

FAIR REPORT

THE DAWN OF A FEARLESS PEN



ELEPHANTS AT ALIPORE ZOO

A pair of elephants in their enclosure at the Allipore Zoological Garden, in Kolkata, West Bengal.

Rajasthan Cabinet Clears UCC, Tree Protection Bill

₹1 Lakh Fine, Jail for Felling Khejri Ahead of Panchayat Polls

■ FAIR REPORT
JAIPUR

In a decisive pre-election move, the Rajasthan cabinet on Thursday cleared two landmark bills — the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) and the Rajasthan Tree Protection Act — hours before the model code of conduct kicks in for the upcoming Panchayat and local body elections. Both bills will be tabled in the assembly session beginning August 20.

One State, One Law

The UCC bill, cabinet sources said, is designed to bring uniformity to marriage, divorce, succession, maintenance and live-in relationship rules across communities, fulfilling the government's stated goal of "one state, one law." Tribal and indigenous customs have been kept outside its ambit.

Under the new framework, marriage registration will be mandatory within 60 days, as will divorce registration — with a 10,000 fine for non-compliance. Couples in live-in relationships will now be required to formally declare both the start and end of such arrangements.

The bill also delivers a sharp blow to polygamy, banning more than one marriage outright once enacted, while granting complete freedom to remarry — reversing restrictions that existed for many communi-

ties. On inheritance, the law levels the field: sons and daughters will get equal succession rights across all religions, and grandsons will now be entitled to a share of ancestral property even if the son predeceased the father — a right they were previously denied.

Cut a Khejri, Pay a Lakh

Alongside the UCC, the cabinet approved the Rajasthan Tree Protection Act, a law with real teeth for the desert state's ecology. State Environment Minister Jogaram Patel said the bill was framed keeping in mind the sentiments of the saint community and environmentalists, and bars the felling of 29 tree species altogether — including the Kalpavriksha Khejri and the state tree, Rohida. Cutting any of these without prior permission from the competent authority will now invite a fine of 1 lakh and up to a year in jail — a provision that will apply even to private land, barring areas within 500 metres of habitation. Where felling is unavoidable, the bill mandates replacement plantation of 10% more trees than were cut, with ongoing maintenance built into the approval. Anyone unable to plant the required trees themselves must instead deposit a prescribed amount, which the government will use to plant trees on their behalf.

Deputy CM Premchand Bairwa Leads Plantation Drive at Rajkiya Ramchandra Khetan Polytechnic College

■ FAIR REPORT
JAIPUR

A large-scale plantation drive got underway on the campus of Rajkiya Ramchandra Khetan Polytechnic College, with Deputy Chief Minister Dr. Premchand Bairwa and Additional Chief Secretary Kuldeep Ranka jointly planting saplings to inaugurate the initiative.

Programme coordinator Rughram Panwar said the drive saw a total of 750 saplings planted across the campus as part of the intensive greening effort. The event was attended by Principal Vinod Jangid, Doordarshan Deputy Director General Satish Depal, CEG Director Dr. Avinash, Engineering College Principal Dr. Krishna Gopal Sharma, Alumni Association president G.P. Sharma and general secretary Dinesh Kumar Sharma, along with Civil Rights Society mem-



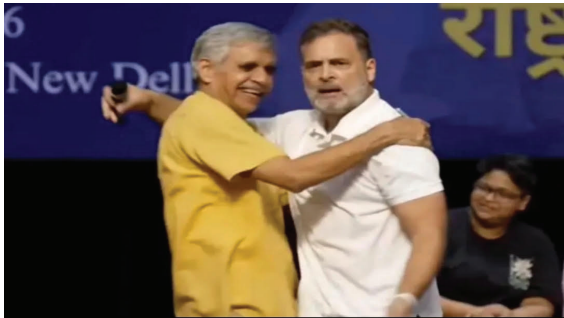
bers G.L. Verma and Ramesh Jalan, besides college staff and students.

“He Hasn’t Reached That Stage Yet”: Congress’s Foreign Policy Skit Turns Into a Meloni Punchline BJP Isn’t Laughing At

■ FAIR REPORT
NEW DELHI

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's attempt to mock Prime Minister Narendra Modi's diplomatic style as little more than a series of hugs backfired into a full-blown controversy on Thursday, after a stage bit involving party colleague Sandeep Dikshit veered into an off-colour reference to Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni.

Addressing the Rachnatmak Congress National Convention in the capital, Gandhi argued that the Modi government has reduced foreign policy to symbolic embraces with world leaders, dismissing the approach as amateurish. He accused the BJP-RSS combine of being a "bunch of jokers" with no real understand-



ing of the country (Telangana Today), and to drive his point home, pulled Dikshit into an unplanned bear hug mid-speech.

That's when the moment tipped from political theatre into controversy. Dikshit quipped, asking whether Gandhi had mistaken him for Meloni (OneIndia), drawing laughter from the crowd. Gandhi shot back that he hadn't "reached that stage yet" (OneIndia) — a line that was cheered on stage

but landed very differently once clipped and circulated online.

BJP MP Bansuri Swaraj led the charge in response, calling the remark crude, vulgar and lacking basic decency — a description now doing the rounds as the party frames the episode as proof that the Congress's "constructive politics" branding doesn't extend to its leaders' language about a foreign head of government. Commenta-

RAJASTHAN DRAWS THE URBAN POLL MAP: RESERVATION LOTTERY COVERS 309 CIVIC BODIES



Hemraj Tikamchand Tiwari

309 mayor, chairperson posts reserved through lottery; 101 posts earmarked for women

■ FAIR REPORT
JAIPUR

In a move that could shape the political contest in Rajasthan's urban local bodies, the state government on Thursday completed the reservation lottery for

the posts of mayors, chairpersons and presidents across 309 urban local bodies, with the process conducted in the presence of political representatives, media personnel and other public representatives.

The lottery was held at 10 am at the Directorate of Local Self Government in Jaipur under the chairmanship of Urban Development and Local Self Government Minister Jhabar Singh Kharra. The reservation exercise was based on the 2011 Census, while urban local bodies constituted through subsequent government notifications were also included.

The government presented the exercise as a transparent process, with



the lottery also being live-streamed on a digital screen outside the Directorate for representatives of political parties and members of the public.

101 posts reserved for women

Of the 309 posts covered by the exercise, 101 have been reserved for women

across different categories.

The breakup includes:

- Scheduled Castes:** 50 posts, including 16 for women
- Scheduled Tribes:** 11 posts, including 3 for women
- Other Backward Classes:** 60 posts, including 20

for women

Unreserved: 188 posts, including 62 for women

The reservation pattern gives women representation across SC, ST, OBC and unreserved categories, potentially opening a significant number of urban leadership positions to women candidates.

Division-wise Urban Local Bodies & Women Reservation					
Division	Urban Local Bodies	SC Women	ST Women	OBC Women	Unreserved Women
Jaipur	91	4	2	6	18
Ajmer	52	3	—	3	11
Udaipur	28	—	1	2	6
Jodhpur	41	3	—	3	8
Kota	28	1	—	2	6
Bikaner	37	2	—	2	8
Bharatpur	32	3	—	2	5

The process was attended by Local Self Government Department Secretary Ravi Jain, Director Prateek Jueykar, Additional Director Dr Ashok Kumar and other senior officials. The reservation exercise is significant not merely as an administrative formality but as a potential reset of Rajasthan's urban leadership map. With 101 posts reserved for women, political parties will now have to recalibrate candidate selection and local electoral strategies across the state's seven divisions. The government said the exercise was designed to ensure transparency while strengthening women's participation and representation in urban local governance.

Jaipur gets the largest share

The Jaipur division, with 91 urban local bodies, accounts for the largest

number of reserved posts. Of its 13 SC-reserved posts, four have been earmarked for women. Two of the six ST-reserved

posts, six of the 19 OBC-reserved posts and 18 of the 53 unreserved posts have also been reserved for women.

Monsoon Session fell victim to Rahul Gandhi’s ego: BJP

FAIR REPORT
■ New Delhi

The BJP on Thursday accused Congress leader Rahul Gandhi of repeatedly changing goalposts on discussions in Parliament and alleged that the Monsoon Session had fallen victim to “one leader’s ego, indiscipline and insolence”.

Lok Sabha was adjourned sine die on Thursday, drawing curtains on a stormy Monsoon Session that saw relentless protests by the Opposition over the police action against agitating students and the alleged theft of Ram temple donations, besides the passage of several key bills without debate.

Addressing a press conference on the last day of the Monsoon Session, senior BJP leader and MP Ravi Shankar Prasad alleged that the Opposition did not allow Parliament to function despite the Government’s readiness for discussions.

Calling Gandhi irresponsi-



Union Minister Kiren Rijiju, MoS Jitendra Singh, Arjun Ram Meghwal, BJP MP Nitin Nabin and others stand at attention during the rendition of ‘Vande Mataram’ in Rajya Sabha during the Monsoon Session of Parliament in New Delhi on Thursday

PTI

ble and “immature”, Prasad accused him of lacking political propriety.

“I would like to repeat that Rahul Gandhi is irresponsible. Rahul Gandhi is yet to mature as a leader in the politics of the country. Rahul Gandhi is delinquent. And Rahul Gandhi has a great sense of arrogance and entitlement,” he said.

“The Parliament’s Monsoon Session has fallen victim to one leader’s ego,

indiscipline and insolence,” he added. He said that Gandhi and the opposition kept changing the goalposts during the entire Monsoon Session. Prasad said that the opposition had first demanded a discussion on NEET, then Gandhi staged a protest outside the Prime Minister’s residence, demanded the resignation of the education minister, and later sought answers from Modi.

Govt was rattled during Monsoon Session; Opposition unity was on display: Congress

FAIR REPORT
■ New Delhi

The Congress on Thursday claimed that never before had a Government been so “scared and rattled” as the Modi Government was during the just-concluded Monsoon Session, and the BJP leadership was seen “running away” from Parliament.

The Congress also claimed that opposition unity and solidarity was on full display during the entire duration of the session.

Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah stayed away from parliamentary proceedings, appearing only on the last day just before the House was adjourned sine die.

“I want to remind you that the Monsoon Session has been washed out and 11 years ago in 2015, the Monsoon Session was washed out and the reason



Lok Sabha LoP Rahul Gandhi, Congress MP KC Venugopal and others stand at attention during the rendition of ‘Vande Mataram’ in the House during the Monsoon Session of Parliament in New Delhi on Thursday

PTI

was the Vyapam scam. After 11 years, again an issue related to the youth resulted in a washout,” Ramesh said at a press conference here alongside Congress’ Deputy Leader in the Lok Sabha Gaurav Gogoi.

“So, nothing has changed in 11 years. There were laws made and now reels are being made but nothing has changed,” Ramesh said.

Opposition unity was on display during the session as leaders of the INDIA bloc would meet every day in the chamber of Mallikarjun

Kharge, he said. “We walked together on the path we collectively decided,” Ramesh said. The Rajya Sabha MP said there were five big achievements for the Congress and the opposition in this session.

He said one success was that the ‘One Nation, One Election’, which the Government wanted to bring, was put off till the Winter Session as the opposition raised several questions and the report was not brought.

Govt orders Ola, Uber, Rapido, InDrive to remove advance tipping features



FAIR REPORT
■ New Delhi

In a major relief for millions of daily commuters, the Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) has directed Ola, Uber, Rapido, and InDrive—to remove “advance tipping” and “add-on” features from their mobile applications that suggest passengers can improve their chances of getting a cab by paying extra before a trip begins.

The Government stated that demanding extra money from passengers to secure or expedite bookings is a violation of consumer rights and goes against established aggregator guidelines. The Government stated that the Motor Vehicle Aggregator Guidelines, 2025, do not permit such practices.

Complaints regarding pre-ride tip messages prompted the directive. Previously, commuters during peak hours or bad weather were frequently forced to pay premiums ranging from ₹10 to ₹100 just to get their rides

accepted. Ride-hailing services were previously instructed to cease the practice by the Central Consumer Protection Authority. Passengers will have one fewer choice when making a reservation. Only after your trip is over will you be able to see the tip choice.

Under Clause 14.15 of the Motor Vehicle Aggregator Guidelines, 2025, tips must be voluntary and can be offered only after the journey ends. It applies to all motor vehicle aggregators under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988. The entire tip must go to the driver. The aggregator cannot deduct anything from it. The tip cannot be available: at booking, before the journey begins, or during the journey. The tipping option cannot be shown at the booking stage, before the ride starts, or while the trip is in progress.

“No tipping feature or mechanism shall be provided in the App that is misleading, manipulative, or otherwise in violation of the Consumer Protection Act, 2019,” the ministry said.

LS records one of its lowest productivity in 20 years: PRS data

FAIR REPORT
■ New Delhi

The Lok Sabha recorded one of its lowest productivity levels in more than two decades during the Monsoon Session that ended on Thursday, with only two Parliament sessions since 2004 showing lower functioning, according to data compiled by PRS Legislative Research.

The figures over the past 22 years show wide swings in parliamentary functioning, from sessions where the Houses sat well beyond their scheduled hours to those where political confrontation consumed most of the time available for business.

For the Lok Sabha, the just-concluded session falls among the worst. At 15 per cent, it matches the Winter session of 2016 and is ahead only of Winter 2010 and Winter 2013, when the House functioned for five per cent and eight per cent of its scheduled time respectively, according to the PRS data.



The Rajya Sabha fared better than the Lok Sabha but still functioned for only 33 per cent of its scheduled time, according to PRS, an independent, not-for-profit group that researches and tracks the functioning of Parliament and state legislatures.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju, however, said the productivity of the Lok Sabha during the Monsoon Session was 19 per cent and that of the Rajya Sabha 39 per cent. Responding to a query on the slight variance, PRS maintained that it calculates House productivity by dividing the actual hours Parliament functioned in a session by the total planned sitting hours for that session.

Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma hoists the Tricolour at his residence

FAIR REPORT
JAIPUR

Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma on Thursday hoisted the Tricolour at the Chief Minister’s residence along with his wife as part of the ‘Har Ghar Tiranga’ campaign. On the occasion, the Chief Minister said that this campaign is a celebration that reflects the spirit of patriotism. The National Flag is a symbol of the country’s honour, pride and glory, as well as its sacrifices. Respecting the National Flag is the duty of every citizen. He called upon the people of the State to join the campaign by hoisting the Tricolour at their homes, institutes, shops and public places. It is noteworthy that Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare Jagat Prakash Nadda had launched the state-

level Har Ghar Tiranga campaign in Rajasthan with a state-level Tiranga rally at Albert Hall on last Sunday. The campaign will continue till August 17. With the efforts of the State Government and active participation of the people, the nationwide campaign has taken the form of a people’s movement in the State. This year’s ‘Har Ghar Tiranga’ campaign is dedicated to the completion of 150 years of the national song Vande Mataram. People across the State are enthusiastically hoisting the Tricolour at homes, schools, colleges and workplaces. Various activities, including Tiranga Yatras and rallies, are also being organised in villages and cities to celebrate the spirit of nationalism.



Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma hands over allotment letters to 473 De-notified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic families

FAIR REPORT
JAIPUR

13. Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma handed over allotment letters to 473 De-notified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic families in a programme organised at the Constitution Club on Thursday. CM said the State Government is committed to working for the economic and social empowerment of deprived sections while discharging its responsibilities with sensitivity towards their needs. Special attention is being given to the housing, education and other basic needs of de-notified, nomadic and semi-nomadic families, so that they could become part of the mainstream of development.

The Chief Minister said Prime Minister Narendra Modi, while working to realise the vision of Antodaya of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya, is providing support to deprived sections of society. The Prime Minister had taken significant steps towards social justice and inclusive development, ensuring that relief reached most



disadvantaged section of society. Shri Sharma called upon de-notified, nomadic and semi-nomadic families to educate their children and youth, equip them with skills and qualifications, and encourage them to contribute to nation-building. He also appealed to the public to proactively ensure that people in need and eligible families receive the benefits of government schemes so that their lives can be transformed. Handing over allotment letters and keys symbolically to selected beneficiaries, the Chief Minister said 473 families in Jaipur had been

provided housing. Under the housing scheme at Jaisinghpura Khor, beneficiaries had been allotted 1BHK units. In addition, 50 flats in Kota and 80 plots in Jodhpur were ready for allotment.

He said the allotment letter for a permanent house is a document affirming the beneficiary families’ right to dignity, security, stability and a better future. The State Government is assessing the requirements in every district and adding eligible families to the list for provision of housing. Work on land rights alongside housing accelerated He said the State Government

had so far allotted 838 plots and 106 flats to families belonging to nomadic, semi-nomadic, Gadia Lohar and Kalbelia communities in urban areas. Under the ‘Chief Minister Nomadic Housing Scheme’, 303 families had benefited. The Chief Minister said, alongside housing, work towards securing land rights had also been accelerated. A total of 22,790 land allotment deeds had been distributed to families belonging to these communities. In addition, 15,412 allotment deeds had already been distributed through rural service camps.

Owaisi appears in Hapur court to record statement in 2022 firing case

FAIR REPORT
■ Hapur (UP)



AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi appeared before a court on Thursday to record his statement in connection with a 2022 firing case in which his convoy was allegedly attacked on the Delhi-Meerut highway, officials said.

Additional Superintendent of Police Vineet Bhatnagar said tight security arrangements were in place at the Hapur district court complex and surrounding areas in view of the Hyderabad MP’s arrival. Additional police personnel were deployed at the court premises with special security arrangements made for Owaisi’s movement to and from the court, he added.

Owaisi was returning to Delhi after campaigning for the Uttar Pradesh assembly elections on February 3, 2022, when shots were allegedly fired at his convoy near the Chhijarsi toll plaza in Pilkhuwa. He escaped unhurt

in the attack. Police had arrested Sachin, a resident of Duriyaa in Gautam Buddha Nagar, and Shubham, a resident of Sapla Begampur in Saharanpur’s Nakur area, in connection with the case.

During interrogation, the two allegedly told police that the weapons used in the attack had been provided by Alim, a resident of Radhna village in Meerut’s Mundali area. Alim was subsequently arrested and booked under Section 120B (criminal conspiracy). The three accused are currently out on bail.

The charge sheet names 60 witnesses, including 12 police personnel. The case has been pending before the court since then.

Rajasthan to Recruit 600 Medical Officers Through Direct Recruitment

RUHS issues recruitment notification; online applications open from September 14 to October 13

FAIR REPORT
JAIPUR

The Rajasthan government has moved to strengthen the state’s public healthcare infrastructure with the direct recruitment of 600 Medical Officers, with the Rajasthan University of Health Sciences (RUHS) issuing the recruitment notification for the posts. The recruitment comes as the Bhajan Lal Sharma government pushes ahead with its stated objective of expanding healthcare capacity and improving the quality and accessibility of medical services across Rajasthan. Health Minister Gajendra Singh Khinvsar said the recruitment was aimed at increasing the availability of doctors in government health institutions and further strengthening the state’s medical services.

According to Principal Secretary, Medical and Health, Gayatri Rathore,

the online application process will begin on September 14, 2026, and remain open until October 13, 2026.

Candidates must possess an MBBS degree and must be registered with the Rajasthan Medical Council by the date of the written examination.

The latest recruitment is part of the government’s continuing effort to address manpower requirements in the public health system. Rathore said RUHS had earlier successfully completed the recruitment of 1,699 doctors, who have subsequently been appointed.

The government maintains that the addition of 600 Medical Officers will strengthen the human-resource base of government healthcare institutions, particularly in areas where shortages of doctors can directly affect access to medical care.

The move is also significant for remote and underserved areas, where adequate availability of doctors remains critical to ensuring timely and accessible healthcare for residents.

Vaishnaw walks Union ministers through the railways' war room

FAIR REPORT
 ■ New Delhi

Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Thursday explained the functioning of the Railways War Room to Union Minister for Parliamentary Affairs and Minority Affairs Kiren Rijiju and Union Minister for Labour & Employment and Youth Affairs & Sports Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya.

During the visit, Vaishnaw showed how the War Room uses live railway station feeds, AI-based systems and operational data to monitor railway activities and support timely action.

The War Room provides live feeds of railway stations, including platforms, foot-over bridges and areas outside the station. Live feeds



from stations such as New Delhi and Hazrat Nizamuddin can be monitored from a central location.

Officials can also zoom into individual camera feeds

helping officials understand incidents more quickly.

During rush periods, festivals and high-footfall occasions, the War Room can be used to monitor activity across stations and keep track of changing passenger movement. The system also tracks train movement and delays, helping officials identify which trains are delayed and understand the reason for the delay.

This information can help railway teams assess the situation and determine what action is required to prevent further delays. The Union Ministers got a firsthand look at how the Railways War Room uses live station feeds, AI-based analysis and train movement data to monitor railway operations, official sources said.

Nurse found dead in washroom of state-run hospital in Kolkata

FAIR REPORT
 ■ Kolkata

A nurse was found dead in a washroom of the state-run NRS Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata, hours after she joined duty, the police said on Thursday.

The police have started an investigation into her death, while the health department also formed a separate team to probe into the matter.

Health Minister Dr Sharadwat Mukherjee visited the hospital on Thursday morning and spoke to those



on duty with her the previous night. The 30-year-old nurse was on night duty at the hospital's high-dependency unit (HDU) on Wednesday.

According to the preliminary investigation, she reported for duty around 8 pm and

went to the staff washroom at the antenatal ward in the Gynaecology Department Building around 10.30 pm, police said.

"When she did not return for some time, her colleagues went to check on her and found the washroom door locked. After repeated knocks drew no response, two of them broke open the door and found her lying unconscious on the floor," a police officer said.

A doctor was called to examine the nurse, and she was subsequently declared dead, he said. Personnel from

Entally police station, along with officers of the Detective Department's Homicide team, reached the hospital after being informed about the incident, the officer said.

The preliminary investigation found no visible injury marks on the body, and no suicide note was recovered, he said.

Several medicine vials were reportedly found near her body, prompting investigators to examine whether she had taken the vials with her to the washroom while on duty.

Restoring J&K Statehood first step towards rebuilding democratic institutions: Farooq

FAIR REPORT
 ■ Srinagar

National Conference (NC) president Farooq Abdullah on Thursday said the restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir is an indispensable first step towards rebuilding democratic institutions and restoring the constitutional and democratic rights of the people.

Abdullah made these remarks while addressing a

gathering here.

The three-time chief minister described the restoration of statehood as one of the "most urgent necessities" before J-K.

"Restoration of statehood is an indispensable first step towards rebuilding democratic institutions and restoring the constitutional and democratic rights of the people," he said.

He also expressed concern over continuing wars, vio-



lence, oppression, human rights violations and excessive use of force in Palestine, Lebanon, Iran and other parts

of the world.

"The continued killing and targeting of innocent children, women and elderly people is deeply tragic and a grave concern for humanity," he said.

The NC president expressed alarm over the destruction of hospitals, schools, universities, power stations and other essential infrastructure, saying that human values, democratic principles and international

Bihar minister meets Shah, discusses cooperative sector

FAIR REPORT
 ■ New Delhi

Bihar's Cooperation Minister Ram Kripal Yadav on Wednesday met Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah at Parliament House in New Delhi and held detailed discussions on the progress, achievements and key issues concerning the cooperative sector in Bihar.

During the meeting, Yadav apprised Shah of the steps being taken to

The Bihar minister also informed the Union minister about ongoing efforts towards computerisation of cooperative societies in the state, development of Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) as multipurpose service centres, expansion of banking services under the 'Sahakarita mein Sahakar' initiative, training of PACS and cooperative officials, and linking cooperative products with national and international markets.



strengthen the cooperative movement in the state and to deliver greater benefits to farmers.

The discussions covered major initiatives, including the establishment of a cooperative sugar mill at Sakri in Madhubani district, the Bihar State Cooperative Policy-2026, implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, promotion of vegetable processing and marketing, the world's largest grain storage scheme, and membership of interstate cooperative societies.

Yadav raised several important demands aimed at accelerating the cooperative sector in Bihar. These included faster computerisation of PACS, development of multipurpose service centres, expediting Minimum Support Price (MSP) payments to farmers, and ensuring timely release of funds to the State Food Corporation (SFC).

Amit Shah appreciated the efforts being made to strengthen the cooperative sector in Bihar and assured necessary support and guidance.

Nation Focus



Youth should play active role in politics: CM Mohan Yadav

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav inaugurated the 'Youth Parliament 2026' at the Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly on Thursday and called upon the youth to actively participate in politics.

Addressing more than 50 youngsters from 12 states, he said, "Youth should study and become doctors and engineers, and also enter politics to strengthen democracy. The youth of the country must actively participate in politics. Only the youth will strengthen democracy."

Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, after passing the ICS exam, gave a befitting reply to the British by rejecting the job, and jumped into the freedom movement "to free Mother India from the chains of slavery," the chief minister said.

(PTI)



Urgent action needed to retain Chakan firms: Sharad Pawar

NCP (SP) chief Sharad Pawar on Thursday expressed concern over 20 companies in the Chakan industrial belt planning to shift their operations due to severe traffic congestion and inadequate infrastructure, and urged the Maharashtra Government to take urgent steps to retain industries and protect jobs.

In a post on X, Pawar said the decision by 20 companies employing more than 2,000 workers to relocate was a "serious matter". He said problems related to traffic, pollution, water supply, electricity and roads were forcing industries to consider moving out of Chakan MIDC. "Industries should not be forced to relocate, employment opportunities should be protected and the industrial strength of the state should be maintained," Pawar said.

(PTI)

RG Kar: Ex-TMC MLA arrested after CM intervention

FAIR REPORT
 ■ Kolkata

The police on Thursday arrested former Trinamool Congress MLA and powerful North 24 Parganas leader Nirmal Ghosh for his alleged involvement in the "hurried cremation" of the victim of RG Kar Medical College rape and murder case.

The arrest was made days after Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari announced during a memorial programme of the victim that not one person involved in the case would be spared.

"Within the limited jurisdiction I have in this case, I am committed to that cause. We have not forgotten Abhaya, not forgotten her at all," the Chief Minister had said.

Ghosh was picked up from Sambalpur in Odisha and was being brought to Kolkata, sources said adding his arrest was based upon a fresh complaint made by the father of the victim on Monday. The father of the victim named two other persons also. They include TMC's former Panihati Municipality chairman, Somnath Dey, and the



family's neighbour, Sanjib Mukherjee. The Thursday's development comes amid reports of an on-duty nurse found dead under mysterious circumstances inside the washroom of NRS Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata.

Then a sitting MLA Ghosh in connivance with some other influential persons of Panihati in North 24 Parganas had allegedly hijacked the body of the victim soon after the postmortem ignoring the demand by her family members and protesters for a second postmortem at an

"neutral venue." The post-mortem was conducted post sundown and inside the same hospital where she was murdered in utter defiance of the established Supreme Court guidelines.

Symbolically known as "Abhaya" in Bengal the victim was a lady doctor pursuing her postgraduate course at RG Kar Medical College. She was raped and murdered in the night intervening August 9 and 10 of 2024 sending ripples throughout the country, making international headlines.

While one Sanjay Rai a

civil volunteer was awarded life sentence as the sole accused in the case some other persons including Sandip Ghosh the then Principal of the College and a police inspector and two doctors were subsequently arrested and facing trial for associated offences.

The Chief Minister had already suspended top police officials including then Kolkata Commissioner of Police Vineet Goyal and two other IPS officers for dereliction of duty and offering cash to the victim's kin.

Nirmal Ghosh's son Tirthankar was arrested on July 13 for his involvement in post 2024 elections violence. The senior Ghosh too was named in a number of other cases including post poll violence and a lottery fraud case.

Reacting to the Thursday's development BJP MLA Sourav Sikdar said that "the arrest of such powerful persons itself proves that the police had been freed from the shackles unlike in the previous (Mamata Banerjee) regime when they had to hid beneath the table. With the BJP and honourable Suvendu

Adhikari in power the police have started doing what they should do." Another MLA Sajal Ghosh said, "BJP Government will do whatever it can to bring the guilty to justice."

The Thursday's development comes amid reports of yet another mysterious death inside another medical college in Kolkata. Rupali Burman an on-duty nurse was on Wednesday night found dead inside a washroom of the NRS Medical College and Hospital.

The 30-year-old Rupali Burman was found dead inside the washroom of the Gynaecology Department's High Dependency Unit (HDU). Joint CP Crime Kunal Agarwal said that the matter was noticed around 10.30 at night," adding she was found inside the bathroom which was closed from inside and the doors had to be broken open.

"No suicide has been established so far. The forensic team will conduct investigation and CCTV footage is also being investigated," he said adding three injection vials were found beside her person.

Netaji insult row: West Bengal strips BJP MP of State honour

FAIR REPORT
 ■ Kolkata

Even as the Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose humiliation row threatened to snowball into a major controversy the Bengal Government on Thursday moved swiftly stripping the prestigious Banga Bibhushan Award from Rajya Sabha MP Anant Maharaj for his "derogatory remarks" against the iconic freedom fighter.

This even as one person from Islampur in North Bengal was on Thursday arrested following stern warning by Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari asking people to withdraw derogatory posts from the Net. The Award was withdrawn following a notification from the State Information and Culture Department cancelling the honour.

The Government notification read: "The Government of West Bengal hereby withdraws and annuls the Banga Bibhushan conferred upon Shri Nagendra Ray alias Ananta Maharaj on 21st February, 2026 with immediate effect. Consequently, Shri Nagendra



Ray alias Ananta Maharaj shall cease to be entitled to represent himself as a recipient of the Banga Bibhushan and shall not hereafter use, claim or derive any recognition, privilege or benefit specifically arising from such conferment."

The state Government's order, would not however, refer to any specific comment or incident.

Earlier the Chief Minister had said that "the Government will not tolerate any insult to Netaji who is a national icon...all such posts should immediately be deleted from the social media and those who have done so must apologise though such apology do not guarantee any relief from legal action."

He said that "any person howsoever high one is will have to bear the consequence of insulting Netaji ... the Government will take strict action against them." He however would not take any name in particular.

Maharaj a former leader of Greater Cooch Behar People's Association and presently a BJP Rajya Sabha MP however continued to remain defiant saying his statements were sufficiently buttressed by facts.

The leader who had earlier referred to Netaji as a war criminal who had 'stolen British army and led them against the British Government justifying a counter attack' from the colonial rulers said, "I don't speak without documents it is not me who is talking it is the records that are speaking," he said.

Bengal BJP president Samik Bhattacharya publicly "discredited" such elements who would use derogatory words against Netaji "because he resides in the hearts of the Bengalis and people of India." He said, "anyone political or apolitical who dares insult him should be strongly dealt with."

India leading sustainable future for elephants: Environment minister

FAIR REPORT
 ■ New Delhi

India is pioneering a sustainable future for elephants by combining cutting-edge technologies like artificial intelligence (AI), remote sensing, and geospatial mapping with traditional knowledge to protect their habitats, Minister of State for Environment Kirti Vardhan Singh said on Thursday.

He also underlined the need for cross-sectoral engagement, community participation and scientific approaches to reduce human-elephant conflict



while ensuring the well-being of local communities.

Singh made these comments during an event to mark World Elephant Day 2026 -- celebrated on August

12 every year -- in Visakhapatnam.

"India's commitment to elephant conservation is not merely a policy choice, but a reflection of our civilisation-

al values and ecological responsibility," he added.

The minister highlighted that with 33 elephant reserves, 150 scientifically identified elephant corridors and nearly 60 per cent of the world's wild Asian elephant population, India continues to play a leading role in elephant conservation.

"Human-elephant conflict is a complex issue and it requires a coordinated solution by including various stakeholders and utilising scientific data after its ground-level validation," Singh said.

Law and order has deteriorated in Andhra Pradesh: Jagan

FAIR REPORT
 ■ Panchalingala (Andhra Pradesh)

YSRCP president YS Jagan Mohan Reddy on Thursday alleged that law and order had deteriorated in the state and accused the TDP-led coalition Government of pursuing vindictive politics and targeting Backward Classes (BCs).

Speaking to reporters after meeting YSRCP MLA Virupakshi at the local jail here in Kumool district, the former chief minister alleged that the Government was filing false cases against victims and Opposition leaders to silence them and was particularly targeting BCs, whom he described as the party's support base.

"Law and order has deteriorated in



the State, while the TDP-led coalition Government is pursuing vindictive politics and targeting Backward Classes," Reddy charged. He alleged that the motive was to trouble political adversaries by foisting false cases and warned that those responsible would have to repent in the coming days.

There was no immediate reaction

from the ruling TDP. The YSRCP chief further alleged that false cases had been registered against Virupakshi, with the sitting MLA, his relatives and followers being booked in fabricated cases involving 38 people.

Police entered the MLA's house at night, damaged CCTV cameras and arrested him while imposing serious charges, he claimed.

He further alleged that a TDP worker tore his wife's clothes and blamed the incident on the MLA to enable police to invoke provisions of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act.

He claimed police had refused to register a case despite being shown evidence of an attack on a YSRCP cadre's house.

VISION INDIA

FAIR REPORT | 04

BJP District Meeting Held for Atal Gaurav Smriti Ceremony Amit Shah and Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma are expected to visit Nimbahera on August 16 | Responsibilities given to party workers

■ FAIR REPORT
CHITTORGARH

A BJP district meeting was held at the BJP office in Nimbahera on Thursday to discuss preparations for the Atal Gaurav Smriti Ceremony to be held on August 16. Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah and Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma are expected to attend the programme. Party leaders discussed the arrangements and gave different responsibilities to district office-bearers and workers. MP and former BJP



state president C.P. Joshi was the chief guest at the meeting. BJP district president Ratan Lal Gadri chaired the meeting. Former UDH Minister and MLA Shrichand Kriplani gave details about the

preparations. He said the Atal Gaurav Smriti Ceremony will be an important event for Nimbahera. He discussed arrangements related to the meeting venue, stage, parking, traffic, security, drinking water

and seating. He asked workers to work together and make the programme successful. C.P. Joshi said that the visit of Amit Shah and Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma will be an important occasion for BJP workers. He asked workers to increase contact at the booth level and ensure the participation of a large number of people. BJP state vice-president and divisional in-charge Nahar Singh Jodha said that along with the programme, workers should also focus on the upcoming Panchayati Raj

and local body elections. He asked workers to strengthen the organisation at the booth level and increase contact with voters. Pramod Samar, Ratan Lal Gadri, MLA Chandrabhan Singh Akya and Pinkesh Porwal also addressed the meeting. Former MLA Ashok Navlakha, former district chief Gabbar Singh Ahir, Sushila Jinagar and other party leaders, public representatives and workers were present. The meeting was conducted by district general secretary Raghu Sharma and ended with the national anthem.

Police Destroyed Drugs Worth Rs 7 Crore, Over 42 Quintals Destroyed in One Day

More than 42 quintals of dodachura, along with ganja, MDMA and heroin, destroyed | Drugs burnt at UltraTech Cement Plant in Sawa



■ FAIR REPORT
CHITTORGARH

Chittorgarh Police took major action to destroy seized drugs. Under the state-level drug destruction campaign, drugs seized in 47 cases registered at 17 police stations were destroyed on Thursday. More than 42 quintals of drugs and 400 ganja plants were destroyed. According to NCB standard prices, the international estimated value of the destroyed drugs is around Rs 7 crore. The drugs were destroyed by burning them in the kiln of UltraTech Cement Plant at Sawa in Shambhupura police station area, in the presence of SP Dharmendra Singh. Police said that the largest quantity was dodachura. A total of 42 quintals, 5 kg and 183 grams of dodachura seized in 39 cases was destroyed. Apart from this, 1 kg and 175 grams of ganja in

four cases, 123 grams of MDMA in one case, 56 grams of heroin in one case, and 1.582 kg of ganja along with 400 ganja plants in two cases were also destroyed. SP Dharmendra Singh said that drugs seized under the NDPS Act had been kept in police station storerooms for a long time. This was creating a shortage of space. The Non-SR Branch prepared the records after receiving proposals from the concerned police stations. After physical verification and necessary orders from the court, the District Drug Disposal Committee destroyed the drugs as per the prescribed procedure. The action was taken in cases registered at Kotwali Chittorgarh, Sadar Chittorgarh, Kotwali Nimbahera, Sadar Nimbahera, Bassi, Akola, Rawatbhatta, Begun, Parsoli, Bhopalsagar, Shambhupura, Vijaypur, Kanera,

Chandaria, Badi Sadri, Jawada and Bhadesar police stations. Before the destruction, the records of all cases were checked and the seized drugs were properly weighed and verified. Photography and videography of the complete process, including weighing, verification and destruction, was also done to keep the process transparent. ASP Gajendra Singh, DSP Bhadesar Vinod Kumar, Police Inspector Jodharam, Shambhupura SHO Dharmraj, SHOs and store in-charge officers of the concerned police stations, and ASI Manoj Kumar, in-charge of the Non-SR Branch, were present during the action. UltraTech Cement HR Head Nitesh Rathi, Chief Security Officer Dharendra Rathore and Environment Department officer Narendra Bhatt were also present.

Blood Donation Camp Held at Birla Cement Works, 33 People Donated Blood

Employees and workers took active part in the camp | Medical team of M.P. Birla Hospital provided support

■ FAIR REPORT
CHITTORGARH

A blood donation camp was organised at the Birla Cement Works premises of Birla Corporation Limited in Chanderia with the sup-

port of the medical team from M.P. Birla Hospital. Employees and workers took part in the camp and donated blood voluntarily. A total of 33 people donated blood. The employees and workers showed great enthusiasm during the camp. They participated actively and donated blood to support people who may need it in emergencies. The Unit



Head, HR Head and other senior officers of the company were present on the occasion. They appreciated the blood donation camp

and the active participation of the employees. They said that blood donation is an important form of social service and can

help save the life of a person in need. The medical team from M.P. Birla Hospital provided full support during the camp. The team conducted the necessary health checks of the donors and collected blood safely. The organisers said that such programmes are organised to encourage employees to take part in social service activities.



Har Ghar Tiranga rally held at east Delhi DM office

FAIR REPORT
■ New Delhi

On the occasion of the 80th Independence Day of India, a grand "Har Ghar Tiranga" Rally was organised at the District Magistrate (DM) Office, East District, in collaboration with the District Magistrate Office, East District, and the Department of Women and Child Development (WCD), East District.

The rally was led by District Magistrate, East District, Karanjit Vadodaria, along with the ADM, SDM and Tehsildar, Sadhana Singh, District Officer, WCD, East District. Senior officers and officials actively participated in the rally and con-

veyed the message of patriotism, national unity and respect for the Tricolour. The Mission Shakti Team also participated enthusiastically in the rally and contributed to spreading the message of women's empowerment, social responsibility and national pride.

The rally witnessed active participation from CDPOs and supervisors of East District, who joined the programme with great enthusiasm. Selected Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) from different ICDS projects of East District also became part of this grand rally and participated with the spirit of patriotism and unity.



Seva Teerth takes centre stage in I-Day invites

FAIR REPORT ■ New Delhi

The invitation cards for the 80th Independence Day celebrations at the Red Fort prominently depict the newly built Seva Teerth complex, which houses the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), the National Security Council Secretariat and the Cabinet Secretariat.

A 'Dharm Chakra', symbolising the "eternal movement of righteous duty and continuous selfless action", has also been portrayed on the invitation cards. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lead the celebrations from the Red Fort complex in Delhi on August 15.

"The grand event will also commemorate 150 years of the enduring legacy of the national song 'Vande Mataram' and celebrate the energy, aspirations and pivotal contribution of 'Yuva Shakti' in driving India's journey towards Viksit Bharat by 2047," the Defence Ministry said on Thursday.

The multi-page e-invitation cards issued by the Defence Ministry carry a silhouetted image of the Seva Teerth complex at its centre, an icon of the 'Dharm Chakra' on the top right corner, and name of the enclosure on the top left corner, the list of fundamental duties (in English and Hindi), and the full six stanzas of 'Vande Mataram' (in English and Hindi).



Another page carries a set of three QR codes -- one which can be scanned for watching live streaming of the 80th Independence Day celebrations, another one which can be scanned to listen to 'Vande Mataram' and while a third one on scanning will provide the route map, seating arrangement and traffic orientation to reach the venue. The defence ministry also said, in keeping with its efforts to "end VIP culture" and underscore the importance of water conservation, seating enclosures along the Kartavya Path here, during the 2026 Republic Day celebrations, were named after rivers.

For the 80th Independence Day celebrations, the names of the seating enclosures have been named

after major lakes of India. These include Badkhal, Bhimtal, Chandratil, Chilika, Dalpat Sagar, Dimna, Dudhsagar, Haflong, Harike, Hussain Sagar, Kanwar, Kankaria, Kolleru, Loktak, Lonar, Pangong Tso, Pulicat, Pushkar, Rabinadra Sarobar, Ramgarh Tal, Rudrasagar, Sakhya Sagar, Shanti Sagar, Vembanad and Wular, it said.

The new complex houses the PMO, the National Security Council Secretariat and the Cabinet Secretariat. PM had also unveiled the plaque of Seva Teerth at the new complex -- the name inscribed in Devanagari script on the wall of the complex. Below it is the motto 'Nagrik Devo Bhava' (citizen is akin to God).

AI group plans to induct over 100 planes in 2 years: CEO

FAIR REPORT
■ New Delhi

Air India is facing challenges due to external volatility but remains focused on the profitability path and plans to induct over 100 new planes over the next two years, its CEO Campbell Wilson said on Thursday.

The loss-making airline has been facing multiple headwinds, and a leadership transition is happening, with former Ethiopian Airlines Group chief Tewolde Gebremariam set to take over as the CEO and MD from Wilson. During a town hall with staff, Wilson, who is likely to



CEO Campbell Wilson

leave the airline next month, said the annual salary increments will come into effect from October 1.

The recently revised pay structure for pilots will also be effective on the

same date, according to sources. Earlier this year, the increment cycle was deferred by one quarter amid the West Asia turmoil significantly impacting flight operations and costs.

3 feared trapped, 16 rescued as water, debris enter tunnel in Uttarakhand's Chamoli

FAIR REPORT
■ Panchalingala (Andhra Pradesh)

At least three workers were feared trapped and 16 rescued on Thursday after water and debris entered a tunnel under construction at a hydroelectric project site in Chamoli district of Uttarakhand, officials said.

Some of those rescued sustained minor injuries in the incident that occurred at the Tehri Hydro Development Corporation (THDC) Limited's project site in the Pipalkoti area. The construction work is being carried out by the Hindustan Construction Company (HCC), the officials said.

Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami said the government's



People gather outside tunnel of the Vishnugad-Pipalkoti Hydroelectric Project in Chamoli district, Uttarakhand on Thursday

top priority is to safely rescue everyone trapped.

According to information released by the state government, 18 to 19 workers were trapped inside the tunnel around 7 pm. So far, 16 of them have been safely rescued and the operation to bring out the

remaining workers is underway.

Uttarakhand Chief Secretary Anand Vardhan told PTI that reports were received that several workers were trapped after water and debris entered the tunnel of the Pipalkoti hydroelectric project.