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NEWS BRIEF

Kharge Seeks Clarity on Special Parliament Session

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking clarity over reports that the government may convene a special session of Parliament to consider constitutional amendments linked to delimitation. Kharge's letter comes amid speculation over Parliament being reconvened after the Monsoon Session. Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju has said the session has not been formally prorogued, leaving open the possibility of another sitting. Kharge reiterated Congress's demand that the Lok Sabha's current strength of 543 seats remain unchanged for another 25 years, along with existing state-wise seat allocation. He also sought implementation of one-third reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies from the 2029 elections. Delimitation has become particularly sensitive in southern states, where concerns persist that population-based redistribution could alter parliamentary representation. Kharge urged wider consultation with political parties before any legislation is introduced. The government has not formally announced a special session or disclosed any specific delimitation Bill.

BJP Faces Gen Z Disconnect Ahead of Polls



The BJP is seeking to strengthen its connect with younger voters as it prepares for a series of crucial Assembly elections. The organisational reshuffle under national president Nitin Nambin is being seen as an effort to refresh the party's structure and respond to emerging political challenges. Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently met newly appointed national office-bearers and cautioned them against complacency as the party prepares for upcoming electoral contests. The BJP's new 65-member national team includes 51 new faces, combining younger leaders with experienced hands. The party has also created a dedicated team for Gen Z outreach, involving leaders including Nitin Nambin, Smriti Irani and Vinod Tawde. The effectiveness of the reshuffle will ultimately depend on whether the party can translate organisational changes into stronger engagement with voters, particularly younger Indians. The initiative aims to increase direct interaction with young people and address concerns over employment, education and future opportunities. Ahead of the elections, the BJP faces the challenge of maintaining its existing support base while building stronger connections with younger Indians whose political priorities and expectations are rapidly evolving.

Reservation Hatao Andolan Shifts Focus to Quota Reforms

NEW DELHI: The "Reservation Hatao Andolan", which began as a campaign against caste-based reservation, is increasingly emerging as a broader platform seeking reforms in India's quota system and greater representation of the general category. Organisers have prepared a charter of demands calling for changes to the existing reservation framework and increased attention to people outside reserved categories.

A key demand is the creation of a National Commission for the General Category. Supporters argue that people from the general category require a dedicated institutional mechanism to raise concerns related to education, employment and government policies. The movement has also called for a review of the reservation system, with greater

consideration of economic disadvantage while determining eligibility for government support.

The campaign is also demanding the withdrawal of the University Grants Commission's 2026 caste-equity regulations, which have become a major point of contention. Activists contend that measures designed to address caste inequalities should not result in discrimination or reduce opportunities based on merit.

Another demand involves reviewing the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act. Organisers say the legislation should be examined to prevent misuse of its provisions while maintaining protections for victims of genuine caste-based atrocities.

The campaign has attracted attention through demonstrations



in Delhi. At Jantar Mantar, protesters called for government assistance to focus more heavily on economic disadvantage rather than caste, particularly in scholarships, education, coaching and other welfare measures. More than 50 people were detained during one protest. Another gathering of around 300 people

at Connaught Place on August 23 resulted in more than 20 detentions after police said the demonstration lacked authorisation.

Supporters argue that quota policies require comprehensive reform, while critics maintain that caste remains an important measure of historical and continuing social discrimination.

Ekam Nyaay Dialogue Chandigarh:

CONFERENCE IN THE CITY ON MEN'S ISSUES, EQUAL JUSTICE



CHANDIGARH: At a time when conversations around relationships, family disputes, sexual offences and the alleged misuse of laws are becoming increasingly polarised, Ekam Nyaay Foundation is set to bring a significant legal and social dialogue to Chandigarh. The Ekam Nyaay Dialogue will be held on August 30, 2026, at Diwan Atma Ram Law Auditorium, Law Bhawan, Chandigarh, under the theme "Balancing Justice: Protecting the Innocent while Empowering the Vulnerable."

The event will bring together eminent voices from the judiciary, legal fraternity, Parliament, journalism and civil society to discuss some of the most sensitive and relevant issues confronting society today.

The conference is bringing together some of the sharpest and most balanced voices from Indian Judiciary.

Chief guests of the event are Dr. Ashok Kumar Mittal, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha and Justice Rajesh Bindal, Former Judge Supreme Court of India.

Dr. Mittal will deliver the inaugural speech about presenting a private member bill in Parliament for establishment of National Commission for Men and also need to look at men's issues seriously in current times. Honourable Justice Rajesh Bindal would deliver keynote address on the theme of the conference - Balancing Justice: Protecting the Innocent while Empowering the Vulnerable

The occasion will also be graced by Hon'ble Justice Rajive Bhalla, Former Judge, Punjab & Haryana High Court; Justice M.M. Kumar, Former Chief Justice, Jammu & Kashmir High Court; Sh. Sanjeev Jindal, Senior Advocate and former Judge; Sh. Anil Malhotra, Senior Advocate; Sh. Kshitij Sharma, Senior Advocate; Smt. Manisha Gulati, Former Chairperson, Punjab State Commission for

Women; Dr. Nidhi Sharma, Assistant Professor, ULLS; Dipcy Sagoo, Digital Content Creator and Social-Media Commentator; Anmol Dang, Social Activist & Content Creator; Deepika Narayan Bhardwaj, Journalist, Documentary Film Maker and Founder Director of Ekam Nyaay Foundation will deliver the welcome address.

The Dialogue will feature important conversations on parental alienation and the hidden emotional scars of custody conflicts; the challenges surrounding consent, protection and due process in sexual offence reporting; the misuse of laws and violence in marital conflicts; and Punjab's overlooked concerns around marriage fraud, migration aspirations and men's suicides. The event will also witness the unveiling of a Husband Murder and Suicide Report, adding another important dimension to the discussion on family conflicts and their human consequences. Ekam Nyaay Foundation has documented 2000+ cases of murder and suicides of men due to adultery, false allegations and marital abuse in the last 3 years.

What makes this Dialogue particularly relevant is that these are not merely legal issues, they are deeply connected with the lives of ordinary people. Behind every family dispute, criminal allegations or prolonged legal battles are individuals, children and families whose lives can be permanently affected by the manner in which justice is delivered.

The conversation is especially important for the youth, who are navigating changing relationships, marriages, questions of consent, individual rights and increasingly complex family dynamics and also young advocates who are dealing with such cases on a daily basis on best practices and sensitive and ethical handling of cases that have long lasting impact on lives of litigants.

The conference would have attendees who have personally faced the brunt of false allegations.

Young citizens need spaces where they can hear different perspectives, engage with experienced voices and understand

CHANDIGARH

CHIEF GUESTS

DR. ASHOK KUMAR MITTAL
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT, RAJYA SABHA

JUSTICE RAJESH BINDAL
FORMER JUDGE, SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

GUEST OF HONOUR

JUSTICE MM KUMAR
FORMER CHIEF JUSTICE OF JAMMU & KASHMIR HIGH COURT

JUSTICE RAJIVE BHALLA
FORMER JUDGE, PUNJAB & HARYANA HIGH COURT

EMINENT SPEAKERS

SANJEEV JINDAL
FORMER JUDGE, JAMMU & KASHMIR HIGH COURT

ANIL MALHOTRA
SENIOR ADVOCATE, PUNJAB & HARYANA HIGH COURT

KSHITIJ SHARMA
SENIOR ADVOCATE, PUNJAB & HARYANA HIGH COURT

MANISHA GULATI
FORMER CHAIRPERSON, PUNJAB STATE COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

ANMOL DANG
DIGITAL CONTENT CREATOR

DEEPIKA NARAYAN BHARDWAJ
JOURNALIST, DOCUMENTARY FILM MAKER

DIPCY SAGOO
SOCIAL MEDIA COMMENTATOR

NIHITHI SHARMA
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

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that complex social problems rarely have simple answers.

Ekam Nyaay Dialogue seeks to create exactly such a platform; one for mature, informed and solution-oriented conversation. Its central message is that protecting genuine victims and ensuring fairness for the accused should not be seen as contradictory goals. A just society must be capable of empowering the vulnerable while remaining equally committed to truth, due process and the presumption of innocence.

With such a diverse panel of

eminent personalities and a range of sensitive issues rarely brought together on one platform, the event is expected to be one of its kind in the capital of two states at this scale. For students, young professionals, lawyers, researchers, journalists and socially conscious citizens, it offers an opportunity to be part of a conversation that goes beyond headlines and hashtags.

Entry is free and registration can be done through the foundations website www.ekamnyay.org. Be Part of the Dialogue. Be Part of the Change.

Nepal Flood Toll Mounts, Hundreds Missing



KATHMANDU: Rescue teams intensified operations across Nepal on Thursday after devastating flash floods and mudslides swept through Himalayan areas near the Nepal-China border. The disaster, reportedly triggered by a glacier collapse, destroyed homes, roads and bridges and left large areas buried under mud and debris. Nepal Police said hundreds of bodies had been recovered, while more than 1,000 people remained missing, including foreign tourists.

Helicopters, drones and rescue personnel were deployed to search for survivors and evacuate stranded people. Damaged roads and bridges, swollen rivers and heavy debris have made access to several affected areas extremely

difficult. Authorities warned that the casualty figure could rise as search operations continue. Indian nationals are also among those reported missing, while 21 Indians from Tamil Nadu who were undertaking the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra have been rescued, according to India's Ministry of External Affairs.

Indian authorities have intensified efforts to trace and assist citizens affected by the disaster. The Ministry of External Affairs has established a special control room to coordinate information and rescue efforts, while maintaining contact with Nepalese authorities to facilitate the evacuation and safe return of stranded Indians. India has also extended humanitarian support to Nepal as rescue and relief operations continue with emergency supplies being arranged for affected communities.

Sugar Prices Ease After Duty-Free Import Move

NEW DELHI: Retail sugar prices declined for the first time in a week after the Centre allowed duty-free imports of one million tonnes of raw sugar. The all-India average retail price fell to ₹64.33 per kg from ₹65.06 a day earlier, offering some relief after prices surged in recent weeks.

The government approved the imports on August 20, its first such move in nearly a decade, to improve domestic availability and control prices ahead of the festive season. Sugar production is estimated at 30.6 million tonnes, below the initial projection of 34.35 million tonnes. Authorities have also imposed



stock limits on dealers and wholesalers to prevent hoarding and improve supplies. Around 3-3.5 lakh tonnes of refined sugar held by Indian refiners is expected to enter the domestic market.

With additional supplies expected, retail prices could moderate further in the coming weeks.

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