

FAIR REPORT

THE DAWN OF A FEARLESS PEN

At least 82 dead as 7.4 quake jolts Colombia

■ FAIR REPORT
BOGOTA

At least 82 people were killed after a powerful earthquake, measuring 7.4 in the Richter scale, struck western Colombia early Monday, knocking down buildings across several cities and leaving others trapped in the rubble.

The quake, according to the US Geological Survey, struck at a depth of 107 km (66 miles) near San Jose del Palmar, in Choco, a sparsely populated province on Colombia's Pacific Coast. The tremors were also felt in major cities nationwide.

"Significant casualties and damage are likely and the disaster is potentially widespread," the agency warned.

The highest reported death toll was in the western province of Risaralda in Colombia's coffee-growing region, where Governor Juan Diego Patino, speaking by phone to Caracol Television, reported 42 fatalities. Call, one of Colombia's big cities, was among the worst hit, though authorities are yet to confirm deaths there.

Mayor Alejandro Eder told Caracol at least 30 buildings had collapsed and rescue crews were working. Residents and rescue workers search through the rubble of a collapsed building after an earthquake struck Cali, Colombia, Monday.

at 10 of them. Caracol showed firefighters and Colombian Red Cross workers carrying a survivor on a stretcher from one collapsed building. The quake struck just days after Abelardo De La Espriella was sworn in as President, thrusting the new administration into its first major crisis, with memories still fresh of devastating twin earthquakes in neighboring Venezuela in June.



CM Bhajan Lal Sharma Calls Gupt Vrindavan Dham a New Centre for Preserving Sanatan Traditions

■ FAIR REPORT
JAIPUR

Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma on Monday performed the ceremonial worship of the Radha-Krishna Shila at Gupt Vrindavan Dham in Jagatpura, Jaipur, describing the temple as a potential centre for preserving and advancing Sanatan traditions, scriptures and cultural heritage.

During his visit, Sharma said the temple would seek to go beyond being a place of worship by emerging as a centre of devotion, spiritual consciousness and cultural preservation. He said institutions rooted in India's civilisational traditions have an important role in keeping alive the country's spiritual and cultural inheritance for future generations.



The Chief Minister also referred to the traditional Puranic account associated with the arrival of Lord Krishna and Lord Shiva in Braj, placing the temple's

religious significance within the wider sacred geography and narrative traditions of Sanatan culture. Sharma inspected various parts of the temple complex and took stock of the activities being undertaken by Gupt Vrindavan Dham. He particularly appreciated its religious, social and service-oriented initiatives.

The visit comes at a time when religious institutions are increasingly being viewed not merely as centres of ritual, but also as platforms for cultural education, social service and community engagement.

The visit comes at a time when religious institutions are increasingly being viewed not merely as centres of ritual, but also as platforms for cultural education, social service and community engagement.

The Chief Minister's remarks underline the broader significance being attached to such institutions in Rajasthan: preserving faith and tradition while creating spaces where religious heritage can intersect with social responsibility.

At Gupt Vrindavan Dham, the message was clear—the temple is being envisioned not simply as a destination for devotees, but as a living institution where Sanatan values, spiritual learning, cultural memory and public service can converge.

Barmer Student Dies by Suicide in Jaipur, Days After Losing Father

Jaipur: B.Ed aspirant found dead in rented room in Anandpuri; police suspect grief-related distress

A young woman from Barmer, in Jaipur to appear for her B.Ed examination, died by suicide in a rented accommodation in the Anandpuri locality on Sunday night, barely eight days after her father's death, police said. The incident falls under the jurisdiction of Motidungri police station. Officers said the woman had travelled to Jaipur specifically to sit for the exam and was staying alone at the time. Her body was discovered by fellow residents or acquaintances, following which police and an ambulance were called to the spot. Investigators are examining whether the recent bereavement was a contributing factor, though a formal cause is yet to be established. No suicide note has been reported so far, and police say further inquiries, including statements from family members, are underway to piece together the sequence of events.

Rajasthan Clears 600 New Medical Officer Posts, RUHS to Roll Out Recruitment Drive Soon

■ FAIR REPORT
JAIPUR

Health Minister's nod paves way for fresh hiring after gaps left successive MO recruitment cycles undersized Rajasthan's Health Minister has approved a proposal to recruit 600 Medical Officers, giving MBBS graduates a fresh shot at government service as the state moves to plug persistent staffing gaps in its public healthcare system. The Rajasthan University of Health Sciences (RUHS) will run the process end-to-end, from inviting online applications to conducting the exam and finalising the merit list — the same nodal role it has played in previous MO recruitment cycles. The move comes against a backdrop of sustained pressure from doctors' bodies, who have repeatedly flagged Rajasthan's Medical Officer intake as falling short of both public health demand and the government's own annual recruitment targets. Past cycles have swung between roughly 1,200 and 1,700 posts, with the United Doctors' Front previously petitioning the Chief Minister to push numbers higher, citing a promised annual intake of 3,000 MOs that has rarely been met in practice.

Eligibility will likely mirror earlier RUHS drives: an MBBS degree, working knowledge of Hindi in Devanagari script, and familiarity with Rajasthan's culture, with age limits typically set between 22 and 45 years. Selected officers are usually placed at Pay Level 14, translating into a starting package well above 50,000 a month once allowances are added.

With the notification expected soon, aspiring doctors across the state will be watching RUHS's official portal closely — the announcement effectively marks the starting gun for what promises to be one of the year's most closely tracked government recruitment exercises in Rajasthan's health sector.

SITHARAMAN SLAMS “COWARDLY” COMMUNISTS AS RAJYA SABHA CLEARS KEY BANKING REFORM

■ FAIR REPORT
NEW DELHI

FM's sharp retort to CPI(M)'s Brittas overshadows passage of 135-year-old evidence law overhaul The Rajya Sabha on Monday passed the Bankers' Books Evidence Bill, 2026, by voice vote after Opposition members staged a walkout, denying the House a detailed debate on legislation that modernises a colonial-era law. The Bill replaces the 1891 Act, allowing digital banking records — not



just physical ledgers — to be treated as valid court evidence, a shift Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman called overdue given India's near-total shift to

phone-based transactions.

But it was Sitharaman's blistering exchange during a separate discussion, on the Taxation and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill,

that dominated the day. Hitting out at CPI(M)'s John Brittas — who had accused the government of caving to US pressure to impose UPI transaction fees and then walked out before her reply — Sitharaman branded communists in India “total cowards” who “cannot face facts,” accusing Brittas of spreading “total untruth” both inside Parliament and beyond it.

On UPI, Sitharaman moved to defuse the controversy directly, clarifying

that payments will remain free for ordinary users, with any future merchant charges confined to large transactions above a high threshold.

The twin flashpoints capture Parliament's current mood: reform pushed through amid procedural friction, while the Treasury benches and Opposition trade sharper barbs than substance. With the Winter Session's legislative calendar still heavy, more such confrontations look inevitable.

Sourav Ganguly Receives Death Threats By Post, Personal Secretary Files Police Complaint

■ FAIR REPORT
JAIPUR

Two courier letters threatening former India captain, wife Dona and staff, Kolkata Police probe underway Former India captain and ex-BCCI president Sourav Ganguly has been threatened with death, after two letters containing explicit threats to his life, his wife Dona Ganguly's, and that of his household staff arrived by courier this week.

The complaint, filed at Thakurpukur Police Station on August 10, was lodged by Tania Bhattacharya, Ganguly's personal secretary, on his behalf. In her written statement, Bhattacharya said

the family had been receiving objectionable letters from an unidentified sender for the past few months, but had initially dismissed them as the work of someone airing a personal grudge. That changed on Tuesday, when two fresh letters — addressed directly to Mr. Ganguly and Mrs. Dona Ganguly — escalated from hate-filled remarks to explicit threats against their lives and safety, and that of the people working for them.

“The nature of the threats contained in the letters has caused serious concern among us,” Bhattacharya wrote, adding that the family now be-

lieves the matter requires “immediate police intervention and investigation.” Police sources confirmed the complaint has been registered and are examining the letters, including verifying their authenticity and tracing the courier trail.

This is not the first time the cricketing icon has found himself the target of threatening correspondence — but the specificity and escalation this time have visibly rattled the household, prompting swift police action. Security around the Ganguly residence is expected to be reviewed as the investigation proceeds.

RICS Summit: No decision yet on Bangladesh PM’s India visit

FAIR REPORT
■ New Delhi

Foreign Minister Dr Khalilur Rahman on Monday said the Government has not yet decided whether Prime Minister Tarique Rahman will travel to New Delhi next month to attend the outreach session of the 18th BRICS Summit.

He also urged the media to distinguish between two separate invitations extended by India — one for a bilateral visit by the prime minister and another for his participation in the BRICS outreach session in his capacity as chair of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC).

“First of all, I am not an astrologer. So, I cannot predict on which exact day it will happen,” the foreign minister told reporters at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

“Secondly, the BIMSTEC invitation was not extended to the prime minister personally. It was addressed to the chairperson of BIMSTEC,” he said.

Dr Khalilur was briefing reporters after Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Dinesh Trivedi paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Tarique Rahman at the Secretariat.



Bangladesh Foreign Minister Khalilur Rahman

The foreign minister said Bangladesh had received two invitations from India. One was extended by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi for a bilateral visit, while the other was extended to the BIMSTEC chairperson to attend the outreach session of the BRICS Summit.

During his meeting with the prime minister, the Indian high commissioner conveyed greetings from Prime Minister Narendra Modi and expressed India’s intention to work with the Government and people of Bangladesh in a positive, constructive and forward-looking manner.

The two sides exchanged views on matters of mutual interest and discussed ways to further strengthen bilateral relations through a people-centric approach.

The high commissioner

also paid a courtesy call on Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed. Their discussions focused on bilateral relations and areas of common interest, including security cooperation.

Trivedi conveyed India’s willingness to strengthen people-centric cooperation across various areas, based on mutual interest, mutual benefit and mutual sensitivities.

India on August 4 confirmed that it had invited Prime Minister Tarique Rahman to attend the BRICS Summit in New Delhi in his capacity as the current chair of BIMSTEC. The invitation is separate from a bilateral invitation extended to him earlier this year.

“You would be aware that a formal invitation to Bangladesh Prime Minister

Tarique Rahman to visit India was extended when he assumed office in February 2026,” Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said during a media briefing in New Delhi.

Regarding the BRICS Summit, Jaiswal said India had separately invited the Bangladesh prime minister, in his capacity as the current chair of BIMSTEC, to attend the outreach session of the 18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi.

“The invitation has been extended as per the standard practice being followed in BRICS for the outreach sessions. Other heads of regional groups have also been invited in a similar manner,” he said.

India will host the 18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi on September 12-13. The summit is expected to focus on global cooperation, trade and sustainable development.

BIMSTEC comprises seven countries in the Bay of Bengal region: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

Bangladesh assumed the chairmanship of BIMSTEC in April last year for a two-year term, reaffirming its commitment to advancing regional cooperation and development.

Rahul Gandhi condemns police action on Jharkhand students

FAIR REPORT
■ New Delhi

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Monday condemned the use of force against students protesting in Jharkhand and called on the State Government to continue to hear the protesters out and resolve their issues immediately.

The Congress is part of the Hemant Soren Government in Jharkhand.



Gandhi’s remarks came after police in Ranchi used water cannons, lobbed tear gas shells, and lathi-charged job aspirants as they breached barricades and attempted to reach the state assembly, protesting the alleged recruitment exam irregularities.

“My message to protesting students in Jharkhand is clear. We condemn any violence against peacefully protesting students,” he said during a press conference.

“It does not matter where

it is happening. We condemn it, we are against it, we do not recommend it, and we do not support it. We are very clear,” the leader of opposition in the Lok Sabha said.

“As long as protests are peaceful, we are against any attack on it with violence,” he added.

Earlier, in a post on social media, he said the use of force against students protesting in

Jharkhand is wrong.

“Students have a right to peaceful protest, and only dialogue can yield solutions. The Jharkhand Government must continue to hear these students out and resolve their issues immediately,” he said.

Several protesters claimed they were injured in the police action, which took place when they reached the final barricade near Jagannathpur Temple on the road to the Jharkhand Assembly, which is in session.

States Focus



DELAY IN J&K STATEHOOD UNDERMINING DEMOCRACY: NC

The prolonged delay in restoring Statehood to Jammu and Kashmir was not only affecting the pace of development but also undermining the democratic aspirations of its people, a senior National Conference leader said on Monday. National Conference Provincial President Jammu, Rattan Lal Gupta, in a statement, urged the Centre to immediately introduce the Statehood Restoration Bill in Parliament and fulfil its assurance given to the people of the Union Territory.

“Home Minister Amit Shah should immediately introduce the Statehood Restoration Bill in Parliament and fulfil the assurance given to the people of Jammu and Kashmir. This will strengthen democracy, restore public confidence and reaffirm the Centre’s commitment to the federal spirit of the Constitution,” Gupta said. (PTI)



NTA TO RELEASE UGC-NET JUNE 2026 ANSWER KEY THIS WEEK

The National Testing Agency (NTA) on Monday said it will publish the provisional answer key for the UGC-NET June 2026 examination on its official website this week.

The NTA will also release answer keys for CSIR-NET and ICAR AIEEA (PG) and AICE (PhD) 2026 examinations. “The provisional answer keys for the UGC-NET June 2026 examination will be published on the official website this week, along with the provisional answer keys for the CSIR-NET and ICAR AIEEA (PG) & AICE (PhD) 2026 examinations,” the NTA said in a public notice. The NTA said candidates will be able to view the provisional answer keys and raise challenges within the notified window. Detailed instructions will be provided at the time of publication, it said. The NTA advised candidates to regularly check its official website and rely only on official communications from the agency. (PTI)

DMK and Congress spar over delimitation amid Centre’s push



Dayanidhi Maran

FAIR REPORT
■ New Delhi

The DMK and the Congress sparred publicly over delimitation on Monday, trading charges of “petty politics” and political opportunism, at a time when the Centre is making renewed efforts to build support for a contentious legislation on redrawing Lok Sabha constituencies by reaching out to opposition parties and NDA constituents.

The spat comes days after a meeting of Tamil Nadu MPs convened by ruling TVK founder and Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay to oppose delimitation, which the Congress attended but the DMK boycotted.

DMK MP and its Lok Sabha Deputy Leader Dayanidhi Maran questioned on X why the Congress is putting up a “No Delimitation” front only in Tamil Nadu while remaining silent in the four States where it is in power.

“Why is the Congress staging a No Delimitation drama only in Tamil Nadu?” Maran said, asking whether the party would question Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, who has

advocated a hybrid model for the exercise in the past.

Maran also questioned the Congress’s participation in the TVK-convened MPs’ meeting, calling it a political spectacle.

“A party that cannot articulate a clear and consistent position on delimitation has no moral authority to preach to Tamil Nadu. What the Congress is indulging in here is nothing more than petty politics,” the DMK leader said. “The people of Tamil Nadu will not be taken in by the theatrics of a reels-driven party that functions as the Congress party’s proxy Government,” he added.

Congress’s Lok Sabha MP from Telangana’s Bhongir, Kiran Kumar Chamala, considered close to Reddy, hit back at Maran, accusing him of “distorting facts” and asserting that his party’s position against population-based delimitation has not changed.

Chamala said Reddy had attended a conference of southern chief ministers and political leaders convened by DMK leader MK Stalin as a chief minister and “categorically opposed population-based delimitation.”

CM Adhikari leads *Har Ghar Tiranga Yatra* in Kolkata

FAIR REPORT
■ Kolkata

Whorls of tri-colour on Monday overflowed and covered parts of central Kolkata, with a sea of humanity joining Bengal Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari in the first-ever official Har Ghar Tiranga Yatra organised in the State.

Several thousand people joined the rally — raising slogans of Jai Hind and Vande Mataram — that started at the junction of Eden Gardens and Akashvani Bhavan off Calcutta High Court and stamped down the iconic Red Road before culminating at the Victoria Memorial.

Even as the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign took place officially for the first time in Bengal months after the BJP



roared to power, the Chief Minister walked down the central business district flanked by a galaxy of his cabinet colleagues and senior bureaucrats, including the Chief Secretary and Director General of Police, all joining the rendi-

tion of Vande Mataram. The Chief Minister was joined among others by State Transport Minister Arjun Singh, Health Minister Sharadwata Mukhopadhyay and other BJP MLAs.

At the end of the rally, the Chief Minister once again announced the Government’s plans to distribute 70 lakh tri-colour flags across the State as part of the Tiranga initiative. “This yatra is aimed at inspiring nationalistic fervour in the region,” Adhikari said, reiterating “as the Chief Minister I want to announce that Bengal has officially joined the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign with the Chief Minister and the Chief Secretary officially taking part in it” and “we will take a programme to distribute 70 lakh tri-colour flags throughout the State.”

NCERT’s deemed university status to promote research, innovation: Govt

FAIR REPORT
■ New Delhi

The deemed university status granted to NCERT will strengthen it to promote educational research and innovation and collaborate with national and international agencies, the Lok Sabha was informed on Monday.

In a written reply, Minister of State for Education Sukanta Majumdar said the status would further reinforce NCERT’s role as a think tank and a national resource institution in providing technical support to the Central Government as well as State Governments.

The application of the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), New Delhi, for grant of Institution Deemed to be University status was examined by the University Grants Commission (UGC) through



its expert committee as per the provisions of the UGC (Institutions Deemed to be Universities) Regulations, 2023, Majumdar said.

The minister said the committee, after an overall assessment, recommended granting NCERT the status of an Institution Deemed to be University.

“Considering the advice of UGC, the Ministry of Education, vide notification

dated March 30, 2026, declared NCERT, New Delhi, as an Institution Deemed to be University under Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956,” Majumdar said.

“The said declaration was subject to the condition that it shall take appropriate steps to commence research programmes as well as doctoral and innovative academic programmes,” he added.

Received ₹1.89 cr through e-auction of PM mementos in 2025, says Govt

FAIR REPORT
■ New Delhi

The Union Government received ₹1.89 crore through the 2025 edition of the e-auction of mementoes and gifts presented to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, according to data shared by Tourism Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat.

He shared the data in his written response to a query in Lok Sabha on Monday.

He was asked for details of the amount which the Government received from the e-auctions and the dates on which they took place during the last five years.

The amount received by the Government through the e-auction of mementoes and gifts for the seventh edition (2025) stood at ₹1.89 crore, while the corresponding figure for the sixth edition was ₹2.24 crore, according to the data.



In its sixth edition in 2024, over 600 mementoes and gifts were put on e-auction. Shekhawat, on the eve of the start of the 2024 edition, had told mediapersons at the National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA) here that the collection mirrored India’s rich tapestry of culture, spirituality, history and politics.

The minister had then said that the sixth edition was part of a series of successful auctions of the prime minister’s mementos, first

launched in January 2019.

These auctions had garnered more than ₹50 crore in the first five editions, the culture ministry had then said.

In a query in the Lok Sabha, Shekhawat was also asked about the number of times such auctions were organised before 2014.

To which he replied, “Before 2019, no auction of mementoes and gifts was organised by the National Gallery of Modern Arts (NGMA).”

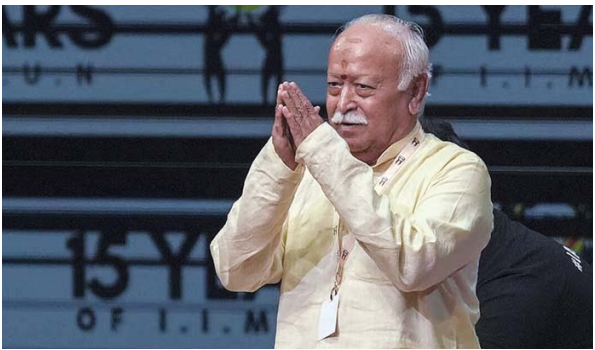
RSS meet to focus on Gen Z, coordination with affiliates

FAIR REPORT
■ New Delhi

Senior functionaries of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and its 32 affiliates, including the BJP, will assemble in Andhra Pradesh’s Visakhapatnam district next week for an annual coordination meeting, which will discuss issues related to Gen Z among other contemporary topics.

The three-day meeting will begin on August 19 at Gudilova, Visakhapatnam. RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat and general secretary Dattatreya Hosabale will preside over the meeting, which will conclude on August 21.

“During the meeting, all the 32 organisations will share



RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat

information about their respective activities and present their observations and suggestions on various important subjects,” RSS national media and publicity department head Sunil Ambekar said in a statement.

He said the meeting will

discuss matters such as enhancing mutual coordination and cooperation, as well as public welfare and policy-related issues.

“The meeting is also expected to discuss issues such as population imbalance, ‘Nasha Mukti’ (de-

addiction), creating awareness among the youth, implementation of ‘Panch Parivartan’, the Bharatiya concept of development, and other related matters,” the senior RSS functionary said.

Sources said the meeting will also discuss “issues related to Gen Z”.

The meeting will be attended by the top office-bearers of all the 32 RSS affiliates, including their presidents and national organising secretaries.

“Sarsangchalak Dr Mohan Bhagwat, Sarkaryawah Dattatreya Hosabale and all Sahsarkaryawahs and Akhil Bharatiya Karyavibhag Pramukhs will be present at the meeting,” the RSS said in the statement.

Youth power, *Vande Mataram* theme for I-Day

FAIR REPORT
■ New Delhi

Youth power and their contributions to national development, as well as 150 years of ‘Vande Mataram’, will be the theme of this year’s Independence Day celebrations on August 15, the defence ministry said on Monday.

At the same time, Defence Secretary RK Singh said the plan to celebrate the success and contribution of youth during the celebrations at the Red Fort “predates” the students’ protest at the Jantar Mantar.

“The celebrations this year will also commemorate Yuva Shakti, acknowledging the contribution of young India in building a



Viksit Bharat by 2047.

“Youths are a critical part of our journey towards a developed Bharat because they will both be contributing to it and will hopefully be gaining from it. That is the only reason,” he said at a media briefing.

“The plan to celebrate the success and contribution of youth at the Independence Day celebrations predates any other event,” he said.

“I can assure you that this planning predates the Jantar Mantar agitation,” he added. Singh said that as 2026

marks 150 years of ‘Vande Mataram’, the national song will be sung from the ramparts of the Red Fort for the first time as a tribute to its enduring legacy.

It will be sung at the start of the Independence Day celebrations. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will unfurl the national flag and the national anthem will be sung.

To a question, the defence secretary said Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi has been invited to the event, and the seating arrangements for the invitees will be strictly followed as per the Table of Precedence (ToP).

Singh said that as per ToP, Gandhi’s seat will be after the Cabinet ministers.

States Focus



NAVY CHIEF SWAMINATHAN BEGINS 4-DAY VISIT TO MAURITIUS

Navy Chief Admiral Krishna Swaminathan began a four-day visit to Mauritius on Monday to solidify bilateral maritime engagement with the strategically located Indian Ocean nation.

Admiral Krishnan will hold talks with top leadership of the Mauritian Government on matters of “mutual interest” such as maritime security, defence cooperation, capacity building and military collaboration, according to the Indian Navy.

“The visit is part of India's continued engagement to strengthen bilateral maritime cooperation and deepen defence ties with Mauritius, an extremely valued partner in the Indian Ocean Region,” it said.

(PTI)



VB-G RAM G COULD WORSEN RURAL UNEMPLOYMENT: GEHLOT

Former Rajasthan chief minister Ashok Gehlot on Monday urged the Centre to address shortcomings in the 'Viksit Bharat-Guaranteee for Rozgar Evam Aajeevika Mission Gramin' (VB-G RAM G) scheme, alleging that it has failed in its very first month and could worsen rural unemployment. In a statement, Gehlot claimed that the scheme, which replaced the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) from July 1, has performed poorly. “The VB-G RAM G scheme has proved to be a complete failure in its very first month of implementation,” he said. Citing a media report, the senior Congress leader said only 7.67 crore person-days of employment were generated under the scheme in July 2026.

(PTI)

India expands e-visa entry points

FAIR REPORT

■ New Delhi

The Government of India has announced 11 more International Ports where e-visa holders can enter the country. These include nine land ports and two airports, bringing the total number of entry points to 88. There are now 37 airports, 38 seaports, and 13 land ports, making India's electronic visa system more accessible and convenient.

The new airports added are Bhopal and Tirupati. The land ports now included are Agartala, Darranga, Gede, Ghojadanga, Haridaspur, Jaigaon, Dawki, Moreh, and Attari (Road). With these additions, travellers arriving by air, sea, or land have more options to use the e-visa system.

This update is part of ongoing efforts led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah. In recent years, the Government has aimed to make the visa process more open, simple, and efficient. This aims to make travel



easier for foreign visitors and to improve technology for better security. Introducing the e-visa was a major step. It started in 2014 for people from 43 countries and now covers citizens from 172 countries.

India processes about 95 per cent of e-visa applications in less than 72 hours, showing the system's efficiency. There are 17 types of e-visas for different needs, including tourism, mountaineering, business (B-1 to B-6), medical (M-1 to M-4), student (S-1 and S-2), transit, miscellaneous (X-1), and group visas for cruise passen-

gers. The expansion of entry points is expected to make the e-visa even more useful and attractive. By allowing arrivals at more land borders and regional airports, the government is making it easier to reach destinations beyond the main gateways.

This update is especially helpful for travellers from neighbouring countries and those visiting different regions of India, from the Northeast to the central and southern states. By improving the visa system, India shows it is committed to being more open and welcoming. More entry points,

faster processing, and a variety of visa types help boost tourism, medical visits, education, and business. Using digital systems also improves security.

With the total of designated International Ports now standing at 88, this update is another step in modernising India's entry process. Foreign visitors with e-visas now have more choices for where to arrive, making travel planning easier. As the program expands, India continues to welcome travellers from around the world while keeping border security a priority.

Jharkhand CID arrests ex-JPSC chairperson

FAIR REPORT

■ Ranchi

Jharkhand CID on Monday arrested former JPSC chairperson L Khiangte in connection with alleged irregularities in the recruitment examinations, a top official of the State probe agency said.

The 1988-batch IAS officer, who was appointed as Jharkhand Public Service Commission (JPSC) chairperson in February last year after he retired as the state's chief secretary, tendered his resignation on July 22.

“We have arrested former JPSC chairperson L Khiangte in connection with irregularities in recruitment examinations,” Additional Director General (CID), Manoj



Former JPSC chairperson L Khiangte

Kaushik, said. Khiangte had been questioned four times since July 28.

The arrest comes a day after all three JPSC members resigned amid massive protests by aspirants over alleged irregularities in recruitment exams

conducted by the agency. With Khiangte's arrest, the number of people arrested by CID in this case has risen to 20.

He had resigned as JPSC chairperson a day before the CID searched multiple locations, including his offi-

cial residence, in connection with the alleged irregularities.

Khiangte, however, had said he “voluntarily chose to resign” to ensure an impartial investigation into the matter.

On Sunday, all three JPSC members — Ajeeta Bhattacharya, Anima Hansda and Jamal Ahmad — resigned. The development came after the CID summoned the three members for questioning.

According to officials, Ajeeta Bhattacharya, who is the wife of JMM leader Supriyo Bhattacharya, is scheduled to be questioned on August 10, Ahmad on August 12, and Hansda on August 14.

Left unions, farmers’ bodies hold rallies demanding MSPs for farmers

FAIR REPORT

■ Kolkata

Left trade unions and farmers' organisations on Monday held civil disobedience rallies at several district headquarters across West Bengal, pressing for minimum support price (MSP) for agricultural produce and 200 days of work under the rural job guarantee scheme, among other demands.

Members of CITU, AITUC, AIKS and other Left-affiliated trade unions and farmers' organisations took out rallies to district magistrates' offices in Bankura, Bardhaman and other districts.

The protesters demanded implementation of MSP for various agricultural produce across the country.

They also sought the restoration of the MGNREGA in place of the G RAM G job guarantee scheme and demanded 200 days of work for every person annually.



The G RAM G scheme, which replaced the MGNREGA, provides for 125 days of employment to each person every year.

The trade unions and agricultural workers' organisations also demanded a halt to evictions of hawkers and slum dwellers and sought a proper rehabilitation policy for those affected.

Meghalaya’s tribal district council okays amendments to bar non-tribals from taking part in elections

FAIR REPORT

■ Tura (Meghalaya)

The Garo Hills Autonomous District Council in western Meghalaya on Monday approved amendments to its election rules that will bar non-tribals from voting or contesting council elections, while paving the way for a separate electoral roll for the Sixth Schedule body, officials said.

The amendments to Rules 128 and 129 were approved by the council to establish a separate electoral roll specifically for GHADC elections, replacing the practice of using the electoral roll prepared for Assembly elections.

The GHADC, established in 1952 under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution, had for decades conducted its elections using the electoral roll prepared for Assembly polls, allowing members of different communities to participate in the council's electoral process.

The amendments followed violent incidents in the Garo Hills region earlier this year after the authorities issued a notification seeking to bar non-tribals from con-



testing the GHADC elections, in a departure from the practice that continued for over seven decades.

The Meghalaya High Court later cancelled the notification, while the state Government postponed the elections, scheduled for April 10, in view of the violence that claimed two lives.

Under the amended rules, only persons belonging to Scheduled Tribes recognised by the Meghalaya Government and fulfilling other prescribed conditions will be eligible to be included

in the GHADC electoral roll.

“The amendment marks a significant step in protecting the rights and interests of the tribal people of Garo Hills. With a separate electoral roll, non-tribals will no longer be able to participate in GHADC elections either as voters or candidates,” said Chief Executive Member of the council, M Dhormonath Ch Sangma.

The move fulfils a long-standing demand in Garo Hills for a separate electoral roll for the autonomous council, with supporters

arguing that the electoral process of a Sixth Schedule institution should provide greater protection to the interests of tribal communities and enable them to exercise greater control over their own affairs.

The amendment also follows a change approved by the council in March this year, which introduced Scheduled Tribe status as an eligibility criterion for contesting GHADC elections.

The latest amendment, therefore, represents a major departure from the electoral practice followed since the creation of the GHADC and is expected to reshape the composition of its electorate.

The move also comes in line with the commitment made by Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma to address the issue of a separate electoral roll for the GHADC.

The amendment was passed in the council's House, although Rimpu Marak, the member of the district council (MDC) from Tura, was absent when it was taken up and approved.

Tura is the headquarters of West Garo Hills district.

Indian institutions on QS global rankings rise from 11 to 52 since NIRF launch: Govt

FAIR REPORT

■ New Delhi

The number of Indian institutions finding place in the QS World University Rankings has increased from 11 in QS WUR 2015 to 52 in QS WUR 2027 since the launch of the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF), the Lok Sabha was informed on Monday.

In a written reply, Minister of State for Education Sukanta Majumdar said the NIRF was launched in 2015 by the Centre for the annual ranking of institutions and universities of higher education in the country — India Rankings — to promote a healthy competition among educational institutes and universities.

The methodology of these rankings is based on five broad parameters — teaching, learning and resources, research and professional practices, graduation outcomes, outreach and inclusivity, and peer perception.

The number of applications received under NIRF increased from 6,272 in 2021 to 14,163 in 2025. The number of unique institutions partic-



ipating in NIRF increased from 4,030 to 7,692 during 2021-2025, the minister said.

“Since, the launch of NIRF, there has been increase in the number of institutions appearing in the QS World University Rankings, it has increased from 11 institutions in QS WUR 2015 to 52 in QS WUR 2027,” Majumdar said.

“To improve quality of education, several initiatives have been institutionalised in Centrally Funded Institutions,” he said.

Majumdar added that the Centre also provides financial support to state Governments under Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha

Mamata facing people’s wrath for theft: Suwendu

FAIR REPORT

■ Kolkata

Bengal Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari on Monday lashed out at his predecessor Mamata Banerjee for not only running a “corrupt” Government but also for failing to perform her “Raj Dharma ” even as he visited the house of a TMC leader at Halisahar who reportedly died in police custody a few days ago.

“You should learn a lesson or two from my today's visit... that you never did as a Chief Minister... you never visited the houses of the BJP workers who died in political violence... but I as the Chief Minister have come here,” Adhikari said in an apparent reference to his predecessors before announcing a compensatory job for the wife of the deceased person. “I have offered a job to her,” he said.

Earlier on Sunday, Mamata Banerjee's motorcade was attacked with mud and slippers when she visited the



house of the victim, leading her to slam the Chief Minister for “nurturing an army of lumpens.” She alleged on Sunday, “the Chief Minister is behind all these ... he has lumpenised the entire State ... outsiders are coming and doing this ... they attacked my car with stones.”

Adhikari hit back on Monday, saying there was no BJP worker involved in the attack, saying it was the public wrath that she was facing for the corrupt regime she ran for all the theft that she committed. “You (Banerjee) committed theft throughout your rule... for which you are facing the popular wrath... no BJP worker was involved in the incident,” he said.

Sukhbir Badal challenges Kejriwal to open debate on Punjab paper leaks



Shiromani Akali Dal president Sukhbir Singh Badal

FAIR REPORT

■ Bathinda

Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) president Sukhbir Singh Badal on Monday challenged AAP national convenor Arvind Kejriwal to an open debate on the alleged paper leaks and recruitment scams in Punjab, saying he would “expose” him and Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann with facts and figures.

Addressing a dharna at Government Rajindra College here as part of the 'Bhavikh Bachao Morcha' being led by the Students Organisation of India (SOI), the student wing of the SAD, Badal asked Kejriwal to explain why not a single head had rolled despite “repeated examination leaks” that, he claimed, had impacted more than 10 lakh students across the State.

The protest is demanding the immediate resignation

of Punjab Education Minister Harjot Bains and Health Minister Balbir Singh and a CBI probe into what the SAD described as “ten paper leak cases in Punjab”.

The Opposition has been targeting the AAP Government over alleged examination paper leaks following the detection of a cheating racket in the recent pharmacy officer recruitment examination.

Chief Minister Mann, however, has maintained that not a single incident of paper leak has taken place in Punjab during the more than four years of his Government's tenure.

Challenging Kejriwal to hold an open debate with him at any university of his choice in Punjab, Badal said, “I will lay bare before the people of Punjab as to how you leaked the papers. How outsiders were given jobs with facts and figures and how Punjabi youth were ignored.”

VISION INDIA

FAIR REPORT 04

Preparations Speed Up for Proposed Visit of Home Minister Shah and CM Sharma to Nimbahera

District Collector and SP inspect Atal statue, public meeting and helipad sites

FAIR REPORT
CHITTORGARH

Preparations have been stepped up for the proposed visit of Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah and Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma to Nimbahera on August 16. During the proposed programme, the 21-feet-high Ashtadhatu statue of Bharat Ratna and former Prime Minister late Atal Bihari Vajpayee, installed by the Municipal Council at JK Circle, is proposed to be inaugurated. The inauguration of various development works and foundation stone laying of new development works are also proposed. On Monday, former UDH Minister and MLA Shrichand Kriplani, District Collector Dr Manju



Chaudhary and District Superintendent of Police Dharmendra Singh inspected the inauguration site of Atal Bihari Vajpayee's statue, the public meeting venue at the sports ground of Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar Government Postgraduate College and the helipad site. The officers checked various arrangements at the sites and took information about the preparations from the con-

cerned department officials. They also gave necessary instructions. MLA Shrichand Kriplani gave detailed information to the officials about the preparations for the proposed programme and stressed the need for proper coordination to conduct the programme in a well-organised and dignified manner. He said that the arrival of Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah

and Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma in Nimbahera is a matter of pride for the area and people are very excited about the programme. Kriplani said that on August 16, the death anniversary of former Prime Minister and Bharat Ratna late Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the 21-feet-high Ashtadhatu statue of Vajpayee is proposed to be inaugurated. Along with this, the Bharat Mata Gar-

den, Bharat Mata statue and Veerangana Pannad-hay statue, along with various completed development works in Nimbahera, are proposed to be inaugurated. The foundation stones of new development works are also proposed to be laid. Former MLA Ashok Navlakha, outgoing District Chief Gabbar Singh Ahir, BJP Nagar President Kapil Chaudhary, Purvi Mandal President Ashok Jat, Nagar General Secretary Devkarana Samdani, BJYM Rural Mandal Vice President Ravi Jat, SDM and Municipal Council Administrator Vikas Pancholi, Commissioner Durgesh Singh Rawal, PWD XEN Ravi Bansal, Assistant Engineer Nisha Purbiya, Municipal Council Assistant Engineer Dulichand Solanki, Junior Engineer Satyanarayan Prajapat and other concerned department officials were present during the inspection.

Man Arrested for Viral Social Media Post Showing Country-Made Gun-Like Weapon

Police take action against person trying to create fear through weapon display on social media; arrested for disturbing peace

FAIR REPORT
CHITTORGARH

Chittorgarh District Police took action against a young man who uploaded a social media post with a country-made gun-like weapon and allegedly tried to create fear among people. In a joint action, the District Special Team (DST) and Sadar Chittorgarh Police identified the youth through technical analysis and monitoring and arrested him for disturbing peace. District Police Superintendent Dharmendra Singh said that some anti-social elements misuse social media to show fake pride and create fear

among people. They post photos and videos with weapons or devices that look like weapons to show their power. Police are taking strict action against such persons who misuse social media, display weapons, spread misleading content, show criminal behaviour or glorify crime. Following the directions of Additional SP Gajendra Singh Jodha and Deputy SP Brijesh Singh, a police team was formed under the leadership of Sadar Police Station SHO Prem Singh. Based on technical analysis and monitoring of social media, police identified the account operator. Police found that Devilal, son of Banshidass, aged 32, resident of Dhakad Mohalla, Sadar Chittorgarh, had uploaded a post on social media showing a country-made gun-like weapon.

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account operator. Police found that Devilal, son of Banshidass, aged 32, resident of Dhakad Mohalla, Sadar Chittorgarh, had uploaded a post on social media showing a country-made gun-like weapon. The post allegedly created fear among people. Police arrested him under action for disturbing peace. Police said that social media should not be used to create fear or show weapons. Such posts can create unnecessary panic among the public, and strict action will be taken against persons involved in such activities.

Har Ghar Tiranga, Har Dil Tiranga: Message of Patriotism Echoes in Chittorgarh



City joins grand Tiranga rally; students, youth, police, NCC and Scouts-Guides show patriotic spirit

FAIR REPORT
CHITTORGARH

A grand Tiranga rally was organised in Chittorgarh on Monday under the 'Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign-2026'. A large number of students, youth, Scouts-Guides, NCC cadets, police personnel, public representatives, officers and local residents participated in the rally carrying the Tricolour. The city atmosphere was filled with patriotic slogans and waving Tricolours. The rally started from the District Collector Office and passed through the main roads of the city before reaching Subhash Chowk. Local people welcomed the rally at different places. The enthusiasm of students and youth was clearly visible.

MLA Akya said- Tiranga is a symbol of unity and national pride

At Subhash Chowk, MLA Chandrabhan Singh Akya said that the Tiranga is a symbol of the

Collector Dr Manju said- Public participation will make the campaign a mass movement

District Collector Dr Manju said that 'Har Ghar Tiranga' is not only a government programme but a nationwide campaign connected with the participation of every citizen. From August 9 to 17, Tiranga Yatras, cultural programmes and public awareness activities are being organised in the district to involve more people. Additional District Collector Dinesh Dhakad, Zilla Parishad Chief Executive Officer Vinay Pathak, Raghu Sharma, Badrilal Jat, Harshvardhan Singh, administrative officers, public representatives, police personnel, teachers, students and prominent citizens participated in the rally.

Programmes will be held across the district from August 9 to 17

Under the campaign, Tiranga Yatras, Prabhath Pheris, cycle and e-bike rallies, tractor Tiranga rallies, cultural programmes, exhibitions and public awareness activities are being organised across the district. People are being encouraged to hoist the Tiranga at their homes and establishments on Independence Day.

country's honour, unity, integrity and national pride. The 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign gives every citizen an opportunity to show respect and responsibility towards the nation. He appealed to

people to hoist the Tiranga at their homes on Independence Day and actively participate in the campaign. The MLA also administered the Tiranga Yatra pledge to the people present.

CLAIMING CONTACT WITH HIGH COURT JUDGES, businessman was allegedly cheated of Rs 2.45 crore

Allegation of cheating a sweet shop businessman from Nimbahera; claimed contacts with leaders and officers and promised to get SP posting, Sanwaliyaji chairman post and laddoo contract

FAIR REPORT
CHITTORGARH

Jodhpur Police took major action on Saturday in the case of alleged cheating of Rs 2 crore 45 lakh from a sweet shop businessman from Nimbahera. Boranada Police arrested Jodhpur resident Sumta Bishnoi and her two sons Vinod Bishnoi and Manish Bishnoi. According to police records, Sumta Bishnoi is a history-sheeter of Bo-



ranada police station. She was absconding since the case was registered. After receiving information that she had come to her house, the police team raided the place and arrested all three. Boranada ACP

Narendra Kumar Pareek said that a case of cheating was registered against Sumta and three others on the complaint of Nimbahera sweet shop businessman Parvat Singh Rajpurohit. After their arrest, all

three accused were produced in court and sent to police remand till August 14. Police are now questioning the accused about the money transactions and the role of other people involved in the case.

Businessman reached Jodhpur through a 27-year-old acquaintance

According to the complaint given to the police, businessman Parvat Singh Rajpurohit had known MP Police head constable Raghav Singh for about 27 years in connection with business. It is alleged that in February 2025, Raghav Singh took the businessman to Jodhpur and introduced him to Sumta Bishnoi. The businessman claimed that Sumta said she had contacts with senior leaders, officers and High Court judges and gained his trust by talking to some people over the phone. According to the complaint, Sumta promised to get the SP posting in Chittorgarh, the chairman post at Sanwaliyaji Temple and the laddoo prasad contract.

Case was under High Court monitoring, absconding Sumta arrested from home

As the matter was high-profile, it was also reportedly under the monitoring of the Rajasthan High Court. After the case was registered, Sumta had been absconding and police were searching for her. Meanwhile, police received information that she had come to her house. The team reached the spot and arrested Sumta along with her two sons. According to police records, a cheating case was already registered against Sumta Bishnoi. Police are now investigating her old cases and their possible connection with the present case. During questioning, police are also investigat-

ing the money transactions, the role of other suspected persons and documents related to the alleged cheating.

When he reached the house to ask for money, plot power of attorney issue came up

According to the complaint, on October 3, 2025, the businessman reached Sumta's house with some other people to ask for his money back. There, an issue related to the power of attorney of a plot also came up. The businessman alleged that Sumta threatened him. After this, he submitted a complaint to the Jodhpur Police Commissioner, based on which a case was registered at Boranada police station.

ALLEGATION OF TAKING RS 1.50 CRORE IN CASH FIRST, THEN ASKING FOR MONEY IN THE NAME OF BAIL

The businessman alleged that around Rs 1.50 crore in cash was taken from him in the name of these works. According to the complaint, this amount was given to Sumta's sons Manish and Vinod. After this, it was alleged that another Rs 1.40 crore was taken in the name of getting bail from the High Court for a person involved in an opium case. During this period, cheques of Rs 50 lakh, Rs 60 lakh and Rs 70 lakh were also taken, but later they were returned by the bank. When the businessman asked for his money back, he was allegedly told that the money had to be paid to a judge in the High Court. Later, there was also an allegation of giving a cheque of Rs 30 lakh and then taking it back and making the payment in cash.