timely arrival before IPL opener.

**NEW DELHI:** Delhi Capitals are still awaiting a No Objection Certificate (NOC) from Cricket Australia for Mitchell Starc ahead of the IPL season, but remain optimistic about his availability for their opening match on April 1. The franchise management confirmed they are in constant communication with Cricket Australia, which is currently assessing the pacer's fitness and workload before granting clearance.

Head coach Hemang Badani stated that Starc has resumed bowling



recently, but the final decision rests with Cricket Australia. Cricket director Venugopal Rao echoed similar sentiments, expressing confidence that Starc will join once approval is granted.

Captain Axar Patel

emphasised that team selection would depend on overall balance rather than a like-for-like replacement if Starc is unavailable. He added that T Natarajan, who has recovered from injury, remains fully fit and ready.

# Hardik, Sukhjeet, Sanjay, Abhishek in fray for Hockey India Player of the Year award

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** Star Indian midfielder Hardik Singh, forwards Sukhjeet Singh and Sanjay, and defender Abhishek are in contention for the Hockey India Balbir Singh Sr Player-of-the-Year award for 2025.

In the women's category, Salima Tete, Navneet Kaur, Lalremsiami and Savita have been nominated for the top honour.

The HI awards ceremony, scheduled to be held here on Friday, will also throw spotlight on emerging talent through the Jugraj Singh Award for Upcoming Player-of-the-Year (U-21 men) and Asunta Lakra Award for Upcoming Player-of-the-Year (Under-21 women).

A total of 32 nominees across eight categories have made the final shortlist.

In addition, special

recognitions such as the President's Award for Outstanding Achievement and Jaman Lal Sharma Award for Invaluable Contribution will be presented.

Officials will also be honoured through awards for Umpire/Umpire Manager of the Year, Technical Official of the Year, and Best Member Unit.

The ceremony will also felicitate the gold medal-winning Indian men's team from the Asia Cup and the junior men's side who secured a bronze medal at the World Cup.

"As we enter a crucial year for Indian hockey, it is important to recognise the standout performers and contributions made over the past year," Hockey India president Dilip Tirkey said.

# PSL faces mounting player, financial challenges

Press Trust Of India

**KARACHI:** The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) is facing significant challenges ahead of the Pakistan Super League (PSL) II, as contract breaches and rising pay demands complicate preparations. Several overseas players have withdrawn despite agreements, choosing the more lucrative Indian Premier League (IPL), which overlaps with

the PSL schedule.

The expanded PSL, now featuring eight teams, begins in Lahore just days before the IPL, leading to direct competition for players. Financial disparity between the leagues remains a major hurdle, with PSL franchises unable to match IPL salaries.

Additionally, some players have demanded higher fees citing regional instability due to ongoing conflicts. While the PCB has discussed

imposing bans on players who withdraw, concerns remain that strict penalties could discourage future participation.

Despite setbacks, some international players and support staff have arrived in Pakistan. Meanwhile, the tournament will proceed without spectators, with matches limited to Lahore and Karachi amid security and financial considerations.

| ICC PLAYER OF THE MONTH AWARDS |

# Reddy, Farhan crowned ICC players of month

Press Trust Of India

Arundhati Reddy and Sahibzada Farhan earn ICC monthly awards for stellar performances.

**DUBAI:** India's medium pacer Arundhati Reddy and Pakistan's opener Sahibzada Farhan were honoured with the ICC Player of the Month awards for February following their exceptional performances in international cricket.

Reddy earned the accolade for her outstanding contributions in India's T20I series victory against Australia. Playing in challenging condi-



tions Down Under, she emerged as the leading wicket-taker in the three-match series, helping India secure a memorable 2-1 win. Her impressive figures of 4/22, 2/30, and 2/35 reflected her consistency and control, finishing the series with a remarkable average of

10.87 and an economy rate of 7.25.

Expressing her delight, Reddy described the recognition as a special honour, particularly because it came after contributing to a rare series win in Australia. She noted that defeating Australia at home is always a tough

### FASTFACTS

● Reddy leads India to historic T20I series win in Australia with bowling brilliance.

● Farhan breaks records with consistent runs and centuries in T20 World Cup.

challenge, making the achievement even more significant. The victory, she added, has boosted the team's confidence as they prepare for the upcoming ICC Women's T20 World Cup in England and Wales.

Meanwhile, Sahibzada Farhan was recognised for his record-breaking

performances in the men's T20 World Cup. The Pakistani opener delivered a sensational campaign, scoring 383 runs in seven matches at an outstanding average of 76.60 and an explosive strike rate of 160.25.

Farhan's achievements included surpassing Virat Kohli's record for most runs in a single T20 World Cup edition. He also became the first player to score two centuries in one tournament, reaching the milestone against Namibia and Sri Lanka. His consistency and aggressive approach made him one of the standout performers of the competition.

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# World



"The US and Iran have had, over the last two days, very good and productive conversations regarding a complete and total resolution of our hostilities in the Middle East."

Donald Trump  
US President

## Iranian-Americans rally in Los Angeles for regime change



Iranian-Americans chant and carry signs during a protest against the Iranian regime at the Federal Building in the Westwood section of Los Angeles on Sunday, March 22, 2026. AP/PTI

# Iran war poses major threat to global economy

The IEA reports an 11-million-barrel daily oil loss, exceeding the combined impact of the 1970s oil shocks.

Press Trust Of India

**WELLINGTON:** The head of the International Energy Agency (IEA) said Monday that the global economy faces a "major, major threat" because of the Iran war. "No country will be immune to the effects of this crisis if it continues to go in this direction," Fatih Birol said at Australia's National Press Club in Canberra on Monday. The crisis in the Middle East, he said, has had a

worse impact on oil than the two oil shocks of the 1970s combined, and a worse effect on gas than the Russia-Ukraine war. Israel launched a new wave of attacks early Monday against Tehran. U.S. President Donald Trump also warned the United States will "obliterate" Iran's power plants if Tehran doesn't fully open the Strait of Hormuz within 48 hours. That prompted Iran to say it would respond to any



IEA ED Fatih Birol speaks at the National Press Club in Canberra, Australia.

such strike with attacks on U.S. and Israeli energy and infrastructure assets.

### HIGHLIGHT

● Conflict has severely damaged 40 energy assets across nine countries, doubling the gas market disruptions seen during the Russia-Ukraine war.

Trump is facing increasing pressure at home to secure the strait as oil prices soar. One major fear is that the war could knock out oil and gas production in

the Middle East for a long time, which would mean high prices could last a while and cause inflation to rip higher around the world. The U.S. stock market has a history of bouncing back relatively quickly from past conflicts in the Middle East and elsewhere, as long as oil prices don't stay too high for too long. Iran on Monday renewed strikes on its Gulf neighbors and threatened to start hitting their power plants.

### UK ANTISEMITIC ATTACK

## Jewish ambulance service vehicles set on fire in London

**LONDON:** Four ambulances belonging to a Jewish charity in London were set on fire early Monday morning in London, in what British police are investigating as a hate crime.

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer condemned the "deeply shocking" antisemitic arson attack. "My thoughts are with the Jewish community who are waking up this morning to this horrific news," he said.

Officers were called to Golders Green, a London neighbourhood with a large Jewish population, after receiving reports of a fire, the Metropolitan Police force said.

Four ambulances belonging to Hatzola Northwest, a volunteer organisation that provides emergency medical response, were damaged, according to the London fire brigade.

### LANKA IRAN ENVOY

## Strait of Hormuz open to friendly nations: Iran's envoy to Sri Lanka

**COLOMBO:** The Strait of Hormuz remains open to friendly countries, the Iranian envoy to Sri Lanka said on Monday, stressing that Tehran is ready to supply oil or other essential goods to the island nation if the need arises. The conflict in West Asia, involving the US, Israel, and Iran, has led to the blockade of the Strait of Hormuz, a key shipping route through which 20 per cent of the world's energy is transported. Iran, which controls the Strait of Hormuz, has allowed very few ships to cross it since the conflict started on February 28. Addressing a press conference here, Iran's Ambassador to Sri Lanka Alireza Delkosh said that the key strait remains open to friendly country vessels to pass. "Sri Lanka is our friendly country and as I told you, Hormuz is not closed to our friends like Sri Lanka," he said.

## Earthquake of 4.1 magnitude hits Nepal's Bajhang

**KATHMANDU:** A earthquake of 4.1 magnitude hit the Nepal's Sudurpashchim province on Monday afternoon. There was no immediate reports of any loss of life or damage to property. According to the Earthquake Monitoring and Research Centre, the tremor was recorded at 1:14 pm. The epicentre of the quake was located near the Rayal area of Bajhang. Tremors were also felt by residents in neighbouring districts, including Bajura and Baitadi. A 4-magnitude earthquake struck the Sudurpashchim province on March 17. The earthquake hit the Sitaula area of the Darchula district, according to the National Earthquake Monitoring and Research Centre. Nepal, which experiences multiple earthquakes in any given year, lies in one of the most active tectonic zones.

# Pilot, copilot killed as Air Canada flight hits fire truck

Press Trust Of India

An Air Canada regional jet struck a fire truck on a LaGuardia runway, killing both the pilot and copilot.

**NEW YORK:** Two pilots were killed after an Air Canada regional jet collided with a fire truck on a runway during landing at New York's LaGuardia Airport late Sunday night, officials said.

The collision crushed the nose of the aircraft, while 39 passengers and crew members were taken to area hospitals, some with serious injuries. Most have since been released from treatment, authorities said Monday.

Two Port Authority employees who were travelling in the fire truck



An Air Canada Jet sits on the runway at LaGuardia Airport, Monday, March 23, 2026, after colliding with a Port Authority aircraft rescue and firefighting vehicle in New York. (AP Photo)

also suffered injuries that were not believed to be life-threatening, said Kathryn Garcia, executive director of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, which operates the airport.

The two deceased individuals were the pilot and copilot of the aircraft. Both were based out of Canada, Garcia said during a news conference early Monday. The airport will remain

closed until at least 2 pm Monday to facilitate the investigation, which is being led by the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB).

The fire truck was travelling across the runway to respond to a separate incident aboard a United Airlines flight, whose pilot had reported "an issue with odour," said Garcia, who deferred additional questions about the

### FASTFACTS

● The truck was crossing the runway to attend to a separate United Airlines incident when the crash occurred.

● Audio recordings reveal an air traffic controller frantically ordered the truck to stop just before the impact.

sequence of events leading up to the crash to the NTSB.

There were 72 passengers and four crew members aboard the aircraft, a Jazz Aviation flight operating on behalf of Air Canada, according to a statement from the airline. The flight originated at Montreal-Pierre Elliott Trudeau International Airport, the major airport serving Montreal.

### NKOREA JAPAN SUMMIT

## NKorea rejects Japan summit over "Anachronistic" tactics

Press Trust Of India

**SEOUL:** The powerful sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un said Monday a summit between her brother and Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi won't happen if Japan sticks to "its anachronistic" approach.

Kim Yo Jong's statement came after Takaichi told reporters last week that she had informed US President Donald Trump during

a summit in Washington that she had "a very strong desire" to meet Kim Jong Un. "But this is not the one that comes true, as wanted or decided by Japan," Kim Yo Jong said. "In order for the top leaders of the two countries to meet each other, Japan should first be determined to break with its anachronistic practice and habit." Kim Yo Jong, who is also a senior official, didn't explicitly say



what Japan's "anachronistic practice and habit" are. However, in 2024, she said in a statement that North Korea's acceptance of a reported offer for a meeting

and ignoring its past abductions of Japanese nationals. The meeting eventually didn't occur. In her latest statement carried by state media on Monday, Kim Yo Jong said, "I don't want to see the prime minister of Japan coming to Pyongyang." But she still described her rejection as "just my personal position," suggesting she was pressuring Japan to make concessions.

by one of Takaichi's predecessors would depend on Japan tolerating the North's nuclear weapons program

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