

No ethanol in ATF: Govt rejects Kejriwal’s allegations and calls them irresponsible

FAIR REPORT
 ■ New Delhi

The political war over India's ethanol blending programme escalated on Thursday after Union civil aviation minister Ram Mohan Naidu Kinjarapu and BJP IT Cell chief Amit Malviya strongly dismissed Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convenor Arvind Kejriwal claim that the Centre plans to introduce ethanol blending in diesel and aviation turbine fuel (ATF).

Naidu in a post on X dismissed claims that it is planning to blend ethanol with aviation turbine fuel (ATF), calling the reports “completely false and irresponsible” and urging people not to spread misinformation on aviation safety. He said there is “no such proposal” under consideration by the Government.”

“The claim that the Government plans to blend ethanol with Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) is completely false and irresponsible. There is no such proposal,” Naidu said. He clarified that ethanol and sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) are “entirely different” fuels and should not be confused with one another.

The exchange comes after Kejriwal alleged that the Centre was planning to increase ethanol blending beyond current levels, claimed there were plans to mix ethanol into Aviation



Union civil aviation minister Ram Mohan Naidu Kinjarapu

Turbine Fuel (ATF), and accused the Government of suppressing scientific concerns over E20 petrol. Kejriwal urged people to avoid purchasing new petrol and diesel vehicles for the time being. In a post on X in Hindi, Kejriwal alleged the Government planned to increase ethanol blending in petrol beyond 50 per cent after introducing E20 fuel.

Explaining the distinction, Naidu said SAF is an internationally certified aviation fuel recognised by the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) and has been adopted globally. He added that it undergoes rigorous testing and meets stringent international safety standards before being approved for use.

“Ethanol and Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) are entirely different and should not be conflated. SAF is an internationally certified aviation

fuel recognised by International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) and adopted globally. It undergoes rigorous testing and meets stringent global safety standards,” he said.

The minister also cautioned against circulating misleading claims related to aviation, saying such misinformation only creates unnecessary anxiety among air travellers.”Spreading misinformation on aviation safety only creates needless anxiety among air travellers. Passenger safety remains the Government’s highest priority,” he said.

Slamming Kejriwal, Malviya said spreading “fake news” and creating undue “panic” is his “old habit”, and asserted that the Centre has clearly stated that there was no decision on ethanol mixing beyond E20. Former Delhi chief minister, replying to Malviya, alleged that the Government

is waiting for the situation to calm down before implementing further ethanol blending in fuel. “Just like E20 was implemented without any scientific study, without listening to anyone, by silencing everyone through threats, you’ll implement E50 in the same way,” Kejriwal said, alleging this was the Government’s “style of functioning” without respecting science, engineering and technology. He challenged Malviya to publicly release any study conducted before implementing E20 petrol.

Malviya hit back in another post on X, saying Kejriwal’s entire argument was based not on facts but “fear”. “First, the Government has clearly stated that no decision has been taken to increase ethanol blending beyond E20. Raising a debate on some imaginary E50 is nothing but politics of spreading fear,” he replied to Kejriwal.

He refuted the AAP leader’s charge, stating it is completely wrong to say that E20 was implemented “without any scientific study”. In another post on X, Malviya claimed E20 is not a hasty decision and the country’s ethanol blending programme has been progressing in a phased manner for over two decades. He said before implementing E20, extensive testing and consultations with all relevant parties were conducted.

Cabinet clears 135.87 km Guwahati-Tezpur corridor of NH-15 in Assam for ₹8,970 cr



FAIR REPORT
 ■ New Delhi

The Union Cabinet on Thursday approved the development of 135.871 km, 4-lane access-controlled Guwahati-Tezpur Corridor of NH-15 in Assam for ₹8,970.20 crore. According to an official statement, the project will be developed on a build-operate-transfer (BOT) toll mode.

The project envisages construction of an emergency landing facility (ELF) (4.9 Km) in Tezpur Bypass, which has been finalised in coordination with IAF and would decongest existing NH-27 (East West Corridor) on the south side of the Brahmaputra river.

The project includes construction of five major bypasses, thereby easing congestion on stretches passing through densely populated areas such as Baihata Chariali, Sipajhar, Kharupetia, Dekiajuli, Tezpur.

In addition, the project has provision for 15 major bridges, 30 minor bridges, 19

flyovers, 1 elephant under pass (in Tezpur bypass), 46 underpasses and 19 flyovers.

The project will increase average travel speed by 100 per cent, reduce travel time to half, improve overall road safety, enhance fuel efficiency, and lower vehicle operating costs, thereby enhancing regional mobility and socio-economic development, it added. The project will provide seamless connectivity to key economic, social, and logistics nodes across Assam and Arunachal Pradesh.

The upgraded corridor will enhance connectivity to eight PM Gati-Shakti Economic Nodes (8 Industrial Parks), two Social Nodes (2 Aspirational districts of Darrang and Udalguri), three Tourist Notes (Maa Kamakhya Temple, Kaziranga National Park, Orang National Park) and seven Logistic Nodes (3 Major Railway Stations, 2 Airports, 2 Waterway Terminals), facilitating faster movement of goods and passengers across the region.

States Focus



TN CM VIJAY TO HOLD MEET WITH MPs ON DELIMITATION

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C. Jeyarajalingam will chair a high-level consultation meeting with members of Parliament from the state on August 8 to discuss the Centre’s proposed constituency delimitation exercise and its potential impact on the State.

The meeting with Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha MPs will take place at the Kalaiyavan Arangam here.

Invitations are currently being dispatched to all parliamentarians through the Tamil Nadu House in New Delhi, an official release here said on Thursday.

According to the reports, the Centre is likely to organise a special three-day parliamentary session from August 16 to 18 to revive the Delimitation Bill, 2026 along with the Women’s Reservation Amendment, though official confirmation has not been revealed. (PTI)



TELANGANA TOPS IN COUNTRY IN CYBERCRIME INITIATIVES

Telangana was ranked first in the country in several cybercrime initiatives, in a nationwide review meeting held by the PMO on Thursday, a senior official said.

The ‘PRAGATI’ review meeting was conducted to assess the implementation and performance of various states in cybercrime as well as performance and utilisation of the digital platforms developed by the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C), Ministry of Home Affairs.

“During the review, Telangana was applauded for its efforts in the country for setting up the first 54C, implementation of e-Zero FIR and in the effective utilization of key I4C portals, including the Samanvaya portal, Sahyog portal, GRM portal, and MRM,” Telangana Cyber Security Bureau (TGCSB) Director Shikha Goel said in a release. (PTI)

CRPF issues show-cause notices to eight officers for declining working lunch

FAIR REPORT
 ■ New Delhi

The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) has sent show-cause notices to eight Assistant Commandant-rank officers, including one woman, for reportedly refusing to attend an official working lunch hosted by a senior officer during a training program, according to official sources. The officers were part of a group taking a technical course at a CRPF camp in Madhya Pradesh about a month ago. Sources said the zonal head, an Indian Police Service (IPS) officer,

invited them to a working lunch. The officers did not attend, and the force has called this insubordination.

An internal communication shared with the media said the trainee officers were attending the Gazetted Officers’ technical course. Amit Kumar, IPS, Special Director General, Central Zone, hosted the lunch at the GO’s Mess. The first show-cause notice was sent on June 30, 2026, asking the officers to explain their actions within three days.

More than a month later, the units involved had not replied. Force headquarters



then sent a follow-up marked “Most Urgent,” telling the units to ensure the officers submit their explanations immediately. The message warned that if they did not

respond, it would be considered as having “nothing to state in their defence,” and action could be taken without their input.

Official sources said the

case is being treated as insubordination. A senior CRPF officer said more disciplinary action may follow after the officers submit their explanations and the force reviews them.

The reasons why the officers declined to attend the lunch have not been specified. CRPF headquarters has not made a public statement on the matter and has not responded to requests for comment.

Assistant Commandants are the entry-level gazetted officer rank in the CRPF. The force, which is the country’s largest central armed police organisation, regularly holds

technical and professional courses for its officers at different training centres.

Force headquarters have sent out the notices, and units have been told to collect the officers’ replies as soon as possible. What happens next will depend on the explanations provided and the review by the proper authority. Sources said the Special Director General was unhappy that the officers missed the lunch, which led to the show-cause process. No other details about earlier interactions between the officers and the senior officer have been shared.

Do anything to ensure return of Tatas to West Bengal: Industries minister Tapas Roy

FAIR REPORT ■ Kolkata

The Bengal Government would go any distance to bring the Tatas to the State, Industries Minister Tapas Roy has said. Roy, who had led a delegation of State Government officials to Mumbai on Thursday, said that he would have held the feet of Ratan Tata — “in any case he was much older than me in age” — had he been alive today. “Had Mr Ratan Tata been alive today, I would have even held his foot to

request him to return to Bengal,” reiterating that the then land movement led by former Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee forcing the banishment of a fully developed Tata Nano (car) from Singur in 2008 was a colossal blunder.

Roy’s statement is in sync with a sustained effort by the Suvendu Adhikari Government to reach out to the investors, including Tatas, Birlas and others, to invest in Bengal “to restore it to its original position in the top where we belonged years ago.”

Bengal Government has to pay the Tata group a compensation of ₹765 crore in the wake of its forced abandonment of the Singur project. “The previous Governments have left a debt burden of ₹8 lakh crore... we will also have to repay the Tatas the compensation... still our Chief Minister is dreaming of bringing industry back to the State... we will make Bengal an industrialised State by 2031... a draft industrial policy is already there and will be unveiled by the middle of



West Bengal Industries Minister Tapas Roy

August,” the minister said adding talks were on with the Mitsubishi group too.

“It is not the question of any ego or something like that... we are in power today, and we want the industries back in Bengal, and we will do it at any cost,” State BJP president Samik Bhattacharya said.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari once again iterated his strong intentions to ensure an economically strong State in three years. “We will become a financial-

ly strong state within 2-3 years... we will hand over land to at least 25 industries within a month,” he said.

Announcing that he would lay the foundation stone of a ₹4,000 crore steel plant in Purulia district, Adhikari said that the administration would not allow any extortion racket to thrive in the State.

“Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has expressed keen interest in textile and industries ... she has seen the high-quality of products woven by our weavers ... she

is coming here” in the last week of August but “for that we need a business-friendly atmosphere.”

“For the past 50 years or so Bengal has fallen behind because of hooliganism and extortion raj that will not be tolerated any more... you may have seen the Government’s attitude... There will be no extortion or hooliganism, syndicates, cut-money; now we are determined to ensure a business-friendly environment,” Adhikari said.

AI locates Pench tiger after 2-month chase

FAIR REPORT
 ■ Bhopal

A tiger that had kept forest officials on edge for nearly two months in the Pench landscape was finally captured in a meticulously planned operation that combined traditional fieldcraft with Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based surveillance.

The big cat has now been shifted to Van Vihar National Park in Bhopal, where it will remain under expert care and observation.

The operation marked one of the first successful uses of AI-enabled technology in tracking an elusive tiger in Madhya Pradesh. According to forest department officials, the animal had repeatedly changed its movement patterns, frustrating conventional search efforts and making it extremely difficult for teams to predict its location. Despite continuous monitoring, the tiger managed to evade capture for weeks by moving through dense forests and remote terrain.

To break the deadlock, the forest department deployed seven AI-powered cameras across strategic locations, particularly along animal



trails, water sources and suspected movement corridors.

Unlike conventional camera traps, the AI-enabled system analysed movement patterns and distinguished the tiger from other wildlife, enabling officials to receive precise and timely inputs about its location.

Based on the data generated by the surveillance network, forest officials narrowed down the tiger’s movement and prepared a carefully coordinated capture plan. More than 60 officers and frontline forest personnel participated in

the operation, working in shifts and maintaining constant vigilance in the challenging terrain.

Once the tiger’s location was confirmed, veterinarians and wildlife experts tranquilised the animal following standard safety protocols. After a thorough health examination, the tiger was safely placed in a transport cage and shifted to Van Vihar National Park in Bhopal.

Officials said the successful operation highlighted the growing role of technology in wildlife conservation. The AI-based monitoring system

not only reduced the time required to locate the tiger but also minimised risks to both field staff and the animal by enabling a targeted rescue operation instead of prolonged tracking.

The forest department described the mission as a significant achievement in wildlife management, demonstrating how technological innovation, scientific planning and coordinated teamwork can help resolve complex human-wildlife situations while ensuring the safety and welfare of endangered animals.

Haryana Minister Rajesh Nagar meets Amit Shah, discusses development and public welfare

FAIR REPORT
 ■ New Delhi

Haryana’s Minister for Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Rajesh Nagar, paid a courtesy call on Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi on Thursday. During the meeting, the two leaders held detailed discussions on Haryana’s development, public welfare initiatives, and various contemporary issues.

During the interaction, Minister Rajesh Nagar briefed the Union Home Minister on the progress of key schemes being implemented by the Food and Civil Supplies Department.

He also discussed measures to further strengthen the Public Distribution System (PDS), improve service delivery for citizens, and accelerate development through enhanced coordination between the Central and State Governments.

Rajesh Nagar expressed his gratitude to the Union Government for its continued support towards Haryana’s development and



sought the guidance of Amit Shah on further strengthening the state’s growth trajectory. He said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the guidance of Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Haryana is achieving new milestones in development. He reiterated the State Government’s commitment to ensuring the effective implementation of public welfare schemes for the benefit of every citizen.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah also reviewed the progress of various

developmental and welfare initiatives being undertaken in Haryana and assured the State Government of the Centre’s full support in its efforts to promote inclusive and sustainable development.

The courtesy meeting is being viewed as significant from both political and administrative perspectives, reflecting the strong coordination between the Central and State Governments and their shared commitment to accelerating development and enhancing public welfare in Haryana.

India demonstrates strategic might with successful Agni-4 missile test



FAIR REPORT
 ■ New Delhi

India on Thursday successfully test-fired nuclear-capable ballistic missile Agni-4 from the integrated test range in Odisha’s Chandipur, demonstrating its strategic strike capabilities.

The testing of the missile was carried out by the Strategic Forces Command (SFC) and the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). “Medium Range Ballistic Missile ‘Agni-4’ was successfully test-fired from the Integrated Test Range, Chandipur in Odisha on August 6,” the defence ministry said.

“The launch validated all operational and technical parameters. The test was carried out under the aegis of the Strategic Forces Command,” it said.

