

FAIR REPORT

THE DAWN OF A FEARLESS PEN

Jaipur, Monday, 27 July 2026

PRGI No. - RNI- RJBIL/25/A1808 | Vol 1 | Issue No.- 310 Pages 04 | ₹3.00

Rajasthan Rolls Out 144 New Roadways Buses as Government Signals Public Transport Push

■ FAIR REPORT
JAIPUR

Positioning public transport as a cornerstone of Rajasthan's next phase of infrastructure development, Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma on Sunday flagged off 144 new Rajasthan State Road Transport Corporation (RSRTC) buses from the Heerapura Bus Terminal in Jaipur, signalling what the government described as a broader push towards a safer, more modern and financially resilient transport network.

After performing the ceremonial inauguration, the Chief Minister interacted with bus drivers and said the expansion of the state-owned fleet reflects the government's commitment to extending reliable transport connectivity to every region of Rajasthan. "Our priority is to en-



sure that quality public transport reaches every corner of the state," Sharma said, adding that the induction of the new buses would improve mobility for lakhs of passengers while strengthening the state's transport infrastructure.

Public Transport at the Centre of Infrastructure Strategy

The launch comes as Rajasthan seeks to modernise its public mobility ecosystem amid growing urbani-



sation and rising demand for dependable inter-city transport. The government projects the new fleet as part of a long-term strategy to improve accessibility, reduce travel hardships and enhance commuter safety. Sharma also asserted that administrative re-

forms and tighter financial management have helped the Rajasthan Roadways reverse years of financial stress. He claimed the cor-



poration has moved from losses to profitability, enabling timely salary payments to employees and creating the foundation for fleet expansion and service upgrades.

If sustained, the financial turnaround could provide RSRTC with greater capacity to modernise operations, introduce technology-driven passenger services and expand connectivity to underserved regions.

Safety Takes Centre Stage

The event also underscored the government's emphasis on road safety. The Chief Minister distributed helmets to women serving as road safety ambassadors and urged citizens to follow traffic regulations, stressing that reducing road fatalities requires both stronger enforcement and greater public participation.

Looking Beyond Today's Flag-Off

Beyond the immediate addition of 144 buses, the initiative reflects a broader policy direction. As Rajasthan expands highways, industrial corridors and tourism circuits, an efficient public transport system is likely to become increasingly critical in connecting emerging economic centres with rural and urban populations. The government's transport roadmap now faces a larger test: translating fleet expansion into measurable improvements in service reliability, passenger comfort, operational efficiency and last-mile connectivity. If accompanied by continued investment in modern depots, digital ticketing, cleaner technologies and safety infrastructure, Sunday's rollout could mark the beginning of a more comprehensive transformation of Rajasthan's public transport network rather than merely an expansion of its bus fleet. Deputy Chief Minister Dr Prem Chand Bairwa, MP Manju Sharma, public representatives and senior officials were present at the flag-off ceremony.

Terror at Berlin Pride: A Van, an Alleged Islamist Suspect, and a City Left in Shock

■ FAIR REPORT
BERLIN

A day meant to celebrate diversity, dignity and freedom turned into a scene of horror after a van rammed into participants at Berlin's Christopher Street Day (CSD) Pride Parade, leaving one person dead and at least 16 others injured. The attack has sent shockwaves across Germany and reignited concerns over extremist violence targeting public gatherings.

German police have identified the prime suspect as 21-year-old Abdul B., who investigators say was known to law enforcement and had links to Berlin's Islamist scene. Authorities have launched an intensive manhunt and are investigating the incident as a suspected act of politically motivated violence. Officials have not yet announced a final motive, and inquiries are continuing to determine whether the suspect acted alone.

Eyewitnesses described

scenes of panic as the vehicle accelerated into the crowd, shattering what had been a peaceful celebration attended by thousands. Emergency services rushed to the scene, treating the injured while police cordoned off the area and appealed for witnesses to come forward. The attack has drawn strong condemnation from Germany's political leadership, with officials describing it as an assault on the country's democratic values, freedom of expression and the right to live without fear. Beyond the immediate tragedy, the incident is expected to intensify debate over domestic security, intelligence failures and the monitoring of extremist networks. As investigators race to locate the suspect and establish the full circumstances behind the attack, Berlin faces a painful reality: even celebrations built on hope and inclusion are not immune to the threat of violent extremism.

Forged in Focus: Bijnor Gold Puts Bhagyashree Pandey on India's Archery Radar

Faridpur (Bareilly): In archery, medals are won long before an arrow leaves the string. They are forged in relentless practice, unwavering discipline and the ability to repeat perfection under pressure. For 19-year-old Bhagyashree Pandey, the gold medal at the CBSE North Zone Archery Tournament 2026 is not the culmination of a journey—it is the beginning of a much bigger one. Representing Manas Sthali Residential School, Faridpur, Bhagyashree delivered a commanding performance, scoring 797 points to clinch the Under-19 Indian Round Girls' Target gold medal at the tournament hosted by Baluni Public School and Sports Academy in Bijnor. Her teammate, Nayan Rastogi, added another feather to the school's cap by securing a bronze medal in the individual target category, underscoring Manas Sthali's growing reputation as a breeding ground for archery talent.

'Not on My Watch': RPSC Chief Storms Exam Centres, Vows Zero Tolerance on Paper Leaks

■ FAIR REPORT
JAIPUR

Jaipur: In a strong display of accountability, Rajasthan Public Service Commission (RPSC) Chairman Colonel Kesari Singh chose to lead from the front rather than monitor from an office. On Sunday, he made unannounced visits to four examination centres in Jaipur during the Junior Legal Officer (JLO) Recruitment Examination, sending an unequivocal message: the era of paper leaks is over.

Speaking after the inspections, Singh made his strongest assertion yet on examination integrity. "Since I assumed office in October 2023, not a single RPSC examination paper has been leaked. As long as I am here, it will not happen," he declared.

The high-stakes JLO examination is being conducted across 53 centres in



Jaipur, where 13,245 aspirants are competing for just 12 vacancies. During his visits, the RPSC chief interacted with candidates, invigilators and supervisory staff, reviewing security arrangements and operational preparedness on the ground.

Singh acknowledged that the challenge has evolved. While traditional paper leaks have largely

been contained, recruitment agencies now face sophisticated attempts involving Bluetooth devices, micro-earpieces and other electronic gadgets. To counter these emerging threats, the Commission has instituted weekly security audits, continuously assessing vulnerabilities and strengthening surveillance mechanisms before every examination.

Emphasising that transparency must extend beyond preventing leaks, Singh said the Commission is equally committed to ensuring timely examinations, swift declaration of results and prompt appointments, restoring confidence in Rajasthan's recruitment system.

He also credited the state government, district administration and police for maintaining strict security protocols, noting that officials have worked relentlessly—even on holidays—to safeguard the integrity of examinations.

As Rajasthan continues to rebuild public trust after years of recruitment controversies, Colonel Kesari Singh's surprise inspections underscore a clear institutional message: credibility will no longer be claimed through assurances alone—it will be demonstrated on the ground.

Rajasthan Rolls Out 144 Smart Blue Line Express Buses; Women's Safety Takes Centre Stage with Panic Buttons

Jaipur: Rajasthan's public transport network received a major upgrade on Sunday as Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma flagged off 144 new Blue Line Express buses from the Heerapura Bus Terminal on Ajmer Road, marking one of the state's largest recent additions to the Rajasthan State Road Transport Corporation (RSRTC) fleet. Deputy Chief Minister and Transport Minister Dr Premchand Bairwa joined the launch ceremony.

The newly inducted buses have been distributed across 22 RSRTC depots, a move aimed at strengthening inter-district connectivity, increasing service frequency and replacing ageing buses on several high-demand routes across the state.

A key highlight of the new fleet is its enhanced focus on women's safety. Every bus has been equipped with a panic button, enabling passengers to seek immediate assistance during emergencies. The buses are also fitted with a Vehicle Location Tracking System (VLTS), allowing real-time GPS monitoring to improve operational efficiency and passenger security. Designed for modern-day commuters, the buses feature BS-VI compliant engines, mobile charging points, LED destination display boards, Electronic Control Units (ECU) and a comfortable 3x2 seating configuration, offering a blend of environmental sustainability, technology and passenger convenience. RSRTC officials said the induction forms part of the state's broader effort to modernise public transport while ensuring safer, cleaner and more reliable travel without increasing the financial burden on commuters. The expansion is expected to improve connectivity across Rajasthan by enhancing route coverage, reducing pressure on existing services and delivering a more dependable travel experience.

Rajasthan Bets on Global Diaspora to Drive Investment, Heritage and Growth; CM Reviews Preparations for Pravasi Rajasthani Diwas

■ FAIR REPORT
HEMRAJ TIKAMCHAND

Jaipur: Seeking to transform its global diaspora into long-term partners in economic growth and cultural revival, the Rajasthan government has begun preparations for the second edition of Pravasi Rajasthani Diwas, with Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma directing officials to build sustained engagement with overseas Rajasthanis rather than limiting interaction to a single annual event.

Chairing a high-level review meeting ahead of the event scheduled for December 10, Sharma said the initiative should evolve into a platform that enables non-resident Ra-

jasthanis to contribute meaningfully to the state's development, investment ecosystem and heritage conservation.

The Chief Minister instructed officials to strengthen existing diaspora chapters across the world and expedite the formation of new ones based on the concentration and convenience of overseas Rajasthanis. He also asked district collectors to maintain regular coordination with expatriates from their respective districts, aiming to institutionalise engagement beyond ceremonial interactions.

The government plans to organise roadshows in multiple cities to encourage wider participation in



the event, while sector-specific sessions will focus on investment opportunities in renewable energy, tourism and hospitality, urban development, industrial growth, mining, petrochemicals and other key sectors. Officials have been directed to complete

preparations well in advance to ensure focused discussions with investors and business leaders.

In a move aimed at strengthening cultural ties, Sharma called for a special programme in the Shekhawati region dedicated to members of the

Shekhawati diaspora. The Chief Minister noted that the state has identified more than 660 historic havelis in the region for tourism promotion, describing the initiative as an opportunity for overseas Rajasthanis to reconnect with their architect-

tural and cultural roots while contributing to local tourism. The annual Pravasi Rajasthani Diwas was announced by Sharma during the Rising Rajasthan Global Investment Summit on December 10, 2024, with the objective of creating a per-

manent institutional framework for engaging the state's global community. This year's event marks the second edition of the initiative and is expected to deepen the government's outreach to Rajasthanis living across the world.

Chief Secretary V. Srinivas and senior officials from departments including industries, urban development, finance, revenue, agriculture, energy and tourism attended the review meeting, reflecting the government's intention to position the diaspora as a strategic stakeholder in Rajasthan's economic ambitions rather than merely a symbolic constituency.

Nirmal appointed minorities commission chief, Lata gets DCW post

FAIR REPORT
 ■ New Delhi

Nirmal Jain, the new chairperson of the Delhi Minorities Commission, is a former mayor and a veteran BJP leader with five decades association with the RSS. Jain became the first non-Muslim head of the commission formed in 2000. While Delhi BJP vice president and former MCD councillor Lata Gupta has been appointed Chairperson of the Delhi Commission for Women (DCW), which had been lying vacant for more than two years.

Aiming to improve institutional support for women and marginalised sections of society, the Delhi Government appointed new heads and members of the Delhi Commission for Women and

Delhi Minorities Commission on Sunday.

The Minorities Commission had been headless for three years after Jain's predecessor Zakir Khan stepped down in 2023. Kuldeep Singh and Mohammad Haroon have been nominated as its members.

Jain, 70, in his profile shared that he was a volunteer of the Rashtriya Swayam Sewak Sangh (RSS) for 50 years and also associated with Jansangh, the precursor of the BJP, as treasurer of its Shahdara district unit. In 1977, he served as a Vistarak of RSS in Jammu. Jain was associated with Akhil Bhartiya Vidyarthi Parishad, an affiliate of RSS, and took part in student politics at Delhi University, reads his profile.

Jain has been associated with the BJP since the inception of the party in 1980 and



served as president of Shahdara district. In 2007, he won civic body polls from Shahdara ward in the erstwhile East Delhi Municipal Corporation (EDMC). He served as Leader of House in EDMC from 2018 to 2020 and became mayor of East Delhi in 2021. Jain, a commerce and law graduate of DU, has a family business.

The Delhi Minorities Commission was set up under the Delhi Minorities

Commission Act, 1999, passed by the Delhi Legislative Assembly on December 24, 1999, to safeguard the rights and interests of the minority communities. Under the Act, Muslim, Christian, Sikh, Buddhist and Parsi have been notified as minority communities. The "Jain" community was notified as Minority Community in the NCT of Delhi through a notification dated October 13, 2008. The commission comprises a



chairperson and two members from the minority communities of Delhi, nominated by the Delhi government. Kuldeep Singh and Mohammad Haroon have been appointed its members.

The Rekha Gupta government also reconstituted the DCW. Shyam Bala, Malti Verma, Lata Sidhi, Sanrakshika Sharma Jha and Renu Bhalla have been appointed members of the commission, the Chief Minister's Office

(CMO) said in a post on X.

The DCW chairperson's post fell vacant after Swati Maliwal resigned in January 2024 after the then ruling AAP decided to send her to the Rajya Sabha.

According to Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, the Delhi Government is ensuring that women and minority communities receive effective protection of their rights, dignified opportunities and timely justice. She said that

the Delhi Commission for Women and the Delhi Minorities Commission are not merely statutory bodies but important platforms that will strengthen public trust and amplify the voices of the weaker and disadvantaged sections of society.

The Chief Minister expressed confidence that the Chairpersons and Members of both Commissions would discharge their responsibilities with fairness, sensitivity and complete transparency while playing a significant role in the prompt and effective resolution of matters concerning public interest.

According to the Chief Minister, the Delhi Government remains committed to ensuring dignity, safety and equal opportunities for every section of society.

Lata Gupta has consistent-

ly worked in the areas of organisational development, women's empowerment and public welfare.

She has previously served as the general secretary of the Delhi BJP Mahila Morcha and as the district president of the BJP's Shahdara district unit. Owing to her active role in the organisation, leadership abilities and strong public outreach, she has been entrusted with several key responsibilities over the years.

She was elected as a municipal councillor from Shakarpur Ward from 2007 to 2012 and from Pandav Nagar Ward from 2012 to 2017. During her tenure as a public representative, she worked actively on issues related to local development, women's safety, education, sanitation and the expansion of civic amenities.

CM Rekha calls PM Modi undisputed leader of India

FAIR REPORT
 ■ New Delhi

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Sunday described Prime Minister Narendra Modi as the undisputed leader of the world's largest democracy. She said the reason is clear in the steps he has taken on the paper leak issue. She explained what the new law provides and why it matters for students.

In a video message, the Chief Minister said the new provisions include ten years of imprisonment and a Rs 10 crore fine for those found guilty of paper leaks. She added that the properties of the guilty should also be attached. Not just the fine, she said, but everything they own.

She said an examination reform commission has been set up. Its report will be used to ensure the credibility of upcoming examinations. The commission is focused on structural reform of the examination system and will act quickly, she said.

The Chief Minister further



adds that the youth of the country know Modi's track record on policy. From the time he came to power, consistent and decisive action has been the hallmark of his government. That is why the youth stand shoulder to shoulder with him for India's progress. She said India's youth is the country's greatest strength. The Prime Minister has made clear that every student deserves a fair, transparent, and reliable examination system. Protecting students' dreams and aspirations is the government's highest priority.

The video comes one day

after the 36-day CJP protest at Jantar Mantar ended on Saturday. The protest concluded after Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan resigned accepting moral responsibility for the NEET-UG 2026 paper leak.

The legal provisions the Chief Minister described go beyond a standard punitive framework for examination fraud. Ten years in prison addresses the individual. A Rs 10 crore fine addresses the financial gain. Attaching all properties removes whatever wealth the network has accumulated through years of activity. Together, she said,

they are designed to eliminate both the incentive and the capacity for paper leak operations.

Earlier, Delhi BJP President Harsh Malhotra organised a Yuva Samvad session titled Gen-Z with Modi. The event bring together around 50 young students from universities and colleges across Delhi alongside some parents. The participants called the CJP protest at Jantar Mantar inappropriate and alleged that anti-Hindu and anti-national remarks were made during the agitation. The students further discussed the expansion of higher and medical education in India since 2014.

During the two-way interaction, students and Malhotra discussed the development of universities and higher educational institutions between 2014 and 2026, the removal of what participants described as unnecessary chapters from curricula, and the inclusion of chapters of national importance. Students present also signed alongside Malhotra in a show of support.

774 Delhi schools found with safety deficiencies

FAIR REPORT
 ■ New Delhi

Delhi's school safety inspection drive has found deficiencies in 774 of the 1,677 schools inspected between July 13 and July 24 across all categories. The private schools showing the highest rate of non-compliance at 463 deficiencies out of 812 inspected, followed by government schools at 270 out of 790 and Government-aided schools at 41 out of 75, as inspection teams continue their coverage of all 5,633 schools in the capital under a student safety checklist framed in line with NCPCR, DCPCR, and POCSO Act guidelines.

The exercise follows directions issued at a review meeting chaired jointly by Lieutenant Governor Taranjit Singh Sandhu and Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on July 6, where both directed strict, time-bound implementation of Child Safety Month initiatives. Inspections began on July 13 and have been picking up pace, with teams cover-



ing over 150 to 200 schools on several individual days.

The inspection teams are joint panels comprising representatives of parents, the Directorate of Education, the Women and Child Development Department, Delhi Police, and school heads. Schools found to have deficiencies are being flagged for immediate remedial steps, with follow-up verification built into the process to ensure genuine corrective action rather than a one-time paper compliance exercise.

The breakdown across

school categories reveals that private schools account for a disproportionately high share of deficiencies relative to their number in the inspection sample. Of the 812 private schools inspected, 463 were found deficient, a rate of approximately 57 per cent. Among government schools, 270 of 790 inspected were found deficient, a rate of about 34 per cent. Among government-aided schools, 41 of 75 inspected were deficient, a rate of approximately 55 per cent. In absolute terms, private schools account for the

largest share of flagged institutions, an area that officials said inspection teams are monitoring closely.

The Student Safety Checklist against which each school is inspected covers a range of safety parameters across physical infrastructure, fire preparedness, emergency response systems, and child protection protocols aligned with the POCSO Act. Schools found deficient on any parameter are required to undertake corrective steps within a defined timeframe, with follow-up inspection to verify compliance.

The LG and CM at the July 6 review had directed that child safety measures be institutionalised as a permanent feature of every school's functioning rather than remaining confined to Child Protection Month. Officials overseeing the drive said the objective is to ensure a sustained culture of safety, accountability, and preparedness across every educational institution in Delhi.

NDMC removes 60 metric tonnes of waste from Jantar Mantar

FAIR REPORT
 ■ New Delhi

The New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) deployed over 500 officers and employees in an overnight operation at Jantar Mantar and surrounding areas immediately after the CJP protest concluded.

The corporation removes approximately 60 metric tonnes of waste, repainting walls from which protest graffiti had been removed, repairing damaged kerbstones, restoring green belts,

and cleaning Tolstoy Road, Sansad Marg, Jai Singh Road, Janpath, and adjoining areas of Connaught Place, with NDMC Vice Chairperson Kuljeet Singh Chahal personally supervising the work through the night and revisiting the site in the afternoon to review the completed restoration.

Chahal reached Jantar Mantar immediately after the protest concluded on Saturday and remained at the site throughout the night directing officers to complete all works promptly while



maintaining quality standards.

He returned in the afternoon to review the completed works and confirm that the

entire area was clean, safe, and ready for public use.

The operation was conducted jointly by the Health and Sanitation, Civil

Engineering, and Horticulture Departments.

The Civil Engineering Department deployed around 50 workers, using four jetting machines for intensive road and footpath cleaning. Teams removed protest slogans from public walls and repainted the surfaces, repaired damaged kerbstones, and restored footpaths across the affected area.

The Health and Sanitation Department deployed 75 sanitation workers throughout the night, with 35 additional workers joining from the morning onwards.

NDMC paints over graffiti at Jantar Mantar after protest

FAIR REPORT
 ■ New Delhi

The New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) workers on Sunday painted over the graffiti-covered walls around Jantar Mantar, erasing the visual imprint of the student-led protest that forced the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan.

Till Saturday evening, the white boundary wall of the Imperial Hotel lining Tolstoy Marg had ceased to be just another stretch of Lutyens' Delhi. It had become a



NDMC workers clear the protest site at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi

canvas of anger. Walls in and around Jantar Mantar, gates and even tree trunks bore layer upon layer

of graffiti, slogans, sketches and signatures, turning the street into a live exhibition of a generation's rage against the perceived failures of the NDA Government.

The graffiti reflected the vocabulary of a protest driven largely by young people — irreverent, sardonic, often profane and unconstrained by conventional political messaging. References to "god media", calls for "revolution", invocations of B R Ambedkar and direct attacks on senior functionaries of the government sat alongside doodles and memes.

Spray-painted in bright colours, the graffiti ranged from the political to the personal. "Democracy is premium" and "R'evol'ution" appeared alongside the anti-fascist anthem "Bella Ciao", Gen Z's declaration that it "keeps grudges", and the Gandhian invocation, "Hamla chahe jaisa bhi ho, haanthe hamaara nahin uthega."

Many messages targeted the RSS, demanding that it be "banned", while others thanked Lok Sabha Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi for raising the voice of the student protesters.

Police await official nod on withdrawal of FIRs against NEET paper leak protesters

FAIR REPORT
 ■ New Delhi

Following the Centre's assurance that cases against the NEET paper leak protesters would be withdrawn, Delhi Police sources on Sunday said it would take further action only after receiving official communication and guidelines from the competent authority. The source, however, said the announcement regarding withdrawal of the cases would not affect the ongoing investigation into the alleged larger conspiracy behind the clashes.

The source said 15 FIRs have been registered so far at different police stations in the New Delhi district in connection with the July 20 violence and other incidents linked to the ongoing protests.

On Saturday, at a joint press conference with Cockroach Janata Party spokespersons Saurav Das and Abhiseh Ranka, Union minister JP Nadda had said that the government agreed to withdraw FIRs registered against protesters and would provide a written assurance on the agreed demands by Tuesday. "We will act according to the guidelines and official



communication after receiving from the competent authority," the source said.

Police are examining CCTV footage, digital evidence, mobile phone records, and statements of witnesses to reconstruct the sequence of events and identify those suspected of planning, instigating or participating in the violence.

Police have also identified over 2,500-3000 people with criminal backgrounds and bad characters using their facial recognition system (FRS). "It acts as a strong deterrent and allows us to keep a close watch on those who may attempt to misuse the protest to create law and order problems," sources said. Once a face is captured, it is quickly matched with the police database. If a wanted or abscond-

ing accused is detected, the concerned police unit is immediately alerted, and legal action can be initiated without delay," sources said. Police said the technology will also help identify habitual offenders who have repeatedly figured in criminal cases and are listed as "Bad Characters" in Delhi Police records."

More than 200 police personnel and 70 protesters sustained injuries during the July 20 clashes, while several government vehicles and other public property were damaged, they said.

The source said the conspiracy probe would continue irrespective of the proposed withdrawal of the FIRs and all evidence collected during the investigation would be examined as part of the ongoing inquiry.

Sonam Wangchuk to be discharged from Medanta Hospital today

FAIR REPORT
 ■ New Delhi

Activist Sonam Wangchuk will be discharged from Medanta Hospital on Monday and will visit Rajghat to pay homage to Mahatma Gandhi before leaving for Ladakh, his team said. Wangchuk, who is recovering in the hospital in Gurugram after he broke his 26-day fast late Friday night, is expected to be discharged at around 11.30 am on Monday.

After his discharge, he would visit Rajghat before



departing.

He earlier paid homage to Mahatma Gandhi at Rajghat on June 28 before launching his indefinite hunger strike at Jantar Mantar here to support students protesting alleged irregularities in the NEET examination.

Wangchuk had joined the agitation on June 28 and remained on an indefinite fast for 26 days. He was forcibly shifted to Safdarjung Hospital on July 18, where he said he felt like he was being kept in detention.

Following a Delhi high court order, Wangchuk was shifted to Medanta Hospital. The 36-day agitation, led by the Cockroach Janata Party (CJP), ended on Saturday with the resignation of Dharmendra Pradhan as the Education Minister. The protest had begun on June 20.

Two die of asphyxiation while cleaning sewage tank in Noida

FAIR REPORT
 ■ Noida/New Delhi

A worker and a security guard died of asphyxiation after entering a sewage treatment plant (STP) tank at a residential society in Noida's Sector 150, with the security guard losing consciousness while attempting to rescue the worker, police said on Sunday.

The incident occurred on the intervening night of Saturday and Sunday at Eldeco Society under the Knowledge Park Police Station area.

According to police, Shashikant Sharma (40), a resident of Rajasthan's

Karauli district, entered the STP tank to clean it but lost consciousness inside.

A security guard, identified as Akash (22), a resident of Firozabad, entered the tank in an attempt to rescue Sharma but also fell unconscious, police said.

Police said the accident occurred during the cleaning of the STP tank when Shashikant Sharma entered the tank and became unconscious. Seeing him collapse, security guard Akash entered the tank in an attempt to rescue him but also lost consciousness.

Following information about the incident, police and fire department person-



nel rushed to the spot and launched a rescue operation. Both men were pulled out of the tank and immediately taken to a nearby hospital for treatment. However, doctors declared both of them dead.

Police said the bodies have

been sent for postmortem examination after completion of inquest proceedings.

A case has been registered, and the Knowledge Park police have arrested the accused contractor, Manoj Jain. Further legal proceed-

ings are being carried out, police added.

Investigators are examining whether adequate safety equipment, including protective gear and gas detection devices, had been provided to the workers before they entered the confined space. Police are also looking into compliance with prescribed safety norms for maintenance work involving sewage treatment facilities.

Meanwhile, the latest incident comes after another tragic accident in the same police station area. A six-year-old boy died after falling into a nearly 15-foot-deep water-filled pit at Kala Dham Society.

GRAPEVINE

Kare koyi, bhare koyi

The repeated reshuffles of officers has come as setback of Education Ministry, as the buzz is that they were made scapegoats for none of their fault rather 'forced' to dance to the guided tunes. Career bureaucrat Vineet Joshi was replaced by Naresh Pal Gangwar as the education secretary amid mounting multiple criticism of the education ministry including exam irregularities. First under scrutiny was problems in CBSE's introduction of on-screen marking (OSM) and then NEET-UG paper leak. While Joshi is credited to have rolled out several reforms in CBSE like Teachers' Eligibility Test (CTET), rolling out CUET through NTA which he headed for two years, Sanjay Kumar faced backlash at the fag-end of his career and was tipped to be the next NITI Ayoag CEO post retirement on June 30. Another career bureaucrat Rahul Singh from Bihar cadre was removed as CBSE Chairman who is understood to be against the digital evaluation system initially until forced to roll out.



Troubles galore for some now!

Now that the protest by cockroaches are over, the BJP IT cell has been tasked to identify from the social media platforms about the wards of people in bureaucracy who participated in the Gen Z protest at Jantar Mantar. Few on the target include entire family members of two AGMUT cadre IPS officers who took part in the CJP protest. Simultaneously, grapevine has it that, PMO has got annoyed about the 'leak' of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's instructions to his Cabinet colleagues to go aggressively on Instagram. It is being worked out who from the cabinet meeting last week shared to a TV media about PM's advice for a better modern youth political outreach.



Pellet guns used?

After the Cockroach Janata Party (CJP) strike is over, the security agencies are keeping silence over the demand on probe whether Pellet Guns were used during Jantar Mantar strike. Opposition leaders, media organisations have brought out the videos of injured people. Government hospitals which treated the injured people are keeping stony silence. Grapevine has it that the Pellet Guns and shock providing batons are not used by Delhi Police, which first jump to say that they never used such weapons. CRPF is keeping silence as it is a well known secret that its Rapid Action Force (RAF) faced similar allegations in usage of such weapons in Kashmir. Will Home Ministry order a probe is the question, which creates trouble for security agencies?



In between the resignation!

While the Government remained adamant that Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation as Education Minister was "not possible", grapevine has it that in the second meeting between Centre and CJP it was conveyed that if resignation demand is not accepted then the protestors would officially announce Gherao and march to Parliament. According to sources, the matter first gained momentum when representatives of CJP met BJP senior leader and Union Minister JP Nadda at his residence where they were conveyed except the resignation issue talk on other points were acceptable. The threatening of march towards Parliament is believed to be turning point in consideration of Pradhan's resignation as the city had already witnessed repercussions when the CJP protestors had rushed to Parliament followed by sit in protest by opposition leaders in front of PM's residence.



2 Delhi men held in Kerala over fake ministerial berth offer scam

FAIR REPORT
 ■ Kozhikode (Kerala)

Cyber police have arrested two Delhi natives in connection with an alleged attempt to dupe some Kerala MPs and an MLA by promising them ministerial berths in the state cabinet in return for ₹3 crore. The two accused-Nitin and Gaurav-were brought to Kozhikode from New Delhi on a transit remand on Sunday morning, an officer of the Kozhikode Cyber Police Station said. They were arrested following a complaint by Elathur MLA K Vidya Balakrishnan, who alleged that a person posing as the private secretary to Wayanad Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra had called her and offered her a ministerial berth in exchange for ₹3 crore, police said. Similar calls were allegedly made to Kerala MPs Shafi Parambil and Dean Kuriakose. A complaint in this regard was lodged by DS Rajkumar, private secretary to Vadra, with the state police chief and the Wayanad Superintendent of Police, following which an

FIR was registered. Rajkumar alleged that the accused had misused his identity and the name of the MP's office in an attempt to cheat the public representatives by demanding money from them. According to police, Balakrishnan received a WhatsApp call at around 2 pm on July 6 from a person who introduced himself as Rajkumar from Vadra's office in New Delhi. The caller allegedly claimed that a cabinet reshuffle was likely in Kerala and that she could be made a minister if she paid ₹3 crore. Police said the conversation, which was in English, lasted about 10 minutes. Balakrishnan grew suspicious of the caller's claims during the conversation. The caller allegedly told her that she had been recommended by another MP from Kozhikode. After the call, Balakrishnan contacted the MP, who told her that a person claiming to be from the AICC office had sought the contact details of her and another MLA, police said.

Exam panel attempt to fix PM's image: Congress

FAIR REPORT
 ■ New Delhi

The Congress on Sunday derided the Modi Government's committee on exam reforms as a "high-powered attempt to fix the Pradhan Mantri's irretrievably compromised image." Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday announced the constitution of a high-powered task force, headed by Infosys co-founder Nandan Nilekani, on forging reforms for the examinations conducted by the National Testing Agency. The task force will give suggestions on maximum use of technology for setting up a robust and transparent examination system, Modi said in a video message posted on Instagram.

Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said, "Friends, in June 2024, after it bungled multiple examinations including NEET-UG, the Modi Government constituted a High-Level Committee of Experts headed by K Radhakrishnan to 'ensure transparent, smooth and fair conduct of examinations.'" In July 2026, the Modi Governmentbungled the NEET-UG and other exams and has now constituted another "High Powered Task Force", he said on X. Ramesh said the new committee comes even as the Modi Governmenthas still not finished implementing the K Radhakrishnan Committee's 101 recommendations. For most of the two years between the 2024 and 2026



Opposition Leader in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, Congress MP KC Venugopal, Samajwadi Party (SP) MPs Akhilesh Yadav, Dharmendra Yadav and Awadhesh Prasad, TMC MP Saugata Roy and Mahua Mitra, JMM MP Mahua Maji and other opposition leaders stage a protest wearing black clothes to express solidarity with students protesting against the NEET paper leak issue during the Monsoon session of Parliament in New Delhi on Wednesday

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paper leaks, it didn't even appoint a full-time director general for the National Testing Agency, he said. "This is ultimately only a

High-Powered attempt to fix the Pradhan Mantri's irretrievably compromised image," the Congress leader said.

According to the government, a multidisciplinary group of domain experts will be a part of the task force. Besides Nilekani, its other

Youths should visit border villages to understand India, instead of depending on virtual means: PM

FAIR REPORT
 ■ New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said the objective of the Viksit Vibrant Village (VVV) programme, under which youths visit border villages and live with local communities, is to give opportunities to youngsters to step onto the ground to understand and connect with India instead of relying on virtual means. Interacting with the participants, many of whom belong to Gen Z, of the VVV programme 2026 that covered 74 'vibrant villages' across Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, Modi said in the country's border villages, the aspiration for development and the spirit of patriotism are equally cherished. At times, it feels that for these people the country matters more than themselves. The prime minister said that during the Developed India Young Leaders



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Dialogue, he had presented an idea before the youth. "The idea was that why not have the youth, instead of using virtual medium, step onto the ground to know India, connect with India, try to live India, and understand India," he said. Modi said there are so many aspirations for development in India's villages and these can be understood by visiting these villages. In his virtual interaction

even more expansive. The prime minister, however, did not refer to the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP)-led protests over the NEET paper leak issue which concluded on Saturday after the resignation of Dharmendra Pradhan as Education Minister and the acceptance of the protesters' other demands by the government. The participants were largely mobilised through various virtual mediums, including Instagram, and protesters mostly belonged to Gen Z. Modi said the aim of the VVV programme was that youth from different districts of the country should travel to the villages of Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Ladakh. "When the youth of the country connects with the land, it makes the vision of a developed India even more expansive. This youth, in their heart, strengthens the resolve to live for the country, to do something for the country," he said.

Rahul asks Amit Shah: Did you approve pellet guns on students?

FAIR REPORT
 ■ New Delhi

Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi has written to Home Minister Amit Shah, demanding accountability for the "barbaric assault" on peacefully protesting students here and asking whether he approved the use of "lethal force", including pellet guns, against the youth. In his letter to Shah, Gandhi said the country is demanding answers. He said peaceful protest is crucial to any democracy and it is the Government's responsibility to protect protestors and resolve their grievances through dialogue. "Such brutal violence



destroys every norm, and has outraged the country. Youth and students, the future of our country, are demanding answers and accountability. Their voice will be heard," the former Congress chief said.

Pralhad Joshi assumes charge as Union Education Minister

FAIR REPORT
 ■ New Delhi

Union Minister Pralhad Joshi on Sunday assumed charge as the Union Education Minister, a day after President Droupadi Murmu accepted the resignation of Dharmendra Pradhan and assigned him the additional responsibility of the ministry. Joshi said he was reviewing the ministry's functioning and familiarising himself with the department, describing education as "a new subject" for him. Speaking to media after assuming office, Joshi said Prime Minister Narendra Modi had entrusted him with the responsibility and that he would take time to under-

stand the ministry before making detailed comments. "The Prime Minister has entrusted me with this responsibility with full confidence. I was in Karnataka and I reached Delhi immediately and came this morning to take charge. I have assumed charge. I am reviewing all the details here and the decisions that need to be taken. I have been gathering information and trying to understand the functioning of the entire ministry. We had continuous meetings today. This is a new subject for me. I have taken charge today and held detailed discussions with the senior officers. It is a very big department, so I will speak to you in detail after I have understood it completely,"



Union Minister Pralhad Joshi during a meeting as he takes charge as education minister in New Delhi. Joshi has been given additional charge of the education ministry besides his role as the consumer affairs minister

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Joshi said. Joshi has been given additional charge of the education ministry besides his role as the consumer affairs minister. Pradhan resigned

from his post on Saturday following the Cockroach Janta Party-led student protests across the country, demanding his ouster over the NEET paper leak controversy.

Transgender leader Sanjana Singh broadens Datia bypoll debate with focus on inclusion

FAIR REPORT ■ Bhopal

Amid a high-profile electoral contest between the BJP and the Congress in Madhya Pradesh's Datia Assembly by-election, one candidate has succeeded in shifting part of the campaign narrative beyond traditional political equations. Sanjana Singh, a transgender leader, former Governmentemployee and Mahamandalshwar of the Kinnar Akhara, is contesting the election with a message centred on inclusion, dignity and political representation for the transgender community. While the bypoll remains largely a bipolar contest, Sanjana's candidature has attracted considerable public attention and sparked conversations on the participation of transgender persons in mainstream politics. Sanjana, who is widely recognised as Madhya Pradesh's first transgender Governmentemployee, says her decision to enter electoral politics is aimed at ensuring that members of



the transgender community have a meaningful voice in policy-making rather than remaining confined to symbolic roles. She believes the democratic process should reflect the diversity of Indian society and offer equal opportunities to every citizen, irrespective of gender identity. Unlike the resource-intensive campaigns mounted by major political parties,

Sanjana has adopted a grassroots approach, travelling across villages and urban localities, meeting residents door-to-door and interacting directly with voters. Her campaign focuses on issues such as education, employment, women's safety, healthcare, social justice and the welfare of economically weaker sections. She has repeatedly said her election campaign is not confined to the concerns of the transgender community but is aimed at addressing the aspirations of all sections of society. Her campaign has also received support from members of the Kinnar Akhara and transgender community from different parts of the country, adding a unique social dimension to the Datia bypoll. Political observers say that although Sanjana may not alter the arithmetic of the contest, her presence has broadened the debate on political inclusion and equal representation. Madhya Pradesh has played a pioneering role in transgender political repre-

sentation. In 1998, Shabnam Mausi scripted history by becoming India's first openly transgender MLA after winning the Sohagpur Assembly seat in Shahdol district as an Independent candidate. During her tenure, she became a prominent advocate for the rights of marginalised communities and remains one of the country's most recognised transgender political figures. Since then, several transgender candidates have entered the electoral arena in the state. Candidates have contested Assembly, municipal and local body elections from cities including Bhopal, Indore, Jabalpur and Gwalior, though electoral success has largely remained elusive. Even so, their participation has steadily expanded the visibility of the transgender community in democratic politics and challenged long-standing social barriers. Against this backdrop, Sanjana's candidature represents another significant chapter in Madhya Pradesh's evolving political landscape.

Pradhan offered to resign on day one of NEET agitation: MP minister Vijayvargiya

FAIR REPORT
 ■ Indore

Madhya Pradesh minister Kailash Vijayvargiya has claimed that Dharmendra Pradhan had expressed his willingness to resign as Union Education Minister on the very first day of the student agitation over alleged examination irregularities and the NEET paper leak. Speaking to mediapersons here on Saturday, Vijayvargiya said Pradhan had informed the BJP president that he was prepared to step down if the party considered it necessary. However, according to the minister, the party leadership asked him not to resign or discuss the matter until a formal decision was taken. "Pradhan had told the BJP president on the very first day of the agitation that if the party felt his resignation was necessary, he was ready to quit. The party president advised him to wait, saying no decision had been taken and asked



MP minister Kailash Vijayvargiya

him not to submit his resignation or speak about it publicly," Vijayvargiya said. He added that once the party leadership decided Pradhan should step down, the former Education Minister resigned immediately. Vijayvargiya said Pradhan had carried out every responsibility entrusted to him with honesty and dedication. He also claimed that the resignation had "foiled the designs of foreign forces" that allegedly wanted to destabilise India through violence, drawing comparisons with developments in Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.

