

FAIR REPORT

THE DAWN OF A FEARLESS PEN

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STUDENT FURY ROCKS DELHI

The images from Delhi tell a troubling story: thousands of young people on the streets de-manding answers about the credibility of India’s examination system. The CJP-led student protest has exposed a widening trust deficit between young as-pirants and the government. Allegations of examination ir-regularities cannot be dismissed as routine grievances, yet allow-ing the confrontation to spiral into street battles serves neither students nor democracy. Police crackdowns have shifted atten-tion away from the central is-sue restoring credibility to the examination system

FAIR REPORT
NEW DELHI

Thou-sands of young and an-gry peo-ple converged on central Delhi Monday, only to be met by po-lice teargas and lathi-charges in a spiral-ing protest that started with exam paper leaks and gained traction with activist So-nam Wangchuk’s hunger strike.

Large parts of central Delhi were gridlocked as the pro-tests gathered pace. Cock-roach Jan-ta Party (CJP) founder Abhijeet Dipke was picked up by Del-hi Police, the organisation’s spokes-person said.

“Police brutally crack-ing down and beating up peace-ful protesters, request MPs to stand in support of students on streets,” Saurav Das said.

Clashes broke out with pro-testers, some in school uniform, streaming into cen-tral Delhi, navigating inner lanes and attempting to find alternative routes to get as close as possi-ble to Parliam-ent. Some police personnel and protesters were injured.



Undeterred by the exten-sive barricading, they walked sever-al kilometres, sometimes join-ing groups of protesters, shout-ing slogans stopping to wait for an opportune moment to break through and breaching lay-

ers of barricades at multiple locations.

There was chaos in the ar-ea with security forces us-ing batons, lathis and tear-gas to disperse the restive crowds near Constitution Club, Patel Chowk, Shastri

Bhawan, RBI Building and Parliament Street police. In-ternet was shut down in large parts of the area. The pro- testers are demanding ac-countability over alleged ex-amination irregularities and the resignation of Union

Edu-cation Minister Dhar-mendra Pradhan. Security was doubled across the New Delhi district with addi-tional companies of paramili-tary forces and police per-sonnel from adjoining dis-tricts deployed to maintain

law and order. Several com-muters were stranded inside nearby metrostations after access was restrict-ed and station gates were closed as a precautionary measure. Earlier in the day, police stopped the march as the pro-cession reached the Con-naught Place area and at-tempted to move towards Parliament. Protesters scat-tered in different directions, with many running through the streets to avoid the smoke.

Amid heavy security de-ploy-ment, smaller groups regrouped at nearby inter-sec-tions and con-tinued raising slogans, while police main-tained barricades to prevent the march from ad-vancing towards Parliament. Dipke, who has been on hun-ger strike since Wangchuk was picked up and whisked to hospi-tal, founder of the CJP, said, “Our demands are clear: Dharmendra Pradhan should resign. The fam-ilies of the children who com-mitted suicide should receive com-pen-sation of 1 crore rupees, and Sonam Wangchuk should be released immediately.”

CJP leaders meet JP Nadda, present three demands as Centre opens dialogue amid Parliament protest



New Delhi: The Centre has initiated talks with leaders of the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) amid its ongoing “San-sad Chalo” protest in New Delhi. Two CJP representa-tives met Union Minister J.P. Nadda after the government reached out for discussions, while Home Minister Amit Shah also held a meeting with Education Minister Dhar-mendra Pradhan as demon-strations intensified around Parliament. The meeting marked the first formal en-gagement between the gov-ernment and the protest lead-ers. Maps During the meet-

ing, the CJP delegation sub-mitted three key demands. These included the resigna-tion of Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, the government’s acceptance of responsibility for alleged ir-regularities in competitive examinations, and com-pre-hensive reforms to make the examination system more transparent and accountable. According to the delegation, Nadda sought time to discuss the demands with the govern-ment and appealed to the pro- testers to end their sit-in, but did not offer any immediate assurances.

‘Let the Youth Be Heard’: Sonam Wangchuk Continues Fast on Day 23, Alleges Illegal Detention

FAIR REPORT
NEW DELHI

Social activist Sonam Wangchuk on Monday vowed to continue his in-definite hunger strike into its 23rd day, escalating his confrontation with the Centre through a hand-written note from his bed at Safdarjung Hospital. In the note, Wangchuk alleged he was being “illegally de-tained” and appealed to the government to allow stu-dent representatives to pre-sent their demands before Parliament.

Setting clear conditions for ending his fast, Wang-chuk said he would con-tinue until youth leaders are permitted to meet Members of Parliament at Sansad Bhawan or until he is allowed to interact with parliamentarians at the hospital. Praising the re-straint shown by protest-ing students despite police



action, he urged authori-ties to resolve the impasse through dialogue rather than confrontation.

The protest, now in its third week, centres on de-mands for accountability over alleged irregularities

in national competitive ex-aminations, including the NEET paper leak contro-versy. Wangchuk argued that repeated examination scandals have eroded young people’s faith in In-dia’s education system and

deserve urgent parliamen-tary attention.

His wife, Gitanjali Ang-mo, has approached the Delhi High Court, alleging that his continued stay at Safdarjung Hospital amounts to unlawful deten-tion. The statement comes following the “Sansad Chalo” march, where pro- testers reportedly clashed with police near Parlia-ment Street, leading to de-tentions and baton charg-es. Meanwhile, three young activists—Neha, Aameen and Manish—ended their 23-day hunger strike after doctors warned of deterio-rating health. Organisers, however, maintained that the movement would con-tinue through peaceful democratic means, signal-ing that the confrontation between protesting stu-dents and the government is far from over.

Red Sea Tensions Spike as Houthis Announce Maritime Embargo on Saudi Arabia

FAIR REPORT
NEW DELHI

The fragile calm between Saudi Arabia and Yemen’s Iran-backed Houthi move-ment appears to be under renewed strain after the Houthis announced an immediate maritime em-bargo on the kingdom, raising fresh concerns over security in the Red Sea—one of the world’s busiest trade corridors. Houthi military spokes-person Yahya Saree said the embargo was being imposed on the principle of “an eye for an eye”, de-scribing it as retaliation for alleged Saudi air-strikes on facilities, in-cluding Sanaa Interna-tional Airport. The group also accused Riyadh of maintaining restrictions on Yemen’s ports, air-ports and border cross-ings for over a decade, calling them a form of economic warfare.

NDA to hold first ‘Mangal Milan’ meeting amid Monsoon Session



FAIR REPORT
NEW DELHI

The National Democratic Alliance (NDA) parliam-entary party will hold a meeting on Tuesday at Parliament, marking the first gathering under its newly adopted name, ‘Mangal Milan’, as the ruling coalition seeks to strengthen coordination during the ongoing Mon-soon Session.

The meeting is sched-uled to begin at 9:30 am at the GMC Balayogi Audito-rium in the Parliament Library Building. Mem-bers of Parliament from all NDA constituents in both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha are ex-pected to attend. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to address

the meeting. Tradition-ally, the NDA parliamentary party has held meetings every Tuesday during Parliam-ent sessions. This time, however, the gather-ing has been termed ‘Man-gal Milan’, reflecting what the ruling alliance de-scribes as an effort to give its regular parliamentary meetings a new cultural and organisational iden-tity. The meeting assumes added significance as Parliam-ent has witnessed re-peated disruptions at the start of the Monsoon Ses-sion, with the Opposition pressing for discussions on several contentious is-sues. Monday, proceed-ings in both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha were repeatedly disrupted as Opposition members de-

manded debates on the NEET controversy, the al-legged Ram Temple dona-tion scam, the CJP protest at Jantar Mantar, and con-cerns over the E20 petrol rollout, among other is-sues. As the House con-vened on Monday, on the first day of the Monsoon Session of Parliament, the proceedings were marked by chaos and relentless sloganeering from the Op-position benches. Even after Jagdambika Pal in the Chair urged the Op-po-sition MPs to maintain the decorum of the House, the parliamentarians con-tinued with the sloganeer-ing.

Earlier, Dilip Saikia in the Chair tried to bring the House in order; how-ever, the din did not fade.

Rajasthan Poll Freeze Ends: High Court Pressure Forces State to Unveil Local Election Calendar

FAIR REPORT
NEW DELHI

After months of judicial scrutiny and repeated warnings, the Rajasthan government on Monday finally placed a firm road-map before the High Court for conducting the long-delayed Urban Local Body and Panchayati Raj elec-tions, setting the stage for a crucial democratic ex-ercise between August and November.

As per the schedule

submitted to the court, no-tifications for municipal elections will begin on Au-gust 22 after the poll an-nouncement on August 17. Voting will take place in two phases on September 6 and 9, with results due on September 11. Pan-chayat elections will fol-low, with the announce-ment on September 23 and staggered polling from October 13 to November 5. The results are expected on November 12, after



which elections for may-ors, chairpersons and deputy chairpersons will be held.

The calendar comes only after sustained inter-vention by the Rajasthan High Court, which had first directed the State to complete the elections by April 15 before extending the deadline to July 31. Last week, the court warned of contempt pro-ceedings against the State Election Commis-

sion if a schedule was not announced within five days.

The delay had been at-tributed to the govern-ment’s pending decision on OBC reservation fol-lowing recommendations of the Backward Classes Commission. The State Election Commission maintained it was pre-pared to conduct the polls but could not proceed without the government’s reservation notification.

With elected local bod-ies absent for an extended period, the elections will restore representative governance across Ra-jasthan’s municipalities and thousands of gram panchayats. Politically, they will also serve as the first major test of the Bhajan Lal Sharma gov-ernment at the grass-roots, offering an early indication of public sen-timent ahead of future electoral battles.

DCGI approves India’s first dengue vaccine–QDENG

FAIR REPORT
 ■ New Delhi

India has approved its first dengue vaccine, with the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) granting market authorisation to the vaccine QDENG, developed by Takeda Biopharmaceuticals India.

The vaccine is approved for people aged 4 to 60 years and can be given regardless of whether a person has previously been infected with dengue.

in 43 countries, with more than 32 million doses distributed globally. This approval marks an important step forward in strengthening dengue prevention in India,” said Mahender Nayak, Head of Intercontinental Markets, Takeda.

The latest seven-year data for QDENG show continued protection against dengue infection and hospitalisation across all four serotypes, an important milestone for communities and health systems, he added.



based on results from Takeda’s global clinical development programme, involving 19 Phase 1, 2 and 3 clinical trials with over 28,000 participants in both endemic and non-endemic regions, the company said.

It is also supported by data from a Phase III clinical trial (DEN-302) conducted in Indian participants, which evaluated the safety and immunogenicity of the vaccine in individuals aged 4-60 years, it added.

two-dose regimen, with doses given three months apart.
 India carries a substantial dengue burden, and all four dengue virus serotypes have been documented as co-circulating in several regions, said Goh Choo Beng, Medical Affairs Head, Southeast Asia & India Cluster, Takeda.
 “QDENG is designed to protect against all four serotypes, regardless of prior exposure. Its approval represents an important step in strengthening India’s comprehensive approach to dengue prevention, alongside vector control, surveillance, community awareness and other public health measures,” Beng added.
 The company added that the World Health Organisation (WHO) recommends QDENG for use in dengue-endemic regions and supports its inclusion in public

immunisation programmes in high-transmission areas without requiring pre-vaccination screening.
 QDENG has also received WHO prequalification, confirming that it meets international standards for quality, safety and effectiveness. This also makes the vaccine eligible for procurement by global agencies such as UNICEF and the Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO).
 Dengue, a mosquito-borne viral disease, poses a significant global public health threat, with prevalence in over 125 countries. India accounts for nearly one-third of the global dengue burden, the company said.
 Millions of Indians remain at risk each year due to widespread endemicity, rapid urbanisation and climate-related factors that drive mosquito proliferation, it added.

10 more die in Jammu rain havoc; death toll reaches 22

FAIR REPORT
 ■ Jammu

A day after devastating flash floods and landslides claimed 12 lives and left several others missing across Jammu division, 10 more civilians lost their lives on Monday, taking the death toll in the rain-battered region to 22.

According to official sources, seven people were buried alive when their house was struck by a massive landslide in the Domail Dhok area of Loran in Poonch district. The incident was reported after midnight, following flash floods that triggered massive mudslides.

Three persons were killed and six others injured after falling boulders struck a passenger bus and a house in two separate incidents in the hilly Doda district.

According to Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Ashok Kumar Sharma, seven people have lost their lives in the incident in Loran Dumilan village. He said all seven bodies have been retrieved. Among the seven killed, four were women.

Mohd Rafiq lost his wife, Zaida Begum, and two minor kids along with four other relatives.
 In a separate incident, a rock rolled down a hillock near Raggi Nallah along the Jammu-Kishtwar national highway around 9.30 am amid torrential rains, hitting a passenger bus, the officials said.

They said a rescue operation was launched immediately, and seven injured persons were shifted to a nearby hospital, where one of them, identified as Manish Kumar, was declared brought dead.
 In addition, the body of an unidentified person was recovered from the



damaged vehicle, the officials said, adding efforts are underway to establish the identity of the deceased.
 The officials said the highway remained blocked as a couple of private vehicles were also hit by boulders in the area. However, the occupants of the vehicles escaped unhurt.
 In another incident, a woman identified as Shiv Devi was killed after being hit by a shooting stone at her house in the Kashtigarh area of the district, the officials said.

Meanwhile, heavy rain on Monday severely hampered rescue operations in both Poonch and Rajouri districts.

The fresh spell of rain began around 3 am in the twin border districts and continued unabated, making rescue and search operations difficult in the affected areas.

Police, Army, SDRF and Civil Defence personnel and local volunteers continued rescue efforts despite the adverse weather, the officials said.

Moderate to heavy rainfall was reported from Jammu and several other districts, though there were no immediate reports of any loss of life or damage to property.

Earlier, a BJP delegation led by the Leader of the Opposition in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly, Sunil Sharma, visited the flood-affected areas of Poonch and Rajouri districts to assess the damage caused by flash floods and landslides triggered by torrential rain.

West Bengal CM Suvendu releases 1993 firing report ahead of TMC rally

FAIR REPORT
 ■ Kolkata

In a damaging development that could hurt the very purpose of observing the Trinamool Congress’ Martyrs’ Day by the Mamata Banerjee faction of the Trinamool Congress, Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari on Monday disclosed the long-pending report of the Justice Sushanta Chattopadhyay Commission.

The report incidentally comes just on the eve of the TMC’s observance of the 33rd Martyrs’ Day rally on July 21 and threatens to challenge Mamata Banerjee’s moral right to politically exploit the day, experts said.

According to the report presented before the Assembly, the police firing on Youth Congress demon-



strators on July 21 1993, killing 13 persons, was legally unwarranted.

The report said that the firing was carried out on the instructions of the then Home Secretary Manish Gupta. Instead of taking action against Gupta after becoming the Chief Minister, Mamata Banerjee not only sent him to Parliament but also made him a Cabinet Minister in his Government, post 2011.
 The report had thus far

been kept under the carpet by the previous TMC Government notwithstanding its annual observance of the TMC Martyrs’ Day rally, when the kin of the deceased were honoured from the dais.
 Chief Minister Adhikari also released the names of the 44 witnesses who were summoned by the Commission. Mamata Banerjee, who had always claimed to be a witness to the firing, however, was not summoned by the Commission.
 Referring to the reports, the Chief Minister said: “Many people extracted benefits from the July 21 movement, some rose in power, some acquired status to go abroad, but the people of Bengal still do not know as to what really happened that day.”

Rahul slams baton charge on CJP protests, calls PM anti-youth

FAIR REPORT
 ■ New Delhi

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Monday dubbed Prime Minister Narendra Modi as the “most anti-youth” PM in the country’s history as he accused the Government of not just failing the youth but also pouncing on them.
 Gandhi’s remarks came after security forces resorted to a baton-charge near Parliament Street after thousands of Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) supporters, protesting against the paper leaks, allegedly tried to breach barricades while marching towards Parliament on the first day of the Monsoon session.
 As CJP supporters, including students, marched towards Parliament, the police tried to stop them and used tear gas and lathi-charged them.



“Prime Minister Modi is the ‘most anti-youth Prime Minister in India’s history - He’s so ‘anti-youth’ that he can’t even take the resignation of a failed Education Minister, Dharmendra Pradhan.
 “152 paper leaks. 7.5 crore students victimised. And not a single guilty person punished. Who got the punishment? The hardworking youth,” he said in a post in Hindi on X.
 Gandhi said when children raise legitimate questions about education, they are met with batons and detention in response.
 “The criminals who leaked the papers roam free - and the students raising valid issues are dragged around, beaten.
 “This Government is not just failing the youth - it is pouncing on them,” the Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha said.

Jitendra Singh calls for revisiting pension rules to minimise litigation

FAIR REPORT
 ■ New Delhi

Union Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Dr Jitendra Singh, on Monday called for a comprehensive review of pension regulations to ensure that evolving social realities are adequately reflected in Government policies, stating that many pension disputes arise because existing rules have failed to keep pace with changing societal needs.

He emphasised that the ultimate objective of pension administration should be to prevent litigation through timely policy reforms rather than resolving disputes after they reach the courts.

Addressing the 2nd National Workshop on Pension Litigation, organised by the Department of Pension & Pensioners’ Welfare, the Minister said the Government is committed to creating a zero-litigation pension ecosystem through simplified rules, improved grievance redressal, stronger coordination among Ministries and proactive identification of recurring issues before they develop into legal disputes.
 During the event, Dr Jitendra Singh



launched the Compendium of Case Laws on Pension Litigation, a Flyer on Pension Litigation, and the Special Campaign 3.0 of the Department of Pension & Pensioners’ Welfare, aimed at strengthening litigation management, improving service delivery and promoting citizen-centric pension administration.

Singh observed that pension administration must continuously evolve alongside changing social realities. Referring to recent reforms, he highlighted the Government’s decision to extend pension benefits to separated daughters by simplifying eligibility conditions, thereby

eliminating the need for lengthy legal proceedings in many deserving cases. He said such reforms demonstrate the Government’s commitment to making pension policies more humane, inclusive and responsive to contemporary societal requirements.

The Minister also referred to reforms in family pension provisions, noting that outdated regulations inherited from earlier administrative frameworks often created hardship for beneficiaries. He said several such provisions have been revisited over the past few years to ensure that pensioners and their families are not compelled

to seek judicial intervention merely to receive legitimate benefits.
 Earlier, welcoming the participants, Dhruvajyoti Sengupta, Joint Secretary, Department of Pension & Pensioners’ Welfare, said the Department’s vision is centred on improving the ease of life of pensioners through policy reforms, digital governance and effective litigation management. He informed that litigation cases on the Department’s Litigation Information Management System (LIMS) have declined by nearly 20 per cent over the past year, reflecting improved coordination among Ministries, legal counsels and departments.
 The workshop was attended by Nivedita Shukla Verma, Secretary, Department of Pension & Pensioners’ Welfare; Sukriti Likh, Secretary, Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare; Dr Rajiv Mani, Secretary, Department of Legal Affairs; and R Venkataramani, I.d. Attorney General for India. The programme featured two technical sessions on pension litigation before tribunals and courts, litigation management, standardisation of case laws, and policy interventions aimed at minimising avoidable pension-related disputes.

CPI(M) condemns police action on students

FAIR REPORT
 ■ New Delhi

The Polit Bureau of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) on Monday strongly condemned the police action against students and youth protesting at Jantar Mantar during a march to Parliament, demanding the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and the disbanding of the National Testing Agency (NTA).

Security forces resorted to a lathi-charge and used tear gas to disperse hundreds of demonstrators who had gathered following a call by student and youth outfits over alleged paper leaks and irregularities in the NEET examinations. Several protesters sustained injuries in the clash, which also witnessed police action near the CPI(M) headquarters at Gole Market.

In a press statement, the CPI(M) Polit Bureau alleged



CPI(M) General Secretary MA Baby

that the police carried out “ferocious attacks” on peaceful demonstrators at the behest of the Union Home Ministry. The party accused the Centre of adopting a dictatorial approach and refusing to engage in dialogue despite a month-long nationwide protest.

“The paranoid Government, instead of being accountable for the growing mess in education and the pathetic situation of unemployment, has refused to have a dialogue with the protesters,” the statement

read, warning the Union Government that repressive measures would fail to suppress the growing anger among the country’s youth.
 The party reiterated its demands for the immediate resignation of Dharmendra Pradhan, the dissolution of the NTA, and the unconditional release of all detained student activists.
 Expressing solidarity with the protesting students, CPI(M) General Secretary MA Baby lashed out at the Union Government for suppressing democratic protests.
 “The brutal police action on students peacefully exercising their democratic rights at Jantar Mantar is unacceptable. Instead of fixing accountability for the NEET mess and addressing the grievances of millions of aspirants, the Modi Government is using police force to brutally crush student voices. Dharmendra Pradhan must step down immediately on moral grounds,” MA Baby said.

ASI received 121 nods for archaeological projects in five years, says Union Govt

FAIR REPORT
 ■ New Delhi

There were 121 instances when permission was granted for the ASI to carry out archaeological projects in the country in the last five years, the Government informed Parliament on Monday.

Union Culture Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat shared the data in a written response to a query in Lok Sabha.

He was also asked for details of any court orders regarding the continuance or closure of any archaeological projects during the last five years and the action taken thereof.

“There is no court order regarding the continuance or closure of any archaeological projects during the last five years,” Shekhawat said.

There are 3,686 centrally protected monuments and sites under the care and main-



tenance of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) across the country.

The Union minister was also asked about the sites where the ASI is doing excavation across the country along with expenditure incurred thereon and the timeline set for completion of works; and the details of historical findings discovered from the archaeological projects carried out during the last five years and scientific validations thereof.

In tabulated data, he shared that 121 instances of permission were issued for carrying out archaeological

projects by the ASI in the last five years.

In 2021-22, as many as 24 instances of permission were issued, while in 2022-23, the figure stood at 31; and for 2024 and 2025, the numbers stood at 22 and 25, respectively.

“During excavation, structural remains, burials, pottery and antiquities such as coins, beads, ornaments, agricultural tools, bone objects, etc. have been unearthed and, as per set practice, samples are sent to various institutions for scientific validations whenever required,” the minister added.

Datia bypoll: BJP deploys top leaders for booth duty

FAIR REPORT
 ■ Bhopal

With the high-stakes Datia Assembly by-election entering a crucial phase, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has launched an aggressive organisational campaign by deploying senior leaders, former ministers, former MLAs and experienced office-bearers to oversee booth-level operations, signalling the party’s focus on micro-management to retain the prestigious seat.

While Chief Minister Mohan Yadav, State BJP president Hemant Khandelwal, State BJP in-charge Mahendra Singh, ministers and senior leaders are spearheading the campaign, the party has simultaneously activated its grassroots network by assigning veteran leaders to individual Shakti Kendras, the BJP’s key organisational units responsible for booth management and voter mobilisation.

Under the strategy, each Shakti Kendra has been



assigned a Prabhari (in-charge) and a Sangathak (organiser), who will jointly supervise four to six polling booths. Their responsibilities include coordinating booth-level workers, strengthening voter outreach, monitoring election preparedness and ensuring effective management on polling day.

ensuring seamless coordination between the party organisation and grassroots workers.

The move comes as the BJP intensifies its campaign for the July 30 bypoll, widely seen as a prestige battle for the ruling party. The election assumes added significance after the party fielded Ashutosh Tiwari, replacing senior leader and former Home Minister Narottam Mishra, whose supporters had initially expressed resentment over the ticket decision before the leadership moved swiftly to restore unity within the organisation.

Party leaders believe that booth management remains the backbone of the BJP’s electoral success. By assigning experienced leaders to every Shakti Kendra, the organisation aims to strengthen voter contact, improve coordination among workers and maximise voter turnout on polling day.

Speaking about the party’s election strategy, BJP State president Hemant

Khandelwal said the BJP’s greatest strength lies in its disciplined cadre and robust organisational structure. He said every worker has an important role in the election, adding that the party remains in “election mode” throughout the year through continuous coordination with booth, mandal, district and State-level workers. Khandelwal also expressed confidence that the BJP would register a decisive victory in the Datia bypoll, saying the organisation was united and fully committed to ensuring the success of the party’s candidate.

A Shakti Kendra is regarded as one of the BJP’s most important organisational units, serving as the link between the party leadership and booth-level workers. With two senior functionaries supervising each cluster of booths, the BJP hopes to ensure meticulous planning, efficient voter mobilisation and effective election-day management as it seeks to retain the Datia Assembly seat.

States Focus



LANDSLIDES HIT GUWAHATI; LOCALS ASKED TO STAY ALERT

Several landslides were reported in Guwahati on Monday, with the authorities issuing an alert for more rainfall in the city over the next 24 hours, aggravating the situation. Kamrup Metropolitan District Commissioner Swapneel Paul said landslides were reported from at least five locations, though no casualties have been reported so far. The affected areas include Kamakhya main road beyond Prashanti Lodge, Kamakhya Colony near Ganesh Mandir, Paschim Kamakhya village near the water tanker, Pandu Temple Ghat and Madhavdevnagar in Maligaon, he said. People have been advised to avoid unnecessary travel in hilly areas of the district, particularly around Maligaon and Pandu, he said.
(PNS)



DOVAL TO RECEIVE LOKMANYA TILAK AWARD ON AUGUST 1

National Security Advisor Ajit Doval has been selected for the prestigious Lokmanya Tilak Award for his significant contribution to the field of national security, the Tilak Smarak Trust announced on Monday. Union Home Minister Amit Shah will present the award to Doval at a function in Pune on August 1. Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis, Deputy CMs Eknath Shinde and Sunetra Pawar are likely to attend the event, the trust's president, Dr Rohit Tilak, said at a press conference. The award ceremony will be held at the Maharashtra Mandal ground in the Gultekdi area of Pune. Doval, 81, has handled crucial assignments in sensitive regions, including Mizoram, Sikkim, Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir. He also served in diplomatic roles at Indian missions in Islamabad and London. He is the longest-serving National Security Advisor of India. Doval has served as India's special representative for the India-China boundary talks and is also credited with playing an important role in diplomatic efforts that helped resolve the Doklam standoff.
(PTI)

MP Govt tables UCC Bill in Assembly

FAIR REPORT
Bhopal

The Madhya Pradesh Government on Monday introduced the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill in the Assembly, where noisy scenes were witnessed as the Opposition demanded a discussion on the alleged land purchases linked to Chief Minister Mohan Yadav. The State Government tabled the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill, 2026, on the opening day of the five-day monsoon session, even as Congress members demanded an urgent debate on the alleged scam in Ujjain. The House was adjourned for 30 minutes after Congress members trooped into the well. Speaker Narendra Singh



Madhya Pradesh Assembly speaker Narendra Singh Tomar being greeted by Chief Minister Mohan Yadav in Bhopal on Monday

Tomar said the House would take up discussion on the UCC Bill on Tuesday. A recent newspaper report had claimed that Yadav and his family members purchased huge land parcels after the latter became the chief minister — a charge denied by the BJP as baseless. As soon as the Question Hour concluded, Leader of the Opposition Umang Singhar raised the issue of land purchases linked to the chief minister and family through an adjournment motion, inviting strong objec-

tions from BJP legislators and ministers. Assembly Affairs Minister Kailash Vijayvargiya opposed the demand, saying the matter could not be taken up through an adjournment motion. He contended that the adjournment motion is usually taken up on recent developments and not on old ones. Congress MLAs trooped into the well of the House shouting slogans, and Singhar maintained that the adjournment motion pertained to the alleged acquisition of land linked to the Simhastha area and the alleged purchase of land by the chief minister's family, insisting on a debate. As the Congress members refused to relent, the Speaker adjourned the proceedings for 30 minutes.

DMK legislator held for defamatory speech against TN CM

FAIR REPORT
Tuticorin (Tamil Nadu)

Opposition DMK MLA, GV Markandeyan, was arrested on Monday for allegedly making defamatory remarks against Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay, drawing sharp criticism from the party president MK Stalin, who denounced the police action.



Opposition DMK MLA, GV Markandeyan

Markandeyan, representing the Vilathikulam Assembly constituency, was picked up by a police team from his residence amidst protests by his supporters who raised slogans condemning the police action. He was later arrested, a police official said, and added that his arrest followed a complaint from the ruling TVK functionary over his controversial speech threatening the chief minister. The police registered an FIR against Markandeyan under three sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) — criminal intimidation, intentional insult with intent to provoke breaching public peace, and spreading false information, following a complaint lodged by P Kasiram, the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam functionary, the official said. While addressing a public meeting in Kovilpatti in the district on July 18, Markandeyan had issued threats and made derogatory remarks against the chief minister, which were found in bad taste. Kasiram had said in his complaint to the police. In the viral video of his arrest, the legislator could be heard saying that he could not be arrested without the permission of the Tamil Nadu Assembly Speaker, since he was an MLA. The police had to convince the MLA to take him to the police station, even as his supporters staged a protest in front of his house. Markandeyan is the second legislator from the DMK to be arrested from the Tuticorin district within weeks. Former State minister Anita R Radhakrishnan, representing the Tiruchendur Assembly constituency in the district, was arrested on July 3, allegedly for making a defamatory speech against Vijay. Strongly condemning the arrest, Stalin accused the ruling TVK of political vendetta and said the former DMK ministers and party legislators were "continuously hunted" for pointing out the mistakes and misdeeds done by the current regime. "The court recently pulled up the Government for adding unrelated criminal sections even in defama-

tion cases," the former Chief Minister said on 'X' and claimed that the arrested MLA was denied a meeting with his lawyer and supporters. "Those who went to deliver medicines to him (Markandeyan) were prevented, and even the basic legal and human rights of the arrested person have also been denied. Is what is happening in Tamil Nadu the rule of law or the rule of Satan?" Stalin asked. He sought to know why the TVK Government, which is "reluctant to take action against a minister who powdered a tablet in the stadium, those involved in the gang rape of a woman, was arresting those making political remarks." The DMK chief was apparently referring to the incident of a TVK functionary, who, before becoming a minister, had powdered a pill to be administered to his daughter who fell sick during a cricket match, and also the alleged sexual assault of a woman in Tuticorin under the pretext of providing her a job.

West Bengal Govt to make all communications in Bangla from September 1, says CM



FAIR REPORT
Kolkata

Bengal Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari on Monday announced the mandatory use of Bangla as a language of communication in official transactions, in addition to his Government deciding to create a Special Investigating Agency along the lines of the National Investigating Agency to preempt future possible security threats. The decisions come a day after the conclusion of Union Home Minister Amit Shah's three-day trip to the State during which he emphasised the promotion of India's rich cultural heritage on the sidelines of reviewing the State's internal and border security system. All the official communications within the administration and with the public would be in Bangla. This would include the First Information Reports lodged by the police too, the Chief Minister said.

Shah to this end, the Chief Minister said how the Home Minister in his letter written in Bangla invoked Bharatiya Jana Sangh founder Syama Prasad Mookerjee's dream for the preservation and promotion of Indian languages. In his letter written in Bengali, Shah recalled how Mookerjee was an "ardent supporter of conservation, development and the extensive use of Indian languages." Shah, in his letter, advised the use of Bangla and Rajbhasha (State language) Hindi "instead of a foreign language, for in official communications with the Central Government," Adhikari said.

Referring to the file management, departmental communications and official notings, Shah in his letter said, "I believe that on the 125th birth anniversary of Syama Prasad Mookerjee, your Government will take effective steps for intensive use and development of Indian languages." The Home Minister said, while inaugurating India's first immersive language museum at the National Library, had extensively dwelt on the rejuvenation and reinvigoration of national heritage and culture, putting it back on the centre stage. "There is no bar in gathering information about foreign culture, languages, etc but there is an urgent need for the revival of Indian cultural heritage, which can only be possible through the learning of the mother tongue," he said. Referring to a letter from

Karnataka Congress questions ONGC CSR funds to RSS-linked organisations

FAIR REPORT
Bengaluru

Karnataka Congress president BK Hariprasad on Monday questioned the alleged flow of ONGC's CSR funds to organisations linked to the RSS and demanded greater transparency and accountability in the use of public resources. Referring to a media report, Hariprasad alleged that state-owned ONGC had channelled ₹668 crore in CSR funds to 20 RSS-linked organisations over the past decade and said the issue warranted public scrutiny. "It's reported that Rs 668 crore of ONGC's CSR funds reportedly flowed to 20 RSS-linked organisations over the last decade," Hariprasad said



Karnataka Congress president BK Hariprasad

in a post on 'X'. He further alleged that the reported funding pattern should be viewed alongside "the recurring allegations of public resources — from temple offerings and disaster relief funds to Covid relief,

public land, and Kalyana Karnataka development funds — being channelled into the Sangh ecosystem." Hariprasad questioned the RSS's claim that it does not receive government funds, saying, "Yet the @RSSorg

claims it doesn't take Govt funds. If public institutions & taxpayer-backed resources are funding your affiliates, how can RSS claim to be independent of govt money?" He said the debate had gone beyond the question of registration and added, "The issue is no longer registration alone; it is transparency, accountability, and the right of citizens to know how public money is being spent." Demanding answers from the RSS, the Karnataka Congress chief said, "RSS should not evade further questions on its funding and how correct it is morally for an unregistered organisation to receive such funds." There was no immediate response from ONGC.

Gujarat: Murder accused attacks cops, killed in encounter

FAIR REPORT
Anand

A man accused of kidnapping and murdering a minor girl was killed in an encounter in Gujarat's Anand district after he allegedly attacked police personnel with a concealed knife while trying to escape from custody, an official said on Monday. Two policemen sustained injuries in the attack on Sunday night. The accused, whom the police shot in self-defence, died during treatment, Inspector General of Ahmedabad Range Raghavendra Vatsa said. "A person accused of kidnapping and killing a minor girl has been killed in an encounter as he tried to escape after attacking police with a concealed knife on Sunday night. Two policemen received injuries in the knife attack," Vatsa told reporters. Police identified the deceased as Suresh Parmar, in his late 20s, who was accused of kidnapping and murdering a four-and-a-half-year-old girl from Vasad in the district.



According to Anand police, the girl was sleeping with her parents, who are migrant labourers, on a platform at the Vasad railway station and was abducted at around 9.15 pm on Saturday. Later, the body was found on the railway tracks early on Sunday. The railway station's CCTV footage showed the accused taking the child away. Multiple teams of the railway

police, Anand district police, Local Crime Branch (LCB), Special Operations Group and Vasad police launched a search operation. Parmar, a resident of Borsad town in Anand, was arrested late Sunday evening by Borsad rural police and handed over to the LCB for further investigation, the police said. While the LCB personnel were bringing Parmar to Anand town on Sunday night, he asked the escorting team to stop the vehicle, claiming he needed to vomit. After the vehicle halted, he allegedly attacked two policemen with a hidden knife in an attempt to flee, causing injuries to both of them, they said. A sub-inspector repeatedly warned the accused to surrender, but he continued the attack, forcing the police to open fire in self-defence, the police said. Parmar sustained a bullet injury and was taken to a hospital in Karamsad, where he succumbed to his injuries in the early hours of Monday, they added.

Out of total CSR only 8.4% spent on environment in FY-2023-24: Report

FAIR REPORT
New Delhi

While the amount deployed in environmental corporate social responsibility (CSR) has steadily increased in recent years, only 8.4 per cent of the total CSR was spent on it in the financial year 2023-24, according to a report. It also stated that among India's 50 most climate-vulnerable districts, 30 of them received only 1 per cent (Rs 106 crore) of total environmental CSR spending over the past three years. The report, 'A Decade of Green Spending: What ₹17,000 Crores of Environmental CSR Reveals About Corporate India', was released by Sattva Consulting, a global impact consulting firm, on Monday. It also revealed that sectors with some of the largest environmental footprints, including energy, mining, and oil, gas, coal and petroleum, show relatively low participa-



tion in environmental CSR. "Sectors with high pollution intensity, including oil, gas, coal and petroleum, mining, and energy, allocate only 5-7 per cent of their CSR budgets to environmental initiatives... By contrast, consumer-facing sectors such as FMCG and automotive allocate over 10-15 per cent of CSR to environmental themes," said the report. The analysis highlighted that high-value environmental CSR projects (₹50 lakh and above) in FY 2023-24, water management (15 per cent), renewable energy (12

per cent), and biodiversity (11 per cent) together account for 38 per cent of all high-value project funding. However, air quality, despite its acute public health relevance, received just Rs 14 crore, around 5 per cent of the high-value project pool. In a statement, Srikrishna Sridhar Murthy, co-Founder and CEO of Sattva Consulting, said, "India's climate ambitions will require every form of capital to work more strategically. As climate risks increasingly affect business operations, supply chains and communities."

6 killed as truck collides with car in Maharashtra

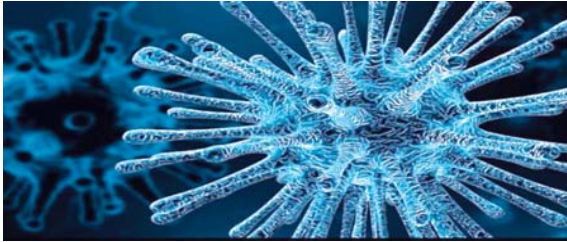
FAIR REPORT
Wardha (Maharashtra)

Six persons were killed when a truck crashed into a car on the Mumbai-Nagpur Samruddhi Expressway in Maharashtra's Wardha district early on Monday, police said. The two vehicles caught fire after the accident that occurred at around 3 am near Virul village. Traffic movement on the busy expressway was disrupted. A container truck carrying ethanol overturned near interchange IC-80 on the expressway. While another lane remained operational, a stationary car on the road was struck from behind by a truck, and both vehicles caught fire, a senior police official said. Four car passengers and two occupants of the truck, including its driver, died in the accident, he said. Teams from the Highway Safety Patrol, Wardha Police, fire brigade, and the Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation rushed to the spot for rescue and traffic restoration operations. Since the overturned container was carrying highly flammable ethanol, it was necessary to empty it first before its safe removal. The operation was underway with utmost caution to ensure public safety, the official said. Traffic on the Mumbai-Nagpur carriage-way was being diverted to the opposite lane, causing heavy congestion along the affected stretch. Police also advised motorists trav-



elling from Nagpur to Mumbai to avoid using the Samruddhi Expressway up to Wardha for the next few hours. They asked people to use the Nagpur-Amravati highway and rejoin the expressway through the Amravati gate interchange. Efforts were underway to facilitate the safe clearance of the accident site. Notably, the Samruddhi Expressway recorded 185 accidents in 2025, a 35 per cent increase from the 2024 figure of 137, as per the highway police data. The 701-km six-lane access-controlled highway, which connects Vidarbha's largest city to the country's financial Capital, has been opened to traffic in phases since December 2022. An Intelligent Traffic Management System is currently under implementation to improve monitoring and enhance road safety, officials earlier said.

Gujarat reports 63 suspected Chandipura cases, 12 test positive



FAIR REPORT
Ahmedabad

Gujarat has recorded 63 suspected cases of Chandipura virus, of which 12 have tested positive, according to a review of the situation by the State health authorities. A review meeting chaired by Health Minister Praful Pansheriya examined the geographical spread of reported cases, possible sources of transmission, laboratory testing and measures undertaken by the administration. Of the 12 positive cases,

nine are from Gujarat, and three are from Rajasthan. The positive cases in Gujarat have been reported from Panchmahal and Kheda, which have recorded two cases each, while Sabarkantha, Mehsana, Bharuch, Bhavnagar and the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation area have reported one case each. The Health Minister directed officials to maintain intensive surveillance in areas reporting cases and conduct detailed investigations into patients' travel and medical histories to identify possible sources of infection.

