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Editor

Atal's Vision, Modi's Resolve and Vishnu Deo Sai's Governance-By Kumar Bahukhandi

From statehood to Chhattisgarh 2047, the state's development journey runs through stronger public institutions, wider access to services and an economy seeking opportunities beyond its traditional industries.

• Chhattisgarh became India's 26th state on 1 November 2000, during Atal Bihari Vajpayee's tenure as Prime Minister.
• Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the new Assembly building and the Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh Memorial-cum-Tribal Freedom Fighters Museum on the state's silver jubilee in 2025.
• The Vishnu Deo Sai government's Anjor Vision 2047 identifies 13 priority areas and 10 missions, covering human development, infrastructure and economic diversification.
• At the November 2026 Industry Dialogue, 24 industry groups submitted proposals worth over ₹1.07 lakh crore. Sai said work had already begun on around 60 industrial projects arising from the state's wider investment drive.

When Chhattisgarh became a separate state on 1 November 2000, one of the most consequential changes was that elected institutions within the region gained the authority to set its development priorities. In the years since, the state has built its own administrative institutions, expanded programmes for farmers and street vendors, and sought investment beyond its established strengths in mining, steel and power. Its Anjor Vision 2047, prepared under Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai, brings these strands together in a long-term development plan aligned with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Viksit Bharat 2047.

Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Modi and Sai figure in different stages of that journey. Statehood came during Vajpayee's premiership, after decades of demands for a separate Chhattisgarh. Modi's national development vision gave the states a common horizon in the centenary year of Indian independence. Under Sai, Chhattisgarh has set out its own priorities within that framework, drawing on the experience of a state whose districts vary considerably in geography, economy and access to public services.

Statehood brought development decisions closer to home

The demand for a separate state drew on a distinct cultural identity and the aspiration for greater administrative representation. During Vajpayee's tenure, Parliament passed the Madhya Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2000. President K.R. Narayanan gave his assent on 25 August, and Chhattisgarh came into being on 1 November, with an Assembly and government of its own.

Statehood gave Chhattisgarh the scope to plan around the different

needs of its regions. Paddy-growing districts relied on irrigation, storage and procurement. The industrial belt needed dependable power, freight links and urban infrastructure. In the forested parts of Bastar and Surguja, dispersed settlements and long journeys shaped access to schools, health facilities and markets. The years after statehood saw successive governments, panchayats, municipalities and co-operatives take on these responsibilities.

The state's silver jubilee on 1 November 2025 gave that institutional journey a visible expression. Modi inaugurated the new Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly building at Nava Raipur and the Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh Memorial-cum-Tribal Freedom Fighters Museum. The Assembly houses the institution that debates legislation and approves public spending. The museum brings the history of tribal resistance and the freedom struggle into a public space accessible to students, researchers and visitors.

How development is reaching farmers, vendors and students

Paddy procurement offers a district-level view of how the state's institutions affect household incomes. By 18 November 2026, Chhattisgarh had purchased 1,44,405 metric tonnes of paddy from 37,792 farmers in the 2026–27 kharif marketing season. Its online token system allows farmers to book a date to sell their crop at a procurement centre. More than 4.68 lakh tokens had been issued by that date, covering paddy booked for sale. The purchase figures record the quantity the centres had actually procured.



Chhattisgarh 2047: From Statehood to a Developed State, featuring Atal Bihari Vajpayee (centre), Narendra Modi (left) and Vishnu Deo Sai (right). AI-generated for primelook

In towns and cities, the PM SVANidhi scheme has brought small traders into another part of the development effort. At the SVANidhi Mahotsav in Bilaspur in November 2026, Deputy Chief Minister Arun Sao visited stalls run by beneficiaries and spoke to women street vendors about their businesses and experiences with the scheme. Chhattisgarh, Bilaspur, Bade Bacheli and Dantewada were subsequently named for national honours for implementing PM SVANidhi. The Bilaspur gathering put vendors and their businesses at the centre of a programme often reported through loan figures and awards.

Access to English-medium education is also part of the state's development agenda. In November 2026, the government was considering a proposal to operate 207 IGNITE schools, comprising 103 primary and 104 middle schools, through a public-private partnership. The proposal envisages CBSE-

based English-medium education in rural areas and at block headquarters. It provides for continued free education for existing pupils, additional free seats for disadvantaged children and full government ownership of land and buildings. The proposal remains under consideration.

Bastar and the changing industrial map

For Bastar, development has long been shaped by distance, difficult terrain and the effects of Maoist violence. Programmes such as Niyad Nellanar have focused attention on bringing government services closer to remote settlements. At the November 2026 Industry Dialogue in Nava Raipur, Sai said roads, electricity and communications were reaching more remote parts of Bastar. He linked those changes and improved security to prospects for tourism, agro-processing and enterprises based on local resources.

Chief Secretary Vikas Sheel said the state was preparing a plan to develop Chitrakote Falls as an international tourism destination and connect it with other attractions in Bastar. The proposed circuit covers opportunities for hotels, homestays, transport and handicrafts. He also outlined work on clusters to link locally grown produce and forest products with processing, branding and markets. These plans place Bastar's landscapes, forest produce and local businesses within the wider development agenda.

Chhattisgarh's established industrial base remains rooted in mining, steel, cement and energy. The state is also seeking investment in semiconductors, artificial intelligence, data centres and space technology. At the third edition of the Chhattisgarh Industry Dialogue on 19 November 2026, 24 industry groups submitted investment proposals worth more than ₹1.07 lakh crore, with the potential to generate around 20,000 direct and indirect job opportunities if the projects go ahead.

Sai said the state had received proposals worth more than ₹8.5 lakh crore over roughly the previous 18 months to two years and that work had begun on around 60 industrial projects. The two figures describe different stages of development. The proposals show the scale of investor interest, while the roughly 60 projects record where work has started. Sheel also outlined the state's single-window process, including deadlines for decisions, automatic referral when an application is delayed and an appeals mechanism for investors.

Chhattisgarh's development journey towards 2047

Prepared under Sai with NITI Aayog's participation and launched in November 2025, Anjor Vision 2047 identifies 13 priority areas and 10 missions. It brings economic growth, human development, infrastructure, technology, tourism and environmental sustainability within one state roadmap. The year 2047 marks a century of Indian independence. Chhattisgarh will mark its own half-century of statehood three years later, in 2050.

The journey from 2000 to 2047 is already visible in the institutions and programmes the state has built. Its Assembly at Nava Raipur represents the authority acquired through statehood. Paddy procurement and street-vendor programmes show how public policy reaches producers and traders. The projects underway, alongside proposals in education, tourism and new industries, show where the state is directing its next phase of development. Taken together, they give Anjor Vision 2047 its Chhattisgarh context and connect the state's founding aspirations with the opportunities opening across its districts.

US court seeks Delhi courts' help to serve summonses on Doval and Goel. What does it mean?

Judge Katherine Polk Failla has authorised a route for delivering papers in Gurpatwant Singh Pannun's civil suit. India says requests for service must go through the Union Ministry of Law and Justice.

New Delhi: A US federal court has asked three Delhi district courts to help serve summonses on National Security Adviser Ajit Doval and former Research and Analysis Wing chief Samant Goel in a civil lawsuit brought by Gurpatwant Singh Pannun. In an order dated 13 November 2026, US District Judge Katherine Polk Failla directed the court clerk to send the summonses and accompanying papers to Patiala House Courts for Doval and to the Dwarka and Tis Hazari courts for Goel. The judge also asked the receiving courts to provide a written record of the steps taken to deliver the documents. Pannun filed the civil suit in 2024 in the US District Court for the Southern District of New York. He seeks damages over an alleged conspiracy to kill him in the United States. India has rejected the allegations. The civil suit is separate from the US criminal proceedings involving Nikhil Gupta and Vikash Yadav over an alleged murder-for-hire plot targeting Pannun.

Can a foreign court serve a summons through an Indian court?

Yes, Indian law provides for that form of assistance in certain civil cases. Whether the particular route authorised in this case can be used is disputed. A foreign court can request assistance with delivering judicial papers. The Indian court's role in that process would be to serve the papers under the applicable rules. The lawsuit itself remains before the US court.



The usual route under the 1965 Hague Service Convention is through the receiving country's designated Central Authority. For India, that is the Union Ministry of Law and Justice. India has objected to the alternative channels in Article 10, including direct postal service on a person in India. Judge Failla's order concerns sending the papers to Indian courts for local service, a route she considered separately under Article 19.

Article 19 preserves additional methods of service that the receiving country's own law permits. In her 9 November order, Failla relied on Section 29(c) of India's Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, which allows summonses from foreign civil courts covered by a Central Government notification to be sent to Indian courts and served under Indian procedure. She cited a 12 January 2009 Gazette notification applying Section 29 to civil courts in countries party to the Convention. She also referred to Order V, Rule 21 for the procedure for forwarding a summons to the court with jurisdiction where the defendant resides. The US court said an earlier attempt through India's Central Authority had been rejected. India takes a different view of the proposed alternative. On 10 November, Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said requests to serve judicial documents in India "can only be routed through India's designated central authority". The US judge has authorised the request from her court. Whether the Delhi courts act on it and complete service remains to be established.

The distinction matters for serving and former senior officials. Service is formal notice of a lawsuit. The order carries no arrest or extradition direction and makes no finding that Doval or Goel is liable. Questions about whether the US court can exercise jurisdiction over them and whether official immunity applies would require separate consideration. The immediate question is whether, and through which channel, the papers can be validly delivered in India.

Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas: Chhattisgarh reopens 421 schools under Niyad Nellanar

> **More than 16 lakh tribal students are enrolled in Classes 1–12 across the state. Mother-tongue teaching and new hostels are part of efforts to improve access to education in remote areas.**

Chhattisgarh has reopened 421 previously closed schools under the Niyad Nellanar scheme, restoring access to classrooms for children in remote and Naxal-affected areas of the Bastar division. The state had identified 458 closed schools, of which 421 had reopened by 30 October 2026. The effort covers districts including Sukma, Bijapur, Narayanpur and Dantewada.

The figures, shared ahead of Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas, point to the scale of the state's tribal education programme. Of the 51,56,691 students enrolled in Classes 1–12 across Chhattisgarh, 16,12,748 are from tribal communities. Government schools account for 13,28,816 of those students.



Scholarships, bicycles and residential schools

The School Education Department has provided scholarships to more than 7.80 lakh students. Under the Saraswati Cycle Scheme, 54,225 girls received bicycles to help them travel to school. About 10 lakh students received free uniforms and 14 lakh received free textbooks.

Residential facilities serve children for whom a daily journey to school can be difficult. The state operates 60 Pota Cabin residential schools in districts including Bijapur, Dantewada, Narayanpur and Sukma. It also runs 121 Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas to support girls' education.

Another 82 hostels are under construction. Of these, 40 are being built under PM-JANMAN, including 25 with 50 places each and 15 with 100 places each. The other 42 are being built under the Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan.

Children learn in local languages

Teaching materials have been developed in Gondi, Halbi, Bhatri and Kurukh to help children begin learning in languages they use at home. About 3.60 lakh children in 13,035 government primary schools are being taught in their mother tongue through this initiative.

Chhattisgarh has also introduced smart classrooms in 5,857 schools and set up information and communication technology labs in 1,388 schools. Under the PM SHRI scheme, 1,55,341 students have access to upgraded learning facilities. Eligible students from disadvantaged groups can also receive reimbursement of open-school examination fees.

Chhattisgarh Earns Three Honours at National Swachh Survekshan Awards

“ President Droupadi Murmu presents the awards in New Delhi. Bilha ranks first among towns with fewer than 20,000 residents, Bilaspur takes second place nationally for its riverfront, and Raipur leads Chhattisgarh in sanitation.



President Droupadi Murmu (centre-left) presents Bilha’s first-place award in the under-20,000 population category at the Swachh Survekshan 2025–26 ceremony at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, on 11 November 2026. To her right in the photograph stand Chhattisgarh Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Urban Administration and Development Arun Sao, Principal Secretary Sonmoni Borah and Bilha Nagar Panchayat President Vandana Jendre, who holds the framed citation. To the President’s left, Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs Manohar Lal Khattar and Union Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs Tokhan Sahu look on.

Raipur: Bilha, a town in Chhattisgarh’s Bilaspur district, took first place nationally in its population category at the Swachh Survekshan 2025–26 awards on Wednesday, 11 November 2026. President Droupadi Murmu presented the award at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi, where Bilaspur and Raipur were also honoured for their performance in urban sanitation.

President Droupadi Murmu presents Raipur’s first-place state-level sanitation award to Chhattisgarh Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Urban Administration and Development Arun Sao at the Swachh Survekshan 2025–26 ceremony at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, on 11 November 2026. Raipur Mayor Meenal Chaubey, immediately to Sao’s right in the photograph, holds the framed citation, with Principal Secretary Sonmoni Borah beside her. Photo: channel24india.com via CG/DPR

The three awards recognised different achievements. Bilha Nagar Panchayat topped the Swachh Shehar category for towns with fewer than 20,000 residents. Bilaspur Municipal Corporation placed second nationally in the Swachh River Front Town category, while Raipur Municipal Corporation received Chhattisgarh’s first prize for sanitation.

Bilha puts a small town on the national stage

Bilha’s first-place finish was the highest national ranking among the three awards received by Chhattisgarh. At the ceremony, the town’s name appeared beneath the national

number-one ranking as its delegation received the trophy and framed citation. Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Urban Administration and Development Arun Sao said Bilha's achievement showed what a smaller civic body could accomplish with limited resources, effective management and active participation from residents. He credited the award to the combined efforts of elected representatives, municipal officials, sanitation workers and the people of Bilha.

Bilaspur takes second place for its riverfront, Raipur leads the state

Bilaspur's second-place finish came in the national clean riverfront category. The city's delegation included Mayor Pooja Vidhani and Municipal Commissioner Prakash Kumar Sarve. Raipur, meanwhile, received the first prize for sanitation at the state level. Mayor Meenal Chaubey and Municipal Commissioner Sambit Mishra represented the state capital at the ceremony. The two awards recognised distinct aspects of municipal work, with Bilaspur honoured for its riverfront and Raipur for its sanitation performance within Chhattisgarh.



Sai credits sanitation workers and citizens

Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai congratulated the people of Chhattisgarh and the elected representatives, officials and sanitation workers of the three civic bodies. He said the awards reflected changes in how towns and cities were being managed and the contribution of residents to keeping public spaces clean.

"The goal is not merely to improve rankings, but to develop a sustainable system where cleanliness becomes a habit for every citizen and a defining characteristic of every city," Sai said. The Chief Minister said public participation, better urban amenities and effective management would help sustain improvements in sanitation. Sao also acknowledged the daily work of sanitation teams and said the recognition belonged to everyone who had contributed to the three civic bodies' performance.

Chhattisgarh delegation receives awards in New Delhi

Sao and Principal Secretary Sonmoni Borah joined representatives of the three urban local bodies at Vigyan Bhawan. Bilha Nagar Panchayat President Vandana Jendre and State Urban Development Agency Mission Director and Chief Executive Officer Sumeet Agrawal were also present.

Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs Manohar Lal Khattar and Union Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs Tokhan Sahu, from Chhattisgarh, attended the ceremony. Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs organised the tenth edition of Swachh Survekshan around the theme "New Initiatives for Cleanliness, Join Hands, Clean Together". The theme emphasised the role of both residents and civic bodies in keeping public spaces clean. For Bilha, the award gave that shared work a moment of national recognition.



Dharamjaigarh honours Birsa Munda as Sai announces full paddy input aid for eligible farmers

“ At Chhattisgarh’s state-level Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas ceremony, Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai felicitates tribal cultural figures, while Rajya Sabha MP Nitin Nabin highlights the role of education and sport in Bastar.

Dharamjaigarh: Thousands gathered at the Dussehra Ground in Raigarh district on 15 November 2026 for Chhattisgarh’s state-level Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas ceremony, marking the birth anniversary of Birsa Munda. Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai honoured tribal cultural figures and announced that eligible farmers would receive the full ₹13,839-per-acre input assistance even if they sell less than the procurement ceiling of 21 quintals of paddy per acre.

Rajya Sabha MP Nitin Nabin, the chief guest, addressed the gathering virtually after adverse weather prevented him from attending in person. He paid tribute to tribal freedom fighters, including Veer Narayan Singh, Gundadhur, Gend Singh, Tilka Manjhi, Budhu Bhagat, Tantya Bhil and Lakshman Nayak. He also spoke about the folk arts, dances and festivals of Chhattisgarh’s Gond, Oraon, Kanwar, Baiga, Kamar, Halba, Muria and Maria communities, citing Bastar Pandum as



a platform for their cultural traditions.

Sai opened the ceremony by garlanding portraits of Birsa Munda, Bharat Mata and Chhattisgarh Mahatari and lighting the ceremonial lamp. Wearing traditional tribal attire, he held a bow and arrow on stage, where traditional instruments were also on display. The gathering also heard Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s virtual address.

Remembering Birsa Munda and Chhattisgarh’s tribal leaders

Sai recalled how Birsa Munda mobilised tribal communities against exploitation under British rule. He also spoke of Veer Narayan Singh of Sonakhan, who challenged the colonial administration to get grain to people facing famine, and recalled the resistance led by Gundadhur and Gend Singh. He urged families to visit the Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh Tribal Museum in Nava Raipur to learn about the state’s tribal freedom fighters.

“Protecting the culture and traditions of tribal communi-



ties and ensuring that development reaches every tribal family is our government's commitment," Sai said.

Dharamjaigarh followed Jashpur, which hosted the state-level ceremony in 2024, and Surguja, where President Droupadi Murmu attended the 2025 event. This year, Sai felicitated Padma Shri awardees Budhri Tati, Jageshwar Yadav and Pandi Ram Mandavi and presented prizes to the winning tribal dance groups. He visited stalls showcasing tribal art and traditional products. The ceremony also included the distribution of honoraria to office-bearers of the traditional Manjhi–Chalki system and bonuses to tendu leaf collectors.

Full input assistance for eligible paddy farmers

Sai said the ₹13,839-per-acre payment under the Krishak Unnati Yojana would particularly help small, marginal and tribal farmers in areas with lower yields. Eligible farmers will receive the full amount even if the quantity they sell falls below the state's ceiling of 21 quintals per acre.

Procurement for the 2026–27 kharif marketing season began on 15 November. Sai said the addition of 360 procurement centres brought the statewide total to 3,100. He said the new centres were intended to shorten journeys for farmers and ease queues at existing centres.

Education, sport and public services in Bastar

Nabin paid tribute to security personnel killed in Maoist violence and spoke of meeting families affected by the conflict. He pointed to the 2024 Bastar Olympics, which he said drew more than 1.5 lakh participants, as an example of the opportunities opening up for young people. He said 408 students from the state's Eklavya Model Residential Schools cleared NEET and about 346 cleared JEE Main in the 2025–26 academic session. Chhattisgarh runs 75 of these schools, he said. Sai said the state was using the Niyad Nellanar and Bastar Munne programmes to extend services in remote areas. He said security camps were being developed as Seva Deras, where residents could access government schemes and women and young people could find training and self-employment support. He also cited plans for medical colleges in Manendragarh and Geedam, education hubs in Jagargunda and Orchha, and a rural bus service. Around 35 lakh people had undergone health screening under the Mukhyamantri Swasth Bastar campaign, he said.



Services in tribal villages

Sai said the Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan was extending education, healthcare, roads, electricity, drinking water and livelihood support across 6,691 villages in Chhattisgarh. He also cited PM-JANMAN, which focuses on Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups. The Chief Minister said the state had raised the collection rate for tendu leaves to ₹5,500 per standard bag and restarted the Charan Paduka scheme. He said ₹25 lakh had been earmarked for each approved project to improve an akhra, a traditional community gathering and performance space. The government is also supporting work on devgudis, traditional places of worship, he said. Union Minister of State Tokhan Sahu, Deputy Chief Ministers Arun Sao and Vijay Sharma, Agriculture Minister and Raigarh district in-charge Ramvichar Netam, other ministers, MPs and tribal community leaders attended the ceremony.



NACHA brings Chhattisgarh's tribal heritage to Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas events in four cities

From Chicago and Houston to Toronto and London, members of the Chhattisgarhi diaspora worked with Indian diplomatic missions and community groups to honour Birsa Munda and share the history, folk arts and traditions of India's tribal communities.

- In Chicago, NACHA's Ganesh Kar coordinated a gathering of organisations representing several Indian states. Consul General Anand Prakash felicitated NACHA global president Deepali Sarawgi, the first woman to receive the Chhattisgarh Apravasi Samman.
- In Toronto, NACHA Canada chapter president Pankaj Agrawal, who is from Bilaspur, helped coordinate a programme featuring tribal dance, traditional art and competitions in painting and costume.
- At London's Nehru Centre, The Tribal Tapestry **2026** marked Birsa Munda's birth anniversary alongside the foundation days of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh.
- NACHA representatives in Houston marked Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas and Chhattisgarh Foundation Day at a programme hosted by the Indian consulate.



Young performers danced in traditional dress at Chicago's National India Hub, floral tributes were offered to Birsa Munda in Toronto, and folk artists took the stage at London's Nehru Centre. Across the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom, the North America Chhattisgarh Association (NACHA) worked with Indian diplomatic missions and local organisations to mark Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas and the 151st birth anniversary of Birsa Munda.

The commemorations gave Chhattisgarhi communities abroad a chance to tell the story of their state's tribal heritage alongside those of other Indian regions. In Chicago, speakers recalled the contribution of Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh to the freedom struggle.



In Toronto, dance, art and costume competitions gave participants a way to engage with traditions they might otherwise encounter mainly through family accounts. In London and Houston, the programmes also marked Chhattisgarh's Foundation Day.

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, designated 15 November as Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas in 2021. The date marks Birsa Munda's birth anniversary, and the observance honours tribal freedom fighters and introduces younger generations to their contributions. This year's Janjatiya Gaurav fortnight ran from 1 to 15 November, with NACHA chapters taking part in programmes organised with Indian missions and community partners abroad.

Chicago brings together community organisations from several states

The Consulate General of India in Chicago held its Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas programme at the National India Hub. Consul General Anand Prakash spoke about the contributions tribal communities made to India's freedom struggle, nation-building and cultural heritage.

The consulate entrusted community coordination to Ganesh Kar, a senior NACHA representative originally from Bastar. Kar brought together organisations representing Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Manipur, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Rajasthan. In his remarks, he also pointed to participation from communities with roots in Assam and Jharkhand.

"I am originally from Bastar,





so I know Chhattisgarh's tribal culture and its historical heritage closely," Kar said. He described the consulate's invitation to coordinate the gathering as an honour and said the aim was to bring communities from several regions together to pay a collective tribute to India's tribal freedom fighters.

NACHA Chicago chapter president Tejendra Sahu spoke about Chhattisgarh's tribal traditions and the role of Adivasi communities in the independence movement. He highlighted Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh's place in Chhattisgarh's history, bringing one of the state's best-known freedom fighters into a programme that drew participants from across India's diaspora.

Consul General felicitates Deepali Sarawgi in Chicago

Anand Prakash felicitated NACHA global president Deepali Sarawgi during the Chicago programme following her receipt of the Chhattisgarh Apravasi Samman 2026. Sarawgi is the first woman to receive the state government honour, which recognises her work in promoting Chhattisgarh's culture, bringing overseas communities together and raising the state's profile abroad.

Speaking at the ceremony, Sarawgi recalled Birsa Munda's courage, sacrifice and service, and paid tribute to Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh. She later thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the initiative to establish Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas and said it had given national recognition to the sacrifices of tribal freedom fighters.Sarawgi said Chhattisgarh's identity draws on the tribal traditions, folk arts and cultural diversity found from Bastar to Surguja. For families living overseas, she said, the observance offers a chance to share that heritage with children and young people and to introduce them to the people who shaped the state's history.

Bilaspur's Pankaj Agrawal helps coordinate the Toronto programme

The Consulate General of India in Toronto organised its observance in partnership with NACHA, Team Odisha, OSC, BAJKA, TAKA, UPICA and TSS. Consul General Mahaveer Singhvi lit the ceremonial lamp and paid floral tribute to Birsa Munda. He spoke about tribal communities' historical contributions and the importance of preserving their cultural traditions.

Pankaj Agrawal, who is from Bilaspur and leads NACHA's Canada chapter, played a central role in coordinating the programme. Tribal dance and traditional art featured alongside painting and costume competitions.





The organisers also honoured artists and competition winners.

"Such events connect our younger generation with our culture, traditions and history," Agrawal said. He said people from Chhattisgarh living abroad took pride in sharing the stories of the state's tribal heroes and that working with the Indian consulate gave the community an opportunity to present those stories to a wider audience.

London's Nehru Centre stages The Tribal Tapestry 2026

In London, NACHA UK presented Chhattisgarh's folk culture and tribal traditions at The Tribal Tapestry 2026 at the Nehru Centre. The programme marked Birsa Munda's birth anniversary and the foundation days of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh.

Arvind Sahu, Piyali and other NACHA UK executive members worked with the Indian High Commission and community representatives on the event. Speakers discussed the historical struggles of India's tribal communities, their cultural traditions and their contribution to the independence movement. Traditional performances gave audiences a chance to see how those traditions are expressed through dance, music and dress.

The programme placed Chhattisgarh's folk traditions alongside those of Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh, giving each community space to share its own history and performance traditions on the same stage.

Houston marks Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas and Chhattisgarh Foundation Day

Performers and guests gather on stage at the Nehru Centre in London during The Tribal Tapestry 2026, a programme marking Birsa Munda's birth anniversary and the foundation days of Chhattisgarh. Photo:channel24india.com via CG/DPR

In Houston, Texas, an Indian consulate programme brought Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas and Chhattisgarh Foundation Day together. NACHA executive representatives Himanshu Thawait and Nanda Tiwari spoke about the state's tribal heritage, folk culture and the contributions of its freedom fighters.

The dual observance linked the commemoration of Birsa Munda and other tribal heroes with the diaspora's ties to Chhattisgarh. For community members in Houston, it was an opportunity to share how tribal history and folk traditions continue to shape the state's identity.

NACHA wants younger generations to know Chhattisgarh's history

Sarawgi said NACHA's aim was to bring Chhattisgarhis overseas together and help future generations learn about the state's history, culture and freedom fighters. She said the partnerships with Indian missions in the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom reflected the work of local chapters and the wider Chhattisgarhi diaspora.

She thanked NACHA representatives in Chicago, Toronto, London and Houston, as well as the diplomatic missions, partner organisations, artists and volunteers who helped organise the event



Sai Cabinet clears village water rules, three-year support for Narayanpur college

The four decisions also include land allotments for a juvenile observation home and a divisional education board office in Rajnandgaon.

Raipur: The Chhattisgarh Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai, approved four proposals on 18 November covering rural drinking water, higher education for Abujhmaria students and two public facilities in Rajnandgaon.

Meeting at the Chief Minister's residential office in Civil Lines Wednesday on November 18, 2026 the Cabinet approved the draft Chhattisgarh Panchayat (Rural Tap-Water Operation, Maintenance and Management) Rules, 2026. It also cleared three years of recurring and non-recurring grants for a Ramakrishna Mission college in Narayanpur and land allotments for a juvenile observation home and an education board divisional office.



Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai chairs the Cabinet meeting at his residential office in Civil Lines, Raipur, on 18 November 2026, where four proposals concerning rural water supply, tribal higher education and public facilities receive approval

1. New rural water rules provide grants and incentives for panchayats

The approved draft rules will replace the 2024 framework and align the management of rural tap-water schemes with national Jal Jeevan Mission standards.

The new framework incorporates all 19 technical, administrative and financial points suggested by the Union government. It sets out arrangements for gram panchayats to operate schemes, maintain infrastructure and manage water services regularly.

A provision for the Mukhyamantri Nal Jal Anudan will offer financial assistance for operation and maintenance to gram panchayats with populations below 1,000. To qualify, these panchayats must collect at least 50 per cent of water charges each month.

The rules also provide an annual Mukhyamantri Nal Jal incentive of ₹50,000 for gram panchayats collecting more than 75 per cent of their annual water charges.

The assistance is intended to ease the financial burden



Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai (centre, at the head of the table) discusses key proposals with his Cabinet colleagues and senior officials at his Civil Lines residential office in Raipur on 18 November 2026

on smaller panchayats while supporting reliable supplies of clean drinking water to rural households.

2. Three-year grant arrangement for Narayanpur's Ramakrishna Mission college

The Cabinet approved recurring and non-recurring grants for Ramakrishna Mission Swami Vivekananda College, operated by Ramakrishna Mission Ashram in Narayanpur, for three years.

The decision follows Sai's announcement to improve access to higher education for Abujhmaria students, who belong to a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group.

The Cabinet permitted relaxation of the prescribed requirements under the Chhattisgarh Private Colleges and Institutions (Establishment and Regulation) Act, 2006 to enable the grant arrangement.

The college began functioning in the 2026–27 academic session. Approximately ₹40.98 crore is proposed over three years for its operations and infrastructure development.

The support is intended to make quality higher education more accessible to students from Abujhmad and other remote tribal areas, helping them continue their studies closer to their communities.

3. Land approved for juvenile observation home in Rajnandgaon

The Cabinet approved allotment of land to the Women and Child Development Department for a juvenile observation home in Rajnandgaon district.

The allotment covers 0.223 hectares, described in the decision as approximately 24,090 square feet, of Rajgami Estate land under Khasra No. 284 in Kaurinbhantha village, Rajnandgaon tehsil.

The proposed facility will strengthen accommodation, care, counselling, education and rehabilitation services for children in conflict with the law.

4. Rajnandgaon to receive education board divisional office

The Cabinet approved 264 square metres within the State High School campus at Baldev Bagh, Rajnandgaon, for a divisional office of the Chhattisgarh Board of Secondary Education. The office is intended to give students, parents and educational institutions easier local access to board-related services.

BASTAR'S NEXT CHAPTER

A ₹187.43-crore action plan seeks to connect public services, forest rights and local enterprise with the preservation of tribal culture across seven districts.

Raipur: Chhattisgarh has prepared a ₹187.43-crore action plan to develop Bastar division as a model tribal region, bringing infrastructure, healthcare, education, livelihoods and cultural conservation into a common framework. Projects worth ₹126.55 crore have already received approval. The plan's reach extends across seven districts and a tribal population of more than 20.69 lakh people, placing the everyday needs of communities alongside the protection of their cultural identity.

The seven districts-Bastar, Kanker, Kondagaon, Narayanpur, Dantewada, Bijapur and Sukma—contain communities with distinct languages, artistic traditions, livelihoods and relationships with forests. Tribal residents account for 66.95 per cent of the division's population. Delivering services across this region therefore requires attention to the places people live, the languages they speak and the resources on which their households depend.

The action plan addresses those connections through measures ranging from community-managed crèches and local-language teaching materials to forest resource management, processing clusters and sacred-site conservation. Some components have received financial approval, while others remain proposals or have secured in-principle consent.

Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai has described Bastar's comprehensive development as a priority for his government.

"We have resolved that development, education, healthcare and basic facilities should reach every village and every tribal brother and sister in the Bastar region," Sai said.

For the region's residents, the significance of the plan will lie in how its individual components work together. Electricity can support a processing unit or a classroom. Early childhood care can help a family manage work and care responsibilities. Local-language learning can make school more accessible. Recognition of forest rights can strengthen a community's role in managing resources that support both its livelihood and its cultural life.

Public services, rights and opportunities across seven districts

The plan's broad objective is to improve living standards while preserving Bastar's cultural identity. Its coverage recognises that these aims are closely connected. Access to education, for example, depends on the availability of schools and learning materials, while children's participation also depends on health, nutrition and the language of instruction.

Similarly, a forest produce enterprise needs access to raw materials, processing facilities, skills, finance and buyers. A tourism initiative depends on transport and accommodation, together with the participation of communities whose homes and surroundings attract visitors.

The proposed investments span these different needs. Their delivery will require coordination among departments and institutions, as well as sustained participation by village communities. Sanctioning a project establishes the financial and administrative basis for work. Its practical value emerges when facilities become accessible and continue functioning.

Electricity connections for 461 villages

Alongside the action plan, the development measures outlined for Bastar include a ₹435-crore project to connect 461 villages to the electricity grid. The first phase carries a provision of ₹85 crore for the 2026–27 financial year.

The electricity project has a larger financial scope than the ₹187.43-crore action plan and forms part of the wider programme of infrastructure development described for the region.

Reliable electricity has implications across the sectors covered by the plan. Schools need power for lighting and digital equipment. Health facilities depend on it for essential services. Processing units require it to operate machinery, and households benefit from lighting and the ability to use communication devices.

Connections are the starting point. Regular supply, maintenance and the capacity to meet local demand will determine how effectively electrification supports these activities. For communities seeking to establish small enterprises, the dependability of basic infrastructure can influence what they produce and how much they can process locally.

Forest resource management and Abujhmaria habitat rights

The plan includes ₹16 crore for implementing community forest resource management plans in 160 villages. The amount has been approved and transferred to the state.

This component places village communities within the management of forest resources. Forests provide food, seasonal income, materials for craft and spaces of cultural and spiritual importance. Management plans can give communities a framework for deciding how those resources are used and protected.

Their effectiveness will depend on whether local priorities shape implementation. Different villages may face different questions about collection, regeneration, access and the use of income from forest produce. Community participation gives those decisions a basis in the experience of the people who depend on the forest throughout the year.

A further ₹1.65 crore has been released for work towards recognising the habitat rights of the Abujhmaria community, a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group in the Bastar–Narayanpur region.

Habitat rights concern the wider relationship between a community and the landscape it inhabits. The allocation supports the process of recognising that relationship, giving this part of the programme a distinct importance alongside investments in buildings and services.

Community crches bring early childhood care into focus

An allocation of ₹7.15 crore has been approved to establish community-managed crèches for children aged six months to three years in PVTG areas affected by malnutrition.

The focus on this age group brings early childhood needs into the development programme. Care arrangements close to home can provide families with support during a period when children require close attention to feeding, health and development.

Community management can also help facilities respond to local working patterns and household needs. Families engaged in farming, gathering forest produce or other seasonal work may require care arrangements suited to those routines.

The crèches' contribution will depend on consistent staffing, appropriate care and links with existing health and nutrition services. Establishing centres creates the capacity to support children. Keeping them active and responsive to families will give that investment its lasting value.

A specialised centre for sickle-cell care

The health proposals include a ₹5-crore Centre of Competence for sickle-cell disease at Jagdalpur Medical College.

A specialised centre can strengthen the institutional capacity available to patients and health workers. Its regional value will depend on how it connects with services beyond the medical college, including referral arrangements and continued care for people living at a distance.

The wider health programme also envisages a malaria and tuberculosis elimination initiative with research support from the Indian Council of Medical Research.

These components address different needs within the same health system. Specialised care requires trained personnel and institutional support. Disease-control efforts also need consistent local services, public aware-

ness and follow-up. Their combined purpose is to make care more accessible and strengthen the ability of health institutions to respond to the region's needs.

Education through languages children know

A ₹6.75-crore proposal has received in-principle approval for multilingual learning materials in primary schools and balwadis.

The materials are to be developed in Gondi, Halbi, Bhatri, Dhurvi and Dorli. The choice recognises the linguistic diversity of Bastar and the importance of the language children bring from home into the classroom.

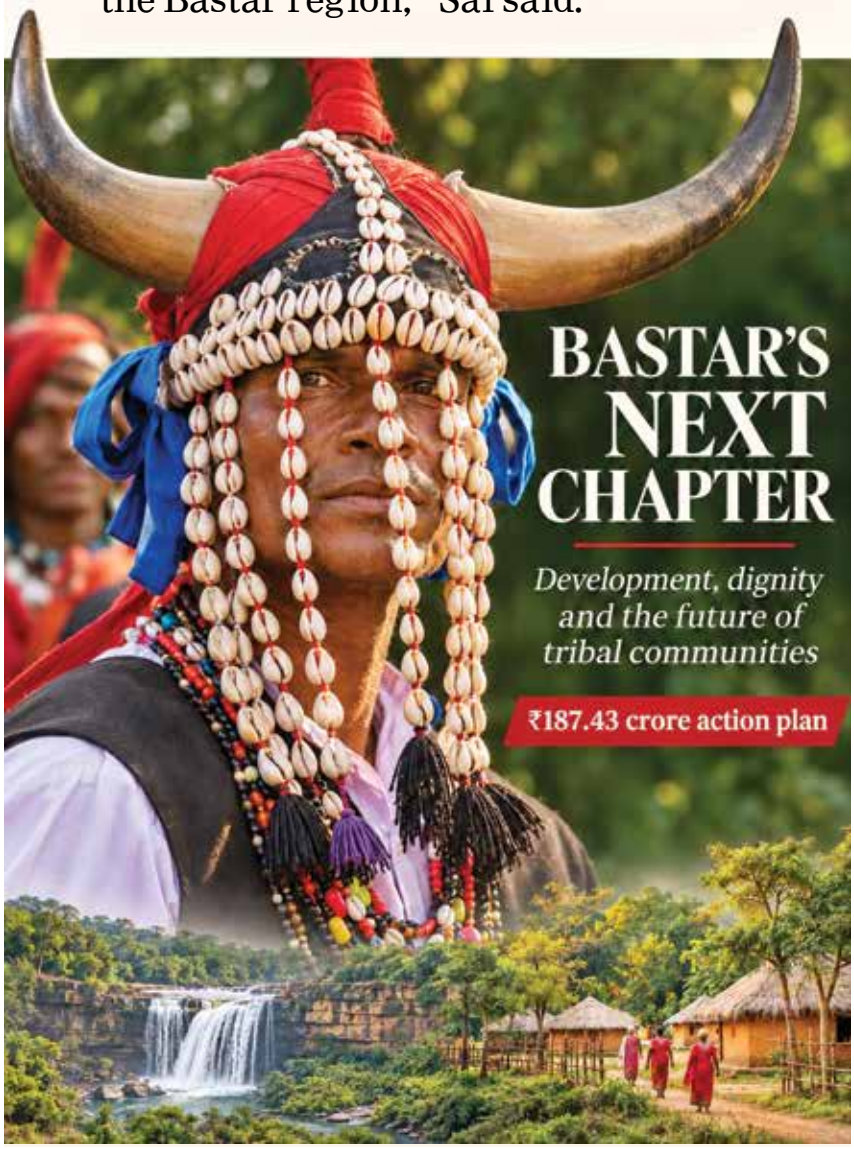
A child encountering formal education must learn new concepts, routines and ways of communicating. Familiar language can help teachers explain those concepts and allow children to participate with greater confidence.

Developing the materials will require care in vocabulary, content and presentation. Their classroom use will also depend on teachers having the support needed to work with them. Locally relevant stories and examples can make lessons more accessible while giving children a place for their own experiences within school learning.

The initiative therefore carries educational and cultural significance. It expands the tools available for teaching while giving written and classroom space to languages used in community life.

Digital and financial literacy for adults

> "We have resolved that development, education, healthcare and basic facilities should reach every village and every tribal brother and sister in the Bastar region," Sai said.



A separate ₹1-crore proposal under the ULLAS programme seeks to provide adults with digital and financial literacy.

The inclusion of adult learning broadens the education component beyond schools. Households increasingly encounter digital processes when accessing services, communicating, making payments or managing small businesses. Understanding those processes can help people act with greater confidence.

Financial literacy has a

related role in livelihoods. People starting enterprises need to understand costs, income, borrowing and the use of savings. Training that relates to actual household and business decisions can make these subjects more practical.

For the programme to reach its intended participants, the content and delivery will need to account for language, literacy levels and access to devices. The objective is to help adults use the knowledge in their everyday lives.

Processing clusters seek to retain more value locally

The livelihood programme places emphasis on agricultural and forest produce clusters.

Tamarind processing in Bastar and Narayanpur has an allocation of ₹2.50 crore. Mahua clusters in Bijapur and Bastar carry another ₹2.50 crore. A combined ₹3.20 crore has been provided for mango and chhind-palm jaggery activities in Sukma and a chironji cluster in Bijapur.

The cluster approach seeks to bring related activities together. Collection is one stage in a product's journey. Sorting, processing, storage, packaging and sale can create additional work and value.

Facilities that allow more of these stages to take place near the source can expand local economic activity. For households and groups handling seasonal produce, the ability to process and store it can also influence when and how they sell.

The commercial challenge will be to match processing capacity with supply and demand. Units need adequate produce, working capital, quality control and access to buyers. These requirements will shape whether the clusters become continuing businesses.

Jagdalpur food park and craft clusters

A TRIFOOD park in Jagdalpur has received ₹5 crore, while ₹3 crore has been approved for clusters covering Dhokra metalwork, bamboo, woodwork and terracotta.

The food park is intended to support value addition around local produce. Craft clusters address another part of Bastar's economy, where knowledge and skill often pass between generations.

For artisans, production and market access are closely linked. Tools, materials, working space and design support can help them fulfil orders, while effective sales channels determine whether that work provides a dependable income.

The cultural value of these crafts also rests in the knowledge of their makers. Support that strengthens artisans' ability to earn from their work can help sustain the practice of the craft itself.

Seed funding for **144** tribal enterprises

The ₹4.58-crore Tribal Entrepreneurship Promotion Programme is supporting 144 enterprises with seed funding of ₹75,000 each. IIM Calcutta is assisting with start-up incubation.

Seed funding can help an enterprise meet initial costs. Incubation can address the decisions that follow—how to define a product, estimate demand, manage expenses and build a customer base.

The range of opportunities in Bastar includes food processing, craft, services and tourism. Each requires a business model suited to its market and location. Continued guidance can help entrepreneurs assess those conditions before expanding.

For young people, the programme creates a route to develop enterprises around local resources and skills. Its longer-term outcome will be measured through businesses that remain active, generate income and create work.

Tourism proposal connects Jagdalpur, Chitrakot and Kanger Valley

A ₹5-crore proposal seeks to promote ecotourism and homestays along the Jagdalpur–Chitrakot–Kanger Valley corridor.

Homestays can widen the range of people who participate in tourism. Accommodation, local food, guiding, transport and craft sales can provide opportunities for households and small businesses.

The approach also requires planning around the places visitors come to experience. Water use, waste management, visitor numbers and the maintenance of natural and cultural sites affect both residents and travellers.

Community participation will be important in deciding how tourism develops. Local hosts need the ability to shape the experience they offer and share in the income

it creates. Training, clear standards and access to visitors can help homestay enterprises build that capacity.

Mapping devgudis and sacred groves

The cultural programme includes ₹10 crore for GIS mapping and restoration of devgudis and sacred groves. Mapping has begun at 22 sites in Bastar district.

These places are centres of community faith and practice. Their significance includes the rituals, gatherings and relationships associated with them.

Mapping can help document their location and establish a basis for conservation work. Restoration will need to respect the use and meaning of each site, with the communities concerned guiding decisions about appropriate work.

Including sacred places within the plan recognises that public investment in cultural conservation extends beyond performance venues and museums. It also concerns the spaces through which communities continue their traditions.

Bastar Dussehra and the effort for wider heritage recognition

A ₹1-crore proposal covers work towards including Bastar Dussehra in the national inventory of intangible cultural heritage and preparing a UNESCO nomination.

The proposal begins a process of documentation and consideration. Inclusion in an inventory and a UNESCO nomination involve further stages, and the proposed funding supports the work required to pursue them.

Bastar Dussehra's importance lies in the living participation of communities and the continuity of its customs. Documentation can record those practices, explain their significance and support their transmission to younger generations.

The communities who sustain the festival remain central to that process. Their knowledge provides the substance of the heritage being recorded.

Product identity, school museums and BADAL Academy

The plan provides ₹20 lakh for GI-related work concerning 10 tribal products, including Dhokra crafts, Bastar Pata textiles, Aal-dyed fabrics and chapda preparations.

Such work concerns the relationship between a product, its place of origin and the knowledge involved in making it. Product recognition can support a distinct market identity when accompanied by appropriate documentation, quality practices and participation by producers.

Six Eklavya Model Residential Schools are to receive mini museums under a ₹6-crore initiative. The plan also includes strengthening BADAL Academy.

School museums can give students access to objects, stories and records connected with the communities around them. Their educational value will grow when students can understand who made the objects, how they were used and what they mean.

BADAL Academy's role in supporting Bastar's arts and culture forms another part of this effort to keep cultural knowledge active and accessible.

Sai places cultural identity within the development vision

Sai has linked the plan's public-service investments with support for the region's culture and entrepreneurship.

"The ₹187-crore action plan lays a strong foundation for a modern and self-reliant future while preserving Bastar's glorious past and rich culture," he said.

The Chief Minister said electricity, roads, health and education, together with local arts and enterprise, would help Bastar emerge as a model tribal region.

"Our government is fully committed to bringing positive change to the life of every citizen of Bastar," Sai said.

The approved projects now provide a basis for implementation across several sectors. The proposed and in-principle components require further progress before their full benefits can reach communities.

For residents, the plan's promise will become tangible through functioning services and sustained opportunities—a crèche that opens regularly, a health referral that leads to care, a lesson a child can understand, or a processing enterprise that pays for local produce. Across Bastar's seven districts, these are the outcomes through which the development programme will enter daily life.

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Tribal communities bore brunt of Maoist violence, were kept from voting, says PM Modi

“ Addressing Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas in Maharashtra’s Gadchiroli by video link, the Prime Minister accused previous governments of failing to protect tribal communities. The ceremony marked Birsa Munda’s 151st birth anniversary and featured development projects worth about ₹3,000 crore.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Sunday that tribal communities bore the heaviest toll of Maoist violence and that people in affected areas had even been prevented from voting. Addressing the Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas gathering in Gadchiroli, Maharashtra, by video link on 15 November 2026, he accused previous governments of failing to intervene as Maoists intimidated villagers and took children and young women from their families.

“You will be surprised to learn that members of our tribal communities were not even allowed to vote,” Modi said, describing earlier governments as silent spectators. The Prime Minister said the effects of that violence were felt long after individual attacks, citing young people whose education and prospects for work had been disrupted.

Modi invokes Gadchiroli and Bastar

Modi said Maoist violence had once affected around 125

districts and that tribal communities had suffered most. He claimed India had overcome Maoist violence and said young people in formerly affected areas were gaining access to education and employment. He recalled spending Diwali with security personnel in Chhattisgarh's Bastar and linked that visit to his remarks about changing conditions in areas such as Gadchiroli.

The Prime Minister said the Centre had allocated more than ₹1 lakh crore to two programmes aimed at reaching tribal communities with limited access to basic services. The Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan, or PM-JANMAN, focuses on Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups. The Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan covers a wider set of tribal villages. Modi also pointed to work in more than 100 Aspirational Districts and over 500 Aspirational Blocks, many of which have sizeable tribal populations.

Residential schools, community centres and markets

The programme covered 246 projects across several states, with a combined value of approximately ₹3,000 crore. The 173 projects inaugurated included 38 Eklavya Model Residential Schools and 100 multipurpose centres under PM-JANMAN. The centres are intended to give residents a place to access public services and hold community activities.

Modi laid the foundation stones for another 19 Eklavya schools and 12 Tribal Multipurpose Marketing Centres. The marketing centres are intended to improve access to markets for tribal producers. A further 42 projects under PM-JANMAN and the Dharti Aaba programme formed part of the foundation-laying programme. Two of the projects focused on tribal history and heritage. In Aizawl, Modi inaugurated the Ropuiliani Tribal Freedom Fighter Museum, named for a nineteenth-century Mizo chieftain who resisted British colonial rule. He also inaugurated the new Tribal Research Institute building in Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh.

Remembering Birsa Munda and other tribal freedom fighters

Modi opened his address with Johar and paid tribute to Bhagwan Birsa Munda, widely remembered as Dharti Aaba, or Father of the Earth. He recalled Birsa's Ulgulan against British colonial oppression and placed it alongside other struggles, including those associated with Tirot Sing in the Khasi Hills, the Santhal rebellion led by Sidho and Kanho, and Govind Guru's followers at Mangarh. In Maharashtra, he recalled Raghoji Bhangre, Bhagoji Naik and Veer Baburao Shedmake.

The Union Cabinet designated 15 November as Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas in 2021 to commemorate tribal freedom fighters and recognise the cultural heritage of Adivasi communities. The Gadchiroli programme concluded the fortnight-long Janjatiya Gaurav Pakhwada, which included a tribal literary festival, health and nutrition camps and community service programmes in tribal villages.

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Chhattisgarh to pay ₹13,839 per acre in paddy assistance even when farmers sell below procurement limit

Eligible growers who sell less than 21 quintals per acre can receive the full input assistance on their verified paddy acreage under the Krishak Unnati Yojana for 2026–27.



- Chhattisgarh has fixed paddy input assistance at **13,839** per verified acre for the **2026–27** kharif marketing season.
- An eligible farmer who sells **15** quintals from one verified acre can still receive the full **13,839.** The minimum support price is paid on the quantity procured.
- AgriStack registration and acreage verification are required. The assistance will be paid in one instalment into Aadhaar-linked bank accounts.

The Vishnu Deo Sai government has revised the rules for paddy input assistance in Chhattisgarh, allowing eligible farmers to receive ₹13,839 per acre even if they sell less than the procurement ceiling of 21 quintals per acre. The revised guidelines, issued on 12 November 2026, tie the amount payable under the Krishak Unnati Yojana to the verified area sown with paddy. The rules apply across the state for the 2026–27 kharif marketing season.s

What the change means for farmers

A farmer who grows paddy on one verified acre and sells 15 quintals through the government procurement system can receive the same ₹13,839 in input assistance as an eligible farmer who sells the full 21 quintals from one verified acre. The two farmers' procurement

receipts will differ because the minimum support price, or MSP, is paid on the quantity actually purchased. The new calculation matters to growers who bring less paddy to a procurement centre because their harvest is smaller or because they retain some grain for household use or seed.

For a farmer selling 15 quintals of common-grade paddy from one verified acre, the MSP payment would be ₹36,615 at ₹2,441 per quintal. The farmer would also qualify for ₹13,839 in state input assistance, taking the two payments to ₹50,454, provided the scheme's eligibility requirements are met. A farmer with 2.5 verified and eligible acres would qualify for ₹34,597.50 in input assistance alone.

How the state arrived at 13,839 per acre

The state used ₹3,100 per quintal as its benchmark and deducted the Centre's MSP of ₹2,441 per quintal for common-grade paddy. It then multiplied the ₹659 difference by the procurement ceiling of 21 quintals per acre to arrive at ₹13,839. The Centre has set a separate MSP of ₹2,461 per quintal for Grade A paddy. The state's per-acre assistance formula uses the common-grade MSP.

The 21-quintal figure therefore serves two purposes. It caps how much paddy the procurement system can buy per acre, and it is the multiplier used to set the state's per-acre assistance rate. Under the revised guidelines, an eligible farmer can receive that rate on the full verified paddy acreage after selling a smaller quantity.

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The state used 3,100 per quintal as its benchmark and deducted the Centre's MSP of 2,441 per quintal for common-grade paddy. It then multiplied the 659 difference by the procurement ceiling of 21 quintals per acre to arrive at 13,839. The Centre has set a separate MSP of 2,461 per quintal for Grade A paddy. The state's per-acre assistance formula uses the common-grade MSP. The 21-quintal figure therefore serves two purposes. It caps how much paddy the procurement system can buy per acre, and it is the multiplier used to set the state's per-acre assistance rate. Under the revised guidelines, an eligible farmer can receive that rate on the full verified paddy acreage after selling a smaller quantity.

Who qualifies and how payment will be made

Farmers seeking assistance must be registered for paddy sales in the 2026–27 season and enrolled in AgriStack. They must submit the prescribed application when obtaining a token to sell their paddy. The Digital Crop Survey will be used to verify the area planted. Where survey data are unavailable, the district collector may allow verification through girdawari, the official field record of crops sown.

The scheme covers eligible growers who sell paddy through cooperative procurement channels and eligible certified seed growers who sell to the Chhattisgarh State Seed and Agriculture Development Corporation. Markfed will handle payments to paddy sellers, while the seed corporation will handle payments to eligible seed growers. The money will be deposited in a single instalment through direct benefit transfer into farmers' Aadhaar-linked bank accounts. Payments are subject to agricultural land ceiling provisions. Summer paddy falls outside these kharif guidelines.

Procurement scheduled to begin on 15 November

The revised assistance rules come ahead of the state's scheduled procurement opening on 15 November. The Cabinet approved arrangements covering more than 27.50 lakh farmers and expanded the procurement network by 360 centres, taking the total to 3,100. Digital crop records and biometric authentication will be used during procurement

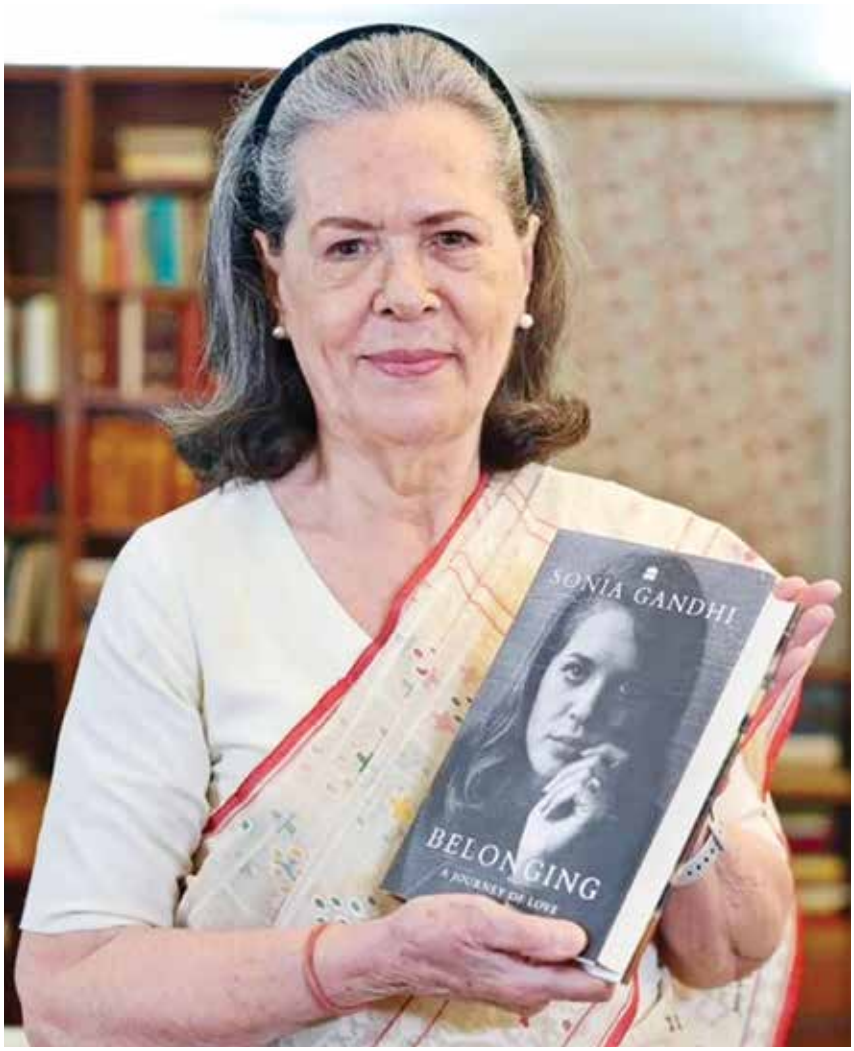
Sonia Gandhi's Belonging Revisits Family Loss and the Politics of Power

"In her memoir, the former Congress president writes with intimacy about love and bereavement. Her recollections of family disputes and political conversations invite a more questioning reading.

In her memoir, the former Congress president writes with intimacy about love and bereavement. Her recollections of family disputes and political conversations invite a more questioning reading.

The decision to decline the prime ministership in 2004 is among the best-known episodes of Sonia Gandhi's public life. In Belonging: A Journey of Love, she takes us back to the days before that decision, when colleagues expected her to lead the government and her children urged her to step away. We know how the episode ended. The memoir lets us consider what the choice looked like to her while it was still open.

That is where I find Belonging most revealing. Gandhi can tell us what she feared, what she felt she owed her party and what she thought accepting office might cost her family. Her account of other people's motives is harder to accept on the same terms. A memoir gives its author room to explain a lifetime of choices. The reader still has to decide how much weight to give each recollection.



A grief the family carried in private

Among the book's most affecting passages is Gandhi's account of losing her first child. She recalls that her son was born two months prematurely on 18 January 1969 and died the following day. The episode takes us back to the early years of her marriage, when she and Rajiv were a young couple facing a loss that belonged to them and their family.

The grief that followed Rajiv

Gandhi's assassination in 1991 unfolded in public. Sonia returns to the hours in which her family learnt of the bombing in Tamil Nadu. The fact of Rajiv's death is familiar to anyone who knows the period. What the memoir brings closer is the experience of a family learning, in fragments, that its life had changed.

The decision she faced in 2004

Gandhi's account of 2004 is persuasive because she allows room for hesitation. As she remembers it, Rahul and Priyanka feared for her safety, while party colleagues wanted her to accept the office. Her children's fears had a history. Their grandmother and father had both been assassinated. Gandhi's sense of responsibility to the Congress also weighed on the decision.

Manmohan Singh ultimately became prime minister. Gandhi's account gives the decision a personal context that the political outcome alone cannot supply. I found this chapter particularly effective because it lets the competing obligations stand. A reader can understand why she declined and still ask what her decision meant for the relationship between the Congress and the government it led.

What did Pranab Mukherjee mean?

Gandhi recalls a conversation in 2010 in which Pranab Mukherjee suggested that it might be time for a change at the top. She took the remark as a sign that he had long wanted to become prime minister. She also remembers him as someone who never held against her the decision to choose Singh in 2004. That detail gives the episode some nuance. In her telling, political ambition and a durable working relationship could coexist.

I would give her reading of the remark the weight of a participant's recollection. She knew Mukherjee and was in a position to read the political context. Even so, a suggestion about leadership can carry more than one meaning, and the book gives us the meaning she heard in it. The distance between the remark and the motive she assigns to it matters.

One account of a divided household

A similar question arises in the passages on Maneka Gandhi and her relationship with Indira Gandhi after Sanjay's death in 1980. Sonia describes the tensions that preceded Maneka's departure from the family home. Her position inside the household gives the account immediacy. It also shaped which conversations she heard, which grievances she understood and where her sympathies lay.

I came away with a clearer sense of how Sonia Gandhi experienced that rupture. The question of how Maneka understood the same events remains open. In a family whose disagreements had public consequences, that distinction is worth keeping in view.

Belonging is at its strongest when Gandhi reflects on what she lost and how that loss shaped the choices she made. I found her account of the pull between family and political duty more persuasive than her readings of other people's intentions. The memoir earns its place in the reading of modern Indian politics because it shows how one of its central figures understood the events she lived through. Some of those events will continue to look different from another seat in the room.

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From the first auction to five titles, MS Dhoni's enduring story with Chennai Super Kings

Dhoni retires from the IPL with 5,439 runs in 278 matches and a place at the heart of CSK's history. His appointment as mentor from 2027 extends an association that began in 2008.



Chennai: When Chennai Super Kings bought Mahendra Singh Dhoni at the first Indian Premier League auction in 2008, they secured a captain around whom they could build a team. Eighteen years later, his retirement brings the playing chapter of that partnership to a close. Five IPL titles, two Champions League T20 trophies and generations of supporters followed that first investment.

Dhoni will remain with Chennai as team mentor from the 2027 season, the franchise announced on 17 November. His move into the role follows a 2026 campaign in which injury kept him off the field throughout.

"There is no CSK without MS Dhoni," franchise owner N. Srinivasan said after the announcement, reflecting how closely the club's identity has become tied to its first captain.

2008 - Chennai makes its defining choice

Dhoni entered the inaugural auction as India's World T20-winning captain. Chennai paid $1.5 million for him, making him the most expensive player at that auction, and handed him responsibility for leading the new franchise.

The signing established a relationship that would survive changes in personnel, difficult seasons and a two-year absence from the competition. Dhoni's position as captain and wicketkeeper gave him an unusually close view of each

delivery. His batting gave Chennai another option when a chase tightened or an innings needed a late surge.

Over time, supporters came to know him as Thala, the Tamil word for leader. The player from Ranchi became inseparable from the team in yellow and its home crowd at Chepauk.

2010 and 2011 — The first titles establish a standard

Chennai's maiden IPL championship arrived in 2010. Dhoni followed it with another title in 2011, becoming the first captain to successfully defend the IPL crown.

Those victories established Chennai as a team capable of sustaining success across seasons. The challenge was no longer simply to assemble a competitive side. CSK had shown that it could manage the demands of a long tournament and deliver when the trophy was at stake.

Dhoni also led Chennai to the Champions League T20 title in 2010. A second triumph in that competition followed in 2014, adding two international franchise trophies to the club's record.

2016-17: Two seasons away from Chennai

CSK's suspension took Dhoni to the Pune franchise for the 2016 and 2017 seasons. He captained the side in 2016 before playing under Steve Smith in 2017.

Pune reached the 2017 final and lost to Mumbai Indians by one run. For Dhoni, the two seasons represented the only interruption to his playing association with Chennai.

His return in 2018 gave CSK its familiar captain as the franchise re-entered the league.

2018: Dhoni leads a championship comeback

Chennai's comeback season ended with a third IPL title, and Dhoni made a substantial contribution with the bat.

He scored 455 runs at an average of 75.83 and a strike rate of 150.66. The figures captured his ability to combine productive innings with rapid scoring while carrying the responsibilities of captaincy and wicketkeeping.

The championship also gave the returning franchise an immediate competitive answer after two years away. Chennai's established players delivered together, and Dhoni remained central to both the team's leadership and its middle order.

2019: His highest IPL score

Dhoni's highest IPL score came in 2019, when he made 84 not out. He finished the season with a batting average of 83.20.

For a batter often called

"

Chennai's maiden IPL championship arrived in **2010.** Dhoni followed it with another title in **2011,** becoming the first captain to successfully defend the IPL crown. Those victories established Chennai as a team capable of sustaining success across seasons. The challenge was no longer simply to assemble a competitive side. CSK had shown that it could manage the demands of a long tournament and deliver when the trophy was at stake.

Dhoni also led Chennai to the Champions League T20 title in **2010.** A second triumph in that competition followed in **2014,** adding two international franchise trophies to the club's record.

upon late in an innings, the challenge involved reading how many risks remained possible and which bowlers could be targeted. Dhoni's most productive seasons showed that this role could yield both fast scoring and a high average.

His unbeaten innings also reinforced the association between Dhoni and the closing stages of a chase, when each boundary could change the balance of a match.

2021: Chennai wins a fourth championship

Dhoni captained CSK to a fourth title in 2021, extending a championship record that had begun more than a decade earlier.

The gap between the first and fourth trophies showed how long Chennai had remained competitive under him. Players and team combinations changed, while the captain continued to manage the side through another successful campaign.

2022: A change of captain, followed by a return

Before the 2022 season, Dhoni handed the captaincy to Ravindra Jadeja. He resumed the role midway through the tournament.

The transition was an early indication of the difficult task facing Chennai as it planned for leadership beyond Dhoni. His value to the side extended across several responsibilities, making the succession more complicated than replacing one name on the team sheet.

2023: A fifth title and a landmark final

Chennai's fifth IPL title arrived in a rain-affected final against Gujarat Titans. Dhoni also became the first player to appear in 250 IPL matches.

The decisive finish belonged to Jadeja, who struck a six and a four when Chennai needed 10 runs from the final two deliveries. CSK won by five wickets under the DLS method. Dhoni himself had been dismissed for a first-ball duck, leaving teammates to complete the chase.

The result brought another championship to a captain whose career had already spanned much of the league's history.

2024: Gaikwad takes charge as Dhoni's batting role narrows

Dhoni handed the captaincy to Ruturaj Gaikwad before the 2024 season.

Following knee surgery, his appearances with the bat increasingly came in the closing overs. He scored 161 runs from 73 deliveries, producing a strike rate of 220.54, and crossed 250 IPL sixes.

The smaller number of deliveries changed how supporters experienced his innings. A brief appearance could still produce several boundaries, and anticipation often built before he reached the crease.

2025: An unexpected return to leadership

Dhoni returned as captain in 2025 after Gaikwad was ruled out with an elbow injury. The IPL's official match report confirmed the change when Dhoni took the toss against Kolkata Knight Riders

It was a difficult campaign. Chennai finished last for the first time, showing that even a franchise with an extensive championship record faced the demands of rebuilding.

The season ultimately contained Dhoni's final IPL appearances as a player.

2026: Injury keeps him off the field

Calf and thumb injuries prevented Dhoni from playing in 2026. It became the first IPL season in which he made no appearance. He took a lap of honour after Chennai's final home fixture at Chepauk, giving supporters another opportunity to acknowledge the captain who had led their team through five championship campaigns.

2027: Experience moves into the mentor's role

Dhoni's final IPL record stands at 5,439 runs from 278 matches, with five championships as captain. His contribution behind the stumps also places him at the top of the league's wicketkeeping dismissals record.

His appointment as mentor gives Chennai continued access to his experience as the franchise develops its next group of players. The responsibility will involve helping others make the decisions he once had to take himself — reading pressure, understanding a role and responding when a match changes.

For CSK supporters, the next season will bring a different view of Dhoni at the ground. The bat and wicketkeeping gloves will give way to a role supporting the team he first captained in 2008.

India Cuts Visa Categories to Nine, Reduces Application Fields by Up to 70%

“ The Visitor Visa replaces the Tourist Visa and offers two options for different kinds of visits. A separate immigration order requires eligible members of six minority communities from three neighbouring countries to obtain a visa to remain in India.



The amended provision applies to eligible members of six minority communities from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan who sought shelter in India because of religious persecution or fear of persecution and entered on or before 31 December 2024. Those covered must obtain an appropriate visa to continue staying in India

India has reduced the number of main visa categories from 13 to nine and cut the number of fields applicants must complete by up to 70%, the Ministry of Home Affairs said on Wednesday, 11 November 2026. The overhaul also replaces the Tourist Visa with a broader Visitor Visa and makes specific provision for foreign engineers, technical personnel and other specialists engaged by Indian companies.

The ministry said the latest consolidation was made on 27 August 2026, when visa subcategories were reduced from 49 to 23. It followed an October 2025 revision that brought the number of main categories down from 22 to 13 and the number of subcategories from 63 to 49. The ministry said grouping similar purposes of travel would make it easier for applicants to identify the right visa.

Visitor Visa offers two options

The V-1 Visitor Visa allows multiple entries over a 30-day period. In addition to tourism, it covers eligible short visits for business meetings, medical consultations, brief medical treatment, wellness retreats and short courses in subjects such as Indian languages, music, arts and crafts.

The V-2 Visitor Visa can be

issued with a validity of one, five or ten years, as applicable. It covers activities permitted under V-1 and includes a provision for mountaineering, for which a six-month multiple-entry visa will be available.

Dedicated business visa for foreign specialists

The Production Investment Business Visa covers foreign subject-matter experts, engineers and technical personnel engaged by Indian companies. Assignments can include installing and commissioning equipment, checking quality, carrying out essential maintenance, training staff and providing production or IT support. It also covers work on supply chains, plant design and start-up, senior management and the transfer of technical expertise.

The revised framework retains separate Medical Visa routes for conventional and AYUSH treatment, with corresponding categories for attendants. Student visas are grouped into two broad routes covering school and degree-level education, and research and other specified academic activities.

Separate order requires a visa for continued stay

The Ministry of Home Affairs also amended the Immigration and Foreigners (Exemption) Order, 2025. The amendment was dated 4 November 2026 and came into force on 5 November, when it was published in the Official Gazette. It covers eligible Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan who entered India on or before 31 December 2024 after fleeing religious persecution or the fear of it. The provision applies to people who arrived without valid travel documents or whose documents have since expired.

People covered by the provision "shall be required to obtain an appropriate category of visa after their entry into India for their continued stay in India", the order states. The 31 December 2024 cut-off applies to this immigration exemption. Citizenship under the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019, has a separate cut-off of 31 December 2014.

The amendment formally defines the Visa Manual as the Central government's instructions on visas, immigration and related matters. Indian citizens travelling to Nepal or Bhutan and Nepali and Bhutanese citizens entering or leaving India must produce the identity documents specified in the manual. Indian citizens travelling onwards to a third country via Nepal or Bhutan must carry a valid passport and use a designated immigration checkpoint. Passport and visa requirements also apply to Nepali and Bhutanese citizens in specified third-country travel and transit situations.

The order revises exemptions for several other groups, including eligible Tibetan entrants and registered Sri Lankan Tamil refugees. It also provides conditional relief from the passport requirement for certain long-term residents who cannot renew their foreign passports. People covered by those long-term residence provisions must still obtain an appropriate visa to remain in India

- Main visa categories have been reduced from **13** to nine, and subcategories from **49** to **23.**
- Application forms across the **23** subcategories will have **65**% to **70**% fewer fields.
- The Visitor Visa has two options, V-**1** and V-**2.** A dedicated business visa provision covers foreign specialists engaged by Indian companies.
- A separate order requires eligible members of six minority communities from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan who sought shelter in India by **31** December **2024** to obtain an appropriate visa for their continued stay.

The Irony of Communication: When a Teacher of Communication Struggles to Express Himself-By Kumar Bahukhandi

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Abstract

After nearly two decades of teaching journalism and mass communication, I have discovered that talent, confidence and the ability to express oneself are not always found in the same person. And sometimes, the greatest irony is that the person teaching communication is still learning how to communicate his own feelings.

When Academic Excellence Meets the Real World

Why do talented students fail interviews despite possessing excellent academic records, strong subject knowledge and impressive qualifications?

Description

I have often reflected on this question during my nearly 20 years of teaching Journalism and Mass Communication.

In classrooms, I have encountered students whose understanding of a subject was so remarkable that they could probably write an entire book about it. Yet, when asked to explain the same subject verbally, they would struggle to put together a few sentences.

I have also witnessed the opposite.

Students who were academically average, sometimes even among the weakest performers in the classroom, went on to become confident television news presenters. I have watched former students reading news during prime-time broadcasts, addressing audiences with an ease that their academic performance had never suggested.

Meanwhile, some of my most gifted writers were still struggling to establish themselves in print journalism.

I remember a particularly talented student who could write exceptionally well but was still trying to find a secure position in a newspaper organisation. He would spend his days searching for stories, uncertain whether he would still have the same professional position the following morning.

Was one student more talented than the other?

Not necessarily.

They simply possessed different abilities, and the professional world rewarded those abilities differently.

The Difference Between Knowing and Expressing

An interview does not always measure the depth of a person's knowledge. Often, it measures how effectively that knowledge can be presented within a limited period, under unfamiliar circumstances and before people who may have already formed expectations.

A student may understand a subject thoroughly but struggle to explain it under pressure.

Another may possess only a reasonable understanding yet communicate with such confidence that the interview panel is immediately impressed.

This raises an uncomfortable question.

Are we selecting the most capable person, or the person most capable of convincing us that they are capable?

Certainly, communication skills matter. Confidence matters. Practical knowledge, professional grooming and industry exposure matter.

But should the absence of verbal confidence automatically disqualify an otherwise brilliant mind?

I do not believe so.

Communication is not a single ability. It takes many forms: speaking, writing, listening, observing, interpreting and

understanding.

A brilliant writer may not be an impressive speaker. An outstanding television presenter may struggle to produce a thoughtful editorial. An excellent researcher may find it difficult to defend an argument spontaneously before an interview panel.

And someone who speaks very little may have a great deal to say.

And Then Comes My Own Story

Perhaps the most interesting example I can offer is myself.

I have spent nearly two decades teaching students how to communicate, how to present themselves, how to speak with confidence and how to express their ideas effectively.

Yet I have never considered myself a particularly impressive speaker.

I chose print journalism because writing gives me the freedom to express thoughts that I sometimes find difficult to communicate verbally.

When I write, I can organise my ideas, examine my arguments and give shape to feelings that might otherwise remain unspoken.

People read my articles. Some appreciate my thoughts. Others disagree with me, which is perfectly natural and often intellectually rewarding.

But I do not particularly enjoy listening to myself speak.

Now comes the personal irony.

I have remained single, and sometimes I jokingly wonder whether it is because I could never convincingly explain to a woman why I would make a suitable life partner.

Imagine that!

A man who has taught communication for nearly 20 years could not successfully communicate his own suitability as a prospective husband.

Perhaps that is not the real reason, of course. Life and relationships are far more complicated than a classroom exercise in persuasion.

Nevertheless, the contradiction makes me smile.

I can teach a student how to prepare for an interview, structure an argument or address an audience. Yet when it comes to expressing certain personal feelings, I can still find myself searching for the right words.

Does that make me a poor communicator?

Or does it demonstrate that even communication teachers are human beings, with their own strengths, limitations and contradictions?

When Interviews Become a Test of Performance

I have never believed that academic marks alone determine professional success.

But neither do I believe that a confident interview performance is necessarily proof of superior ability.

An interview is a moment. A career is a journey.

A person who hesitates during a 20-minute conversation may demonstrate exceptional competence over 20 years of professional work.

Some individuals need time to think before answering. Others are naturally spontaneous.

Some perform best before an audience. Others produce their finest work in solitude.

The challenge for educational institutions and employers is to recognise these differences.

We should certainly prepare students for interviews, group discussions, presentations and professional interactions. But we should also encourage organisations to assess candidates through practical assignments, writing samples, portfolios and demonstrations of actual ability wherever appropriate.

Talent should not become invisible merely because it is unable to introduce itself confidently.

The Commercialisation of Communication: Another Irony

Recently, while attempting to share these experiences on a professional networking platform, I encountered another peculiar contradiction.

I wanted to communicate a thought, not apply for a job.

I was not seeking employment, professional advancement or commercial promotion. I simply wished to share an observation drawn from my years as a teacher and journalist.

Yet the platform's character restrictions prevented me from expressing the entire thought in the form I had chosen.

The obvious alternative was to shorten my reflections or publish them in another format.

And that made me think about the larger digital environment in which we now

communicate.

Everywhere we turn, digital platforms and professional tools offer new possibilities. Many provide useful services without charge, while others reserve additional capabilities for paying subscribers.

There is nothing inherently wrong with businesses charging for services. Technology requires investment, maintenance and innovation.

But there is something worth examining about a society in which communication is celebrated as a universal necessity while increasingly being organised around subscriptions, premium features, visibility mechanisms and platform-specific restrictions.

We are encouraged to express ourselves, build professional networks, exchange knowledge and contribute to public conversations.

Yet the spaces in which we communicate are not entirely our own.

Their rules, formats, reach and limitations are determined by platforms.

We live in an age that celebrates freedom of expression, yet increasingly measures expression in characters, algorithms, subscriptions and visibility.

For someone who has spent much of his professional life teaching communication, this is a fascinating contradiction.

I am not arguing that every service must be free or that every platform must offer unlimited space.

I am asking something more fundamental.

When communication becomes dependent on the architecture and commercial priorities of digital platforms, how much control do ordinary people retain over the way their ideas reach others?

A Lesson for Teachers, Employers and Digital Platforms

These experiences have led me to three conclusions.

First, educators must recognise that students communicate differently. Our responsibility is not merely to make every student a confident speaker but to help each individual discover and strengthen the form of expression in which they can excel.

Second, employers should look beyond the immediate impression created during an interview. Confidence is valuable, but competence, integrity, creativity and the ability to deliver meaningful work are equally important.

Third, digital platforms should remember that not everyone who participates in a professional network is searching for employment, promoting a business or pursuing commercial opportunities.

Some people are there simply to exchange ideas.

Some wish to share experiences.

Others hope that a lesson drawn from their own lives might be useful to someone they have never met.

That, too, is communication.

And it deserves space.

The Greatest Irony of All

After nearly 20 years in journalism education, I am still learning about communication.

I have learned that speaking fluently does not necessarily mean thinking deeply.

I have learned that silence does not necessarily indicate ignorance.

I have learned that a gifted writer may struggle with a microphone, while an average student may discover extraordinary confidence before a television camera.

I have also learned that a teacher can explain the principles of effective communication to an entire classroom and still struggle to express his own feelings to one person.

Perhaps that is what makes human behaviour so interesting.

We are not always consistent. Our professional strengths do not automatically translate into personal confidence. Our knowledge does not guarantee our ability to express it, and our eloquence does not necessarily establish our wisdom.

The world often rewards those who speak well. But we must never forget those who think deeply, write beautifully and contribute quietly.

As for me, I shall continue teaching communication, practising journalism and expressing myself through writing.

And perhaps I shall continue wondering why I can communicate with thousands of readers but sometimes struggle to communicate with one person sitting across from me.

That is not merely the irony of communication. It is the irony of being human.

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