

FAIR REPORT

THE DAWN OF A FEARLESS PEN

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Trump Signals Strait of Hormuz Will Remain Open, Easing Fears of Global Energy Disruption

FAIR REPORT



Washington: In a significant signal to global energy markets, US President Donald Trump has said the Strait of Hormuz will remain open to commercial shipping, easing concerns of a potential maritime blockade in one of the world's most strategically critical waterways.

The announcement comes amid efforts to reduce tensions in the Gulf region, where fears of military escalation had raised concerns over disruptions to global oil supplies. Speaking on the issue, Trump indicated that

while the United States would maintain a naval presence in the region, there were no immediate plans to impose restrictions on maritime traffic through the narrow passage. The Strait of Hormuz remains a vital artery for

global energy trade, connecting major oil-producing nations in the Gulf to international markets. According to figures cited by the US administration, nearly 19 million barrels of crude oil and petroleum products moved through the corridor on Monday, underscoring its central role in maintaining global energy security.

The President described the continued flow of shipping traffic as a positive outcome for international stability and economic confidence. Market participants have closely monitored developments in the region, with any threat to the strait

capable of triggering sharp fluctuations in oil prices and freight costs. Analysts say the decision to avoid immediate restrictions is likely to reassure import-dependent economies across Asia and Europe, many of which rely heavily on Gulf energy exports. The move is also expected to support broader efforts to stabilize commodity markets at a time when geopolitical uncertainty continues to weigh on global trade. For now, the uninterrupted movement of oil through the Strait of Hormuz offers a measure of relief to markets wary of another major supply shock.

Modi-Murmu Meeting Sparks Cabinet Rejig Buzz as Political Signals Gather Pace

FAIR REPORT



New Delhi: A meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan on Monday set off fresh speculation over a possible reshuffle of the Union Council of Ministers, with political circles closely tracking signs of an impending reconfiguration within the government. While no official statement was issued on the nature of the discussion, the timing of the meeting has drawn attention amid a series of developments that suggest administrative and political recalibration may be underway.

The speculation gained momentum after Union Minister of State George Kurian stepped down following the completion of his tenure as a Rajya Sabha member. The term of Union Minister Ravneet Singh Bittu in the Upper House has also concluded, creating vacancies that could necessitate adjustments within the ministerial structure. Sources in political circles indicate that the government may use the opportunity to reassess portfolios and strengthen representation across key regions and social groups ahead of an intense legislative and electoral calendar. However, there has been no official confirmation regarding the contours of any reshuffle.

RIMS Push Gains Momentum as Rajasthan Moves Toward National Medical Hub Status

FAIR REPORT



JAIPUR: The roadmap for operationalising the Rajasthan Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS) as an Institute of National Importance gathered renewed attention following a high-level meeting between state leadership and healthcare stakeholders in Jaipur on Monday.

Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma underscored the state government's commitment to strengthening tertiary healthcare infrastructure and accelerating timelines for RIMS, envisioned as a flagship medical education and research institution for Rajasthan.

The discussion followed a courtesy and strategic meeting with Dr S.S. Agarwal, Chairman of Rajasthan Hospitals Ltd, focusing on operational frameworks, institutional readiness, and collaborative models to ensure RIMS meets national benchmarks in

medical education, clinical training, and research output.

Dr S.S. Agarwal emphasized the importance of phased implementation, faculty readiness, and integration of advanced hospital systems to support the institute's long-term vision.

Officials from Department of Information and Public Relations, Rajasthan and allied administrative units were also present, along with coordination inputs from the Chief Minister's Office and PIB Jaipur.

The deliberations reportedly centered on expediting administrative clearances, strengthening institutional partnerships, and aligning infrastructure development with national standards required for an Institute of National Importance designation. With healthcare capacity expansion becoming a policy priority, RIMS is being positioned as a transformative addition to Rajasthan's medical ecosystem, aimed at enhancing both accessibility and advanced clinical training in the region.

'BRICS IS NO ORDINARY GROUP': AJIT DOVAL UNDERSCORES BLOC'S GLOBAL WEIGHT AS 'BHARAT' NAMEPLATE DRAWS ATTENTION

NEW DELHI: National Security Adviser Ajit Doval

has delivered a strong message on the growing influence of BRICS, describing the grouping as a transformative force in the evolving global order and highlighting its enormous demographic and economic footprint. Addressing a high-level gathering, Doval emphasized that BRICS has emerged as far more than a conventional multilateral forum. "BRICS is no ordinary group. It is home to 4.2 billion people and contributes \$31.5 trillion to global wealth," he said, underlining the bloc's increasing role in shaping international economic and strategic discourse.

Akasa Air Eyes IPO as Expansion Takes Off; Targets 40% Growth, 226-Aircraft Fleet by 2032

FAIR REPORT



New Delhi: Betting big on India's booming aviation market, Akasa Air has charted an ambitious growth path that could culminate in a public listing within the next two to four years, signalling confidence in its long-term business strategy and operational strength.

The airline's Chief Financial Officer, Ankur Goel, indicated that an Initial Public Offering (IPO) is firmly on the company's roadmap, describing the move as a matter of timing rather than intent. However, he stressed that the carrier would enter the capital markets only after achieving critical milestones, including sustained profitability, healthy cash flows and stronger business fundamentals.

The announcement comes as Akasa Air accelerates its expansion plans in an increasingly competitive aviation sector. The airline is targeting a 30 per cent increase in capacity during the current financial year, while projecting an annual growth trajectory of 30-40 per cent over the coming years.

At the heart of this strategy is a massive fleet expansion programme. Akasa Air plans to scale up to 226 aircraft by 2032, positioning itself as a formidable challenger in India's fast-evolving airline industry.

Despite supply-chain disruptions and broader industry challenges, the carrier says it remains well-capitalised and focused on long-term growth. Industry observers view the proposed IPO as a significant milestone that could provide the airline with additional financial firepower to fund expansion and strengthen its market position.

With passenger demand continuing to surge and India's aviation sector entering a new growth cycle, Akasa Air appears determined to convert its rapid rise into a sustained national presence—and eventually, a place on Dalal Street.

SATTVIK ON THE MENU: ISKCON TO SERVE MID-DAY MEALS TO BENGAL SCHOOLCHILDREN, SAYS SUVENDU ADHIKARI

FAIR REPORTA++

KOLKATA: In a development that could significantly strengthen nutritional support for lakhs of schoolchildren, senior BJP leader Suvendu Adhikari has announced that ISKCON will provide mid-day

meals in schools across West Bengal under a major food distribution initiative. According to the announcement, students will be served pure sattvik meals, a move that supporters say combines nutritional value with high standards of hygiene and quality. The proposal has generated widespread interest, with education and social welfare observers closely watching its potential impact on child nutrition and school attendance. Mid-day meal programmes have long been regarded as a critical pillar of India's

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FROM PREDICTION TO POLITICAL SETBACK? KEJRIWAL'S MODI REMARK RETURNS TO HAUNT OPPOSITION NARRATIVE

FAIR REPORT

NEW DELHI: A political prediction made by AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal earlier this year has resurfaced amid a series of developments that supporters of the BJP claim have dramatically altered the country's political landscape.

In March, Kejriwal reportedly suggested that Prime Minister Narendra Modi would not complete 2026 in office, a remark that triggered intense political debate. Months later, BJP leaders and supporters are pointing to a string of events they argue have strengthened the ruling coalition rather than weakened it.

The developments being cited include reported defections from opposition ranks, organisational turbulence within regional parties, and what BJP leaders describe as an expanding National Democratic Alliance footprint across key states. The ruling party has portrayed these shifts as evidence of growing political mo-

mentum heading into future electoral contests.

Opposition parties, however, maintain that electoral politics remains fluid and caution against reading too much into short-term political realignments. They argue that governance, economic performance and state-level issues will ultimately shape voter sentiment. The renewed discussion underscores the intensity of India's political contest, where statements made months earlier are often revisited through the lens of subsequent events. As both the BJP and opposition parties prepare for the next round of political battles, the debate has evolved from a prediction about leadership to a broader contest over political momentum and public perception.

For now, the remark remains a talking point—one that both sides are using to reinforce their competing narratives about India's political future.

WATER POLITICS TO WATER POWER: RAJASTHAN PUSHES YAMUNA LINK AS BHARAT'S BIGGEST DRINKING WATER BET GATHERS MOMENTUM

HEMRAJ TIKAMCHAND FAIR REPORT

NEW DELHI: In a significant push towards addressing Rajasthan's chronic water scarcity, Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma held a high-level meeting with Union Jal Shakti Minister C.R. Patil and Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini to accelerate progress on the long-awaited Yamuna Water Project, a move that could transform the fortunes of the state's drought-prone Shekhawati region.

The meeting focused on key provisions of the Memorandum of Agreement (MoA), with leaders holding detailed discussions on the framework required to

operationalise the ambitious inter-state water initiative. The Kishau Dam Project also featured prominently in the deliberations, highlighting the Centre's growing emphasis on integrated water resource management.

Sharma described the discussions as positive and outcome-oriented, reiterating Rajasthan's commitment to implementing the project with the support of the Union government and Haryana. Once executed, the project is expected to provide a sustainable source of drinking water to millions in Shekhawati while simultaneously strengthening irrigation infrastructure for farmers

across the region.

For decades, water scarcity has remained one of Rajasthan's most pressing developmental challenges. Officials believe the proposed project could significantly improve agricultural productivity, reduce dependence on groundwater and boost economic activity in several districts.

The meeting is being viewed as a major political and administrative breakthrough, with the three governments signalling rare consensus on a project that could reshape Rajasthan's water security landscape and unlock long-term growth for one of the state's most water-stressed regions.



Devotees' faith reflected in numbers:

Sanwaliyaji Temple receives Rs 40.81 crore donation in one month

Seven-day counting of temple donation box completed, Rs 33.15 crore cash along with gold, silver and foreign currency from 20 countries received
FAIR REPORT

Chittorgarh- The faith of devotees was once again seen in the form of donations at the famous Krishna temple, Shri Sanwaliyaji Temple of Mewar. The seventh round of counting of the temple donation box, opened on Chaturdashi, was completed on Tuesday. After seven days of counting, the temple received a total donation of Rs 40 crore 81 lakh 40 thousand 278, including cash, online donations, gold, silver and foreign currency in one month. The temple committee completed the final round of counting on



Tuesday. In the seventh round, Rs 8 lakh 41 thousand 189 were counted. With this, the cash received from the donation

box reached Rs 33 crore 15 lakh 18 thousand 759. Adding donations received through donation counters, office and online

and other sources. Along with cash, a large amount of gold and silver was also received. The temple received 1 kg 738 grams 800 milligrams of gold and 110 kg 648 grams of silver. According to Kishan Pichholiya, General Secretary of Rajasthan Sarafa Association, the estimated market value of gold is around Rs 2.52 crore and silver is around Rs 2.48 crore. Apart from this, foreign currency from around 20 countries and many cheques were also received. This shows that devotees from India and abroad are offering their faith at Sanwaliyaji Temple. Last year in June, the temple received around Rs 29.53 crore donation. This time, the amount has crossed Rs 40 crore, showing the increasing faith of devotees.

Thief stole gold jewellery from sleeping women, fear spread in village after two incidents in one night

In Kapasan's Banakiya Kala village, women sleeping outside their homes were targeted; jewellery worth Rs 2.62 lakh stolen
FAIR REPORT

Chittorgarh-In Banakiya Kala village under Kapasan police station area, an unknown thief stole gold jewellery from women sleeping outside their homes late at night. Two such incidents in a single night have created fear among villagers. The stolen jewellery is estimated to be worth around Rs 2.62 lakh. Police have registered a case and started an investigation. According to police, Kishan Lal Bairwa, a resident of the village, reported that his grandmother Seni Bai was sleeping in the courtyard outside her house on Monday night. At around 1:15 am, an unknown person en-

tered the house after removing the bamboo covering. Taking advantage of her deep sleep, the thief removed a gold Rammam chain weighing around 12 grams from her neck. After this, the accused went to the nearby house of Raju Bhil and targeted Sohni Bai, who was also sleeping outside. He stole a gold Madaliya and two gold beads from her neck. During the incident, Seni Bai woke up and raised an alarm after noticing that her jewellery was missing. Family members and villagers came outside. A person was seen running away in the darkness, but he could not be identified. Villagers searched the nearby area but could not find any clue. Police are questioning people and trying to identify the accused. Lack of CCTV cameras in the village is making the investigation difficult.

President Droupadi Murmu confers Padma awards, 65 personalities honoured

New Delhi: President Droupadi Murmu on Tuesday conferred the prestigious Padma Awards 2026 during the second Civil Investiture Ceremony at the Rashtrapati Bhawan on Tuesday. A total of 65 eminent and distinguished personalities from different fields, including arts, public affairs, medicine, literature and more, were honoured with the coveted Padma Awards. Noted playback singer Alka Yagnik was conferred with Padma Bhushan for her three-decade-long contribution to Indian music, while legendary Assamese sculptor Nuruddin Ahmed was honoured with Padma Shri for his decades of brilliant visual storytelling and remarkable stage craftsmanship. Other noted citizens who were honoured at the 65th Padma Awards included tennis player Vijay Amritraj, actor Mammooty, Carnatic maestro Thiruvhaar Bakthavathsalam, cricketer Rohit Sharma and many more. Dr Armita Fernandez, a renowned paediatrician and neonatologist, was conferred with Padma Shri for her transformative con-



tributions to medicine and public health. Dr Suresh Hanagavad also received the Padma Shri for her contributions in the field of medicine. Dr Charan Hembram was conferred with the Padma Shri over lasting contributions to literature and education, while Bhikya Ladhya Dhinda got the Padma Shri honour for lifelong dedication to preserving Tarpa, a traditional tribal wind instrument of the Warli community. Tuesday's function marked the second civil investiture ceremony, where the President conferred 65 Padma Awards, including two Padma Vibhushan, seven Padma Bhushan and 56 Padma Shri. In the first civil investiture ceremony held on

May 25, President Droupadi Murmu conferred 65 Padma Awards, which comprised two Padma Vibhushans, six Padma Bhushans, and 57 Padma Shris. The awards are announced on Republic Day every year. This year, the Centre announced a total of 131 Padma Awards, which included five Padma Vibhushan, 13 Padma Bhushan, and 113 Padma Shri awards. Out of these awardees, 19 are women, while 16 individuals were bestowed upon with the coveted honour posthumously. The Padma Awards were instituted in 1954 and are declared every year on the eve of Republic Day, to recognise the citizens who made exceptional and distinguished contributions in their respective disciplines.

Grand procession held in Chittorgarh on Mahesh Navami, city echoed with Shiva chants

Lord Mahesh slogans filled the city, women's band performance became the main attraction
FAIR REPORT

Chittorgarh- On the occasion of Mahesh Navami festival, a grand procession was taken out in the city on Tuesday evening by Nagar Maheshwari Sabha and the Maheshwari community. The procession started from Mahesh Panchayati Nohra at Sadar Bazaar and passed through Gol Pyau Chauraha, Subhash Chowk and Rana Sanga Bazaar before ending at Gangaur Garden on Setu Marg. A



large number of community members participated in the procession. The city atmosphere became spiritual with Lord Mahesh slogans, Shiva bhajans and

flower showers. Women participated wearing red chunri and sarees, while men wore white clothes and Jai Mahesaj stoles. Devotees danced to Shiva

bhajans played on DJ. A dancing horse walking at the front of the procession was also a major attraction. For the first time, a special Shiviling aarti was

organized at Subhash Chowk. The 21-member Maheshwari Women's Mandal team attracted everyone by playing band instruments themselves. Women wearing red traditional clothes performed with the band, while two women riding Bullet motorcycles led the band. Around 100 welcome gates were decorated on the procession route. Social groups, public representatives, businessmen and people from different communities welcomed the procession with flower showers. Refreshment arrangements were also made at several places.

Haridwar land scam: U'khand govt sacks ex-municipal commissioner, 'major punishment' for former DM

FAIR REPORT

Dehradun, Taking strict action in the Haridwar land purchase scam, the BJP government in Uttarakhand has recommended that former Municipal Commissioner Varun Chaudhary be immediately dismissed from service and imposed a major punishment on for-

mer District Magistrate (DM) Karmendra Singh after he was found guilty of serious negligence in discharge of his official duties. According to sources, recommendations for action against both officers, in accordance with rules, are being sent to the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT). Furthermore, direc-

tions have been issued to record an adverse entry in the service record of Ajayveer Singh, who was serving as Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) at that time, and to withhold three of his annual increments. Previously, the Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami-led government had suspended several officials.

'Not a minor defeat': K.K. Shailaja flags CPI-M crisis, calls for course correction

FAIR REPORT

Thiruvananthapuram, In a rare candid assessment from within the CPI-M leadership, Central Committee member K.K. Shailaja has described the party's defeat in the Kerala Assembly elections as a serious setback and warned that the Left cannot ignore the organisational and political challenges that have emerged. In an article titled 'A Comeback is Inevitable' in the CPI-M's ideological journal 'Chintha', Shailaja, a former state minister, said the defeat was not a routine electoral loss, as the Left suffered reverses even in its traditional strongholds.



She called for a comprehensive review of the last three election defeats and said corrective steps must be taken without delay. Incidentally, Shailaja herself had to face successive defeats, with the first one coming at the 2024 Lok Sabha polls from the Vada-kara seat and then when she was shunted out from her Mattannur assembly

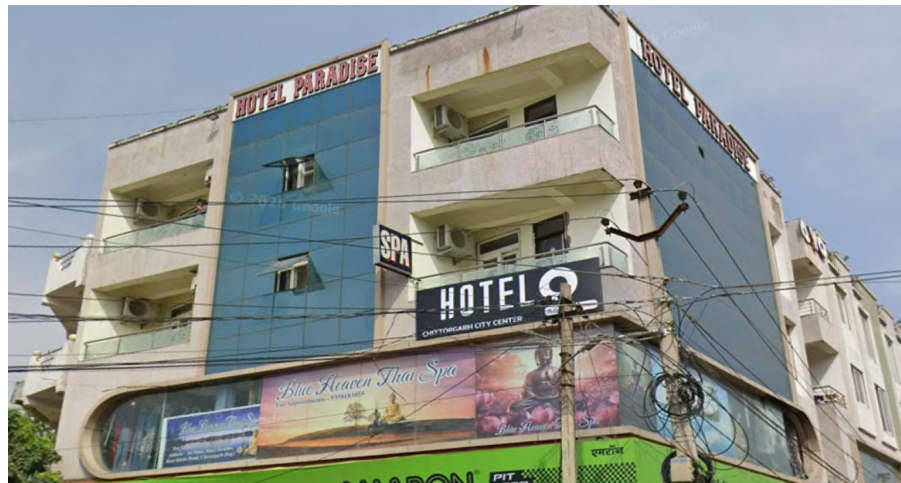
seat to neighbouring Peravoor when she lost to sitting Congress legislator Sunny Joseph. "Even those who stood firmly with the Left have moved away. Though the problems were noticed, efforts were not made to resolve them," she said, stressing that the behaviour, language and lifestyle of party leaders and workers needed introspection. The LDF's fall from 99 seats to 35 in the Assembly election was a major warning sign, she noted. Several alliance partners failed to win even a single seat, and efforts must be made to rebuild their strength, she added.

Game of illegal activities running under the name of spa! 3 accused arrested with foreign women from Chittorgarh hotel

Police raid on Blue Heaven Thai Spa at Paradise Hotel, diary and online payment records may reveal the complete network; questions raised on other spa centres in the city
FAIR REPORT

Chittorgarh- Police have exposed a major case after receiving information about illegal activities being carried out under the name of a Thai spa centre in a city hotel. Police raided Blue Heaven Thai Spa, located on the first floor of Paradise Hotel, and found

four foreign women. Three men were arrested during the action. Police allege that customers were charged money and women were used for illegal activities, from which the accused earned commission. DSP Brijesh Singh said that on June 22 evening, police received information from an informer about illegal activities at the spa centre. To verify the information, a constable was sent as a fake customer. A woman from Child Helpline was also included as an independent witness. After confirmation, the police team raided the spa centre late at night. Police



found manager Rahul Meghwal at the counter. During the search, a foreign woman was found in one room with the fake customer, while three more

women were found in the staff room. They were reportedly from Thailand, Laos and Uganda. According to police, the spa operators and manager used to

decide the amount from customers and collect payments. Payments were taken through cash as well as Paytm, PhonePe and QR codes. Police seized Rs

12,700 cash, objectionable items, mobile phones, documents and a diary containing records of customers and money from June 18 to June 22. Police are now checking online payment records to find more links of the network. Rahul Meghwal, Manish Goswami and Gopal Mali have been arrested under Sections 3, 4, 5 and 7 of the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956. After this action, activities of more than a dozen spa centres operating in the city have also come under police scanner. Police are preparing to check their licences, operators and staff details.

States Focus

CBI arrests IAS officer in ₹60 crore scam



OBSERVE HOLOCAUST DAY FOR 1947 PAK RAID VICTIMS: CHUGH

BJP leader Tarun Chugh on Tuesday said the Jammu and Kashmir Government should observe a 'holocaust day' in memory of the victims of the Pakistan army who raided the then princely State in 1947 disguised as tribal people. "The Pakistan army, disguised as tribal people, attacked here and killed Kashmiri citizens, raped the daughters here, continuously looted Jammu and Kashmir for 96 hours, killing and plundering. It was a holocaust. "The J&K Government should observe a 'Holocaust Day' on this," Chugh, national general secretary of the BJP, said. The BJP leader was here to pay tributes to the founder of Jansangh, Syama Prasad Mookerjee, on his 73rd death anniversary. He said a documentary should be made to depict the events, and it should be shown to everyone. (PNS)



MANIPUR DEPLOYS CoBRA IN HILLS, BEGINS DE-WEAPONISATION

Manipur Home Minister Govindas Konthoujam on Tuesday said additional security forces, including the newly arrived CoBRA unit of the CRPF, are being deployed in the state's hill districts to tackle disturbances, while "de-weaponisation exercises" have begun. Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of an event here, Konthoujam said the security situation was relatively calmer in the valley areas, allowing forces to focus on operations in the hills. "Small things may happen in valley areas. However, disturbances are present in hill areas. We must try to maintain a peaceful atmosphere in valley areas so that security personnel may be able to act in hill areas," he said. The hill areas account for around 90 per cent of Manipur's geographical area and have witnessed heightened tensions in recent months between rival armed groups belonging to tribal communities. "More security forces, including the newly arrived CoBRA unit of CRPF, are being deployed in hill areas to hunt out culprits, as there is less disturbance in valley areas. De-weaponisation exercises have also started," the minister said. "My appeal is that peace must be maintained for a progressive state," he added. (PNS)

FAIR REPORT

■ New Delhi
The CBI arrested senior IAS officer Pankaj Agarwal on Tuesday for allegedly siphoning over ₹60 crore from Haryana Government accounts at IDFC First Bank, officials said.

Agarwal, a 2000-batch IAS officer of the Haryana cadre, served as Principal Secretary in the Education Department from December 10, 2024, to June 16, 2025, and in the Agriculture Department from June 20, 2025, to March 24 this year, according to officials. The alleged misappropriation involved funds from the Haryana School Shiksha Pariyojana Parishad (HSSPP) and the Haryana State Agriculture Marketing Board



(HSAMB). Agarwal was taken into custody on Monday after investigators found that accounts were opened at the bank's Chandigarh Sector 32 branch in violation of Haryana Government guidelines, and funds were transferred beyond permitted limits. "These accounts were opened during Pankaj Agarwal's tenure as Principal Secretary. The investigation revealed that fraudulent transactions in these departmental accounts led to the misappropriation of funds, resulting in

a net loss of Rs 60.54 crore to the Government," the CBI spokesperson said. This case is part of a broader CBI investigation into the embezzlement of ₹67 crore from Haryana Government and Chandigarh administration accounts at IDFC First Bank. The illegal transactions resulted in a loss of ₹504 crore to the Haryana Government and ₹153 crore to the Chandigarh administration, according to the spokesperson.

Agarwal is scheduled to appear before the special court on Tuesday. The probe was initiated at the request of the Haryana Government. "During the investigation, incriminating evidence against Pankaj Agarwal has been collected," the

spokesperson said. The fraud in these two departments involved the misappropriation of about ₹60.54 crore as part of a larger scam at the Sector 32 IDFC First Bank branch. In total, ₹504 crore from eight Haryana Government departments was siphoned off and routed to shell entities, according to the statement. The CBI has named 17 accused in its charge sheet in this Haryana case, including six bank officials from IDFC First Bank and AU Small Finance Bank, three Haryana Government public servants, two companies, and six other individuals.

"IAS officer RK Singh, who was arrested in this case in relation to misappropriation in Municipal Corporation

Panchkula, has been remanded in judicial custody after the expiry of his police remand," the spokesperson said.

The CBI is also investigating two related cases in Chandigarh: one involving Chandigarh Smart City and the Chandigarh Municipal Corporation, and another concerning CREST Chandigarh.

The CBI has charge-sheeted five bankers, one CSCI official, and one private individual in the CREST case; and five bankers, two CREST officials, four private individuals, and two companies in the CREST case. Additionally, one senior Indian Forest Service officer has already been arrested in the CREST case," the spokesperson said.

CPI(M) MP Brittas urges Govt to prevent foodgrain spoilage

FAIR REPORT

■ New Delhi

CPI(M) Rajya Sabha MP John Brittas has written to Union minister Pralhad Joshi over the issue relating to foodgrain storage, highlighting the need to prevent spoilage and reduce dependence on the Cover and Plinth (CAP) open-air storage system used by the Food Corporation of India (FCI).

In a letter to Joshi, the Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Brittas forwarded a representation by the Food Corporation of India Employees Association (CITU), which pointed out that due to constraints in covered storage capacity, substantial quantities of foodgrains continue to be stored in CAP facilities and other open storage spaces in several parts of the country.

The letter said such arrangements, particularly in regions like Kerala, prone to heavy rainfall and high humidity, expose valuable foodgrain stocks to the risk of deterioration and avoidable losses, defeating the



John Brittas



Pralhad Joshi

objective of scientific grain preservation.

It added that with the southwest monsoon setting in over large parts of the country, climatic conditions have made open storage increasingly vulnerable to moisture damage and spoilage.

Brittas said successive audits and expert committees have repeatedly highlighted the need to progressively reduce reliance on CAP storage and augment modern warehousing infrastructure.

Referring to a high-level committee constituted in 2014, he said it had recommended the gradual elimination of CAP storage and transition towards scientific storage systems, including

modern silos and mechanised warehouses.

He further said continued reliance on CAP storage as a long-term arrangement could entail considerable economic and operational costs, especially amid manpower shortages at depots and challenges in upkeep, fumigation and preservation of stocks stored under open conditions.

The CPI(M) leader suggested that resources allocated for construction, renovation and maintenance of CAP structures could instead be redirected towards permanent scientific storage infrastructure, including steel silos, mechanised godowns and climate-controlled facilities.

HD Kumaraswamy seeks farmer participation in talks over Bidadi row

FAIR REPORT

■ Bengaluru

JD(S) leader HD Kumaraswamy on Tuesday said he is awaiting Karnataka Chief Minister DK Shivakumar's response to his letter, seeking rescheduling of a meeting on the proposed GBIT project near Bidadi in Bengaluru South district, and the Government's land acquisition for it.

The Union Minister also stressed that the talks should involve the farmers affected by the project, instead of a few holding a discussion at Vidhana Soudha, as proposed by the CM. Shivakumar had on Monday invited Kumaraswamy to his office at Vidhana Soudha on June 26, for a discussion on the issue.

However, citing prior commitments, Kumaraswamy had sought to reschedule the meeting to June 27, proposing the discussion be organised at a suitable venue in Bidadi or Byramangala instead of Vidhana Soudha, aiming to give affected farmers and villagers an opportunity to participate. Meanwhile, reacting to



Union Minister of Heavy Industries and Steel HD Kumaraswamy addressing a press conference in Bengaluru, Karnataka. PTI

Kumaraswamy's letter, Shivakumar told reporters on Tuesday. "Let's not discuss it now. I will get back to you on the matter."

Despite opposition from sections of farmers and villagers, a final notification was recently issued for the acquisition of 499 acres across three villages in Ramanagara and Harohalli taluks for the Greater Bengaluru Integrated Township, one of Shivakumar's ambitious projects, projected as India's "first AI-powered integrated township".

The project is expected to cover a total of 7,481 acres across nine villages in the

region, sources said. ng that the notification issued recently is likely the first in a series of land acquisition notifications expected in the coming days.

Rejecting suggestions of challenge or counter challenge on the township issue, Kumaraswamy said. "The farmers have been protesting for over 450 days against the Government's move to acquire lands for the project against their will. The government claims 80 per cent of people have consented to the land acquisition, but farmers state that 70-80 per cent have not consented, creating significant confusion," he said.

Psycho killer poisons 8 men in Chhattisgarh, attends funerals

FAIR REPORT

■ Balodabazar

A gruesome serial murder spree orchestrated by a "psycho killer" gripped a village in Chhattisgarh's Balodabazar district, where a shopkeeper allegedly used lethal doses of borax powder to poison eight men over a period of four months, police said on Tuesday.

The 46-year-old accused, Ram Sahay Jaiswal, evaded suspicion for months by helping grieving families and even attending the funerals of his victims, police said.

He was arrested on Tuesday following two weeks of investigation and over a month after he killed his last victim.

The chilling murders took place between February and May this year in Kharve village under Kasdol police station limits, officials said.

According to police, Jaiswal, said to be a "psycho killer", carried out the murders driven by feelings of revenge, mental frustration



and long-standing grudges against the victims over minor disputes.

While the deaths had initially been treated as natural or due to some illness, villagers and relatives of the deceased approached police earlier this month, expressing suspicion about Jaiswal's possible involvement, they said.

Given the seriousness of the allegations, police launched a detailed probe, exhuming the body of Jaiswal's last victim, Mahetaru Sahu, who died on May 14, on June 13, Balodabazar-Bhatapara Superintendent of Police (in-charge) OP Sharma said. He said that subsequently, six more bodies were exhumed

and sent to Dr Bhim Rao Ambedkar Memorial Hospital (Mekahara) in Raipur for post-mortem examinations, while the remains of one Budhram Jaiswal could not be recovered as he had been cremated.

A special medico-legal team conducted the autopsies and preserved DNA samples, viscera and other forensic evidence for laboratory analysis, Sharma said.

Police formed multiple teams to investigate the deaths, questioning villagers and monitoring developments on the ground, gathering technical and forensic evidence, he said.

Investigations revealed that the accused had taken 'suhaga' (borax powder) from a villager, claiming that he had needed to kill rats, he said. During questioning, Jaiswal initially denied any role, but eventually confessed that he targeted the victims one after another over old disputes, verbal altercations, allegations of witchcraft and other personal grievances, the senior official said.

Gurdwara standoff resolved peacefully, Nihangs vacate premises

FAIR REPORT

■ Dehradun

A nearly 72-hour standoff at the Nagarasu gurdwara in Uttarakhand's Rudrapurayag ended on Tuesday evening as a group of Nihangs holed up at the shrine vacated the premises after talks with a delegation from Punjab, officials said.

"The gurdwara management and the police administration worked together to resolve the issue peacefully. All those involved have now left the premises, and normalcy has been restored," Rudrapurayag District

Magistrate Vishal Mishra said. Videos circulating on social media showed the Nihang Sikhs leaving the Nagarasu Gurdwara premises on their motorcycles, with police personnel facilitating their safe and orderly exit.

Around half a dozen Nihangs, armed with swords and spears, had stormed the Nagarasu Gurdwara, situated between Rudrapurayag and Gauchar on the Badrinath Highway, on the evening of June 20. They climbed onto the roof and blocked the entrance to the terrace. This came after four Nihang Sikhs were



arrested in connection with an incident that took place in Karnapurayag town of Uttarakhand on June 16.

According to officials, the dispute began when a group of Nihangs demanded accommodation for upcoming demonstrations, which the gurdwara management could not fully provide due to limited capacity. The situation escalated into an altercation, following which the group occupied the higher floors. During the confrontation, the Nihangs climbed onto the roof and the topmost floor of the gurdwara.

Mann urges State's youths working abroad to return

FAIR REPORT

■ Bathinda

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann on Tuesday urged youths of the State working abroad to return to their motherland, assuring them that his Government would provide regular employment opportunities and make them active partners in the state's socio-economic progress.

He said his Government's transparent recruitment process for jobs has restored the faith of youth in the



system and triggered a reverse migration, with many youngsters now choosing to return to the State from abroad instead of seeking opportunities there.

Mann was addressing a gathering at an event where

he handed over appointment letters to 665 newly recruited candidates in Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (PSPCL). He said the State has created a record by providing 68,268 Government jobs in just four-and-a-half years, completely ending the era of cash-for-jobs and recommendations.

Mann urged the youths of Punjab working abroad to return to their motherland, assuring them that the State Government would provide regular employment oppor-

tunities and make them active partners in the State's socio-economic progress.

Targeting the previous governments, Mann said that many youngsters left Punjab and have settled abroad. But reverse migration has started in the State now. "Now things have changed. A reflection of this change can be seen from the fact that a woman present here today has three jobs and is among the successful candidates receiving appointment letters.

Maharashtra reported 10,505 cyber fraud cases in over one year

FAIR REPORT

■ Mumbai

Maharashtra has registered 10,505 cyber financial fraud cases between January 2025 and May 2026, leading to the arrest of 2,379 accused, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis informed the State Legislative Assembly on Tuesday.

In a written reply to a question raised by several members, Fadnavis, who holds the home portfolio, said Ahilyanagar district recorded 5,141 complaints in 2025 involving digital arrest scams, share trading frauds, hotel rating scams and malicious APK and PDF files, resulting in losses of ₹37.76 crore. Of the amount involved, transactions worth ₹7.02 crore were put on hold, he said. Fadnavis said a retired Government employee from Kopergaon in Ahilyanagar district was duped of ₹87.3 lakh after being threatened with "digital arrest".



Assam Rifles holds educational tour, weapon display for students

FAIR REPORT

■ Imphal

In a major youth outreach initiative, the Assam Rifles organised a multi-faceted educational tour and weapon display at Pallel Garrison in Kakching district on Tuesday, aiming to motivate the younger generation toward public service.

The comprehensive programme, facilitated at the initiative of Lt Gen K Himalay Singh (Retd), Chairman of the Senkon Institute (Navodaya and Sainik), welcomed a large delegation of 229 students and 11 teachers from Charangpat in Thoubal district. The day-long itinerary offered the visiting students a rare, close-up insight into the operational roles, capabilities, and national security responsibilities of the security



forces. During the centrepiece weapon display, Assam Rifles personnel showcased a wide variety of modern weaponry and equipment used in active counter-insurgency and security duties. The students and faculty members were briefed on technical specifications and safety protocols.

Expanding the scope of the exposure, the visitors were taken on a specialised tour of the community radio station, CRS Radio Highway, where they learned about the role of community broadcasting in public outreach and information dissemination.

The tour concluded with a visit to the Cultural Hall at Pallel Garrison, where the delegation was briefed on the rich cultural heritage, traditions, and history of the region.

VISION INDIA

FAIR REPORT | 04

MUKHERJEE'S LEGACY OF NATIONALISM AND INTEGRATION REMEMBERED ON HIS MARTYRDOM DAY

FAIR REPORT

New Delhi: Bharatiya Janata Party leaders on Monday paid rich tributes to Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee, founder of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh, on his martyrdom day, recalling his contribution as a nationalist thinker, educationist, and staunch advocate of India's unity and integrity.

At the BJP headquarters in the national capital, senior party leaders and workers offered floral tributes to Mookerjee's portrait and remembered his role in shaping the ideological foundations of nationalist politics in post-Independence India. The event witnessed par-



ticipation from party functionaries who hailed Mookerjee's vision of a strong and united nation. Speaking on the occasion, BJP leaders said

Mookerjee's sacrifice continues to inspire generations committed to safe-

guarding India's sovereignty and constitutional unity. They highlighted his opposition to the special status once accorded to Jammu and Kashmir and his famous call for "One Nation, One Constitution, One Flag," describing it as a defining moment in the country's political history.

Dr. Mookerjee, who passed away in 1953 under controversial circumstances while protesting the permit system in Jammu and Kashmir, remains one of the most influential figures in the BJP's ideological lineage. Party leaders asserted that his ideals continue to guide India's journey towards national integration and development.

LUCKNOW FIRE TRAGEDY: CM VISITS HOSPITAL, ANNOUNCES ₹5 LAKH AID FOR FAMILIES OF THE DEAD

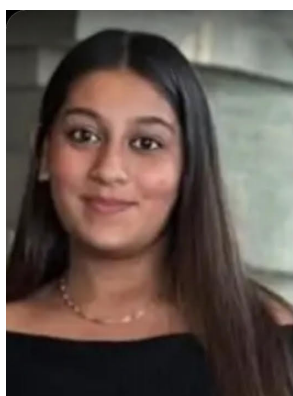
Lucknow: As grief and anguish swept through the city following a devastating fire accident, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday visited the disaster site and later met injured victims undergoing treatment at King George's Medical University (KGMU). The Chief Minister interacted with survivors and their families, reviewed the medical response, and sought detailed updates from doctors overseeing treatment. Officials said all injured patients are being treated on priority under the supervision of senior specialists, with emergency medical resources deployed to ensure the best possible care. Calling the incident "heart-wrenching," Adityanath expressed condolences to the families who lost their loved ones in the tragedy. He said the pain suffered by the bereaved families could not be adequately expressed in words and assured them that the state government would stand firmly with them during the difficult period. In a significant relief measure, the Chief Minister directed officials to provide immediate financial assistance of 5 lakh each to the next of kin of those who died in the accident. Seriously injured victims will receive 50,000 each as emergency aid. The tragedy has once again raised questions about fire safety preparedness and emergency response mechanisms in crowded urban areas. Authorities have launched an investigation into the cause of the blaze, while rescue and rehabilitation efforts continue.

FIANCÉE, ALLEGED LOVER HELD IN PUNE BUSINESSMAN'S DEATH; FAMILY DEMANDS SWIFT JUSTICE

FAIR REPORT

Pune: A chilling murder case that has stunned Maharashtra has left a grieving family searching for answers after a 26-year-old businessman, Ketan Agrawal, was allegedly killed in a conspiracy involving his fiancée and another man.

According to investigators, the accused woman and her alleged lover were arrested after police uncovered what they believe was a premeditated plot that culminated in Agrawal be-



ing pushed into a valley. Authorities suspect the duo sought to remove the businessman from their lives and are now probing the

sequence of events that led to his death.

The tragedy has devastated Agrawal's family, particularly his father, whose

emotional appeal for justice has resonated widely. Struggling to come to terms with the loss of his son, the bereaved parent questioned why such an extreme step was allegedly taken.

"If she did not want to marry him, she could have simply refused," he said, expressing anguish over the circumstances surrounding the death. "How could anyone think of taking a young life like this?"

Police sources said both accused are in custody and are being questioned as in-

vestigators gather forensic and digital evidence to establish the motive and reconstruct the events leading up to the incident.

The case has triggered outrage in the city, with many demanding stringent action if the allegations are proven in court. As investigators continue to piece together the alleged conspiracy, a family shattered by loss waits for answers—and justice for a son whose future ended abruptly under tragic circumstances.

\$230 BILLION SHADOW ECONOMY SHOCKER: BANGLADESH'S RECOVERY DRIVE UPENDS 'GROWTH STORY' NARRATIVE

NEW DELHI: Bangladesh's reported global push to trace and recover an estimated \$230 billion in allegedly siphoned funds has ignited a sharp geopolitical and economic debate across South Asia, raising uncomfortable questions about the sustainability of its once-celebrated growth trajectory.

According to emerging reports, the interim administration in Dhaka is pursuing an aggressive asset-recovery campaign spanning multiple jurisdictions, targeting what officials describe as illicit capital flows routed through trade misinvoicing, offshore entities, and banking irregularities accumulated over years.

The development has triggered a broader reassessment of Bangladesh's

economic narrative, which was frequently projected as a regional success story driven by export-led growth, particularly in textiles and ready-made garments.

However, the scale of alleged capital flight has cast a shadow over those claims, with analysts suggesting that structural weaknesses in financial oversight and governance may have enabled deep systemic leakages. The resulting strain on foreign exchange reserves has further intensified economic pressures.

The controversy has also spilled into India's domestic discourse, where political commentators are revisiting earlier comparisons that contrasted Bangladesh's performance with India's economic indicators.

INDIA-RUSSIA JUDICIAL TIES GET A BOOST AS JUSTICE SURYA KANT VISITS MOSCOW

FAIR REPORT

MOSCOW/NEW DELHI: In a significant step towards deepening institutional cooperation between India and Russia, Supreme Court judge Justice Surya Kant is on an official visit to Moscow, where he is expected to hold high-level discussions aimed at strengthening judicial engagement between the two countries.

The visit comes at a time when New Delhi and Moscow are seeking to expand cooperation beyond traditional sectors such as defence, energy and trade, with legal and judicial collaboration emerging as a key area of interest.

During the visit, Justice Surya Kant is expected to meet Igor Krasnov, Chairman of the Supreme Court of Russia, to discuss avenues for bilateral

judicial cooperation, exchange of best practices and closer engagement between the two judicial systems. The talks are likely to focus on issues ranging from judicial administration and digitisation of courts to legal education, dispute resolution and the handling of emerging challenges in a rapidly evolving global legal landscape.

Legal experts view the visit as an important milestone in fostering institutional dialogue between two major judicial systems. Such exchanges often facilitate greater understanding of comparative legal frameworks, improve cooperation in transnational legal matters and strengthen people-to-people ties through the rule of law.

The engagement also underscores the growing

importance of judicial diplomacy, as courts across the world increasingly collaborate on issues involving technology, commercial disputes and international legal cooperation.

As India and Russia continue to broaden their strategic partnership, the Moscow visit is expected to add a new dimension to bilateral relations—one rooted in legal cooperation, judicial innovation and shared institutional learning.

KNOWLEDGE AGAINST NARCOTICS: Rajasthan Police to Launch Statewide ANTF Quiz Blitz Across 20 Locations

FAIR REPORT

JAIPUR, June 23: In a decisive push to counter the rising threat of substance abuse through awareness and education, the Anti-Narcotics Task Force (ANTF) of the Rajasthan Police is set to roll out a statewide knowledge-driven campaign on Wednesday, with simultaneous quiz competitions scheduled at 20 major locations across the state. The initiative, guided by

ANTF Inspector General Vikas Kumar, aims to transform anti-drug messaging into an interactive public movement, particularly targeting students and youth.

Officials said the programme is designed to build awareness on the social, economic, legal, and health consequences of drug abuse through an engaging quiz format, replacing conventional lectures with participatory learning.



The campaign aligns with the broader mission of Rajasthan Police to

strengthen preventive policing through community engagement, with an emphasis on early intervention among vulnerable age groups.

Authorities stressed that the fight against narcotics cannot rely on enforcement alone, but must be reinforced through sustained public awareness and behavioural change. The simultaneous statewide rollout is being viewed as a model for scalable prevention-driven po-

licing.

Participation from students, youth groups, and citizens is expected to convert the initiative into a mass awareness movement, reinforcing the state's anti-drug resolve.

With the slogan "Say no to drugs, say yes to life," officials said the campaign represents a shift from reactive enforcement to proactive education—positioning knowledge itself as the strongest deterrent against addiction.

Trisha's Birthday Wish to Vijay Sparks Fresh Speculation, Sets Social Media Abuzz

FAIR REPORT

Chennai: A birthday message from actor Trisha Krishnan to actor-politician Vijay has reignited long-running speculation about the nature of their relationship, with a social media post drawing widespread attention across Tamil Nadu's political and film circles. On Sunday, Trisha shared a photograph from Vijay's birthday celebrations, showing the two standing beside a birthday cake. The actor accompanied the image with a brief but affectionate message: "To the person who makes everything feel so special, wishing you a very happy birthday!" along with a heart and evil-eye emoji. The post quickly went viral, triggering a



fresh round of discussion among fans and observers who have closely followed the pair's association over the years. While neither Trisha nor Vijay has publicly commented on the recurring rumours surrounding their personal lives, the latest post has added momentum to the speculation. The two stars have shared a successful on-screen partnership in

several Tamil films and continue to enjoy a strong fan following. Their appearances together, whether at public events or through social media interactions, often become the subject of intense scrutiny and online debate. The birthday tribute also comes at a time when Vijay remains under the spotlight as he balances his growing political responsibilities with his enduring influence in Tamil cinema. Against that backdrop, a seemingly simple social media post has once again blurred the lines between celebrity fascination and public curiosity. For now, however, the buzz remains firmly in the realm of speculation, with neither party offering any indication beyond the birthday greeting itself.

Ayodhya Ram Mandir Donation Probe Flags Accountability Gaps; SIT Calls for Enhanced Surveillance and Audit Mechanisms

FAIR REPORT

Ayodhya: A Special Investigation Team (SIT) examining alleged irregularities in the handling of donations at the Ram Mandir has recommended a series of structural reforms aimed at strengthening financial transparency and institutional accountability at one of the country's most prominent religious sites.

The recommendations come amid concerns over vulnerabilities in the temple's donation management system, particularly regarding the collection, transportation and counting of cash offerings made by devotees.

According to officials familiar with the findings, the SIT has proposed the maintenance of a comprehensive daily register documenting all donations received at the shrine. The panel has also suggested that every stage of the cash-handling process—from the opening of donation boxes (daan patras) to the final counting and recording of funds—be sub-

jected to uninterrupted video documentation.

Investigators believe such measures could significantly reduce the scope for procedural lapses and ensure greater transparency in the handling of high-value contributions.

A key recommendation relates to the temple's surveillance infrastructure. The SIT has urged authorities to extend the retention period of CCTV footage from the existing 45 days to 180 days, arguing that longer archival periods would facilitate audits, assist future investigations and prevent the loss of potentially critical evidence.

The proposed reforms reflect a broader push toward institutional safeguards and modern monitoring practices at religious establishments that handle substantial public donations. If implemented, the measures could establish a more robust framework for financial oversight, reinforcing public confidence in the management of offerings at the Ram Mandir.

SHOE GARLAND, PUBLIC HUMILIATION

TMC LEADER FORCED TO DO SIT-UPS AMID CORRUPTION CHARGES IN BENGAL

FAIR REPORT

KOLKATA: In a dramatic incident that has reignited debate over public vigilantism and political accountability, Trinamool Congress (TMC) leader Sapan Samanta was allegedly paraded with a garland of shoes and forced to perform sit-ups in public amid allegations of corruption in West Bengal's Tarakeswar region.

Videos and images purportedly showing the incident quickly spread across social media, triggering a political storm and drawing sharp reactions from both supporters and critics of the ruling party. The public humiliation reportedly took place in the presence of local residents who accused the leader of involvement in financial ir-



regularities, though the allegations have yet to be tested in a court of law.

The episode comes at a time when corruption remains a politically charged issue in Bengal, with opposition parties repeatedly targeting the state government over allegations involving local-level functionaries and public representatives.

While some residents defended the protest as an expression of public anger,

legal experts cautioned against extra-judicial actions, stressing that allegations of wrongdoing must be investigated through established legal and institutional mechanisms.

The incident has once again put the spotlight on grassroots political tensions in the state, where accusations of corruption often translate into intense public confrontations. Authorities are expected to examine the circumstances surrounding the episode, including whether any laws were violated during the alleged public shaming.

As the controversy deepens, the images from Tarakeswar have become the latest flashpoint in Bengal's fiercely contested political landscape.