

FAIR REPORT

THE DAWN OF A FEARLESS PEN

Be Active in Assembly, Put Government's Vision on Record, CM Tells BJP MLAs

FAIR REPORT
■ JAIPUR

Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma on Wednesday asked BJP legislators to take a more active role in the Assembly and use the House as a platform to highlight the government's achievements, policy priorities and development vision.

Addressing a meeting of the BJP legislature party at the Chief Minister's residence, Sharma told MLAs to participate actively in Assembly proceedings and ensure that

the government's work and vision were articulated prominently on the floor of the House.

The meeting came as the BJP government sought to sharpen its political and legislative messaging, with the Chief Minister asserting that his government was fulfilling promises made to the people at an "unprecedented pace".

'Record work in two-and-a-half years'

Sharma said the BJP government had made public welfare the centre



of its governance agenda and had successfully translated development schemes and projects into implementation across Rajasthan. Taking a direct

swipe at the previous Congress government, he claimed that the BJP administration had achieved "unprecedented" results in two-and-a-half years when compared with the five-year tenure of the Congress government. The Chief Minister also accused the Congress of pursuing "corruption and appeasement politics" and alleged that the party had a record of going back on promises made to the electorate. He urged BJP legislators to take the government's message to the

people and caution them against placing their trust in the Congress.

Water, power, industry and jobs on government agenda Sharma said the "double-engine government" of the BJP had prepared a roadmap for Rajasthan's development and was working across sectors including water, electricity, industry, employment and roads. The emphasis, he said, was not merely on announcing schemes but on ensuring that development projects reached the ground and

translated into tangible benefits for citizens. The Chief Minister asked legislators to communicate these achievements effectively inside the Assembly while also remaining active in their respective constituencies. The meeting thus served both as a legislative briefing and a political call to arms, with the BJP leadership seeking to ensure that the government's development narrative remains firmly at the centre of Assembly debates and public discourse.

Rajasthan's Manav Suthar Scripts Ten-Wicket Test Haul as India Seal Victory in Sri Lanka



FAIR REPORT
■ JAIPUR

Rajasthan's young left-arm spinner Manav Suthar produced a match-defining performance on India's tour of Sri Lanka, claiming 10 wickets in the first Test to play a pivotal role in India's victory.

Playing in the Test held from August 15 to 19, Suthar struck decisively in both innings, returning figures of 4/76 in the first innings and 6/55 in the second.

His 10-wicket match haul underlined the growing stature of the Rajasthan cricketer on the international stage and provided India with a decisive edge in the Test.

Suthar's performance was particularly significant for Rajasthan cricket, with the young player showcasing his ability to

deliver under the pressure of Test cricket. His disciplined bowling across both innings kept Sri Lanka's batting line-up under sustained pressure and contributed substantially to India's successful campaign.

The second-innings spell of 6/55 proved especially crucial, as Suthar dismantled the Sri Lankan batting order and completed a memorable ten-wicket haul.

For the Rajasthan youngster, the Test has marked a significant milestone in what is emerging as a promising international career. With wickets coming consistently across both innings, Suthar not only helped India secure victory but also put his name firmly in the spotlight as one of the young bowling talents to watch.

Rajasthan Sets Two-Phase Civic Polls: 1.44 Crore Voters to Decide 309 Urban Bodies

FAIR REPORT
■ JAIPUR

Rajasthan will hold elections to 309 urban local bodies in two phases, setting the stage for a major civic poll involving more than 1.44 crore voters across the state.

State Election Commissioner Rajeshwar Singh announced the schedule on Wednesday, saying elections to 10 municipal corporations, 47 municipal councils and 252 municipalities would be conducted through an electronic voting machine-based process. Voting for ward members will take place on Sep-



tember 9 and 11, from 7 am to 6 pm, with counting scheduled for September 14. Elections for chairpersons will follow on Sep-

tember 21, while vice-chairpersons will be elected on September 22.

The electoral exercise will involve 1,44,03,853 vot-

ers, including 73.98 lakh men, 70.04 lakh women and 511 third-gender voters. Jaipur Municipal Corporation has the highest electorate at over 24.2 lakh, while Indragarh municipality has the smallest, with 4,744 voters.

The scale of the exercise has expanded sharply since 2019. The number of wards has risen from 7,500 to 10,245, while polling stations have increased from 10,153 to 16,465 following delimitation.

Nearly 1.15 lakh personnel and 98,790 police personnel will be deployed for polling, counting and secu-

rity. The Commission has also imposed expenditure limits of 3.5 lakh for a municipal corporation councillor, 2.5 lakh for a municipal council councillor and 1.5 lakh for a municipality member.

With the announcement, the Model Code of Conduct has come into force across the concerned urban local body areas.

The Commission said 24x7 control rooms, election observers, voter assistance centres and special facilities for persons with disabilities will be put in place to ensure a free, fair and peaceful election.

'Soldiers of Goodwill' Marks 25 Years; Jaipur to Host Evening in Memory of Martyrs

FAIR REPORT
■ JAIPUR

For 25 years, the organisation 'Sadbhaavna Ke Sipahi' (Soldiers of Goodwill) has sought to keep alive a simple but increasingly contested idea in public life: that social harmony, fraternity and secular values must be actively defended. To mark its silver jubilee, the organisation will host 'Ek Shaam Shaheedon Ke Naam' (An Evening in the Name of the Martyrs) at 6 pm on Friday, August 21, at the Mahavir

School auditorium in C-Scheme, Jaipur. The programme will pay tribute to the country's martyrs and call for a renewed commitment to national unity, integrity and social harmony. According to Rajasthan president Rajiv Arora, the organisation was established in 2001 with the vision of creating a broad social platform that could bring together not only political workers but also intellectuals, journalists, writers, lawyers and social activists committed to



peace and communal harmony. Arora said the initiative was launched in keeping with the vision and initiative of then Congress president Sonia Gandhi, with the objective of

strengthening India's secular and social fabric and creating public awareness against terrorism and forces promoting hatred.

The organisation's responsibility was entrusted to veteran actor and former parliamentarian Sunil Dutt, Arora said. He recalled travelling with Dutt across Rajasthan and other parts of the country, including Alwar, Dausa, Jaipur, Ajmer, Dholpur and Bharatpur, to spread the message of peace, fraternity and communal harmony.

From harmony campaigns to humanitarian work

Over the past 25 years, the organisation has undertaken activities ranging from blood-donation and free health-check-up camps to assistance for people in distress. Its members have also participated in relief efforts during natural disasters such as floods and earthquakes. Arora said the organisation's humanitarian work has also included arranging the last rites of unidentified and unclaimed bodies and facilitating the immersion of their ashes in the Ganga.

When the Street Speaks, the Constitution Must Listen



Hemraj Tikamchand Tiwari

By Special Feature Desk

Democracy is tested not when citizens applaud the government, but when they challenge it. India's recent youth protests have exposed a growing impatience with the idea that dissent is disorder, criticism is disloyalty and protest is criminal.

The message from the streets is blunt: power is not a licence to silence. The judiciary now appears to be drawing the constitutional line that the executive cannot cross.

The Bombay High Court's July 2 judgment is important not because it favoured the government or its opponents, but because it reaffirmed a basic constitutional principle: a citizen does not surrender fundamental rights merely by opposing the government.

The court quashed the externment order against activist Saeed Ahmad Abdul Wahid Chaudhary, holding that merely opposing Union government de-



cisions and raising slogans cannot by itself justify externment. Justice Madhav Jamdar questioned why a citizen should be prevented from protesting simply because the slogans were directed against the government.

That is not judicial activism. That is constitu-

tional duty.

Article 19 protects freedom of speech and peaceful assembly, subject to reasonable restrictions. The State can—and must—act against violence, intimidation and genuine threats to public order. But dissent cannot be casually converted into

disorder, and political opposition cannot become a police category.

For too long, the troubling pattern has been familiar: protest first becomes a law-and-order issue, state machinery follows, and the citizen is left to approach the courts to prove that constitution-

al rights still exist. That inversion must end.

The judiciary is not required to decide whether a government is politically right or wrong. Its duty is harder and more important: to ensure that power remains within constitutional limits.

The test of judicial independence is not whether courts protect popular speech. It is whether they protect unpopular speech too. The Constitution was never designed to protect only the comfortable. It was designed precisely for the moment when power becomes uncomfortable with criticism. Young Indians have taken their

questions to the streets. The political establishment can ignore that warning only at its own peril. The courts must ensure that the Constitution does not remain a framed document on the wall while power operates without restraint. A democracy does not become stronger when nobody protests. It becomes stronger when citizens can dissent without fear, governments can respond without retaliation, and courts can say "No" when the State crosses the constitutional line. That is not the victory of the opposition. That is the Constitution doing its job.

According to the department, around 1,150 candidates have already been appointed. Recommendations concerning another 450 candidates were forwarded to the Rajasthan Staff Selection Board (RSSB). Of these, results for 100 candidates were declared on August 17, 2026, while the remaining cases are being processed. In addition, around 350 recommendations already pending with the RSSB are expected to benefit once the service-rule anomaly is resolved. Taken together, the move could potentially clear the way for employment-related decisions concerning nearly 550 candidates. The intervention is significant because recruitment disputes arising from technicalities in service rules can leave candidates caught between administrative procedures and legal requirements, despite having qualified through a competitive selection process.

App-based driver’s stir turns violent in Odisha

FAIR REPORT
■ Bhubaneswar

The ongoing strike by drivers of app-based ride-hailing services turned violent on Wednesday as they allegedly threw stones at police personnel and vandalised their vans, as well as Government-run Ama buses, police said.

Police officials said that at least 13 police personnel were injured while 80 protesters were arrested.

Drivers and bike riders registered with online vehicle aggregators began a cease-work protest on August 17, pressing for their seven-point charter of demands, including a fare hike, reduction in application fees, social security and other benefits.

On Wednesday, hundreds of them took out a rally from Raj Mahal Square and blocked the Mahatma Gandhi Marg, disrupting traffic in Master Canteen Square and areas near the railway station.

When police personnel tried to persuade the protesters to clear the road, the agitators allegedly turned violent and suddenly pelted stones at the force deployed on the spot, a police officer said. Protesters also vandalised three police vans



and several Ama buses, he said.

At least 13 police personnel, including the inspector in charge of the Capital Police Station, sustained injuries, said Narasingha Bhol, the Additional Commissioner of Police (Cuttack-Bhubaneswar). “We are

examining the CCTV footage. Stri-FAIR REPORT
Fair Report
tained against all those who indulged in the violence,” he said.

Bhubaneswar DCP Jagmohan Meena said about 80 protesters were arrested and all vehicles parked at the protest site were seized.

Police had permitted the protesters to stage a demonstration at Mahatma Gandhi Marg on August 17, but they continued the agitation, he said. “They blocked the major thoroughfare, causing inconvenience to the public.”

Terming the stir “illogical”, the DCP said, “They staged a

protest against private companies. The government has no role in this.”

The situation has returned to normal and vehicular movement has resumed, he added. “We have deployed adequate force at the Lower PMG, and they will be camping there on Thursday too.”

With a large number of cabs, bikes, and auto-rickshaws remaining off the roads, commuters dependent on these services were greatly inconvenienced.

The transport authority has initiated the process to cancel the registration certificate of the seized vehicles, an officer said.

“We are examining the details of the seized vehicles. We will cancel the registration certificate of vehicles that don’t have valid documents,” said Additional Transport Commissioner Sangram Patnaik.

Commenting on the protest, Transport Minister Bibhuti Bhusan Jena said the Government is in the process of preparing a rate chart for the online cab and bike ride operators. “We are planning to further improve the Odisha Yatri app so that the drivers can get maximum benefit from the rides,” said Housing and Urban Development Minister KC Mahapatra.

CBI nets key trafficker feeding Indians into Southeast Asia’s cyber slavery camps

FAIR REPORT
■ New Delhi

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has arrested a key member of a large network that tricks Indian job seekers into working in scam compounds in Myanmar and Cambodia. The accused, from the Hissar area of Haryana, is said to have trafficked at least four people in 2025 by promising them high-paying jobs abroad. These victims were offered appealing jobs in Southeast Asian countries.

Instead, they were sent to guarded compounds and forced to run online fraud schemes, which investigators call “cyber slavery.” People who managed to escape described harsh conditions, such as being locked up, watched all the time, and exploited. Some had to pay large sums to buy their freedom, while others were only released if they found someone else to replace them. Digital evidence from the accused’s seized mobile phones shows direct links to recruiters in Myanmar and Cambodia. Investigators are also examining cryptocurrency payments believed to be commissions from the compound operators. The phones



show that the network posted job ads on Instagram and coordinated with foreign handlers and recruits through encrypted Telegram chats.

The CBI began investigating this organised group of agents and facilitators in December 2025. After conducting searches at eight locations across four states and arresting three more members of the same network in May and June 2026, authorities see this latest arrest as a breakthrough in dismantling the Indian part of the supply chain behind these overseas scam operations.

This pattern repeats in every case. Young people, whether desperate or ambitious, respond to polished online ads and pay intermediaries for ‘processing fees’ or travel costs. They end up trapped far from home, without legal help and with

little contact with their families. Those who have returned have suffered serious psychological and physical harm.

The CBI has issued a new public warning, urging people to be careful. Any job offer received through social media, messaging apps, or personal contacts should be treated with suspicion unless it has been checked with official government sources or accredited employment agencies. This kind of fraud not only causes financial loss but also puts Indian citizens at risk of modern slavery, physical harm, legal trouble abroad, and long-term psychological trauma. The investigation is still focused on tracking financial transactions, finding other agents who are still at large, and identifying foreign operators who profit from the forced labour of trafficked Indians. Authorities say the network is large and not limited to one area. As long as social media is used for job ads and cryptocurrency hides payments, the supply chain will continue.

Investigators warn that the promise of easy money abroad can quickly lead to cyber slavery. Checking job offers before travelling is now essential. It is the only reliable way to stay safe.

Ahmedabad Cyber Police bust ‘Boss Scam’ ring, exposing 4,500 SIM cards and 21,000 OTPs

FAIR REPORT
■ Ahmedabad

One WhatsApp “Boss Scam” involving ₹1.5 crore in Ahmedabad led Gujarat Police to discover a large international cybercrime network operating in India, China, Pakistan and Hong Kong. As a result, the officers arrested two of the main suppliers from West Bengal, seized almost 4,500 dummy SIM cards, traced the sale of more than 21,000 OTPs, and obtained over 10,000 infected devices throughout the country.

The case started in June when an employee was tricked into transferring ₹1.5 crore after scammers impersonated a senior company executive, or “boss.” The scammers used malicious ZIP files and malware sent through WhatsApp or email to take over the executive’s digital identity, change contact numbers, and request urgent money transfers. The Ahmedabad Cyber Crime Branch recovered ₹1.3 crore and returned it to the victim before continuing the investigation.

Investigators traced the scam to Imran Ali Piyaada from North/South 24 Parganas and Injammul (Injamul Mujibar) Molla from Kolkata, both BA graduates. They were brought to Gujarat on transit warrants. Imran, who worked as a point-of-



sale agent for telecom companies such as Airtel, jio, Vi, and BSNL, is accused of misusing customers’ biometric data to obtain SIMs in their real names and then activating dummy numbers without their knowledge. He provided these numbers and the OTPs needed to activate WhatsApp accounts to cyber-criminals.

Over about five years, police say Piyaada sold around 21,000 OTPs for e-commerce platforms like Amazon and Flipkart, as well as online gaming apps, earning more than ₹21 lakh at about ₹100 each. He also sold about 900 WhatsApp activation OTPs for around ₹250 each, making another ₹2.25 lakh. Injamul managed the supply of mobile numbers, dummy SIMs, and WhatsApp accounts. They used devices capable of handling four SIM cards at once and ran WhatsApp groups that openly offered these services. This

setup was a clear example of “Cybercrime as a Service.” They used Telegram before switching to WhatsApp to avoid detection.

Analysis of the 4,500 SIM cards linked the operation to 251 complaints on the National Cybercrime Reporting Portal from 26 states. These included 194 cases of online financial fraud and at least three Boss Scam complaints. Soon after, investigators found international links. They discovered Chinese-developed malware running on systems in Hong Kong and traced a related call centre to Islamabad. Bank accounts used in the fraud were accessed through China-based VPNs. The money was reportedly moved through several countries and converted into cryptocurrency to hide its origin.

Ahmedabad Police Commissioner Anupam Singh Gehlot said the group gave important local telecom and

OTP support to operators in Pakistan and China.

“This group was essentially providing service, offering infrastructure to Pakistan and China to facilitate cyberattacks,” Gehlot said. “They procured SIM cards and provided them to people sitting in other countries. They used Chinese malware and linked these to call centres operated from Islamabad.” More than 10,000 devices, including mobiles, laptops, and desktops connected to the network, have been secured or deactivated, which may have prevented losses of crores of rupees.

The investigation, backed by the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C), has found that local partners are helping with international fraud schemes. More arrests and inquiries are still happening.

People and companies have been advised to be on the lookout for unexpected files, WhatsApp messages coming from ‘bosses’, or urgent requests for money transfers. Authorities advise that people verify such requests with reliable contacts and report any suspicious activity to the cyber-crime helpline. This instance of corporate fraud has revealed a professional criminal network that rented out Indian SIM cards, OTPs, and malware, viewing them as ordinary services.

Punjab Police nets three key Bambiha Gang operatives in major deportation in Malaysia

FAIR REPORT
■ Chandigarh/New Delhi

On Wednesday, the Punjab Police deported three wanted members of the Davinder Bambiha gang from Malaysia. This marks another step forward in their ongoing efforts to tackle gangsters operating from outside the country. The Overseas Fugitive Tracking and Extradition Cell (OFTEC) of the Counter Intelligence Wing, along with central agencies, monitored the suspects and arranged for their return.

Jaspreet Singh, also known as Jas Behbal and from Faridkot, along with Ajay Singh and Pawandeep Singh from Sri Ganganagar in Rajasthan, were arrested by the Punjab Police as soon as they arrived at Indira Gandhi International Airport in New Delhi and were subsequently taken to Punjab for questioning. Director General of Police (DGP) Gaurav Yadav called the operation a breakthrough. “Punjab Police achieves a breakthrough against transnational organised crime as OFTEC of the Counter Intelligence Wing, with assistance from Central Agencies, secures the deportation of three wanted operatives linked to the Davinder Bambiha Gang from Malaysia,” Yadav posted on X. He said the three men are wanted for several crimes, including murder, extortion, use of explosives, and a



Punjab DGP Gaurav Yadav

planned hand-grenade attack in Ludhiana, with suspected links to Pakistan’s Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI). Additional DGP Amit Prasad said the deportation followed months of intelligence work. Police tracked the fugitives’ movements and activities before arranging for their arrest in Malaysia and return to India.

Inspector General of Police Ashish Choudhary shared more about the accused. Jaspreet Singh, also known as Jas Behbal, went to Malaysia in June 2019. There, he met a fugitive gangster and joined the Davinder Bambiha group, eventually becoming a key member.

He has been officially arrested for the 2025 murder of Yadwinder Singh and the driver of Jeewanjot Singh Chahal, also known as Jugnu, who was a former student leader at Panjab University,

Chandigarh. Ajay Singh and Pawandeep Singh, who were also important members of the gang in Malaysia, are accused of directing others to carry out a hand grenade attack in Ludhiana in 2025. The Ludhiana Police stopped the attack.

On October 27, 2025, police arrested two associates and found a P86 Chinese hand grenade with them. According to police sources, the three men face charges for targeted killings, extortion, and illegal use of explosives. Investigators are also looking into possible ISI links that may have helped the gang operate across borders. Punjab Police’s ongoing “Gangstran Te Vaar” campaign was launched under the directions of Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann. The drive aims to dismantle organised crime networks that have increasingly shifted

their bases to countries such as Malaysia, Indonesia and others to evade Indian law enforcement.

Last month, Punjab Police also deported another fugitive gangster, Jobanji Singh, also known as Joban Billa, from Jakarta. DGP Yadav stressed the police’s determination: “Punjab Police remains relentless in dismantling transnational organised crime networks. No matter where the fugitives hide, we will track them down and bring them to justice.”

These arrests are expected to provide important information about the Bambiha gang’s structure, funding, and members still abroad. Investigators will question the three men to learn more about their networks, find evidence from past crimes, and stop future attacks.

For Punjab, which has struggled with gangs, drug cartels, and outside influences, these actions show a tougher approach. By going after overseas safe havens, the police are making it harder for these groups to operate. The latest deportations show that distance and foreign borders cannot protect criminals from the law. With the three accused facing serious charges, the next step is to build strong cases that can lead to convictions and further weaken the Davinder Bambiha gang’s activities in India and abroad.

CCPA fines Amazon ₹1 lakh for selling fake Ayodhya Prasad

FAIR REPORT
■ New Delhi

Amazon, one of the world’s largest service providers, could never have imagined that selling sweets carrying the name of a religious place can land them in serious trouble.

It was fined Rs one lakh for selling “Shri Ram Mandir Ayodhya Prasad” without taking permission from the Ram Mandir Trust. Imposing the penalty, the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) said it was not just a misleading practice but an affront to the religious sentiments of crores of consumers.

The CCPA observed that the phrase “Shri Ram Mandir Ayodhya Prasad” carries a specific and well-understood meaning for Hindu devotees where it denotes “sacred food offered to and blessed by the deity at the Ram Mandir, Ayodhya”. Chief Commissioner Nidhi Khare and Commissioner Anupam Mishra passed the order on August 4, noting that the sweets company earned over ₹25 lakh by selling these sweets. “The commercial

appropriation of this phrase for ordinary confectionery products, without any authorisation from the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust, constitutes not just a misleading trade practice under the CP Act but an affront to the religious sentiments of crores of consumers,” the order stated.

“The opposite party (Amazon) shall ensure that no product falsely claiming to be ‘prasad’, ‘prasadam’, ‘mahaprasad’, ‘bhog’ or any similar religious offering associated with the religious institutions and shrines named in Para 27 (v) of the order, is listed, hosted, advertised, exhibited, or offered for sale on its platform without verifiable documentary proof of authorisation from the concerned institution.

The opposite party shall prominently display complete seller details including the name, address, customer care number, and grievance officer information on its platform in compliance with Rule 5(3)(a) and Rule 5(3)(e) of the E-Commerce Rules, 2020,” the CCPA said in its order. “The commercial appropriation of this phrase



for ordinary confectionery products, without any authorisation from the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust, constitutes not just a misleading trade practice under the CP Act but an affront to the religious sentiments of crores of consumers. The Opposite Party’s platform, by reason of its scale and reach, lent an inherent imprimatur of legitimacy to such listings in the eyes of an average consumer, amplifying the harm caused manifold.

The Authority notes with particular concern the timing of the impugned listings. The products falsely claiming

to be ‘Shri Ram Mandir Ayodhya Prasad’ were listed on the Opposite Party’s platform prior to the Pran Pratishtha (consecration) ceremony of the Shri Ram Mandir, Ayodhya, which took place on January 22, 2024, one of the most significant and widely anticipated religious events in contemporary Indian history,” the CCPA said. It alleged that the products under scrutiny were being marketed as exclusive offerings from the temple. The misleading products included Raghupati Ghee Ladoo, Khoya Khobi Ladoo, Ghee Bundi Ladoo and Desi Cow Milk Peda. It was also

highlighted that the products used religious imagery and slogans referring to the deity. Even the ingredient column on all the products declared it as just “Ram Mandir Prasad.”

The CCPA’s order came in response to a complaint filed by the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) with the CCPA in January 2024. The complaint mentioned dishonest trade practices by listing commercially produced sweets on its website under the misleading label. The traders’ body claimed that customers were being exploited for monetary gain.

The authority said that Amazon, by hosting, displaying, and facilitating the sale of the impugned listings on its platform, was unquestionably a party to the publication of misleading advertisements within the meaning of Section 21(4) of the Consumer Protection Act, 2019. The CCPA further noted that the listings were available for nationwide delivery on one of India’s largest e-commerce platforms, accessible to hundreds of millions of consumers across the country.

Arrest warrant against Mohua Moitra

FAIR REPORT
■ Kolkata

A Nadia district court issued an arrest warrant against Trinamool Congress MP Mohua Moitra for failing to appear before it in a hate speech-related case. The Court also directed submission of an action taken report on the execution of the warrant by 28 August. The erring MP, however, has time to correct her judicial procedure by appearing before the court.

The case relates to alleged hate speech. Third District and Sessions Court Judge Dibyendu Das, while passing the order, held that the MP had failed to respond to earlier pre-cognisance summons. APP Shirshendu Das said that summons were issued to Moitra in a case filed for making some derogatory statements against the Indian Army and Home Minister Amit Shah. She also allegedly made some derogatory remarks against women, the lawyer said. “She would not appear three times despite summons being issued... so this time the learned court has issued the warrant,” the advocate said. The Judge had earlier on



Tuesday asked Moitra to remain present personally. As she did not appear on Wednesday, the Court took cognizance of her “series of disobediences” and “lackadaisical approach” to comply with the court order. The Judge held, “the court is left with no other option but to issue an arrest warrant against her.” Moitra had earlier filed a petition before the Supreme Court seeking permission to appear before an investigating officer virtually, as she feared eggs could be thrown at her like in many previous cases where other TMC leaders were attacked with eggs. The Apex Court had, however, turned down the petition. Meanwhile, in a parallel development, former union minister and TMC MP from Dum Dum Saugato Roy has written to Lok

Sabha Speaker Om Birla alleging breach of privilege against two BJP MLAs from Dum Dum for provoking people to gherao and “attack” his car near Netaji Subhas International Airport, where he was going to attend a meeting in the capacity of Chairman, Kolkata Airport Advisory Authority. The incident took place on Tuesday afternoon. The protesters who surrounded his car and thumped on its bonnet and windows raised slogans like “thief go back,” Roy alleged, adding that the driver of his vehicle was also heckled. “It is an absolute breach of privilege, and two BJP MLAs are behind this... I have written to the Speaker seeking action... strict action should be taken,” Roy said.

The two MLAs are Arijit Bakshi and Sourav Sikdar, both from Dum Dum.

Sikdar subsequently denied his involvement in the incident, saying it could be a product of public discontent. “The way his (Roy) men have indulged in extortion and loot... the locals who were victims of such torture showed their anger through a protest,” Sikdar said.

■ States Focus ■



JP NADDA DISCHARGED FROM AIIMS AFTER ANGIOPLASTY

Union health minister JP Nadda who underwent angioplasty at AIIMS, Delhi, was discharged on Wednesday, hospital authorities said. "Nadda was discharged today after undergoing angioplasty. He had a comfortable stay in hospital and thanked all doctors, nurses and staff for the care provided," the AIIMS statement said. He underwent angioplasty on August 17, following which he was under observation in the Department of Cardiology, an official statement said on Tuesday. The Union minister was admitted to the hospital on August 13 after experiencing uneasiness and had undergone tests including a coronary angiography on the same evening. (PTI)



KARNATAKA HOUSE DISRUPTED OVER MINISTER'S EXIT DEMAND

Karnataka Assembly proceedings witnessed disruptions for the third consecutive day on Wednesday, with the Opposition staging a protest in the House demanding the removal of minister B Nagendra, who faces charges in connection with the alleged embezzlement of crores of rupees in the State-run Karnataka Maharshi Valmiki ST Development Corporation. Soon after the obituary reference to senior BJP leader and former minister BC Nagesh, who died on Tuesday, the opposition BJP and JD(S) raised the issue and demanded that Nagendra be dropped from the Cabinet immediately. Nagendra was inducted into the DK Shivakumar-led Council of Ministers on August 3. (PTI)

Govt ruined youth's future: Kharge

FAIR REPORT
■ New Delhi

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Wednesday accused the Modi Government of "destroying" the future of students and asserted that the time has come for the Congress to formulate a comprehensive 'Education-to-Employment Roadmap' for the youth. In his opening remarks at the Congress Working Committee meeting at the Indira Bhawan, Kharge also questioned the "silence" of Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the alleged theft of Ram temple donations and demanded that the PM apologise for it and answer to the people. "Over the last 12 years, the Modi Government has devastated the future of the youth. Instead of new schools opening, 94,000 schools have closed in recent years. Driven by the race for privatisation,



higher education is becoming increasingly expensive and out of reach for ordinary families," Kharge said. He alleged that educational institutions are increasingly being taken over by RSS people. "Even after completing their education, when young people set out in search of jobs, they are confronted with paper leaks, recruitment exam scams, and delays in appointments. Children from poor and marginalised backgrounds suffer the most in this situation," he said. "The anger that has arisen among the youth across the country is not a sudden or one-day phenomenon. This Government has never had the time to listen to them; instead, it has consistently sought temporary measures to sidestep the issues. Consequently, they have been forced to take to the streets," Kharge said. He said the Congress has incorporated

the concerns of the youth into its agenda. Rahul Gandhi has brought their voices to the national stage through the "Chhatron ki Goonj" programme, Kharge said. "In Parliament, too, we strove for a comprehensive deliberation on issues concerning education and examinations-seeking a discussion on the injustices faced by students and demanding accountability. However, (Prime Minister Narendra) Modi ji and (Home Minister) Amit Shah ji evaded questions throughout the Monsoon Session. Now that they have started speaking, they are prioritising non-issues over the questions raised by the youth," Kharge said. "With the objective of preparing for the future, the time has come for the Congress to prepare a clear, comprehensive, and time-bound 'Education-to-Employment Roadmap' for the youth," Kharge said.

Rahul backs tribals protesting Ken-Betwa project

FAIR REPORT
■ New Delhi

Expressing support for the tribals staging a 'satyagraha' against the Ken-Betwa river-linking project, former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday said he stands with them in this struggle and will visit the site to exert pressure on the Government.

The Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha shared on X a video of his recent meeting with a group of tribals affected by the project.

"The problems, demands, struggles, and personal ordeals of the tribal brothers and sisters who are carrying out a satyagraha against the Ken-Betwa project — their own account. For years, these residents of Bundelkhand have been enduring injustice and



oppression solely for their rights; they deserve respect and support," Gandhi said in his post. "In this fight of our tribal brothers and sisters, the Congress and I stand with them," Gandhi said.

According to the representative, around 11,500 acres of land belonging to approximately 7,000 families would be lost to the project. They urged Rahul Gandhi to raise the issue of alleged harassment by the administration in Parliament and to join the movement.

In the video, Gandhi assured them that he would visit the site and pressure the Government.

The ₹44,605-crore Ken-Betwa Link Project is the country's first river-linking project under the National Perspective Plan. It aims to irrigate 1.062 million hectares of land, provide drinking water to about 6.2 million people and generate hydropower in the drought-prone Bundelkhand region spanning Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.

NCERT reconstitutes textbook development team for class 11, 12 political science; 4 members have RSS links

FAIR REPORT
■ New Delhi

The NCERT has reconstituted the Textbook Development Team for class 11 and 12 political science with a mandate to integrate cultural rootedness, Indian knowledge systems and inclusion, with at least four of the members having direct or indirect links with the RSS.

The team has been asked to develop the class 11 textbook by November and the class 12 book by July next year.

The textbook team will be led by academic and political analyst Sandeep Shastri, vice president of Karnataka-based deemed university Nitte.

Among the members of the textbook development team are at least four academics and educationists with direct or indirect documented backgrounds in the RSS-affiliated Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) and the BJP.



Yadunath Deshpande, now a senior consultant with the Ministry of Education, has a longstanding organisational background in the ABVP. The organisation's own records identify him as its joint state organising secretary for Maharashtra in the past. He subsequently served as an organising secretary in the ABVP's Mumbai-Konkan structure. His LinkedIn profile also describes him as a political consultant for BJP.

Prashant Divekar has a longstanding association with Pune-based Jnana Prabodhini, an RSS-affiliated institution. It was founded in 1962 by Vinayak Vishwanath, an RSS member and pracharak. In his profile on the National Council for Teacher Education's National Mission for Mentoring portal, Divekar describes his approach as being "rooted in Bhartiya educational philosophy" and says he has con-

tributed to the National Curriculum Framework."

Vandana Mishra, professor at JNU's Centre for Political Studies, is a former national secretary of the ABVP.

Ravi Rameshchandra Shukla, Associate Professor at JNU's Centre for Comparative Politics and Political Theory, has been a member of the editorial board of the Indian Journal of Democratic Governance, published by the Indian Institute of Democratic Leadership-Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini, which is an RSS affiliate.

In 2021, Devendra Fadnavis became its president. Shukla has also undertaken research centred on cultural and spiritual nationalism. He is the principal investigator of an ICSSR-funded JNU project titled "The Role of Fests in Shaping of Spiritual and Cultural Nationalism of Bharat: A Study of Kumbha and Magh Mela".

Education minister reviews implementation of PM Modi's free online coaching initiative

FAIR REPORT
■ New Delhi

Union Education Minister Pralhad Joshi on Wednesday held a meeting with senior officials to review implementation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's initiative to provide free online coaching to youth preparing for competitive examinations. Modi had made the announcement during his Independence Day speech last Saturday.

Joshi said on X that the meeting with the officials of the Department of Higher Education focused on "building a robust national platform that makes high-quality learning content, expert guidance and structured preparation accessible to students across the country".

The prime minister had announced free online coaching for aspirants



Union Education Minister Pralhad Joshi holds a review meeting with senior officials on the implementation of the free online coaching initiative for competitive exams in New Delhi (PTI)

preparing for competitive exams to ease the financial burden on their families.

"Coaching classes burden the poor and the middle class. We will provide free online coaching for various exams," Modi said in his address to the nation on India's 80th Independence Day.

"Every parent feels that if they do not send their child

to a coaching class, they are not a prestigious family," he said.

The prime minister said he assures these families that they can save "thousands of crores of rupees" spent on coaching, be close to their children, and care for them.

"And therefore, we have decided to provide free online coaching for various examinations for the youth.

We have digital public infrastructure; we have excellent talent and teachers. By bringing these resources together, we are going to build a complete network to provide free coaching to the youth of the country," Modi said.

The country last month witnessed a strong mobilisation of youth over the NEET-UG paper leak and other education reforms, including ways to tackle the coaching menace.

The "Sanskad Chalo" (March to Parliament) campaign, led by BJP, on July 20 saw widespread protests, bringing the concerns of youth into sharper focus.

By the end of the days-long agitation, the Government was forced to concede the protesters' key demand, the resignation of then education minister Dharmendra Pradhan.

Railways, Assam forest department join hands to protect elephants

FAIR REPORT ■ Guwahati

In a major bid to prevent wildlife casualties along railway tracks, the Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR), in close coordination with the Forest Department of Assam, has intensified proactive measures to ensure the safe passage of elephants crossing tracks across the State.

The effectiveness of these joint initiatives was demonstrated on Wednesday early morning when officials of the Assam Forest Department coordinated with railway authorities to facilitate the timely stoppage of Train No. 20503 (Dibrugarh-New Delhi) Rajdhani Express in the Lumding-Habaipur section. The prompt action allowed a herd of wild elephants to cross the tracks without hindrance.

Similar instances of vigilance by frontline railway staff have been recorded over the past few days. On August



15, the alertness of a loco pilot driving Train No. 15665 (Guwahati-Mariani) Express averted a potential hazard, enabling a herd to safely traverse the tracks in the Lamsakhang-Patharkhola section. The following day, August 16, another loco pilot operating Train No. 15650 (Narangi-Agartala) Express took timely preventive action to ensure safe passage for elephants in the Habaipur-Lamsakhang section.

According to NFR officials, a range of technology-driven and operational measures are being deployed in vulnerable corridors. Key among

these is the Artificial Intelligence-based Intrusion Detection System (IDS), utilizing Distributed Acoustic System (DAS) technology, which provides real-time alerts on elephant movement near the railway tracks. Additionally, the railway department has implemented temporary night-time speed restrictions based on elephant sightings, enhanced track patrolling, and regular clearing of roadside vegetation to improve visibility. Train crews are being routinely sensitised, and cautionary signage has been installed across identified corridors.

Disability rights groups flag gaps in Census 2027 enumeration

FAIR REPORT
■ New Delhi

A coalition of disability rights organisations and activists have raised concern over the manner of proposed enumeration of persons with disabilities in Census 2027, saying the nine categories in the form do not cover all 21 disabilities recognised under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPWD) Act, 2016.

A statement, issued by the National Platform for the Rights of the Disabled (NPRD) and endorsed by 405 signatories, said the proposed classification could result in several groups being left out of official disability statistics. According to the statement, the proposed Census framework has nine categories — seeing, hearing, speech, mobility, intellectual disability, mental illness, acid attack, chronic neurological disease and blood disorder.

The groups said the first six categories, barring the change in terminology from "Mental Retardation" to "Intellectual Disability", were



also part of the 2011 enumeration. Acid attack, chronic neurological diseases and blood disorders are proposed as additional categories, they said.

The RPWD Act, however, recognises 21 specified disabilities, including autism spectrum disorder, specific learning disabilities, cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy, multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's disease, haemophilia, thalassemia, sickle-cell disease and multiple disabilities including deaf-

blindness.

The organisations said disabilities such as autism spectrum disorder, specific learning disabilities, dwarfism, leprosy-cured persons and multiple disabilities, including deafblindness, have not been distinctly provided for in the proposed categories.

They also questioned the grouping of cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy, multiple sclerosis and Parkinson's disease under broader categories. Thalassemia, haemophilia



and sickle-cell disease have been brought under the single category of "blood disorder", they said.

The groups warned that such a classification could affect not only the accuracy of the Census but also subsequent Government planning. "Apart from leaving enumerators clueless, this exercise will produce inaccurate data and render entire groups of persons with disabilities invisible in official statistics," the statement said. It said the impact would

extend to policy-making, programme design, budgetary allocations and accountability.

The groups also referred to an assurance given by Union Minister Ramdas Athawale that data on all 21 disabilities would be captured, saying the reported nine-category framework was contrary to that assurance.

The organisations have demanded that the Census 2027 disability questionnaire individually capture all 21 disabilities recognised under the RPWD Act.

"Census must reflect the progress made in disability rights law, not perpetuate outdated and inadequate classifications," the statement said.

The signatories include disability rights advocates, researchers and representatives of organisations such as Disability Rights Alliance, Sense International India, Action For Autism, Sruti Disability Rights Centre, Disability Rights Association of Goa and the National Association for the Blind.

