Page-2_Page-2.qxd 22/07/2026 11:16 AM Page 1

Business & Entertainment

Dialogue, Reform Essential to Democratic Accountability

Editorial

The scenes of police using tear gas and batons against largely peaceful protesters in New Delhi have sparked renewed debate over the government's handling of public dissent and the need for greater engagement with citizens. The demonstrators, many of them students and young job aspirants, were protesting alleged irregularities in competitive examinations, including the controversy surrounding NEET, as well as broader concerns over unemployment and delays in recruitment.

The protests underscored growing frustration among India's youth over the credibility of examination systems and the uncertainty surrounding education and employment opportunities. While the immediate trigger was the demand for reforms in examination processes, the demonstrations reflected wider concerns about transparency, accountability and the future prospects of millions of young people entering the workforce.

The government later initiated discussions with representatives of the protesters, a move that many viewed as a positive first step. However, the delay in opening a dialogue has drawn criticism from those who argue that governments should engage with peaceful demonstrators before situations escalate into confrontation.

In a constitutional democracy, the right to peaceful protest is an important democratic safeguard. Parliament exists as the highest forum for public debate, and issues raised by citizens through lawful demonstrations are expected to find expression in legislative and policy discussions. Governments are tasked not only with maintaining public order but also with ensuring that legitimate public concerns are heard and addressed.

The challenges surrounding education and employment cannot be resolved through temporary assurances alone. Strengthening examination systems, ensuring transparency in recruitment, preventing paper leaks, filling vacant government posts in a timely manner and creating sustainable employment opportunities require sustained policy attention and institutional reforms.

For a government that has repeatedly secured a strong electoral mandate, engaging constructively with citizens between elections is not a sign of weakness but of democratic confidence. Open dialogue, timely reforms and respect for peaceful dissent can help restore public trust while reinforcing the principles of accountability and participatory governance that underpin India's democracy.

Hindustan Zinc Recycles 23 Billion Litres of Water

Udaipur: Hindustan Zinc Ltd., the world's largest integrated zinc producer, recycled nearly 23 billion litres of water during FY26, raising its annual water recycling rate to 49% while reducing overall freshwater withdrawal across its integrated mining and smelting operations. The company also maintained its 3.32-times water-positive status, underscoring its continued focus on responsible water management and environmental sustainability.According to the company, the improvement reflects its long-term strategy of embedding circular water management across operations through advanced water recovery technologies, Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD) systems, effluent treatment plants, reverse osmosis units, multi-effect evaporators and increased reuse of treated water. These initiatives have helped reduce dependence on freshwater while improving operational efficiency and supporting business growth.

Arun Misra, Chief Executive Officer of Hindustan Zinc, said the future of mining depends not only on production but also on responsible stewardship of natural resources. He said the company is integrating water efficiency into every stage of its existing operations and future expansion plans to ensure industrial growth does not come at the cost of environmental sustainability.

During FY26, the commissioning of a second filtered tailings plant at Rajpura Dariba strengthened water recovery by enabling the reuse of more than 80% of water from mine tailings. The company's 60-million-litre-per-day sewage treatment plant in Udaipur, developed through a public-private partnership with the Rajasthan government, continues to convert municipal wastewater into industrial-grade water, reducing pressure on freshwater resources while supporting urban wastewater management.Beyond its industrial operations, Hindustan Zinc has implemented more than 280 community water conservation projects over the past five years, including rainwater harvesting structures, pond rejuvenation, check dams and groundwater recharge initiatives. Together, these projects have created a water storage potential of 62.3 million cubic metres, improving water availability in surrounding communities.The company said these initiatives contribute to its broader environmental, social and governance (ESG) commitments and support the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 6 on clean water and sanitation. Hindustan Zinc also highlighted its induction into the International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM) in 2025, becoming the first Indian metals and mining company to align with the organisation's global standards for responsible and sustainable mining.

Zee Classic Honours Manoj Kumar

Mumbai: Zee Classic is celebrating the 89th birth anniversary of legendary actor, writer and filmmaker Manoj Kumar with a week-long film festival showcasing some of his most iconic works from July 19 to July 24, airing daily at 7 p.m.

The special tribute features six landmark films—Roti Kapada Aur Makaan, Upkar, Purab Aur Paschim, Shor, Shaheed and Kranti—highlighting Manoj Kumar's contribution to patriotic and socially relevant cinema. Fondly known as 'Bharat Kumar', he was celebrated for portraying themes of nationalism, social values and the aspirations of ordinary Indians.

Veteran actors Shatrughan Sinha, Hema Malini, Prem Chopra and renowned music composer Pyarelal paid tribute to Manoj Kumar, recalling his dedication, creative vision and commitment to meaningful filmmaking. They described him as a filmmaker who combined entertainment with purpose and inspired generations through his work.The festival concludes on July 24, marking Manoj Kumar's birth anniversary, with a special telecast of the epic Kranti, celebrating the enduring legacy of one of Indian cinema's most influential storytellers.

Tata Sierra EV with 600+ km Range Launched in Udaipur

Udaipur: Tata Motors' authorized dealership, SP Automotive, on Saturday unveiled the much-awaited Tata Sierra EV at its Madri showroom in Udaipur. The launch ceremony was inaugurated by Dr. Anand Gupta, President of the Indian Medical Association (IMA), Udaipur, who described the electric SUV as a significant step toward cleaner, safer, and future-ready mobility.

Company officials showcased the Sierra EV's advanced technology and highlighted its MIDC-certified driving range of over 600 kilometers on a single charge. The premium electric SUV features a Head-Up Display, 540-degree surround-view camera, 12-speaker JBL audio system with Dolby Atmos, Level 2+ Advanced Driver Assistance Systems (ADAS), a triple-screen infotainment setup, and a panoramic glass sunroof, positioning it among the most feature-rich EVs in its segment. (Tata.ev)

The company also announced that the vehicle supports 120 kW DC fast charging, enabling it to gain approximately 263 kilometers of driving range in just 15 minutes, making long-distance travel more convenient. (Tata.ev)

Representatives of SP Automotive said the Tata Sierra EV is priced from ₹18.79 lakh (ex-showroom) and is now available for customers at the dealership's Madri showroom. The launch event attracted a large number of automobile enthusiasts and prospective buyers, who appreciated the SUV's modern design, cutting-edge technology, and premium features.

Romantic Single Wins Audience Appreciation

Mumbai: Hungaamaa House Private Limited has released its latest Hindi romantic single, "Tujhsa Koi Duja Nahi," which has received an enthusiastic response from listeners across YouTube and other music streaming platforms.

The song is sung by Priyanka Sarkar, with music and lyrics composed by Pranav Vatsa. The music video, directed and shot by Ashok Mehta, features Dillzan Wadia and Komal Soni, whose on-screen chemistry has drawn praise from viewers.

Produced and creatively directed by Sanjay Bhushan, the single has been released under the Wildfire Media label on the Hungaamaa House (HHPL) platform. The video was filmed at The Dillzan Resort in Alibaug.The production team included Jeetu Raj (Editing & DI), Ankush Karmakar (Music Programmer), Arvind Sonu (Mixing & Mastering), Monu Roy (Music Production), Deepak Kumar (Graphics), Anil Mandal (Make-up), Govind Singh (Costume Design), Manoj Kumar Rawat (Production) and Ram Yadav (Gimbal Operator).Producer Sanjay Bhushan thanked audiences for their support and said the team looks forward to bringing more quality musical projects to listeners.

PFC Honours ACCA High Achievers

Udaipur: PFC Education honoured students who excelled in the June 2026 ACCA Global Qualification examinations during a felicitation ceremony celebrating academic excellence and professional achievement.

The institute recognised Hardik Singhvi and Aastha Mandhan for attaining the prestigious ACCA Affiliate status after successfully completing the global qualification. Students securing top subject-wise performances were also honoured, including Burhanuddin Bhalam (Audit and Assurance), Piyush Dhadhia (Financial Reporting) and Shaheen Bano (Performance Management).

Several other students who cleared the June 2026 ACCA examinations were felicitated with certificates of excellence and awards in recognition of their achievements.

Airtel Strengthens Odisha Network Ahead of Rath Yatra

Bhubaneswar: Bharti Airtel has enhanced its network infrastructure across Odisha ahead of the annual Puri Rath Yatra, ensuring seamless connectivity for the millions of devotees expected to participate in the festival. The telecom operator has strengthened coverage in Puri and along major road and rail corridors leading to the holy city to handle the anticipated surge in voice and data traffic.

Over the past 12 months, Airtel has deployed more than 1,500 new 5G sites across Odisha, expanding high-speed connectivity to over 11 million customers in all 30 districts. The network upgrade benefits users in urban centres, emerging towns and rural areas.To complement the expansion, Airtel has introduced fully unlimited prepaid plans starting at ₹399, offering unlimited 4G and 5G data along with unlimited voice calling for smartphone users.Airtel COO Abhiroop Chatterjee said ensuring uninterrupted connectivity during the Rath Yatra remains a top priority, with the company committed to delivering a reliable and superior network experience throughout the festival.

Excise Commissioner Namit Mehta to Chair State-Level Review Meeting in Udaipur

Udaipur: Excise Commissioner Namit Mehta will chair a state-level review meeting of the Rajasthan Excise Department at the Zila Parishad Auditorium, Udaipur, on Monday, July 20, at 11 a.m.

According to Additional Excise Commissioner (Policy) Pradeep Singh Sangawat, the meeting will review progress toward revenue targets, pending revenue recovery, excise settlements, enforcement and preventive activities, liquor lifting, pending cases on the Rajasthan Sampark Portal, and other key policy matters.

The meeting will be attended by all Additional Excise Commissioners (Zones), Deputy Commissioners of the Excise Enforcement Wing, District Excise Officers, Assistant Excise Officers (General) and Assistant Excise Officers (Enforcement) from across Rajasthan.

Safexpress Opens Punjab Logistics Park

Rajpura: Safexpress has inaugurated a 2.40 lakh-square-foot ultra-modern Logistics Park in Rajpura, Punjab, strengthening its supply chain network and enhancing logistics infrastructure in northern India.Located on NH-44 at Gandian, Madanpur, the facility is equipped with advanced transshipment and third-party logistics (3PL) capabilities to support faster and more efficient warehousing and distribution. Its cross-dock infrastructure enables the simultaneous loading and unloading of more than 41 vehicles, while a 105-foot column-free span and 16-foot-wide cantilever sheds facilitate seamless, all-weather cargo handling.

Safexpress said the strategic location of Rajpura, between Chandigarh and Delhi, makes it a key logistics hub serving industries including agro-processing, pharmaceuticals, textiles, engineering, automotive components and chemicals.

The facility also incorporates sustainable features such as rainwater harvesting, green spaces and extensive use of natural daylight, along with modern firefighting systems and emergency response measures. The company said the new logistics park will improve transit times, strengthen nationwide connectivity and support industrial and economic growth across Punjab and neighbouring states.

Congress Leader Alleges Delays in Rajasthan MoU Implementation

Udaipur: Rajasthan Pradesh Congress Committee General Secretary and spokesperson Pankaj Kumar Sharma on Sunday accused the state government of failing to effectively implement investment agreements signed under the "Rising Rajasthan" initiative.

In a statement, Sharma said the government had made ambitious claims regarding the memorandums of understanding (MoUs), but alleged that investors are facing prolonged delays in obtaining land allotments, departmental clearances and other statutory approvals. As a result, he claimed, several proposed investment projects have yet to begin.

Sharma said that if the government fails to provide land, required approvals and administrative support within a stipulated timeframe, it could adversely affect industrial development, employment generation and the overall investment climate in the state.

He argued that merely signing and publicizing MoUs is not sufficient, adding that the government's primary responsibility is to ensure their timely and effective implementation.The Congress leader also alleged that a lack of coordination among government departments, bureaucratic delays and administrative inaction are weakening investor confidence. He claimed that if the situation persists, investors may prefer other states over Rajasthan for future investments, potentially affecting the state's economy and employment opportunities.The statement reflects the views and allegations made by Congress leader Pankaj Kumar Sharma. The state government's response was not included in the statement.

Lok Kala Mandal Stages Puppet Ramayana

Udaipur: Artists from Bharatiya Lok Kala Mandal presented the acclaimed puppet play Ramayana during the Jagannath Rath Yatra celebrations organised by the ISKCON Temple at Attapur, Hyderabad, showcasing Rajasthan's traditional string puppetry before a large gathering.Dr. Laeeq Hussain, Director of Bharatiya Lok Kala Mandal, said the production was originally created in the 1960s by the institution's founder, Padma

Shri Devi Lal Samar, and revived in 2019 with support from the Sangeet Natak Akademi. The updated version, rewritten and directed by Dr. Hussain, was first staged during the Deepotsav 2019 celebrations in Ayodhya.The performance depicted key episodes from the Ramayana, including Lord Rama's marriage to Sita, his exile, Sita's abduction by Ravana, Hanuman's search for Sita and the final battle symbolising the triumph of good over evil.

Stage management was handled by Rohit Menaria, while a team of Bharatiya Lok Kala Mandal artists brought the epic to life through Rajasthan's renowned puppetry tradition.

HDFC Bank Marks World Youth Skills Day

Udaipur: HDFC Bank Parivartan, the corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiative of HDFC Bank, has impacted 9.6 lakh individuals through its skill development and livelihood programmes, reaffirming its commitment to building a skilled and self-reliant workforce on the occasion of World Youth Skills Day.

Nusrat Pathan, Head – CSR, HDFC Bank, said the initiative focuses on industry-aligned training, entrepreneurship support and sustainable livelihood opportunities to help young people contribute to India's economic growth.

Since its inception, over 1.96 lakh youth have received formal skill training in sectors including healthcare, retail, logistics, hospitality, banking, IT and electric vehicle maintenance. The programmes also include digital and financial literacy, soft skills and placement support. Additionally, 7.6 lakh women and farmers have benefited from livelihood initiatives such as tailoring, food processing, dairy farming, organic farming and other micro-enterprises.

During FY 2025-26, training completion stood at about 85%, while placement rates averaged around 45%, with some projects achieving up to 92% placements. The initiative currently supports more than 150 projects across all 28 states and eight Union Territories, promoting long-term socio-economic development through education, healthcare, financial inclusion and livelihood enhancement.

BCI Promotes Education-Industry Collaboration

Udaipur: The Business Circle International (BCI) Education Chapter organized a workplace meeting at the Aravali Institute of College Studies, Aravali Knowledge Campus, Umarda, to strengthen collaboration between educational institutions and industry.

The event brought together academicians, entrepreneurs and BCI members for discussions on academic innovation, professional networking and business opportunities. BCI Education Chief Advisor Rahul Badala said the initiative was aimed at familiarizing members with institutional functioning while promoting the exchange of ideas between academia and industry.

Chapter President Alka Sharma said such interactions help expand professional networks and encourage meaningful collaborations. BCI Founder and Chairman Mukesh Madhvani highlighted the organization's commitment to creating a common platform for knowledge sharing, innovation and business growth.

N. L. Khetan, Secretary of the Aravali Group of Colleges, emphasized the importance of stronger industry-academia partnerships for student development. The programme included institutional presentations, interactive discussions and networking sessions. Chapter Secretary Poonam Rathore and Dr. Hemant Dhabhai, Director of AITS, said the initiative would foster long-term academic and professional collaboration.