

FAIR REPORT

THE DAWN OF A FEARLESS PEN

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VIKRAM-1 MAKES HISTORY WITH INDIA'S FIRST PVT ORBITAL LAUNCH

■ FAIR REPORT SRIHARIKOTA

In a defining milestone, Skyroot Aero-space Saturday launched the country's first private orbital rocket and successfully placed multiple technology-demonstration payloads into the desired orbit, making India the third country with private orbital launch capabilities after the US and China. The four-stage, seven-storey-tall Vikram-1 rocket lifted off majestically at 12.05 pm amid cloudy skies from the first launch pad of ISRO'S Satish Dhawan Space Centre here, leaving behind plumes of orange smoke and marking a new era in the country's space missions. The Hyderabad-based company, which carries the slogan "Redefining access to space. Your fast track to the orbit. On-demand launch vehicle for rapid, precise, and customizable small satellite deployments", on its website, described Saturday's mission

'Aagaman' (arrival) as a "grand success". The rocket, named after Vikram Sarabhai, the father of India's space programme, also carried payloads that had post-cards, including from Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who called the mission a "defining moment" in the country's space journey. The postcards, loaded into specialised "payload lockers", were placed into Low Earth Orbit (LEO). It also carried two symbolic payloads - Cosmic Bloom, an "artistic lab-grown diamond" in the shape of a lotus, and a tiny gold rocket with micro-sculptures of three of India's best-known space scientists - Vikram Sarabhai, Sir CV Raman and former President APJ Abdul Kalam. According to the company, the engineering data collected during this test flight will be analysed to validate guidance and navigation systems and to guide future refinements for commercial satellite missions.

RPSC Opens Correction and Withdrawal Window for Three Key Recruitment Exams

■ FAIR REPORT AJMER

The Rajasthan Public Service Commission (RPSC) has thrown open a correction and withdrawal window for candidates who have applied to three of its ongoing recruitment examinations, giving thousands of aspirants a last chance to set right errors—or walk back applications filed in error—before the process moves to its next stage. The facility, which opened on July 18 and will remain active till July 24, 2026, applies to the Assistant Prosecution Officer (Preliminary) Examination-2026, the Inspector Factories and Boilers Examination-2025, and the Inspector Factories (Chemical) Examination-2025. For a recruitment system that has, in recent years, come under repeated scrutiny over procedural lapses and candidate grievances, the window signals an attempt at course correction—literally—before errors harden into disqualifications.

What Can Be Fixed, What Cannot

The commission has been specific about the limits of the correction facility. Candidates can amend most fields in their submitted forms, but four categories remain firmly off-limits: name, father's name, photograph, date of birth, and gender. The logic is straightforward—these are identity markers that, if left open to correction, could be exploited to alter eligibility after the fact. Anything else, from address details to category particulars, falls within the correction window's scope. Equally significant is the provision allowing candidates who filed applications without meeting eligibility criteria to withdraw them altogether. RPSC has been direct in its messaging here: those who knowingly or unknowingly submitted forms with false or incorrect information, and who fail to withdraw despite not qualifying, will have only themselves to blame for the consequences that follow.

From Tea With Villagers to Development Promises CM Bhajan Lal Blends Grassroots Outreach With Governance Push

■ FAIR REPORT NAGAUR

Swapping conference rooms for village pathways, Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma began his day with an early morning walk through Tilanesh village in Nagaur district, using informal conversations with residents to gauge the impact of government welfare schemes while announcing a fresh round of local development projects.

During the visit, Sharma engaged with young people on issues ranging from education and skill development to self-employment and job opportunities. He also interacted with senior citizens to assess whether they were receiving social security pensions and benefits under various state welfare programmes.

In conversations with



schoolchildren, the Chief Minister enquired about their education, career aspirations, and future ambitions, before joining villagers over tea for an open discussion on the area's development priorities.

Responding to local demands, Sharma announced the establishment of a village library and an Atal Gyan Kendra, along with the construction of a bitumen road connecting Ram-sari village to the Jobner-Butati State Highway at an estimated cost of 1.18 crore.

He also approved the beautification and restoration of the village's Shiv Sagar Talab, aiming to improve both local infrastructure and water conservation. The visit also carried an environmental message. Under the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign, the Chief Minister planted a sapling on the embankment of Shiv Sagar Talab and urged residents to not only plant trees but also ensure their long-term care, linking environmental stewardship with community participation.

Concluding the visit, Sharma offered prayers at the Shri Charbhuj Nath Ji Temple and the Veer Tejaji Temple, praying for the peace, prosperity and well-being of the people of Rajasthan. The outreach reflected the Chief Minister's continuing strategy of combining direct public interaction with on-the-spot governance, using village visits not merely as symbolic engagements but as platforms to translate grassroots feedback into development commitments.

'India's Invincible Fortress': Amit Shah Salutes BSF Personnel During Border Visit in West Bengal



■ FAIR REPORT SILIGURI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday paid tribute to the Border Security Force (BSF), describing its personnel as "India's invincible fortress" while interacting with soldiers deployed at the Jumagachh Border Outpost in West Bengal's Siliguri region. Sharing tea with BSF jawans stationed along one of the country's strategically significant frontiers, Shah lauded their unwavering commitment to safeguarding India's borders under demanding conditions. "The BSF's valour stands as India's invincible fortress on the bor-

der," Shah said, expressing his appreciation for the force's vigilance and sacrifice. He added that he was delighted to interact with the jawans during a high-tea session at the forward border post. The visit carried symbolic significance, underscoring the Union government's emphasis on recognising the morale and dedication of security personnel serving in challenging operational environments. The Siliguri corridor, often referred to as the "Chicken's Neck," is among India's most strategically sensitive regions, making the BSF's role in border management particularly crucial.

BEYOND THE BLUE: JAIPUR SCHOLAR'S DOCTORATE SHINES LIGHT ON A CRAFT FIGHTING FOR SURVIVAL



Hemraj Tikamchand Tiwari

By Special Feature Desk

In the Pink City, where heritage is celebrated but not always sustained, one scholar has turned the spotlight on an art form whose future hangs in the balance. Apex University has awarded a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in the Faculty of Management to Durgesh

Doraya for his research, "Problems and Prospects of Jaipur Blue Pottery Industry," completed under the guidance of Professor Dr. Garima Mishra.

Far from being a study of nostalgia, Doraya's work examines Jaipur's iconic blue pottery as an industry battling economic uncertainty, changing consumer preferences, and the gradual disappearance of skilled artisans. At a time when heritage crafts across Rajasthan are struggling to remain commercially viable, the research asks a question that extends beyond art: Can tradition survive without becoming economically sustainable? Blue pottery itself de-

fies convention. Despite its name, it contains no clay. Crafted from quartz powder, powdered glass, Multani mitti, gum and water, the centuries-old technique traces its origins to Persian and Central Asian ceramic traditions before finding a home in Jaipur. Historians believe the craft flourished under the patronage of Maharaja Sawai Ram Singh II, but by the mid-twentieth century it had nearly vanished.

Its remarkable revival is credited to Padma Shri Kripal Singh Shekhawat, whose vision transformed a fading craft into one of Rajasthan's most recognisable artistic identities. Supported by Rajmata



Gayatri Devi and cultural icon Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay, Shekhawat expanded the traditional

colour palette and restored global recognition to Jaipur's signature craft. Doraya's doctoral research shifts the conversation from heritage to hard economics. Instead of treating blue pottery merely as a cultural treasure, the study analyses production costs, marketing challenges, supply chains, artisan livelihoods and the industry's long-term sustainability. The thesis argues that preserving traditional crafts demands more than admiration—it requires sound business strategies, stronger market linkages and policy support.

The research arrives at a critical juncture when many artisan families are

abandoning inherited skills in search of more secure livelihoods. Without commercial viability, even the most celebrated traditions risk fading into museum displays rather than living workshops.

By applying the discipline of management studies to one of Rajasthan's oldest craft traditions, Doraya's work sends a powerful message: heritage cannot survive on sentiment alone. It must also succeed in the marketplace. In doing so, the thesis offers not just an academic contribution but a blueprint for safeguarding one of Jaipur's most enduring symbols of craftsmanship before its colours fade once again.

PH.D. AWARDED TO DURGESH DORAYA



■ FAIR REPORT JAIPUR

Apex University, Jaipur has awarded Durgesh Doraya the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in the Faculty of Management for the thesis titled "Problems and Prospects of Jaipur Blue Pottery Industry." The research was successfully completed under the guidance of Professor Dr. Garima Mishra.

States Focus



Mizoram, Assam pledge to strengthen tourism partnership

Mizoram and Assam have agreed to strengthen cooperation in the tourism sector, with the two neighbouring States seeking closer coordination to boost footfalls and promote the northeast as a premier travel destination, officials said. The discussions took place during a meeting between Mizoram Tourism Minister Lalnghinglova Hmar and his Assam counterpart Ajanta Neog at the latter's official residence in Guwahati on Saturday.

Highlighting Mizoram's growing tourism potential, Hmar said the state has witnessed a significant rise in tourist arrivals since being connected to the railway network in September last year. He said that a majority of visitors to Mizoram came from Assam, making closer collaboration between the two states essential for the growth of the tourism industry.

"Most tourists visiting Mizoram come from Assam. This underscores the need for stronger cooperation between our states in tourism-related activities, and I am confident that our partnership will continue to grow," Hmar was quoted as saying in an official release.

(PTI)



Indian Air Force (IAF) aircrafts en route to Australia to participate in the biennial multinational air combat exercise titled 'Pitch Black 2026'

IAF's Rafale to be part of Pitch Black exercise in Australia

Multiple Rafale aircraft of the Indian Air Force (IAF) will be part of the mega international air exercise 'Pitch Black' being hosted by Australia from July 20 to August 7, officials said. The exercise will sharpen operational synergy and facilitate the exchange of best practices, the Indian Air Force (IAF) said on Friday.

Pitch Dark is the Royal Australian Air Force's (RAAF) largest international exercise featuring complex, combat-like scenarios across one of the largest military training areas in the world over a three-week period in Darwin, according to the RAAF's website.

(PTI)

MP Govt imposes austerity drive as State debt crosses ₹5 lakh crore

FAIR REPORT ■ Bhopal

The Madhya Pradesh Government has unleashed a comprehensive austerity drive across all departments, corporations, boards and Government institutions, imposing stringent curbs on expenditure as the state grapples with a cumulative debt burden exceeding ₹5 lakh crore — a fiscal reality that has compelled the administration to undertake what officials describe as one of the most far-reaching belt-tightening exercises in recent memory.

The Finance Department has issued detailed guidelines for the financial year 2026-27, mandating immediate compliance across every tier of the state's administrative machinery. The directives apply uniformly to all Government departments, corporations, nigams, mandals, universities, divisional commissioners, commissioners, revenue divisional officers, collectors and district-level officers.

Among the most striking provisions is an outright ban on foreign travel by officials. Domestic air travel has been



restricted to economy class for all categories beyond the specifically exempt top tier.

Two officers will henceforth share a single Government vehicle — a measure designed to halve the state's fleet-related expenditure at one stroke. Additionally, no new vehicles will be procured for the next two years unless the existing fleet is demonstrably insufficient.

Welcome ceremonies and reception events — a deeply entrenched feature of bureaucratic culture in the state — have been categorically prohibited. Festival celebrations and commemorative functions organised by Government departments will also cease, eliminating a significant drain on depart-

mental budgets. The austerity drive extends to the physical trappings of official life. Interior decoration of Government offices has been expressly forbidden, and the use of hired vehicles by officials and Government institutions will be sharply curtailed. Only those vehicles that have completed their full operational lifespan will be considered for replacement, and even then only after rigorous justification.

In a move targeting the sprawling network of state-owned corporations and public sector undertakings, the Government has directed that maximum dividends be compulsorily deposited into the state exchequer's

account — ensuring that profits generated by public enterprises flow back to the consolidated fund rather than being retained or deployed at the discretion of individual entities.

The culture of lavish corporate-style events has also been targeted. Calendar and diary printing — a perennial expenditure item across departments — has been discontinued. Official events and conferences will no longer be held in private hotels and banquet halls but will be mandatorily organised at Government premises, institutional campuses and official venues, eliminating costly venue hire and hospitality bills.

The Government has further directed that all autonomous bodies, corporations and allied institutions functioning under state control conduct an immediate review of their recurring expenditure and identify areas for reduction. Senior officials at the division and district levels have been instructed to ensure strict compliance and to submit periodic reports on implementation.

SC to examine Uttarakhand HC's quashing of FIR in Modi Bhawan demolition dispute

FAIR REPORT ■ New Delhi

The Supreme Court is set to examine a challenge filed by businesswoman Dr Bina Modi against the Uttarakhand High Court's decision quashing an FIR registered over the alleged demolition of Modi Bhawan number 1 on Camel's Back Road in Mussoorie.

The petition raises the question of whether a criminal investigation can be halted solely because civil proceedings concerning the same property are pending.

The dispute relates to Modi Bhawan number 1 where rival claims over ownership and possession are already pending before civil courts. Dr Modi has sought possession of the property, compensation and damages for its

alleged illegal occupation, while the Radha Soami Satsang Beas (RSSB) claims rights over the property based on a 2001 transaction wherein they have purchased Modi Bhawan number 2 which is a separate property and has obtained interim protection in the pending civil litigation.

Rajinder Singh, Advocate representing Petitioner — Dr Bina Modi before Hon'ble Supreme Court, stated to The Pioneer: "I am representing Dr Bina Modi in the matter before the Supreme Court. The case is listed for hearing on Monday and beyond that I cannot comment on anything further before the hearing."

According to the Special Leave Petition, the controversy escalated on the night of 14 February 2025, when Ajay Kumar Sikri, Secretary of RSSB,



Mussoorie, along with others allegedly acting in concert with him and Hari Ram Sharma, proprietor of M/s Rajputana Security Services Pvt. Ltd., and his employee, Mr. Surendra Sharma, entered Modi Bhawan number 1 without authority.

The petition alleges that the residential bungalow was demolished overnight using heavy machinery and that the debris was removed soon thereafter. It further claims that furniture, paintings,

antiques, personal belongings and original title documents worth several lakhs of rupees were taken away from the premises. Dr Modi also alleges that security personnel and bouncers were subsequently deployed to prevent her and her representatives from accessing the property, despite official records continuing to reflect her ownership of Modi Bhawan number 1.

The petition states that repeated complaints to the police did not result in regis-

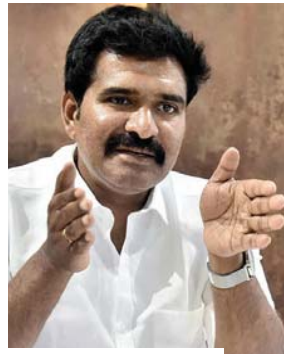
tration of an FIR. It was only after the Judicial Magistrate, Mussoorie, passed an order under Section 175(3) of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, that FIR number 18 of 2025 was registered on 22 April 2025 at Police Station Mussoorie under various provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita relating to alleged criminal trespass, theft, conspiracy and other offences.

The accused subsequently approached the Uttarakhand High Court seeking quashing of the FIR. By its judgment dated 26 May 2026, the High Court allowed the petitions, observing that the dispute primarily concerned property rights already pending before civil courts. The Court held that permitting criminal proceedings to continue alongside the civil suits could affect their

adjudication and relied on judicial precedents cautioning against invoking criminal law in disputes that are predominantly civil in nature. It further observed that any evidence of criminality could be examined after the civil litigation reaches its conclusion.

Challenging the High Court's ruling, Dr Modi contends before the Supreme Court that the existence of civil proceedings cannot by itself prevent the investigation of cognisable criminal offences. The petition argues that allegations of unlawful t ss, demolition of a residential building, removal of valuables and original title documents, and forcible occupation disclose independent criminal offences requiring a full police investigation irrespective of the pending civil suits.

DMK cannot win on its own, relies on allies: TN Minister Nirmal Kumar



FAIR REPORT ■ Madurai (Tamil Nadu)

The DMK relied heavily on its allies to secure past electoral victories and is not capable of winning on its own, Tamil Nadu Minister R Nirmal Kumar said on Saturday.

Asking the Dravidian major to give up its attempt to poach ruling TVK legislators in a bid to destabilise the Government, the minister claimed that the Congress and the Left parties, now with the TVK, had moved away from the DMK as they were uncomfortable with its political manoeuvre towards the AIADMK.

He was responding to a question from reporters on the TVK MLA bribery case, in which ten persons were arrested by the Chennai police.

In his complaint, TVK legislator N Elaiyaraja had said that he was offered ₹35 crore to vote against the Government during a proposed no-confidence motion against the Assembly Speaker.

Police claimed that the highly orchestrated political horse-trading was initiated under the codename 'Meghalaya project' to destabilise the C Joseph Vijay-led TVK Government. The target was to make 15 TVK legislators resign to bring down the Government, police said.

1st LoC firing since Operation Sindoor as Pakistan targets Rajouri posts

FAIR REPORT ■ Jammu

Shattering peace along the Line of Control (LoC), for the first time after 'Operation Sindoor', the Pakistan Army late Friday night resorted to 'unprovoked' firing on the forward Indian posts in the Tarkundi sector of Rajouri district.

Unconfirmed reports claimed that some of the forward Pakistani posts provided cover fire to a heavily armed group of infiltrators sneaking inside the Indian territory. However, alert Indian troops responded swiftly and retaliated after noticing the suspicious movement in the forward areas.

According to local reports, the small arms firing which started around 10.00 pm continued in the forward areas for over one hour. No injuries were reported



during the firing.

Senior army officers of the Nagrota-based White Knight Corps were closely monitoring the prevailing security situation and have directed the local field commanders to stay in a state of high alert. The security forces were already conducting regular searches in Rajouri

after movement of suspected terrorists was recorded in the CCTV cameras.

Massive combing and search operations were launched early Saturday morning to maintain a tight vigil in the area and prevent anyone from sneaking inside the Indian Territory

Till late evening, the Indian Army had not issued any official statement. Official sources claimed it was, for the first time, a major incident of cross-border firing reported post Operation Sindoor in the Rajouri sector.

Last week, Indian Army Chief General Dhiraj Seth visited forward areas along the Line of Control in Poonch, Rajouri & Sunderbani to take stock of the prevailing security situation. Senior commanders briefed the Army Chief on the security situation in the Jammu region.

Amtala TMC office demolished illegally, will move HC, says Abhishek Banerjee

FAIR REPORT ■ Kolkata

Senior Trinamool Congress leader Abhishek Banerjee on Saturday asserted that the party's Amtala office, which was demolished by the local administration, was built legally on purchased land and after clearing all permissions.

Alleging that the administration acted in collusion with the ruling BJP, he also said that the TMC would move the Calcutta High Court against the demolition of the party office.

The South 24 Parganas district administration on Saturday demolished the party office of the TMC MP at Amtala after it was found to be constructed allegedly without an approved building plan and in violation of applicable



Security personnel clears traffic amid the demolition of the party office of Trinamool Congress MP Abhishek Banerjee in Amtala, South 24 Parganas district, West Bengal on Saturday

(PTI)

rules, a senior official said.

Banerjee told reporters that the action was politically motivated and warned that if there was a change in the Government after the 2031

Assembly elections, the BJP's party offices in the state would also meet the same fate.

"A party office is like a temple to us. If someone has constructed a party office illegally, the authorities should certainly take action. But this is not Government land. The land was purchased, and the building was constructed according to an approved plan. It has all the valid permissions and documents. We will place all these documents before the Calcutta High Court," Banerjee said.

He also said that the party wrote to the Officer on Special Duty (OSD) to the Chief Justice of India, enclosing videos which he claimed showed BJP workers vandalising the premises during the demolition of the party office.

"We will apply for an urgent hearing on this

matter in the high court. We will also move the Supreme Court," the Diamond Harbour MP said.

Those who were seen in the videos would not escape legal action, he said.

"If you think BJP leaders will shield you, then I will tell you that you will be proved wrong. The hand of the law is long enough to catch them," Banerjee said.

"Every action has an equal and opposite reaction. If I remain alive, I promise to give you back all this with interest after the 2031 elections, using the same law," the TMC leader said.

Alleging that the BJP was using the administration to target TMC workers, he claimed that the TMC has secured bail for around 1,000 party workers in the last two months.

CPI condemns destruction of Rahul Sankrityayan statue in West Bengal

FAIR REPORT ■ New Delhi

The Communist Party of India (CPI) on Saturday strongly condemned the destruction of a statue of Mahapandit Rahul Sankrityayan at Raniganj in West Bengal, describing the incident as an attack on India's progressive and democratic heritage.

In a statement issued on Saturday, CPI General Secretary D. Raja termed the vandalism a "reprehensible act of political and ideological vandalism" targeting one of India's leading scholars, freedom fighters, Marxist thinkers and public intellectuals.

The party noted that Rahul Sankrityayan was not only a renowned literary figure but also a prominent leader of the CPI. It highlighted that he had served as the National President of the All India



Kisan Sabha in 1940 and had dedicated his life to the struggles of peasants, workers and other marginalized sections of society.

The CPI alleged that the incident reflected a broader pattern of attacks on the country's progressive traditions. In its statement, the party blamed the BJP-led Government for creating an atmosphere in which such incidents occur, alleging that there are attempts to undermine India's rationalist,

secular and Left traditions and replace them with a communal narrative.

Calling the destruction of the statue part of this larger ideological campaign, the CPI demanded the immediate arrest of those responsible and sought exemplary punishment for the perpetrators. It also called for the statue to be restored without delay.

The party further appealed to democratic, secular and progressive organisations, as well as writers, artists, intellectuals and citizens, to unite in opposing what it described as efforts to erase the legacy of leaders who worked for freedom, scientific temper, social justice and equality.

Authorities in West Bengal had not issued an official statement on the incident at the time of publication.

