

**DIA, DEOGHAR IAS ACADEMY**

# **Daily News Feed**

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**D.N.F**

**15.09.2025**

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Town**

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# PM alleges conspiracy to change population mix of border areas

In Assam, he says the conspiracy is a grave threat to security, necessitating a demography mission across the country; the PM said, the Congress has been shielding infiltrators; he said lakhs of *bighas* grabbed by infiltrators, have been taken back

**The Hindu Bureau**  
GUWAHATI

**T**he Union government is preparing to launch a mission to thwart a conspiracy to alter the composition of the population in the border areas of the country with the help of "infiltrators", Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in Assam on Sunday.

Addressing a meeting at Mangaldoi in Darrang district, he said those bent upon sheltering infiltrators had been waging such a conspiracy in the areas bordering Bangladesh. Mangaldoi is about 70 km northeast of Guwahati.

"This is a grave threat to national security, necessitating a demography mission across the country," Mr. Modi said, underscor-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma in Darrang, Assam on Sunday. RITU RAJ KONWAR

ing the BJP's "goal" of ejecting infiltrators to save Indian citizens from them.

"I want to tell the [pro-infiltrator] politicians that I have accepted their challenge," he said, accusing the Congress of shielding and protecting these infil-

trators. "Write it down. I will see how you use your strength to protect the infiltrators and how we put our lives on the line to remove them. Let there be a contest. Those protecting the infiltrators will suffer, and mark my words, the

country will not pardon them," Mr. Modi said.

He said the Congress had supported infiltration when it was in power. "The Congress wants the infiltrators to stay in Bharat permanently and decide its future," he said.

"Congress promoted the encroachment of the land of our farmers, tribal people, and places of worship. BJP is changing that situation by clearing encroachment. Under Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, lakhs of *bighas* (one *bigha* is about 0.13 hectare) of land, grabbed by infiltrators, have been taken back. These include Darrang district's Gorukhuti," he said.

Accusing the Congress of standing by anti-India individuals and ideologies, he said the country had bled when the party had

been in power by pandering to vote-bank politics.

"Today, our forces have uprooted the leaders of terrorism during Operation Sindoor, but the Congress, instead of standing by the Indian military, stood by the Pakistani military. Congress people take forward the agenda of those who nurture terrorism," he said.

He said the former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru had abandoned Assam during the Chinese aggression in 1962. "The Congress's present generation is adding salt to the wound of the Northeast that is yet to heal," he said.

Earlier, the Prime Minister laid the foundation stones for health and infrastructure projects estimated at ₹6,300 crore at Mangaldoi.

## PM alleges conspiracy to change population mix of border areas

### English:

PM Modi in Assam alleged a conspiracy to alter the demographic composition in border areas through infiltration. He accused Congress of shielding infiltrators and highlighted BJP's "demography mission" to protect national security. He also inaugurated projects worth ₹6,300 crore in Assam.

### हिंदी:

प्रधानमंत्री मोदी ने असम में आरोप लगाया कि सीमा क्षेत्रों में घुसपैठ के ज़रिए जनसंख्या संरचना बदलने की साजिश हो रही है। उन्होंने कांग्रेस पर घुसपैठियों को संरक्षण देने का आरोप लगाया और BJP की "जनसांख्यिकी मिशन" को राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा के लिए आवश्यक बताया। साथ ही ₹6,300 करोड़ की परियोजनाओं का शिलान्यास किया।

# Case pendency continues to plague the SC as backlog hits all-time high of 88,417

**Krishnadas Rajagopal**  
NEW DELHI

The pendency of cases in the Supreme Court has reached an all-time high of 88,417, even when the court is currently functioning with its full sanctioned judicial strength of 34 judges.

The court has 69,553 civil cases and 18,864 criminal matters pending currently, the National Judicial Data Grid shows. The filing of fresh cases in August surpassed the disposal rate. A total of 7,080 cases were instituted in the court in August. The court has managed a disposal rate of 5,667 cases in the month, that is, 80.04% of the cases filed. The escalation in pendency is despite Chief Justice B.R. Gavai's decision to have more Benches working through the long summer recess of the court in a bid to decrease the case log.

## **Working on holidays**

The CJI had renamed the summer holidays from May 23 to July "partial working days". The CJI and five senior-most judges of the court had presided over the first batch of Benches hearing cases during the summer recess. A total of 21 Benches sat in batches throughout the "partial working days", hearing and disposing of cases, till the court reopened in July.

In 2025, 52,630 cases were filed while 46,309, nearly 88%, were disposed of during a year which has already seen two Chief Justices of India with a third, Justice Surya Kant, expected to be sworn in in late November. The corres-

## **Delayed justice**

The Supreme Court continues to battle the problem of pendency of cases

Current pendency

**88,417** cases,  
an all-time high



Civil cases

**69,553**



Criminal cases

**18,864**

### **AUGUST DATA**

Cases instituted

**7,080**

Cases disposed

**5,667**

Disposal rate

**80.04%**

(of cases in  
August)

### **2025 ANNUAL DATA**

Cases filed

**52,630**

Cases disposed

**46,309**

(nearly 88%)

### **Judicial strength:**

The court  
is currently  
functioning with  
its full sanctioned  
strength of  
34 judges

## **The escalation is despite decision to have more Benches working during the SC's summer recess**

ponding period in 2024 had seen a similar climb in pendency to a then peak of over 82,000 cases. The increase in pendency persists despite successive Chief Justices, from Justice D.Y. Chandrachud to Justice Gavai, taking care to maintain judicial vacancy in the top court to a minimum, if not zero.

The unceasing increase in backlog has become a perennial phenomenon since the pandemic years, and especially since 2023. The pendency had continued to rise steadily despite Justice Chandrachud, when he was CJI, acting swiftly to fill vacancies in the top court. His successors to the top judge post, Justices Sanjiv Khanna and Gavai, have spearheaded

their own collegiums to promptly recommend names of judges to the government.

Past Chief Justices and even collegium resolutions have raised the issue of "huge workload".

A November 2023 collegium resolution had mentioned the bare truth that the court cannot afford even one vacancy, taking into account the "ever mounting pendency of cases". "The workload of judges has increased considerably. Bearing in mind the above, it has become necessary to ensure that the court has full working judge-strength leaving no vacancy at any point of time," the collegium had underscored.

The recent months have seen the government approve collegium recommendations for appointment to the Supreme Court without delay, often within 48 hours. Yet, the backlog continues to rise steadily.



## Case pendency in Supreme Court hits record 88,417

### English:

Despite full strength of 34 judges, SC has 88,417 pending cases (69,553 civil, 18,864 criminal). Filing of fresh cases outpaces disposal. Even with benches functioning during summer recess, pendency continues to rise, raising concerns about judicial workload.

### हिंदी:

सुप्रीम कोर्ट में लंबित मामलों की संख्या 88,417 पर पहुँच गई है, जबकि न्यायाधीशों की संख्या पूरी (34) है। अगस्त में नए मामलों की संख्या निपटाए गए मामलों से अधिक रही। गर्मियों की छुट्टियों में अतिरिक्त पीठों के बावजूद लंबित मामलों में लगातार वृद्धि हो रही है, जिससे न्यायिक कार्यभार पर चिंता बढ़ी है।

# Centre reopens PLI scheme for white goods till Oct. 14, cites market growth

**The Hindu Bureau**

NEW DELHI

The Union government has reopened the application window for the production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme for white goods, it said on Sunday, citing market growth and growing industry confidence following the success of earlier rounds of the scheme.

“The application window for the PLI Scheme for white goods (Air Conditioners and LED lights) is being reopened based on the appetite of the industry to invest more under the scheme, which is an outcome of the growing market and confidence generated due to manufacturing of key components of ACs and LED lights in India under the PLI for white goods

## Switching on

The Union government is reopening the application window for the Production-Linked Incentive scheme for white goods

■ **Application window:** Sept. 15 to Oct. 14

■ **Scheme goal:** To boost manufacturing of **AC and LED light** components, including those not currently produced in sufficient quantities in India

■ **Who can apply:** Both **new applicants** and **existing beneficiaries** who wish to invest more



■ **Current status:** 83 applicants with a committed investment of **₹10,406 crore** have already been selected

scheme,” the Ministry of Commerce and Industry said on Sunday.

### More investments

The application window for the scheme will remain open between September 15 and October 14.

The release further said that, in order to avoid any discrimination, both new applicants as well as existing beneficiaries of the scheme who want to invest more would be eligible to apply, subject to the guidelines.

So far, the Ministry said, 83 applicants with committed investment of ₹10,406 crore have been selected as beneficiaries under the scheme. “The investments will lead to manufacturing of components of Air Conditioners and LED lights across the complete value chain including components which are not manufactured in India presently with sufficient quantity,” it said.

The Union Cabinet had given its approval for the PLI scheme for white goods for the manufacture of components and sub-assemblies of ACs and LED lights in April 2021. The scheme was to be implemented over seven years, from the financial year 2021-22 to 2028-29, with an outlay of ₹6,238 crore.

## Centre reopens PLI scheme for white goods

### English:

The government reopened the application window (Sept 15–Oct 14) for PLI scheme in air conditioners and LED lights, citing growing industry confidence. 83 applicants with ₹10,406 crore investment already selected. Aim: boost local manufacturing across the value chain.

### हिंदी:

सरकार ने एयर कंडीशनर और LED लाइट्स के लिए PLI योजना का आवेदन विंडो 15 सितम्बर से 14 अक्टूबर तक फिर खोला है। अब तक 83 आवेदकों को ₹10,406 करोड़ निवेश के साथ चुना गया है। उद्देश्य: संपूर्ण वैल्यू चेन में घरेलू विनिर्माण को बढ़ावा देना।

# Nepal's new Prime Minister pledges to follow Gen Z protesters' demand to 'end corruption'

**Agence France-Presse**  
KATHMANDU

Nepal's new leader vowed on Sunday to follow protesters' demands to "end corruption" as she began work as interim Prime Minister, after "Gen Z" youth demonstrations ousted her predecessor.

Sushila Karki, the 73-year-old former Chief Justice, has been tasked with restoring order and addressing protesters' demands for a corruption-free future ahead of elections in six months.

"We have to work according to the thinking of the Gen Z generation," Ms.



**Holding the fort:** Sushila Karki arrives to take charge of the Prime Minister's office in Kathmandu on Sunday. AFP

Karki said in her first public comments since taking office on Friday.

She said that those involved in violence and destruction across the country

during the protests will be brought to justice, and those who were killed will be declared "martyrs".

A fifth of people in Nepal aged 15-24 are unem-

ployed, according to the World Bank, with GDP per capita standing at just \$1,447, in the Himalayan nation of 30 million people.

"What this group is demanding is the end of corruption, good governance and economic equality," she added.

## **At least 72 killed**

At least 72 people were killed in two days of protests, and 191 injured, the government's chief secretary Eaknarayan Aryal said on Sunday, increasing an earlier toll of 51.

"Bodies of many people who died in shopping

malls, houses and other buildings that were set on fire or attacked are now being discovered," Health Ministry spokesperson Prakash Budathoki said.

The Ministry's latest updated data showed at least 2,113 people were injured.

It was the worst unrest since the end of a decade-long civil war and the abolition of the monarchy in 2008.

The appointment of Ms. Karki came after intense negotiations by army chief General Ashok Raj Sigdel and President Ram Chandra Paudel, including with representatives of "Gen Z".  
*(With inputs from Reuters)*

## **Nepal's new PM vows to follow Gen Z protesters' demand to end corruption**

### **English:**

Ex-CJI Sushila Karki became interim PM after mass Gen Z protests ousted predecessor. She pledged to end corruption, ensure justice, and declared victims of protests as martyrs. At least 72 killed, 2,000+ injured.

### **हिंदी:**

पूर्व मुख्य न्यायाधीश सुशीला कार्की नेपाल की अंतरिम प्रधानमंत्री बनीं, जब Gen Z प्रदर्शनों ने पूर्व PM को हटा दिया। उन्होंने भ्रष्टाचार समाप्त करने, न्याय सुनिश्चित करने और मृतकों को "शहीद" घोषित करने का वादा किया। अब तक 72 लोग मारे गए और 2,000 से अधिक घायल हुए।



# No competition between Hindi and other Indian languages, says Amit Shah

On Hindi Divas, Home Minister urges people to respect all Indian languages; he asks CMs to send him letters in respective languages, assures them that responses would be sent in same language

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday urged people to respect all Indian languages, including Hindi, as part of India's journey towards a self-reliant, self-confident, and developed country.

Stressing unity in linguistic diversity, he said there was no competition between Hindi and other Indian languages, as they complemented and strengthened one another.

In a video message on the occasion of Hindi Divas, Mr. Shah said all Indian languages should become cornerstones of technology, science, justice, education, and administration.

"India is fundamentally a language-oriented nation. Our languages have been a powerful medium for carrying forward culture, history, traditions, knowledge, science, philosophy, and spirituality from generation to genera-



Home Minister Amit Shah addressing a gathering at the fifth Akhil Bhartiya Rajbhasha Sammelan, in Gandhinagar on Sunday. ANI

tion," he said.

"Saint Tiruvalluvar is sung with as much devotion in the South as he is read with interest in the North. Krishnadevaraya was as popular in the South as he was in the North. The patriotic compositions of Subramania Bharati ignite national pride in the youth of every region. Goswami Tulsidas is revered by every Indian, and the couplets of Saint Kabir are found in translations in Tamil, Kannada, and Malayalam," he said, also citing the works of Surdas, Srimanta Sankardeva,

Mahapurush Madhavdeva, and Bhupen Hazarika.

Stating that Indian languages played a significant role in making the freedom movement a nationwide phenomenon, he said, "Slogans like 'Vande Mataram' and 'Jai Hind' emerged from our linguistic consciousness and became symbols of pride for independent India."

He said since 2014, the use of Hindi in government work had been continuously promoted. Last year, on Hindi Divas, the Bharatiya Bhasha Anubhag was established with the aim of

ensuring seamless translation of all major Indian languages.

## Sarathi system

Later, at the fifth Akhil Bhartiya Rajbhasha Sammelan held in Gujarat's Gandhinagar, he said there was no competition between Hindi and other Indian languages and they complemented each other.

Mr. Shah said the Sarathi system helped translation from Hindi to all recognised Indian languages. He urged the Chief Ministers to send him letters in their respective languages, assuring them that responses would be sent in the same language.

In the coming days, communication through Sarathi would be in one's native language. "To foster pride in our languages, the Shabd Sindhu dictionary was created, starting with 51,000 words, and now exceeding seven lakh words... by 2029, it will become the largest dictionary in all languages of the world," he said.

## No competition between Hindi and other languages: Amit Shah

### English:

On Hindi Divas, HM Amit Shah said all Indian languages complement each other and should be used in technology, education, justice, and governance. He emphasized Sarathi translation system and Shabd Sindhu dictionary project.

### हिंदी:

गृह मंत्री अमित शाह ने हिंदी दिवस पर कहा कि हिंदी और अन्य भारतीय भाषाओं में कोई प्रतिस्पर्धा नहीं है, बल्कि वे एक-दूसरे को सशक्त करती हैं। उन्होंने तकनीक, शिक्षा और न्याय में भारतीय भाषाओं के उपयोग पर बल दिया। 'सारथी प्रणाली' और 'शब्द सिंधु' शब्दकोश

परियोजना पर भी ज़ोर दिया।

# Tejashwi highlights 'poor state' of Bihar hospital on eve of PM visit

**Amit Bhelari**

PATNA

On the eve of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Bihar's Purnia, Rashtriya Janata Dal leader Tejashwi Yadav on Sunday lashed out at the Nitish Kumar government over the "poor condition" of the Government Medical College and Hospital in the district.

After conducting a surprise inspection of the hospital on Saturday night, Mr. Yadav posted a video on his X handle highlighting the "deplorable condition" of the State's healthcare system over the past 20 years under the NDA government.

He pointed out that the



RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav next to a child lying on the floor of the government hospital in Purnia. X/@TEJASHWIOFFICE

facility had no ICU or cardiology department, and even the trauma centre was non-functional.

He called State Health Minister Mangal Pandey "incompetent" and a "liar" and said several patients, including children, were lying on the floor.

"Tomorrow, Prime Minister Modi is coming to Purnia in Seemanchal to shower false promises," Mr. Yadav said. He asked Mr. Modi to visit the hospital along with Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and see the ground reality.

## **₹40,000-cr. projects**

Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary said the Prime Minister would inaugurate and lay the foundation stone of schemes worth more than ₹40,000 crore in Purnia.

He added that the PM would inaugurate the interim terminal building of Purnia airport and the first commercial flight from the airport would also start.

**Tejashwi highlights poor condition of Bihar hospital before PM visit**

th.th\_international.15\_09\_2025

**English:**

RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav exposed poor state of Purnia Medical College: no ICU, non-functional trauma centre, patients lying on floor. He criticized CM Nitish Kumar and Health Minister Mangal Pandey. PM Modi to inaugurate projects worth ₹40,000 crore in Purnia.

**हिंदी:**

RJD नेता तेजस्वी यादव ने पूर्णिया मेडिकल कॉलेज की दयनीय स्थिति उजागर की—ICU नहीं, ट्रॉमा सेंटर बंद, मरीज़ फर्श पर। उन्होंने CM नीतीश कुमार और स्वास्थ्य मंत्री मंगल पांडे पर हमला बोला। वहीं PM मोदी पूर्णिया में ₹40,000 करोड़ की परियोजनाओं का उद्घाटन करेंगे।



# UPPL, BJP release BTC poll manifesto, promise lasting peace

**The Hindu Bureau**

GUWAHATI

United People's Party Liberal (UPPL) and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), allies who have turned rivals in 30 of the 40 constituencies across the Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR), have promised lasting peace in their respective manifestos for the upcoming Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) election.

The BTC governs the 8,970-sqkm BTR, which borders Bhutan. They released their vision documents for the September 22 elections within 72

hours of each other.

The BJP was the first to release its vision document on September 12 in the presence of Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and State party president Dilip Saikia. The party outlined eight core commitments to fulfil the aspirations of 3.5 million people across the BTR, comprising five districts.

Releasing the UPPL vision document on Sunday, party president and BTC chief Pramod Boro underlined his party's five-prong commitment to a more peaceful, cleaner, greener, and happier BTR.

**BTC election manifestos: UPPL vs BJP**

**th.th\_international.15\_09\_2025**

**English:**

Both UPPL and BJP, rivals in 30 of 40 Bodoland seats, promised lasting peace and development. BJP outlined 8 core commitments; UPPL promised a five-pronged approach for a cleaner and greener Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR).

**हिंदी:**

BTC चुनाव में UPPL और BJP ने स्थायी शांति और विकास का वादा किया। BJP ने 8 मुख्य संकल्प पेश किए जबकि UPPL ने स्वच्छ और हरित BTR के लिए पाँच सूत्रीय दृष्टिकोण की घोषणा की।



# Maratha quota GR: OBC, Adivasi, Banjara outfits to hold protests

**Press Trust of India**

JALNA

Several OBC, Adivasi, and Banjara community outfits in Maharashtra's Jalna district on Sunday said they would hold protests till the State government withdraws the government resolution (GR) issued for Marathas to avail of quota benefits in the wake of the agitation in Mumbai by activist Manoj Jarange-Patil.

They said the implementation of the Hyderabad Gazette to allow members of the Maratha community to get Kunbi caste certificates, and therefore quota, would greatly impact SCs, STs and Other Backward Classes. Kunbis, an agrarian com-



We were classified as a Scheduled Tribe and had reservation in Hyderabad State. We want the same rights restored

**SANDESH CHAVAN**

President of Banjara outfit Gor Sena

munity, are part of the OBC segment in Maharashtra.

"We were classified as a Scheduled Tribe and had reservation in Hyderabad State. We want the same rights restored," said Sandesh Chavan, president of Banjara outfit Gor Sena.

Since September 11, Banjara youth have been on an

indefinite hunger strike outside the Jalna Collector's office, while senior leader Haribhau Rathod has announced morchas in Jalna and Beed on September 15.

However, Adivasi outfits have opposed this demand of the Banjara community claiming the latter already benefit from 3% quota under the Vimukta Jati and Nomadic Tribes segment.

OBC activists Navnath Waghmare and Satusung Mundhe warned that expanding the quota would threaten the rights of 374 castes already listed under the OBC category. OBC leaders have resolved to hold a morcha in Nagpur on October 10, they added.

## **Maratha quota GR sparks OBC, Adivasi, Banjara protests in Maharashtra**

### **English:**

OBC, Adivasi, Banjara outfits protested against GR allowing Marathas to avail Kunbi caste certificates for quota benefits. They fear dilution of OBC rights. Hunger strikes and morchas planned; Adivasi groups oppose Banjara demand for ST restoration.

### **हिंदी:**

मराठा आरक्षण हेतु कुणबी प्रमाणपत्र देने वाले GR के खिलाफ OBC, आदिवासी और बंजारा संगठनों ने विरोध शुरू किया। उन्हें OBC अधिकारों के कमजोर होने का डर है। जलना में अनशन और मोर्चे की घोषणा की गई। आदिवासी समूहों ने बंजारों की ST बहाली की मांग का विरोध किया।

# House panel says govt. must explore feasibility of licensing requirements for AI content creators

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

A parliamentary committee has recommended that the government explore the feasibility of licensing requirements for AI content creators and making labelling of AI-generated videos and content mandatory, as part of efforts to combat the spread of fake news.

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Communications and Information Technology, chaired by Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP Nishikant Dubey, also asked the government to devise legal and technological measures to identify and prosecute individuals and organ-



The report said advances in AI could provide tools to address concerns over fake news.

isations disseminating such content.

The committee's draft report was recently submitted to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and will be tabled in Parliament during

the next session. It also called for "close coordination between the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), and other Ministries and departments".

While the committee's suggestions are not binding, its recommendations are often accepted by the government.

The panel noted that MeitY has already constituted a nine-member body to examine challenges arising from "the issue of deepfakes".

Two ongoing projects in this regard include fake speech detection using a deep learning framework and the design and deve-

lopment of software to identify deepfake videos and images, it said.

The report observed that advances in technology, particularly in AI, could provide tools to address concerns over fake news. However, the Ministries concerned had conveyed that AI, in its current form, cannot be used for fact-checking as it relies on pre-existing information available online. Instead, AI could help flag potentially fake or misleading content for human review, the committee said.

"AI and machine learning (ML) technologies are increasingly being employed to enhance the ability to detect, verify, and prevent the spread of mis-

information and disinformation," the committee noted, adding that several research projects and initiatives are exploring such uses.

Calling fake news a "serious threat" to public order and the democratic process, the committee recommended amending penal provisions, increasing fines, and fixing accountability. It also favoured the mandatory presence of fact-checking mechanisms and internal ombudsmen in all print, digital, and electronic media organisations. At the same time, it stressed that such measures should evolve through consensus-building among media bodies and other stakeholders.

## House panel suggests licensing AI content creators to curb fake news

th.th\_international.15\_09\_2025

### English:

Parliamentary committee (chaired by Nishikant Dubey) recommended licensing for AI content creators and mandatory labelling of AI-generated content. Suggested coordination between I&B and MeitY. Stressed fake news is a threat to democracy.

### हिंदी:

संसदीय समिति (अध्यक्ष: निशिकांत दुबे) ने सुझाव दिया कि AI कंटेंट क्रिएटर्स के लिए लाइसेंसिंग और AI जनित सामग्री की लेबलिंग अनिवार्य की जाए। सूचना एवं प्रसारण मंत्रालय और MeitY के बीच समन्वय पर ज़ोर दिया। फेक न्यूज़ को लोकतंत्र के लिए गंभीर खतरा बताया।



# Beggars' homes are treated worse than prisons, says SC

**The Hindu Bureau**

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has held in a judgment that beggars' homes are neither quasi-penal facilities nor "discretionary charity" run by the state. Their role must be restorative, it stressed.

A Bench of Justices J.B. Pardiwala and R. Mahadevan, in a September 12 judgment published on Sunday, said the poor in beggars' homes are deprived of the even basic constitutional protections afforded to convicts in prisons. The term "home" denotes safety, dignity, belonging, and care. They should be conceived by the state as centres of recovery, skill-building and reintegration into society.

"Any arrangement that degenerates into a prison-like environment – characterised by overcrowding, unhygienic conditions, arbitrary or involuntary confinement, denial of medical treatment, neglect of mental health needs, or restrictions on personal liberty – is not merely a policy failure, but a constitutional infraction striking at the very heart of Article 21 [right to life]," Justice Mahadevan, who authored

the judgment, observed.

"If constitutional protections are owed to convicts and undertrials – individuals lawfully deprived of liberty pursuant to criminal conviction or prosecution – a fortiori, they must apply to residents of beggars' homes, who are not offenders at all. Many are victims of structural poverty, mental illness, abandonment, domestic violence, caste discrimination, or social exclusion," Justice Mahadevan noted.

Their confinement, if necessary at all, must be in the nature of protective custody accompanied by comprehensive rehabilitation services, rather than coercive detention.

The judgment was based on an outbreak of cholera and gastroenteritis at the beggars' home, at Narela in Delhi in 2000.

The court issued a series of directions to improve the running of beggars' homes, including mandatory check-ups of individuals within 24 hours of admission; availing the services of a qualified dietician to regularly verify the nutritional standards of food served in these homes; and ensuring that occupancy did not exceed the sanctioned capacity.

### **SC says beggars' homes must be restorative, not prison-like**

#### **English:**

SC held that beggars' homes should not function as punitive facilities. Residents must get dignity, rehabilitation, and constitutional protections. Court directed reforms: medical check-ups, nutrition checks, occupancy limits.

#### **हिंदी:**

सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने कहा कि भिखारियों के आश्रय गृह जेल जैसे नहीं होने चाहिए। यहाँ गरिमा, पुनर्वास और संवैधानिक अधिकार सुनिश्चित होने चाहिए। कोर्ट ने सुधारात्मक कदम जैसे—स्वास्थ्य जांच, पोषण मानक, और क्षमता सीमा तय करने के निर्देश दिए।