



THE BALCO POST

October 2026 | Edition 2

Leadership Speaks

Dear Readers,

As we welcome another edition of BALCO Post, I extend my warm wishes to you and your families on the occasion of Navratri. Beyond the festivities and traditions that make these nine days special, Navratri invites us to reflect on Shakti—a force that creates, nurtures and transforms. To me, it is also a reminder of the strength that women bring to our homes, workplaces and communities, often in ways that go unnoticed.

We see this spirit of Shakti reflect within BALCO as well. Across our operations, women are taking on increasingly diverse roles and contributing to areas once considered unconventional. From the shopfloor to critical operational functions, they are bringing their expertise and fresh perspectives to shape the future of

our workplace. Their journeys are opening up new possibilities and inspiring young girls to pursue their aspirations with confidence.

At BALCO, we view community development through a simple belief: progress is not only about what we build, but also about the opportunities we create for people around us to build better lives. When a girl gains access to education, a woman secures a livelihood, or she finds the confidence to lead, the impact extends beyond the individual, shaping families, inspiring future generations and strengthening communities.

Women's participation is integral to our progress and must be woven into the fabric of our development. By creating opportunities for women to learn, grow and lead, we contribute to building stronger families, resilient communities

and a more inclusive society. This commitment to inclusive development is also central to India's larger development journey.

Perhaps that is the deeper meaning of Shakti—not merely the strength to stand on one's own, but also the ability to create opportunities for others to move forward. This Navratri, let us celebrate the women who enrich our lives and communities, while reflecting on what each of us can do to create an environment where every woman and every girl has the opportunity to learn, lead and realise her aspirations.

Wishing all employees, business partners and their families a very Happy Navratri. 🌸

Warm regards,
Rajesh Singh
CEO & Whole-Time Director, BALCO



Priya Agarwal Hebbar & Akarsh Hebbar visits India's iconic Aluminium smelters

BALCO welcomed Priya Agarwal Hebbar, Non-Executive Director, Vedanta Limited and Chairperson, Hindustan Zinc Limited, and Akarsh Hebbar, Vice Chairman, Vedanta Aluminium (VAML) and Chairman, V-Spark DeepTech Ventures, to its iconic plant at Balconagar. During the visit, they witnessed the first metal tapping from the second zone of India's first 525 kA smelter. They also felicitated young women leading operations. The visit highlighted BALCO's focus on women empowerment and community development around Balconagar. At Black Maize, they met women from the local community managing the restaurant, building skills and livelihoods. At Nand Ghar, they witnessed BALCO's work in early childhood development and

community well-being. They also visited the BALCO Hospital and acknowledged the advanced medical facilities. Further, plantation of Amaltas sapling at Smriti Udyan in the memory of loved ones created

a lasting memory. The visit concluded with a talent meet, where the leaders interacted with employees about their experiences, aspirations and opportunities ahead.



Photo of the month



Priya Agarwal Hebbar and Akarsh Hebbar interact with the children at Nand Ghar.

HIGHLIGHTS

- » BALCO takes another step towards 1 MTPA ambition
- » BALCO earns national recognition for employee engagement and HR innovation
- » Building problem-solving capabilities through six sigma training
- » Celebrating a historic zero- breakdown milestone at Green Anode Plant-2 (GAP)
- » BALCO recognises employees & business partners at Samman Diwas
- » Journalists from Odisha and Uttarakhand visit BALCO
- » BALCO uses AI to optimise green anode cooling
- » BALCO advances digital transformation with AI/ML-powered ALF, prediction & optimization model for Potline
- » Opening doors to a new chapter of Vardan
- » BALCO celebrates Vishwakarma Jayanti with devotion and unity
- » BALCO Medical Centre brings global cancer experts to Raipur for 4th BMC Chhattisgarh Cancer Conclave

Group CEO Arun Misra commends BALCO's growth efforts

Balconagar witnessed a series of meaningful interactions as Arun Misra, Group CEO and Executive Director, Vedanta Limited, who visited BALCO alongside Rajesh Kumar, CEO, Vedanta Aluminium. More than an operational review, the visit reflected the leadership's commitment to staying connected with the people, communities, and partnerships that drive BALCO's growth journey. Across Potline 3, Casthouse 3, and Casthouse 4, the leaders engaged with teams at the heart of BALCO's operations, gaining insights into ongoing initiatives and the progress being made towards the company's ambitions. A memorable highlight was the felicitation of women leaders who continue to break barriers and lead at the forefront, demonstrating resilience, capability, and excellence in manufacturing. Their visit to the women-led SHE-SOC further underscored the growing role of women in shaping critical operational functions and advancing a culture of safety and accountability. The visit extended beyond the shopfloor into the wider BALCO ecosystem. From inaugurating the Vardan Apartments to planting an Amaltas sapling

at Smriti Udyan, the engagements reflected BALCO's belief that growth is most meaningful when it strengthens both industry and community. Interactions with business partners and conversations with emerging leaders further highlighted the shared vision of building a stronger future together. Adding to the spirit of the occasion, Arun Misra also joined employees and business partners to flag-off the marathon as part of

the Vedanta Delhi Half Marathon, supporting the cause of Zero Hunger. From manufacturing excellence and community development to employee engagement and inclusion, the visit celebrated the many facets of BALCO's journey. Above all, it served as a reminder that the company's progress is powered by its people, whose dedication, innovation and aspirations continue to shape the future of BALCO and contribute to India's manufacturing growth.



People of BALCO



Meet Ram Prasad Rathore

Some journeys are shaped by the willingness to keep learning. For Ram Prasad Rathore, BALCO has been a place of growth, opportunity, and transformation for nearly four decades. Starting his career as a contract labourer in the late 1980s, Rathore went on to take on roles as a Supervisor, Site In-charge, entrepreneur, and today, Head of Operations at Surendra Enterprises. Along the way, he developed a strong understanding of operations, workforce management, project planning, and execution.

When he joined BALCO, entrepreneurship was far from his mind. His focus was on learning the work and doing it well. Over time, however, he became increasingly curious about how projects were planned, resources managed, and teams brought together to deliver results.

"I was always interested in understanding the bigger picture. The more I learned about the work, the more I wanted to understand what made it successful," he shares.

This curiosity eventually led him to establish his own firm, where he applied years of operational experience while building a business founded on commitment, consistency, and accountability. Along the way, he also witnessed some of BALCO's most significant milestones, including privatisation, demerger, and the evolution of safer and more efficient ways of working.

Today, he continues to support BALCO with the same ownership and dedication that have defined his journey. Reflecting on what matters most, he says, "Trust takes years to build and moments to lose. For me, being honest and staying true to my words has always mattered more than any title or achievement."

His story is a reminder that meaningful growth comes from staying curious, embracing new opportunities, and never losing the desire to learn. From contract labourer to entrepreneur and business partner, Rathore's journey reflects how experience, perseverance, and willingness to keep moving forward can create opportunities that last a lifetime.

BALCO takes another step towards its 1 MTPA journey

The first metal was tapped from the second zone of BALCO's Potline 3, India's first and the largest 525 kA aluminium smelter, in the presence of Priya Agarwal Hebbar and Akarsh Hebbar, marking another milestone in the company's expansion project. The newly commissioned zone is expected to support the gradual ramp-up of 1 Million Tonnes Per Annum (MTPA) project. Additional zones will be brought online in phases as the project advances. As successive zones are commissioned, the smelter is expected to strengthen operational efficiency, improve economies of scale, and enhance the company's ability to meet growing demand from key sectors such as infrastructure, transportation and energy. Beyond adding capacity, the project reflects a broader shift in India's aluminium industry toward larger and technologically advanced smelting

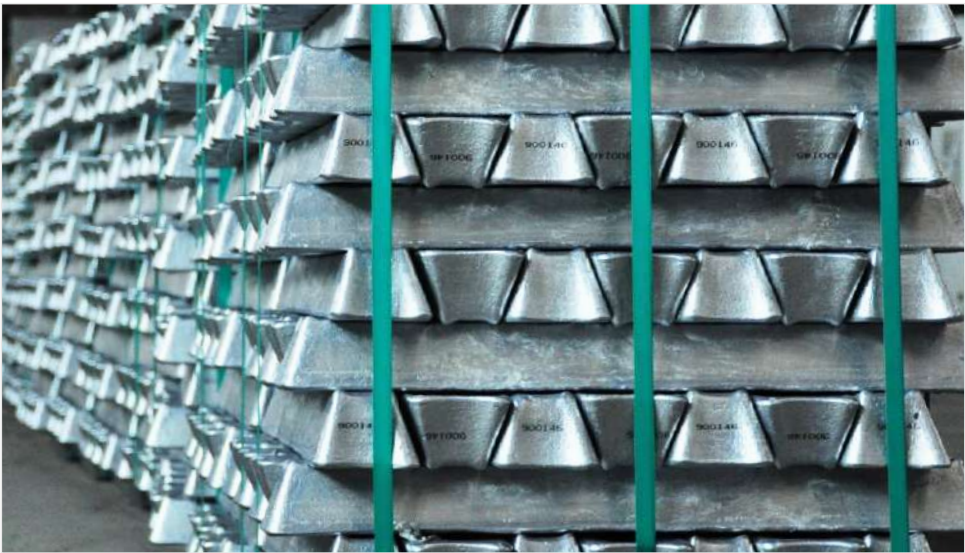
operations. Once fully operational, Potline 3 is expected to reinforce BALCO's position as a major contributor to the country's

manufacturing growth while supporting Vedanta Aluminium's long-term vision of building globally competitive production capabilities.



Why Aluminium matters?

- Power Transmission:** Preferred material for overhead conductors due to its excellent conductivity to weight ratio.
- Renewable Energy:** Widely used in solar module frames, mounting structures, and wind energy components.
- Industrial Growth:** Enables energy-efficient equipment, heat exchangers, and industrial infrastructure.
- Sustainable Mobility:** Contributes to lighter, more energy-efficient vehicles, EV components, and railway infrastructure.
- Circular Economy:** Infinitely recyclable without loss of properties.



BALCO earns national recognition for employee engagement and HR innovation



Wins Gold at Business World 11th edition awards

BALCO received the Gold award for excellence in employee engagement strategy, recognising its work across employee engagement, leadership connect, workforce wellbeing, recognition, learning, diversity and inclusion. The recognition highlights BALCO's focus on strengthening employee experience through initiatives that encourage participation, connection and an inclusive workplace culture.

Winner, India HR Summit Awards

BALCO was recognised as a Winner in the Digitalisation & Technology in HR category for its use of digital platforms, data-driven decision-making, automation and AI-enabled solutions. The recognition reflects the organisation's efforts to use technology to simplify processes, improve decision-making and enhance employee experience.

Driving excellence in operations with innovation through Sahbhagita



At Sahbhagita, BALCO brought together employees and business partners from the Metal and Power units to celebrate the ideas and improvements that continue to strengthen operations across the organisation. The platform witnessed participation from more than 700 members, with over 580 success stories showcased and rewarded, while around 180 ideas received Best Idea recognition. The event highlighted a wide range of employee-led initiatives that delivered practical improvements around safety, reliability, efficiency, and process performance. Among the showcased projects were enhancements in equipment safety, process reliability, molten metal flow control, and water management, alongside the restoration of the C-1B Diverter Gate to Auto Mode and the first-ever replacement of the S/R-A Slew Gearbox. Together, these initiatives demonstrated how operational challenges could be transformed into opportunities for improvement through innovation and ownership.

Building problem-solving capabilities through six sigma training



Reinforcing its focus on continuous improvement and data-driven decision-making, BALCO conducted Six Sigma Green Belt Certification training for employees across the organisation. The programme equipped participants with structured problem-solving tools, including Lean Six Sigma methodologies,

DMAIC (Define, Measure, Analyse, Improve, Control) and Minitab, enabling them to address business challenges with an analytical approach. Through practical exercises, case studies and interactions with senior leaders, participants explored process improvement techniques and identified

projects aligned with the company's operational priorities. The next phase will focus on implementing these projects, with successful completion leading to Green Belt certification and contributing to stronger operational excellence across the organization.

Celebrating a historic zero-breakdown milestone at GAP-2



BALCO's Green Anode Plant-2 achieved a significant operational milestone by recording zero breakdowns in August, the first such achievement since the unit's commissioning in 2015. The plant also registered its highest-ever monthly availability of 87%, reflecting a major leap in equipment reliability and operational performance. The achievement is the result

of sustained efforts in preventive maintenance, disciplined operations and strong cross-functional collaboration. Widely regarded as a rare accomplishment in the smelting industry, the milestone underscores BALCO's commitment to operational excellence and demonstrates how a sustained focus on reliability can translate into world-class performance.

Quality Sankalp reminds people that quality is in the details



Good quality is rarely the result of one big change. It is built into the small decisions made every day. At BALCO, Quality Sankalp brought employees together around the month's focus - 'Eliminate Waste, Improve Quality' - with emphasis on ownership, teamwork and lean practices. The quality pledge reinforced a simple message: improving quality is part of everyone's job.

Journalists from Odisha and Uttarakhand Visit BALCO

A delegation of journalists from Odisha and Uttarakhand visited BALCO on a day-long tour to gain insights into the company's operations and community development initiatives. The visit was attended by Press Information Bureau (PIB) officials, Korba Liaison Officer Kamal Jyoti, senior journalists, and BALCO representatives.

The delegation toured the Vedanta Skill School, where they interacted with trainees and learned about the hands-on skill development programmes designed to enhance employability among local youth. Journalists also received an overview of BALCO's community initiatives and their impact on the social and economic development of

neighbouring communities. The visit provided an opportunity for the media to gain a closer understanding of

BALCO's efforts in both industrial excellence and community empowerment.



People of BALCO



Meet Priyanka Sahu

Many times, our dreams and pathways lead us to unimaginable places, and such is the story of Priyanka Sahu. "I still remember standing at Kartavya Path in New Delhi on January 26, 2023, representing Chhattisgarh before the nation. At that moment, I never imagined that one day I would be working at BALCO and contributing to one of India's iconic smelters," she recalls. Her journey from the parade ground to India's first 525kA smelter at BALCO reflects her determination and hard work.

Today, Priyanka works as a shift in-charge at BALCO's potline. However, her journey began long before she stepped onto the shopfloor. As a child, she was driven by curiosity to push herself beyond textbooks. "I never wanted to limit my learning to what was taught in the classroom. I wanted to see things, experience them, understand how they worked in the real world," she said. Over the years, this mindset became the foundation of her journey. While pursuing Civil Engineering from Shankaracharya University, she became an active member of National Service Scheme (NSS). This gave her the opportunity to march alongside the tableau of Chhattisgarh, at Kartavya Path, New Delhi. However, living this dream was not easy. It involved multiple rounds of selection, and rigorous practice. Recalling that moment, Priyanka said "the real achievement was not marching in front of the nation. It was everything that came before it - the selection process, relentless practice and the ability to keep going when giving up would have been the easier choice".

Priyanka believes that success is not defined only by results, but the courage to push oneself beyond the comfort zone. That belief became especially important after graduation. Unlike many of her peers, she did not have a campus placement. Instead of getting discouraged, she saw it as an opportunity to reinvent herself. "I knew I had to keep moving forward. If one door wasn't opening, I had to find another path," she said.

She explored and completed a certification in Data Analytics and enrolled in an online, self-paced Data Science course offered by IIT Madras. She said, "Learning is a continuous process, and education opens new doors for us when one is shut". Her interest in data was not merely academic. She wanted to see what technology could do when applied to the industrial problems. She got the chance to put her learning into practice at BALCO.

Working as a shift in-charge with BALCO under Pradhan Associate Private Limited (PALP), she proudly stands in a place once dominated by men. She has seen how technology and data analytics are being used at BALCO to leverage production, analyse data and make information available at a single click. Building on this, she wishes to bring engineering and data science together. She envisages a future where technology becomes an integral part of operations. Priyanka's story is about hard work, pushing boundaries, and never-give-up spirit. The parade ground taught her discipline. Athletics taught her resilience. Engineering drew her attention towards how things are built. Data Science gave her a new way of looking at problems. And today she is bringing all these pieces together on the shopfloor at BALCO.

Strengthening Crane Safety with AI-Powered Protection



BALCO has introduced an AI-enabled crane safety system that uses real-time human detection and automatic crane interlocking to strengthen protection against line-of-fire risks. The system uses computer vision to continuously monitor defined crane operating zones and identify human presence in real time, creating an additional safety layer around moving equipment.

The system classifies the operating area into safe, warning and hazard zones. When a person enters the designated hazard zone, the AI detects the intrusion and automatically activates the crane interlock, bringing crane movement to a stop. This enables a shift from manual observation and operator-dependent intervention to continuous monitoring and an automated safety response.

The initiative strengthens BALCO's preventive safety approach by reducing personnel exposure to crane-related hazards, enabling faster intervention and reducing dependence on manual vigilance. With an AI detection confidence of 98.6%, the system demonstrates how digital technology can be embedded into operations to strengthen safety controls and support more controlled crane operations.



Scan here to join!



Utilising AI to optimise green anode cooling

BALCO has gone live with an AI/ML-powered solution at its Green Anode Plant (GAP) to predict paste temperature and optimise cooler water flow in real time, with the potential to reduce crack-related Green Anode rejections by up to 30%. The solution brings predictive analytics into a critical process-control parameter, enabling consistent cooling and improved operational reliability.

Traditionally, paste outlet temperature was managed through sensor readings and manual, shift-wise adjustments to cool water flow. The new system continuously predicts paste temperature and recommends the optimum water flow rate, helping operators maintain the process within the desired operating range while reducing manual intervention and operator-to-operator variability.

The initiative marks a shift from manual, sensor-dependent control to predictive process optimisation, creating a scalable foundation for AI-enabled manufacturing at BALCO. By combining real-time process intelligence with automated recommendations, the solution supports more stable operations, improved quality and greater consistency in Green Anode production.



Advancing digital transformation with AI/ML-powered AIF₃ prediction & optimization model for Potline

BALCO has successfully deployed an AI/ML-Powered AIF₃ prediction and optimization model for Potline operations. The initiative marks another step towards BALCO's digital transformation journey. The newly deployed solution uses real-time Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) data, historical operating parameters, and machine learning algorithms to predict and optimize aluminium fluoride (AIF₃) consumption across pots.

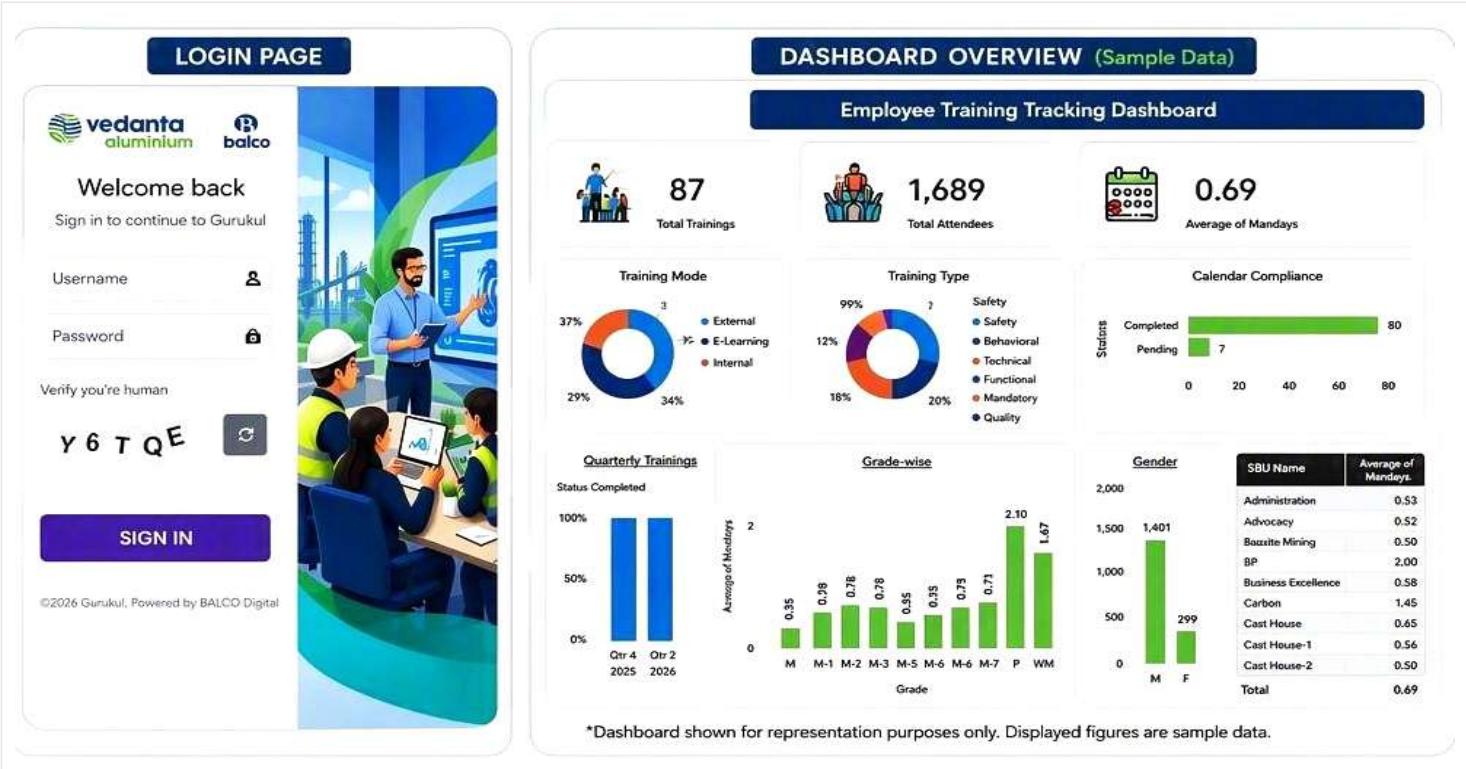
One of the key strengths of the model lies in its seamless integration with real-time SCADA systems. The platform offers centralised dashboards, pot-wise performance monitoring, AIF₃ consumption prediction capabilities, and optimisation recommendations. It also establishes the foundation for future digital twin applications, allowing BALCO to move closer to autonomous



and data-driven plant operations. The implementation is expected to deliver substantial business benefits. By reducing AIF₃ consumption variability and optimising usage, the initiative is projected to lower overall AIF₃ consumption.

Additionally, the model enhances bath chemistry control, improves process stability, strengthens decision-making through predictive insights, and supports sustainable operational performance.

Building a unified learning ecosystem with Gurukul



BALCO has launched Gurukul, a centralized Learning & Development platform that brings employee's and business partner's learning into a single digital ecosystem. Designed to strengthen learning governance and improve visibility into workforce development, the platform marks a significant step in BALCO's efforts to build a more skilled and future-ready workforce. The platform consolidates

training planning, nominations, attendance tracking, trainer records, compliance monitoring and learning data that were previously managed across multiple systems. With real-time dashboards and analytics, Gurukul enables leaders to track participation, monitor compliance and gain deeper insights into learning trends, helping drive more informed workforce development decisions. Beyond

streamlining administrative processes, Gurukul establishes a structured framework for capability building across the organization. By improving data accuracy, strengthening accountability and providing a transparent view of learning outcomes, the platform creates a stronger foundation for continuous skill development while reducing manual effort and enhancing the overall learning experience.

A pledge to make safety our priority with Suraksha Sankalp



Through Suraksha Sankalp, BALCO reinforced the importance of spotting potential risks early, speaking up on unsafe acts and taking informed action. The initiative places everyday awareness and accountability at the heart of the company's commitment towards zero harm.

Suraksha Netritva reminds everyone: Safety starts with us



As the link between leadership and the shopfloor, supervisors have a direct role in how safety practices are understood and followed. The programme seeks to strengthen their ability to recognise potential risks, guide teams and encourage safer choices, reinforcing ownership and accountability as part of BALCO's Zero Harm journey.

300+ employees take the road safety conversation forward



BALCO organised Suraksha Netritva programme bringing supervisors together for a conversation focused on hazard identification, risk management, communication and safe work practices. More than 300 employees and business partner came together for a road safety interaction focused on a simple question: how can everyday choices make movement within the plant safer? Leaders utilised the session to underline the importance of following road safety practices and staying alert while driving or moving through plant premises. The conversation also encouraged participants to look more closely at their own driving habits and the impact of individual actions on workplace safety. The interaction also added another layer to BALCO's ongoing safety efforts, keeping the focus on awareness, responsibility and the shared goal towards Zero Harm.

Meeting every fire with the right defence



Kitchen fires can escalate in moments, especially when cooking oils or fats are involved. To enhance safety across its canteens and food preparation areas, BALCO has deployed Class F kitchen fire extinguishers, specially designed to tackle fires that conventional extinguishers may not effectively control. These extinguishers rapidly cool burning oil while creating a protective layer over the surface, helping prevent re-ignition and limiting the spread of fire. The initiative adds an important layer of protection in areas where fire risks are unique and response time is critical. In operational areas where combustible metals such as magnesium and titanium are handled, BALCO has introduced TEC (Ternary Eutectic Chloride) Type Fire Extinguishers. Unlike ordinary fires, metal fires burn at extremely high temperatures and can react dangerously to conventional firefighting agents. Designed specifically for Class D fires, TEC extinguishers form a protective crust over the burning metal, cutting off oxygen and absorbing heat to contain the fire safely. Their deployment ensures that teams working in high-risk environments are equipped with specialised tools tailored to the nature of the potential risks.

BALCO celebrates Ozone Day



BALCO celebrated Ozone Day by conducting a series of awareness initiatives to educate employees about the importance of protecting the ozone layer and its role in protecting the Earth from ultraviolet radiation. The session highlighted the global efforts undertaken through the Montreal Protocol to phase out ozone depleting substances and support the gradual recovery of the ozone layer. During the programme, employees were also informed about BALCO's commitment to sustainable environmental practices. The event concluded with employees taking a pledge to adopt ozone-friendly practices, contribute towards a greener future, and remain mindful of the growing challenges of climate change, rising temperatures, and frequent heatwaves.

Sustainability month 2026 continues in full swing!

Don't miss what's coming up

Get ready for another exciting fortnight of activities focused on safety, community development and ecological restoration.

Take a look at what's coming up.

WEEK 3 | OCTOBER 5-10

Safety

- Nukkad Natak on Critical Safety Practices
- Safety Snake & Ladder Activity
- VSS Safety Crossword Challenge
- Biohazard (Snake) Awareness Session

WEEK 4 | OCTOBER 12-16

Community development & ecological restoration

- Nature Walk on Native & Invasive Species
- Sustainability Carnival
- Climate Clue Challenge
- Prize Distribution & Closing Ceremony

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BALCO celebrated Teachers' Day across 13 schools in and around Balconagar



Engineers' Day

Let's hear what our engineers have to share

“ When you work with a process every day, you start noticing the small changes. We look at the data, compare it with what we see on the shopfloor and try to understand why a variation has occurred. Sometimes, solving a problem is about making a small correction at the right point in the process. These improvements add up over time and help strengthen overall process performance. ”

Azlan Sharif
Casthouse



“ As a Material Science engineer our work goes beyond testing products. We monitor consistency, validate standards and ensure that every batch meets the expectations of our customers. By combining engineering knowledge with close attention to quality, we help ensure that excellence is built into everything we produce. ”

Sanskriti Vardhan
Quality Assurance



“ Working at the Green Anode Plant gives us a close view of how fundamental anodes are to aluminium production. As a key input in the smelting process, the quality and consistency of anodes have a direct impact on the final output of molten aluminium. A large part of our day involves understanding shop-floor challenges, monitoring process parameters and ensuring that every stage of production meets the required standards. ”

Nitya Chaurasia
Green Anode Plant



“ At the Casthouse, we do not just transform molten aluminium into finished products. We also work to improve resource efficiency and the sustainability of our processes. Whether it is energy, materials or process efficiency, every improvement contributes to creating greater value while reducing our environmental footprint. ”

Aashika Singh
Casthouse



Celebrating Janmashtami with tradition and festive cheer

Stories of Lord Krishna came alive with music, dance, and festive traditions as BALCO celebrated Janmashtami across the township. While cultural performances set the tone for the evening, the Krishna & Radha ramp walk added colours and creativity to the celebration, drawing enthusiastic participation from employees and their families. The *Matki Phod* competition, games and interactive activities further added to the celebrations, creating opportunities for people of all ages to take part and enjoy the occasion together. Special refreshments and exciting prizes rounded off the festivities, adding to the warmth and energy of the gathering. Blending tradition with recreation, the celebrations reflected joy, playfulness, and sense of community associated with Janmashtami, making it a memorable occasion for the BALCO family.



Onam celebration at BALCO

BALCO celebrated Onam with employees and their families, bringing the traditions, flavours, and warmth of Kerala's harvest festival to the township. The celebration also marked the traditional Onam Sandhya.



Celebrating Ganesh Chaturthi with a week of faith and festivities

The arrival of Lord Ganesha brought the BALCO township alive with celebration as employees and their families came together for a week filled with devotion, culture, and community spirit. From the installation of the idol to vibrant cultural performances at the GET Hostel, the festivities created moments of joy, participation, and shared celebration.

Adding to the excitement were activities such as treasure hunts, dumb charades, and a spirited pani puri eating competition, which brought residents together beyond their daily routines. The celebrations concluded with Ganesh Visarjan, marking the end of a memorable week that blended tradition, laughter, and togetherness across the township.



Opening doors to a new chapter of Vardan

Over 170 BALCO employees will mark the beginning of a new chapter. The newly built Vardan Apartments were inaugurated by Arun Misra, Group CEO and Executive Director, Vedanta Limited, in the presence of Rajesh Kumar, CEO VAML and Rajesh Singh CEO & Whole-Time Director, BALCO along with the senior leaders. The new apartments are developed to address the evolving residential needs of BALCO's growing workforce. This modern housing complex reflects the company's continued investment in employee well-being and township development. The occasion was marked by a key handover ceremony, where keys were handed over to the employees, welcoming them into their new homes. Meaning "a blessing", Vardan combines relaxed space with community-focused living, offering fully furnished studio apartments, green spaces, recreational facilities, and sustainable infrastructure.



BALCO recognises employees and business partners at Samman Diwas

BALCO celebrated Samman Diwas, bringing together over 140 employees and business partner. The platform recognised their significant contributions and impact across the organisation.



Celebrating Vishwakarma Jayanti with devotion and unity

BALCO marked Vishwakarma Jayanti with traditional fervour as employees, contract workers, and senior leadership gathered across plant units and offices to offer prayers for safety, prosperity, and continued progress. The celebrations saw specially decorated installations for Lord Vishwakarma, the deity revered as the patron of craftsmanship and engineering. More than a religious observance, the occasion reflected the values that underpin BALCO's operations, including teamwork, innovation, and workplace safety. As employees came together in large numbers, the festival served as a reminder of the collective effort that drives the company's growth and commitment to operational excellence.



Celebrating bonds of care and belonging with Raksha Bandhan

Raksha Bandhan at BALCO was celebrated as a festival of belonging, bringing employees and community members together through heartfelt gestures that reflected the true spirit of the occasion. The celebrations across the workplace, hospital and shopfloor included a rakhi-making competition, adding a creative dimension to the festivities. Reinforcing BALCO's culture of safety and mutual respect, women associated with BALCO's community development programmes tied rakhis to employees, including men, women, transgender colleagues and security personnel, acknowledging their contributions towards fostering a safe and supportive workplace. At BALCO Hospital, women from the Unnatti Project expressed their appreciation for doctors and healthcare workers, celebrating bonds built on care and trust. The festive spirit also reached BALCO's Nand Ghars, where children crafted handmade rakhis and exchanged them with one another, spreading messages of friendship and kindness.



BALCO Medical Centre brings global cancer experts to Raipur for 4th BMC Chhattisgarh Cancer Conclave



BALCO Medical Centre (BMC), a unit of Vedanta Medical Research Foundation and a leading cancer care institution in Central India, hosted the fourth edition of the BMC Chhattisgarh Cancer Conclave, bringing together leading oncologists, healthcare professionals, researchers and policymakers for a three-day conclave. The symposium also marked the launch of the Cervical Cancer Elimination Programme by Hon'ble Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh, Shri Vishnu Deo Sai, in the presence of Shri Shyam Bihari Jaiswal, Health Minister, Government of Chhattisgarh.

The initiative focused on amplifying state-level efforts to strengthen cervical cancer prevention and early detection at the grassroots, while contributing to India's and World Health Organization's broader goal of cervical cancer elimination.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Vishnu Deo Sai said, "Cervical cancer is preventable and our resolve is to move

from a Cervical Cancer-Free Chhattisgarh towards a Cervical Cancer-Free India. In this mission, BMC's annual conclave will prove to be a milestone in the field of cancer care in the region."

Shri Shyam Bihari Jaiswal, further added, "It is encouraging to see leading oncologists and healthcare experts from across the country and the world come together in Raipur."

Held under the theme 'Restoring Balance to Cancer Care', the conclave focused on Choosing Wisely in breast, gynaecological and genitourinary cancers. The conclave brought together 11 international faculty from the UK, USA, UAE, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Israel, Belgium, Canada and Switzerland, alongside more than 500 national and regional oncology experts. The programme also conducted first-of-its-kind hands-on workshops ensuring that advances in oncology translate into meaningful outcomes for patients.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Bhawna Sirohi, Medical Director, BALCO Medical Centre, said, "At BMC, we believe that cancer prevention is one of the most powerful ways to reduce the burden of the disease and geography should not determine access to quality cancer care. Our vision is to build a comprehensive cancer ecosystem in Central India where patients can access prevention, screening, diagnosis, treatment, rehabilitation and supportive care closer to home."

Beyond its academic programme, BMC organised 'Canvas for 'A' Life', an art and heritage exhibition in support of the BMC Charitable Fund. The initiative seeks to support patients through gap funding for treatment, diagnostics and nutrition, while also extending assistance towards accommodation and logistics during treatment. The conclave concluded with a renewed emphasis on making preventive oncology a public health priority in the region.

Uniting the communities for better nutrition throughout the month

Across communities in Korba, BALCO marked Poshan Maah with a renewed focus on one of the most important foundations of childhood: good nutrition. Through Project Arogya and Nand Ghar, the initiative brought together mothers, caregivers, children and community members to promote healthy eating habits and greater awareness around child development. Nutrition workshops, growth-monitoring activities and recipe demonstrations encouraged families to adopt balanced diets using locally available ingredients.

Beyond creating awareness, these interactions offered practical guidance that families could incorporate into their daily lives, making nutritious choices both accessible and sustainable. The campaign also highlighted the vital link between nutrition, health and learning. By engaging self-help groups and community stakeholders, the initiative fostered greater community ownership of child wellbeing, reinforcing the belief that healthier childhoods are built not by individuals alone, but by communities working together.



WADI: Supporting sustainable livelihoods

Through the WADI plantation initiative, BALCO expanded a sustainable livelihood model that combines fruit cultivation with community development. The plantation of nearly 100 grafted Mango saplings, including Dasher and Langda varieties, are expected to strengthen household incomes in the years ahead while contributing to greener communities.

Reflecting on the experience, Shreya Shetty shared, "Coming from a farming background, I understand the challenges farmers face firsthand. What made this experience especially meaningful was seeing farmers engage with new ideas and practical guidance that can support them in the future. Knowing that these learnings could make a difference beyond the programme itself made me proud to be part of this initiative."



A new community space takes shape in Belgari Basti



BALCO has laid the foundation for a community hall in Belgari Basti, creating a space where residents can come together to celebrate, connect and collaborate. Designed to serve as a hub for social, cultural and community activities, the facility is expected to become an important gathering place for families and local groups in the area.

Spread across 2,500 sq. ft., the community hall will include modern amenities such as separate washrooms for men & women, a kitchen, a storeroom and an open gym. Expected to benefit more than 3,000 residents, the project reflects BALCO's continued efforts to strengthen local infrastructure and create spaces that support community well-being, social engagement and inclusive development.

Employees join hands with farmers for 'Let's do Ropai'



Reinforcing its commitment to sustainable agriculture and community engagement, BALCO joined local farmers for paddy plantation under the Let's Do Ropai initiative. The programme brought employees, business partners and community members into the fields, creating an opportunity to experience first-hand the effort and dedication that sustain farming livelihoods. Reflecting on the experience, Capt Deepak Maharana, one of the participants shared, "Many of us have grown up hearing stories of farming but have never experienced it ourselves. 'Let's Do Ropai' gave me that opportunity. Spending time in the field alongside farmers brought me closer to my roots and gave me a firsthand understanding of the hard work behind every meal we eat. It was also a reminder to stay grounded and value the simple things that often go unnoticed in our daily lives. My sincere gratitude to the farmers, and thanks to the team for making this experience possible."



READY FOR THE RUN?

VEDANTA DELHI HALF MARATHON

#RunForZeroHunger

18th October, 2026

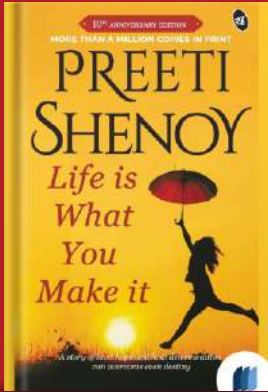
1 KM = 1 MEAL for a child or animal. **STEPSETGO**



Download the **StepSetGo** app from Playstore/Appstore or scan the **QR code**

Take the Sudoku break

READER'S ARCHIVE



Life is What you Make It
by Preeti Shenoy



Scan hear to purchase the book.

More than just a coming-of-age story, 'Life Is What You Make It' is a book that talks about the exploration of love, ambition, resilience and mental health. Through the journey of Ankita, a bright young woman whose life takes an unexpected turn, the novel offers a sensitive and honest portrayal of the challenges of living with mental illness. Preeti illustrates the story with warmth and empathy, making complex emotions feel real and relatable, while reminding readers that vulnerability is not weakness and seeking help is a sign of strength.

What makes this book a memorable read is its ability to balance heartbreak with hope. It encourages readers to look beyond the stigma surrounding mental health and understand the importance of compassion, self-acceptance and support systems. Thought-provoking yet accessible, the novel stays with you long after the final page, leaving behind an uplifting message: life may not always unfold as planned, but with courage and perseverance, it is possible to heal, rebuild, find meaning and bounce back again.

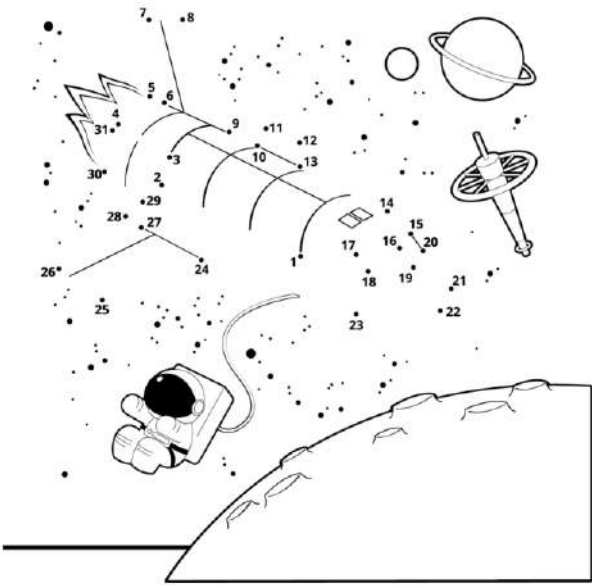
			5				
							3
		1					
		8		6			5
	3				9		
			7				2
6							
	7				1		
		5		3			

- How to Play Sudoku?**
- Goal:**
Fill the entire grid with numbers 1 to 9.
- Rules:**
- Each row must contain 1–9, with no number repeated.
 - Each column must contain 1–9, with no number repeated.
 - Each 3×3 box must contain 1–9, with no number repeated.
 - Use the given numbers as clues, don't change them.
 - Every number should appear only once in each row, column and box.

Answer Key

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

Connect all the dots to make a picture



Scan this QR & share your feedback, stories, poems, writing, drawings or any other creation with the editorial team.



Meet Gublu Ji

BALCO's mascot for all things cool!

Episode 2 | Gublu Ji says, "Festivity and Safety should go hand in hand!"





Festival rush can wait. Safety can't.

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