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Central Chronicle

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| CUSTODIAL DEATH |

Chhattisgarh govt to pay Rs 25 lakh compensation

SC ordered a CBI probe into circumstances leading to custodial death.

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Wednesday ordered a CBI probe into the circumstances leading to the custodial death of a 34-year-old man in Chhattisgarh in 2024, and directed the state to pay compensation of Rs 25 lakh to his wife and children. It also said the CBI director shall ensure that a regular criminal case is registered against those responsible for the death of Shravan Suryavanshi.

Slamming the state authorities, the apex court said the explanation offered that neither any police action nor any disciplinary action was taken against those responsible because the judicial inquiry report had not been served upon the police officials was a "cover-up story and an attempt to pull the wool over the court's eyes".

> **Prosecute responsible officials.**
> Vikram Nath
> Supreme Court Judge

It said the facts warranted immediate registration of an FIR and a thorough investigation into the circumstances leading to the death of Suryavanshi, which the state authorities conveniently and deliberately tried to cover up. "In the facts and circumstances of the case, we are of the firm opinion that the ends of justice require that the investigation into the circumstances leading to the custodial death of Shravan be entrusted to the Central Bureau of Investigation and that all officials found responsible for the custodial violence, upon completion of the investigation, be proceeded against and prosecuted in accordance with law," a bench of justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta said.

It said the CBI director "shall forthwith ensure registration of a regular criminal case in relation to the custodial death of Shravan". The bench passed the order on a plea filed by Suryavanshi's wife and children challenging a October 2024 verdict of the Chhattisgarh High Court. The high court had held that Suryavanshi was subjected to custodial violence and died as a result thereof.

IG Garg to receive President's Medal

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: Ram Gopal Garg, the Inspector General (IG) of the Bilaspur Range in the Chhattisgarh Police, will be honoured with the President's Medal for his outstanding service and exemplary policing. He will be presented with the medal at a ceremony held in the capital, Raipur, on the occasion of Independence Day.

Over a police career spanning approximately 18 years, Ram Gopal Garg has carved a distinct niche for himself within the police department through his work ethic, firm policing, and dedication to duty. He is known for his integrity and excellent professional approach.

A 2007-batch IPS officer, Ram Gopal Garg has served as the Superintendent of Police (SP) in Gariaband, Koriya, Balod, and Durg. Additionally, he has held the position of IG for the Sarguja and Durg ranges and served as the DIG of Raigarh. He also served a tenure of approximately seven years with the CBI.

Garg is also recognized for his emphasis on integrating technology into policing; he worked on developing an app to improve traffic management systems.

Tricolour, patriotic songs replace Maoist diktats

Press Trust Of India

NARAYANPUR: Hundreds of motorbikes carrying national flags sped through Bastar, long considered a hotbed of banned Maoist cadres, as the three-day Bastar Tiranga Yatra commenced, signalling a transformation towards peace and security across the region. The rally was flagged off on Wednesday from the Higher Secondary School ground in Narayanpur district by Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Sharma and Forest

Minister Kedar Kashyap, who both joined the procession on motorcycles.

Over 200 motorbikes, driven by local residents and community representatives, set off amidst patriotic slogans to cover routes historically dominated by Maoist insurgency. The convoy is scheduled to conclude its journey at the Karregutta hills in Bijapur district, situated near the Telangana border.

The location holds strategic significance as the site of a 21-day joint operation by central and state security forces in April and May last year, which resulted in the deaths of at least 31 Naxals. Sharma said the yatra would pass through areas where Maoist violence had once affected people's lives and convey to the country and the world that "Maoism has now ended in these areas".

| CASH ROW CASE |

Judge Varma found guilty by house panel

Press Trust Of India

Committee finds judge's cash explanation unsatisfactory.

NEW DELHI: Justice Yashwant Varma has been found guilty by a panel constituted by the Lok Sabha Speaker to probe allegations of discovery of cash at his official residence with the committee saying the charges of unexplained cash, disturbing evidence and evasive explanation against him "are proved".

In its report submitted in both houses of Parliament on Wednesday, the three-member committee constituted under the Judges (Inquiry) Act said the former Delhi High Court judge failed to furnish satisfactory explanation on the presence, source or ownership of cash found in the store room of his official residence. The panel also said that material evidence was not secured or preserved and the evidentiary condition of the storeroom was disturbed before the lawful sealing and inspection.

It also found that the explanation by Justice Varma did not exhibit candour, transparency and institutional responsibility expected in the circumstances.

"It remained evasive and unsatisfactory when tested against the evidence of independent official witnesses and corroborative material," the panel said in its final report. "The Committee therefore records its final findings that Articles of charges I, II and III are proved," the probe panel said in its consolidated findings on the articles of charge against Justice Varma.

The report is in two volumes along with oral and documentary evidence recorded during the course of the investigation. The three-member probe panel had submitted its findings to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla in May.

I-Day shopping

Women shop for tricolour-themed bangles and accessories at a market in the Walled City area of Old Delhi ahead of Independence Day celebrations, in New Delhi. | Photo PTI

| DEADLY COLLISION |

Mumbai women biker dies after unidentified vehicle hit

Press Trust Of India

Mumbai biker Riddhi Thakkar dies in Markatola accident.

BALOD: A 24-year-old woman from Mumbai, who was part of a group of motorbikers on a tour of Bastar region, died after her two-wheeler was hit by

an unidentified heavy vehicle in Balod district on Wednesday morning, police said. The accident occurred around 6 am at Markatola Ghat under Purur police station limits on the National Highway 30, and the deceased was identified as Riddhi Thakkar, a resident of Borivali (West) in Mumbai, an official said.

A group of around 20 motorbikers from different parts of Maharashtra and some other states had arrived in Raipur earlier and was travelling towards the Bastar region when the accident occurred, he said.

Thakkar was riding a Bajaj Avenger when her motorcycle was hit by the unidentified heavy vehicle, leaving her seriously injured, particularly in the legs, the official said.

| PARLIAMENTARY PANEL REPORT |

Trained youths secure rural placements

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY) has trained 18.38 lakh rural youth but placed 11.94 lakh, with the government acknowledging an overall placement ratio of around 65 per cent against the scheme's 70 per cent target, according to a parliamentary panel report. The Standing Committee on Rural Development and

Panchayati Raj, headed by Congress MP Saptagiri Sankar Ulaka, has flagged the placement gap as well as inadequate post-placement salaries, saying these were contributing to high dropout rates and distress migration. "The Committee are concerned to note the significant gap in placements under the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY) where a large number of trained rural candidates remain without employment outcomes alongside inadequate average post-placement salaries that contribute to high dropout rates and distress migration," the report said.

NUMBER

65

- Govt reports 65% placement, below 70% target.

The scheme aims to provide regular monthly wages at or above minimum wages to rural poor youth and has a minimum placement requirement of 70 per cent of those trained, including at least 50 per cent in wage employment.

Parliament passes Bill to rename Kerala as Keralam

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Parliament on Wednesday passed a bill to rename Kerala as Keralam, with the Rajya Sabha clearing the legislation with a voice vote. The Lok Sabha passed the Kerala Bill, 2026, on Tuesday. Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai said the Kerala Assembly passed a resolution in 2024, urging the Centre to bring a law to change the name of the state to Keralam. "The bill provides that the State of Kerala will be known as the State of Keralam, and hence there is a proposal to rename the State of Kerala to Keralam," he said. The Kerala government had forwarded a resolution passed by the state assembly regarding the name change to the Centre in June 2024. Subsequently, the President of India referred a Bill to the state legislature for expressing its views, and later, the state assembly adopted a unanimous resolution agreeing with the Bill. The Kerala Bill provides for such alteration of the name of Kerala and contains necessary amendments to the provisions of the Constitution and also consequential provisions, according to the Bill's statement of objects and reasons.

NEWSLINE

NEW DELHI

Vyapam scam

A special court for Vyapam cases in Gwalior has sentenced a 'solver' and the original candidate to three years' rigorous imprisonment in an impersonation case linked to an examination conducted in Guna, officials said on Wednesday.

The court sentenced Amitesh and Vipin Kumar to three years' rigorous imprisonment and imposed a fine of Rs 5,000 on each, a CBI statement said. According to the statement, the case was registered after a person appearing as Vipin Kumar was apprehended from the examination hall at the Government PG College in Guna, after the invigilator found that his appearance did not match the photograph on record. During preliminary verification, the accused identified himself as Amitesh, a resident of Ghaziabad in Uttar Pradesh, and confessed to impersonating the original candidate, Vipin Kumar, a resident of Moradabad in Uttar Pradesh, the statement said.

NEW DELHI

Fair appointments

The Supreme Court on Wednesday said compassionate appointment is a welfare measure intended to provide immediate financial assistance to the family of a deceased employee. A bench of Justices Aravind Kumar and Vipul M Pancholi said the scheme should be interpreted in a fair and reasonable manner so that its object is achieved and not defeated. "It is well settled that compassionate appointment cannot be claimed as a matter of right, but at the same time, it is a welfare measure intended to provide immediate financial assistance to the family of a deceased employee. Therefore, the scheme should be interpreted in a fair and reasonable manner so that its object is achieved and not defeated," the bench said.

MUMBAI

Multi-storey building fire

A toddler and a woman were killed and six others, including a fireman, were injured after a fire broke out in a 12-storey residential building in Mumbai's Vile Parle area, civic officials said on Wednesday.

The blaze erupted in two flats on the 11th floor of Shanta Bhavan building at around 10 pm on Tuesday. The fire spread to electrical wiring and installations, an AC unit and other household articles in an area of around 4,000 square feet in the two houses, the officials said. Eight persons, including a fire brigade personnel, were injured and rushed to two hospitals.

Raipur

I have urged the Union Railway Minister to set up a railway reservation counter at the Balrampur district hqs soon keeping public interest in mind
Ramvichar Netam
Minister for Agri & Tribal Devp.

CII's summit sets the agenda for a low-carbon and future-ready steel

Industry and government leaders call for technology, energy efficiency and innovation to accelerate India's Green Steel transition

Central Chronicle News

NAYA RAIPUR: The 5th edition of CII Green Steel & Mining Summit 2026, organized by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), was inaugurated today by Arun Sao, Dy Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh and Lakhan Lal Dewangan, Minister of Commerce and Industries, Government of Chhattisgarh. The summit brought together government leaders, steel and mining companies, technology providers, sustainability experts and industry stakeholders to deliberate on the transition towards a competitive, energy-efficient and low-carbon steel sector.

The two-day summit is focused on accelerating the adoption of clean technologies, energy efficiency, digitalization, carbon management and sustainable mining practices, while aligning the sector with India's long-term development ambitions.

The inaugural session featured industry perspectives from Bajrang Goel, Chairman, CII Chhattisgarh , Siddharth Agrawal, Chairman, Steel Subcommittee, CII Eastern Region, Narendra Goel, Past Chairman, CII Chhattisgarh.

Speaking at the summit, Arun Sao, Dy CM, said, "Chhattisgarh is a state blessed with abundant natural resources, including coal and minerals, and has emerged as one of India's important steel-producing centres. The time has now come for us to move from being a mineral-rich state to becoming a global hub for green and value-added steel. The next phase of Chhattisgarh's industrial growth will be defined not only by how much steel we produce, but by how sustainably we produce it.

Lakhan Lal Dewangan, Minister of Commerce and Industries, Government of Chhattisgarh, said, "Chhattisgarh is emerging as one of India's leading steel and industrial hubs.

OP Choudhary, Minister of Environment & Finance, during his breakout session said, "Chhattisgarh has a vital role to play in India's journey towards a greener, more sustainable and globally competitive industrial economy.

'Enforce SC directives on missing persons strictly'

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: Chairman of the Chhattisgarh Urdu Academy Idris Gandhi, welcomed the recent directives issued by the Supreme Court regarding missing person cases and called for their effective implementation across Chhattisgarh.

He emphasized that accountability must be fixed for any delays in registering First Information Reports (FIRs) in such matters. Highlighting the apex court's ruling, Idris Gandhi pointed out that the Supreme Court has made it clear that no discrimination based on age or gender can be made when registering an FIR for a missing person.

He urged the Chhattisgarh government to establish a uniform system across all police stations in the state to ensure the immediate filing of FIRs upon receiving information about a missing individual. He further advocated for fixing accountability at the senior police officer level to monitor compliance.

"The initial period immediately following a person's disappearance is critical. Any delay in action severely hampers search operations and causes direct distress to affected families," Idris Gandhi stated.

Candidates hold rally demanding 2nd list

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: Around 2,000 candidates who appeared for the Chhattisgarh Police Recruitment Examination 2023-24 (conducted for 5,967 posts) took to the streets in the state capital on Wednesday, demanding the release of a second selection list. The protesting candidates expressed frustration over the current selection outcomes, stating that only 4,000 candidates were selected across the primary and waiting lists combined, leaving roughly 2,000 vacant positions unfilled and putting their futures in jeopardy.

Villagers threaten highway blockade and I-Day boycott over land allocation

Central Chronicle News

Public anger has erupted in Rasni Gram Panchayat over administrative efforts to transfer 22 hectares of govt multipurpose land to the DTIC.

RAIPUR: Public anger has erupted in Rasni Gram Panchayat over administrative efforts to transfer 22 hectares (approximately 54 acres) of government multipurpose land to the District Trade and Industry Centre (DTIC), bypassing an explicit Gram Sabha resolution against the move. Led by Raipur Zila Panchayat member Vatan Angnath Chandrakar, local residents submitted a memorandum to the Station House Officer (SHO) of Arang Police Station, demanding the immediate cancellation of the land allocation. Representatives and villagers issued a direct ultimatum: if an official order halting the land transfer is not issued by the morning of August 15, residents will boycott Independence Day celebrations and launch an indefinite chakka jam (road blockade) on the National Highway starting at 9:00 AM.

| COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW MEETING |

PWD Secretary cracks down on delayed projects

Central Chronicle News

Sets March 2027 deadline, Warns non-performing Contractors.

RAIPUR: Public Works Department (PWD) Secretary Mukesh Kumar Bansal chaired a comprehensive review meeting at the departmental headquarters 'Nirman Bhawan' in Nava Raipur to assess the progress of ongoing road and building construction projects across all divisions of the Raipur zone.

During the meeting, the Secretary instructed officials to ensure that all ongoing works sanctioned up to the financial year 2024-25 are strictly completed by March 31. Emphasizing high quality and strict adherence to timelines, Bansal ordered the blacklisting and disqualification of contractors who fail to meet deadlines, display negligence, or execute substandard work.

FACTFILE

- All departmental works must be entered into the PWD-IMS portal by August 31.

Field engineers were instructed to prepare cost estimates only after physically visiting and inspecting project sites.

Similarly, Chief Engineers and Superintending Engineers were directed to conduct monthly review meetings with Executive Engineers to monitor ongoing progress.

The Secretary directed monthly evaluations and regular payments to contractors. The Chief Engineer was asked to draft a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to ensure final bills are settled within three months of project completion, as well as an SOP for setting realistic completion timelines factoring in monsoon seasons and utility shifts (e.g., pole and pipeline shifting).

| REVIEW OF PADDY PROCUREMENT |

'Emphasis on making the co-op system more transparent'

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: A high-level review meeting was held at the Chhattisgarh State Cooperative Marketing Federation (MARKFED) under the chairmanship of Authorized Officer Shashikant Dwivedi. The meeting aimed to finalize preparations for the upcoming Kharif marketing year 2026-27 ahead of schedule and ensure seamless service delivery to farmers. During the meeting, a detailed assessment was conducted regarding paddy procurement, fertilizer distribution, financial management, and the progress of branch-wise operations; instructions were issued for the speedy resolution of pending matters. The meeting reviewed the disposal of paddy procured during the Kharif year 2025-26, paddy lifting by millers, rice deposition with the Food Corporation of India (FCI) and NAN, custom milling, transportation arrangements, and the status of remaining paddy stocks at cooperative societies. Officials were directed to ensure the timely disposal of paddy and the effective utilization of storage capacity. While reviewing preparations for the upcoming Kharif season 2026-27, special emphasis was placed on timely completing arrangements regarding procurement center infrastructure, availability of gunny bags, necessary equipment, human resources, farmer registration, CCTV, internet connectivity, and electricity supply, ensuring that farmers face no inconvenience during paddy procurement. The fertilizer distribution system was also reviewed in detail. Instructions were issued to ensure adequate supply–aligned with demand for the upcoming season–covering the availability of fertilizers (including Urea, DAP, and NPK), society-wise distribution, storage, stock verification, transportation arrangements, and stock management.

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

CII'S TWO-DAY INDUSTRY CONCLAVE

Jindal Steel marks strong presence as prime partner at the Green Steel & Mining Summit

RAIPUR: Jindal Steel Limited featured as the Prime Partner at the 5th Green Steel & Mining Summit, organized by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in Raipur. The two-day summit commenced today in the distinguished presence of the Deputy Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh, Arun Sao, and the Minister of Industry, Lakhanlal Dewangan.

Jindal Steel's attractive exhibition booth emerged as a major center of attraction at the summit. The stall presents a comprehensive introduction to the Jindal Group, showcasing its production capabilities, current projects, and future expansion roadmaps. Nilesh Shah, Business Head (Raipur), Jindal Steel, and SS Bajaj, Head of Corporate Affairs (Raipur), welcomed the Deputy Chief Minister, Industry Minister, and other dignitaries to the stall, presenting insights into the company's operational milestones and future vision. The dignitaries lauded Jindal Steel's key role in the state's industrial and overall development. Additionally, a dedicated pavilion set up outside the main exhibition area by Jindal Steel Limited's Machinery Division (Raipur) attracted strong interest from visitors.

NATIONAL 'ACTING ICON AWARD'

Actor Anuj honoured with National 'Acting Icon Award'

RAIPUR: Renowned actor Anuj Sharma was conferred with the prestigious 'Acting Icon Award' at the 7th Nirmal Pandey Film Festival in Raipur. Organized by the Nirmal Pandey Smriti Nyas, the festival honored Sharma for his 25 years of leadership in enriching Chhattisgarhi cinema and promoting the state's cultural heritage. Furthermore, the All India Artists Association, Shimla, presented him with a special honor recognizing his nationwide artistic influence. Film industry veterans at the event lauded his unwavering dedication to taking regional folk traditions to a national platform. Expressing his gratitude, Sharma said, "This honor belongs to the soil of Chhattisgarh, its artists, and our rich folk culture. Our collective duty is to preserve this precious legacy for future generations." The two-day film festival drew prominent filmmakers, directors, and artists from across India to celebrate regional cinema and culture.

SIGNING OF MOU

New wings for Rural Journalism: KTU and Gondwana University to sign MoU

RAIPUR: In a significant move towards strengthening rural journalism and grassroots communication, Kushabhau Thakre University of Journalism and Mass Communication (KTU), Raipur, is set to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Gondwana University, Gadchiroli. The decision was proposed during a courtesy meeting between KTU Vice-Chancellor Prof. (Dr.) Manoj Dayal and the Vice-Chancellor of Gondwana University. The primary objective of this collaboration is to promote rural journalism, bring localized issues to the national spotlight, and create viable media career opportunities for youth living in rural and remote areas. Under the proposed MoU, both institutions will jointly organize symposia, seminars, and workshops in offline, online, and hybrid modes. This flexible structure will allow students, faculty members, and working journalists from remote regions across both Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra to actively participate and benefit. Speaking on the initiative, KTU Vice-Chancellor Prof. (Dr.) Manoj Dayal emphasized, "The soul of India resides in its villages, and rural journalism plays a vital role in bringing ground realities to light. Through this collaboration, we aim to groom compassionate journalists who will write the story of rural development."

NEW CHAIRMAN OF SMC OF SAGEMS

Shravan appointed Chairman of SMC at Swami Atmanand Shaheed Smarak School

RAIPUR: Shravan Yadu has been appointed as the Chairman of the School Management Committee (SMC) at Swami Atmanand English Medium Shaheed Smarak School, Raipur, following its reconstitution under the National Education Policy (NEP). The primary mandate of the newly formed committee is to oversee daily school operations, ensure full student attendance, prevent dropouts, and formulate a comprehensive School Development Plan (SDP). Additional key responsibilities include managing government funds transparently, monitoring mid-day meal distribution, upgrading infrastructure, and fostering strong parent-teacher coordination to enhance educational quality. Expressing his commitment, newly appointed Chairman Shravan Yadu emphasized that his top priorities will be driving infrastructure development and imparting quality education rooted in moral values. The committee meeting also confirmed key appointments including Neha Rathore as Vice President, Principal Ramakant Jha as Secretary and educationist Sanjay Joshi along with members Rajesh Pandey, Rajnish Patra, Santosh Agrawal and Sonu Qureshi.

Raipur News

Ch'garh govt committed to farmers' welfare: CM

Chief Minister Vishnu Dep Sai addressed a Hareli festival celebration at his official residence in Nava Raipur Atal Nagar.

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai on Wednesday said his government was committed to the welfare and economic empowerment of farmers and has taken several measures to strengthen the agriculture sector.

Addressing a Hareli festival celebration at his official residence in Nava Raipur Atal Nagar, Sai said the agrarian festival reflects Chhattisgarh's deep bond with agriculture, nature and rural life. Hareli, one of the major traditional festivals of Chhattisgarh, is celebrated on the new moon day (amavasya) of the month of Savan.

Sai said the Centre and the state government have taken several important steps to strengthen farmers economically. The Kisan Credit Card scheme, launched during the tenure of former prime minister and Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee, opened the way for farmers to access agricultural credit easily, he said. After the formation of Chhattisgarh, the government led by former chief minister Raman Singh gradually reduced interest rates on cooperative agricultural loans, eventually bringing them down to zero, Sai said.

FASTFACTS

- Sai said the Centre and the state government have taken several important steps to strengthen farmers economically.
- The government has been continuously working to simplify crop insurance, expand irrigation facilities and take modern agricultural technology to farmers, said CM.

Traditional festivity and folk culture illuminate CM's residence

The CM's residence was decorated with neem and mango leaves, marigold flowers and traditional rural ornaments for the occasion, creating an atmosphere reminiscent of Chhattisgarh's villages and fairs, an official statement said. Traditional games such as gedi, billas, goti and bati were among the attractions at the celebration. Sai appeared in traditional Chhattisgarhi attire and, along with state Assembly Speaker Raman Singh, travelled to the venue in a pink auto-rickshaw being driven by woman driver Sangeeta Yadav, it said.

CRPF to lead Har Ghar Tiranga rallies

RAIPUR: Under the aegis of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, the 211th Battalion of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), based in Thanoud, New Raipur, is organizing grand events on August 13, to take the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign to every household.

Commandant Dr. Vinod Kumar Tandon stated that the initiative aims to deepen patriotism among citizens and encourage everyone to hoist the national flag at their homes.

According to the schedule, the events will commence at 10:00 AM on August 13 with flag distribution at the 211th CRPF Battalion Headquarters in Thanoud (New Raipur).

This will be followed by flag distribution at the Shri Rawatpura Sarkar Institute of Medical Sciences and Research at 10:15 AM, at the Balco Medical Centre at 10:25 AM, in Abhanpur at 10:35 AM, and culminating with flag distribution and a grand Tiranga rally in Rajim at 10:45 AM. These programmes are designed to foster national unity, honor freedom fighters, and inspire a collective pledge toward national development. The 211th Battalion has cordially invited citizens, public representatives, and media personnel to participate enthusiastically in this celebration of national pride.

RMC seals commercial properties over longstanding arrears

Central Chronicle News

Zone 8 authorities in Raipur sealed eight commercial properties belonging to long-term tax defaulters after they ignored final notices.

RAIPUR: In a strict enforcement drive led by Municipal Commissioner Sambit Mishra, the revenue department of Zone 8 executed sealing operations against eight major commercial defaulters across Wards 1, 2, and 21 for failing to clear long-pending municipal dues despite receiving multiple demand bills, notices, and final warnings.

The operation was conducted under the supervision of Additional Commissioner of Revenue Lokeshwar Sahu, Deputy Commissioner of Revenue Dr. Anjali Sharma, and Zone 8 Commissioner Rajeshwari Patel, with guidance from Assistant Revenue Officer Mahadev Raxell and execution by Revenue Inspector Rajesh Mishra along with Assistant Revenue Inspectors Rakesh Dubey and Shivendra Singh. The targeted properties included commercial establishments belonging to Omprakash Tiwari, owing Rs 75,237, Surender Singh, owing Rs 82,554, and Rahul Dhariwal, owing Rs 2,11,633, all located in Veer Savarkar Nagar Ward 1. In Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru Ward 2, the premises of Ramanand Agarwal, who owed Rs 5,02,813, and Santoshi Devi/Ramniwas, with arrears totaling Rs 9,93,482, faced action. Additionally, in Shaheed Bhagat Singh Ward 21, eight shops belonging to Rajinder Singh Sabbarwal, who had outstanding dues of Rs 1,68,613, alongside properties of Anurag Vij, owing Rs 1,70,707, and Tejender Singh, owing Rs 90,984, were locked and sealed.

The punitive measure triggered an immediate financial recovery. Promptly after the sealing actions commenced, major defaulters cleared pending payments on the spot.

HIGHLIGHT

- The strict enforcement action targeted properties across Wards 1, 2, and 21 for failing to clear mounting municipal dues.
- The crackdown prompted immediate on-site payments, resulting in the recovery of over 5 lakh rupees in pending arrears.

NEWSLINE

HARELI

FM extends Hareli greetings

RAIPUR: Chhattisgarh Finance Minister OP Choudhary has extended heartfelt greetings and best wishes to the people of the state on the auspicious occasion of Hareli, the very first folk festival of Chhattisgarh.

In his congratulatory message, Minister Choudhary stated that Hareli embodies Chhattisgarh's rich folk culture, agrarian heritage, and a deep sense of gratitude toward nature. He noted that the festival holds special significance for farmers, expressing profound respect for the 'annadata' through the worship of livestock and agricultural tools used in farming.

The Finance Minister highlighted that the sacred festival of Hareli brings a message of greenery, prosperity, and happiness across the state.

Ensure redressal of Seva-Setu & CM Helpline grievances: ACS

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: District In-charge Secretary and Additional Chief Secretary Mrs. Richa Sharma chaired a review meeting at the Red Cross auditorium, directing officials to ensure that welfare scheme benefits reach the public. She emphasized that online public facilities are accessible via the Seva-Setu portal. Addressing grievance redressal, Mrs. Sharma instructed that CM Helpline complaints must be resolved genuinely rather than superficially. If applications face rejection due to missing documents, centers must receive proper training to ensure correct document uploads for beneficiaries.

Reviewing the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme, she directed the revenue department to expedite mutation, land partition, and long-pending joint account cases within stipulated deadlines. She also praised local innovations like Project Dhadkan, Smriti Pustakalaya, and Project Dadheechi.

For the health sector, she urged adequate essential medicine availability for monsoon illnesses and regular refilling of Mitanin medicine kits, suggesting a healthy panchayat model in every block for routine women and child health check-ups.

Evaluating education, she instructed swift construction in PM Shri schools, maintaining top performance on the PARAKH portal, and preventing village pond encroachments. She noted improvements in board examination results, urging better category-wise targets next year, along with meeting PM Surya Ghar Yojana targets and conducting energy audits in government offices.

Collector Dr. Gaurav Singh shared that VNR Seeds partnered with the administration to supply guava and bottle gourd seeds to schools and anganwadis for nutritious meals. Additionally, over 7,000 citizens have celebrated birthdays at local anganwadis and schools under the "Aao Bante Khushiyan" initiative. The meeting concluded with ACS Mrs. Sharma felicitating Project Dhadkan and Dadheechi beneficiaries and Smriti Pustakalaya donors.

| CRITICAL CARE CONFERENCE |

EPIC 2026: AIIMS Raipur hosts National Critical Care Conference

Central Chronicle News

EPIC 2026 national critical care conference and workshops at AIIMS Raipur (August 7–9, 2026).

RAIPUR: The Department of Anaesthesiology & Critical Care, All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Raipur, successfully conducted EPIC 2026 - Evidence-based Practices in Intensive Care, a national conference and workshop held from 7 to 9 August 2026.

The three-day academic programme brought together eminent national faculty, intensivists, pulmonologists, anaesthesiologists, physicians, postgraduate students, Critical Care Medicine trainees and other healthcare professionals from across the country.

FASTFACT

- Hands-on training on mechanical ventilation and CRRT for over 100 delegates, alongside expert lectures.

The conference provided a platform for sharing contemporary knowledge, clinical experiences and evidence-based practices in the rapidly evolving field of critical care medicine.

The programme commenced with hands-on workshops on Mechanical Ventilation and Continuous Renal Replacement Therapy (CRRT), featuring practical demonstrations, interactive discussions and case-based learning, with participation from more than 100 delegates. The main conference included expert lectures, panel discussions, debates, quiz competitions and oral paper presentations.

Participants and invited faculty appreciated the conference for its high academic standards, well-structured scientific programme, interactive sessions and quality of hands-on training.

The successful programme was conducted under the leadership of Prof. Dr. Subrata Kumar Singha, Organizing Chairperson and Head, Department of Anaesthesiology & Critical Care, along with Dr. Chinmaya Kumar Panda, Organizing Secretary, Dr. Nupur Karan, Co-Secretary, and Dr. Pradeep Khobragade, Treasurer.

Lt Gen Ashok Jindal, (Retd), Executive Director, AIIMS Raipur, appreciated the initiative and highlighted the importance of a multidisciplinary approach to critical care.

He encouraged the organisation of more such academic programmes to further strengthen clinical practice and patient care.

Dr. Eli Mohapatra, Dean (Academics), and Dr. Debendra K. Tripathy, Medical Superintendent, also congratulated the organising team and extended their support for the successful conduct of the conference.

TRIBUTE

Floral tribute to Devi Ahilya Bai Holkar

RAIPUR: The Raipur Municipal Corporation (RMC) will host a solemn floral tribute ceremony on August 13, 2026, at 11:00 AM, to commemorate the death anniversary of the great devotee of Lord Shiva, able administrator, and popular social reformer Devi Ahilya Bai Holkar.

The event will take place at her statue site located near Lotus Hospital along the Canal Linking Road at Rajatalab in the capital city. Under the aegis of the Municipal Corporation's Culture Department and with the collaboration of Zone 4 administration, comprehensive arrangements are underway at the venue.

| MELODIOUS TRIBUTE RAMRANG |

A melodious tribute to Pt Ramashraya Jha 'Ramrang'

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: The cultural landscape of Raipur resonated with soulful strains today as Kamaladevi Sangeet Mahavidyalaya marked the 98th birth anniversary of the legendary Hindustani classical music maestro, scholar, and composer, Pandit Ramashraya Jha 'Ramrang'.

The commemorative event unfolded as a profound musical tribute to the maestro, whose pen name 'Ramrang' became synonymous with creative brilliance. Students Varsha Chaturvedi, Saloni Mund, and Mayank Bairagi, alongside Dr. Deepak Bedekar, mesmerized the audience with impeccable renditions of his immortal compositions, including the evocative Raga Miyan Malhar bandish "Badariya Aayi Re" and the tranquil Raga Ahir Bhairav composition "Ajahu Na Aayo Sandeshwa."

Born on August 11, 1928, Pandit Ramashraya Jha left an indelible mark on Indian classical music. A recipient of the prestigious Sangeet Natak Akademi Award (2005) and former Head of the Music Department at the University of Allahabad, his monumental five-volume treatise, Abhinav Geetanjali, remains a cornerstone of modern musicology.

During the ceremony, Dr. Bedekar fondly recalled his deeply enriching association with the maestro in Raipur, describing it as a "living school of music."

IGKV celebrates traditional Hareli festival with great enthusiasm

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: Indira Gandhi Krishi Vishwavidyalaya (IGKV) celebrated Chhattisgarh's premier agricultural festival, Hareli, with immense zeal and cultural fervor across its campus.

The celebrations commenced at the university's research farm, where Vice-Chancellor Dr. Girish Chandel presided as the chief guest. Upholding traditional customs, Dr. Chandel performed rituals worshipping cattle, ploughs, and various agricultural implements, praying for a bountiful harvest and agricultural prosperity.

Following the inaugural rituals, the National Service Service (NSS) unit hosted a vibrant array of traditional sports and cultural competitions within the agriculture college premises.

Bilaspur

Hareli reflects our culture and the spirit of rural life and this festival also expresses a sense of respect for nature.

Arun Sao-Dy.
CM- Ch'garh

Pre-I-Day event held under 'Har Ghar Tiranga'

Program organized to mark the 150th anniversary of the song 'Vande Mataram'

Central Chronicle News

BILASPUR: As part of the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign and in celebration of Independence Day, a performance by the Railway Protection Force (RPF) band group at River View captivated the audience today. Led by S.K. Paul, the band performed instrumental renditions of patriotic songs. The event commenced with 'Vande Mataram,' followed by stirring performances of songs such as 'Dil Diya Hai, Jaan Bhi Denge Ae Watan Tere Liye' and 'Ae Mere Watan Ke Logon.' Local citizens participated enthusiastically in this culturally rich, patriotic event.

Speaking at the event, Mayor Pooja Vidhani remarked that the Tricolour reminds us of the sacrifices and struggles of the freedom fighters who gave their all for the nation's independence. For us, freedom is not merely a right but a priceless legacy born of the sacrifices made by brave martyrs. Let us pledge to uphold the nation's unity, integrity, and pride while honoring the Tricolour. We can contribute to the development of our city and nation–and serve the country–through small, meaningful efforts: raising awareness about cleanliness and fulfilling our duty to keep the city clean is service to the nation, just as conserving and wisely using water is.

FAST FACTS

- RPF band performs at River View; the atmosphere comes alive with patriotic melodies
- A joint event organized by the District Administration, Police, Municipal Corporation, and RPF

Zila Panchayat President Rajesh Suryavanshi stated that Independence Day reminds us of the sacrifices and selflessness of the brave freedom fighters whose struggles secured our liberty. The free and democratic India we breathe in today is built upon the sacrifices of countless heroes. The 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign conveys a message of respect and responsibility towards our nation and the Tricolour. Let us... ...pledge to contribute to the national interest while understanding its significance.

Municipal Corporation Speaker Vinod Soni stated that the Tricolour is the pride of the nation; freedom was attained after countless sacrifices, and the Tricolour should fly proudly in every home. The martyrdom of brave soldiers can never be forgotten, and the country remains indebted to all those revolutionaries and freedom fighters. Addressing the gathering, SSP Rajnesh Singh remarked that our freedom was won through the struggle, courage, and sacrifice of countless freedom fighters–a fact we must always remember. The Tricolour symbolizes the dreams of those brave martyrs and represents the unity and integrity of the nation.

The 'Har Ghar Tiranga' (Tricolour in Every Home) campaign inspires us to understand the importance of freedom and to fulfill our obligations towards the nation. Today's generation represents the future; therefore, they should look up to the nation's great figures as role models, walk the path of truth, build their careers with hard work and dedication, abide by the law, stay away from substance abuse, and actively participate in the country's development.

Various patriotic events to be held on Aug 14

BILASPUR: Various patriotic programs will be organized in Bilaspur on August 14 to mark the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' (Tricolour at Every Home) campaign and Independence Day. The district administration has planned a series of events throughout the day aimed at strengthening respect for the national flag and fostering a spirit of patriotism among citizens. According to the schedule, a 'Tiranga' Run and Marathon will be held at 7:30 AM, starting from Nehru Chowk and concluding at Pandit Lal Bahadur Shastri School. Subsequently, a program commemorating 'Partition Horrors Remembrance Day' will take place at 8:30 AM at the Pandit Deokinandan Dixit Auditorium. Following this, a 'Tiranga' bike rally will be flagged off from CMD Chowk at 11:00 AM. At 3:00 PM, a 'Tiranga' procession will be organized from Mini Stadium, Dayalband, to River View. Finally, a performance by the 'Vande Mataram' band will be held at River View at 6:00 PM.

Collector Sanjay Agrawal has appealed to the residents of the district to participate enthusiastically in all these events. He stated that the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign is an initiative deeply connected to national pride and the spirit of patriotism.

Three arrested for plotting liquor shop robbery to repay debt

Central Chronicle News

BILASPUR: Masturi Police and the ACCU have arrested three of four accused allegedly involved in an attempted robbery at a government composite liquor shop in Gatora.

Police said the accused had planned the robbery to repay their debts. The fourth accused remains absconding.

The incident occurred around 3.30 am on August 3. According to police, four masked men reached the Gatora liquor shop and held security guards Sahil Rai and Harkunwar Pankaj at knifepoint. Pankaj was allegedly assaulted before both guards were tied up.

The accused broke the shop's lock and tried to open the locker using a grinder cutter and chisel, but failed. As they could not access the cash, they fled with some liquor bottles, the two guards' mobile phones, a CCTV camera and DVR.

FAST FACTS

- Security guards held at knifepoint; accused tried to cut locker with gas cutter and grinder

Following analysis of CCTV footage and technical evidence, police arrested Anil Dhruv alias Anna (24), Pintu Nishad (25) and Sushil Nirmalkar (24).

A motorcycle, scooter, two mobile phones, gas cutter, grinder cutter machine, chisel and knife were recovered.

Police are searching for the fourth accused, who had reportedly worked with CMS Info Systems and was involved in cash collection from government liquor shops. His role is also being investigated.

NEWSLINE

PROTEST

Cong launches campaign against smart meters

BILASPUR: The Bilaspur District Congress Committee (Rural) held a meeting in Sakri to oppose smart meters and launched a campaign to mobilise public support. Party workers also collected applications from residents demanding that smart meters be discontinued.District Congress president Mahendra said smart meters were causing higher electricity bills and alleged that consumers were better served under the earlier "half electricity bill" scheme. Senior Congress leader Ashish said the party would continue its opposition to the policy.Sakri Block Congress president Amit Sahu said workers would go door-to-door to collect applications and inform residents about alleged problems with smart meters and increased bills.

MINORS FLEE

Eight minors flee observation home

BILASPUR: The Chhattisgarh High Court has taken serious note of the security arrangements at Child Care Institutions (CCIs) after eight minors escaped from a government observation home in Mahasamund.

The court directed that the Central Government be made a party to the case and sought its response from the Union Home Ministry on financial assistance and other support sought by the state government to strengthen security at CCIs.

According to a news report cited by the court, the eight minors escaped from the Mahasamund observation home on August 4. One was reportedly involved in a rape case, while the others were linked to cases under the Excise Act, NDPS Act and theft.

The minors allegedly broke a window grille and cut through barbed wire installed on a roughly 12-foot-high boundary wall to escape.

NARCOTICS

Youth arrested with narcotics in Sirgitti

BILASPUR: Sirgitti Police arrested a 32-year-old man for allegedly possessing narcotics during an ongoing crackdown on illegal drug transportation and sale.Police seized 5.32 grams of Original Gangster OG, a Kia Seltos car worth around Rs 7 lakh, and an Apple iPhone 16 Pro valued at Rs 50,000. The total value of the seized items was estimated at Rs 7.65 lakh. Acting on a tip-off that a man was carrying the narcotic substance in a black Kia Seltos to sell it, police intercepted the vehicle near Tifra New Bus Stand. The substance was allegedly recovered from the possession of Shobhit Jajodia alias Akshat (32), a resident of Link Road, Tarbahar.

Collector cracks down on private schools

Central Chronicle News

BILASPUR: Collector Sanjay Agrawal expressed displeasure during the weekly TL meeting over private schools failing to collect government textbooks and directed officials to issue show-cause notices to the concerned school managements.

He also ordered the listing and registration of all coaching institutes operating in the district headquarters, along with maintaining details of student safety, essential facilities and compliance with prescribed standards.

Officials were directed to complete preparations for the Independence Day celebrations by August 13 and submit reports. The Collector also reviewed pending CM Helpline complaints and stressed prompt resolution.

Expressing concern over the slow progress of the PM Surya Ghar scheme, Agrawal noted that around 6,000 solar plants have been installed against a target of nearly 47,000.

FAST FACTS

- Private schools issued show-cause notices for not collecting textbooks.
- Coaching institutes asked for listing and registration ordered.

Officials were instructed to step up awareness efforts and connect eligible beneficiaries with the scheme.

The availability and distribution of agricultural inputs, including fertilisers and seeds, were also reviewed.

Hareli celebrated with traditional fervour

CHHURI KALA: Chhattisgarh's traditional Hareli festival was celebrated with enthusiasm in Chhuri Kala and surrounding villages on Wednesday.

Farmers worshipped agricultural tools and cattle and offered traditional Chhattisgarhi dishes.

On the occasion, farmers cleaned and worshipped agricultural implements such as ploughs, spades, hoes and yokes at their homes. Bulls were also worshipped and offered food, with families praying for a good harvest, prosperity and well-being.

The Bhelwa tree holds special significance during Hareli, with its branches traditionally placed in fields and homes.

Children and youngsters also enjoyed the traditional gedi (stilts), while various sports competitions were organised by local youth.

| SEMINAR ON 'TRIBAL SOCIETY & ENVIRONMENT' |

'Tribal traditions hold valuable lessons for environ conservation'

Central Chronicle News

A seminar on the theme "Tribal Society and Environment" was organised at Dr. C.V. Raman University.

BILASPUR: A seminar on the theme "Tribal Society and Environment" was organised at Dr. C.V. Raman University, focusing on traditional environmental knowledge, conservation of natural resources and the environmental challenges facing society today. Vice-Chancellor Prof. Pradeep Kumar Ghosh said challenges such as climate change, deforestation, declining biodiversity and excessive exploitation of natural resources are increasing continuously. In such circumstances, connecting the traditional environmental knowledge of tribal communities with modern scientific approaches can prove useful. He said the younger generation should learn from tribal traditions that promote a balanced way of living with nature. Registrar Dr. Arvind Kumar Tiwari said several global challenges, including global warming, protection of forests, water and land, gender equality and equal participation in social and economic activities, can find valuable lessons in the traditional lifestyles and practices of forest-dwelling communities.

FAST FACTS

- Registrar Dr Tiwari said that there is a need for research and new development approaches to preserve these traditions from disappearing amid rapid development.

He highlighted traditional knowledge of medicinal plants, nature worship, food habits, clothing and cultural practices as important sources of inspiration. He said there is a need for research and new development approaches to preserve these traditions from disappearing amid rapid development.

The welcome address was delivered by programme coordinator and Dean of Education and Physical Education Dr. Jai Shankar Yadav, while Dr. Richa Yadav conducted the programme.

Dr. V.P. Mishra, Dr. Kajal Moitra, Dr. Krishna Kumar Pandey and a large number of faculty members and students were present at the seminar.

| PASSENGER-FRIENDLY INITIATIVE |

Bilaspur Station rolls out bike rental service

Central Chronicle News

BILASPUR: In a passenger-friendly initiative, the Bilaspur Railway Division has launched a bike rental service at Bilaspur Railway Station, providing travellers with a convenient, affordable and flexible option for local commuting.

The service was inaugurated by Principal Chief Commercial Manager Vijay Kumar near the station's coach restaurant. Senior Divisional Commercial Manager Anurag Kumar Singh and other Commercial Department officials were present.

The facility is the first bike rental service in South East Central Railway (SECR) and is aimed at helping passengers travel quickly and economically between the station and different parts of Bilaspur. It will particularly benefit tourists, students, business travellers and local residents, while saving both time and transportation costs.Available 24x7, the service requires a valid driving licence and Aadhaar card. The rental charges are Rs 100 for up to four hours, Rs 200 for 4-8 hours, Rs 300 for 8-16 hours and Rs 400 for 16-24 hours.The initiative adds a convenient, independent mobility option for passengers and strengthens Bilaspur station's modern, passenger-centric amenities.

Jumbo transfer list of 700 teachers raises concerns

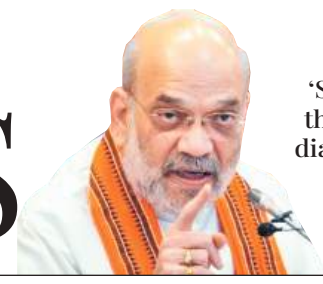
Central Chronicle News

BILASPUR: The recent transfer of around 700 teachers by the School Education Department has created considerable discussion in administrative and education circles. From assistant teachers to lecturers, a large number of teachers have been transferred, with many reportedly placed under the option of the District Education Officer (DEO). The provision of the DEO option has raised questions about transparency in the posting process.

According to the transfer policy, teachers who are transferred should preferably be posted in vacant schools in remote and rural areas, particularly institutions facing teacher shortages or operating with only a single teacher.

However, concerns have been raised that the DEO office option could provide room for arbitrary postings if the process is not carried out transparently.

N-E-W-S



'Solutions emerge only through discussion and dialogue in a democracy'.

Amit Shah
Union Home Minister

NCP (SP) slams land mafia over destruction of hills

NCP (SP) leader, Jayant Patil has urged Revenue Minister Chandrashekhar Bawankule to take immediate action against the land mafia.

Press Trust Of India

NCP (SP) leader Jayant Patil has urged Maha Revenue Minister to take immediate action against alleged illegal activities by land mafia

MUMBAI : NCP (SP) leader Jayant Patil has urged Maharashtra Revenue Minister Chandrashekhar Bawankule to take immediate action against alleged illegal activities by land mafia in the environmentally sensitive Dodamargtaluka of Sindhudurg district.

In a letter to Bawankule, Patil alleged that more than 6,000 trees were being felled without permission and hills were being levelled for development. He claimed that the then tehsildar had granted permission for non-agricultural and development use of land based on forged documents and without obtaining the consent of co-owners.

Patil said he had raised the issue during the recent monsoon session of the state legislature, where the BJP-led government had assured that an inquiry would be conducted and appropriate action taken. However, he alleged that no action had followed and illegal activities had continued.

HIGHLIGHT

- **In a letter addressed to the minister, he stated that 6,000 trees have been felled by the mafia.**
- **He also highlighted alleged violations in Gharpi Udeli village**

He also highlighted alleged violations in Gharpi Udeli village, including obstruction of natural water flows and illegal extraction of minor minerals. Patil said Gharpi, Udeli and Sasoli villages were ecologically sensitive areas with dense forests, wildlife, biodiversity and valuable natural resources.

Alleging that local revenue and forest officials were acting as "spectators", Patil urged the minister to personally intervene, stop the activities, order a thorough investigation and punish those responsible.

In a post on X, he said the alleged land mafia had become increasingly emboldened despite government assurances of action.

Assam flood rehabilitation to require over Rs 1K Cr: Sarma

Press Trust Of India

GUWAHATI: Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Wednesday said more than Rs 1,000 crore may be required to repair damaged properties and rehabilitate people affected by the latest wave of floods in the state. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has assured full assistance from the Centre, Sarma said.

A rapid damage assessment launched on August 9 has so far covered more than 8,000 families, with losses estimated at Rs 150 crore. The assessment will continue until August 30 and is expected to cover 50,000-60,000 families in severely affected Upper Assam districts, with the final survey likely to conclude in September.

Sarma said the government was exploring a model housing scheme to provide permanent relief to families whose homes were completely damaged. He also announced Rs 11.3 crore for rebuilding 494 flood-damaged Anganwadi centres, with each receiving up to Rs 2.5 lakh. Around 64,891 flood-hit families have received Rs 15,000 each, while another 31,212 families will receive the assistance soon.

NEWSLINE

JAIPUR

Raj minister joins sanitation strike

Rajasthan Forest Minister Sanjay Sharma on Wednesday staged a dharna with sanitation workers at the Alwar Municipal Corporation over an alleged delay of more than a year in issuing appointment letters to 69 candidates. Sharma blamed the Alwar collector and municipal commissioner for the delay and said he would remain at the protest site until the workers received their appointment letters. He said the Rajasthan High Court had last year directed authorities to issue appointment letters to sanitation workers recruited under the 2012 drive.

MUMBAI

BNHS sterilizes over 2,950 dogs

The Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) has sterilised more than 2,950 free-ranging dogs in Ladakh to protect the vulnerable black-necked crane, the organisation said on Wednesday.

The initiative, launched in 2022 in collaboration with the Indian Army, Animal Husbandry Department and Department of Forest, Ecology & Environment, aims to reduce dog attacks on crane eggs and chicks. Free-ranging dogs also disturb nesting birds and affect their breeding behaviour, BNHS said.

Fewer than 100 black-necked cranes, regarded as Ladakh's state bird, survive in India.

NEW DELHI

Delhi police seize 1,398 reels

Three men were apprehended in west Delhi for allegedly storing and transporting banned Chinese/plastic manjha, with 1,398 reels of the prohibited kite string recovered from a car, police said on Wednesday.

The accused, Rajesh, 33, Asad, 23, and Sohail, 19, were apprehended late Tuesday night, and the vehicle allegedly used to transport the manjha was seized. A case has been registered at the Crime Branch police station in PushpVihar.

BHOPAL

'Oppn promoting urban naxal'

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav on Tuesday accused the Opposition, particularly the Congress, of misleading people through its policies and alleged that its actions appeared influenced by an "urban Naxal" mentality that obstructs development.

Speaking at the launch of the book NaxalMukt Bharat, authored by BJP national spokesperson Tuhin A.

Sinha and DrAlok Kumar Dwivedi, Yadav said Madhya Pradesh had achieved its target of eliminating Naxalism within the stipulated timeframe under Prime Minister NarendraModi's leadership.

| HIMACHAL SUBMERGED IN FLOODS |

Widespread rains paralyzed Himachal connectivity

Press Trust Of India

SHIMLA: Heavy and widespread rainfall disrupted normal life across Himachal Pradesh on Wednesday, forcing the closure of 313 roads and damaging essential infrastructure.

The India Meteorological Department has forecast a wet spell in the state until August 17 and issued a yellow alert for heavy rainfall at isolated places until August 18.

Dhaulakuan recorded the highest rainfall at 80.5 mm since Tuesday evening, followed by Jatton Barrage with 67 mm, Dharamshala 57.2 mm, Palampur 54.6 mm, Paonta Sahib 50.8 mm, Bajaura 37 mm and Nahan 26.5 mm. According to the State Emergency Operation Centre, 313 roads, 65 water supply schemes and 112 transformers were affected by Wednesday afternoon. Mandi was the worst hit, with 117 blocked roads, followed by Chamba with 74, Kullu 60 and Shimla 36.

UP Police SI arrested

PRATAPGARH: A police SI was arrested in Varanasi for allegedly raping a woman on the promise of marriage, officials said on Wednesday. Additional SP (East) Alok Kumar said the accused, Arjun Singh, who was posted at Mandhata police station in Pratapgarh, was arrested late Tuesday evening from the Taktakpur area of Varanasi Cantonment. According to police, a woman from Gautam Buddh Nagar had approached the SP and alleged that Singh raped her after promising to marry her.

| JHA HAILS NITISH KUMAR |

Sanjay Jha hails scrapping of APMC system in the state

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: JD(U) MP Sanjay Jha on Wednesday praised RajyaSabha member and former Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar for abolishing the Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) system in the state, saying the reform eliminated middlemen and enabled farmers to receive payments directly into their bank accounts.

Participating in the debate on the National Co-operative Development Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2026, Jha highlighted Kumar's return to Parliament after more than two decades. With Kumar seated beside him, Jha said the JD(U) leader had remarked that such disruptions and protests were not witnessed in Parliament during his earlier tenure.

| JHARKHAND STUDENT PROTEST |

Relief amid Jharkhand exam stir as health of protestors remains stable

Press Trust Of India

RANCHI: The health condition of four student protesters undergoing treatment at Sadar Hospital in Ranchi after hunger strikes over alleged irregularities in recruitment examinations remained stable on Wednesday, officials said.

Two protesters, Habiba and Rahul Kranti, associated with the JPSC-JSSC Reforms Manch, are receiving treatment. Habiba was admitted on Tuesday, while Kranti was hospitalised on August 7 after his health deteriorated. Two others, DevendraNathMahto and MahendraPratap, are protesting under the JSSC-ChhatraManch and are also undergoing treatment.

The deputy superintendent of Sadar Hospital said all four students were being regularly examined and monitored.

Gurugram residents and admn join hands

National Cadet Corps (NCC) cadets wave national flags as they participate in the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign ahead of Independence Day celebrations, in Gurugram, Haryana.

| MEETING HELD BETWEEN FADNAVIS& THACKERAY |

Raj Thackeray holds meeting with CM Devendra Fadnavis

MUMBAI: Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) president Raj Thackeray met Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis at his official residence, Varsha, in Mumbai on Wednesday, triggering speculation in political circles. An MNS functionary said the meeting focused on issues concerning Shivaji Park in central Mumbai, where Thackeray resides. The long-pending completion of the Mumbai-Goa highway was also discussed. The meeting came days after Thackeray criticised the poor condition of roads and potholes in Nashik, where the Kumbh Mela is scheduled to be held next year.

| PARLIAMENT PASSES NCDC ACT |

Parliament passes bill amending NCDC act to boost India's cooperative sector

NEW DELHI: The Rajya Sabha on Wednesday passed the National Cooperative Development Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2026, aimed at expanding the mandate of the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) and enabling it to provide loans and grants directly to cooperative societies and entities engaged in cooperative development.

The Lok Sabha had passed the bill on Tuesday. The NCDC, a statutory organisation under the Ministry of Cooperation, was established in 1963 under the National Cooperative Development Corporation Act, 1962. Replying to the debate, Minister of State for Cooperation MurlidharMohol said the amendment would not involve any additional budgetary financial assistance from the government.

| DELIMITATION BILL PASSED |

Master plan promised for Howrah civic overhaul

Press Trust Of India

KOLKATA: The West Bengal Assembly on Wednesday passed the Howrah Municipal Corporation Amendment Bill, 2026, proposing to increase the number of wards in the civic body from 50 to 68. The special one-day session also withdrew an earlier amendment bill passed by the House on February 7.

Urban Development and Municipal Affairs Minister Agnimitra Paul defended the restructuring, saying it was necessary because of changes in population distribution and would enable

faster and more effective delivery of civic services. Paul announced that the state government had prepared a special master plan for Howrah, focusing on road repairs, improved treated drinking water supply and a permanent drainage system to tackle the city's recurring waterlogging.

> **"The decision to increase the number of wards has been taken because of variations in population.**
>
> **Agnimitra Paul**
> Urban Development and Municipal Affair Minister

Man allegedly drowns 6-yr-old son in river

SHIMLA: A man allegedly threw his six-year-old son into the swollen Ravi river in Himachal Pradesh's Chamba district following an argument with his wife over the phone, police said on Wednesday. The accused, Hitesh Kumar, later informed the police about the incident and was arrested. According to police, Kumar's wife has been staying at her maternal home in Amritsar with their younger son for about a month, while the six-year-old, Gagandeep, was living with his father.

Police said Kumar took the child to Parelbridge on Monday night and allegedly threw him into the river after the argument.

The main objective of this event is to acquaint our new and young generation with the tragic realities of the country's partition.

Shyam Bihari Jaiswal
Health Minister- Ch'garh

Bilaspur Region

Collector orders strict scholarship implementation

Collector Kunal Dudawat held a weekly time-limit meeting with all the government departments.

Central Chronicle News

KORBA: Collector Kunal Dudawat reviewed pending Time-Limit (TL) cases and the progress of various departmental schemes and works during a meeting held Tuesday at the Collectorate conference hall. He directed the Assistant Commissioner, Tribal Development, and District Education Officer to coordinate and ensure that 100% of eligible SC, ST and OBC students receive government scholarships. Applications must be completed accurately, and students must be informed on time so that no eligible beneficiary is deprived.

The Collector reviewed cases received through the PMO, Chief Minister's Jandarshan and CM Helpline, directing officials to resolve pending matters on priority. He instructed all departments to route files exclusively through the e-Office system. He also ordered completion of e-HRMS onboarding for all remaining employees, including those in Education and Health, by August 31, along with submission of a completion certificate.

Regarding infrastructure, Dudawat directed construction of a larger bridge at Hardeva in Podi-Uprora and speedy repair of the PWD bridge at Sarma. The PMGSY Executive Engineer was asked to prepare a list of roads whose maintenance periods have expired for timely repairs. PWD officials were instructed to expedite repairs at ITI Rampur and take action against the contractor responsible for delayed Navodaya Vidyalaya works. The Collector reviewed Electricity Department schemes and Jal Jeevan Mission works, directing verification and payment of completed projects.

Drinking water arrangements at Eklavya Residential School, Chhuri, were also prioritized.

HIGHLIGHT

- He directed the officials related to welfare of backward classes to provide scholarships to deserving students.

MP Pratap Singh seeks eight major train stoppages

Central Chronicle News

RAIGARH: Keeping in view the long-standing demand of Raigarh residents and passenger convenience, Rajya Sabha MP Devendra Pratap Singh met Railway Board Chairman Satish Kumar in New Delhi and discussed the demand for stoppages of major trains at Raigarh Railway Station.In a memorandum, MP Singh sought stoppages for eight major trains, including the Pune Humsafar and Vasco da Gama Express. He emphasized that Raigarh is an important industrial and commercial centre of Chhattisgarh, with thousands of people travelling regularly for employment, business, education and healthcare. Singh highlighted Raigarh's historic contribution to railway and regional development, noting that local ancestors had donated land for the city's development and expansion of railway facilities.

FASTFACTS

- The meeting focused on making Raigarh a stoppage platform for 8 major trains.

APPLICATIONS OPEN

Applications invited for part-time faculty posts

JANJGIR: Ramakrishna Rathore Govt. Polytechnic, Janjgir, has invited applications for one part-time lecturer each in Computer Science & Engineering and English for the 2026-27 academic session. According to the Principal, candidates applying for the Computer Science & Engineering post must possess a first-class Bachelor's degree in Computer Science & Engineering, Information Technology, Computer Engineering or a related discipline from a recognized institution or university. For the English post, candidates must hold first-class Bachelor's and Master's degrees in the relevant subject.

COTPA ACTION

Health department fines 11 tobacco shops

MCB: In accordance with the Collector's directives, the district administration is conducting continuous enforcement and awareness activities to curb tobacco sales and consumption in public places. Under the guidance of Chief Medical and Health Officer Dr. Avinash Khare, a joint team of the Health Department and Food and Drug Administration inspected establishments across Manendragarh on Tuesday. The team checked street carts, hotels, restaurants, grocery shops, tea stalls, paan shops and kiosks near the Collectorate on NH-43, Nadi Paar area and PWD intersection.

| STRAY CATTLE ON ROADS |

Stray cattle threaten road safety of denizens: Reddy

Central Chronicle News

CHIRMIRI: The open congregation of cattle on major roads and busy intersections in Chirmiri Municipal Corporation has become a serious threat to public safety. Residents say cattle frequently sit in the middle of roads, causing accidents and injuries, particularly to two-wheeler riders. The situation becomes more dangerous at night because many streetlights are non-functional, making it difficult for motorists to spot cattle and avoid collisions.Former Mayor K. Domru Reddy has expressed strong concern over the recurring accidents and alleged administrative negligence. He informed the authorities that the problem exists across several important locations, including Saja Pahad Road near the Keradol water tank, Sonamani's Kali Mandir T-junction, Sav Hotel, Dadu Lahiri Chowk, Domanhill Market T-junction and Jai Stambh. Other affected areas include Ambedkar Chowk, Podi Bazaar, Deendayal Chowk, roads near the Municipal Corporation and Gram Panchayat offices, Jagannath Temple, PHE office, Bada Bazaar, Chhota Bazaar, Bartugaon and Haldibadi.

Korba to host freedom run August 14

KORBA: Under the instructions of Collector Kunal Dudawat, the Korba district administration and Department of Sports and Youth Welfare will organize a 'Freedom Run' on August 14, 2026, as part of Independence Day-related activities.The run will begin at 8:00 AM from the CSEB Football Ground and proceed towards CSEB Chowk, where participants will turn left. The route will continue to TP Nagar Chowk, followed by a right turn, passing through Gayatri Mandir before returning to the CSEB Football Ground.

| TIRANGA PLEDGE ADMINISTERED |

'Tiranga Pledge' prog organized

Central Chronicle News

JANJGIR-CHAMPA: A 'Tiranga Pledge' program was organized at the Janjgir-Champa Zila Panchayat under the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign and to commemorate the 150th anniversary of 'Vande Mataram'. Zila Panchayat President Er. Satyalata Anand Miri administered the pledge to officials and employees, who affirmed their commitment to the nation's unity, integrity and sovereignty. The national song 'Vande Mataram' was also sung collectively.

Addressing the gathering, Miri said 'Har Ghar Tiranga' is not merely a campaign but an opportunity to strengthen respect, pride and responsibility towards the nation. She emphasized that realizing the vision of a developed and self-reliant India by 2047 requires collective public participation.

| MLA SPEAKS ON HAR GHAR TIRANGA CAMPAIGN |

Dharmjeet hails Tiranga campaign

Central Chronicle News

TAKHATPUR: A grand 'Tiranga Yatra' was organized in Vijaypur Mandal of Takhatpur under the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign from August 9 to 17, witnessing enthusiastic participation and patriotic fervor. MLA Dharmjeet Singh joined the five-kilometre motorcycle rally from Pura village and travelled with Society President Gariba Yadav through Rajakapa, Pura and Belpan before concluding at the Belpan Panchayat premises. Addressing participants, Singh said the Tiranga symbolizes India's honor, pride and the sacrifices of freedom fighters. He urged citizens to rise above political differences, celebrate the national occasion collectively and hoist the national flag at their homes. BJP District Vice President Santosh Kaushik said the campaign was inspiring a renewed spirit of patriotism and called upon every citizen to participate.

| TIRANGA YATRA HELD |

Thousands join grand Khadgawan Tiranga Yatra

Central Chronicle News

MCB: A grand 'Tiranga Yatra' was organized in Khadgawan development block ahead of Independence Day with the message, "Har Ghar Tiranga, Har Man Tiranga." Thousands of schoolchildren, villagers, women, public representatives, teachers, officials and citizens participated enthusiastically in the procession from Swami Atmanand School to the Electricity Office intersection. Chief Guest and Health Minister Shyam Bihari Jaiswal said the Tiranga symbolizes the sacrifices, courage and patriotism of freedom fighters and brave soldiers. He emphasized that despite India's diversity of languages, religions, cultures and traditions, the national flag unites everyone and represents the country's unity and integrity.

CYCLE YOJANA

Dharmjit hails educated daughters, New India

TAKHATPUR: A bicycle distribution program under the Saraswati Yojana was organized at Government High School, Kureli, in the presence of MLA Dharmjit Singh. A tree plantation drive was also conducted during the event. Addressing the students, MLA Singh wished them a bright future and said educated daughters would help build a new India.

He highlighted that the scheme aims to support girls' education by making travel to school easier, particularly for students from remote areas.

Collector orders fast-tracking Jal Jeevan Mission

RAIGARH: A review meeting of the District Water and Sanitation Mission (DWSM) was held on Tuesday at the Collectorate under the chairmanship of Collector Mayank Chaturvedi. The meeting reviewed the progress of Jal Jeevan Mission schemes, pending and completed works, payments, financial reconciliation and future action plans. Collector Chaturvedi described the mission as a government priority and directed officials to work in coordination and complete all projects within the stipulated timeframe while maintaining quality and technical standards. He instructed officials to take strict legal action against Adishakti Enterprises, Raigarh, for allegedly delaying works and showing negligence in implementing Jal Jeevan Mission projects. The meeting also reviewed Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0, village-wise progress, payments through CIRP and SNA Sparsh, and preparations to achieve 'Har Ghar Jal' status. Officials were directed to prioritize villages where schemes have already been completed and provide regular tap water connections. The Collector also reviewed solar-based water supply schemes, construction of recharge structures, Jal Arpan Diwas activities and uploading of KML files on the PM Gati Shakti portal.

MLA Yadav warns farmers' issues could spark protests soon

TAKHATPUR: Bhilai MLA and AICC National Secretary Devendra Yadav visited the Takhatpur region and interacted with farmers at the government mandi in Podi village. Farmers expressed concern over shortages of Urea, DAP and Potash, along with issues related to seed quality. They also raised concerns about changes in the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, particularly the removal of the flood-affected category and compensation for crop damage caused by waterlogging before the ear-emergence stage.

ASSIGNED

Officials assigned duties for Ullas Maha-Chaupal

KORIYA: Following instructions from the State Office and the District Literacy Mission Authority, preparations are underway to organize the 'Ullas Maha-Chaupal Program' on August 15, 2026. Panchayats have been directed to complete slogan writing and flex printing in local para, mohalla and tola areas using Panchayat funds before August 15.Kotwars will make public announcements to inform residents about the program. Field staff and workers have also been instructed to support awareness activities involving public representatives, newly literate citizens and people from different sections of society.

| COLLECTOR LISTENS TO GRIEVANCES AT JANDARSHAN |

Collector orders swift action on grievances

Central Chronicle News

MCB: Under the guidance of Collector and District Magistrate Santan Devi Jangde, a Jan-Darshan public grievance redressal program was held Tuesday at the Collectorate conference hall. A large number of citizens from remote areas attended and presented their grievances. The Collector heard each applicant sensitively and directed concerned officials to investigate cases and ensure time-bound resolution according to rules. Applications covered land disputes, encroachment, mutation and correction of revenue records, forest rights, employment, financial assistance, Aadhaar issues, agricultural and horticultural schemes, crop damage, pensions and social security. The Collector instructed officials to treat every application seriously rather than as a formality and ensure eligible beneficiaries receive appropriate relief. Several applicants reported alleged forcible occupation, encroachment, threats and disputes over ancestral agricultural land. Revenue-related applications sought correction of land records, mutation, lease entries and copies of relevant documents.

District bans manufacture, sale of analogue paneer

GAURELA-PENDRA: With public health and consumer interests in focus, the Food and Drug Administration organized a district-level meeting Friday at a private hotel in Gaurela to promote food quality and compliance with prescribed standards. Hotel, dairy and restaurant operators, roadside food vendors and wedding venue owners participated in the meeting. Officials explained the Chhattisgarh Government's notification dated July 31, 2026, under which the manufacture, processing, storage, transportation, distribution and sale of non-standardized dairy analogues and other non-dairy products resembling dairy items have been prohibited in the state.

Fun&Focus

It Is QUIZ TIME!

1. Which is the only continent through which the Equator, Tropic of Cancer and Tropic of Capricorn all pass?

2. The famous painting The Starry Night was created while its artist was staying at an asylum in Saint-Rémy, France. Who painted it?

3. The word "karaoke" comes from Japanese. What does it literally mean?

4. Which Indian city is popularly known as the "City of Palaces" and is home to the famous Mysore Palace?

5. The Nobel Prizes were established through the will of Alfred Nobel. Which prize was not part of Nobel's original 1895 will?

6. Which planet in our solar system rotates on its side, with an axial tilt of about 98 degrees?

7. The famous Koh-i-Noor diamond originated in India. What does the Persian name "Koh-i-Noor" mean?

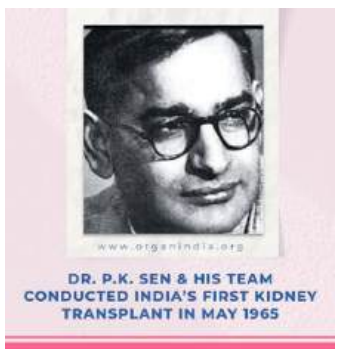
ANSWERS (1) Africa, (2) Vincent van Gogh, (3) Empty orchestra – "kara" means empty and "oke" comes from orchestra, (4) Mysuru (Mysore), (5) The Prize in Economic Sciences – it was established later by Sweden's central bank, (6) Uranus, (7) Mountain of Light.

SCIENCE WATCH

World Organ Donation Day

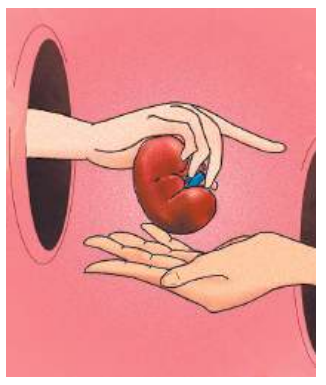
Today is World Organ Donation Day and the science of transplantation relies on precise biological matching, cellular regeneration, and strict medical criteria to ensure safety and success.

First transplant in India



The first recorded successful human organ donation and transplant took place on December 23, 1954, between two twin brothers. The historic surgery was performed by Dr. Joseph E. Murray, while in India the first kidney transplant was performed by Dr. P. K. Sen in 1965.

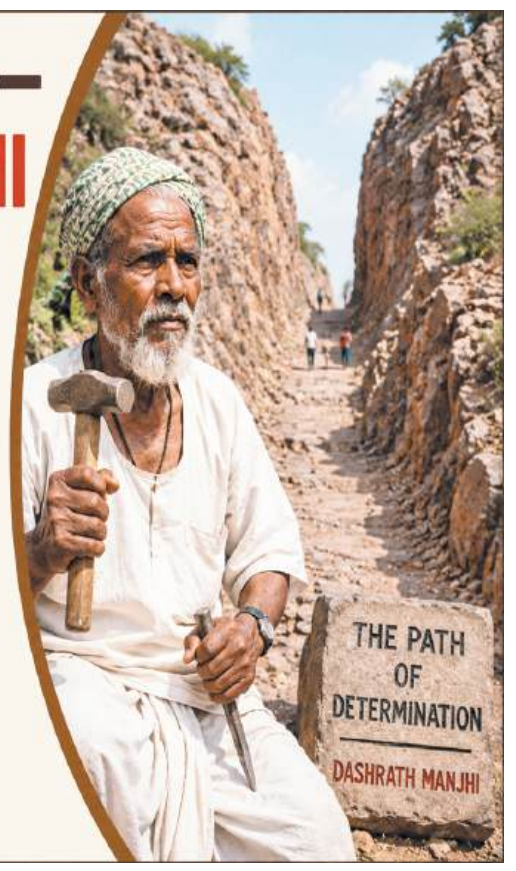
Time is crucial



Deceased organ recovery only takes place after a rigorous, independent neurological determination of brain death by attending physicians, completely separate from the transplant team. Thus time remains very crucial.

MOUNTAIN MAN – DASHRATH MANJHI

- Dashrath Manjhi was a labourer from Bihar who became famous as the "Mountain Man."
- Using mainly a hammer and chisel, he spent about 22 years cutting a pathway through a rocky hill.
- His work dramatically shortened the distance between his village and nearby essential services.
- Manjhi undertook the task after his wife was injured while crossing the difficult terrain.
- His determination made him a lasting symbol of perseverance and selfless service.



August 13- THE DAY IN HISTORY

- August 13 marks the first flight of India's indigenous HT-2 aircraft in 1951, the death anniversary of freedom fighter Madam Bhikaiji Cama and the birth anniversary of Romesh Chandra Dutt.
- In 2008, DRDO successfully test-fired an advanced version of the indigenous multi-barrel rocket launcher system, Pinaka, off the coast of Odisha.
- Same day in 1797, legendary queen and ruler Ahilyabai Holkar of the Holkar dynasty died.
- On August 13, 1521 Hernán Cortés captured Tenochtitlán, ending the Aztec Empire, while in 1926 Fidel Castro, Cuban revolutionary breathed his last.

Daily Horoscope

Aries
Your tremendous intellectual potential will help you to fight the disability. Only by keeping positive thoughts you can fight this problem. Financial hassles seem to get over as your parents extend support. Some of you are likely to purchase jewelry or a home appliance.
Cosmic Tip: Be willing to accept or ask for help.

Taurus
A special compliment from a friend would be the source of happiness. This is because you have made your life like trees- which give shade to the others while they themselves stand in the sun and endure the scorching heat. Businessmen who are stepping out of their homes for work should store their money at a safe place today.
Cosmic Tip: A different perspective can make all the difference

Gemini
A beneficial day and you may be able to find relief from a prolong illness. Monetary gains will be from various sources. You will get substantial time with family members and friends. If you were struggling at work since many days, it is going to be a really good day. A day for cautious moves, when your mind would be needed more than your heart.
Cosmic Tip: Do what you know is right.

Cancer
Domestic worries may make you anxious, but perfect day to purchase items that would grow in value. Your ability to impress others will bring rewards. Your darling might expect some time along with gifts today. Today you will realize that it is the support of your family that you are doing well at work.
Cosmic Tip: Get started on an idea.

Leo
You are likely to spend your time in sports to maintain your physical stamina. Certain important work will come to a halt due to bleak financial position. Lately your personal life has been the focus of your major attention- but today you will focus on social work- charity and helping those who approach you with a problem. Forgive bitter trifles.
Cosmic Tip: Enough with the benching. Get going. Now.

Virgo
Refuse to worry about your health. It is a powerful vaccination against illness. Your right attitude will beat the wrong attitude. If you wish to lead a smooth life and maintain a stable standard of living, then you need to remain attentive today regarding your finances. Spouse remains cooperative despite your erratic behaviour.
Cosmic Tip: Keep going. You are infinitely supported.

Libra
Best day to restart to improve your health. Unexpected rise in your expenses would disturb your peace of mind. Get everybody to your big party-You'll have that extra bit of energy today which will make you organize events for your group. Yes, you are the lucky one. New ideas would be productive. Today, you will love to spend your day away from all the relatives to a peaceful place.
Cosmic Tip: Carefully weigh your decisions.

Scorpio
Your strong resilience and fearlessness will tremendously enhance the power of mental faculties. Keep this momentum going so that it would encourage you to keep any situation under control. Today you can easily raise capital- collect outstanding debts- or ask for funds to work on new projects.
Cosmic Tip: There is a lot happening behind the scenes.

Sagittarius
You need to exhibit extreme courage and strength as you face some traumas. You could easily overcome these by your optimistic attitude. Those who had invested their money on the advice of an unknown person are very likely to gain benefits today. Unexpected gifts and presents from relatives and friends.
Cosmic Tip: Honour your commitments.

Capricorn
You will be happy as people around you extend support. If you wish to lead a smooth life and maintain a stable standard of living, then you need to remain attentive today regarding your finances. Good advice from family members will bring gains to you today.
Cosmic Tip: Dive a little deeper, and then make your moves.

Aquarius
Likely to face some setbacks. Don't lose heart but work harder to get desired results. Let these setbacks be the stepping stones. Relative will also help at the time of crisis. Certain important work will come to a halt due to bleak financial position. Domestic work will be tiring and become a major cause for mental stress.
Cosmic Tip: Things will work out if you pay attention.

Pisces
Playing with kids would give you a wonderful healing experience. Today, you can spend a lot of money on a party with friends, but despite this, your financial side will remain strong today. Avoid raising controversial issues, if you happen to go on a date today. Those associated with foreign trade are expected to get the desired results today.
Cosmic Tip: Do one thing at a time steadily.

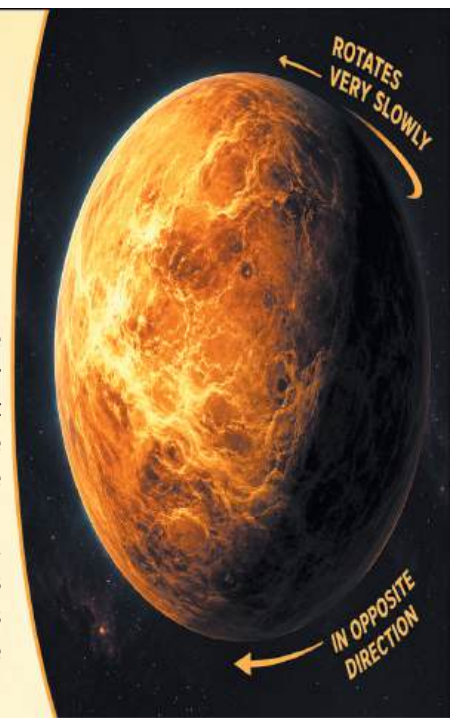
TELL ME WHY?

WHY DOES OUR SKIN WRINKLE IN WATER?

After our fingers and toes remain underwater for several minutes, their skin develops wrinkles. This is not simply because the skin absorbs water. The nervous system causes blood vessels beneath the skin to narrow, reducing the volume of tissue and creating folds on the surface. Scientists believe this response may improve our grip on wet objects and slippery surfaces.

A DAY ON VENUS IS LONGER THAN A YEAR

Venus has one of the strangest rotations in our solar system. It takes about 243 Earth days to complete one rotation on its axis, while it needs only about 225 Earth days to orbit the Sun. This means a day on Venus is longer than its year. Venus also rotates in the opposite direction to most planets.



CHECK YOUR IQ

SCRAMBLED WORDS

1. TEPALN- → PLANET
2. GLEJUN- → JUNGLE
3. OMTANUNI- → MOUNTAIN
4. TSEFOR- → FOREST
5. TAREHW- → WEATHER

ANSWERS- (1) PLANET (2) JUNGLE (3) MOUNTAIN (4) FOREST (5) WEATHER

DREAM DESTINATION

HALLSTATT, AUSTRIA

Hallstatt is a picture-perfect village nestled between the Dachstein Mountains and the crystal-clear waters of Lake Hallstatt in Austria. Famous for its colourful Alpine houses, peaceful lake and dramatic mountain scenery, the village looks like something from a storybook. Visitors can explore its historic market square, take a boat ride across the lake and visit the ancient salt mine above the village. The Hallstatt Skywalk offers spectacular panoramic views of the surrounding landscape. During winter, snow-covered mountains create a magical atmosphere, while spring and summer bring lush greenery and colourful flowers. Walking through its narrow streets, enjoying traditional Austrian food and admiring reflections on the lake make Hallstatt an unforgettable European destination.

WORD OF THE DAY

1. Serendipity

MEANING
The pleasant discovery of something valuable or interesting by chance.

EXAMPLE
Finding that beautiful little bookstore during our walk was pure serendipity.

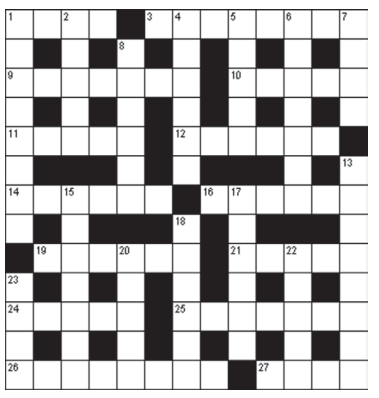
SYNONYMS
Chance, Fortune, Luck, Discovery and Providence.

ANTONYMS
Misfortune, Design, Intention, Planning and Calculation.

CROSSWORD -204

Across
1 Similar (4)
3 Clergyman's house (8)
9 Female warriors (7)
10 Called (5)
11 Swift (5)
12 Stockings (6)
14 Beginning (6)
16 US island state (6)
19 Russian currency unit (6)
21 Hire agreement (5)
24 Stiff (5)
25 Anti-tank gun (7)
26 Maternal (8)
27 Gaming stake (4)

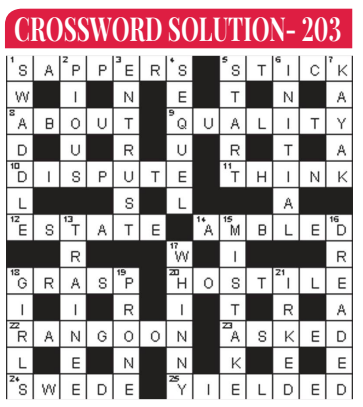
Down
1 Vaulting game (8)
2 Rogue (5)
4 Mad (6)
5 Invalidate (5)
6 Pungent gas (7)
7 Whirlpool (4)
8 Container for liquid (6)
13 Able to read and write (8)
15 Notion (7)
17 Burning fiercely (6)
18 In words (6)
20 Move (5)
22 Bedeck (5)
23 Neat (4)



SUDOKU- 204

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

CROSSWORD SOLUTION- 203



SUDOKU SOLUTION- 203

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

DAILY WORD SEARCH

- Amigo
- Bongo
- Dingo
- Farrago
- Lingo
- Vertigo
- Archipelago
- Cargo
- Doggo
- Flamingo
- Mango
- Virago
- Bingo
- Chicago
- Fandango
- Indigo
- Tango
- Congo

F	N	O	F	O	O	O	O	F	L	A	A
A	C	O	G	G	L	G	G	O	G	R	R
N	O	G	G	N	N	A	O	I	C	F	O
D	N	L	A	I	I	G	R	H	D	T	T
A	G	V	B	L	N	M	I	G	A	N	D
N	O	E	F	A	G	P	A	N	O	O	I
G	N	R	M	A	E	D	G	L	G	B	O
O	G	T	A	L	R	O	I	G	F	C	D
T	O	I	A	M	O	R	O	V	O	A	I
G	M	G	C	H	I	C	A	G	O	R	N
G	O	O	B	O	N	G	O	G	G	G	G
V	I	R	A	G	O	I	O	O	O	O	O

Business

We have usied AI to underwrite nearly Rs 1 lakh cr in MSME loans of up to Rs 5 cr each during 2025-26.

Rama Mohan Rao Amara
MD SBI

Swagatam-2026: Induction prog of NiT 2026

Kolkata: JIS Group Director Simarpreet Singh, left, with WB Minister Agnimitra Paul and others during the Induction Prog 2026-2027 of Narula Institute of Technology (NiT), at Dhono Dhanyo Auditorium in Alipore, Kolkata, WB.

'Multilateral development banks critical in de-risking investments'

FM addressed a seminar on "The Role of the New Development Bank in Mobilising Private Capital in Member Countries" on the sidelines of the BRICS Finance Ministers'.

Press Trust Of India

JAIPUR: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday said multilateral development banks have a critical role in de-risking investments, improving project bankability and strengthening investor confidence to mobilise private capital at scale in BRICS member countries.

Addressing a seminar on "The Role of the New Development Bank in Mobilising Private Capital in Member Countries" on the sidelines of the BRICS Finance Ministers' and Central Bank Governors' (FMCBG) Meeting here, Sitharaman said development finance must increasingly focus on partnerships between multilateral institutions, governments and the private sector. The seminar was also addressed by New Development Bank President Dilma Rousseff.

'THE FUTURE OF DEVELOPMENT FINANCE LIES IN PARTNERSHIP.'

Nirmala Sitharaman
Finance Minister

Sitharaman said India had strengthened its infrastructure ecosystem through sustained public capital expenditure and structural reforms, with public investment expanding significantly over the past decade.

The investments have helped create productive national assets across highways, railways, ports, logistics systems, digital infrastructure and energy networks, she said. The government believes public capital should act as a catalyst rather than a substitute for private investment, the finance minister said.

She highlighted several measures undertaken to facilitate private participation, including Viability Gap Funding (VGF), the Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM), credit enhancement mechanisms, Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs), the National Infrastructure Pipeline and the PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan for multimodal connectivity.

N Chandrasekaran to exit Tata Sons amid expansion

Press Trust Of India

'I am grateful for the immensely satisfying opportunity to contribute to this venerable institution,'N. Chandrasekaran said.

NEW DELHI: N Chandrasekaran will step down as chairman of Tata Sons when his current term ends on February 20, 2027, wrapping up a nine-year tenure that transformed the scale and breadth of one of India's most influential conglomerates but ended with a standoff with Tata Trusts Chairman Noel Tata over his reappointment.

Chandrasekaran, 63, who has spent 40 years with the Tata Group, told the Tata Sons board on Wednesday that he would not offer himself for another term and asked the directors to decide on a successor soon to ensure an orderly transition. His decision comes after a six-month impasse over his reappointment and marks the end of what would have been an unprecedented third five-year term at the helm of Tata Sons.

"I have completed 40 years of professional life at the Tata Group. I am grateful for the immensely satisfying opportunity to contribute to this venerable institution," Chandrasekaran, widely known as Chandra, said in a statement.

| CONSTRUCTION AND PMC FIRM |

NBCC Q1 profit rises 17% to 158 cr despite revenue decline

Press Trust Of India

NBCC's consolidated net profit rose to Rs 158 cr in the first quarter of the current fiscal.

NEW DELHI: State-owned construction and PMC firm NBCC Ltd reported a 17 percent year-on-year increase in consolidated net profit for the quarter ended June 30, 2026, even as its total income declined during the period.

Consolidated net profit rose to Rs 158 crore in the first quarter of the current fiscal from Rs 135.03 crore in the corresponding quarter a year ago. The profit growth came despite a contraction in total income, which fell to Rs 2,320.90 crore in the April-June quarter from Rs 2,465.48 crore a year earlier, according to the company's regulatory filing. The numbers point to an interesting divergence in NBCC's first-quarter performance: the company generated higher profits on a smaller revenue base. This suggests that factors such as project mix, cost control, operating efficiency or other income may have supported the bottom line, although the filing's detailed financial breakup would be needed to identify the precise drivers. NBCC operates primarily in project management consultancy (PMC), engineering procurement and construction and real estate development. As a public-sector project execution agency, its performance is closely linked to the flow and execution of government and institutional infrastructure projects. The fall in revenue, therefore, remains a metric to watch even as the headline profit number improves. For a company whose business is substantially execution-driven, sustained earnings growth ultimately needs to be supported by project implementation and revenue conversion from its order book.

HIGHLIGHT

- State-owned construction major NBCC's earnings growth comes even as total income falls nearly 6%; margin improvement likely key to performance

| GLOBAL COMMODITY CONCLAVE |

'No manipulation in closing auction sessions'

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: Sebi chairman Tuhin Kanta Pandey on Wednesday said that the capital markets regulator has not observed any manipulations in the newly introduced closing auction sessions system.

Speaking on the sidelines of an event here, Pandey urged the broader ecosystem to understand the new system and adopt it. He said a lot of markets, including those in Australia, Europe, the US and Japan, have adopted a similar system for over two years and India is behind its counterparts. He said such a system, which was started on August 3, is useful for passive investors, generation of the correct net asset values for mutual funds and index investors.

The earlier system had the risk of manipulation with late trades, he added. When asked if the regulator has seen any manipulation in the new system, he said no manipulation has been observed. "Basically, the CAS is a transparent market, the pricing there is always visible and participation should grow in it," Pandey said, adding that Sebi is engaged with all the stakeholders to understand their feedback. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) is willing to tweak the system if need be, he said, adding that at present, our problem is with understanding the system. Meanwhile, Sebi is mulling to come out with a new paper on its findings on the losses suffered by retail investors in the derivatives market in the next 8-10 days, according to Pandey. He said some of the results will surprise the ecosystem and stressed that such strategies of executing trades on expiry days are not as simple as they are made out to be by some retail investors. Earlier, speaking at the Global Commodity Conclave, Pandey said the growth in the market is encouraging, but the scale alone is not enough as India is a major producer and consumer of several commodities.

BizBriefs

BEST OF THE REST

HOW THE MARKETS BEHAVE TODAY

Sensex falls 188 pts amid elevated crude oil prices; Tata Group stocks decline after N Chandra's exit

MUMBAI: Falling for the second day, benchmark BSE Sensex closed lower by nearly 188 points on Wednesday following elevated crude oil prices and selling in TCS and other Tata Group shares after N Chandrasekaran said he will not seek reappointment as Tata Sons Chairman when his current term ends on February 20, 2027.

The 30-share BSE Sensex declined 187.90 points, or 0.24 per cent, to settle at 77,966.35 with its 21 constituents ending lower, eight with gains and one unchanged. During the day, it tumbled 656.32 points, or 0.83 per cent, to 77,497.93 but recovered some of the losses in the closing session. Index major TCS dropped by 3.71 per cent after N Chandrasekaran announced that he will step down as chairman of group holding company Tata Sons when his current term ends in February 2027. Chandrasekaran, 63, has spent 40 years with the Tata Group, which includes his stint as TCS CEO from 2009 to 2017. The 50-share NSE Nifty dropped by 35.75 points, or 0.15 per cent, to end at 24,435.95.

Among Sensex shares, Mahindra & Mahindra, Tata Steel, Larsen & Toubro, Eternal and Infosys were the major losers. State Bank of India, Bharti Airtel, UltraTech Cement and Power Grid were among the winners. "Markets remained on edge ahead of key inflation readings in India and the US, with policymakers on both sides underscoring a data-driven approach amid heightened global uncertainty.

PRICES SOAR

Gold races to Rs 1.59 lakh/10g; silver rises Rs 4,000

NEW DELHI: Gold prices rose for the seventh consecutive session, surging Rs 2,600 to Rs 1.59 lakh per 10 grams in the national capital on Wednesday, tracking firm global trends and strong bullion demand. The yellow metal of 99.9 per cent purity appreciated by Rs 2,600 to Rs 1,59,800 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes) from Tuesday's closing level of Rs 1,57,200 per 10 grams, according to the All India Sarafa Association.

It had gained Rs 12,400, or 8.4 per cent, over the past seven sessions from Rs 1,47,400 per 10 grams on August 3. Silver also advanced Rs 4,000 to Rs 2,46,000 per kilogram (inclusive of all taxes).

The white metal had settled at Rs 2,42,000 per kg in the preceding session. Gold rose in the domestic markets as investors increased safe-haven buying ahead of the US inflation data, while persistent geopolitical tensions in West Asia supported demand for precious metals, Gaurav Garg, Head of Research at Lemonn Markets Desk.

AFTEREFFECT

Tata Group stocks fall; TCS tumbles nearly 4 per cent

NEW DELHI: Tata Group stocks fell on Wednesday, with TCS dropping nearly 4 per cent, after Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekaran said he will not seek reappointment when his current term ends on February 20, 2027. Shares of Tata Consultancy Services fell 3.71 per cent, Tata Consumer Products edged lower by 2.44 per cent, Tata Elxsi declined 2.23 per cent, Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles dropped 1.92 per cent and Tata Steel slipped 1.57 per cent on the BSE.

The stock of Rallis India declined 0.95 per cent, Trent dipped 0.86 per cent, Tata Power skidded 0.53 per cent, Indian Hotels Company slipped 0.52 per cent, Tata Communications was down 0.37 per cent and Titan lost 0.18 per cent.

The combined market valuation of these firms eroded by Rs 45,615.67 crore, with TCS alone taking a hit of Rs 32,743.69 crore. The 30-share BSE Sensex declined 187.90 points, or 0.24 per cent, to settle at 77,966.35. The 50-share NSE Nifty dipped 35.75 points, or 0.15 per cent, to end at 24,435.95.

FOR INFR AND MFG SECTORS

AM/NS India launches next-generation heavy plate solutions

PUNE: ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India (AM/NS India) today announced the launch of STRUCTROMAX and WELDSTAR, two new heavy steel plate brands designed for India's growing infrastructure, manufacturing, construction, energy, transportation and heavy engineering sectors. Developed at AM/NS India's state-of-the-art plate mill facility at Hazira, Gujarat, the new products combine advanced rolling and heat-treatment technologies with precise metallurgical and quality control.

STRUCTROMAX is designed using Thermo-Mechanical Controlled Processing (TMCP) to support bridges, high-rise buildings, offshore projects, railways, wind energy, and other heavy-duty sectors. It offers superior weldability, toughness, load-bearing capability, corrosion resistance, and fabrication performance, enabling engineers and project developers to build structures that remain stable under demanding operating or climatic conditions. WELDSTAR is a range of ultra-high-strength steel plates that allow engineers to optimize weight, increase payload capacity, improve fuel economy, and reduce lifecycle costs without compromising on safety or durability. It is mainly designed for cranes, mining equipment, transport systems, offshore projects and other critical applications to decrease long-term operating costs.

Central Chronicle Classifieds

REQUIREMENT

Bhandari SAAJ & Associates, Chartered Accountants
Office Address: 431, 4th Floor Magneto Offizo, Labhandi, Raipur
Contact No: 98271 68181
Requirement: Min 2 year experience in Audit, Accounting, Income Tax, TDS and GST Compliances

Readers are recommended to make all enquiries and seek appropriate advice before acting on any advertisement appearing in this publication. The Company, Publisher or any of its employees do not vouch for any claims made by the Advertisers of products and services and shall not be held liable for any damages, loss, consequences, suffered by any person on account of relying on such advertisements.

Contact for Classified Advertisement :
94242 03139

Nation News

Decide pleas against 20 rebel MPs: Abhishek

Would approach Supreme Court if Speaker fails to act.

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Trinamool Congress's (TMC) Lok Sabha leader Abhishek Banerjee said on Wednesday that he met Speaker Om Birla in the morning and sought an early decision on the party's pending disqualification petitions against 20 rebel MPs, warning that he would approach the Supreme Court if the speaker fails to act within the period required by law and judicial directions. Banerjee said he first raised the issue with Birla in June, when the individual disqualification petitions were filed against the MPs, but nearly two months have passed without any satisfactory response.

"I had already raised this issue with the speaker in June, when individual disqualification petitions were moved against each of them. Nearly two months have passed since then, but I have still not received any satisfactory response. Even today, I have been given essentially the same answer, while the petitions remain pending," he told reporters outside Parliament.

'Seek speedy disposal and restore TMC seat numbers'

Banerjee had last met Birla on July 27 and submitted two letters, seeking expeditious disposal of the 20 disqualification petitions and a reversal of the changes made to the division and seat numbers of TMC MPs in the Lok Sabha.

The petitions, filed under the 10th Schedule and the Members of Lok Sabha (Disqualification on Ground of Defection) Rules, 1985, had at that time remained pending for more than five weeks, without notices being issued or hearings scheduled.The TMC had also objected to the Lok Sabha Secretariat's July 18 circular changing the division and seat numbers of its 28 MPs, while another circular issued on the same day continued to recognise the TMC as a single parliamentary party of 28 MPs, with Banerjee as its leader.

Ahead of the Monsoon session, the rebel MPs had met Birla and discussed separate seating arrangements, recognition of the NCPI parliamentary group and the designation of Sudip Bandyopadhyay as its floor leader and Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar as the chief whip.

HIGHLIGHT

- TMC opposes changes to MPs' seat numbers.
- Rebel MPs met Birla seeking separate seating arrangements.

Shivakumar allocates new ministers' portfolios

Press Trust Of India

Changes made to portfolios of two existing ministers.

BENGALURU: Ten days after expanding his cabinet, Karnataka Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Wednesday allocated portfolios to the newly inducted Ministers, while effecting changes in the departments assigned to a couple of Ministers who assumed office earlier.

B Z Zameer Ahmed Khan has been given the Housing portfolio, while Lakshman Savadi is the minister for Co-operation. Rudrappa Manappa Lamani, who was Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly until recently, is now the Minister for Sugar and Textiles. Portfolios of two Ministers, who were unhappy with what was assigned to them, have been changed.

'Respect legitimate aspirations of states'

NEW DELHI: AIADMK Rajya Sabha member M Thambidurai on Wednesday called for strengthening cooperative federalism and ensuring that the legitimate aspirations of the states are heard and respected. Participating in a discussion on the Kerala (Alteration of Name) Bill, 2026, to rename Kerala as Keralam, Thambidurai asserted that all southern states have contributed enormously to India's social progress, education, healthcare, industrial, human development.

नाम परिवर्तन सूचना

मैं श्रीनिवासन रमेश (SRINIVASAN RAMESH) उम्र 62 वर्ष पिता स्व. के.सी. श्रीनिवासन (LT. K.C.SRINIVASAN) निवासी-15, विवेकानंद नगर मोपका बिलासपुर तहसील एवं जिला बिलासपुर (छ.ग.) का हूँ, जो कि निम्न कथन शपथपूर्वक करता हूँ:-

1. यह कि मेरा पूरा नाम श्रीनिवासन रमेश (SRINIVASAN RAMESH) दर्ज / लिखा हुआ है।
2. यह कि मेरे कक्षा 10 वीं के शैक्षणिक प्रमाण पत्र में एवं अन्य दस्तावेजों में मेरा शार्ट नेम एस. रमेश (S. RAMESH) दर्ज है।
3. यह कि उक्त दोनो नाम एस. रमेश (S. RAMESH) एवं श्रीनिवासन रमेश (SRINIVASAN RAMESH) एक ही व्यक्ति का नाम होकर मेरा ही नाम है।
4. यह कि उक्त दोनो नाम मेरे ही नाम होने तथा आगे मुझे मेरा पूरा नाम श्रीनिवासन रमेश (SRINIVASAN RAMESH) के नाम से जाने, पहचाने, लिखे तथा संबोधित किये जाने के समर्थन में यह शपथपत्र निष्पादित करता हूँ।

शपथकर्ता
श्रीनिवासन रमेश

PUBLIC NOTICE BRANCH OFFICE SHIFTING

Bajaj Finance Limited having its Registered Office, Mumbai- Pune Road, Akurdi, Pune 411 035 and corporate office on 4th Floor, Bajaj Finserv House Office, Viman Nagar, Off Pune – Ahmednagar Road, Pune, Maharashtra 411014 hereby informs its customers and concerned that this Champa office which is located at Ground Floor, Didwania Complex, Above Bank Of Baroda, Goushala Road, Champa - Chhattisgarh- 495671, India, will be closing with effect from 21/11/2026. For better customer facility all the existing services shall continue to be available at new branch shifted to First Floor, Didwania Complex, Above Bank Of Baroda, Goushala Road, Champa - Chhattisgarh 495671. All customers and concerned are requested to take note of change of address and requested to contact our office at First Floor, Didwania Complex, Above Bank Of Baroda, Goushala Road, Champa - Chhattisgarh 495671, thereafter.

Date – 13/08/2026

Bajaj Finance Limited
4th Floor, Bajaj Finserv House, Viman Nagar,
Off Pune - Ahmednagar Road, Pune - 411 014 Maharashtra
Tel - 020 -71505050

बैंक ऑफ़ बड़ौदा Bank of Baroda — PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to the general public that Bank of Baroda, Pendra Branch, Pendra, Dist. GPM, C.G. intends to accept the schedule of property detailed below, belonging to **Mr. Suyash Agrawal S/o Mr. Gaya Prasad Agrawal, Mr. Gaya Prasad Agrawal s/o Mr. Jagdish Prasad Agrawal , Mrs. Sarita Agrawal w/o Mr. Gaya Prasad Agrawal** residence address Sudama Kutir, Amarkantak Road, Gaurela, Dist G.P.M., C.G., Pin – 495117, **and Mrs. Manjulata Sultania W/o Ramesh Prasad Sultania, Mr. Harshit Sultania S/o Ramesh Prasad Sultania and Mr. Kumarmanglam Sultania S/o Ramesh Prasad Sultania,** Residence address Ward No12 Venkatnagar Road Pendra Road Dist GPM , Chhattisgarh 495117 as security/mortgage for credit facilities granted/to be granted by the Bank.

Any person(s) having any claim, right, title, interest, lien, charge, mortgage, lease or objection of any nature whatsoever in or over the scheduled property or any part thereof are hereby required to make the same known in writing along with documentary proof within 10 (Ten) days from the date of publication of this notice to the undersigned Advocate or directly to the Bank Branch.

If no claim or objection is received within the stipulated period of 10 days, it shall be presumed that the scheduled property is free from all encumbrances, claims and charges, and Bank of Baroda shall proceed with the creation/finalization of the mortgage. Any claim received after the expiry of the stipulated period shall be treated as waived and non-binding on the Bank.

1. CSIDC land and building situated at Plot No. 39, Part of Khasra No. 439/1/क Industrial area – Anjani, Village – Gaurella, Tehsil – Pendra, District – Gaurella Pendra Marwahi (C.G) admeasuring area of 5000.00 sq. mt allotted to M/s J P Agrawal Agrotech through its proprietor Mr. Suyash Agrawal S/o Mr. Gaya Prasad Agrawal
2. Khasra no. 240/3/ङ (area 0.27 acre / 11761 sq. ft), 240/10 (0.64 acre / 27878 sq. ft), 240/12 (0.42 acre / 18295 sq. ft), 240/14 (0.53 acre / 23086 sq. ft), 240/3/ग (0.27 acre / 11761 sq. ft) Total land area 2.13 acres / 92782 sq. ft behind sanatorium, opposite collectorate campus, near pendra – gourela road, Gram – Semra, Tehsil – Pendra Road, District – Gourella- Pendra – Marwahi, CG belonging to Mr. Gaya Prasad Agrawal S/o Jagdish Prasad Agrawal
3. Khasra no. 240/20 (0.81 acre / 35283 sq. ft), 240/13 (0.77 acre / 33541 sq. ft.), 240/6 (0.39 acre / 16988 sq. ft), 240/11 (0.13 acre / 5662 sq. ft) having total land area 2.10 acre / 91476 sq. ft. behind sanatorium, opposite collectorate campus, near pendra – gourela road, Gram – Semra, Tehsil – Pendra Road, District – Gourella- Pendra – Marwahi, CG belonging to Mrs. Sarita Agrawal W/o Gaya Prasad Agrawal
4. Khasra no 40/2 area 1.45 Acre, Khasra No. 42/1 area 0.55 acre and Khasra No 44 area 3.00 acre bearing registration details in Sub Registrar Pendra Road in the name of Suyash Agrawal S/O Gaya Prasad Agrawal situated at PH No.10, Village-Gorakhpur, Pendra Road, Gaurela, Dist. GPM, Chhattisgarh
5. Khasra no. 716/3 (area 0.077 hectare) and 717/2 (P) (area 0.486 hectare) situated at Village – Tikarkala, P.C – 19, RIC – Gourela, Tehsil – Pendra Road, District – GPM (C.G) owned jointly by Mr. Gaya Prasad Agrawal S/o Jagdish Prasad Agrawal, Mrs. Manju Lata Sultania W/o Ramesh Prasad Sultania, Mr. Kumar Manglam Sultania S/o Ramesh Prasad Sultania and Mr. Harshit Sultania S/o Ramesh Prasad Sultania

Bank of Baroda
Pendra Branch
Dist GPM CG 495119, Mob. No. 7024101156
Harejeet Singh Kukreja, ADVOCATE
Opposite Nagarpalika Office, Pendra
Mob. No. 79990 16205

Aadhar Housing Finance Ltd.

Corporate Office: Unit No.802, Natraj Rustomjee, Western Express Highway and M.V.Road, Andheri (East), Mumbai-400069
Janjgir-Champa Branch: Shop no.G-03,Krishna Plaza, Ground Floor, Near Tulsibhavan Link Road, Janjgir,Dist Janjgir-Champa, CG-495668

Aadhar Housing Finance Ltd

E-AUCTION – SALE NOTICE

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of immovable Properties under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Asset and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged, possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Aadhar Housing Finance Limited will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is", and " Whatever there is"** with no known encumbrances Particulars of which are given below:-

S. No.	Borrower(s) / Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)	Demand Notice Date and Amount	Description of the Immovable property	Reserve Price (RP)	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (10% of RP)	Nature of possession
1	(Loan Code No. 38610000108 / Janjgir-Champa Branch) Suraj Chauhan (Borrower) Priya Chauhan (Co-Borrower)	14-04-2026 & ₹ 15,91,075/-	All that piece and parcel of the property bearing, Village Jagdalla Kh No. 397/3, P.H.N. 04, Ward No. 27, Guru Ghasidas Ward, Tehsil & RNM Champa, District Janjgir Champa, Chhatisgarh 495671. **Boundaries:** East: Road, West: Akshay Kurrey Property, North: Remeining Land of Seller, South: Remeining Land of Seller	₹ 14,11,560/-	₹ 1,41,156/-	Physical

1. Last Date of Submission of DD of Earnest Money Deposit along with KYC, Tender Form and accepted Terms and conditions (Tender Documents) is **16-09-2026 within 5:00 PM** at the Branch Office address mentioned herein above or uploaded on **https://bankeauctions.com**. Tenders documents received beyond last date will be considered as invalid tender and shall accordingly be rejected. No interest shall be paid on the EMD. **2.** Date of Opening of the Bid/Offer (Auction Date) for Property is **17-09-2026 on https://bankeauctions.com at 03.00 PM to 04.00 PM. 3.** AHFL is not responsible for any liabilities whatsoever pending upon the property as mentioned above. The Property shall be auctioned on **'As Is Where Is Basis','As Is What Is Basis' and 'Whatever Is There Is Basis'. 4.** The Demand Draft Should be made in favorof 'Aadhar Housing Finance Limited' Only. **5.** Auction/bidding shall be only through "Online Electronic Bidding" through the website **https://bankeauctions.com.** Bidders are advised to go through the website for detailed terms before taking part in the e-auction sale proceedings. **6.** The intending bidders should register their names at portal M/s C1 INDIA PVT LTD through the link **https://bankeauctions.com/ registration/ signup,** and get their User ID and password free of cost. Prospective bidder may avail online training on E- auction from the service provider M/s C1 INDIA PVT LTD through the website **https://bankeauctions.com. 7.** For further details contact Authorised Officer of Aadhar Housing Finance Limited, **Ashwin Sharma Contact No. 7697112220** OR the service provider M/s C1 INDIA PVT LTD, **Mr. Prabhakaran, Mobile No: +91-74182-81709, E-mail: tn@c1india.com & support@bankeauctions.com, Phone No. +917291981124 /25 /26** As on date, there is no order restraining and/or court injunction AHFL/the authorized Officer of AHFL from selling, alienating and/or disposing of the above immovable properties / secured assets. **8.** For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in Aadhar Housing Finance Limited (AHFL), secured creditor's website i.e. **www.aadharhousing.com. 9.** The Bid incremental amount for auction is **Rs.10,000/-. 10.** This newspaper publication and the data contained herein is intended for general public dissemination. Any reproduction, distribution, transmission, or republication of this content, in whole or in part, in any form or by any means, whether print, digital, electronic publication in any form, e-mail or web publications, or otherwise through any mode is strictly prohibited. Any unauthorized use of the above content through any mode may result in appropriate legal action by AHFL.

Place : Chhatisgarh, Date : 13.08.2026

(Authorised Officer)
For Aadhar Housing Finance Limited

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that my client Mrs, Katyani singh w/o Mr. Deepak kumar R/O Bhaisada Tah. Janjgir District- Janjgir-champa (C.G.) as purchased all that piece and parcels of land bearing part of Kh. No. 470 Comprising area- 0.012 situated at Mauza-Gram Khokhsa Tahsil - Janjgir District-Janjgir-champa (C.G.) (here in after the said property) from Mrs. Rani tiwari W/o Mr. Basant tiwari (here in after the said seller) and the seller was purchased the same by sale deed dated 18/04/2019 (vide book no. Adl, vol. no 7981 pg. no- 18, to 38, sl. no- 158) the sad seller claim to be the absolute owners of the said property. The said seller has purportedly lost/misplaced the following original sale deed. Police intimation dated on 07/08/2026 by Katyani singh.

Any person having any right title or interest or any claim demand or objection of any nature whatsoever agents or in respect of the said property or any part thereof is here by requested to notify the same in writing to the undersigned with supporting documentary evidence within 07 days from the date hereof failing which no such claim, demands, objections etc. shall be entertained hereafter and the said property shall be considered as free from all encumbrances and my said clients shall proceed to purchase the same.

Mr. Bharat Lal Baghel
Advocate Janjgir
Mob. No. 7999014274

POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas, the authorized officer of **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** under the Securitization And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement Of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 issued **demand notices** to the borrower(s)/ Co-borrowers(s) calling upon the borrowers to repay the amount mentioned against the respective names together with interest thereon at the applicable rates as mentioned in the said notices within **60 days** from the date of receipt of the said notices, along with future interest as applicable incidental expenses, costs, charges etc. incurred till the date of payment and/or realisation.

Sr. No.	Loan No.	Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ Mortgagor	13(2) Notice Date/ Outstanding Due (in Rs.) as on	Date/ Time & Type of Possession
1	45099420001851 & 45099410000680	1) Mrs. Sonmati Yadav, W/o. Ghasi Ram Yadav, 2) Mrs. Chanchal Yadav, W/o. Krishna Yadav	08.05.2026 Rs.2,85,160.60 (Rupees Two Lakh Eighty Five Thousand One Hundred Sixty and Sixty Paise Only) as on 28.04.2026	Date: 11.08.2026 Time: 02:10 PM Symbolic Possession

Description of Secured Asset: All that piece and parcel of land bearing Leasehold House No.1, Block No.35, admeasuring area of 350 Sq.ft., allotted under the affordable housing (AHP) scheme of "Pradhanmantri Aawas Yojna-Housing for All", Out of Khasra No.1/1, situated at Ashok Nagar, Gram/ Mouja Chantidih, P.H. No.33, Ward within the limit of Nagar Palik Nigam Bilaspur, R.N.M. Bilaspur, Tehsil & District Bilaspur (C.G.). **Bounded by: East by:** Passage and House No.4, **West by:** Road/ Open Space, **North by:** House No. 02 and **South by:** Road.

Whereas, the Borrowers/ Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Mortgagors, mentioned herein above have failed to repay the amounts due, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers mentioned herein above in particular and to the Public in general that the authorized officer of **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** has **taken possession** of the properties/ secured assets described herein above in exercise of powers conferred on him under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the dates mentioned above. The Borrowers/ Co-borrowers/ Guarantors/ Mortgagors, mentioned herein above in particular and the Public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the aforesaid properties/ Secured Assets and any dealings with the said properties/ Secured Assets will be subject to the charge of **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited.**

Place: Bilaspur
Date: 12.08.2026

Sd/- Authorised Officer,
Jana Small Finance Bank Limited

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

FORM NO. [See Regulation 33(2)]
OFFICE OF THE RECOVERY OFFICER - I/II DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL JABALPUR
2nd & 3rd Floor, Sanchar Vikas Bhavan (BSNL Building), Near Head Post Office Residency Road, Jabalpur -482001, MP.
NOTICE FOR SETTLING A SALE PROCLAMATION UNDER RULE 53 OF THE SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE INCOME TAX ACT, 1961 READ WITH THE RECOVERY OF DEBTS & BANKRUPTCY ACT, 1993.
RC/442/2024 04.08.2026
STATE BANK OF INDIA
Versus
VIJAY MOTORS AND TRACTORS

To,
(CD1) VIJAY MOTORS AND TRACTORS W.NO.-09, KATGHORA ROAD, DEEPKA, DISTT- KORBA (C.G.) 495452
(CD2) ANKIT DEWANGAN W.NO.-09, KATGHORA ROAD, DEEPKA, DISTT- KORBA (C.G.) 495452
(CD3) SUREKHA DEWANGAN W.NO.-09, KATGHORA ROAD, DEEPKA, DISTT- KORBA (C.G.) 495452
(CD4) CHANDRASHEKHAR DEWANGAN QUARTER NO. B-15, URJA NAGAR, GEVRA PROJECT-495452

Whereas you the was ordered by the Presiding Officer of DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL JABALPUR who had issued the Recovery Certificate dated **11/12/2024** in **OA/954/2021** to pay to the Applicant Bank(s)/Financial Institution(s) Name of applicant, the sum of **Rs. 5192389 (Rupees Fifty One Lakhs Ninety Two Thousands Three Hundred Eighty Nine Only)** along with pendentellite and future interest @ 12 % w.e.f. 02/11/2021 till realization and costs of **Rs. 54000 (Rupees Fifty Four Thousands Only)**, and whereas the said has not been paid, the undersigned has ordered the sale of under mentioned immovable /Immoveable property.

2. You are hereby informed that the **22/10/2026** at **10.30 A.M.** has been fixed for drawing up the proclamation of sale and settling the terms thereof. You are requested to bring to the notice of the undersigned any encumbrances, charges, claims or liabilities attached to the said properties or any portion thereof.

Specification of property
All Part and Parcel of Land & Building at Khasra No.- 489/1, P.H. No. -03, Korba-Champa Main Road, Ward No. -22, Tilak Nagar Ward, Near HP Petrol Pump, Seoni chowk, Mouza Baspali Jagdalla, Block Bahmnidih, R.N.M. Champa, Tehsil-Champa, District-Janjgir Champa, area 12208.00 sq.ft.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Tribunal, on this date: **04/08/2026.**

SEAL
Sd/-
Recovery Officer
Debts Recovery Tribunal, Jabalpur

Shriram Asset Reconstruction Private Limited (SARPL)
(Acting in its' capacity as Trustee of various SARC Trusts)
Regd. Office: Shriram House, No.4, Burkit Road, T. Nagar, Chennai-600017.
Corporate Office: Unit No.FF-A-05, A Wing|, First Floor, Art Guild House, Phoenix Market City, LBS Marg, Kurla (West), Mumbai-400070. Phone No.:1800 120 2389; customercare@shriramarc.com.

POSSESSION NOTICE (FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY)
[Appendix-IV Under Rule 8(1) Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002]

Whereas the undersigned being the authorized officer of the **Shriram Asset Reconstruction Private Limited (acting in capacity as Trustees of SARC-TRUST-16)** under Section (5) of the SARFAESI Act having acquired the financial assets pertaining to various borrowers including the borrowers mentioned herein below together with the underlying security interest created thereof along with all the rights, title and interest thereupon from **secured creditor/ Original Lender/ Assignor** i.e. **M/s. Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (hereinafter referred to as "Sarfaesi Act") & in compliance of Rule 8(1) of Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued **demand notice** dated mentioned below in the table Under Section 13(2) of the SARFAESI Act calling upon the following borrowers to repay the amounts mentioned against their respective name together with the interest thereupon at the applicable/ contractual rates as mentioned in the said notices within **60 days** from date of receipt of the said notice along with further interest as applicable, incidental cost, charges etc. incurred till the date of payment and/or realization as mentioned in the below Schedule.

SARPL has stepped into the shoes of original lender which has all the rights, title, interest of the secured creditor with respect to financial assets. The borrowers mentioned herein below have failed to repay the amounts due, notice is hereby given to the borrower/s and the public in general that Authorized Officer of **Shriram Asset Reconstruction Private Limited** has **taken Possession** of the secured assets described herein below in exercise powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the SARFAESI Act.

The borrowers and the Public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the below mentioned property/ies/ secured assets and any dealing with the property secured assets will be subject to the charge of **Shriram Asset Reconstruction Private Limited** for the amount and interest thereon as per loan/Assignment agreement. The Borrowers/ Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Mortgagors' attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section (13) of the SARFAESI Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Loan Account No. & Trust Details	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ Mortgager	Demand Notice Date & Amount	Date/ Time & Type of Possession
45099420005604 & 45099410001670 & Trustee of SARC Trust-16	1) Mr. Shyam Kumar Mishra, S/o. Ramkumar Mishra, 2) Mrs. Sandhya Mishra, W/o. Shyam Kumar Mishra	26-05-2026, Rs.30,02,012.94 (Rupees Thirty Lakh Two Thousand Twelve and Ninety Four Paise Only) as of 20-05-2026	11-08-2026 01:06 PM Symbolic Possession

Description of the Secured Assets (Immoveable Property): All that piece and parcel of Diverted land bearing Plot No.04, total admeasuring area of 880 Sq.ft. (81.784 Sq.mrts.), together with construction thereon, Part of Survey No.315/21, situated at Sunderlal Sharma ward, Mouza Sirgitti, P.H. No.23/30, Sheet No.31, R.N.M. Sirgitti, Vikas Khand Bhila, R.N.M. Bilaspur, Block Bilha, Tehsil & District Bilaspur (M.P.). **Bounded by: East by:** Land of Yadav, **West by:** Land of Ishwar Dhruv, **North by:** Land of Vishwkarma and **South by:** Nistari Road.

45099420000029 & 45099430000861 & Trustee of SARC Trust-16	1) Mr. V. Madhu Sudhan Rao, S/o. V. Chandra Shekhar Rao, 2) Mr. V. Satya Prasad Rao, S/o. V. Chandra Shekhar Rao, 3) Mrs. V Mohini, W/o. V. Madhu Sudhan Rao	26-05-2026, Rs.39,12,982.34 (Rupees Thirty Nine Lakh Twelve Thousand Nine Hundred Eighty Two and Thirty Four Paise Only) as of 20-05-2026	11-08-2026 01:32 PM Symbolic Possession

Description of the Secured Assets (Immoveable Property): All that piece and parcel of Diverted land bearing Plot No.69, total admeasuring area of 1200 Sq.ft. (111.524 Sq.mrts.), together with construction thereon, Part of Survey No.591/71, situated at Mahima Nagar Ward No.05, New Guru Govind Singh Nagar Ward No.10, Mouza Sirgitti, P.H. No.23/41, Star No.40, R.N.M. Bilaspur, Vikas Khand Bhila, (Previously Nagar Panchayat Sirgitti), within the limits of Nagar Nigam Bilaspur, Tehsil & District Bilaspur (C.G.). **Bounded by: East by:** Remaining Land of Seller, **West by:** Remaining Land of Seller, **North by:** 30 Ft. Nistari Road and **South by:** Land of Khanuja.

Place: Bilaspur
Dated: 12.08.2026

Authorized Officer, Shriram Asset Reconstruction Private Limited
(Acting in its' capacity as Trustee of SARC Trust-16)

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

E- AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF PROPERTIES "APPENDIX- IV-A [See proviso to Rule 6(2) & 8(6)]"

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable/ movable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 6(2) & 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable/movable property mortgaged / charged to the Secured Creditor, possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of Bank of Baroda, Secured Creditor,will be sold on "As is where is","As is what is" & "Whatever there is" for recovery of below mentioned account/s. The details of Borrower(s) / Mortgagor(s) / Guarantor(s) / Secured Asset(s)/Dues/Reserve Price/e-Auction date & Time,EMD and Bid Amount are mentioned below:

DATE AND TIME OF E-AUCTION 29.08.2026 FROM 2.00PM TO 06.00PM

Sr. No.	Name & Address of Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagor(s)	Give short description of the movable / immovable property with known encumbrances, if any	Total Dues	(i) Reserve Price (ii) EMD and (iii) Bid Amount	Status of Possession (Constructive/ Physical)
01	Mr. Bhuwneshwar Tiwari Mrs. Prity Tiwari Village - Khajuri, Navagaon, Kathakoni, Takhatpur, Bilaspur C.G.– 495001	Equitable Mortgage of diverted Residentail Triple Story Building situated at Mauza – Lingiyadih, PH. No. - 20/21, R.N.M.– Bilaspur, Kh. No.- 54/571, Plot Area – 990 Sq.Ft., Plot No.- 182, Block No. - 04 at Rajsaw Colony, Tahsil & District- Bilaspur,C.G., Belongs to Mr. Bhuwneshwar Tiwari. Boundaries of the property :East - Land of Tejendra Pratap, West - Land of Seller, North - Land of Motilal Gupta, South - Road	Rs. 63,50,100.00 + interest + other charges	Rs. 51,03,000.00 Rs. 5,10,300.00 Rs. 10,000.00	Symbolic/ Physical Possession
02	Mr. Bhuwneshwar Tiwari (Borrower) Mrs. Priti Tiwari (Co-Borrower) Village - Khajuri, Navagaon, Kathakoni, Takhatpur, Bilaspur, C.G.– 495001	Equitable Mortgage of Residential land and Semi Finished House at Khasra No.-112/3, area - 638 sq ft P.C.No. 21/35, Dindayal Upadhyay Nagar Ward Mangla RIC Tehsil & Dist.- Bilaspur, C.G. in the name of Mr. Bhuwneshwar Tiwari S/o Mr.Basant Kumar Tiwari.Bounded: On the North by- Seller's Land,On the South by-Road, On the East by- land of Laxmi Kant Tiwari, On the West by seller's land.	Rs. 25,65,769.00 + interest + other charges	Rs. 14,58,000.00 Rs. 1,45,800.00 Rs. 10,000.00	Physical Possession

Property Inspection Date & Time 21.08.2026 , 02.00 PM to 06.00 PM For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer/visit to the online auction portal https://baanknet.com Also, prospective bidders may contact the Authorised officer on Tel No. 9769746302 / 8347195669.

Date:13.08.2026 , Place: Bilaspur (C.G.)

Authorised Officer, Bank of Baroda

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

POSSESSION NOTICE

(As per Appendix IV read with rule 8(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002) Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Bank of Baroda under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act,2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice to the following borrowers / guarantors 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 under mentioned Borrower / Guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers/Guarantors and the Public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub - section (4) of section 13 of the Act read with Rule 8 and under section 14 of the Act of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002 .

S. N.	Branch Name/Ph.No.	Name of Borrower / Guarantor	Description of Property	Demand Notice Date, Amount & Symbolic / Physical Possession Date
01	Akaltara Branch Akaltara 9752410769	Mr. Devendra Verma & Mrs. Lalita Verma	Equitable mortgage of land and building situated at Village - Juna Bilaspur , PH No. - 22/36, R.N.M Bilaspur, Tahsil - Bilaspur, R.N.M Bilha, Dist.- Bilaspur, C.G., Raj Sadan Apartment Bearing Survey No.- 681/1, Flat No. S-4, Area- 793 Sqft belonging to Mr. Devendra Verma S/o Mr. Niranjan Verma. Boundary Description: North - Flat No. S-3, South- Open Sky, East- Flat No. S-5, West- Open Sky.	10.06.2026 Rs. 23,43,748.00 + interest + other charges 12.08.2026 Symbolic Possession

The Borrowers / Guarantors / Mortgagors in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the above mentioned property and any dealings with the property/ies will be subject to the charge of Bank of Baroda for above mentioned amount interest and other charges thereon.
The Borrower's attention is invited to provision of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Date:13.08.2026, Place: Bilaspur (C.G.)

Authorised Officer, Bank of Baroda

Central Chronicle

Since 1974 Volume 14 No. 135

Comment

QUOTE FROM THE QUOTABLE

A nation's future depends upon educated, disciplined and inspired youth always.

[Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya]

| OUR VIEW |

When Cash Clouds Trust In Judiciary

The parliamentary panel's findings in the case involving former Delhi High Court judge Yashwant Varma raise serious questions. At stake is public confidence in the judiciary and the ability of institutions to protect evidence when allegations concern those entrusted with administering justice. The controversy began after a fire at Justice Varma's official Delhi residence on March 14, 2025. Firefighters allegedly discovered large quantities of burnt Rs 500 notes in a storeroom. The panel constituted by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla has concluded that the former judge failed to offer a satisfactory explanation about the presence, source and ownership of the cash. It has also described his response as lacking candour, transparency and institutional responsibility. These are grave findings. Judges enjoy constitutional protection and decisional independence, but neither places them beyond scrutiny. Judicial authority rests on credibility. When unexplained cash is reportedly found within an official residence, a convincing account is indispensable. Troubling, too, is the panel's criticism of the handling of evidence. Its report says the storeroom was disturbed before lawful sealing and inspection, material evidence was not properly preserved, and the subsequent disappearance or non-availability of the currency remains unexplained. Such lapses weaken the search for truth and encourage speculation. The committee, however, did not find proof that Justice Varma personally removed the cash. That qualification is important. Institutional accountability cannot be built on insinuation; conclusions must remain confined to evidence. The earlier in-house judicial committee's finding that he had "active or tacit control" over the storeroom is relevant, but it is not a substitute for proving every allegation. Justice Varma's resignation may have rendered parliamentary removal proceedings infructuous, but it cannot close the matter. The authorities must determine how the evidence disappeared, who disturbed the storeroom and whether procedural failures were accidental or deliberate. The episode demonstrates why transparent protocols are essential whenever allegations involve functionaries. Judicial independence and judicial accountability are not competing principles. Both are necessary to preserve the credibility of the courts and the system they serve.

| GUEST VIEW |

Kerala Retains Traditional Vande Mataram Rendition

The Congress-led UDF government in Kerala has decided to continue the state's established practice of singing the first two stanzas of Vande Mataram at official functions, following discussions over an administrative circular concerning Independence Day celebrations. The circular, issued by Kerala Chief Secretary Bishwanath Sinha, had called for adherence to the Central protocol for Independence Day events, including the rendition of Vande Mataram. State ministers, however, indicated that Kerala would maintain its customary practice of singing the first two stanzas, which celebrate the beauty, fertility and natural abundance of the motherland. The issue has also renewed attention on the historical background of India's National Song. Vande Mataram, composed by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay, played an important role in inspiring the freedom movement and became a powerful expression of patriotism. In 1937, the Indian National Congress decided that the first two stanzas would be used for public and national purposes. The decision followed consultations involving prominent national leaders and intellectuals, including Rabindranath Tagore, Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, Subhas Chandra Bose and Maulana Abul Kalam Azad. Over the decades, Vande Mataram has retained a special place in India's national consciousness. The present discussion highlights the importance of respecting established traditions while ensuring that national celebrations continue to promote unity, patriotism and shared respect for India's freedom movement.

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee

Independent Director Dilemma: Experience Does Not Equal Readiness

Every year, a fresh cohort of accomplished executives – CEOs, CFOs, business heads with two decades or more behind them – starts looking at the boardroom as the next natural step. They have run businesses, managed P&Ls and led teams through cycles of growth and disruption. Surely a board seat is simply a quieter version of the same job, minus the daily grind. It is not! And this misunderstanding sits at the heart of what can be called the Independent Director Dilemma: a growing pool of capable, well-credentialed executives chasing a role whose fundamental nature is different from the one they have spent their careers mastering.

India's Independent Director ecosystem has expanded considerably. The IICA's Independent Directors Databank, the mandatory registry every aspiring ID must join under the Companies Act, now carries more than 25,000 registered names. Every listed company is required to have at least one-third of its board composed of independent directors. Public companies above certain thresholds must have at least two. SEBI's board diversity norms have added momentum – the requirement for at least one independent woman director, first applied to the top 1,000 listed companies and later extended to the top 2,000, has meaningfully reshaped recruitment patterns and, in turn, compensation. Nifty 50 companies now pay independent directors an average package that has crossed Rs 3 crore annually, once sitting fees, commissions and committee responsibilities are added up. This looks like a booming, high-value market. In practice, it is a narrow one. The demand is not for 25,000 generalists; it is for a much smaller number of people who bring something specific – sector depth, functional expertise in areas like risk, technology or ESG, prior board exposure, or a particular kind of judgment a board currently lacks. The gap between the size of the registered pool and the size of the pool that companies consider "board-ready" is where the dilemma really lives.

Very few Indian boards fill an Independent Director vacancy through open advertisement. The process typically runs through a mix of channels: the Nomination and Remuneration Committee identifying a specific gap on the board and then working with search firms, personal networks, industry bodies, or promoter and institutional investor recommendations to find someone who fits that gap precisely.

Anand Garg
Independent Director/ Management Consultant

This is a subtler process than executive hiring. There is no single "best candidate." There is a candidate who completes the board's composition. A board that already has strong finance and legal representation is unlikely to add another CFO-background director, however distinguished; it is more likely to look for someone with consumer insight, technology depth, or international market exposure. Boards think in terms of collective capability, not individual brilliance. Fit is not a bonus criterion, it is the primary one. Boards also look beyond credentials to conduct. They want to know how a candidate has behaved in prior board settings – whether they ask hard questions without derailing meetings, whether they can disagree with a promoter or CEO constructively, whether they understand the difference between oversight and interference. Reference checks among fellow directors, not just among management contacts, have become a quiet but important part of the process.

Three things tend to matter more than a long operating resume: specific, relevant industry or functional knowledge that maps to an actual gap on that board; exposure to how boards function; and temperament – the ability to exercise judgment without needing to run the business.

This is often the hardest for accomplished operators to internalise. A board seat is not a smaller version of the corner office; it is a different kind of role altogether, closer to stewardship than execution. An operator is paid to decide and to act. An Independent Director is expected to question, to test assumptions, to protect the interests of shareholders who are not in the room, and to know when to step back and let management do its job. The executives who make this transition successfully are the ones who treat it as a genuine shift, not a lateral move. They invest time in understanding governance and compliance formally, not just experientially. They are honest about which specific gap they fill on a given board, rather than presenting themselves as a fit for any board.

For the growing number of executives eyeing this path, the question worth asking is not "Am I experienced enough?" but "Am I ready, and am I relevant to what this particular board needs right now?" That distinction, more than years of experience, decides who actually gets the seat.

Protecting UPI While Ensuring Financial Sustainability

As UPI transforms India's payment landscape, proposed transaction charges raise concerns over affordability, financial sustainability, global competition and protection of the country's digital infrastructure. by Ram Kishore

India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) has emerged as one of the world's most successful examples of digital public infrastructure. By making instant payments simple, affordable and widely accessible, it has transformed everyday transactions across the country. The debate over introducing a framework for charges on some UPI transactions, however, raises an important question: how can India make the system financially sustainable without weakening its greatest strengths?

UPI processed about 241.6 billion transactions in 2025-26, demonstrating the extraordinary scale of India's digital payments revolution. More than 555 million users are now part of the ecosystem, making UPI a formidable digital payments platform.

Its rapid growth has also changed the competitive landscape for traditional card networks. International payment companies such as Visa and Mastercard operate in a market where UPI and RuPay have expanded significantly, particularly in everyday retail payments. The debate over a possible UPI levy must therefore be considered from both domestic and international perspectives. Concerns have been raised internationally about competition and market access in India's digital payments sector. At the same time, banks, payment companies and infrastructure providers have argued that processing billions of transactions while maintaining cybersecurity and technological capacity involves substantial costs.

India consequently has legitimate reasons to examine how UPI should be financed in the long term.

The government has supported the zero-Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) model through financial incentives. The Union Budget for 2026-27 allocated Rs 2,000 crore to promote low-value UPI and RuPay debit-card transactions. However, the continuing expansion of UPI has intensified the debate over whether the present model can remain sustainable indefinitely.

The crucial question is who would ultimately bear any additional cost.

If charges eventually affect small traders, street vendors or ordinary consumers, UPI could lose one of its biggest advantages–affordability and universal accessibility. A carefully calibrated system that protects small transactions and smaller merchants while examining charges for large commercial transactions could offer a more balanced approach.

India must also ensure that changes to its digital-payment framework are determined primarily by domestic economic priorities and public interest. International competition is welcome, but regulatory decisions should preserve innovation, consumer choice and fair competition without undermining successful indigenous payment infrastructure.

UPI is more than a payment mechanism. It represents India's technological capability, financial inclusion and growing digital confidence.

Any reform should therefore balance financial sustainability with affordability, competition and consumer protection. The objective must be to strengthen UPI for its next phase of growth while preserving the accessibility that made it a global success.

YOURLETTERS

Meta must follow Indian laws

Global technology platforms operating in India must respect the country's laws and regulatory framework. Meta, with millions of Indian users, has a responsibility to strengthen safeguards against deepfakes, child sexual abuse material and other harmful content. Automated moderation alone may not adequately understand India's diverse languages and social contexts. Greater human oversight and locally informed moderation can improve user safety. Digital platforms enjoying legal protections must fulfil their obligations responsibly.

Dr. Vijaykumar H K, Raichur

Entrance tests need comprehensive review

India's entrance examination system needs comprehensive reform, with greater emphasis on effective implementation rather than repeatedly introducing new rules. The functioning of the National Testing Agency should be strengthened to ensure transparency, reliability and fairness. Excessive dependence on multiple-choice examinations also deserves reconsideration. Giving appropriate weightage to Board examination marks could provide a broader assessment of students' abilities. High-stakes entrance tests affect millions of aspirants, making it essential to review the entire examination system rather than addressing problems in isolation.

MK Nair, Raipur

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

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Nation

Youth key to achieving Viksit Bharat 2047

Nayab Singh Saini, Haryana CM

'Govt ready to debate NEET, Opposition not'

It is "unthinkable and incomprehensible" that the Oppn would shun a talk when the govt is ready to respond.

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju on Wednesday accused the Congress of "running away" from a debate on students' protests over the NEET paper leak, saying it is "unthinkable and incomprehensible" that the Opposition would shun a talk when the government is ready to respond.

"I am totally frustrated and I am seeing for the first time where the government is ready for discussion, the opposition is running away," Rijiju told reporters.

The remarks came against the backdrop of Union Home Minister Amit Shah urging Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla to consult the Opposition on holding a debate on the students' protests over the NEET paper leak and consequent protests, saying he is ready to answer all questions in the House. The home minister's remarks came just a day before the Monsoon Session comes to an end. Disruptions marred both Houses of Parliament throughout the current session.

Union Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Kiren Rijiju addresses a press conference, in New Delhi.

Protests and sloganeering by the Opposition initially started over the NEET paper leak and extended to alleged embezzlement of donations at the Ram Temple in Ayodhya. Speaking to reporters in his office in Parliament House complex, Rijiju said, "The home minister is ready for the discussion. He has prepared the reply. They are running away. The whole world is watching it. He is waiting and ready to give his reply."

HIGHLIGHT

- Disruptions marred both Houses throughout the session.
- Rijiju said the government has nothing to hide.

Rijiju said the government has nothing to hide.

"I am saying even today, agree to it. Even if the Congress agrees to the debate tomorrow at 11 am, we will increase the time. We are ready for the discussion," Rijiju said.

"The government is ready, but can you imagine that the Opposition is not ready? It is not good for democracy. It is the responsibility of the government and the opposition," he said.

Special train

BHUBANESWAR: To accommodate the increased travel demand from Odisha to Andhrapradesh & Telangana and provide additional passenger convenience, East Coast Railway to operate a One Way Special train between Sambalpur and Charlapalli. Train No. 08309 Sambalpur-Charlapalli One Way Special will commence its journey from Sambalpur at 11:45 hrs on Friday, 14th August 2026, and will arrive at Charlapalli at 11:30 hrs on Saturday,15th August 2026. En route, the special train will halt at Baragada Road, Balangir, Titlagarh, Kesinga, Muniguda, Rayagada, Parvatipuram Town, Bobbili, Vizianagaram, Kottavalasa, Pendurti, Simhachalam North, Duvvada, Samalkot, Rajahmundry, Vijayawada Junction,Guntur, Miryalaguda and Nalgonda providing convenient connectivity to passengers travelling to these important destinations. The special train will comprise 21 coaches, including 12 Sleeper Class Coaches, 06 General Second Class Coaches, 01 2nd AC coach and 2 Luggage-cum-Divyang Friendly Coaches, ensuring adequate accommodation for passengers of different travel categories. For updated train information, passengers may visit the NTES or use official railway enquiry services before commencing their journey.

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

CLAIM

Gehlot slams Centre over fund cuts, 'low' coverage of coaching scheme for SC, OBC students

JAIPUR: Former Rajasthan chief minister Ashok Gehlot on Wednesday targeted the BJP-led Centre over the implementation of a free coaching scheme for SC and OBC students, alleging that a parliamentary committee report has exposed the government's claims of social justice.

Gehlot, in a statement, claimed that only 223 students, or 6.4 per cent of the target of 3,500, received coaching under the scheme in 2023-24, while the figure stood at only 12.3 per cent in 2025-26. He also alleged that the budget for the scheme was reduced from Rs 47 crore to Rs 20 crore. "This is not negligence but a deliberate policy," the Congress leader said, alleging that the government was seeking votes from SC and OBC communities while reducing allocations for an education scheme benefiting their children. Gehlot said the parliamentary committee itself observed that the government's response was unsatisfactory, describing it as an indication of its intent. He said the Congress government in Rajasthan introduced the Anuprati Coaching Scheme, under which thousands of SC, ST and OBC students were given priority and a platform to prepare for competitive examinations. **PTI**

| CONSERVATION MILESTONE |

Hilsa fish returns to upper Ganga after decades

Press Trust Of India

Significant milestone in river restoration and aquatic biodiversity conservation.

KOLKATA: The hilsa fish has been recorded in the middle and upper stretches of the Ganga after remaining virtually absent from these reaches for decades, in what officials called a significant milestone in river restoration and aquatic biodiversity conservation.

According to the Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute (ICAR-CIFRI), two hilsa weighing a combined 740 grams were found in the river near Markandey Mahadev Temple in Chandauli district of Uttar Pradesh, nearly three decades after the species had vanished from the upstream reaches.

Historically, hilsa migrated from the Bay of Bengal through the Ganga system up to Varanasi, Prayagraj and beyond. However, the commissioning of the Farakka Barrage in 1975 severely disrupted its migratory pathway, causing a drastic decline in the middle and upper Ganga and affecting riverine fishing communities dependent on the species.

Recognising the ecological, nutritional, cultural and livelihood significance of the fish, ICAR-CIFRI, Barrackpore, and the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) had initiated a long-term scientific programme for Hilsa restoration.

| ALLEGATION |

'BJP politicising J'khand students' stir'

Press Trust Of India

RANCHI: The Congress on Wednesday hit out at the BJP, accusing it of "politicising" the students' exam agitation in Jharkhand and "bringing people from other states" to disrupt the protests. Accusing the saffron party of being involved in "exam mafia" across the country, the Congress said the BJP was "opposing" the CID probe into paper leaks in the state, "fearing that it would get exposed".

A probe by the CBI, "a tool of the Centre", will yield the "desired results" for them even in Jharkhand, asserted four Congress ministers - Radha Krishna Kishore, Shilpy Neha Tirkey, Dipika Pandey Singh and Irfan Ansari - at a press conference here.

BJP opposes CID probe into paper leaks.

Radha Krishna Kishore
State Minister

"The BJP brought people from other states to disrupt the students' peaceful protest in Ranchi on August 10 over exam irregularities. We urge Chief Minister Hemant Soren to ensure that each such BJP worker is identified and strong action is taken against them," Kishore said.

SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE FOR PROVISION OF ELECTRONIC INTERLOCKING

E-Tender Notice No.:11-SNT-Proj-R-Tender-26, Date: 07.08.2026

Name of the Work :Provision of Electronic Interlocking at Risama(RSA), Gundardehi (GDZ), Latabor (LBO), Balod (BXA) and Kusumkasa (KYS) stations including new loop line at Risama (RSA), Latabor (LBO) in Durg-Dallirajhara section of Raipur Division.

Tender Value: ₹60,82,28,970.71 (Rs. Sixty Crore, Eighty-Two Lakh, Twenty-Eight Thousand, Nine Hundred Seventy and Seventy-One Paise only). **Bid Security (Earnest Money) : ₹1,21,64,600.00** (Rs. One Crore Twenty-One Lakh, Sixty-Four Thousand, Six Hundred only). **Closing of tender** : Up to: 15.00 hrs on 08.09.2026.

For further details/purchase of tender document, eligibility criteria & the complete details for the above work, please contact office of the Dy.CSTE/Proj./R or refer/download tender document which is available on our website: **www.ireps.gov.in.**

Dy. Chief Sig. & Tele. Engg. (Proj./Raipur)
CPR/10/339 S.E.C. Railway, Raipur.

South East Central Railway @secrail

SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

TENDER NOTICE NO: CAO/C/BSP/26-27/13
Dated: 30.07.2026 (EPC)(Open Tender) (Two Packet System)

Name of Work: "Construction of New BG Double Line from Balodabazar (Km 110.500) to Parmalkasa (Km 280.840) and Y-connectivities from Lakholi station and Marauda Y Cabin including earthwork, Bridges, Rail over Rail (ROR) Bridge Road over Bridge (ROB), Road under Bridge (RUB), station buildings, track works, Electrification, Signaling & Telecommunication works, and allied miscellaneous works in connection with Kharsia- Naya RaipurParmalkasa 5th & 6th Line Project under South East Central Railway in the State of Chhattisgarh."

Tender Value: Rs. 39662039906.07/-, EMD: Rs. 793240800.00/-, Cost of Tender Document: NIL, Completion period of Work: 1275 (Twelve Hundred Seventy Five) Days, from the date of acceptance letter.

Date & time of Tender Closing: Up to **15:00** Hours on **30/10/2026, Date & time of Tender Opening: 15:30** Hrs. on **30/10/2026**.

For further details related to tender document eligibility criteria and the complete details for the above work please contract office of the Chief Administrative Officer/Con/ S.E.C.R/ Bilaspur, Pin: 495004 or Dy. Chief Engineer (Con)/S.E.C. Railway/ Bilaspur-Pin: 495004 or Dy. Chief Engineer/Con/I/S.E.C. Railway/ Raipur-Pin: 492009, Chief Project Manager/West/ Construction /South East Central Railway Nagpur-Pin: 440001 or refer on our website **www.ireps.gov.in**.

Dy. Chief Engineer/Con
CPR/10/326 S.E.C.Railway/Bilaspur

South East Central Railway @secrail

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

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

Tenders are invited for the Following works:-

S. No	System Tender No./ Date	Name of Work	PAC Amount (Rupees in lacs)
1	196882 Second Call 05.08.2026	Construction of Lukapara Middile School to Baniyapali Odisha Border Apporch Road Length 1.20 Km.	227.61
2	196883 Second Call 05.08.2026	CONSTRUCTION OF DARUPISA TO KATANGKHAR APP. ROAD LENGTH 2.20 KM. DIST. JASHPUR (C.G.) 1/4 WORK CODE & W29113 1/2.	247.64
3	196884 Second Call 05.08.2026	Construction of Kopara Dam to Gaderiya Dipra (Diprapara) Road Length 2.40 Km. & Strengthening & Renewal of Lokhandi Bridge to Jonki Turn Length 1.15 Km. (Total Length 3.55 Km.).	665.04
4	196885 Second Call 05.08.2026	Construction of Chhuhipali to Naughatta old Cement Concrete Approach Road Length 1.20 Km.	203.19
5	196886 Second Call 05.08.2026	Construction of Chhitapar (Chakla) to Rajpalpur Road Length 1.15 Km. & Bodtara Siltara Main Road to Gadapara Road Length 2.30 Km. (Total Length 3.45 Km).	529.72
6	196889 Second Call 05.08.2026	Construction of Lukapara Main Road to Devgargh Approach Road Length 1.50 Km.	205.71
7	196891 Second Call 05.08.2026	Widening & B.T. Work of Mangala Bhainsajhar (MDR) on Maharshi School via Uslapur Station Approach Road Length 1.675 Km. (on the basis of SOR 1.1.2025).	291.67
8	196893 Second Call 05.08.2026	CONSTRUCTION OF KHUTGAON TO GHOGHAR JOR APP. ROAD LENGTH 4.00 KM. DIST. JASHPUR (C.G.).	247.18
9	196895 Second Call 05.08.2026	Construction of Renovation & 3 Nos Additional Room at Rest House Building Lormi. i/c W.S.S.F. Electrification Work.	287.31
10	196896 Second Call 05.08.2026	Construction of Lachhanpur to Mohtrateli Approach Road Length 2.00 Km., Village Sukhatal to Bijrakapa Khurd Approach Road Length 1.70 Km. & Dindol Main Road to Vicharpur Main Road Length 1.20 Km (Total Length 4.90 Km.).	633.04
11	196929 Second Call 05.08.2026	CONSTRUCTION OF HIGH LEVEL BRIDGE I/C APPROACHES ON ACROSS KAJAL RIVER ON NAGARI JABARRA ROAD.	622.00
12	196979 Second Call 06.08.2026	(1) CONSTRUCTION OF KALIYA FHGNU DUKAN TO DHARSA JUNGLE (TOGOTOLI) ROAD LENGTH 2.28 KM AT KUNKURI, DISTT.- JASHPUR (C.G.) (2) CONSTRUCTION OF BEHRAKHAR ATAL CHOWK TO KURUM DHODHA ROAD LENGTH 2.86 KM AT KUNKURI, DISTT.- JASHPUR (C.G.).	678.85
13	196981 Second Call 06.08.2026	CONSTRUCTION OF VILLAGE AMERA TO BOIRGAON ROAD ,LENGTH 3.30 KM I/C. CULVERTS AT DISST. MAHASAMUND(MAHASAMUND DN.).	511.33
14	196984 Second Call 06.08.2026	Construction Of High Level Bridge and Approach Road Across Lilar Nalla on Chandali -Gharjara Road.	217.43

Last Date of Tender Downloading S.No. 11 To S.No. 14 date 27.08.2026. Other Tenders Date are Schedule as date 21.08.2026. For more details on the tender and bidding process please visit the above mentioned portal.

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

G-262702710/2

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
भारत सरकार का उपक्रम A Government of India Undertaking
सिंडिकेट Syndicate

Branch: Ambikapur, Distt- Sarguja (CG)

POSSESSION NOTICE [Appendix IV under the Act-Rule-8(1)]

Whereas, The under signed being the Authorised officer of the Canara Bank under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest **Act 2002** and in exercise of the powers conferred under **Section 13(2) read with rule 3** of the Security Interest (Enforcement) **Rules 2002** issued a Demand Notice was issued on the dated in the given following table calling upon them to repay the amount within 60 days of receipt of said notice.

The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property, described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Sub-section **(4)** of Section 13 of Act read with rule 8 of the said Act on the dates mentioned against the account. The Borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the **CANARA BANK** (Below mentioned Branches) for the amount and interest mentioned thereon.

The Borrower's / Guarantors' / Mortgager's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.

S. No.	Borrower Name	Detail of Possessed Property	Demand Notice Amount	Demand Notice Date / Possession Notice Date
1.	**Dhirendra Nath Tiwari, Sushila Devi & M/s. Vivek Coal Depot, Prop. Dhirendra Nath Tiwari & Dhirendra Nath Tiwari, Sushila Devi & Satish Kumar Pandey (Guarantor).**	Mortgaged Property In Kh. No **279/10** (Out Of **279/5**), Area **0.070** Hect. Situated At Village- Subhash nagar, PH. No. 06, R.N.M.- Ambikapur, Block- Ambikapur, Tehsil- Ambikapur, Dist- Sarguja , Chhattisgarh **Boundaries: East:** 13 Ft Road, **West:** Seller's Land, **North :** 13 Ft Road, **South:** Land of Poonam Keshri	₹ **18,54,792.02** with interest and applicable charges thereon.	03/06/2026 / 11/08/2026

Date: 12.08.2026 Place: Ambikapur (C.G.) Authorized Officer, Canara Bank

बैंक ऑफ़ बड़ौदा Bank of Baroda

Branch: Janjgir, Distt. Janjgir-Champa (C.G.) 495668

POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Properties)

[Under Rule-8(1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002]

Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the **Bank of Baroda**, under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of Powers conferred under section **13(12)** read with **Rule 3** of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 issued Demand Notice on the date, mentioned below calling upon the Borrowers/ Guarantors / Mortgagers to repay the amount as mentioned against each account within 60 days from the date of notice / date of receipt of the said notice. The Borrowers/ Guarantors / Mortgagers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers/ Guarantors / Mortgagers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under sub-section (4) of section 13 of the said Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002 on the date mentioned below.

The Borrower's / Guarantors' / Mortgager's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.

The Borrowers/ Guarantors / Mortgagers in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the property/ies will be subject to the charge of **Bank of Baroda** for the amounts and interest thereon.

Sl. No.	Name of the Borrower/Guarantor	Description of the Property Mortgaged & Owner of the Property	Date of Demand Notice / Possession Notice affixed on / Type of Possession	Amount outstanding as on the Date of Demand Notice
1.	**Borrower- Mr. Birbal Nishad S/o. Uttam Nishad**	Equetable Mortgagge of Land and Building at residential land/house bearing Khasra No. **732/10**, comprising area **1250.00** Sq.ft. situated at Shankar Nagar, P.C. No. 63, Ward No. 28, Maharshi Valmiki Ward, Raipur, Chhattisgarh at **Mr. Birbal Nishad S/o. Uttam. Boundaries: North-** Land of Muslim Bhai, **South-** Land of Tiwari, **East-** Road, **West-** Road.	20/05/2026 / 11/08/2026 / Symbolic Posse.	₹ **39,98,680.15** + Interest and Other Charges
2.	**Borrower- Mr. Pankaj Keshrwani and Smt. Anita Bai Keshrwani**	Equetable Mortgagge of Land and Building at diverted land situated at village- Birra, PH.No. 12, R.N.M.- Birra & Tehsil- Bamhanidih, KH. No. **3638/2**, area **0.01** acres, Kh. No. **3641/3** rear **0.04** acres, Dist- Janjgir-Champa.	20/05/2026 / 11/08/2026 / Symbolic Posse.	₹ **22,95,979.00** + Interest and Other Charges

Properety Beloning to **Smt. Anita Bai Keshrwani. Boundaries: North-** Land of Balumukund, **South-** Land of Pratibha Keshrwani, **East-** Road, **West-** Land of Amarnath Kashyap.

Date: 12.08.2026 Place : Janjgir-Champa (C.G.) Authorized Officer, Bank of Baroda

भारत सरकार
कारपोरेट कार्य मंत्रालय
त्वरित कॉर्पोरेट समापन प्रसंस्करण केंद्र (सी-पेस),
आई.आई.सी.ए. बिल्डिंग, 7वीं मंज़िल,
प्लाट P-6,7,8, से.-5, आई. एम्.टी. मानेसर, गुड़गाँव,
हरियाणा - 122050.
Email: roc.cpace@mca.gov.in

सत्यमेव जयते

Government of India
Ministry of Corporate Affairs
Centre for Processing Accelerated Corporate Exit (C-PACE)
IICA Building, 7th Floor,
Plot P-6,7,8, Sector-5, IMT Manesar,
Gurgaon, Haryana - 122050.
Email: roc.cpace@mca.gov.in

FORM No. STK --6
PUBLIC NOTICE

[Pursuant to sub-section (2) and sub-section (4) of section 248 of the Companies Act, 2013 and rule 7 of the Companies (Removal of Names of Companies from the Register of Companies) Rules, 2016]

Public: ROC/C-PACE/STK-2/248(2)/2026-27/971 Date: 04/08/2026

Reference:

In the matter of striking off or removal of names of (10) companies in the **Chhattisgarh** state under section 248 of the Companies Act, 2013 in respect of:

S No.	Work Item	CIN	Company Name
1	AC4883357	U42201CT2025PTC018267	M.B.A. POWER SERVICES PRIVATE LIMITED
2	AC4834384	U73100CT2025OPC018049	ZXI MEDIA (OPC) PRIVATE LIMITED
3	AC4782971	U47990CT2023PTC015404	MANODASHA PRIVATE LIMITED
4	AC4282691	U69202CT2023PTC015119	UNIFIED VYAPAR PRIVATE LIMITED
5	AC4348749	U80902CT2022PTC013075	RKVS EDUCATION PRIVATE LIMITED
6	AC4578344	U85300CT2022PTC012948	MEDIBLOOM HEALTH SOLUTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED
7	AC4631603	U01100CT2020OPC010283	ACREGO BUSINESS SOLUTIONS (OPC) PRIVATE LIMITED
8	AC4741469	U52609CT2019OPC009769	RIVEN SLEEP (OPC) PRIVATE LIMITED
9	AC4156935	U65999CT2019PTC009649	CAPEQUITIES FINANCIAL SERVICES PRIVATE LIMITED
10	AC4790914	U63090CT2019PTC009737	EVENTOURAGE GLOBAL EVENTS PRIVATE LIMITED

2. Notice is hereby given that the Registrar of Companies had received applications from the above-mentioned companies under section 248(2) of the Companies Act, 2013 for removal of its/their name (s) from the register of companies either on the ground that they have failed to commence business within one year of their incorporation or on the ground that the company(ies) is/are not carrying on any business or operation for a period of two immediately preceding financial years and has/have not made any application (s) within such period for obtaining the status of a dormant company under section 455 of the Companies Act, 2013 or the company(ies) have obtained the status of dormant company/subscribers to the memorandum have not paid the subscription which they had undertaken to pay at the time of incorporation of a company and a declaration to this effect has not been filed within one hundred and eighty days of its incorporation under subsection (1) of section 10A/have not been carrying on any business or operations, as revealed after the physical verification carried out under sub-section (9) of section 12, but it/they do not wish to continue its/their registration as companies and have, therefore, requested for removal/strike off of its/their names from the register of companies.
3. Accordingly, the Registrar of Companies proposes to remove or strike off the names of the above-mentioned companies from the Register of Companies.
4. Any person objecting to the proposed removal or striking off name of the companies from the register of companies may send his or her objection to the office address mentioned here above within thirty days from the date of publication of this notice.

Irkan Tirkey
Deputy Registrar
Centre for Processing Accelerated Corporate Exit

CBC 07123/11/0435/2627

"Cinema is bigger than stardom. And if we don't learn to celebrate the people who make cinema, we will eventually reduce cinema itself to celebrity spotting."

Hrithik Roshan

&Glitters

OTT Watch

Hiddleston brings Pompeii's history alive

Tom Hiddleston explores Pompeii's ancient ruins in his docu-series, reflecting on how visiting the city compresses the 2,000-year distance between past and present, while uncovering stories of those affected by Mount Vesuvius.

Farah Khan dismisses bias claims

Farah Khan addressed accusations of favouring Lock Upp winner Shreya Kalra, explaining they had never met before the show and dismissing claims that their professional connection influenced her approach.

Honey Singh takes dig at Badshah

Honey Singh reacted to Badshah's claim about choosing his stage name after Samay Raina's joke on India's Got Latent revived their past feud, commenting, "Meri nalayak aulaad," on a viral clip.

Avika Gor apologises to Jasmin

Avika Gor became emotional on Khatron Ke Khiladi 15 while apologising to Jasmin Bhasin for past misunderstandings. Jasmin accepted her apology with a hug, helping the former friends reconnect and revive their friendship.

Karisma recreates dance of envy

Karisma Kapoor recreated the iconic 'Dance of Envy' from Dil to Pagal Hai with Bharti Singh on India's Best Dancer Season 5, bringing nostalgia, laughter and a memorable Bollywood dance moment to the show.

CLOSE UP

Farhan's cryptic take on film exits raises eyebrows

Farhan Akhtar's cryptic remark sparks fresh speculation surrounding the controversial Don 3 project.

Central Chronicle News

His comments recall past film exits, drawing comparisons with Ranveer Singh's departure.

Farhan Akhtar during a recent event

Farhan Akhtar's Don 3 has come under the spotlight after the filmmaker made a cryptic comment about actors leaving films close to their shooting schedules. Although he did not name Ranveer Singh or refer to the controversy surrounding the project, his remarks have sparked speculation. Ranveer's reported exit from Don 3 weeks before filming was scheduled to begin had triggered a dispute between the actor and the makers. The matter also reached industry bodies, with reports suggesting disagreements over the project and financial losses allegedly caused by the sudden change. Farhan recalled a similar situation involving Saif Ali Khan during the making of Dil Chahta Hai. He explained that a scheduling conflict with another film put Saif in a difficult position and made him consider leaving the project. Farhan said he was devastated by the possibility because, after meeting Saif and developing the character, he could not imagine anyone else playing the role. He recalled that the team tried to convince the actor to stay, but the situation remained uncertain. According to Farhan, the issue arose a month before filming was scheduled to begin. He then observed that such last-minute exits appear to have become the pattern in the industry. "That was too heartbreaking for me," Farhan said while describing the experience. He added that it happened about a month before filming, "which seems to be a pattern nowadays," before jokingly saying that such situations happen beyond his films as well.

While Farhan's comments were about his earlier experience with Saif, the timing has inevitably led to comparisons with Don 3. The film's future remains uncertain following Ranveer's departure, while the reported financial dispute surrounding the project continues.

| HOLLYWOOD |

Pitt sees AI driven comeback of mid-budget films

Central Chronicle News

Hollywood star Brad Pitt believes artificial intelligence could help revive mid-budget filmmaking by making costly visual effects more affordable. In a recent interview with Esquire, the Oscar-winning actor said AI, when used as a creative tool, could help films with budgets between USD 40 million and USD 90 million get made. However, Pitt has mixed feelings about using AI to recreate an actor's performance. He said technology could reproduce aspects of his work, but the final result might not reflect the personal choices and discoveries he makes while performing. He stressed that the outcome depends on who controls the technology and how it is used. Pitt also discussed body scanning, increasingly used in Hollywood for visual effects, stunt sequences and de-ageing. He revealed that he has been scanned for around two decades but has always included contractual terms requiring him to own the scans and have them destroyed. The actor called AI in filmmaking an interesting experiment while acknowledging concerns about performers' digital likenesses. He also recalled hearing an AI-generated song that impressed him, although he felt it lacked the emotional quality of a real singer's voice.

Brad Pitt faces Hollywood's AI

HIGHLIGHT

- Brad Pitt believes AI could help bring more mid-budget Hollywood films back.
- The actor remains cautious about AI recreating performers and their digital likenesses.

CineBriefs

BEST OF THE REST

Bollywood

Emraan Hashmi denies Mehmood biopic casting

Emraan Hashmi has dismissed reports claiming he will play iconic actor-producer Mehmood in a biopic inspired by music composer R.D. Burman's life. The actor clarified on X that the reports are untrue, saying he has neither been approached for the project nor signed it. The film was reportedly linked to director Neeraj Pandey and Excel Entertainment, with Akshay Kumar expected to portray Rajesh Khanna. Meanwhile, Hashmi is preparing for the release of Awarapan 2, the sequel to his 2007 musical thriller. The film also stars Shabana Azmi, Disha Patani and Suvinder Vicky.

Web Series

Alfonso Cuaron sets Apple TV horror series

Oscar-winning filmmaker Alfonso Cuaron is taking on psychological horror with Ascension, a new Apple TV drama starring Outlander actor Caitríona Balfe. Inspired by Adam Nevill's novel Last Days, the series follows Rose, a recently divorced documentary filmmaker who investigates a mysterious 20th-century cult called the Church of Ascension. As Rose becomes interested in the group's teachings, she discovers a darker reality hidden beneath them. The series will explore themes of evil, innocence, love and sacrifice. Natalie Erika James and Christian White will co-showrun the project, with Cuaron also serving as executive producer.

The bollywood hot pair

Sidharth and Kiara roped in as brand ambassadors

Sidharth Malhotra and Kiara Advani continue to be one of Bollywood's most admired couples, often winning hearts with their stylish appearances and warm chemistry.

The couple recently stepped into the spotlight together as brand ambassadors, adding another glamorous chapter to their growing public presence. While both actors have established successful careers individually, their appearances together often attract attention for their effortless style and charming equation. From red-carpet moments to casual outings, Sidharth and Kiara have built a strong fan following as a couple. Their latest association once again brings their partnership, fashion appeal and star power into focus.

Fashion

Tara Sutaria channels old-Hollywood glamour

Tara Sutaria turned heads at the Toxic: A Fairy Tale for Grown-Ups trailer launch with a dramatic vintage-inspired look. She wore a floor-length leopard-print dress featuring an off-shoulder neckline, fitted silhouette and flowing skirt. The bold animal print gave the outfit a glamorous old-Hollywood feel, while vintage Givenchy jewellery and Chanel earrings added a luxurious touch. She completed the look with sleek Rene Caovilla pumps and voluminous side-swept waves.

Trending on Insta

@sonalee18588

Sonali Kulkarni remembers 'Dil Chahta Hai'

As Dil Chahta Hai marked 25 years since its release, actress Sonali Kulkarni revisited the film's script, taking fans down memory lane. She shared pictures and a video of the script on Instagram, accompanied by the film's iconic title track.

@shrutzhaasan

Shruti Haasan's emotional goodbye to kitten Aslan

Shruti Haasan revealed on Instagram that she had to rehome her Persian kitten Aslan after developing severe allergies. Despite medication and several attempts to manage the symptoms, she described the decision as deeply painful.

Art & Culture

LEGACY

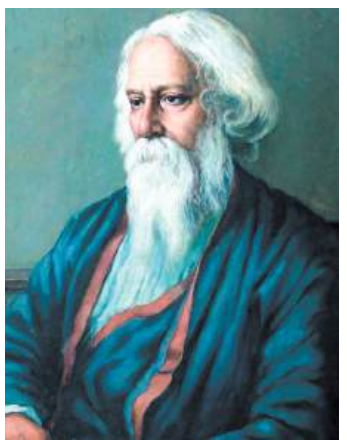
India's national symbols carry culture & legacy

Every national symbol carries a story woven through India's cultural history.

India's national symbols are more than emblems; they form a cultural vocabulary through which the country expresses its history, values and identity. Each carries a story shaped by centuries of tradition, philosophy and memory. At the heart of the national flag is the Ashoka Chakra, a navy-blue wheel with 24 spokes. Inspired by the Dharma Chakra associated with Emperor Ashoka, it represents righteousness, ethical conduct and the ceaseless movement of life. Replacing the charkha in the final flag design, the Chakra also conveys a nation committed to progress rather than stagnation. The Bengal tiger, declared India's national animal in 1973, embodies strength, majesty and the country's wildlife heritage. Its presence in Indian mythology, art and folklore gives the animal significance beyond the natural world. As a national emblem, it also reminds us of the responsibility to protect threatened ecosystems. The Indian peacock became the national bird in 1963. Celebrated for its beauty, colour and graceful presence, the peacock has appeared across Indian paintings, poetry, sculpture and mythology for generations. Its cultural roots and unmistakable identity make it a fitting symbol of India's biodiversity. The lotus, India's national flower, carries an equally layered meaning. Rising from muddy waters yet blooming with beauty, it has long symbolised purity, resilience and spiritual awakening. Its presence in Indian art, architecture and religious traditions further connects the flower to India's cultural imagination.

Finally, Jana Gana Mana, written by Rabindranath Tagore and adopted as the national anthem in 1950, celebrates India's geographical and cultural diversity. Together, these symbols create a portrait of a nation where nature, philosophy, art and heritage converge reflecting not only where India came from, but also the values it continues to carry forward.

Symbols rooted in Indian culture.



HIGHLIGHT

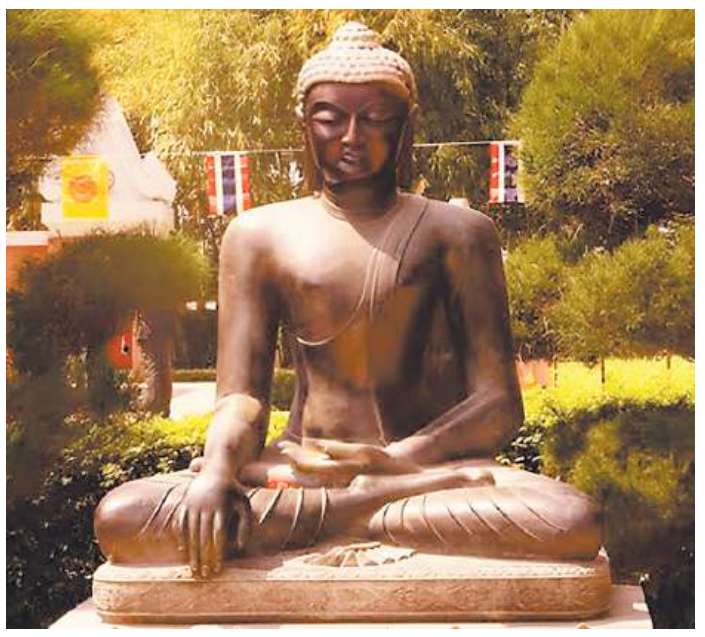
- Discover why these enduring emblems continue shaping India's cultural identity.

The story behind Shiva's ban on Ketaki flower

According to Hindu tradition, the Ketaki flower, also known as kewra, is not offered to Lord Shiva. The belief stems from a popular legend involving Lord Shiva, Lord Brahma and Lord Vishnu. When Shiva appeared as an infinite pillar of light, Brahma falsely claimed he had discovered its end, with Ketaki serving as his witness. Angered by the deception, Shiva is believed to have forbidden the flower from being used in his worship. Devotees instead commonly offer bilva leaves, dhatura, aak flowers and water during Shiva puja. The tradition reflects the spiritual importance placed on truthfulness and devotion.

GODDESS SARASWATI

Sarnath: India's sacred Buddhist heritage



Sarnath, near Varanasi, holds a special place in Buddhist history as the site where Gautama Buddha delivered his first sermon after attaining enlightenment. In 2026, the ancient Buddhist site earned a place on UNESCO's World Heritage List, recognising its exceptional cultural and spiritual significance. The landscape features the imposing Dhamek Stupa, remnants of the Ashoka Pillar, historic monasteries and the serene Deer Park. The Mulagandha Kuti Vihara adds a living dimension, attracting pilgrims for prayer and meditation. Together, these monuments preserve Sarnath's connection to Buddhism's beginnings, offering visitors an evocative journey through India's ancient heritage, art and spiritual traditions.

| KANWAR YATRA |

'Kanwar Yatra' and its sacred connection to Lord Shiva

Central Chronicle News

Uncover the mythology and meaning behind Sawan's sacred pilgrimage.

Every Sawan, India witnesses one of its most powerful expressions of collective faith the Kanwar Yatra. Dressed in saffron, millions of devotees travel on foot, carrying decorated bamboo Kanwars filled with sacred Ganga water. Their destination is a Shiva temple, where the Gangajal is offered to the Shivling as an act of devotion. The tradition is deeply connected with the mythology of Samudra Manthan. According to Hindu belief, when the cosmic ocean was churned, a deadly poison called Halahala emerged, threatening creation. Lord Shiva drank the poison to save the universe, holding it in his throat, which turned blue and earned him the name Neelkanth. Devotees believe that offering Ganga water helped cool the intense heat caused by the poison. Another tradition associates the practice with Lord Parshuram, who is believed to have carried sacred Ganga water for Shiva worship. Sawan is considered especially sacred to Lord Shiva, making it an important period for pilgrimage and prayer. The Kanwar Yatra represents more than a religious journey; it embodies discipline, surrender, perseverance and collective devotion. Walking long distances, often barefoot, becomes an act of spiritual dedication. Kanwariyas traditionally maintain a disciplined lifestyle throughout the pilgrimage. They wear clean saffron clothing, follow a vegetarian diet, avoid intoxicants and maintain purity in thought and action. The Kanwar is treated with reverence and is generally placed on a stand rather than directly on the ground.

From the chants of "Bol Bam" to the sight of thousands walking together, the yatra transforms roads into moving expressions of faith. For devotees, carrying Gangajal is not simply a ritual it is a sacred journey inward, reflecting endurance, devotion and an enduring bond with Lord Shiva.

Millions walk in Shiva's name.

HIGHLIGHT

- Every Sawan, millions walk miles carrying Gangajal for Lord Shiva.

Cultural Hues

Sicily divers discover ancient shipwreck

Divers discovered a shipwreck off Sicily, dating to the first or second century B.C.E. Found near Mazara del Vallo, the wreck lies 150 feet underwater and contains hundreds of amphorae, ceramic vessels used to transport wine and goods. The discovery includes lead anchor stocks and a pipe. Archaeologists believe the site could reveal clues about trade routes more than 2,000 years ago. Italian authorities will study the wreck while protecting it underwater, preserving a glimpse into maritime history.

Kneecap returns after 70 years

In 1956, 11-year-old George Box stole a kneecap and medieval tile fragment during a school trip to Glastonbury Abbey in England. He secretly kept them for decades, even taking them to Australia. Before his death, Box told his wife about the unusual souvenirs and wanted them returned. After his death, his widow fulfilled his wish and brought the artifacts back to the abbey. The kneecap may belong to one of three medieval abbots.

Rare bronze age gold discovery

Metal detectorists near Carlisle, England, made an extraordinary discovery while searching a field. Andy Crammond and Alan Daniels first found a gold bracelet, thinking it might be a bull's nose ring. They soon uncovered two more. The three Bronze Age torcs date to around 1100 B.C.E. and weigh about 18.3 ounces together. Experts call the discovery extremely rare because complete torcs are seldom found. The artifacts may be worth more than $400,000.

Ancient statue hidden underfoot

Archaeologists have discovered a 2,500-year-old marble statue at Sardis in western Turkey. The seven-foot sculpture shows a young man holding a fruit, likely a quince. Created between 470 and 450 B.C.E., it combines Lydian, Greek and older artistic styles. Centuries later, Romans broke the statue into two pieces and reused it as a paving stone, placing it facedown. This unusual treatment helped preserve the sculpture, which researchers are now restoring and studying.

Rare 1940s housecoat sought by Museum

A British museum is searching for a rare 1940s housecoat made by Horrockses, the fashion brand once loved by Queen Elizabeth II and many British women. The garment features a colorful map of the British Isles and was part of Horrockses' first fashion collection, launched in 1946. Only two examples are currently known, making the design extremely rare. The Harris Museum in Preston hopes to locate another example for its upcoming exhibition celebrating the brand's history.

Missing soldier returns to painting

A Dutch museum has restored a missing soldier to Pieter de Hooch's 17th-century painting Figures in a Courtyard. The soldier had been painted over decades ago, possibly to make the scene appear more modest or valuable. Conservators used another nearly identical painting by de Hooch as a guide to recreate him. His return reveals that the figures were playing a drinking game, making the artwork livelier and revealing its possible moral message about drinking and social behavior.

Sports

Rohit's 2027 World Cup dream depends not on age, but on sustaining the hunger, energy and form elite cricket demands.

Matthew Hayden
Former Australian Opening Batter

Random bilateral era ends as formats seek reinvention: ICC CEO

ICC CEO Sanjog Gupta says contextual scheduling and reinvention are essential for Test and ODI cricket to remain relevant amid rapidly expanding T20 leagues worldwide.

Press Trust Of India

Tests require optimal scheduling, adequate marketing support and compelling competitive standards worldwide.

NEW DELHI: The era of "randomly" scheduling bilateral series is over, but the much-debated ODI format can continue to survive and thrive with its place "inextricably" linked to the World Cup, International Cricket Council CEO Sanjog Gupta has asserted.

Gupta shared his thoughts on the Test and one-day formats at a time when their future has been constantly debated in the age of mushrooming T20 leagues.

"The era of randomly scheduled bilateral series has to come to an end, because countries will not be able to sustain cricket without context, culture, competition and competitiveness, which require significant investment of resources, both financial and non-financial," Gupta said.

"It's important to stay focused on the four levers which drive attention and affiliation – context, culture, competition and competitiveness – and ODIs can continue not just to survive, but thrive."

He said there is a place for the format in the product portfolio, which is inextricably linked to men's and women's ICC Cricket World Cups.

Bilateral cricket is decided exclusively by member boards without the ICC's intervention. The world body only handles the scheduling of multinational competitions such as the World Cups and the World Test Championship.

As things stand, only the big three – India, England and Australia – can afford to play Tests, while other full members are struggling to monetise the longest format. ODIs too have become less attractive in the age of T20s, the chosen format for the game's global growth.

Gupta said cricket can learn from marquee events in other sports, such as Wimbledon and The Masters, to engage with fans across age groups.

"Our ambition has to be growth; our ambition should never be to maintain the status quo. Because in this world, where population is growing, attention is getting disaggregated and affiliation is hard to sustain, if you're not growing, you're dying," he warned.

"There is obviously value in high-quality Test cricket. There is prestige, legacy and a sense of heritage associated with it, but if prestige, legacy and heritage are not made relevant and amplified, then the product can become burdensome."

Gupta said Test cricket needs to be served in a manner appealing to the new-age audience. The World Test Championship has been successful in adding more meaning and context to the format.

Test cricket, he said, needs optimal scheduling, adequate positioning and marketing support, competitive teams, suitable playing conditions and the promise of compelling cricket for fans.

Sports Ministry suspends TTFI over governance issues

NEW DELHI: The Sports Ministry on Wednesday suspended its recognition of the Table Tennis Federation of India and asked the Indian Olympic Association to form an ad-hoc committee to administer the sport, citing governance deficiencies within TTFI. In its order, the ministry cited TTFI's failure to conduct elections on time as one of the reasons for the suspension after getting an "unsatisfactory response" to a show cause notice issued earlier. "The IOA, in consultation with the international body (ITTF) will take appropriate action to create an internal regulatory mechanism, including the constitution of an ad-hoc committee, till such time that a duly constituted governance structure is restored in TTFI," the ministry order stated.

| TRUST YOUR TRAINING |

Sreejesh urges India to trust training under pressure

Press Trust Of India

Former goalkeeper asks players to stay calm and enjoy the World Cup.

HIGHLIGHT

- Sreejesh warns excessive thinking can affect performance and increase pressure further.
- India should target at least a top-four finish at the World Cup.

NEW DELHI: Former India hockey goalkeeper PR Sreejesh has urged the current players not to let the pressure of the World Cup affect their game, asking them to trust their preparation and enjoy the occasion.

The FIH World Cup will be jointly hosted by Amstelveen, Netherlands, and Wavre, Belgium, from August 15 to 30.

The Indian men's team is led by Harmanpreet Singh, while the women's side is captained by Salima Tete. The men's team, which has won back-to-back Olympic bronze medals, will aim to end its long World Cup podium drought. India last finished on the podium in 1975, when it won gold.

"The whole world is watching, and all eyes are on you. That brings a lot of pressure," Sreejesh told JioStar.

"But you cannot let that pressure affect your game. When you start thinking too much about it, your performance drops. And when your performance drops, the pressure increases even more. So the key is to stay calm, focus on your role, and trust your training," he said.

India will open against Wales on August 15 before facing England and Pakistan.

"Most importantly, you are playing in the World Cup. This is what you have worked for. Just enjoy the moment and give your best on the pitch," he added.

Despite India's unimpressive FIH Pro League performance, Sreejesh believes a top-four finish is the minimum target.

"We have the quality and the depth to achieve that. Anything beyond that, silver, gold, or bronze, would be a bonus. We should not settle for less," he said.

| COMMONWEALTH GAMES |

I feel bad seeing my father sell milk, searching for a job to support him: Ashish

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Before moving to Hisar last year to pursue his javelin career, Ashish Yadav helped his father sell milk in their village in Mirzapur, Uttar Pradesh. Fifteen months later, the 19-year-old is a World Under-20 silver medallist and is still looking for a job to support his family. Ashish moved to the IISSAI Centre in Hisar in April 2025 to train under coach Arvind Kumar. Since then, his throw has improved by nearly 20 metres.

While Ashish's sporting fortunes have changed, the financial situation at home has not.

"My father is a milkman, he sells milk at our village in Mirzapur. My father has six brothers, three soldiers and three farmers. I feel bad when my father sells milk," Ashish told PTI in an interaction facilitated by the Athletics Federation of India (AFI).

> **My father is a milkman, he sells milk at our village in Mirzapur. My father has six brothers, three soldiers and three farmers. I feel bad when my father sells milk**
>
> **Ashish Yadav**
> Javelin Thrower

"I am searching for job, but not getting yet. I will train well and work hard in Hisar to win medals for the country (to get a job in the process). The financial situation at home is just the same, not improving, since I am not getting any job."

Ashish's improved performance was made possible by systematic and scientific training.

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

ASIA'S RISING STARS

Strong field for Asian Junior Open & Girls Chess Championship

MUMBAI: A strong field of 157 players from 10 countries, including six International Masters and 24 FIDE Masters and Women FIDE Masters, will compete in the Asian Junior Chess Championships from August 16 to 26. The tournament, featuring Asia's top U20 talent, will comprise nine rounds of Classical Swiss and seven rounds each of Rapid and Blitz. Indian IM Mayank Chakraborty heads the open field, followed by Russia's IM Artem Pingin and India's IM Apporv Kamble. In the junior women's section, India's WFM Pratitee Bordoloi leads the field, ahead of Kazakhstan's WFA Mariya Kholyavko and Turkmenistan's WFM Lala Shohradova. The winners will earn a Grandmaster norm if they are already IMs, while non-IMs will be eligible for an IM norm. The event has previously crowned Viswanathan Anand, Koneru Humpy and Tania Sachdev. **PTI**

DURAND CUP

NEROCA beat nine-man Raengdai to end Durand Cup campaign with win

IMPHAL: NEROCA FC came from behind to beat nine-man FC Raengdai 3-1 and end their Group D campaign in the 135th IndianOil Durand Cup with a win, here on Wednesday. Jonah Kamei put Raengdai ahead in the 19th minute, but NEROCA levelled eight minutes later through an own goal by Thoudam Nani Singh. Raengdai were reduced to 10 men in the 55th minute when P M Rakeveiche was shown a straight red card for a high-boot challenge. Three minutes later, Soraisham Surjakanta Singh received a second yellow and was sent off, leaving Raengdai with nine players for the final half-hour. NEROCA finally made their numerical advantage count when substitute Chabungbam Linky Meitei headed home in the 89th minute following a cross from Imarson Meitei. Yumnam Renedy Meitei then sealed the win with a stoppage-time strike (90+4th). **PTI**

PREPARING FOR GLORY

Arshad Nadeem skips Lausanne Meet to focus on Asian Games

LAHORE: Pakistan's Olympic gold-medallist javelin thrower Arshad Nadeem will skip the Diamond League meet in Lausanne this month to focus on preparing for another international event and the Asian Games in Japan. Arshad's long-time coach, Salman Butt, said the javelin thrower was training in Lahore but would soon leave for South Africa, where he will train under his coach, Terseus Liebenberg, and local trainers. "He has decided against competing in the Diamond League meet this month as he wants to be ready for the Asian Games," Butt said. Arshad didn't qualify for the top eight in the finals of the recent Commonwealth Games in Glasgow. He was scheduled to compete in Lausanne on August 21 alongside Neeraj Chopra, Julian Weber and Anderson Peters. **PTI**

HONOURING HISTORIC GOLD

Judoka Asmita Dey felicitated in Tripura after winning gold at CWG

AGARTALA: Asmita Dey, the first Indian judoka to win a Commonwealth Games gold medal, was accorded a felicitation. A cheque of Rs 10 lakh was handed over to Dey, who produced a comeback to clinch the women's -48kg title, defeating Canada's Heidi Quach in a golden score contest in Glasgow. The 23-year-old was also allotted land for building a house in Agartala, Chief Minister Manik Saha said. "The journey from an obscure village in South Tripura to a podium finish at Glasgow was a race against time. Her father was a cycle mechanic. Against all odds, she stood firm on her mission and achieved phenomenal success for the country," he said. **PTI**

Sports News

Siraj eager to write his own script in spinner-friendly Galle

With Bumrah absent, Mohammed Siraj must lead India's pace attack and challenge the spin-dominated narrative during the two-Test series against Sri Lanka in difficult conditions.

Press Trust Of India

Siraj averages 25.4 as lead bowler across 17 Tests without Bumrah present.

GALLE: Spinners running amok on the slow turners in Galle and Colombo has been the dominant theme in the build-up to the two Tests between India and Sri Lanka, starting here Saturday.

While it is not far off the truth, one bowler will be eager to write his own script across the next fortnight or so – Mohammed Siraj.

In the absence of premier pacer Jasprit Bumrah, Siraj will have to assume the lead role, besides handholding Prasidh Krishna and Gurnoor Brar.

It's not precisely an unfamiliar place for Siraj, for he has stepped up to the plate several times when Bumrah was either rested or injured.

A quick rewind to last year's Birmingham Test against England will attest that statement.

Siraj produced a match-defining spell of six for 70 in the first innings when Bumrah was absent because of his workload management.

Siraj bowled a staggering 1113 balls in that series, picking up 23 wickets, but here the 32-year-old will certainly not have to deliver that many balls.

But his role will not be any less significant in the series against the Islanders.

It's a bit of an anomaly but Siraj shines even brighter when Bumrah is not operating from the other end.

Bowling alongside the phenom, Siraj has taken 90 wickets from 29 Tests, and averages 32.

However, in the 17 Tests where he was the lead bowler, Siraj has taken 50 wickets and average plummets to a creditable 25.4.

Siraj loves attention but he does not have the main character syndrome.

"He has always been a tough competitor. He does not shy away from a challenge. It comes from his tennis ball background where you need to bowl many overs continuously.

"Of course, once he joined the Indian team, he has worked tirelessly over his fitness, and he can bowl one or last ball of the day with the same intensity. That way he has not changed at all," says Mohammed Mahboob Ahmed, who mentored Siraj at the Charminar Cricket Club in Hyderabad.

Intensity will be Siraj's biggest asset in the upcoming two-match series where pitches will not offer him much assistance, nor will there be too much for him in the humid Lankan air save for the initial hour.

But he will have to overcome it with his characteristic zest to be the leader when top dog Bumrah is absent.

Siraj can combine stock and shock to telling effect even on benign tracks. He has this uncanny knack to produce a breakthrough when it is absolutely necessary.

It could be a magic incoming delivery that leaves the batters completely short of an answer, or a commonplaced full length ball that at times can fetch an inside edge. All these could be his weapons against the Lankans here.

Add to it his ability to conjure some lusty blows down the order with the bat, and Siraj transforms into a compelling package.

Recently, the Hyderabad man hammered three sixes in a row to carry India to win over a Sri Lanka Cricket XI in a warm-up match in Colombo.

More than his ability, it symbolises his will to win at any cost and from any circumstances.

"Bachpan se hi woh aisa hi tha (He was like that from his younger days). Never liked defeat or never accepted defeat. He will lead from the front if the team finds itself in a pressure situation," says Mahboob.

Praggnanandhaa beats Sindarov in Sinquefield Cup

Press Trust Of India

Praggnanandhaa displayed tenacity to defeat Sindarov and secure his first Sinquefield victory.

ST. LOUIS (USA): Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa crashed through the defences of Javokhir Sindarov in a second round match to register his first victory of the Sinquefield Cup, the penultimate event of the Grand Chess tour, here.

The star of the day was Praggnanandhaa all the way as the Indian claimed his point inch-by-inch in the endgame arising out of a queen pawn opening.

Sindarov, who will be up against world champion D Gukesh later this year for the world crown, chose just an equal endgame that should have been a perfect draw for him.

But then what he possibly did not account for was Praggnanandhaa's tenacity. It paid off in the end for the Indian as from what the computer was claiming to be a drawn endgame turned in to a winning one in no time. The game lasted as many as 95 moves.

With Praggnanandhaa reaching 1.5 points from his two games, the overnight leader Fabiano Caruana of United States was the only one to end matters peacefully with a draw against Anish Giri of Holland.

The Dutchman is known for his deep opening preparation and he did not disappoint his fans but Caruana was well armed with his black piece.

After just one decisive result in the first round, the equation changed dramatically with four decisive results in round two as Levon Aronian of United States showed his class to beat Vincent Keymer of Germany, Wesley So of United States proved superior against Jorden Van Foreest of Holland and Maxime Vachier-Lagrave, the consistent Frenchman, defeated Savian Sameul of United States.

There are five leaders sharing the top spot on 1.5 points apiece with seven rounds still to be played in the 475000 USD prize money tournament.

FAST FACTS

- Praggnanandhaa converted a drawn endgame into victory after a gruelling 95 moves.
- Five players share the lead on 1.5 points with seven rounds remaining.

| TEST SERIES |

Dickwella returns to Sri Lanka Test squad; offspinner Nuwantha gets maiden call-up

Press Trust Of India

Besides Nuwantha, uncapped batter Pasindu Sooriyabandara and left-arm pacer Dilshan Madushanka have also been included in the squad.

GALLE: Wicketkeeper-batter Niroshan Dickwella returned to Sri Lanka's red-ball set up after three years, while off-spinner Keshara Nuwantha earned his maiden call-up as the hosts named a 16-member squad for the first Test against India.

Dickwella, who last played a Test against New Zealand in 2023, is in line to make his return to the format after regular wicket-keeper Kusal Mendis was ruled out with an injury.

Besides Nuwantha, uncapped batter Pasindu Sooriyabandara and left-arm pacer Dilshan Madushanka have also been included in the squad, which features four specialist fast bowlers.

Madushanka's return adds further variety to Sri Lanka's pace attack, which also comprises Asitha Fernando, Lahiru Kumara and Vishwa Fernando.

All-rounder Milan Rathnayake provides another seam-bowling option.

Durgapur karateka Aaleina Sen wins gold

NEW DELHI: Durgapur youngster Aaleina Sen clinched a gold medal in the Kumite Under-11, above 45kg category at the 20th All India Independence Cup Karate Championship 2026 here. The championship was held at Talkatora Stadium from August 7-9 and featured nearly 2,000 karatekas from across the country. Aaleina defeated opponents from Delhi and Uttar Pradesh in two successive bouts to emerge champion in her category. She also bagged a bronze medal in the Under-11 Kata category, adding to an impressive outing at the national-level competition.

| DELHI T20 SHOWDOWN |

India lock T20 series against Afghanistan in September

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Bangladesh's hopes of hosting India for a long-pending white-ball series in September seem all but over, with the BCCI announcing a three-match T20I series against Afghanistan. Shreyas Iyer and his men will face Afghanistan in Delhi on September 13, 15 and 17. All three matches will be played at the Arun Jaitley Cricket Stadium.

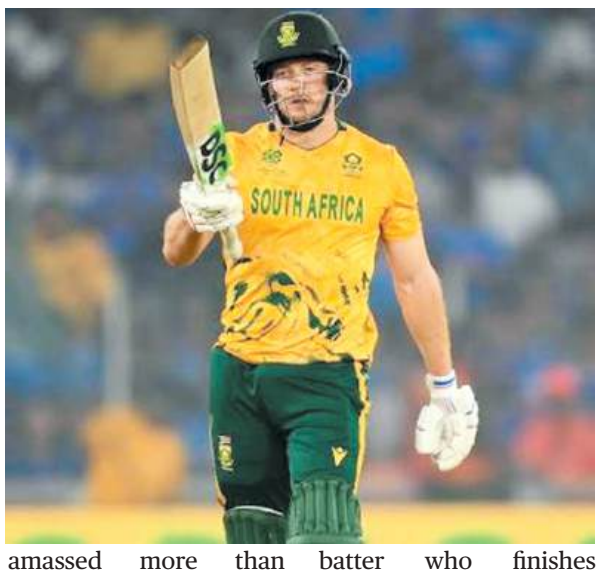
The BCCI and Afghanistan Cricket Board announced the series in a joint statement. The window clashes with plans proposed by Bangladesh, whose series against India was postponed last year because of political unrest.

| CHASING FINAL GLORY |

David Miller eyes World Cup glory before ending career

Press Trust Of India

David Miller hopes to finish his international career by winning the home World Cup.



NEW DELHI: South African stalwart David Miller wants to end his career on a high by winning next year's ODI World Cup.

The tournament will be co-hosted by South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia in October-November next year.

"Yeah, I am really looking forward to it. For me, it's a goal that I want to achieve. I would love to finish off late in my career with a trophy," Miller told JioStar.

The 37-year-old white-ball specialist has amassed more than 4,600 runs in 178 ODIs.

He said selection was never guaranteed and he would remain focused on making the team and contributing all he could.

Miller takes pride in his role as a middle-order batter who finishes games.

"I've made a career by batting in the middle order and finishing games. It's something that takes a long time to conquer and master," he said.

HIGHLIGHT

- Miller wants to secure his place in South Africa's 2027 World Cup squad.
- The veteran takes pride in mastering middle-order batting and finishing difficult games.

Miller picked his unbeaten 101 for Kings XI Punjab against Royal Challengers Bangalore in the 2013 IPL as his favourite knock. It was his first IPL and T20 hundred that helped establish his career greatly.

He also cherishes an unbeaten century against Australia in Durban and winning the IPL title with Gujarat Titans in their debut season.

World

Ukrainian anti-ship missiles, jet-powered aerial drones and sea drones blitzed a major Russian naval base on the Black Sea coast in a "unique" nighttime operation.

Volodymyr Zelenskyy
Ukrainian President

Exercise Udara Shakti 2026 in Malaysia

Personnel from the Indian Air Force (IAF) and the Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF) pose for a group photograph during the bilateral Exercise 'Udara Shakti 2026' at the Subang Airbase, in Malaysia. (PTI Photo)

Trump vaccine order delights MAHA voters, angers democrats

President Donald Trump issued an executive order aimed at scaling back the childhood immunization schedule and separating combined shots like the MMR vaccine.

Press Trust Of India

NEW YORK: President Donald Trump pivoted the nation's attention back to vaccines this week with an executive order that aims to scale back the childhood immunisation schedule and space out shots into separate visits.

After acting to overhaul the nation's vaccine policy and guidance, the Trump administration had recently largely stepped back from additional changes to focus on less controversial subjects, raising questions over the political impetus behind and implications of the Republican president's renewed focus on vaccines. For well over a decade, Trump has expressed his view - against medical groups' guidance - that childhood vaccines should be administered in smaller doses over a long period of time. The executive order sought to bear out that discredited theory. While the move could endear Trump to some "Make America Healthy Again" (MAHA) voters who want more flexibility on immunisations, it's also already attracting attacks designed to hurt Trump's aligned candidates in November's midterm elections.

President Donald Trump shakes hands with HHS Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. in the Oval Office.

Jayme Franklin, a 28-year-old conservative activist who appeared with the president to promote his executive order on Monday, said she thinks the action is "going to go a long way" for MAHA mom voters like herself. But Shaughnessy Naughton, president of the left-leaning political action committee 314 Action, which aims to elect doctors to office, said she sees the order as "one more data point" in support of Democrats' cause. "Our organisation and our candidates are certainly going to hammer that message home - that if you want healthcare that's accessible and affordable, if you want medical advice that is science-based, we need to have accountability in Washington," she said. Trump's doubt in the number and cadence of vaccines dates back at least to 2014, when he posted to social media the disproven claim that combination shots can cause autism and said if he were president he would spread them out. While he's since shown pride in his first-term Operation Warp Speed effort to disseminate COVID-19 vaccines quickly and praised certain other shots like the polio vaccine, he also has repeatedly called for reforming the childhood vaccine schedule. While his administration released an assessment comparing US childhood vaccine schedules to peer nations', several of his suggestions have come without any new scientific evidence. "This is based on what I feel," Trump said last September when he called for splitting the measles, mumps and rubella, or MMR, vaccine into three single-disease vaccines.

FASTFACTS

- The policy fulfills a long-held goal for many "Make America Healthy Again" voters and conservative activists seeking more flexibility on vaccinations.
- While cheered by supporters, the move provides Democrats and aligned groups with a new line of attack against Republican candidates ahead of the November midterms.

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

NEW ZEALAND POLITICS

Luxon survives another leadership vote months before New Zealand's election

WELLINGTON: New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon said Wednesday that he survived a leadership vote prompted by a challenge from his defence minister less than three months before an election. The vote took place during a hastily convened meeting of Luxon's centre-right National Party lawmakers at Parliament in Wellington, which was held behind closed doors and ran for more than three hours.

Luxon then emerged flanked by his lawmakers to give a brief statement and departed without taking any questions from reporters. "There was a confidence vote in my leadership this morning at our caucus meeting," he said. "I had the full support of our caucus and our caucus is united and it is determined to win this election." Luxon didn't say how many lawmakers had voted for him to continue in the job, although such ballots are usually a secret. Hours later, he said in a statement that the vote was prompted by a leadership challenge from his defence minister, Chris Penk, adding that he had removed Penk from his ministerial portfolios. On Wednesday night, Luxon's office distributed a statement from Penk, in which the challenger said he would quit Parliament altogether. The vote was the second Luxon had called about his own leadership since April and leaves lingering questions coming so close to the election scheduled for November 7. The April vote followed drops in polling for National, while this week's followed recent public remarks Luxon had made on various issues that some in his party saw as gaffes.

HOUTHIS KILL SIX

Iranian-backed Houthis kill six in attack on vessel

SANAA: Yemeni authorities said six people were killed by Iran-backed Houthi rebels attacking a vessel in the Bab el-Mandeb strait, while US forces fired on a ship they said was trying to break a blockade of Iran's ports. Yemen's coast guard said the dead included four crew members and two members of the government-allied National Resistance Forces. Houthis fired three ballistic missiles at the Yemeni commercial vessel, according to the Transportation Ministry of Yemen's internationally recognized government. They are the first known deaths from Houthi attacks on shipping off Yemen in the latest bout of fighting in the Arab country.

LIBYA DRONE STRIKE

Drone strike in western Libya torches power substation

CAIRO: A drone strike ignited a fire at a electrical facility in a western Libyan city on Wednesday, knocking the facility out of service in the latest of a wave of attacks on energy and oil facilities that threaten to plunge the country into further chaos. The state-run General Electricity Company said in a statement that a power substation in the city of Zawiya, which links power plants to homes and businesses, was completely burned down. The city of about 250,000 people has been rattled by a series of drone strikes that hit oil and power infrastructures. Zawiya is home to critical energy infrastructure, including Libya's largest oil refinery, an export terminal and a power plant.

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