

FAIR REPORT

THE DAWN OF A FEARLESS PEN

Jaipur, Tuesday, 23 June 2026

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15 dead in Lucknow blaze

FAIR REPORT

Lucknow: A major fire blazed through a three-storey commercial building in a posh Lucknow neighbourhood on a busy Monday afternoon, leaving at least 15 people, including students, dead and seven injured, officials said. Most of the victims were trapped on the second floor of the building, located on Usha Mehta Marg in Aliganj in north Lucknow, where students were attending classes at an animation centre. The source of the fire is yet to be ascertained. Eyewitnesses said several people jumped out of the building, which was completely gutted in the fire. The structure also housed a pet clinic. Fourteen fire tenders, including a hydraulic platform vehicle, were deployed to control the blaze reported at around 3 pm. "A total of 22 people were brought to the Trauma Centre of King George's Medical University (KGMU) following the incident. Of them, 15 were declared brought dead, while five injured persons



were admitted for treatment and their condition was stable," KGMU PRO Prof K K Singh told this agency. Two others suffered minor injuries and were provided medical care, he said, adding that doctors and medical staff were continuously monitoring the injured. "Due to two children jumping, they suffered back injuries, so they are also being treated after CT scans and other procedures," said

Dr Anil Agrawal, Medical Superintendent at the trauma centre. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath cut short his visit to Aligarh and reached the site to review the situation. Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak, who had reached the spot as the rescue operation was underway, said that the children had come during summer holidays to learn animation at the centre. "The fire broke out suddenly. It was an

animation centre. While there is no immediate clarity about the sequence of events, it seems that the children ran towards the back side when the fire broke out but they couldn't survive. While there is no clarity about the exact figure, but I saw 11-12 bodies with my own eyes," Pathak told reporters earlier. Later, with tears welling his eyes, the Deputy chief minister said he had seen 14 bodies at the spot. "They

were our children. It is a very tragic incident," he said. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, President Droupadi Murmu, Vice President CP Radhakrishnan and Congress leaders Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi expressed anguish at the loss of lives. PM Modi announced an ex-gratia of 2 lakh from PMN-RF to the next of kin of each deceased. The injured would be given 50,000.

Rajasthan Bets on District-Led Growth as CM Reviews Economic Roadmap

FAIR REPORT

Jaipur: In a significant push towards decentralised economic planning, Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma on Monday chaired a high-level meeting at the Chief Minister's Residence to review the framework for District Domestic Product (DDP) estimation, positioning district-centric development as the cornerstone of the state's vision for a developed Rajasthan. The meeting was attended by NITI Aayog member Prof. K. V. Raju, senior state government officials, and district collectors who joined discussions on strengthening local economic planning and governance. Addressing the gathering, the Chief Minister emphasized that sustainable growth can only be achieved when development strategies are tailored to the unique strengths and requirements of individual districts. He noted that the



state government is preparing district and sub-division-specific roadmaps based on local resources, products, economic potential, and developmental needs. Sharma said that a granular understanding of district-level economic activity would enable policymakers to make more informed decisions, improve resource allocation, and accelerate balanced regional development. He underlined that the district-based development model aligns with the broader objective of creating inclusive growth opportunities across urban and rural Rajasthan.

During the review, the Chief Minister also interacted directly with senior departmental officers and district collectors, seeking feedback on implementation challenges and opportunities. The initiative is expected to provide a robust data-driven foundation for policy formulation, strengthening Rajasthan's journey towards becoming a more competitive and economically resilient state. The meeting signals a growing focus on evidence-based governance, with district economies emerging as key drivers of Rajasthan's long-term development strategy.

Education Minister Opens Doors to Citizens, Reinforcing Rajasthan's Governance Connect

FAIR REPORT

Jaipur: In a significant display of responsive governance and public accountability, Rajasthan's Education and Panchayati Raj Minister Madan Dilwar conducted a public grievance hearing at his Jaipur residence, directly interacting with citizens and listening to their concerns.

The minister witnessed a steady stream of people from different districts approaching the minister with issues related to education, rural development, administrative services, and local governance. Dilwar patiently heard individual grievances and issued on-the-spot directions to concerned officials for prompt resolution.

The initiative reflects the state government's emphasis on bridging the gap between policymakers and the public by ensuring that citizens have direct access to decision-makers. Such public outreach programmes are increasingly being viewed as an effective

mechanism to enhance transparency, improve service delivery, and strengthen trust in democratic institutions.

Officials present during the hearing were instructed to prioritize genuine cases and ensure time-bound action. Several attendees expressed satisfaction over the opportunity to directly present their concerns before the minister, describing the interaction as both accessible and reassuring.

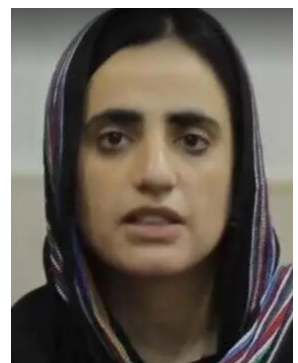
Political observers note that regular public hearings by senior ministers not only help identify grassroots challenges but also provide valuable feedback for policy implementation. As governance increasingly focuses on citizen-centric approaches, initiatives like these underline the importance of accountability, accessibility, and direct engagement in public administration.

By bringing governance closer to the people, the minister's outreach serves as a reminder that effective administration begins with listening.

Life Sentence for Mahrang Baloch Pakistan Court Verdict Sparks Rights Concerns, Deepens Scrutiny of Balochistan Policy

FAIR REPORT

Quetta: A Pakistani anti-terrorism court has sentenced prominent Baloch rights activist Mahrang Baloch and Baloch Yakjehi Committee (BYC) leader Sibghatullah Shah to life imprisonment in connection with the killing of a paramilitary soldier during a protest in Gwadar in 2024, a verdict that has intensified debate over civil liberties and state policy in Balochistan. The prosecution argued that the two leaders played a role in



bilising protesters who allegedly attacked a security vehicle, abducted a soldier and later beat him to death during an unauthorised demonstration. Based on the investigation, the court

found both accused guilty and handed down life sentences. The ruling, however, has drawn strong criticism from the BYC and several rights advocates. The organisation described the trial as politically motivated and questioned the evidentiary basis of the conviction, alleging that the proceedings failed to meet standards of due process. It termed the judgment a reflection of the state's treatment of Baloch dissent rather than an impartial exercise of justice.

The case attracted international attention because of Mahrang Baloch's growing global profile. A physician by training, she has been recognised by international platforms, featured among influential emerging voices, and was recently reported to have been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize.

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BrahMos-Armed Su-30MKI Fleet Emerges as India's Long-Range Strike Spearhead

FAIR REPORT

New Delhi: India's air power has received a formidable boost, with around 40 Su-30MKI fighter jets now fully integrated with the supersonic BrahMos cruise missile, creating one of the most potent air-launched strike combinations in the region. The enhanced fleet

gained significant attention following Operation Sindoor, which reportedly showcased the combat effectiveness and operational flexibility of the Su-30MKI-BrahMos partnership. According to Alexander Makischev, co-director of BrahMos Aerospace, the operation demonstrated the

"outstanding capabilities" of the platform, reinforcing its status as a key pillar of India's conventional deterrence strategy.

The Indian Air Force currently operates nearly 270 Su-30MKI multirole fighters, making it the backbone of the country's combat aviation fleet.

Ram Mandir Footfall Row Erupts: Akhilesh Alleges Fear Among Devotees, Temple Officials Point to Surgical Crows

Ayodhya: A fresh political controversy has erupted over visitor turnout at the Ram Mandir, with Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav claiming that devotees have reduced their visits following the recent donation theft case and that local residents fear being unnecessarily drawn into the ongoing Special Investigation Team (SIT) probe. Addressing reporters, Yadav alleged that the fallout from the controversy had created apprehension among sections of the local population. He suggested that concerns surrounding the investigation were discouraging people from engaging with temple-related activities. The claims were swiftly rejected by temple authorities. Responding to the allegations, Ram Mandir Security Head Captain K.K. Tiwari asserted that the temple continues to witness a steady influx of devotees from across the country.

When the CEO Becomes the Malware: Govt Warns India Inc of a New Era of 'Boss Scam' Cyber Fraud

FAIR REPORT

New Delhi: As Indian businesses accelerate their digital transformation, cybersecurity experts are warning that the next major corporate threat may not target servers or databases first—it may target the people who control them.

The Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C), under the Ministry of Home Affairs, has issued an advisory on a sophisticated cyber fraud known as the "Boss Scam", a scheme that weaponises trust, hierarchy and executive authority to infiltrate organisations and trigger fraudulent financial transactions. According to officials, attackers begin by impersonating regulators or government agencies, sending ur-

gent compliance-related messages to senior executives through email or messaging platforms. Attached files, often disguised as official documents, can install malicious software capable of compromising devices and gaining access to communication channels. What makes the scam particularly concerning is its ability to hijack trusted identities. Once access is obtained, fraudsters can use legitimate executive accounts to issue urgent payment instructions to finance departments, bypassing conventional suspicion and internal controls. In some cases, cybercriminals reportedly manipulate contact records to sustain the deception even after initial breaches are detected.

Rajasthan Pushes Education Overhaul Into High Gear, Sets New Benchmarks in Learning and Sustainability

FAIR REPORT

Jaipur: Rajasthan has accelerated its education reform agenda, with Chief Secretary Sudhansh Pant reviewing the implementation of the PM SHRI Schools initiative and the Chief Minister Educated Rajasthan Campaign, signalling a renewed focus on learning outcomes, infrastructure and student development across the state.

During the high-level review meeting, the Chief Secretary stressed the need



for time-bound execution of key educational programmes and called for sustained efforts to improve academic quality, digital learning and school governance. Officials presented progress reports on flagship schemes aimed at

transforming government schools into centres of excellence.

Pant also congratulated education officials and district administrations for Rajasthan's strong performance in national indicators related to cleanli-

ness, environmental sustainability and quality education. The state's achievements in promoting green campuses, improving sanitation standards and enhancing classroom learning were highlighted as examples of effective governance translating into measurable outcomes.

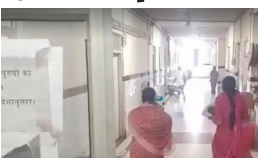
The review comes at a time when Rajasthan is seeking to position itself as a leader in educational transformation, aligning infrastructure develop-

ment with learning excellence. Officials said the PM SHRI initiative and the Chief Minister Educated Rajasthan Campaign are expected to play a crucial role in bridging educational gaps and creating future-ready institutions. With administrative momentum building and performance indicators improving, Rajasthan's education sector appears to be entering a decisive phase of reform, where implementation and outcomes are taking centre stage.

Rajasthan's Govt Hospitals Are Killing Mothers C-Section Horror Spreads From Kota to Bikaner to Jodhpur

FAIR REPORT

JODHPUR/BIKANER, June 22 — What was meant to be the safest day of their lives has turned into a nightmare. Eight women who underwent caesarean deliveries at Paota District Hospital in Jodhpur on June 20 have since fallen critically ill — two are now fighting for their lives in the ICU at MDM Hospital, one on dialysis after her kidneys and liver gave out, another rushed in at midnight with crashing blood pressure and fail-



ing kidneys. Doctors suspect septicemia — a systemic blood infection — may have swept through the ward, pointing squarely at contaminated instruments, infected operation theatres, or catastrophic lapses in post-surgical hygiene. The operation theatre has since been shut down. But the horror does not stop at Jodhpur.

IN FOCUS



People gather at a snow site at Baralacha Pass in Lahaul and Spiti district, Himachal Pradesh on Monday

Budget of development and legacy, covers every segment: Bengl CM

FAIR REPORT

Kolkata

Describing the first BJP government's maiden budget in West Bengal as that of development and legacy, Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari on Monday said it covers every segment from law and order to employment generation. He said that an over ₹4.38 lakh crore budget proposal has been placed in the West Bengal Assembly during the day, despite a funds crunch and debt burden.

"This is a budget of 'vikas and virasat' (development and legacy)," Adhikari told a press conference, flanked by Finance Minister Swapan Dasgupta, following presentation of the budget proposals for 2026-27.



West Bengal CM Suwendu Adhikari addresses a press conference after the presentation of the first Budget of the BJP government in the West Bengal Legislative Assembly in Kolkata on Monday

He said that the BJP government has only been able to present a budget for the remaining eight months of the fiscal, with the previous Mamata Banerjee dispensation earlier presenting a vote on

account for the first four months of 2026-27 following the April assembly polls.

"I welcome the budget placed by Finance Minister Swapan Dasgupta. The way an inclusive budget has been placed within a short time

after our government took over just one and a half months ago is commendable," the CM said.

He said steps have been taken to ensure the security of the state's citizens, including the recruitment of 20,000 police personnel and the introduction of the 112 helpline and related services to maintain law and order.

"Special importance has been given to infrastructure development, industry and the agricultural sector," he said. Stating that one lakh new government jobs will be given this fiscal, the chief minister asserted that no political person will be part of the appointment committees for these to ensure transparency in the recruitment process.

Delhi influencer alleges rape, forced religious conversion bid, FIR registered

FAIR REPORT

New Delhi

Delhi Police registered an FIR and launched an investigation after a 36-year-old social media influencer from North Delhi's Burari area accused a man of raping her and pressuring her to convert to Islam.

According to the complaint, the woman, who lives in Burari with her husband and 15-year-old daughter, approached police headquarters on May 11, alleging that the accused had sexually assaulted her and later subjected her to sustained pressure to change her religion.

The complainant told police that she creates social media content and uploads videos from her home. She alleged that in 2022, she came into contact with a man identified as Sunny through Instagram, and the acquaintance later led to regular interaction and, she alleged, sexual assault.

In her complaint, the woman further alleged that after the incident, the accused, along with his brother and brother-in-law, pressured her and her family to convert to Islam. She claimed that in 2023, three men identified as Shakib, Usman and Afroz repeatedly urged both her and her daughter to embrace Islam.



The complainant also alleged that the accused persons demanded a substantial amount of money in connection with the proposed religious conversion. North Delhi Deputy Commissioner of Police Raja Banthia confirmed that an FIR has been lodged and said further investigation is underway. Investigators are examining the claims and collecting evidence to ascertain the sequence of events and the role of the accused persons.

The Pioneer has learnt that the angle of religious conversion remains contentious, and Delhi Police officials have yet to independently confirm it. No arrests had been announced by the time this report was filed. Police said further action would be taken based on the findings of the ongoing investigation.

Ladakh LG lays foundation stone for 2 high-altitude flower fields in Leh

FAIR REPORT

Ladakh Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena on Monday laid the foundation stone for two high-altitude flower fields in Leh as a major initiative aimed at diversifying the Union Territory's biodiversity, enhancing farmers' incomes and creating new livelihood opportunities through floriculture.

The two flower fields at Choglamsar and Stakna in

Leh will be the first such high-altitude projects in the country, a spokesperson of Lok Bhavan said.

He said the Choglamsar Park is spread over an area of 92,687 square metres, and the Floriculture Project at the School of Agriculture Science and Technology, University of Ladakh, Stakna, is spread over 1.02 lakh square metres of land.

The Flower Garden at Choglamsar is being developed as one of the largest organised high-altitude floriculture parks in the country and is the first project of its kind in Ladakh. The project assumes special significance as the idea originated during the LG's visit to the site on April 7, when he had directed that the area be developed as a dedicated floriculture park, the spokesperson said.

He said the Choglamsar flower park will serve as a demonstration and model floriculture centre where high-value flowers such as



Vinai Kumar Saxena

Lilium, Gladiolus, Tulips and other ornamental species, with strong market demand in national and international markets, will be cultivated.

The garden will also function as a recreational and educational park for residents and tourists alike, the spokesperson said.

Under the project, for the first time, farmers will be trained in floriculture and later on, these fields will be handed over to them for commercial utilisation

through the cooperatives.

The floriculture project at Stakna has been conceived as a livelihood-generation and economic-diversification initiative.

The project aims to establish a model floriculture centre for promoting scientific flower cultivation in Ladakh and will focus on producing premium-quality cut flowers for marketing in metropolitan cities and other markets across the country, the spokesperson said.

EAM S Jaishankar begins visit to Mongolia to strengthen bilateral ties

FAIR REPORT

New Delhi: External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar has begun his official visit to Mongolia and South Korea from today, aimed at strengthening India's strategic, economic and cultural partnerships with both countries. According to official details, the visit will focus on expanding cooperation in key areas including trade, investment, energy,

development partnerships, and people-to-people exchanges. Jaishankar is expected to hold high-level meetings with top leadership in both nations during the trip.

In Mongolia, discussions are likely to centre on enhancing India's developmental assistance, cultural linkages, and strategic engagement as part of India's "Neighbourhood and Act East" outreach. The visit also



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar highlights long-standing civilisational ties between the two countries. In South Korea, the External

Affairs Minister will review the progress of the India-Republic of Korea Special Strategic Partnership. Talks are expected to cover advanced technology, defence cooperation, semiconductors, shipbuilding, and supply chain resilience. The visit underscores India's continued diplomatic push to deepen engagement in the Indo-Pacific region and strengthen ties with key strategic partners.

Three Wanted Criminals Arrested in Murder, Attempt to Murder and Theft Cases

DST and Vijaypur Police Joint Action Under Operation Sudarshan Chakra-02, Three Rewarded Accused Caught

FAIR REPORT



Chittorgarh- Under Operation Sudarshan Chakra-02, District Special Team (DST) and Vijaypur Police jointly arrested three wanted criminals involved in serious cases including murder, attempt to murder and burglary. A reward of Rs 5,000 each was announced on all three accused. SP Chittorgarh Dharmendra Singh said that under the direction of ASP Headquarters Mukul Sharma, the District Special Team was activated to arrest wanted and rewarded criminals. The team collected information through technical resources and informers. During the investigation, police received information that accused wanted in Vijaypur's 2025 attempt to murder case and Hamirgarh, Bhilwara theft

and murder case were active in the area and planning another crime. On the information, police set up checkpoints at possible routes. When the accused saw the police, they tried to escape towards the forest. The police team chased them and caught all three after surrounding them.

The arrested accused are:

1. Sanjay son of Phoolchand Kanjar (25), resident of Doodhitlai, Vijaypur
 2. Arun son of Jankilal Kanjar (26), resident of Doodhitlai, Vijaypur
 3. Manish son of Omprakash Kanjar (21), resident of Motimangri, Chittorgarh
- Police said that in the Hamirgarh case, the accused had gone for theft, during which a person was murdered. All three were absconding in this serious case and Bhilwara Police had declared a reward of Rs 5,000 on each accused. The accused have cases registered against them in Vijaypur, Begun, Sadas and Hamirgarh police stations related to theft, burglary, robbery, murder, attempt to murder, arms and excise violations. The action was carried out by the DST team including Ramavtar, Sunil Kumar, Prahlad Kumar, Padam, Hariram, Hemraj, Jogendra, Durgesh and Cyber Cell member Manish. Vijaypur police team also supported the operation. Chittorgarh Police said that strict action against wanted, absconding and rewarded criminals will continue.

ANTF Operation Madavikadhat: Blanket seller drug smuggler caught from Neemuch, network spread across four states

Hardworking face during the day, drug business at night; ANTF exposed the accused's network

FAIR REPORT

Chittorgarh: ANTF (Anti Narcotics Task Force) is continuously taking action against drug smugglers. In a major action, ANTF conducted Operation Madavikadhat and arrested wanted accused

Ramesh Banjara from Neemuch, Madhya Pradesh. He was carrying a reward of Rs 25,000 and was absconding for the last 7 years. ANTF Inspector General of Police Vikas Kumar said that action against drug trafficking is being taken continuously under the guidance of senior police officers. The accused Ramesh Banjara, son of Goma Banjara, resident of Charbhujia Ki



Barahath, Neemuch (Madhya Pradesh), was wanted for a long time. During investigation, it was revealed that the accused used to travel on a motorcycle and sell blankets in Rajasthan and Gujarat. Later, he entered the illegal drug trade and slowly built a big network. He used the excuse of selling blankets to supply drugs through agents in different states. According to ANTF, the ac-

cused took advantage of his similar-looking brother and misled the police several times. The ANTF team got a clue from his in-laws' house and after seven days of surveillance, arrested him. ANTF IG Vikas Kumar said that the ANTF team played an important role in this operation. All team members involved in the action will be honoured at a special program at ANTF headquarters.

Mangalwad Police Takes Double Action: Two Drug Smugglers Arrested, 9 Modified Bikes Seized

19 Gram MDMA Recovered During Checking, Bikes Seized for Illegal Modifications

FAIR REPORT

Chittorgarh: Mangalwad police took action in two separate cases and achieved success against drug smuggling and traffic rule violations. Police arrested two accused with 19 grams of illegal MDMA powder and seized 9 motorcycles found with illegal modifications. According to SP Chittorgarh Dharmendra Singh, the action was carried out under

the direction of ASP Mukul Sharma and supervision of DSP Badi Sadri. In the first action on June 22, Mangalwad police had set up a checkpoint on the road from Chittorgarh-Udaipur National Highway towards Chapri village. During checking, a Hero Splendor Plus motorcycle was seen coming in a suspicious manner. The riders tried to escape after seeing the police, but they were stopped. During the

search, police recovered 19 grams of illegal MDMA (Methylene Dioxymethamphetamine) from Ramchandra son of Narayanlal Gadri, resident of Bhagimon Ka Kheda, Bhinder, Udaipur and Shambhulal son of Gangaram Gurjar, resident of Negdiya, Mangalwad, Chittorgarh. The motorcycle used for transporting the drug was also seized and both accused were arrested. In the second action under

the road safety campaign, police checked vehicles and found illegal modifications, unauthorized words and symbols on motorcycles. A total of 9 motorcycles were seized under Section 38 of the Police Act. Police appealed to citizens not to use illegal vehicle modifications, red-blue lights, flashers, strobe lights, hooters, black films or unauthorized writings and symbols on vehicles.



Centre to set up vehicle repair hubs across highways

FAIR REPORT

Car drivers travelling with families need not worry any longer about getting stranded after their vehicles break down on highways. The Centre is soon setting up repair hubs at designated zones. The move comes amid growing traffic volumes on national highways and expressways, where a lack of nearby repair facilities often leaves motorists stranded for extended periods following tyre punctures or mechanical failures. The move is aimed at improving roadside assistance for motorists and freight operators travelling across the country's highway network. The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has directed operators of wayside

amenities (WSAs) along national highways and expressways to prioritise the establishment of vehicle repair shops and puncture repair facilities.

The move is aimed at improving roadside assistance for motorists and freight operators travelling across the country's highway network.

The NHAI said it has been observed that a larger number of vehicles and puncture repair services are required on several National Highways and Expressways, which will enable highway users to avail themselves of timely mechanical assistance during breakdowns and emergencies, avoiding inconvenience, delays, and potential safety concerns.

For highway users, a tyre



puncture or minor mechanical issue often means searching for assistance in unfamiliar areas, particularly on newly developed expressways. Greater availability of repair facilities at designated highway amenities could help reduce waiting times and improve safety for both

private vehicle owners and commercial fleet operators. The move is aimed at improving the overall National Highway travel experience, reducing vehicle downtime, enhancing road safety and ensuring prompt assistance to commuters as well as freight operators trav-

elling on the National Highway corridors.

NHML is currently developing a network of modern wayside amenities across the country under the public-private partnership (PPP) model. These facilities are being built on a long-term lease basis and are designed to serve both passenger vehicle (PV) users and commercial transport operators.

Under existing concession agreements, operators of wayside amenities are already permitted to establish vehicle repair shops and puncture repair facilities in addition to mandatory services. NHAI has now asked its field offices to encourage lessees to develop these facilities at the earliest. Vehicle Repair Shops and Puncture Repair Facilities are among

the approved permissible facilities under the contractual framework.

The authority said the repair and assistance services will complement its broader objective of creating user-centric highway infrastructure and providing seamless mobility services to road users.

These WSAs are envisioned as integrated service hubs that provide essential amenities to commuters and commercial vehicle operators on National Highways and Expressways. Development of such facilities will complement the broader objective of creating world-class National Highway infrastructure and delivering seamless mobility services to National Highway users.

States Focus



CONGRESS MP NEERAJ DANGI TAKES OATH AS RS MEMBER

Rajya Sabha Chairman CP Radhakrishnan on Monday administered the oath to Congress member Neeraj Dangi, who has been re-elected to the Upper House from Rajasthan. Dangi took the oath in Hindi. Dangi was elected for the first time as a member of the Rajya Sabha from Rajasthan in June 2020. "Vice President and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, CP Radhakrishnan administered the oath to Shri Neeraj Dangi, Member of the Rajya Sabha, re-elected from Rajasthan, at Parliament House today," the Vice President said on social media while sharing pictures of the oath-taking. Rajya Sabha deputy chairperson Harivansh, leader of the house and Union Health minister Jagat Prakash Nadda, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Minority Affairs Kiren Rijjju, Congress member Jairam Ramesh and Rajya Sabha Secretary General PC Mody and other senior officers of the secretariat were also present on the occasion. (PTI)



MINISTER JITENDRA SINGH REVIEWS IAS CADRE STRENGTH

Union Minister Jitendra Singh on Monday reviewed the cadre strength of the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) and discussed the evolving manpower requirements of states and the Centre. Launching the e-civil list 2026 of the IAS at the Kartavya Bhawan in New Delhi, he said that governance responsibilities continue to expand across sectors and regions, making efficient human resource planning increasingly important. Singh, the Minister of State for Personnel, expressed confidence that continuous assessment of requirements and regular cadre reviews would help address emerging needs and further strengthen administrative capacity. Highlighting the importance of data-driven governance, he reviewed the cadre strength position of the Indian Administrative Service and discussed the evolving manpower requirements of States and the Centre, according to a personnel ministry statement. (PNS)



Prime Minister Narendra Modi greets the gathering during the Republic Summit 2026 in New Delhi

PM Modi slams Congress over past Naxal violence

FAIR REPORT

New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a scathing attack on the Congress on Monday for decades of unabated Maoist violence in the country and said the hands of those who are waving the Constitution now were trembling then.

Addressing the "Republic Summit 2026", Modi also said Bharat is not only a fast-growing economy, but also a credible and reliable global power, and the country is scripting the future of the next 1,000 years.

He said the previous Congress governments had labelled Naxal-affected areas as backward regions but the NDA government undertook the challenge of transforming those areas, helping the people there rise above despair and igniting their aspirations for progress.

To reflect this new approach, Modi said his Government renamed those areas as aspirational districts and blocks and today, these aspirational districts and blocks are driving the growth of those regions.

He said a significant proportion of the population in these regions lived in poverty, but over the last few years, 25 crore people have overcome poverty, with aspirational districts playing a crucial role in this achievement, and those areas that were once affected by Naxalism are seeing new rays of development now.

The prime minister said even in the 21st century, terrorists had prevented any facility from being established in the tribal areas. He added that even a government vehicle could not pass through, as it would be riddled with bullets.

Governments came and

went, generations came and went, and it seemed that this misfortune of violence would persist just like that, Modi said.

"Between 2004 and 2014, more than 17,000 violent incidents occurred due to Maoist terrorism and nearly 7,000 lives were lost. After 2014, we moved forward with the resolve of Nation First to change the situation.

"Today, Maoist terrorism in the country is counting its final breaths. This became possible because it required total dedication. Today, those who are waving the Constitution, their hands were trembling to even show the Constitution, then," he said.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has been seen carrying a copy of the Constitution for different occasions, including while taking oath as an MP after the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

BJP blames Congress rally after NEET students miss exam

FAIR REPORT

New Delhi

Slamming the Congress over reports that several students could not take the NEET-UG exam in Bengaluru due to its rally disrupting city traffic, the BJP on Monday said this makes it clear that for the party, politics comes above students' interests.

"On one hand, Rahul Gandhi was doing theatrics and indulging in diversionary tactics just 72 hours before the examination in Kota. On the other hand, his own Government was not even ready to change the time of the rally to ensure that none of the students taking the NEET exam faces any problem," BJP national spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi told reporters.

According to media reports, several NEET-UG aspirants in Bengaluru could not reach their examination centres to take the test on Sunday due to traffic disruptions allegedly caused by a Congress rally in the city. Reacting to media reports,



BJP national spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi

Trivedi said, "It is deeply unfortunate and concerning that, due to a rally held on Sunday in Bengaluru by the Karnataka Congress State president BK Hariprasad, many candidates were unable to appear for the NEET exam."

Calling it "disturbing and disheartening", the BJP leader said this makes it clear that, for the Congress, politics is above the students' interests. Trivedi demanded a response from Rahul Gandhi on the issue,

saying the Congress leader cannot run away from his responsibility.

"After returning from Kolkata on Sunday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi stayed at the Delhi airport for 45 minutes to ensure that NEET aspirants do not face any inconvenience in reaching their examination centres," the BJP leader said.

This is the difference between the thinking of the Congress Government and that of the BJP, Trivedi added.

30 arrested for malpractices in NEET-UG re-exam in Bihar

FAIR REPORT

Patna

The police arrested at least 30 people allegedly for attempting irregularities in the NEET-UG re-examination in Bihar, an officer said on Monday.

While 18 people working in the exam centres were arrested for violating the biometric verification norms, the majority of the others were impersonators who tried to write the exam in place of the genuine candidates.

The re-examination was conducted across the state on Sunday amid tight security after the original undergraduate medical entrance test, held in early May, was



cancelled amid widespread allegations of a question paper leak. ADG (Law and Order) Sudhanshu Kumar

said 18 staff members associated with the biometric verification system had been arrested for allegedly collud-

ing with dummy candidates and middlemen by compromising the verification process.

According to a statement issued by Lakhisarai police, nine impersonators, a genuine candidate, and two associates were also apprehended. Among the impersonators were one fourth-year MBBS student each from New Jalpaiguri Medical College (West Bengal), AIIMS Raebareilly (UP) and AN Magadh Medical College (Bihar), along with a first-year student at Government Medical College in Satna (Madhya Pradesh), an MBBS intern at University College of Medical Sciences in Shahdara

(Delhi), a fourth-year B.Pharm student at NMCH Patna, and another student at NMCH Patna.

Two of the impersonators were female: a BSC nursing student at BHU, and a BAMS student at Government Ayurvedic College in Odisha. A genuine candidate, Sanjeet Kumar of Nalanda district, was also arrested for irregularities.

Among the arrested biometric verification staff, three were supervisors and a fourth-year MBBS student at PMCH Patna.

The ADG said that two FIRs were lodged in the Kiul and Kaviyaya police stations of the district.

Kerala reports 10 new Shigella cases; Nipah contained

FAIR REPORT

Thiruvananthapuram

Kerala reported 10 new cases of Shigella infection on Monday, taking the State's total for the year to 226. Health Minister K Muraliedharan said authorities had successfully contained the spread of the Nipah virus and continued to maintain strict precautions against Ebola.

The latest Shigella cases were detected in four districts, with Kozhikode reporting seven infec-



tions and Wayanad, Ernakulam and Malappuram recording one case each. According to the minister, 150 Shigella cases and six deaths have been reported across the state in June.

Outbreaks have been declared in Kozhikode, Wayanad, Thrissur and Alappuzha, while infections have also been reported from Malappuram, Thiruvananthapuram, Kannur, Kollam, Idukki, Ernakulam and Palakkad.

On Nipah, Muraliedharan said the state's disease-control mea-

sures in Kozhikode had proved effective, with no evidence that the infection had spread beyond the confirmed patient.

Health officials traced the patient's movements, mapped contacts and monitored people who may have been exposed, such as those linked to hospitals, the workplace and other locations visited by the patient.

Samples collected from 15 symptomatic contacts have all tested negative, Muraliedharan said in a statement. A total of 104 people remain on the contact list, of whom four

have been classified as very high risk, 14 as high risk and 86 as low risk. The infected patient continues to receive ventilator support at Kozhikode Medical College. The minister credited the coordinated efforts of district authorities, healthcare workers, doctors, local bodies, ASHA workers and others involved in the response with helping contain the outbreak.

Muraliedharan said Kerala had strengthened surveillance against Ebola following reports of the disease in the Congo, Uganda and South Sudan.

Sanjay Raut slams Shinde over defection of 6 Sena (UBT) MPs

FAIR REPORT

Mumbai

In the latest twist to the never-ending Shiv Sena political soap opera, Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut launched a scathing counterattack on Monday following the defection of six Lok Sabha MPs, claiming Deputy CM Eknath Shinde had undergone a 'Caesarean procedure' to give birth to 'six traitors.'

The remarks from the Thackeray confidant came just hours after Shinde announced the successful conclusion of "Operation Tiger", the codename for engineering the defection of over half of the Sena (UBT)'s parliamentary strength.



"Let them show it. Shinde has delivered... Mindhe' has delivered and given birth to six traitors," Raut said.

"Mindhe" is a derogatory term used by the Uddhav camp for Shinde, which loosely means a "puppet of the BJP."

CDSCO finds 46 drug samples not of standard quality for May

FAIR REPORT

New Delhi

The Central Drugs Laboratories found 46 drug samples manufactured by various firms to be "not of standard quality (NSQ)" in its monthly drug alert for May, health ministry officials said on Monday. Further, the State Drugs Testing Laboratories have identified 113 drug samples as NSQ, they said.

According to routine regu-



latory surveillance activity, the list of NSQ and spurious drugs is being displayed on the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) portal on a monthly basis.

"For the month of May 2026, Central Drugs Laboratories have identified 46 drug samples to be Not of Standard Quality (NSQ) and State Drugs Testing Laboratories have identified 113 drug samples as NSQ," a health ministry statement said.

NSA Doval meets senior Iranian security official

FAIR REPORT

New Delhi

National Security Adviser Ajit Doval on Monday held wide-ranging talks with senior Iranian security official Ghadir Nezamipour, focusing on the evolving security environment in West Asia.

Nezamipour, the Deputy Secretary for Defence Affairs at Iran's powerful Supreme National Security Council (SNSC), is in New Delhi to attend a conclave of BRICS.

"Both sides reviewed the ongoing situation in West Asia. They also discussed cooperation under the BRICS platform and India-Iran bilat-

erial ties," External Affairs Ministry spokesman Randhir Jaiswal said on social media.

It is the first visit to India by a senior official from Iran after it struck a peace agreement with the US.

The NSAs of the BRICS nations will hold extensive discussions on the security scenario in the region on Tuesday. The conclave officially begins on Monday.

India to host key BRICS security conclave amid rising geopolitical tensions.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, Russian NSA Sergei Shoigu, and other top BRICS security officials are set to be part of the deliberations.



Thackeray's Tiger Is Shinde's Trophy: Six UBT MPs Defect in Maharashtra's Most Audacious Political Heist

FAIR REPORT

MUMBAI: In Maharashtra's blood-sport of political defections, Eknath Shinde has just pulled off his most spectacular move yet. Six sitting Lok Sabha MPs from Uddhav Thackeray's Shiv Sena (UBT) — the very men elected on his party's tiger symbol in 2024 — crossed over to Shinde's Shiv Sena on Monday in a carefully engineered coup the Deputy Chief Minister has triumphantly named "Operation Tiger."

"My operations are fool-proof," Shinde declared at a packed press conference, flanked by the fresh defectors in a show of choreographed celebration. "Operation Tiger is now complete and successful." The



six MPs — Sanjay Dina Patil, Sanjay Deshmukh, Sanjay Jadhav, Bhausaheb Wakchaure, Omprakash Nimbalkar and Nagesh Patil-Ashtikar — had already telegraphed their intentions last week by skipping

a crucial UBT parliamentary party meeting in New Delhi, leaving Thackeray with just three Lok Sabha loyalists in the room. The defections are a body blow to Uddhav Thackeray. Of nine Lok Sabha seats UBT

had won in Maharashtra in 2024, six MPs have now walked out the door. For Shinde, the gains are strategic and personal. His faction now claims to be the second largest party in Maharashtra in terms of MPs,

dramatically strengthening his bargaining hand within the Mahayuti ruling coalition with BJP and NCP.

Four years after breaking Thackeray's government, Shinde has now broken his parliament group too.

Bengaluru to Silicon Valley: CRED's Kunal Shah Is Now the Boss of WhatsApp - All 3 Billion Users of It

FAIR REPORT

MUMBAI/SAN FRANCISCO: In a move that signals just how central India has become to the future of global tech, Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg has appointed CRED founder Kunal Shah as the new global head of WhatsApp — the world's largest messaging app with over three billion users.

Shah, 41, takes over from Will Cathcart, who led WhatsApp for seven years and steps aside into a new product-building role within Meta. Zuckerberg's praise was emphatic: Shah built CRED into one of India's most important technology companies and brings "the



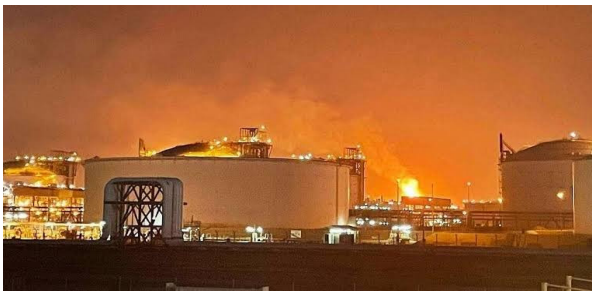
builder mentality and global perspective" needed to steer the planet's most-used chat platform.

The appointment comes bundled with a staggering vote of financial confidence — Meta is investing \$900 million in CRED, valuing the fintech startup at \$4.5 billion post-money. (CNBC) Shah will step down as CRED's CEO while retaining his personal

shareholding.

The strategic logic is unmistakable. India is WhatsApp's largest market with over 500 million users, and Meta is betting heavily on expanding WhatsApp into payments, commerce and business communications. (TechCrunch) Shah, who previously built FreeCharge and backed over 250 startups, is tailor-made for exactly that mission.

Qatar Gas Facility Explosion Kills 13, Including Indians; Probe Underway Into Ras Laffan Incident



FAIR REPORT

Doha/New Delhi: At least 13 workers, including Indian nationals, were killed and 66 others injured after an explosion at the Barzan gas supply facility in Qatar's Ras Laffan Industrial City, authorities said on Sunday. The incident has renewed attention on industrial safety at one of the world's most strategically important energy hubs.

Qatar's Energy Minister Saad al-Kaabi confirmed the fatalities, stating that those who lost their lives included workers of Indian and Pakistani nationality. The injured are receiving treatment, while authorities have initiated an investigation into the cause of the explosion. The blast occurred shortly after operations resumed at the facility following an extended shutdown for maintenance. The plant had reportedly remained offline since December 2025 and had only recently restarted operations. The resumption came after months of regional security con-

cerns and disruptions linked to tensions in the Gulf. Witnesses reported seeing flames and a large plume of smoke rising above the industrial complex, which forms a critical part of Qatar's liquefied natural gas infrastructure. Ras Laffan is regarded as one of the most important energy processing centres globally and plays a significant role in international LNG supply chains. Qatari authorities have said preliminary findings indicate the explosion was accidental and that there is no evidence of sabotage or external attack. They also maintained that LNG exports and broader energy operations remain unaffected. The Indian Embassy in Doha said it is coordinating with local authorities and assisting affected families, including arrangements related to the repatriation of the deceased. As investigators continue their work, questions are likely to focus on safety protocols and operational readiness following the facility's restart.

2,600 Years On, Sushruta Takes His Place Among Surgical Giants: Edinburgh Unveils Bronze Tribute to India's Medical Pioneer

FAIR REPORT

Edinburgh/New Delhi: More than two and a half millennia after he transformed the practice of medicine, ancient Indian surgeon Sushruta has been honoured with a 90-kilogram bronze statue at the prestigious Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, marking a rare global recognition to the history of surgery.

The unveiling of the statue is being hailed as a landmark moment for the international medical community and for India's scien-



tific heritage. Revered as the "Father of Surgery," Sushruta is credited with pioneering surgical techniques centuries before many similar practices emerged elsewhere in the world. His seminal work, the Sushruta Samhita, documented hundreds of surgical procedures, medical instruments and principles of anatomy

that continue to fascinate historians of medicine.

The tribute places one of the world's earliest known surgeons in the heart of a globally respected institution dedicated to advancing surgical excellence. Medical scholars view the installation as an acknowledgment that the roots of modern surgery extend far beyond

the conventional Western narrative. The bronze statue serves not merely as a symbol of historical remembrance but as a recognition of an enduring legacy that helped shape medical science. At a time when nations are revisiting the origins of scientific knowledge, the honour underscores India's profound contribution to global healthcare and innovation. For many, the message from Edinburgh is unmistakable: history may take centuries to deliver recognition, but transformative ideas ultimately transcend borders, cultures and time itself.

World Holds Its Breath: America Lifts Iran Oil Sanctions - And Opens the Most Dangerous Waterway on Earth

FAIR REPORT

WASHINGTON/GENEVA: In a seismic geopolitical shift, the United States has lifted sanctions on Iranian oil — even if only for 60 days — marking the most dramatic diplomatic thaw between Washington and Tehran in decades. The US Treasury issued a sweeping general licence on Monday authorising the production, delivery and

sale of Iranian crude, petrochemicals and petroleum products, valid until August 21.

The move is a direct reward for Iran's commitment to keep the Strait of Hormuz — the narrow chokepoint through which 20% of the world's oil flows — open for free transit. Iran also agreed to allow UN nuclear inspectors back into the country. "Iran has committed to

free and open transit in the Strait of Hormuz and to permit IAEA inspectors," Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent declared. The breakthrough came after marathon talks at Switzerland's Lake Lucerne Summit, where US Vice President JD Vance said negotiations had created a "good foundation for a successful final deal." Media hails "encouraging pro-

gress." But the road ahead is treacherous. Trump lobbied social media grenades mid-negotiation, threatening to "hit Iran very hard again, only harder." Iranian President Pezeshkian vowed Iran would "never back down" on uranium enrichment. And the Lebanon ceasefire — which Tehran calls the first real test — still hangs by a thread. Sixty days. The world is watching.

Orban's Last Puppet Must Go Hungary's New PM Magyar Rewrites Constitution to Purge the President



FAIR REPORT

BUDAPEST: Hungary's reformist Prime Minister Péter Magyar has drawn his sharpest sword yet — the constitution itself. After President Tamás Sulyok refused to resign despite a firm deadline, Magyar announced on Monday that his government will amend Hungary's Fundamental Law to forcibly remove the president from office, in what he has boldly christened "Operation Purgatory."

Magyar, who swept to a thundering election victory in April — unseating strongman Viktor Orbán after 16 years — called Sulyok nothing less than "Orbán's puppet," accusing him of propping up authoritarian rule through silence, inaction and complicity. The face-to-face meeting at Budapest's Sándor Palace on

Monday morning ended with Sulyok standing firm — and Magyar walking out to announce the constitutional procedure would begin immediately.

The removal process is part of a sweeping anti-corruption agenda that also includes creating a National Asset Protection and Recovery Office, capping judges at the Constitutional Court at age 70 — a move that would force out Orbán ally Peter Polt — and limiting lawmakers' terms to 12 years. (Yahoo!) Magyar's Tisza party holds a two-thirds parliamentary majority — enough to rewrite the rules entirely. The process to remove Sulyok, he said, will take about a month. Hungary, he declared, "belongs neither to Sulyok nor to Orbán. It belongs to the Hungarian people." After 16 years of autocracy, the purge has begun.

Cold Air and Better Facilities Now Available in Child Ward: Round Table Donates 6 ACs, RO and Stretcher

Big Step for Relief in Summer, AC and Other Facilities Inaugurated in Child Ward

FAIR REPORT

Chittorgarh- To provide relief to children admitted in hospital during the summer season, Round Table 361 has taken a service initiative. The child ward of the Women and Child Hospital at Government Sanwaliya Ji Hospital has been provided with 6 air conditioners by the organization, making the ward air-conditioned. Along with this, one RO machine and one stretcher have also been provided



for patients and their families. Former President of the organization, Raunak

Jain, said that the initiative was taken to provide modern facilities in the

child ward. Under the guidance of Chief Medical Officer Dr. Dinesh

Vaishnav, Dr. Mahendra Balot and Dr. Dinesh, ACs were installed and the

ward was also beautified. Attractive posters with educational and aware-

ness messages have been put up on the walls to create a better environment for children. On June 22, organization President Himanshu Samdani inaugurated the facility by cutting the ribbon in the presence of office bearers. On this occasion, Dr. Dinesh Vaishnav unveiled the wall painting and formally inaugurated it. Area Chairman Dharamveer Pandya, Arjun Inani, Deepak Pagaria, Vaibhav Jain, Vaibhav Maliwal, Rishabh Sisodia, Raunak

Inani, Shanshak Chipad, Harsh Heda, Dr. Dinesh Vaishnav, Dr. Mahendra Balot, Dr. Dinesh, Kamlesh Sharma, Hemendra Kumar Soni (CWSN reference person), Lokesh Sharma and nursing staff were present. The hospital administration thanked Round Table 361 for the support and said that the facility will provide relief from heat and a better treatment environment for admitted children and their families.