

FAIR REPORT

THE DAWN OF A FEARLESS PEN

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Rajasthan Eases Promotion Norms for Secretariat Staff, CM Bhajan Lal Sharma Links Reform to ‘Citizen-First’ Governance

FAIR REPORT
JAIPUR

Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma on Sunday reiterated his government’s focus on administrative reforms and citizen-centric governance after the Rajasthan Secretariat Service Officers’ Association and the Secretariat Employees’ Union felicitated him for approving key service-related measures, including a two-year relaxation in promotion eligibility and the creation of new posts.

Addressing the gathering, Sharma said the state government was aligning its governance model with Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s “citizen-first” vision, asserting that public service must remain at the heart of administrative



decision-making. “The Secretariat is the nerve centre of govern-

ment policymaking, welfare programmes and administrative decisions.

Every policy, every file and every decision taken here must strengthen the

trust of Rajasthan’s eight crore citizens,” the Chief Minister said.

The felicitation came in recognition of the government’s decision to grant a

two-year relaxation in the experience requirement for promotions, a longstanding demand of Secretariat employees. The state has also approved the creation of new posts, a move expected to improve career progression while addressing staffing requirements within the Secretariat.

The announcement reflects the government’s broader push to streamline administrative functioning and enhance efficiency through personnel reforms. Officials said the measures are intended to accelerate promotions, reduce stagnation in service, and strengthen the administrative machinery responsible for implementing government poli-

cies.

Sharma underscored that governance is measured not merely by policy announcements but by the efficiency and accountability with which they are executed. He urged Secretariat officers and employees to view every administrative decision through the lens of public interest, stressing that responsive governance begins within the state’s administrative headquarters. The latest reforms come as the Rajasthan government continues to position bureaucratic efficiency and administrative responsiveness as central pillars of its governance agenda, with a renewed emphasis on faster decision-making and improved public service delivery.

US-Iran War Escalates: New Explosions Rock Qeshm Island as Hormuz Standoff Boils Over

FAIR REPORT
NEW DELHI

The fragile ceasefire between Washington and Tehran has all but collapsed. Multiple explosions have rocked Iran’s Qeshm Island near the Strait of Hormuz, with state broadcasters showing thick plumes of smoke rising over the coastline — the latest flashpoint in a rapidly spiraling conflict that has now dragged in half the Gulf.

The blasts come just days after Iran declared the strategic Strait of Hormuz closed, escalating a standoff that has already seen the US launch its third round of strikes this week — hitting roughly 140 Iranian military sites, according to CENTCOM. Iranian state TV reported explosions not just on Qeshm, but across Bandar Abbas, Bushehr, Sirik, and Chabahar, striking at the heart of Iran’s missile and air-defense infrastructure.

Tehran isn’t taking it

lying down. The IRGC claims retaliatory strikes on US positions in Bahrain and Kuwait, while Jordan’s Prince Hassan Air Base was also reportedly targeted. Qatar says it intercepted a missile attack. Sirens wailed across Bahrain as residents were told to shelter in place.

At the center of the crisis: the Strait of Hormuz, through which a fifth of the world’s oil flows. Iran insists the waterway remains shut to unauthorized traffic; Washington insists it’s open. Both sides are trading fire to prove the point — with tankers already struck and crews abandoning ship mid-transit.

President Trump has warned “1,000 missiles are locked and loaded,” while Iran’s supreme leadership has vowed a “crushing response.” What began as a fragile truce now teeters on the edge of full-scale war — and the world is watching the Gulf hold its breath.

DMK Slams the Door on TVK — INDIA Bloc’s Tamil Nadu Crisis Deepens

FAIR REPORT
TAMIL NADU

The cracks in Tamil Nadu’s opposition unity have turned into a full-blown fracture. The DMK has flatly rejected a fresh bid to bring Chief Minister Vijay’s Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) into the INDIA bloc — a move that lays bare just how deep the bitterness between the two parties has become since Congress switched sides earlier this year.

The Proposal — and the Rejection

The push came from VCK chief Thol Thirumavalavan, who floated a Kerala and West Bengal-style model — where parties compete fiercely at the state level but unite against the BJP nationally. Congress backed the idea, arguing opposition unity should override state rivalries. The DMK wasn’t buying it.

DMK MP Ganapathy P. Rajkumar didn’t mince words, accusing Congress of “backstabbing” the party by cosying up to TVK to grab ministerial berths after the Assembly polls. Sen-



ior DMK leader TKS Elangovan went further, telling reporters the VCK should first get Vijay himself to walk back his own rhetoric — since the TVK chief has repeatedly branded the DMK his principal political rival.

A Betrayal DMK Hasn’t Forgiven

This isn’t a fresh wound — it’s one that’s been festering since May 2026, when Congress ended its 19-year alliance with the DMK to back TVK’s government formation after Vijay’s party emerged as the single largest force with 108 seats. DMK legislators passed a scathing

resolution at the time, accusing Congress of failing to shed its “old political character.” Elangovan had declared then, bluntly: “INDIA bloc is gone.”

Since that rupture, the DMK has kept its distance from the national alliance altogether — boycotting the INDIA bloc’s Delhi meeting last month and declaring it was no longer part of the coalition in any meaningful sense.

What This Means Going Forward

With Congress now governing alongside TVK in Chennai, and DMK refusing to share a political tent with either, the INDIA bloc’s southern anchor

looks all but severed. VCK’s mediation attempt was seen as a last-ditch effort to keep the opposition’s national arithmetic intact ahead of upcoming local body and parliamentary contests — but DMK’s flat refusal signals the party is prepared to go it alone rather than make peace with what it sees as a betrayal.

For an alliance already reeling from setbacks in West Bengal and Tamil Nadu, the DMK-TVK standoff isn’t just a state-level spat — it’s a warning sign of how fragile opposition unity has become heading into the next big electoral battle.

No More White Coat, No More Cover: Rajasthan Strikes at Repeat Foetal Sex Test Offender

FAIR REPORT
JAIPUR

In a decisive escalation against illegal prenatal sex determination, the Rajasthan Medical Council has cancelled the medical registration of Dr Mohammed Imtiyaz, a repeat offender who has allegedly been arrested five times in connection with violations of the PCPNDT Act. The move effectively bars him from practising medicine in the state and marks one of the toughest professional sanctions imposed in Rajasthan’s long-running battle against the female foeticide network.

Officials said the action follows a trail of repeated criminal cases linked to alleged illegal foetal sex determination, despite multiple arrests by the state’s PCPNDT Cell. Investigators have maintained that the accused continued to operate an organised network, repeatedly attempting to evade the law. The case has long stood out for another unprecedented reason. Nearly seven years ago, the Jodhpur Police declared Dr Imtiyaz a history-sheeter, a designation generally re-

served for habitual offenders. The move was widely regarded as the first instance in Rajasthan where a medical practitioner was formally placed on the police’s history-sheet register. The cancellation of his medical registration is being viewed as a watershed moment in Rajasthan’s crackdown on illegal sex-selection practices, signalling that repeated violations will now attract not only criminal prosecution but also permanent professional consequences. The development comes amid sustained efforts by enforcement agencies to dismantle organised networks engaged in illegal prenatal sex determination, a practice prohibited under the Pre-Conception and Prenatal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act, enacted to curb sex-selective abortions and protect the declining child sex ratio. Authorities say the action sends a clear message: professional credentials cannot serve as a shield against persistent criminal conduct, particularly in offences that strike at the fundamental right to life of the unborn girl child.

CHINA’S DESERT WAR GAME: FULL-SCALE US DESTROYER REPLICRA RAISES ALARMS OVER BEIJING’S BATTLE PLANS

FAIR REPORT
BEIJING

In a stark display of military intent, China has reportedly constructed a life-size replica of a US Navy Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer at a remote missile-testing range in the Taklamakan Desert, signalling an increasingly sophisticated focus on preparing for a potential conflict involving American naval forces.

Recent satellite imagery from the Ruoqiang Test Range in Xinjiang reveals the full-scale mock-up, which defence analysts

believe is being used to evaluate the effectiveness of China’s anti-ship missile systems against one of the US Navy’s most formidable warships. The Arleigh Burke-class forms the backbone of America’s surface fleet, serving as a key escort for aircraft carriers and a frontline platform for air defence and long-range strike missions across the Indo-Pacific.

Analysts say the replica is far more than a symbolic target. By recreating the destroyer’s dimensions and profile with remarkable accuracy, China



appears to be refining missile guidance systems capable of distinguishing

genuine warships from decoys. Some mock targets at the test range are

reportedly mounted on rail systems that simulate the movement of vessels

at sea, allowing engineers to test precision strikes under realistic condi-

tions. The latest discovery follows earlier satellite evidence showing aircraft carrier and destroyer mock-ups at the same desert facility in 2021, while a full-scale silhouette resembling the USS Gerald R. Ford appeared in 2024. Reports of missile impact debris scattered across the site suggest the replicas have already been used extensively in live-fire exercises.

The development comes amid growing tensions over Taiwan, with US military planners assessing that any Chinese attempt to seize the island would

likely begin with efforts to delay or neutralise American naval intervention. Defence experts argue the new target fits squarely within Beijing’s anti-access and area-denial strategy aimed at pushing US forces farther from the Western Pacific.

Neither Beijing nor Washington has officially commented on the latest satellite findings. But the imagery offers a clear strategic signal: China is not merely expanding its military capabilities—it is rehearsing how to defeat the world’s most powerful navy.

States Focus



MEHBOOBA MUFTI UNDER HOUSE ARREST AHEAD OF MARTYRS' DAY

Peoples Democratic Party chief Mehbooba Mufti has been placed under house arrest ahead of Martyrs' Day observance in Srinagar, her daughter Iltija Mufti claimed on Sunday. "We have been placed under house arrest on the eve of Martyrs' Day for reasons best known to J&K Police," Iltija posted on X. July 13 is commemorated as Martyrs' Day in Jammu and Kashmir as a tribute to 22 persons who were killed by the Dogra army outside Srinagar's central jail in 1931. The LG administration had dropped the day from the list of gazetted holidays in 2020. "This is the normalcy they claim to have established in Kashmir? Make no mistake, the local Government too is hand in glove using police in Sidhra to demolish homes and place opponents in detention when convenient," Iltija alleged.



CISF DG REVIEWS SECURITY FOR AMARNATH PILGRIMS

CISF Director General Praveer Ranjan visited the Nunwan base camp at Pahalgam in Jammu and Kashmir to review the security arrangements for Amarnath pilgrims, a spokesman of the force said on Sunday. Ranjan accompanied by ADG, North, Sudhir Kumar visited Nunwan base camp on Saturday, to review the security arrangements for the ongoing Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra, the spokesman said. He said during the visit Director General (DG), Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) reviewed overall security arrangements, deployment plan, access control measures, communication network, surveillance systems, medical support, coordination mechanisms between CAPFs, J&K Police, civil administration, and other stakeholders. Ranjan inspected key deployment locations, check posts, communication centre CRPF, CCTV control room, and logistics arrangements. Special emphasis was laid on anti-sabotage measures, area domination, crowd management, route security, and preparedness to respond swiftly to any contingency, he said. The spokesman said the DG visited jawan barracks, pilgrim camps, met health workers and woman personnel. (PTI)

Nepal sends most foreign students to India: Survey

FAIR REPORT
■ NEW DELHI

Nepal continues to send the largest number of students to India, while Karnataka is the top destination receiving the maximum foreign students, according to a Ministry of Education survey.

The All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) for 2023-24 noted that India's higher education institutions attracted students from 173 countries in the 2023-24 academic year, with 58,134 foreign students enrolled across universities and colleges in the country.

The AISHE collects detailed information from higher education institu-

tions (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.

The survey serves as the primary source of official statistics on higher education in India, providing critical insights for policy formulation, planning and monitoring of the sector.

In 2023-24, the highest share of foreign students came from Nepal (24.1 per cent), followed by the UAE (7 per cent), the US (5.9 per cent), Bangladesh (5.9 per cent), Nigeria (5.5 per cent) and Zimbabwe (4 per cent).



Representative image

PTI

The top 10 countries constituted 63.8 per cent of the total foreign students in 2023-24.

According to the report, Karnataka emerged as the top destination for international students, with 7,914

foreigners enrolled in its HEIs, narrowly ahead of Punjab (7,902).

Maharashtra (6,190), Uttar Pradesh (5,953) and Tamil Nadu (5,694) completed the top five list of hosting

Amit Shah hails Gandhinagar's Guinness record in tree plantation

FAIR REPORT
■ Gandhi Nagar

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Amit Shah, who represents the Gandhinagar Lok Sabha constituency, congratulated the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation, over 25,000 campaign volunteers, and the people of Gandhinagar for setting a Guinness World Record by planting more than 361,000 saplings in one hour using the Miyawaki method.

The Home Minister stated that, under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, environmental conservation has become a nationwide movement. The 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign has engaged millions of citizens in protecting nature. He noted that the Gandhinagar Lok Sabha constituency has energised this effort by reaching a significant milestone in environmental conservation.

Shah emphasised that planting over 361,000 saplings in one hour using the Miyawaki technique demonstrates exceptional public participation, careful planning, and a strong commitment to environmental conservation. He congratulated the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation, the participating departments, voluntary organisations, volunteers, and the constituency on this achievement.

Residents of Gandhinagar planted over 12.6 million saplings as part of the Public Plantation Campaign. Of these, 11,593,513 were planted at 404 public sites, and more than 1.1 million were planted on private premises. The campaign covered multiple assembly constituencies, with detailed figures for each. This large-scale effort



stands as a model for public participation in environmental conservation.

Shah stated that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of "Progress with Nature" and sustainable development is being realised in the Gandhinagar Lok Sabha constituency through oxygen parks, large-scale tree plantations, pond restoration, and public campaigns. He added that Gandhinagar now serves as a national example in environmental protection and green development.

He said that tree plantation does not end with planting saplings; the protection and nurturing of these saplings are equally important. He emphasised that planting saplings is only the first step; their protection and care are equally important. He urged all citizens to join the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign, plant more trees, and take responsibility for nurturing them. He expressed confidence that public participation in such initiatives will help build a developed India and ensure a clean, green, and balanced environment for future generations.

BJP hails PM Modi's foreign tours, takes dig at Rahul Gandhi

FAIR REPORT
■ New Delhi

The BJP on Sunday presented a 'report card' on the outcomes of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent foreign tours and criticised Rahul Gandhi, saying the prime minister returned having secured a victory for the country, while the Congress leader, who is abroad, must be "conspiring" behind closed doors.

Addressing a press conference at the BJP headquarters in New Delhi, party spokesperson Sambit Patra cited Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto's remarks that he adopted many of Modi's policies, and took a dig at Gandhi, saying if the Congress leader had emulated Modi "even a little bit", he would not have lost 99 elections.

Patra also took on the Congress and other Opposition parties, citing New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon's remarks acknowledging the transformation in India under Modi's leadership. "Just think what New



BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra

PTI

Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon said. And the Congress party in India refuses to accept it. I think our Opposition should also learn something," he said.

Patra highlighted various achievements of Modi's three-nation tour of Indonesia, Australia and New Zealand and said, "The prime minister went on a (foreign) tour and Rahul Gandhi too. The prime minister returned having brought victory to the nation, while Rahul Gandhi is surely conspiring behind closed doors."

Gandhi is likely "plotting" how to disrupt the good work being done under the Minister Modi's leadership, Patra charged further.

"You must be wondering where 'Rahul Baba' is. Go ahead, try to find out. A programme scheduled for him in Prayagraj on July 10 was postponed. There was an event in Patna as well; that too was postponed. There seem to be stamps on his passport from places like London, Iceland, and Germany, who knows? He is off on a tour," the BJP MP added.

Kerala to launch scheme to boost women's savings: CM

FAIR REPORT
■ Kochi

Kerala Chief Minister VD Satheesan on Sunday said his Government would launch a 'Pink Chitty' scheme through the KSFE to encourage women to save the money they benefit from free travel initiatives.

Speaking after inaugurating the Kochi Corporation's third roll-on/roll-off (Ro-Ro) vessel, Sethusagar-3, at the Vypeen boat jetty, Satheesan welcomed the civic body's decision to offer free travel for women on its Ro-Ro services. Earlier, the State Government introduced free travel for women on Kerala State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) ordinary buses across Kerala.

"The money women save through free travel should be set aside as their own savings. Women must have their own independent savings, which will help them live with



Kerala Chief Minister VD Satheesan

dignity and self-confidence. That is why the Government will take the initiative to introduce a 'Pink Chitty' through Kerala State Financial Enterprises (KSFE)," he said. He urged women not to part with their savings but to invest them in the proposed scheme.

Satheesan said the launch of the third Ro-Ro vessel would further strengthen Kochi's water transport

network and improve connectivity between Fort Kochi, Vypeen and Kochi city.

Describing Kochi as the first city in the country to introduce the Ro-Ro system, he said more such vessels would be added in the future to improve public transport.

The Chief Minister also outlined a series of infrastructure and tourism projects planned for Kochi, including a ₹190-crore, 190

MLD drinking water project to permanently address the city's water shortage.

He said work to renovate Fort Kochi beach would begin soon to boost tourism and announced plans to establish a 40-acre oceanarium at Puthuvyppeen, a film city and an international-standard maritime museum.

"A major proposal to modernise Kochi's public transport system has also been submitted to the Centre. Kochi is on the verge of a major transformation," he said.

Kochi Mayor VK Minimol presided over the function.

MLAs Mohammed Shiyas, Tony Chammany, TJ Vinod and Deepak Joy, Kochi City Police Commissioner Kaliraj Mahesh Kumar, KSINC Managing Director R Girija, CochIn Smart Mission Limited CEO Arun N Nair, Cochin Shipyard CMD VJ Jose and other public representatives attended the event.

Jal Shakti Ministry to chair national water meet

FAIR REPORT
■ New Delhi

The Ministry of Jal Shakti will hold a conference of senior water resources secretaries from States and Union Territories on Monday to review key water sector initiatives and strengthen Centre-State coordination on reforms and implementation.

The conference, to be convened by the Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation under the Ministry of Jal Shakti at Sushma Swaraj Bhawan in New Delhi, aims to review the progress of the ministry's major national programmes and discuss priority initiatives in the water resources sector.

Key issues on the agenda include the modernisation of the Command Area Development and Water Management (M-CADWM)



Union Jal Shakti Minister CR Patil

scheme, the nationwide 'Catch the Rain' campaign, revised project appraisal guidelines, dam safety and State water reforms.

Union Jal Shakti Minister CR Patil will chair the conference. Minister of State for Jal Shakti Raj Bhushan Choudhary and Secretary, Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, VL Kantha Rao, will co-chair it, according

to an official statement.

The conference will be attended by senior officials from the water resources departments of all States and Union Territories, as well as the Ministry of Jal Shakti, including its organisations, attached and subordinate offices, such as the Central Water Commission, the National Dam Safety Authority, and the National Water Mission.

Discussions will focus on

eight priority agenda items, including the status of the modernisation of the Command Area Development and Water Management (M-CADWM) scheme and the special one-month nationwide 'Catch the Rain' campaign aimed at strengthening people's participation in water conservation.

Other issues on the agenda include revised draft project appraisal guidelines for irrigation, multipurpose and flood management projects, rule curves of dam reservoirs and their effective implementation for improved reservoir operations and dam safety, the status of the State water reforms framework, completion of comprehensive dam safety evaluation under the Dam Safety Act, 2021 by December 2026, progress of irrigation censuses in States and Union Territories, and a framework for model State water awards.

BJP rejects Omar's bribe charge, asks him to introspect

FAIR REPORT
■ New Delhi

The BJP on Sunday criticised Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah over his accusation that it is trying to poach his National Conference party MLAs, saying that instead of making "speculative and baseless" claims, he should "introspect" on what kind of leaders he has in his party.

On Saturday, Abdullah accused the BJP of trying to bring down his Government in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) by engineering a split in the ruling National Conference, claiming that his party MLAs were offered ₹20-30 crore to switch sides.

Addressing a packed workers' convention at the mausoleum of his grandparents at Hazratbal on the 26th death anniversary of his grandmother, Akbar Jehan, in Srinagar, Abdullah claimed the BJP was using money

power to poach his MLAs.

When asked, BJP national spokesperson Sambit Patra categorically rejected Abdullah's charge as "speculative and without any basis", saying the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) does not believe in any action that deals a blow to democracy or runs counter to the democratic spirit.

"I find it astonishing when any leader speaks about his own party members in such a way, claiming that his people can be bought for sums like ₹30 crore or ₹12 crore," the BJP MP said.

"It reminds me of the time when Sushma (Swaraj) asked in Parliament: Are your MPs up for sale? Are your MLAs up for sale? Do you not even have enough faith in your own leaders to trust that they won't sell themselves?" Patra said, adding, "I feel that if this is the case, there ought to be some introspection as to what kind of people are in the party who can be bought."



Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah

On Saturday, BJP Rajya Sabha MP and national spokesperson Sudhansu Trivedi slammed Abdullah, describing his charge as "extremely irresponsible and baseless".

Trivedi also demanded that the J&K chief minister either provide "evidence"

to substantiate his allegation or apologise.

J&K BJP spokesperson and MLA RS Pathania said if Abdullah does not apologise, the BJP will "file a defamation case against him for making misleading and unsubstantiated allegations intended to create confusion among the people".

Trivedi further claimed Abdullah made such a "baseless" allegation just to deflect public attention from his Government's "incompetence, inaction and misgovernance" in J&K.

Speaking in the same vein, Pathania said, "Chief Minister Omar Abdullah should disclose the names of the MLAs who were allegedly offered money, identify the BJP leaders involved, and reveal when and where the alleged offers were made.

"If such a serious incident occurred, why was it not reported to the investigating agencies? An elected chief minister cannot make such allegations without placing evidence before the authorities," he added.

Pathania said the National Conference received a five-year mandate but was "exposed" within the first year itself for "failing" to honour its promises.

Betrayal of faith perpetrated under PM's patronage, alleges Congress

FAIR REPORT
■ New Delhi

The Congress on Sunday questioned Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "silence" on the alleged embezzlement of donations at the Ram Temple in Ayodhya and said the country will never forgive the BJP-RSS for the "betrayal of faith".

Congress general secretary in charge of communications, Jairam Ramesh, reiterated the party's demands for an independent investigation supervised by the Supreme Court, a forensic audit, a fixation of accountability and strict action against the guilty.

In a post in Hindi on X, Ramesh said, "Donation Theft: A Betrayal of Faith. A month has passed since the theft of donations at the Lord Shri Ram Temple came



Jairam Ramesh

to light, yet Prime Minister Modi, who is quick to claim credit for everything, remains silent when it comes to accountability."

New facts emerging daily are exposing those who have politicised the Ram Temple issue, he said.

Even the Special Investigation Team (SIT), constituted ostensibly to resolve the matter, has been forced to acknowledge the daily disappearance of lakhs of rupees in offerings, Ramesh said. "The theft of donations at the Lord Shri Ram Temple cannot be

limited to just a few employees; yet, this Government — hostile to the cause of Ram — is intent on shielding the real culprits," he alleged.

The Congress has consistently maintained that the SIT, the FIR, and the resignations are merely attempts to hoodwink the nation, Ramesh said.

Government efforts to suppress the matter make it evident that Champat Rai and other temple trustees harbour deep secrets; this is why the Modi Government is taking no action against them, and their influence remains intact, Ramesh said.

"The Congress demands the following: An independent and impartial investigation supervised by the Supreme Court; a forensic audit; fixation of accountability; strict action against the guilty," he said.

IN FOCUS



Workers fix the dome and give final touches ahead of the 'Rath Yatra' festival, near the Jagannath Temple, in Puri, Odisha on Sunday
PTI

BRICS delegates visit Tadoba reserve, spot multiple tigers

FAIR REPORT
Nagpur

A high-level delegation comprising ministers and senior officials from BRICS countries visited the Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve (TATR) in Maharashtra's Chandrapur district on Sunday and had multiple tiger sightings, officials said.

Transport ministers, heads of delegation, senior officials and delegates from member countries were in Nagpur for the third BRICS transport ministers' meeting under India's BRICS chairship, which began on July 9 and concluded on July 12. A release issued by the TATR field director said that more than 20 safari vehicles were deployed from the Kolara, Madnapur and Belara buffer gates to facilitate the visit of the 70-member BRICS delegation.

During the morning safari, delegates from Russia and Ethiopia sighted the well-known tiger T-178 along with a sub-adult offspring of tigress T-82, the release said. In the evening safari, delegates from South Africa, Egypt and Iran had sightings of T-



178, a sub-adult of T-82 and a sub-adult of TN-9, it added.

The delegates also observed a rich diversity of wildlife, including chital, sambar, Indian gaur, wild boar, and numerous bird species amid the lush green forests rejuvenated by the monsoon rains, it said.

According to the release, the delegates expressed their appreciation for the "exceptional safari experience" and commended the scientific management and conservation practices adopted by the reserve.

The visit was coordinated by the leadership and field staff of TATR. Field Director Prabhu Nath Shukla and Deputy Director Vishal Mali led the reserve team, it added.

Ram temple trust to define first CEO's powers: Nripendra Mishra

FAIR REPORT
Ayodhya

Nripendra Mishra, chairman of the Ram Temple Construction Committee, said on Sunday that the trust will decide the duties and powers of the first Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Ayodhya temple. He said the CEO's main job is to maintain devotees' faith in the trust.

Mishra told reporters in Ayodhya that the new CEO will also handle financial matters. He added that the Government will not interfere with how the trust or its CEO works.

Since the temple was consecrated in January 2024, many visitors have come to Ayodhya. To handle this, the trust is appointing a CEO to help run things more smoothly. Mishra said the trust board will clearly define the CEO's role so that decisions match the temple's spiritual values. He emphasised that the main goal is to protect and strengthen devotees' faith.

The CEO will ensure 'Darshan' runs smoothly, keep the temple premises sacred, and help pilgrims have a good experience year-round. Managing the temple's finances is also a key part of the job. The temple gets large donations from devotees in India and abroad, so handling these funds openly and efficiently is important for maintaining the temple, improving facilities for pilgrims, and finishing the



remaining construction work.

Mishra's statement that there is no Government interference demonstrates the trust's independence. The Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust is a religious group established to manage the temple in accordance with tradition and devotees' wishes. By keeping control within the trust, they want to keep daily operations free from outside bureaucracy. Managing crowds, security, medical help, and basic services has become very important.

The CEO will manage these operations with guidance from the trust board. Mishra, who has been closely involved with the temple project, said the trust is still focused on its main goal of serving Lord Ram and His devotees. Appointing a CEO is seen as a practical way to handle more activities while

keeping the temple's devotional spirit.

Observers believe this step will make the temple's operations more accountable and professional, while the trust's leaders will still make the main policy decisions. The CEO will follow the trust's rules to make sure finances, services for devotees, and administration are managed well and openly. Ayodhya continues to attract pilgrims from all over India and the world.

The trust's focus on faith-centric management is expected to further strengthen the bond between the temple and its devotees. Mishra's statement on Sunday has been welcomed by many as a clear signal that the Ram Temple will continue to be run as a sacred institution, free from external control and dedicated solely to upholding the faith of millions.

NHAI refutes Akhilesh claim that Lucknow-Kanpur Expressway caved in before opening

FAIR REPORT
Lucknow

Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav on Sunday alleged that the Rs 4,700 crore Lucknow-Kanpur Expressway, which is scheduled to be inaugurated the next day, had caved in before its opening.

The National Highways Authority of India has rejected the claim, stating that the expressway is constructed in accordance with all the prescribed quality standards and is completely safe, while the BJP accused Yadav of making baseless statements on development projects to stay relevant.

According to the official announcement, Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari, and



Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath are scheduled to inaugurate the Kanpur-Lucknow Expressway from Unnao at 3 pm on Monday.

In an X post on Sunday, Yadav attacked the BJP over the condition of major expressway projects, alleging corruption in their construction and questioning their safety and design.

Expressways are meant

to enable people to travel quickly and without worry, and "not to spend the entire journey praying to God", he said in the post.

He further alleged that the Rs 4,700-crore Lucknow-Kanpur Expressway had caved in before its inauguration. He also cited the Rs 6,700-crore Missing Link project in Maharashtra, claiming that its condition has exposed corruption and

brought disrepute to the BJP government.

"Is there a competition of mega corruption in BJP-ruled states?" Yadav asked, while also taking a swipe at the designers of the two projects.

The former Uttar Pradesh chief minister asked whether the Lucknow-Kanpur Expressway was designed for public convenience or to benefit contractors linked to the BJP.

He claimed that commuters would spend more time entering the city from the Expressway than travelling between the two cities.

"If this continues because of corruption, a traveller will think 40 times before setting out on a 40-minute journey. Speed has no meaning if it is not safe," he said.

Reacting to Yadav's allegations, the National Highways Authority of India's (NHAI)

Project Director Nakul Prakash Verma asserted that there was no subsidence anywhere on the project.

"Where has it caved in? It has not caved in anywhere," Verma said, adding that the Expressway would be opened to the public from 8 am on July 14.

"Once the Expressway is opened, the truth will become evident. If I am wrong, the public itself will expose it," he said.

Verma said the photographs of subsidence being circulated on social media were not of the main carriageway but of the roadside earthen embankment, describing it as a routine maintenance matter.

"When it rains, some soil gets washed away, and fresh soil is filled in again. This is called a 'rain cut', and it is common on highways. A

road caving in is a different issue, while erosion of roadside soil is entirely different," he explained, assuring that the erosion had not affected the structural integrity of the Expressway or the safety of traffic.

According to Verma, the affected portion has already been repaired, and all necessary technical works will be completed before the Expressway is inaugurated.

He asserted that the Expressway is completely safe and has been constructed in accordance with all prescribed quality standards.

The BJP too has reacted to the Samajwadi Party chief's claim. BJP's Unnao district president Anurag Awasthi dismissed the allegations as baseless, stating that the opposition was making unnecessary statements over development projects.

SECOND ACCUSED ARRESTED FOR ₹9.90 LAKH FRAUD THROUGH ATM AND ONLINE BANKING MISUSE

₹9.90 lakh stolen from the bank account of an 80-year-old retired man using a SIM card and a new ATM card; one accused was arrested earlier, search on for the third

FAIR REPORT
CHITTORGARH

Kapasana police have arrested the second accused of a gang involved in a cyber fraud of around 9.90 lakh from the bank account of an 80-year-old retired man by misusing a SIM card and online banking. One accused had already been arrested, while another member of the gang is still absconding. Under the direction of Superintendent of Police Dharmendra Singh Yadav, and the supervision of Ad-



ditional Superintendent of Police Mukul Sharma and Circle Officer Harish Bharti, SHO Sunil Sharma and his team arrested Ashok Kumar Saini alias Roni (22), a resident of Daliyawas in Sikar district. During the investigation, it was found that he had gone with the previously arrested accused Ritesh Saini to collect the ATM card and had an active role in the crime. He was arrested from Sikar on

the basis of technical evidence. According to police, Ramchandra Sharma (80), a retired resident of Tarakhedi in Kapasana, lodged a complaint on June 25 stating that 990,832 had been withdrawn from his SBI bank account. During the inquiry, it was found that a new ATM card had been issued in his name and the online banking facility was used to transfer the money to other bank accounts. The complainant

alleged that the ATM card and online banking facility were activated without his application. He also expressed suspicion over the role of the bank manager and the postman, as the ATM card was delivered to an unknown person instead of him. Based on the complaint, Case No. 245/2026 was registered at Kapasana Police Station and an investigation was started. During the investigation, police had earlier arrested Ritesh Saini, a resident of Govardhanpura in Sikar, on July 7. After the arrest of the second accused, Ashok Kumar Saini, police are now searching for another gang member, Vikram Meena. Police said the investigation is continuing and the role of other peo-

New RGHS Rules Kick In Today: Government Employees to Get Faster, Simpler Access to OPD Tests

Jaipur: Lakhs of Rajasthan government employees, pensioners, and their dependents woke up today to a significantly simplified healthcare process, as new guidelines for the Rajasthan Government Health Scheme (RGHS) came into effect from Monday, July 13. The Rajasthan State Health Assurance Agency (RSHAA) has overhauled the approval process for routine OPD diagnostic tests — cutting through the red tape that has long frustrated beneficiaries navigating the state's cashless healthcare program. Under the revised system, patients can now walk straight into a diagnostic test prescribed by their doctor — no prior RGHS portal approval required — as long as the cost

India Declares National Mourning as Qatar's Visionary Former Emir Sheikh Hamad Passes Away at 74

FAIR REPORT
NEW DELHI

The tricolour will fly at half-mast across government buildings throughout India today, as the nation joins the world in mourning the death of Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani — the man who single-handedly transformed a small Gulf sheikhdom into one of the richest, most influential nations on earth.

The Father Amir of Qatar breathed his last on Sunday, prompting the Government of India to swiftly announce one day of national mourning on July 13. The Ministry of External Affairs confirmed that no official entertainment programs will be held anywhere in the country during the observance — a solemn tribute to a

leader New Delhi regarded as far more than a foreign dignitary

“A True Friend of India,” Says PM Modi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi led the tributes, calling Sheikh Hamad a visionary leader who guided Qatar to extraordinary heights of development and prosperity. Modi recalled meeting him personally during his 2024 visit to Doha, describing him as a true friend of India — a bond forged over decades of deepening ties in energy, trade, and the welfare of the massive Indian expatriate community in Qatar. Union Minister Kiren Rijiju is set to travel to Doha shortly, carrying India's condolences di-

rectly to the Qatari royal family and reaffirming the strength of this crucial strategic partnership.

The Man Who Built Modern Qatar

Sheikh Hamad ruled Qatar from 1995 to 2013 before voluntarily stepping aside for his son, Sheikh Tamim — a rare act of peaceful succession in the Gulf. Under his reign, Qatar's natural gas wealth exploded onto the world stage, its diplomatic clout multiplied, and its global profile soared through landmark investments in media, sports, and infrastructure. Qatar itself has declared four days of mourning, flags lowered and government offices shuttered in grief.

Jhulelal Surgical Equipment Service Launched, Free Wheelchairs, Surgical Beds and Dead Body Freezer for Needy People

MP C.P. Joshi says selfless service is the greatest virtue; MLA Chandrabhan Singh Akya says helping the needy is serving society

FAIR REPORT
CHITTORGARH

The Sindhi community has started a new service to help needy patients and families by providing essential medical equipment free of cost. The Pujya Sindhi Panchayat Vikas

Samiti Chittorgarh and Jhulelal Yuva Seva Samiti jointly launched the Pujya Jhulelal Surgical Equipment Service on Sunday at Sindhu Community Hall in Pratap Nagar. Under this service, equipment such as a dead body freezer, wheelchairs, surgical beds, walkers, sticks and other medical items will be provided free of cost to needy people for a fixed period. MP C.P. Joshi attended the event as the chief guest. MLA Chandrabhan Singh Akya presided over the

programme. Pujya Sindhi Panchayat President Yogesh Bhojwani, donors Ramesh Chanchalani and Anil Inani, and Advocate Omprakash Sharma were the special guests. The programme began with lamp lighting and floral tribute to Lord Jhulelal. Service coordinator Lalit Tahiliyani said the initiative aims to provide medical equipment to needy people whenever required.

MP C.P. Joshi said selfless service to humanity is the



greatest virtue and appreciated the Sindhi community for starting this meaningful initiative. MLA Chandrabhan Singh Akya said serving hu-

manity is the greatest duty. He said helping a needy or helpless person is not just helping an individual but serving the entire society. Earlier, Pan-

chayat President Yogesh Bhojwani said the equipment has been donated by members of the Sindhi community. Needy people can contact the Pujya Sindhi Panchayat office to get the equipment free of cost for a fixed period. During the programme, donors were honoured with shawls. Dr. Dimple Jaysinghani was also felicitated after taking charge as a gynecologist at Sanwaliya Hospital. The programme was conducted by Kamal Chanchalani. Among those

present were BJP spokesperson Deepak Sharma, Ravi Virani, Councillor Neeraj Sukhwani, Panchayat patron Kamlesh Khatwani, Shrichand Nebhani, Kishore Vaswani, Bhawani Shankar Agnani, Khillumal Varlani, Senior Vice-President Daulat Dasani, Vasudev Bhojwani, Vice-President Chandra Malani, Mohan Tekchandani, Secretary Anil Hariyani, General Secretary Harish Gurnani, Kishore Khatwani, Organisation Secretary Chandrabhan Kripla-

ni, Heera Mangalani, Treasurer Suryaprakash Chimnani, Media In-charge Kamlesh Sharma, Jhulelal Yuva Seva Samiti President Jacky Ahuja, former President Lalit Wangani, J.P. Wangani, Kamal Chanchalani, Kapil Malani, Rajesh Tulsani, Shankar Wangani, Laxman Devani, Vinod Phoolwani, Umesh Devanani, Mahesh Lohani, Manoj Bhojwani, Gopal Mangalani, Mahesh Dadwani, Raju Wadhwani, Manoj Devani, Ajay Ahuja, Raju Mot-