

FAIR REPORT

THE DAWN OF A FEARLESS PEN

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Rajasthan’s Monsoon Road Test: 166 Civic Bodies Fill Potholes, 143 Still Racing Against the Clock

Government sets September 5 deadline as 53.7% of patch-repair target is completed; 48–72-hour response mechanism put in place

■ FAIR REPORT
JAIPUR

Rajasthan’s monsoon has turned its roads into a test of administrative speed—and the government is now racing against the clock to plug the gaps. Of the state’s 309 urban local bodies, patch-repair work has been completed in 166, while work remains underway in 143. According to the state government, 53.7 per cent of the approved target has been completed, with the



remaining work expected to be finished by September 5. The campaign follows Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma’s review of the condition of roads during the monsoon, after which officials were

directed to launch a special drive for rapid identification and repair of potholes. The government says potholes identified through regular road patrols and surveys are to be repaired within 48 to 72 hours, using

cold or hot mix, depending on the requirement. Kota leads; Jaipur still has work on the table. The performance, however, is uneven across zones. The Kota zone has reported 100 per cent completion, with

repair work completed in all 28 approved local bodies. Bikaner has completed work in 35 of 37 local bodies, while Jaipur-II has completed work in 43 of 47. The remaining 143 civic bodies now face the September 5 deadline. From potholes to pixels: government brings digital audit into road repairs. The administration is also attempting to move road maintenance away from a purely paper-based exercise. Repair works are being monitored through the ‘Sugam Path’ portal, GPS-tagged photographs and digital records, allowing officials to track the location of damaged roads, the work undertaken and its

progress. The stated objective is straightforward: create a digital trail that can establish who identified the damage, what work was carried out and whether it was completed within the prescribed timeframe. That could also make contractors and implementing agencies easier to hold accountable when repairs are delayed or fail quality checks. 387 crore sanctioned—but the road problem is much larger. The scale of the challenge becomes clearer from the state’s road network figures. Rajasthan has a total road network of approximately 2.13 lakh km. Of

this, 58,919 km is classified as repairable, while another 55,340 km falls under the patchable category. The state government has so far sanctioned 387 crore for repair-related works, with work worth around 175 crore being completed. The remaining sanctioned funds are being deployed on priority to roads identified as damaged. But the government is also looking beyond emergency patchwork. For 2026-27, it has sanctioned 2,055 new works for non-patchable roads, covering 4,529 km, at an estimated cost of 1,262 crore. Tenders for these works have already been invited. The real test begins after

the potholes disappear. Filling potholes during the monsoon may provide immediate relief to commuters. The harder question is whether those repairs will survive the next spell of heavy rain. For the Bhajan Lal Sharma government, therefore, September 5 is more than a deadline. It is a test of whether the state can convert a reactive monsoon campaign into a credible, measurable road-maintenance system. A pothole filled today is not necessarily a road repaired. The real measure of success will be whether the same pothole returns tomorrow—and who is held responsible if it does.

Uttarakhand’s Madrasa Reset: When Mainstream Education Becomes the Real ‘Surgical Strike’

■ FAIR REPORT
DEHRADUN

Dehradun’s latest education reform has triggered predictable political discomfort. But beneath the noise lies a more consequential question: should children studying in religious institutions be given an education that expands their choices—or one that confines them to a predetermined ideological universe? The Uttarakhand government’s decision to dismantle the existing Madrasa Board framework and move madrasa education towards the mainstream school system, including alignment with the CBSE framework, is being presented as an education reform aimed at bringing students into the national academic mainstream. That is precisely why the debate matters. For years, madrasa education has existed at the intersection of religion, identity and schooling. The



legitimate right to religious instruction cannot, however, become an excuse for denying children access to modern science, mathematics, technology, languages and competitive academic opportunities. The real test of the reform is therefore not whether it unsettles clerics. It is whether it improves the future prospects of madrasa students. A child should not have to choose between faith and opportunity. If the new framework genuinely delivers recognised curricula, qualified teachers, transparent ex-

aminations and pathways to higher education, it could represent a significant shift—from institutional isolation to educational mobility. That is also where the strongest argument for reform lies. Religion can provide values. Education must provide options. The government, however, must ensure that reform does not remain a headline. It needs transparent implementation, adequate funding, teacher training, infrastructure and a credible transition mechanism for students currently enrolled in madrasas.

■ FAIR REPORT
DEHRADUN

JAIPUR: A routine service call turned fatal on Thursday afternoon when a Voltas company AC repairman plunged to his death from the 15th floor of the Synthonica apartment complex on Gandhi Path, Queens Road — a tragedy that has reignited uncomfortable questions about the safety standards service companies extend to the men they

Rajasthan Police Takes the Fight to the Cartels: Guns, Cyber Frauds, Fake Currency and Murder Networks Hit Across Four Districts

■ FAIR REPORT
NEW DELHI

In a day of coordinated action across Rajasthan, the police have moved against four distinct but increasingly organised forms of crime—illegal arms trafficking, interstate cyberfraud, counterfeit currency circulation and a blind murder—arresting 21 accused and exposing networks that operated well beyond the boundaries of individual police stations. The operations in Nagaur, Tonk, Kotputli-Behror and

send scaling residential towers. Salman Khan, 34, a resident of Barkat Colony, Polo Victory, had arrived around 2:30 PM to attend to a complaint about a balcony-mounted air conditioner. To reach the unit, he climbed onto a ledge barely one-and-a-half feet wide — with rain lashing the city and no safety harness securing him to the building. The wet surface offered no grip. He lost his balance, fell, and struck the first-floor roof below with such force that he died on the spot from a catastrophic head injury. Chitrakoot police, alerted to the accident, reached the spot, collected evidence, and sent the body for post-mortem at Kanwatia Hospital before handing it over to grieving relatives. SHO Vikram Singh confirmed the identity and circumstances of

the death. But the procedural close of this case cannot be allowed to close the larger question it raises: why was a technician working fifteen floors above ground, in the rain, without a safety belt? This is not a freak accident. It is the predictable outcome of a service economy that routinely sends its workers up walls, ledges and balconies with nothing but instinct standing between them and a

fatal fall. Salman Khan’s death demands answers—from the company that dispatched him, from building managements that permit such repairs without mandated safety protocols, and from a regulatory framework that has yet to catch up with the risks of urban high-rise living. A family has lost its provider. The least authorities and employers owe him now is accountability. NCLT or ‘Neta-Company Loot Tribunal’? Rahul Gandhi Takes Aim at India’s Two-Tier Credit System

■ FAIR REPORT
NEW DELHI

Congress leader and Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi has launched a sharp attack on the Modi government over the functioning of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), alleging that India’s financial system operates by two different rules — one for ordinary citizens and another for powerful corporate borrowers. Gandhi’s description of the NCLT as “Neta-Company Loot Tribunal” comes amid

controversy over the insolvency proceedings involving Essel Group founder Subhash Chandra. The NCLT has reportedly approved a repayment plan involving claims of around 22,000 crore, with a proposed payment of roughly 6.5 crore. The numbers have triggered questions over the scale of the alleged “haircut” available to powerful borrowers. However, the government has rejected the interpretation that 22,000 crore of Chandra’s personal borrowing was sim-

ply written off, pointing out that much of the amount relates to personal guarantees for corporate loans and that creditors retain legal recovery mechanisms. But the political question remains uncomfortable. For an ordinary farmer, failure to repay a relatively small loan can put land and livelihood at risk. For a salaried borrower, a missed EMI can unleash recovery proceedings. For poorer families, even securing an education loan can become an uphill battle.

THE BLUE FOETUS DIDN’T BREAK THE SYSTEM. IT EXPOSED IT

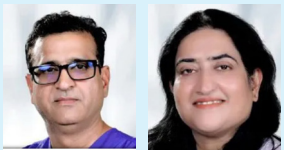
■ FAIR REPORT
HEMRAJTIKAMCHAND

Years of alleged tax evasion did not trigger a shutdown. One controversial advertisement did. That is the real scandal. JAIPUR: The most disturbing question in the Neelkanth Fertility case is not why a blue foetus appeared in an advertisement. It is why it apparently took that advertisement to make the regulatory machinery move. According to the record cited in this case, Central GST authorities detected alleged tax evasion of around 8 crore in February 2022, within a larger 42-crore investigation involving the Udaipur fertility sector. A GST demand of approx-



imately 9.47 crore was subsequently raised against Neelkanth. Four years is a long time in the life of a regulator. Yet the fertility establishment continued to function. Its ART and surrogacy registrations remained active. Patients continued to walk through its doors. Money

continued to change hands. Then came an advertisement carrying the image of a blue foetus. Suddenly, the machinery woke up. The government says the advertisement prima facie raised concerns about promotion of sex selection and that action was taken under the ART



(Regulation) Act, 2021. If established, that is a grave matter. Sex selection is not a minor regulatory lapse; it strikes at the foundation of India’s reproductive-health safeguards. But the uncomfortable question remains: Why was the system apparently more responsive to the colour in an advertisement than to crores of alleged tax irregularities already on its radar? This is where the Neelkanth episode becomes bigger than one hospital. It exposes a familiar disease of Indian regula-

tion: departments see violations through their own narrow windows, but nobody appears responsible for connecting the dots. GST sees tax. Health authorities see medical compliance. ART authorities see reproductive practices. Registration authorities see licences. But who sees the whole institution? If one government department uncovers alleged financial irregularities running into crores, should that information simply remain inside the revenue department? Shouldn’t serious financial allegations involving a regulated fertility establishment automatically trigger a coordinated review of its li-

cences, registrations, statutory compliance and operations? And if nine ART and surrogacy registrations remained active during this period, the public deserves to know what monitoring mechanism was actually functioning. The issue is not whether every tax dispute should automatically result in a medical licence suspension. It should not. Tax liability and clinical misconduct are legally distinct questions. The issue is far more basic: Did the regulatory system communicate? If the answer is no, then this is not merely a Neelkanth problem. It is a governance failure. A regulatory framework that acts only when another con-

troversy lands on its desk is not proactive regulation. It is administrative coincidence. Principal Secretary Gayatri Rathore has indicated that the latest action followed the ART Act and its prohibition on sex-selection practices. That legal framework must be enforced firmly. But enforcement must also answer the questions raised by the timeline. Who knew what in 2022? When did the health authorities know? When were the ART registrations reviewed? Was the GST investigation communicated to the health and ART regulators? If it was communicated, what action followed? If it was not communicated, why not? And if the informa-

tion was available but no review occurred, who is accountable for that four-year regulatory vacuum? The public does not need another committee that discovers what everyone already knew. It needs the departments to stop operating like separate kingdoms. Because the most explosive fact in this episode may not be the blue foetus. It may be that 8 crore could allegedly sit in one department’s file for years while another department continued to allow the same establishment to operate — until a newspaper advertisement finally forced the system to look up. That is not regulatory vigilance. That is a system waiting to be embarrassed into action.

FAIR NATION

FAIR REPORT 02

Nepali students in Delhi fear for relatives amid floods

FAIR REPORT
 ■ New Delhi

I am unable to focus on my studies. My family is safe in Kathmandu, but some of my relatives live near the border of the affected area, and we are worried about them,” said Bikas, a Delhi University student from Nepal, as he continuously checked his phone for updates on the devastating flash floods back home.



The flood surged through the Bhote Koshi River, affecting Rasuwa and Dhading districts bordering Tibet. The floodwaters later spread to Nuwakot and Chitwan, damaging at least four permanent bridges and several temporary ones. While many students’ immediate families are safe in Kathmandu, they expressed concern for relatives living closer to the affected areas and relied on updates from their families. “My family lives in Kathmandu, so they are safe, but some of my relatives live near the border of the area where the flooding has occurred. They are not

exactly in the affected region, but we are still worried because the situation is uncertain,” said Suyog Bansal, a DU student from Nepal.

Another student, Nitya from JNU, said her family in Kathmandu informed her that her brother’s friend is missing and they are trying to connect with him. “My brother’s friend had gone near the area that is flood-affected, and my brother told me that he’s not able to connect with him. My family in Kathmandu has been in touch with his family and updating me. We are all worried because we do not

know how the situation will develop,” she said. The students noted that being away from home made the situation more challenging, particularly as they depended on phone calls and messages for information.

“Whenever there is news of a flood, the first thing I do is call my family. They tell me that everyone is fine, but it is still difficult to concentrate on studies when you know your relatives are living close to an affected area,” said Bikas.

A fourth-year student mentioned that Nepali students on the DU campus had been checking on one another

and discussing the situation.

“Most of us have our families in different parts of Nepal that are not affected, but many also have relatives in the impacted areas. We keep sharing updates and checking to see if everyone is safe. Even if our own families are not affected, we are naturally concerned because something like this has happened in our country, and seeing videos on social media of the flood sweeping away people gives us chills,” he said.

The flash floods, triggered after an ice-rock landslide blocked a river near the Nepal-China border, have affected several districts and left nearly 826 people missing, according to Nepal’s disaster management authorities.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Thursday that two hundred and eighty-eight Indians remain missing. MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said the missing Indians included those working on hydropower projects and tourist groups. Twenty-one Indians from Tamil Nadu were rescued, he said.

Delhi Govt puts Indo-Nepal Maitri Bus Sewa on hold

FAIR REPORT
 ■ New Delhi

The Delhi Government has temporarily put on hold the “Indo-Nepal Maitri Bus Sewa” for the next two days as a preventive measure due to massive flash floods, an official order said on Thursday.

According to officials, road transportation has been completely shut on the National Highway, Delhi-Kathmandu Route in Nepal at present after the massive flash floods.

“In view of the above, as a preventive measure, the trips scheduled for DTC



buses on August 28 Delhi to Kathmandu and Kathmandu to Delhi and likewise, trip schedule for Nepali bus on August 29 have been held-up due to massive Flash Flood in Nepal,” the Delhi

Transport Corporation order said. On Wednesday, the DTC official said it was closely monitoring the flood situation in Nepal, and added that there was no disruption in the international bus service between Delhi and Kathmandu.

The buses depart Delhi at 10 am for Kathmandu, passing through Uttar Pradesh before crossing the border into Nepal at the Sonauli check-post near Gorakhpur.

The DTC operates the Delhi-Kathmandu-Delhi service three days a week from the Ambedkar Stadium Terminal near Delhi Gate.

CM vows all possible help to flood-hit Nepal

FAIR REPORT
 ■ New Delhi

Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Thursday expressed solidarity with flood hit Nepal assuring full support in these difficult times and saying that every possible help would be extended to the neighbouring country.

“India stands firmly with Nepal in these difficult times; a painful tragedy has hit the country. Every possible help will be extended to Nepal. I pray for safety and relief of all the residents of Nepal,” she said.

“I also pray to Lord



Pashupatinath that Nepal be given the strength to overcome this hour of sorrow, and that all citi-

zens there remain safe and receive relief soon,” she added.

Noting that some people

in Delhi might be distressed, with their relatives being in Nepal, Education Minister Ashish Sood said the Indian government is in talks with the Nepal Government.

He further said the Government stands with people in this hour of grief.

The flash floods struck parts of central Nepal on Wednesday after an ice-rock avalanche upstream blocked the Lhende tributary of the Bhote Koshi river, sending a debris-laden surge downstream. It first hit Rasuwa, near the Nepal-Tibet border, and eventually spread to other districts.

Bulldozers raze Delhi Race Club to rubble

FAIR REPORT
 ■ New Delhi

Demolition began at the Delhi Race Club on Thursday morning, hours after the Centre took possession of its 53-acre premises in Lutyens’ Delhi, bringing an abrupt end to horse racing at the century-old institution.

The Centre took control of the property on Lok Kalyan Marg after the Patiala House Court on Tuesday dismissed the club’s plea seeking an interim stay on an eviction order issued by an estate officer on August 11 under the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act.

Bulldozers tore down several historic structures on the premises, including the stables, the bookmakers’ ring, the winning post, a photofinish camera and the saddling enclosure, all of which had once formed the operational heart of horse racing in Delhi, a club official said. “It was a deeply disturbing sight for anyone who has been associated with the club and racing,” a source associated with the club said.

According to the club official, the facility had housed more than 250 horses. Around 200 of them have

already been reclaimed by their owners, while about 50 remain at the club premises. The club has been given time until September 14 to complete the process, and plans to relocate the remaining horses to their owners over the next one to two weeks, the official said.

The club’s stables, renovated in the 1940s, had been specifically designed to protect the horses from Delhi’s harsh summer heat. “This place was built very meticulously to shield the horses from the heat and keep the stables ventilated,” the official said.

The thoroughbreds housed at the club are among the finest and most expensive racehorses in the country, with values ranging between ₹3 lakh and ₹50 lakh depending on pedigree and racing record. Horse floats have been leaving the racecourse periodically, transporting the prized animals to racing centres in other parts of the country, according to sources.

The legal dispute over the land dates back to March, when the Land and Development Office issued a notice directing the club to vacate the government-owned premises within 15 days, citing the requirement of the land for public purposes. The club



Debris lies scattered after the property was handed over to the Land and Development Office – Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs near the Race Course area in New Delhi on Thursday

challenged the notice before the Delhi High Court.

On May 26, a division bench of the High Court set aside an earlier interim order that had stayed show-cause proceedings against the club, allowing the eviction process to move forward. On August 11, the estate officer directed the club to vacate the 53.24-acre premises within 15 days, ruling that its lease

had expired on December 31, 1994, and had not been renewed since.

The Centre maintained that the original lease, executed on March 8, 1926, was temporary in nature and had remained valid only through periodic extensions until the end of 1994. It argued that the club had continued to occupy the government land without authorisation since January 1, 1995.

Raksha Bandhan rush meets rain-soaked roads as Delhi grinds to a halt

FAIR REPORT
 ■ New Delhi

Delhi’s roads turned into a slow crawl on Thursday, as Raksha Bandhan traffic combined with waterlogging left over from heavy rain the previous day to choke arterial stretches across the Capital. According to commuters, there was a eight kms long jams on Delhi-Jaipur highway.

With families travelling across the city to celebrate the festival, markets, railway stations and residential neighbourhoods saw a sharp spike in vehicular movement through the morning and afternoon. The added festive rush came on top of roads still recovering from Wednesday’s downpour, which had left several parts of the city waterlogged. Markets in areas with traditionally high festive footfall, along with



routes leading to railway stations and bus terminals, are typically among the worst affected during Raksha Bandhan, as people travel to be with siblings, often carrying gifts and sweets bought at crowded local markets in the days leading up to the festival.

The Delhi Traffic Police has issued a traffic advisory in connection with Raksha

Bandhan, warning commuters of increased passenger and vehicular movement in and around Anand Vihar ISBT, Road No 56, NH-9 and Vikas Marg on August 27 and 28.

The traffic police expects a substantial rise in the movement of pedestrians, interstate buses, private vehicles, taxis, and people travelling to and from Delhi during the festival. In view of the anticipat-



ed traffic congestion, commuters have been advised to avoid Road No 56 and ISBT Anand Vihar wherever possible. Travellers have been asked to use alternate or diverted routes, including Road No 57, NH-24 and NH-9, to reach their destinations.

The traffic police has advised travellers to plan their journeys in advance and keep sufficient time in

hand to account for possible delays and congestion. Commuters have also been advised to follow the directions of traffic police personnel deployed on the roads during the festive period. A massive traffic jam stretches for several kilometres near Cyber Hub as a large number of people head home ahead of Raksha Bandhan, in Gurugram.

CM Rekha, leaders across Delhi celebrate Raksha Bandhan

FAIR REPORT
 ■ New Delhi

Rakhis were tied across Delhi’s political establishment on Thursday, as Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, Assembly Speaker Vijender Gupta and BJP State president Harsh Malhotra each celebrated Raksha Bandhan with children, students and party workers in separate events held around the city.

At the Chief Minister’s Janseva Sadan, children from different parts of Delhi tied handmade *rakhis* on the Chief Minister’s wrist, fed her sweets, and performed poems and songs for the occasion. The Chief Minister spent time speaking informally with the children, asking about their schools, families and studies, before giving them gifts and chocolates.

Several children told the Chief Minister they had drawn inspiration for their handmade rakhis from her Clean Yamuna campaign. The Chief Minister encouraged their environmental awareness and asked them to contribute toward keeping the city clean. She also asked the children to take home a gift for their mothers on her behalf.

During the interaction, one girl told the Chief Minister she wanted to grow up to be like her. The Chief Minister responded by blessing the child and encouraging her to focus on her studies to fulfil her dreams.

At the Delhi Legislative Assembly, students from 16 schools, including Mount Abu Public School, Mahavir Senior Model School and DAV School, tied rakhis on the wrist of Speaker Vijender Gupta.

Gupta told the students the rakhi symbolised more than protection, describing it as a binding promise between democratic institutions and the country’s future generations. The visit included a tour of the Assembly building, con-

structed in 1912, which earlier housed the Central Legislative Assembly before the Delhi Assembly’s re-establishment in 1993.

Students received a briefing on legislative procedures and watched a short film on the institution’s history narrated by actor Anupam Kher. They were also presented with a commemorative publication titled “Ek Shatabdi Yatra,” documenting a century of legislative history, before being taken on a

returned to power in Delhi after 27 years, had introduced several welfare measures benefiting women from the general category, including free LPG cylinders during Teej, the Vidya Vahini Yojana, and the Delhi Lakshmi Yojana.

Malhotra described the Delhi Lakshmi Yojana as an important step toward the economic empowerment of women in the capital. Under the scheme, eligible women are being given financial assistance of Rs 2,500 per



guided tour of the Assembly chamber. Gupta said an informed and engaged youth was essential to a healthy democracy, adding that direct exposure to democratic institutions could channel young people’s curiosity toward civic participation and public service.

In a third event, women members of the Delhi BJP Mahila Morcha, led by its president Archana Gupta, tied rakhis on the wrist of Delhi BJP president and Union Minister of State Harsh Malhotra, wishing him a long and healthy life. Archana Gupta said the Rekha Gupta-led BJP government, which

month, he said, calling it a measure aimed at strengthening women’s financial independence and reducing their dependence on others for household expenses.

Malhotra credited the central government, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, with prioritising women’s dignity, safety and self-reliance, and said the Delhi Government was building on that approach through direct financial assistance rather than electoral promises alone. He said the monthly support would help lakhs of eligible women meet their families’ essential needs.

NDMC chief applauded for apologising over waterlogging in Lutyens’ Delhi

FAIR REPORT
 ■ New Delhi

In a rare candid admission concerning civic woes in the city, newly appointed NDMC Chairman Manoj Kumar Dwivedi has earned praise from the Opposition Aam Aadmi Party as well as social media users for apologising over waterlogging in Lutyens’ Delhi and promising corrective measures.

Dwivedi, a 1997-batch IAS officer, is known for his pro-public administrative style in addressing public issues.

Dwivedi, who took charge as the chairman of New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) on August 5, said that his apology is part of public outreach and strengthening the feedback mechanism of the civic admin-

istration. This is not the first time that he has made a public apology. When he was posted in Jammu and Kashmir during the COVID pandemic, he had made a similar post on social media after people faced difficulties in returning to the state via trains.

He had written about the arrival of thousands of people on trains and said the administration would try to make their journey as smooth as possible. Receiving the Lieutenant Governor’s Gold Medal for Integrity, Honesty and Meritorious Public Service, which is described as the highest honour for a civil servant in Jammu and Kashmir, reflects his administrative track record.

He was part of the core team that worked on aligning

Jammu and Kashmir’s administrative framework with the Constitution and central government rules following the abrogation of Article 370.

He also led the team that drafted regulations for the newly created Union Territory of Ladakh.

On Tuesday, Dwivedi, in a post on X, apologised to residents living in Lutyens’ Delhi for rain-triggered waterlogging in several parts and said the civic body will strengthen its systems to deal with such situations in the future.

“We are trying to bring back the trust in the system; people have lost trust in it,” Dwivedi said, stressing that public feedback was an important feature of a robust public system.

The officer said that there



are a few “rotten apples” in the department, adding that these people need to understand that they are here to serve the public, and the civic body will rectify it.

“We have to bring back the

sensitivity to the system so that we can follow the letter and spirit of the law to serve the public,” he added.

He was appointed NDMC chairman on August 5 after a long administrative career

that has included postings in Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh and the Centre.

Delhi AAP chief Saurabh Bharadwaj said that the NDMC chairman apologising for waterlogging is a welcome step. That is how accountability works, he said while slamming Flood & Irrigation Minister Parvesh Verma.

“Minister @p_sahibsingh should learn from the NDMC officer. When social media and newspapers are full of horror stories about waterlogging in Delhi. And the Minister is patting his own back for reducing waterlogging. This misplaced arrogance is what people hate most,” he said in a post.

A social media user on X said, “Gurgaon and other Indian cities, please learn.”

Another user said that those who acknowledge their shortcomings are the ones who can also fix the system.

He said that otherwise, officers, instead of admitting flaws, cover them up, which makes the problem worse.

An engineer by training, Dwivedi holds a B.Tech in Chemical Engineering from IIT Delhi. A direct recruit through the UPSC Civil Services Examination, he has held several key administrative positions during his career. He has also served as deputy commissioner and district magistrate in Jammu, Rajouri and Leh, giving him experience of district-level administration as well as policy-making.

Terming his new assignment as “equally challeng-

ing”, Dwivedi said that NDMC will focus on public outreach, employee welfare and providing better amenities in the New Delhi area.

At the Centre, Dwivedi served as additional secretary in the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT). He completed his central deputation before being repatriated to the AGMUT cadre in August this year and subsequently took charge of the NDMC.

Dwivedi has also written a book, “Decode Life”, which was published in 2024. Now, in Delhi, his focus is on a very different administrative challenge: ensuring that the civic infrastructure in the NDMC area can cope with increasingly intense spells of rain and anthropogenic causes.

UP border districts on high alert as rivers swell after Nepal flood

FAIR REPORT
 ■ Maharajganj /Kushinagar

The administration has sounded a high alert in Maharajganj and Kushinagar districts of Uttar Pradesh, while stepping up the monitoring of the Gandak and other water bodies downstream of rivers in Nepal, following devastating flash floods in the neighbouring country that have killed at least 177 people and left thousands missing.

The administration in Uttar Pradesh, which shares its northern borders with Nepal, has said its focus is on continuous river monitoring, alerting vulnerable villages and keeping relief-and-rescue teams ready for any possible flood situation.

The Nepal floods triggered after an ice-rock landslide blocked a river near the country's border with China. The floods have affected several districts and left at



Fishermen row a boat on the swollen River Ganga as black cloud cover the skyline, in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh

PTI

least 826 people missing, according to Nepal's disaster management authorities.

Nepal's Foreign Minister Shisir Khanal has said nearly 300 Indian tourists are among the thousands reported missing. The flash floods in the Himalayan country have caused extensive damage to bridges and roads, with several major highways blocked. In Maharajganj, senior officials, including Additional District Magistrate

Prashant Kumar, have been deployed in vulnerable riverine areas to monitor the water level and flow of the Gandak, Darjaniya, Tail Fall and other rivers and water channels receiving water from Nepal.

Officials have been asked stay alert so that relief-and-rescue operations can be launched immediately in case of a sudden rise in the water level. Villages along riverbanks and low-lying areas are being closely mon-

itored, with preparations made to evacuate residents, if required.

Kumar said the administration is fully prepared and that water levels and river flows are continuously being monitored. He appealed to people to avoid going near rivers unnecessarily, follow official advisories and not pay heed to rumours. In neighbouring Kushinagar, the administration has stepped up preparations amid rising water levels of Gandak, known locally as Narayani. District Magistrate Mahendra Singh Tanwar, accompanied by Superintendent of Police Keshav Kumar, inspected vulnerable riverside villages and the Valmikinagar barrage and urged residents to remain alert and stay away from the river and low-lying areas.

In Balrampur, a condolence meeting was held at the Samajwadi Party (SP) office to pay tribute to those killed in the Nepal disaster.

Son of IP University PRO attacked with a blade in Dwarka, no FIR registered yet

FAIR REPORT ■ New Delhi

Two neighbours allegedly attacked the son of Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University's Public Relations Officer with a sharp object on Wednesday evening in Dwarka, according to a statement issued by the university's PR department. No FIR has been registered so far, despite the incident involving an alleged attempt to murder.

The victim, identified as Harshit Ranjan, is the son of Dr Nalini Ranjan, PRO of IP University, who resides in Flat No. 407 at DDA Sarvahiit Apartments, located opposite the university's Dwarka campus. According to the statement, the incident began when Ranjan's daughter, Yashika Ranjan, was on a walk within the housing society on Wednesday evening. The owner of Flat No. 406, identified as Arvind Tiwari, allegedly set his pet dog on her. She managed to escape unharmed and returned home.

When Tiwari was confronted over the incident, he and his son, Ashish Tiwari, allegedly attacked Harshit Ranjan with a sharp object resembling a blade, according to the statement. The attack took place near the office of a local property dealer within the society. A PCR call was made following



the assault, and an ambulance took the injured Ranjan to Indira Gandhi Hospital nearby, according to the statement. However, the statement alleges that the local Dwarka North police station did not inform hospital authorities about the case, delaying the start of medical treatment by around two hours until senior officials were alerted.

While Ranjan's medical examination was underway at the hospital, Tiwari's brother allegedly threatened to kill

members of the PRO's family, in the presence of both the treating doctor and police personnel, according to the statement.

The Dwarka North police station has so far recorded statements from both parties involved but has not registered a formal FIR, according to the statement issued by Dr Ranjan. The incident, as described, involves allegations of attempt to murder and criminal intimidation.

The statement does not specify the current medical condition of Harshit Ranjan or the nature and severity of his injuries following the attack.

It also does not clarify whether any prior disputes existed between the two families before Wednesday's incident, or whether police have taken any other action, such as detaining the accused, apart from recording statements. Police response to the allegations made in the university's statement has not yet been obtained.

The incident has raised concerns within the university community regarding the safety of staff and their families residing near the campus, given the university PRO's official statement naming both the alleged attackers and detailing the sequence of events.

Pilot, instructor killed in training aircraft crash in Kanpur

FAIR REPORT
 ■ Kanpur

A trainee pilot and an instructor were killed on Thursday when a training aircraft crashed in Kanpur along the banks of the Ganga, a senior police official said.

The Tecnam aircraft operated by Garg Aviation took off around 11.30 am and crashed about 20 minutes later near Nathapurwa village in the Katri area. The cause of the crash was not immediately known. The civil aviation ministry said the probe agency, AAIB, will investigate the crash and a team of three officials from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) will be visiting the crash site for necessary regulatory oversight and coordination. Citing preliminary information, the ministry in a statement, said a Tecnam P2006T twin-engine aircraft, bearing registration VT-NBV, met with an accident, approximately 5 nautical miles from Kanpur Civil Airport near Ganga Barrage.



Security personnel inspect the wreckage of a four-seater, dual-engine Tecnam aircraft following a fatal crash on the outskirts of the Nathapurwa village near the Ganga Barrage in Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh

PTI

"The aircraft was on a training flight in the Local Flying Area of Kanpur civil airport. There were two persons on board, a trainee pilot and an instructor. Both sustained fatal injuries in the accident," the ministry said in a state-

ment. "The Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) has been informed and will undertake a detailed investigation into the accident in accordance with the applicable rules. The circumstances and cause of the accident will

be determined through the investigation," it said.

Commissioner of Police Raghubir Lal said that instructor Sachin Bhatia from Gujarat and trainee pilot Abhishek Pujari from Karnataka died in the crash.

Bhatia had around 3,000 hours of flying experience, he said. Police and fire personnel rushed to the site after the crash, cordoned off the area and secured the wreckage as evidence for investigation into the crash, the officer said. Videos from the crash site showed the aircraft reduced to a wreck, with debris scattered around the area. A seat was also seen outside the wreckage, though officials have not confirmed whether the pilots attempted to escape the plane.

Commissioner Lal, Additional Commissioners of Police Vipin Tada and Sankalp Sharma and Chief Fire Officer Deepak Sharma went to the spot following the crash.

Police said the DGCA will examine the aircraft's airworthiness, maintenance records and other technical aspects. The aircraft, which had been with Garg Aviation Ltd, Kanpur, since 2023, had no maintenance-related deficiencies, the company claimed.

FMGE protest called off as NBEMS agrees to extra exam in October

FAIR REPORT
 ■ New Delhi

A protest by Indian foreign medical graduates was called off on Thursday after the National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences agreed to conduct an additional Foreign Medical Graduate Examination (FMGE) by the end of October, sources said

A meeting between the representatives of the protesting medical graduates and officials of the National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences (NBEMS) was held at the latter's office in Dwarka on Thursday, during which it was also agreed that from next year, FMGE would be conducted three times a year – in December/January, April/May and August/September, the sources said citing the minutes of the meeting.

FMGE is one of the manda-



tory requirements for an Indian citizen who has a medical degree from outside India to practise medicine in the country.

The protesters were represented at the meeting by the members of the Association of Indian Medical Students Association-Foreign Medical Students and Graduates (AIMSA-FMSW), during which issues faced by the medical graduates in the FMGE held in June 2026 were discussed. According to the minutes of the meeting, the NBEMS

agreed to conduct an additional FMGE for Indian foreign medical graduates by the end of October 2026.

The meeting also discussed the difficulty level of the examination.

According to the minutes, the question paper would be rationalised by increasing the number of questions in the 'low' and 'moderate' difficulty categories.

The proportion of 'low', 'moderate' and 'difficult' questions would be 30:50:20, respectively, they said.

Biggest Ganja Action So Far Under Operation Trinetra, 515 Kg 290 Grams Ganja Seized

On DST information, Sadar Nimbahera Police stopped XUV-500; around Rs 1 crore ganja packed in 125 packets, one smuggler arrested, driver escaped taking advantage of darkness

■ FAIR REPORT
 CHITTORGARH

Under Operation Trinetra, launched against drug smuggling, Chittorgarh Police has made a major action and given a big setback to the drug smuggling network. Sadar Nimbahera Police and the District Special Team (DST) jointly seized 515 kg 290 grams of ganja from a luxury Mahindra XUV-500 with a Maharashtra registration number. The ganja was being transported in 125 packets inside the car. The market value of the seized ganja is estimated at around Rs 1 crore. Police arrested Shival (22), son of Gairu Gadri, resident of Chatavti, Police Station Rashmi, District Chittorgarh, who was travelling in the car as the associate of the smuggler. However, the car driver managed to escape from the spot by taking advantage of the darkness at night. Police searched the nearby area but could not

find him. Police are now questioning the arrested accused to find the absconding driver and the complete ganja smuggling network.

Police Set Up Checkpoint on DST Information

According to police, regular checking and nakabandi are being carried out on the Neemuch-Chittorgarh Highway under Sadar Nimbahera Police Station area. During this, the District Special Team received information about a ganja consignment. Taking the information seriously, DST informed Sadar Nimbahera Police and a naka was set up on the road from Madda Chauraha towards Chhoti Sadri. During the checking, the police team saw a Maharashtra-registered Mahindra XUV-500 coming towards them. When police tried to stop the vehicle, the persons inside the car tried to speed away after seeing the naka. Police chased the vehicle and managed to stop it.

Police Found 125 Packets During Search

During the search of the car, police found a large number of packets. On



checking, the packets were found to contain ganja. Police took all the packets into custody and weighed them. The total weight was found to be 515 kg 290 grams, equal to 5 quintals 15 kg 290 grams of ganja. Police also seized the Mahindra XUV-500 used for transporting the illegal ganja. After finding such a large quantity of ganja, police arrested the accused and started further investigation.

Driver Escaped in the Darkness

Shivilal, who was travel-

ling in the car with the driver, was caught by police. However, the driver managed to escape. According to police, the action took place at night and the driver took advantage of the darkness to run away from the spot. The police team immediately started searching the surrounding area and possible routes, but the driver could not be found. Police are now questioning the arrested accused to identify the absconding driver and find his location.

Where Did the Ganja Come From and Where

Was It Going? Police Searching for the Network

After recovering such a large quantity of ganja, the police investigation is not limited to the arrested accused. Police are trying to find out where the ganja consignment came from, where it was going, who was supposed to receive it, who else was involved in the smuggling and which network was operating behind the vehicle. Police will try to reach the supplier and buyer on the basis of information received during the interrogation of the arrested ac-

cused. More important information about the smuggling network is expected after the arrest of the absconding driver.

DST's Continuous Action Increases Pressure on Smugglers

DST is playing an important role in police action against drug smuggling in the district. DST teams are keeping a close watch on the activities of smugglers through their information network and are working continuously with local police sta-

tions. Because of the active role of DST, police are getting success in seizing large quantities of illegal drugs in the district. This action once again shows that better coordination between DST and local police can help police reach big drug smuggling networks. Under Operation Trinetra, the police focus is not only on seizing drugs but also on reaching the complete chain of suppliers, carriers and buyers involved in the illegal trade.

Biggest Ganja Action in the District This Year

According to police, the seizure of 515 kg 290 grams of ganja is the biggest action against ganja in the district this year. Such a large consignment was being transported in a luxury car. Police are also investigating how the smugglers had kept the ganja inside the vehicle and whether the same vehicle or network had been used for drug smuggling earlier.

Action Carried Out Under Supervision of Senior Officers

The action was carried out under the direction of

Superintendent of Police Dharmendra Singh, guidance of Additional Superintendent of Police Gajendra Singh, and supervision of Deputy Superintendent of Police Nimbahera Shiv Prakash. The police team led by Sadar Nimbahera SHO Sanjay Sharma carried out the action after receiving information from DST.

Police Team Involved in the Action

The Sadar Nimbahera Police team included SHO Sanjay Sharma, ASI Sunderpal, Rajkumar (Cyber Cell), Constables Jeevanlal, Shyamal and Dayaram, and Head Constable Mahavir Singh. The District Special Team (DST) included Head Constable Pramod Kumar and Constables Ratansingh, Amit Kumar, Manoj Kumar, Balram Meena, Pritam, Balram Gurjar, Ajay Kumar and Shishram. Police have seized the ganja and the vehicle and started further legal action. The arrested accused is being questioned, and police are searching for the absconding driver and other persons connected with the ganja smuggling network.

