# Ladakh Aadhaar cards drop J&K after 6 years

## It's Administrative Need, Matter Of Identity: L-G Saxena

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**Srinagar:** Even six years after the bifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories, the Aadhaar records of the people of Ladakh continued to reflect J&K instead of Ladakh.

This has finally changed now. Residents of Ladakh can now see their identity reflected in Aadhaar records, with 'Ladakh' replacing 'Jammu & Kashmir' in the 'State' field. The long-pending demand was addressed after the intervention of Ladakh L-G, Vinai Kumar Saxena, who directed the UT administration to resolve the issue at the earliest.

Subsequently, the administration took up the matter with the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI). According to officials, the incorrect representation in Aadhaar records had been causing considerable inconvenience to the people of Ladakh. They were facing difficulty in using Aadhaar as a valid document for identity and address while availing various services, besides facing issues related to Aadhaar-linked records.

Ladakh L-G Vinai Kumar Saxena said the development would greatly benefit the residents by removing procedural hurdles and enabling seamless access to services

To resolve the issue, the UT administration, in coordination with UIDAI, devised a mechanism to update the 'State' field centrally. Instead of requiring each resident to individually visit Aadhaar centres for correction, the records were updated on the basis of PIN codes specific to Ladakh. These PIN codes were verified in coordination with the Department of Posts and shared with UIDAI.

Officials said residents can now easily download their updated e-Aadhaar from the UIDAI portal, and those wishing to obtain a PVC Aadhaar card may order it online by paying a nominal fee.

In a statement, L-G Saxena said the development would greatly benefit the residents of Ladakh by removing procedural hurdles and enabling seamless access to services. "Ensuring that the identity of Ladakh is accurately reflected in official records is not only an administrative necessity, but also a matter of the identity and convenience for our people," he said.

# Scientific evidence can be sole basis for conviction: HC

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**Raipur:** If cogent medical and scientific evidence prove guilt beyond any reasonable doubt, it may serve as the sole basis for conviction, said the division bench of Chhattisgarh high court as it upheld the conviction and life imprisonment of a youth for the rape-murder of a nine-year-old girl in Bijapur district.

Dismissing an appeal filed by the man, challenging the April 9, 2022 conviction by a trial court in Dantewada for the rape-murder of a minor girl, Chief Justice Ramesh Sinha and Justice Ravindra Kumar Agrawal pronounced: "The heinous offence of sexual assault culminating in murder, established through cogent medical evidence and reliable DNA profiling, conclusively proves the appellant's guilt beyond reasonable doubt, fully satisfying the standard of proof. If such evidence inspires the court's confidence, it may serve as the sole basis for conviction." The prosecution submitted that on Jan 15, 2020, the girl was leaving for the local market when the appellant assuring her grandmother that he would accompany the child and bring her back safely.

However, the girl went missing, and police later recovered her body. Following an investigation, a case was registered at Jangla police station and the accused arrested.

In Dec 2022, the additional sessions judge (fast track court), south Bastar Dantewada, convicted him under Section 302 (murder) and Section 376(AB) of the Indian Penal Code, along with Section 6 of Pocso Act. He was sentenced to life imprisonment until natural death.

# Don't blame judges alone for case backlog: SC judge

**New Delhi:** Supreme Court judge Justice **Ahsanuddin Amanullah** on Saturday said the mounting pendency of cases in India cannot be attributed solely to judges, observing that delays in the justice delivery system are often influenced by the manner in which lawyers argue and conduct cases.

"There is absolutely no connection between a judge and the disposal rate. It depends on the Bar, how long they want to argue," he said, adding that members of the legal profession must introspect on practices that contribute to delays, including prolonged arguments and frequent adjournments.

Speaking at the 5th edition of the ICA International Conference on Arbitration in the Era of Globalisation', Justice Amanullah said judges already handle a very large number of cases every day.

"At the trial court level, no judge has a case roster of less than 400-500 matters daily. In the high courts, the number is even higher," he said.

The top court judge said that while judges are required to sit in court for fixed hours and hear matters listed before them, they cannot always curtail arguments made by lawyers.

He said that although judges may occasionally stop lawyers from repeating arguments, they are duty-bound to allow them to present their case fully. "As a judge, can I stop a lawyer from arguing? Yes, sometimes I tell them they are repeating and wasting time. But can I say you don't have the intellect or that your argument is absurd? No, because he may still say something relevant. I have to give him that space," he said.

Justice Amanullah also cautioned against expecting judges to be intellectually dominant figures in court.

"Never, never want a judge to be brilliant and the master in his field, because then he will not give you a hearing. He should be neutral, he should be open. So, brilliance is not a requirement for a judge. Being fully well-versed, he would leave nothing to argument," he pointed out. ■

# Court orders FIR against ex-IPS officer for stripping trader

Prem Punetha | TNN

**Pithoragarh:** The chief judicial magistrate court in Pithoragarh has ordered registration of an FIR against ex-IPS officer Lokeshwar Singh and other police personnel for stripping and assaulting a local trader inside the SP's office in 2023 — a case that has already resulted in a finding of guilt by state's police complaints authority but, as yet, seen no concrete govt action.

Trader Laxmi Datt Joshi alleged that on Feb 6, 2023, he was summoned to the SP's office in Pithoragarh's Takana on the pretext of questioning related to cleanliness at police quarters. There, then-SP Singh and other cops humiliated him after detaining him.

Singh denied the allegations, claiming Joshi was called only for questioning in connection with a vehicle arson case and was allowed to leave the same day. He also claimed that Joshi, who runs a small garments business, has a criminal past. The authority, however, found Singh's claims to be "inconsistent".

Śrimad Bhagavatam 1.9.32

In Loving Memory Of
SMT. KALAWATI NANDALAL KELA
03/06/1931 - 10/04/2026

Though you are no longer with us 'Bai',
your guidance, love, laughter & spirit
remain a part of our lives for ever.
We carry your memory in every step we take.

Fondly remembered by:

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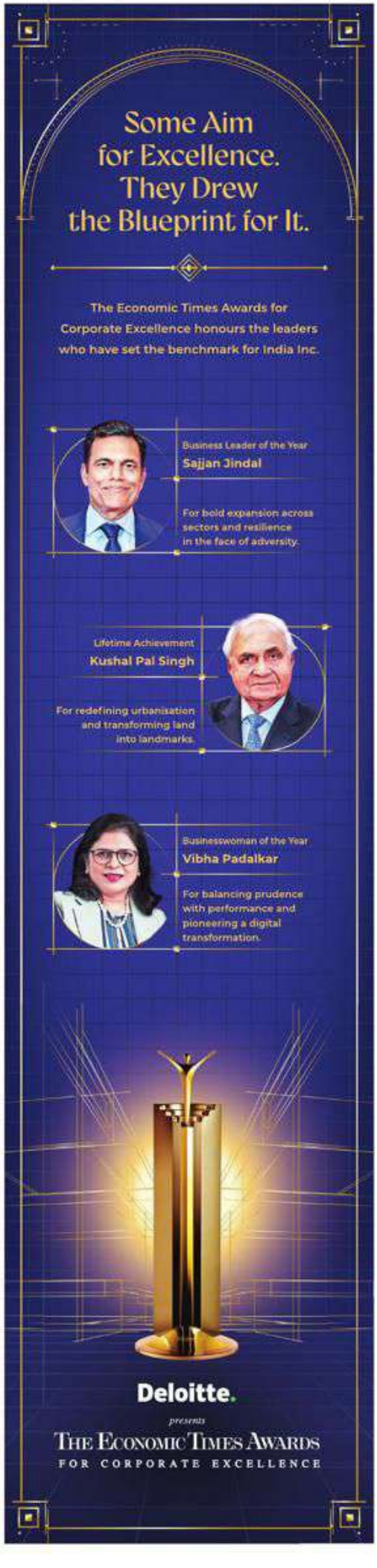
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