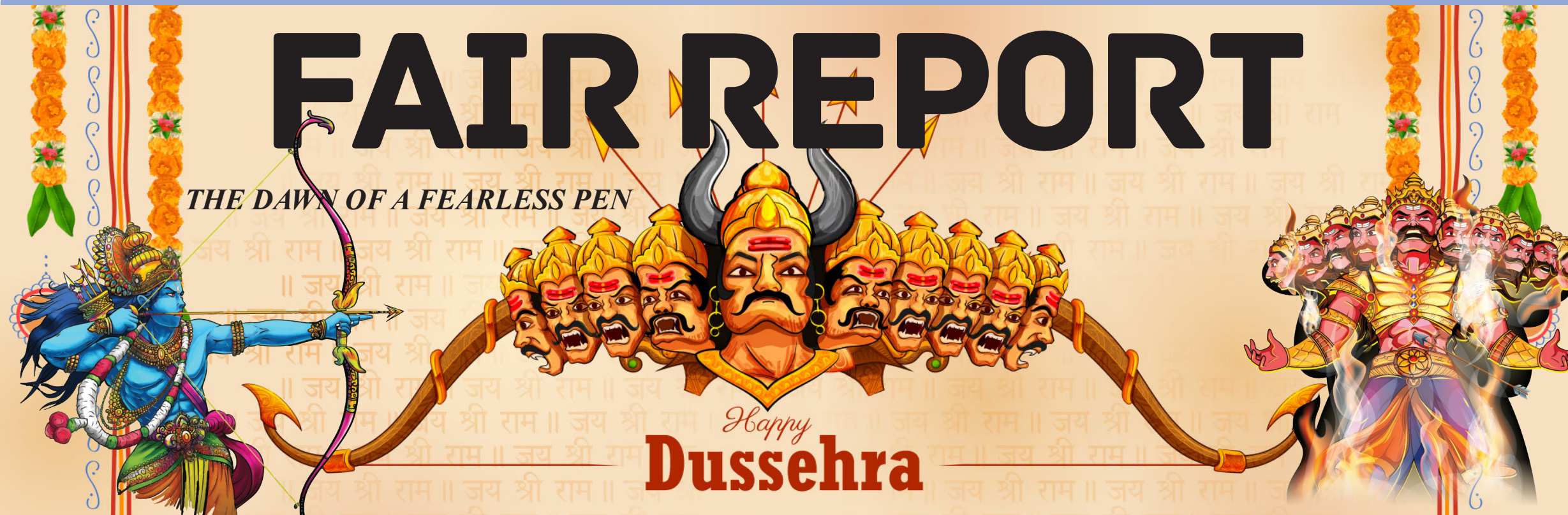




Cabinet Clears ₹11,440-Crore Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses

FAIR REPORT

New Delhi: In a major push towards agricultural self-reliance, the Union Cabinet has approved the launch of a new 'Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses' with an outlay of 11,440 crore. The programme aims to increase India's pulse production to 350 lakh tonnes by 2030-31, reducing the nation's heavy dependence on imports and strengthening food security.

India, despite being the world's largest producer and consumer of pulses, continues to rely significantly on imports to meet domestic demand. Pulses such as tur (arhar), urad, and masoor are frequently imported from countries like Myanmar, Canada, and Australia. Rising consumption, coupled with volatile global prices, has often placed pressure on domestic markets and affected farmers and consumers alike.

Under the newly cleared mission, the government plans to provide



comprehensive support to farmers through improved seed varieties, technological interventions, better irrigation facilities, and enhanced procurement mechanisms. Officials said the mission would also promote crop diversification and incentivize states with higher productivity to encourage wider cultivation of pulses.

Union Agriculture Ministry sources highlighted that the programme will not only benefit farmers by ensuring remunerative prices but also reduce the nation's import bill. India currently imports pulses worth thousands of crores annually, and the mission is expected to cut imports by nearly half over the next decade. The government has set clear milestones, with an interim target to achieve 325 lakh tonnes of pulse production by 2027-28. The initiative aligns with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's broader vision of making India self-reliant in essential food crops while strengthening rural incomes.

Experts have welcomed the move, noting that increasing domestic pulse output will stabilize market prices, ensure nutritional security for millions, and boost farmers' resilience against climate and market shocks.

With this decision, the government has taken a decisive step toward making pulses a cornerstone of India's food self-sufficiency drive.

RSS legacy and PM Modi's emphasis on discipline, nationalism and cultural pride

FAIR REPORT

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday addressed the centenary celebrations of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), underscoring his deep-rooted connection with the organisation, which he has always called a "privilege" to be associated with its legacy. In a podcast with Lex Fridman, broadcast earlier this year, he had reiterated how the RSS had given his life a purpose and instilled in him the values of selfless service. PM Modi's RSS background shaped his emphasis on discipline, nationalism, and cultural pride. Even as he transitioned into mainstream politics, the Sangh's imprint remained visible in his rhetoric and policy priorities.

Despite his ideological alignment and background as a 'pracharak', his public appearances at RSS events were relatively rare since becoming the Prime Minister in 2014. His duties that came with the



office had kept him from regular participation in events hosted by what is seen as the ideological mentor of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Some saw this as an institutional distance from the Sangh to preserve an image of constitutional neutrality, while others attributed it to his growing stature in the country's polity. In the 2024 Lok Sabha election, when the BJP lost a few seats in comparison to the earlier Parliamentary election – especially in West Bengal and Jharkhand – critics pointed to the party's "expanding chasm" with RSS. There were allegations of "discontent" within the party – "rift" between the old and the new – all pointing to the political party reportedly shifting farther from an organisation from which it derives ideological inspiration. Incidentally, RSS volunteers

and its affiliated organisations have been working in the tribal and backward areas in such states for decades. Though officially it denies any political involvement, the Sangh has contributed a large number of leaders to the BJP. Thus, the "social work" undertaken by the organisation, or its affiliates, has sometimes been assumed as "politically motivated".

So, when the BJP lost three Lok Sabha seats in Jharkhand compared to the 12 it won in 2019, and climbed down in West Bengal from 18 (in 2019) to 12 (2024), some analysts attributed it to a conspiracy theory. On the contrary, when PM Modi hailed 100 years of RSS as a "very proud and glorious" journey of the "world's largest NGO" in his Independence Day speech, and lauded its volunteers for their dedicated service to the nation, the Opposition targeted him, calling it "shameful" and an "insult to the freedom struggle".

Ateeq Ahmad's Son Ali Cries Out from Jhansi Jail – "CM Yogi, Save Me!"

New Delhi: Mafia don Ateeq Ahmad's son, Ali Ahmad, has been shifted from Naini Central Jail to Jhansi Jail, where he has now raised a desperate cry for help. According to jail sources, the moment Ali arrived at Jhansi Jail, he pleaded with Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, claiming that he is being harassed and fears for his life. Ali Ahmad alleged that he is being deliberately targeted due to political enmity. "I am innocent... I am being tortured. Only CM Yogi can save me," he reportedly said. This development comes at a time when the crackdown on the Ahmad family continues following the high-profile Umesh Pal murder case, in which several members of Ateeq's gang have already been killed or arrested. The plea from Jhansi Jail is now making headlines, raising sharp questions about security, politics, and the fate of Ateeq Ahmad's family.

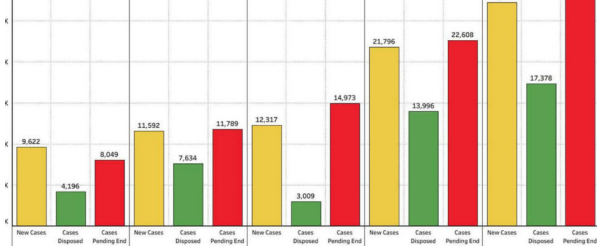
Cybercrime Cases in India Rise Sharply: NCRB Data

FAIR REPORT

New Delhi: Cybercrime in India has witnessed a steep surge, with the latest National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data highlighting both the scale and diversity of digital offences. According to the report, India registered over 65,000 cybercrime cases in 2023, marking an increase of more than 15% compared to the previous year.

The data reveals that fraud and financial crimes remain the most common forms of cyber offences, accounting for nearly two-thirds of total cases. Online banking fraud, UPI scams, and phishing attacks were reported most frequently, with states like Karnataka, Telangana, Maharashtra, and Uttar Pradesh emerging as the worst affected.

Alarming, cybercrimes targeting women and children also saw a



rise. Cases of online harassment, stalking, sextortion, and circulation of obscene content were recorded across several states. The NCRB noted that in nearly 20% of such cases, victims were under the age of 18, underlining the urgent need for stronger digital safety measures.

The report also found that cyber terrorism, hacking of government websites, and identity theft form a growing category of concern. Experts suggest that the rapid adoption of smartphones, digital payments, and social media platforms has widened the scope for cybercriminals, while awareness and enforcement lag behind.

Despite the rise, the conviction rate in cybercrime cases remains low, largely due to lack of technical expertise and delays in forensic analysis. The NCRB has recommended specialized cyber cells in every district and capacity-building programmes for law enforcement agencies.

With India's digital economy expanding at an unprecedented pace, the NCRB data serves as a warning. As the country moves towards deeper internet penetration, experts argue that cyber safety, education, and stronger laws must become a national priority.

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF RSS

A Journey of Service, Discipline, and Nation-Building



Hemraj Tikamchand Tiwari

By Special Feature Desk

As the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) commemorates its centenary, it stands as a testament to

the enduring spirit of service, discipline, and nation-building. Founded in 1925 by Dr. Keshav Baliram Hedgewar in Nagpur, the RSS began with a vision to unite Hindus and instill a sense of national pride and self-reliance. Over the past century, it has evolved into one of the world's largest volunteer organizations, with over 83,000 shakhas (branches) across India, fostering a culture of civic responsibility and community engagement.

Foundational Ideals and Leadership

Dr. Hedgewar's foresight in establishing the RSS was rooted in the belief that a nation's strength lies in the character of its citizens. His leadership emphasized the importance of self-discipline, physical fitness, and ideological education. Under his guidance, the RSS adopted the shakha model—a daily gathering combining physical exercises, ideological training, and community service—which became the cornerstone of its operations.



Following Dr. Hedgewar, Sri Madhav Sadashiv Golwalkar, affectionately known as Guruji, took over as the second Sarsanghchalak (chief) in 1940. His leadership expanded the RSS's reach and influence, establishing a network of pracharaks (full-time workers) who spread the organization's message across the country. Guruji's tenure solidified the RSS's role in shaping India's socio-cultural landscape. In recent years, under the leadership of Shri Mohan Bhagwat, the RSS has continued to adapt to contemporary challenges while staying true to

its foundational principles. Shri Bhagwat has emphasized the importance of inclusivity, dialogue, and national integration, ensuring that the RSS remains relevant in today's diverse and dynamic society.

Contributions to Nation-Building

The RSS's impact on nation-building is multifaceted. Beyond its grassroots presence, the organization has played a significant role in various national initiatives. During times of natural disasters, RSS volunteers have been at

the forefront of relief operations, providing aid and support to affected communities. The organization's emphasis on education has led to the establishment of numerous educational institutions, promoting literacy and skill development. Furthermore, the RSS has been instrumental in promoting cultural awareness and preserving India's rich heritage. Through various programs and initiatives, it has fostered a sense of pride in India's traditions and values, contributing to the nation's cultural renaissance.

A Vision for the Future

As the RSS celebrates its 100th year, it reflects on its journey and looks forward to the future. The organization's commitment to service, discipline, and nation-building remains steadfast. Moving forward, the RSS aims to continue its efforts in fostering national unity, promoting social harmony, and contributing to the holistic development of India.

