

Raipur



Centre and state governments have failed on every front.
Bhopesh Baghel
Former CM

Modern banking vision for cooperatives: Kashyap

Central Chronicle News

Kashyap reviews cooperative banks, prioritizes farmers and transparency.

RAIPUR: Chhattisgarh Cooperation Minister Kedar Kashyap on Tuesday chaired a high-level review meeting with the chairpersons and senior office-bearers of the Chhattisgarh Apex Bank and District Cooperative Central Banks, stressing the need to strengthen the cooperative sector and improve banking services for farmers across the state. The meeting was held at the minister's residence-cum-office in Nava



Raipur. During the meeting, Minister Kashyap reviewed the functioning of cooperative banks and directed officials to ensure that farmers receive better, transparent, and modern banking facilities. He emphasized that the benefits of various government welfare schemes should reach every eligible beneficiary in a timely, efficient, and completely transparent manner. The review also

FASTFACTS

● Minister stresses transparent, modern cooperative banking services.

focused on expanding digital banking services and improving the operational efficiency of cooperative banks. Participants discussed several measures to modernize banking operations, enhance accountability, and make

cooperative institutions more responsive to public needs. Suggestions were also presented to strengthen governance, improve customer services, and increase the effectiveness of the cooperative banking network across the state.

Addressing the gathering, Kashyap said the state government remains committed to the economic empowerment of farmers and the overall development of rural areas. He described the cooperative system as the backbone of the rural economy and said strengthening cooperative institutions continues to be one of the government's highest priorities.

RMC tightens rules on Shop branding

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: The Raipur Municipal Corporation (RMC) has launched a major crackdown on unauthorized outdoor advertisements and shop branding by implementing the Outdoor Advertisement Policy-2024. The new regulations apply to shopkeepers, advertising agencies, political parties, social and religious organizations, and educational institutions, with violators facing hefty fines through an e-challan system. Under the revised rules, shopkeepers are permitted to display only the name of their establishment and the proprietor on shop signboards. Prior approval from the Municipal Corporation is now mandatory for displaying company or brand names, promotional offers, discount boards,



LED displays, or any other advertising material on commercial establishments. Officials have warned that unauthorized branding, sale notices, offer boards, LED screens, and promotional displays will attract penalties of up to Rs 50,000. The civic body said the move aims to regulate outdoor advertising and improve the city's visual landscape. The corporation has also tightened norms for outdoor advertisements. Hoardings installed without prior permission will invite a minimum penalty of Rs 1 lakh, while unauthorized bulb-based advertisements will be fined Rs 10,000 per event.

Free Health Clinic launched for Senior Citizens

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: To provide accessible healthcare facilities to senior citizens, Usha Foundation has launched a free general health check-up OPD at Sai Baba Eye Hospital (SBH Hospital), New Rajendra Nagar, Raipur. The clinic will offer free health services including blood pressure monitoring, blood sugar testing, eye check-ups, health consultations, dental advice, physiotherapy support, weight management guidance, and tips for healthy living. The facility is available for citizens aged 60 years and above during regular OPD hours on the first floor of SBH Hospital. Under the initiative, senior citizens will also receive special discounts on essential pathology tests. For elderly people



who are unable to visit the hospital due to health issues, home-based pathology sample collection will be provided for a limited number of beneficiaries, with expenses covered by Usha Foundation. A nominal registration fee of Rs 50 will be applicable. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Ashish Mahobia said senior citizens are valuable contributors to society and deserve care, respect, and dignity. He added that health awareness programs, free consultation camps, and other public welfare activities will be organized regularly under the campaign.

AUC students among global top 50 teams

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: Amity University Chhattisgarh (AUC) has earned global recognition after its students, Pari Jain of the Amity Institute of Information Technology (AIIT) and Deepjyoti Saha of the Amity School of Engineering & Technology (ASET), secured a place among the Top 50 Teams Worldwide in Phase 2 of the IEEE HardwAlre Challenge 2026. The IEEE HardwAlre Challenge is an international innovation competition that brings together



students and researchers to develop advanced solutions combining artificial intelligence and hardware technologies for real-world applications. The AUC team's selection reflects its technical expertise, innovative thinking and interdisciplinary approach. Vice-Chancellor Prof. (Dr.)



Piyush Kant Pandey congratulated the students, saying the achievement highlights the university's growing culture of research, innovation and interdisciplinary learning. He praised their dedication and encouraged them to prepare with greater focus for the next stage of

the global competition. Prof. Pandey also appreciated faculty mentor Nisha Rathore for guiding the students and emphasized the crucial role of mentorship in transforming innovative ideas into globally competitive technological solutions. The university congratulated the team and expressed confidence in their continued success, stating that the achievement further strengthens AUC's commitment to promoting AI, emerging technologies, research and student-led innovation.

NIBSM hosts Eco Care awareness session

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: A special awareness programme on 'Stress Management and Nature Conservation' was organised at the ICAR-National Institute of Biotic Stress Management (NIBSM) under the 'Eco Care and Disaster Management' national campaign of the Scientists and Engineers Wing of the Brahma Kumaris. The event focused on promoting mental well-being alongside environmental responsibility. The keynote address was delivered by Dr. Piyush Goyal, senior Rajyogi of



the Brahma Kumaris and Delhi Zonal Coordinator of the Scientists and Engineers Wing. Speaking on the importance of inner strength, he said true resilience comes from mental balance and self-awareness. He emphasized that only a mentally strong individual can effectively face life's challenges and external disasters.

Sharing practical tips on stress management, Dr. Goyal encouraged participants to recognize their strengths, appreciate themselves, and maintain a positive outlook. He said pure and elevated thoughts enhance mental energy, reduce stress, and help people lead balanced and fulfilling lives.

Gyaneshwari's medal makes CG proud

RAIPUR: Chhattisgarh Tourism and Culture Minister Rajesh Agrawal has congratulated state weightlifter Gyaneshwari Yadav for winning the silver medal in the women's 53kg category at the Commonwealth Games, describing her achievement as a matter of immense pride for both the state and the nation. Gyaneshwari secured the silver medal with a total lift of 199 kg, registering 88 kg in the snatch and 111 kg in the clean and jerk.



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CM Sai attends Ch'garh's first sports conclave

Encouraging grant distributed to state medal winners of the Khelo India Tribal Games

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai addressed the closing session of the first-ever Sports Conclave in Raipur, emphasizing the state administration's commitment to advancing sports and nurturing athletic talent. Organized by the Sports and Youth Welfare Department, the high-profile event gathered prominent sports administrators, policy makers, sports scientists, national coaches, and expert delegates from across the nation to deliberate on strategic roadmaps for infrastructure development, talent scouting, and advanced training frameworks within Chhattisgarh.

Sai highlighted that dedicated and comprehensive efforts are actively underway to elevate the state's sporting landscape. To reinforce this objective, the government has allocated a substantial financial provision of one hundred crore rupees in the current annual budget specifically targeted at the Utkrisht Khel Mission for strengthening sports infrastructure. Furthermore, the administration recently cleared an official roster comprising one hundred and fifty-six outstanding athletes across the region who will receive designated employment



FASTFACTS

● **Serious efforts are underway in Chhattisgarh to promote sports and athletes; Rs 100 crore provision made this year for the Utkrisht Khel Mission: Sai**

● **An effective action plan will be formulated by incorporating the suggestions and conclusions of the Conclave: Dy CM Arun Sao**

benefits to secure their professional futures. The Chief Minister noted that massive regional initiatives such as the Bastar Olympics and Surguja Olympics, alongside the hosting of the inaugural Khelo India Tribal Games, successfully engaged hundreds of

Incentive grants, cash rewards distributed to medal-winning athletes and teams

In recognition of these remarkable athletic feats, the state government disbursed vital incentive checks to the winning competitors and performing teams. Individual gold medalists received Rs 2 lakh each, silver medalists were awarded Rs 1 lakh 50 thousand each, and bronze medalists secured Rs 1 lakh each. Additionally, significant cash rewards were distributed to team sports, featuring Rs 22 lakh for the gold-winning women football squad, sixteen and a half lakh rupees for the silver-winning men football squad, and Rs 9 lakh for the bronze-winning men hockey team.

thousands of local youths, offering them unprecedented competitive platforms. The Khelo India Tribal Games witnessed exceptional performances from the host contingent, resulting in a total haul of nineteen medals, which included three gold, ten silver, and six bronze medals. Deputy Chief

Minister and Minister for Sports and Youth Welfare Arun Sao, who also participated in the proceedings, underscored that the collective insights, expert recommendations, and definitive conclusions drawn during the rigorous day-long deliberations will directly shape a robust and practical action plan.

Collector reviews govt schemes and grievances

RAIPUR: Collector Dr. Gaurav Singh chaired a time-limit meeting at the Red Cross auditorium to review the execution of priority government schemes and the resolution of public grievances across various district departments. The Collector reviewed pending cases registered on the PG portal one by one, expressing displeasure over the lack of expected progress in project coordination and directing officials to take immediate corrective action. Discussions also focused on unresolved applications submitted through the Collector Call Center and the Chief Minister's Jandarshan, with Dr. Singh emphasizing that all pending matters must be resolved within strict time frames.

Reviewing the progress of Ayushman Card generation and account corrections under the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme, the Collector called for a special campaign to ensure eligible beneficiaries receive benefits promptly. He instructed officials to complete the implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Svamitva Yojana across all villages on schedule and expedite the processing of beneficiaries identified through drone surveys. Furthermore, he directed the swift completion of budgeting work for farmers and the prompt redressal of complaints received via the Chief Minister's Helpline.

World Hepatitis Day observed with seminars, camps



Central Chronicle News

Focus on increasing Hepatitis B and C testing to eliminate the disease by 2030.

RAIPUR: Under the National Viral Hepatitis Control Program, World Hepatitis Day was observed in Raipur on Monday, adhering to instructions from District Collector Dr. Gaurav Singh and led by Chief Medical and Health Officer Dr. Mithilesh Choudhary.

Aligned with the World Health Organization's theme, "Hepatitis: Let's Cure It," the initiative aims to increase diagnostic testing for Hepatitis B and C to achieve complete elimination by 2030. Commemorative seminars took place at the Chief Medical and Health Officer's office, alongside free screening camps, vaccination drives, and awareness rallies across all government hospitals, community health centers, medical colleges, and civil hospitals in the district.

FASTFACTS

● **Citizens urged to seek testing and treatment upon experiencing symptoms like jaundice or fever.**

Chief Medical and Health Officer Dr. Mithilesh Choudhary highlighted that unsafe injections, needle stick injuries, and delayed diagnoses can lead to severe conditions such as liver cirrhosis and liver cancer. He strongly recommended routine hepatitis screenings for all pregnant women and timely Hepatitis B vaccination for newborns within twenty-four hours of birth.

IDSP Nodal Officer Dr. Vimal Kishore Rai explained the transmission vectors, noting that Hepatitis A and E spread through contaminated water and food, whereas Hepatitis B and C transmit via infected blood, unsafe injections, and unprotected intimate contact. He emphasized that Hepatitis B is preventable through available vaccines, proper sanitation, and safe hygiene practices.

NEWSLINE

DRAIN CLEARANCE

Illegal structures on drain razed



RAIPUR: Raipur Municipal Corporation Zone 6 Health Department carried out a major anti-encroachment drive on July 28, 2026, removing approximately twenty illegal structures built over a drain from Bhairav Nagar to Boriya Road in Ward Number 60. Executed under the directives of Mayor Meenal Choubey and Commissioner Sambit Mishra, and guided by Zone 6 Commissioner Hitendra Yadav, the operation was conducted in the presence of Ward corporator Ramesh Sapha and Zone Health Officer Aadivya Hazari. The unauthorized platforms over the drain had severely obstructed regular sanitation and cleaning work, creating a high risk of waterlogging during the monsoon season. Utilizing JCB machines, municipal teams demolished the illegal constructions to clear the obstructions, subsequently dredging the drain and hauling away roughly three dumpers worth of accumulated silt and debris, thereby ensuring effective flood prevention for local residents.

SCRAP FINE

RMC fines scrap shop



RAIPUR: The health department of Raipur Municipal Corporation Zone 10 conducted a surprise inspection of the sanitation arrangements at Om Traders, a scrap shop located near Medishine Hospital in Amlidih under Dr. Rajendra Prasad Ward Number 52. The inspection was carried out following public grievances regarding cleanliness, acting on the directives of Municipal Corporation Commissioner Sambit Mishra and under the guidance of Zone 10 Commissioner Moneshwar Sharma. During the surprise inspection, significant filth was found at the premises, and violations of solid waste management rules were confirmed.

| HUMAN RIGHTS VISIT |

NHRC special monitor visits IIM-R to promote inclusive excellence

Central Chronicle News

NHRC Special Monitor Prof. Kanhaiya Tripathi visited IIM Raipur to discuss human rights and gender sensitisation.

RAIPUR: The Indian Institute of Management Raipur recently hosted Professor Kanhaiya Tripathi, Special Monitor for the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) under the Government of India, for an enriching consultative meeting dedicated to advancing human rights awareness and gender sensitisation within higher education.

During his visit, Professor Tripathi engaged in comprehensive discussions with key academic



leaders including Professor Sanjeev Prashar, Director-in-Charge, alongside Professor M Ramkumar, Chairperson for Student Affairs, and Professor Ashapurna Baruah, Chairperson of SAKSHAM, the institute dedicated committee handling sexual harassment prevention, equality, justice, and social responsibility. The distinguished gathering also welcomed campus wardens, the Chief Administrative Officer, and academic deans to deliberate on elevating institutional standards and embed-

ding ethical core values into campus life.

Expressing his appreciation for the campus atmosphere, Professor Tripathi emphasized that premiere educational institutions carry the profound responsibility of shaping empathetic and socially conscious citizens alongside academic brilliance. He commended the proactive measures taken by IIM Raipur to establish a secure, inclusive, and rights-conscious ecosystem that benefits every student, faculty member, and staff associate.

FAST FACTS

● **Discussions focused on strengthening awareness programs, workplace dignity, and the Prevention of Sexual Harassment framework.**

● **IIM Raipur reaffirmed its commitment to building an inclusive, values-driven, and socially responsible campus environment.**

In response, Professor Sanjeev Prashar reiterated that modern management education must remain deeply rooted in human dignity, social accountability, and mutual respect, noting that continuous collaboration with national bodies like the National Human Rights Commission significantly empowers the institute internal framework.

| DISASTER PREPAREDNESS TRAINING |

AIIMS-R launches disaster management training

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: AIIMS Raipur successfully conducted Chhattisgarh's first State-level Mass Casualty Management Provider Course for government medical colleges from 24 to 26 July 2026. Organized by the Department of Trauma & Emergency in collaboration with the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, JPN Apex Trauma Centre AIIMS New Delhi, and the WHO Collaborating Centre, the three-day programme aimed to strengthen disaster preparedness in



the healthcare system.

The training brought together faculty, nursing officers, and hospital administrators from AIIMS Raipur, Pt. JNM Medical College, government medical colleges in Durg and Rajnandgaon, and CIMS Bilaspur. Key

sessions featured representatives from the State Health Department and State Disaster Management Authority discussing the Health Emergency Operations Centre and the integration of BHISHM Cubes into local disaster response mech-



Lt. Gen. Ashok Jindal (retd.)
Executive Director and CEO, AIIMS Raipur

anisms. Executive Director and CEO Lt. Gen. Ashok Jindal stated that the institute is committed to developing into a center of excellence for disaster medicine and

emergency preparedness. Medical Superintendent Prof. Debendra K. Tripathy emphasized that regular training and simulations are vital for institutional readiness. Deputy Director Lt Col Dharamveer Singh Chauhan noted that BHISHM Cubes will serve as crucial emergency assets and training tools. Led by Dr. Sanjeev Bhoi from AIIMS New Delhi and executed by Dr. Naman Agrawal along with their team, the programme establishes AIIMS Raipur as the state's designated Master Trainer Institute.

Vinay selected as technical official for Commonwealth TT

Central Chronicle News

RAIPUR: Vinay Baisware, a member of the technical committee of the Table Tennis Federation of India and an international umpire, has been selected as a technical official for the 22nd Commonwealth Table Tennis Championship 2026, currently being held in Delhi from July 27 to August 2. The prestigious tournament commenced yesterday at the Thyagaraj Stadium in New Delhi, witnessing participation from players and delegates



representing twenty-five Commonwealth nations. The competition features seven distinct categories, including men team, women team, men singles, women singles, men doubles, women doubles, and mixed doubles events.

Baisware brings extensive experience to the role, having previously served actively as a technical official in numerous international tournaments. A resident of Raipur and an employee of the Life Insurance Corporation of India divisional office, he also serves as the vice president of the Chhattisgarh Table Tennis Association as an accomplished international umpire and player. His notable selection has drawn widespread appreciation and congratulatory messages from prominent sports figures.

Bilaspur



“The farmers are being made aware to get registered in Agri-stack portal to avail the paddy procurement scheme this year.”

Dharam Lal Kaushik
MLA, Bilha

Farmers to get registered in Agristack portal :Collector

Collector reviewed key government programmes and directed officials to achieve targets through coordinated, timely, and accountable implementation across departments.

Central Chronicle News

BILASPUR: Collector Sanjay Agrawal has directed district officials to ensure timely implementation of priority government programmes, stressing that targets under the Agristack farmer registration initiative must be achieved by every cooperative society without exception. Chairing the weekly Time Limit (TL) meeting on Monday, the Collector reviewed the progress of various welfare schemes and development projects and instructed departments to maintain quality while completing assigned tasks within fixed deadlines. Reviewing preparations for the third phase of the Vande Mataram Campaign, scheduled from August 7 to August 15, the Collector instructed officials to complete all arrangements well in advance.

He said patriotic programmes would be organised from the Gram Panchayat level to the district headquarters and directed departments to upload photographs and activity reports of every event on the campaign portal. During the review of the School Edu-



FASTFACTS

● Every cooperative society must complete Agristack farmer registration targets within the stipulated timeline.

● Schools must complete distribution of bicycles, uniforms, and textbooks before July thirty without delay.

cation Department, the Collector instructed officials to ensure complete distribution of bicycles, uniforms and textbooks to students by July 30. Officials informed the meeting that bicycles are being distributed to 9,875 girl students under the Saraswati Cycle Distribution Scheme this year.

Around 250 students are yet to receive bicycles, while nearly eight percent of students are awaiting textbooks. The first set of school uniforms has already been distributed, and supplies for the second set have begun reaching schools.

Reviewing the Chief Minister's Helpline, the Collector emphasised that beneficiary satis-

faction should remain the primary indicator of grievance redressal. He instructed officers to communicate directly with complainants to ensure quicker and more effective resolution of pending cases. The Collector also reviewed Agristack registrations and noted that around 55,000 farmers in the district are yet to be registered.

'PM Surya Ghar' to be geared up

The Collector expressed dissatisfaction over the slow progress of the Pradhan Mantri Surya Ghar Yojana and directed officials to accelerate implementation. Health officials informed the meeting that 23 malaria patients are currently undergoing treatment in the district. The Collector instructed the Health Department to intensify slide testing and ensure prompt screening and treatment of children with fever in schools, hostels and anganwadi centres.

BJP names new team for 14 Mandals

BILASPUR: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Bilaspur Rural has announced a new team of in-charges and co-in-charges for all 14 mandals to strengthen its organisational structure at the grassroots level. The appointments are aimed at improving coordination and expanding the party's reach up to the booth level.

The appointments were approved by state BJP president Kiran Singh Dev and state general secretary Pawan Sai. Following their approval, BJP Bilaspur Rural district president Mohit Jaiswal officially announced the new organisational team.

As part of the restructuring, district general secretary S. Kumar Manhar has been appointed as the in-charge of the BJP Rural district headquarters. He will oversee coordination of organisational activities and ensure smooth implementation of party programmes across the district. The newly appointed in-charges and co-in-charges will work closely with local party workers to strengthen booth committees, improve communication with voters and increase public participation in organisational activities. Party leaders said the move is intended to make the organisation more active and better prepared for upcoming political and public outreach programmes.

Resignation tendered under threat invalid : HC

Central Chronicle News

BILASPUR: The Chhattisgarh High Court has upheld a Single Bench ruling that a resignation submitted under threat or coercion cannot be treated as legally valid unless the employer first verifies that it was given voluntarily. The Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Ramesh Sinha and Justice Ravindra Kumar Agrawal dismissed an appeal filed by Chouksey Engineering College against the earlier judgment directing reinstatement of an assistant professor with back wages and other consequential service benefits.

The court observed that when an employee specifically mentions in a resignation letter that it has been submitted under threat or pressure, the employer is legally bound to examine the circumstances before accepting it. The Bench said that merely accepting such a resignation without conducting any inquiry violates the principles of fairness and due process. According to the judgment, the college management failed to investigate the employee's allegation that the resignation had been obtained under coercion. The court noted that no effort was made to ascertain whether the resignation reflected



FASTFACTS

● Employers must verify voluntary intent before accepting disputed resignation letters from employees.

the employee's free and independent decision. The Division Bench also ruled that affidavits submitted later by colleagues accused of exerting pressure could not rectify the employer's earlier failure to verify the allegations before accepting the resignation. Such documents, the court said, could not substitute a timely and proper inquiry into the complaint. Finding no legal error in the earlier decision, the Division Bench upheld the Single Bench order, declaring the acceptance of the resignation invalid. The court affirmed that reinstatement of the employee along with back wages and all consequential service benefits was the appropriate legal remedy.

NEWSLINE

THEFT

Two accused held in theft

BILASPUR: Bilaspur police arrested two men in connection with a house theft case and recovered stolen cash, gold jewelry and electronic items during the investigation. The theft was reported after the owner returned home and found valuables missing. Police formed a special team and analysed CCTV footage from nearby areas along with technical evidence to identify the suspects. During questioning, both accused allegedly confessed to their involvement in the crime, leading to the recovery of most of the stolen property. Police also seized the motorcycle used during the offence. Officials said the accused had been under surveillance after their movements matched information gathered during the investigation. They have been produced before a local court and remanded to judicial custody. Police are verifying whether the accused were involved in other property offences reported in the district. Authorities said the timely recovery of the stolen property was possible because of prompt investigation and public cooperation. Further investigation is continuing to identify any additional accomplices and recover the remaining stolen articles.

RACKET

Gambling racket busted

BILASPUR: Bilaspur police raided an illegal gambling den and arrested several persons allegedly involved in betting activities. Acting on specific information, the police team conducted the operation and seized cash, playing cards, mobile phones and other materials used for gambling. A case was registered under the relevant provisions of the Chhattisgarh Gambling Act.

Officials said the accused were operating the gambling activity from a rented premises and had been under police watch following complaints from local residents. The arrested persons were produced before the court after completion of legal formalities. Police said similar enforcement drives are continuing across the district to curb illegal gambling and other unlawful activities.

ARREST

Youth arrested with illegal liquor

BILASPUR: Police arrested a youth during a vehicle checking drive after recovering a large quantity of country liquor being transported without a valid licence.

Acting on a tip-off, officers intercepted a motorcycle on the outskirts of Bilaspur and found several litres of liquor packed for illegal sale. The accused failed to produce any documents related to transportation or possession of the liquor. Police seized the liquor, the motorcycle and other materials connected with the case.

Municipal engineers protest MIC member's harsh remark

Central Chronicle News

Municipal engineers demanded respectful workplace conduct after controversial remarks during an official meeting.



FASTFACTS

● Engineers sought administrative action to protect professional dignity and institutional work culture across.

exceeded the limits of constructive criticism and unfairly questioned the honesty, integrity and professional conduct of all engineers working in the Municipal Corporation. They described the language as inappropriate for an official institutional forum. The memorandum explained that municipal engineers perform a wide range of responsibilities beyond supervising construction projects. Their

duties include preparing surveys and estimates, managing tenders, monitoring quality standards, issuing utility certificates, granting building permissions, taking action against encroachments, maintaining water supply, drainage and street lighting systems, handling disaster management responsibilities, performing election-related duties and addressing public grievances.

The engineers also pointed out that delays in development works often occur because of factors such as land availability, administrative approvals, financial constraints and coordination among different departments rather than negligence by engineering staff.

Prompt action be ensured on public grievances : Collector

Central Chronicle News

Collector listened to public grievances and directed officials to ensure prompt resolution through coordinated action.

BILASPUR: A large number of villagers from far-flung areas assembled in the weekly Jandarshan program at the district collectorate.

Collector Sanjay Agrawal listened to their grievances patiently and instructed concerned officials to take immediate action on complaints requiring urgent attention. Residents from both urban and rural areas submitted applications related to personal and community issues. Municipal Commissioner Prakash Kumar Sarve and Additional District Magistrate Shiv Kumar Banerjee also interacted with citizens



FASTFACTS

● Officials received immediate instructions to investigate complaints and initiate necessary corrective measures without delay.

and reviewed their grievances.

Among the applicants, Hira Bai, a ward member from Darrabhantha Gram Panchayat, complained that she had not

received her honorarium for the past ten months, although other ward members had already been paid. The Collector directed officials to verify the matter and ensure appropriate action.

Villagers from Parsakapa in Takhatpur alleged that a government land had been illegally occupied through permanent construction and that a septic tank was being built close to a public hand pump, posing a threat to drinking water

No FIR yet in Rs 30-lakh fake medical bill case

Central Chronicle News

BILASPUR: Nearly ten months after departmental action began in the alleged Rs 30-lakh fake medical reimbursement case involving a teacher from Bilha block, no First Information Report (FIR) has been registered, raising questions over the delay in initiating criminal proceedings.

According to official sources, teacher Sadhelal Patel allegedly attempted to obtain fraudulent medi-



cal reimbursement by submitting forged and altered medical bills in the names of his wife, who is a headmistress, his deceased brother-in-law and another relative. The alleged fraud was detected during scrutiny before any payment was released, preventing

financial loss to the government. Following the detection of the irregularities, the education department suspended both Patel and his wife and initiated departmental disciplinary proceedings. Authorities also directed that a police complaint be filed so that criminal action could be taken in the matter. However, despite the passage of several months, the police have not registered an FIR. Bilha Block Education Officer Bhupendra Kaushik said that all relevant

documents, records and statements have already been submitted to the police. He stated that further action would be taken

“All documents and statements have been submitted to the police.”
Bhupendra Kaushik
BEO, Bilha

documents, records and statements have already been submitted to the police. He stated that further action would be taken

City police crack mobile snatching case, three held

Central Chronicle News

BILASPUR: Tarbahar police, with the assistance of the Anti-Crime and Cyber Unit (ACCU), have solved a mobile phone snatching case reported from the Old Bus Stand area by arresting one accused and apprehending two juveniles. Police recovered the stolen mobile phone and the scooter used in the crime, while another accused is still absconding. The incident took place on July 13 when

Kishore Kumar Singh was walking near the District Hospital while talking on his mobile phone. According to police, a group of accused arrived on a scooter, snatched the phone and escaped from the spot.

During the investigation, police examined CCTV footage and used technical evidence to identify the suspects. Investigators were able to trace the accused even though the scooter's registration number had been concealed.



“The new Bill to prevent paper leak reaffirms govt’s commitment to safeguard the welfare of the students of this country.”

Dr Jitendra Singh
Union Minister

Govt ready to extend discussion period on PEA Bill, says Rijiju

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju said the govt is ready to extend discussion on the Public Examinations Amendment Bill to 10 hours.

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju on Tuesday said the government was willing to extend the discussion on the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill, 2026 to as long as 10 hours, underscoring its readiness for a detailed debate on the proposed legislation. Speaking in the Lok Sabha, Rijiju said he had held consultations with leaders of major political parties, including the Congress, Samajwadi Party, DMK and NCP,



who agreed to extend the initially scheduled six-hour discussion by two hours. “I spoke with the leaders of all parties, the Congress Chief Whip, the Samajwadi Party Chief Whip, the DMK and the NCP, and everyone agreed

to extend the six-hour discussion by two hours to make it eight hours,” he said. Rijiju added that the government had no objection to extending the debate even further if members required more time. “If more time

is needed beyond eight hours, we are ready for a 10-hour discussion,” he said, adding that the matter could be decided in consultation with the Speaker and floor leaders. Earlier, Union Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions Jitendra Singh initiated the discussion on the Bill, describing it as a “milestone legislation” that reinforces the government’s commitment to safeguarding the future of students and ensuring fairness in public examinations. He said the amendment seeks

HIGHLIGHT

● Speaking in the Lok Sabha, Rijiju said he had held consultations with leaders of major political parties for extension in time.

to strengthen the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024, India’s first dedicated central law to curb paper leaks and organised examination malpractice, by enhancing the credibility, transparency and integrity of the examination system.

Rajnath announces new induction, quick ex-gratia



Central Chronicle News

NEW DELHI: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday unveiled two major policy reforms for the Indian Coast Guard (ICG), introducing a gender-neutral framework for officer induction and career progression while simplifying the process of granting ex-gratia compensation to the families of personnel reported missing at sea during duty. The reforms were unveiled at Kartavya Bhavan-2 in New Delhi in the presence of

FASTFACTS

● These reforms include a gender-neutral framework for officer induction and simplified process of granting ex-gratia compensation to the families of service-personnel.

Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh, Director General of the Indian Coast Guard Paramesh Sivamani and other senior officials.

NEWSLINE

NEW DELHI

3 new criminal laws reviewed

The Central Government has reiterated that the implementation of the three new criminal laws is progressing steadily across the country with active cooperation from states and Union Territories. In a written reply in the Lok Sabha, the government said the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam have replaced colonial-era laws with modern legal provisions focused on speedy justice and greater use of technology. Digital evidence management, forensic investigations, online complaint registration and time-bound investigations are among the major reforms introduced under the new legal framework.

NEW DELHI

Hepatitis control strengthened

The Union Health Ministry marked World Hepatitis Day by highlighting the progress made under the National Viral Hepatitis Control Programme and reaffirming its commitment to eliminating viral hepatitis as a public health threat. The ministry said free screening, diagnosis and treatment facilities have been expanded across the country over the past eight years. Public awareness campaigns are being organised to encourage early testing, timely treatment and preventive healthcare practices.

GUWAHATI

Flood relief reviewed

Prime Minister Narendra Modi reviewed the flood situation in Assam during a meeting with Members of Parliament from the state and assured all possible support from the Centre for relief and rehabilitation measures. Officials briefed the Prime Minister on the latest situation, including rescue operations, restoration of damaged infrastructure and assistance being provided to affected families. The Centre said it is working closely with the Assam Government, the National Disaster Response Force and other agencies to ensure timely relief distribution and rehabilitation efforts.

NEW DELHI

Space innovation encouraged

The Government has reiterated its commitment to strengthening India’s rapidly growing space sector by encouraging greater participation from private companies and startups. Civil Aviation Minister K. Rammoohan Naidu recently met the founders of Skyroot Aerospace and appreciated their contribution to India’s commercial space programme. He said the success of Indian private space companies reflects the country’s growing technological capabilities and innovation ecosystem. The minister noted that government reforms have opened new opportunities for startups in satellite launches.

PM greets Skyroot Aerospace founders for Vikram-1 mission

Press Trust Of India

PM Narendra Modi met Pawan Chandana and Naga Bharath Daka, the founders of Skyroot Aerospace, and greeted them on successful Vikram-1 mission



NEW DELHI: PM Narendra Modi met Pawan Chandana and Naga Bharath Daka, the founders of Skyroot Aerospace, and congratulated them on the successful Vikram-1 mission, describing the

interaction as an engaging discussion on India’s growing private space ecosystem. In a post on X, the Prime Minister said the success of Vikram-1 featured prominently in the

conversation, along with discussions on the company’s journey and future plans. “A great interaction with Pawan Chandana and Naga Bharath Daka of Skyroot Aerospace.

Employment allocation hiked

NEW DELHI: The Central Government has allocated a record Rs 95,692 crore for rural employment during the current financial year under the Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act, 2025. Replying to a question in the Lok Sabha, Rural Development Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said the enhanced allocation reflects the government’s commitment to improving livelihoods and creating durable assets in rural areas. The programme supports projects related to water conservation, land development.

Air India launches Easy Connect service from Amritsar to 27 global destinations

Press Trust Of India

AMRITSAR: Punjab has been connected with 27 global destinations across North America, UK, Europe and Australia with the launch of Air India’s ‘Easy Connect’ hub-and-spoke model at Sri Guru Ram Dass Ji International Airport, Amritsar.

Union Minister of Civil Aviation, Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu who addressed the gathering virtually, said that statistics show that approximately 150,000 passen-



gers travel from Amritsar to Delhi every year to catch international flights. Similarly, about 150,000 passengers arrive in Delhi from abroad and then travel to Amritsar. He said the city will become the international gateway for North India. Major catchment areas including Pun-

jab, Jammu & Kashmir, and Himachal Pradesh will connect through Amritsar. He said of the approximately 30 million Indians living abroad, nearly 10 million are Punjabi and as air connectivity increases, Amritsar’s economy will directly benefit. Civil Aviation Secretary Samir Kumar Sinha who was part of the launch at Amritsar along with AAI Chairman Vipin Kumar said that the hub is an important scheme of the government for the aviation sector.

Rly sanction Rs 163 cr for upgradation of electric traction system in Nanded

Press Trust Of India

NANDED: Indian Railways has sanctioned the project worth 163 crore rupees for upgradation of the electric traction system on the Parbhani-Mudkhed double line section in Nanded Division of South Central Railway. The project includes conversion of the existing 1×25 kV



electric traction system to a more advanced 2×25 kV system over a stretch of 164 Track Kilometres, supported by upgraded power supply infrastructure to meet the

enhanced electrical load. The Railway Ministry said that the initiative marks a significant step towards strengthening railway infrastructure and enhancing net-

work capacity. It added that the upgraded traction system will strengthen power supply for train operations, enabling the section to handle higher freight volumes and support the running of Vande Bharat Express trains. It will also contribute to Indian Railways’ goal of achieving 3 thousand Million Tonnes of freight loading by 2029-30.

Tourists enjoying rain in Shimla



People, mostly tourists, strolling amid rain, in Shimla. PTI.

Heavy rain alert in Himachal Pradesh as Met Dept warns of flash floods



maur and Solan. According to the department, the monsoon is expected to remain at its most active

between the night of 29 July and 31 July, with widespread rainfall likely across most parts of the

state. Continuous rainfall has been recorded across most parts of Himachal Pradesh, including the state capital Shimla, since last night. The Meteorological Centre, Shimla, has issued an Orange Alert for heavy to very heavy rainfall today in five districts, Chamba, Kangra, Mandi, Shimla and Sirmour.

Heavy rain triggers flood threat in Odisha as deep depression persists

BHUBANESHWAR: Odisha remains in the grip of an intense monsoonal onslaught as a deep depression over Bay of Bengal continues to batter the state with torrential rain and escalating flood risks. The India Meteorological Department has forecast widespread rainfall with isolated extremely heavy



showers over the coming days, prompting heightened vigilance across the state. Educational institutions have been shut in

five districts, while rivers are in spate and disaster response agencies remain on high alert. Odisha is witnessing an unabated spell of torrential monsoon rainfall under the influence of a deep depression over the north-west Bay of Bengal and the adjoining West Bengal-North Odisha coast.

ANTI-NAXAL CAMPAIGN |

Jharkhand Police secure surrender of 16 Maoists

Press Trust Of India

RANCHI: Jharkhand’s anti-Naxal campaign, Nayi Disha-Nayi Pahal, achieved a significant success as 16 active Maoists from the Kolhan and Latehar regions surrendered before the Jharkhand Police in Ranchi. The surrender is being seen as a major boost to the state’s efforts to curb



Left Wing Extremism and encourage militants to return to the mainstream through rehabilitation.

The surrendered group included one Regional Commander, three Zonal Commanders, three Sub-

Zonal Commanders, six Area Commanders and three cadre-level members. Among them was Regional Commander Santosh alias Basudev, who carried a reward of Rs 15 lakh. Senior police officials described the surrender as one of the most important developments in recent months in the state’s anti-insurgency

operations. Director General of Police Tadasha Mishra said the surrendered Maoists would receive assistance under the Jharkhand government’s rehabilitation policy, which provides support for reintegration into society through financial aid, vocational training and other welfare measures.

Five people, including infant killed in mishap

CHAMBA: Five people, including a three-month-old infant, lost their lives in a tragic road accident in Himachal Pradesh’s Chamba district today when a car plunged nearly 400 metres into a deep gorge along the Chamba-Pa-thankot National Highway. The accident occurred in the Lahad area of the Dalhousie subdivision during

the morning hours. According to police officials, the vehicle was carrying members of a family who were returning to their hometown in Chamba from Chandigarh. The car reportedly lost control before veering off the highway and falling into the gorge. Local residents alerted the authorities after noticing the accident.

Business



India needs 86 GW additional thermal power by FY'36.
Shripad Naik
Minister of State for Power

Industry Consultation Workshop



Glimpses of the Industry Consultation Workshop organised by the Apparel Made-Ups & Home Furnishing Sector Skill Council (AMHSSC) at Hyatt Regency (Bhikaji Cama Place), in New Delhi.

Govt introduces Bill to tackle payment delays faced by MSMEs

The proposed legislation seeks to curb payment delays, strengthen dispute resolution, improve liquidity, decriminalise minor offences, and promote digital registration for MSMEs.

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NEW DELHI: The government on Tuesday introduced a Bill in the Rajya Sabha that seeks to tackle the issue of delayed payments to micro small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) by prescribing timelines to ensure faster adjudication of disputes, provide recovery of the settlement agreement, and address their liquidity issues. Union Minister for

MSMEs Jitan Ram Manjhi introduced the Micro Small and Medium Enterprises Development (Amendment) Bill, 2026 in the Rajya Sabha. The Bill seeks to amend The Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Act, 2006. "This legislation was framed in 2006, therefore there is a need for reforming it and making additions," the minister said. Notably, the proposed legislation seeks to empower courts to

order payment of at least 50 per cent of the awarded amount to MSME suppliers, if the application to set aside an order is pending for more than six months. It also seeks to provide recovery of the mediated settlement agreement or the arbitral award as arrear of land revenue. The Bill also proposes to decriminalise offences regarding contravention of certain provisions, replacing conviction-based fines

NUMBER

50

● Bill aims faster payments, dispute resolution, stronger MSME financial security nationwide.

with graded penalties by including warning at the first instance. It provides for notifying a national digital platform for free and voluntary registration of micro, small and

medium enterprises.

Another key provision of the Bill aims to address liquidity issues of MSMEs by mandating all central public sector enterprises to route the settlement of invoices through the Trade Receivables Discounting System for procurement of goods and services from them. A provision has also been made empowering states to adopt similar provision for their public sector enterprises.

Air India's transformation to take 5-10 years : Chandrasekaran

Press Trust Of India

Air India's transformation progressing despite major challenges.

New Delhi: Tata Sons Chairman and Air India Chairman N. Chandrasekaran has said that Air India's transformation should be viewed as a five- to ten-year journey, stressing that rebuilding a world-class airline requires sustained effort, significant investment, and long-term commitment. In his message in the Tata Sons Annual Report 2025-26, Chandrasekaran said the airline has made significant progress despite facing multiple challenges, including prolonged supply chain disruptions, the need to modernize legacy systems, upgrade its fleet, transform organizational culture, and build a large



pool of skilled aviation professionals. He noted that the 2025-26 financial year was particularly challenging due to airspace closures, fuel price increases triggered by the West Asia conflict, foreign exchange fluctuations, and the crash of AI171. Despite these setbacks, he said Air India's teams demonstrated resilience and adaptability. Highlighting the airline's progress, Chandrasekaran said all narrow-body aircraft operating on domestic routes have been refurbished and are receiving positive customer feedback. Refurbishment of the wide-body fleet is expected to be completed by the end of FY28.

Industrial output grows 7.3 per cent in June

Press Trust Of India

Industrial production records robust June growth nationwide.

NEW DELHI: India's industrial production grew by 7.3 per cent in June 2026, up from 5.1 per cent in May, driven by a strong performance in the manufacturing sector and robust growth in electricity and gas supply, according to data released by the National Statistics Office (NSO) on Tuesday. The latest figures mark the third monthly Index of Industrial Production (IIP) data based on the new series. The NSO said manufacturing output expanded by 7.8 per cent, while the Electricity & Gas Supply sector recorded a strong 10.6 per cent growth during the month. The revised estimate for industrial production



growth in May has been pegged at 5 per cent. Among the key sectors, Mining and Quarrying registered a modest 1 per cent growth, while Water Supply, Sewerage and Waste Management recorded an increase of 6.1 per cent compared with the corresponding month last year. Within the manufacturing sector, 19 of the 23 industry groups posted positive growth in June, reflecting broad-based expansion across industries. The top-performing manufacturing segments were electrical equipment, which recorded an impressive 34 per cent growth, followed by motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers at 17.5 per cent, and food products at 10.8 per cent.

FACTFILE

● Manufacturing, electricity sectors drive industrial growth.

sion across industries. The top-performing manufacturing segments were electrical equipment, which recorded an impressive 34 per cent growth, followed by motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers at 17.5 per cent, and food products at 10.8 per cent.

Gold drops Rs 2,640 per 10 g, silver slides

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Gold prices retreated by Rs 2,640 to Rs 1.47 lakh per 10 grams in the national capital on Tuesday, and silver dropped Rs 5,200 per kg, tracking weak global trends and a firm rupee. The yellow metal of 99.9 per cent purity depreciated by Rs 2,640 to Rs 1,47,000 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes) from Monday's closing level of Rs 1,49,640 per 10



grams, according to the All India Sarafa Association.

Silver also witnessed selling and tumbled Rs 5,200 to Rs 2,24,800

per kilogram (inclusive of all taxes). The white metal had settled at Rs 2,30,000 per kg in the previous session. Traders said a stronger rupee reduced the landed cost of imported bullion in the domestic market, while weak global trends and caution ahead of the US Federal Reserve's policy decision kept investors' sentiment subdued. "Gold edged lower on Tuesday, retreating from the previous session's

gains as investors turned cautious ahead of the US Federal Reserve's policy decision," said Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst - Commodities at HDFC Securities. Praveen Singh, Head of Commodities at Mirae Asset ShareKhan, the precious metals traded lower despite crude oil prices extending the decline to the third day on hopes of Iran and the US resuming their peace talks over other critical matters.

BizBriefs

BEST OF THE REST

HOW THE MARKET'S BEHAVE TODAY?

Stock markets end flat; Sensex dips nearly 70 points



MUMBAI: Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty ended flat on Tuesday as investors' sentiment turned cautious ahead of key global central bank policy meetings this week and heavy selloff across Asian markets. The 30-share BSE Sensex dipped 69.86 points, or 0.09 per cent, to settle at 76,765.92. During the day, it hit a high of 76,988.48 and a low of 76,672.77, gyrating 315.71 points. The 50-share NSE Nifty slipped 10.60 points, or 0.04 per cent, to end at 23,985.35. From the Sensex pack, Hindustan Unilever tanked 6.97 per cent after the FMCG major reported a 3.17 per cent year-on-year decline in consolidated net profit to Rs 2,680 crore for the June quarter, mainly on account

of exceptional items and higher taxes. Bharat Electronics, NTPC, ICICI Bank, Power Grid, and Reliance Industries were also among the laggards. Tata Consultancy Services, Eternal, Tech Mahindra, Infosys, and Titan were among the major gainers. The BSE SmallCap Select index dipped 0.21 per cent, while Mid-Cap Select index went up 0.35 per cent. Among sectors, capital goods dropped 2.40 per cent, power (2.36 per cent), utilities (1.75 per cent), FMCG (1.27 per cent), industrials (1.22 per cent), energy (0.68 per cent) and commodities (0.68 per cent). Focused IT jumped 3.44 per cent, IT (3.05 per cent), realty (2.19 per cent), consumer durables (1.32 per cent), auto (0.71 per cent) and consumer discretionary (0.62 per cent).

PUCC VALIDITY

Govt proposes 3-year PUC validity for BS-VI vehicles

NEW DELHI: The government has proposed to extend the validity of the Pollution Under Control Certificate (PUC) for up to six-year-old BS-VI-compliant private vehicles to three years instead of the current one year to ease the burden on owners. The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH), in a draft notification, has said that BS-VI vehicles aged between six and ten years will be required to renew their PUC certificate and those above 10 years every six years. According to the draft notification, while all motor vehicles complying with BS-IV emission norms will have to renew their PUC every six months, all motor vehicles complying with BS-I, BS-II and BS-III emission norms will have to renew their PUC every three months. BS, or Bharat Stage, refers to India's vehicle emission standards that set limits on pollutants, such as carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen oxides (NOx), hydrocarbons (HC) and particulate matter (PM).

BRAND AMBASSADOR

Malabar Gold & Diamonds ropes in M S Dhoni as its brand ambassador

NEW DELHI: Malabar Gold & Diamonds has roped in cricketer M S Dhoni as its brand ambassador. Established in 1993, Malabar Gold & Diamonds is the flagship company of Malabar Group, a diversified Indian business conglomerate. It has a retail network of over 450 showrooms across 14 countries. In a statement on Tuesday, M P Ahammad, Chairman of Malabar Group, said, "Consumers today expect more from the brands they choose. Beyond exceptional products, they seek transparency, authenticity and confidence in every purchase." Dhoni has earned the respect and trust of millions through his integrity, discipline and consistency, qualities that resonate deeply with the company's own values, he said on appointing the cricketer as brand ambassador.



QUARTERLY TURNOVER CROSSES RS 300 CRORES

Mold-Tek Packaging Limited Q1 profit increased by 14.17%

HYDERABAD: The Hyderabad-based rigid Plastic Packaging Company posted a net profit of Rs. 25.57 crore for the quarter ended June 30, compared with Rs. 22.40 crore a year earlier. Revenue increased by 24.90% year-on-year to Rs. 300.45 crore from Rs. 240.56 crore. EBITDA increased by 19.10% to Rs. 56.43 crore, while the EBITDA per kg reached "HISTORICAL HIGH" of Rs. 46.68 in Q1 FY27, compared with Rs. 41.64 per kg in the Q1 of FY26, driven by better capacity utilisation, consolidation of Hyderabad Units and higher contribution from the high-margin Pharma Packaging business. Profit before tax increased by 13.86% to Rs. 34.17 crore as against Rs. 30.01 crores in the previous year's quarter.



Chairman & Managing Director Mr J Lakshmana Rao said: "In spite of prevailing war situation, Mold-Tek Packaging Limited achieved a strong start to FY 2026-27, delivering an excellent performance in the first quarter ended June 30, 2026. Driven by an improved EBDITA through higher capacity utilisation and consolidation of units in Hyderabad. Despite heightened geopolitical uncertainties during the quarter, the Company experienced no material impact on its operations, supply chain, or financial performance, with higher input costs are effectively passed on to

customers. "This strong all-round performance reflects Mold-Tek's unwavering focus on operational excellence, and strategic consolidation of Units in Hyderabad which are now translating into improved profitability. The Company remains confident of maintaining this positive momentum in the coming quarters, supported by healthy demand across key segments (i.e., Pharma and Food and FMCG), and continued emphasis on operational efficiencies. "EBITDA per kg reached "Historical High" of Rs. 46.68 in Q1 FY27, compared with Rs. 41.64 per kg in the Q1 of FY26, driven by better capacity utilisation, consolidation of Hyderabad Units and higher contribution from the high-margin Pharma Packaging business." He said. Commenting on Pharma packaging plans Mr J Rana Pratap, Sr. Vice President-Marketing and in charge of Pharma Business division Said "there is a humongous opportunity in Pharma Packaging including diagnostics and we have plans to enter into these high margin areas including dosage pens. We also examining ways to enter Electronics and Semi-conductor packaging soon to use our deep knowledge in Mold making and Robotics."

‘Avoid burdening teachers with SIR work’

EC need to avoid overburdening requisitioned school teachers

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Underscoring the need to balance the students’ right to education with the ongoing SIR of electoral rolls here, the Delhi High Court on Tuesday asked the Election Commission to be “sensitive” to the condition of government school teachers requisitioned for the exercise and ensure that they are not overburdened. A bench of Chief Justice D K Upadhyaya and Justice Tejas Karia said the Special Intensive Revision was undoubtedly “important” but expressed displeasure at the “threatening” tenor of an Election Commission of India (ECI) order to principals not to obstruct election-related work.

The bench also directed the authorities to keep in mind that undue stress is not caused to the teachers who have been called upon to act as booth level officers (BLOs) and enumeration staff after working for long hours in school. “What we all want from you is to be a bit sensitive to their situation. We are not curtailing your right. We are conscious of the human condition which these teachers are undergoing.



Asking any teacher to work for eleven hours... Teaching staff, mostly, it is women. They have children, their families. You have to humanise their conditions. What language you have applied while issuing this order. Are you creating fear or what?” the bench told the

EC. “We do not undermine the exercise being undertaken by the ECI. The issue is how to strike a balance with Section 27 of the Right to Education Act. It appears that you are least bothered about the Right to Education Act. The kind of language that you have used in

this. The whole tenor of the letter is threatening,” it added.

As the petitioner alleged that teachers were not being allowed to perform their school duties, the court asked him to file a rejoinder to the ECI’s response and state any specific instance where a teacher was asked to prioritise election-related work over teaching. The counsel for the ECI assured that the government teachers were not being overburdened and that there were volunteers to assist them and also provide refreshments.

‘Protect education rights of Delhi school children’

HIGHLIGHT

● **PIL flags teacher withdrawal disrupting regular classes.**

● **Deployment violates ECI ruling and RTE provisions.**

Lawyers Rajesh Kumar Gogna and Ashok Agarwal have stated in their PIL that they want to protect the fundamental right to education of lakhs of children studying in government, municipal and government-aided schools in Delhi, whose teachers have been assigned to work in the SIR process. Referring to the requisition of 149 teachers from 15 government schools for SIR in Ambedkar Nagar constitu-

ency, the PIL has claimed that in several schools, the entire regular faculty has been withdrawn during teaching hours, leaving classes to be conducted

by either guest teachers or teachers of unrelated subjects. “The deployment is contrary to the law declared in Election Commission of India vs. St. Mary’s School, violates section 27 read with sections 25-26 of the RTE Act, 2009, and ignores the vast pool of non-teaching staff of the authorities amenable to requisition under Section 159 of the Representation of the People Act,” the petition said.

New campaign

MUMBAI: Berger Paints India Limited, unveiled a refreshed brand identity anchored in a powerful belief: that whatever life might test us with, it should never take away our colour. Brought to life through the thought, ‘Rang Bana Rahe’, the new campaign reinterprets Berger Paints’ long-standing promise of preservation of colour through a deeply human lens. In a category where brands have often looked alike and colour has been celebrated as an outward expression, Berger offers a different perspective with a distinctive brand identity and a visual treatment that stands apart. For decades, Berger has protected colour with Home-Shield, which defends against rain; WeatherCoat Anti Dust, which keeps dust at bay; and Easy Clean, which resists everyday stains. That commitment has shaped the company’s products, its innovations, and its place in millions of homes. With ‘Rang Bana Rahe’, Berger takes that enduring promise of safeguarding colours beyond walls to people. ‘Rang Bana Rahe’ is a perspective on life as much as it is about paints. Just as Berger’s paint preserves colour throughout every season, the campaign celebrates the resilience to hold on to our colours within our individuality and spirit, even when life puts them to the test.

TV debut for Int’l cricketer Morné Morkel

Press Trust Of India

Darr Ka Naya Daur promises bigger action challenges.

FASTFACTS

● **Cape Town backdrop pushes celebrities to limits.**

● **Morkel brings fresh sporting intensity to competition.**

MUMBAI: Fear is stepping onto unfamiliar territory, and this time, it arrives with the pace and presence of one of international cricket’s most intimidating fast bowlers. As COLORS’ ‘Khatron Ke Khiladi’ returns with an all-new season, Darr Ka Naya Daur promises to raise the bar with bigger stunts, tougher challenges and relentless action, all under the command of action king Rohit Shetty.

Set against the breathtaking landscapes of Cape Town, South Africa, the country’s biggest adventure reality show is all set to push celebrity contestants to their absolute limits. But this season comes with a game-changing twist - for the very first time, international cricket icon Morné Morkel joins the action, bringing an entirely new dimension to the show.

Contestants are tasked with catching a ball bowled by the legendary fast bowler - a stunt that sounds simple but quickly turns into a true test of courage, focus and reflexes as they face the sheer speed and power of one of cricket’s finest pacers. Having spent years striking fear into

the hearts of the world’s finest batsmen with his blistering pace and towering presence, Morkel is now touted to inject a fresh sporting intensity into the feartastic competition.

Sharing his excitement about joining the show, Morné Morkel says, “For years, I challenged the world’s best batsmen with my pace. Now, I’m bringing that same intensity as the new face of fear on Khatron Ke Khiladi. Working with Rohit Shetty right here in my home country, South Africa, has been an incredible experience.

This season, audiences can expect bigger stunts, tougher challenges, and levels of fear like never before. Get ready for an action-packed new season of Khatron Ke Khiladi, premiering 1st August at 9 PM, every Saturday and Sunday only on COLORS and JioHotstar.” Watch ‘Khatron Ke Khiladi’, premiering on 1st August and thereafter airing every Saturday and Sunday at 9:00 PM only on COLORS and JioHotstar.

NEWSLINE

NEW DELHI

Rahul attacks PM Modi



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday described Pralhad Joshi as a “defender of rapists” and a “filthy man” as he hit out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi for appointing such a person as the country’s education minister. Speaking to reporters outside Parliament, the leader of opposition in Lok Sabha said the prime minister could have chosen anyone in his cabinet as the education minister, but it is strange he chose a person who “protects rapists”.

“The Education Minister of India - who after all these young people were protesting about the education system and so many young girls were protesting and were beaten and thrashed, the BJP puts a man who is a defender of rapists. That is the most filthy type of man. There can be no filthier man than somebody who says that rapists need protection. That is the Education Minister of India today,” Gandhi told reporters.

Campaigning ends

AHMEDABAD: Campaigning for the by-election to the Manjalpur assembly seat in Gujarat’s Vadodara district ended on Tuesday evening, with polling scheduled on July 30 to decide the fate of two candidates in the fray. Voting will be held between 7 am and 6 pm on Thursday, while counting of votes will take place on August 3, according to the office of the Gujarat Chief Electoral Officer (CEO). The bypoll was necessitated by the death of senior BJP MLA and former state minister Yogesh Patel on June 2 after a prolonged illness. The ruling BJP has fielded former Vadodara Municipal Corporation councillor Satish Govindbhai Patel, while the Congress has nominated its Gujarat vice president and former minister Bhikhabhai Rabari. Among others, Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel, Gujarat BJP president Jagdish Vishwakarma and Gujarat Congress president Amit Chavda addressed campaign rallies.

Probe finds widespread dairy welfare, health lapses

Press Trust Of India

Sentient probe finds overcrowding, oxytocin, waste discharge issues.



MUMBAI: Sentient World released the findings of a first-of-its-kind multi-state investigation into dairy operations across India, documenting widespread animal welfare, public health, and environmental concerns across more than 100 dairy units in Chandigarh, Punjab, Uttarakhand, Bihar, West Bengal, and Chhattisgarh. Conducted between 10 February and 15 April 2026, the investigation examined a diverse range of dairy operations, from household-level farms to medium-scale facilities and large unregulated dairy clusters.

The investigation found that poor animal welfare and unhygienic

dairy practices were not isolated incidents but recurring patterns across locations. Many dairy units were operating in residential neighbourhoods or near public spaces, often within 10 to 300 metres of homes and water bodies, raising concerns about public health, environmental contamination and regulatory compliance.

Investigators documented overcrowding across a majority of facilities, with animals routinely subjected to prolonged tethering, including double and triple tethering and, in many cases, restraint through the nose or

mouth. Dairy units housed anywhere between 10 and 500 animals, with an average of approximately 50 animals per unit.

The report records widespread evidence of compromised animal welfare, including malnutrition, untreated wounds, swollen joints, skin infections and behavioural signs of distress. Calves were frequently found tethered for extended periods, often without adequate shelter, while investigators documented multiple instances of Khal baccha practices used to stimulate milk let-down. Indications of oxytocin

use, including visible bottles, syringes and admissions by some dairy operators, were also recorded during the investigation.

Investigators further observed that milking was commonly carried out in highly unhygienic conditions, often adjacent to open drains, sewage and accumulated waste. Milk was frequently stored in open containers, while manure and slurry were routinely discharged into open drains. In several locations, improper carcass disposal and dairy waste management practices pointed to broader environmental and public health risks.

‘Paper leaks continue despite 2024 law’

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Congress on Tuesday questioned the proposed amendments to the anti-paper leaks law, saying despite an existing law, question paper leaks of public examinations have continued and it has proved to be a failure. Initiating the debate on the Public Examination (Prevention of Unfair



Means) Amendment Bill 2026 in Lok Sabha, Deputy Leader of Congress in the House, Gaurav Gogoi, also said that

students were compelled to hit the streets and their pain needs to be understood. The government introduced the Bill in the Lok Sabha on Monday, days after student protests over the NEET fiasco led to Dharmendra Pradhan’s resignation as education minister, to provide for stricter punishment of up to 10 years in jail and a heftier fine of Rs 50 lakh for paper leaks.

Kolkata posters row; leaders deny involvement

Press Trust Of India

Ghosh and Roy deny posters, back political message.

KOLKATA: Rebel TMC MP-turned-NCPI parliamentary leader Sudip Bandyopadhyay found himself at the centre of a political controversy on Tuesday after abusive posters branding him as a “traitor” surfaced across his North Kolkata constituency, with the names

of TMC legislator Kunal Ghosh and state minister Tapas Roy printed as the “campaigners”. Both Ghosh and Roy, however, denied any involvement in putting up the posters, even though they endorsed the political message against the veteran parliamentarian.

The posters, which appeared overnight at several locations, including Taltala bus stand, Bangabasi College, Creek Row and near the Railway Coop-

erative Bank -- all falling within Bandyopadhyay’s Lok Sabha constituency -- carried his photograph along with a rhyming slogan describing him as a “traitor” and “thief” while also referring to him as the husband of TMC MLA Nayana Bandyopadhyay. The posters identified ‘Tapas Roy’ and ‘Kunal Ghosh’ as the campaigners. Ghosh, however, dismissed any suggestion that he was behind the posters.

इंडियन बैंक

Indian Bank

Branch-Maharana Pratap Chowk, Bilaspur

ALLAHABAD

POSSESSION NOTICE (for Immovable Properties)
(Under Rule-8(1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002)
The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Indian Bank under the Securitisation 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 dated 13.05.2026 Calling upon the **Borrower- Mr. Ramnarayan Rajput S/o Late Baisakhu, Co-Borrower- Mrs. Babita Rajput W/o Mr. Ramnarayan** with our Indian Bank, Maharana Pratap Chowk, Bilaspur Branch to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being **Rs. 20,67,671.00/- (Rupees Twenty Lakhs Sixty Seven Thousand Six Hundred Seventy One Only)** within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him / her under Section 13 (4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said rules on this **27th day of July of the year 2026.**
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 Indian Bank for an amount of **Rs. 20,67,671.00/-** and interest thereon.
The borrower's attention is invited to the provision of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
All that part & parcel of the property consisting Residential House at Plot no. 472, PH No. 24/43, Siddhi Vinayak Nagar, Survey no. 366/21 of Mouza Gram Panchayat Ghuru, RNM Sakri, Village- Takhatpur with in the Sub Registration District of Bilaspur Total land area- 1010 Sq.ft with a built up area of 844 Sq.ft. Boundaries: East – Land of Indu, West – Nistari Rasta, North – Land of Sandip, South – Land of Sahu. Owner of the property: Mr. Ramnarayan Rajput
Date: 29.07.2026, Place: Bilaspur
Authorised Officer (Indian Bank)

इंडियन बैंक

Indian Bank

INDIAN BANK

Zonal Office, Raipur (C.G.)

ALLAHABAD

APPENDIX- IV-A" [See proviso to rule 8 (6)] Sale notice for sale of immovable property
E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 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 property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, **Symbolic Possession** of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Indian Bank, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis for recovery of dues in below mentioned account/s. The details of Borrower(s) / Guarantor (s) / Secured Assets/ Dues/ Reserve Price/ e-Auction Date & Time, EMD and Bid Increase Amount are mentioned below -

Sl. No.	Name & Address of the Borrower(s) & Guarantor(s) & Branch Name	Detailed description of the Properties/ Encumbrances on property- Not Known	Outstanding Amount	Reserve Price	EMD	Bid incremental amount	Property ID No.
1	Branch-Korba Borrower- M/s Mukund Auto, Prop: Mr. Mukund Awasthi, Mortgagee- Mr. Arun Kumar Awasthi S/o Mr. P.P. Awasthi, All of their Add.: Behind Type C Cir, Sector 6, Indira Market, Balco Nagar, Korba, Pin-495684	Residential Land and Building on Khasra No. 185/4, 185/5, PH No. 3, Area- 0.112 hect. situated at Padhimar, Ward No. 27, Behind C Type Quarter, Sector 6, Indira Complex Balco, Dist- Korba, Boundaries: North-Road, South-	Rs. 27,89,954/- as on 28.07.2026 + Int.& Other Charges	Rs. 93.49 Lakhs	Rs. 9.35 Lakhs	Rs. 10,000.00	ID183016 6884395

Contact Person :-
Pankaj Kumar Sahu- 9770687632

For Any Enquiry Contact : 9439223185 & 8902712622
Note: This Notice is also for Borrower / Guarantor / Mortgagee & Legal Heirs
The intending Bidders/ Purchasers are requested to register with online portal (<https://www.baanknet.com>) using their mobile number and email id. Further, after completing their eKYC, the intending Bidders/Purchasers have to transfer the EMD amount in their e-Wallet by **25.09.2026**, i.e before the e-Auction Date and time in the portal. The registration, eKYC and transfer of EMD in wallet must be completed well in advance, before auction. For property details and photograph of the property and auction terms and conditions please visit: <https://www.baanknet.com> and for clarifications related to this portal, please contact (Phone 8291220220, email ID: support.baanknet@psalliance.com). Bidders are advised to use Property ID Number mentioned above while searching for the property in the website with <https://www.baanknet.com>.
Date : 29.07.2026, Place : Korba
Authorized Officer, Indian Bank



“Progress takes time and steady effort, but commitment means never retreating from your path.”

[Abraham Lincoln]

| OUR VIEW |

China’s J-20 Deployment Raises Strategic Concerns

China’s growing deployment of J-20 stealth fighter jets along the Himalayan frontier marks a significant shift in the region’s military balance and serves as a reminder that technological superiority increasingly defines modern warfare. The reported presence of multiple J-20s at airbases in Hotan and Damxung, both strategically positioned opposite India’s northern borders, suggests that fifth-generation air operations are no longer experimental but have become an integral part of the People’s Liberation Army Air Force’s operational doctrine. The concern extends beyond the number of aircraft deployed. The J-20’s stealth capabilities, advanced sensors and long-range engagement potential provide China with a qualitative advantage that India’s present fighter fleet cannot fully match. While the Indian Air Force possesses highly capable platforms such as the Rafale and the Su-30MKI, they belong to the fourth-generation category and lack the low-observable characteristics that increasingly define air superiority in contested environments. Equally noteworthy is China’s remarkable industrial capacity. Reports indicate that J-20 production has expanded rapidly, with annual output now estimated at well over one hundred aircraft. Such production rates reflect not only manufacturing excellence but also long-term strategic planning, integrated supply chains and sustained political commitment. Defence preparedness is ultimately shaped as much by industrial capability as by battlefield performance. India cannot afford complacency. The indigenous Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) programme remains the country’s long-term answer to the stealth challenge, but it is still years away from operational induction. Until then, accelerating the modernisation of existing fighter fleets, upgrading the Su-30MKI with advanced avionics and weapons, strengthening integrated air defence systems and investing in counter-stealth radar technologies should receive the highest priority. Equally important is expanding indigenous defence manufacturing. India’s long-term security cannot depend solely on imports. Greater investment in aerospace research, artificial intelligence, electronic warfare, drone technologies and next-generation missile systems will be essential to maintaining credible deterrence. At the same time, strategic restraint must remain the guiding principle. Military preparedness should strengthen deterrence rather than encourage confrontation. India has consistently demonstrated that peace is best preserved through credible strength backed by responsible diplomacy. A balanced approach—combining technological advancement, domestic defence production, infrastructure development and sustained diplomatic engagement—will ensure that India’s national security remains resilient in an increasingly contested Indo-Pacific strategic environment.

| GUEST VIEW |

Cooling Crisis Demands Equitable Energy Justice

India’s rising temperatures and growing dependence on air conditioners present a serious challenge that extends far beyond personal comfort. With electricity demand projected to rise sharply by 2050 and household air conditioner ownership expected to increase from just 5 percent to more than 50 percent, the country’s already strained power grid will face unprecedented pressure. Yet, while urban households increasingly enjoy cooling facilities, millions of rural families continue to struggle with frequent power cuts and unreliable electricity. This widening energy divide highlights a troubling inequality. Access to cooling has become a matter of health and survival rather than luxury. Climate change is expected to contribute to nearly 4,30,000 heat-related deaths annually worldwide, with the heaviest burden falling on vulnerable populations in Asia and Africa that have contributed the least to global emissions. Ignoring these realities while prioritizing urban cooling without strengthening rural power infrastructure reflects a serious policy imbalance. India’s response must focus on building a resilient and inclusive energy system. Investments in stronger transmission networks, renewable energy, energy-efficient cooling technologies, and decentralized power solutions are essential. Equal access to reliable electricity should be viewed as a fundamental necessity in an era of worsening climate extremes. Sustainable and equitable energy planning is the only way to protect millions from the growing threat of deadly heatwaves while ensuring balanced national development.



Dr. Vijaykumar H. K.

Comment

The Unschooling Movement: Learning for Life

For generations, formal schooling has been considered the primary path to education. Children attend classes, follow a fixed curriculum, take examinations, and progress through grades. While this system has educated billions, a growing number of parents and educators are exploring a different philosophy known as unschooling. Rather than rejecting education, unschooling reimagines it by placing curiosity, experience, and self-directed learning at the center of a child’s development.

Unschooling is an educational approach in which children learn through everyday life instead of following a predetermined school curriculum. It is based on the belief that children are naturally curious and capable of directing their own learning when given the freedom, resources, and encouragement to explore their interests.

Unlike traditional home-schooling, where parents often recreate school lessons at home, unschooling has no rigid timetable, prescribed textbooks, or standardized tests. Learning happens naturally—while reading books, conducting experiments, gardening, traveling, cooking, coding, volunteering, playing music, or simply asking questions about the world.

The philosophy behind unschooling is simple: learning is most meaningful when it is driven by genuine interest rather than external pressure. A child

fascinated by space may spend weeks studying planets, building telescope models, watching documentaries, and learning mathematics through astronomy. Another interested in cooking may develop scientific understanding, mathematical skills, nutrition knowledge, and cultural awareness while preparing meals.

Modern technology has significantly expanded the possibilities for unschoolers. Educational videos, online courses, virtual museums, digital libraries, podcasts, coding platforms, and global learning communities provide access to knowledge that was unimaginable just a few decades ago. Children can learn from experts around the world without being confined to a classroom.

Research in educational psychology suggests that intrinsic motivation—the desire to learn because one is genuinely interested—often leads to deeper understanding and longer-lasting knowledge than learning driven solely by examinations or grades. Unschooling attempts to nurture this intrinsic motivation by allowing children to pursue subjects at their own pace.

One of the greatest strengths of unschooling is the development of life skills. Children learn problem-solving, communication, creativity, decision-making, financial literacy, collaboration, and adaptability through real-world experiences. They are encouraged to ask questions, seek answers independently, and take



Dr Vijay Garg
Retired Principal
Educational columnist
Eminent Educationist.

responsibility for their learning.

Another benefit is the reduction of academic stress. Many children experience anxiety due to constant testing, competition, and performance pressure. Unschooling shifts the focus from marks to mastery, from comparison to personal growth, and from memorization to understanding.

Critics, however, raise important concerns. They question whether children will acquire essential knowledge in mathematics, science, languages, and social studies without a structured curriculum. Some worry about socialization, discipline, and readiness for higher education or professional careers. These concerns are valid and highlight the importance of thoughtful planning and active parental involvement.

Successful unschooling requires committed parents or mentors who create a rich learning environment, provide opportunities, encourage exploration, and ensure that children gradually build essential academic foundations. Freedom without guidance can become directionless, but freedom supported by wise mentorship can inspire lifelong learning.

Around the world, several countries are becoming more open to flexible educational models, although legal recognition of unschooling varies. Many families combine elements of traditional education with self-directed learning, creating hybrid approaches that balance structure with flexi-

bility.

In the age of artificial intelligence, automation, and rapidly changing careers, the ability to learn continuously may be more valuable than simply mastering a fixed body of knowledge. Tomorrow’s workforce will require creativity, adaptability, critical thinking, collaboration, and lifelong curiosity—qualities that unschooling seeks to cultivate.

However, unschooling is not a universal solution. Every child has different learning needs, personalities, and circumstances. Some thrive within structured classrooms, while others flourish when given greater independence. The goal should not be to replace schools entirely but to recognize that meaningful education can take many forms.

Ultimately, education is not merely about completing a syllabus or earning certificates. It is about preparing individuals to live thoughtful, responsible, compassionate, and fulfilling lives. Whether learning occurs in a classroom, at home, in a library, or through everyday experiences, true education inspires curiosity, develops character, and equips people to keep learning throughout life.

The unschooling movement reminds us of an important truth: learning does not begin with a school bell, nor does it end with graduation. It is a lifelong journey, shaped by curiosity, experience, and the courage to explore the world with an open mind.

Yoga Strengthens Tobacco Quit Success Rates

A comprehensive AIIMS-led review suggests yoga can significantly improve tobacco cessation outcomes while enhancing mental health, offering an affordable complementary strategy against addiction.

Tobacco addiction continues to be one of the world’s most serious public health threats, claiming an estimated 8.7 million lives every year despite the availability of multiple cessation therapies. Although millions of tobacco users express a strong desire to quit, maintaining long-term abstinence remains difficult because of intense nicotine dependence, withdrawal symptoms and frequent relapses. A new study by researchers at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi, provides encouraging evidence that yoga can serve as a valuable complementary intervention, significantly improving the chances of quitting tobacco while strengthening mental well-being.

The systematic review and meta-analysis was conducted by researchers from the Centre for Integrative Medicine and Research and the Centre for Community Medicine at AIIMS-Delhi. Published in the journal Nicotine & Tobacco Research, the study reviewed seven randomized controlled trials involving 629 participants from India, the United States and Thailand. Five of these studies met the criteria for inclusion in the meta-analysis, enabling researchers to evaluate yoga’s effectiveness using robust scientific evidence.

The findings revealed that tobacco users who practised yoga had nearly 50 percent higher odds of achieving short-term abstinence than participants receiving standard tobacco cessation treatment or other non-yoga interventions. Researchers



described yoga as a moderately effective strategy that can complement conventional methods such as counselling, behavioural therapy and medication. Rather than replacing existing treatments, yoga appears to strengthen their effectiveness by addressing the psychological and emotional aspects of addiction.

The review evaluated different forms of yoga, including Hatha, Vinyasa and Iyengar yoga, along with pranayama or yogic breathing exercises. These practices combine physical postures, breathing techniques and mindfulness, creating a holistic approach to improving both physical and mental health. The pooled analysis showed better outcomes in seven-day point prevalence abstinence, a widely

accepted indicator used internationally to measure tobacco cessation success.

One of the study’s most significant findings was yoga’s positive impact on mental health. Participants consistently reported reductions in anxiety, depression and stress, along with improvements in emotional well-being and overall quality of life. Since psychological distress is one of the leading causes of relapse among tobacco users, these improvements may play a critical role in helping individuals remain tobacco-free. Active yoga styles such as Hatha, Vinyasa and Iyengar were found to reduce stress and depressive symptoms, while pranayama effectively controlled cravings and eased the negative emotions associated with nicotine withdrawal.

Researchers also highlighted the importance of self-awareness and emotional regulation developed through regular yoga practice. Mindfulness cultivated during yoga sessions enables individuals to recognize cravings without immediately acting on them. This improved self-control, combined with better stress management, may explain why yoga participants demonstrated higher quit rates than those relying solely on conventional interventions.

Another noteworthy aspect of the review was the inclusion of an Indian randomized controlled trial involving both smokers and users of smokeless tobacco. Smokeless tobacco consumption remains widespread in India, yet it has received relatively little attention in global cessation

research. By including both forms of tobacco use, the study expands the relevance of yoga-based interventions to populations where chewing tobacco and similar products remain common.

Despite the encouraging findings, the researchers cautioned that current evidence is still limited. They emphasized the need for larger, long-term randomized trials involving more diverse populations, particularly in low- and middle-income countries where tobacco consumption remains high. Standardized research methods, consistent outcome measures and longer follow-up periods would provide stronger evidence regarding yoga’s sustained effectiveness in preventing relapse.

Dr. Gautam Sharma, Professor of Cardiology and Founder-Head of the Centre for Integrative Medicine and Research at AIIMS Delhi, described yoga as an effective mind-body intervention that promotes stress management, emotional balance and self-awareness—qualities essential for overcoming addictive behaviours. He noted that yoga is also a promising rehabilitation tool that improves both physical and mental health. Because it is affordable, accessible and culturally acceptable, yoga can be easily integrated into existing tobacco cessation programmes. When combined with evidence-based medical therapies, counselling and behavioural support, yoga has the potential to become a powerful public health intervention, helping millions of people break free from tobacco addiction while improving their overall health and quality of life.

YOURLETTERS

End deadly manual scavenging through enforcement

The tragic deaths of two workers inside a septic tank in Greater Noida once again expose India’s failure to eradicate manual scavenging despite its legal ban. Hundreds continue to lose their lives because of poor enforcement, lack of mechanisation and inadequate safety measures. Urban authorities and contractors must be held strictly accountable. No one should die performing such hazardous work. Strong implementation of existing laws is essential to end this inhuman practice.

Yash Pal Ralhan, Jalandhar

Nature conservation requires collective responsible action

Nature sustains human life, yet reckless urbanisation, pollution and excessive resource consumption continue to threaten ecological balance. Conserving forests, wetlands and biodiversity is essential for protecting future generations. Responsible use of water, energy and other natural resources, along with reducing plastic pollution, must become everyday habits. Nature Conservation Day reminds us that environmental protection is a shared responsibility requiring sustained public awareness, government commitment and individual action.

Dr. Ganapathi Bhat, Akola

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.



"The meeting sent a clear message: there is strength in unity."

D.K. Shivakumar,
CM of Karnataka

'Withdraw FIR for NEET protesters'

On Tuesday, Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Aaditya Thackeray demanded the withdrawal of FIRs for NEET protesters.

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Aaditya Thackeray on Tuesday demanded the withdrawal of FIRs and notices issued against students and protesters who participated in demonstrations across Maharashtra over the alleged NEET paper leak. Addressing a press conference, Thackeray criticized the state government's response and accused it of attempting to suppress the voices of young people through police action and restrictions on social media content.

Thackeray claimed that FIRs were registered, minors were detained, and notices were issued to several protesters who had taken part in agitations on July 22 and 23 demanding the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan over the alleged irregularities in the NEET examination.



He announced that his party would provide free legal assistance to all affected protesters across Maharashtra. He appealed to students and demonstrators facing legal action to approach the party for support and also invited lawyers willing to provide pro bono services to join the legal effort. Thackeray further stated that his party would pursue complaints regarding alleged police excesses through all possible legal channels.

The Shiv Sena (UBT) leader accused the government of trying to silence criticism by removing social media posts and suspending

HIGHLIGHT

- He criticized the state government for suppressing the voices of the youth.

accounts on platforms such as Facebook and Instagram. He described the BJP-led government as "anti-youth" and "anti-students" and criticized the reception given by BJP MPs to Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan in Parliament. Apart from the NEET issue, Thackeray also demanded clarification from Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis regarding alleged irregularities in the Maharashtra Common Entrance Test (MH-CET) for engineering admissions. He questioned the credibility of the examination process, citing instances where some students reportedly achieved unusually high scores despite having average academic

records.

Thackeray highlighted the case of two siblings from Nanded who received identical marks in the examination and another student from Bhandara whose MH-CET score was reportedly higher than their Class 12 board examination marks. He said that since engineering admissions were scheduled to begin, the Chief Minister should address the concerns raised by students and parents. The opposition has also questioned the transparency of the MH-CET examination process, with several students and parents alleging that candidates with modest academic backgrounds secured exceptionally high percentiles. Thackeray stated that the government must provide clear answers on both NEET-related protests and the alleged irregularities in MH-CET to restore confidence among students.

Non-veg sales

MUZAFFARNAGAR: Ahead of the KanwarYatra beginning on July 30, authorities in Muzaffarnagar have banned the cooking and sale of non-vegetarian food at hotels and roadside eateries located along the pilgrimage route. The food safety department has also directed eatery owners to display necessary documents, including licences, owner details, and food safety QR codes.

Assistant Commissioner Food ArchanaDheeran said that such guidelines are followed every year during the KanwarYatra. Eateries have also been instructed to avoid using onions and garlic in food preparation. Six teams have been formed to inspect food quality and ensure that stale food is not served.

SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE FOR OUTSOURCING WORK

Tender No. TRD-BSP-314-26-27-8. Dtd: 14.07.2026
Name of Work: (1) Outsourcing of preventive maintenance, monitoring and manning activities of PSI assets in Between BSP-APR of Bilaspur Division for a period of 24 months. (2) Outsourcing of preventive maintenance, monitoring and manning activities of PSI assets in Between APR-KTE and APR-ABKP in CIC Section of Bilaspur Division for a period of 24 months.

Tender value : ₹ 7,56,62,874.15/-
EMD Amount : ₹ 5,28,300.00/
Tender Document Cost : ₹ 10,000.00/-
Submission of Tender: Up to 15:00 hrs. on 14/08/2026.

For further details, purchased of Tender document, eligibility criteria & the complete details for the above work, please contact office of the Sr. DEE/TRD/SECR/ Bilaspur or refer/download Tender document which is available on our website www.ireps.gov.in.
Sr. Divl. Elect. Engg. (TRD) CPR/HO/303 S.E.C. Railway, Bilaspur.
South East Central Railway X@seccrall

National Highways Authority of India (Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, Govt. of India)

Office of the Project Director, Project Implementation Unit, Korba
MIG II/12, M.P. Nagar EXTN, Helipad Road, Near Ghantaghar, Niharika, Korba

PUBLIC NOTICE PUBLIC NOTICE ISSUED REGARDING THE USER FEE (TOLL) RATES APPLICABLE AT CHOTIYA TOLL PLAZA FROM 29/07/2026 TO 31/03/2027

The public is hereby informed that pursuant to approval of user fee rates for Chotiya Toll Plaza vide Regional Officer, NHAI, Raipur (Chhattisgarh) of NHAI, following user fee rates shall be made applicable w.e.f. 29/07/2026 to 31/03/2027 for use of Katghora to Shinnagar Section of NH-130 (Km.82.500 to Km.163.400) in the State of Chhattisgarh.

Category of Vehicles	Fee for single Journey	Fee for return Journey within a day	Fee for monthly pass for 50 single journeys in month	Fee for single journey for the commercial vehicle registered within the district of fee plaza
Car, Jeep, Van or Light Motor Vehicle	80	120	2645	40
Light Commercial Vehicle, Light Goods Vehicle or Mini Bus	130	190	4275	65
Bus/ Truck (Two Axles)	270	405	8955	135
Three-axle commercial vehicles	295	440	9765	145
HCM or EME or MAV (four to six)	420	630	14040	210
Oversized Vehicles (seven or more axles)	515	770	17095	255

The rate of monthly pass for local non-commercial vehicles registered within a distance of 20 Km. from the toll plaza shall be Rs. 360/-.

Kind Attention:- (i) From 15th February 2021 onwards, User Fee payments is mandatory via "FASTag ONLY" and All the lanes (except one lane on each side) is declared as "FASTag ONLY".
(ii) The NHAI-HQ has revised the Annual Pass fee to ₹3,075/- for FY 2026-27, effective from 01.04.2026.

BUILDING A NATION, NOT JUST ROADS

Bank of Baroda Regional Office - Bilaspur, 1st floor, TR Complex, Opposite SBI, Rajkishore Nagar Branch, Lingiyadih, BILASPUR - 495006 (C.G.), PH: 07752-310229/ 310231, E-mail: recovery.bilaspur@bankofbaroda.com

E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of movable properties

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of movable Assets under agreement of Hypothecation of movable assets. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described movable assets charged to the Secured Creditor, possession of which has been taken by the Bank, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis for recovery of below mentioned account/s. The details of Borrower/s/Guarantor/s/Secured Asset/s/Dues/Reserve Price/e-Auction date & Time, EMD and Bid Increase Amount are mentioned below:
The auction will be online e-auction through website <https://baanknet.com> on 08/09/2026 between 02.00 PM to 6.00 PM.

Sr.	Name of Branch/ Contact No.	Details of Borrower/ Guarantor	Brief Description of the Asset to be sold	Total Dues (Rs.)	Reserve Price / Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Amount (In Rs. Actual)	EMD deposit Account No. IFSC Code Bank of Baroda Branch
01	Branch: Niharika (C.G.)	Mr. Bhavesh Uikay & Mrs. Sumitra Uikay, Makaan No. 384, Pathripara, Ward No. 17, Korba, C.G. - 495677.	MARUTI SUZUKI FRONX TURBO S. HYBRID ZETA, 85V PEARL ARCTIC WHITE Reg. No.: CG12BP4418	₹ 8,36,895.44 + interest & other charges	₹ 5,20,000 ₹ 52,000 ₹ 5000	BAANKNET PORTAL WALLET
02	Branch: Champa (C.G.)	Mr. Vipin Dewangan, H. No. 74 Barchhapara Dewangan Mohalla Vill-Champa, Dist- Janjgir Champa. C.G. 495671	MARUTI SUZUKI S-PRESSO VXI+ REG. NO. CG11BF6792	₹ 3,12,001.00 + interest & other charges	₹ 2,70,000 ₹ 27,000 ₹ 5000	BAANKNET PORTAL WALLET
03	Branch: Bhitikaila (C.G.)	Sushila Mary Tigga, Mission Compound Bakunthpur, Ward No. 6 Koriya, C.G. 497335	HONDA WR-V 1.2 SV MT (I- VTEC) REG. NO. CG16CN3943	₹ 4,36,989.00 + interest & other charges	₹ 3,15,000 ₹ 31,500 ₹ 5000	BAANKNET PORTAL WALLET
04	Branch: Bhatapara (C.G.)	Mr. Bhupendra Tejwani & Mrs. Mina Tejwani, House No. 265, Bilha, Agrawal Para Bilha, Bilaspur, Bilaspur 495224	MAHINDRA XUV700 AX7L DSL MT 7 SEATER REG. NO. CG10BW0091	₹ 19,53,752.00 + interest & other charges	₹ 13,00,000 ₹ 1,30,000 ₹ 5000	BAANKNET PORTAL WALLET

The last date for submission of EMD shall be on 08/09/2026. The interested bidders may inspect the asset at site between 1.00 p.m. to 4.00 pm on 04/09/2026. Bid increment amount will be Rs.5000.00 (Rupees Ten Thousands Only). All further detailed terms & conditions of sale can be accessed from our website of e-auction agency <https://baanknet.com>.
STATUTORY 30 DAYS SALE NOTICE. The Borrowers / Guarantors are hereby given notice to pay the sum mentioned as above before the date of auction, failing which the vehicle will be auctioned and balance if any will be recovered with interest and cost from them by legal avenues.

Date: 28.07.2026, Place: BILASPUR (C.G.) Authorised Officer, Bank of Baroda

Briefs BEST OF THE REST

PROMOTING SCIENTIFIC AGRICULTURE

ICAR-NIBSM strengthens SC farmers with farm equipment under SCSP

RAIPUR: In a significant step towards promoting sustainable and scientific agriculture among Scheduled Caste farmers, the ICAR-National Institute of Biotic Stress Management, Raipur, distributed 60 battery-operated sprayers to farmers from Beltukri village under the Scheduled Caste Sub Plan (SCSP).

The programme witnessed the participation of all beneficiary farmers along with Sarpanch Santosh Kurre and SatnamGautam. The initiative is part of ICAR-NIBSM's continuing efforts to enhance farm productivity by providing modern agricultural implements and disseminating scientific crop management technologies among resource-poor farming communities.

In his message, Dr. P.K. Rai, Director, ICAR-NIBSM, reaffirmed the institute's



commitment to empowering Scheduled Caste farmers through the SCSP by ensuring access to modern farm machinery, scientific technologies, and capacity-building programmes. He emphasized that the institute will continue to work towards improving farmers' livelihoods through need-based technological interventions and extension activities.

CHHATTISGARH STATE POWER TRANSMISSION CO LTD

(A Government of Chhattisgarh Undertaking) CIN-U40108CT2003SGC015820 GSTIN-22AADCC5773E1ZX, OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (TRANS.) QTR. NO.-C-08/11, FIRST FLOOR, DANGANIYA, RAIPUR (C.G.) -492 013 Website- www.cspc.co.in e-mail: - cetrans.raipur@cspc.co.in Ph.No. 0771-2574411,4450 No.02-19/Tender/P-26-30/611 Raipur, Dtd: 28.07.2026

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (Through e-bidding in SAPSRM System)

Sealed tenders are invited from the reputed medical shops of Municipal area/ Nagar Nigam area of Raipur/Bhilai/Durg for supply of Essential and Emergent medicines with Generic Names for CSPTCL Dispensary, Bhilai-3:-

Sl.	Tender No.	Description of work	EMD	Tentative Cost
1.	02-19/Tender/P-26-30/611 Dtd. 28.07.2026 (RFx No. 8100053313)	Supply of Essential and Emergent medicines with Generic Names for the period of 01 year for day to day requirement of CSPTCL Dispensary, Bhilai-3.	Rs 24000/-	Rs 24.00 Lakh
Last Date & Time of Sale of Tender		17.08.2026	17:30Hrs	
Last Date & Time of Submission of Tender		18.08.2026	15:00Hrs	
Date & Time of Opening of Tender		18.08.2026	15:30Hrs	

Note: Other terms & condition, details etc. regarding tender can be seen on our website www.cspc.co.in Executive Director (Trans.) CSPTCL: Raipur (C.G.)

SAVE ELECTRICITY S-48579/2

National Highways Authority Of India (Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, Govt. of India)

Office of the Project Director, Project Implementation Unit, Korba
MIG II/12, M.P. Nagar EXTN, Helipad Road, Near Ghantaghar, Niharika, Korba

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE ISSUED REGARDING THE USER FEE (TOLL) RATES APPLICABLE AT PACHIRA TOLL PLAZA FROM 29/07/2026 TO 31/03/2027

The public is hereby informed that pursuant to approval of user fee rates for Pachira Toll Plaza vide Regional Officer, NHAI, Raipur (Chhattisgarh) of NHAI, following user fee rates shall be made applicable w.e.f.29/07/2026 to 31/03/2027 for use of Katni-Gumla Section of NH-43 (Km.331.000 to Km363.400) in the State of Chhattisgarh.

Category of Vehicles	Fee for single journey (In Rs.)	Fee for return journey within a day (In Rs.)	Fee for monthly pass for 50 single journeys in month (In Rs.)	Fee for Single Journey for the Commercial Vehicle registered within the district of fee plaza (In Rs.)
Car/Jeep/Van or Light Motor Vehicle	35	55	1220	20
Light Commercial Vehicle/Light Goods Vehicle or Mini Bus	60	90	1970	30
Bus/Truck (Two Axles)	125	185	4125	60
ThreeAxle Commercial Vehicles	135	200	4500	65
HCM or EME or MAV (four to six)	195	290	6465	95
Oversized Vehicles (Seven or More Axles)	235	355	7870	120

The rate of monthly pass for local non-commercial vehicles registered within a distance of 20 Km. from the toll plaza shall be Rs.360/-

Kind Attention:- (i) From 15th February 2021 onwards, User Fee payments is mandatory via "FASTag ONLY" and All the lanes (except one lane on each side) is declared as "FASTag ONLY".
(ii) The NHAI-HQ has revised the Annual Pass fee to ₹3,075/- for FY 2026-27, effective from 01.04.2026

Building a Nation, Not Just Roads

Bank of Baroda Regional Office - Bilaspur, 1st floor, TR Complex, Opposite SBI, Rajkishore Nagar Branch, Lingiyadih, BILASPUR - 495006 (C.G.), PH: 07752-310229/ 310231, E-mail: recovery.bilaspur@bankofbaroda.com

E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of movable properties

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of movable Assets under agreement of Hypothecation of movable assets. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described movable assets charged to the Secured Creditor, possession of which has been taken by the Bank, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis for recovery of below mentioned account/s. The details of Borrower/s/Guarantor/s/Secured Asset/s/Dues/Reserve Price/e-Auction date & Time, EMD and Bid Increase Amount are mentioned below:
The auction will be online e-auction through website <https://baanknet.com> on 25/08/2026 between 02.00 PM to 6.00 PM.

Sr.	Name of Branch/ Contact No.	Details of Borrower/ Guarantor	Brief Description of the Asset to be sold	Total Dues (Rs.)	Reserve Price / Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Amount (In Rs. Actual)	EMD deposit Account No. IFSC Code Bank of Baroda Branch
01	Branch: Ambikapur (C.G.)	Mr. Amit Kumar S/o Mr. Krishnath, Sadak Para, Village- Singitana, Post Lahpatri, Dist- Sarguja, C.G. - 497116	TATA NEXON FRLLS + S PTM BSVI CAR (RC No. CG15ED5934)	₹ 12,46,934.00 + interest & other charges	₹ 6,48,000 ₹ 64,800 ₹ 5000	BAANKNET PORTAL WALLET
02	Branch: Jashpur (C.G.)	Mr. Abdul Latif Ansari S/o Nasruddin Ansari, H. No 104, Bhagalpur Dist- Jashpur C.G. 496225	TATA ALTROZ XZ +05 1.2P B56PH2 CAR (RC No. CG14MS9882),	₹ 10,89,376.00 + interest & other charges	₹ 5,04,000 ₹ 50,400 ₹ 5000	BAANKNET PORTAL WALLET
03	Branch: Jashpur (C.G.)	Mr. Devanand Mishra S/o Vijay Bhushan Mishra, Ward No.5, Main Road, Village- Tapkara, Farsabahal, Dist Jashpur C.G. 496227	TATA SAFARI XT 2.0 L KRAYTEC BSVI CAR Temp Reg. (T.R.) No. T052CG69843C	₹ 17,46,091.00 + interest & other charges	₹ 8,10,000 ₹ 81,000 ₹ 5000	BAANKNET PORTAL WALLET
04	Branch: Jashpur (C.G.)	Mr. Shivprasad Ram, S/o Mr. Budhrum, Gram-Vasudev Pur Charaidand, Dist- Jashpur. C.G. -496225	TATA TIGOR XM 1.2 RTN B56PH2 CAR (RC No. CG 14 MU 1751)	₹ 7,19,144.00 + interest & other charges	₹ 4,05,000 ₹ 40,500 ₹ 5000	BAANKNET PORTAL WALLET
05	Branch: Janjgir (C.G.)	Mr. Shiv Kumar Rathore S/o Mr. Ram Gulam Rathore, R/o PD Seoni, JanjgirDist- Janjgir Champa 495668	Tata ACE MEGA XL BSVI CHASSIS NO- MAT353551 KXV1551 ENGINE NO- 0.8LTDICRAILBAPYS09987 RC No: CG11AS0297	₹ 2,83,368.47 + interest & other charges	₹ 1,62,000 ₹ 16,200 ₹ 5000	BAANKNET PORTAL WALLET
06	Branch: Janjgir (C.G.)	Mr. Kamal Rathore S/o Mr. Harishankar, R/o 125, P.O. Khoksa, Janjgir, DistJanjgir-Champa 495668	TATA MAGIC EXPRESS BS-4 CHASSIS NO- MAT451030MVNS5785 ENGINE NO- 0.8LTDICRAILBONSYS4567 RC No: CG11AM7698	₹ 3,61,073.36 + interest & other charges	₹ 1,62,000 ₹ 16,200 ₹ 5000	BAANKNET PORTAL WALLET

The last date for submission of EMD shall be on 25/08/2026. The interested bidders may inspect the asset at site between 1.00 p.m. to 4.00 pm on 20/08/2026. Bid increment amount will be Rs.5000.00 (Rupees Ten Thousands Only). All further detailed terms & conditions of sale can be accessed from our website of e-auction agency <https://baanknet.com>.
STATUTORY 15 DAYS SALE NOTICE. The Borrowers / Guarantors are hereby given notice to pay the sum mentioned as above before the date of auction, failing which the vehicle will be auctioned and balance if any will be recovered with interest and cost from them by legal avenues.

Date: 28.07.2026, Place: BILASPUR (C.G.) Authorised Officer, Bank of Baroda

NCPI MPs attend first NDA parliamentary party meeting

Press Trust Of India

On Tuesday, the MPs from NCPI attended their first-ever parliamentary party meeting with the NDA.

NEW DELHI: For the first time, a group of MPs who recently left the Trinamool Congress and joined the Nationalist Citizens Party of India (NCPI) attended the NDA parliamentary party meeting on Tuesday in the presence of Prime Minister NarendraModi and senior Union ministers.

Around 20 Lok Sabha MPs had broken away from the Trinamool Congress and joined the NCPI. The MPs are currently seated separately from TMC members in the Lok Sabha, while

HIGHLIGHT

- These MPs have left Mamata Banerjee's Trinamool Congress.

Speaker Om Birla is yet to decide on granting formal recognition to the NCPI as a parliamentary group.

After joining the NCPI, the MPs extended their support to the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance. One of the prominent leaders of the group, SudipBandyopadhyay, had also recently met Prime Minister Narendra-Union Modi.

The NDA parliamentary party meeting was held at the Parliament House complex. NCPI MP Sayoni Ghosh said that she participated in the meeting, describing it as informative and productive.

GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER KELO PROJECT CONSTRUCTION DIVISION LAKHA DISTT. RAIGARH (C.G.)

e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE eProcurement Portal: <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> (First Call)

System Tender No. 196137 NIT No.: 01/SAC/2026-27 Dated: 27-07-2026
Online Tenders are invited for the following works up to 17-08-2026 at 17:30 Hour
Name of work: CONSTRUCTION OF NEW SUB DIVISIONAL OFFICE BUILDING 03, 04, AND 05 AT PUSSORE (C.G.) OF KELO PROJECT RAIGARH DISTRICT.

Probable Amount of Contract: Rs. 161.17 Lakhs (Excluding GST)
(Rate are informed as per S.O.R. dated 01-08-2010 and rates Amendment dated 23-04-2026)
The details can be viewed and downloaded online directly from the Government of Chhattisgarh Integrated e-Procurement Portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) from Date 03-08-2026 at 17:31 Hours. (IST) onwards.

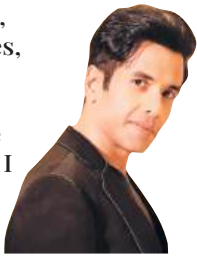
NOTE:- All eligible/intrested contractors/bidders are mandated to get enrolled on the Integrated e-procurement portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) and get approval on specific vendor class from PWD under Centralized Contractor/Supplier Registration in order to download the tender documents and participate in the subsequent bidding process.

Other terms and condition of this tender visit WRD website <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> under Live Tender available.

**EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
KELO PROJECT CONST. DIVISION LAKHA, KHARSIA DISTT. RAIGARH (C.G.)
G-262702402/4**

“When I came in, it was the 90s era. So, actors were expected to take fight classes, dance classes. So, I was very confused. I wanted to back out before the film started. Then I decided to block all the drama associated with me just because I was a star’s son. I focused on my job.”

Tusshar Kapoor



&Glitters

CLOSE UP

For Shehnaaz ‘purpose’ is above cine glamour

Shehnaaz Gill chooses meaningful cinema over glamour and fleeting fame.

Central Chronicle News

Inspired by Radhika Apte, she refuses glamour without meaningful roles.

Shehnaaz Gill is choosing meaningful roles over glamorous appearances, making it clear that she values strong performances more than simply being visible on screen. The actor recently shared that although Bollywood offers continue to come her way, she will only accept projects where her character has a genuine purpose and contributes to the story. After making her Hindi film debut with Kisi Ka Bhai Kisi Ki Jaan and later appearing in Thank You For Coming and a dance number in Vicky Vidya Ka Woh Wala Video, Shehnaaz says Punjabi cinema currently offers her more substantial opportunities. She believes her popularity in the Punjabi film industry has helped her secure lead roles, though she has also turned down several projects that failed to excite her creatively. According to Shehnaaz, many scripts expected her to simply smile, look glamorous and appear in songs without adding much to the narrative. She says she has consciously rejected such roles because she wants audiences to remember her for impactful performances rather than brief appearances.



'Don't want to be used as a prop': Shehnaaz



The actor also revealed that she admires Radhika Apte’s approach to choosing performance-driven characters over conventional glamour. Inspired by her career choices, Shehnaaz hopes to build a filmography centred on meaningful storytelling and memorable roles.

For Shehnaaz, success is measured by the quality of work rather than the number of films. She believes an actor doesn’t

need to appear in every scene, but the character should leave a lasting impact. Her honest perspective reflects a growing shift in the industry, where many performers are prioritising well-written roles over commercial visibility. By staying true to her artistic vision, Shehnaaz is proving that patience, purpose and powerful performances can create a far more enduring legacy than glamour alone.

| SMALL SCREEN |

Farah Khan says ‘Lock Upp’ changed reality Television

Central Chronicle News

Filmmaker and choreographer Farah Khan has opened up about her love for reality television, calling Lock Upp: Sach Ya Sazaa Season 2 her “dream job”. The filmmaker, who co-hosts the reality show with Riteish Deshmukh, said she has always been obsessed with the genre and considers Lock Upp the best captive reality show she has ever watched. Sharing her excitement, Farah said, “Everyone knows I am obsessed with reality TV, so when I say Lock Upp is the best captive reality show I’ve ever watched, not just hosted, you know I mean it.” She added that wherever she goes, whether at airports, film shoots or public events, people only want to discuss the show, calling it a



HIGHLIGHT

● **Farah Khan calls Lock Upp her unforgettable dream hosting experience.**

full-blown pop culture phenomenon. Farah also praised the format

Farah Khan on hosting Lock Upp Sach Ya Sazaa

for going beyond arguments and eliminations. She said the show gave her and Riteish Deshmukh a front-row seat to powerful personal confessions, raw emotions and unexpected relationships. According to her, Lock Upp is about transformation, where contestants discover themselves, connect with others and sometimes even find redemption. Thanking Netflix and producer Ekta Kapoor, she said hosting the show has been an unforgettable experience.

The reality series recently crossed 50 million viewing hours within just three weeks of its premiere. Riteish Deshmukh said the milestone reflects how deeply audiences have connected with the contestants and their emotional journeys.

CineBriefs

BEST OF THE REST

Bollywood

CBFC clears Batwara 1947 without cuts

Sunny Deol has announced that his upcoming film Batwara 1947 has received a clean clearance from the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC), earning an A certificate without a single cut.

Sharing the update on social media, the actor described the film as “a story of humanity and love” set against the backdrop of the 1947 Partition. Directed by Rajkumar Santoshi, the film also marks Preity Zinta’s return to the big screen and reunites Santoshi with Sunny after nearly three decades. Backed by Aamir Khan Productions, Batwara 1947 features music by A.R. Rahman and is scheduled to release in theatres on August 14.

Web Series

K-Drama fans get big Prime Video treat

Prime Video India is set to significantly expand its Korean entertainment catalogue after signing a multi-year distribution deal with South Korea’s CJ ENM. The partnership will bring more than 100 Korean titles to Indian audiences over the next two years, including 26 brand-new releases. The slate begins with Yumi’s Cells Season 3 and also features popular dramas such as Dear X, Study Group**, and My Dearest Nemesis. To make the content more accessible, all upcoming titles will include English subtitles and dubbing in Hindi, Tamil and Telugu. The collaboration reflects the growing popularity of Korean dramas among Indian viewers and strengthens Prime Video’s K-content library.

The Bollywood hot pair

Arshdeep Singh and Samreen make it official



Indian cricketer Arshdeep Singh has officially confirmed his relationship with actor-model Samreen Kaur, putting weeks of speculation to rest. Sharing two affectionate photos on Instagram, the pacer simply captioned them, “My Person,” making their romance public for the first time. Samreen, an actor, model and former Femina Miss

India finalist, has appeared in projects including 83, Sardaar Ji 2 and the web series Nail Polish, besides featuring in several popular music videos. Rumours about the couple began during IPL 2026 after fans spotted Samreen at Punjab Kings matches. Arshdeep’s heartfelt post has now made their relationship Instagram official.

Fashion

Kriti Sanon’s most iconic fashion statements

On Kriti Sanon’s birthday, her on-screen fashion journey continues to inspire style lovers with looks that balance elegance and practicality. From breezy resort wear in Cocktail 2 to sharp power dressing in Crew, she effortlessly adapts to every role. Her utility-inspired outfits in Bhediya, timeless romantic styles in Dilwale and relaxed cotton kurtas in Bareilly Ki Barfi showcase her incredible versatility. Whether it’s tailored blazers, co-ord sets, classic ethnic wear or everyday casuals, Kriti proves that confidence is the best accessory.



Trending on Insta



@aslisona

Sonakshi Sinha gives Gen Z playful credit

Sonakshi Sinha gave a playful nod to Gen Z while sharing her improved padel skills on Instagram. Posting a video from the court, the actress jokingly credited the younger generation for helping level up her game with her signature humour.

@iamsunnydeol

Sunny Deol’s emotional tribute to his mother

Ahead of Batwara 1947’s trailer launch, Sunny Deol shared an emotional tribute to his mother, Prakash Kaur, calling her his greatest strength. He dedicated the film to mothers everywhere, with his heartfelt post winning fans’ admiration online.



Vadhandhi returns with new mystery

Vadhandhi: The Mystery of Mani returns with its second season on Prime Video on August 7. Starring M. Sasikumar, the thriller follows SI Moosa Raza investigating mysterious skeletal remains, uncovering shocking truths amid politics, media pressure and suspense.



Karan Johar hosts The Traitors again

Prime Video has announced that The Traitors Season 2 will premiere on August 13, with Karan Johar returning as host. The reality show features 21 celebrity contestants competing in a thrilling game of trust, deception and strategy for the grand prize.



Rajeev applauds women’s resilience

On the finale of Tum Ho Naa - Ghar Ki Superstar, host Rajeev Khandelwal called women the finest managers, saying they effortlessly balance responsibilities, relationships and ambitions, deserving appreciation as individuals rather than limiting labels.



Elvish Yadav returns for Playground 5

The trailer for Playground Season 5 promises an intense survival gaming battle as mentors Elvish Yadav, Tejasswi Prakash and Aarush Bhola compete through strategy, adaptability and teamwork. The reality gaming show premieres on August 1, 2026.



Huma Qureshi hints at Maharani 5

Huma Qureshi has hinted that Maharani Season 5 is officially underway by sharing an Instagram Story reading “Season 5 begins.” The update has thrilled fans, who are eagerly awaiting her return as Rani Bharti in the acclaimed political drama.

“I was nurturing and feeding my child. I had put on weight. At that time, it was an issue that I had gained a lot of weight. When I lost the weight and came back to normal...it’s taken me 5 years to come back to normal.”
Kajal Aggarwal



Bella



Truth behind trending hormone hacks



THE BEAUTIFUL ME

Fit & strong is beautiful at all age

Women are breaking stereotypes by making fitness an essential lifestyle commitment permanently.

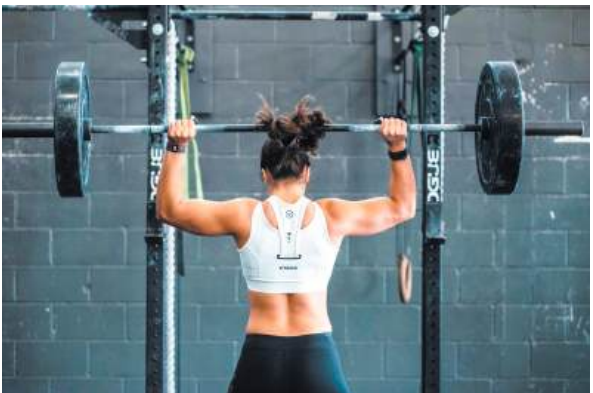
For many women, fitness is no longer about fitting into a dress or chasing a number on the weighing scale. It is about becoming stronger, healthier and more confident. Despite balancing household responsibilities, demanding jobs and raising children, women in their 40s and 50s are making time for themselves by embracing gyms, yoga and strength training like never before. Their day often begins before sunrise with preparing meals, managing children and getting ready for work. Yet, instead of ending the day exhausted on the couch, many now head to the gym, roll out a yoga mat or pick up dumbbells. What was once considered impossible has become a powerful lifestyle shift. Social



HIGHLIGHT

● For the modern woman fitness is essential.

media has played a huge role in this transformation. Countless women are inspiring others by sharing their fitness journeys, proving that age is never a barrier. From lifting heavy weights and mastering pull-ups to improving flexibility through yoga, these women are redefining



what healthy ageing looks like. Strength training, in particular, has become a favourite. Experts believe

it helps preserve muscle mass, improves bone density, boosts metabolism and enhances bal-

ance, reducing the risk of injuries as women age. More importantly, it builds confidence that extends far beyond the gym floor. The biggest lesson from this movement is simple: self-care is not selfish. Investing just an hour in exercise can improve physical health, mental wellbeing and energy levels, making women better equipped to handle everyday challenges. Today’s women are proving that they can care for their families while also caring for themselves. Their determination is encouraging countless others to prioritize fitness, embrace strength and realize that the best investment they can make is in their own health, at every stage of life.

Breaking the silence around perimenopause



Dia Mirza’s candid revelation about experiencing perimenopause at 44 is encouraging more women to speak openly about a natural yet often overlooked phase of life. The actor shared experiencing sudden hot flashes and finding it challenging to keep pace with her young son’s energy, highlighting how hormonal changes can affect daily routines. Experts explain that perimenopause can begin several years before menopause and may bring symptoms such as disturbed sleep, fatigue, mood swings, joint pain, inflammation and irregular periods. Because these signs are often mistaken for stress or normal ageing, many women delay seeking medical advice.

Myth or Truth: Kids’ active wear isn’t just tiny sportswear

Many parents believe kids’ activewear is simply miniature sportswear, but experts say that’s far from the truth. Designed for growing bodies, it supports movement, comfort and durability through school, play and sports. The biggest myth is that any comfortable outfit works equally well. In reality, breathable fabrics, flexible fits and

thoughtful designs help children move freely and stay comfortable all day. As children’s lifestyles become more active, choosing performance-driven clothing isn’t just about fashion it’s about supporting confidence, unrestricted movement and everyday adventures with the right balance of comfort, functionality and long-lasting wear.

| FASHION |

Party wear co-ord sets are the new celebration attire

Style co-ord sets beautifully with statement jewellery and elegant accessories effortlessly.

Wedding invitations and festive celebrations are the perfect excuse to refresh your wardrobe, and partywear co-ord sets are leading this season’s fashion trends. Blending elegance with comfort, these coordinated ensembles have become favourites for cocktail parties, mehendi ceremonies, receptions and family gatherings. They offer a contemporary alternative to heavy traditional outfits while ensuring you look polished throughout every celebration. This season, embellished co-ord



HIGHLIGHT Partywear co-ord sets bring effortless glamour to every festive celebration.

sets featuring sequins, mirror work, pearl detailing, floral embroidery and metallic accents are dominating festive fashion. Satin, silk, velvet and organza remain the most-loved fabrics, while pastel shades, jewel tones, champagne gold, ivory and rich wine colours continue to trend. Cape sleeves, peplum tops,

cropped jackets, asymmetrical hemlines and draped silhouettes are also making stylish statements. Styling a partywear co-ord set is effortless. Pair embellished outfits with statement chandbali earrings or bold cuffs while keeping other accessories minimal.



Metallic stilettos, embellished juttis or block heels complement the outfit beautifully. Complete the look with a crystal clutch, embroidered potli bag or structured mini handbag. For beauty, glowing skin, soft smokey eyes



Wedding ready with stylish co-ords

and nude or berry lips create an elegant finish. Sleek ponytails, textured buns, soft curls and braided hairstyles remain among the biggest festive hair trends. One of the greatest advantages of co-ord sets is their versatility. Wear them together for weddings, then mix and match the pieces later.

DivaDazzle

BEST OF THE REST

Celebs

Isha Jajodia redefines modern femininity

At India Couture Week 2026, designer Isha Jajodia’s ‘Softly Strong’ collection for ROSEROOM beautifully redefined modern femininity. Blending delicate lace, structured corsetry, intricate floral appliqué and handcrafted embellishments, each ensemble celebrated the idea that softness and strength can coexist. Dreamy shades gradually transitioned into bolder hues, symbolising a woman’s evolving journey. Inspired by European romance and brought to life through skilled Indian craftsmanship, the collection also spotlighted the work of female artisans. Ending with joyful smiles and dancing models, the showcase proved couture isn’t just about fashion it’s about confidence,

Achiever

Mirabai Chanu lifts India to golden glory

Champions are not born overnight; they are built through years of discipline, sacrifice and unwavering belief. Mirabai Chanu’s historic gold at the 2026 Commonwealth Games is a shining example of what relentless dedication can achieve. By lifting a record-breaking 190kg and securing her third consecutive Commonwealth Games gold, she has once again made the nation proud. Her journey reminds us that consistency is the true measure of greatness. Every challenge she overcame became a stepping stone towards success. Mirabai’s achievement inspires us to keep pushing limits; stay focused on our goals and believe that hard work always lifts us higher.

The Inspirors

Failure is not the end, says Masaba Gupta



Failure often feels like the end, but it can become the beginning of something greater. Fashion entrepreneur Masaba Gupta’s journey proves that. As a young tennis player, she had the physical strength to compete but struggled to control her mindset, leading to an unsuccessful sporting career. Instead of letting that defeat

define her, she channelled the same passion and determination into building successful fashion and beauty businesses. Her story is a reminder that setbacks reveal lessons, not limitations. Sometimes, the path we lose is only preparing us for the one where we are truly meant to shine. Success begins when we learn from failure.

Wellness

‘Rest’ is your secret productivity superpower

Feeling guilty about taking a break? Experts say it’s time to rethink that mindset. Rest is not laziness but an essential part of staying mentally, emotionally and physically healthy. Taking short pauses helps improve focus, creativity and decision-making while reducing stress and preventing burnout. Whether it’s a quiet walk, meditation, spending time with loved ones or simply disconnecting from work, rest allows the mind and body to recharge. Instead of measuring success by constant busyness, prioritise recovery too. A well-rested mind performs better, making breaks an investment in long-term productivity, balance and overall wellbeing.



Divas on Insta

Viral Cleaning hack

DIY Overnight Aloe Sleeping Mask

Mix fresh aloe vera gel with vitamin E oil and apply before bedtime. This lightweight overnight mask helps hydrate skin, leaving it feeling softer, smoother and refreshed when you wake up.



Viral Beauty hack

DIY Hibiscus shampoo for healthier hair

Skip harsh chemicals and make your own hibiscus herbal shampoo at home by boiling hibiscus leaves, flowers, aloe vera, reetha and water. This gentle cleanser leaves hair soft, shiny and naturally refreshed after washing.



MP off-spinner Saransh Jain gets maiden India Test call-up

Saransh’s inclusion stems from the Shubman Gill-led side’s need for a right-arm finger spinner in Washington’s absence.

By Kushan Sarkar

The short series will be played in Galle (August 15 to 19) and Colombo (August 23 to 27).

NEW DELHI: Veteran Madhya Pradesh off-spinner Saransh Jain earned his maiden Test call-up on Tuesday, capping a decade of consistent domestic performances as the selectors announced India’s 15-member squad for the two-match series against Sri Lanka next month.

As reported by PTI on Sunday, the 33-year-old Saransh was in contention due to Washington Sundar’s likely unavailability for the opening Test because of his ongoing rehabilitation from a hamstring injury.

The short series will be played in Galle (August 15 to 19) and Colombo (August 23 to 27). India will also play a four-day practice match from August 7 to prepare for the main assignment.

Saransh’s inclusion stems from the Shubman Gill-led side’s need for a right-arm finger spinner in Washington’s absence.

A key member of Madhya Pradesh’s Ranji Trophy-winning side under Chandrakant Pandit’s coaching, the tall off-spinner enhanced his



INDIA SQUAD

● **Shubman Gill** (captain), **KL Rahul** (vice-captain), **Yashasvi Jaiswal**, **Rishabh Pant** (wicketkeeper), **Sai Sudharsan**, **Dhruv Jurel** (wicketkeeper), **Ravindra Jadeja**, **Kuldeep Yadav**, **Manav Suthar**, **Jasprit Bumrah**, **Mohammed Siraj**, **Prasidh Krishna**, **Gurnoor Brar**, **Devdutt Padikkal** and **Saransh Jain**.

An ailing father’s note: How Saransh Jain became a fighter

NEW DELH: In 2014, a 21-year-old Saransh Jain was touring Australia with an Indore club side, chasing his cricket dream in white-ball matches. Every time he called home and asked for his father, his mother or elder brother would tell him that Subodh Jain – also his first and only coach – was “busy” and couldn’t speak. When Saransh returned, the truth hit him with devastating force. His father had been diagnosed with oral cancer. “My mouth was badly swollen after surgery and I couldn’t speak. The moment

Saransh saw me, he broke down,” recalled Subodh, now 61. “I picked up a pen and wrote on a piece of paper: ‘Beta, tu jitna accha karega, main utni jaldi theek ho jaunga’ (Son, the better you perform, the quicker I will recover).”

It was a Tuesday, and like every week when he is in Indore, Saransh was offering prayers at a Hanuman temple when the selectors announced the squad. “He was inside the temple and missed the first call. When he came out, he learnt about his selection,” Subodh said.

off home Test against Afghanistan in June.

Mumbai all-rounder Tanush Kotian, who had replaced the retired R Ashwin during the 2024-25 Border-Gavaskar Trophy, seems to have slipped in the pecking order because of his inability to consistently produce wicket-taking performances.

The rest of the squad was largely on expected lines. Right-arm fast bowler Gurnoor Brar retained his place after his outstanding 10-wicket match

haul against Sri Lanka A.

Pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah and batter Sai Sudharsan have been included subject to fitness and will undergo assessments at the BCCI’s Centre of Excellence later this month before the team departs for Sri Lanka.

While no official standby has been named, Vidarbha pacer Yash Thakur and Jammu and Kashmir fast bowler Auqib Nabi remain in contention in case Bumrah fails to recover fully from his impact injury.

Punjab FC sign forward Gurkirat and defender Nishchal

MOHALI: Punjab FC have bolstered their squad ahead of the 2026-27 Indian Super League season with the double signing of forward Gurkirat Singh and defender Nishchal Chandan. Both players have signed two-year agreements that will keep them with the Shers until May 31, 2028. Adding firepower and versatility to the attacking third, Gurkirat’s arrival bolsters Punjab FC’s offensive options. Known for his pace, technical ability, and eye for goal, the young forward is expected to be a key component in the club’s strategy. A product of the AIFF Elite Academy, Chandigarh-born Gurkirat began his senior professional career with Indian Arrows in the I-League, making 18 appearances and scoring one goal between 2018 and 2021.

Anahat puts Harvard plans on hold to chase Olympic glory

Press Trust Of India

Anahat’s original plan was to follow in her elder sister Amira’s footsteps and pursue higher education at the Harvard.

NEW DELHI: Newly-crowned junior squash world champion Anahat Singh has revealed that she placed her academic goals at the prestigious Harvard University on hold this year to give herself the best chance of winning a medal at the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.

Anahat’s original plan was to follow in her elder sister Amira’s footsteps and pursue higher education at the Harvard.

But bolstered by the title triumph in her fifth and final attempt, the



18-year-old now wants to put all her energies into preparing for the upcoming Asian Games and the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics in a couple of years’ time. Anahat has been living out of the suitcase for as far as she can remember, juggling top level squash and school. Having graduated from school

only a couple of months ago, Anahat has now chosen to focus on the sport to take her game to the next level. “I was supposed to go to college this year, but I decided to take a gap year because of the Asian Games coming up. And now I understand that this year is really important for me regarding squash

HIGHLIGHT

● **Anahat’s next big assignment is the Asian Games in Japan in September-October.**

and, the build up to the LA 2028 (Games),” Anahat told PTI in an interview referring to her plans for squash’s Olympic debut.

“So, yeah, I mean, just focusing on this year, outside of school, because I’ve been doing that for the last 12 years (smiles). I’m just focusing on squash for a year and just making sure that I’m at my peak going in to LA 28,” she said.

Having got the monkey off her back with a world junior title in her fifth and final appearance, Anahat’s next big assignment is the Asian Games in Japan in September-October.

EMOTIONAL ZINEDINE |

Zidane realizes his “dream” as he takes charge of France

Press Trust Of India

PARIS: Moments after being announced as France’s new coach on Tuesday, Zinedine Zidane clenched his fists and his usually measured voice trembled a little.

“I’m excited,” he said. “The France team makes you dream. We have extraordinary players, an extraordinary team.” Zidane coached Real

Madrid until leaving in 2021. He replaces Didier Deschamps at the helm of France team he led to glory as arguably its greatest ever player.

“I’ve waited five years for this chance, so that’s why I’m a bit emotional,” said Zidane, adding that it was the happiest day of his career as coach.

“I’ve always watched this side as a fan and also as a future coach, I won’t



hide it.” Zidane added. “That’s why I didn’t take a club side. I told myself that the only thing I wanted to do after Madrid was

taking the France team.” French Football Federation president Philippe Diallo announced Zidane’s appointment at the FFF headquarters in Paris on Tuesday, saying he has been given a 4-year contract. Diallo called the hiring of Zidane “an exceptional moment, exceptional because of the person sat next to me,” adding that Zidane “is one of the legends of French

soccer.” The 54-year-old Zidane could have gone to another club after leaving Madrid in 2021. But there was no way he would.

“I had some offers during the five years I was away to take charge of a club,” he said. “I turned them all down for the France team. It was the only thing I wanted to do.” Zidane called it “an immense joy” taking charge.

Briefs

BEST OF THE REST

ISSF WORLD CUP

Sonam and Himanshu clinch bronze in 10m air rifle mixed team

HANGZHOU: Rifle shooters Sonam Uttam Maskar and Himanshu Dhillon added another medal to India’s campaign, clinching the bronze in the 10m air rifle mixed team event at the ISSF World Cup here on Tuesday.

The bronze medal took India’s overall tally at the World Cup to four medals, including 1 gold, 1 silver, and 2 bronze. Both Indian teams delivered strong performances in the qualification round to advance to the final.

Sonam Uttam Maskar (317.2) and Himanshu Dhillon (317.4) combined for an aggregate qualification score of 634.6. Meanwhile, the pair of Elavenil Valarivan (316.8) and Parth Rakesh Mane (317.4) qualified right behind them with a total score of 634.2.

In the final, Sonam and Himanshu produced a composed performance to combine for 441.2 points (220.6 each), securing the bronze medal behind China 1 and China 2.

Elavenil (190.5) and Parth (188.3)



finished fourth with a final score of 378.8. “It was a tough competition, and the overall experience was very good,” said Sonam, the 23-year-old from Maharashtra, in a release. “Winning a medal is always important because it gives us confidence for the assignments ahead. Experience matters more than anything, and this performance will motivate us as we prepare for the Asian Games and the World Championships later this season.”

SINGLES QUALIFYING ROUND

Indian shuttlers disappoint in Taipei Open qualifiers

TAIPEI CITY (TAIWAN): Indian shuttlers endured a disappointing outing in the qualifiers of the Taipei Open Super 300 tournament, with only Rounak Chouhan progressing to the second round of the men’s singles qualifying round here on Tuesday.

Chouhan, seeded second in the qualifiers, defeated Joshua Nguyen of Canada 21-15, 21-11 to set up qualifying quarterfinal clash against Chinese Taipei’s Kuan Lin Kuo. All other Indians in the men’s singles qualifiers exited in the opening round. Ritvik Sanjeevi lost 10-21, 11-21 to the top seed Riki Takei of Japan, while Sankar Subramanian was shown the door by USA’s Garret Tan 17-21, 10-21. Tushar Suvver fought hard before losing 19-21, 21-16, 12-21 against Chinese Taipei’s Kuan Lin Kuo.

The only Indian in the women’s



singles qualifier, Aakarshi Kashyap, seeded fourth, lost 15-21, 19-21 against Malaysia’s Kisona Selvaduray.

The Indian pair of Achutaditya Rao Doddavarapu and Arjun Reddy Pochana also bowed out of the men’s doubles qualifying round, losing 5-21, 8-21 against Chinese Taipei duo Chen Bo-Yuan and Lu Ming-Che.

FUTURE EURO SERIES ROUND 4

Atiqa Mir produces moments of brilliance in Sweden, finishes P7

KRISTIANSTAD (SWEDEN): Indian racing prodigy Atiqa Mir displayed moments of brilliance in qualifying and the opening heat race before an untimely crash spoiled the remainder of her weekend at Champions of the Future Euro Series Round 4 here.

Considering it was her debut at the Kristianstad Kart Track here, the 11-year-old hardly took any time to get up to speed. Fresh off a pole position in Italy, Atiqa turned heads by qualifying only 0.17 seconds off the fastest time in her Qualifying group for a commendable 10th place and 29th overall out of 86 drivers. Atiqa, the first Indian to be backed by Formula 1 Academy, qualified second overall among the wildcard entries.

In the round held as a prelude to the high stakes FIA European Championship here this weekend, Atiqa got



much needed track time for an invaluable experience. In the races, her seventh place in heat 1 was her best result of the weekend and came ahead of many established drivers on the grid.

Against all odds, Atiqa fought hard and gave a good account of her rare talent. After the impressive show in heat 1, Atiqa did not have much going her way. Starting on the outside row was a big disadvantage before a crash and two penalties marred her smooth start to the weekend.

FORMER PAKISTAN CAPTAIN AND BATTING GREAT

Zaheer Abbas backs Kohli, Rohit to play 2027 ODI World Cup

KARACHI: Former Pakistan captain and batting great Zaheer Abbas believes Indian stalwarts Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma still have plenty to offer and is convinced the two will feature in next year’s ODI World Cup.

Speaking on a Pakistani television channel, Zaheer, popularly known as the ‘Asian Bradman’ for his prolific run-scoring feats, said both Indian batting maestros remain among the best in the game and that age should not stand in the way of their World Cup ambitions.

“Both are very, very good in terms of skill and, given their experience, I don’t see any reason why they should not play the World Cup. Age should not be a factor as long as they are fit and continue scoring runs,” he said. Zaheer said scoring becomes second nature for batters of Kohli and Rohit’s calibre after years of success at the highest level, while experi-



ence remains an invaluable asset. Kohli is still supremely fit, while Rohit just needs to pay a little more attention to his fitness, he added. The former Pakistan batter, who scored more than 100 first-class centuries during an illustrious career, said India would benefit immensely from the duo’s experience at the 2027 ODI World Cup, to be jointly hosted by South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia.

Sports News

Kushare becomes first Indian to win CWG men's high jump silver

By Aparajita Upadhyay

GLASGOW: National record holder Sarvesh Kushare scripted history as he became the first Indian to win a silver medal in the men's high jump event of the Commonwealth Games, losing the gold by the narrowest of margins in an enthralling showdown with Jamaica's Romaine Beckford.

After sailing over 2.25m, both the 31-year-old Kushare and Beckford failed to clear the 2.28m mark. But the Jamaican took the gold as he had one less failed attempt than the Indian on count-back. The bronze went to Jack Kimani (2.20m) of England.

The other Indian in the fray, Adarsh Ram, finished fifth with 2.15m.

Before Monday, Tejaswin Shankar was the lone Indian to have won a high jump medal -- a bronze in the 2022 Birmingham Games. But Kushare bettered it with his silver. It was Kushare's first medal in the CWG and that too on debut. Tejaswin also competed on Monday and retired after failing to clear 2.05m in his first attempt. The move was a precautionary measure for Tejaswin as



India's Sarvesh Anil Kushare celebrates after winning the silver medal in the men's high jump final at the 23rd Commonwealth Games, at Scotstoun Stadium, in Glasgow, Scotland.

he is competing in the men's decathlon starting on Thursday.

The 27-year-old, who has a personal best of 2.29m, has not competed in too many individual high jump events

in the last two years as he has been focussing on decathlon.

Son of an onion farmer at Devargaon village in Maharashtra's Nashik district, Kushare used to practice high

jump by using makeshift landing pits made of corn husks, cotton, and agricultural waste, prepared by his father and childhood coach.

"It's my first medal, also my first medal at

CWG: Srihari Nataraj enters 100m backstroke semis; Sajan Prakash bows out of 50m butterfly

Glasgow: India's Srihari Nataraj qualified for the 100m backstroke semifinals but veteran Sajan Prakash failed to go past the Heats of 50m butterfly event in the Commonwealth Games swimming competition here on Tuesday. Nataraj finished fifth in his Heat and 13th overall with a timing of 55.58 seconds. The 16 fastest swimmers move ahead from the preliminary stage. The semifinals will be held later tonight. Nataraj, whose timing at the 50m mark was 26.26sec, has a personal best of 53.77 seconds, which is also the national record that he created in 2021. Sajan, however, failed to qualify after finishing eighth in his Heat and 28th overall. The 32-year-old, who was part of the ninth and final group, clocked 24.94 seconds to bow out of contention. The effort was well below his personal best of 23.83 seconds, also a national record. Sajan, a two-time Olympian, had earlier finished eighth and last in the 200m butterfly event finals on Monday, clocking 1:58.05sec. That performance was also underwhelming as his personal best and national record stands at 1:56.38sec.



Shot-putter Sharmila Dhankar clinches para-athletics gold

Glasgow: Sharmila Dhankar, a woman who was impaired by polio at the age of two and survived the trauma of an abusive marriage, became India's first para-athlete to clinch a gold medal in the Commonwealth Games, winning the women's shot put F57 event here. The 40-year-old produced her season's best throw of 9.81m to end India's 20-year wait for a para-athletics medal in the CWG. Compatriot Shilpa Shyla, was awarded the bronze medal following an Indian protest amid controversial circumstances. Shyla had produced a personal best effort of 7.26m.

chance. It was a good experience." On Tejaswin giving him tips inside the throwing arena, Kushare said, "Let the player be in the role. He is a good player. We will do more competitions. We will do our best."

Earlier this month, Kushare scripted history by becoming the first Indian high jumper to finish on the podium at a Diamond League meet, claiming third place on his debut in Monaco and joining an exclusive four-member club of Indian achievers. He had cleared 2.26m to take the third spot in a star-studded field and grabbed a remarkable personal

milestone. He had set a national record of 2.31m while winning gold at the National Inter State Championships in Bhubaneswar last month.

He was the fourth Indian to finish in top-three of a Diamond League event after javelin throw superstar Neeraj Chopra (13 times since 2022), long jumper Murali Sreesankar (once in 2023) and former discus thrower Vikas Gowda (on two occasions in 2015). A late bloomer, Kushare first took part in a national event when he was nearly 20 at the 2014 Junior Championships. His first national level gold came in 2018 Indian Open where he jumped 2.24m. He improved his mark to 2.26m while winning gold in the 2019 Indian Open. He raised the bar by one centimeter to 2.27m on way to a gold at the 2022 Gujarat National Games. For two years, he could not make any improvement before jumping 2.18m while finishing sixth in the 2025 World Championships in Tokyo.

In the process, he also became the first Indian to qualify for the men's high jump final at the World Championships.

‘Building team chemistry ahead of GCL will be key to success’

Press Trust Of India

Indian Grandmaster Nihal Sarin stresses the importance of team chemistry for Fyers American Gambits in the Global Chess League.



BENGALURU: Leading Indian Grandmaster Nihal Sarin believes team chemistry will be the key to Fyers American Gambits' success in the upcoming Global Chess League, with the players set to come together only after arriving for the tournament next month.

The GCL will be held from September 3 to 13 and features six fran-

chise teams comprising 36 elite players, including world champions, grandmasters and leading women players.

American Gambits boast a formidable line-up featuring Candidates champion Javokhir Sindarov, Women's World Blitz and Norway Chess champion Bibisara Assaubayeva, Spanish WGM Sara Khadem, Sarin, Daniil Dubov and

Marc'Andria Maurizzi.

Coach Srinath Narayanan faces the challenge of moulding the star-studded squad into a cohesive unit -- a task that will be crucial to the team's title ambitions.

"Every player brings a different style and perspective to the team, and that makes the experience both challenging and exciting.

European T20 franchise league to begin on August 26

DUBLIN: The European T20 Premier League (ETPL) on Tuesday unveiled the schedule for its inaugural season, with the six-team competition set to run from August 26 to September 20 across venues in the Netherlands and Ireland.

The opening match will feature Jonty Rhodes' Rotterdam Dockers taking on Steve Waugh's Amsterdam Flames at the Voorburg Cricket Club in The Hague on August 26.

The second fixture, scheduled for August 27, will see Rahul Dravid-backed Dublin Guardians, led by Ravichandran Ashwin, face Glenn Maxwell's Belfast Wolves.

Indian tennis to go digital with online platform

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The All India Tennis Association (AITA) has partnered with World Tennis Number (WTN) to launch a comprehensive digital platform for Indian tennis, bringing players,

academies, coaches and officials onto a single integrated ecosystem across web and mobile applications. The first phase of the platform, along with the new AITA website, will be officially launched on August 15. The new

platform has been designed to match the latest global standards, providing a seamless, transparent and efficient experience for the entire tennis community. The initial rollout will enable players to complete reg-

istrations, tournament entries and withdrawals entirely online. Future phases will introduce automated tournament draws, electronic orders of play, live results, rankings and a host of additional digital services.

| IFAB ADMITS |

Embolo's Red Card against Argentina was a mistake

Press Trust Of India

Soccer rules panel clarifies VAR process that World Cup red card for Switzerland's Embolo was wrong



GENEVA: Soccer's law-making panel clarified its guidance to referees which confirmed Switzerland forward Breel Embolo should not have been sent off in the World Cup quarterfinals against Argentina.

Embolo's second yellow card, after a video review for simulating being fouled, changed the momentum of the game in the 72nd minute soon after Switzerland tied the score at 1-1.

Argentina won 3-1 in extra time with help from the red-card decision that fuelled complaints,

including from previous opponent Egypt, referees were favouring Lionel Messi's team with deci-

sions.

The FIFA-backed rules panel known as IFAB published a clarification on Monday that VAR protocol for "mistaken identity" cases was not eligible for that type of incident at the World Cup, though it could be in future competitions.

"However, it may not be used as such until that review is concluded," the Zurich-based IFAB said in a statement. Embolo fell to the ground on being challenged by Argentina midfielder Leandro Paredes, who was shown a yellow card. The VAR officials alerted the referee to the fact Paredes did not commit a foul and instead Embolo was shown a yellow, his second, and was sent off.

healthcare

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Ali al-Zaidi
Prime Minister of Iraq

Briefs
BEST OF THE REST

SKOREA US WHITE PHOSPHORUS

South Korean officials order residents to evacuate after reported white phosphorus leak at US base



SEOUL: South Korean authorities on Tuesday briefly ordered civilians to evacuate after what they described as a white phosphorus leak at a US military base near the capital, Seoul. Officials in the city of Pyeongtaek urged nearby residents to move to a safe location and avoid skin exposure after the leak was detected at around 5 pm at the Osan Air Base. They lifted the evacuation order several hours later, saying decontamination work at the base had been completed, according to text messages sent out by the city.

Police reportedly used vehicles to establish a perimeter 300 to 500 metres from the base, blocking pedestrians and rerouting vehicles. There were no immediate reports of major disruptions or accidents. In a statement, the US 51st Fighter Wing

did not mention a leakage of white phosphorus but said it established a 1,000-foot safety cordon around the base “due to a ground mishap and out of an abundance of caution” to protect the base and the local populace. US Forces Korea did not provide further comment about the incident. “We are handling this matter with the utmost care and expediency,” it said. “The safety and well-being of our service members, their families, and our Pyeongtaek neighbours remain our absolute highest priority.” White phosphorus is a controversial chemical substance used in incendiary munitions and smoke shells. When ignited, it burns at extremely high temperatures and can set buildings ablaze and burn human flesh to the bone.

TURKIYE IRAQ

Iraq’s new PM in Turkiye for talks on pipeline, trade, security

ANKARA: Iraq’s new prime minister, Ali al-Zaidi, arrived in Turkiye on Tuesday for talks that are expected to include the construction of a pipeline to Turkiye aimed at reducing the exposure of Iraq’s oil exports to tensions in the Gulf region. It is al-Zaidi’s third visit abroad since taking office. Zaidi’s meetings with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and other officials will also focus on security, trade, energy, transportation and water management, Turkish officials said. A statement from the Iraqi prime minister’s office said the sides will discuss “joint infrastructure projects in a way that serves the interests of the two neighbouring countries.” Al-Zaidi, who merged as a consensus candidate in Iraq after months of deadlock over the premiership following last year’s parliamentary elections, is visiting Ankara on the heel of trips to Washington and Tehran. US companies signed roughly USD 60 billion in agreements and partnerships with the Iraqi government, including deals intended to create alternative routes for shipping oil out of the Persian Gulf.

AFGHAN KILLING

Gunmen kill high-ranking Taliban official in Afghanistan

KABUL:Gunmen killed a high-ranking local Taliban official in Afghanistan’s northwestern province of Badakhshan on Tuesday in a rare targeted killing in the country. Two gunmen shot Zabihullah Amiri, Badakhshan’s director of information and culture, as he headed from a local district to the provincial capital Faizabad, the Information Ministry said in a statement. “Immediately following the incident, security guards opened fire on the attackers; one attacker was killed and the second was captured,” the ministry said, adding that authorities were investigating the killing.

Targeted killings of high-ranking Taliban officials have been rare since the Taliban seized power in Afghanistan in 2021 in the wake of the withdrawal of US-led forces. In December 2024, the country’s refugee minister, Khalil Haqqani, was killed in a suicide bombing in the capital Kabul. Haqqani was the uncle of Interior Minister Sirajuddin Haqqani, who leads a powerful network within the Taliban. In June 2023, a car bomb in Faizabad killed Badakhshan’s deputy governor, Nisar Ahmad Ahmadi, as well as his driver.

ROMANIA DRONES

NATO member Romania shoots down stray drones from Ukraine war after years of incursions



BUCHAREST: Since Russia’s full invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, the war has repeatedly spilled across Romania’s border as drones violate the airspace of the neighbouring European Union and NATO member. Now Romania is trying something new to stop the incursions: shooting down the drones.

Romanian pilots shot down the first of three drones in as many days from F-16 fighter jets starting Friday as Russia intensified attacks against Ukraine near the border. After determining the drones were of Russian origin, Romania summoned Moscow’s ambassador in protest and expelled a Russian diplomat on Monday. Drones

have crossed into Romanian territory multiple times from Ukraine to the north and east, including in May when a drone injured a mother and child after crashing into an apartment block in the eastern town of Galati along the Danube River. Romanian authorities largely responded by scrambling jets, collecting debris, erecting fallout shelters near the border and frequently admonishing Moscow for its war spilling into its territory. Romania and Poland also acquired the MEROPS system, which fires short counter-drones to take down incoming stray drones, following a spate of incursions along NATO’s eastern flank late last year.

Exercise Pitch Black 2026



IAF officials during the Exercise Pitch Black 2026 alongside the Royal Australian Air Force and Air Forces from 20 nations. (PTI Photo)

Qantas tests new long-range airbus from France to Melbourne

Airbus A350-1000ULR becomes most watched plane on flight tracking websites as Qantas tests new aircraft for its Project Sunrise

Press Trust Of India

MELBOURNE: Qantas’s new ultra long-distance aircraft has landed on Australian soil for the first time on Friday after a 19-hour test flight from France. The Airbus A350-1000ULR, designed for Qantas to complete some of the longest commercial flights in the world, set off on a nonstop journey from Airbus’ manufacturing facility Toulouse, France on Thursday, destined for Melbourne. The planes have been designed to fly up to 22 hours nonstop for the company’s Sydney to London direct route,



The Qantas A350-1000ULR arrives at Melbourne's Tullamarine airport on Friday after a 19 hour and 13 minute flight from the Airbus factory in Toulouse, France.

expected to start in October 2027. The test flight has attracted attention from transport enthusiasts, with more than 67,000 people following its almost 17,000km path on flightradar24.

com on Friday morning - the most-watched flight globally on Friday. The air traffic website indicates the flight departed Toulouse at 7.33am on Thursday, local time. It landed in Melbourne just

FASTFACTS

● Over 67,000 transport enthusiasts tracked the journey on Flightradar24, making it the most-watched flight globally.

● The aircraft is part of Qantas’s 12-plane order designed for ultra long-haul routes like Sydney to London, with the first delivery slated for April 2027.

over 19 hours later, at 10.46am, local time. In a statement, Qantas said four Airbus flight test pilots and five flight test

engineers were operating the model’s test. They and the aircraft will stay in Melbourne over the weekend then depart for Toulouse on Monday, with two Qantas pilots joining them on board. Qantas’ chief technical pilot, Alex Passerini, told Channel Seven on Friday the return flight would take 23 hours, as the crew tested systems from fuel transfer to air conditioning. Passerini said crews would be able to take regular rest breaks on the plane, aligned with the airline’s “data-driven” systems.

WILDFIRES SPAIN FIREFIGHTERS

Firefighters say they’ve never seen anything like Spain’s record blaze

Press Trust Of India

A massive blaze near Madrid has consumed 500 square kilometers and forced 25,000 people to flee the hills of Avila, marking Spain’s largest recorded wildfire.

BARCELONA: Spanish firefighter Javier Garcia has never faced anything like the record blaze raging near Madrid in his two decades protecting woodlands and rural communities. “This doesn’t have a precedent,” Garcia told The Associated Press by



A house and belongings destroyed by a wildfire are photographed as the fire continues to spread near Pelayos de la Presa, Madrid province, Spain.

phone before another long day ahead. The out-of-control fire has consumed 500 square kilometers (193 square miles) - an area five times the size of Barcelona - and forced 25,000 people to flee

villages in the smoldering hills of Avila west of Madrid, the capital. The ferocity of Spain’s largest recorded wildfire is forcing firefighters to fundamentally change their tactics, prioritising evacuations and

FASTFACTS

● Firefighters have shifted their primary focus from tackling wilderness fires directly to prioritizing human evacuations and property protection due to unprecedented fire ferocity.

property protection due to the danger posed by fast-moving walls of flames and blazes too powerful to attack directly. “The evolution is alarming,” Garcia said. Before, his brigade would tackle fires in the wilderness.

JAPAN QUAKE

Magnitude 7.1 earthquake shakes southern Japan

Press Trust Of India

TOKYO: An earthquake registering a magnitude of 7.1 shook Kumamoto on Japan’s southern main island of Kyushu late Tuesday afternoon, causing damage and injuries, officials said. A tsunami advisory was temporarily issued but was lifted within two hours, the Japan Meteorological Agency said.

The agency said the tsunami advisory covered the nearby Ariake and Yatsushiro Seas on the western coasts of Kumamoto, Nagasaki, Fukuoka and Saga pre-



fectures about 900 kilometres southwest of Tokyo. The US Geological Survey initially said the earthquake had a magnitude of 7.1, but revised it later to 6.8. Japan’s Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi, in a message posted on X, said her government has set up a task force

to gather information, assess possible damage and prepare for rescue operations if needed. Takaichi later told reporters that there have been reports of a number of injuries and damages to roads, bridges and buildings, as well as blackouts and fire, though details

are still unclear. Takaichi warned people cooking to be careful with fire and with shards of broken glass. Kyodo News agency said a hospital in Yatsushiro city accepted about 40 people with injuries from the quake. A train was derailed and fell on one side at the Yat-



We are putting people’s lives as the top priority.

Sanae Takaichi
Prime Minister of Japan

sushiro station, and stone walls were damaged at the Kumamoto castle, Kyodo said. Japan’s Fire and Disaster Management Agency said there were no reports of damage to major public facilities and infrastructure, though authorities were still assessing the extent of damage. Local fire departments received many emergency calls reporting fires and damage to homes. “We are putting people’s lives as the top priority,” Takaichi said, urging residents in the strongly shaken areas to use caution in light of possible aftershocks.