

FAIR REPORT

THE DAWN OF A FEARLESS PEN

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In this drone photo released by the Geological Agency (Badan Geologi) of Indonesia’s Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, Mount Anak Krakatau spews volcanic smoke in Sunda Strait, Indonesia. Saturday.

Speaker Om Birla Bats for Dedicated Silver Zone in Jaipur, Lauds JSA’s Global Push for Silver Trade

■ FAIR REPORT
JAIPUR

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla has thrown his weight behind a long-standing demand of Jaipur’s silver industry, calling for the development of a dedicated silver zone in the city to consolidate manufacturers, wholesalers and artisans under one roof. The endorsement came during a meeting in Kota, where Jaipur Silver Association (JSA) chairman Ujjwal Derewala and secretary Rahul Gangwal called on Birla and formally invited him to the upcoming JSA Silver Show. Birla, who will attend the event as chief guest, said a separate zone would not only streamline facilities for the trade but also help Jaipur’s silver industry sharpen its identity in both domestic and international markets. The JSA



Silver Show, to be inaugurated at Birla Auditorium from November 22 to 24, is being positioned as a major push to give the silver jewellery trade a global platform. Derewala said bringing manufacturers and wholesalers from across the country together would strengthen business networking and open new commercial avenues. More than 200 exhibitors are expected to participate, with organisers anticipating footfall upwards of 10,000 visitors over the three-day expo, which will spotlight new collections, contemporary designs and traditional silver craftsmanship.

Delhi Building Collapse: Multi-Storey Hostel Crumbles Near DU South Campus, Rescue Operations Underway on War Footing

5 DEAD AFTER BUILDING COLLAPSES IN DELHI

■ FAIR REPORT
NEW DELHI

A five-storey building housing a boys’ paying guest accommodation collapsed in Delhi’s Satya Niketan area on Sunday afternoon, leaving one person dead and several others, including students, feared trapped under the debris, even as an adjacent structure also caved in amid heavy rain.

The collapse, near Shiv Mandir in Satya Niketan, Moti Bagh, was reported to the Delhi Fire Service around 1.33 pm. At least 12 fire tenders were rushed to the site, along with teams from the NDRF, Delhi Disaster Management Authority, Delhi Police, Municipal Corporation of Delhi, CATS Ambulance and



Civil Defence. The collapsed structure, known as ‘Hostel Daze’, is believed to have given way amid ongoing basement construction work, with the adjacent building vacated as a precaution.

Chief Minister Rekha Gupta said she was deeply distressed by the incident and confirmed she

“The local administration and the NDRF are conducting intensive rescue operations in close coordination,” she said, adding that the injured are being provided all necessary medical assistance. She prayed for the speedy recovery of those injured.

Eyewitnesses reported hearing a loud rumbling sound, similar to an earthquake, moments before the buildings gave way. The area, located close to Delhi University’s South Campus, houses numerous student hostels, PG accommodations and eateries. Rescue operations remained underway on Sunday evening, with authorities yet to confirm the exact number of people trapped.

Jaipur: 23-Year-Old Held for Raping Class 10 Student, Threatened to Kill Her

Jaipur: Police have arrested a 23-year-old man for allegedly raping a 15-year-old Class 10 student after luring her from a public park, in a case registered under the POCSO Act. According to the station house officer, the victim, a Jaipur resident studying at a private school, had gone to a public park three days ago, where she met the accused. During their conversation, he allegedly befriended her and persuaded her to accompany him on the pretext of going out. The accused reportedly took her to a restaurant for a meal before leading her near the railway station, claiming he wanted to show her around. He then allegedly took her to an isolated location and raped her. When she resisted, he threatened and intimidated her, warning that he would kill her if she disclosed the incident to anyone, before fleeing the spot. The distressed minor returned home and told her family about the ordeal. Her family immediately took her to the police station, where a complaint was lodged.

SRCC Centenary: Modi’s 2013 Mirror to India’s ‘Despair’

‘From Policy Paralysis to a New India’: At SRCC, Modi Turns 2013 Into a Political Charge Sheet

■ FAIR REPORT
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi used the centenary celebrations of Shri Ram College of Commerce (SRCC) on Sunday to draw a sharp political contrast between the India of 2013 and the India of today, portraying the final years of the previous UPA government as a period of economic distress, corruption and national uncertainty. With a pointed warning that his remarks could be

“broken into small pieces” and attributed to him, Modi then took his audience back to the headlines of 2013—when he said the country was confronting a series of simultaneous crises.

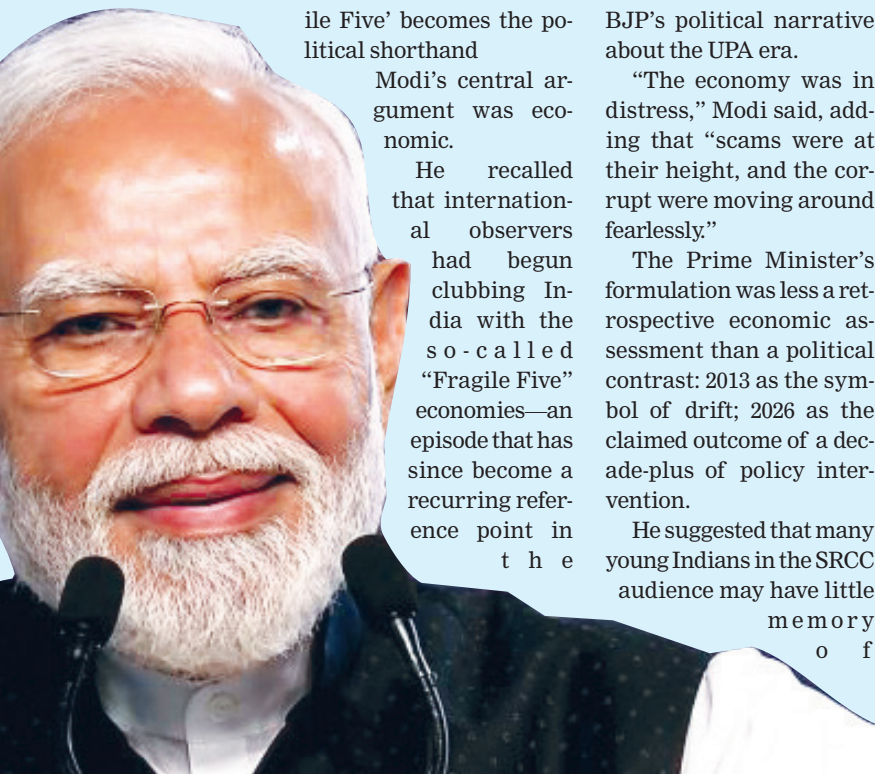
“Growth was at the bottom, while inflation was at the peak,” Modi said, describing an India battling what he characterised as “policy paralysis”, corruption scandals, security challenges and economic uncertainty.

He cited a string of developments that, according to him, defined the public discourse of the period: Indian soldiers being killed along the Line of Control, the World

Bank lowering India’s GDP growth forecast, a record current account deficit, inflation touching around 10 per cent, an industrial slowdown and the exposure of corruption in the helicopter deal.

The Prime Minister also invoked bomb blasts in Hyderabad and Pakistan-linked security concerns, arguing that the cumulative effect had created an atmosphere of national disappointment.

‘Frag-



ile Five’ becomes the political shorthand

Modi’s central argument was economic.

He recalled that international observers had begun clubbing India with the so-called “Fragile Five” economies—an episode that has since become a recurring reference point in the

BJP’s political narrative about the UPA era.

“The economy was in distress,” Modi said, adding that “scams were at their height, and the corrupt were moving around fearlessly.”

The Prime Minister’s formulation was less a retrospective economic assessment than a political contrast: 2013 as the symbol of drift; 2026 as the claimed outcome of a decade-plus of policy intervention.

He suggested that many young Indians in the SRCC audience may have little memory of

the political and economic turbulence of that period.

A message aimed at the next generation

The choice of SRCC was significant. Addressing students of one of India’s premier institutions for commerce and economics, Modi framed the comparison around growth, inflation, investment, governance and national confidence. His larger message was unmistakable: the generation entering India’s workforce today, he argued, should understand how dramatically the country’s economic and political circumstances have changed since 2013.

The speech therefore served two purposes at once—a reflection on India’s economic past and a political argument about its present. At the heart of Modi’s narrative was a simple contrast: a country once described through the vocabulary of crisis, corruption and paralysis, and a country today being projected as an emerging global economic power. The political subtext was equally clear. By placing 2013 at the centre of his address, Modi was not merely recalling an old news cycle. He was reviving one of the BJP’s most potent electoral narratives—the argument that the transformation of India began with a decisive break from the era of “policy paralysis” and pessimism.

States Focus



HIGHER EDUCATION MUST SERVE DEMOCRACY AND SOCIETY: VP

Vice President CP Radhakrishnan on Sunday said higher educational institutions must prepare students to make meaningful contributions to society and democracy, rather than merely equip them for careers. Addressing the golden jubilee celebrations of Geetanagar College in Guwahati, Radhakrishnan underlined the role of these institutions in nation-building and promoting inclusive growth. He also inaugurated the new academic building of the college, which was formerly known as Kanya Mahavidyalaya, through the virtual mode on the occasion. In his maiden visit to Assam after becoming vice president, Radhakrishnan said educational institutions were among the most important vehicles for building a developed India, as they can create the workforce required to realise the vision. (PTI)



11% OF VOTERS' NAMES DELETED FROM SIKKIM ELECTORAL ROLLS

A total of 52,551 electors were deleted from Sikkim's electoral roll during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR), reducing the number of voters by around 11.16 per cent, a statement said on Sunday. The final roll has 4,18,467 eligible voters, compared with 4,71,018 in the pre-SIR voters' list, the Chief Electoral Officer's (CEO) office said in a statement. The draft electoral roll released in July had 4,33,294 electors, of whom 3,61,159 or 83.35 per cent were successfully mapped with their own or parents' electoral details from the previous qualifying roll or the last SIR. The remaining 72,135 electors (16.65 per cent) could not be mapped, it said. (PTI)

Saved West Bengal from being greater Bangladesh: Suvendu

FAIR REPORT
■ Kolkata

Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari has claimed that his Government has prevented the State from being a "greater Bangladesh" by thwarting an 'active plot' to change the demography of the region.

Iterating that Bengal was not the same as what it used to be even a few months ago, when the Trinamool Congress ruled the State, the Chief Minister said that there was a time when "people had to move the High Court to organise a Durga Puja or an event of Ram Navami."

"But now the people are free to organise their religious programmes" and recite Hanuman Chalisa openly, he said, claiming, earlier "active plots were being made to change the demography of the State..."



West Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari

But it has been successfully thwarted." He said, "the new awakening that has come to Bengal has to be preserved... It is your duty to preserve this new awakening... We all have to protect Bengal from turning into greater Bangladesh," adding, "no one should be able to divide us in the name of lan-

guage, caste etc... We must remain united."

Ever since he came to power, the Adhikari had been following the "detect, delete and deport" formula insofar as transborder illegal immigration was concerned. "You may have noticed how thousands of illegal immigrants queued up every day

Jantar Mantar student stir, mass struggles could impact Assembly polls, says CPI(M)

FAIR REPORT
■ New Delhi

The CPI(M) said on Sunday that the Jantar Mantar student movement and other mass struggles could have a "very significant impact" on the coming Assembly elections.

The party asserted that the protests had helped break an atmosphere of fear among the youth towards the Narendra Modi Government, the RSS and its leadership. CPI(M) general secretary MA Baby, addressing a press conference after the party's Politburo meeting, said the impact of the Jantar



CPI(M) general secretary MA Baby

Mantar struggle could already be felt in the BJP's defeat in Bihar's Bankipur by-election and expressed hope that it would influence the upcoming State polls.

"At Jantar Mantar, our youth have demonstrated

that they don't fear Narendra Modi, Amit Shah or the RSS. There was a general atmosphere of fear, which the protest removed," Baby said. Drawing a parallel with the Samyukt Kisan Morcha-led farmers' agitation, he said people's movements can influence electoral outcomes, particularly in areas where such struggles are strong.

"Earlier we had the Samyukt Kisan Morcha struggle; after that the Lok Sabha elections happened, and that impacted the particular belt where the agitation was powerful, and BJP lost many seats," he said.

"People's struggles — workers, peasants, youth, women, Adivasis, Dalits, minorities — if they come forward and agitate, it will impact on the minds of people in the big cities," he said.

Baby said the CPI(M)'s approach in the coming elections would be to use whatever influence it has to defeat the BJP and its allies. Regarding seat-sharing and contesting seats, he said the party would discuss the issue with political parties in individual States and assess which candidate had the best chance of defeating the BJP in each constituency.

Siddaramaiah demands 75% quota for Dalits, BCs, minorities

FAIR REPORT
■ Bengaluru

Former Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Sunday called for implementation of the Caste Census and increase of reservation for Dalits, Backward Castes (BCs) and minorities to 75 per cent, saying an egalitarian society could not be achieved without equal opportunities based on population.

Speaking at the Karnataka State Backward Castes Federation's Silver Jubilee celebration, Siddaramaiah said the caste survey report must be implemented and asserted that reservation should be provided according to the population of each community.

"If all of you are to get social justice, there must be at least 75 per cent reservation. Dalits, backward communities and minorities — all of them must get 75 per cent," he said.

Only when everyone gets reservation according to their



Former Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah

caste and according to their population will it be possible to create an egalitarian society, he said, adding that similar reservation based on caste and population in the Lok Sabha and Legislative Assembly is necessary to achieve political equality.

Siddaramaiah said the caste survey conducted during his earlier tenure as chief minister should be implemented.

He was referring to the report submitted by the Backward Classes

Commission headed by Madhusudan Naik, which he said he had accepted before demitting office as chief minister. He said a court order currently prevented the report from being implemented or made public, and said he had conveyed the matter to federation president Ramachandrappa.

Siddaramaiah said the survey was necessary as there were no accurate figures on the population of backward communities.

He recalled that he had

ordered a survey when he became chief minister in 2013, but the report was not completed during his tenure. He alleged that the subsequent Government did not accept the report. "We have been saying, 'Equal share for everyone'," he said. Siddaramaiah said the struggle against the caste system must continue until equality and equal opportunities are achieved. "As long as the caste system exists in society, as long as an equal society is not created and as long as equal opportunities are not provided to everyone, the struggle must continue," he said.

The former chief minister said the caste system had historically deprived large sections of society of education and opportunities.

Siddaramaiah said he had personally experienced the absence of reservation and claimed that reservation in education and employment had helped expand opportunities for disadvantaged communities.

Rajnath to visit Sri Lanka to expand bilateral defence ties

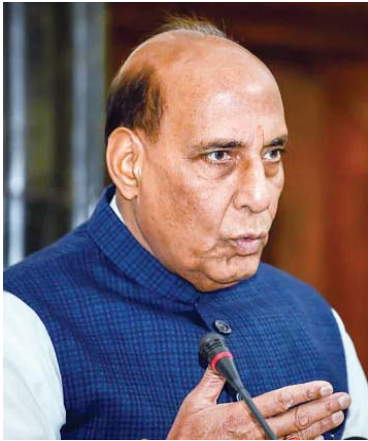
FAIR REPORT
■ New Delhi

India and Sri Lanka will review the entire gamut of their bilateral defence ties and explore ways to expand them during Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's three-day visit there starting September 8.

Giving details about his schedule, the defence ministry said in New Delhi on Sunday that Rajnath Singh will hold consultations with the leadership of Sri Lanka on a range of issues and interact with the Indian diaspora in Colombo. He will lead a high-level delegation comprising senior officials from the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of External Affairs.

India and Sri Lanka share deep civilisational ties and a multifaceted partnership, anchored by regional security, defence, economic and trade cooperation and strong people-to-people ties.

The bilateral relationship received further impetus when India assisted Sri Lanka during the economic crisis and provided assistance, as one of the first responders, in the aftermath of Cyclone Ditrwah in Sri Lanka in 2025.



It underscored India's continued commitment and emphasis on the 'Neighbourhood First' policy and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of MAHASAGAR (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions). The defence minister's visit will further strengthen the traditionally strong and friendly bilateral relations in mutually beneficial areas, including a strong maritime and defence partnership, the ministry said.

IAF's Sarang team arrives in Egypt for El Alamein airshow

FAIR REPORT ■ New Delhi

The Sarang Helicopter Display Team of the Indian Air Force has reached Egypt to participate in the second edition of the El Alamein International Airshow, scheduled to be held from September 8 to 10 at El Alamein International Airport, the defence ministry said in New Delhi on Sunday.

The IAF Sarang team is the world's only five-helicopter display team. The team will showcase precision, professionalism and flying skills through a series of meticulously choreographed displays. This marks another significant milestone in international engagements by the Indian Air Force reflecting growing defence and diplomatic ties between India and Egypt.

Flying the indigenously designed and manufactured Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) Dhruv, the Sarang team is renowned for its demanding formation manoeuvres, close-proximity flying and synchronised aerial sequences. The display highlights not only the exceptional skill and discipline of its pilots but also the capabilities of India's indigenous aerospace industry.

Ex-TMC MLA Kabir summoned over Abhishek Banerjee office row

FAIR REPORT
■ Kolkata

Kolkata Police on Sunday sent a notice to former IPS officer and the TMC's ex-MLA Humayun Kabir, asking him to appear before officers investigating the alleged scuffle during the removal of an "illegal" billboard at a building housing party MP Abhishek Banerjee's office, an official said.

The former legislator has been asked to appear at Shakespeare Sarani police station on Wednesday noon.

Authorities on August 27 removed an "illegal" billboard of the TMC from the top of a building in central Kolkata's Camac Street, during which private guards at Banerjee's office, his supporters and some party leaders had scuffled with police and Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) officials. Three FIRs were registered at the Shakespeare Sarani police station. Banerjee has been named as an accused in two of the FIRs,



TMC's ex-MLA Humayun Kabir

while Rajya Sabha MP Derek O'Brien, former MLA Kabir and former councillor Baishwanar Chatterjee are among others named in the cases, police officials said.

Police have already questioned Banerjee, his personal assistant Sumit Ray, O'Brien and Chatterjee in connection with the case.

On Sunday, a team of police personnel from the Shakespeare Sarani Police Station visited Kabir's residence in the Kasba area of southern Kolkata to serve the notice, which he received, the official added. Sources

said Kabir told the team that he wanted to appear before the police on Monday and that he could reach the police station at 1:30 pm.

The police had earlier visited Kabir's residence twice to serve him notices in connection with the case; the former MLA was not present there then. Referring to the August 27 incident, Kabir said, "They (municipal officials and police) had come to demolish the office. But no rules were followed. There was no proper notice. It was a piece of paper without a memo number."

Arunachal Police crack trafficking case, rescue 38

FAIR REPORT
■ Itanagar

Arunachal Pradesh Police have rescued 38 people, including 34 children, from various locations and arrested four persons who were allegedly involved in human trafficking, officials said on Sunday.

The children were rescued from Aalo, Mechuka, Pasighat, Naharlagun, Itanagar and Longding area of Arunachal Pradesh and from Assam, they said.

A trafficking case was registered at Namsai Police Station last month. It is being investigated by Namsai Deputy Superintendent of Police Kengo Dirchi under the supervision of Superintendent of Police Sankey Thinley, in close coordination with the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) and the District Child Protection Unit (DCPU), Namsai. In a press statement, Thinley said police have



arrested four facilitators so far, with the latest arrest being identified as Rupali Padung. Her alleged role in the transportation and illegal placement of the victims is currently under legal scrutiny.

Officials said the probe aims to unearth the complete trafficking network, financial transactions, electronic evidence, and secondary links.

Parents, guardians, and individuals where the victims were allegedly placed are also being thoroughly examined, with appropriate legal action to follow based on evidence.

D Raja questions PM Modi over fall in education Budget

FAIR REPORT
■ New Delhi

CPI general secretary D Raja on Sunday hit out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi for making political attacks during his Teachers' Day address at Delhi University's Shri Ram College of Commerce (SRCC), and asked him to explain the change in the Union Government's education Budget during his tenure.

Raja's remarks came a day after Modi, addressing the SRCC's centenary celebrations on Teachers' Day, revived his "dimagi naxal" remark and accused critics of being unable to digest India's 7.8 per cent economic growth.

Modi also contrasted the country's economic situation in 2013 with its current position, saying India had moved from the "Fragile Five" to being the fastest-growing major economy. In a post on X, Raja said



CPI general secretary D Raja

that instead of addressing the "real concerns" of teachers and students, the prime minister had chosen to make political attacks.

"He should understand that this will not work. People are no longer willing to believe his claims because of the Government's monumental failures," Raja said.

The CPI leader alleged that the Government had even gone to the extent of "manipulating and misrepresenting economic data" and was now branding those who

questioned its claims as "dimagi naxals".

"But the country will continue to question. Dissent cannot be criminalised, and questions cannot be silenced by name-calling," Raja said. He asked the prime minister to answer what he described as a simple question: "By what percentage has the Union Government's education budget fallen during your tenure?" "Instead of attacking critics, answer the teachers and students of India," he said.

GRAPEVINE

Why no bidders for coalgasification?

Govt's much hyped ₹40,000 crore-worth Coalgasification project failed to attract any bidders. No private bidder from the steel and coal industry has submitted a bid, and the last date is September 7. The Government is consulting public sector company heads to save face and asking why none is interested. The grapevine is that most of the tender norms are not suitable for the current scenario in the coal gasification project.



GDP vs disgruntled former finance secretary

In the past few days, panic has been seen in the Government to find apt persons to challenge the data presented by former Finance Secretary Subhash Chandra Garg. Many retired top Finance Ministry officials decided not to challenge the retired colleague questioning the GDP data. At last, serving officials were pressed into service to support the Govt's claims on a GDP increase of 7.8 per cent.



Restless secretaries

The restlessness within the top bureaucracy seems to have resurfaced. A couple of months ago, major changes were effected as in one case the Minister was annoyed with the working style of his Secretary, while in another the Secretary had complained against his Minister. The tug of war led to even the repatriation of top IAS officers to their respective States. Now, the grapevine has it that two Secretaries at the Centre have conveyed to their reporting boss a request for a change in their departments/ministry as both of them expressed their inability to perform under their Ministers, which includes a woman. Amongst the two Ministers in question, one of them was taken to task in the review meeting of the Council of Ministers chaired by the Prime Minister in May 2026.



BRS to raise Kaleshwaram, Palamuru projects, fee dues in Assembly: KCR

FAIR REPORT
■ Hyderabad

BRS president K Chandrasekhar Rao directed party MLAs and MLCs to raise the Congress Government's alleged failure to release water from the Kaleshwaram project and neglect of the Palamuru-Ranga Reddy irrigation project during the monsoon session of the legislature beginning Monday. They will also raise the issue of pending dues under the tuition fee reimburse-

ment scheme, among other matters, he said. Rao, also known as KCR, who presided over a meeting of party MLAs and MLCs to finalise the party's strategy for the session on Sunday, announced that he would soon launch "agitations with lakhs of people" against the Congress Government's alleged negligence in releasing water from the Kaleshwaram project and completing the Palamuru-Ranga Reddy irrigation project. The Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project has faced controversy over structural



BRS president K Chandrasekhar Rao

deficiencies and is under a CBI probe into alleged corruption and design issues. The Palamuru-Ranga Reddy Lift Irrigation Scheme aims to irrigate 12.3 lakh acres using

ISRO says it will not be privatised nor its importance will be diminished

FAIR REPORT
■ New Delhi

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on Sunday issued a clarification, saying that neither it would be privatised nor would its importance be diminished. In a post on X, the space agency asserted that participation of the private sector enables ISRO to focus strongly on the next generation of India's space programme, while the industry scales mature technologies and capabilities.



The development came after nine employee associations at ISRO wrote to the space agency's Chairperson V Narayanan on September 4, seeking official clarification on the proposed transfer of its manufacturing and operational functions to private entities. They were referring to the remarks

made by Pawan Goenka, chairperson of the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe), on August 21. ISRO said in the post that its "role will progressively strengthen in areas where its scientific expertise matters most: frontier R&D, advanced technologies, human space flight, next-generation launch systems, deep-space and planetary missions and strategic national capabilities." The space agency added that it would continue developing cutting-edge technologies, including advanced payloads for communication, navigation and Earth observation, sensors, propulsion systems and other critical technologies. "Meanwhile, mature and routinely manufactured systems can increasingly be scaled through industry. Production of mature launch vehicles, routine satellites and other established systems can increasingly be undertaken by industry or PSUs through appropriate competitive processes," said ISRO.

Chhattisgarh's mining reforms: From digital governance to critical minerals and tribal livelihoods

FAIR REPORT
■ Raipur

The Chhattisgarh Minor Mineral Ordinary Sand (Excavation and Business) Rules, 2025 have marked a significant reform in the regulation and management of ordinary sand in the State, with an emphasis on transparency, streamlined administration and better control over excavation and trade. A major change under the new framework is the introduction of electronic auction through a reverse-auction mechanism for allotment of sand quarry leases, replacing the earlier system and bringing the allocation process onto a more transparent and competitive platform. The Rules also seek to strengthen regulation of sand excavation, transportation and trade, while ensuring compliance with environmental and other statutory requirements. The new framework is already being

implemented through district-level electronic reverse auctions for sand quarry leases. The amendment permits Fixed Deposit Receipt (FDR) as an alternative for Bank Guarantee and extends certain compliance timelines from 60 days to one year, providing greater operational flexibility to the lessee. The amendments strengthen the regulatory framework for sand mining by introducing provisions for lapse of non-operational leases, reservation of sand quarries for Government PSUs, and stricter enforcement measures. They empower the Collector to confiscate performance security for violations and provide for show-cause proceedings and lease cancellation for specified non-compliances. Overall, the changes aim to promote effective resource utilisation, stronger regulatory oversight, and improved environmental governance.

The e-Ret Sangwari Portal is intended to provide royalty-free sand to eligible beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana through an online process, linking mineral-resource management with the State's rural housing programme. The initiative is expected to ease the supply of sand for construction activities and help ensure the timely completion of housing projects. Further, Khanij Online 2.0 is a unified digital platform designed to streamline mineral administration through automated workflows, real-time monitoring, and integrated enforcement mechanisms. The platform digitises concession management, permit issuance, QR-code-based e-Transit Pass generation, dispatch tracking, compliance reporting, and revenue reconciliation within a single governance framework. The portal strengthens the implementation of the



Chhattisgarh District Mineral Foundation Trust Rules, 2015. Under the amended framework, areas within 15 km of mining operations are classi-

CBI arrests 5 more in digital arrest crackdown

FAIR REPORT
■ New Delhi

In its nationwide operation called 'Operation Chakra-VI', the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has now arrested five more people accused of carrying out 'digital arrest' frauds, bringing the total number of arrests in the three high-value cases to eight. The agency stated that these most recent arrests are helping it to get closer to identifying the organised networks responsible for these scams. Fraudulent individuals who pretend to be members of the police or other authorities

keep the victims isolated during video conversations for weeks or even months and force them to transfer large amounts of money. Following the Supreme Court's direction, which had previously highlighted the extent of such offences, the CBI had already carried out coordinated searches at 89 sites across 20 States as part of three major cases. There is one instance of a person linked to BITS Pilani who was subjected to a digital arrest for three months and suffered a loss of ₹7.67 crore; in Gujarat another victim was also detained for three months



and lost ₹19.24 crore; in Karnataka a third case involved a victim being digitally detained for a month and being cheated out of ₹15.45 crore; the total losses in the three cases amount to more than ₹42 crore. Three people had already been arrested as a result of the previous searches. The man from Haryana, Akash, was paid ₹1.95 crore into an account, which he then transferred on the same day. Raja Karmakar from Kolkata was

paid ₹1.5 crore into a company account. Jyoti Rani took part of the money that had been credited in cash and transferred the remainder. The five people who have just been arrested took part in receiving, transferring, and distributing the money. Sanket Bastwar and Pankaj Damade, both from Itarsi, deceived the bank into opening an account, took in the money obtained fraudulently, and assisted in moving it to conceal its origin. Arif, who goes by the name King Bhai; Harish Purushottam Yadav, known as Harry, from New Delhi; and Shashank Singh, called Ravi, arranged for an account to receive the money from the victim and then transferred it through several different accounts. The investigators stated that the three had also installed a malicious APK on the account holder's phone to intercept the bank's SMS alerts and carry out transactions on the account without the holder's knowledge. The CBI said that the arrests reveal how mule accounts, cash withdrawals, and quick onward transfers were used to launder funds, and that it is currently pursuing other members of the wider network, while further investigation is ongoing.

Jhiram Valley attack case: Why did Congress not submit evidence to probe agency, asks Chhattisgarh CM Sai

FAIR REPORT
■ Raipur

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai on Sunday hit out at the Congress over its criticism of the NIA court verdict in the 2013 Jhiram Valley Maoist attack case, and asked why the party did not submit any evidence of its claims to the probe agency. Political statements cannot change the truth, Sai said in a statement. An NIA court in Jagdalpur on Saturday convicted all 10 accused arrested in connection with the attack, in which 29 people, including senior Congress leaders Vidya Charan Shukla and Mahendra Karma, were killed. The court has fixed September 16 for



Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai

pronouncing the quantum of punishment. The deadly attack took place on May 25, 2013, when Maoists ambushed the Congress 'Parivartan Rally' on a national highway in Jhiram Valley under Darbha police station limits in Bastar district. Reacting to the verdict, senior Congress leader and former chief minister Bhupesh Baghel had described it as "incomplete justice", saying the alleged larger political conspiracy behind the attack had not been investigated. State Congress president Deepak Baij had said the conviction of 10 accused was

not justice for Bastar, the victims' families or the Congress. Responding to the criticism, Sai said the case was handed over to the NIA when the Congress-led UPA Government was in power at the Centre. "The investigation and judicial process continued for nearly 13 years. More than 100 witnesses were examined and the court delivered its verdict after examining all the facts and evidence. The court has convicted 10 people and will determine their punishment on September 16," Sai said. He said the Congress should also remember that the NIA is the country's premier investigation agency and not an agency of any State Government.

Swatantra Bhardwaj questioned by multiple teams during police remand

FAIR REPORT
■ New Delhi

Self-proclaimed Hindutva influencer Swatantra Bhardwaj, arrested in connection with the alleged assault on a student activist's father during a protest at Delhi's Jantar Mantar, was shown his viral videos and questioned by multiple police teams during his remand, officials said on Sunday. Bhardwaj (22) was asked more than 100 questions during his remand, a police source said, adding that while he answered some of those, he did not respond to several others. According to sources, investigators showed Bhardwaj several of his viral videos as part of the questioning and confronted him with the statements and claims made by him in the videos. The sources said Bhardwaj showed no sign of remorse during his questioning. Bhardwaj was arrested on Friday after being detained in Uttar Pradesh's Bulandshahr and sent to a daylong police custody by a Delhi court on Saturday. He was produced before Additional Sessions Judge Saurabh Pratap Singh Laler at his residence around 2 pm, while his legal-aid counsel appeared before the judge through video-conferencing. The development came a day after the Delhi Police



added sections of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act and the charge of criminal intimidation to the FIR registered over the alleged assault. A fresh FIR under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act was also lodged on a complaint from the minor activist, who alleged that she was subjected to online threats and harassment after speaking out against the assault on her father. The police action followed outrage over a video podcast, in which Bhardwaj allegedly claimed that he had "cracked the skull" of the minor activist's father during the protest. He had subsequently claimed that he had acted in self-defence. The Delhi Police had earlier said the injuries suffered by the student activist's father were "simple in nature". Investigators are also going through Bhardwaj's social-media posts, videos and other digital material as part of the probe, the officials said.

Youth power to make Haryana drug-free: CM

FAIR REPORT
■ Chandigarh

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Sunday declared that the youth of the State have resolved to fight a decisive battle against drug abuse, adding that their enthusiasm would give a new direction to the campaign to make Haryana completely drug-free. Addressing a massive gathering as the Chief Guest at a half marathon organised in Rewari under the theme 'Nashe se jung, Rewari ke sang', the Chief Minister emphasised that the state Government has instituted a four-tier framework focusing on enforcement, awareness, treatment, and rehabilitation to tackle substance abuse. The marathon was aimed at taking the resolve of 'Nasha Muk



Haryana-Khel Yukt Haryana' to every corner of society and steering the youth towards sports. "There can be no place for a social

evil like drug abuse on the sacred land of Rewari, known across the nation for its valour, hard work, and patriotism," Saini said. Pointing out that substance abuse is a long-standing challenge rather than a sudden development, he added: "Over the past 12 years, the Haryana Government has viewed this issue not through a political lens, but through the context of protecting the future of our youth and families." The Chief Minister urged young citizens to report drug-trafficking activities actively. "If you find anyone involved in drug peddling around you, do not remain silent. One piece of information can save a life and protect a family from ruin," Saini said, appealing to every youngster to educate at least 10 peers on the perils of addiction to build a public movement.

mated capping of fund releases based on sanctioned budgets; fund demands linked to the submission of work-progress documents and photographs and mobile-based monitoring with geo-tagged images, amongst others. The Directorate of Geology and Mining, Chhattisgarh, has so far successfully auctioned 65 mineral blocks, comprising 49 bulk mineral blocks, 13 critical and strategic mineral blocks, and 3 deep-seated mineral blocks. These auctions are expected to generate approximately 74.35 lakh crore in revenue over the life of the mines, reflecting the scale and long-term economic potential of mineral development in the State. Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai launched the TIN (Tribal Incentives on Natural Resources) Portal, a digital platform aimed at bringing greater transparency and efficiency to the pro-

cedurement and sale of tin ore collected by tribal communities in the Bastar region. Developed by the Chhattisgarh Mineral Development Corporation (CMDC) in collaboration with Indian Overseas Bank, the portal digitises the entire value chain from beneficiary registration and ore collection to procurement, transportation, sale, price determination and payment. The initiative introduces QR-based verification, digital identities, online stock tracking, real-time monitoring and SMS alerts, while enabling Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) of sale proceeds to beneficiaries' bank accounts. The State has also released an amended edition of the Chhattisgarh Minor Mineral Rules, 2015, updated as of August 6, 2026, strengthening the regulatory framework for minor minerals while emphasising community participation and environmental safeguards.

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IN FOCUS



An artist paints an idol of lord Ganesh ahead of the Ganesh Chaturthi festival in Mumbai on Sunday

FAIR REPORT Chitrakoot

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Sunday conducted an aerial survey of flood-affected areas here and distributed relief material to people and handed over land allotment to certificates to families made homeless by the floods. Addressing a gathering in flood-hit Chitrakoot, Adityanath claimed that the quality of flood relief changed after his Government came to power. Before they were getting “dry bread” while, now the Government provides a comprehensive relief package of 50 kg with 26 items. He alleged that the previous Samajwadi Party government did not pay any attention to the floods and “SP goons” would loot the entire relief amount meant for victims.



Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath conducts a ground inspection of the flood-affected ghats in Chitrakoot

“Chitrakoot has faced the tragedy of floods before as well. Before 2017, whenever floods came, the then government did not take notice of the situation. All the money was eaten up by ‘SP goons’. Swallowed the entire thing. The poor, the weak

and the deprived got nothing,” Adityanath said. “If someone raised concern, dry bread was given to them. This was the situation,” the chief minister said. He was addressing a gathering after an aerial survey of areas affected by the recent

flooding of the Mandakini river and inspection of damage in and around Ramghat. The chief minister distributed relief material among 800 flood-affected families and handed over land-allotment certificates to families rendered homeless in the floods, along with financial assistance from the State Disaster Response Fund. Recalling his visit to flood-hit areas after becoming chief minister in 2017, Adityanath was informed by officials at the time that “dry bread” was being given as relief to the flood-affected people. “I immediately told the officials: If I give you only dry bread for 10 days, will you be able to survive? If you cannot, why should our people survive on it?” he said. He said his Government subsequently decided to provide a comprehensive relief kit to every flood-affected family. “Whatever we decided in 2017, we have continued. If a family is affected by floods, whether water remains there for a week or even for a day, that family should receive relief,” he said. The chief minister said the relief package being distributed contains around 26 items and weighs nearly 50 kg. “Earlier, people did not even get 1 kg. Today, around 26 items weighing nearly 50 kg are being provided so that the affected people get relief,” he said. Adityanath assured the flood-hit people that the government would stand by them in the hour of crisis. “Today, I have come with relief material as well as to assure you on behalf of the double-engine BJP government that in this hour of disaster, you are not alone. The government, along with crores of BJP workers, stands with you,” he said.

He said the government would conduct a survey to assess damage to crops and provide relief accordingly. “Whatever damage has been caused to crops will also be surveyed. Orders have been issued for the survey and relief will be provided accordingly,” he said. The chief minister also assured people that damaged roads would be repaired. “Whether it is an ordinary family, a trader, a monastery or temple, or a ghat, whatever damage has been caused, the government will make arrangements to provide assistance to all of them,” he said. He stressed on the need to protect river’s natural flow Adityanath said the recent flooding of the Mandakini had highlighted the need to prevent construction and encroachment in the river’s catchment area.

DGP tells Y-CLG members to report suspicious activities, spread awareness against cyber fraud and drug abuse

DGP directly interacted with Y-CLG members across the state through VC; members from Chittorgarh, Nimbahera and Rawatbhata also joined

FAIR REPORT CHITTORGARH

To prevent crimes and create awareness among the public, the police is now planning to increase the active participation of Youth-CLG (Y-CLG) members. DGP Rajiv Kumar Sharma interacted with police officers and Y-CLG members across the state through video conferencing on Saturday. He asked the youth to keep an eye on activities that may lead to crime in their areas and inform the police about them. The DGP said that Y-CLG can work as an effective link between the police and the public. Members should share local problems and information related to crime with the police so that timely action can be taken. Police officers were also directed to maintain regular contact and communication with Y-CLG members.



Role in sharing correct information with the public

The role of Y-CLG members in taking useful public information shared by the police to as many people as possible was also discussed. They were also asked to help people know the truth about misleading or harmful information being circulated through social media and other platforms. At present, 73,184 Y-CLG members are connected with the police across the state. The work and contribution of these members will be reviewed after about one month.

Focus on women safety and cyber fraud

The role of Y-CLG in preventing crimes against women and girls was also discussed during the VC. Members were asked to cooperate with the police in creating a safe environment. In view of the increasing cases of cyber fraud, they were also asked to inform people about ways to stay safe from online fraud. The DGP also asked Y-CLG members to come forward to prevent the increasing trend of drug abuse among youth. They were asked to inform the police about activities related to the drug trade and create awareness among youth and the public about its harmful effects.

Members from three places in Chittorgarh district joined

Y-CLG members from Chittorgarh, Nimbahera and Rawatbhata joined the video conference from Chittorgarh district. In Chittorgarh, the members joined under the leadership of District Superintendent of Police Dharmendra Singh. In Rawatbhata, they joined under Additional Superintendent of Police Gopal Singh Kanawat, while in Nimbahera they joined under Additional Superintendent of Police Ashok Meena. The DGP expressed confidence that active participation of the police and Y-CLG will further strengthen efforts for crime prevention, public safety and awareness.

₹50-Lakh Liquor Racket Busted in Udaipur: Haryana Bottles Rebranded With Fake Rajasthan Holograms

FAIR REPORT UDAIPUR

A joint operation by the Hiran Magri police and the District Special Team (DST) has uncovered an interstate liquor racket allegedly supplying cheap Haryana liquor in Rajasthan after passing it off as premium liquor with counterfeit excise holograms and brand markings. Acting on a tip-off, police raided a warehouse in the RIICO Kaladwas area on Saturday and seized illicit English liquor and beer valued at around 50 lakh, along with a machine allegedly used to affix fake monograms and holograms, 15 forged vehicle number plates and three vehicles. The operation was conducted under the direction of Udaipur Superintendent of Police



Dr Amrita Duhan. Police arrested Kedar Kumar Senani (44), a resident of Govardhan Vilas in Udaipur, while three alleged associates remain absconding. According to police, the warehouse contained 60 cartons of English liquor and 110 beer cans, besides liquor-loaded vehicles—two cars and a tempo. The bottles reportedly carried the marking “For Sale in Haryana Only”, indicating that the stock was not legally meant for sale in Rajasthan.

Cheap liquor, counterfeit identity

The investigation has revealed an alleged modus operandi built around altering the identity of the liquor rather than merely smuggling it. Police said the accused procured comparatively cheaper liquor from Haryana and stored it at the Kaladwas warehouse. A specialised machine was allegedly used to apply counterfeit brand monograms, stickers and Rajasthan Excise Department holograms/seals, enabling the liquor to

be presented as genuine Rajasthan stock and sold at substantially higher prices. The recovery of 15 different fake number plates has added another layer to the suspected operation, with investigators probing whether the plates were being used to conceal the movement of vehicles involved in transportation and distribution. The case has been registered at Hiran Magri police station under relevant provisions of the Excise Act, and teams have been deployed to locate the three absconding suspects. The seizure has exposed not just an illicit liquor supply chain but an alleged counterfeit-marking network designed to make contraband look legitimate—a trail investigators will now have to follow from the warehouse to the wider distribution network.

‘Operation Prahar’: 51 Kg Cannabis Seized in Deeg After Suspects Smash Through Police Barricade

FAIR REPORT DEEG

A routine highway check turned into a high-speed pursuit on the Deeg-Uttar Pradesh corridor after three alleged interstate drug traffickers broke through a police barricade while transporting more than 51 kg of cannabis, police said. The Deeg police and District Special Team (DST), acting under the direction of Superin-



tendent of Police Sharan Gopinath K., intercepted the suspects under the ongoing ‘Operation Prahar’, launched ahead of municipal elections and amid heightened surveillance

along the Uttar Pradesh border. The operation resulted in the arrest of three alleged traffickers, seizure of 51.120 kg of cannabis, two cars and four mobile phones. According

to police, the DST received specific information that two vehicles carrying a large consignment of cannabis were travelling from Govardhan in Uttar Pradesh towards Deeg via Bahaj. A checkpoint was immediately established at Bahaj. When police signalled the vehicles to stop, the drivers allegedly rammed through the barricade and accelerated towards Deeg.

DEVELOPMENT ISSUE: JADAWAT ATTACKS BJP, SAYS DEVELOPMENT HAS SLOWED DOWN IN CHITTORGARH

Former MLA and former Minister of State Jadawat targets Aky, raises questions over Chambal project, Gambhiri River and city development works

FAIR REPORT CHITTORGARH

Amid the Nagar Parishad elections, political statements over the development of the city have become sharper. Former MLA and former Minister of State Surendra Singh Jadawat has raised questions against the BJP government and MLA Chandrabhan Singh Aky over development works in the city. He raised issues related to the Chambal drinking water project,

Gambhiri River, riverfront, roads and rising prices of construction material, saying that many needs of the city are still incomplete. Jadawat said that plans for the development of Chittorgarh have been made for a long time, but many important works are still not clearly visible on the ground. He particularly demanded an explanation from the government over the delay in the Chambal drinking water project.

Riverfront Possible Only After Cleaning Gambhiri River

Regarding the Gambhiri River, Jadawat said that the problem of dirty water and sewage entering the river should be solved first. He



said that unless the river is cleaned, a project like the riverfront will not give the expected benefit. He called cleaning the river a priority for the city.

Development Works During Congress Government

Former MLA and former Minister of State Jadawat mentioned the devel-

opment works carried out during his tenure and said that around Rs 108 to Rs 110 crore worth of works were carried out through UIT during the Congress government. He claimed that around Rs 55 to Rs 60 crore was spent on development works in Chittorgarh city. He said that roads, culverts, community halls and other facilities were developed, and people are still benefiting from these works. He alleged that at present, the pace of development works at UIT and Nagar Parishad level is not the same as before. Jadawat said that instead of allegations and counter-allegations, the government should focus on pending development projects in the city.

Questions Over Alternative Road to Fort

On issues related to Chittorgarh Fort and tourism, Jadawat said that a better alternative route is necessary for tourists coming to the fort. He questioned the delay in completing the proposed alternative road going down from Surajpol. According to him, an alternative route is important for ambulances and fire brigade vehicles during an emergency.

Rising Sand Prices Affect Common People

Jadawat also raised the issue of rising prices of sand used in construction work. He said that the increase in prices is directly

affecting people who are building houses. He also raised questions about the buying and selling of land around development projects. He said that if information is collected through RTI in this regard, the actual situation can come to light.

Jadawat Gives Open Challenge Over Allegations

On allegations of corruption and property made against him by the BJP, Jadawat said that if there is any proof of illegal property or corruption against him, it should be made public. He claimed that if the allegations are proved, he is ready to give his entire property.

‘Election Should Be Fought With Public Trust, Not Pressure’

Jadawat also targeted the government over transfers during the election period. He alleged that attempts are being made to put pressure on people associated with the opposition through transfers of government employees in their families. Jadawat said that elections should be fought democratically by going among the people. He said that the final decision in this election will be taken by the people and issues related to the development of the city will decide the direction of the election.