

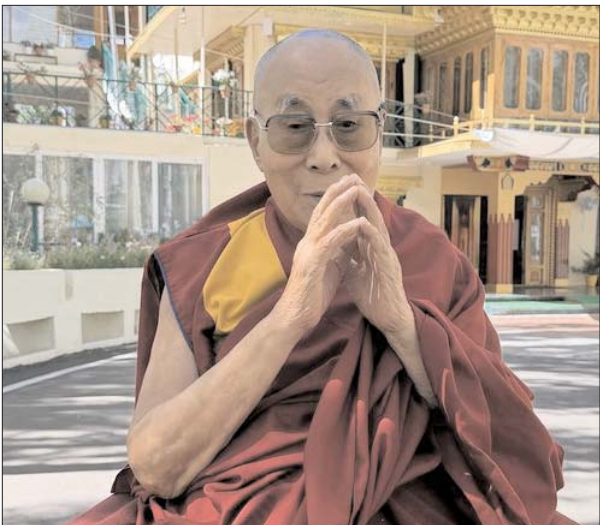
Dalai Lama Returns To Dharamshala After Over 2 Months Long Ladakh Stay

DHARAMSHALA, SEP 4: Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama returned to his official residence in Dharamshala on Friday morning after spending over two months in Ladakh.

He arrived at Kangra's Gaggal airport, where senior Central Tibetan Administration (CTA) officials, including Tibetan Chief Justice Commissioner Yeshe Wangmo, Speaker Dolma Tsering Teykhang and officiating Sikyong Tsegyal Chukya Dranyi, were present to receive him.

He received a warm welcome from thousands of Tibetans, devotees and well-wishers along the route from Gaggal airport to McLeod Ganj.

Traditional Tashi Sholpa dancers performed at the airport as the spiritual leader emerged from the terminal. Tibetans and local residents gathered at several points



along the route, carrying flowers, incense and traditional white scarves to greet him.

Members of the Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile, senior CTA officials, monks and devotees also assembled at the Thekchen Choeling Tsuglagkhang and outside the Dalai Lama's residence in

McLeod Ganj to welcome him back to his Dharamshala home.

The Dalai Lama had left for Ladakh on June 28 and spent over two months there, delivering teachings and participating in a series of religious and public programmes.

His Ladakh visit included

celebrations of his 91st birthday, prayer ceremonies and his participation in the concluding session of the Yarchos Chenmo (Great Summer Debate) at Matho.

His return to Dharamshala follows a prolonged absence from his home base.

Prior to his Ladakh visit, the Dalai Lama underwent left knee replacement surgery in New Delhi on June 8 and remained there during his initial recovery.

The CTA said the Tibetan spiritual leader had safely returned to Dharamshala after successfully completing his Ladakh programme.

His return has brought renewed activity to Dharamshala, the headquarters of the Tibetan exile administration, with devotees and followers gathering to catch a glimpse of the spiritual leader after his extended stay away from the hill town.

102 roads shut; MeT says wet spell in Himachal to continue till Sep 9

SHIMLA, SEP 4: A total of 102 roads were closed in Himachal Pradesh following rainfall, even as the Shimla MeT Office on Friday issued a yellow alert, warning of further heavy rains in isolated areas of the state on Saturday.

Light to moderate rain continued in some parts of the state, officials said. Nahan in Sirmaur district has received 67.3 mm of rain since Thursday evening, followed by Jogindarnagar (57 mm), Nadaun (52.6 mm), and Jatton Barrage and Bharwain (40 mm each).

Thunderstorms and lightning lashed Kangra and Sundernagar, the weather office said and predicted a wet spell in the state till September 9.

Out of the 102 roads closed, the maximum num-



ber of roads are blocked in Mandi district (46), followed by Kullu (22), Sirmaur (11), Kangra (8), Una (4), Chamba, Shimla and Solan (3 each), and Lahaul-Spiti and Bilaspur (1 each), ac-

cording to the State Emergency Operation Centre (SEOC).

Additionally, 125 power transformers and 21 water supply schemes have been hit.

Since the onset of the monsoon on June 30, at least 108 people have died statewide in rain-related incidents, while the state has suffered losses amounting to Rs 1,235 crore, officials said.

40 High-Hazard Glacial Lakes Identified In Sikkim, 16 At Highest Risk Of Outburst

GANGTOK, SEP 4: The eastern Himalayan state of Sikkim has identified 40 high-hazard glacial lakes, with 16 of them classified as being at the highest risk of catastrophic outbursts that could threaten downstream settlements.

The data is significant as it comes against the backdrop of the recent flash flood in Nepal, triggered by a glacial collapse near the Nepal-Tibet border on August 26 that left a trail of destruction with hundreds of people dead and scores missing.

Though the catastrophe was not linked to a Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF), the flash flood has highlighted a broader transformation across the Himalayas as glaciers retreat, new lakes are forming in their place, while existing ones are expanding.

Glacial lakes are formed by the melting of glaciers and accumulation of meltwater in depressions on or near the glacier's surface. GLOFs occur when these lakes suddenly burst open due to factors such as excessive water accumulation or triggers like earthquakes.

These floods can cause significant destruction and pose serious risks to people and the environment downstream.

One such outburst in Sikkim in October 2023 resulted in at least 60 fatalities and extensive damage in the Mangon, Gangtok, Pakyong and Namchi districts. It also destroyed the Chunghang dam, a crucial part of a major hydropower project.

At a media sensitisation workshop on GLOF Risk Mitigation held here on Thursday, Principal Secre-



tary Sandeep Tambe said remote sensing and satellite imagery were being used to monitor changes in glacial lakes.

Of the 40 high-hazard lakes, 16 are in Category A (highest risk), two in Category B (high risk) and nine in Category C (moderate to low risk), while 13 remain unclassified, he said.

The workshop focused on strengthening public understanding of GLOF risks and ensuring that verified, science-based information reaches the public.

Yogan Tamang, the press secretary to Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang, said media sensitisation was crucial to communicating the scientific measures being undertaken to mitigate GLOF risks.

Sikkim's Department of Science and Technology was designated the nodal department for GLOF hazard assessment and mitigation studies in February 2025, with the work being carried out through an interdisciplinary approach, Tamang said.

The state is also working towards what could be the

country's first dedicated GLOF Risk Mitigation Protocol, aimed at creating a standardised scientific framework for assessing, preparing for and mitigating glacial flood risks.

It could also serve as a model for other Himalayan regions, an official release said.

Field studies cover water-level and discharge monitoring, Electrical Resistivity Tomography, geophysical and differential global positioning system surveys, bathymetry, flood modelling, hazard assessment and feasibility studies for lowering lake levels and constructing flood-retention structures.

Tambe said a uniform strategy could not be applied to all lakes, and separate proposals had therefore been prepared for the Lhonak Complex, Shako Chho Lake and Gurudongmar Complex, according to the release.

The Sikkim government has identified Shako Chho as most vulnerable to GLOF.

The Detailed Project Report (DPR) for Shako Chho has been submitted to the National Disaster Manage-

ment Authority, and a preliminary project report has been sent to the Jal Shakti Ministry.

The Central Water Commission is preparing a DPR along with the Sikkim government for a flood-retention structure at Dolma Sampa near Muguthang in the Lhonak Complex.

For the Gurudongmar Complex, a moraine plug wall at the lake outlet has been proposed. The Department of Science and Technology and Brahmaputra Board are jointly working on the proposal, taking into account both GLOF risk and the lake's cultural and religious significance.

The Science and Technology Department's principal director-cum-secretary D G Shrestha said Sikkim's devastating 2023 GLOF had underscored the urgency of strengthening preparedness.

At the policy level, Sikkim is pursuing a whole-of-government approach, clearer business rules, measures to bridge technical expertise gaps and a proposal for a commission on glacial hazards.

Delhi Police busts multi-state cyber fraud racket; 6 arrested

NEW DELHI, SEPT 4: Delhi Police has arrested six people connected to a multi-state cyber fraud racket involved in routing cheated money through multiple bank accounts and shell firms, officials said on Friday.

According to police, with their arrests, including the alleged main handler, police busted a network linked to 89 complaints involving more than Rs 83 crore in fraud, they said.

The accused have been identified as Chetan Sehrawat, Shakti Gurjar, Dharmender Kumar, Tarun, Deepak and Gaurav Kadian.

Acting on an FIR registered at the Dwarka North police station, a suspicious bank account was detected on the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal that re-



ceived cheated money connected to complaints registered in Telangana, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra.

The investigation revealed that mule accounts were opened on the pretext of providing jobs or salary to unsuspecting people, which were subsequently used to rotate the cheated money.

"Sehrawat was the alleged main handler of the racket,

under whom the others worked. The accused opened bank accounts and firms in different names to receive, transfer and withdraw cheated money," a Delhi Police officer said.

A total of 89 complaints involving approximately Rs 83.23 crore were found linked to the racket, while an amount of Rs 1.14 crore was put on hold through timely

legal action.

Sehrawat allegedly fled to Thailand after the registration of the FIR and later moved to Dubai, following which a look-out circular (LOC) was issued against him. He was arrested from the Indira Gandhi International Airport in Delhi, the officer said.

Tarun, who also allegedly attempted to flee to Dubai, was held at the Mumbai International Airport with the help of an LOC.

Police seized 12 mobile phones, 109 cheque books, bank account documents, firm registration papers, PAN and other identity documents and cash deposit slips from the accused.

Police are probing a cryptocurrency angle in the case, the officer said. (PTI)

Sudarsan Pattnaik creates Lord Krishna sand sculpture with 101 makhan handis at Puri beach

BHUBANESHWAR, SEP 4: Internationally acclaimed sand artist and Padma Shri awardee Sudarsan Pattnaik created a magnificent devotional sand sculpture of Bal Gopal (Little Krishna) at Puri Beach in Odisha on Thursday to mark the auspicious occasion of Janmashtami.

The 8-foot-tall sand artwork, carrying the message "Happy Janmashtami," depicts Lord Krishna in his serene and divine Bal Gopal form, capturing the spiritual and cultural essence associated with the festival.

The sculpture features Lit-



tle Krishna holding his beloved flute, alongside a large Makhan Handi (butter pot) and a gentle cow resting beside him.

The composition beauti-

fully evokes the enchanting stories of Krishna's playful childhood in Gokul.

Adding a unique and striking element to the artwork, 101 miniature Makhan Han-

dis have been placed around the main sculpture, symbolising devotion and the joyous spirit associated with Bal Gopal.

The artwork was created with the support of students of the Sudarsan Sand Art Institute.

Extending his Janmash-tami greetings, Pattnaik said, "On the auspicious occasion of Janmashtami, may Lord Krishna bless everyone with peace, happiness, good health and prosperity. May the divine presence of Bal Gopal fill our lives with love, compassion, positivity and harmony."

Delhi Police Assures Arrest Of Swatantra Bharadwaj In 72 Hours: CJP

NEW DELHI, SEP 4: The Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) representatives on Friday said the Delhi Police has assured that Swatantra Bharadwaj, the man accused of assaulting the father of student activist Nishu Azad during a protest at Jantar Mantar, will be arrested within 72 hours.

The assurance came a day after a clip of the interview of Bhardwaj, who describes himself as 'kattar Hindu' (hardline Hindu) made rounds on the internet, in which he was seen admitting that he "cracked the skull" of Sanjay Kumar, Nishu Azad's father, during the protest and escaped being jailed despite the seriousness of the alleged offence.

The CJP, which had organised the protest at Jantar Mantar where the incident took place, has been demanding Bharadwaj's arrest and alleging that Delhi Police failed to take adequate action against him.

The controversy escalated on

Thursday after Delhi Police said 38-year-old Kumar had suffered a simple head injury during a scuffle and rejected claims that his skull had been fractured.

Police said Bharadwaj and another accused, Suraj Kumar, had been detained at the spot, questioned and served notices, and that a chargesheet would be filed.

On Friday, CJP co-conveners Saurav Das and Ashutosh Ranka and scores of supporters, along with MPs Chandrashekhra Azad and Pappu Yadav, reached Parliament Street police station seeking action against Bharadwaj.

Nishu said police assured them that "Bharadwaj would be arrested within 72 hours".

"Police said they will arrest Swatantra in 72 hours. We believe they will take action and not keep delaying it as they were doing," she told reporters.

Nishu also said she had faced verbal abuse and rape threats after the incident and had filed an FIR



in the matter as well.

"I was ashamed of even stepping out. For a few weeks I could not go to school. I feel everyone is judging me. I hope police will take action," she said.

Rishabh, associated with the AICC law department, said the delegation had demanded the addition of charges of attempt to murder, provisions of the SC/ST Act and criminal intimidation to

the FIR.

"The demand was to add significant charges left out -- attempt to murder, SC/ST Act, criminal intimidation charges. They agreed and assured that in 72 hours he

will be arrested," he said.

Rishabh said the police had also assured them that a separate FIR would be registered over alleged online abuse and objectionable images targeting Nishu.

CJP's Saurav Das said the Additional DCP had committed to adding attempt-to-murder and SC/ST Act provisions to the FIR relating to the attack on Sanjay Kumar.

"Goons like Swatantra Bharadwaj came to Jantar Mantra. Did Delhi Police not identify them? He committed attempt to murder. Delhi Police is saving him, no action was taken," Das said.

He said police had also assured them that an FIR would be registered over threats to Nishu and that POC SO Act provisions would be added.

"Delhi Police has assured action in 72 hours. We hope Delhi Police will not allow goons to have a free hand," Das said.

Das said the CJP representa-

tives had come to the police station to seek action and would return if the police did not fulfil its commitments.

"We came here, talked to Delhi Police. If they don't fulfil the commitment, we will have to come back. Delhi Police should fulfil its commitment. We are standing with the students," he said.

The CJP has also questioned the circumstances in which Bharadwaj was allowed to remain free after the Jantar Mantar incident. In the video that triggered the controversy, Bharadwaj appeared to claim that political connections had helped him avoid jail, naming Delhi minister Kapil Mishra and Union minister Chirag Paswan. Politics

Das said senior BJP leaders should clarify the claim.

"If the goon is openly saying Kapil Mishra and Chirag Paswan made the calls and he was released, top leaders of BJP should clarify on this," he said.