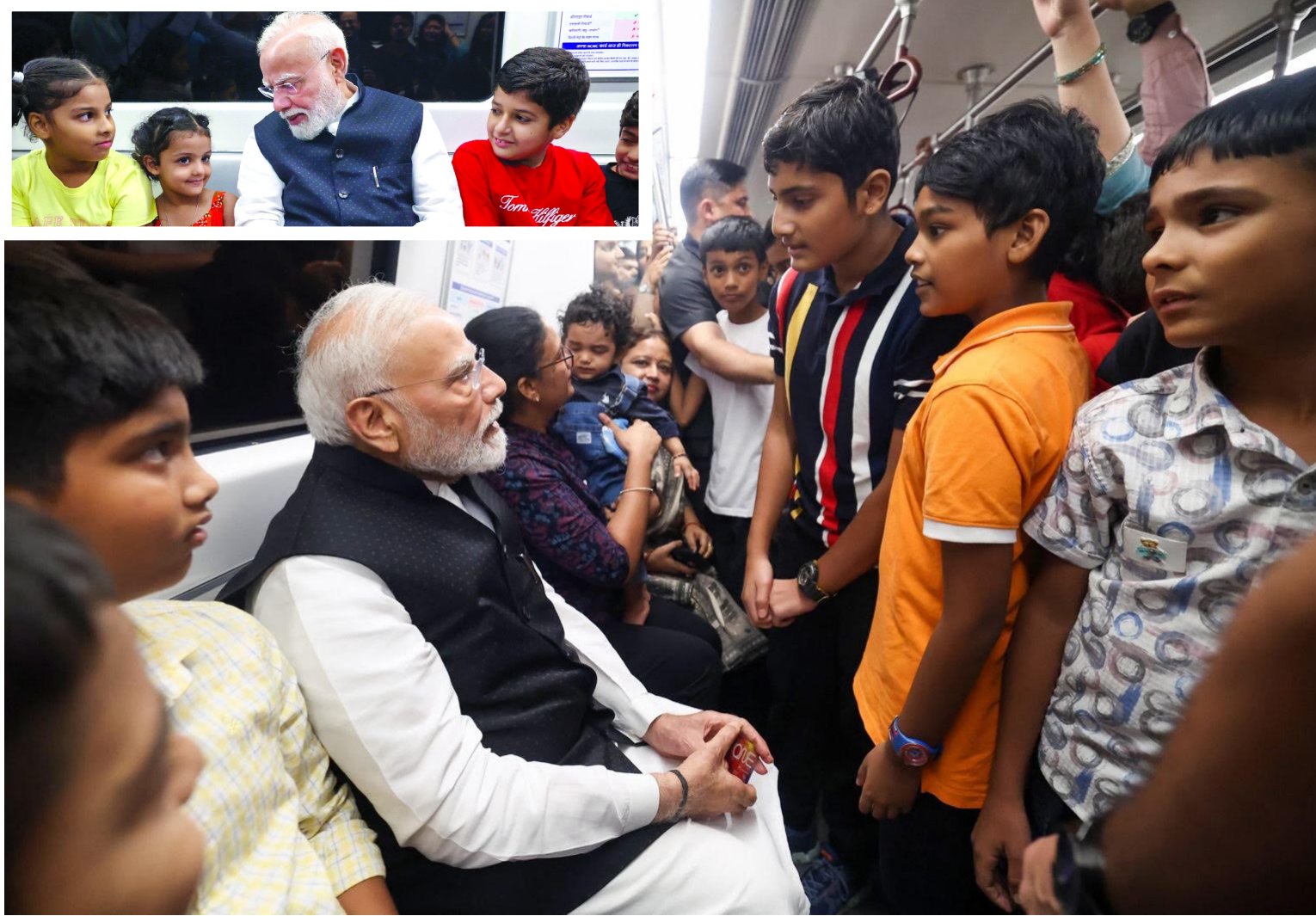


FAIR REPORT

THE DAWN OF A FEARLESS PEN

Jaipur, Sunday, 6 September 2026

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PM Modi's Metro Ride

PM MODI TAKES THE METRO TO SRCC:

A COMMUTE THAT URNAED INTO A POLITICAL MOMENT

■ FAIR REPORT
NEW DELHI

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi travelled by Metro to attend a programme at Sri Ram College of Commerce (SRCC) and took the same mode of transport on his return, turning his commute into one of the most closely noticed moments of the visit. The Metro journey brought Modi face-to-face with commuters, students and passengers, offering a rare public setting in which the Prime Minister was seen

travelling alongside ordinary Delhi commuters rather than in the usual official convoy. Passengers interacted with him during the journey, while several captured the encounter on their phones. The images and videos from inside the Metro quickly became a talking point, adding an unexpected public dimension to his SRCC visit.

The choice of the Metro was particularly striking given the security and protocol that typically accompany the movement of a

Prime Minister. From the Metro coach to the college campus, Modi's visit combined public transport, youth outreach and political messaging in a single itinerary. At SRCC, the Prime Minister addressed students and engaged with the young audience. But the Metro ride—both on the way to the programme and back—provided the defining visual of the visit.

A PRIME MINISTER IN THE METRO. A COMMUTE THAT BECAME THE STORY.

ACB's AJMER CRACKDOWN: ₹1.46 CRORE GOLD-SILVER HAUL PUTS OFFICER'S ASSETS UNDER SCANNER

DIG Rameshwar Singh Leads the Operation; ASP Rajveer Singh and Inspector Meera Beniwal Drive the Search

■ HEMRAJ TIKAMCHAND
FAIR REPORT
JAIPUR

The Rajasthan Anti-Corruption Bureau's Ajmer team has intensified its probe into alleged bribery involving Jaiprakash Charan, Joint Director, Social Justice and Empowerment Department, Ajmer, uncovering gold and silver jewellery worth an estimated 1.46 crore from a family-linked bank locker.

The high-value recovery came during a search conducted on September 5 as part of the investigation following the ACB's trap operation on September 4. The operation was conducted under the supervision of DIG Rameshwar Singh, with ASP Rajveer Singh, ACB Ajmer, and Police Inspector Meera Beniwal, ACB Ajmer, leading the search and investigation on the ground.

945 GRAMS GOLD. 1.027 KG SILVER. ₹1.46 CRORE

According to the ACB, investigators searched a joint locker held in the names of family members of the accused at a bank in Ajmer. The locker contained approximately 945 grams of gold jewellery and 1.027 kg of silver ornaments, whose estimated combined value was put at 1,46,43,000. But the locker was not the only financial trail being examined.

NINE BANK ACCOUNTS, ₹64.26 LAKH BALANCE

The ACB also examined nine bank accounts operated by Charan and his family members in two banks. The combined balance in these accounts was found to be 64,26,780, the agency said. Investigators are now collecting documents and records to establish the source, ownership and financial linkage of the jewellery and bank balances with the known sources of income of the accused and his family.

THE PAPER TRAIL NOW MATTERS

The recovery of assets does not, by itself, establish that they are proceeds of corruption or disproportionate assets. The decisive part of the investigation will be determining whether the assets and funds can be satisfactorily explained through legitimate income and documented ownership. The ACB has initiated further investigation and legal action under the provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act. With DIG Rameshwar Singh supervising the operation and ASP Rajveer Singh and Inspector Meera Beniwal executing the Ajmer search, the investigation has now moved beyond the alleged bribery transaction to the larger question of the money trail and the source of the assets. A trap operation has opened a much wider financial investigation—and the locker may have only unlocked the next chapter.

Rajasthan Civic Polls

Civic Polls: 77 Candidates Elected Unopposed Across 309 Rajasthan Local Bodies

JAIPUR: Rajasthan's civic election process has begun with 77 candidates declared elected unopposed across 30 districts, according to the State Election Commission. Of these, 45 candidates are from the BJP and 15 from the Congress, while the rest belong to other parties or are independents. Unopposed victories have been reported from districts including Jaipur, Alwar, Jodhpur, Kota, Bikaner, Udaipur, Sikar and Tonk. The figures give the ruling BJP an early numerical advantage, but they do not represent a statewide electoral verdict, as they cover only seats where no contest remained. The real political test will come in the remaining seats, where voters will decide the strength of the BJP, Congress and smaller parties.

WHEN KRISHNA'S BIRTH BECAME A CELEBRATION OF GRATITUDE: Nandotsav, Vyasa-Puja Fill Gupt Vrindavan Dham With Devotion

■ FAIR REPORT
JAIPUR

The celebrations of Janmashtami at Gupt Vrindavan Dham continued a day later, transforming the temple precinct into a sea of kirtan, devotion and gratitude as devotees celebrated Nandotsav and the 130th divine appearance anniversary of His Divine Grace Srila Prabhupada through the Vyasa-Puja festival.

Nandotsav—the traditional celebration of the joy that followed Krishna's birth—saw young devotees participate enthusiastically in bhajan, kirtan and devotional dance before Sri Sri Krishna-Balaram. Devotees offered prayers, special bhog and a floral abhishek to the deities.

The temple deities were adorned in special festive

attire, while devotees participated in the Jhulan Utsav, gently swinging Laddu Gopal in celebration. Traditional makhana-mishri prasad was also distributed among devotees.

As the day moved towards evening, the atmosphere took on a deeper spiritual character with the commencement of the Vyasa-Puja ceremony dedicated to Srila Prabhupada. A grand Maha-Abhishek was performed, while thousands of devotees offered prayers and written tributes expressing their gratitude for his spiritual legacy and worldwide propagation of Krishna consciousness.

Adding an international dimension to the ceremony, a special Vyasa-Puja offering book, containing tributes written by devotees

from different countries and in multiple languages, was offered to Srila Prabhupada.

The offerings included 1,008 specially prepared bhog preparations, lovingly made by devotees and offered as an expression of devotion and gratitude.

The celebrations culminated in a grand palanquin procession, followed by Maha-Abhishek, Harinam Sankirtan, Guru-Puja and Maha-Aarti.

For devotees, the significance of the day went beyond ritual. Nandotsav celebrated the overflowing joy following Krishna's appearance, while Vyasa-Puja became an occasion to remember the guru through whom that spiritual tradition continues to reach generations across the world.

RAJASTHAN HEALTH DEPARTMENT STEPS UP SEASONAL DISEASE SURVEILLANCE

Rajasthan on Alert as Seasonal Illnesses Rise; Intensive Surveys Ordered in Hotspots

■ FAIR REPORT
JAIPUR

With dengue, chikungunya, malaria and swine flu posing a seasonal health challenge, the Rajasthan Health Department has stepped up surveillance and ordered intensive field surveys in affected areas.

Principal Secretary, Medical and Health, Gayatri Rathore, directed officials to intensify monitoring of disease hotspots, ensure prompt treatment of positive cases and keep

patients under surveillance for 14 days.

The directions came during a review meeting held through video conference at Swasthya Bhawan on Saturday, where officials assessed preparedness for seasonal diseases, swine flu prevention, operationalisation of newly constructed medical facilities and other health services.

Rathore instructed officials to closely monitor the work of Rapid Response Teams, along with anti-larval measures, source reduction and other vector-control activities. Government and private nursing colleges have also been asked to provide



manpower support to accelerate field surveys.

Focus on swine flu hotspots

Officials have been asked to pay particular attention to areas reporting higher numbers of swine flu cases, including slum settlements and districts with major coaching hubs. Hostels in such areas will be subjected to closer surveillance, with sanitation

drives, intensive surveys and mosquito-control measures to be conducted regularly.

People who have come in contact with patients suffering from swine flu and other seasonal illnesses should also receive necessary preventive and medical services, Rathore said.

Medical institutions have been directed to regularly check the availabil-

ity and functioning of medicines, diagnostic kits and essential equipment. Isolation wards for patients with swine flu, dengue and other seasonal illnesses should be kept ready wherever required.

Maternal deaths under review

The meeting also reviewed the management of high-risk pregnancies, deliveries and maternal

deaths reported during the past seven days. Rathore warned that negligence at any stage—from antenatal examinations and delivery to postnatal care—would invite action against those responsible. In connection with a maternal death reported in Churu district, officials were directed to conduct an inquiry against the concerned GNM and initiate strict action based on the findings. The department also reviewed the mentoring being provided by medical college specialists to healthcare workers in districts and directed that the programme continue according to local requirements.

Anaemia, vaccination and trauma care

Officials from the Bharatpur and Bikaner zones were asked to take immediate corrective measures over slow progress in anaemia management. Mission Director, NHM, Jogaram, called for higher coverage of both doses of the measles-rubella vaccine among children and greater uptake of the HPV vaccine. Chief Medical and Health Officers were asked to coordinate with district education authorities to organise HPV vaccination camps.

The department also directed officials to expedite land allocation for

newly sanctioned medical buildings in coordination with district collectors and ensure that completed facilities are made operational without delay.

Trauma centres, meanwhile, will be assessed against prescribed checklists, with officials asked to ensure adequate equipment, manpower and essential services.

The message from the health department is clear: as seasonal diseases gather pace, surveillance cannot remain confined to hospitals. The focus is shifting to the field—with hotspots, high-risk groups and gaps in preparedness under closer scrutiny.

Heavy rains trigger waterlogging, traffic snarls; CM Rekha inspects affected areas

FAIR REPORT
■ New Delhi

Traffic movement in Delhi was affected after a heavy downpour inundated key corridors on Saturday, including areas around the Indira Gandhi International Airport and Mahipalpur, raising concerns over preparedness ahead of the BRICS Summit next week.

As heavy rains hit the city, Chief Minister Rekha Gupta conducted a surprise inspection of waterlogged areas near Sadbhavna Park in East Delhi on Saturday.

During the inspection, she assessed areas prone to waterlogging, reviewed the cleanliness of major roads, and received updates on the water drainage system and the challenges posed by the ongoing rains. "She directed officials to immediately deploy pumps and other necessary resources in waterlogged areas and ensure swift clearance of accumulated water," the Chief Minister's Office said in a statement.

The chief minister also instructed officials to strengthen the drainage system further during the monsoon season and ensure that no area experiences waterlogging, the statement added.

The chief minister emphasised that all concerned departments must work with complete preparedness, promptness and coordination to ensure that Delhi residents do not face inconvenience due to rainfall. The inspection comes a day after several parts of the city were waterlogged, particularly



Commuters cover themselves amid heavy rain in New Delhi PANKAJ KUMAR

areas around Indira Gandhi International Airport.

Several parts of Delhi were submerged on Saturday after heavy rain, with roads disappearing beneath knee-deep water and traffic slowing to a crawl. Safdarjung recorded 22 mm of rainfall between 8.30 am and 11.30 am, while Palam received 25.2 mm, Lodhi Road 24.4 mm, and Ridge 6.8 mm during the period.

The capital has been receiving incessant rain since Friday. The Dwarka underpass connecting Palam with the IGI domestic area, along with the parts near Terminal 3, was inundated after Friday's heavy rain.

A PWD official had earlier said temporary pumps were deployed to remove the accumulated water from the Dwarka underpass. The official had said that flooding in nearby Mehrampur added to the water accumulation in the tunnel, which was subsequently cleared.

The PWD's earlier instructions under the flood-control order require its ground teams to alert the control

room immediately once water stagnation in an underpass reaches 6 to 8 inches and to deploy mobile pumps.

If pumping fails to prevent the water level from rising, the control room informs the Traffic Police to halt movement through the affected underpass, the official had said.

PWD officials had said other roads and underpasses around the airport were under the jurisdiction of Delhi International Airport Limited and the National Highways Authority of India.

Rainfall on Saturday inundated the National Highway-48 stretch between IGI Airport and Dhaura Kuan, and waterlogged the Palam airport tunnel and Neem Chowk Road in Sangam Vihar. Shakarpur, Laxmi Nagar and Mehrauli-Badarpur Road were among the other affected areas.

Water also accumulated along the stretch between Rotary Chowk and DJB Chowk, the road towards Omaxe via Radha Swami Satsang Bhavan, DJB Red Light-Omaxe Road and Omaxe Road in Dwarka, covering several sectors. The

NH-8 underpass was also affected.

Amid waterlogging and preparations for the upcoming BRICS Summit, the Delhi Traffic Police warned commuters of slow movement at multiple locations. The city also reported trees falling at several locations, including Mathura Road and near Malviya Nagar Metro Station, amid heavy downpour, with the PWD and the MCD receiving around 10 and eight complaints of tree falling, respectively, an official said.

About 10 calls concerning waterlogging were also received, most of which were addressed within an hour, the PWD official said. The MCD also received three complaints related to waterlogging and 20 complaints of no electricity supply during the day.

As the capital prepares for the International BRICS Summit on September 12 and 13, senior Delhi Government officials inspected the route between Bharat Mandapam and IGI Airport to identify vulnerable spots. The latest waterlogging also comes against the backdrop of a review meeting held by Delhi Lieutenant Governor Taranjit Singh Sandhu on August 26 with agencies concerned.

He called for a "whole of Government" approach to the city's waterlogging problem, asking departments and agencies to work in close coordination rather than operate in silos. Sandhu had also directed the civic agencies, including the PWD, to submit a report on waterlogging-related issues by the end of August.

Gurugram drenched in hour-long downpour; waterlogging hits key routes, traffic crawls



Workers use a tractor-mounted water pump to drain accumulated rainwater from a waterlogged road following heavy rainfall in Gurugram, Haryana on Saturday PTI

FAIR REPORT
■ Gurugram

The heavy rain that drenched Gurugram on Saturday afternoon provided much-needed relief from the humid heat, but it also caused significant waterlogging in several areas, halting the city's usual pace. Traffic remained slow from Sarhaul Border to Rajiv Chowk, with 36 mm of rainfall recorded within just one hour.

The hour-long downpour resulted in light to moderate waterlogging in key areas and on connecting routes throughout the city. This accumulation of water disrupted traffic flow. A resident noted that since it is the weekend, those commuting home from work later may experience considerable delays due to traffic congestion.

Immediately after the rain, traffic volume surged on the Delhi-Jaipur highway.

Vehicles crawled along the stretch from Sarhaul Border to Rajiv Chowk and Subhash Chowk. Waterlogged areas along the roadside have made navigation extremely difficult for two-wheelers and three-wheelers.

The worst affected areas include Rajiv Chowk, Sohna Road, Golf Course Extension Road, Udyog Vihar, and the roads surrounding Sector 14, where traffic has slowed significantly.

According to commuters, waterlogging at various locations has posed challenges for both pedestrians and motorists. Water accumulating in existing potholes on Udyog Vihar Phase 3 and Old Delhi-Gurugram Road has heightened the risk of accidents, forcing drivers to exercise extreme caution and drive at reduced speeds to avoid accidents.

The traffic police swung into action in response to the traffic jams and water-

logging. Police personnel have been deployed at major intersections and vulnerable waterlogged spots to divert traffic and clear the congestion.

The Gurugram Traffic Police has issued an advisory for motorists due to heavy rain and waterlogging in Delhi. Vehicles travelling from Gurugram to Delhi have been advised to take a U-turn at IFFCO Chowk and enter via the Aya Nagar border, while those heading to the airport are advised to use the Dwarka Expressway.

Teams from the Municipal Corporation of Gurugram (MCG) and the district administration have been engaged in draining water from the affected areas using suction pumps.

According to the India Meteorological Department, intermittent rainfall is likely to continue in Gurugram and surrounding areas over the next 24 to 48 hours due

to an active monsoon trough and a low-pressure area. The department warned that if heavy rainfall continues in the coming hours, waterlogging in low-lying areas could worsen significantly.

The district administration also issued an advisory asking people not to leave their homes unless necessary.

"Avoid waterlogged roads, underpasses, and low-lying areas. Stay away from trees, electricity poles, and overhead power lines. Do not attempt to cross waterlogged roads", the advisory read.

Deputy Commissioner Uttam Singh, in his capacity as Chairperson of the District Disaster Management Authority, has directed all concerned departments and emergency response agencies to remain alert and take necessary precautionary measures.

Swatantra Bhardwaj with history of provocative posts held over assault at protest

FAIR REPORT
■ New Delhi

Self-styled influencer Swatantra Bhardwaj had built a sizeable social media following with provocative posts, displays of political proximity and incendiary statements long before a video showing him boasting about assaulting a Jantar Mantar protester's father went viral.

The 22-year-old, who describes himself as a "Sanatani Yodha", was detained from Bulandshahr in Uttar Pradesh on Friday, hours after Delhi Police assured CJP protesters that he would be arrested within 72 hours in connection with the alleged assault on Sanjay Kumar, the father of a teenage student activist, during the July 20 protest in the national Capital.

A look at Bhardwaj's social

media presence shows that such statements were hardly an aberration from the persona he has cultivated.

His Facebook page, which has around 3,27,000 followers, is replete with posts centred on Hindutva, cow protection, attacks on Muslims and critics of the Government, and photographs projecting his proximity to political figures and official events.

On Thursday, a day before he was detained, Bhardwaj posted a screenshot showing his name among the trends on X, captioning it, "Love you all Virodhi".

Bhardwaj also posted a photograph of himself on Instagram displaying a 'kada' on his wrist with the caption "Feel the power!", an apparent reference to Delhi Police's statement that Kumar was hurt by 'kada' and "not by any weapon".



His Facebook page also carries photographs of him at the Red Fort on August 15 with hashtags such as "#sanatanihero" and "#gaurakshak". In another post, he displayed an invitation issued in his name by the Ministry of Defence for the Independence Day ceremony this year.

He had similarly posted photographs of invitations issued to him for the swear-

ing-in ceremony of the Narendra Modi Government on June 9, 2024.

There are also photographs of Bhardwaj with political leaders, including Bihar Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary, Delhi minister Kapil Mishra and Union minister Chirag Paswan. Paswan said he has lodged a complaint against Bhardwaj and demanded action against him.

His Instagram account,

which had around 1,84,000 followers, was deactivated on Friday. Bhardwaj also has a verified account on X with more than 6,400 followers and the bio reads: "A Modern-Day Youngster Who Can't Tolerate Anything Against His DHARMA and RASHTRA."

As the clip about the alleged assault on Kumar circulated widely, several older videos featuring Bhardwaj also surfaced on social media. In some of them, he is purportedly heard making inflammatory statements against Muslims and Government critics. In others, he boasts about his political connections and claims that he does not fear arrest.

In the clip that drew attention to him, he boasted about cracking the skull of Nishu's father.

"Do you know which section this crime attracts? Section 307. He needed 60

stitches. The man was being taken away in an ambulance in serious condition. His daughter was standing outside the police station and saying that she would die by suicide if her father didn't get justice.

"But I was not even jailed. The world should know this. I was out and about through the night," Bhardwaj is heard saying in the video.

He then invoked the names of several political leaders while explaining why, according to him, he had little reason to worry.

"I have the blessings of Hanuman upon me. And secondly, Kapil Mishra is my elder brother. They say Kapil Mishra called and I was released. Chirag Paswan is my elder brother. How many leaders do you know? Do you know Modi ji? Modi ji is also my elder brother. I have everyone's support," he claimed.

Man kidnaps girl's minor brother to force marriage, consumes poison during 22 km police chase



FAIR REPORT
■ New Delhi

A jilted lover who abducted a girl's 11-year-old brother and threatened to kill him unless she married him was hospitalised after consuming poison during a 22-kilometre police chase from Loni Ghaziabad to Azadpur flyover here, when the cops were about to arrest him, police said on Saturday.

Officials said authorities immediately shifted the accused Dharam Pal, a resident of Kasganj district in Uttar Pradesh, to BJRM Hospital, where he remains in custody. Police said the boy, who left home for school on August 31 but did not return, was rescued from Azadpur Flyover on Friday after police chased the accused from Loni in Ghaziabad to Delhi, a distance of about 22 kilometres. Police said the accused was fleeing by bus.

According to police, during investigation, it was revealed that the accused Dharam Pal

wanted to marry the victim's sister and live with her. However, she was not willing to maintain any relationship with him. Due to this, the accused allegedly kidnapped her younger brother and started threatening the family over phone, demanding that the complainant's daughter be sent to him, failing which he threatened to kill the child.

The Jahangir Puri police station received a PCR call regarding the boy's disappearance on August 31 and registered an FIR based on the family's complaint. Officials said through technical surveillance and field investigation, police developed leads regarding their movements and tracked them to Loni in Ghaziabad.

"As the police team was about to apprehend him, the accused consumed a poisonous substance in an attempt to evade apprehension. He was immediately shifted to BJRM Hospital, Delhi, for medical treatment," police said.

3-year-old leopard found dead in Aravalli foothills; probe underway

FAIR REPORT
■ Gurugram

A three-year-old leopard was found dead in Paldi village in the foothills of the Aravallis in Nuh district, with forest officials investigating all possible causes of its sudden death, an official said on Saturday.

The discovery of the leopard's body caused a stir among the villagers. Teams from the Forest Department and the Wildlife Department



arrived at the scene, took possession of the carcass, and launched an investigation, the official said.

According to the police, a woman from the village went near the graveyard on Friday morning. She spotted a leopard lying at the foothills of the Aravallis. Upon closer inspection, she found the leopard dead.

She immediately informed the villagers, who then notified the Police, Forest Department and the Wildlife

Department. A team arrived at the scene and secured the leopard's carcass. Preliminary examination revealed no external injuries on the body.

The leopard was reportedly around three years old. An investigation into all possible causes of its sudden death has been initiated, said a wildlife officer.

Departmental officials are also investigating other possibilities, such as a bite from a venomous creature

or a snake. A post-mortem of the leopard has been conducted. Viscera samples are being also sent to Bareilly for analysis. The cause of the leopard's death will only become clear once the report is received.

"No external injuries were found on the leopard's body. Further action will be taken based on the report, and surveillance in the area will be stepped up," Wildlife Officer Ramkumar Jangra said.

1807 British map reveals Capital's old names and forgotten landscape

FAIR REPORT
■ New Delhi

Mapping a territory is perhaps one of the foremost ways of establishing dominion over it. Thus, when the British East India Company occupied this city after defeating the Marathas in the Battle of Delhi in 1803, one of the first things they did was to map its localities.

More than a century before the popular landmarks and grand avenues of the imperial capital came into being, Mehrauli was 'Mouralee', Indraprastha 'Indiput', the Yamuna was 'Jumnah' and Okhla 'Okilluh' to the British surveyors who put Delhi on paper for the first time — some four years after establishing dominion over the city.

The 1807 map captures a Delhi that feels familiar, and yet almost

unrecognisable: the walled city of Shahjahanabad, the Yamuna flowing along the ramparts of the Red Fort, villages scattered across fields, streams descending from the Ridge, 'sarais' (residences) lining bustling trade routes and a landscape of monuments, orchards and open countryside stretching far beyond.

'Sketch of the Environs of Delhi', a hand-drawn map attributed to British surveyor F S White, is one of the earliest maps of the capital in Survey of India's archives. It captures familiar locales that survive to this day, separated by open landscape stretching far and wide.

Shahjahanabad sits at the heart of the city, its built-up expanse shaded pink, with its gates and major structures marked in detail.

The Red Fort is identified simply as 'The Palace', while Salimgarh

appears as 'Juleemgurh' and the Jama Masjid as 'Jumma Musjid'. Around the walls are Dillee Gate (Delhi Gate), Ajmeer Gate (Ajmeri Gate), Lahor Gate (Lahori Gate), Kabul Gate (Khooni Darwaza), and Toorkman Gate (Turkman Gate). Beyond the walled city, the dense cluster of buildings gives way to villages, roads, sarais, and scattered historic sites.

The quaint spellings of place names offer a glimpse into how British surveyors perceived regional languages and dialects as they navigated a city they had come to occupy recently.

Rithala became 'Rittaluh', Sarai Juliana appears as 'Injuleh Sarai', Moti Bagh as 'Mochee Bagh', and Tihar as 'Teehar' — spellings that can seem whimsical today but were often attempts to reproduce names as they sounded to the surveyors.



This image shows the oldest surviving British-era map of Delhi, dating to 1807, showing Shahjahanabad and the city's surrounding landscape of villages, roads, waterways and monuments PTI

While the map has changed, many of these names have stuck to this day. Rittaluh (Rithala), Badlee (Badli), Jusroulah (Jasola), Okilluh (Okhla) and Kulkajhee (Kalkaji) remain landmarks in the modern city.

What has changed is the landscape around them.

To the north and northwest of Shahjahanabad, the map places familiar settlements amid far more open landscapes than the one surrounding them today. Rithala and Badli appear as villages, while Wuzeerabad (Wazirabad) lies by the Yamuna. Puhargunj, today's Paharganj, sits outside the walled city. The Western Yamuna Canal cuts across the landscape, while routes marked on the map connect these settlements to Shahjahanabad and to the larger network of roads leading out of Delhi.

South of Shahjahanabad, the map begins to connect the old city with monuments, villages, and roadside settlements that would eventually be swallowed up by the expanding capital. Feroz Shah's Palace, now Feroz Shah Kotla, is marked prominently, while Indiput appears near the Purana Qila.

The name 'Indiput' is particularly intriguing because Indraprastha has older linguistic parallels, including the Pali name 'Indapatta'.

Further south are Beegampor, or Begampur, and Sieud Lujab, now Said-ul-Ajaib. Mooralee is Mehrauli, then a small settlement in an expansive open landscape, leads towards Kanhpur further south, Khanpur of today.

The old roads south of Delhi are dotted with sarais along them — Shekh Seraee, Toot Saraee, Keem

Seraee, Jeer, and Beer Seraee. These were resting stops for travellers and traders moving along these routes in and out of the city.

Other names point to landscapes that have proved less durable. Khierpor, a village near Sufterjung's Tomb (Safdarjung Tomb) stood in the area that is now Lodhi Gardens.

The Yamuna itself is 'Jumnah', running close to Shahjahanabad and the Red Fort, while the eastern bank remained sparsely populated.

The map, therefore, is not simply a depiction of a city. It captures its various indices — the walled Mughal city and stray settlements, roadways and waterways, agrarian lands and bustling trade routes, and its languages and cultures — as the colonial surveyor tries to make sense of it all.

Jhiram attack case: BJP hails verdict, Congress hits out

FAIR REPORT
 ■ Raipur

The conviction of 10 accused in the 2013 Jhiram Valley Maoist attack case has triggered a political slugfest in Chhattisgarh, with the Congress terming the verdict “incomplete justice” and the ruling BJP welcoming the court’s decision.

An NIA court in Jagdalpur on Saturday convicted all 10 persons arrested for the attack, in which 29 people, including senior Congress leaders Vidya Charan Shukla and Mahendra Karma, were killed.

Reacting to the verdict, former chief minister Bhupesh Baghel, in a long post on X, said the judgment appeared to be “incomplete justice” as the alleged larger political conspiracy behind the attack had not been investigated.

“In such a case, sentencing only 10 lower-level Naxals cannot be called justice,” Baghel said.

“The NIA, the agency investigating the incident, had itself stated

that 200 people carried out the Jhiram attack. The NIA had named 39 individuals as accused. However, due to persistent negligence during the investigation, the agency failed to apprehend more than ten people. The NIA had already dropped the names of top Naxalite leaders from the FIR; one wonders at whose behest,” he said.

Secondly, the inquiry commission investigated the matter solely regarding ‘lapses in security arrangements,’ rather than focusing on securing convictions in a criminal case, Baghel claimed.

The truth is that the horrific political conspiracy behind the Jhiram incident has never been investigated, the senior Congress leader asserted.

“The Congress party and the affected families have consistently maintained that a massive political conspiracy was behind this incident and that an investigation into it was essential. However, the NIA never investigated this aspect,” he said.



BJP MP Santosh Pandey, State Congress president Deepak Baij

Baghel also referred to a second FIR registered by Chhattisgarh police in 2020 on a complaint by Jitendra Mudliyar, son of slain Congress leader Uday Mudliyar, alleging a larger conspiracy.

The Supreme Court had rejected the NIA’s objection to the second FIR in November 2023, he said, adding that no investigation was conducted into it after the

BJP returned to power in the state (in 2023).

“In the last two-and-a-half years, no investigation has been conducted into the second FIR. In fact, the BJP does not want an investigation into the criminal conspiracy to take place at all. As I stated, BJP leaders simply do not want an investigation into the criminal conspiracy behind the

Jhiram incident. Until this investigation takes place, justice for Jhiram will remain incomplete,” he added.

Talking to reporters in Durg, State Congress president Deepak Baij said the conviction of 10 accused was not justice for Bastar, the victims’ families or the Congress.

The attack was the result of a political conspiracy and a “supari (contract) killing” aimed at eliminating Congress leaders to capture power, he said, adding the NIA investigation was incomplete and that only those who were arrested had been convicted.

“The people of Bastar do not even know the names of the 10 persons who have been convicted. Only small-level Naxals were arrested, and tribal and lower-level cadres were made accused,” he said.

“The names of some senior Naxal leaders were mentioned in the initial FIR and were later removed. Today, several senior Naxal leaders have surrendered.

Were they interrogated by the NIA or the Government after their surrender?” Baij asked.

Some senior Maoist leaders had admitted in media interviews to being involved in the Jhiram attack, he said and questioned whether they had been granted immunity from punishment.

“Overall, this verdict appears to have held these small-level Naxals responsible for protecting the then chief minister and his cabinet colleagues at the Centre’s direction,” Baij alleged while stating that the Congress does not agree with the verdict.

The SIT constituted during the previous Congress Government should be asked to investigate the case again, he added.

The BJP, however, welcomed the court verdict and defended the NIA investigation.

BJP chief spokesperson and MP Santosh Pandey said the verdict was a matter of satisfaction after a long wait and would help bring the truth before the public.

He also said Baghel was in

power for five years (from 2018 to 2023) and could have produced the evidence he claimed to possess regarding the Jhiram attack.

“If you (Baghel) had evidence, why did you not present it before the court during your five-year Government?” Pandey asked.

Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Sharma also slammed the Congress and asked why the party did not take action while it was in power. He was responding to queries on Congress’ allegations against those responsible at the time for providing security for the party’s rally.

He said the NIA probe had been found to be correct by the court, pointing out that the investigation was handed over to the agency when the Congress-led UPA was in power at the Centre and the BJP was ruling Chhattisgarh.

The May 25, 2013 attack in Bastar’s Jhiram Valley had wiped out almost the entire top leadership of the Congress in Chhattisgarh.

President Murmu honours 82 teachers with national awards

FAIR REPORT
 ■ New Delhi

Every child who ever felt small in a large classroom, every first-generation learner who walked into a city school still carrying the dust of a village one, has at some point been rescued by a teacher who noticed. President Droupadi Murmu built her Teachers’ Day address around that quiet act of noticing, as she conferred National Awards on teachers from across the country at a function in New Delhi on Friday.

Speaking at the event, Murmu said education remains the most effective means of realising the constitutional ideal of equality of opportunity. She said India’s achievement of a negligible primary school dropout rate had been made possible through the sustained efforts of teachers, and she commended them for this national success.

Murmu said school education forms the foundation of the entire education system. She said knowledge and skills can be acquired at any stage of life, but lessons in good conduct instilled during childhood prove far more lasting. She said teachers, by diligently attending to the intellectual, physical and moral development of children in early grades, help prepare future



generations of capable students and responsible citizens.

The President spoke at length about the diverse backgrounds students come from, noting that many belong to economically disadvantaged families, some are first-generation learners, others move from ordinary village schools into large city institutions, some are naturally shy, some possess considerable talent but lack self-confidence, and some are children with special needs. She said it falls specifically on teachers to instil confidence in such students and lift up anyone who, for whatever reason, feels inadequate in the classroom.

Murmu said academic excellence, skill development and entrepreneurship carry enormous weight in the country’s development trajectory. She said establishing India as the skill capital of the world and transforming it into a knowledge superpow-

er remain among the nation’s key priorities.

She said the country is moving toward the goal of building a Viksit Bharat, a developed India, and that this goal can only be realised through a world-class education system. She described teachers as the ones who breathe life into that system, and said the collective effort must ensure that not a single student in the country is deprived of access to quality education. She said teachers should work to instil knowledge, inspiration, morality and sensitivity in every student through their affection and dedication.

The National Awards to Teachers are conferred annually on Teachers’ Day, observed on September 5 to mark the birth anniversary of Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, the country’s first Vice President and second President, who was also a distinguished philosopher and educator.

Congress slams advance Census in poll-bound States, sees plot

FAIR REPORT
 ■ New Delhi

The Congress on Saturday accused the Modi Government of “shoddy planning” in advancing the population enumeration exercise in states likely to go to polls early next year, and alleged that “some nefarious political calculations” were behind the move.

Population enumeration for Census 2027 will take place in Goa, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and parts of Uttarakhand from December 1, 2026, to January 4, 2027, the Registrar General of India said on Saturday, advancing the exercise in the states likely to go to polls early next year.



Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh

In a gazette notification, the Registrar General of India (RGI) and Census Commissioner of India, Mrityunjay Kumar Narayan, said the citizens in these areas can avail the option for self-enumeration from November 16 to November 30, 2026.

Reacting to the development, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said, “The population enumeration that was to take place in February 2027 as part of the Census 2027 exercise (that was due in 2021) has been advanced in UP, Punjab, Uttarakhand and

Goa where elections are due early next year.”

“This shows shoddy planning since it was known that these elections were due. Why the sudden dawn of wisdom? Undoubtedly there are some nefarious political calculations afoot,” he said in a post on X.

He also alleged that question number 10 on caste was “deliberately very poorly designed” and would render the caste census exercise meaningless.

“The LoP-LS (Rahul Gandhi) and LoP-RS (Mallikarjun Kharge) had written to the PM on Aug 20, 2026 on this issue. Clearly, their pleas for mid-course correction and their constructive sugges-

tions to follow the Bihar and Telangana questionnaire model have been totally ignored,” he said.

The notification said the conduct of the Census of the population shall be undertaken in the States of Goa, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and areas other than snow-bound areas of the State of Uttarakhand, from 1st December, 2026 to 4th January, 2027 with a revisional round from 5th January, 2027 to 9th January, 2027.

It said the reference date for Census 2027 for Goa, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Uttarakhand, other than snow-bound areas of the state, shall be 00:00 hours of January 5, 2027.

NHRC action on custodial-torture complaint indicts Punjab Govt: BJP

FAIR REPORT
 ■ New Delhi

BJP leader Tarun Chugh on Saturday said the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has taken cognisance of his complaint over the alleged custodial torture of a Sikh man who waved a black flag at a programme of Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann.

A day earlier, Chugh had urged the NHRC to take suo-motu (on its own) cognisance of the alleged custodial torture of Mohanjeet Singh, who waved a black

flag at Mann’s programme in Sheron village on September 2 to protest against the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Government’s handling of the drug menace in Punjab.

Chugh had requested the NHRC to send an independent fact-finding team to the village where the incident took place and the police station concerned, and direct the registration of an FIR against the officers involved, including the deputy superintendent of police (DSP).

The Rajya Sabha MP had also sought security and



BJP leader Tarun Chugh

medical assistance for the victim and his family, alleging that they face serious threats from the state machinery.

The commission has taken cognisance of Chugh’s letter and written to the Punjab Government over the matter.

Sharing the NHRC letter on X, Chugh said the commission’s action is a “serious” development and a “strong indictment” of the AAP Government’s handling of human rights in Punjab.

“The Commission has ordered an immediate inquiry, medico-legal examination, preservation of CCTV footage and police records, and a point-wise Action Taken Report within two weeks,” he said, adding that the action came even as Mann has “merely” transferred the DSP involved in the matter.

Build parallel reservoir if silt removal fails: Vijayendra

FAIR REPORT
 ■ Koppal (Karnataka)

Karnataka BJP chief BY Vijayendra on Saturday demanded that the state Government take an immediate decision on constructing a parallel reservoir if scientific desilting of the Tungabhadra reservoir is found to be technically or economically unviable.

He was speaking after the fifth day of the BJP’s ‘Ballari Chalo’ *padayatra* (foot march), which covered around 20 km and concluded

near Marali village on the outskirts of Gangavathi amid a large turnout and enthusiastic reception from villagers.

The day’s *padayatra* began with the felicitation of teachers on the occasion of Teachers’ Day.

Addressing the gathering, the BJP chief said experts should immediately examine whether the large quantity of silt accumulated in the Tungabhadra reservoir could be removed scientifically.

“If experts conclude that desilting is not possible or is not economically viable, the



Karnataka BJP chief BY Vijayendra

Government should not delay the matter. Funds should be earmarked in the budget and work on a parallel reservoir should be taken up immediately. Farmers should not be made to wait for another

four or five years,” he said.

Claiming that the reservoir is estimated to have around 34 TMC of silt, Vijayendra said the Government should give a clear account of the technology required for its removal, the time it would take and the estimated cost.

He also sought a detailed discussion in the Legislative Assembly on the proposed parallel reservoir, including its initial and final cost estimates, completion timeline and the financial burden on the State.

“Earlier, ₹14 crore was earmarked for preparing the DPR for a parallel reservoir, but the project did not move forward. The project is now estimated to cost around Rs 22,000 crore. We need clarity on the cost and the financial implications,” he said.

The BJP State president cautioned against cost escalation during execution.

“A project should not be announced at ₹15,000 crore or ₹22,000 crore and eventually end up costing ₹35,000 crore. This is taxpayers’ money,” he said.

AI can make teaching more intuitive: CM Soren

FAIR REPORT
 ■ Ranchi

Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren on Saturday said artificial intelligence and new technologies can play a crucial role in making teaching more intuitive and effective.

Soren extended greetings to educators and students on Teachers’ Day.

Expressing gratitude to former president Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan on his birth anniversary, the Chief Minister said his Government’s resolve is to



nurture the new generation with quality education.

“With time, the education system is also evolving. AI and new technologies can play a crucial role in making teaching more intuitive, effective, and aligned with students’ needs,” Soren

said in a post on X. In Jharkhand, efforts are underway at every level to address shortcomings in the education system and implement effective reforms to strengthen it, he asserted.

“Our resolve is to nurture the new generation with quality education alongside modern technology, while keeping them rooted in our values and heritage,” Soren said.

Governor Santosh Kumar Gangwar also offered his salutations on the birth anniversary of Radhakrishnan.

Pakistan will remain major security concern: Ex-CDS

FAIR REPORT
 ■ New Delhi

Nearly a month after Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Turkiye signed a key joint defence agreement, former CDS Gen Anil Chauhan on Saturday said such accords may induce “overconfidence” in Pakistan, which may lead Islamabad to make another “miscalculation.”

Delivering a lecture on ‘Threats and Challenges to India’s Security’ at an event hosted at the Teen Murti Bhawan complex here, he also said, “Pakistan will remain, I think, a major security concern and a threat for times to come.”

He further said that Operation Sindoor, holding of Indus Water Treaty in abeyance and some practical measures may “hopefully change or induce behavioural change in our neighbour.”

“But, we’ve also seen some



Former CDS Gen Anil Chauhan

kind of agreements and accords that they have recently signed. This sometimes, I feel, may induce some kind of overconfidence into Pakistan, and they may make some kind of a miscalculation again. We’ve got to be careful about that,” the former CDS said.

Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Turkiye on August 7 signed the ‘Makkah Joint Defence Agreement’ under which an attack against one of them

will be treated as an attack against all of them. The move had come amid increasing security concerns in the wake of escalating tensions in West Asia. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan had signed the pact after the Makkah Al-Mukarramah Summit for Joint Defence at the Al-Safa Palace in Islam’s holiest city of Mecca, according to a joint

statement issued by the three countries earlier.

Gen Chauhan (retd) was delivering the 22nd Bharat Ratna Pt Govind Ballabh Pant Memorial Lecture to a packed audience, becoming the first speaker from an armed forces background to do so.

“India’s external threat environment is shared by a large number of factors: unresolved borders... cross-border terrorism, non-state actors, contested spaces which are known as global commons, then expanding cooperation and competition in space, cyber and the maritime domain. These factors interact. They cannot be examined in separate compartments; they have to be looked at in one perspective,” he said.

“Let me talk about our western neighbour. So Pakistan will remain, I think, a major security concern and a threat for times to come,” the former CDS cautioned.

Human element remains decisive in modern war: Navy chief Swaminathan

FAIR REPORT
 ■ Chennai

Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Krishna Swaminathan on Saturday called upon newly commissioned officers of the OTA, heading to their first postings, to build courage like a muscle, as the human element remains the decisive factor in the modern battlefield.

He reminded them that the outcomes of modern combat will always be determined by leaders who inspire, persist, and persevere. “That the character of warfare may have changed in many ways, but fundamentally, war still remains a profoundly human endeavour. Combat operations may see new weapons being used across new domains, but their outcomes shall



continue to be determined by the men and women who fight, lead, inspire, persist and persevere,” the naval chief said.

This was the conviction that grew stronger in him after nearly four decades in uniform, he said at the event of reviewing an impressive Passing Out Parade of the SCC-122 and SSC (W)-36

courses at the historic Parameswaran Drill Square of the Officers Training Academy in Chennai.

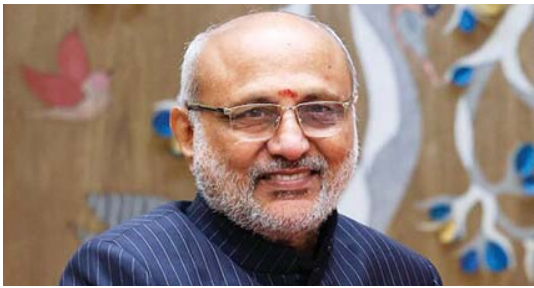
Admiral Swaminathan congratulated the 365 graduating cadets — including 17 officers from friendly foreign nations — as they completed their rigorous training to receive the President’s Commission.

On the changing dynamics of modern wars, Admiral Swaminathan highlighted the dramatic transformation of warfare, drawing from nearly four decades of service since his commissioning in 1987.

While acknowledging that modern combat involves long-range precision strikes, advanced sensors, and multi-domain operations, he asserted that outcomes still rested on the men and women who lead.

He suggested five core principles to help the young officers navigate future challenges, and they include treating the mind as the primary weapon, remaining a lifelong student, building courage as a muscle, instinctively place service before self, and make trust their currency.

States Focus



VP RADHAKRISHNAN TO VISIT FOUR NORTHEASTERN STATES

Vice President CP Radhakrishnan will visit four northeastern States from Sunday, where he will be participating in a series of cultural and academic engagements, according to an official statement.

Radhakrishnan will visit Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh from September 6 to 9, his office said on Saturday. During his visit, the vice president will participate in a series of academic, cultural and public engagements, besides visiting institutions of historical, social and national significance, it said. On September 6, Radhakrishnan will arrive in Guwahati to attend the golden jubilee celebrations of Geetanagar College, formerly known as Kanya Mahavidyalaya. He will later attend the convocation ceremony of Srimanta Sankaradeva University of Health Sciences. On September 7, the vice president will attend a foundation stone laying programme at Gauhati University, followed by an interaction with students, faculty members and leading citizens at the university's convention centre.

(PTI)



CURRENT FORMAT OF CASTE CENSUS FLAWED, SAYS GEHLOT

Senior Congress leader Ashok Gehlot said here on Saturday that the current format of the caste census is "fundamentally flawed", and alleged it indicated the Narendra Modi Government lacks honest intent regarding the exercise. He said the "flawed" caste census will hurt the OBCs (Other Backward Classes), EBCs (Extremely Backward Classes), and marginalized sections the most.

The existing questionnaire of the caste census must be scrapped and a new questionnaire should be prepared based on a verified list of castes (a dropdown list), following the methodology adopted in Telangana and Bihar, the former Rajasthan chief minister demanded.

(PTI)

Kashmiri Pandits hold strike, demand separate homeland

FAIR REPORT

■ Jammu

A large number of displaced Kashmiri Pandits, under the banner of Panun Kashmir, on Saturday observed a one-day hunger strike demanding the creation of a separate homeland for their rehabilitation in the Kashmir Valley and formal recognition of what it describes as the "genocide" of the community, enactment of a genocide law.

Staging a sit-in dharna outside Press Club, Jammu, displaced Kashmiri Pandits, with placards in their hands, raised slogans in support of their demands and warned the Government against ignoring their long-pending demands.

Panun Kashmir convener Agnishekhar said the hunger strike by Panun Kashmir activists, including women members, was part of a struggle that had continued since the displacement of the community from the Valley.



"We demand that our return to the Kashmir Valley should be facilitated through a separate homeland with Union Territory status," he said.

He alleged that the community had experienced "continuous genocide" over centuries and believed that a separate Union Territory was the only lasting solution.

"The proposed homeland would enable Kashmiri Pandits living across the world to return to the Valley

and ensure that no force can ever drive us out again," he said.

Panun Kashmir Chairman Tito Ganju said the community had been seeking formal recognition of the alleged genocide for the past 37 years.

"We suffered a genocide, and we want that genocide to be formally recognised," he said, claiming that while references to the term had been made in Parliament, there was still no formal recogni-

tion by the Government.

He also demanded enactment of a specific genocide law, arguing that India, being a signatory to the Genocide Convention, was obligated to bring such legislation.

Ganju said Panun Kashmir had itself proposed a Bill in 2020 and wanted the Government to constitute a commission to examine the issue and deliberate on legislation.

"After 37 years, the community that is the victim community still has to protest for justice and livelihood," he said, listing the organisation's three principal demands as "recognition of the genocide, enactment of a genocide law and a separate homeland".

He also demanded 15,000 jobs through the Central Government for unemployed Kashmiri Pandit youth and an increase in the monthly ex-gratia relief to displaced families to at least ₹25,000.

Crisis of credibility biggest problem in media sector, says Nitin Gadkari

FAIR REPORT

■ Nagpur

Union minister Nitin Gadkari on Saturday stressed the importance of an independent judiciary and media for the progress of a democracy, and said that among all institutions, the media suffered the biggest problem of a crisis of credibility.

The Road Transport and Highways Minister was addressing a gathering at IIM Nagpur Media Conclave 2026 on the theme of "Media, Leadership and the New World Order".

Chief Executive Officer and Editor-in-Chief of the Press Trust of India (PTI) Vijay Joshi, Editorial Director at Business Standard A K Bhattacharya, and Chairman and Editor-in-Chief of Blitz India Media Group Deepak Dwivedi were



among those present at the event. "India is the mother of democracy, and it is the largest democracy in the world," Gadkari said.

Seeking a qualitative transformation in democracy, he said, "The Constitution has very clearly specified the responsibilities of the four pillars of democracy, that is, legislature, executive, judiciary and media. Independent, impartial and fair judiciary and

media are very important for the progress and development of a democracy."

Politics and political parties are the biggest strength of a democracy, he said. "There can be differences of opinion or ideological differences, but there should be commitment towards one's ideology," the veteran politician said. He also made a pitch for raising public awareness on social, economic, educational issues in order to strengthen democracy.

"Awareness among people about democracy and democratic values, and commitment of people with democratic values and ideology are very important," he said. Credibility, goodwill and honesty are the biggest capitals of the 21st century for all sectors, Gadkari noted.

BJP hits out at Congress over Telangana minister's sacking

FAIR REPORT

■ New Delhi

The BJP criticised the Congress on Saturday over the sacking of Forest Minister Konda Surekha from the Council of Ministers in Telangana, alleging that the action shows the grand old party is against giving representation to women in politics.

Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy sacked Surekha with immediate effect on Thursday, amid a row over remarks made against him and others by the woman leader's daughter. Surekha, on her part, claimed she did nothing wrong and accused Reddy of "blackmail politics." Addressing a press conference at the BJP headquarters here, party spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi termed the sacking as "unfortunate" and said the



Forest minister Konda Surekha

action reflects the difference between the Congress's words and its deeds.

He also questioned the silence of Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and party leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on the development.

"Besides Rahul Gandhi, Kharge, who recently wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi demanding immediate implementation of 33 per cent reservation for women

(in the Lok Sabha and state legislative assemblies), is also silent on the issue," Trivedi said. "This has exposed their real face. The Congress is completely opposed to giving women representation in politics in its thoughts, words and deeds. The difference between the Congress's words and deeds is clearly visible now," the BJP Rajya Sabha MP added.

With the removal of Surekha in Telangana, just three women ministers are left in the Congress-ruled states, Trivedi said.

"In Congress-ruled Telangana, one of the two women ministers has been removed. In Kerala, there are only two women in the Cabinet. In Himachal Pradesh and Karnataka ruled by the Congress, there is not a single woman in the Cabinet," he said.

BJP seeking to win next Telangana Assembly polls through vote removal during SIR: Revanth Reddy

FAIR REPORT

■ Hyderabad

Accusing the NDA Government at the Centre of resorting to a vote theft conspiracy in non-BJP ruled States, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Saturday alleged that the BJP is making attempts to win the next Assembly elections in Telangana by deleting votes of Congress supporters during SIR of electoral roll.

Reddy, who attended a meeting of Congress leaders and workers in his Kodangal assembly constituency, alleged that the BJP won Maharashtra, Bihar, and West Bengal elections through vote removal during Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral roll. The BJP is now adopting the same "deceitful tactic" in Telangana and the party



Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy

targeted SC, ST and Minority voters in the SIR for removal, he claimed.

"We will not sit idle and are ready to counter the BJP's move to delete the names of the Congress supporters. The party workers will not tolerate any such attempt," a release quoted Revanth Reddy as saying.

The chief minister also

alleged that the BJP exploited ED and CBI to defeat political rivals in the previous elections and the party is now resorting to deletion of votes.

The CM strongly objected to the alleged deletion of votes citing minor errors as a pretext, the release said.

Reddy further said the BRS was also supporting the

BJP alleges paper loot in JPSC forest services exams

FAIR REPORT

■ New Delhi

The BJP on Saturday alleged a "paper loot" in the exams conducted for filling the posts of assistant conservators of forest and forest range officers in Jharkhand, and demanded answers from Congress leader Rahul Gandhi.

Addressing a press conference at the BJP headquarters, party spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi claimed that a probe into the alleged irregularities in the recruitment exams in Jharkhand has brought to light that changes were made in the answer scripts after breaking into the strong room.

The investigation conducted by the Jharkhand Public Service Commission (JPSC) has revealed "startling facts" that expose the "true reality" of the Congress-led INDIA bloc's stance on student interests, he said.

"During the investiga-



Sudhanshu Trivedi

tion into the exams conducted for filling the posts of assistant conservators of forest and forest range officers, facts have emerged that changes were made in the question papers (answer scripts) after breaking into the strong room where they were kept," Trivedi said.

"It was not a case of paper leak. It was a case of paper loot," the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader said, asking Gandhi, "Who gave this 'loot ki choot' (licence to loot)?"

Ganga breaches record level; 10 lakh hit in Bihar

FAIR REPORT

■ Patna

Around 10.26 lakh people across 11 districts of Bihar have been affected by floods, while the Ganga water level breached the 'highest flood mark' at Gandhi Ghat and Pandarak here on Saturday morning, amid heavy rain in the State, official bulletins said.

Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary on Saturday conducted an aerial survey of flood-hit areas in Bhagalpur and Naugachia and reviewed relief and rescue operations.

In a post on X, the CM said, "Officials have been directed to ensure timely arrangements, adequate relief supplies and prompt rescue



An aerial view of the flood-affected Punpun area following a rise in the water level of the Punpun river in Patna on Saturday

PTI

measures, with priority given to public safety and preventing any hardship to affected people".

Choudhary directed ministers and officials to visit flood-affected areas and closely monitor relief and rescue operations.

The Ganga was flowing

above the 'highest flood mark' at two places at 10 am, posing a risk of inundation in low-lying areas in the State's Capital, a Water Resources Department bulletin said. People have been asked to exercise caution in view of the rising water level of the river.

Health, nutrition key to Viksit Bharat: Kishan Reddy

FAIR REPORT

■ Hyderabad

Union Minister G Kishan Reddy on Saturday said that to achieve the vision of Viksit Bharat by 2047, it requires sustained focus on health, nutrition, sanitation, fitness, sports and the well-being of women and children. A healthy nation is the foundation of a developed India, he said.

The Union Minister for coal and mines was speaking at the valedictory programme of the five-day POSHAN MAHA celebrations organised by the Central Bureau of Communication (CBC), Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, here, an official release said. Reddy said that awareness on nutrition and healthy lifestyles should not remain limited to Government programmes.

Boy among two dead in dahi handi celebrations in Maharashtra; 42 govindas injured in Mumbai, Thane

FAIR REPORT

■ Mumbai

Dahi Handi celebrations claimed the lives of two persons in Maharashtra as a seven-year-old boy died after a brick column collapsed on him in Mumbai, while a woman was crushed to death under an iron frame in Pune, officials said on Saturday.

Besides, at least 32 'Govindas' were injured in Mumbai and 10 others in neighbouring Thane during the formation of human pyramids as part of the celebrations. Dahi Handi, which is part of the Janmashtami festival that marks the birth of Lord Krishna, is seeing enthusiastic participation by the revellers across the state. As part of the celebrations, 'Govindas' form multi-tier human pyramids to break



Representative image

Dahi Handis (clay pots filled with curd) suspended mid-air. In Mumbai, the death of the boy occurred at Ekta Welfare Society at Chikuwadi in Malvani around 3 pm, they said.

It happened when a group of children was celebrating Dahi Handi on their own. They had tied the one end of the rope holding the handi to a tree and the other end to a

brick column of a ground-floor structure.

As the children tried to break the handi, the brick column suddenly collapsed, hitting seven-year-old Rudra Kadam on the head. He was immediately rushed to Malvani General Hospital, where doctors declared him dead, the officials said.

Ward staff and police personnel were mobilised fol-

lowing the incident.

In Pune, Salma Salauddin Pathan, a resident of the Old Sangavi area in Pimpri Chinchwad, died after a temporary iron structure erected to support a stack of loudspeakers for a Dahi Handi event collapsed on her on Friday night, police said.

Workers were dismantling the iron frame after the event organised by the Vighnaharta Mandal concluded, and a heavy portion fell on Pathan. She sustained a serious head injury and was rushed to a hospital, where doctors declared her dead, they said.

Pathan's son was an office-bearer of the organising mandal, and her family declined to lodge a complaint against the organisers and urged the police not to register a case on their own, police said.

MP youth's mission to clean Ajnar River gets civic support

FAIR REPORT

■ Bhopal

Wading into a polluted river with little more than determination, 21-year-old BSc student Surendra Singh Chaudhary has been trying to reclaim the Ajnar River in Biaora from years of accumulated garbage and debris. His initiative, started on January 26, has now received support from the local municipality, which has deployed heavy machinery for the clean-up.

Known on social media as 'Bittu Tabahi', Chaudhary initially undertook the work largely on his own, removing plastic, polythene and other waste from the river. He regularly shared photographs documenting the condition of the river and the progress of his campaign, drawing attention to the pollution of the water body.

The clean-up has involved



considerable health and safety risks. Chaudhary suffered infections in his limbs while working in the polluted water, particularly near a local temple, and also encountered snakes during the operation. Despite the difficulties, he continued the campaign. His efforts eventually prompted local residents and civic officials to participate. Biaora municipal sub-engineer Rupesh Kumar Netam said the municipality provided a Poclain excavator to remove old waste, debris and polythene that

had accumulated in the river. Residents also joined the clean-up drive.

Netam said the municipality undertakes cleaning of the river and drains every year before the monsoon. The increased water flow during the rainy season subsequently helps wash away some of the remaining debris. He also confirmed that the before-and-after photographs shared by Chaudhary on social media were authentic and reflected the actual condition of the river at different stages

of the clean-up. Officials, however, said the visible garbage is only one part of the problem. Five major drains discharge wastewater into the river, making untreated sewage a major source of pollution.

To address the problem at its source, the municipality has prepared a proposal to construct a sewage treatment plant (STP) at an estimated cost of ₹14.77 crore. The proposed facility would treat wastewater before it is discharged into the river.

Chaudhary's campaign has consequently turned the Ajnar River into a subject of wider civic discussion. What started as an individual effort has brought residents and the municipality together, while the proposed sewage treatment plant is expected to provide a more sustainable response to the river's long-standing pollution problem.