

# FAIR REPORT

THE DAWN OF A FEARLESS PEN

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## Udaipur Gets ₹421-Crore Push as Rajasthan Bets on Water, Jobs and Infrastructure to Power Its 2047 Vision

FAIR REPORT  
UDAIPUR

Positioning development as the cornerstone of Rajasthan's long-term growth strategy, Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma on Sunday unveiled projects worth 421 crore in Udaipur, combining infrastructure expansion, healthcare, education, water security and tribal welfare with a broader pitch for investment-led economic transformation.

Addressing a public function after inaugurating and laying the foundation stones for 457 development works, Sharma said the state was moving on a clearly defined roadmap centred on water, power, roads, employment and industrial growth, with the objective of building a developed Rajasthan by 2047.

The Chief Minister high-

lighted the government's focus on large-scale water infrastructure, saying work on the Ramjal Setu Link Project was progressing rapidly and would ensure reliable water supply for households, agriculture and industry. He also credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi's intervention for enabling the Yamuna water agreement benefiting the Shekhawati region, while asserting that the long-pending Dewas Project for Udaipur and adjoining areas had also gathered momentum.

Energy security featured prominently in the government's development narrative. Sharma said Rajasthan had signed 2.24 lakh crore worth of agreements with public sector enterprises to strengthen electricity generation and transmission.



The government aims to provide daytime electricity to farmers across all districts by 2027, with 26 districts already covered. Expansion of grid substations and the PM-KUSUM scheme, he said, were helping farmers become power producers alongside food producers.

Projecting Rajasthan as an emerging investment destination, the Chief Min-

ister said the Rising Rajasthan Global Investment Summit had attracted investment commitments worth 35 lakh crore, of which projects worth nearly 9 lakh crore had already begun taking shape on the ground.

Employment generation was another key focus of the address. Sharma said the government had already issued appointments

to more than 1.78 lakh candidates, while recruitment for another 1.32 lakh posts was underway. Preparations had also begun for filling over 70,000 additional vacancies, taking the total number of government recruitment opportunities facilitated so far to around 3.8 lakh posts. He maintained that all recruitment examinations had been conducted transparently and

added that the private sector had generated approximately 4.5 lakh employment opportunities.

For Udaipur district, the package included the inauguration of 21 major projects worth over 47 crore, including a modern cath lab at RNT Medical College, a rehabilitation home for senior citizens, a government girls' college building, a Scheduled Caste girls' hostel, drainage infrastructure, a primary health centre, public health units, a sports facility and urban infrastructure works.

The Chief Minister also laid foundation stones for 436 projects worth over 373 crore, including a maternal and child wing at Maharana Bhupal Hospital, a modern sewerage system in Bhuvana, a new district hospital building at Bhin-

der, tribal hostels, residential quarters for police personnel, bridges, roads and multiple civic infrastructure projects across the district. Expanding on the state's infrastructure agenda, Sharma said Rajasthan had developed nearly 49,200 kilometres of road network through investments exceeding 34,000 crore. Work was also progressing on nine greenfield expressways spanning around 2,750 kilometres, while thousands of kilometres of new roads and rural connectivity projects had been completed.

The Chief Minister also underlined the government's emphasis on agriculture, dairy and cooperative development, saying food processing, village infrastructure and expansion of cooperative institutions

would create employment while strengthening the rural economy.

Tribal Area Development Minister Babulal Kharadi said the government was ensuring that development reached the last person in the queue, while Revenue Minister Hemant Meena said ongoing water projects would significantly improve both drinking water availability and irrigation infrastructure across the state.

Among those present at the event were Members of Parliament Mannalal Rawat and Chunnilal Garasia, legislators Phool Singh Meena, Pratap Lal Bheel, Uday Lal Dangi and Tarachand Jain, Chief Secretary V. Srinivas, former minister Rajendra Rathore and several public representatives.

### 70 Days of Disruption: 13 Rajasthan-Bound Trains to Skip Delhi Cantt Station

FAIR REPORT  
NEW DELHI

In a move set to inconvenience thousands of daily commuters, the Railways has announced that 13 trains bound for Rajasthan will not halt at Delhi Cantt railway station for the next 70 days, as redevelopment work gathers pace.

The order, which came into effect Saturday, is tied to the upgradation of platforms 2 and 3 at the station and will remain in force until October 13. Among the affected services are the Jodhpur-Delhi Sarai Rohilla and Jaipur-Delhi Sarai Rohilla Double Decker trains — two of the busiest links between the national capital and Rajasthan.

For passengers who rely on Delhi Cantt as a convenient boarding or alighting point, the suspension means rerouting travel plans for over two



months, with no immediate word from Railways on alternative arrangements for stranded commuters at the station.

While infrastructure upgrades are aimed at improving long-term passenger experience, the near-term disruption underscores a familiar pattern: modernization drives that arrive with minimal advance notice and limited contingency planning for daily travellers.

Passengers are advised to check updated train schedules before travel.

### 'Ram ki Sita Thi, Modi ki Sita Kaun Hai?': Pramod Tiwari's Remark Triggers Political Storm, BJP Alleges Insult to Hindu Faith

FAIR REPORT  
NEW DELHI

A political controversy erupted after senior Congress leader Pramod Tiwari, while targeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi during a political address, made a remark invoking Bhagwan Ram and Mata Sita, prompting sharp criticism from the BJP, which accused the Congress of disrespecting Hindu religious sentiments.

In a video that has circulated widely on social media, Tiwari is heard saying, "Ram ki Sita thi, Modi ki Sita kaun hai?" The comment drew immediate reactions from BJP leaders and supporters, who alleged that the Congress leader had unnecessarily invoked revered religious figures while attacking the Prime Minister.

The BJP argued that political disagreements should remain confined to



governance and public policy, accusing the Congress of crossing a line by bringing deities into parti-

san political discourse. Several party functionaries demanded that the Congress clarify its position

and take action against Tiwari if it did not endorse the remarks.

The Congress had not immediately announced any disciplinary action or issued an official clarification on the controversy at the time of writing.

The episode has reignited a familiar debate over the use of religious symbolism in Indian politics. While political parties routinely invoke historical and religious figures in public campaigns, critics argue that references involving revered deities can quickly inflame public sentiment and deepen political polarisation.

With elections approaching in several states, the controversy is likely to sharpen the war of words between the BJP and the Congress, adding another flashpoint to an already charged political landscape.

### Salute Seen Across the Border: Viral Video Shows Pakistani Ranger Honouring Indian Officer at Attari-Wagah



FAIR REPORT  
NEW DELHI

A moment of unexpected warmth at one of the world's most heavily militarized borders has set social media alight. A video from the Attari-Wagah border shows a Pakistani Ranger snapping to attention and saluting a senior Indian officer — a gesture returned in kind by Indian Army personnel standing nearby.

The clip, now circulating widely online, captures a rare flash of mutual respect amid the choreographed rivalry that usually defines the daily Beat-

ing Retreat ceremony at the border: Comments have poured in, with one user writing that it warmed the heart, and another calling it real military discipline.

While the Attari-Wagah ceremony is famous for its display of aggressive posturing between the two forces, moments like this occasionally surface — reminders that beneath the theatre, protocol and soldierly courtesy still hold. The video's authenticity and exact date have not been independently verified beyond the social media posts it originated from.

## Congress's Rajasthan Rebuild: Organization Over Optics, But Will It Translate to Votes?



Hemraj Tikamchand Tiwari

By Special Feature Desk

While Rajasthan's political discourse this year has been dominated by viral clips and personal barbs, Congress has quietly been running a very different kind of campaign — one measured not in soundbites but

in appointment letters.

Under the "Sangathan Srijan Abhiyan" (Organization Creation Campaign), launched by the All India Congress Committee, the party has been rebuilding its Rajasthan unit from the ground up, district by district. By January this year, the party had named district presidents in 49 of the state's 50 organizational districts — including Sunil Sharma in Jaipur City, a former Lok Sabha candidate who had returned his own ticket; Digvijay Singh Purawat in Pratapgarh; Virendra Singh Gurjar in Jhalawar; and

### CONGRESS'S RAJASTHAN REBUILD

ORGANIZATION OVER OPTICS, BUT WILL IT TRANSLATE TO VOTES?

**SANGATHAN SRIJAN ABHIYAN**  
Congress Rebuilding from the Ground Up

By January 2025, district presidents appointed in 49 of 50 organizational districts.

Consultation-based appointments based on Rahul Gandhi's rai-shumari approach.

New faces, local leaders, and grassroots connect at the core.

Only Rajasmand district appointment still pending.

**KEY APPOINTMENTS**

- Sunil Sharma  
Jaipur City  
(Former LS Candidate)
- Digvijay Singh Purawat  
Pratapgarh
- Virendra Singh Gurjar  
Jhalawar
- Hansraj Meena  
Baran

**THE HARDER QUESTION**

- Factionalism, old guard vs new guard — the faultlines remain.
- Appointments don't automatically build unity or booth strength.
- BJP facing turbulence — a political window is open.

**SANGATHAN SE SHAKTI, SHAKTI SE PARIVARTAN.**  
From Appointments to Accountability.  
RAJASTHAN DESERVES MORE THAN JUST ANNOUNCEMENTS. IT DESERVES DELIVERY.

Hansraj Meena in Baran. Only Rajasmand's appointment remained pending.

The selections, party sources say, followed a consultation-based formula pushed by Rahul Gandhi — rai-shumari, or grassroots soundings — rather than top-down diktat, a break from the patronage-driven appointments that have historically plagued Congress's state units.

PCC chief Govind Singh Dotasra has been visible on the ground pushing the message beyond paperwork. At a MGNREGA worksite in Pushkar's Farkiya village in May, Dotasra

picked up a shovel alongside labourers — flanked by Leader of Opposition Tikaram Jooli and district unit chiefs — in a symbolic pairing of organizational renewal with grassroots welfare politics.

The harder question Structural rebuilding is necessary, but it is not sufficient. Congress's Rajasthan unit has cycled through factional infighting for years, and appointing district presidents does not by itself resolve the deeper tensions — between old guard loyalists and younger aspirants, between competing power centres within the state

unit — that have historically undercut the party's electoral machinery ahead of crucial contests.

The BJP government under CM Bhajan Lal Sharma, meanwhile, is dealing with its own turbulence — from the Hanuman Beniwal-CM slugfest to the NEET-UG paper leak fallout reshaping youth politics. That gives Congress an opening. Whether the Sangathan Srijan Abhiyan converts booth-level appointments into booth-level votes will be the real test — one that won't be answered by press releases, but by turnout.

GRAPEVINE

Chanakya’s August 5

August 5 and the ensuing Monsoon Session has once again triggered speculation as to what special or a major announcement may be on platter for the nation. Retrospectively, the landmark abrogation of Article 370 in 2019 and the historic Ram Mandir foundation laying ceremony in 2020 were done on same date hence grapevine has it the Modi Government is preparing to introduce a major Bill in Parliament on August 5. While details regarding the content remains a secret, speculation ranges from comprehensive governance overhauls and key socio-economic reforms to significant legal updates. The chances of one transformative One Nation One Election which top on agenda has now been deferred to Winter Session. A tight lipped BJP camp however is guessing that Home Minister Amit Shah, key strategist and christened as Chanakya, must be having some surprises stored which only he would know and not even his entire concerned department except top couple of officers.



Why doesn’t Cabinet Secretary want an extension?

Bureaucracy is abuzz with rumours why Cabinet Secretary TV Somanathan avoids extension of service. For time immemorial, Cabinet Secretaries get extensions after extensions as they are close in working with Prime Ministers. Somanathan is so preferred by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and would be asked to continue, says many top officials. According to them, recently in a get-together Swaminathan is believed to have spoke against extension culture which spoils chance of others. Many believe PM will insist the Cabinet Secretary to continue.



Shivakumar leads all-party meet on Cauvery

FAIR REPORT  
■ Bengaluru

Karnataka Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Sunday asserted that his Government was committed to protecting the interests of the State's farmers and people on the Cauvery issue, while appealing to organisations to withdraw the proposed State-wide bandh.

He also said Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay has agreed to postpone his visit to Bengaluru following a request from the Karnataka Government in view of the prevailing Cauvery water dispute, describing the gesture as one that would help maintain a cordial atmosphere between the two States.

The two leaders were supposed to meet on Monday to discuss the Cauvery issue but Shivakumar had appealed to Vijay to defer his visit so as to hold talks in a more conducive atmosphere, as protests were happening across the State over the inter-State dispute earlier this week. Pro-Kannada organisations have

given a call for Karnataka Bandh on August 13 against the Cauvery Water Management Authority's order on Thursday upholding the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee's order on releasing 3,500 cusecs of water for 15 days to Tamil Nadu.

Addressing reporters on Sunday after chairing an all-party meet on Cauvery, Shivakumar said there was no need for protests as rainfall had improved the situation and all political parties had extended support and such a bandh would not benefit anyone.

The CM said the Government would continue to take decisions within the legal framework, prioritise drinking water needs, consult legal and agricultural experts, and closely monitor the evolving water situation before taking any further steps.

"Our Government remains fully committed to protecting the interests of Karnataka's farmers on the Cauvery issue," he said. Stating that he too hailed from the Cauvery basin and was a farmer's son, Shivakumar said there should be no



Karnataka CM DK Shivakumar, former chief minister Siddaramaiah, and others during an all-party meeting to chalk out the State's legal and political strategy on the Cauvery water-sharing dispute with Tamil Nadu, following the CWRC's direction to release 3,500 cusecs of water daily for 15 days in Bengaluru on Sunday

PTI

constructing a balancing reservoir across river Cauvery at Mekedatu in the State and Tamil Nadu is opposed to it saying its interests would be harmed if the dam took shape.

Karnataka had received only about 30 to 35 per cent of normal rainfall so far and continued to remain under the shadow of drought, prompting the Government to advise farmers to remain patient until scientific guidance was issued, he said. The chief minister said the CWRC and CWMA had directed Karnataka to release 3,500 cusecs of water for 15 days, while Tamil Nadu had sought 9 TMC of water.

Sharing the latest reservoir position, Shivakumar said Kabini was receiving an inflow of 24,000 cusecs, KRS 22,000 cusecs, Hemavathi 11,884 cusecs and Harangi 10,430 cusecs, taking the total inflow to around 67,178 cusecs. He stressed that Karnataka must reserve 40 TMC of water for drinking purposes, with at least 36 TMC being essential and another four TMC kept as contingency.

BJP, JD(S) caution Karnataka Govt against complacency over Cauvery rains

FAIR REPORT  
■ Bengaluru

Opposition BJP and the JD(S) on Sunday urged the Karnataka Government to vigorously defend the State's interests before the Supreme Court, prioritise farmers over reservoir storage after the recent rains, and provide immediate compensation to cultivators who suffered crop losses due to water scarcity.



At the all-party meeting on the Cauvery water-sharing issue convened by Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy and BJP MP Basavaraj Bommai said the recent rainfall should not be seen as a permanent solution to the dispute.

They called for better water management and protection of Karnataka's drinking water and irrigation interests.

"We should not become complacent just because the rains have filled the reservoirs. Water should first be supplied to farmers, and the Government must immediately announce fair compensation for farmers who have suffered crop losses," Kumaraswamy said.

Addressing the all-party meeting, Kumaraswamy, who is the JD(S) second-in-command, said the rainfall had brought only temporary

relief, and the Government should remain vigilant.

"It is true that the rains have come to our rescue. But we should not lower our guard in the coming days. Along with ensuring drinking water, it is the Government's responsibility to provide water to farmers. We should not behave as though we have escaped the crisis simply because it has rained," he said.

8 dead, 13 injured, 8 missing following rains: Kerala CM

FAIR REPORT  
■ Thiruvananthapuram

Kerala Chief Minister VD Satheesan on Sunday said that eight people have died, an equal number are missing and 13 were injured in the previous day's heavy rains which caused property damage, landslides and waterlogging in many parts of the State.

In a statement issued by his office, Satheesan also said that 27 houses were completely destroyed, 196 homes were partially damaged and 5,792 people have been shifted to the 209 relief camps set up across the State.

The Government will ensure assistance to the families of the deceased and those who have lost their homes and livelihoods, he further said. The CM said that despite the reduction in rainfall since the previous day, people should be vigilant, especially in the hilly areas. He also said that people's representatives and volunteers were actively involved in relief efforts.

Satheesan further said that he was communicating with Revenue Minister AP Anilkumar and other ministers



Search operation underway for a man swept away in the Kanjirappuzha river in Kannur, Kerala on Sunday

PTI

assigned to various districts as well as the local administrations in connection with rain-related relief efforts.

The CM said that the subsidising or reduction in rainfall in many parts of the State was a relief and cleaning activities have started in the areas that were flooded or waterlogged.

He urged workers and activists of political parties and voluntary organisations to participate in the cleaning activities and assured all support of the Government for the same.

Anilkumar, while speaking to reporters here, also said that following the heavy rains the previous day which caused widespread damage

and waterlogging in the State, the situation was improving and was under control.

The minister said that damaged roads have been restored for travel in many places, while in some areas there were restrictions on vehicular movements.

He further said that in view of the heavy rainfall, alerts have already been issued for the day in many districts, and preparations to deal with them are in place.

According to the Kerala State Disaster Management Authority (KSDMA), the State received upto 320 mm of rainfall in some parts on Saturday, leading to waterlogging of roads and low-lying areas.

RAHUL CONDOLES KERALA RAIN DEATHS, URGES RELIEF EFFORTS

**New Delhi:** In view of the devastation in Kerala due to heavy rains, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday said the State Government is making every possible effort to support affected families and coordinate relief and recovery operations.

He also urged all Congress workers and volunteers to assist these efforts. "Deeply saddened by the devastation caused by heavy rains across Kerala, My heartfelt condolences to the families of the eight people who have lost their lives. May those still missing be found safe, and the injured make a swift recovery," Gandhi said on social media.

"The State Government is making every possible effort to support affected families and coordinate relief and recovery operations. I urge all Congress workers and volunteers to assist these efforts in every possible way," he said. (PTI)

Sheikh Hasina to make first public appearance in 2 years in New Delhi

FAIR REPORT  
■ New Delhi

Ousted Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will make her first public appearance in nearly two years on Wednesday, addressing a media event in New Delhi as she prepares for a dramatic return to Bangladesh in December.

Hasina, who has been living in India since her Government was toppled by a student-led uprising in August 2024, is scheduled to speak at a programme organised by the Foreign Correspondents' Club of South Asia (FCC South Asia).

The event, set for August 5 from 6 PM to 7.30 PM at the Sir Mark Tully Auditorium on Mathura Road, will be live-streamed on the club's social media platforms.

The former Prime Minister is expected to outline her future plans during the interaction. Joining her on the occasion will be a prominent group of Bangladeshi figures, including her son and former ICT Adviser Sajeeb Wazed Joy, ex-Education Minister Mohibul



Hasan Chowdhury Nowfel, former cricketer and ex-MP Shakib Al Hasan, diplomat Aminul Hoque Polash, counterterrorism analyst Abu Obaidha Arin, and human rights advocates Mohammad Ali Siddique and Shah Md Bakhtiar.

The session will be chaired by Dr Wailel Awwad, President of FCC South Asia and the International Association of Press Clubs.

The timing of the event coincides with the second anniversary of the 2024 protests that ended Hasina's long political dominance. She faces a death sentence in

Bangladesh over allegations related to the crackdown on the student movement.

In a recent interview with Reuters, Hasina declared her intention to return to Dhaka in December and surrender to authorities. Facing the possibility of arrest or worse, the 78-year-old leader said she remains determined to go back.

"They may arrest me on my return, they may even kill me. Still, I have to go," Hasina was quoted as saying. "My party leaders and workers are being subjected to tremendous repression. If death comes, I want it to come on

my own soil, where my parents are buried and where their blood was shed." She added that several Awami League leaders and workers plan to return with her.

Hasina's potential homecoming is likely to intensify political tensions in Bangladesh, where the interim Government is still working to restore stability following two years of upheaval.

It could also test relations with India, which has faced repeated demands from Dhaka for her extradition.

In April this year, India's Ministry of External Affairs stated that it was examining Bangladesh's extradition request while expressing its desire to strengthen bilateral ties with the new administration in Dhaka.

Hasina has maintained a low profile since arriving in India, avoiding public events and formal media engagements until now.

Her appearance on Wednesday is being closely watched as a significant political statement ahead of her planned return.

India making big strides in manufacturing, innovation, green energy: Kishan Reddy

FAIR REPORT  
■ Hyderabad

India is making significant strides in manufacturing, innovation, green energy and sustainable mobility under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Minister G Kishan Reddy said on Sunday.

Unveiling Telangana-based KETO Motors' "first commercial electric bus", Reddy said in a post on X that the launch reflected the growing strength of India's indigenous manufacturing capabilities and the country's



commitment to building an Aatmanirbhar Bharat. "The launch of KETO

Motors' first commercial electric bus reflects the growing strength of India's indige-

nous manufacturing capabilities and our commitment to building an Aatmanirbhar Bharat," the union minister for Coal and Mines said.

According to Reddy, electric mobility is not merely an alternative to conventional transport. It is also key to enhancing India's energy security, reducing pollution, lowering dependence on fuel imports and promoting technological self-reliance.

He said the Central Government remained committed to strengthening the entire EV ecosystem, from manufacturing vehicles and batteries to expanding charg-

ing infrastructure, research and skill development.

Reddy said Telangana-based enterprises were making a valuable contribution to the country's electric mobility drive by developing indigenous solutions that strengthen public transport, generate employment and promote sustainable economic growth.

The launch of KETO Motors' "first commercial electric bus" marked a major milestone for the company and highlighted the growing strength of India's commercial EV ecosystem, he added.

40,000 registrations in 2 hours as advance safari booking opens in Ranthambore

FAIR REPORT  
■ Jaipur

Advance safari bookings for the upcoming tourism season at Ranthambore Tiger Reserve witnessed an overwhelming response from domestic and foreign tourists, with nearly 40,000 registrations within two hours of its opening, officials said on Sunday.

According to the Ranthambore administration, the booking window for safaris scheduled between October 1 and December 31 this year opened at 12 noon on August 1. Within two hours, around 40,000 tourists registered. Of this, around 14,000 were foreign visitors.

Officials said a large number of users accessed the official portal simultaneously, leading to a sharp surge in traffic. However, the portal — along with verification, booking processes and live reporting systems — functioned smoothly even during peak hours.

According to the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Ranthambore, Manas Singh, a key feature of the new system was that seats remained available across various safari options even two hours after the bookings opened. "Seats



were still available for several dates, including peak periods such as Diwali and Christmas holidays. Real-time seat availability on the portal enabled tourists to choose dates and safari options conveniently, making the process more transparent and user-friendly," he said.

Despite heavy digital traffic, multiple cyber attack attempts and unauthorised activities were detected and successfully blocked by the system, he said.

"During the booking process, around 20 lakh suspicious cyber attack attempts, over 150 suspicious IP addresses and more than two crore fake requests were blocked. Despite this, the portal functioned normally throughout," Singh said.

For the first time, foreign tourists were allowed to

directly book safaris from their respective countries through the official portal, he said, adding that the move showed encouraging results on the very first day.

Foreign tourists accounted for nearly 40 per cent of the total bookings, with around 200 of them logging in independently to complete bookings. Online bookings were recorded from countries including the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia and the Netherlands.

The Ranthambore administration said the new digital system aims to make the booking process more transparent, simple and equitable for all tourists. It expressed hope that the initiative would provide a smoother, safer and more efficient booking experience during the upcoming tourism season.

Anti-drug drive to continue until Punjab becomes free from menace: Mann

FAIR REPORT  
■ Ludhiana

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Sunday asserted that his Government's anti-drug campaign — "Yudh Nashean Virudh" — will continue until the menace is eliminated from the State.

During a meeting with Village Defence Committee (VDC) volunteers, he said the campaign has completed 500 days during which 70,000 drug smugglers have been arrested, while 1.25 lakh volunteers

across 13,000 villages have emerged as the backbone of the movement. The AAP Government has broken the backbone of drug trade through strict action against smugglers, treatment and rehabilitation of victims, and an unprecedented public awareness campaign, Mann said.

He said Punjab, once branded as 'Udta Punjab', is now transforming into "Padhta Te Tandrust Punjab" (educated and healthy Punjab), as reflected in the State's top ranking in school education, record JEE and



NEET success and merit-based employment.

He reiterated that the fight against drugs will continue until Punjab becomes com-

pletely free from drugs.

Addressing the gathering, Mann said Yudh Nashean Virudh has completed 500 days and "our Village

Defence Committees have completed one year".

"I thank the people of Punjab for turning both these initiatives into a people's movement. The day is not far when together these two movements will completely eradicate the menace of drugs from Punjab," he said.

The chief minister said he is indebted to all those serving Punjab in the true spirit and added that their determination proves that any challenge, however big, can be overcome with collective resolve.

# Indian envoy accuses Pakistan of dismantling IWT over decades

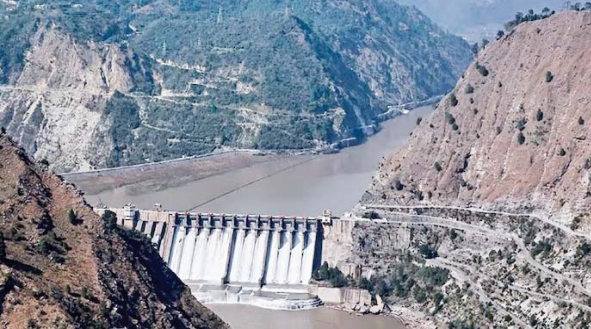
FAIR REPORT ■ New Delhi

India's Ambassador to the United States, Vinay Mohan Kwatra, has strongly defended New Delhi's decision to place the Indus Water Treaty (IWT) in abeyance, stating that Pakistan systematically destroyed the spirit of the 1960 agreement through persistent hostility and terrorism.

In an article published in Newsweek, Kwatra asserted that the treaty was signed "in a spirit of goodwill and friendship," but Pakistan spent the next half-century dismantling that very goodwill. "The abeyance merely acknowledges what Pakistan's conduct had already destroyed," he wrote.

Kwatra's remarks came days after Pakistan hosted an international conference protesting India's move to suspend the treaty on April 23, 2025 — one day after a Pakistan-trained terrorist attack in Pahalgal, Jammu and Kashmir, killed 26 people, most of them tourists.

The Indus Waters Treaty, brokered by the World Bank



and signed in 1960, allocated three eastern rivers (Ravi, Beas, and Sutlej) to India, which carry roughly 20 per cent of the basin's water, while granting Pakistan rights over the three western rivers (Indus, Jhelum, and Chenab), carrying about 80 per cent.

Despite this significant asymmetry that limited development in its own northern regions for decades, India continued to honour the treaty, Kwatra noted. In contrast, Pakistan responded with wars in 1965, 1971, and 1999, along with repeated cross-border terrorism, including the 2001 Parliament attack, the 2008 Mumbai

attacks, the 2016 Uri and Pathankot strikes, the 2019 Pulwama attack, and the 2025 Pahalgal incident.

The envoy highlighted Pakistan's pattern of obstruction, including bureaucratic delays on India-initiated projects and consistent blocking of efforts to renegotiate the treaty to account for six decades of technological advancements and India's hydropower needs.

"Bit by bit, Pakistan eroded India's faith that it could exercise its rights under the treaty, or hope for a better one suited to today's realities," Kwatra wrote. He emphasised that if Pakistan genuinely seeks

cooperation on bilateral issues, it must first dismantle the terror infrastructure it has nurtured for years.

Addressing calls for renewed dialogue between the two nations, Kwatra criticised advocates for ignoring historical failures. "They must believe that doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results is not insanity," he said.

Quoting Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the envoy reiterated India's firm position: "Terror and talks cannot go together... Terror and trade cannot go together... Water and blood cannot flow together."

Kwatra also pointed out that Pakistan's current water scarcity stems primarily from domestic mismanagement. He urged Islamabad to focus on improving its "dismal water productivity" rather than organising conferences to blame India and issue threats. "The habit of pinning every domestic failure on India has grown old. The world should say so, unequivocally," he concluded.

## Om Birla stresses collective duty for dignified life for all

FAIR REPORT ■ Kota (Rajasthan)

Lok Sabha Speaker and Kota-Bundi MP Om Birla on Sunday said that society has a collective responsibility to ensure a dignified life for every individual and called for utilising the experience of retired officers to prepare long-term plans for community welfare.

Addressing an event organised here by the Retired Officers Association to felicitate him on completing seven years as the Lok Sabha Speaker, Birla lauded the association's social initiatives and said the expertise of retired officers should be utilised for community welfare.

During the event, the members of the association welcomed him with a traditional Rajasthani turban and floral garlands in recognition of his service.

The programme, during which umbrellas were distributed among the needy, was attended by retired Government officers, among others. "It is our collective responsibility to ensure that every individual



in society leads a dignified life. Given your vast experience across various sectors, we must work together to create comprehensive, long-term plans so that the benefits reach the last person in society," Birla said.

Speaking to the media after the event, Birla congratulated Kota-born boxer Arundhati Choudhary for clinching gold in the women's 70kg category at the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow on Saturday, lauding her hard work and dedication.

He also said that state-of-the-art sports facilities would be established in Kota to help youngsters compete at national and international events, including world championships and the Olympic Games.

## Nation Focus



### PM MODI PAYS TRIBUTE TO PINGALI VENKAYYA ON BIRTH ANNIVERSARY

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday paid tributes to Pingali Venkayya on his 150th birth anniversary and remembered his invaluable role in giving the country its national flag.

A freedom fighter, Venkayya is known for designing the initial version of the national flag. He was a lecturer, author, geologist and educationalist. In a social media post, the prime minister said Venkayya is remembered for his "invaluable role in giving our nation the Tricolour".

"May his efforts always inspire people to serve our country with dedication and patriotic fervour," Modi said. "The Tiranga fills every Indian heart with immense pride and inspires us to work towards nation building," he said. (PTI)



### FOURTH EDITION OF TRI-SERVICE FUTURE WARFARE COURSE TO BEGIN

The fourth edition of the tri-service future warfare course, which covers a wide range of subjects, including geopolitical developments, artificial intelligence, quantum technologies, and cyber and cognitive warfare is set to begin from August 3.

The four-week course is being conducted under the aegis of the Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff (HQ IDS) and coordinated by the Centre for Joint Warfare Studies (CENJOWS). The fourth edition of the course will commence at Manekshaw Centre here, officials said on Sunday.

The course brings together officers from the three Services, along with representatives from Government organisations, academia, industry and strategic think-tanks. (PTI)

## Govt released over ₹3,200 crore for Punjab's education: Bittu

FAIR REPORT ■ Chandigarh

Senior BJP leader Ravneet Singh Bittu on Sunday said despite the Centre releasing ₹3,205 crore to Punjab under major education schemes during the last four financial years, the AAP Government is turning school inaugurations into political advertisements.

His statement came on a day when Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann inaugurated two new 'Schools of Eminence' in Ludhiana.

The former union minister said the Centre has consistently supported Punjab

through flagship programmes such as Samagra Shiksha, PM SHRI Schools, PM POSHAN, ULLAS, and PM-USHA (formerly RUSA).

Pointing out that Samagra Shiksha alone has received more than ₹2,200 crore during this period, Bittu said these schemes provide financial assistance for school infrastructure, laboratories, digital education, teacher training, students' nutrition, and strengthening the overall education ecosystem.

"The issue is not who cuts the ribbon. The issue is who provided the resources. The



Modi Government has invested thousands of crores in Punjab's education, while the AAP Government is trying to

convert every inauguration into a political advertisement," said Bittu.

When substantial Central

assistance has been continuously flowing to Punjab, every educational facility inaugurated by the Punjab Government should not be portrayed as a sole achievement of the state government, Bittu said. "The chief minister has every right to inaugurate schools, but he has no right to erase the contribution of the taxpayers of India and the Modi government. The people deserve transparency, not political branding," he said.

Without discrimination, Bittu said the Modi Government has continued to release funds under Centrally sponsored schemes

despite repeated political attacks by the AAP government.

Questioning the Punjab government's reluctance to acknowledge the Centre's financial contribution to education, Bittu asked how much of the infrastructure being showcased on Sunday has benefited from assistance available under the central schemes?

The BJP welcomes every new school, every classroom, and every educational investment because it benefits Punjab's children. However, public money should never become a tool for political

## Rajasthan CM launches 340 projects worth ₹491 crore in Rajsamand



Rajasthan CM Bhajanlal Sharma with residents during a morning walk in Bida Gram Panchayat of Udaipur district on Sunday

FAIR REPORT ■ Jaipur

Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma on Sunday inaugurated and laid the foundation stones of 347 development projects worth over ₹491 crore in Rajsamand district, saying his Government is working towards the vision of 'Viksit Bharat' and 'Viksit Rajasthan-2047' under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Addressing a public function at Bhikshu Nilayam in Rajsamand, Sharma also said the Government remains committed to the welfare of farmers, women, labourers and youth.

Asserting that the state Government has taken strict action against exam irregularities, he said 410 examinations have been conducted without leaks in the past two-and-a-half years.

According to an official statement, the projects include 266 works worth over ₹369 crore which were inaugurated and 81 works (total

cost ₹122 crore) for which foundation stones were laid.

Sharma said the development initiatives would add a "new chapter" to the growth story of the region known for its cultural and historical significance, including association with Shrinathji and Maharana Pratap.

Highlighting measures for farmers, the chief minister said the annual assistance under the Kisan Samman Nidhi has been increased from ₹6,000 to ₹9,000, while electricity subsidies exceeding ₹61,000 crore have been provided. He added that under the PM Kusum scheme, farmers are emerging as energy producers.

He said livestock owners are being provided interest-free loans up to ₹1 lakh under the Gopal Credit Card scheme, along with a subsidy of ₹5 per litre on milk. Over 23 lakh insurance policies have been issued under the Chief Minister Mangla Pashu Bima Yojana, Sharma said, urging farmers to adopt natural and advanced farming practices.

## PM speaks of forgiving students; Govt owes them justice, apology: Rahul

FAIR REPORT ■ New Delhi

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi speaks of "forgiving" students, but it is the Government that owes the students truth, justice and an apology.

Gandhi made the remarks in an Instagram post as he shared a video of his interaction with the families of Gopika, Roshini and Vetri Anandan, who committed suicide following the NEET paper leak and cancellation, during his visit to Tamil Nadu

on Saturday.

The leader of opposition in the Lok Sabha said, "During my visit to Tamil Nadu, I met the families of Gopika, Roshini and Vetri Anandan, three young medical aspirants whose lives were lost following the NEET paper leak and the cancellation of the examination. Each family was left with the same painful question: why should honest, hard-working students pay the price for a dishonest system?"

A leaked paper led to a cancelled examination, a forced NEET re-exam and unbearable pressure on young minds, Gandhi said.



LoP in Lok Sabha and Congress MP Rahul Gandhi addresses a press conference in New Delhi on Wednesday

Behind every statistic is a child with a dream and a family now living with an irreplaceable loss, he said. "I listened to their pain. Our fight is for an education

system where hard work is respected, examinations are fair and no student is pushed to the edge because institutions failed them," the former Congress chief said.

## Labourers' killers' names must be revealed: Farooq

FAIR REPORT ■ Srinagar

National Conference president Farooq Abdullah on Sunday demanded that the identity of the killers of two migrant labourers in Kulgam and a policeman in Anantnag be made public. He also asked the authorities where the terrorists were coming from.

"They (administration) should tell people who is carrying out these killings. All we are told is that terrorists killed them. The question is where the terrorists are coming from when all the borders are sealed," Abdullah told reporters in Bijbehara area of Anantnag district.

The former chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir said it was imperative to unmask the killers to test the lieutenant governor's claim that terror-



ism has ended in the Valley. "Let us and the whole world see who these killers are. Has terrorism ended? You can see how much the situation has changed," he said, referring to the change in status quo since the 2019 abrogation of Article 370.

Abdullah also demanded the Centre restore statehood to Jammu and Kashmir. The NC leader also accused the BJP of destroying the Union Territory, which was a state before 2019.

On the situation in the

Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir, he expressed surprise at the silence of the global community on the matter.

"(J&K people) are our brothers, and we are pained by what they are going through. The United Nations has a Human Rights Commission. They should send a delegation there to assess the situation first hand. While the global silence is surprising, our own country has not said anything about it," he added.

## Jammu Railway Division earns nearly ₹78 lakh in fines for ticketless travel in July

FAIR REPORT ■ Jammu

The Jammu Division of Northern Railway generated about ₹78 lakh in revenue by penalising more than 10,000 ticketless and irregular travellers during a month-long special drive in July, reflecting intensified enforcement against fare evasion, an official spokesperson said on Sunday.

The drive was carried out across the Jammu Division to curb ticketless travel, unauthorised travel in higher classes, the carriage of unbooked luggage, and other violations of railway rules through stringent ticket-checking and enforcement measures, the spokesperson said. He said the ticket checking



staff conducted surprise and regular checks in all mail, express, and passenger trains as well as at major stations of the division under the guidance of Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Jammu, Uchit Singhal.

"The special drive yielded highly encouraging results, with the vigilance and alertness of the ticket-checking staff leading to the detection of 10,014 cases of ticketless

and irregular travel during July. Penalties were imposed in accordance with railway rules, generating revenue of ₹77,97,430," the spokesperson said.

Singhal appreciated the commendable work of the ticket checking staff and said the objective of Jammu Division is not only to increase revenue, but also to create awareness among passengers and encourage them to travel as per rules.

"This achievement has been possible only due to the hard work and dedication of our ticket checking staff. Jammu Division will continue to conduct such intensive checking drives in the future as well for the convenience of passengers and for the safety of railway property," he said.

## India's greatest strength lies in its young population: J&K LG Manoj Sinha

FAIR REPORT ■ Srinagar

India's greatest strength lies in its young population, with nearly 65 per cent of the population below the age of 35, Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said on Sunday as he urged the youth to work towards nation building.

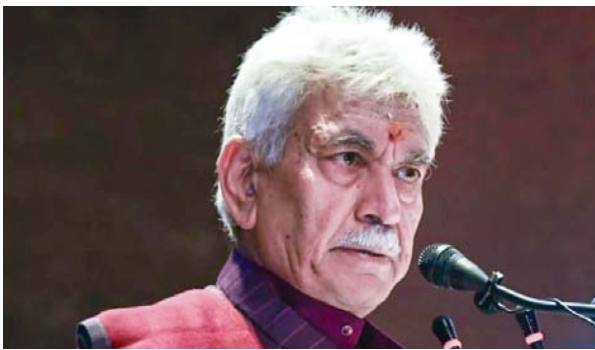
Addressing a UT-level function for the launch of the

'Nasha Mukht Yuva for Viksit Bharat Sankalp Abhiyan', Sinha said that 37 crore youth in the age group of 15 to 29 years are eager to contribute to nation building.

The 100-week mega campaign was virtually inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, marking a nationwide resolve to secure India's future by empowering its youth and eliminating the menace of drugs.

"India's greatest strength lies in its young population, with nearly 65 per cent below the age of 35. Nearly 37 crore youth in the 15-29 age group are eager to contribute to nation building," Sinha said.

He said the 'Nasha Mukht Yuva for Viksit Bharat Sankalp Abhiyan' seeks to energise this demographic, guiding them towards healthy lifestyles and active



participation in development. "Our youth must emerge like a cloud of energy and spread across the horizon of development," he added.

The Lieutenant Governor said that the campaign, launched in 2020 by the prime minister, is not merely a Government programme but a social movement against drug menace. Sinha said that more than

one crore youth joined the campaign at nearly 10,000 locations nationwide, reflecting the collective responsibility of society to protect young people from drugs.

He also highlighted the significant achievements of the Nasha Mukht Jammu Kashmir campaign.

"Around 2,300 FIRs have been registered, 2,600 people arrested, and 1,500

kilograms of narcotics seized. More than 331 properties worth around ₹200 crore belonging to narcotics smugglers have been attached," he added.

Additionally, over 370 driving licenses and 750 vehicle registrations have been cancelled, with recommendations made to cancel nearly 3,000 Aadhaar cards, he said.

