

FAIR REPORT

THE DAWN OF A FEARLESS PEN

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Desert Dawn: Modi Unveils Rajasthan Refinery, Charts a Blueprint for a New Industrial Frontier

PM slams Congress for stalling flagship project, says double-engine government turned vision into velocity

FAIR REPORT
HEMRAJ TIKAMCHAND

Pachpadra/Jaipur: In a moment poised to redraw Rajasthan's economic map, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday inaugurated the long-awaited Rajasthan Refinery at Pachpadra, hailing it as a cornerstone of the state's industrial future while launching a sharp attack on the previous Congress dispensation for what he called years of paralysis.

Speaking at the inauguration, the Prime Minister recalled that the project's MoU was signed back in 2017, but during the Congress government's tenure in the state from 2018 to 2023, work on the refinery had virtually ground to a halt. The moment the state came under a "double-engine" BJP government, he said, the project regained momentum — a point he



framed as emblematic of a larger governing philosophy.

BJP governments, Modi argued, don't merely lay foundation stones and walk away; they work round the clock to see projects through to comple-

tion. Today's inauguration, he said, marks the culmination of that commitment and will stand as a milestone in Rajasthan's industrial and economic ascent. A Message on Resilience Amid Global Turbulence Turning to geopolitics,

the Prime Minister referenced recent tensions in West Asia, noting that rumours had spread and attempts were made to frighten and intimidate peo-

ple

during the crisis, but those with ill intent did not succeed, as citizens stood firmly with the nation through the difficult period. He said conspiracies aimed at spreading instability in the country were thwarted, and it was this collective trust that allowed the nation to move forward.

Those who had hoped to see India falter, he added, now stand disappointed.

Water for the Desert:

A Federal Vision

On the contentious Yamuna water-sharing issue, Modi drew a sharp ideological contrast between the two parties. He said Congress governments had never taken concrete steps to resolve Rajasthan's water crisis, whereas the BJP does not practice the politics of regionalism and division, instead operating on the principle of "Nation First." Recalling his tenure as Gujarat Chief Minister, he said he had worked on water-delivery schemes that eventually saw Gujarat share water with Rajasthan — a legacy that today brings Narmada's waters to numerous Rajasthan villages.

Looking ahead, the PM signalled a new chapter in cooperative federalism:

with BJP governments now in power in both Rajasthan and Haryana, the two states will jointly work to extend water supply to the Shekhawati region, building on an agreement recently finalised between them.

The Bigger Picture Taken together, the refinery launch and the water-sharing roadmap position Rajasthan at an inflection point — a state transitioning from resource scarcity to energy self-reliance, and from political gridlock to cross-border cooperation within India's federal structure. For a region long defined by its arid landscape, the twin announcements suggest a future being rewritten in real time: one measured not in monsoons, but in megawatts, pipelines, and political will.

Bengaluru Daycare Horror Whistleblower Who Exposed Toddler Abuse Now Behind Bars, As Case Takes Bizarre Twist

Woman who leaked shocking videos from Cappgemini campus daycare arrested for delaying evidence, deleting clips; two caregivers already in custody as more arrests loom

FAIR REPORT

Bengaluru: A case that shook Bengaluru's IT corridor took a startling turn on Saturday when police arrested Sujatha, the very whistleblower whose videos had exposed alleged abuse of toddlers at an on-campus daycare inside Cappgemini's tech park — even as the caregivers she implicated remain under investigation.

Police said Sujatha, a former employee at the daycare, was booked for allegedly sitting on crucial video evidence for nearly a week before approaching child protection authorities, and for allegedly deleting certain clips before handing over the footage. She was sent to 14 days' judicial custody after questioning.

The disturbing videos, which first surfaced after the whistleblower approached Child Helpline officials on June 25, allegedly showed children as young as two and three years old being subjected to frightening treatment — including being placed inside a running washing machine, sprayed with water, and locked alone inside bathrooms as a form of intimidation.

The footage, once it went viral, triggered a police complaint and a



separate case before the Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights. HAL Police registered an FIR on July 1 based on a complaint from a probation officer with the District Child Protection Unit, naming the daycare and five staff members. Two caregivers — Vijayalakshmi and Manjula — have already been arrested, with police confirming that more arrests are expected as the probe widens.

Investigators say the daycare, which had 50 to 60 children enrolled with 15 to 20 attending regularly, may have witnessed systematic abuse over an extended period — and that parents, all Cappgemini employees, remained completely unaware, since staff were not permitted inside the facility.

Cappgemini has said the daycare was run by a third-party service provider and that the company is cooperating fully with authorities, having temporarily shut the facility as a precautionary measure. The whistleblower's arrest has triggered sharp criticism from child rights activists and her family, who say she was targeted for coming forward — and, in an earlier twist, was reportedly sacked by the daycare after she first flagged the abuse to her employers.

Patna HC Junks PIL Against Adani's ₹28,000-Crore Pirpainti Power Project, Calls Allegations "Vague"

FAIR REPORT

PATNA: In a decisive setback to opponents of the Adani Group's mega power venture in Bihar, the Patna High Court on Thursday dismissed a public interest litigation challenging the 28,000-crore Pirpainti Thermal Power Project, ruling that the allegations levelled in the petition were "vague" and "nebulous."

A division bench of Chief Justice Meenakshi Madan Rai and Justice Soni Shrivastava held that



the petition did not qualify as genuine public interest litigation and appeared to be driven by private interest instead. (Live Law) The court refused to interfere in what it termed a policy decision of the state government.

The plea, filed by a practising advocate, had sought to challenge the approval

and award of the 2,400 MW ultra-supercritical coal-based project — comprising three units of 800 MW each — to the Adani Group in Bhagalpur district. The petitioner had pointed out that the Bihar cabinet cleared the project in March 2025 through a tariff-based competitive bidding process.

The petition had also flagged the tariff structure fixed for the project and the controversial land-lease terms — 1,050 acres handed to Adani Power for 33 years

at a token Rs 1 per year (Drishti IAS), a deal the opposition has repeatedly branded a giveaway.

The project, being developed at a cost of roughly \$3 billion, is expected to generate 10,000–12,000 jobs during construction and around 3,000 permanent positions once operational. With the HC's dismissal, the road appears clearer for Adani Power to press ahead — even as questions over Bihar's power deal continue to simmer in political circles.

Rajasthan Horror: Minor Trafficked, Gang-Raped Across Hotels; Authorities Bulldoze Properties Linked to Case

FAIR REPORT

SRI GANGANAGAR: A harrowing case of child trafficking and sexual exploitation has shaken this Rajasthan district, after a 13-year-old girl was allegedly abducted, sold, and subjected to repeated sexual assault by more than 30 men over five days at multiple hotels. According to the police FIR, the minor went missing from her home before being allegedly sold to a hotel owner by an e-rickshaw driver. Investigators say other hotel operators were also complicit in

facilitating the abuse, with attempts allegedly made to cover up the crime. The girl reportedly told police she was forced to consume alcohol to cope with the pain from the repeated assaults. Police have arrested several suspects, including hotel owners and managers, and say the investigation is ongoing, with further arrests likely as more individuals are questioned over their alleged role. In a strong administrative response, district authorities demolished four hotels linked to the case, cit-

ing illegal construction and regulatory violations. The action has been seen as both a punitive and symbolic step amid mounting public anger. The case has triggered widespread outrage in Sri Ganganagar, with residents and political leaders staging protests demanding swift justice. It has also reignited concerns nationally about the vulnerability of children to trafficking networks and the urgent need for tighter regulation of hotels and lodges that can be misused to facilitate such crimes.

though no arrests have been confirmed yet. Authorities are treating the threat with the "highest level of seriousness," coordinating across multiple security agencies to safeguard the Prime Minister. Modi is set to arrive in Australia on July 8 for a three-day state visit, headlined by the Australia-India Annual Leaders' Summit

“Coming for His Death”: Chilling Threat to PM Modi Rocks Australia Ahead of Melbourne Visit

FAIR REPORT

MELBOURNE: A menacing online threat against Prime Minister Narendra Modi has triggered an urgent security probe by the Australian Federal Police, just days before his high-profile visit to the country. The alarming comment surfaced on a Facebook post

announcing the "Melbourne Meets Modi" community event, organised by the Australia India Foundation at Marvel Stadium. Posted by a user identifying as "Abu Mustafa," the chilling message read: "The roof tops of the stadium better close during the event or he will be coming to Australia for his death." The post set off im-



mediate alarm bells, with the matter referred to the AFP the same day it ap-

peared online. Investigators have since traced an IP address linked to the account,

with PM Anthony Albanese and the community outreach event at Marvel Stadium on July 9 — an event now under a security cloud. Despite the scare, officials say the diplomatic visit will proceed as planned, with Modi also expected to hold bilateral talks and meet Australian business leaders during the trip.

cuts, a sharp jump from just a year ago when companies rarely admitted as much. The United States remains the epicentre of the churn, but India has emerged as the second-worst-hit nation, with its vast IT and back-office engineering workforce — the backbone of global tech outsourcing — bearing a significant share of the fallout. Hubs like Bengaluru and Hyderabad, long seen as safe havens of steady employment, are now grappling with ripple effects extending into housing, rentals, and consumer spending. Behind the statistics lies a deeper anxiety gripping the workforce: engineers, coders, and support staff once considered indispensable now find themselves competing not just with each other, but with algorithms that never ask for a raise, a break, or a job security guarantee.



2020 DELHI RIOTS CASE

Court rejects fresh bail pleas of Umar Khalid, Sharjeel Imam

FAIR REPORT
■ New Delhi

A city court on Saturday rejected the bail applications of student activists Umar Khalid and Sharjeel Imam in the larger-conspiracy case linked to the 2020 northeast Delhi riots, saying it had “no option but to follow” the Supreme Court’s January 5 order and, therefore, could neither entertain the pleas nor grant them the relief.

Additional Sessions Judge Sameer Bajpai said the bail pleas are not even maintainable in the trial court. The judge said, “This court has no option but to follow the judgement dated January 5, 2026, as passed by the Supreme Court, whereby the petitions of both the applicants were dismissed. Following the said order of the Supreme Court, this court cannot entertain the applications and grant bail to the applicants. In fact, the applications are not maintain-



Umar Khalid and Sharjeel Imam

able, and they are hereby dismissed.”

The court said although the applicants had argued that there was a change in circumstances following a division bench judgement of the top court in the case of Syed Iftikhar Andrabi, the issue concerning the divergence of opinion between that verdict and the Supreme Court’s judgement in Gulfisha Fatima versus State has already been referred to a larger bench.

“Unless the issue is settled, the court cannot consider

the present applications on any ground,” the judge said.

The court further said it cannot even examine whether there is any change in circumstances, as it is bound by the Supreme Court’s January 5 order dismissing the bail pleas of both applicants. “Since then, there are no substantial change of circumstances as pleaded by the applicants and there arises no question to re-consider the bail of the applicants,” it said.

The court, however, clari-

fied that nothing stated in the order should be construed as an expression of opinion on the merits of the case.

Khalid’s lawyer, Trideep Pias, told the court that there was a change in circumstances after the Supreme Court’s January 5 judgement. He also relied on the subsequent Syed Iftikhar Andrabi ruling, which reaffirmed the principles in the K A Najeib case on prolonged incarceration, and questioned the reasoning adopted in the case of Gulfisha Fatima.

Imam’s lawyer, Talib Mustafa, pointed to the apex court’s interim bail orders for co-accused Tasleem and Khalid Saifi, as well as the Delhi High Court’s bail order in Khuram Parvez’s case.

He argued that since both applicants had spent more than six years in custody and the protected witnesses are unlikely to be examined soon, they should be granted regular bail or, alternatively, six months’ interim bail.

Gymkhana Club members, staff move Delhi HC against show-cause notice for eviction

FAIR REPORT
■ New Delhi

The Delhi Gymkhana Club and its Staff Welfare Association have moved the Delhi High Court against the Government’s decision to initiate proceedings to evict them from the club’s premises at 2, Safdarjung Road in Lutyens’ Delhi, a VIP zone.

The matter is listed before Justice Avneesh Jhingran on July 6. The petitions come after the Centre, through the Estate Officer under the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971, initiated eviction proceedings following the termination of the club’s perpetual lease, alleging that it had become an “unauthorised occupant.”

The pleas by Vijay Khurana and Delhi Gymkhana Club Ltd Staff Welfare Association form part of their pending lawsuit following the Land and Development Office’s (L&DO) May 22 order asking the colonial-era club to return its land by June 5 on grounds of “strengthening



and securing defence infrastructure.” The two suits pending before the High Court challenge the Government’s earlier order to vacate the premises.

On June 29, the Estate Officer recently issued a show-cause notice asking the club to explain why an eviction order should not be passed against it. It has been directed to file its response by July 7 and appear before the Estate Officer the same day at 2.30 pm. According to the notice, issued through the Land & Development Office (L&DO), the club’s continued occupation of the 27.3-acre prop-

erty after the lease was terminated amounts to “unauthorised occupation” under the Public Premises Act.

The Centre has contended that President Droupadi Murmu exercised powers under Clause 4 of the perpetual lease deed, which permits resumption of the land if it is required for a public purpose.

It has been argued that once the lease stood terminated and the land resumed, the Club ceased to have any legal right to remain in possession, rendering its continued occupation unauthorised.

The show-cause notice

directs the club to appear through its office-bearers or an authorised representative and produce all documentary and oral evidence it seeks to rely upon. It also cautions that failure to appear or submit a response may result in the proceedings being decided ex parte.

The move came more than a month after the Centre told the Delhi High Court on May 26 that it would not take forceful possession of the 27.3-acre premises by June 5, which is required for “strengthening and securing defence infrastructure”.

Vijay Khurana, a Gymkhana Club member, has said in his laws at the “vague and generalised reasons” of defence infrastructure and security given by the Centre were just a “sham”. The move, he claimed, was an “attempt to effect forced eviction” instead of following the due process of law. Khurana’s lawsuit is stated to be supported by more than 500 members of the club.

DU gets over 1.42 lakh UG admission registrations for 2026-27

FAIR REPORT
■ New Delhi

Delhi University has received more than 1.42 lakh registrations for undergraduate admissions for the 2026-27 academic session, with over 43,500 aspirants submitting their programme and college preferences under the second phase of the admission process.

Dean of Admissions Haneet Gandhi said that 1,42,733 candidates had registered under Phase I of the Common Seat Allocation System (CSAS), with 43,547 applicants filling in their programme and college preferences under Phase II.

The second phase of the undergraduate admission process began on July 3 and will remain open till 11.59 pm on July 11.

Admissions to over 71,000 seats, covering 73 undergraduate programmes and over 100 BA programme combinations across 67 colleges, will be based on CUET-

UG 2026 scores, subject to programme-specific eligibility criteria. During Phase II, candidates are required to map their Common University Entrance Test subjects with those studied in Class 12 before submitting their preferred programme and college combinations, he said.

According to the admission schedule, simulated ranks will be displayed on the CSAS portal at 5 pm on July 12, following which candidates can reorder their programme and college preferences till July 13.

The first seat allocation list will be released on July 16. Candidates allotted seats will have to accept them by July 18, while colleges will complete verification by July 20. The last date for payment of admission fees under the first round is July 21.

The second allocation list will be announced on July 25. Candidates allotted seats in this round can accept them by July 26, with colleges



completing verification by July 27. The last date for payment of fees under the second round is July 28.

The academic session is scheduled to commence on July 28.

Candidates are required to register on the CSAS portal using their CUET-UG 2026 application number. The university has integrated candidates’ basic details via the Government of India’s API Setu to minimise data-entry errors and enhance security.

A one-time, non-refundable registration fee of Rs 250 is applicable for candidates in the unreserved, OBC-NCL and EWS categories, while SC, ST and PwBD candidates are required to pay Rs 100.

Meanwhile DU is likely to begin physical trials for admissions under the Extra-Curricular Activities (ECA) quota from July 15, with the schedule to be notified on the university admission portal. The notification said that no individual communi-

cation would be sent to candidates regarding the trial schedule and advised applicants to regularly check the varsity admission website for updates on category-wise trial centres and tentative dates. Candidates must report only at the centre allotted for their respective ECA category with the original copies of all ECA certificates uploaded during registration, along with their CUET scorecard at the time of reporting, the notification said, advising outstation candidates to make their own travel and accommodation arrangements.

The university has directed candidates to bring all equipment, instruments, costumes, props or stationery required for their performances, adding that no borrowing or sharing of such items will be allowed. There will be no prescribed syllabus for the trials, and assessment will be based solely on proficiency in the relevant ECA category.

DDA unveils eight-point plan to transform Delhi into green city

FAIR REPORT
■ New Delhi

The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) is working on an eight-point development programme to transform Delhi into a sustainable and green city, with a focus on affordable housing, mobility, environment and heritage conservation.

The roadmap was discussed at a recent meeting of the DDA’s advisory council chaired by Lieutenant Governor Taranjit Singh Sandhu, which reviewed gaps in the urban challenges such as affordable housing, slums, their relocation, traffic congestion, unauthorised colonies and water security.

During the meeting, key urban challenges, including traffic congestion, pollution, urban flooding, heat islands, redevelopment of existing areas, planned development in land pooling and low-



density zones, were also flagged. “The council adopted a four-pillar roadmap aimed at building a sustainable, green and liveable Delhi, with the Lieutenant Governor stressing the need for planned growth across housing, mobility, environment and heritage,” an official said.

“Critical issues like the deterioration of heritage structures and water shortages that need immediate intervention for orderly growth of the city were also discussed,” the official said

further.’ Outlining the way forward, the LG said the vision rests on four key pillars. “On environment sustainability, the focus will be on achieving the highest per capita green cover in the country, developing vibrant riverfronts, and creating an interconnected green and blue infrastructure network across the city,” he added.

For good quality living, the emphasis will be on strengthening disaster resilience, ensuring water security, and making roads safer for all users.

DMRC plans in-train audio ads on 4 metro lines

FAIR REPORT
■ New Delhi

A brief pause between Delhi Metro announcements could soon be followed by an advertisement, with the Delhi Metro planning to roll out in-train audio commercials across the Red, Yellow, Blue and Magenta lines to boost its non-fare revenue.

The move is aimed at strengthening the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation’s (DMRC) non-ticketing earnings, while turning its trains into a premium advertising platform, an official said.

The initiative also seeks to position the metro alongside leading global transit systems and airports for audio advertising, he added.

To take the plan forward, the corporation has floated a tender inviting agencies to secure, market and manage in-train audio advertisement slots across six trains each on the Red (Line 1), Yellow



(Line 2), Blue (Line 3) and Magenta (Line 8) corridors, the official said.

The Yellow Line, one of the capital’s oldest and busiest metro corridors connecting Kashmere Gate and Sultanpur, offers the largest uninterrupted advertising inventory among the four routes after the Red Line’s cumulative inventory, with 596 seconds of audio slots available in both directions, the official said.

The Red Line, connecting

Dilshad Garden and Rithala, has the highest overall inventory at 721 seconds, followed by the Blue Line between Dwarka and Yamuna Bank with 634 seconds. The Magenta Line between Janakpuri West and Botanical Garden has 300 seconds, the official explained.

He specified that advertisements will be aired only during silent intervals between routine operational announcements, with

passenger information and safety messages receiving absolute priority.

It also requires adequate gaps between commercials to ensure convenience for commuters.

According to the official, the system follows international practices adopted by major metro networks, where commercial announcements are carefully integrated, without disrupting essential travel information. The sound quality, volume and frequency of the advertisements will also be regulated.

The DMRC first introduced in-train audio advertisements on six trains operating on the Violet Line between Kashmere Gate and Badarpur in December 2023. The proposed expansion indicates that the corporation now intends to extend the model to several of its busiest corridors, the official added.

CM launches infra projects in Shalimar Bagh, Pitampura

FAIR REPORT
■ New Delhi

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Saturday inaugurated a series of civic infrastructure projects and reviewed ongoing development works in Shalimar Bagh and Pitampura, directing officials to ensure timely completion of all projects while maintaining quality standards.

The chief minister also inaugurated a 500 kW solar power plant at the Air Force and Naval Officers Enclave in Dwarka Sector-7 under the Palam Assembly constituency. During the visit, the Chief Minister inspected works related to park beautification, drainage and sewerage infrastructure, healthcare services, irrigation facilities and technical education institutions.

She began the visit by inaugurating the redevelopment and beautification of BD-FD Park in Pitampura,



along with 93 newly installed electric poles and a modern lighting system. She said the Delhi Government was working to make public parks across the city safer, more attractive and accessible, adding that well-maintained green spaces contribute to environmental conservation and improve residents’ quality of life.

She also inaugurated multiple projects undertaken by the Public Works Department and the Delhi Jal Board aimed at strengthening the rainwa-

ter drainage and sewerage network in the Shalimar Bagh area. The projects include new precast drainage systems from DT Mall to CA Block, from CA Block to the Shalimar Village Chowk underpass, from the railway underbridge to GT Karnal Road near the Azadpur Mandi gate, and from Shalimar Chowk to DA Block.

An additional sewage pumping station and its delivery line were also inaugurated to address long-pending sewerage issues in Shalimar

Village, Sahipur Village and nearby localities.

The Chief Minister said the Government was developing long-term infrastructure to provide a permanent solution to waterlogging and sewerage problems.

She instructed officials to ensure proper operation and regular monitoring of the projects, particularly during the monsoon season.

She later inspected the NP Block Dispensary, where she reviewed the availability of medicines, medical equipment and healthcare services. She directed health department officials to ensure timely and quality treatment for patients, warning that negligence would not be tolerated.

She also visited the Munak Canal at Singhalpur and reviewed water flow, maintenance and cleaning arrangements with officials from the Irrigation and Flood Control Department.

As SIR picks up, many residents in Shaheen Bagh, Jasola unaware of exercise

FAIR REPORT
■ New Delhi

The anganwadi on the main road in Delhi’s Noor Nagar has become one of the collection points for the Election Commission’s Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. Residents walk in to collect enumeration forms; booth-level officers stop by the day while party workers help people fill out paperwork.

Barely a few lanes away, however, the exercise appears to fade into the background. In pockets of Shaheen Bagh and Jasola in the Okhla Assembly constituency of southeast Delhi, many resi-

dents were either unaware that the month-long voter roll revision had begun in their neighbourhood or knew of it only vaguely, without knowing where forms were being distributed or how the process worked.

The gap, however, is not necessarily one of documentation but of information.

For years, migrant families from Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Assam and West Bengal have made these neighbourhoods their home.

They drive cabs, work as domestic helps, stitch garments, run small businesses and take up daily-wage jobs. Many have voted in successive Delhi Assembly and Lok

Sabha elections, their voter identity cards carrying local addresses. Yet, in the first week of the SIR exercise, conversations in these neighbourhoods often began with a simple question: “SIR? What is that?”

Firoz, who moved to Delhi from Assam around 15 years ago and now lives in a makeshift house in Okhla’s Noor Nagar, had heard that SIR was underway but did not know it had reached his locality. “If there is a camp, we’ll go. But where is it? Nobody has come to our lane or explained anything,” he said, adding that his family already has voter identity cards, Aadhaar cards, PAN cards and driving



licences. “We know SIR is happening, but we don’t know where,” Firoz said.

Not far away, Bibi Ajmera, who migrated from Bihar’s Purnia around 18 years ago and works as a domestic worker, was hearing about

the exercise for the first time.

She recalled voting in Delhi elections and replacing a lost voter identity card with the help of her Aadhaar card at a local government school.

Like many others in the locality, she leaves for work

early in the day and returns only by evening. Nobody, she said, had approached her about the ongoing revision.

The contrast is visible within a short walk.

While forms are being distributed from the anganwadi on the main road, awareness becomes patchier inside the densely populated lanes beyond it, where information often travels by word of mouth.

Residents living in nearby concrete houses said announcements about the exercise were being made through mosque loudspeakers. But many said people either did not pay attention to them or did not realise the

announcements referred to the voter roll revision. “The process has just begun. People will gradually become aware,” one resident said.

The SIR exercise began on June 30 and will continue till July 29. During the exercise, BLOs are to provide every elector with two copies of the enumeration form - one to be submitted and another to be retained by the voter as an acknowledgement. No supporting documents are required to be submitted along with the form.

However, residents and local political workers said the outreach has not always been door-to-door.

Anis Khan, a Delhi Block

Congress office-bearer in the area, claimed that in several pockets, BLOs were asking residents to collect forms from specific locations such as anganwadis or mosques instead of visiting every household.

He added that practical constraints, including large elector lists, irregular house numbering in some neighbourhoods and the physical challenge of carrying hundreds of forms, have made door-to-door distribution for women BLOs difficult in parts of the area.

The party, he said, has begun conducting its own outreach to bridge the information gap.

Conman who duped 300 luxury hotels held after 36 years

FAIR REPORT
 ■ New Delhi/Raipur

A 69-year-old man from Tamil Nadu, identified as Bingson John, has been arrested in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, ending what police describe as one of India's longest-running hotel fraud operations. According to Raipur Police, he targeted more than 300 luxury hotels across the country since around 1990, spanning 36 years.

The latest complaint came from the Hyatt Hotel in Raipur, Chhattisgarh. John allegedly checked in on June 25, 2026, used the five-star facilities, and left on the morning of June 27 without settling his bill of ₹63,755. He also took a laptop worth around ₹1.48 lakh that the

hotel had provided. The stolen laptop was later recovered from him.

His modus operandi involved charm and false identities. During interrogation, he reportedly told investigators that he drew inspiration from Charles Sobhraj, the French-Vietnamese serial killer and conman known as "The Serpent." Like Sobhraj, who used fake identities and deception in luxury hotels across Asia in the 1970s. John allegedly used similar tactics, but focused on financial fraud rather than violence. He often posed as a foreign tour guide, an English teacher and a yoga instructor. These respectable personas helped him build instant trust with hotel staff. He would check into



premium properties, avail room service, spa treatments, and other luxuries, then vanish without paying, sometimes stealing small valuables on the way out.

John is no stranger to the law. Raipur Police claim criminal cases against him exist in

more than 10 states, including several major metropolitan cities. He was found to have spent over 15 years in various prisons, including Tihar Jail in Delhi, where he allegedly came into contact with other notorious criminals, without paying or prop-

erly checking out on the morning of June 27.

The arrest followed a complaint from the Hyatt Hotel. After that complaint, Raipur's Anti-Crime and Cyber Unit, along with the staff of Telibandha Police Station, used technical analysis of documents and mobile numbers to track him to Bhubaneswar. He was apprehended there by Raipur Police in coordination with local authorities in Odisha. A case has been registered under Section 318(4) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) at Telibandha Police Station. Further investigation is ongoing to verify the full scale of his alleged crimes and link him to other pending cases.

This case highlights vulnerabilities in the hospitality

sector, where trust-based check-ins and the desire to provide excellent service can sometimes be exploited. It also shows how digital footprints, including mobile numbers and documents, can help identify even experienced offenders which remains in custody as police piece together the decades-long trail of unpaid luxury bills and alleged thefts.

Whether his Sobhraj-inspired methods will land him behind bars for the rest of his life remains to be seen, but his long run of luxury on someone else's tab has finally come to an end. This reads like a real-life crime story: one man, one shrewd conman, decades of luxury living, and an ending shaped by modern policing.

MP Congress chief hit with defamation notice over trust row

FAIR REPORT
 ■ Bhopal

Veer Bharat Nyas Secretary Shriram Tiwari has served a ₹5 crore defamation notice on Madhya Pradesh Congress President Jitu Patwari over his recent allegations regarding the trust, demanding that he publicly apologise within three days or face legal action.

The notice, issued through advocates Harish Mehta and Supreme Court lawyer Gunjan Chouksey, follows Patwari's remarks made during a press conference in New Delhi, where he alleged that the Madhya Pradesh Government had handed over Government land and a building in Ujjain worth nearly ₹500 crore to Veer Bharat Nyas on a lease of just ₹1. Patwari had also claimed that the trust was closely linked to the Chief Minister and had been favoured in violation of established rules.

Addressing mediapersons here on Saturday, advocate Harish Mehta said Patwari made the allegations despite being aware of the relevant facts. He said the notice demands that Patwari withdraw his statements, issue a public clarification and tender an unconditional apology through the media within three days. Failing this, legal proceedings for defamation will be initiated.

Mehta said the allegations had damaged the personal and public reputation of Shriram Tiwari. He maintained that Veer Bharat Nyas functions in accordance with the law and



Madhya Pradesh Congress President Jitu Patwari

works for people across all communities and regions. He accused Patwari of attempting to tarnish the image of both the trust and its secretary through baseless allegations.

Advocate Gunjan Chouksey said Veer Bharat Nyas is a legally registered public trust and not a private organisation. She noted that the Chief Minister serves as its chairperson and that the trust, established in 2012, was also headed by Congress Chief Ministers during previous Congress Governments.

Chouksey further said that if the ₹5 crore sought through the defamation notice is awarded, the entire amount would be donated to a non-Governmental organisation.

The legal notice comes five days after Patwari alleged that the Government had leased Government property worth around ₹500 crore in Ujjain to Veer Bharat Nyas for ₹1, claiming the trust had received undue benefits in violation of rules.

VETERAN JOURNALIST AMALENDU KUNDU PASSES AWAY



FAIR REPORT
 ■ Kolkata

Veteran journalist Amalendu Kundu, one of India's most respected chroniclers of Sikkim and the Eastern Himalayan region, passed away on Saturday evening at his native residence in the Howrah Maidan area of West Bengal. He was 80+ and had been ailing due to age-related health conditions for the past few years. Surrounded by his family in his final moments, Kundu peacefully departed for his heavenly abode, bringing to a close an illustrious journalistic career that spanned more than five decades.

His passing marks the end of an era in Indian journalism — one defined by integrity, quiet perseverance, geographical depth, and an unwavering commitment to reporting from one of the country's most strategically significant yet often underrepresented frontiers. Through decades of meticulous reportage, Kundu elevated the stories of Sikkim and the Eastern Himalayas from regional developments to matters of national importance, earning the respect of colleagues, policymakers, and readers alike. Kundu, who spent over five decades chronicling the socio-political landscape of Sikkim and the Eastern Himalayan region, was among the rare journalists who transformed a remote frontier into a subject of national strategic discourse.

His work consistently bridged the gap between regional realities and national consciousness.

PM Modi unveils NHPC's 300 MW solar plant in Rajasthan

FAIR REPORT
 ■ New Delhi/Bikaner

NHPC's 300 MW Karnisar solar power plant at Bikaner, Rajasthan, was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi through virtual mode on Saturday. The project marks a significant addition to India's renewable energy capacity and underscores the nation's commitment to clean energy.

The virtual inauguration was held in the presence of Rajasthan Governor Haribhau Kisanrao Bagde, Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma, Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri, and Deputy Chief Ministers Diya Kumari and Prem Chand Bairwa.

Speaking on the occasion, the Prime Minister emphasised that renewable energy is the cornerstone of India's energy security and sustainable future. He highlighted



that Rajasthan is witnessing the development of world-class solar power infrastructure, reinforcing its position as a key contributor to the nation's clean energy ambitions.

Bhupender Gupta, CMD, NHPC, thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Ministry of Power, the

Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, and the Rajasthan government for their continued guidance in the successful execution of the project. He reaffirmed NHPC's commitment to contributing towards India's green energy goals.

Aligned with the vision of Aatma Nirbhar Bharat, the

mega project was developed using approximately 7.75 lakh domestically manufactured solar PV cells and modules.

The solar power plant is expected to generate around 75 crore units of clean electricity annually. It will significantly bolster the nation's renewable energy basket while helping offset nearly 6.4

lakh tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions every year.

Besides producing clean energy, the project has contributed to the socio-economic development of the region by creating direct and indirect employment opportunities for over 40 local residents, generating sustainable livelihoods in remote areas of the State.



CBI raids Northern Railway office in bribery case

FAIR REPORT
 ■ New Delhi

The CBI has conducted searches at the Northern Railway office in Baroda House in New Delhi in connection with an alleged bribery case involving Narender Singh, Chief Materials Manager (Store) and others, officials said Saturday.

The operation was conducted on Friday evening following a tip-off that the officer was about to take a bribe from a businessman from Uttar Pradesh, they said. The CBI has booked Singh, Chief Materials Manager, his deputy, Shuvashis Maity, Deputy Chief Materials Manager, and Lenin Sharma, Senior Clerk (Store) — all three posted at Northern Railways (HQ), Baroda House, New Delhi.

The FIR has also named businessmen Shariq Ali and Ejaz Ali of Mash International Pvt Ltd (Mash & Co), Jajmou, Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh. The company has also been named as an accused. The CBI alleged in the FIR that Shariq regularly obtained "valuable and confidential



information" relating to railway tenders, along with other official favours, through Sharma and his associates in exchange for illegal gratification.

A purchase order for the Safety Shoes was issued in favour of Mash International Pvt Ltd in April this year, for which Shariq asked Ejaz to visit Delhi to pay bribes to the concerned officers, the FIR alleged.

"The source has further informed that Singh and his deputy, Maity, act in tandem and close coordination, further extending undue favours to Mash International Pvt. It's either one of the two that receives the pecuniary advantage/illegal gratification on the other's behalf," the FIR alleged.

Warehouse collapse: CM Suwendu praises Army, NDRF rescuers

FAIR REPORT
 ■ Kolkata

West Bengal Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari on Saturday lauded the agencies involved in the rescue work of the Taratala warehouse collapse last week, which prompted their coordinated efforts, asking for better vigilance and Stricter monitoring so that "a similar incident never happens again."

Sixteen 16 people died, and about 17 were left seriously injured when a three-storey warehouse building under construction at Taratala, adjoining Kolkata port, collapsed, burying the victims underneath, raising questions on the way the plans were sanctioned by the then Trinamool Congress-ruled Kolkata Municipal Corporation.

"We must ensure that such incidents do not happen again. We have started a special audit of



buildings and construction-related issues following the Taratala tragedy, and a series of measures have been taken. We ask all the departments to remain vigilant and exercise strict control," the Chief Minister said, "saluting the rescuers", including the local youth and the agencies like NDRF, Army, Fire Brigade and Kolkata Police, who are doing a "marvellous job."

Adhikari was speaking at a felicitation programme organised by the Kolkata Police to honour personnel involved in the rescue operation at the collapse site.

CPI(M) condemns Allahabad HC ruling on mosque land acquisition

FAIR REPORT
 ■ New Delhi

The Polit Bureau of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) on Saturday strongly condemned the Allahabad High Court's recent judgment in the Syed Rashid Ali v. State of UP case, alleging that the ruling severely undermines secularism, minority rights, and the livelihoods of ordinary citizens.

Terming the court's interpretation of the Places of Worship Act, 1991 "deeply flawed," the CPI(M) stated that allowing the acquisition of mosques for "public purposes" renders vital secular safeguards meaningless. "When a mosque is demolished for a road, its religious character ceases to exist. This is conversion through acquisition, precisely what the Act was meant to prevent," the party stated in a press release issued by its Central Committee office.

The Left party also criticised the court's dismissal of tenants' rights. It noted that 97 per cent of the petitioners are



Allahabad High Court

Muslims who have run businesses for generations in Varanasi's Dalmandi area. Pointing to a Social Impact Assessment Report, the CPI(M) highlighted that 50 per cent of the affected families reside there and 45 per cent depend on the area for their livelihood, making the displacement a direct violation of their right to livelihood under Article 21.

The Polit Bureau alleged that the decision fits into a wider, systematic assault on minorities to serve the BJP-RSS agenda. It argued that the State Government inten-

tionally targeted the Muslim-majority Dalmandi area, ignoring viable alternative sites like Sonar Gali, which is located much closer to the Kashi Vishwanath Temple and would cause far less displacement.

Accusing the court of failing to enforce the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013, the CPI(M) demanded that the Supreme Court immediately intervene and overturn the judgment.

J&K recalls books glorifying separatists as legends; 8 officials suspended

FAIR REPORT
 ■ Jammu

A controversial book glorifying separatist leaders and convicted terrorists as 'great personalities' and 'legends' has been immediately recalled by the Jammu and Kashmir Government from all Government school libraries following massive backlash.

So far, eight officials of the School Education Department (SED) have been suspended over the approval and procurement of a controversial library book. The suspension orders were issued on the directions of the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha. A high-level probe has been initiated into the matter.

The Leader of the Opposition in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly, Sunil Sharma, also launched a scathing attack against the Omar Abdullah-led Government for promoting "academic jihad" by allowing a controversial book in Government school libraries.

The BJP leader alleged that the publication promotes the narrative of separatist leaders such as Syed Ali Shah Geelani, Masrat Alam, Shabir Shah and Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, and described it as an attempt to spread hatred against India and its armed forces.

Sharma also demanded an immediate ban on the publication, a judicial probe into the matter, and the dismissal of the Education Minister.

The controversy surfaced after the Jammu and Kashmir Peoples' Forum (JKPF) alleged that a book supplied to Government school libraries under the Samagra Shiksha Scheme glorified separatist leaders and terrorists by portraying them as "great personalities" and "legends" of Jammu and Kashmir.

Initially, the School Education Department (SED) withdrew the two books following widespread backlash from the BJP and other quarters over the inclusion of the books in Government school libraries under the Samagra

Shiksha programme. As per the Government Order number 257-JK(Edu) of 2026, the Government observed that there was "serious negligence, dereliction of duty and lack of proper due diligence" on the part of members of the Series-4 Sub-Committee and supervisory officers who recommended the books despite their "highly inappropriate content" related to separatism, "which had the potential to create law and order issues."

The SED order reads that Samagra Shiksha had received a library grant for the procurement of age-appropriate books for 18,328 Government schools and 394 PM SHRI schools, following which an Expression of Interest (EOI) was floated.

"Four expert sub-committees comprising academicians from Jammu and Kashmir divisions were constituted to evaluate and recommend books for different school levels," it reads.



J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha

It reads that the committees selected 463 books submitted by 364 publishers.

"However, two books were found to contain objectionable material and were withdrawn by the department on July 3," the order reads. The books are titled "Personalities and Legends of J&K," authored by Hilal Ahmad and Santosh Meena and published by Oberoi Book Service, Jammu, and "Great Personalities of Jammu and Kashmir", authored by Dr Sushant Giri

and published by Anurag Prakashan, Delhi.

As per the order, 123 copies of the first book were supplied to schools in Jammu, Ramban and Udhampur districts, while 128 copies of the second book were distributed in Jammu and Baramulla districts before they were withdrawn.

In the wake of this, the Government placed eight officials under suspension with immediate effect under Rule 31(1)(a) of the Jammu and Kashmir Civil Services

(Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1956.

The officials suspended include Coordinator Library, Samagra Shiksha Fazil Imran Saddiqui, Assistant Coordinator Gurjeet Singh, Principal Sanjeev Sharma, Academic Officer Shazia Kouser, Lecturers Imtiyaz Ahmad Mir, Niranjan Sharma, Renu Mengi and Rajmohini. "During the suspension period, all of them will remain attached to the Administrative Department of the School Education Department," the order reads.

The Government also ordered the immediate disengagement of Sheikh Suheel Ahmad, a contractual Computer Assistant assisting the Coordinator Library in Samagra Shiksha.

Also, the Government appointed Additional Chief Secretary, Power Development Department, Ashwani Kumar, as the inquiry officer, while the Additional Secretary in the General

Administration Department, Rohit Sharma has been appointed as the Presenting Officer.

The inquiry officer has been directed to submit his report to the competent authority within 30 days. As per the order, the Government also ordered that the authors and publishers of the two books be banned and blacklisted in J&K UT.

"Any printed material authored or published by them should be withdrawn from the UT," the order reads.

Earlier, addressing a press conference in Jammu, LoP Sunil Sharma alleged that the book titled "Personalities and Legends of J&K" contains no educational or historical value but instead glorifies terrorists, separatists, stone-pelters and anti-national elements while portraying security forces and those who fought terrorism in a negative light.

He claimed that the book, authored by Hilal Ahmad and Santosh Meena and published

by Paradise Press, was not a genuine historical account but an attempt to legitimise terrorism, separatism and anti-national ideology.

Sharma alleged that the use of expressions such as "Indian Occupied Kashmir" and the presentation of separatist narratives amounted to a direct challenge to India's sovereignty and territorial integrity. He said such content sought to distort history, undermine national institutions and mislead young readers.

Former Director General of J&K Police SP Vaid also reacted sharply. He said, "It is a matter of shame for me that my name is being linked with Masarat Alam and Maqbool Bhat, given that Masarat Alam was a detainee in my custody when I served as Director General of Prisons. The truly shameful thing is that the Jammu & Kashmir Government has approved a book for inclusion in all libraries and Government schools that hails Maqbool Bhat as a martyr."

