

FAIR REPORT

THE DAWN OF A FEARLESS PEN

Jaipur, Thursday, 09 July 2026

PRGI No. - RNI- RJBIL/25/A1808 | Vol 1 | Issue No.- 292 Pages 04 | ₹3.00

Nightmare Comes Calling: Masked Snatcher Turns Morning Walk Into Terror in Jaipur's Central Park

FAIR REPORT

Jaipur: A peaceful morning walk turned into a scene straight out of a crime thriller when a masked miscreant struck in broad daylight at Central Park, leaving a 25-year-old woman injured and shaken — and the city's famed green lung suddenly looking a lot less safe.

Nandini Agarwal, a resident of Ganesh Park in Vidyadhar Nagar, had stepped out with a friend for what should have been a routine stroll around 10:30 am on Tuesday. Instead, near Gate No. 1, a young man — face masked behind a handkerchief, cap pulled low — emerged from roughly 100 metres away and closed in with chilling calm. As Nandini stepped aside to let him pass, he struck. In one swift, brutal motion, the accused ripped the gold chain from her



neck, leaving injury marks in his wake, and bolted in the opposite direction before anyone could react.

She gave chase — but the snatcher was gone, vanishing into the park's greenery as quickly as he'd appeared. The stolen chain: worth an estimated 1.5 lakh. A shaken Nandini rushed to lodge a complaint. Police from Ashok Nagar station have registered a case and are now combing through CCTV footage installed across the park, hunting for the masked man caught partially on camera fleeing the scene.



DRIZZLE DAYS

Children get drenched in the monsoon rain, in Morigaon district of Assam, Wednesday

Modi, Prabowo Unveil Restored Prambanan Complex, Reviving a Civilisational Bridge Across the Indian Ocean

FAIR REPORT

Jakarta, July 8: In a powerful display of cultural diplomacy, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto jointly inaugurated the UNESCO World Heritage Prambanan Temple Compound Restoration and Conservation Project, underscoring the deep civilisational ties that have linked India and Indonesia for centuries.

The inauguration marked more than the completion of a conservation effort. It symbolised a renewed commitment by the two nations to preserve their shared cultural legacy while strengthening a strategic partnership in-



creasingly shaped by history, heritage and people-to-people connections.

Describing the project as a testament to the enduring relationship between the two countries, Prime Minister Modi said the restora-

tion of the Prambanan Temple Complex reflected the timeless civilisational bonds rooted in shared traditions, faith and cultural exchange across the Indian Ocean.

Dedicated to the Hindu

Trimurti—Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva—the Prambanan Temple Complex stands as one of Southeast Asia's most significant examples of classical Hindu architecture. The restoration project highlights India's growing role in international heritage conservation while reinforcing Indonesia's commitment to safeguarding one of its most treasured monuments.

The initiative also carries strategic significance, coming as New Delhi and Jakarta expand cooperation across defence, maritime security, trade, education and cultural exchange. Analysts view the restoration as an example of how heritage diplomacy is

increasingly complementing geopolitical engagement in the Indo-Pacific.

For both nations, the restored Prambanan complex serves as a reminder that their partnership extends beyond contemporary strategic interests to a civilisational relationship forged over centuries through commerce, culture, religion and intellectual exchange.

As India and Indonesia deepen their Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, the restored temple complex stands not merely as an architectural achievement but as a living symbol of a shared past shaping the future of two of Asia's most influential democracies.

A Decade-Old Scandal Resurfaces: ACB Books Five in ₹61 Lakh Jodhpur Medicine Scam

Jodhpur: A ten-year-old cover-up just got a lot less quiet. The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) has registered an FIR over an alleged 61.24 lakh scam in medicine procurement dating back to 2016, blowing the lid off what officials say was a carefully engineered fraud inside the Jodhpur CMHO office.

The FIR — number 182/2026, filed at ACB's CPS police station in Jaipur — names five accused: Girdhari Singh Udawat, along with representatives of four pharma suppliers — Subodh Saxena (Harsh Distributors), Jai Kumar Sharma (Macon Pharma), Kamlesh Bohra (Seema Medical), and Gautamkant Ladha (Lalit Pharma). Others linked to the case remain under the scanner. The alleged scam: Under the state's free medicine scheme, tenders were floated in 2016.

Kota Police holds women's safety outreach programme, felicitates volunteers

FAIR REPORT

KOTA: The Kota City Police organised an interaction with women volunteers and a felicitation ceremony as part of its ongoing "Mahila Suraksha Sankalp" (Women's Safety Resolve) campaign on Wednesday, in pursuance of directions issued by the Director General of Police, Rajasthan. The event, held at the Sadguna Auditorium of Allen Coaching Institute in Landmark City, Kunhari, was addressed by Kota City Superintendent of Police Tejaswani Gautam. Around 4,500 participants attended the programme, including police "Suraksha Sakshis", members of women's Community Liaison Groups (CLG), anganwadi workers, and volunteers from Rajeevika, the National Service Scheme (NSS), the National Cadet Corps (NCC), various non-governmental organisations, ANMs,

GNMs, ASHA workers, homemakers, hostel wardens, and school and college principals and teachers, besides aspirants from the coaching institute. Addressing the gathering, Ms. Gautam outlined the measures being taken by the city police to strengthen women's safety, including the RajCop Citizen app, the Kalika Patrolling Unit, the Student Helpline, the Garima Helpline, and the KSOS mobile application. The programme's central focus was on awareness generation and self-defence training. Members of the Kalika Patrolling Unit conducted live self-defence demonstrations for the women present. Police also briefed participants on Operation Garuda Vyuh-2, an ongoing crackdown against drug trafficking networks in the city, following which attendees took a pledge to work towards a drug-free society.

Rajasthan becomes first Indian state to sign landmark clean energy pact with International Solar Alliance

HEMRAJ TIKAMCHAND
FAIR REPORT

JAIPUR: Rajasthan has scripted history by becoming the first state in the country to sign a "Framework for Action – Advancing Clean Energy Driven Sustainable Development" with the International Solar Alliance (ISA), a coalition of 128 nations, marking a decisive leap in the state's ambition to position itself as a global powerhouse of solar energy.

The landmark agreement was signed in the



presence of Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma at

the Chief Minister's residence, with the state's

Energy Secretary and the Director General of

the International Solar Alliance putting pen to

paper on the pact that could redefine Rajasthan's energy trajectory for decades to come.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister Sharma said the agreement was a reflection of India's growing global stature in the fight against climate change under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He said the ISA itself was born out of the Prime Minister's vision, one that had transformed solar power from a policy initiative into a worldwide people's

movement.

The Chief Minister described the framework as a "significant stride" towards securing clean, safe and future-ready energy solutions — one that would help meet the twin goals of energy security and environmental sustainability.

With this signing, Rajasthan — already the country's largest producer of solar power owing to its vast desert expanse and high solar insolation — has effectively cemented its status as the nerve centre of India's, and po-

tentially the world's, clean energy ambitions. Officials say the pact is expected to unlock deeper international collaboration, technology transfer and investment, accelerating the state's transition to a renewable-energy-driven economy. The development comes amid Rajasthan's aggressive push to scale up its installed solar capacity, with the state government positioning green energy as a cornerstone of its long-term industrial and economic growth strategy.

NIA searches 20 sites across 10 States in terror probe

FAIR REPORT
 ■ New Delhi

In a major crackdown on online extremism, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Wednesday carried out coordinated searches at 20 locations across 10 states and Delhi, uncovering an alleged conspiracy to radicalise vulnerable youth and push for an Islamic state through violent jihad.

According to the NIA, the accused and their associates were allegedly indoctrinating young people nationwide by sharing violent jihadi content and misinformation. The operation also revealed that the accused maintained online contact with foreign handlers to spread jihadi ideology and advance an alleged anti-India conspiracy.

The searches, conducted as part of an ongoing investigation, targeted premises in

Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Bihar, Rajasthan, Gujarat and the national capital. NIA teams seized multiple digital devices, including phones, laptops and storage media, which are now undergoing forensic scrutiny to trace communications, propaganda material and recruitment trails.

The conspiracy, the agency said, aimed at establishing an Islamic state in India by promoting violent jihad against the democratically elected Government. The accused allegedly used the internet to share graphic videos, religious interpretations and false narratives intended to fuel anger and alienation among the youth.

The NIA's preliminary findings indicate that the accused and their associates created online echo chambers, where



young people were gradually exposed to extreme content. Misinformation about Government policies, communal issues and global events was used to portray India as an enemy of Islam, pushing impressionable minds toward radicalisation.

The accused were in regular online contact with handlers based abroad, who

allegedly provided ideological guidance, propaganda material and instructions to expand the network inside India. These handlers, linked to ISIS and AQIS ideologies, used encrypted platforms to stay in touch, coordinate activities and direct the dissemination of jihadi content. The NIA described the module as a case of hybrid

terrorism, where technology bridges the gap between local sympathisers and overseas masterminds. By using social media, messaging apps and dark web channels, the network sought to bypass traditional surveillance and reach youth in both urban and semi-urban areas across states.

The nationwide sweep reflects the growing sophistication of terror outfits that have shifted focus from physical training camps to digital indoctrination. The seizure of devices is expected to yield evidence, chat histories, deleted files, financial trails and links to other modules, once forensic experts complete their examination.

Security experts note that online radicalisation poses a challenge because it often occurs without physical meetings. The NIA's operation demonstrates how central

agencies are adapting by combining intelligence inputs with swift, multi-state action. While the investigation is still in its early stages, the NIA has said it will pursue every lead to dismantle the network completely. The agency is also examining whether the accused received any material or logistical support from their foreign contacts.

"This case serves as a reminder of the evolving threat landscape. As digital spaces become a battleground for extremist ideologies, proactive policing and public awareness remain strong shields. The NIA's operation is aimed at sending a strong message that India will not allow any group, domestic or foreign-backed, to influence the minds of its youth or challenge its democratic foundations", an official said.

States Focus



BENGALURU'S 2ND AIRPORT TO COME UP IN SOUTH OF CITY: CM

Karnataka Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Wednesday said the city's second airport, planned to decongest Kempegowda International Airport, will come up in South Bengaluru. He said officials have been asked to submit a proposal to the Central Government after considering a location where land cost is low, which is technically feasible, and not too hilly. The CM chaired a meeting with Minister for Infrastructure Development MB Patil and top officials regarding the second airport near Bengaluru. "We asked to ensure that no villages are disturbed and villagers should not be displaced," Shivakumar told reporters.



IAF CHIEF REVIEWS OPERATIONAL PREPAREDNESS IN LADAKH

The Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh, on Wednesday concluded his six-day visit to forward areas in the Ladakh sector, during which he reviewed the operational preparedness of the IAF units and interacted with troops deployed in high-altitude areas. Air Chief Marshal Singh, accompanied by Sarita Singh who is the president of the Air Force Families Welfare Association, visited the sector from July 3 to July 8, a public relations officer (PRO) said. The IAF chief was received at Air Force Station Leh by Air Vice Marshal Anand Sondhi and other senior officers.

Online NEET-UG to be spread over at least 6 days from next year

FAIR REPORT
 ■ New Delhi

The NEET-UG medical entrance exam, which is set to be conducted as a computer-based test from next year, will be spread over at least six days across more than 1,000 centres, sources said. National Eligibility Entrance Test (NEET)-UG is the largest undergraduate entrance exam in the country, with nearly 25 lakh candidates appearing for the crucial test.

Following a controversy over paper leak and irregularities in the exam, the Centre announced that the exam will be conducted as a computer-based test (CBT) rather than a pen-and-paper-based one. Detailed deliberations have been going on for several years between education and health ministries on whether to conduct the NEET-UG in pen and paper or online mode.

"Just like JEE, which is conducted for admission to engineering colleges, the exam will be spread over at least six days. The exam centres will be selected after scrutiny of their credibility and infrastructure availability," a source said,



adding that a detailed plan is still being firmed up. The National Testing Agency (NTA) conducts NEET every year for admission into medical colleges. A total of 1,08,000 seats are available for the MBBS course.

Of the seats available for the MBBS course, approximately 56,000 are in government hospitals and about 52,000 in private colleges. Admissions to undergraduate courses in Dentistry, Ayurveda, Unani, and Siddha also utilise the results of the NEET for admission.

The idea of switching to CBT mode for NEET is not new and has been deliberated several times before.

DRDO successfully tests long-range Pinaka rocket

FAIR REPORT
 ■ New Delhi

Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) conducted a successful flight test of Pinaka Long Range Guided Rocket (LRGR) at the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur on Wednesday, the defence ministry said.

Giving details, it said the rocket was tested for a user-defined minimum range of 60 kms. Demonstrating all in-flight manoeuvres as planned, the LRGR impacted on the target with textbook precision, exactly following the predicted trajectory. All the deployed range instruments tracked the flight throughout its trajectory.

The Pinaka LRGR rocket is designed by Armament Research and Development Establishment in association with High Energy Materials Research Laboratory, with support from Defence Research and Development Laboratory and Research Centre Imarat.



The flight trial was coordinated by ITR and Proof & Experimental Establishment. The rocket was launched from the in-service Pinaka launcher, demonstrating its versatility and providing launch capability of Pinaka variants of different ranges from the same launcher.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has congratulated the DRDO, the Indian Army and the industry on the successful flight test.

Don't defame Lord Ram: Mamata attacks BJP after street clash

FAIR REPORT
 ■ Kolkata

Invoking Ram Temple controversy for the first time, former Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday said "*Ram ka naam Badnam na karo*" (don't defame Lord Rama).

This even as an angry Trinamool Congress chief (Kalighat faction) lambasted the Bengal BJP Government for trying to gag the Opposition voice by "unleashing its goons on their peaceful rallies."

She said, "Those who looted the donations for Lord Ram are calling others thieves and today attacking our men when they go out in peaceful protest rallies... that too backed by a High Court order... they don't even have any regard for the High Court... we will file a contempt case against them."

Banerjee's outburst came moments after clashes



erupted between the BJP and TMC cadres, who fought pitched battles at noon on Wednesday along the Hajira Road, leaving several persons from both sides injured. The police and the central forces had a difficult time controlling the crowd.

The members of the pro-Mamata TMC group had

organised a rally against atrocities on women in Bengal when they got embroiled in a skirmish with members of the BJP who had taken a counter rally along the same route.

Men from both the rallies were seen exchanging fisticuffs a few hundred metres from Banerjee's Kalighat house.

Air India plane tyres burst after near-miss at Mumbai Airport

FAIR REPORT
 ■ New Delhi

A potentially catastrophic runway incursion was narrowly averted at Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport on the night of July 7 after an Air India flight bound for Delhi aborted its takeoff following an urgent instruction from Air Traffic Control (ATC), which alerted the crew that another aircraft was still on the active runway.

According to operational logs and airport sources, Air India flight AI816 (registration VT-ALT), carrying 225 passengers and crew, had begun its takeoff roll from Runway 27 after pushing back from the bay at 2129 hrs. At approximately 2150 hrs, ATC instructed the cockpit crew to "STOP IMMEDIATELY" as the preceding arrival, Air India Express flight IX1547, had not yet vacated the runway.

The flight crew, led by Captain N Vinay Divakar, carried out a high-speed rejected takeoff in accordance with standard safety



Representative image

procedures and safely vacated the runway. Simultaneously, another inbound aircraft, AI699, was instructed to execute a go-around as a precaution.

The aircraft subsequently returned to Stand S2, reaching the bay at 2215 hrs. A runway inspection conducted between 2154 hrs and 2158 hrs found no abnormalities or foreign object debris.

However, a post-incident technical inspection revealed that three tyres on AI816 had burst during the high-speed aborted takeoff due to the

extreme braking forces involved. Air India personnel were informed of the tyre damage at around 2220 hrs. No injuries were reported among passengers or crew.

In a statement, Air India confirmed the sequence of events, saying the crew discontinued the takeoff after receiving instructions from ATC and returned the aircraft to the bay for mandatory technical inspections. The airline said alternative travel arrangements were being made for affected passengers and reiterated that pas-

senger safety remains its highest priority.

The aircraft involved was operating the Mumbai-Delhi service, while the arriving aircraft that had not cleared the runway was an Air India Express plane operating from Bagdogra. Initial reports had suggested the flight originated from Kochi, but operational records confirmed Siliguri as its departure point.

The incident is the second reported serious ground safety event involving Air India aircraft within a month. In late June, an Air India aircraft and an IndiGo aircraft reportedly came into close proximity on the ground at Ahmedabad, raising broader concerns over runway and ground movement safety.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and the Airports Authority of India (AAI) have initiated a joint investigation into the incident. The probe will examine runway occupancy management, ATC communication protocols, and operational procedures to determine why the arriving

aircraft had not vacated the runway before takeoff clearance was issued and whether procedural or workload-related lapses played a role.

The Air India plane, understood to be around 16 years old, has been grounded pending detailed engineering inspections, including examinations of its braking system, landing gear, tyres and associated assemblies. While only the tyre damage has been confirmed publicly, engineers are also assessing the aircraft for any potential brake or engine stress resulting from the rejected takeoff.

All passengers were safely deplaned and are being accommodated on alternative flights.

The incident has once again drawn attention to the operational pressures at one of India's busiest airports and underscores the critical importance of strict runway separation and air traffic management standards. Further details are expected as the official investigation progresses.

Counter fake narratives fiercely: CEC to poll officials



FAIR REPORT
 ■ New Delhi

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar on Wednesday cautioned poll officials over the rising tide of false narratives on social media, urging them to proactively counter the spread of misinformation.

Addressing the officials, he emphasised that passive monitoring is no longer enough.

He stated that administrative teams must engage swiftly to neutralise fake news before it distorts public perception.

Rajasthan Govt ties up with International Solar Alliance

FAIR REPORT
 ■ Jaipur

The Rajasthan Government on Wednesday tied up with the International Solar Alliance (ISA) for an action framework to accelerate the State's transition towards clean energy through grid modernisation and solar power integration.

Rajasthan is the first state in the country to enter this partnership, according to a release.

The framework, titled "Advance Clean Energy, Driven Sustainable Development", was signed in the presence of Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma at the chief minister's residence. The agreement was signed by Energy Secretary Arti Dogra and ISA Director General Ashish Khanna.

The framework will help prepare an energy transi-



Representative image

tion plan for 2030-35, focusing on renewable energy expansion, strengthening transmission and distribution infrastructure, grid modernisation, energy storage, energy efficiency, demand management, policy reforms and institutional capacity building, the release said.

The initiative will also promote artificial intelligence-enabled digitalisation in the power sector.

A pilot project based on digital twin technology will be launched in Ajmer

DISCOM to improve electricity demand forecasting, network planning, renewable energy integration and the reliability of power supply.

The chief minister said that the partnership would accelerate Rajasthan's transition towards renewable energy and help prepare a comprehensive plan for the expansion, transmission and distribution of solar power, leading to improved electricity supply and better quality power for c

SIT finds proof against 8 in Ram temple donation row: Yogi

FAIR REPORT
 ■ Lucknow

On Wednesday, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said the Special Investigation Team (SIT) investigating the alleged theft of donations at the Ram temple had found evidence against eight people out of nearly 150 involved in counting offerings. He added that the actions of a few should not tarnish the reputation of the entire Temple Trust.

Chief Minister accused the Congress and the Samajwadi Party of trying to harm Ayodhya's reputation because of this case.

While defending the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust, Adityanath said at an event in Chitrakoot that after the case came to light, opposition parties became active and used it as a chance to criticise Ayodhya.

"You must have heard the recent reports. Congress and the Samajwadi Party suddenly became active. These are parties that have historically criticised Ayodhya, and they found an issue to exploit," he told the gathering in Chitrakoot.

The chief minister said the Trust informed the government that it had received reports of alleged theft during



Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath interacts with school children during his visit to an exhibition stall at Trade Facilitation Centre (TFC) in Varanasi on Wednesday

a high-level SIT to be formed.

"We accepted the Trust's recommendation and set up a high-level SIT. The investigation found evidence against six people directly involved in the theft and two others who were part of the conspiracy. Based on the SIT's recommendations, the Trust filed an FIR, and action was taken," he said.

He pointed out that about 150 people count offerings at the temple, but the alleged wrongdoing was

limited to a small group. He urged devotees and citizens to stay alert to such incidents.

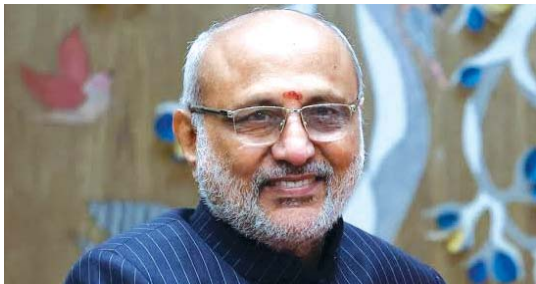
Questioning the Opposition's criticism, Yogi Adityanath said, "When action has been taken against the accused, what is the justification for defaming the entire Trust, questioning Ayodhya and insulting the legacy of Lord Ram? It appears the Congress and the Samajwadi Party have taken a contract to attack India's faith."

States Focus



80% SIR ENUMERATION FORMS DISTRIBUTED: KARNATAKA CEO

Karnataka Chief Electoral Officer V Anbukkumar on Wednesday said that the process of the SIR was underway and that 80.85 per cent of the enumeration forms had already been distributed to electors across the State. A door-to-door house enumeration exercise under the SIR of the electoral rolls began on June 30, as per the directions of the ECI, and will continue till July 29. Addressing a press conference, Anbukkumar said, “We will be distributing the enumeration forms to every house in Karnataka, to every voter. In that process, 80.85 per cent of the enumeration forms have already been distributed to electors in Karnataka.” Listing the figures, he said that Chitradurga district had achieved 98.95 per cent distribution as of 2 pm on Wednesday.



VP TO LAUNCH DEEP SEA FISHING PERMIT SYSTEM IN ODISHA

Vice President CP Radhakrishnan will launch the Letter of Authorisation (LoA) for sustainable harnessing of fisheries in the high seas and Odisha Deep Sea Mission document during his visit to Bhubaneswar on Thursday, officials said. The Vice President is scheduled to arrive here on Thursday morning on a one-day official visit. He will launch the two programmes during an event, which will be attended by Odisha Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, Union Ministers Rajiv Ranjan Singh, Dharmendra Pradhan, SP Singh Baghel and state minister Gokulananda Mallik. Radhakrishnan will distribute LoA to the fisheries cooperative societies including National Cooperative Exports Limited (NCEL) and fishing vessel owners, enabling eligible Indian-flagged fishing vessels to undertake regulated fishing operations in the high seas, an official statement said. The letter of authorisation is a mandatory provision under the guidelines for sustainable harnessing of fisheries in the high seas by Indian-flagged fishing vessels, 2025, it said. Designed as a transparent and accountable framework for Indian-flagged vessels undertaking fishing or fishing-related activities in the high seas, the LoA facilitates ease of compliance for fishermen and vessel operators.

BJP hails PM’s Indonesia visit as strategic breakthrough

FAIR REPORT
■ New Delhi

The BJP on Wednesday hailed Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s visit to Indonesia as a “major strategic breakthrough” after the two countries agreed to jointly develop the strategically located Sabang Port. The party also accused previous Congress Governments of failing to leverage India’s geographical advantage in the Indo-Pacific.

India and Indonesia on Tuesday agreed to jointly develop the strategically located Sabang Port, which overlooks the Strait of Malacca and is about 160 kilometres away from India’s Great Nicobar Port project.

Reacting to the development, BJP IT department head Amit Malviya said the agreement, along with the Great Nicobar Transshipment Port project, will significantly strengthen India’s strategic footprint in the Indo-Pacific. “Prime Minister Narendra



BJP IT department head Amit Malviya

Modi’s visit to Indonesia has delivered a major strategic breakthrough. India and Indonesia will jointly develop Sabang Port in Aceh, near the Strait of Malacca, one of the world’s busiest and most consequential maritime chokepoints,” Malviya said in a post on social media.

“Together with Great Nicobar Transshipment Port, this will significantly strengthen India’s strategic footprint in Indo-Pacific and create powerful operational synergies across the region,” he said.

The BJP leader said the Strait of Malacca carries nearly one-third of global trade and serves as the principal maritime artery for East Asia, including the overwhelming majority of China’s energy imports and commercial shipping.

“A credible presence around this sea lane translates into enormous geopolitical and economic leverage,” he said.

Targeting the Congress, Malviya alleged that despite India’s “unmatched geo-

graphical advantage” through the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, successive Congress Governments failed to capitalise on the strategic opportunity.

“Instead of investing in world-class maritime infrastructure, strengthening India’s position around the Malacca Strait and leveraging geography into national power, decades were lost to strategic indecision and neglect,” he alleged.

Malviya claimed that under Modi, India is charting a different course now by converting its geographical advantage into strategic power.

“From the Great Nicobar mega transhipment project and the strengthening of the Andaman and Nicobar Command, to SAGAR and now the joint development of Sabang Port with Indonesia, Prime Minister Modi has transformed India’s maritime outlook from passive observation to proactive leadership,” he said.

Unions call for protests against NFSA amendments

FAIR REPORT
■ New Delhi

Four major mass organisations on Wednesday jointly called for nationwide protests against the Centre’s proposed amendments to the National Food Security Act (NFSA), which they claimed would drastically reduce ration quotas and severely threaten food security for the country’s poorest populations.

The joint call was issued by the All India Agricultural Workers’ Union (AIAWU), All India Democratic Women’s Association (AIDWA), All India Kisan Sabha (AIKS), and the Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU). The bodies are protesting a proposal by the Department of Food and Public Distribution to alter the current ration allocation from a fixed 35 kg per household to 7 kg per person, while retain-



ing a maximum cap of 35 kg per household.

In a joint statement, the unions strongly condemned the National Food Security Amendment Bill, terming it an “anti-people move” that exposes the Government’s apathy towards the working class. They argued that the proposed restructuring would end up penalising larger families. Under the new rules, any household with more than five members would see its per capita allocation drop significantly below the promised 7 kg

mark due to the rigid 35 kg household ceiling.

The organisations pointed out that nearly 236.9 lakh Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) households — comprising roughly 939.4 lakh individuals — rely entirely on these subsidised foodgrains for daily survival. This highly vulnerable demographic includes landless agricultural labourers, traditional artisans, unorganised sector workers, Dalits, Adivasis, widows, and persons with disabilities.

Citing expert consensus,

the statement noted that medical professionals and nutritionists have long maintained that marginalised populations require more than the current baseline to sustain healthy lives. The unions highlighted that historical benchmarks from the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) previously recommended at least 14 kg of foodgrains per person for proper physical development.

The joint front also criticised the reliance on outdated data, noting that public distribution system (PDS) quotas remain tethered to the 2011 Census despite significant population growth over the last decade and a half. Citing a 2021 study by prominent economists, the unions stated that over 100 million eligible individuals are already excluded from the PDS network.

Navi Mumbai Airport cleared for drug imports

FAIR REPORT
■ New Delhi

The Union health ministry has recently inaugurated Navi Mumbai Airport in Maharashtra as a port for the import of drugs under the Drugs Rules, 1945, in a move aimed at strengthening the pharmaceutical supply chain and facilitating ease of trade, an official statement said on Wednesday.

The amendment to Rule 43A of the Drugs Rules, 1945, now includes Navi Mumbai in the list of airports through which drugs may be imported into the country, according to the statement issued by the ministry.

The gazette notification was issued after consultation with the Drugs Technical Advisory Board under the provisions of the Drugs and



Cosmetics Act, 1940, officials said. With the latest addition, the total number of notified ports of entry — across air, sea, road and rail — for the import of drugs has increased to 42, it said.

The amendment is expected to facilitate smoother movement of pharmaceutical consignments, strengthen logistics infrastructure, and provide greater flexibility to

importers by adding a new alternative for the import of medicines into India, the statement said.

The initiative is in line with the Government’s continued efforts to strengthen the regulatory framework, improve trade facilitation, and promote Ease of Doing Business while ensuring effective regulatory oversight of imported drugs, it added.

465 farmer suicides recorded in Marathwada region in 2026

FAIR REPORT
■ Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar

As many as 465 farmers committed suicide between January and June 2026 in the Marathwada region of central Maharashtra with Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar district reporting the highest cases at 109, an official report said on Wednesday.

In 2025, as many as 1,131 farmer suicide cases were registered with the administration in the region, which consists of eight districts.

In the current year, from January to June, Marathwada registered 465 farmer suicide cases, a report from the Divisional Commissioner office based in Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar said. The



Representative image

highest number of farmer suicides were recorded in Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar district at 109, while the lowest was in Latur district (26), it said.

According to the report, 215 suicide cases were found eligible for financial aid from the Government, while 26 were found unfit for compensation.

Currently, 222 cases are under scrutiny, and financial aid has been granted in 108 cases so far.

District-wise farmer suicides from January to June are as follows: Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar (109), Beed (95), Dharaashiv (65), Nanded (61), Jalna (40), Parbhani (34), Hingoli (35) and Latur (26), the report added.

ED raids 11 locations connected to ex-SP MLA Deep Narayan



FAIR REPORT
■ New Delhi/Lucknow

On Wednesday, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) searched 11 locations across Uttar Pradesh as part of a money-laundering investigation involving former Samajwadi Party (SP) MLA Deep Narayan Singh Yadav and his associates. According to officials, nine of these places were in Jhansi district, and two were in Lucknow.

The searches, carried out under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002, focused on homes and businesses linked to the former legislator, his family, and related entities. Deep Narayan Singh Yadav, also called Deepak Yadav or Deepak Dadda, was the MLA for the Garautha assembly seat in Jhansi from 2007 to 2017 on an SP ticket.

The ED investigation began after an Enforcement Case Information Report (ECIR) was filed, based on a First Information Report (FIR) from the Uttar Pradesh Vigilance Establishment. The vigilance case claims that Yadav had assets beyond his known sources of income, along with 23 other complaints. Early findings by the ED suggest that money from alleged crimes was moved through a network of companies and Limited Liability Partnerships (LLPs) involved in real estate, construction, and other businesses.

The ED is reviewing financial transactions, beneficial ownership, and the acquisition of assets suspected to be linked to illegal activities.

During the searches, the ED seized documents, digital devices, and records related to properties and financial dealings. These materials will be further examined to trace the flow of the alleged illegal funds. Reports indicate that nearly 60 cases have been registered against him, including charges of cheating, forgery, extortion, attempted murder, and dacoity under the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

Additional cases have been registered under the Uttar Pradesh Gangsters and Anti-Social Activities (Prevention) Act and the Goondas Act. Earlier, the Uttar Pradesh Police had attached properties worth approximately ₹130 crore in Jhansi district under the Gangsters Act.

The ED investigation is ongoing, and no arrests have been made yet in connection with Wednesday’s raids. The agency will continue to investigate the financial trail and any possible links to offenders. The PMLA to determine the full extent of the alleged financial misconduct. The information may come out as the investigation continues and documents are reviewed. As of late Wednesday evening, the former MLA had not made any public statement about the raids.

Political observers believe these recent actions will strengthen the fight against corruption and send a strong message that no individual is immune to investigation, regardless of their past political position or social status.

Assam Govt says only 196 of 36,358 foreigners repatriated since 2021

FAIR REPORT
■ Guwahati

Over 36,000 people have been declared foreigners in the five years since 2021, and only 196 of them have been repatriated to Bangladesh so far, the Assembly was informed on Wednesday.

In a written reply to a query by Congress MLA Mohibur Rohman, Border Protection and Development Minister Atul Bora said a total of 36,358 persons have been declared foreigners by the Foreigners Tribunals (FTs) since 2021 to May 2026. “Out of them, 196 people have been repatriated to Bangladesh from Assam,” he added. Giving year-wise breakups, Bora said 7,151 foreigners were declared



Atul Bora

in 2021, followed by 9,028 in 2022, 6,859 in 2023, 6,178 in 2024, 5,106 in 2025 and 2036 in 2026 so far.

As per legal provisions, only the Foreigners Tribunals can declare a person a foreigner in Assam, and subsequently, higher courts can be approached if the verdict is not favourable. According to the Assam Accord, the names of all foreigners coming to Assam on or after March 25, 1971, would be detected, deleted from the electoral rolls, and steps would be taken to deport them.

Higher education enrolment rises by over 1 crore since 2014: Govt’s AISHE report

FAIR REPORT
■ New Delhi

The enrolment in higher education increased by over 1.08 crore since 2014 with 42 per cent increase in female enrolment, according to central Government’s AISHE report.

The Ministry of Education on Wednesday released the Reports of the All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) for the years 2022-23 and 2023-24.

The AISHE collects detailed information from Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) across the country through a web-based Data Capture Format (DCF). Institutions upload data on student enrolment, faculty and staff, infrastructure, examination results etc. on the AISHE portal.

AISHE serves as the primary source of official statistics on higher education in India and provides critical insights



for policy formulation, planning and monitoring of the sector.

The participation of HEIs in 2022-23 was 56,180 out of 60,380 HEIs registered and 59,533 out of 64,756 registered HEIs in 2023-24. “The enrolment in higher education has been continuously increasing from 3.42 crore in 2014-15 to 4.46 crore in 2022-23 and 4.50 crore in 2023-24 (i.e. 31.5

per cent increase since 2014-15),” the report said.

“It is commendable increase in female enrolment in higher education from 1.57 crore in 2014-15 to 2.18 crore in 2022-23 and 2.24 crore in 2023-24 (42.2 pc increase since 2014-15),” it added.

The enrolment of SC students has increased to 69.72 lakh in 2023-24 from 46.07 lakh in 2014-15 (an increase of

51.4 per cent since 2014-15). “The enrolment of ST students has increased to 28.83 lakh in 2023-24 from 16.41 lakh in 2014-15 (an increase of 75.7 per cent since 2014-15). Similarly, the enrolment of Other Backward Classes (OBC) students has increased to 1.80 crore in 2023-24 from 1.13 crore in 2014-15 (60.2 per cent increase),” it added.

STEM enrolment has risen significantly over the past decade, from 91.5 lakh in 2014-15 to 1.02 crore in 2023-24, reflecting the growing emphasis on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education in the country.

“The total number of faculty increased to 17.32 lakh in 2023-24, of which 55.1 pc are male and 44.9 per cent are female. The female faculty strength has increased from 5.69 lakh in 2014-15 to 7.37 lakh in 2022-23 and further to 7.78 lakh in 2023-24,” it said.

Namami Gange unified sewerage systems across 3 Uttarakhand towns

FAIR REPORT
■ New Delhi

The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) on Wednesday said a sewerage network developed under the Namami Gange programme has brought the sewerage systems of Rishikesh, Tapovan and Muni Ki Reti under a single framework, transforming wastewater management in the region.

The NMCG emphasised that the transformation is not the result of a single project but of a comprehensive restructuring of the region’s wastewater management system.

According to the mission, before the programme was launched, drains from Rishikesh flowed directly into the Ganga, sewage treatment capacity was limited, and the sewerage systems of Rishikesh,



Representational image

Tapovan and Muni Ki Reti operated independently.

The NMCG said the work began in 2017 to bring the three adjoining urban areas under a unified sewerage network as part of the Namami Gange programme. The mission further informed that with an investment of ₹375 crore, the network established a total sewage treatment capacity of 55 MLD.

The system comprises modern sewage treatment plants equipped with

automation and tertiary treatment facilities, while drains have been intercepted and diverted to prevent untreated sewage from entering the Ganga. According to the NMCG, six of the seven sanctioned projects have been completed, while one project is under construction.

The mission said the projects were approved in 2017, the construction of sewage treatment plants began in 2018, Tapovan was integrated into the network in 2019,

and Muni Ki Reti was connected in 2022.

The integrated system has strengthened Ganga conservation in the region by ensuring wastewater is treated before being discharged into the river, the NMCG said, adding that it has laid the foundation for cleaner stretches of the Ganga at Rishikesh, where the Himalayan river enters the plains.

“The result is visible in the Ganga. The water that once flowed untreated further downstream now reaches the river only after treatment. In the very city through which the Ganga passes as it descends from the Himalayas before entering the plains, the foundation of its cleanliness has already been laid,” the NMCG said in a post on social media. “The city has changed. The Ganga has changed,” it added.

