

In rare move, 2 RS members made special invitees to joint committee on FCRA Bill

NEW DELHI, SEPT 17: In a rare move, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla has nominated two Rajya Sabha members as "special invitees" to the joint parliamentary committee examining the contentious Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026.

A Lok Sabha bulletin on Wednesday said Javed Ali Khan and James Pangsang Kongkal Sangma have been nominated as special invitees to the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) on the Bill.

Former Lok Sabha secretary general P D T Achari told PTI that Rule 299 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha states that MPs who are not members of the Se-



lect Committee may be present during the deliberations of the Committee but shall not address it or sit in the body of the panel.

A select committee of one House or a joint committee of the two Houses is constituted to examine a Bill, and its term ends upon the submission of a report.

Achari said members with special interests and specialisation in certain fields can be made special invitees, who can sit alongside officials in the same room during panel meetings. However, they cannot sit with members of the committee, he said.

The two MPs were nominated to the joint panel ahead of its first meeting on Friday.

The 31-member JPC was constituted earlier this month after Parliament referred the FCRA Bill to it for detailed examination. The panel comprises 21 members from the Lok Sabha and 10 from the Rajya Sabha.

The Bill was referred to the JPC amid opposition demands for its withdrawal.

Headed by BJP's Sanjay Jaiswal, the panel will examine the provisions of the Bill threadbare before coming out with a report. (PTI)

Modi creator of modern India, his 25 years of 'tapasya' changed people's lives: Nitin Nabin

NEW DELHI, SEPT 17: Describing the Prime Minister as the "creator of modern India", BJP president Nitin Nabin on Thursday greeted Narendra Modi on his birthday, saying his 25 years of "tapasya" had brought changes in the lives and thinking of crores of Indians.

He also said that India is scaling new heights of development and self-reliance under his guidance.

Born on September 17, 1950, in Gujarat's Vadnagar, Modi turned 76 on Thursday.

In a post in Hindi on X, Nabin said, "Heartfelt birthday wishes to the respected Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the leader of 140 crore people of the country and the embodiment of service to the nation and dedication.

Nabin said Modi's journey, guided by the resolve of 'nation first', has been an inspiring saga of service, good governance, and public welfare.

It is not merely the journey of an individual, but also that of the collective dream of the people of the country, which PM Modi has given direction through his actions and steadfast commitment, the BJP chief said.



Nabin further said that under PM Modi's guidance, India is scaling new heights of development and self-reliance, and steadily advancing on the global stage with a renewed identity and strength.

"I pray to the Almighty to grant you excellent health, a long life, and the strength to continue serving the nation," the BJP president said.

Nabin also inaugurated a blood donation camp at the party headquarters here and donated blood, marking the start of the BJP's month-long Seva Sankalp Abhiyan.

Modi's birthday is being observed as 'Seva Diwas', with blood donation camps being organised across the country.

In the evening, the party will also organise the 'aashirwad ka diya' programme, under which party workers will light lamps as a gesture of gratitude for Modi's 25 years in public service.

People have also been urged to do the same at their homes between 6 pm and 7 pm.

Talking to reporters after inaugurating the camp, Nabin described Modi as the "creator of modern India", saying that his birthday is being observed as Seva Diwas, with blood donation camps being organised across the country.

"Today is also the day when we worship Lord Vishwakarma. We can say that along with the creator, today

is also the birthday of the creator of modern India, our Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji," he said.

Nabin said Modi's 25 years of "tapasya" have brought changes in the lives and thinking of crores of Indians.

"I believe that not only in people's lives, but also in the thinking of lakhs and crores of Indians, there has been a change. Today, every Indian is moving forward and working with the spirit of 'nation first'," he said.

He said people across the country will light 'Aashirwad ka Diya' on Modi's birthday and pray for his long life and success.

Nabin said the campaign will also reinforce the vision of a Viksit Bharat and the goal of making India a developed nation by 2047.

"The India that is moving ahead on the path of development, the India that is progressing as a Viksit Bharat and is making its own place on the world stage, we are all associated with this campaign under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is taking that India towards the dream of a developed India by 2047," he said.

Example Of Sacrifice, Unwavering Resolve': Amit Shah Greets PM Modi On 76th Birthday

NEW DELHI, SEP 17: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday extended birthday wishes to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, praising his 25 years of public service and describing his political journey as an example of sacrifice, national service and unwavering resolve. Political news coverage

Calling the prime minister a symbol of tireless hard work, sacrifice and foresight, Shah said, "The life of Modi ji, who has made 'karma' his 'sadhana' and national service the aim of his life, is an epic tale of penance, sacrifice and unwavering resolve."

Born on September 17, 1950, in Gujarat's Vadnagar, Modi turned 76 on Thursday.

"His journey, filled with service and dedication, is an inspiration for millions of countrymen," Shah said on X.

"I pray to God that he remains long-lived and healthy, and under his leadership, the country continues to scale new heights of progress and moves forward towards achieving the goal of a developed India by 2047," Shah said.

His journey from an ordinary volunteer to chief minister and then to the prime minister's chair is a testament to the fact that when the goal of life is national service, even the most difficult resolutions can be fulfilled, Shah said.

The home minister also said that workers like him are fortunate to have had the opportunity to work with Modi in every role he has undertaken.

"The greatest characteristic of Shri Modi's leadership is that the last person in society has always been at the centre of his governance," he said.

"When a mother stands at the threshold of her pucca

house and gives her blessings, or a sister shares how the Ayushman card saved her family, that's when the true meaning of these schemes becomes clear," Shah said in a series of posts on X.

Liberation from triple talaq and the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam have given women new confidence, while Startup India, Skill India and the New Education Policy have opened doors of opportunity for the youth, Shah said.

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Mobile EMI Dispute: Youth Held Hostage For Four Days, Blood Sold; Two Arrested

LUCKNOW, SEP 17: Two people were arrested for allegedly abducting and holding a youth captive for four days over non-payment of a mobile phone instalment, and forcibly taking him to a blood centre where one unit of blood was drawn against his will and sold, police said on Thursday.

Police identified the accused as Aniket Singh alias Kaka (26) and Sushant Sharma (31).

According to the complaint lodged by the victim's mother on September 14, her son Naval Kumar had purchased a mobile phone on instalments.

On September 8, the accused allegedly took him away on the pretext of taking him to a mobile shop after he failed to pay an instalment.

The woman alleged that her son was kept captive for around four days, made to do labour work and assaulted. She also alleged that blood was taken from him and sold.

The accused allegedly also obtained Rs 2,799 from him



online towards the instalment, police said.

The police station registered a case under BNS sections 143(3) (trafficking of a person), 146 (unlawful compulsory labour), 127(3) (wrongful confinement), and 115(2) (voluntary causing hurt), and formed three police teams to trace the accused.

Police arrested the accused on Thursday based on CCTV footage, technical and

manual evidence and local intelligence, and were subsequently produced before a court.

Efforts are underway to arrest another accused.

During interrogation, Sushant told police that he worked as a manager with TVS Credit Services Limited in Lucknow and recovered instalments for financed products. He allegedly said Shubham Singh, a field agent with the company,

and Aniket also worked in instalment recovery.

Police said Sushant admitted that they took Naval from outside his village as part of a plan to teach him a lesson over the unpaid instalment. Police said the accused allegedly kept the victim at Shubham's house for four days and forced him to do plaster-breaking work and also recovered the instalment money from him. (Agencies)

SC Asks CBSE To Consider Implementing 3-Language Policy For Class 6 From Next Year

NEW DELHI, SEPT 17: The Supreme Court on Thursday asked the CBSE to consider implementing its policy mandating the study of three languages, including two native Indian languages, for Class 6 students from the next academic session starting 2027. South Asians & Diaspora

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), represented by Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati, told the bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana that it would consider the suggestion.

Justice Bagchi, at the outset, said that just to comfort the children, the CBSE should consider deferring the implementation of the three-language policy from the next academic year.

If the students, who are in Class 6 at present, want to study three languages from

this year, they can also be allowed, Justice Bagchi added.

The law officer said that the CBSE would consider the suggestion and come back with a fresh note on the issue.

The bench said its suggestions were without prejudice to the rights and contentions of the parties and the real issues may be decided later.

Earlier, the Centre and the CBSE told the bench that they were working on its suggestions on implementing the policy mandating the study of three languages, including two native Indian languages, for Class 6 students.

On May 27, the top court agreed to examine a plea challenging the policy and issued notices to the Centre, the CBSE and the NCERT seeking their responses.

According to a circular issued by the CBSE, the study of three languages, including at least two native Indian languages, has been made

compulsory for Class 9 students beginning July 1.

"Every student in Class 9 would study three languages. Out of the three languages, at least two would be Bharatiya Bhashas. Examples of Bharatiya Bhashas: Hindi, Sanskrit, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Bengali, Punjabi, Gujarati, Odia, Assamese, etc. Examples of non-native languages: English, French, German, Arabic, Spanish, etc.," the CBSE had said in its statement.

Two Indian languages have been made mandatory for Class 6, with some relaxations for Classes 7, 8 and 9 students, who were studying two non-native languages.

The move is part of the CBSE's alignment of its scheme of studies with the National Education Policy-2020 and the National Curriculum Framework for School Education-2023.

According to the circular

issued on May 15, students opting for a foreign language may do so only as the third language after studying two native Indian languages, or as an additional fourth language.

"With effect from July 1, 2026, for Class 9, the study of three languages (R1, R2, R3) shall be compulsory, with at least two languages being native Indian languages," the circular said.

The board said till the dedicated R3 textbooks are available, Class 9 students shall use Class 6 R3 textbooks (2026-27 edition) of the chosen language.

The CBSE said that to keep the focus on learning and reduce any undue pressure on students, no board examination shall be conducted for R3 at the Class 10 level.

It also asked schools to update their R3 language offerings for Classes 6 to 9 on the OASIS portal by June 30. (PTI)

'Chinta Baithak': Cong Takes Swipe At PM Over Upcoming Brainstorming Session With Cabinet Ministers

NEW DELHI, SEP 17: The Congress on Thursday took a swipe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the upcoming 'Chintan Baithak' of Cabinet ministers next week, saying it is more of a "Chinta Baithak" as he had become the "fully deserved" target of questions and criticism.

The opposition party also noted that an unprecedented 35 days have elapsed and the Monsoon Session of Parliament has still not been prorogued.

"It is being reported that the PM has convened a Chintan Baithak of all Union ministers on September 23 and 24.

Actually, this is more a Chinta Baithak given the fact that he has become the fully deserved target of all-round questioning and criticism at a level and with an intensity never witnessed before," Congress general secretary in-charge of communications Jairam Ramesh said on X.

He further said that Union

Home Minister Amit Shah continues his "search for that elusive but wholly superintained" two-thirds majority in the Lok Sabha to avenge the extreme humiliation inflicted on him and the Modi government on April 17 by the solidarity of the Opposition, he said.

"The Republic was saved that day from the passage of his diabolical bills. That solidarity will survive his ongoing efforts to split and intimidate," Ramesh said.

Prime Minister Modi will

chair the two-day 'Chintan Baithak' to discuss key aspects of governance and policymaking, with a special focus on reforms, sources said on Wednesday.

The brainstorming session will be held here on September 23 and 24 and will be attended by all Union Cabinet ministers, sources aware of the matter told PTI.

All Cabinet ministers have been asked to remain in the national capital next week to prepare for and attend the meeting, they said.

Counterfeiting, smuggling undermine manufacturing ambitions, consumer trust: Kovind

NEW DELHI, SEP 17: Former president Ram Nath Kovind on Thursday said counterfeiting and smuggling undermine India's manufacturing ambitions, hurt honest businesses and farmers, and erode consumer trust, as he called for greater international and inter-agency cooperation to combat illicit trade.

Addressing the inaugural session of the 12th edition of FICCI MASCRADE (Movement Against Smuggled and Counterfeit Trade) here, Kovind said counterfeit agricultural inputs, including pesticides, could hurt crop productivity and livelihoods of farmers.

"Counterfeiting can damage the reputation of Indian products and enterprises in global markets. Smuggling can place honest businesses at a disadvantage. And for the consumer, the

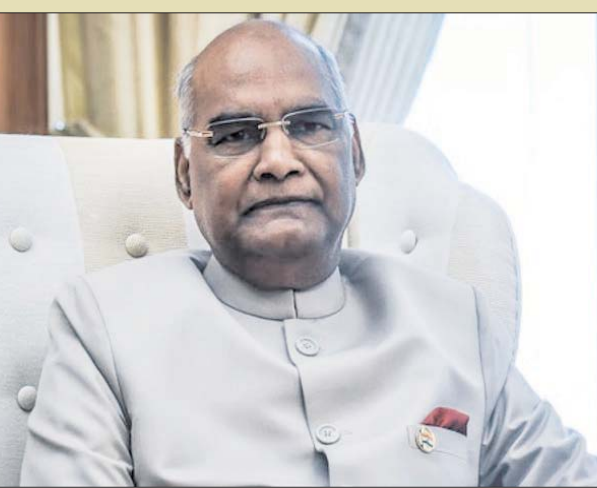
consequences can be deeply personal," said Kovind.

Recalling India's journey from dependence on food imports in the 1960s to self-sufficiency in foodgrains, he said counterfeiting in the agriculture sector threatened gains made in ensuring food and nutritional security, particularly since India's farm productivity "remains lower than global standards".

"Counterfeit agricultural inputs, including pesticides, have far-reaching consequences. They adversely affect crop productivity, harm farmers' livelihoods and, ultimately, undermine our efforts to strengthen the very foundation of food and nutritional security," he added.

Kovind said illicit trade is becoming increasingly transnational and tech-

nologically sophisticated, with criminal networks exploiting global logistics, digital marketplaces, social media and complex financial channels.



"The borders may be different, the jurisdictions may be different, and the agencies involved may be different. But the criminal network works as one

connected system," Kovind said, stressing that the response must consequently also be "unified and collective".

While arguing that data analytics and artificial intelligence could help agencies identify unusual patterns and assess risks, he cautioned that technology alone would not be sufficient.

"We need technology, but we also need inter-agency and international cooperation in intelligence sharing. Information that appears insignificant to one agency may be the missing piece of a much larger investigation for another," he said.

Kovind said criminal networks did not operate in silos and enforcement institutions could therefore not afford to do so either.

He said counterfeiting and smuggling threatened three ideas India needed to protect -- its civilisational tradition, its aspiration to become a global centre of enterprise, manufacturing and innovation, and the interests of an empowered consumer who should be able to purchase products with confidence.

Kovind linked the theme of the conference, "One World, One Fight: Eliminating Counterfeiting and Smuggling Through Collective Action", with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's formulation of "One Earth, One Family, One Future".

The fight against illicit trade, he said, could not remain confined to customs authorities, regulators, industry or consumers and needed to become a wider national effort.