

FAIR NATION

FAIR REPORT 02

Police unearth Arsh Dalla-linked narco-terror funding nexus

FAIR REPORT
 ■ New Delhi

A Delhi Police probe has uncovered an alleged terror-funding and drugs-for-weapons nexus linked to designated pro-Khalistan terrorist Arsh Dalla, with opium smuggled to Canada allegedly generating funds while weapons were pushed into Punjab through cross-border drone drops.

Four members of the alleged syndicate have been arrested, and over 5.10 kg of opium has been recovered during the investigation, which began following interception of a single courier parcel in Delhi — eventually exposing a network spanning Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan and extending overseas.

“The case dates back to February 7, when Delhi Police’s Crime Branch received specif-

ic information that a parcel booked through a courier company in Delhi for dispatch to Canada contained narcotics concealed beneath food and household items,” Special Commissioner of Police (Crime Branch) HGS Dhaliwal said in a statement.

A team reached the courier company’s premises in Moti Nagar and intercepted the parcel. Although declared to contain food items and household articles, a search revealed a false bottom beneath the parcel, concealing nearly 3 kg of opium, police said. The false bottom was designed to evade routine security screening and customs inspection, they added.

A case was registered in this connection at the Crime Branch police station. “Instead of treating the seizure as an isolated drug recovery, teams began tracing the entire courier chain. They identified

the dispatcher, examined digital devices, scrutinised financial transactions and analysed technical evidence,” the official said.

The investigation culminated in raids across Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan — leading to interception of two more consignments of opium. One of the parcels — destined for Canada — contained 921 grams of the contraband, while 1.19 kg was found concealed in the other.

Another 23 grams was recovered from the possession of one of the accused, taking the total seizure to 5.138 kg. The recovered opium has an estimated value of Rs 3.5 crore in Canada, according to the Crime Branch.

The investigation also established that different agents were tasked with handling different aspects of the illicit operation. While some were responsible for procuring nar-



cotics, and some took care of concealment and transportation, others prepared consignments and dispatched them abroad through courier companies.

The four arrestees have been identified as Hardeep Singh (28), a resident of Barnala in Punjab; Simranjeet Singh (24) from Punjab’s Bathinda; Yadvinder Singh alias Jashan Sandhu (30) from Sirsa in Haryana; and Jivan

Singh (23), a resident of Rajasthan’s Balotra.

“The investigation subsequently took a more serious turn when forensic examination of mobile phones, encrypted communications, banking records and technical data allegedly revealed links with foreign-based handlers and the network of Arsh Dalla,” the official said.

According to police, the opium being trafficked abroad

was meant for Dalla and his associates. After being sold in Canada, the proceeds were allegedly used for two purposes — financing and expanding the activities of the terrorist-linked gang and making payments to hostile foreign-based handlers. The payments allegedly formed part of a drugs-for-weapons arrangement. Police said in exchange for opium, weapons were pushed into forward areas of Punjab via cross-border drone drops, which were intended for associates of the Arsh Dalla network operating in the state.

“Narcotics trade was not merely a profit-making exercise but part of a larger cycle in which drugs generated money; the money helped finance the network, and arms were brought into India in return,” the official said.

Police said the large profit margin in international opium trade made the arrangement

particularly lucrative.

Opium, allegedly procured in India for around ₹1.5 lakh per kg, about ₹150 per gram, could fetch between 50 and 100 Canadian dollars per gram in Canada. At prevailing exchange rates, this translates to roughly ₹3,300 to ₹6,700 per gram, he said.

According to the official, the network allegedly used several methods to conceal the narcotics and obscure the identities of those behind the operation. Opium was concealed beneath silver-foil false bottoms inside cartons containing food items or, in some instances, inside garments. Forged KYC documents and fictitious consignor details were allegedly used to book consignments in names of unsuspecting persons. The parcels were routed through multiple intermediaries to obscure the identity of handlers.

The accused allegedly com-

municated through encrypted applications, while proxy bank accounts and UPI channels were used to move proceeds and meet operational expenses. Digital and financial evidence helped investigators identify communications, consignees and transactions linked with the syndicate, police said.

The probe has also established the involvement of Arshdeep Singh Gill alias Arsh Dalla, a native of Punjab’s Moga, who fled to Canada in 2018. He was designated terrorist under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act in January 2023, and is among the top leaders of the Khalistan Tiger Force, a proscribed pro-Khalistan terrorist organisation. Dalla was arrested by Canadian authorities in Ontario in November 2024, and the Indian government has been pursuing his extradition.

Pregnant defence ministry officer found dead in Dwarka, husband booked

FAIR REPORT
 ■ New Delhi

A 30-year-old pregnant woman working as an Assistant Section Officer in the Ministry of Defence was found dead at her home in Bharthal village, southwest Delhi’s Dwarka, on Friday. The Delhi police has registered a case of cruelty and abetment to suicide against her husband and in-laws a day after her family initially made no allegations against them.

Police said the information was received through a PCR call at 4:21 pm on August 21, reporting an alleged suicide at Village Bharthal. The call was assigned to Sub-inspector Satpal Dagar, who reached the spot with police staff and took the body into possession.

The concerned SDM was

informed immediately, and the body was shifted to DDU Hospital’s mortuary as per procedure.

“Police acted promptly upon receipt of the PCR call, and all necessary legal and procedural steps were taken without delay,” the DCP of Dwarka district said in a statement, adding that further investigation into the matter remains in progress.

The deceased was identified as Nazia Khanam, daughter of Towab Khan. She had married Mohammad Azam Ali Khan, who works as a supply chain manager in Gurgaon, on April 11 this year, according to Muslim rites and customs. She was three months pregnant at the time of her death.

According to police, the couple had gone to a hospital for a checkup on the day of the incident. After return-



ing home, they got into an argument, following which Khanam locked her husband in one room and herself in another, before taking her own life, a senior police officer said.

On the same day, family members of Khanam appeared before the Executive Magistrate and submitted written statements. At that point, they raised no suspicion or allegation

against her husband or any member of her matrimonial family, police said.

However, the next day, on August 22, Khanam’s parents appeared again before the SDM and submitted a fresh statement, this time levelling allegations against her husband and his family. In their complaint, the family alleged that the husband had been physically assaulting and mentally harassing

Khanam, which drove her to take the extreme step, according to a senior police officer.

Based on this subsequent complaint, police registered FIR No. 214/2026 on August 22 under Sections 85 and 108 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita at Sector 23, Dwarka police station. Section 85 pertains to a husband or his relative subjecting a woman to cruelty, while Section 108 relates to abetment of suicide. Khanam’s family has additionally demanded that Section 80, relating to dowry death, be added to the FIR.

Khanam’s husband is currently absconding, police said. The exact circumstances leading to her death, along with the allegations raised by her parents, are being examined as part of the ongoing investigation.

The case has drawn atten-

tion for the shift in the family’s account within 24 hours, from submitting statements without any allegations on the day of the death to filing a formal complaint naming the husband and in-laws the very next day. Police said the discrepancy between the two statements would form part of their investigation as they work to establish the sequence of events leading up to Khanam’s death.

Officials said further legal action would follow as facts and evidence emerge during the course of the investigation, with the case currently being probed under the cruelty and abetment to suicide provisions, pending additional findings that could determine whether further charges, including those related to dowry, are warranted.

Government to shift dangerous prisoners to jails in other States



FAIR REPORT
 ■ New Delhi

In a move to curb organised crime, the Delhi government has prepared a plan to transfer undertrial gangsters, organised criminals and other high-risk prisoners lodged in the capital’s jails to prisons in other states, if required.

For this, the Government will implement the Transfer of Prisoners (Punjab Amendment) Act, 2025, in Delhi. According to Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, the move aims to enable the interstate transfer of such prisoners in the interest of prison security, law and order and public interest, while strengthening cooperation among states in tackling organised crime.

Under the Delhi government’s proposal, undertrial gangsters, organised criminals and other high-risk prisoners can be transferred from one state to another with the mutual consent of the states concerned or the approval of the Ministry of Home Affairs. The move is also expected to make the criminal justice system more effective and help improve prison management.

According to a Chief Minister’s Office (CMO) statement, a large number of hardened and notorious criminals are lodged as undertrials alongside convicts in Delhi’s jails. In May 2026, 188

members belonging to 26 identified gangs were identified in Delhi, of whom 107 gangsters had been arrested. Despite being jailed, these “hardened criminals” exploit prison welfare facilities and local networks to run extortion rings, orchestrate targeted killings, trigger gang wars, and expand alliances, the CMO said.

Under the existing system, such undertrial gangsters and notorious criminals cannot be transferred from Delhi’s prisons to those in other states. The Transfer of Prisoners Act, 1950, provides for the transfer of convicted prisoners only. Undertrials, meanwhile, are kept in custody under special remand warrants issued by the concerned trial court, and their transfer is governed by the Prisons Act, 1900, which permits the transfer of prisoners only within a state. Moving them outside Delhi aims to isolate them, preventing them from influencing witnesses, disrupting trials, or conspiring from behind bars.

To address this legal gap, the Punjab government had introduced the Transfer of Prisoners (Punjab Amendment) Act, 2025. The amendment received the President’s assent on April 21, 2025. The amended law provides for the transfer of undertrial prisoners from one state to another to maintain security and law and order or in the public interest.

Several detained as anti-reservation protesters gather at Connaught Place

FAIR REPORT
 ■ New Delhi

Around 300 people gathered at Connaught Place’s outer circle in Delhi on Sunday to protest against caste-based reservation and demand reforms in the quota system, with police detaining over 20 protesters from the site, officials said.

The protesters, who raised slogans and carried placards, called for greater emphasis on economic criteria in deciding eligibility for reservation and government support, arguing that assistance should reach economically disadvantaged people irrespective of caste. Police said over 20 people gathered at Connaught Place were detained and removed from the site, as no permission had been granted for the demonstration.

Police maintained a presence at Connaught Place as



the gathering was cleared from the protest site.

A key demand raised during the demonstration was the introduction of a creamy-layer criterion and a review of the existing reservation framework.

Protesters also sought changes in policies concerning Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes.

“We are not against reservation. We want reforms in reservation. The government should understand that poor people from all communities also face difficulties,

and their concerns should be heard,” a protester said.

Another participant said the existing system should be examined to ensure that its benefits reach those who genuinely need support.

The protesters also raised concerns over the University Grants Commission framework and the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, seeking a broader review of policies they said affected opportunities in education and employment.

The demonstration is part of a mobilisation that has largely taken place through social media. The “Reservation Hatao Andolan”, an Instagram-based page with around 5.6 million followers, had called on its followers to join a physical demonstration in Delhi after building an online campaign around reservation reforms.

19-year-old killed as truck hits motorcycle at IP flyover, driver flees

FAIR REPORT
 ■ New Delhi

A 19-year-old man died and another was injured after their motorcycle was allegedly hit by a truck at the IP Flyover in central Delhi early Sunday morning, with the truck driver fleeing the scene following the collision, police said.

The deceased was identified as Aman, a resident of Madanpur Khadar, who was riding a black Hero Honda Splendor toward Sarai Kale Khan when the accident occurred. His pillion rider, 22-year-old Alber, a resident of Batla House in Jamia Nagar, was also injured in the crash. “Aman was riding the motorcycle towards Sarai Kale Khan when the two-wheeler was allegedly hit by a truck on the IP flyover,” a senior police officer said, adding that Alber fell from the



motorcycle during the collision and sustained injuries.

Police said a PCR call regarding the accident was received at IP Estate police station around 6:21 am, after being transferred from Civil Lines police station. Local police staff reached the spot soon after and a crime team was called in to collect evidence from the scene.

Aman sustained fatal injuries and died at the spot, while Alber was rushed to the Trauma Centre along with him. Alber is currently undergoing treatment, with his condition stated to be stable, police said.

According to the police

officer, the truck driver fled the scene immediately after the collision, leaving both riders on the road. A case has been registered, and necessary legal action is being taken. Police said efforts are underway to identify the truck involved in the accident and trace its driver.

Investigators are also examining whether any CCTV cameras installed on the flyover or in the surrounding areas captured the accident or the truck’s movement before and after the collision, which could help identify the vehicle and the driver responsible.

The incident adds to a series of road accidents involving heavy vehicles on Delhi’s flyovers and arterial roads, with hit and run cases involving trucks remaining a persistent challenge for traffic enforcement in the capital.

Police raid two spas in Kalkaji, rescue 21 women

FAIR REPORT
 ■ New Delhi

Delhi Police arrested two spa managers and rescued 21 women after raiding two spa centres in southeast Delhi’s Kalkaji on suspicion of alleged prostitution activities, an official said on Sunday.

According to police, the raids were carried out on Saturday at two separate spa establishments after officers received information regarding suspected illegal activities taking place at the locations.

Before conducting the raids, police teams first carried out separate decoy operations at both spa centres to verify the information received. “In different raids, our teams arrested two managers of the spa centres. Teams have registered two FIRs and launched further investigation,” the officer said. During the operations at the two establishments, a total of 21 women were rescued from the premises, police said.

The rescued women were

sent for medical examination following the raids, and their statements are currently being recorded in accordance with legal procedure, according to police.

Officials said the two FIRs registered in connection with the raids would form the basis for further investigation into the alleged activities at both spa centres. Police have not yet disclosed additional details regarding the identities of the arrested managers or the specific charges being pursued against them.

The Kalkaji raids add to a series of similar enforcement actions carried out by Delhi Police against spa centres and massage parlours across the city, where authorities have periodically found evidence of illegal activities operating under the guise of legitimate wellness services.

Police said the decoy operations conducted ahead of the raids played a key role in gathering preliminary evidence before officers moved in to conduct the searches and subsequent arrests at both locations.

DDA to hold over 20 stakeholder meets to push MPD-2047 implementation

FAIR REPORT
 ■ New Delhi

Following the notification of the Master Plan for Delhi-2047, the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) plans to launch a major outreach drive to accelerate its implementation. Under the directions of Delhi Lieutenant Governor Taranjit Singh Sandhu, the DDA will hold more than 20 stakeholder meetings over the next three months, engaging directly with elected representatives, Government agencies, professional bodies, industry,

residents, landowners, and other stakeholders.

“The meetings will provide a platform for focused interaction on various provisions of MPD-2047 and facilitate greater coordination in translating the plan’s vision into action,” the DDA said.

To boost industrial growth, the DDA will consult industry bodies and chambers, including CII, FICCI, PHDCCI, ASSOCHAM and DSIIDC, on measures to promote industrial development and facilitate land availability for industry, it said.

The DDA said, “Architects, plan-



ners, professional institutions and private developers will be engaged in discussions on development opportunities under TOD, HDC and Land Pooling.”

As part of the initiative, the DDA will hold separate interactions with

MPs and MLAs on key provisions of MPD-2047, including Transit-Oriented Development (TOD), High-Density Corridors (HDC), Land Pooling, and Low-Density Areas (LDA).

“The DDA will reach out to RWAs, Group Housing Societies, Cooperative Group Housing Societies and other stakeholders on redevelopment of Group Housing. For Land Pooling, interactions with farmers, landowners and local stakeholders will be undertaken through area-based meetings. The outreach programme will also cover

Low Density Areas; rejuvenation of the Yamuna and development of Delhi’s blue-green network; heritage conservation; mixed-use development; development and redevelopment of commercial centres; in-situ slum redevelopment; and measures for decongestion and improved mobility,” it said.

Focused stakeholder interactions are also proposed on developing Delhi’s education and medical hubs, with participation from educational institutions, universities, healthcare institutions and other concerned stakeholders.

DMRC becomes first Indian metro to earn ISO 55001:2024 certification

FAIR REPORT
 ■ New Delhi

The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation Limited (DMRC) has achieved ISO 55001:2024 certification for its Asset Management System for Mumbai Metro Line-3, becoming the first metro organisation in India to receive certification to this latest international standard for asset management.

The achievement marks a significant milestone in

DMRC’s journey from conventional maintenance practices towards strategic, risk-based and lifecycle-oriented asset management.

Anuj Dayal, Principal Executive Director, DMRC, said it reflects a shift from simply maintaining assets to managing their performance, risk, cost and long-term value in alignment with organisational objectives.

ISO 55001:2024 provides a globally recognised framework for managing assets



across their entire lifecycle. Its implementation enables

organisations to take more informed decisions by bal-

ancing asset performance, operational risk and lifecycle costs, thereby enhancing reliability, resource efficiency and long-term sustainability.

In a statement, DMRC said it achieved this certification in record time through a comprehensive strengthening of its asset management framework. This included enhancing the Strategic Asset Management Plan (SAMP), aligning asset management objectives with organisation-

al priorities, strengthening risk assessment and lifecycle controls, and undertaking extensive training and capacity building of personnel. The system is continuously monitored through Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), audits and management reviews.

DMRC is responsible for the Operations & Maintenance (O&M) of the 33.5-km Mumbai Metro Line-3 corridor, connecting Colaba, Bandra and SEEPZ.

NCB plans year-long drive to bust drug networks

FAIR REPORT
 ■ New Delhi

India's anti-drug agencies will launch a year-long national enforcement campaign starting next month. The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) has told all state and central agencies fighting drug crime to carry out 24 special drives, each lasting two weeks, until August 2027.

The mission is straightforward: find absconding offenders, stop the illegal use of pharmaceutical drugs, clear prisons of trafficking networks, and break up the syndicates harming communities across India. Officials said the NCB's recent message lays out a detailed action plan to support daily enforcement and meet the goals of the new National Vision Document for Narcotics Control 2026-29.

The main goal is still a "Nasha Mukht Bharat, or drug-free India. While awareness programs in schools and colleges have been underway since mid-August, the strict enforcement phase starts in September. In the first two weeks, the focus will be on finding foreign nationals involved in drug crimes and preparing them for deportation. After that, agencies will focus on tracking down narcotics offenders who have escaped justice.

In October, the focus will shift again. Teams from the NCB and State and Union Territory Anti-Narcotics Task Forces will visit medical stores and pharmacies, working closely with local drug controllers. They aim to stop the illegal diversion of legal pharmaceutical drugs into the narcotics trade, which has fueled addiction



and organised crime for years. The campaign will become even more ambitious over time. In the two subsequent two-week periods, efforts will include creating detailed files on drug-crime fugitives, educating coastal communities about the risks of the maritime drug trade, and con-

ducting coordinated checks at all land, sea, and airport entry points in the second half of December. In the second half of January 2027, the focus will be on finding and destroying illegal drug cultivation sites. Early February will involve working with the chemical industry to stop the misuse of precursor chemicals, fol-

lowed by joint prison inspections later in the month to ensure jails do not become safe havens for trafficking networks. Sources say this ongoing campaign is not a typical crackdown. It is a planned, multi-step effort to improve coordination between agencies, increase public awareness, and target every part of the drug trade, from street dealers to international leaders.

By spreading these special operations throughout the year, authorities hope to prevent syndicates from finding gaps to exploit. For years, drug cartels have adapted by using pharmaceutical supply lines, remote growing areas, open borders, and even the privacy of prisons. The new two-week schedule is designed to prevent them from adapting

so easily. Every two weeks, a new focus will put traffickers on the defensive, while law enforcement agencies improve their intelligence, coordination, and progress. The stakes are high.

Each seized shipment and every arrest represents a community hurt by addiction, broken families, and lost futures. By combining strict enforcement with ongoing student awareness programs, the campaign aims to dismantle drug networks and reduce the demand that sustains them. Hunt is about to intensify, and it will not pause for a full year.

"Syndicates that once operated with relative impunity now face a continuous, nationwide gauntlet designed to leave them nowhere to hide", sources added.

■ Nation Focus ■



INS SUDARSHINI REACHES LISBON ON 15TH STOP OF LOKAYAN-26 VOYAGE

The Indian Navy's sail training ship, INS Sudarshini, arrived at Lisbon, Portugal, on Saturday, as part of its ongoing Lokayan 26 transoceanic expedition. The three-masted barque made a grand entry through the Tagus River, showcasing traditional sailing and seamanship skills, the defence ministry said here on Sunday.

Giving details, it said during the port call, the ship's crew and trainees will participate in professional exchanges, cross-deck visits, and cultural engagements with Portuguese naval leadership, local authorities, and the Indian diaspora.

The visit to Lisbon marks the ship's 15th port visit in seven months of voyage, reaffirming India's enduring maritime connect and spirit of goodwill across the globe. As part of Lokayan 26, INS Sudarshini continues to carry the message of friendship, cooperation and camaraderie, strengthening bonds with partner nations.

(PNS)

VHP slams Rahul over Manusmriti mindset remark, dares to quote other religions



FAIR REPORT
 ■ New Delhi

The Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) on Sunday criticised Rahul Gandhi for his "Manusmriti mindset" remark and his call to girl students to "smash patriarchy", asking if the Congress leader will muster the same courage to publicly quote what is said about women in other religions.

Interacting with girl students at his 'Chhatron Ki Gooni' outreach programme in Pune on Saturday, Gandhi quoted a verse from the Manusmriti that says a woman must obey her father in her childhood, in youth she belongs to her husband, and when he is dead, she belongs to her sons.

Gandhi said women belong to themselves and not to their fathers, husbands or sons, and termed Manusmriti's prescription that a woman should remain under the authority of her male relatives at every stage of her life "shameful".

Reacting to the remarks, VHP national spokesperson Vinod Bansal said in a post on social media, "Rahul Gandhi ji, it is very easy for you to pick a single shloka from the Manusmriti without understanding it and put the Hindu society in the dock... Do not poison the pure minds of the country's youth with your impure mindset."

15 months on, JeM rebuilds Bahawalpur HQ flattened in Operation Sindoor

FAIR REPORT
 ■ New Delhi

Fifteen months after Indian precision strikes destroyed its nerve centre, Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) has fully rebuilt its Markaz Subhan Allah headquarters in Bahawalpur, Pakistan. Fresh marble gleams where impact craters once scarred the central hall. Domes that collapsed under Indian missiles stand rebuilt. Walls carry new plaster and paint.

The sites targeted by the Indian Armed Forces during Operation Sindoor on May 7, 2025, have been thoroughly restored. Private images circulating among security officials show the large complex along the N-5 National Highway looking nearly new again. The main hall's deep holes have been filled, and debris has been cleared from nearby buildings, such as Madrasa Al-Sabir and former homes for Jaish commanders. New buildings are already going up on the cleared land. This was far from a routine repair.

Intelligence reports say the Pakistani establishment paid about 25 crore Pakistani rupees to JeM for the restoration, with around 11 crore spent just on rebuilding the central hall. These payments were made after the strikes that followed the Pahalgam massacre on April 22, 2025, where 26 people, mostly tourists, were killed. In response, India carried out targeted attacks on nine terror camps linked to Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), Lashkar-e-Tayyiba (LeT), and Hizbul Mujahideen in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

One of the main targets was Bahawalpur's Markaz Subhan Allah, which has long been the operational and ideological centre for Masood Azhar's group. For years, this facility was used to recruit and indoctrinate members and to plan attacks against India. It included a mosque, a madrasa, a gym, a swimming pool, and living quarters for the Azhar family and senior commanders. After the strikes, Masood Azhar



confirmed that ten of his family members and close aides were killed. Satellite images taken soon after the event showed collapsed domes. For a while, the site looked abandoned. These images and reports showed collapsed domes, large holes, and piles of debris.

Google Maps marked the site as permanently closed, but this did not last. Central security agencies say fundraising appeals spread through Jaish-linked networks, and heavy machinery soon arrived. By early 2026, satellite images showed construction

vehicles and workers repairing the damaged domes. All physical evidence of Indian military action was removed. The message is clear: Pakistan's security establishment has chosen to support the revival of a designated terrorist organisation instead of dismantling it.

Jaish-e-Mohammed is still listed as a terrorist group by the United Nations, the United States, and India for attacks like the 2001 Parliament attack and the 2019 Pulwama bombing. Even so, its headquarters in central Punjab province has been rebuilt and funded. Security analysts say this

pattern is well known. After every major Indian anti-terror operation, the infrastructure is rebuilt with official protection. Bahawalpur is just 100 kilometres from the international border and near a major Pakistani military corps headquarters. This location is no accident. It shows that groups like Jaish are seen as strategic assets rather than liabilities.

The rebuilt Markaz Subhan Allah is more than just a building. It shows that cross-border terrorism is still active. Recruitment can start again, young members can be indoctrinated, and planning cells can meet under the new roofs.

Fifteen months is a short time in the cycle of terrorism. The domes have been rebuilt, the marble is new, and the threat has returned in full. For India, this highlights a harsh reality: military action can destroy infrastructure, but without ongoing pressure on the state that shelters it, the same infrastructure quickly returns.



160 FOLK ARTISTS FROM 10 STATES FOR KERALA ONAM CELEBRATIONS

Folk traditions from across the country will find a place alongside Kerala's rich cultural heritage as 160 folk artists from 10 states arrive in the state capital to be part of this year's Onam-Tourism Week celebrations.

Artists from Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Telangana and Tamil Nadu will present their traditional art forms at various venues across Kerala during the week-long celebrations from August 24 to 30.

The artists will perform in different districts in two regions, offering visitors an opportunity to experience folk traditions from different parts of the country during the festive season, according to an official release here. The artists will also come together for the grand Onam procession on August 30. The procession will begin from Manaveeyam Veedhi at 5 pm and conclude at East Fort.

(PTI)

Back women's quota, sing full Vande Mataram at Congress office: Smriti Irani to Rahul Gandhi

FAIR REPORT
 ■ New Delhi

BJP general secretary Smriti Irani on Sunday asked Congress leader Rahul Gandhi to validate his words on supporting women by backing the implementation of 33 per cent reservation for them in legislatures and also organising the singing of a full version of Vande Mataram that includes invocation of Goddess Durga at his party office.

Interacting with girl students at his 'Chhatron Ki Gooni' outreach programme in Pune on Saturday, Gandhi urged girl students to "smash patriarchy" and lashed out at "Manusmriti mindset", claiming that it forces a woman to remain under the authority of male relatives at every stage of her



life. The former Congress president also said violence is used in society to prevent women from progressing and that 80 per cent of them face harassment.

"Since he has invoked religion, I have a request to that prominent leader of the Congress. The verses of Vande Mataram, some of which were halted at the Congress headquarters, contain a reference to Goddess Durga," Irani, the

newly-appointed BJP national general secretary, told reporters here. She was referring to the row over the Congress' decision to sing only two stanzas of the 'Vande Mataram' at their party programmes, which the BJP has decried as an "insult" to the national song.

Hitting back at Gandhi, Irani said, "Our religious ethos of Hindus not only upholds the tenet of 'Yatra

naryastu pujiyante ramante tatra devatah (where women are honoured, divinity resides)', but we also worship Goddesses like Bhagwati, Lakshmi and Saraswati."

"We worship Goddess Durga as the embodiment of 'Shakti' (divine power). I urge that the full rendition of Vande Mataram, including the verses invoking Goddess Durga, be performed at the Congress headquarters," she said.

Gandhi can put his words spoken yesterday in support of women and their leadership into action by backing the "immediate implementation" of reservation for women and organising the rendition of the full version of Vande Mataram at the Congress headquarters, Irani said.

Indian Navy inducts INS Mangrol

FAIR REPORT
 ■ Ahmedabad

The Indian Navy has strengthened its coastal and anti-submarine warfare capabilities with the induction of Mangrol, an Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC) built by Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL).

INS Mangrol is the third vessel in the ASW-SWC series and has been constructed with more than 80 per cent indigenous content, underscoring India's growing capabilities in designing and manufacturing defence platforms domestically.

The vessel has been designed primarily for detecting and countering enemy submarines in shallow and coastal waters. Its shallow-water operational capability is supported by a water-jet propulsion system, enabling greater



manoeuvrability in areas where conventional larger warships may face operational limitations. The warship is equipped with modern sonar systems for underwater surveillance, along with advanced radar and weapons systems. Its armament includes torpedoes and rocket launchers, providing it with the capability to respond rapidly to underwater threats. The vessel can also undertake mine-warfare operations,

including measures aimed at dealing with maritime mines. The induction has a special significance for Gujarat as the warship has been named after Mangrol, the historic coastal town and port in Junagadh district.

The Navy had earlier operated a minesweeper named INS Mangrol, which served the country until 2004. The commissioning of the new vessel with the same name revives that naval legacy and links the latest addition to the Navy with Gujarat's maritime heritage.

The induction of INS Mangrol also reflects the government's emphasis on Aatmanirbhar Bharat in the defence sector. With a high level of indigenous content, the vessel represents efforts to reduce dependence on imported defence equipment while enhancing India's capacity to build sophisticated naval platforms.

Safdarjung Hospital performs 1st free robot-assisted knee replacement under Ayushman Bharat

FAIR REPORT
 ■ New Delhi

The Central Institute of Orthopaedics (CIO) at VMCC and Safdarjung Hospital has performed its first robot-assisted total knee replacement, marking the introduction of advanced robotic orthopaedic surgery at the central government hospital.

The procedure was performed on August 22 on a 75-year-old economically disadvantaged male beneficiary and was carried out completely free of cost under the Ayushman Bharat scheme, the hospital said in a statement. The initiative has been undertaken with the leadership, support and encouragement of Dr Kavita Sharma, Director, VMCC and Safdarjung Hospital.

The procedure was performed under the clinical guidance of Dr Sumit Sural, Director, Central Institute of



Orthopaedics (CIO), with the surgical team led by Dr Bhagwati Prasad Sharma, Consultant Professor and Head of Unit.

The hospital said the introduction of robotic-assisted surgery would strengthen its capacity to provide technology-enabled orthopaedic care within the public healthcare system. The newly introduced robotic platform is upgradeable and can support a range of procedures, including total

knee replacement, partial knee replacement and hip joint replacement. With future technological and software upgrades, the platform may also support robot-assisted spine surgery, further expanding the scope of advanced surgical services at the institute.

Robot-assisted surgery enables precise pre-operative planning and accurate surgical execution, particularly in implant positioning and alignment, the hospital said.

Create global aura for private space sector so talent comes to India: PM

FAIR REPORT
 ■ New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has stressed creating an aura around the private sector in space research so that people worldwide feel that if they want to make a career, they should go to India. The prime minister also greeted everyone on the occasion of National Space Day on Sunday.

"Happy National Space Day," he said. Modi also posted a video showing different aspects of India's space research, innovations and success.

"Here's to dreaming even bigger, innovating more and pushing newer frontiers..." he said. National Space Day is celebrated to commemorate the Chandrayaan-3 mission that accomplished a safe and soft landing of the Vikram Lander on the lunar surface on August 23, 2023.

In an interaction with



CEOs and founders of 20 space startups on Friday, Modi also highlighted India's cost-competitiveness in launching space ventures. He emphasised that the country's vast talent pool and high risk-taking capacity would allow India to rapidly establish a dominant position in the global space sector, according to the transcript of the interaction, which was released on Sunday.

The prime minister said the world must now be looking for Indian startups —

wondering who is leading in this space. Because whenever a breakthrough happens, people's attention shifts immediately, he said. One of the CEOs told the prime minister that after India opened the space industry for private players, a very positive trend was observed and many Indian citizens living in the US and Europe now want to return and work in the country.

In response, Modi said: "We need to connect with many people — people who

went abroad are now returning. I believe we should create an aura where people worldwide feel that if they want to make a career, they should go to India." He said such people from across the globe should feel that they should connect with a startup in India, connect with a space agency in India. "I firmly believe that because of you, we can attract the entire talent pool like a magnet, and that can become a massive strength for us," Modi said.

The prime minister appreciated the CEOs of space startups who showed courage by entering a new sector, and said the biggest factor was that they trusted the government's word. "My view has always been that whatever decision we make, we must remain consistent and avoid making frequent changes. This ensures that anyone willing to take a risk feels confident that while a mistake on their

end might cause issues, no one will abandon them. Creating that trust was our effort," he said. Modi also said that India is highly competitive in terms of cost and there is no question about talent. "We are very competitive on cost; there is no question at all about talent, and our people naturally have a higher risk-taking capacity anyway. Because of these, we can establish our place very rapidly," he said.

The CEOs said India's first space-tech unicorn, Skyroot Aerospace, successfully launched India's first private rocket into orbit, and that was just the beginning. By mid-2027, they are aiming for one launch per month, the CEOs said.

They thanked the prime minister for opening up the space sector for private players, saying so far, factories have been built with a capacity of one rocket per month.

