

FAIR REPORT

THE DAWN OF A FEARLESS PEN

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PM Modi Speaks With Iranian President Pezeshkian, Backs Ceasefire Efforts Amid West Asia Tensions

FAIR REPORT

NEW DELHI: As geopolitical tensions continue to reshape the security landscape of West Asia, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday held a significant telephonic conversation with Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, reaffirming India's commitment to dialogue, regional stability and peaceful resolution of conflicts.

During the call, President Pezeshkian briefed Prime Minister Modi on the evolving situation in the region and the latest diplomatic and security developments. Welcoming recent ceasefire efforts, the Prime Minister underscored India's longstanding position that sustained peace can only be achieved through diplomacy, re-



straint and constructive engagement.

The high-level exchange comes at a critical moment for the region, with global attention focused on preventing further escalation

and safeguarding stability along key maritime routes that are vital to international trade and energy security. India, which maintains longstanding strategic and economic ties

across West Asia, continues to advocate de-escalation while engaging all stakeholders through diplomatic channels.

The conversation highlights New Delhi's active

outreach as it seeks to support regional peace and protect its broader strategic interests, including the safety of Indian nationals, uninterrupted energy supplies and secure shipping lanes.

Separately, speculation surrounding India's representation at any official events in Iran has attracted attention. However, any decision regarding participation in such events would depend on official announcements by the Government of India.

The latest diplomatic engagement underscores India's growing role as a credible and balanced interlocutor, reinforcing its emphasis on dialogue over confrontation in one of the world's most strategically sensitive regions.

From Boardroom to Behind Bars: Gojek Co-Founder Nadiem Makarim Sentenced to 10 Years in Landmark Chromebook Graft Case

FAIR REPORT

JAKARTA: In one of Southeast Asia's most consequential corruption verdicts involving a technology entrepreneur, Nadiem Makarim—the celebrated co-founder of ride-hailing giant Gojek and Indonesia's former Education Minister—was on Tuesday sentenced to 10 years in prison after being found guilty in a high-profile corruption case linked to a pandemic-era school laptop procurement programme.

The Central Jakarta District Court ruled that Makarim abused his authority in the procurement of more than one million Google Chromebook laptops for Indonesian schools between 2020 and 2022. Prosecutors argued that the tender specifications were deliber-



ately structured to favour Google's Chromebook ecosystem, resulting in substantial losses to the state. Google has denied any wrongdoing.

In addition to the prison term, the court imposed a fine of IDR 1 billion and ordered Makarim to pay approximately IDR 809 billion (about \$45 million) in restitution. Failure to pay could result in additional imprisonment, according to the verdict.

Makarim, once hailed as the face of Indonesia's startup revolution and a symbol of the country's digital transformation,

strongly rejected the judgment and announced plans to appeal. He has maintained that the procurement programme was designed to modernise classrooms and has described the prosecution as politically motivated. The case has also sparked debate among legal experts and investors, with some questioning the implications of the ruling for governance and Indonesia's investment climate.

The verdict marks a stunning fall for one of Indonesia's most prominent business leaders, transforming a tech success story into one of the country's most closely watched legal battles and placing renewed scrutiny on accountability in large-scale public procurement.

Strawberry Moon Casts Golden Glow Over Bengal, Dazzles Skywatchers

FAIR REPORT

KOLKATA: A luminous full moon bathed in shades of amber and copper transformed the night sky over parts of West Bengal on Tuesday, as the celestial event popularly known as the "Strawberry Moon" captivated skywatchers and photographers alike.

The spectacle was particularly striking over Tehatta, where the full moon appeared unusually large and low on the horizon, creating a dramatic reddish-gold glow against the dark sky. Images of the phenomenon quickly spread across social media, drawing admiration from astronomy enthusiasts and casual observers alike. Despite its evocative name, the Strawberry Moon is not named for its colour: The term originates from Native American traditions, where June's full moon signalled the beginning of the wild strawberry harvest. The warm hue seen during the event is instead a result of atmospheric



science rather than folklore. This year's Strawberry Moon followed the summer solstice on June 21, causing it to trace a lower-than-usual path across the sky. When the Moon appears close to the horizon, its light passes through a greater thickness of Earth's atmosphere, scattering shorter blue wavelengths and allowing the longer red and orange wavelengths to dominate—producing the rich copper and amber tones visible across Bengal. Astronomers note that while the phenomenon is a familiar seasonal event, its appearance can vary depending on atmospheric conditions such as humidity, dust and air quality. Combined with its low trajectory, these factors made Tuesday night's full moon particularly vivid and photogenic.

Jaipur's Power Corridors Converge Today: 2047 Vision Faces the Mic

Ministers, MPs and policy voices share one stage as India News Rajasthan puts 'Viksit Rajasthan' to the test

FAIR REPORT

Jaipur: The capital's political heavyweights will gather under one roof on Wednesday for India News Rajasthan's much-awaited event, "Manch Jaipur." Running from 9 am to 5 pm at Hotel Holiday Inn near Bais

Godam, the day-long programme will centre on a single theme—"Viksit Bharat, Viksit Rajasthan 2047." This isn't billed as a victory-lap event. Organisers have made it clear: the focus won't just be on listing government achievements—it's meant to be a candid conversation about the state's challenges as much as its possibilities.

Who's on stage: The lineup reads like a who's-who of state politics: Assembly Speaker Vasudev Dev-

nani, BJP state president Madan Rathore, Deputy Chief Ministers Diya Kumari and Premchand Bairwa, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Joga Ram Patel, Industries Minister Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore, Education Minister Madan Dilawar, PHED Minister Kanhaiya Lal Chaudhary, and Minister of State for Home Jawahar Singh Bedham. Joining them will be Rajya Sabha MP Alka Gurbjar, Jaipur city MP Manju

Sharma, Jaipur Rural MP Rao Rajendra Singh, Rajasthan Finance Commission chairman Arun Chaturvedi, BJP leader Ramlal Sharma, and BJP Yuva Morcha state president Shankar Gora, among other key public representatives.

Not just speeches — the questions will fly: What sets this edition apart is the format: leaders won't just deliver remarks, they'll field pointed questions from the audience and invited guests.

Sessions through the day will dig into Rajasthan's role in the Viksit Bharat 2047 roadmap, industrial growth and investment, education, infrastructure, water management, governance, job creation, and the real-world impact of welfare schemes. Sitting alongside the politicians will be sector experts, industry representatives, academics and civil society voices — broadening the conversation well beyond party lines.

India's Household Debt Hits Record 45.5% of GDP as Retail Borrowing Surges, RBI Flags Rising Risks

FAIR REPORT

MUMBAI: India's household debt has climbed to a record 45.5% of GDP, reflecting a sharp rise in consumer borrowing and prompting renewed concerns over the financial resilience of households, according to the latest Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Financial Stability Report. The central bank's assessment shows household leverage has moved well above its five-year average of 42.9%, signalling a structural shift in borrowing patterns. The most striking

trend is the rapid expansion of non-housing retail loans, which have emerged as the principal driver of household indebtedness. The report notes that by March 2026, non-housing retail credit accounted for 58.4% of total household borrowings, overtaking the traditionally dominant housing loan segment. The surge reflects growing demand for personal, consumer and other retail credit, even as borrowing for housing, agriculture and business has expanded at a comparatively slower pace.

₹54-Crore Gold Bust Rocks Guwahati: 37 kg of Smuggled Bullion Seized, Key Carrier Held

FAIR REPORT

GUWAHATI: In one of the biggest anti-smuggling operations in North-east India in recent years, Assam Police have seized 37 kilograms of suspected smuggled gold worth approximately 54 crore, dealing a major blow to an alleged cross-border trafficking network.

The massive haul was recovered during a targeted raid at a hideout in

Guwahati, where officers uncovered dozens of high-purity gold biscuits allegedly concealed for onward distribution. Senior officials described the operation as one of the region's largest single-day gold seizures, underscoring the growing scale and sophistication of organised gold smuggling.

Police have arrested a suspected courier believed to be working for

the syndicate. During preliminary interrogation, investigators said the accused disclosed that he was paid a fixed monthly salary of 80,000 to transport smuggled consignments and claimed to have previously handled another 20 kilograms of gold for the network. Authorities are independently verifying those claims as the investigation progresses.

US Supreme Court Strikes Down Trump's Birthright Citizenship Order in Major Constitutional Defeat

FAIR REPORT

WASHINGTON, D.C.: In a landmark ruling with far-reaching constitutional and political implications, the U.S. Supreme Court on Tuesday struck down President Donald Trump's executive order seeking to end automatic birthright citizenship for children born in the United States to undocumented or temporary immigrants.

In a 6-3 decision in *Trump v. Barbara*, Chief Justice John Roberts, writing for the majority, held that children born on U.S. soil to parents who are unlawfully or temporarily present are "subject to the jurisdiction" of the United States and are therefore citizens at birth under



the Fourteenth Amendment's Citizenship Clause.

Roberts was joined by Justices Elena Kagan, Sonia Sotomayor, Amy Coney Barrett, and Ketanji Brown Jackson. Justice Brett Kavanaugh concurred separately, agreeing that the executive order was invalid, though he based his reason-

ing on federal law rather than the Constitution. Justices Clarence Thomas, Samuel Alito, and Neil Gorsuch dissented, with Alito arguing that the majority had fundamentally misinterpreted the law. The executive order, signed by Trump on his first day back in office in January 2025, sought to deny

automatic U.S. citizenship to children unless at least one parent was a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident. However, the policy was blocked by lower federal courts before it could take effect, preventing its implementation. Legal experts said the ruling reaffirms the constitutional principle of birthright citizenship, preserving a doctrine that has been a cornerstone of American constitutional law for more than a century. Had the order been upheld, it could have affected tens of thousands of children born in the United States each month. The court's decision rests heavily on the landmark 1898 Supreme Court

precedent in *United States v. Wong Kim Ark*, which established that nearly all children born on American soil are entitled to U.S. citizenship regardless of their parents' immigration status. The judgment represents one of the most significant legal setbacks of Trump's second presidency and is expected to shape the national debate over immigration, executive authority and constitutional rights ahead of future legislative battles. Trump responded by urging Congress to pursue statutory immigration reforms, arguing that legislative action—not constitutional reinterpretation—was the appropriate path forward.

Judge Faces Death Threats After Convicting Seven in Mob Lynching Case

FAIR REPORT

BHOPAL: A wave of online hate and death threats against a Madhya Pradesh judge has triggered fresh concerns over the safety and independence of India's judiciary. Additional District and Sessions Judge Tabassum Khan reportedly became the target of abusive social media posts and intimidation after sentencing seven men to life imprisonment for the lynching of a truck driver who was attacked on suspicion of cow smuggling. The verdict, based on the evidence presented before the

court, marked a significant conviction in a case that drew widespread attention. Soon after the judgment, social media platforms were flooded with posts targeting the judge's religious identity and calling for violence, prompting outrage within legal circles. The incident has reignited debate over the growing use of online platforms to intimidate judges and undermine confidence in the judicial process. Madhya Pradesh Police have registered a First Information Report (FIR) and launched a cyber investigation to identify those responsible.

China's Animal Air-Conditioning Videos Go Viral as Heatwave Sparks Online Jibes at Europe

BEIJING: A severe summer heatwave has fueled an unusual social media phenomenon, with viral videos from China showing air-conditioning systems being installed in animal shelters, pig farms and pet enclosures—prompting a fresh wave of online comparisons with Europe's limited household AC adoption.

The widely shared clips depict workers fitting cooling units into brick structures housing dogs, pigs, chickens and other animals, highlighting the growing use of climate-control systems in parts of China's commercial farming and pet-care sectors. The videos have quickly become a talking point across social media, where many Chinese users have used them to contrast domestic cooling infrastructure with Europe's traditionally lower reliance on air conditioning. One widely circulated online remark claimed that modern Chinese pig farms are fully climate-controlled while many European households continue to cope without air conditioning. The comparisons have gained traction amid an intense heatwave affecting several parts of Europe, where air-conditioning penetration remains lower than in many other developed economies due to historical climate patterns, building design, energy costs and environmental considerations. The online exchanges reflect a broader digital rivalry in which infrastructure, technology and living standards increasingly become subjects of cross-border debate. As temperatures continue to soar, images of climate-controlled shelters for livestock and pets have become symbolic of China's efforts to adapt to extreme heat while simultaneously serving as material for internet users engaging in geopolitical one-upmanship.

IN FOCUS



A monkey and its juvenile feed amid monsoon showers in Haldwani PTI

23 political parties write to CJI on SIR, role of ECI

FAIR REPORT
New Delhi

Twenty-three political parties along with an Independent MP on Tuesday sent a joint letter to Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant on the SIR process, the role of the Election Commission and other election-related issues.

The signatories include all major INDIA bloc parties, as well as the AAP and DMK, which have distanced themselves from the alliance.

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh gave this information in a post on X, saying the Opposition parties are firmly anchored in "SURE Solidarity, Unity and Resistance".

"21 political parties plus one Independent attended the INDIA Janbandhan meeting on June 8, 2026, where a decision was taken to address a joint letter to the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India on the SIR process of the Election Commission of India and other election-related issues," Ramesh said on X.

"Accordingly, a joint letter now signed by 23 political parties plus one Independent has been sent to the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India today,"



Jairam Ramesh

he said. The joint letter has been signed by Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, Lok Sabha Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi, TMC chief Mamata Banerjee, RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav, SP chief Akhilesh Yadav, Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren, J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, Left party leaders, and Independent MP Kapil Sibal, among others, sources said.

TMC leader Derek O'Brien said the letter has also been signed by the Aam Aadmi Party and the DMK. "Good going from INDIA. And yes, @AamAadmiParty @arivalayam DMK also signed the joint letter to CJI," he said on X. "The letter is a total teamwork by all INDIA bloc parties," O'Brien told the media later.

'India Will Be Among Top Five in 2036 Olympic Medal Tally': Amit Shah Sets Bold Sporting Vision

FAIR REPORT

NEW DELHI: Setting an ambitious target for Indian sport, Union Home Minister Amit Shah expressed confidence that India will rank among the top five nations in the medal tally at the 2036 Olympic Games, outlining a vision that reflects the government's long-term push to transform the country into a global sporting powerhouse. Shah said the goal is being backed by unprecedented investments in sports infrastructure, scientific training and athlete development. According to him, the Centre has increased the sports budget from around 800



crore in 2014 to nearly 4,000 crore, while thousands of promising athletes are receiving sustained financial and technical support as part of preparations for the 2036 Olympics. The Home Minister linked the medal ambition with India's broader aspiration to host the 2036 Olympic Games, with

Ahmedabad emerging as the focal point of the country's bid. He highlighted the development of world-class sporting infrastructure and the hosting of multiple international competitions as stepping stones towards staging the world's biggest sporting event. India has steadily improved its

sporting ecosystem in recent years through initiatives such as talent identification, grassroots training, enhanced coaching and high-performance support. The government's strategy aims to broaden India's medal prospects across multiple disciplines while nurturing a new generation of elite athletes capable of competing consistently on the global stage. Shah's statement underscores the scale of India's Olympic ambitions, setting a benchmark that would represent the country's strongest-ever performance at the Games and mark a transformative chapter in its sporting journey if achieved.

Minister in Charge Inspects Service Camps, Instructs Officials to Ensure Benefits Reach People

45 RESIDENTIAL LEASES DISTRIBUTED IN CITY COUNCIL AND 12 IN SUKHWADA, FARMER GETS BENEFIT OF FENCING SCHEME

FAIR REPORT

Chittorgarh: To provide the benefits of government schemes to people at their doorstep and solve public problems quickly, District In-charge Minister and Minister of State for Public Works Department Dr. Manju Baghmar inspected the Rural and Urban Service Camps on Tuesday. She instructed offi-

cials to listen to people's problems seriously and ensure that eligible beneficiaries get the benefits of government schemes on time. The Minister visited the Rural Service Camp organized at Sukhwada Gram Panchayat of Bhadesar subdivision and the Urban Service Camp held at Chittorgarh Municipal Council. She took information from officials and em-



ploymeet about the services and schemes being provided at the camps. During the Urban Service Camp at Chittorgarh Municipal Council, Dr. Baghmar distributed 45 residential lease documents, while 12 residential leases were given to villagers at the Sukhwada Rural Service Camp. A farmer was also given a certificate for getting the benefit of the fencing

scheme, and an elderly beneficiary received the benefit of the roadways travel facility. Dr. Manju Baghmar said that the main objective of these service camps is to connect people with government welfare schemes and ensure quick solutions to their problems. She directed officials to identify eligible beneficiaries and provide benefits without delay. Social activities

were also organized at the Sukhwada camp. A traditional baby shower ceremony was held for a pregnant woman, and a child's birthday was also celebrated. District Collector Dr. Manju, CEO Zila Parishad Vinay Pathak, Additional District Collector Ramchandra Khati, officials, employees and a large number of villagers were present during the visit.

IAS Officer, 2 Ex-bankers arrested in ₹504 crore Haryana fraud case

FAIR REPORT
New Delhi

The CBI has arrested a senior IAS officer and two former bank officers in connection with the alleged embezzlement of ₹504 crore from the Haryana Government accounts maintained in IDFC First Bank in Chandigarh, officials said on Tuesday.

The alleged actions of the IAS officer, Pardeep Kumar, who was posted as Member Secretary, Haryana State Pollution Control Board (HSPCB), resulted in the misappropriation of funds and caused a net loss of approximately ₹169 crore to the Government, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) said in a statement. "The investigation has revealed that the



actions of Pardeep Kumar, as Member Secretary, had a direct nexus with the fraud. He himself handled the entire investment related work at his level.

Funds for fixed deposits were sent to IDFC First Bank far in excess of the prescribed limits. "For creating the fixed deposits, the funds of HSPCB were first transferred into an account opened at IDFC First Bank,

Sector 32 Branch, Chandigarh," a CBI spokesperson said in the statement.

Surprisingly, there is no record which the department could produce with regard to opening of this account, the officer said. "The conspiracy was so deep that the account got opened without any approvals and funds were transferred into the account in the name of

creating fixed deposits. The investigation conducted so far has revealed that no fixed deposits were created in this bank," the statement said.

Instead, the agency alleged, fraudulent debit transactions were carried out from this account, resulting in the misappropriation of Government funds and causing a net loss of approximately ₹169 crore to the state Government.

"This represents the single-largest financial loss suffered by any of the affected Government departments of Haryana in the overall scam (of ₹504 crore)," it said.

The spokesperson said that Kumar was not joining the investigation despite repeated efforts.

CM Revanth Reddy hits out at BRS

FAIR REPORT
Hyderabad

Hitting out at opposition BRS over its criticism of the Congress Government's agriculture record, Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Tuesday said the Government had spent about Rs 1.75 lakh crore on farmer welfare since it took office 30 months ago.

Speaking after releasing funds under the 'Rythu Bandhu' investment support scheme for farmers, he dismissed BJP national president Nitin Nabin's call to party activists to work towards a win in the next Telangana assembly polls.

It took 15 years for the BJP to win assembly polls in West Bengal, and the saffron party would meet the same



fate in Telangana, he said. Taking strong exception to the BRS questioning the Congress Government's performance in the agriculture sector, he said the Government had implemented several measures for farmers,

including a ₹20,677-crore farm loan waiver, ₹36,000 crore under the 'Rythu Bharosa' scheme, ₹30,000 crore on free power and ₹4,000 crore as bonus for fine variety paddy.

"This way, the Government has spent about ₹1.75 lakh crore for the farming community. We spend ₹6,000 crore every month for farmers on an average; you have not spent even ₹2,500 crore. Is it we who made farming a festival, or you?" the CM said. The Government would allocate ₹9,000 crore in nine days under the first phase of 'Rythu Bharosa', he added.

Reddy said he was ready for a debate on the Congress Government's last 30 months, the 10-year rule of BRS, and the 12-year rule of the NDA Government at the Centre.

Assam flood situation remains grim; one person dies, 46,000 people affected

FAIR REPORT
Guwahati

The flood situation in Assam remained grim on Tuesday with one person killed in the deluge and more than 46,000 people affected in six districts, an official bulletin said.

Two major rivers, including the Brahmaputra, were flowing above the danger level, with damage to infrastructure also caused in different parts. The Assam State

Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA), in its flood bulletin, said one woman died in flood waters in Sissiborgaon in Dhemaji district, the first casualty in the deluge in the State this year.

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma assured of all assistance to the affected areas, with ministers touring the flood-hit districts. "We are leaving no stone unturned in our flood response. While I continue to monitor the situ-

ation closely, my Cabinet colleagues are on the ground overseeing relief efforts, protection measures & ensuring timely assistance," Sarma said in a post on X.

Water Resources Minister Susanta Borgohain and Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Keshab Mahanta visited several affected areas and interacted with the people to ensure timely relief. "As part of the Assam Government's



ongoing flood response, I visited the flood-affected areas along the Ching River in Gohpur today, following the directions of Hon'ble Chief Minister Dr @himantabiswa Dangoriya," Borgohain, who was accompanied by Mahanta, said in a post on the social media site. "Necessary instructions were issued to the concerned authorities to take immediate flood protection measures," he added.

Rajasthan HC Denies Bail to Ex-MLA Baljeet Yadav in ₹3.72-Crore MLALAD Scam, ED Probe Tightens Noose

FAIR REPORT

JAIPUR: In a significant setback for former Behror MLA Baljeet Yadav, the Rajasthan High Court on Tuesday rejected his bail plea in the alleged ₹3.72-crore MLALAD Local Area Development (MLALAD) Fund embezzlement case, ensuring that he remains in judicial custody as the Enforcement Directorate (ED) intensifies its money laundering investigation. Justice Ravi Chiranji pronounced the order after reserving judgment on June 25 following detailed arguments from both the prosecution and the defence. With the High Court refusing relief, Yadav has now spent

nearly five months behind bars since his arrest by the ED on February 3. The case originated from an Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) FIR registered in December 2024, which later formed the basis for the ED's money laundering probe. Investigators allege that development contracts funded through the MLALAD scheme were awarded to firms that either came into existence only after receiving work orders or had obtained GST registrations through fraudulent means, raising serious concerns over the procurement process. According to the ED, funds were allegedly diverted through these firms be-

fore being routed to associates and relatives linked to the former legislator. The agency has identified companies, including Balaji Complete Solutions Pvt. Ltd., Surya Enterprises, and Rajput Sports Enterprises, as key entities under scrutiny. At the centre of the investigation is the alleged procurement of sports equipment for 32 government schools in Alwar in 2021. Officials claim cricket bats, badminton kits and other sporting goods were purchased at 2.5 to 3 times the prevailing market price despite allegedly being of inferior quality, resulting in a financial loss estimated at ₹3.72 crore.

NATIONFAIR REPORT 03

India to see below-normal rain in July: IMD

FAIR REPORT
 ■ New Delhi

The monthly average rainfall over India is expected to be below normal during July, the India Meteorological Department said on Tuesday in its monthly forecast. The weather department stated that July is most likely to see 94 per cent of the long-period average rainfall (1971-2020). The LPA rainfall over India in July is about 280.4 mm. LPA refers to the rainfall recorded over a particular region for a given period, such as a month or a season, averaged over a long period, typically 30 to 50 years. Some areas of northwest and north-east India, east-central India and the eastern peninsular region are likely to receive normal to above-normal rainfall, the IMD said. In a statement, Dr Mrutyunjay Mohapatra, director general of meteorology at the IMD, said, "During July, below-normal

rainfall is likely across most parts of the country except some areas of northwest and northeast India, east-central India and the eastern peninsular region, where normal to above-normal rainfall is likely." In June, India as a whole witnessed a rainfall deficit of about 40 per cent, with Central India worst affected with a deficit of 50.4 per cent. The country experienced the fifth-lowest (99.5 mm) rainfall in June since 1901. This below-normal rainfall during the monsoon season occurred due to five main factors, according to Mohapatra. First, an unfavourable phase of the Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO), which is a moving system of wind, cloud, and pressure that brings rain as it circles the equator. During a favourable phase, the MJO brings more clouds to southern India, which are then carried



northwards by the monsoon winds, leading to enhanced rainfall. Second, there were no low-pressure systems (LPSS) formed during June. LPSS are essentially areas where atmospheric pressure is lower than in their surrounding regions. Given that winds travel from high-pressure to low-pressure areas, these systems act like a magnet, pulling in

moisture-laden winds, helping trigger rainfall, and pushing the monsoon inland. Third, most of the typhoon systems that formed during June recurred to the North-Northwest direction, which led to subdued LPS over the Indian Ocean region. Fourth, the emergence of El Niño conditions this r th also negatively impacted the rainfall activity. El Niño is one of the three

phases of the El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) - a climate phenomenon characterised by changes in sea temperatures along the central and eastern tropical Pacific Ocean, accompanied by fluctuations in the atmosphere overhead. While El Niño, which leads to less monsoon rainfall in India, is known to have a warming effect over the planet, its opposite phase, La Nina, usually results in a cooling effect. ENSO also has a neutral phase. As Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) conditions are currently neutral, they cannot help to counter the El Niño's negative impact - positive IOD conditions typically result in more rainfall. Speaking about the advancement of the southwest monsoon, Mohapatra noted that conditions are favourable for further movement into the remaining parts of Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, and

Ladakh, and more parts of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh in the next 2-3 days. During this period, the monsoon is also likely to advance into the entire Daman and Diu, Jammu and Kashmir, most parts of Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi, and Punjab, and some parts of Rajasthan. As for temperatures in July, the IMD has said that maximum temperatures are expected to remain above normal across most parts of India, except a few isolated areas in West Central India, where normal to below-normal maximum temperatures are likely. "Meanwhile, the minimum temperatures are also expected to be above normal over most regions of the country, except some isolated pockets of Central and Northeast India, where normal minimum temperatures are likely," the IMD said.

States Focus



AIR MARSHAL ASHUTOSH DIXIT TO BE NEXT VICE CHIEF OF IAF

Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit, a senior military officer with over 3,300 hours of flying experience, is set to be the next Vice Chief of the Air Staff (VCAS). He will take charge on July 1, succeeding Air Marshal Nagesh Kapoor, an official said on Tuesday. Air Marshal Dixit was commissioned into the fight stream of the Indian Air Force in December 1986. He is an alumnus of National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla; Defence Services Staff College (Bangladesh) and National Defence College, New Delhi, the defence ministry earlier said. (PTI)



SATHEESAN CALLS FOR TEAMWORK TO DRIVE KERALA'S DEVELOPMENT

Kerala Chief Minister VD Satheesan on Tuesday said coordinated efforts by officers of the All India Service Secretariat and other government departments are essential to drive the state's development. Speaking at a farewell function organised by the state government for retiring Chief Secretary A Jayathilak and Additional Chief Secretary Dr Rajan N Khobragade at the Secretariat Darbar Hall here, the CM said retirement is not the end of life but the beginning of a new phase. With life expectancy increasing, people now have a longer and more productive post-retirement life, he said. (PTI)

VB-G RAM G Act comes into force



The Viksit Bharat — Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act, 2025 will come into force from July 1, with the Centre on Tuesday stating that all arrangements have been made for its implementation. The Ministry of Rural Development said the Act provides a statutory guarantee of up to 125 days of wage employment to eligible rural households, compared to the 100 days provided under the existing rural employment framework. The ministry said an interim allocation of ₹95,692.31 crore has been made to states and Union Territories to ensure a smooth transition, timely wage payments and uninterrupted implementation of works under the new framework. Union Rural Development Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said the Government's priority was to ensure that "no eligible rural worker remains without work even for a single day". He said the Centre and states had worked together to complete administrative, financial and technical preparations for the rollout. The Government said existing e-KYC-verified job cards will remain valid until the new Gramin Rozgar Guarantee Cards are issued. The gram panchayats will continue to play a key role in the implementation of the scheme, with a focus on areas such as natural resource management, water conservation, agriculture and allied activities, rural infrastructure and women's empowerment, it added.

Amit Shah launches revamped FCRA portal, e-OCI card

FAIR REPORT
 ■ New Delhi

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday launched a revamped online portal for regulating foreign contributions and the e-OCI Card, initiatives which would simplify compliance, improve public services and strengthen national security through greater use of technology. In his address, the Home Minister said that prior to 2014, the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) system was entangled in files and procedures and was beyond proper oversight. Shah said that after the Government led by Prime Minister Modi was formed in

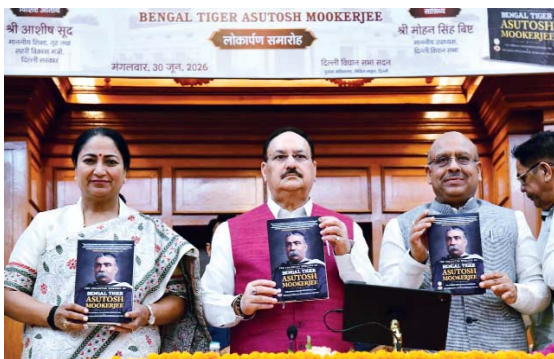
2014, the system was strengthened. "The renewal of the FCRA portal today will greatly enhance ease of operations for organisations," he said. The minister said that in the past years, there has been a significant increase in the number of applications and the flow of donations. Keeping this in view, reducing paperwork and ensuring effective, real-time monitoring of foreign contributions are very important for the country's security. He said that due to the FCRA law, monitoring of foreign contributions coming with wrong intentions will increase. The initiatives reflected the Government's commitment to improving governance through technology while making services more accessible to citizens and organisations, he said. The FCRA 2.0 Portal digitises all major processes related to foreign contribution regulation, including registration, renewal, annual



returns and other services under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act. The key provisions of the new FCRA Amendment rules, 2026, have also been incorporated into it. According to the Ministry, the platform has been devel-

oped to simplify compliance while strengthening the monitoring and enforcement of foreign funding received by organisations. "At present, around 14,500 active FCRA organisations are working across the country. Every year, approximately 15,000 to 20,000 applications and about 17,000 annual returns are received," a Government statement said. Hosted on the Government's MeghRaj cloud platform, the portal includes Aadhaar-based authentication, e-Sign verification, Optical Character Recognition technology for document analysis and integration with NGO Darpan.

Union minister Nadda unveils book on Asutosh Mookerjee's speeches



FAIR REPORT
 ■ New Delhi

Union Health Minister JP Nadda on Tuesday unveiled "The Collected Speeches of Bengal Tiger Asutosh Mookerjee." The book is published by the Delhi Legislative Assembly, compiling 32 legislative speeches of educationist and jurist Dr Ashutosh Mookerjee. The book is unveiled at a function marking his 162nd birth anniversary at the Assembly House. Nadda compared the speeches to a daily source of intellectual renewal for public life. "Just as a mobile phone must be recharged every day, public life too

requires constant intellectual renewal. Dr Ashutosh Mookerjee's speeches continue to recharge our minds with constitutional values, reasoned debate and a deep sense of nationalism," he said. The event was attended by Union Minister Harsh Malhotra, Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, Assembly Speaker Vijender Gupta, ministers Ashish Sood, Manjinder Singh Sirsa, and Dr Pankaj Kumar Singh, and Deputy Speaker Mohan Singh Bisht, along with MPs, MLAs, and academicians. A documentary on the Assembly narrated by Anupam Kher was also screened.

Speaker Vijender Gupta called Mookerjee the "Tiger of Bengal," noting that he defended educational institutions' autonomy under colonial rule, backed scholars including CV Raman and Meghnad Saha, and supported students such as Subhas Chandra Bose. He cited Mookerjee's tenure as Vice-Chancellor of Calcutta University, Calcutta High Court judge, and member of the Bengal and Imperial Legislative Councils. The Chief Minister said great personalities must continue inspiring new generations rather than remain confined to history, linking Mookerjee's educational philosophy to the National Education Policy's focus on Indian languages. Education Minister Sood said Mookerjee demonstrated that education is the strongest foundation of nation-building. Deputy Speaker Bisht said legislators must preserve the ideas that shaped India's democratic evolution, calling the publication an important step in that direction.

Ram Temple trust advances key meeting to July 6 as leadership faces crisis

FAIR REPORT
 ■ New Delhi

The Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust has moved its next meeting up to July 6, instead of July 11. All 14 members have been asked to be available as the Trust prepares to decide what happens next for General Secretary Champat Rai and trustee Anil Mishra. Both have resigned on moral grounds after the donation embezzlement controversy. The Trust is led by 87-year-old Mahant Nritya Gopal Das, a respected saint from Ayodhya's Mani Ram Das Ki Chavani. The Trust is under growing pressure to restore its credibility. Moving the meeting earlier shows the urgency to address the fallout from the ongoing police investigation into the alleged siphoning of devotees' offerings at the Ram Temple. Champat Rai, a longtime RSS pracharak and VHP leader who has played a key role in the Ram Janmabhoomi movement, and Anil Mishra resigned a few days after eight trust employees were arrested in the case. Police took Rai's statement on June



29, in which he reportedly denied any personal involvement and said he acted as soon as he learned of the irregularities. Rai was questioned for more than three hours. So far, no charges have been filed against him or other top trust leaders, but the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya is still under investigation due to financial allegations. The Trust has confirmed it received the resignations and has assured devotees that all donated valuables are safe. The July 6 meeting is expected to address more than just the resignations. Sources say the Trust will likely discuss ways to make its finances more transparent, possibly reorganise its struc-

ture, and consider reforms to prevent future problems. As the investigation now includes bank officials and financial records, the Trust needs to show strong leadership to counter concerns about weak oversight of large donations. Mahant Nritya Gopal Das, who has been part of the Ayodhya temple community for many years, now has the responsibility of guiding the Trust through this difficult time. At 87, his leadership is symbolic, but this situation is a real test of the organisation's strength after decades of struggle and public trust. This development underscores a critical juncture. This situation marks an important

turning point. The resignations and the earlier meeting show an effort to manage the crisis, but they also raise bigger questions about how religious trusts handle large public donations. The way the Trust handles new appointments and accountability on July 6 will determine whether it can regain devotees' confidence or face ongoing scrutiny that could divert attention from the temple's spiritual role. Change marks a genuine course correction or merely a symbolic reset. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has taken a strong stance, saying that police action following the three-member Special Investigation Team (SIT) report was based on it, that faith should be protected, and that people should not cast doubt on Ayodhya or Lord Ram. The UP Government quickly filed an FIR and arrested eight members of staff, while the opposition is calling for a CBI investigation into higher-ups. For an institution so closely tied to national sentiment, swift and transparent action is no longer optional; it is essential, said a senior official.

Amarnath pilgrims directed to use Jammu-Srinagar National Highway only

FAIR REPORT
 ■ Jammu

Amid heightened security arrangements, Amarnath-bound pilgrims have been directed to travel only on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway. As per the advisory of the UT administration, movement of pilgrims on alternative routes, including the Mughal Road and Dhar Road, will not be permitted for Yatra traffic due to security considerations. As the first batch of devotees is scheduled to be flagged off from the Bhagwati Nagar base camp on July 2, the Jammu and Kashmir administration on Tuesday said that elaborate arrangements, including enhanced security and accommodation for around 55,000 pilgrims, have been put in place

for this year's annual Amarnath Yatra. Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, who is also the chairman of the Shri Amarnath Shrine Board (SASB), will flag off the first convoy at 4 am on July 2. Separate escorted convoys will proceed to the twin base camps of Pahalgam and Baltal, from where pilgrims will begin their trek to the holy cave shrine on July 3. As of now, arrangements have been made to accommodate around 55,000 pilgrims across the Jammu division. Comprehensive arrangements have been made for all pilgrims arriving in the Jammu division, including facilities for accommodation, food and sanitation, so that no pilgrim faces any inconvenience,"



Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar told reporters.

"The Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra is an annual event. Every year, extensive security

arrangements are made for the pilgrimage, and this year we are making efforts to

provide an even stronger security cover than before," Inspector General of Police, Jammu range, Bhim Sen Tuti said during a press briefing in Jammu on Tuesday. He said pilgrims reaching Lakhanpur between 6 am and 8 am would be escorted to Jammu under security cover, while those arriving after 8 am would have to halt there due to security restrictions. "Pilgrims have been directed to travel only on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway. Movement on alternative routes, including the Mughal Road and Dhar Road, will not be permitted for Yatra traffic in view of security considerations," he said. The IGP said mini-convoys would also operate between Udhampur and Banihal under a fixed schedule.

"Pilgrims have been advised to adhere to the cut-off timings notified by the traffic department, which may revise the schedule depending on weather or road conditions," he said. On-the-spot registration for pilgrims will commence on Wednesday at the Tawi River Front in Jammu, where the registration centre has been shifted to minimise inconvenience to city residents. Tokens have already been distributed, and registration will be carried out according to the daily quota fixed by the Shrine Board, Kumar said. Mandatory RFID cards for security and tracking will be issued at designated centres, including Jammu Railway Station, Bhagwati Nagar, Tawi River Front, Udhampur Railway Station,

Chanderkote, Banihal, Lakhanpur and Samba. Pilgrims who have completed online registration and e-KYC verification have been advised to collect their RFID cards before proceeding to the base camp. "Separate registration facilities have been established for sadhus at Geeta Bhawan and Purani Mandi temple, while general pilgrims will be registered at the Tawi River Front and Mahajan Sabha," Kumar said. The district commissioner appealed to pilgrims to strictly follow the Shrine Board guidelines and carry mandatory health certificates. Elderly pilgrims and those suffering from cardiac or respiratory ailments have been advised to undertake the pilgrimage only after obtaining proper medical clearance.

