



SC issues nationwide directions to tackle digital fraud, asks RBI to Circulate SOP on mule accounts

■ FAIR REPORT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday, August 4, asked the Reserve Bank of India to prepare and circulate a standard operating procedure (SOP) in four weeks to deal with bank accounts linked to cyber frauds, including mule accounts. The court observed that mechanisms to tackle cyber crimes needed “wider adoption, faster implementation and continued follow-up”. IndianMarket Analysis Issuing a slew of nationwide directions aimed at strengthening the response to cyber-enabled financial frauds, a bench of Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana directed all states, Union Territories (UTs) and



law enforcement agencies to ensure the expeditious adoption and operationalisation of the grievance redressal and money restoration modules developed for victims of such frauds. The bench was hearing a suo motu matter; “In Re: Vic-

tims of Digital Arrest Related to Forged Documents”. After perusing the consolidated status reports and hearing Attorney General R Venkataramani on behalf of the government, the bench said, “While the progress reported at this stage

is appreciable, the mechanisms already put in place require wider adoption, faster implementation, and continued follow-up.” The bench issued interim directions and said, “The Reserve Bank of India shall, within four weeks, prepare and cir-

culate an SOP for dealing with mule accounts/accounts linked to money laundering activity and cyber-enabled fraud. A copy of the final SOP shall be furnished to the Registrar General of all High Courts.”

It also asked the states, Union Territories (UTs) and law enforcement agencies to ensure “expeditious adoption and operationalisation” of the grievance modules namely, “the Grievance Redressal Module, and the Money Restoration Module” under the Ministry of Home Affairs’ SOP concerning the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal (NCRP). “They shall also take appropriate steps to ensure public awareness of these two modules,” it said. It asked the Registrar

General of High Courts to apprise all courts and other adjudicating authorities of the grievance redressal mechanism to enable them to deal with freezing of bank accounts involved in cyber frauds. “An aggrieved person may ordinarily be encouraged to avail of the said mechanism in the first instance. However, doing so shall not operate as a bar to the exercise of any constitutional, statutory or other legal remedies available in law,” it said. It asked the authorities to provide in their next status reports the “state-wise and bank-wise data” of grievances registered and disposed besides the summary of restoration orders issued and the amounts restored with the victims.

Rahul Gandhi Walks Out Midway from Defence Panel Meeting, Says Bound by Confidentiality

■ FAIR REPORT
NEW DELHI

Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday left a meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Defence before its conclusion to attend another engagement, even as deliberations inside the panel continued. Speaking briefly to reporters while leaving Parliament, Gandhi declined to disclose any details of the discussions, citing the confidential nature of the committee’s proceedings. “I am

not allowed to say what happened in the meeting,” he said. Parliamentary Standing Committee meetings are conducted behind closed doors, with members expected to maintain confidentiality over deliberations involving national security, defence preparedness and policy matters. The committees function as key oversight mechanisms, allowing lawmakers across party lines to scrutinise government functioning away from the glare of public debate.

Family-Run Fraud Network Busted: Rajasthan Police Seize 15 Vehicles, Arrest Five in Multi-Crore Finance Scam

■ FAIR REPORT
JAIPUR/BARAN

Rajasthan Police have dismantled an alleged organised vehicle fraud syndicate operating under the guise of vehicle sales and mortgage deals, arresting five accused—including four members of the same family—and seizing 15 vehicles in a crackdown that exposed suspected multi-crore financial fraud. The operation, carried out by the Anta Police and



the District Special Team (DST) under Operation Ankush, led to the seizure of 11 cars, one tractor with trolley, three motorcycles, and a cache of forged and signed legal documents allegedly used to facilitate the scam. According to Baran Su-

perintendent of Police Abhishek Andasu, investigators uncovered a well-planned racket targeting vehicle owners facing financial distress. The accused allegedly persuaded owners to hand over their vehicles at throwaway prices along with

signed stamp papers, registration documents, and vehicle transfer forms (Forms 29 and 30). Police said the syndicate then mortgaged the same vehicles to unsuspecting buyers for significantly higher amounts. To ensure the deception remained hidden, the accused allegedly stopped paying vehicle finance instalments, triggering repossession by finance companies or recovery by the original owners.

Fake Cop, False Promise: ‘Jeevansathi’ Match Ends in Alleged Rape and Multi-Lakh Fraud; Kota Police Arrest Accused

■ FAIR REPORT
JAIPUR/KOTA

A man accused of posing as a Delhi Police sub-inspector to lure a woman into a fake marriage promise, sexually assault her, and allegedly defraud her of cash, gold and a car has been arrested in a joint operation by the Kota Police and the Uttar Pradesh Police.

The accused, identified as Ritik Kamboj (24), originally from Udham Singh Nagar in Uttarakhand and currently residing in Muzaffarnagar, Uttar Pradesh, was apprehended after weeks of technical surveillance and coordinated inter-state tracking.

According to Kota City Superintendent of Police Tejaswini Gautam, the arrest was made as part of a special drive against absconding offenders under the supervision of Additional SP Subhash Chand Mishra and Deputy SP Dr Poonam. The operation was executed by a team led by Nayapura Station House Officer Rajpal Singh.

Police said the woman first came into contact with the accused through the matrimonial platform Jeevansathi. During their interactions, he allegedly claimed that he



had been recruited as a Sub-Inspector in the Delhi Police through the sports quota, convincing the woman of his credentials and promising to marry her.

Investigators allege that the accused subsequently established a physical relationship with the woman on the pretext of marriage. He is also accused of exploiting her trust to obtain nearly 10 lakh in cash, 15 tolas of gold jewellery, and a Maruti Swift car, allegedly citing expenses related to medical procedures and other formalities linked to his purported police appointment.

After the complaint was registered, the accused allegedly kept changing locations to evade arrest. Police tracked his movements through technical surveillance before arresting him from the Muzaffarnagar region with the assistance of the Uttar Pradesh Police.

Bulldozer Against the Land Mafia: Ajmer Cracks Down on History-Sheeteer’s Illegal Empire

■ FAIR REPORT
AJMER

In one of Rajasthan’s most high-profile anti-encroachment drives, authorities demolished alleged illegal structures raised by a history-sheeteer accused of encroaching upon government land worth crores of rupees, signalling an intensified crackdown on land mafias operating across the state. Acting under the state-wide campaign launched on the directions of Rajasthan Director General

of Police Rajeev Kumar Sharma, the Ajmer Police and the Ajmer Development Authority (ADA) carried out a joint demolition drive against alleged land mafia Haji Aleem Khan. The operation, supervised by Ajmer Superintendent of Police Harshvardhan Agrawala, cleared government land in RPAC Colony, Gram Nausar, where permanent structures, including shops, tin sheds and boundary walls, had alleg-



edly been constructed illegally. Officials said re-

peated notices and a final three-day ultimatum is-

sued by the ADA were ignored, prompting authori-

ties to deploy heavy machinery to raze the encroachments. The demolition was conducted under tight police security led by Krishnagar police, with senior administrative officials overseeing the operation.

Police said Aleem Khan has a criminal record and is listed as a history-sheeteer. He was recently arrested in connection with an alleged 42 lakh land fraud case in which he is accused of selling shops constructed on

government land to a woman through fraudulent means. The case, registered at Civil Lines Police Station under relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), led to his arrest on July 19, after which he was remanded to judicial custody.

The administration maintained that the anti-encroachment drive is part of the Rajasthan government’s “zero-tolerance” policy against organised land grabbing and illegal

occupation of public property. Officials also said the cost incurred in the demolition would be recovered from the accused.

The action is being viewed as a strong message from the state administration that organised land encroachment and illegal occupation of government assets will invite stringent legal and administrative consequences, with authorities indicating that similar operations will continue across Rajasthan.

ECI extends SIR, door-to-door voter verification till August 17

FAIR REPORT
 ■ New Delhi

The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Tuesday revised the SIR (Special Intensive Revision) dates in Delhi, with the door-to-door verification exercise by booth-level officers (BLOs) extended till August 17 and the publication of electoral rolls rescheduled for October 27.

This is the second extension for the revision of voter rolls in the Capital this month. The door-to-door verification exercise currently underway was earlier scheduled to conclude on August 8.

According to the poll panel, the draft electoral rolls will now be published on August

24, instead of August 17. After publication of the draft rolls, the voters will be able to file their claims and objections from August 24 to September 23, as per the revised schedule. Earlier, the claims and objection filing period was August 17 to September 16.

The claims and objections filed by the voters will have to be disposed of by the poll officials between August 24 and October 22.

The final voter lists will be published on October 27, instead of October 19 as scheduled earlier. Currently, the BLOs in Delhi have distributed enumeration forms to almost all the 1.45 crore voters in the city, while over 62 per cent of the filled-up

forms were digitised.

As per the details shared by the EC, Enumeration forms for Delhi's SIR of electoral rolls have been distributed to 1,45,08,587 of the city's 1,45,10,298 registered electors, achieving 99.99 percent coverage as of 8 pm on Tuesday. All 12 of Delhi's 13 districts reached 100 per cent distribution, and 91,74,992 forms were digitised, representing 63.23 per cent of the total electorate.

The only district yet to achieve 100 per cent distribution is North West, which stands at 99.87 per cent with 12,75,414 forms distributed out of 12,77,126 electors. All other 12 districts have achieved complete distribu-



tion. On digitisation, Outer North leads at 73.33 per cent, followed by South West at 71.33 per cent and West at 70.13 per cent. The lowest digitisation rates are in South East at 50.60 per cent and the East at 57.10 per cent, indicat-

ing that the backend data entry work is proceeding at different speeds across districts even as physical distribution is nearly complete.

Before this extension, the last date for the door-to-door verification exercise by BLOs

was August 8. The Delhi Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), in a press statement, said that the fresh extension was aimed at giving some more time to voters for submitting their filled-up enumeration forms.

The process of digitisation of enumeration forms submitted by the voters has been a little slower in Delhi due to multiple reasons. The Delhi CEO office has requested the voters who have still not submitted their enumeration forms to do so at the earliest.

According to the poll officials, the names of around 20 per cent voters may be deleted in the draft publication due to multiple reasons, especially on account of

people moving to new locations from their registered addresses.

The BLOs have claimed that many voters have yet to return the forms provided to them. Errors in details provided by the voters, technical issues, difficulty in finding voter details previously recorded, etc., have also been cited as factors delaying the digitisation of enumeration forms.

Some other BLOs complained that the "biggest hurdle" now is that many voters have not returned the enumeration forms after filling them up because of difficulty in finding details from the 2002 SIR. There are many who came to Delhi and

became voters after 2002 and have to trace their details in the SIR of their home state, which is even more complicated, they said.

The BLOs also said that many people took multiple enumeration forms on behalf of their family members and did not return them after completing them. All such forms will be finally marked as "uncollectable", further adding to the workload.

Some BLOs also claimed that technical issues were encountered in operating the BLO-Net app used for the digitisation process. "Verification exercise was slowed by technical problems with the app in the initial weeks," they claimed.

Government directs schools to introduce daily 30-minute reading session, library activities

FAIR REPORT
 ■ New Delhi

To inculcate a habit of reading among students, the Delhi Government has directed its schools to introduce a daily 30-minute reading session, structured library-based activities, book talks, storytelling and reading tasks throughout the academic year. In a circular, the Directorate of Education recommended 20 activities that may be conducted at different intervals during the academic year, including daily reading time, weekly library periods and read-aloud sessions, monthly book talks, storytelling competitions and book review writing.

The DoE said schools should promote a culture of reading in line with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. It asked schools to ensure effective use of library resources, make age-appropriate books easily accessible and encourage students to develop reading habits through planned activities.

The guidelines require schools to earmark a dedicated 30-minute reading



period daily for primary classes, set up reading corners in every classroom with at least 20 age-appropriate books, and keep libraries open during recess.

Allocate 10-15 minutes every day for uninterrupted silent reading. Students may read any age-appropriate book of their choice to develop a regular reading habit and improve comprehension.

It has directed schools to set up a small collection of books in every classroom for easy access. Students should be encouraged to borrow, exchange, and read books during free periods or designated reading time.

Teachers or senior students read stories, poems, or articles aloud using proper expression and pronunciation.

Interactive discussions may follow to improve listening and comprehension skills. Students present a brief introduction to a book they have read, highlighting the story, characters, and why others should read it. This develops communication skills and encourages peer learning.

Teachers have been asked to engage with students during the reading period, conduct 10-minute book discussions twice a week and organise at least one reading assembly every month.

It also suggested quarterly reading challenges and book exhibitions, annual reading festivals, book donation drives and the identification of "Reading Ambassadors" to encourage peer learning.

Schools have also been asked to maintain class reading registers, organise a parent reading workshop every quarter and encourage families to spend 10 minutes daily for reading together at home. Conduct a dedicated library period every week where students explore books, develop library skills, and engage in independent reading rather than only issuing and returning books.

School librarians have been directed to display new arrivals prominently, issue at least two books per student every week, maintain updated reading records and identify students who are reluctant readers so that they can be guided individually. Every student maintains a record of books read, including the title, author, date completed, and a brief reflection. This helps monitor reading progress throughout the year.

The circular further said implementation of the directions would be reviewed during school inspections and monthly meetings and asked all heads of schools to ensure strict compliance to inculcate reading habits and better use of school libraries.

FAIR REPORT
 ■ New Delhi

Delhi University has granted special permission to two of its colleges — Aditi Mahavidyalaya and Bhagini Nivedita College — to admit undergraduate students through merit-based admissions in physical mode to fill seats that have remained vacant despite multiple rounds of the CUET-based admission process.

The colleges had approached the university after repeated admission rounds under the Common Seat Allocation System (CSAS) failed to generate adequate enrolment. They had proposed considering a combination of CUET performance and Class 12 marks to fill the remaining seats. Authorities from the two colleges attributed the persistent vacancies to their location and the limited applicant pool for women-only institutions.

The move marks a departure from the university's Common University Entrance Test (CUET)-based admission system, under which admissions to undergraduate programmes are conducted through the Common Seat



Allocation System (CSAS).

DU Registrar Vikas Gupta confirmed that both colleges had been granted permission to admit students through CUET scores as well as merit-based selection. Bhagini Nivedita College, in a notice dated August 1, invited applications for merit-based admissions in physical mode for several undergraduate programmes, including BCom, BA, BSc and other courses.

The notice said admissions would be made strictly on the basis of Class 12 marks and availability of seats, with applications to be submitted by August 5. Document verification and fee payment are scheduled for August 6 and 7. Bhagini Nivedita College is located in Kair Village, on Najafgarh-Dhansa Road.

Aditi Mahavidyalaya, situated in Bawana, said around 40 per cent of its seats have remained vacant in recent years under the CUET admission process.

College authorities said many students from nearby rural areas, particularly girls, do not register for CUET because of concerns about studying far from home, resulting in several eligible candidates being left out despite strong Class 12 performance.

The college maintained that CUET would continue to remain the primary mode of admission and that the merit-based process was intended only to fill vacant seats after the regular admission rounds. The development highlights the challenges faced by some

DU colleges in attracting students through the university-wide CUET and CSAS admission framework.

While the system is designed to bring uniformity to undergraduate admissions, continued vacancies at colleges located away from the city's main academic hubs have prompted institutions to seek greater flexibility in filling their sanctioned seats.

The decision has drawn criticism from the Indian National Teachers Congress (INTEC), which has urged the university to adopt a uniform policy for filling vacant undergraduate seats across all colleges instead of extending the facility to only two institutions. INTEC has written to the vice-chancellor seeking a common and transparent mechanism for such admissions.

DU has been admitting students to various undergraduate programmes offered across its 67 affiliated colleges through the CUET-based admission process conducted by the National Testing Agency since the 2022-23 academic session. So far, two rounds of admissions for the 2026-27 session have already concluded.

Assembly's sixth session to begin on August 7

FAIR REPORT
 ■ New Delhi

The Delhi Assembly will begin its Sixth Session of the Eighth Legislative Assembly at 11 am on Friday, August 7, 2026, in the Assembly Hall at the Old Secretariat.

The House is scheduled to sit on August 7, 10, and 11, Speaker Vijender Gupta announced on Tuesday.

The Speaker further added that a Quick Response Team of the Central Reserve Police Force has already been deployed at the premises, and hydraulic road blockers are being installed at all entry gates ahead of the session.

The session was summoned following an order from the Lieutenant Governor, with the formal notification issued on July 31. Each sitting will continue until the listed business for the day is concluded and



may be extended depending on the volume of business before the House.

On procedures, Gupta said all notices required under the Rules must be submitted digitally through the NeVA Portal, with assistance available to members through the Notice Branch and the NeVA Sewa Kendra. Members wishing to raise matters under Rule 280 must

submit their notices by 5 pm on the working day preceding the concerned sitting. Gupta appealed to all members to follow prescribed procedures and cooperate in ensuring productive proceedings across the three-day session.

The Speaker expressed confidence that the session would provide members with a meaningful opportunity

to raise matters of public importance and participate in constructive deliberations on issues concerning the people of Delhi.

He said informed debate, adherence to legislative procedure, and responsible conduct were essential to preserving the dignity of the House and strengthening public confidence in democratic institutions.

On security, Gupta said comprehensive arrangements are being put in place to maintain a secure and efficiently managed environment within the Assembly premises. Hydraulic road blockers are being installed at all entry gates, and access-control points are being reinforced. Entry to the premises will be regulated through Gate No 1 while the remaining gates will remain restricted to streamline movement and strengthen perimeter control.

The CRPF Quick Response Team has been deployed to ensure an immediate and effective response to any emergency. Measures covering threat perception, intelligence inputs, deployment strategies, surveillance systems, communication networks, contingency planning, visitor management, frisking procedures, traffic regulation, and emergency preparedness, including medical, fire, and evacuation mechanisms, are all being strengthened. All concerned agencies are working in close coordination.

The three sitting days of August 7, 10, and 11 provide a compact but significant window for the government to advance its legislative agenda while the opposition is expected to use the session to press the BJP on monsoon preparedness, the E20 fuel controversy, and other governance issues.

City records 137 clean air days till Aug 4

FAIR REPORT
 ■ New Delhi

Delhi has recorded 137 clean air days till August 4 this year, as against 130 during the corresponding period last year, the city government said on Tuesday, attributing the improvement to sustained planning and scientific interventions. Delhi has recorded five consecutive days of 'satisfactory' air quality until Tuesday, with the Air Quality Index (AQI) remaining within the range of 51 to 100, the government said in a statement.

The capital recorded an AQI of 64 on Tuesday. Pollution hotspot Vivek Vihar recorded an AQI of 43, which falls in the 'good' category (0-50).

According to the statement, Delhi has recorded 137 clean air days so far this year. This is seven more than the number of clean air days recorded during the same period last year. In 2016, Delhi logged only



110 clean air days, the statement said.

Environment Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa said the improvement was a result of sustained planning and scientific interventions, among other things.

"The steady improvement in Delhi's air quality reflects the outcome of sustained planning, scientific interventions and round-the-clock efforts by multiple government agencies, as well as sustainable and environment-friendly practices adopted by

citizens," the statement quoted Sirsa as saying. He said the government will continue to strengthen enforcement, dust mitigation measures, biomining of legacy waste, pollution hotspot management and continuous monitoring to further improve air quality. The minister urged citizens to support the government's efforts by avoiding open waste burning, maintaining vehicles properly, reducing unnecessary vehicle use and planting more trees.

"The fight against pollution cannot be won by the government alone. Every citizen has an important role to play," Sirsa said.

According to the statement, the government's anti-pollution drive continued across the capital over the past 24 hours, during which around 2,243 metric tonnes of construction and demolition (C&D) waste were lifted and scientifically disposed of.

DDA's Dwarka Golf Course draws over 850 membership applications in 11 days

FAIR REPORT
 ■ New Delhi

The Delhi Development Authority's (DDA) Golf Course in Dwarka has received more than 850 applications in just 11 days of the opening of its memberships. The lifetime membership registration for the golf course, opened on the directions of Delhi Lieutenant Governor Taranjit Singh Sandhu, has received registrations exceeding the available slots offered within just 11 days of commencement of the registration process.

"Of the 856 applications received so far, 636 applications have been received under the Non-Government Category against 600 memberships available, making the category oversubscribed. The Government Category has also received an encouraging response, with 220 applications received against 250 memberships, and is close to full subscription.

As the registration window will



remain open for two months from 21 July 2026, both categories are likely to be oversubscribed by the close of the registration period," DDA said in a statement. DDA is offering a total of 850 lifetime memberships, comprising 600 memberships under the non-government category and 250 memberships under the government category. In addition, applicants may also opt for 3-year and 5-year tenure memberships, providing greater flexibility to golfers with different requirements.

The lifetime membership fee is ₹3.50 lakh for the government category and ₹7.50 lakh for the non-government one, the statement said,

adding that three-year membership is available at ₹1.20 lakh and ₹2.50 lakh for the government and the non-government category, respectively, while the five-year membership fee is ₹1.80 lakh and ₹4.50 lakh. The registration window will remain open for two months from 21 July 2026. Both categories are likely to be oversubscribed by the close of the registration period, the DDA said.

Interested applicants can continue to apply online by paying a non-refundable registration fee of ₹2,500. Following scrutiny of applications, successful applicants will be required to deposit the applicable membership fee online within 30 days of issuance of the offer of membership.

In categories where the number of eligible applications exceeds the memberships available, allotment will be carried out through a fully computerised draw of lots after the registration period closes, ensuring a transparent, fair and impartial selection process.

Ramleela productions integrates AI, 3D mapping and digital effects to create immersive audience experiences

FAIR REPORT
 ■ New Delhi

While grandiose sets, elaborate costumes and larger-than-life performances have regaled Ramleela audiences in the capital since time immemorial, a tech-led reinvention of the popular form — with the import of AI, 3-D visual effects and digital backdrops — now promises an unique immersive experience for viewers.

Some of the capital's most renowned Ramleelas are looking to integrate artificial intelligence (AI) into different aspects of the productions this year, from visual effects and set design to script and narration, organisers said.

The Luv Kush Ram Leela Committee — known for its grand annual Ramleela performance near the Red Fort — is preparing for what organisers



described as its most technologically advanced production till date.

The 11-day Ramleela will be staged from October 11 to 21, with Dussehra on October 20. More than 160 artistes from film, television and theatre are expected to participate in this year's production. "This will be the biggest technological leap in the history of our

Ramleela productions," Luv Kush Ram Leela Committee president Arjun Kumar said.

"AI and 3-D mapping technology are not only being used for rendering images on the LED-screen backdrop but also to create elaborate three-dimensional sets and visual effects to provide an immersive experience for audiences," he said. Kumar claimed the Luv Kush

Ram Leela Committee is erecting "the country's largest four-storey stage", with the installation of a massive LED screen.

One of the key sequences of the Ramleela will begin with Lord Hanuman appearing seated atop the giant screen. AI-generated visuals will then make him appear to fly down from the perch before the actor portraying Lord Hanuman emerges mid-air and continues the sequence, creating the illusion of a single continuous movement.

Similar technology will be used during battle scenes and other important episodes from the Ramayana to add greater depth, movement and scale. Two giant cranes will be deployed for aerial sequences, including scenes depicting Lord Hanuman carrying Lord Ram and Lakshman on his shoulders above the stage.

Lok Sabha passes Appropriation Bill

FAIR REPORT
 ■ New Delhi

Lok Sabha proceedings were adjourned for the day on Tuesday after the passage of the Appropriation Bill, 2026 amid Opposition protest over alleged theft of donation at the Ram Temple and other issues.

Soon after the House assembled at 2 pm after an earlier adjournment, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman introduce a Bill to replace an Ordinance which scrapped income tax with regard to foreign investment in Government securities.

Opposition members, who had given notices to speak against introduction of the Taxation and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026, chose not to do so despite their names being called by the Chair.

The Bill seeks to amend the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007, the



Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman speaking in the RS during the Monsoon session of Parliament in New Delhi

Income-tax Act, 2025, and the Finance Act, 2027.

Amid the uproar, the Lok Sabha passed the Appropriation (No 3) Bill, 2026 by voice vote.

The Bill seeks to provide for the authorisation of appropriation of moneys out of the Consolidated Fund of India to meet the amounts spent on certain

services during the financial year ended on March 31, 2023, in excess of the amounts granted for those services and for that year. Earlier, when the Lok Sabha met for the day, Speaker Om Birla urged members to allow the Question Hour to function and appealed for their cooperation.

Opposition members con-

tinued raising slogans, including "Home Minister, answer us", amid their protest over the police action on student protesters during their march to Parliament on July 20.

Birla said he had appealed to leaders of all parties at the Business Advisory Committee (BAC) meeting to ensure the smooth functioning of

Parliament. Describing Parliament as the highest forum of democracy, he said it should be used to discuss and pass laws for the country and was not a platform for slogan-shouting or displaying placards.

So far, five Bills have been passed by the Lok Sabha during the current Monsoon Session. Of these, the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill, 2026 and the Prevention of Insults to National Honour (Amendment) Bill, 2026 have been approved by both Houses.

The Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Bill, 2026, the Appropriation (No.3) Bill, 2026 and the Supreme Court Judges (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2026, which seeks to increase the sanctioned strength of the apex court from 34 to 38 judges, are awaiting consideration in the Rajya Sabha.

Assam flood toll rises to 87, nearly 1.3 lakh still affected

FAIR REPORT
 ■ Guwahati

The toll in Assam's flood rose to 87 with two more fatalities, and nearly 1.3 lakh people were still affected by the deluge even though water was receding from most of the inundated areas across the State, officials said on Tuesday.

However, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted extremely heavy rain with thunderstorms in Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya for the next few days, which could affect several Assam districts bordering the two States.

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma visited many flood-affected areas and rehabilitation centres in Upper Assam on Tuesday. "By meeting with the flood-affected families, I and our team are continuously monitoring the process of relief, compensation, and rehabilitation. At the same time, the work of draining water from the flood-affected areas is also proceeding rapidly," said Sarma, urging people to donate to CM's Relief Fund. Union Health Minister JP Nadda also reached Guwahati to monitor the situation.

"The weather pattern suggests that thunderstorms with lightning and extremely heavy rainfall (orange and red warnings) are expected at most places of East Khasi Hills, West Jaintia Hills and East Jaintia Hills of Meghalaya and Papumpare, Kurung Kumey, East Kameng, East Siang, Lohit and Changlang districts of Arunachal Pradesh. This may impact the neighbouring districts of Assam," the



CM Himanta Biswa Sarma visits flood affected districts

weather office said.

A yellow warning (watch) has also been issued by IMD for most parts of Nagaland, which could impact Charaideo, Sivasagar, Jorhat and Golaghat districts of Assam, it said. According to the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) bulletin issued on Monday night, two deaths were reported from Sivasagar district in the last 24 hours. With these fatalities, the toll in this year's flood reached 87.

"Although reports of overnight rain were received from most of the flood-hit Upper Assam districts, water levels continued to recede from the inundated villages, giving some respite to the villagers," an ASDMA official said.

Altogether 1,28,000 people remained affected by the deluge across six districts, with Sivasagar being the worst-hit with over 55,000 impacted, followed by

Charaideo (nearly 35,000) and Jorhat (more than 20,000).

The ASDMA said the administration has been operating 55 relief camps and relief distribution centres in five districts, currently taking care of 11,250 affected people.

Multiple agencies, including medical and veterinary teams, have been deployed in different flood-relief operations in the affected areas.

A crop area of 14,230.15 hectares remained submerged. Due to widespread flooding, almost 55,000 animals have been washed away, while another 35,000 have been affected.

Damage to various infrastructure, including, tankments, houses, roads, schools and other public properties, was also reported from various parts, the ASDMA bulletin added. At present, the Dhansiri river at Numaligarh is flowing above the danger level, it added.

Congress functionary robbed, stabbed to death in Chhattisgarh



FAIR REPORT
 ■ Durg

A Congress functionary was stabbed to death by unidentified persons while allegedly resisting a robbery in Chhattisgarh's Durg district, police said on Tuesday.

The incident took place around 2 am on Monday near Chikhli village on the Durg-Dhamdha road, an official said. He said that the victim, Prakash Singh Kashyap (45), a treasurer of the Congress's local unit, was travelling to his house in Tumkala village with two of his associates on a motorcycle when four assailants intercepted them.

They threatened the trio with a knife and robbed Kashyap of his mobile phone and ₹4,000 in cash, the official said.

Fadnavis slams Congress for Gungi Gudiya jibe at Sunetra

FAIR REPORT
 ■ Mumbai

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Tuesday took a swipe at the Congress, accusing it of stooping low only to grab headlines after the Opposition party branded Deputy Chief Minister Sunetra Pawar a *gungi gudiya* (mute doll).

Talking to reporters, Fadnavis said Maharashtra's political culture did not approve of attempts to gain publicity through low-level commen

FAIR REPORT "Some people are working only to get into news. They seem to believe in the idiom that 'even if you become infamous, at least your name is in the headlines'. This is not Maharashtra's political culture," he insisted. Fadnavis was replying to queries on the Maharashtra Congress branding Sunetra Pawar,



Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis

NCP president and the state's first first woman deputy CM, a *gungi gudiya* (mute doll).

The NCP is a BJP ally and a constituent of the ruling Mahayuti coalition.

"Sunetra Pawar, how many more days will she remain a 'gungi gudiya'?" the Congress stated in a post where it also uploaded a video of a press conference attended by her and party colleague Dhananjay Munde.

In the video, Munde is seen interrupting a journalist's question. Pawar did not respond to the question but left the venue once Munde announced the interaction as over.

In response to another question, the CM said the Maharashtra Public Service Commission (MPSC) itself had sought a police investigation into allegations surrounding its examination process.

On allegations of irregularities in the MPSC examination process, Fadnavis rejected claims of a scam.

Union Govt tightens checks on GLP-1 weight-loss drug ads

FAIR REPORT
 ■ New Delhi

The Centre has directed drug regulators across States and Union Territories to tighten surveillance over the supply chain and promotion of GLP-1 weight-loss drugs amid concerns over surrogate advertising and misleading awareness campaigns.

In a written reply in the Rajya Sabha on Tuesday, Minister of State for Health Anupriya Patel said the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) has approved



glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1) receptor agonists only for the treatment of Type 2 diabetes in adults and for chronic weight management in adults with specified medical conditions.

She said these medicines can be dispensed only on the prescription of endocrinologists or internal medicine specialists, and the approved product information carries warnings to prevent inappropriate use and minimise risks associated with unsupervised consumption.

Responding to a question on whether advertisements for weight-loss drugs under the guise of "awareness" were crossing the line and whether GLP-1 drugs were being promoted through surrogate marketing, Patel said CDSCO had issued an adviso-

ry on March 10, 2026, to manufacturers, importers and marketing authorisation holders. The advisory directed them to strictly comply with the Drugs and Cosmetics Act and ensure that manufacture, sale and distribution conform only to approved indications and conditions of permission.

It specifically prohibits surrogate advertisements and any form of direct or indirect promotion, including disease-awareness campaigns and digital outreach, that may mislead consumers or encourage the use of

these prescription medicines without medical supervision, she said.

Patel said CDSCO subsequently issued another advisory on March 27, 2026, to all State and UT drug controllers, asking them to strengthen regulatory monitoring of the entire supply chain of GLP-1-based weight-loss drugs. The advisory also called for strict adherence to approved indications and product labelling, ensuring that manufacture, import, distribution and sale take place only through authorised channels.

IYC demands Amit Shah's resignation

FAIR REPORT
 ■ New Delhi

Indian Youth Congress (IYC) National President Uday Bhanu Chib led a protest march in Rampur on Tuesday, demanding the resignation of Amit Shah, under the *Chhatron Ki Goonj* program.

Speaking on the occasion, IYC National President Uday Bhanu Chib stated that Home Minister Amit Shah must appear in the Lok Sabha and answer for the brutality inflicted upon students; this demand is not merely that of the opposition but of the entire nation. He must answer why such cruelty was



Uday Bhanu Chib leads protest march in Rampur

unleashed against students.

Since the use of pellet guns and lethal force against students occurred under the

Home Minister's orders, accountability must be fixed; conversely, if it happened without his knowledge, it

raises serious questions regarding the country's internal security apparatus.

Uday Bhanu Chib further affirmed that they would ensure justice for the nation's students and continue fighting for their cause.

Echoing the sentiments of the Leader of Opposition (LoP) Rahul Gandhi, he emphasised that those who attacked the students must be punished, accountability must be established. IYC National Secretary Vishal Chaudhary, Western Uttar Pradesh State President Paras Shukla, and numerous Youth Congress workers participated in the march.

Govt launches action plan to protect clouded leopard

FAIR REPORT
 ■ New Delhi

India has launched the Clouded Leopard Conservation Action Plan (CAP) to reaffirm its commitment to the conservation of one of Asia's most elusive wild cats, Environment Ministry officials said on Tuesday.

The announcement was made to mark the International Clouded Leopard Day, celebrated on August 4 every year.

The action plan provides a comprehensive framework for securing habitats,



restoring forest connectivity, strengthening scientific monitoring and empowering local communities for conservation of the species.

The clouded leopard is among the most evolutionarily distinct and among the least studied felids in Asia.

Only 50% of India's STPs meet 2015 norms: Par panel

FAIR REPORT
 ■ New Delhi

Only 50 per cent of 1,044 sewage treatment plants (STPs) comply with the discharge standards notified in 2015 and merely 15 per cent meet the stricter standards prescribed in 2019, according to a parliamentary committee's report tabled in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday.

The report referred to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs' (MoHUA) submission before the Standing Committee on Housing and Urban Affairs chaired by Magunta Sreenivasulu Reddy during its sitting held on March 24 this year.

Reddy presented in the Lok Sabha the Tenth Report of the Committee on the subject "Review of Sewerage and Septage Coverage in cities with special reference to interventions under AMRUT & AMRUT 2.0" pertaining to the Department of Urban Development, MoHUA.

Responding to the Committee's query on the low compliance levels,



the ministry said it had commissioned a third-party survey to carry out a ground-level assessment of sewage treatment plants across the country.

According to the MoHUA, the survey team visited 1,044 STPs with a total installed capacity of around 27,974 million litres per day (MLD). The operational capacity of these plants was around 24,000 MLD.

According to the panel's report, the ministry said samples of treated water were collected to examine whether the plants were meeting the prescribed parameters relating to biochemical oxygen demand (BOD), chemical oxygen demand (COD) and faecal contamination.

"The team visited 1,044 plants... What we found was very interesting. Only 50 per cent of the STPs were complying with the CPCB (Central Pollution Control Board) standards of 2015. And if we see the NGT standards, it was only 15 per cent.

"The NGT standards are very stringent standards. It is like even better than drinking water," the ministry told the Committee.

It said the standards prescribed by the National Green Tribunal (NGT) were "very stringent" and complying with them would substantially increase the cost of treatment.

The ministry told the panel that it was redefining the standards in line with the CPCB norms, describing them as more practical to implement.

It also informed the Committee that unless the water is going into the river, the ministry wants further treatment, adding that adopting the NGT standards across the board would be "very, very high" in cost.

The ministry further told the Committee that a panel has been constituted under the Central Public Health and Environmental Engineering Organisation (CPHEEO), comprising experts and stakeholders, for revision of the standards.

In the report, the parliamentary panel said that in view of the growing sanitation challenges arising from rapid urban expansion into peri-urban and informal settlements including slums and the risk of fragmented planning and unequal access to sanitation services, the ministry should ensure their systematic integration into urban sanitation planning through GIS-based mapping, time-bound inclusive sanitation action plans and model guidelines for extending appropriate sewerage and onsite sanitation services, support

Chhattisgarh UCC panel invites public suggestions till October 15

FAIR REPORT
 ■ Raipur

A committee set up to draft a Uniform Civil Code (UCC) framework for Chhattisgarh has sought suggestions and opinions from citizens, social groups, and political parties by October 15, officials said Tuesday.

Headed by Justice (retired) Ranjana Prakash Desai, the five-member panel is tasked with examining existing personal laws to bring all citizens under a common civil framework governing marriage, divorce, maintenance, inheritance, adoption, and succession across the State, a Government release said.

The committee has appealed to Government and non-government organisations, social groups, religious institutions, communities and political parties to submit their views and representations by October 15, a Government statement said.

The panel has been studying the need for a UCC in Chhattisgarh and preparing its framework with the objective of bringing all citizens under a common legal framework



instead of religion-based personal laws, the statement said.

Citizens have been invited to share their views on what the proposed law should contain, and they can submit their suggestions through email at ucc-chhattisgarh@cg.gov.in, the dedicated web portal, or by post to the office of the Uniform Civil Code Committee at the New Circuit House in Raipur, the release said.

