

FAIR REPORT

THE DAWN OF A FEARLESS PEN

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Hormuz Toll Diplomacy: Will India Be Exempt as Iran Weighs Charges for World’s Most Critical Oil Chokepoint?

FAIR REPORT

New Delhi: As Iran moves closer to introducing a controversial service levy for vessels transiting the strategically vital Strait of Hormuz, a key question confronting New Delhi is whether India will be granted an exemption as one of Tehran’s longstanding partners—or ultimately be required to pay.

Iran has indicated that “friendly countries” could receive waivers or preferential treatment under the proposed regime. Various media reports have suggested that India may

be among the nations Tehran considers eligible for such concessions, alongside countries including China, Russia, Iraq, Pakistan, Malaysia, Egypt and South Korea. However, the Indian government has consistently maintained that international law does not require vessels to seek Iran’s permission—or pay a fee—for exercising the right of transit passage through an international strait.

The proposal has triggered significant legal and diplomatic debate. Maritime law specialists argue that selectively exempting some countries



while charging others would conflict with the principle of non-discriminatory transit passage under the United Nations

Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). Iran, however, has sought to frame the proposed levy as payment for naviga-

tional assistance, environmental protection and maritime services rather than as a transit tax, a distinction that could be-

come central to any international legal challenge.

The implications extend far beyond regional politics. The Strait of Hormuz is the world’s most critical maritime energy corridor, carrying roughly one-fifth of global oil shipments and a substantial share of liquefied natural gas exports. Even the prospect of new transit charges has raised concerns among shipping companies, insurers and energy markets over higher transportation costs and potential supply disruptions. The United States has also closely monitored the proposal.

American officials have previously warned that recognising or paying any levy deemed inconsistent with international maritime law could create wider legal and strategic complications for commercial shipping.

For India, the issue carries particular significance. As one of the world’s largest crude oil importers, the country relies heavily on energy supplies passing through the Strait of Hormuz. Any increase in shipping costs—or uncertainty over transit rules—could eventually affect freight rates, import bills and domestic fuel eco-

nomics.

So far, Tehran has not announced the final fee structure, implementation timeline or the list of countries that may qualify for exemptions. Until those details emerge, governments and global shipping operators remain in wait-and-watch mode.

If implemented, the proposed Hormuz levy would represent far more than a maritime fee—it would mark another instance where strategic waterways become instruments of geopolitical influence, with diplomacy potentially determining who pays and who passes free.

Historic Shift in Assam: Hindi Introduced in Assembly Proceedings for the First Time

FAIR REPORT

Guwahati: In a landmark decision with far-reaching political and symbolic significance, the Assam Legislative Assembly has, for the first time since its inception, approved the use of Hindi in its official proceedings, expanding its legislative language framework beyond Assamese,

English and Bodo. The historic change will come into effect on July 6, the opening day of the Budget Session of the 16th Assam Legislative Assembly, marking a new chapter in the state’s parliamentary history. Announcing the decision, Assembly Speaker Ranjeet Kumar Dass said the proposal was unanimously approved

during a meeting of the Assembly’s General Purpose Committee, chaired by him on Saturday. The meeting was attended by representatives from both the treasury and opposition benches, including Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pijush Hazarika, Minister Keshab Mahanta, and Leader of the Opposition Wazed Ali Chowdhury.

PoK Cries for Help: Protesters Appeal to India as Pakistan “Starves” Region into Submission

FAIR REPORT

New Delhi: A dramatic video appeal from Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) has surfaced, showing protest leader Sardar Aman Khan directly urging Indians to stand with the region’s residents — as allegations mount that Is-

lamabad has choked off food and medicine supplies for over three weeks in a bid to crush a growing civil uprising.

In the video, Khan, a key figure spearheading the agitation, alleged that Pakistani authorities launched a severe crackdown on protesters and



even stopped food supplies to pressure the movement,

saying “We have faced atrocities. Our food has been stopped,” while urging people across Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh to support PoK residents in their struggle. (PGurus)

The appeal is part of a rapidly escalating crisis. The agitation against Pakistan’s blockade of essential

food supplies and rations has stretched on for over three weeks, with thousands of demonstrators gathering at Eidgah ground in Rawalakot, protesting that PoK is not a part of Pakistan and warning of a permanent shift in allegiance toward India if conditions worsen further.

Jaipur’s War on Adulteration: 100 Kg of Rotten Paneer Seized, Destroyed in Crackdown

FAIR REPORT

Jaipur: In a decisive strike against food adulteration, Rajasthan’s Food Safety team on Sunday seized and destroyed nearly 100 kilograms of substandard, stale paneer that was being transported for sale across the city — the latest action under the state government’s ongoing “Shuddh Aahar, Milawat Par Waar” (Pure Food, War on Adulteration) campaign.

Acting on directions from Dr. T. Shubhmangala, Commissioner of Food Safety and Drug Control, Rajasthan, the Food Safety team, along with the DST unit and Ramnagar police, intercepted the consignment in Jagatpura as it was being ferried into



Jaipur for distribution.

The accused transporter, Amit Sharma, was found supplying paneer sourced from other districts to multiple outlets across the city. Under questioning, he admitted to a disturbing manufacturing shortcut — extracting fat from milk before using the remaining low-quality residue to prepare cheap paneer, which he then sold at just 240 per kilogram to small dairies, fast-food centres, and road-

side dhabas. Standard-quality paneer, by contrast, requires four to five kilograms of full-fat milk per kilogram produced — making the seized batch a stark case of compromised quality passed off as the real thing. Samples from the consignment have been sent to a laboratory for testing, with further action to follow under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, and Regulations, 2011, once results are re-

ceived. The remaining 99 kilograms — found sour, foul-smelling, and stored without proper temperature control in ordinary plastic packaging — was destroyed on the spot. CMHO (Jaipur II) Dr. Manish Mittal confirmed that officials Vinod Tharwan and Nandkishore Kumawat led the operation, adding that the crackdown on adulteration will continue as part of the government’s commitment to ensuring safe, pure food for citizens. The seizure is another marker of Rajasthan’s intensifying food-safety enforcement — a campaign that, one raid at a time, is beginning to restore public faith in what lands on their plate.

Rajasthan Cooperative Sector Set for National Spotlight as CM Sharma Reviews Progress



FAIR REPORT

Jaipur: Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma on Sunday chaired a high-level review meeting of the Cooperation Department at the Chief Minister’s residence, asserting that Rajasthan is emerging as a leading state in the country’s cooperative sector.

During the meeting, Sharma directed department officials to intensify

efforts to further strengthen cooperative institutions across the state, signalling continued government focus on the sector as a driver of rural and economic empowerment. The review comes a day ahead of a significant national event — the Chief Minister is scheduled to attend a ceremony in New Delhi on Monday marking the 5th Foundation Day of the Ministry of Cooperation. The event is ex-

pected to give national visibility to the innovations, reforms, and milestones achieved by Rajasthan’s cooperative sector in recent years. With cooperatives long serving as a backbone of rural credit, agriculture, and dairy networks in Rajasthan, the state government’s renewed push suggests an intent to position itself as a model for cooperative governance on the national stage.

Poisoned Pipeline? HC Orders Milk Test of Saras, Amul, Mother Dairy Amid Urea Scare

Jaipur: The Rajasthan High Court has thrown open the doors of India’s biggest dairy brands to scrutiny, ordering that Saras, Amul, Lotus and Mother Dairy be investigated over fears of large-scale milk adulteration.

A division bench of Acting Chief Justice S.P. Sharma and Justice Manish Sharma directed that every agency selling milk and dairy products be probed to determine what technology, if any, they use to screen out synthetic and adulterated supply. The court has demanded a detailed inspection report from all agencies be placed before it.

The order came after Senior Advocate M.S. Singhvi flagged an alarming trend: industrial-grade urea, meant for factories and fertiliser plants, is being funnelled into animal feed. Once consumed, it drives up nitrogen and urea levels in livestock, silently degrading the very milk that lands on dining tables across the state. The bench is hearing a suo motu public interest litigation, clubbed with related petitions, on preventing food adulteration — placing consumer safety squarely under judicial watch. With India’s dairy giants now under the scanner, the verdict could reshape how milk safety is enforced statewide.

THE \$50,000 CHALLENGE: CAN FAITH BE SETTLED BY A PRIZE?



Hemraj Tikamchand Tiwari

By Special Feature Desk

A provocative claim has been making the rounds on social media: Iranian-born former Muslim Ali Sina, now based in Canada, allegedly offers a \$50,000 reward to anyone who can successfully refute the arguments in his book *The Understanding Muham-*

mad. The narrative goes further, asserting that countless Islamic scholars accepted the challenge, only to abandon Islam after reading the book, and that no cleric has ever managed to defeat his arguments.

These are extraordinary assertions. And as with all extraordinary claims, they demand extraordinary evidence.

Ali Sina has long been one of Islam’s most vocal critics. Through his writings and online platforms, he argues that a close examination of the life of Prophet Muhammad and early Islamic history raises profound theological and historical questions. His book has attracted supporters who hail it as a



fearless critique and detractors who dismiss it as selective, polemical, and historically flawed.

Yet public discourse is rarely advanced by prize challenges alone. Throughout history, religious tradi-

tions—from Islam and Hinduism to Christianity and Buddhism—have inspired vigorous debates,

counter-books, scholarly rebuttals, and reinterpretations. Intellectual disagreements are not settled by viral posts or cash rewards; they are settled through evidence, methodology, and reasoned scholarship.

The accompanying claims—that “millions of scholars” embraced the challenge, that many subsequently renounced Islam, or that no qualified Islamic scholar has ever answered Ali Sina’s arguments—remain unverified in the absence of credible, independent documentation. Such statements should therefore be treated with caution rather than accepted as established fact.

If readers genuinely

wish to engage with critiques of Islam—or with any religion—the intellectually honest approach is to study multiple perspectives. Read the critics. Read the defenders. Examine primary historical sources. Compare scholarly analyses. Only then can one arrive at conclusions grounded in evidence rather than ideology. Faith has survived centuries of scrutiny, and criticism has driven theological refinement across civilizations. In the marketplace of ideas, the strongest argument is not the loudest voice or the biggest prize—it is the one that withstands rigorous examination from every side.

IN FOCUS



Water being released from the Tunga Reservoir following rainfall in the catchment area at Gajanur in Shivamogga district, Karnataka on Sunday PTI

Delhi sees warmest July day in two years

FAIR REPORT
■ New Delhi

Delhi recorded its warmest July day in two years on Sunday as the maximum temperature touched 38.6 degrees Celsius, while the India Meteorological Department (IMD) forecast moderate rain under an orange alert for Monday after showers and waterlogging hit parts of the city. The national Capital witnessed moderate rainfall during the afternoon, with Chhatarpur receiving 49 mm till 2.30 pm, the highest in Delhi-NCR. Waterlogging was reported from parts of Chhatarpur following the showers.

Rain accompanied by strong winds disrupted flight operations at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGI) on Saturday evening, forcing several aircraft to divert to nearby airports.

Airlines have also warned passengers of possible delays and disruptions as bad weather continues to affect operations in both Delhi and Mumbai. According to airport officials, 15 Delhi-bound flights were diverted because of unsuitable weather conditions over the national Capital.

Of these, nine flights were diverted to Jaipur, while two each landed in Amritsar and Lucknow. One flight each was

diverted to Mumbai and Chandigarh. Airport authorities said flight movements may continue to be affected depending on weather conditions. Air India has advised passengers travelling to and from Delhi and Mumbai to check their flight status before leaving for the airport. In a post on X, the airline said, "Adverse weather conditions may impact flight operations to and from Mumbai and Delhi."

IndiGo also issued a travel advisory, saying bad weather in Delhi and Mumbai has affected flight schedules. The airline said it is closely monitoring the situation and requested passengers to stay updated through its website or mobile app before travelling.

Gurugram recorded 35 mm of rainfall, followed by Mehrauli (18 mm), Greater Noida (17 mm), Najafgarh (8 mm) and Janakpuri (7 mm). According to the IMD, the maximum temperature settled at 38.6 degrees Celsius, two notches above normal, making it the highest July maximum in the city since July 11, 2024, when it had touched 38.8 degrees Celsius. The minimum temperature was recorded at 29.2 degrees Celsius, 1.3 notches above normal. It was the highest July minimum since July 2, 2024, when the city had recorded 30.7 degrees Celsius.



Grief Turns Fatal: Jaipur Student Ends Life Hours After Cremating Her Best Friend

FAIR REPORT

Jaipur: Tragedy has struck twice in 48 hours in Jaipur, as a 19-year-old student took her own life on Saturday evening — mere hours after attending the last rites of the friend she had just lost. The double tragedy began on July 3, when the student's close friend died after his Thar rammed into a road divid-

er. Devastated, the young woman attended his funeral on Saturday. According to police, she returned to her rented guesthouse in the Jawahar Nagar police station area and, unable to bear the loss, ended her life shortly after. SHO Sarla Yadav said the student was found by another friend who lived nearby and had come to check on her around 7:30 PM. She was discovered

hanging inside her room. Police and an FSL team rushed to the scene, collected evidence, and shifted the body to SMS Hospital's mortuary. An investigation is underway. The back-to-back deaths have left the local student community and neighbours in shock, raising fresh concern over how young people cope — or fail to cope — with sudden grief and loss.

Jaipur Cracks Down on Energy Drink Warehouse, Seizes Over 32,000 Bottles in Food Safety Drive

FAIR REPORT

Jaipur: Rajasthan's statewide crackdown on food adulteration and misleading food marketing gathered momentum on Sunday after food safety authorities seized 32,292 bottles of a popular energy drink from a warehouse in Jaipur, citing multiple regulatory violations and allegedly misleading product claims. The

action was carried out at a warehouse of Anjali Enterprises in Jaipur's Nirman Nagar area as part of the state government's 'Shuddh Aahar, Milawat Par Vaar' campaign, launched under the direction of Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma and Health Minister Gajendra Singh Khimsar.

According to Food Safety and Drug Control Commissioner Dr T. Shubhamanga-

la, a central inspection team led by Additional Commissioner Bhagwat Singh collected samples of the caffeinated beverage marketed under the "Sting Energy" brand during an inspection of the premises.

Officials said the product labels carried promotional claims such as "Stimulates Mind," "Energizes Body," "Energy Drink," and "Sports Drink," which, ac-



cording to the department, fall within the category of misleading claims under the guidelines of the Food

Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) and warrant regulatory scrutiny. The inspection also un-

covered several operational lapses at the warehouse. Authorities alleged that the food licence was not available at the premises during the inspection, the warehouse flooring was damaged, food products were not stored on pallets as required under prescribed hygiene standards, and vehicles used for transporting the products did not possess valid food transport licenc-

es. An improvement notice will be issued separately to address the deficiencies, the commissioner said. In a parallel operation, the food safety team of the Chief Medical and Health Officer, Jaipur-1, collected samples of non-carbonated water-based beverages sold under the "Gatorade Orange" and "Reload" brands from the warehouse of Blink Commerce Private Limited in

Jaipur's Patel Nagar under the provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.

All collected samples have been sent to the State Food Laboratory for analysis. Authorities said legal action will be initiated if laboratory findings confirm violations, including breaches relating to misleading product labelling and advertising.

FAIR REPORT
■ Ayodhya

Ram temple donation row: Vetting lapses exposed



Varanasi. The company says it sent 22 workers to the State Bank of India's Ayodhya branch for housekeeping jobs. At some point, several of them were moved to the temple's donation-counting team. Six out of the eight people arrested came from this group.

Investigators want to know how people earning just ₹10,000 to ₹15,000 a month could suddenly afford houses worth ₹65 lakh, farmhouses, and expensive bikes and cars. In India, standard background checks for out-

sourced staff typically cover identity, address, education, work history, and basic criminal records.

For jobs involving cash, RBI guidelines say police should verify the last two addresses and update records regularly. But in reality, many agencies and employers skip steps to save time and money.

Instead of ongoing checks, agencies often do just one background check at the start. They also tend to skip extra screenings, such as financial stress tests or

integrity checks, for people handling cash. In Ayodhya, these gaps were obvious. Some of the accused reportedly exploited CCTV blind spots and hid money in the washrooms during counting sessions.

One of the accused, a primary school teacher, reportedly explained the method during questioning.

Another had family connections to someone in the temple trust. One key person started as a driver for a senior trust official and later got access to the dona-

tion room keys. His nephew was also part of the counting team. Police found over ₹20 lakh with one accused, and the total amount seized is in crores.

The Contract Labour Act mainly covers wages and welfare benefits. It does not require thorough background checks. That job usually depends on the contract between the main employer, like the temple trust or SBI, and the agency. When these rules are not enforced or are ignored, issues arise.

The SIT is now checking if proper police verification was done and how the hiring process worked. This issue goes beyond just one case. Across India, outsourcing agencies try to keep costs low. Careful screening takes more time and money.

For short-term or low-level jobs, agencies usually rely on basic Aadhaar checks and self-declared documents. Personal connections and recommendations often outweigh warning signs.

After hiring, there is rarely any follow-up to monitor changes in lifestyle or assets.

Jobs that involve handling cash need stronger protections. Good practices include

required police checks, financial background checks for anyone dealing with money, regular re-screening, and clear audit trails.

The main employer should carefully review the agency's vetting records rather than simply accepting certificates. It is also important to have dual-control systems, improved CCTV coverage, and independent audits of donation flows. In a place that relies on public trust and voluntary donations, weak vetting is more than just a paperwork issue.

This kind of failure damages the trust that brings millions of devotees to Ayodhya. The temple trust and its banking partners handed over a critical job without making sure strong safeguards were in place. The result is an allegation job that now affects one of India's most respected sites.

These arrests are a warning. Unless outsourcing agencies and the organisations that hire them treat background checks as essential, not just paperwork, similar problems will keep happening wherever cash is handled with little oversight. Faith deserves better protection.

VHP misleading Hindu society for political interests, says Congress

FAIR REPORT
■ New Delhi



Congress' media and publicity department head Pawan Khera

The Congress on Sunday lashed out at the VHP after it wrote to Ayodhya police over the claims made by several opposition leaders on the alleged donation theft at the Ram temple, alleging the organisation's only aim is to "emotionally mislead" the Hindu society to further its own political interests.

Congress' media and publicity department head Pawan Khera said new allegations are surfacing and fresh evidence is coming to light every day regarding the "theft" of donations at the Ram temple in Ayodhya.

"Today, Alok Kumar of the Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) wrote to the investigating officer, asking that evidence of the theft be sought from Priyanka Gandhi, Akhilesh Yadav, and Ram Gopal Yadav," Khera said in a video statement posted on X.

So, the implication is that one side commits the theft, while another is expected to provide the proof, he said.

"The truth is that they have no real intention of catching the thieves. As always, their only aim is to emotionally mislead Hindu society to further their own political interests," Khera said.

Slamming the VHP, he said they should stop being the contractors of the Hindu community. "They must remove the word Hindu from their organisations and then carry out as many robberies as they want. Do not spoil the name of the Hindu community and

stop running your shops at their expense," he said.

"Your intention is not to find out about the theft or to catch the thieves, your intention is what it was before the temple was built, that to make the Hindu community emotional and then rob them, snatch votes from them and now also snatch notes from them," Khera said.

If they had to catch the thieves they would not have been demanding answers from Priyanka Gandhi, he said. The VHP has written to the Ayodhya police, urging it to examine the claims made by several opposition leaders, including Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and AAP convener Arvind Kejriwal, on the alleged theft of donations at the Ram temple and summon them to substantiate the allegations.

The RSS affiliate demanded that action be taken against them if it is found that they have made "wild allegations" intended to create and

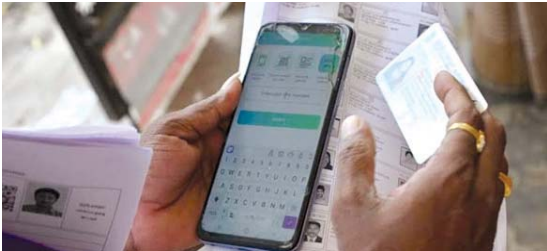
promote feelings of "hatred, ill will and enmity".

In a letter dated July 4 to Ayodhya Deputy Superintendent of Police Ashutosh Tiwari, the investigating officer in the case, VHP international president Alok Kumar said the leaders have made specific allegations that have been widely circulated through television channels, social media platforms and other electronic media. The VHP urged the investigating officer to call them to disclose the factual basis of their claims, the source of their information and any documents or material supporting them.

Kumar said the leaders have publicly made specific allegations and have even attributed definite figures, including allegations involving amounts exceeding ₹20,000 crore. "The allegations made by the above named and other persons lead one to believe that they are acquainted with the facts and circumstances of the case," the letter said.

Delhi SIR reaches 62.27 lakh voter forms in six days

FAIR REPORT
■ New Delhi



Enumeration forms for the Special Intensive Revision of Delhi's electoral rolls have been distributed to 62,27,363 voters, covering 42.92 percent of the capital's total electorate of 1.45 crore, as of 8 pm on Sunday. The sixth day of the door-to-door exercise, with 2,09,201 forms digitised across all 13 districts, according to the cumulative status report released by the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer, Delhi.

The figures mark a significant jump from the opening days of the drive. On July 1, just one day into the exercise, total distribution stood at 9,99,773 forms covering 6.89 percent of voters. Six days later, that figure has risen more than sixfold to 62.27 lakh, indicating that Booth Level Officers have dramatically accelerated their door-to-door visits across the city.

Among the 13 districts, New Delhi District leads in the distribution percentage at 56.43 percent of its 1,54,192 voters, with 87,013 forms distributed. North District follows at 51.54 percent, with 5,01,970 forms out of 9,73,957 total voters. Old Delhi has reached 50.94 percent coverage with 3,03,972 forms distributed.

North West District has distributed the highest absolute number of forms at 6,32,359, covering 49.51 percent of its 12,77,126 voters. North East District,

which has Delhi's largest electorate at 18,70,748, has reached 43.79 percent coverage with 8,19,265 forms distributed, the highest absolute distribution number after North West.

West District has reached 47.16 percent coverage with 6,86,646 forms, while South District stands at 42.03 percent with 5,65,252 forms. East District has covered 38.64 percent of its 16,03,359 voters with 6,19,563 forms. South East District, which also has a large electorate of 15,57,289, has reached 34.89 percent with 5,43,348 forms. Central District stands at 37.62 percent with 2,62,492 forms.

On digitisation, Outer North District leads with 3.39 percent of its total electorate already digitised, followed by South West at 2.66 percent and Central North at 1.94 percent. West District has 1.88 percent digitised, and South District has 1.42 percent. The lowest digitisation rates are in the Central District at 0.76 percent and the East District at 0.77 percent.

The SIR Phase III exercise, announced by the Election

Commission of India on May 14, 2026, covers Delhi along with 15 other States and two other Union Territories. The enumeration phase runs from June 30 to July 29. After collection is complete, the draft electoral roll will be published on August 5. Residents can submit claims and objections between August 5 and September 4, with disposal of applications continuing until October 3. The final electoral roll is scheduled for October 7. The qualifying date for the revision is October 1, 2026.

Over 13,000 Booth Level Officers have been deployed across Delhi for the exercise. BLOs visit each household to hand over pre-printed enumeration forms to registered voters. If a house is found locked, the form is left behind, and collection attempts are made at least three more times. No documents are collected during the enumeration phase itself.

Electors whose names, or those of their parents or grandparents, cannot be linked to the 2002 electoral rolls may be asked for supporting documents in the next stage of the process.

“Interview Leak” Rocks SP: UP Ticket Hopefuls Face Questions That Could Make IAS Aspirants Sweat

FAIR REPORT

Lucknow: Uttar Pradesh's election season appears to have found its newest blockbuster—not a manifesto, not a rally, but a leaked video purportedly showing prospective Samajwadi Party candidates being interviewed for Assembly tickets, allegedly

by party chief Akhilesh Yadav himself. The viral clip has sparked a frenzy on social media, where political observers joked that securing an SP ticket now resembles clearing the UPSC personality test—minus the Dholpur House, plus the party office. From probing questions on local caste equa-

tions to booth-level arithmetic and organisational strength, the purported interview has left aspirants wondering whether they were applying for an election ticket or defending a PhD thesis. Critics quipped that "experience certificates may soon be replaced by viva voce marks." While the auhen-

ticity and context of the leaked footage have not been independently verified, the timing has added to the buzz as political parties intensify preparations for the high-stakes 2027 Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections.

The episode has also fuelled tongue-in-cheek commentary online. "At

least there's an interview," one social media user joked, while another remarked that "UP politics has officially entered campus placement season."

Whether the leak turns into a political headache or simply another viral moment remains to be seen. But one thing is certain: in Uttar Pradesh

GRAPEVINE

Bihar calling! Tum yahan, main wahan...

One of the most suitably tagged 'career bureaucrat', Sanjay Kumar the 1990-batch Bihar cadre IAS, superannuated last month from a very significant assignment as School Education Secretary in Government of India. Given his stupendous service record in Bihar as well as Centre, his post-retirement role was almost certain, perhaps as CEO of NITI Aayog or back to Bihar as Chief Secretary under the changed regime led by Samrat Chaudhary. Misfortune had it that at fag end of his career Sanjay Kumar faced the blot of CBSE results evaluation controversy and the NEET paper leaks. But recent grapevine emerging from the Seva Teerth is that he may be assigned the job of Principal Secretary or Advisor to the incumbent Bihar CM. The role held currently by retired 1984 IAS officer Deepak Kumar, who had a long stint with former CM Nitish Kumar, may be tasked to join his former boss, who is now a Rajya Sabha MP and is being anticipated for a larger responsibility either in NDA Government or in the coalition.



Operation Tiger 3.0?

Just weeks after Eknath Shinde's sensational "hit a sixer" with six Shiv Sena (UBT) Lok Sabha MPs formally crossing over, tremors are now shaking the ground beneath Uddhav Thackeray's faction. Strong whispers echoing through Mumbai's political corridors claim that a dozen or more MLAs from the UBT camp are gearing up to switch sides, with over 40 corporators ready to follow suit and join Shinde-led Shiv Sena. Shiv Sena ministers have already floated bold claims of "Operation Tiger 3.0," targeting up to 14 of UBT's 20 MLAs – the magic two-thirds number needed for another formal split. Insiders quipped including every chainwala in Mantralaya that there's a glaring lack of leadership control in the Uddhav-led Shiv Sena.



Shot in the arm for UP police digital cop

In the list of 25 officers who got promotions last week was one that went' unnoticed: the induction of the digital face of Uttar Pradesh Police, Rahul Srivastav, in the elite Indian Police Service (IPS). What has come as a reward to Rahul from the Yogi Adityanath Government is his most significant contribution in building UP Police's presence across major digital platforms. He led the launch of UP Police on X, Facebook, WhatsApp, YouTube and Instagram, introduced citizen-centric digital services and developed systems for online grievance redressal and social media sentiment analysis. He also established an integrated social and electronic media monitoring centre to support real-time analysis and coordinated responses. A third-generation uniformed person in the family, Rahul first headed the UP Police social media initiative between 2016 and 2019 before returning to the role in May 2025 and has since been serving as Public Relations Officer and Social Media Head of Uttar Pradesh Police.



Shah reviews illegal coal mining in high-level meeting

FAIR REPORT

■ New Delhi

Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Coal and Mines Minister G Kishan Reddy held a high-level meeting in New Delhi to review illegal coal mining and theft. The Union Home Secretary, Union Coal Secretary, and senior officials from the Ministry of Coal, CISF, Coal India Limited, and BCCL were present. During the meeting, the Home Minister expressed concern about the rise in illegal coal mining and theft in Dhanbad and nearby areas. Ministry of Coal officials reported that several measures have

been implemented since the October 2025 review. CISF and Coal India Limited officials have been authorised under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, to take legal action, conduct searches, and seize illegally mined coal and related equipment. The Union Home Secretary chaired a meeting in December 2025 where the decision was made to establish a Coal Sector Coordination Committee.

However, he emphasised that further action is required to address illegal mining. The Home Minister issued several key directives, including the adoption



of the "Zero Coal Leakage Plan" to ensure a comprehensive and timely response to illegal mining and unauthorised coal transportation. He noted that while

CISF and Coal India Limited officials have been granted powers under the MMDR Act, these must be exercised rigorously and in coordination with the approved

Indonesia sees India as key source of technology, policy solutions

FAIR REPORT

■ New Delhi

Indonesia is increasingly looking towards India not just as a strategic partner, but also as a trusted source of technology, policy ideas and development solutions, Government officials here said on Sunday.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's upcoming visit to Indonesia from July 6-8 comes at a time when the partnership between the two countries is moving beyond traditional cooperation, they said.

Among the areas is the proposed linkage between India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and QRIS, the QR payment code launched by the Bank of Indonesia, which will allow Indian tourists visiting Bali and other Indonesian destinations to make all kinds of payments in that country easily through their phones.

From food security and digital governance to healthcare, agriculture and defence, India's successful public policy models are becoming valuable reference points for Indonesia's own development journey.

Several delegations from Indonesia have visited India to learn from India's digital infrastructure and social welfare schemes like our Public Distribution System, rice fortification scheme, fertiliser subsidy reforms, AGRIS-TACK, etc, the officials said



Indian digital solutions that powered the success of Aadhaar, UPI, Digilocker, e-KYC and ONDC are also finding relevance in Indonesia's own digital transformation, they said.

This marks a shift from technology adoption to deeper institutional collaboration, with Indian companies contributing their experience in building secure, population-scale digital public infrastructure.

"Today, Indonesia is increasingly looking towards India not just as a strategic partner, but also as a trusted source of technology, policy ideas and development solutions," an official said.

Indonesia is leveraging India's expertise in digital payments, and the proposed UPI-QRIS linkage will allow seamless cross-border payments for travellers and businesses in both countries, the officials said.

The initiative is expected to boost tourism, trade and digital commerce while making transactions faster, cheaper and more convenient. A live UPI-QRIS corridor would be transformative for Indian businesses with trade or investment exposure in Indonesia and for the estimated 1.7 million Indian tourists who visit Bali and other Indonesian destinations each year.

India's digital public infrastructure has also emerged as a major area of collaboration. Indonesia's Open Network (ION) is inspired by India's ONDC model and aims to create a more open and inclusive digital marketplace for over 65 million micro, small and medium enterprises in Indonesia.

Built on the Beckn 2.0 open protocol, ION is expected to mark its first live transaction during Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President of Indonesia Prabowo Subianto's summit meeting on July 7.

India's digital partnership with Indonesia is now moving beyond sharing successful models to helping build the country's next-generation digital backbone. Indonesia's ambitious

Digital Nusantara initiative aims to create a unified and interoperable national digital infrastructure, and Indian technology expertise is emerging as an important partner in this journey.

Indonesia also has a larger vision of becoming a producer and exporter of digital solutions across ASEAN rather than remaining only a technology consumer.

India's decade-long experience in creating open, inclusive and sovereign digital platforms offers valuable lessons as Indonesia works towards achieving this goal.

Cooperation is also expanding into financial markets. Both sides are exploring the use of Indian expertise in AI-powered market surveillance, digital investment platforms and technology-driven capital market reforms.

India's own experience in modernising its stock markets through technology is opening new avenues for collaboration with Indonesia, the officials said.

Indonesia's Free Nutritious Meals programme has drawn inspiration from India's Mid-Day Meal (PM POSHAN) scheme. Similarly, its Red and White Village Cooperatives initiative is exploring cooperation with India for affordable medicines through the Jan Aushadhi model, helping strengthen healthcare access in rural areas, they said.

CBI arrests absconding accused in 2002 Garhwa Fort idol theft and murder case

FAIR REPORT

■ New Delhi

In a significant breakthrough after more than two decades, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has arrested Ramnarayan alias Hyder, the last remaining absconding accused in the 2002 Garhwa Fort idol theft, dacoity and murder case, on Saturday, July 4, 2026, in Fatehpur district, Uttar Pradesh. With this, all four absconding accused named in the CBI chargesheet have now been traced.

The crime dates back to the intervening night of April 21-22, 2002, at the protected Garhwa Fort, an Archaeological Survey of

India (ASI) site near Shankargarh in Prayagraj. A gang of 11 persons, allegedly led by Vijay Kumar Shukla, committed dacoity at the fort. They brutally murdered watchman Vinod Kumar Srivastava by assaulting and gagging him to death, overpowered another watchman, broke open the store room, and stole a valuable ancient stone idol of Lord Buddha. The idol broke into two pieces during removal.

The stolen artefact was a headless standing Buddha statue, officially recorded by the ASI as taken from Garhwa Fort in 2002. Investigation revealed that the pieces were transported in a vehicle and sold by Vijay Kumar



Shukla to two persons for 72.20 lakh. They were later shifted to a godown in Mahipalpur, Delhi, and allegedly exported abroad.

Garhwa Fort preserves the ruins of a significant Gupta-period temple complex. The site is also associated with early 5th-century stone inscriptions issued by the Gupta emperors Chandragupta II and Kumaragupta I. It also housed Buddhist sculptures alongside Vaishnavite iconography, including Dashavatara panels.

The sculpture was a rare example of Gupta Buddhist stone carving from the Prayagraj region. Its substantial size and weight explain why it fractured into two pieces during the theft.

The CBI took over the case from Police Station, Shankargarh, and registered it on September 9, 2003, as Crime No. 43/2002 under Sections 396 and 201 of the Indian Penal Code.

After a thorough investigation, the CBI filed a chargesheet on December 22, 2005, against ten accused persons. Four of them, identified as Vijay Kumar Shukla, Ravi Karan, Suraj Bhan and Ramnarayan @ Hyder, remained absconding for over two decades.

To apprehend them, the CBI constituted dedicated teams that developed local intelligence, cultivated sources and carried out sustained surveillance and follow-up operations.

These efforts led to the arrest of Suraj Bhan on May 22, 2026, and Ravi Karan on June 2, 2026. Vijay Kumar Shukla was traced inside District Jail, Chitrakoot, where he is lodged in another Uttar Pradesh Police case.

Steps were initiated before the competent court in Lucknow on June 16, 2026, to secure his production in the present case.

With the arrest of Ramnarayan @ Hyder, all absconding accused have now been traced. They will face trial in accordance with the law. The successful conclusion of this long-pending case underscores the CBI's commitment to justice in crimes against India's cultural heritage.

Government committed to consultative approach to address employees, pensioners' issues: Jitendra Singh

FAIR REPORT

■ New Delhi

Union Minister Jitendra Singh on Sunday said the Centre remains committed to a consultative and responsive approach in addressing issues concerning Government employees and pensioners.

He said every genuine representation receives due consideration through the appropriate ministries/departments and that suggestions aimed at improving governance, simplifying procedures and enhancing administrative efficiency are always welcome. Singh's assertion came during a meeting he had with a 19-member delegation, representing Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh (BMS) and affiliated employees' organisations from across the country.

The delegation called on the minister here to discuss a range of issues relating to Government employees, pensioners and administrative reforms. Singh, the Minister of State



for Personnel, said that under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Government remains committed to a consultative and responsive approach in addressing issues concerning its employees and pensioners.

He said PM Modi has always prioritised making governance more transparent, efficient and citizen-centric through progressive administrative reforms.

The minister said that the continued dialogue with employee organisations plays an important role in identifying practical issues and evolving appropriate policy responses in the larger public interest. The delegation appreciated

Singh for facilitating the government's employee-centric initiatives, particularly the decision to redeploy nearly 65,000 erstwhile Ordnance Factory employees into regular Government service, according to a statement issued by the Personnel Ministry.

They described it as a landmark measure that has secured the future of thousands of employees following the restructuring of the Ordnance Factory Board, the ministry said.

The delegation comprised representatives of Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh (BMS), Bharatiya Pratiraksha Mazdoor Sangh (BPMS), Government Employees National

Confederation (GENC), Public Sector Employees National Confederation, SHAR Employees Trade Union, and Space Employees Association, representing employees from defence establishments, public sector organisations, scientific institutions and other central Government services across the country, the statement said.

Singh appreciated the constructive role played by employee organisations in bringing service-related issues before the Government through institutional dialogue. He said regular interaction with stakeholders helps strengthen governance and facilitates timely resolution of issues concerning Government employees and pensioners.

The delegation thanked the minister, as a member of the Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM), for supporting the extension of deemed deputation of erstwhile Ordnance Factory employees till the date of retirement.

J&K LG Sinha reviews Amarnath Yatra arrangements at Nunwan, Chandanwari

FAIR REPORT

■ Srinagar

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Sunday visited Nunwan base camp at Pahalgam in Anantnag district to review the arrangements the ongoing Amarnath Yatra.

The LG said there is heavy rush of pilgrims this year and the Jammu and Kashmir administration and Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board have made adequate arrangements for the pilgrims.

"Today, I visited the Nunwan Base Camp in Pahalgam to review the management of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra with senior officials. The discussions focused on key aspects including movement of pilgrims, security measures, accommodation facilities, registration progress, and other logistical requirements essential for hassle-free holy Yatra," Sinha said in a post on X.



Pilgrims walk past a metal cutout bearing the Lord Shiva's image atop a poll as they proceed towards the holy cave shrine of Amarnath during the ongoing 'Amarnath Yatra' at Baltal area in Ganderbal district, Jammu and Kashmir on Sunday

Sinha asked officials to ensure pilgrims are made aware of the significance of valid registration.

"I directed officials to prioritise the safety, security, and convenience of all pilgrims, while ensuring that every devotee of Baba Barfani is made aware of the importance of valid registra-

tion with designated dates to minimise waiting times," he said.

The LG urged the unregistered pilgrims to be patient and wait for their turn to undertake the pilgrimage.

"During the visit, I interacted with pilgrims and assured them that Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board and all yatra

management departments are working tirelessly to ensure a safe, smooth, and hassle-free spiritual journey," he added.

Sinha also visited Chandanwari and reviewed the ground situation and pilgrim facilities at the camp. He interacted with the officials, pilgrims, volunteers, langar sevadars and other service providers.

He instructed the yatra management teams to examine pilgrim feedback and remain available for round-the-clock support.

"Through seamless whole of Government approach, we are leaving no stone unturned to provide excellent food and lodging to the devotees of Lord Shiva. I want every Yatri to have a blissful darshan and a profoundly enriching spiritual experience," the LG said.

During his visit, Sinha inspected the Base Hospital at Chandanwari to assess healthcare arrangements for the Yatris.



Indian Navy's Sail Training Ship, INS Sudarshini sailed into New York Harbour, during the Parade of Sail, representing India at the Sail 250 and US International Naval Review

PTI

VISION INDIA

FAIR REPORT | 04

After Recce, Robbers Struck at Isolated Spot, Shared Loot on Highway; 6 Held Within 7 Hours, Search On for 3

Gang followed victims in four vehicles before attacking; four robbers carried out the loot, police reached the accused within seven hours

FAIR REPORT

Chittorgarh: Police solved the daylight robbery of 4.90 lakh and an iPhone within seven hours and detained six accused. According to the investigation, the robbery was well planned. A gang of nine men allegedly kept tracking the victims on four motorcycles and a scooter: After finding an isolated spot near Ganpati Temple and Dargah in Dwarikadham Colony, four accused snatched the cash bag and iPhone before escaping. Police are still searching for three more accused, while efforts are on to



recover the stolen cash and iPhone. Complainant Sanjay Salvi, a resident of Sehnawa, had come to Chittorgarh with his friend Kishan Sen carrying 4.90 lakh. Near V2 Mall, Sanjay's elder brother handed him another 40,000, taking the total amount in the bag to 4.90 lakh. Later, while waiting in Dwarikadham Colony, masked robbers attacked them. One accused pushed Kishan into a pit, while another snatched the cash bag and iPhone from Sanjay. The

two chased the robbers through Apsara Talkies, Old Bridge, Bus Stand area, Nagar Parishad underpass and Fawara Chowk, but the accused escaped through narrow lanes. After receiving the information, a joint team of the Anti-Theft Squad (DST), Kotwali and Sadar police stations, under the supervision of SP Dharmendra Yadav and ASP Mukul Sharma, started the investigation using CCTV footage and technical evidence. Around 5.30 pm, po-

lice traced the accused and detained six of them within seven to eight hours. All are residents of the Chittorgarh area. Police said the accused reached the Udaipur-Kota Highway after the robbery, shared the looted money and were planning to hide in hotels, roadside eateries and resorts. Police also seized four motorcycles and one scooter used in the crime. Recovery of the cash and iPhone is still pending, and search is on for the remaining three accused.

FAIR INSIDE

From Recce to Arrest: How the Robbery Was Cracked

After the incident, police checked CCTV footage from different routes and around the crime spot. The accused had been following the victims on four motorcycles and one scooter: As soon as they found an isolated place, four of them carried out the robbery while the others kept watch from different locations. Using CCTV footage and technical evidence, police traced the accused around 5.30 pm. A joint team of the Anti-Theft Squad (DST), Kotwali and Sadar police then conducted raids and detained six accused by night. Police said the accused had shared the looted money on the Udaipur-Kota Highway and were planning to hide in hotels, roadside eateries and resorts. Four motorcycles and one scooter used in the robbery have been seized. Efforts are continuing to recover the stolen cash and iPhone.

FAIR EYEWITNESS

“They pushed me 10 feet down... Both my hands were fractured, but I still chased them”

Injured Kishan Sen said he was working in the fields when Sanjay Salvi called him and asked him to accompany him as they were going to buy a second-hand car for his brother and were carrying a large amount of cash. They reached Chittorgarh with the cash bag. On the way, they had tea and Sanjay withdrew 8,000 from an ATM for personal use. Later, Sanjay's brother asked him to buy a water pump, but soon called again saying there was no need as he was coming himself. The two then waited on a roadside wall in Dwarikadham Colony. Kishan said two masked men arrived on a motorcycle. One of them kicked him into a pit about 10 feet deep, causing fractures in both his hands and injuries to his eye and ear. At the same time, another accused snatched the cash bag and iPhone from Sanjay's lap. Despite his injuries, Kishan tried to chase the robbers but could not catch them because of the severe injuries.

Bee attack in maize field: Five family members, including two children, injured; couple admitted to ICU

FAIR REPORT

Chittorgarh: Five members of a family, including two children, were injured after a swarm of bees attacked them while they were working in a maize field in Bhavnath Ji Ki Khedi village of Bhadesar area on Sunday. The husband and wife were seriously injured and admitted to the ICU at Sawaliya District Hospital. Their 17-year-old daughter and 11-month-old grandson are also undergoing treatment. According to information, 45-year-old Udaylal Kanjar, his wife Sushila Bai, 17-year-old daughter Jyoti, 12-year-old son Bhupendra and other family members

were applying fertiliser in their maize field when bees from a nearby tree suddenly attacked them. Sushila Bai became unconscious in the field, while Udaylal, Jyoti, Bhupendra and 11-month-old grandson Kanhaiya suffered multiple bee stings. Villagers rushed the injured to Bhadesar Hospital. Due to their serious condition, they were referred to Sawaliya District Hospital. Udaylal also became unconscious after reaching the hospital. Doctors admitted the couple to the ICU, while Jyoti is being treated in the female ward. Kanhaiya has been admitted to the Women and Child Hospital.

Three-level checking during exam, candidates faced trouble while leaving

Exam held for 7,039 candidates at 21 centres; main gate of Mewar Girls College remained locked for around 30 minutes after the second shift

FAIR REPORT

Chittorgarh: The Rajasthan Staff Selection Board conducted the Clerk Grade-II and Junior Assistant Combined Direct Recruitment Examination-2026 on Sunday at 21 examination centres in the district. The exam was held peacefully in two shifts under tight security. The first shift was from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm and the second shift from 3 pm to 6 pm. A total of 7,039

Disorder after the exam

After the second shift ended, candidates at the Mewar Girls Institute of College examination centre in Gandhinagar faced problems while leaving. They found the main gate locked and remained inside the campus for nearly 30 minutes. Family members waiting outside also became upset and protested against the college management. Videos of the incident were shared on social media, showing candidates and their relatives asking for the gate to be opened.

candidates were allotted for the exam. In the first shift, 5,681 candidates appeared while 1,358 remained absent. The attendance was 80.71%. In the second shift, 5,653 candidates appeared and 1,386 were absent, with an attendance of 80.31%. According to the exam control room, 28 candidates who skipped the second shift may have decided not to appear after finding

the first paper difficult. To ensure a fair and cheating-free exam, candidates went through three levels of checking. Admit cards and photo IDs were verified first, followed by biometric verification. Only after completing all formalities were candidates allowed to enter the examination hall. Many candidates reached early, while some rushed to the centres at

the last moment. Entry was closed after the scheduled time. Strong security arrangements were made at all centres. One male and one female police personnel were deployed at each centre. A total of 22 armed police personnel, 23 deputy coordinators, 32 supervisors, 740 invigilators, 43 videographers and four flying squads monitored the examination.

PAF Intelligence Officer Shot Dead in Islamabad; Claims Linking Him to Afghan Hospital Attack Remain Unverified

FAIR REPORT

Islamabad: A senior Pakistan Air Force officer, Group Captain Asim Tariq (12204 GDP), was shot dead by an unidentified gunman in Islamabad on Sunday in a brazen daylight attack near Shaheen Chowk, close to Air University and the PAF headquarters, according to Pakistani police and multiple local media reports. Preliminary police accounts say the officer intervened after witnessing an alleged altercation involving a woman and an

armed suspect. During the confrontation, the assailant allegedly opened fire, killing Tariq at the scene before fleeing. An investigation is underway, and no group has claimed responsibility so far. Social media posts have described Tariq as an officer linked to the Pakistan Air Force's Intelligence Directorate and alleged that he was involved in planning an attack on a hospital in Afghanistan that killed hundreds of civilians, including women and children. However, there is currently no

credible public evidence or official confirmation supporting these allegations. No government agency or reputable international news organization has verified such claims. The killing has triggered intense speculation in Pakistan, with authorities examining multiple angles, including whether the shooting was a targeted assassination or the result of an isolated confrontation. Security has been tightened around key military installations in Islamabad as investigators pursue the gunmen.

Box Containing Jewellery and Property Documents Worth ₹1 Crore Goes Missing After Father's Death

Complaint alleges brother, sister-in-law and her father took the box; matter reached court after no action on police complaint

FAIR REPORT

Chittorgarh: A case of a missing iron box containing gold and silver jewellery, property documents and educational certificates worth around 1 crore has come to light from Azad Nagar in Senti area. The box allegedly went missing during the mourning period after the death of the complainant's father. After police allegedly did not register a case, the matter reached the court. The Chief Judicial Magistrate has directed Sadar Police to register an FIR and investigate the case. According to the complaint filed before the court, the complainant's father died due to illness on June 10. After the last rites and the Pagdi Dastur ceremony on June 21, the family checked the storage room and found that a large iron box was missing. The complaint states that the box contained

the complainant's wife's jewellery, gold and silver ornaments belonging to his parents and grandparents, property documents and educational certificates. The total value of the missing items has been claimed to be around 1 crore. The complaint alleges that the complainant's brother, sister-in-law and her father took the box. When asked, they allegedly said it had been kept at a safe place because many guests were visiting the house. However, the box was not returned later, and the complainant claimed he could no longer contact them. The complaint further states that written complaints were submitted to Sadar Police Station and later to the Superintendent of Police, but no case was registered. The complainant then approached the court. After examining the complaint, affidavit and supporting documents, the Chief Judicial Magistrate directed Sadar Police to register an FIR, conduct an investigation and submit the investigation report before the court.

Acharya Pulak Sagar to arrive in Chittorgarh today, Gyan Ganga Mahotsav from July 7 to 18

Grand welcome procession from Collectorate Circle to Mangalik Dham; daily discourses on religion, culture and moral values

FAIR REPORT

Chittorgarh: National saint and Bharat Gaurav Acharya 108 Shri Pulak Sagar Ji Maharaj will make his ceremonial entry into Chittorgarh on Tuesday morning. Members of the Jain community and several social and religious

organisations have made preparations to welcome him. A 12-day Gyan Ganga Mahotsav will also be organised from July 7 to July 18. According to office-bearers of the Sakal Digambar Jain Samaj, the welcome procession will begin at 6:30 am from Collectorate Circle and end at Mangalik Dham. A large number of devotees are expected to take part in the procession. Members of the Muni Seva Samiti said that the Gyan Ganga Mahotsav will be held every

day from 8:30 am to 10 am. During the event, Acharya Pulak Sagar Ji Maharaj will deliver discourses on religion, Indian culture, moral life, self-development and human values. The programme is being jointly organised by the Sakal Digambar Jain Samaj, Muni Seva Samiti and Digambar Jain Mahila Mandal. The organisers have invited all devotees and local residents to attend the procession and the Mahotsav with their families.

‘Indian Team Has a Gentle Touch’: Venezuela Quake Survivor’s Emotional Thanks Captures India’s Relief Mission

FAIR REPORT

Caracas/New Delhi: A survivor of Venezuela's catastrophic earthquakes has delivered a powerful tribute to India's humanitarian mission, thanking the Indian Army's doctors for saving his life and describing their treatment as so gentle that "one doesn't feel any pain."

The emotional testimony, shared by External Affairs Ministry spokesper-

son Randhir Jaiswal, has become a defining symbol of Operation Amistad—India's emergency relief mission to the earthquake-ravaged South American nation.

Lying in a hospital bed after surgery for two fractured arms and a broken leg, the survivor praised the Indian Army's Field Hospital in Caracas for providing world-class medical care amid the devastation. "The treatment is excel-



lent. The Indian team here has a gentle touch. One doesn't feel any pain," he said, expressing heartfelt gratitude to the doctors and medical staff.

The patient's account is one of several stories emerging from India's field hospital, where military doctors have been working around the clock since arriving in Venezuela with emergency medical teams, equipment and humanitarian supplies on June 28.

Among those treated was a 79-year-old woman rescued alive from beneath the rubble of a collapsed building. She received specialised treatment for a fractured leg and an arterial ulcer after spending hours trapped under debris. In another widely shared account, the father of an injured young girl called the care provided by the Indian medical team "spectacular," saying his family would never forget

India's support during their darkest hours.

Another Venezuelan mother, Lizzet Rodriguez, thanked the Government of India after doctors treated her son Anthony Aguilarte for a fractured femur, describing the Indian medical contingent as "outstanding."

The Indian Army's Additional Directorate General of Public Information said the field hospital continues to serve earthquake

victims, underscoring India's enduring commitment to Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations across the world.

The twin earthquakes of June 24, measuring 7.2 and 7.5 magnitude, triggered one of Venezuela's deadliest natural disasters in recent history. The latest official figures put the death toll at 2,954, with 16,592 people injured, while nearly 30,000 rescuers, includ-

ing more than 3,000 international personnel, continue searching for survivors amid widespread destruction.

As rescue operations enter a critical phase, the voices of grateful survivors are reinforcing India's growing reputation as a first responder in global humanitarian crises—one that delivers not only medicines and medical expertise, but also compassion when it is needed most.