

FAIR REPORT

THE DAWN OF A FEARLESS PEN

Jaipur, Tuesday, 1 September 2026

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Rajasthan High Court Set for New Chief Justice as Collegium Recommends JUSTICE SANJAY K. AGRAWAL

■ FAIR REPORT
JAIPUR

The Supreme Court Collegium has recommended the appointment of Justice Sanjay K. Agrawal of the Chhattisgarh High Court as the next Chief Justice of the Rajasthan High Court, signalling a significant change at the top of the state's judiciary amid an increasingly contentious atmosphere.

Justice Agrawal, who has served on the Chhattisgarh High Court for over a decade, was appointed an additional judge in September 2013 and made a permanent judge in March 2016. Before his elevation to the Bench, he had also served as Advocate General of Chhattisgarh.

The recommendation comes at a politically and institutionally sensitive moment for the Rajasthan High Court. Acting Chief



Justice Sanjeev Prakash Sharma has faced sustained opposition from sections of the Bar, with lawyers in both Jaipur and Jodhpur holding protests and demanding action against him.

The controversy has also acquired a wider judicial dimension. Supreme

Court Justice Sandeep Mehta had reportedly sought the transfer of Justice Sharma, adding weight to concerns surrounding the functioning of the Rajasthan High Court.

Justice Sharma has, meanwhile, recused himself from judicial work

amid the developments.

The Collegium's recommendation to bring Justice Agrawal from Chhattisgarh therefore assumes significance beyond a routine change of leadership. The incoming Chief Justice will inherit a High Court where relations between sections of the Bar

and Bench have come under visible strain.

Justice Agrawal's immediate challenge will be to restore institutional confidence, ensure administrative stability and rebuild a working relationship between the judiciary and the legal fraternity.

The recommendation, however, is not the final appointment. The Union government will process the Collegium's recommendation before the formal appointment and subsequent assumption of office.

For Rajasthan's judiciary, the transition comes at a crucial juncture: the next Chief Justice will be expected not merely to preside over the court, but to steady an institution caught in an unusually public confrontation between the Bar and the Bench.

CROWNING GLORY



Cuba's Jhoanna Uranga greets the audience after being crowned Miss Teen International 2026 during the pageant's grand finale in Jaipur, Monday

TICKET WAR TAKES TOLL, BJP LEADERS ILL

■ FAIR REPORT
JAIPUR

Political tension over ticket distribution for the upcoming municipal corporation elections spilled into a health scare this weekend, as Civil Lines BJP MLA Gopal Sharma was rushed to hospital late Sunday evening, even as state UDH Minister Jhabar Singh Kharra was separately admitted to SMS Hospital's medical ICU on Monday.

Sharma's health deteriorated suddenly on Sunday night, with family members taking him to a private hospital where he was admitted for observation. Doctors discharged him after four to five hours. According to sources close to the development, the sudden episode followed a heated

dispute over ticket distribution for the Civil Lines seat in the upcoming municipal corporation elections — underlining how sharply contested the ground-level battle for civic tickets has become within the party.

In a development unconnected in cause but overlapping in timing, UDH Minister Jhabar Singh Kharra's health took a turn for the worse at his residence on Monday morning. He presented with fever, cough, and mild breathing difficulty. After complaints of a chest infection, he was brought to SMS Hospital at 1:30 pm on Monday and is currently undergoing treatment under medical supervision, kept under observation in the medi-

cal ICU as a precautionary measure. That two senior BJP functionaries required hospitalisation within the same 24-hour window — one amid an overt internal ticket dispute, the other for an unrelated infection — is likely to fuel speculation in political corridors already tense with pre-election jockeying over civic body nominations. Party workers and observers will be watching closely for both men's recovery updates, as well as any bearing this may have on the still-unresolved Civil Lines ticket question. Neither the BJP state unit nor the Chief Minister's office had issued an official statement on either minister's health at the time of filing.

Air India flight from Dammam makes emergency landing in Ahmedabad after 'BOMB' scrawled on tissue paper found mid-air; all 32 passengers evacuated safely, no explosives found

■ FAIR REPORT
AHMEDABAD

An Air India flight carrying 32 passengers from Dammam, Saudi Arabia, to New Delhi was diverted for an emergency landing at Ahmedabad International Airport on Monday, after a crew member discovered a tissue paper on board bearing the word "BOMB" scrawled on it, triggering a full-scale security response.

The alarm was raised mid-flight when a crew member spotted the suspicious note and immediately alerted the pilot. Acting swiftly under standard security protocols, the flight crew contacted Ahmedabad airport and sought clearance for an emergency landing rather than risk



continuing to Delhi airspace with an unverified threat on board.

The moment the aircraft touched down, it was steered away from the main terminal area as a precautionary measure — a standard drill designed to keep any potential threat contained and away from other operations. All 32 passengers on board were then calmly evacuated and ferried to the terminal by airport bus, while their

luggage was separated out for individual inspection rather than left in the aircraft hold.

What followed was a coordinated multi-agency response: teams from the Fire Brigade, the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), the Bomb Disposal Squad and specialist search units surrounded the aircraft and combed through it — cargo hold, overhead bins, and every passenger seat included.

Jaish Recruiter, Lakhvi Relative Reportedly Killed



■ FAIR REPORT
NEW DELHI

Claims circulating on social media allege that Hafiz Zulfiqar, described as a recruiter for the Pakistan-based terror outfit Jaish-e-Mohammed and a relative of 2008 Mumbai attacks mastermind Zakiur-Rehman Lakhvi, was shot dead by unidentified gunmen in Pakistan. As of filing, the claim remains unconfirmed by any official source.

Footage attached to the viral posts shows unidentified men in a narrow street lined with shuttered shops — but the video offers no independent confirmation of the identity of the deceased, the location, or the date of the alleged shooting. Social media accounts, including the handle "News Algebra," amplified the claim with dramatic framing, describing it as a targeted hit and drawing comparisons to cricketing and cinematic references ("wicket down," invoking the film Dhurandhar) — language more suited to celebration than confirmed reporting.

No official word, no independent verification

Pakistani authorities have issued no statement acknowledging the incident, the identity of the victim, or any investiga-

tion into the shooting. No major wire service or established news outlet has independently verified either the victim's identity or the claimed Jaish-e-Mohammed/Lakhvi connection.

This matters because Pakistan has a documented history of unclaimed, unexplained killings of individuals linked to designated terror organisations — incidents that frequently surface first through unverified social media claims, gain viral traction, and are only sometimes confirmed weeks or months later, if at all. Several past claims of this kind have later been found exaggerated, misattributed, or entirely unconnected to the individuals initially named.

Why the caution matters

Given the gravity of the claim — a named individual, an alleged terror-network connection, and an unclaimed killing — responsible reporting requires treating this as an unverified claim under active discussion online, not as an established fact, until Pakistani authorities, credible wire services, or independent journalists confirm the identity of the victim and circumstances of the shooting.

Lakhvi's Terror Network in the Shadows: Hafiz Zulfiqar Reportedly Shot Dead in Pakistan



Hemraj Tikamchand Tiwari

By Special Feature Desk

More than 17 years after the 26/11 Mumbai attacks, the shadow of Pakistan-based terror networks continues to hang over the region. A fresh claim emerging from Pakistan has now put another alleged figure linked to the jihadist ecosystem in the spotlight.

Hafiz Zulfiqar, described in social-media posts as a Jaish-e-Mohammed recruiter and a relative of Zaki-ur-Rehman Lakhvi, has reportedly been shot dead by an unidentified gunman in Pakistan.

A purported CCTV video circulating online appears to show an attacker approaching a man from behind, placing a weapon near his head and opening fire before fleeing. But the crucial fact remains unverified: the identity of the victim has not been independently established. The Free Press Journal, which reported the claim, specifically said it could not independently verify either



the authenticity of the footage or the identity of the person shown.

That caveat matters.

Zaki-ur-Rehman Lakhvi is not an obscure name in the history of South Asian terrorism. United

Nations records identify him as a senior operational and military commander of Lashkar-e-Taiba. He has been linked to the planning and execution of the November 2008 Mumbai attacks, in which 166 people were killed.

If the deceased is ultimately confirmed as Hafiz Zulfiqar, the development would raise difficult questions about the continued presence and fate of individuals allegedly connected with militant organisations operating from Pakistani territory.

It would also add another chapter to the increasingly familiar story of "unknown gunmen" targeting terror-linked figures in Pakistan—a phenomenon that has generated intense speculation but requires evidence before conclusions can be drawn.

For India, however, 26/11 remains more than a historical reference. It

represents an enduring demand for accountability for one of the deadliest terrorist attacks ever carried out on Indian soil.

The headline may be dramatic. The facts must remain disciplined.

Until Pakistani authorities or credible independent sources establish the victim's identity, Hafiz Zulfiqar should be described as "reportedly killed", not conclusively declared dead.

And if the identity is eventually confirmed, one question will demand an answer:

Why does the shadow of Lakhvi's terror network continue to surface in Pakistan—years after 26/11?

FAIR NATION

FAIR REPORT 02

States Focus



PM MODI’S POEMS RECITED BY UZBEK STUDENTS IN TASHKENT

A musical performance based on Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s poem ‘Abhi Toh Suraj Uga Hai’ at an informal dinner hosted by Uzbekistan President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, and the recitation of his poetry by university students in Tashkent were in the spotlight during his just-concluded visit there.

Uzbek students at the Tashkent State University of Oriental Studies came together to recite the poems in both Hindi and Uzbek languages before the prime minister, officials said.

The poem ‘Abhi Toh Suraj Uga Hai’ was recited in Hindi by Keldiyorov Dilhushbek, a fourth-year student from the university. Its Uzbek translation was recited by Dilshoda Juraboeva, a third-year student.



MEHBOOBA SLAMS BJP OVER WOMEN’S SAFETY, VIGILANTISM

PDP president Mehbooba Mufti on Monday expressed concern over the rising cases of sexual violence against females in the country, saying cow protection seems to be a higher priority than women’s safety.

“In BJP’s India, cow protection has become a higher priority than women’s safety. On mere suspicion of cow slaughter, people have been lynched to death by mobs. Yet, when it comes to protecting women from rape, sexual violence and brutality, the convicted rapists not only enjoy parole after parole but also full patronage,” Mehbooba said in a post on X.

BJP slams Rahul Gandhi over Haldwani FIR row

FAIR REPORT
 ■ New Delhi

The Congress-BJP sparring over the alleged “purification ceremony” in Haldwani intensified on Monday, with the BJP accusing the Opposition party of doing petty politics on the issue due to upcoming Assembly polls and calling Rahul Gandhi the “most anti-Dalit leader” in the country.

The BJP’s response came after the Congress lashed out at the ruling party over the registration of an FIR against Gandhi, the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, over his recent remarks on the “*shuddhikaran*” ritual at the venue where Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge, who is a Dalit, addressed a rally in Uttarakhand last month. Gandhi had alleged that it was a form of practising untouchability.

The FIR was registered against Gandhi on Saturday following a complaint by a

member of the Valmiki community in Haldwani alleging that the Congress leader at a recent press conference gave a casteist spin to a “religious ritual”.

The Congress on Monday vowed that it would not rest until the true culprits are punished and this “frivolous FIR is thrown in the dustbin”. The main Opposition party also said it will give a fitting response to the registration of the FIR through democratic and legal means.

Hitting back, BJP spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia alleged that the Congress is playing “petty politics” over the issue because the party knows it is set to suffer setbacks in the next round of Assembly elections due in various states in 2027.

He also questioned why it took Gandhi three weeks to raise the issue and alleged that the Gandhi family had insulted Kharge on several occasions.

“It’s a different matter



BJP spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia

whether his (Kharge’s) allegation is right or wrong, but Rahul Gandhi didn’t care. He kept sleeping for three weeks,” he said.

“There has never been a leader in India more irresponsible, anti-Dalit and anti-backwards classes than Rahul Gandhi,” Bhatia told a press conference at the BJP headquarters in New Delhi, while replying to queries

on the issue.

The FIR has been registered under various provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) related to promoting enmity between groups and deliberate acts intended to outrage religious feelings. The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, has also been invoked, police said on Sunday.

Rajnath assures full support to flood-hit Nepal

FAIR REPORT
 ■ New Delhi

Describing India as Nepal’s close friend and “*Sukh dukh ke saathi*”, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday said New Delhi stands shoulder to shoulder with “our Nepali brothers and sisters”, and it is committed to supporting Kathmandu’s efforts for search, rescue and rehabilitation following the large-scale devastation caused by the flash floods in that country.



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh signs a condolence book at the Embassy of Nepal following the loss of lives in Nepal in New Delhi

In a social media post, he said, “Went to the Embassy of Nepal in New Delhi and expressed my condolences by signing the condolence book.”

“On behalf of the Government and people of India, I extend my deepest

condolences to the people of Nepal and their Government, on the loss of precious lives and large-scale devastation caused by the flash flood on 26 August 2026,” he wrote.

This tragic natural calamity has affected the citizens of Nepal along with a number of foreign nationals, including Indians, he said.

“Our thoughts and prayers

My responsibility to help upper castes if they need justice: Chirag Paswan

FAIR REPORT ■ Patna

Union minister Chirag Paswan on Monday said it was his responsibility to help upper castes if they need justice, asserting that safeguarding interests of deprived classes should not result in “exploitation of other castes”.

Paswan, who was responding to a query from journalists about his vehement opposition to introducing a sub-quota for the most deprived sections among SCs and STs, also said he sought to “serve as a bridge” that connects various social groups. The Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) chief and Union minister Jitan Ram Manjhi on Saturday sparred over a separate sub-category for the most deprived Dalit sections, with Paswan opposing it as divisive and the former Bihar chief minister arguing that it would benefit the communities.



Paswan also charged upper caste politicians with failure to “effectively voicing the concerns of their own communities”.

The Hajipur MP did not directly reply to his tiff with Manjhi, the Hindustani Awam Morcha founder, but said, “About reservations, I hold the clear

view that if one social segment has its own concerns, taking care of the apprehensions of the others is also the responsibility of our Government.”

“On one hand, we need to protect the interests of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, but on the other we also ought to allay fears of the upper castes. Safeguarding interests of one caste should not result in the exploitation of another,” Paswan said.

“But, I wonder why those from the upper castes are not able to voice the concerns of their communities with the same intensity that I do for the social segment I represent? The Constitution has created ample space for uplift of all social groups without any friction between upper castes, OBCs, SC/ST and minorities. Chirag Paswan shall serve as a bridge between these social groups,” he said.

India needs long term approach towards South Asian neighbours: Former diplomat Raghavan

FAIR REPORT
 ■ Patna

Emphasising on a clinical and not a sentimental appreciation of the turbulently fluid situation in the Indo-Pak relations, former diplomat TCA Raghavan on Monday underlined the need for a long-term approach on the part of India to manage its South Asian neighbourhood.

Speaking to a distinguished gathering comprising senior officials from armed forces and civil dispensation, faculties, researchers and students from different universities across the state and other distinguished luminaries, Raghavan discussed the Mecca Accord in terms of potential for complementarities that Pakistan, Turkey and Saudi Arabia could bring to the table.

According to a Press release, the eminent diplomat, scholar and author delivered an insightful lecture on “Mecca Accord, Pakistan and the Future of India- Pakistan Relations” at Bihar Lok Bhawan as part of the first edition of the ‘Patliputra Pragya Prawah’ series. Bihar



Dr Faizan Mustafa, VC of Chanakya National Law University, Bihar Governor Lt Gen Syed Ata Hasnain (Retd) and diplomat TCA Raghavan at a lecture on ‘Mecca Accord, Pakistan and the Future of India- Pakistan Relations at Bihar Lok Bhawan

Governor Lt Gen Syed Ata Hasnain (Retd.) also graced the occasion.

He explained that Pakistan with its nuclear arsenal and defence capabilities, Arabia with its financial resources and Turkiye with its template of modernity and technology prowess could introduce new possibilities and new uncertainties not only in West Asia but also in South Asia.

While the three countries were not abandoning Washington, the Chinese factor loomed in the background and the Mecca Accord, he said, amounted to the creation of a more

autonomous regional security architecture.

Raghavan made certain general points of great salience: first, foreign policy is not a zero sum game and it is perfectly possible for different powers to engage in multi-alignment in order to serve their self-interest; second, the very nature of warfare is changing and the factor of asymmetry between unequal powers is getting reduced.

In the context of new sources of volatility, he underlined that the choice for India was to tread a fine balance between its uncompromising stand against terror provocations from

Pakistan and the long-term need for engagement. Earlier, detailing the idea of ‘Patliputra Pragya Prawah’ Governor of Bihar Lt Gen Syed Ata Hasnain (Retd.) emphasized that Bihar has civilizationally been the centre of intellectual ferment, argumentation and contestation and given this, there is a need to revive and rejuvenate the idea of knowledge- sharing.

He assured that the Lok Bhawan would be at the forefront of encouraging and facilitating a culture of debate and dialogue in pursuit of which more lectures and seminars would be organised.

He also added that more and more such events should be organised at the decentralized level in order to usher in de-concentration of knowledge and new ways of looking at things.

Welcoming the participants, Dipak Kumar Singh, Additional Chief Secretary to the Governor, informed the distinguished gathering that Bihar Lok Bhawan would organize two lectures each month with domain experts interacting with the audience on a host of issues.

Chittorgarh Election Picture Clear: BJP and Congress Announce Candidates for All 60 Wards

Both parties give tickets to new and experienced faces; Congress also tries to maintain political balance, while several wards are set for an interesting contest

■ FAIR REPORT
CHITTORGARH

The election picture of Chittorgarh Municipal Council is now completely clear. After the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the Congress has also announced its candidates for all 60 wards. With candidates of both major parties now in the field, the ward-wise election contest is becoming clear. Both parties have tried to maintain a balance between new and experienced faces. The BJP has given tickets to many new workers, while experienced leaders and old party workers have also been given another chance. The Congress list also has a good number of new faces.

CONGRESS		BJP	
Ward	Candidate	Ward	Candidate
1	Pradeep Sen	31	Manoj Suresh
2	Sadam	32	Sudarshan Ramguria
3	Akshat Singh	33	Mamta Devi Meena
4	Ramesh Nath	34	Sunder Bai Puliy
5	Devilash Salvi	35	Ramesh Meena
6	Kailash Panwar	36	Anand Sharma
7	Savitri Panwar	37	Lokesh Sethiya
8	Nora	38	Balmukund Chhipa
9	Kalish Jain	39	Rajsha Sharma
10	Pratik Jain	40	Ravindra Ladwa
11	Surendra Nath Yogi	41	Pooja Khatri
12	Durga Pal Singh (Rtd)	42	Manishwar Devi
13	Rohit	43	Ravindra Ladwa
14	Nitin Verma	44	Pradeep Kabra
15	Hemant Sant	45	Ranu Seli
16	Anvild Vashish	46	Bholaam Prajapat
17	Mahendra Singh Medhiya	47	Harish Inani
18	Rakesh Chak	48	Omprakash Sharma
19	Heenakshi Barua	49	Rakha Sharma
20	Sandeep Singh Shami	50	Pritya Ghosh
21	Prithus Bano	51	Ratanlal Yadav
22	Nandana Vijayvargya	52	Pratik Khatri
23	Vijay Chaudhar	53	Shantilal Modi
24	Payal Gidhauriya	54	Jeevan Koli
25	Abhishek Tanaya	55	Kusum Barua
26	Rakha Sharma	56	Rajesh Nahata
27	Aarti Sharma	57	Kapil Malani
28	Manishar Prajapat	58	Shahin Bi
29	Shankar Prajapat	59	Jyotep Singh Saluja
30	Devilash Gurjar	60	Rajou Sani

has been given a ticket from Ward 6. His wife Savitri Panwar will contest from Ward 7. The son of the city Congress president has also received a ticket.

Congress Gives Chance to New Faces

A major feature of the Congress list is the entry of a large number of new faces. Many candidates will contest the Municipal Council election for the first time. The party is looking at the new faces as a way to give a new message to voters. However, Congress has also given importance to experience. Former chairman Ramesh Nath has been given a ticket from Ward 4, while former vice-chairman Kailash Panwar

BJP Also Trusts New and Experienced Faces

The BJP has announced candidates for all 60 wards. The party has given opportunities to many new faces along with experienced and active workers. At the same time, several aspirants who were hoping for a ticket could not find a place in the final list. Wards 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 22, 25, 28, 31, 35 and 53 were among the wards that remained in

made objectionable remarks against President Droupadi Murmu, the BJP spokesperson charged, accusing the Congress leader of adopting “double standards”.

“Deep down, Mallikarjun Kharge also hates Rahul Gandhi. He knows it well that he will not get any respect in the Congress because he does not belong to the Gandhi family,” he said.

“Rahul Gandhi is like that failed product the Congress repeatedly attempts to launch, yet this defective product never quite launches successfully,” the BJP leader said.

Assembly polls are due in Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Goa, Himachal Pradesh and Gujarat in 2027. The BJP is in power in five of these poll-bound States, except Punjab and Himachal Pradesh. While the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) currently rules Punjab, the Congress is in power in Himachal Pradesh.

DEFENCE MINISTER TO REVIEW PERFORMANCE OF 16 DPSUS

FAIR REPORT
 ■ New Delhi

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will undertake the annual performance review of 16 defence public sector undertakings (DPSUs) on Tuesday, with a focus on advancing indigenous technologies, boosting innovation and enhancing exports.

“A stronger, more self-reliant defence sector is powering India’s journey towards technological leadership and global defence capabilities,” the defence ministry said on Monday.

During the event, the CMDs of seven DPSUs — Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL), Bharat

Electronics Limited (BEL), Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL), Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Limited (GRSE), BEML, and MIDHANI — will present dividend cheques for the Government’s equity shares to the Union minister for the financial year 2025–26, it said in a statement.

On the occasion, Rajnath Singh will also release four books, namely ‘Aatmanirbhar DPSU - A journey of DPSUs towards Self-Reliance’; ‘DISHA’, an initiative of DPSUs for students’ hands-on awareness on defence technologies and modern manufacturing processes; ‘Modernisation Roadmap of HAL’; and ‘Indigenisation Roadmap of HAL’.

discussion during ticket distribution. Several leaders were active for tickets from these wards. The party has fielded Bholaram Prajapat, Harish Inani, Chhotu Singh Shekhawat, Shantilal Jat, Anil Inani, Suresh Chandra Jhanwar, Jagdeep Singh Saluja, Shailendra Jhanwar, Vipin Singh, Sudarshan Rampuria, Avinash Sharma and Nikita Saini from these seats. Apart from these, Lokesh Sethia from Ward 36, Pradeep Kabra from Ward 39, Kapil Malani from Ward 20 and Laxmi Narayan Soni from Ward 48 have also been given tickets by the BJP.

These Wards Will Be Closely Watched

After the Congress list was announced, discussion has increased around Ward 4, 6, 7, 11, 14, 15, 17, 23, 36, 42, 45, 47, 51 and 54. Many aspirants had been active in these wards even before the ticket announcement. In some wards, experienced leaders have got another chance, while in some places new faces have replaced senior aspirants. Now BJP and Congress candidates are face-to-face in all 60 wards. With the ticket picture clear, candidates of both parties have started contacting voters in their respective wards. In the coming days, booth-level organisation, personal support of candidates and local ward issues are likely to make the election contest more interesting.

MoU signed to develop space under Deepali Chowk flyover

FAIR REPORT
 ■ New Delhi

The Delhi Government on Monday signed an MoU with two private companies for the development of space under Deepali Chowk flyover in northwest Delhi. The agreements were signed in the presence of Chief Minister Rekha Gupta.

"Delhi Government has signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Dixon Technologies Limited and Kanodia Group, advancing its resolve for a clean, green, and beautiful city," Delhi CMO said in a post on social media.

Under the partnership, beautification and development of the area under the Deepali Chowk flyover will be taken up as part of corporate social initiative(CSR). Additionally, murals on

pillars depicting Indian culture, modern art, and environment-themed artwork, restoration of the green belt along Mathura Road and MP Marg, and installation of drip irrigation and fencing with pollution-resistant plants will be part of the initiative.

These initiatives, carried out through corporate social responsibility (CSR), will help make Delhi's public spaces cleaner, greener, more organized and more citizen-friendly. On the occasion, Rekha Gupta said building a clean, green and beautiful Delhi is a collective responsibility of the government, society and the private sector. The Delhi government is encouraging public-private partnerships through which neglected spaces in the city can be transformed into better, safer, attractive



and environment-friendly public spaces for citizens. The goal of Delhi's development is not only to create new infrastructure facilities but also to improve the quality of life of citizens by making better use of existing urban spaces. The transformation of spaces beneath flyovers and green belts along major roads is part of this

approach. The Chief Minister said these initiatives would improve the appearance and identity of Delhi's major corridors, increase greenery, promote cleanliness and provide citizens with better public spaces. At the same time, CSR participation by the private sector will strengthen the long-term maintenance of these areas.



Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta during the signing of an MoU between the Delhi Government, Dixon Technologies Limited and Kanodia Group for the beautification and maintenance of flyovers and public spaces

PWD minister Parvesh Verma, who was also present at the MoU signing, said the Government requires public partnerships for better results, and added there are many NGOs and companies that want to help in beautification of Delhi. Under the MoU, the two companies will have two stretches each for beautifica-

tion under the CSR initiative, he said. The partnership aims to transform neglected or underutilised spaces under and around flyovers into clean, green, safe and useful public spaces for citizens. The initiative will focus simultaneously on cleanliness, greenery, beautification, safety, pedestrian

movement and environmental awareness. As part of an initiative by Dixon Technologies and Vikshit Foundation, neglected spaces along the 2.5-km stretch from Deepali to Mangolpuri Market beneath the flyover will be developed as clean, green and safe community spaces. The project will include fencing along the approximately 2.5-km stretch beneath the flyover. Environment-friendly mural paintings and artworks based on environmental themes and clean energy will be created on 61 flyover pillars, covering an area of around 5,100 square metres. Organised greenery will be developed using local plant species, grass, shrubs and flowering plants.

As part of a CSR initiative, the Kanodia Group will undertake the development

and long-term maintenance of around two acres of green belt along Mathura Road and MP Road. At present, issues such as garbage dumping, unauthorised slums, roadside encroachments and unplanned use of these areas are affecting greenery, cleanliness, safety and the overall appearance of the surroundings. The green belts will be developed through local plant species, organised landscaping and improved maintenance. The proposed development will include organised green spaces, flowering plants, shrubs, trees and plants, walkways, lighting and attractive public spaces. This will not only enhance the greenery and appearance of the area but also provide citizens with a better and more convenient environment.

Govt to set up medical rooms in 100 schools

FAIR REPORT
 ■ New Delhi

Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Monday said the Delhi Government will set up dedicated medical rooms in 100 Government schools on a pilot basis to provide students immediate first aid, basic health support and counselling. The initiative will subsequently be expanded in phases to 1,086 Government schools based on the outcome and evaluation of the pilot project, according to a statement issued by the Chief Minister's Office.

An allocation of ₹5 crore has been made in this year's Budget Estimates for implementing the pilot project. Additional funds required for the expansion will be provided in the coming years based on the pilot's evaluation and outcomes, it stated. The medical rooms will provide first aid, temporary rest, basic health support, age-appropriate health guidance and counselling to students when required, it said.



The facilities will also provide girl students with a safe and private space during menstrual discomfort. "Our aim is to provide students immediate first aid, basic health support and counselling when needed," Gupta said. Trained health workers will be engaged through an approved outsourcing arrangement to provide primary health support at the medical rooms. They will also assist with counselling, health-awareness activities and maintenance of relevant records, accord-

ing to the statement. The Government plans to use existing school infrastructure for the initiative, which has been designed as a low-cost arrangement, it said. The initiative is aimed at creating a safe, inclusive and health-supportive environment in schools and is in line with the vision of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, the statement said. The programme is also intended to support students' physical and emotional well-being while minimising disruption to their studies, it added.

LG reviews traffic, seeks action on congestion hotspots

FAIR REPORT
 ■ New Delhi

Lieutenant Governor Sardar Taranjit Singh Sandhu on Monday reviewed Delhi Traffic Police's functioning and directed its senior leadership to step up coordination with civic agencies to ease congestion, strengthen road safety and improve traffic discipline across the Capital. During his visit to the Delhi Traffic Police Headquarters in Todapur, Sandhu stressed the need for proactive management of congestion-prone locations and closer coordination among agencies responsible for roads and traffic management. He also called for greater public participation in efforts to make Delhi's roads safer and traffic movement more efficient.

The LG said a coordinated, technology-driven and citizen-focused approach was necessary to address traffic-related challenges and improve public confidence in the city's traffic management system. Senior Delhi Traffic Police officers briefed the LG on measures and programmes being used to tackle congestion, improve road discipline and engage with road users. These included Traffic Pathshala, Traffic Panchayat and



special enforcement campaigns targeting dangerous traffic violations. Traffic Pathshala is aimed at sensitising traffic violators and promoting awareness about responsible road behaviour. Traffic Panchayat seeks to bring civic agencies and other stakeholders together to identify traffic-related problems and work towards their resolution. The Traffic Police also outlined its enforcement drives against violations considered dangerous to road users. The initiatives are intended to complement routine enforce-

ment with public awareness and coordinated action. The visit also covered preparations for the forthcoming BRICS Summit in Delhi. The Traffic Police briefed the LG on the arrangements being planned for the international event, which is expected to bring Heads of State and Government, foreign dignitaries and senior delegates to the Capital. According to the Traffic Police, technology-driven arrangements are being put in place to ensure the safe and smooth movement of foreign dig-

nitaries as well as Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other ministers during the summit. Officials assured the LG that traffic arrangements would focus on maintaining security and uninterrupted movement of the visiting dignitaries while keeping inconvenience to the general public to a minimum. The summit preparations are expected to require close coordination among multiple agencies, particularly for managing routes used by visiting delegations and maintaining regular traffic movement in other parts of the city. During the review, the LG emphasised that inter-agency coordination would be critical not only during major events but also in the routine management of Delhi's traffic. He called for traffic authorities and other concerned departments to work together rather than addressing congestion and road safety issues in isolation. The meeting was attended by Special Commissioner of Police, Traffic, Ajay Chaudhry, Joint Commissioner of Police, Sanjay Tyagi, three Additional Commissioners of Police, Traffic, along with Deputy Commissioners and Assistant Commissioners of Police from the Traffic unit.

Delhi turns monsoon farewell into folk culture celebration

FAIR REPORT
 ■ New Delhi

Delhi marked the end of the monsoon with a large cultural festival at Talkatora Stadium on Monday, bringing folk music, dance, painting and regional traditions to the city's stage. The event, titled 'Badariya: A Monsoon Farewell Festival', was organised by the Delhi Government's Department of Art, Culture & Language in association with the Mata Chakery Devi Foundation and the Maithili-Bhojpuri Academy. The programme featured performances

rooted in the folk traditions of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and the wider Purvanchal region. Union Minister of State Harsh Malhotra, Delhi Art, Culture & Language Minister Kapil Mishra and BJP MP Manoj Tiwari were among those who attended the event. Other MPs, MLAs and cultural personalities were also present. Padma Shri awardee and folk singer Malini Awasthi was the main performer of the evening. She presented Kajri, Thumri and other folk compositions before a large audience. Other performers presented traditional music, instrumental pieces and folk dances.



The festival drew its theme from the long association between the monsoon and Indian cultural expression. The season has traditionally found a place in literature, music and folk traditions, often representing joy, love, longing and creativity. Organisers used songs associated with Sawan and Bhado, along with folk performances and visual art, to present this cultural connection. The programme was designed not only as a celebration of the changing season but also as an effort to bring regional artistic traditions before audiences in the

national Capital. Malhotra said cultural programmes such as Badariya could help strengthen Delhi's identity while supporting the Government's efforts to develop the Capital as a major centre for cultural activities. Mishra said the Delhi Government had expanded its focus on cultural programmes celebrating Bhojpuri, Maithili and other folk traditions. He said a major programme showcasing these traditions was started in the city last year and that the response had encouraged the Government to continue such initiatives.

Pink tickets extended till September 17

FAIR REPORT
 ■ New Delhi

The Delhi Government on Monday extended the paper-based Pink Ticket system for women travelling free on DTC buses till September 17. The extension gives commuters more time to shift to the Pink Saheli Smart Card system. Transport Minister Pankaj Kumar Singh said the extension was intended to ensure that women do not face disruption during the transition, particularly during the upcoming festive period. From September 18, the Pink Saheli Smart Card will be mandatory for women seeking the free bus travel facility. Nearly 19 lakh women have already applied or registered for the Pink Saheli Smart Card, according to the Transport Minister. He said the response to the registration drive had been encouraging and that the Government would continue issuing cards even after September 17. "The extension has been given till September 17," Singh said, adding that paper tickets would remain available until that date. He said the smart card system would take over fully from the following day. The extended deadline

comes ahead of several festivals, including Janmashtami, Teej and Ganesh Chaturthi, when travel tends to increase for religious, social and family occasions. The Government said retaining the existing system during this period would help prevent inconvenience to women commuters. September 17 is also the birth-



day of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and marks the beginning of Seva Pakhwada, which will continue until October 2. The minister linked the extension to the Government's effort to ensure continuity of the free travel facility during the transition. Singh said women who have not yet registered for the Pink Saheli Smart Card will not lose the opportunity after the September 17 deadline.

Delhi Govt seals Maujpur play school over fire, building safety violations

FAIR REPORT
 ■ New Delhi

A private play school in northeast Delhi's Maujpur was sealed on August 31 after a Government inspection found serious violations involving fire safety, building permissions, emergency access and the use of a basement for classes. The action was taken after an inspection report issued by the Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Yamuna Vihar. The school, which is under scrutiny, is Makoons Kids Unplugged, a pre-school and daycare activity centre located at 158, Main Road, Jammu Mohalla, Maujpur. The officials found that the premises did not have a fire safety certificate and lacked a sanctioned building plan or completion and occupancy certificate. The inspection was conducted to check compliance with provisions of the Delhi Maintenance and Management of Immovable Property Act, the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act and the Delhi Fire Service Act. The report, dated August 31 and signed by SDM Shakti Bangar, said the school had failed to produce satisfactory replies or the required permissions during the inspection. The premises

were subsequently sealed "to ensure public safety". Among the most serious findings was the condition of the building's emergency arrangements. The inspection team found that the emergency exit and staircases were blocked. The only fire extinguisher available at the premises was also found to be non-functional. The school was further found to be operating without a fire safety certificate. Officials also found



that there was no sanctioned building plan, completion certificate or occupancy certificate for the premises. The inspection raised concerns about the use of space inside the building. Rooms in the basement were allegedly being used by the school for conducting classes, which the report described as a violation of the Delhi Municipal

Corporation Act. The officials also noted that the school was functioning in a residential area while carrying out commercial activity. Another concern was the lack of ventilation. The inspection report said the rooms did not have proper air circulation, adding to concerns about the suitability of the premises for young children. Officials also found a borewell at the site but said the school management could not produce permission for its installation during the inspection. The school was also found to be operating a kitchen on the first floor using domestic LPG cylinders, according to the report. The combination of cooking activity, residential use and inadequate fire safety arrangements raised further concerns about the safety of children and staff on the premises.

The inspection was carried out specifically to identify violations of provisions governing building use, municipal requirements and fire safety. The report said the authorities sealed the premises after the director of the play school failed to provide a satisfactory response or produce necessary permissions. The school's Maujpur address is also listed on the official Makoons website as one of its Delhi pre-school centres. The site describes the centre as a Makoons pre-school and gives the same address at 158, Main Road, Jammu Mohalla, Maujpur. The action comes against the backdrop of Delhi's regulatory framework for educational and early-learning facilities. The city's planning documents recognise play schools, nursery schools and similar early-learning facilities in certain residential settings under mixed-use provisions, but such premises remain subject to development and safety controls. Fire safety certificates issued by the Delhi Fire Service also make clear that safety equipment must remain functional and that such certification does not regularise unauthorised construction or alterations.

MCD panel to take up medical college, Town Hall proposals



FAIR REPORT
 ■ New Delhi

The MCD Standing Committee is set to consider a slew of proposals on Tuesday, including setting up a medical college and an attached hospital at Kingsway Camp under the PPP model and revival of the historic Town Hall in Chandni Chowk. The meeting, scheduled to take place at the Municipal Council of Delhi's (MCD) Civic Centre, will also take up the proposal to formally declare 48 villages as "urban villages" under sections of the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act, 1957, officials said. On the urban planning front, the agenda includes development and revision of layout plans for several educational and institutional sites, including Hindu College and Hansraj College in Delhi University's North Campus, Jamia Hamdard and the National Metro Rail Knowledge Centre near Vishwavidyalaya Metro station, according to officials. Under the healthcare proposal, the civic body plans to develop a medical college and hospital on vacant land within the premises of the RBIPMT at Kingsway Camp. The MCD has proposed appointing SBI Capital Markets Ltd (SBICAP) as the transaction service adviser for the project. The committee is also expected to consider a conservation and adaptive reuse plan for the Town

Hall in Chandni Chowk, including its side wings and adjoining parks. Officials said that anticipatory approval of many of these projects has already been taken and passing the agenda item will be formalised and ratified by the Standing Committee. Several proposals aimed at improving sanitation and cleanliness are also on the agenda. These include the procurement of 70 mechanical road sweeping machines through a 10-year service-outsourcing contract and the engagement of 1,000 battery-operated vacuum-based "litter picker machines" for eight years. The committee will also consider agenda item of upgrading street lighting in the Civil Lines, City-SP, Karol Bagh, Keshavpuram, Rohini and Narela zones. The proposal envisages a 10-year comprehensive operation and maintenance contract, including areas that have not been authorised for regular civic development. Other items include proposals related to renaming MCD zones, settlement of long-pending audit paras, extension of solid waste management contracts and setting up Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras at municipal hospitals. The proposals are part of the civic body's broader efforts to improve municipal services, infrastructure and access to public amenities in the city, officials added.

