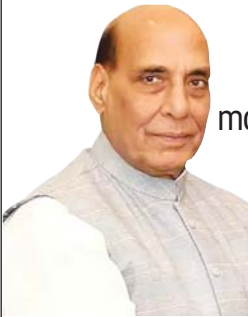


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NATION

India prioritises defence modernisation, says Rajnath Singh



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LAW & JUSTICE

CJI flags misuse of court clips



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BUSINESS

Coal demand to hit 1.6b tonnes



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GLOBAL

India, Bangladesh weigh Tarique's Delhi visit



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SPORTS

1st Test: India, Gambhir eye red-ball reset against Sri Lanka



Caste returns to census after 1931

Respondents will face 40 questions covering caste, religion, education, employment, migration and household financials

RAJESH KUMAR ■ New Delhi

The 2027 census will collect caste details, for the first time since 1931, along with information on bank accounts, Aadhaar numbers and passport numbers. This is the first time caste will be enumerated in Independent India, beyond the existing categories of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The decision to include caste enumeration was taken by the Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on April 30 last year.

The Office of the Registrar General of India (RGI), under the Ministry of Home Affairs, has notified a 40-question Household Schedule for the 2027 Census of India, covering parents' details, caste, Aadhaar and passport numbers, employment status, the location where a person received the COVID19 vaccination, and the total



Census-2011 work in progress at Parengaon, near Rinchengpong, West Sikkim

number of bank accounts held. The questionnaire covers a broad range of demographic, social, educational and economic details. In 2011, there were 29 ques-

tions and now, the Census 2027 has 40 questions with some addition to existing questions.

"In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of

section 8 of the Census Act, 1948 (Act 37 of 1948), the Central Government hereby instructs and directs that the census officers may, within the limits of the local area for

which they have been respectively appointed, ask all such questions of all persons residing within such limits, subject to the items enumerated below, for collecting information through the Household Schedule in connection with the Census of India 2027," a notification from RGI said.

Questions also include queries on name of the person, relationship to head of family, sex, date of birth and age (in completed years), current marital status, age at marriage (in completed years), spouse name, nationality as declared, religion, father's particulars, mother's particulars, disability, mother tongue and other languages known, literacy and digital literacy status, status of attendance in educational institution, highest educational level attained and stream/discipline and if the person has worked any time during last year.

CONTINUED ON >> P4

President promises secure and transparent exams amid protests

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

Against the backdrop of rising concerns among students and competitive examination aspirants and related protests, President Droupadi Murmu in her address to the nation on the eve of the country's 80th Independence Day on Friday said the Government is taking comprehensive steps to reform public examinations to completely curb paper leaks and unfair means, making the system transparent, secure, and trustworthy, as they are the "architects of India's future."

Her remarks assume significance in the backdrop of recent nationwide Gen Z and student-led protests demanding systemic overhauls, fast-track investigations, and stringent legal action following high-profile



President Droupadi Murmu addressing to the nation on the eve of the 80th Independence Day

paper leak irregularities in competitive examinations.

The President stressed that just as Government and society remain united to ensure national security, everyone must contribute through joint and concerted efforts to safeguard the present and future of students. Highlighting the spirit of enterprise among young citizens, she said youths are increasingly embracing a culture of job creation rather

than job seeking. "Many of our youth are embracing the culture of job creation as they pursue the path of self-employment. The participation of young entrepreneurs has led to the creation of a strong start-up ecosystem in our country. Major global enterprises are impressed by the talent and dedication of Indian youth and entrust them with leadership roles," she added.

CONTINUED ON >> P4

The Bystander



NIA seizes Punjab plots in narco-terror case

PRAMOD KUMAR SINGH ■ New Delhi/Amritsar

Two sealed plots in Amritsar's Sultanwind suburb tell a bigger story. For years, National Investigation Agency (NIA) investigators have tracked how 500 kilograms of Pakistani heroin, smuggled by sea almost eight years ago, continues to fund Lashkar-e-



FILE PHOTO

Tayyiba (LeT) through Indian intermediaries, overseas coordinators, and real estate deals used to hide the money.

On Thursday, NIA teams seized Plot Nos. 128 and 129 in Phase-I of Akash Vihar. The plots registered in the name of Anwar Masih were taken under Section 25(1) of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. Officials called the properties "proceeds of terrorism." This move is part of a larger effort to stop funding in the Salaya drug seizure case (RC-26/2020/NIA/DLI).

"By using anti-terror laws instead of regular crime statutes to target these assets, the NIA is making it clear that the financial side of narco-terrorism is now a main focus. The investigation is still ongoing, with attention on the remaining money trails and the overseas links that have kept this network running for almost ten years", senior officials said.

CONTINUED ON >> P4

Uttarakhand: 7 dead in Chamoli tunnel accident

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Jyotirmath

At least seven workers were confirmed dead and three were reported under debris after water gushed inside a tunnel under construction at a hydroelectric project site in Uttarakhand's Chamoli district. According to officials, 22 workers were trapped inside the three-kilometre tunnel when the water rushed in around 7 pm on Thursday, according to the Chamoli district disaster management officer N K Joshi.

The disaster at THDC India Limited's Vishnugad-Pipalkoti hydroelectric project in Mayapur (Pipalkoti) occurred after landslides and subsidence caused debris and water to fill half of the tunnel, trapping the workers inside. According

to the State Emergency Operations Centre on Friday, 19 workers were pulled out of the tunnel during relief and rescue operation, which continued throughout Thursday night. Of these, seven people were dead, and 12 others were injured.

A search is underway for the remaining three workers, who authorities suspect are trapped 1.8 kilometres inside the tunnel. Authorities have deployed machines to remove debris and pump out water to reach the missing workers, even as the continuous rainfall is rendering the operation difficult.

Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami visited Pipalkoti on Friday and reviewed the relief and rescue operations.

CONTINUED ON >> P4



Rescue work in progress after a tunnel under construction at THDC India Limited's Vishnugad-Pipalkoti hydroelectric project in Chamoli district of Uttarakhand collapsed.

PTI

Union health minister Nadda hospitalised

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ New Delhi

Union Health Minister J P Nadda was admitted to AIIMS Delhi after he experienced uneasiness, the hospital said on Friday.

Nadda underwent a coronary angiography after being admitted on Thursday. He is



Union Health Minister J P Nadda

PTI

currently stable and admitted for observation in the cardiology department, it said.

"Union Health Minister JP Nadda was evaluated for uneasiness with tests, including a coronary angiography on the evening of August 13, 2026. He is currently stable and admitted for observation in the Dept of Cardiology, AIIMS," the hospital said in a statement. Nadda's hospitalisation came hours after the Monsoon Session of Parliament concluded on Thursday.

Hydraulics failure flagged in AI2379 altitude plunge

ASHOKE RAJ ■ New Delhi

Initial analysis by Airbus of the Digital Flight Data Recorder from an Air India A320neo that plunged about 300 feet during a Phuket-New Delhi flight has revealed a complete, simultaneous loss of several key flight-control surfaces for roughly four seconds.

The elevators and ailerons on AI2379 became unavailable after failures in all three of the aircraft's hydraulic systems, while the spoilers were also affected. During the four-second disruption, the elevators and ailerons reportedly moved without corresponding pilot commands, leaving the aircraft temporarily without normal



FILE PHOTO

control response.

The simultaneous failure of all three hydraulic systems is considered an unusual development and is now a central focus of the investigation. Airbus has not yet established what caused the systems to fail in such rapid succession.

Hydraulic power is essen-

tial to the operation of the A320's primary flight control. The elevators control the aircraft's pitch, the ailerons control its roll, and spoilers alter lift and drag to help control the aircraft's speed and descent. Airbus said the A320's hydraulic systems are designed with redundancy, meaning the

loss of one system would not normally cause a significant loss of flight control. The unusual feature of this incident was the near-simultaneous disruption of all three systems. Airbus has not yet established why the three hydraulic systems were affected.

The aircraft's autopilot subsequently disconnected as the flight-control systems were disrupted. The co-pilot, who was flying the aircraft, then pushed his side-stick forward after stall warnings were reportedly generated in the cockpit.

A stall occurs when an aircraft's wings are no longer producing sufficient lift to maintain controlled flight. In

CONTINUED ON >> P4

CM Yadav unveils Bhopal metro map

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Bhopal

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav said Madhya Pradesh is set to have two metropolitan cities around Bhopal and Indore, with Bhopal to be developed as a metropolitan city by integrating six districts. He said the move would further enhance the stature and prestige of the State capital.

Yadav was addressing a large Tiranga Yatra organised in the Bhopal South-West Assembly constituency at Shaurya Smarak Tiraha. He



PIONEER PHOTO

flagged off the rally in the presence of MLA Bhagwan Das Sabnani.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister said the entire country was immersed

in the enthusiasm and patriotic fervour of Independence Day, with the Tricolour visible across the nation as people remembered the freedom fighters who made the supreme sacrifice for the country's independence. He said independent India took shape through the courage and valour of those who fought for the country.

Yadav said India was demonstrating its capabilities before the world under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

CONTINUED ON >> P4

The children of 1947 remember the day home was lost forever

ASHOKE RAJ/ABHINAV KUMAR JHA ■ New Delhi

Dispersed across the nation, the last few of a generation recall August 14 as the day when they were told that their home was no longer theirs. Too young to understand the full implications, they left their homes with the hope that they would return soon. Each one now carries memories of what followed, as India commemorates the Partition Horrors Remembrance Day on Friday.

For Bansi Lal Chopra a retired senior government official, who is nearing 90,

Chief Minister assures farmers of support, highlights HD cotton cultivation in Barwani

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Barwani

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav said the Madhya Pradesh Government is committed to improving farmers' prosperity and making agriculture more remunerative. He said the increase in farmers' income through high-density (HD) cotton cultivation in Barwani was a positive example of efforts to improve agricultural returns.

Yadav made the remarks while interacting directly with farmers during his visit to Barwani on Friday under the Chief Minister Jan Vishwas Abhiyan. He discussed issues related to farming and sought information from farmers about their experiences, requirements, problems and suggestions.

The Chief Minister also took feedback on crop production, irrigation facilities, availability of agricultural inputs and the benefits farmers were receiving under various government schemes. He assured them that their suggestions and problems would be heard with sensitivity and that effective steps would be taken for their resolution.

Yadav said the State Government was continuously working for farmers' welfare and that this year was being observed as Kisan Kalyan Varsh in Madhya Pradesh. Planned efforts were being made to increase farmers' incomes, improve the profitability of agriculture and ensure timely access to gov-



ernment schemes.

During the interaction, farmers informed the Chief Minister about the introduction of HD cotton cultivation in the district. They said the method requires comparatively less fertiliser and has resulted in higher production, thereby improving returns. Farmers said HD cotton had initially been introduced across around 5,000 hectares in the district.

Yadav sought information about new technologies and innovations being adopted in agriculture and stressed the need to promote methods that reduce production costs while improving farmers' economic returns.

Officials informed the Chief Minister that cotton is cultivated across a significant part of Barwani's agricultural area,

with nearly one-third of the district's agricultural land under cotton. The district also has substantial production of various horticultural crops. Officials briefed him on agricultural innovations and facilities being provided to farmers.

During the interaction, Hariram Rathore, a farmer from Borlay village, told Yadav that he was engaged in dairy farming and had benefited from the Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar Kamdhenu Yojana. He said the scheme had helped him expand his livestock and dairy business. Yadav said animal husbandry and dairy production were important avenues for increasing farmers' incomes and stressed effective implementation of government schemes.

The Chief Minister also said the State Government was providing grants to gaushalas and promoting animal husbandry and dairy production alongside agriculture. He said strengthening allied activities was essential to increasing farm incomes.

Yadav said the Government was focusing on expanding irrigation facilities, developing agricultural infrastructure, promoting modern farming technologies and ensuring that eligible farmers receive the benefits of various schemes.

He said farmers' hard work strengthens the State's economy and assured them that the Government would continue working for their welfare. He urged farmers to remain informed about government schemes and avail themselves of eligible benefits.

CM-led Tiranga Yatra turns Kolar Road into sea of Tricolours

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Bhopal

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav said India is celebrating its 80th Independence Day with great enthusiasm and patriotic fervour, with the world looking at the country as a strong and powerful nation. He said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Tricolour is flying proudly across the land, sea and sky.

Addressing a massive Tiranga Yatra organised by Karmashri in the Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee Nagar-Kolar Road area of Bhopal, Yadav said India is the world's largest democracy and the youngest major nation. He expressed confidence that by the time the country completes its Amrit Kaal, India would emerge as the world's best nation.

Yadav flagged off the rally from Mother Teresa School and led the procession in an open jeep. Former Pro Tem Speaker and MLA Rameshwar Sharma was also present.

Praising the scale and enthusiasm of the rally, Yadav said the participation of a large number of youth and local residents was a source of joy and pride. He said the enthusiasm of young people had made the Tiranga Yatra one of the largest such rallies in the country.

The Chief Minister urged participants to uphold the dignity of the National Flag and strictly follow the prescribed rules and protocols governing its use. He also called upon the youth to remain committed to the unity, integrity and sov-



eignty of the nation.

Yadav said Madhya Pradesh was moving forward in line with Prime Minister Modi's vision, with the welfare of the poor, farmers, youth and women at the centre of the State Government's efforts. He said Madhya Pradesh is the country's second-largest State geographically and has a strong youth population.

He recalled that 2025 was observed in the State as the Year of Industrial Investment and said the Government was currently focusing on farmers' welfare under the Farmer Welfare Year. He added that 2027 would be observed as 'Yuva Varsh' in Madhya Pradesh.

Yadav congratulated Rameshwar Sharma and the Karmashri organisers for organising the massive rally. He also interacted with participants, took selfies with

them and greeted school-children along the route.

Sharma said people were committed to strengthening the spirit of the Tricolour and Vande Mataram and realising the vision of Akhand Bharat. He urged young people to remain dedicated to the National Flag, democratic values and the principles enshrined in the Constitution.

Sharma also appealed to youth to stay away from drugs, highlighting the 'Nasha Se Doori Hai Zaroori' campaign being implemented across the State.

A large number of young bikers carrying the Tricolour participated in the rally. Residents welcomed the procession at several points by showering flowers, waving the national flag and raising slogans of 'Vande Mataram' and 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai'.

Senior citizens, women, schoolchildren and teachers

also joined the celebrations. Students dressed as Bharat Mata and freedom fighters added to the patriotic atmosphere, while patriotic songs and slogans echoed along the Kolar Road as the massive procession moved through the area.

The rally also highlighted the strong participation of the local community, with residents along the route joining the celebrations and expressing their patriotic spirit. The presence of bikers, school-children, women and senior citizens added to the scale of the event, while participants carried the Tricolour with pride and joined in patriotic slogans. The programme provided a platform for people, particularly the youth, to come together around the values of national unity, democratic commitment and respect for the country's heritage.



Indian Forest Service Officers wives association members celebrate on the eve of Independence Day, in Bhopal on Friday.

Pioneer photo

CM highlights unity, patriotism on Partition Day

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Bhopal

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav said India's strength and stature have grown significantly under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the past 12-and-a-half years. He said the country was progressing rapidly on the guiding principle of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas and Sabka Prayas'.

Yadav said that with the resolve to build a developed India, the country would emerge as one of the world's most powerful and leading nations when it completes 100 years of Independence in 2047. He said India is the world's largest democracy and among its youngest nations.

Highlighting the strength of India's democratic system, Yadav said its success could be seen in the rise of leaders from grassroots backgrounds

to the highest constitutional positions through their ability and merit.

The Chief Minister was addressing a programme organised at Shaurya Smarak on 'Vibhajan Vibhishika' Day. He said the 80th Independence Day was being celebrated from August 9 to 17 under the 'Har Ghar Tiranga, Ghar-Ghar Tiranga' campaign, following the Prime Minister's call.

He said Tiranga Yatras were being organised across Madhya Pradesh throughout the week with enthusiasm and patriotic fervour. Yadav said every citizen was proud of the freedom fighters who made invaluable contributions and sacrifices for the country's Independence and urged people across the State and the country to celebrate Independence Day with full enthusiasm.

Yadav paid floral tribute to Bharat Mata at Shaurya

Smarak before inaugurating and visiting the 'Pravasi Senani Veethi'. The gallery showcases the contribution, sacrifices and history of the Indian diaspora in the country's struggle for Independence.

He also visited a photo exhibition on the Partition horrors organised at Shaurya Smarak and flagged off a Tiranga Bike Rally of police personnel. Yadav said the police personnel participating in the rally with a spirit of patriotism and public service would travel across Bhopal and inspire people to dedicate themselves to serving the nation.

He said the 'Har Ghar Tiranga, Ghar-Ghar Tiranga' campaign had become a nationwide celebration of patriotism and public participation, with the Tricolour flying proudly across districts and cities.

Referring to 'Vibhajan

Vibhishika' Day, Yadav said it reminded people of the tragedy and suffering caused by the Partition of India in 1947. Thousands of families were forced to leave their homes and belongings behind, while children, women and elderly people endured immense hardship. He expressed hope that such a tragedy would never recur and called upon people to learn from the painful chapter of history and resolve to strengthen unity, brotherhood and the spirit of an undivided nation.

Additional Chief Secretary, Culture and Tourism, Shiv Shekhar Shukla, NCC cadets, police officers and local residents were present at the programme.

Yadav said the Tricolour campaign was strengthening patriotic spirit and encouraging citizens to actively participate in nation-building.

Mahakal, Harishchandra statues unveiled in Gohad

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Gohad (Bhind)

Statues of Baba Mahakal and Raja Harishchandra along with his family were unveiled at a grand ceremony at the Mukti Dham premises near Gohad Chauraha. The statues, installed with public contributions at an estimated cost of Rs 67 lakh, were unveiled in the presence of religious saints, public representatives and a large gathering of devotees and local residents.

The ceremony was attended by Shri Shri 1008 Mahamandaleshwar Rambhushan Das Maharaj, Baba Balkdas Maharaj, Sardar Sevaadar Baba, Shubham Ji Maharaj, Dayanand Ji Maharaj, Chetandas Maharaj, Ramdas Ji Maharaj, Omprakash Shastri, Sister BK Rukmani and BJP Scheduled Caste Morcha national president and former minister Lalsingh Arya.

Addressing the gathering, Mahamandaleshwar Rambhushan Das Maharaj said the life of Raja Harishchandra remains an unparalleled example of truth, sacrifice and righteousness in Indian culture. Despite facing several hardships, he never aban-

doned the path of truth and Dharma. He said the statues of Harishchandra and his family at Mukti Dham would remind people of their duties, values and responsibilities.

Baba Balkdas Maharaj stressed the need to impart religious values, moral education and knowledge of Indian culture to children alongside modern education. He urged parents to introduce children to the lives and ideals of great personalities so that future generations remain connected with their cultural traditions.

Lalsingh Arya said human life should be devoted to service, harmony and welfare of others. He urged people to avoid actions that cause distress to others and said Mukti Dham was not merely a place for last rites but also a site that reminds people of the transience of life and the importance of humanity. Arya thanked donors and social workers who contributed to the project. During the programme, the construction of a waiting room at the Mukti Dham was also proposed to provide seating and waiting facilities for relatives and devotees attending last rites.

NDVSU honours Prof Mehra

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Jabalpur

Nanaji Deshmukh Veterinary Science University (NDVSU) on Friday inaugurated the Dr K.N. Mehra Memorial Seminar Hall at the College of Veterinary Science and Animal Husbandry in Jabalpur.

Vice-Chancellor Prof. (Dr) Mandeep Sharma inaugurated the facility in the presence of Registrar Dr Rakhi Vaishya, Dean Dr S.S. Tomar, faculty members, students, researchers and others.

The seminar hall has been established in memory of late Prof. (Dr) Kailash Nath Mehra, former Professor and officiating Head of the Department of Veterinary Microbiology. Born on July 16, 1940, Prof. Mehra made significant contributions to teaching, research and academic activities before his death on August 12, 2025.

Members of the Mehra family, including Dr Vishal Mehra, Dr Sonal Mehra and Dr Vivek Mehra, attended the programme. The Vice-Chancellor said the facility would serve as a platform for seminars, scientific meetings, workshops, lectures and research activities.

Two arrested for highway robbery in Indore district

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Indore

Indore Rural Police have arrested two men in connection with a robbery reported on the NH-03 Agra-M

Girls protest school shift to Daudkhedi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Ujjain

Around 300-350 girl students of Sarafa School staged a protest outside the district collectorate on Friday against the proposed shifting of the school to Daudkhedi, around 12-15 km from the city. The students raised slogans against the administration, while two girls reportedly fainted during the demonstration and were taken to hospital.

The protesting students said shifting the school to a distant location would create difficulties related to daily travel, transportation and safety. One student, Deepika Sharma, said many students would find it difficult to commute such a long distance.

Another student, Saloni Sharma, said the students raised slogans including "We will not go to Daudkhedi" and "This arbi-

trariness will not continue". Parents also expressed concern over the proposed relocation. Parent Urmila Vishwakarma, whose two daughters study in Classes 9 and 11, said families were worried about transportation and safety at the new location. Other parents said students from distant areas could face additional difficulties, particularly if they have to change buses to reach the school.

According to advocate Jitendra Sengar of the School Bachao Committee, the proposed changes could affect around 2,500-2,600 students across six schools.

He said more than 1,000 girls could be affected, while students from other schools, including those at Mahakal Maidan, Maharajwada, CM Rise, Nutan and Madhavendra, would also face the impact.

Sengar said several students already travel 15-25 km to attend

school and some reach home as late as 7 pm after completing their journey. He said the shift could particularly affect students from rural and economically weaker families, whose parents may find it difficult to arrange daily transport.

Sengar also questioned the proposed relocation in view of provisions under the Right to Education Act concerning the distance between schools and students' residences. District Education Officer Mahendra Khatri said the proposal was a government decision and that the final decision would be taken by the district-level monitoring committee. He said no final decision had yet been taken on shifting Sarafa School to Daudkhedi.

Several parents said the proposed shift could increase the daily travel burden on students and make it more difficult for families to ensure their children reach school safely and on time.

High-tension line kills student

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Datia

A Class 11 student died after coming in contact with an 11,000-volt high-tension electricity line while attempting to install the Tricolour on the roof of a private school in Datia on Friday.

The deceased was identified as Raj Kushwaha, a resident of Jonia village and a student of Little Star Public School. According to City Kotwali police, Raj was attempting to install the national flag using an iron pipe when the pipe came into contact with the overhead high-tension line. He suffered severe electric burns and died at the spot.

According to the family, Raj had left for home after the school closed at around 1.30 pm. They alleged that the school operator, Nandkishore Kushwaha, later called him back to the school to help with preparations for Independence Day and sent him to the roof to install the flag.

The family also alleged that the school management did not immediately inform them about the incident. Raj's relatives demanded action against those responsible and said they wanted justice rather than compensation.

Raj's mother alleged that her son was called back to school despite having already returned home and said the family was not informed promptly after the accident.



Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav interacts with girl students at Government Higher Secondary School, Borlai in Barwani district, on Friday. Pioneer photo



UCO Bank's new Nehru Nagar branch was inaugurated virtually in Bhopal on August 14, 2026, ahead of Independence Day. The inauguration was conducted by Rajendra Kumar Sabu, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (additional charge), along with the Executive Director. The event was attended by Bhopal Zonal Head Lokesh Kumar, Deputy Zonal Head Suman, Assistant General Manager Om Prakash Gunani, Principal Rajiv Gangwar, Branch Head Gaurav Kumar and other dignitaries. The Zonal Head said UCO Bank remains committed to providing excellent customer service. Pioneer photo

Lokayukta books civic official in assets case

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Indore

The Lokayukta police on Friday conducted simultaneous searches at two premises linked to Jitendra Kumar Pandey, an Assistant Revenue Officer with the Indore Municipal Corporation, over alleged possession of disproportionate assets.

The action was carried out by the Indore Lokayukta unit on the directions of Director General Lokayukta Yogesh Deshmukh and under the leadership of Superintendent of Police, Lokayukta Indore, Rajesh Sahay.

According to the Lokayukta, information was received that Pandey had allegedly acquired assets disproportionate to his known legal income during his 31-year service.

Investigators found that a G+3 building had been constructed on a 40x50-foot plot in Anand Nagar Extension, Navlakha Chitawad, Gajadhar Nagar, Indore, in the name of Pandey's wife, Bhavna Pandey. The estimated expenditure on the property was around Rs 1.20 crore.

Another G+2 building was allegedly constructed in the name of his wife on Plot No. 32 in Gajadhar Nagar, Chitawad, Gulmohar Ka Bagh, Indore. The building is being used as a hostel, with expenditure estimated at around Rs 91.50 lakh.

The Lokayukta also found expenditure of around Rs 14 lakh on the purchase of four-wheelers and two-wheelers in the names of Pandey, his wife, son and daughter, besides other expenses.

According to the preliminary assessment, Pandey

received an estimated total salary of Rs 80 lakh during his entire service period, against which expenditure of around Rs 2.53 crore was found. The Lokayukta said the expenditure was approximately Rs 1.73 crore higher than his legal income, amounting to 216.35 per cent disproportionate assets.

A case has been registered against Pandey under Sections 13(1)(b) and 13(2) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, as amended in 2018.

The search operation at both locations was underway.

The Lokayukta team is continuing the search operation to assess the official's assets and gather relevant documents and evidence. Further details are expected to emerge after completion of the searches at both premises.

Mahi water project gains pace in Ratlam

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Ratlam

As part of the Chief Minister's Jan Vishwas Campaign, Ratlam Collector Ajay Katesariya inspected the Mahi River-based drinking water project near the Jhabua district border along with officials of the Water Corporation.

The ambitious project aims to draw water from the Mahi River and provide a regular supply of safe and clean drinking water to 630 villages across Ratlam district.

During the inspection, Katesariya reviewed the intake well, filtration plant and other ongoing construction works. He sought detailed information from officials about the progress

of the project and reviewed the quality of construction as well as compliance with the stipulated timelines. He also issued necessary directions to officials regarding the ongoing work.

The Collector said the project is being developed at an estimated cost of around Rs 1,700 crore and is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2027. He said the inspection was aimed at identifying challenges affecting the project and ensuring their prompt resolution so that construction could be accelerated and drinking water supplied to rural residents within the fixed timeframe.

Katesariya said the project is of immense importance to Ratlam district and would provide a long-term solu-

tion to the drinking water needs of rural residents. Once completed, the project will provide thousands of people across 630 villages with access to a regular supply of clean drinking water.

CEO, District Panchayat, Vaishali Jain, and Sailana SDM were also present during the inspection.

The Collector also directed officials to maintain close coordination among all agencies involved in the project and ensure that work at different components progresses simultaneously. He stressed the need for regular monitoring at the field level so that any technical or administrative issues are addressed without delay and the project remains on track for timely completion.

Officials lead fuel saving drive

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Agar Malwa

Senior district officials in Agar Malwa travelled together in a single passenger bus on Friday to attend the Chief Minister's Jan Vishwas Camp at Gangapur village, responding to the call of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Mohan Yadav to promote fuel conservation.

Collector Sher Singh Meena, Superintendent of Police Dilip Yadav, Additional District Magistrate Shalini Shrivastava and other district officials departed from the Collectorate in the same bus as part of the initiative aimed at reducing fuel consumption and promoting environmental conservation.

The district administration said the initiative was intended to create aware-

ness about the importance of conserving petrol and diesel and encourage citizens to adopt practices such as using public transport, carpooling and travelling together in a single vehicle wherever possible.

Collector Meena said the Government's objective was to lead by example and inspire citizens to use natural resources judiciously and avoid unnecessary consumption. He said conserving fuel was important not only for the country's economy but also for protecting the environment.

The second Jan Vishwas Camp in the district is being organised at Gangapur village, where officials from various government departments will hear public grievances and work towards resolving people's problems on the spot.

Alok Sharma flags NGO foreign funding

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Bhopal

Bhopal MP Alok Sharma on Friday raised concerns over foreign funding received by NGOs and organisations, saying people should know how much money comes to India from countries such as Pakistan, China and others and how it is used.

Addressing a programme organised on Partition Horrors Remembrance Day at Vilayikaran Dwar in Bhopal, Sharma claimed that several NGOs in the city receive foreign funds and that money is withdrawn through multiple banks. He said transparency was essential in matters related to foreign funding.

Sharma said there were forces in the country allegedly working at the behest of Pakistan, China and Bangladesh and seeking to

destabilise India. He said the Narendra Modi government had strengthened the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) framework to monitor foreign donations and prevent their misuse.

The programme included a silent march and an exhibition documenting the Partition of 1947, including the struggles and rehabilitation of people displaced during the division of the country. Sharma and Bhopal Mayor Malti Rai honoured 150 Partition survivors who had migrated to Bhopal from Sindh. Ten people were also presented surrender letters.

Sharma said August 14 should not be viewed as a day of celebration but as a day to remember the millions who lost their homes, families and property during Partition. He said Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government decided

in 2021 to observe August 14 as Partition Horrors Remembrance Day so that future generations could understand the tragedy.

He also recalled Bhopal's merger with India, saying the erstwhile Bhopal princely state did not become part of independent India on August 15, 1947. He referred to the resistance against the Nawab's rule and the sacrifices made during the merger movement, including the deaths of five young men during a flag-hoisting movement at Bauras near Raisen.

Sharma said Bhopal eventually merged with India on June 1, 1949, after a prolonged movement.

Referring to people who migrated from Sindh, Sharma said the Central Government had facilitated Indian citizenship for people who came to India from Pakistan.

CM to confer 47 service medals

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Bhopal

As many as 20 IPS and SPS officers and police personnel from Madhya Pradesh have been selected by the Government of India for the President's Medal for Distinguished Service and Medal for Meritorious Service. The selected personnel will be formally awarded the medals next year.

Meanwhile, 47 police and Home Guard personnel who have already been selected for the honours will be awarded their medals by Chief Minister Mohan Yadav during the Independence Day medal investiture ceremony at Lal Parade

IN FOCUS



The Swarna Jayanti Dwar at the Attari Border Outpost is illuminated in the Indian tricolour on the eve of the 80th Independence Day in Amritsar, Punjab on Friday

49 lakh Delhi electors may be absent, shifted, dead in SIR: Official

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

Around 49 lakh of Delhi's 1.45 crore electors — nearly 34 per cent — will likely fall under the absent, shifted, dead and duplicate (ASDD) categories in the ongoing SIR of electoral rolls, a senior poll official said on Friday.

The estimate comes as the house-to-house enumeration exercise nears its August 17 deadline, with the official saying the final ASDD numbers will be available at 5 pm that day. "Of the forms we distributed, 99.5 per cent of those have been disposed of," the official said, explaining that the forms had either entered the digitised category or been placed in the ASDD categories. With around 65-66 per cent of the forms digitised, the official said, the remaining roughly 34 per cent would broadly constitute the pool from which the ASDD figures would emerge. The latest report of the Delhi CEO's office, issued on August 13, showed that 96,61,655 enumeration forms, or 66.58 per cent of Delhi's 1,45,10,298 electors, had been digitised. The official said the largest



component among those falling in the ASDD categories was expected to be people who had permanently shifted or were absent from the address where the enumeration form was delivered. "Either their vote must have been registered somewhere else, or there is some other situation like that," the official said.

The district-wise figures show a wide variation in digitisation. The Outer North district recorded the highest digitisation at around 75.51 per cent, followed by West at 72.89 per cent (10,61,225 forms) and South West at 72.83 per cent (9,68,453). North East recorded 70.54 per cent (13,19,575), while North West stood at 70.51 per cent (9,00,448).

South East recorded the lowest digitisation at 55.15 per cent (8,58,850).

Govt to scrap 12-minute TV advertisement cap

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

The Government has decided to remove the 12-minute-per-hour cap on advertisements aired by television channels, the Information and Broadcasting ministry said on Friday, citing sweeping changes in the broadcasting landscape.

The decision comes months after the Delhi High Court upheld the restriction, introduced in 2006, and ruled that there was "no constitutional guarantee of profitability or unlimited monetisation of public resources".

The restriction, contained in Rule 7(11) of the Cable Television Networks Rules, 1994, currently bars television channels from carrying advertisements exceeding 12 minutes in an hour, including up to 10 minutes of commercial advertisements and two minutes of self-promotional content.

In its statement, the ministry pointed out that in 2006, when the restriction was introduced, there were only 62 TV channels, compared to more than 900 channels at present.

In view of the changes that have occurred in the TV broadcasting sector, a need was felt to revisit the stipulations relating to advertisement duration. In India, the sector is heavily dependent on advertising, irrespective of whether



a channel is 'pay' or 'free-to-air'. Furthermore, there was a non-level playing field for traditional TV channels vis-a-vis digital media, where no such stipulation on advertisement cap regulation exists," the statement said.

The decision will come into effect once the amendment to the Cable Television Networks Rules, 1994, is notified in the Gazette, it said, adding that it was being done "to enable fair competition and ensure ease of doing business".

In May, a Delhi High Court bench of justices Anil Kshetarpal and Amit Mahajan dismissed petitions by several general entertainment channels, news broadcasters and regional channels challenging the restriction's legal validity. The court held that

TRAI acted within its statutory authority in fixing a ceiling of "10+2 minutes per clock hour" and said the framework struck a proportionate balance between broadcasters' rights and public interest.

It had observed that spectrum and airwaves were scarce public resources held in trust by the State and said the restriction prevented excessive commercial exploitation while ensuring their equitable use.

"There is no constitutional guarantee of profitability or unlimited monetisation of public resources," the court had said, rejecting broadcasters' arguments that the cap adversely affected their advertising revenues and commercial speech rights.

Unity essential to protecting Sanatan traditions: Adityanath

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Ayodhya (UP)

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Friday said unity was essential to protecting Sanatan traditions, noting that the country had suffered because people were divided and lacked unity.

Addressing a programme in Ayodhya to commemorate the life and contribution of late Mahant Paramhans Ramchandra Das Maharaj, Adityanath spoke at length about the Ram Janmabhoomi movement, the transformation of Ayodhya and historical conflicts over religious sites, particularly Sambhal.

He said the country had suffered because people were divided and lacked unity. Adityanath recalled



questioning some clerics over the use of the word "animal" for the cow.

"Our Sanatan tradition and India's heritage — why did you call the cow an animal? And if I used the same word for you, how would you feel?" he said, adding that the clerics replied, "Sir, it was a mistake." Adityanath said he then asked whether it was a mistake or a deliberate act.

Drug kingpin Basoya extradited

PRAMOD KUMAR SINGH
■ New Delhi

The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) has extradited fugitive drug kingpin Virender Singh Basoya from the United Arab Emirates (UAE), in a major step in India's fight against narcotics. Basoya, also known as Viru, was wanted in a ₹13,000-crore drug seizure case investigated by the Delhi Police Special Cell. He arrived in India on an Air India flight and was taken into NCB custody at Indira Gandhi International Airport in New Delhi. UAE authorities arrested him in June after Interpol issued a Red Notice at the NCB's request.

Officials said ongoing cooperation between Indian agencies and UAE authorities made Basoya's return possible. Reacting on the extradi-



tion Union Minister for Home Affairs, Amit Shah posted on X: "Modi Govt is relentlessly tracking down drug traffickers hiding abroad and destroying their entire ecosystem with a ruthless approach. Creating a new milestone in the policy of zero tolerance against narcotics, the NCB secured the return of fugitive drug kingpin Virender Singh Basoya from the UAE. By tracing the criminal

through a top-to-bottom and bottom-to-top approach, our agencies have once again proven that no matter where drug traffickers hide, they cannot escape the long arm of Indian law."

Investigators say 50-year-old Basoya, a businessman based in Dubai and originally from Delhi's Sarojini Nagar, allegedly funded and ran a transnational drug syndicate. In 2024, Delhi Police seized 1,289 kg of cocaine and about 40 kg of hydroponic Thai marijuana. The drugs were reportedly smuggled through pharmaceutical companies in south India and Gujarat, using five real firms and three shell companies, and then sent as medicine packages to Delhi-NCB.

Basoya is also linked to a Rs 6,000-crore mephedrone case in Pune from February 2024, where about 1,837 kg

were seized. He left for Dubai soon after the Pune raid and continued running the network from there. He is reportedly a close associate of Sandeep Dhunia, the main accused in the Delhi case, who later escaped to Pakistan. Basoya's younger son, Rishab Basoya (25), along with Ritik Bajaj, Pramod, and Vikas Rane, were previously declared proclaimed offenders. Authorities are reportedly working on extraditing Rishab. Out of the 19 people named in the Delhi Police chargesheet against the cartel, 14 have already been arrested.

Investigators plan to question him about international supply routes, money laundering, and other local accomplices. Basoya will be produced before a special court in New Delhi as the investigation continues.

FROM PAGE - 1

Caste returns to Census after 1931

"For the conduct of the above Census, there shall be an option for self-enumeration from August 17 to 31 just before the start of house-to-house population enumeration," the notification added. Respondents will also be asked for attendance in an educational institution, highest educational level, stream, discipline, if they worked at any time during the last year, category of economic activity, occupation, nature of industry, trade or service, class of worker and if engaged in non-economic activity (for marginal, semi-marginal and non-worker).

Questions on migration will cover a person's birthplace, place of last residence, reason for migration, duration of stay in the current village or town and permanent residential address and if they travel to their place of work will also be part of the questionnaire.

Currently married, widowed, divorced and separated women will be asked for the number of children surviving at present, the number of children in the current marriage, and the number of children born alive in the last one year.

According to a gazette notification issued earlier this month, population enumeration in Ladakh and snow-bound non-synchronous areas of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, will take place from September 1 to 30. In the rest of the country, the population enumeration (PE) will begin next year. In January, the RGI had notified 33 questions for the first phase of Census 2027, covering housing and housing-related details. The questionnaire included a query on whether the head of the household belonged to the SC, ST or "other" category.

Uttarakhand: 7 dead in Chamoli tunnel accident

He also visited the 12 injured workers admitted to a hospital in Chamoli. The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), police, and other technical and specialist teams are engaged in the relief and rescue operation. Due to debris and water in the tunnel, the operation is being carried out with utmost caution and coordination.

Garhwal range Inspector General of Police Rajiv Swaroop said that difficulties are being faced in the rescue operation due to continuous rain, but they are confident that the operation will be successful. The district magistrate along with Garhwal MP Anil Baluni, is monitoring the rescue operation at the site. The DM has directed officials to ensure the effective use of all necessary resources and technical assistance to search for the missing people.

President promises secure and transparent...

President Murmu also lauded the "unmatched valour" of the Indian Armed Forces, saying Operation Sindoor demonstrated the country's capability to execute precision counter-terror operations and sent a firm message that terror elements and their backers will face consequences regardless of where they hide.

She recalled the anniversary of the military action alongside historic observances like Kargil Vijay Diwas, reaffirming India's tradition of overcoming forces hostile to humanity.

The President also highlighted the strategic measures accompanying the counter-terror posture, describing the decision to suspend the Indus Waters Treaty with the nation harbouring terror networks as a "decisive step in the interest of our nation, especially the farmers."

On internal security, she termed the eradication of Naxalism a monumental achievement for the country after decades of struggle. Highlighting the nation's civilisational heritage, the President said that Samath, the site of Lord Buddha's first sermon, was included in the UNESCO World Heritage List this year, following the listing of 12 Maratha military forts last year. Addressing foreign policy, she reiterated that peace, dialogue, cooperation, and the ideal of *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam* (the world is one family) remain the bedrock of India's international relations.

The President also touched upon senior care, pointing out that alongside the world's largest young population, India is also seeing a rise in senior citizens and noted that about six crore senior citizens aged 70 and above can now avail of free healthcare services up to Rs 5 lakh per year under government initiatives, urging society to remain sensitive and uphold their dignity. She stressed that guided by the spirit of *Antyodaya*, the core resolve of the nation remains ensuring the fruits of development

Our blood has been sucked: Omar slams Pak over J&K’s water rights

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Srinagar

Accusing Pakistan of “sucking the blood” of Jammu and Kashmir by denying it the right to use its river resources, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday launched an attack on Islamabad for staking a claim over waters originating from the region, asserting that the neighbouring country cannot be selective in its sympathy for Kashmiris.

Responding to remarks by Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif regarding the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT), Abdullah maintained that the people of Jammu and Kashmir have historically borne the brunt of the water-sharing framework.

“We have always been saying that our blood has been sucked — these are our rivers. We had the first right on this. Pakistanis say they are great sympathisers of Kashmiris. But when it comes to water, their sympathy dis-



appears. Where was their sympathy when we were denied permission to use our rivers?” Abdullah told reporters here.

Sharif had earlier warned that “every drop of water is our red line” and stated that Islamabad would issue a “direct response” if its water supplies were threatened.

Lashing out at the historical division under the IWT, Abdullah pointed out that out of the six rivers, India retained three belonging to Punjab, while the three rivers of Jammu and Kashmir were

handed over to Pakistan, causing long-term detriment to the local population.

“From then until today, we are suffering the consequences of this Indus Waters Treaty. We could neither draw drinking water from the Chenab, nor could we use the Jhelum for navigation by building a barrage on Tulbul, nor could we stop water by building a big dam on any of our rivers,” he said.

Noting that the IWT was kept in abeyance following the terror attack in Pahalgam, the chief minister asserted

that the treaty should remain revoked to allow Jammu and Kashmir to utilise its natural resources fully.

“Our blood has been sucked, and now that the Indus Waters Treaty has been suspended, it should remain suspended so that we can make proper use of this water,” Abdullah asserted.

Reacting to the assassination attempt on former Punjab deputy chief minister Sukhbir Badal, Abdullah condemned it and said the incident has raised serious concerns over security lapses.

“We strongly condemn this, and such attacks should not take place. Before this also, there was an attack in Amritsar, after which it was stated that special care would be taken of his security, that there will be Z-plus security.

“But where is the Z-plus? The attack took place for the second time, this time he was even injured, and had to be taken to the hospital for treatment,” Abdullah said.

CBI arrests proclaimed offender Masad Seikh in 2022 Bhadu Seikh murder case

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has arrested proclaimed offender Masad Seikh in connection with the Bhadu Seikh murder case, originating from Wari Bander, Dongri, Mumbai. The accused had been at large since the FIR was filed in 2022 and had not participated in the investigation or trial proceedings. His whereabouts were determined through human intelligence and technical inputs.

The case was registered by the CBI on April 8, 2022, following an order from the Calcutta High Court dated the same day. It involved transferring FIR number 168/2022 from Rampurhat Police Station, concerning the murder of Bhadu Seikh on

March 21, 2022, at Bogtui in Birbhum district, West Bengal.

Following the investigation, the CBI filed a chargesheet and supplementary chargesheets in 2022 and 2023 against nine accused individuals, including Masad Seikh, before the Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate, Rampurhat, Birbhum. The trial was later transferred to the Additional District and Sessions Judge, 4th Court, Purba Bardhaman, West Bengal.

The accused's prolonged absence delayed proceedings. As a proclaimed offender, he remained untraceable for over four years until CBI teams located him in Mumbai. The arrested individual will now be transported from Mumbai to Kolkata for presentation before the



appropriate court.

The CBI emphasised that the arrest highlights its commitment to ensuring the presence of all charge-sheeted individuals in cases transferred by higher judicial authorities. Further legal

actions, including remand, will be pursued once the accused appears in court in West Bengal. The Bhadu Seikh murder case attracted regional attention due to the circumstances surrounding the crime and the High Court's

Partition Horrors Remembrance Day observed at Sealdah

SAUGAR SENGUPTA
■ Kolkata

Bengal observed the Partition Horrors Remembrance Day even as a Bhumi Pujan (ground-breaking ceremony) was held at the iconic Sealdah Station in Kolkata for the installation of a memorial statue dedicated to the victims of the Partition of 1947.

The memorial, which was likely to be completed by November, will exhibit and pay tribute to the countless people who endured the largest human displacement, suffering, violence and loss in recorded history during the Partition.

“Trains came from that side loaded with dead bodies and stink of blood ... it all told the grim stories of those who died there or en route and those who were left to die homeless, destination less far away from their homesteads in Kolkata and suburbs,” Bengal Industries Minister Tapas Roy said.

“The Partition of India was



not a simple drawing of a line through the courtyards, ponds, paddy fields or homesteads ... it was a partition of aspirations, sense of belonging, hope and everything ... lakhs of people came and went when population traversed from this side or that side of the border ... this mural will make us remember their sacrifices and pains suffered by that generation ... the next generation must know what happened to those who were the victims of the partition,” Bengal Minister Agnimitra Paul said

adding from now on the day would be observed on August 13 and 14 every year.

The Bengal Government extended the observance across August 13 and 14, making arrangements for district-level candle marches, documentary screenings, and archival photo exhibitions detailing the human cost of the 1947 Partition.

“Every day several thousand people come to Kolkata via Sealdah, which was a living witness to the horrors of Partition ... the mural and the statue will offer an

insight into what happened then for those who may have forgotten this or who have not known this side of the history,” Paul said.

The programme was held in coordination with the Union Ministry of Culture and the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA).

Apart from Paul and Roy, Bengal Minister of State for Information and Cultural Affairs Purnima Chakraborty and senior Eastern Railway and IGNCa officials were present at the programme.

On why Sealdah station was to be chosen for the installation of the mural, a senior official said that “because most of the victims of the Partition arrived at Sealdah from living behind their homes, dead relatives and properties, Sealdah became a very important transit point”, adding that not a single day passed when fewer than 2000 refugees were camping at Sealdah Station for three years from 1947. “We still are bearing the brunt of Partition,” he said.

Congress, BJP spar over Karnataka Bill regulating use of Govt places

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Bengaluru

The proposed Karnataka Regulation of Use of Government Premises and Public Property Bill, cleared by the state cabinet proposes three years' jail term or a fine up to five lakh.

Repeating the offence may be punishable for a period of up to five years and a fine of over ₹10 lakhs.

The bill, cleared by the state cabinet on Thursday, aims to regulate the use of public places and Government premises and makes prior permission from competent authorities mandatory for conducting various activities. The ruling Congress and the BJP locked horns over the bill.

While the BJP leaders alleged that this was aimed to target the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), Karnataka Home Minister clarified that nowhere is the name of any organisation mentioned.

Karnataka Home Minister Priyank Kharge had last year written to the then Chief Minister Siddaramaiah requesting a ban on RSS activities in Government schools, colleges, and public spaces.

“An organisation called the RSS has been conducting its shakhas in Government and Government-aided schools, as well as in public grounds, where slogans are shouted, and negative ideas are instilled in the minds of children and youth,” Kharge wrote.

He explained that such practices “go against India's unity and the spirit of the Constitution”.

Chief Minister DK Shivakumar said any event organised in a public place requires permission even if Government is organising it.



The proposed bill stated that it has come to the notice of the Government that several private organisations, associations and groups have been utilising public premises and Government property such as lands, playgrounds, parks, community halls and public roads for conducting their activities, programmes, celebrations and gatherings without obtaining prior permission or even informing the authorities concerned.

“It is necessary to empower the jurisdictional Deputy Commissioner and Superintendent of Police to consider such applications and to grant or refuse permission having regard to public safety, law and order, and the need to prevent nuisance or ‘divisive activities’,” said the draft bill.

Route marches have also been categorised as procession, which would require permission of the competent authority.

The proposed bill further said, “No person or organisation shall hold, organise, conduct or permit any procession, Meeting, assembly, function, celebration, event, training or any other activity in any of the Government property or premises attached to thereof without obtaining prior written per-

mission from the competent authority.”

It laid emphasis on preservation of communal harmony and preventing sloganeering or other such utterances that may cause nuisance and cause resentment to other religious, political, social, linguistic or cultural groups.

Whoever uses or permits the use of any Government property without permission, or in contravention of any condition imposed, under this Act or rules, shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend up to three years, or with fine which may extend up to Rs five lakh, or with both, the draft bill reads.

“In the case of a second or subsequent offence, such person shall be punishable with imprisonment which may extend up to five years and with fine which may extend up to Rs 10 lakh, or with both.

CM Shivakumar said prior permission would be mandatory to hold programmes on public property, amid a controversy over a proposed Bill regulating its use.

“Permission is required for everyone,” Shivakumar told reporters on Thursday night.

Jal Jeevan Mission completes 7 years, tap water reaches 15.91 crore rural homes



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

As India prepares to celebrate its 80th Independence Day on Saturday, the Jal Jeevan Mission is set to complete seven years of implementation, with rural tap-water coverage increasing from 3.23 crore households at the time of its launch on August 15, 2019 to more than 15.91 crore households now, according to the Jal Shakti Ministry.

The Jal Jeevan Mission was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on August 15, 2019, during his Independence Day address.

Rural tap-water coverage has now crossed 82 per cent, while over 2.8 lakh villages have certified themselves as ‘Har Ghar Jal’ and more than 1 lakh Gram Panchayats have also been certified as Har Ghar Jal, the ministry said.

The seven-year milestone comes as the mission enters a new phase focused not only on expanding coverage but also on ensuring that the infrastructure created delivers reliable and sustainable water services.

IJM 2.0, approved by the Union Cabinet in March 2026 and extended until December 2028, places greater emphasis on assured service delivery, operation and maintenance, water-quality surveillance, source sustainability, community ownership and digital monitoring.

A key element of this phase is Jan Bhagidari, with gram panchayats, Village Water



■ States Focus ■



ANNPURNA DEVI SLAMS RAHUL OVER REMARKS ON GIORGIA MELONI

Union Women and Child Development Minister Annpurna Devi on Friday said it was shameful of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi to make an “objectionable” and “disrespectful” remark against a woman head of state, referring to Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni.

“The Congress party and Rahul Gandhi are leaving no stone unturned in disgracing democratic values with their distorted mindset and reckless politics,” Devi said in a post on X. The remark comes after Gandhi mocked Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s “hug diplomacy” at a Congress convention in New Delhi by giving party leader Sandeep Dikshit a mock hug. Dikshit then said, “You weren’t hugging me thinking I was Meloni?” The exchange has led to a backlash from several BJP leaders.



CM NAIDU FLAGS OFF 58 MODERN FIREFIGHTING VEHICLES IN ANDHRA

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Friday flagged off 58 modern firefighting vehicles for the State Fire Services Department. The flag-off ceremony was held at the second steel bridge on the newly inaugurated E3 Seed Access Road in Undavalli village of Tadepalli mandal in Guntur district.

The new fleet, procured at a total cost of nearly ₹40 crore, comprises 25 advanced firefighting vehicles, 20 water bowsters and 13 Quick Response Multipurpose Firefighting Vehicles. “We are strengthening the Fire Services Department in phases with modern vehicles and equipment to better protect people’s lives and property during fire accidents and disasters,” Naidu said in a press release.

BJP slams Rahul Gandhi over foreign policy jibe, says arrogance turning into madness

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

The BJP on Friday slammed Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for his remarks on Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s handling of foreign policy, saying it seems his “arrogance” is now turning into “madness.”

“The nation must decide whether what Rahul Gandhi has done is merely the childish antics of a frustrated, deranged and envious person consumed by jealousy towards Modi, or the nefarious act of an individual serving as an instrument in a systematic conspiracy orchestrated by forces across the border,” BJP spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi told reporters here.

The Congress and Gandhi have emerged as a “challenge” to the country’s “healthy democracy”, he charged.



This came a day after Gandhi referred to the BJP-RSS as a “bunch of jokers” who have no understanding of India and scoffed at Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s handling of foreign policy which he claimed was all about hugging leaders.

Speaking at the Rachnatmak Congress National Convention here on Thursday, he also said it has somehow been ingrained in



Modi’s mind that foreign policy is about hugging leaders.

Gandhi then hugged Rachnatmak Congress chief Sandeep Dikshit in a bid to demonstrate what the current Government’s foreign policy was about.

“Imagine the ignorance... where did he get the idea that foreign policy was about hugging leaders?” he said.

Dikshit then asked Gandhi,

“Ek cheez pooch sakta hoon? Meloni samajh ke toh nahi pakda tha?”

Gandhi responded by saying, “I have not reached there yet.”

Trivedi condemned Gandhi’s remarks, terming them “rude and indecent.”

“What Rahul Gandhi has said makes it evident that his arrogance is now turning into madness. He appears to be losing his mental balance,” the BJP Rajya Sabha MP said, when asked.

Use of such “rude, indecent and condemnable language” by Gandhi shows he is probably crossing “all kinds of extremes out of frustration” now, Trivedi charged.

“Until now, it seemed that he was competing with Maoist and Muslim League leaders. Now it seems he is competing with the comedians who make reels of abuses and profanity,” the BJP leader added.

Amrit Udyan to open for public from August 16

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

President Droupadi Murmu on Friday graced the opening of the famed Amrit Udyan inside the Rashtrapati Bhavan. The summer annuals of Amrit Udyan will be open for the public from August 16 to September 15, between 10 am and 6 pm. It will remain closed on all Mondays for maintenance.

“President Droupadi Murmu graced the opening of Amrit Udyan Summer Annuals Edition 2026 at Rashtrapati Bhavan,” her office said in a post on social media and shared pictures of the event.

Indigenous and native flowering plants, known for their vibrant colours and ecological significance, will be the major attraction of the Udyan this time.

The indigenous collection includes Balsam/Gul-mehndi, Aparajita, Rukmini, Barsha Phool, Lal Saag and Nagphana among others, showcasing India’s rich floral heritage and enhancing the biodiversity of the gardens.

Sportspersons on August 29 and teachers on September 5 will get exclusive access to Amrit Udyan to



President Droupadi Murmu during the opening of Amrit Udyan Summer Annuals Edition 2026 at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi on Friday

mark the National Sports Day and Teachers’ Day, respectively. Entry and exit for visitors will be from gate no 35, located near North Avenue Road.

Entry to Amrit Udyan will be free of cost, but visitors have to book their slots online at visit.rashtrapatibhavan.gov.in in advance.

Registrations for slot booking will close at 10 am on the previous day, and there will be no on-the-spot booking available.

Visitors can carry mobile phones, electronic keys,

purses, handbags, water bottles, baby milk bottles and umbrellas inside the Udyan.

For the convenience of the visitors, drinking water stalls, first aid posts, rain shelter and restrooms will be set up along the route of the visit.

A shuttle bus service with the banner ‘SHUTTLE SERVICE FOR AMRIT UDYAN’ will also be available from Central Secretariat Metro Station to the entry point to the Amrit Udyan at an interval of every 30 minutes between 9.30 am and 6 pm.

Sufferings of partition must be remembered so that they do not repeat: Vice President

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

Vice-President CP Radhakrishnan on Friday said the suffering and sacrifices endured by people during the Partition must be remembered to ensure that such a “horror” is never repeated and stressed the need to preserve the country’s unity and harmony.

Radhakrishnan, who is also the Chancellor of Delhi University, was speaking as the chief guest at an event organised by the Centre for Independence and Partition Studies (CIPS) and the Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR) on the Partition Horrors Remembrance Day.

The theme this year was “Story of India’s Partition (1947)”.

“It is just one day before we celebrate our Independence Day. We must remember that the joy of freedom must never be separated from the sufferings that our elders endured in 1947,” Radhakrishnan said, adding, “Partition was one of the most tragic and dehu-



Vice President CP Radhakrishnan felicitates a Partition survivor on the occasion of Partition Horrors Remembrance Day at the University of Delhi in New Delhi

manising chapters in the history of our nation.”

He said remembering the past was not about “opening old wounds”, but about learning from history and moving towards greater harmony.

“It is to remember that freedom did not come without any cost, sufferings or sacrifice. The sufferings borne by our elders made India a free country. This type of horror must never happen again,” he added.

The Vice-President also emphasised the responsibility of citizens to safeguard the country’s integrity and respect its diversity.



“It is the prime duty of all of us to maintain the integrity of this nation. My mother tongue is important to me, but that does not mean I am to hate the mother tongue of others. We should be very proud to be Indians,” he said.

An exhibition showcasing the Partition-era materials was organised as part of the event. The exhibition featured archival materials from the Prime Ministers’ Museum and Library, besides extracts from books by ICHR chairman Raghuvendra Tanwar as well as documents from the ICHR library.

Independence Day: 21 CBI personnel honoured

PRESIDENT'S MEDAL FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE (PSM)					
Assistant Inspector General of Police (SP, CBI, Complaint & Coordination Cell, New Delhi)	Additional Superintendent of Police, CBI, BSFB, Kolkata	Additional Superintendent of Police, CBI Academy, Ghaziabad			
Deputy Superintendent of Police, CBI, ACB, Visakhapatnam	Assistant Sub-Inspector, CBI, Head Office, New Delhi	Assistant Sub-Inspector, CBI, IPCU, New Delhi			
MEDAL FOR MERITORIOUS SERVICE (MSM)					
Deputy Legal Advisor, CBI, ACB, Lucknow	Senior System Analyst, CBI, TAFSU, Mumbai	Deputy Superintendent of Police, CBI, ACB, Delhi	Deputy Superintendent of Police, CBI, SCB, Kolkata	Deputy Superintendent of Police, CBI, ACB, Chennai	
Deputy Superintendent of Police, CBI, Complaint & Coordination Cell, New Delhi	Inspector, CBI, ACB, New Delhi	Sub-Inspector, CBI, SI, New Delhi	Assistant Sub-Inspector, CBI, SC-I, New Delhi	Head Constable, CBI, ACB, Chandigarh	
Head Constable, CBI, ACB, Lucknow	Head Constable, CBI, ACB, Jaipur	Constable, CBI, ACB, Madurai	Constable, CBI, ACB, Patna	Constable, CBI, ACB, Bangalore	

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

Twenty-one CBI personnel have been awarded the coveted President’s Medal for Distinguished Service and Medal for Meritorious Service on the occasion of Independence Day.

Assistant Sub-Inspector Ramesh Chand, Assistant Inspector Shobha Dutta, Additional Superintendent of Police Manoj Banerjee, Ginni Rana, Deputy Superintendent of Police Sanjay Kumar Samal, and Assistant Sub-Inspector Madan Lal Dhiman have been awarded the President’s Medal for Distinguished Service (PSM), the Central Bureau of

Investigation (CBI) said in a statement.

Fifteen personnel have been awarded the Medal for Meritorious Service (MSM).

The awardees include Deputy Legal Advisor, Brijesh Singh, Senior System Analyst Girish Joshi, Deputy SPs Manoj Kumar, Om Prakash Chandra, Zahir Akhtar Ansari, Ashish Anand, Inspectors Sarita Yadav, Sub-Inspectors Roshan Kumar, Assistant Sub-Inspector Dilbar Singh Bisht, Head Constables Balkar Singh, Govind Singh Bisht, Kamlesh Kumar Gurjar, Head Constable, CBI, Constables Pal Pandian R, Ajay Kumar Singh, and Kalyanadurgam Samiullah, it said.

India prioritises defence modernisation, production jumps to ₹1.78 lakh crore, says Rajnath Singh

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday said the Government is according the highest priority to the modernisation of the defence forces driven by a self-reliant and future-ready defence sector.

Stating this is his address to the soldiers through Akashvani on the eve of 80th Independence Day highlighted the transformative shift witnessed by the defence sector in the last 12 years due to initiatives such as ‘Aatmanirbhar Bharat’ and ‘Make-in-India.’

He asserted that India has become a nation which is effectively catering to its own security needs, while emerging as a global defence manufacturing hub and a net defence exporter.

Rajnath Singh emphas

India can hit hard: Doval on Operation Sindoor

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

Sending out a stern warning to the perpetrators of terrorism, National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval has said India's generosity and tolerance should not be mistaken for weakness, asserting that the country can take risks and hit hard, irrespective of the consequences.

Breaking silence over Operation Sindoor for the first time, he said the objective of the 88-hour military operation was to destroy enemy camps, particularly those responsible for the Pahalgam terror attack.

Speaking in the upcoming Discovery docuseries "Declassified: Operation Sindoor", Doval said "We had decided the objective of the operation as destruction of the enemy camps, particularly those who had been responsible for the Pahalgam attack."

"Message to the world is very clear — India's generosity or India being tolerant should not be mistaken for its weakness. India can take risks, India can hit hard, irrespective of the consequences," he added.

The two-part docuseries brings together India's military and national security leadership to recount the decisions and events surrounding Operation Sindoor, with first-hand accounts from those who oversaw



India's response, Discovery said in a statement. In the show, Doval offers an account of the decision-making and resolve behind the military response, it added. "Declassified: Operation Sindoor" will premiere on Saturday at 9 pm on Discovery and streaming service discovery+.

Operation Sindoor was launched early on May 7 last year in retaliation for the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack in which 26 innocents were killed, with Indian forces conducting precision strikes on multiple terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK).

The punitive action by the Indian armed forces killed more than 100 terrorists

deep inside Pakistan and destroyed several strategic assets including air fields and other installations.

Pakistan later also launched offensives against India, and all subsequent counter-offensives by India were also carried out under Operation Sindoor.

The military conflict between the two nuclear-armed neighbours, lasting nearly 88 hours, halted after they reached an understanding on the evening of May 10.

The remarks reiterate India's shift toward an active deterrence posture, signaling that restraint does not limit the country's capacity or willingness to respond forcefully to cross-border threats.

Doval's remarks offer a rare insight into the strategic

thinking behind Operation Sindoor and the resolve at the highest levels of India's national security establishment following the Pahalgam terror attack.

The two-part docuseries brings together India's senior military and national security leadership, operational commanders and frontline personnel who were involved in planning and executing the 88-hour response.

The series also examines the military thinking that followed once the objective had been set, including target assessment, decisions taken as the situation developed and the responsibility placed on those carrying out the mission.

Former Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan said the Pahalgam attack had deeply affected the country and that India had decided not to bow to such threats.

"Like, I think, all citizens of the country, we were actually hit by the brutality of this attack. I think it was most barbaric. It was decided that India would not bow down to such kinds of threats," Chauhan said.

He also stressed the importance of knowing when to bring a conflict to an end. "At a strategic level, I think that knowing when to stop a conflict is equally important. It is easy to start a war; it is very difficult to

stop it," the former CDS said. Chauhan also spoke about the decision to have two women officers represent the armed forces during press briefings on Operation Sindoor.

"From the armed forces, we were represented by two women officers, and it conveyed two important messages: that the women of India will not be deterred by these cowardly attacks, and that the social and emotional fabric of India will remain unaffected even by such kinds of challenges," he said.

According to Discovery, the first part of Declassified: Operation Sindoor traces the developments after the Pahalgam attack, including intelligence gathering, surveillance, target identification and preparations for the operation.

Teams carried out mock drills and planned for multiple scenarios as they worked towards a precise operation designed to minimise civilian and military casualties.

The second part moves from planning to execution, taking viewers inside the operation as it unfolded. It examines the coordination between the Army, Navy and Air Force, the tense moments before the strikes and the decisions taken in real time. The series then follows the operation through to confirmation that the mission had been completed.

Himanta inaugurates development projects in Jalukbari constituency

TONY DAS ■ Guwahati

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma today inaugurated several development projects in the Jalukbari Assembly Constituency, including an RCC bridge connecting Bamunrajan Road with Forest School Road and 19 single-cell RCC box culverts constructed over the Kalmani stream at Azara.

As part of the Mukhyamantrir Unnata Paki Path Nirman Achni for 2024-25, Sarma formally inaugurated the RCC bridge, constructed at a cost of more than ₹2.56 crore. Speaking at the inauguration, the Chief Minister said that the old wooden bridge at the site was in a highly dilapidated condition, forcing residents of the Baripara area to take a longer route via Bamunrajan Road for their daily commute. The new bridge, measuring 32.40 metres in length, will provide direct and convenient connectivity to Forest School Road and significantly reduce travel time for students, office-goers, patients and other commuters. Sarma said several thousand people from nearby areas, including Garigaon, Baripara, Bhakunda, Jeutipara and Noapara, would directly benefit from the bridge.

The Chief Minister further said that the bridge would provide improved and direct connectivity from Forest School Road to the Dharapur area.

He also assured local residents that steps would be taken to prevent erosion at Bamunrajan. Meanwhile, Dr Sarma inaugurated 19 single-cell RCC box culverts constructed over the Kalmani stream at Azara at a total cost of ₹3.41 crore. The culverts, extending from Kalitapara to Hatkhowapara, will establish direct connectivity between the interior roads of Azara and National Highway-37.

He said that before the project was implemented, local residents had to use old and dilapidated wooden bridges to cross the Kalmani stream. Keeping in view the convenience and transportation needs of the



people, the Public Works Roads Department undertook the initiative to replace the unsafe wooden bridges with permanent RCC culverts.

According to the Chief Minister, the new culverts will directly benefit patients requiring ambulance and emergency medical services, fire and emergency response teams, school students, daily commuters and local residents by improving connectivity and transportation facilities.

Dr. Sarma also stated that further measures would be undertaken in the coming days for the overall development of the larger area.

Later, the Chief Minister visited Sri Sri Maa Mansa Temple at Keotpara, Azara, and Sri Sri Banshi Gopal Temple at Gosaipara, Azara, where he offered prayers and sought the well-being and prosperity of the people of Assam.

At Sri Sri Maa Mansa Temple, Sarma said that the State Government would take all possible steps to complete the remaining infrastructure development works at the temple and address the demands raised by the people for the development of the surrounding area.

Kerala to implement flood resilience initiative: CMO



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Thiruvananthapuram

The State Government will implement the 'Kerala Flood Resilience Initiative' to scientifically address floods and other rain-related disasters caused by climate change, the CMO said on Friday.

A team of experts from IIT Roorkee, IIT Palakkad, and IIIT Kottayam met Chief Minister VD Sathesan and presented a comprehensive roadmap for a state-of-the-art flood-resilience system using advanced technologies, the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) said in a statement.

The experts suggested scientific preparedness to tackle extreme rainfall, urban flooding, riverine floods, landslides and mudslides, among other natural disasters.

The initiative will use Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, remote sensing, hydrodynamic modelling and

accurate rainfall forecasting systems to identify flood-prone areas in advance and issue precise warnings, according to the statement.

The IIT team also recommended that any measures to remove silt and soil from rivers, lakes, and backwaters be undertaken only after a scientific assessment of their impact on the environment and water flow.

The chief minister directed the Water Resources Department and the Disaster Management Department to examine the technical feasibility, financial implications and implementation modalities of the initiative in detail.

The two departments have been asked to jointly examine the proposal and submit a report within a month.

Further steps to implement the project in the state will be taken based on the report, the statement said.

Certain forces do not want peace in Punjab: Sukhbir Singh Badal

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Nanded

A day after he was injured in a *kirpan* attack, former Punjab deputy chief minister Sukhbir Singh Badal said on Friday that some groups are against peace in Punjab and the country, and see the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) as standing in their way.

He said he would follow the example of his late father, former Punjab chief minister Parkash Singh Badal, and would not let such groups take control of the state. He added that he is committed to keeping unity.

Badal, who is president of the SAD, was attacked with a *kirpan* by a member of the

Nihang order inside Gurdwara Mata Sahib Devan Ji Mugat on the edge of Nanded city on Thursday. He had surgery at a local hospital and was released on Friday afternoon.

After leaving the hospital, Badal told reporters, "A lot of forces do not want peace in Punjab and this country. They feel that the Shiromani Akali Dal is a hindrance to their mission. My father, Parkash Singh Badal, never compromised with these forces. He always stood for the idea that all communities and religions should live together happily."

"My father was a chief minister. He kept peace among communities and



respected all religions. These groups tried to attack me a year ago. Their goal is to take control of Punjab and disturb the peace, but as president of the Shiromani Akali Dal, I will never let that happen. My father did not allow it either,"

he said. Badal also said he had been targeted at two of Sikhism's holiest sites. Despite these attacks, he said he would keep standing up to any effort to cause unrest. "Both times, they attacked me in the holiest

Opposition making mockery of democracy: Shivraj Chouhan

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Chandigarh

Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Friday slammed the opposition, saying it did not let Parliament run and it was making a "mockery of democracy".

Chouhan also attacked Congress leader Rahul Gandhi over his remarks against Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The agriculture and farmers welfare minister was speaking during an event organised to launch the Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC)-based Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)



Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan addresses an event organised to launch the Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC)-based Direct



Editor's
TAKE

Milestones and missing pieces

Since the midnight of August 15 1947 made India an independent nation, each anniversary invites an honest audit, not just a celebration

It has been quite a long time, 79 years since India gained independence from the British yoke. Indeed a moment of joy and cause to celebrate. We have come a long way from the shadow of the Raj. The single most consequential number is 248 million - roughly the number of people who were uplifted from poverty between 2013-14 and 2022-23 alone, as the national poverty rate fell from 29 per cent to 11 per cent.

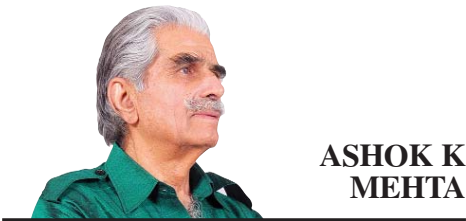
India remains the world's fastest-growing major economy, expanding above 6.5 per cent even as a rebased GDP series and a weaker rupee pushed its dollar ranking from an anticipated fourth place to sixth - a reminder that headline rank matters less than what growth does for a household budget. Elsewhere the gains are more unambiguous: Chandrayaan-3's 2023 lunar landing, a Unified Payments Interface that now moves close to half of the world's real-time digital payments, a February 2026 trade deal that cut US tariffs on Indian exports from 50 per cent to 18 per cent after a bruising year of friction over Russian oil purchases, and last year's Operation Sindoor, fought substantially with indigenous defence systems – a genuine inflection point for "Atmanirbhar Bharat".

Set against this is unfinished business. Annual unemployment sits at a low 3.2 per cent, but this year's data show urban youth joblessness climbing past 15-18 per cent, worse for young women, alongside a labour-force participation rate drifting down when it should be rising to capture the demographic dividend. The UNDP ranks India 130th of 193 countries on human development - better than before, but still 'medium,' with inequality alone erasing nearly a third of its score.

The Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, reserving a third of legislative seats for women, passed unanimously in 2023 and remains unimplemented. India breaches seven of nine planetary boundaries, by one recent assessment, with extreme weather recorded on 99 per cent of days in 2025; and it has fallen to 157th of 180 nations in press freedom – its worst showing yet, a genuine embarrassment for a democracy of this scale. None of this diminishes what India has built; it argues for finishing the job with equal seriousness. Growth needs to become job-rich, not just fast, through skilling matched to real demand and the formalisation of an economy still mostly informal. The demographic dividend has a shelf life, and this decade - not the next - will decide whether India converts a young population into a productively employed one. Institutions – a free press, an independent judiciary, functioning federalism – deserve the same attention as ports and highways. Climate adaptation must be built into spending now, before the next flood erases a decade of poverty gains. Viksit Bharat by 2047 is a plausible destination, not a guaranteed one – it depends on implementing laws already passed, not just announcing new ones. Eighty years ago, freedom was won in a single extraordinary year. Development has to be won again every year after.

Time to break the Agniveer deadlock

For nearly six years, the historic Gorkha connection between India and Nepal has remained caught in an unusual silence. As the Army Chief visits Nepal, a growing movement among former servicemen and political leaders is seeking to break the recruitment deadlock and reopen the door to Agniveer, in a bid to preserve the centuries-old Gorkha warrior tradition



ASHOK K MEHTA

Just as Indian Army Chief, Gen Dhiraj Seth makes his first foreign trip; to Nepal on 16 Aug, a flicker of hope is seen of Nepal Domiciled Gorkhas (NDG) being allowed to be recruited in the Indian Gorkha Brigade after a gap of nearly six years (including two COVID years) following Nepal suspending recruitment in the Agnipath scheme introduced in June 2022, Kathmandu claiming it was infringement of the 1947 Tripartite Treaty for recruitment of NDG into Indian and British Armies. Since then, only Indian Domiciled Gorkhas (IDG) and hill troops from Garhwal and Kumaon have filled up the 60 per cent annual quota of approximately 1400 soldiers from Nepal.

Neither India nor Nepal has sought to break the strategic silence over recruitment, Kathmandu viewing introduction of Agniveer as political and diplomatic breach. Further, Nepal considers the four years service and 25 per cent retention terms of engagement as a security risk - release into the marketplace of combat-trained youth as new supply chain for insurgency-wracked Nepal following 10 years of Maoist civil war. Other dangers and disadvantages were also painted about Agniveer, seen as a bolt from the blue.

On 29 July, in an astonishing turn of events the Indian Ex Servicemen Development Committee of Lamjung led by activist Sub Khem Jung Gurung launched a massive movement demanding permission for joining Agniveer due to the abysmal jobs state in the country where 2000 youth leave Kathmandu every day. A former politician, Gurung said: 'young lads travel abroad to take up menial jobs when their centuries old skill as Gorkha warriors is being unutilized in Agniveer'.

The movement has picked up traction all over Nepal, especially in the nursery of soldiering, Pokhara. Petitions have been forwarded to Prime Minister Balen Shah and Home Minister Sudan Gurung. On 6 August, Rashtriya Swatantra Party MP from Syangja- another warrior recruitment treasure house- Dr Dhananjay Regmi, son of a 5/9 Gorkha Rifles Indian ex-serviceman raised the Agniveer issue for the first time in the new Parliament backing Gurung's advocacy of Agniveer. These two events could catalyse the unarticulated urge to accept Agniveer - a sea change from the erstwhile womb-to-tomb engagement of service- because, Gurung said, "something is better than nothing".

The bulk of Gen Seth's 16 to 20 August programme is in Kathmandu where he will be anointed honorary General of Nepal Army, a lifetime honour tracing its tradition to the legendary Field



NEPAL
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FOR INSURGENCY-
WRACKED NEPAL
FOLLOWING 10
YEARS OF MAOIST
CIVIL WAR

The writer, a retired Major General, served as Commander, IPKF (South), Sri Lanka, and was a founder member of the Defence Planning Staff, now the Integrated Defence Staff

Marshal Sam Bahadur Manekshaw in 1972, who also introduced several welfare reforms including young Indian Gorkha officers getting to know their soldiers by trekking in remote areas of Nepal. Seth will meet PM Balen Shah who is his own Defence Minister before visiting Pokhara the Bhu Pu (ex-servicemen) citadel for a grand rally. Weather permitting, he will go to Muktinath temple where a former Army Chief, Gen Bipin Rawat, had presented bells for the temple. As no press meet is held for a visiting Chief, there is little chance of the Agniveer issue cropping up, though it could be raised during the rally in Pokhara. Seth's reply will take cue from what follows.

Recently, former CDS Gen Anil Chauhan of 11 Gorkha Regiment said that when Agniveer was implemented, NDG were considered as Indian citizens and it was not feasible to make an exception for them, alluding to their enlistment on separate terms of engagement, adding that the decision to allow Nepali citizens to enlist now rests with Kathmandu. Chauhan could have made a special case out of it by attaching strategic significance to the bonding and reminding Prime Minister Narendra Modi of what he had said in Nepal's Parliament in 2014: "India has fought no war where Nepali blood has not been shed". But the good Chauhan let it pass; a fait accompli. Like the voices now being heard from Nepal about maintaining the warrior legacy and centuries-old tradition of Gorkhas, no similar sentiment has been publicly expressed in India by hundreds of General-rank retired Gorkha officers including a former Army Chief. That tells another story.

Meanwhile, last week, Foreign Minister Shishir Khanal told BBC Nepali service that 'Nepal was ready to discuss the Tripartite Treaty if it needed to be reviewed and if a formal proposal was received from India'. Khanal has pushed the ball in Delhi's court when he knows

neither side has tried to break the impasse for the last five years. Delhi's contention is that Tripartite Treaty has not been violated. Its two key features are Recruitment and Terms of Engagement bound by 'equal treatment'. These provisions of treaty are in tact. But as India claims special and unique relations with Nepal Delhi should have followed diplomatic nicety - at least informed Kathmandu about the bolt from the blue. The truth is: India's unilateral action is seen as unfair and Big Brother-ly. In previous Nepali governments the Communists commanded majority in parliament and have sought to curtail Nepali citizens joining foreign armies. In the new Parliament they are in extreme minority. There is an economic angle too. Nepal earns nearly Rs 5000 crore annually from soldiering in Indian Army and pensioners enormous benefits in India and Nepal. If Nepal keeps the door to recruitment shut, the Nepal Gorkha connection will burn out in 20 years; only pensioners will be around for another 30 years.

In February 2025, Nepal's Supreme Court in a case over pensions of British Gurkhas pre 2009 had suggested that Nepal should negotiate new bilateral treaties with Britain and India as Tripartite Treaty does not meet present conditions. Agniveer does not provide a level playing field for Nepal like substantial reservations for demobilized Agniveers in India in para-police, para-military and several other institutions. A smaller economy like Nepal cannot comfortably absorb the retired Agniveers. Party Chairman Rabi Lamichhane, Prime Minister Shah, Home Minister Gurung and other legislators have been made aware of the groundswell movement for joining Agniveer among the Nepali youth. Some immediate incentives from India for encouraging Nepal to greenlight Agniveer will receive a key strategic asset, make COAS Gen Seth's visit historic and testify special and unique relations.

PIC TALK



Students take part in a 'Tiranga Yatra' ahead of Independence Day, in Jammu
PHOTO: PTI

DIGITAL EXPERIENCE

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VANDE MATARAM AND A NEW NATIONAL SPIRIT

The inclusion of Vande Mataram in the 80th Independence Day celebrations at the Red Fort marks an important moment of cultural renewal. Commemorating 150 years of the National Song alongside the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047 creates a meaningful bridge between India's historic struggle for freedom and its aspirations for the future.

The emphasis on youth participation, with thousands of NCC cadets and MyGov competition winners becoming part of the celebrations, is particularly welcome.

It places India's national identity in the hands of its young citizens and recognises the country's growing Yuva Shakti.

Equally significant is the decision to move away from

VIP-centric nomenclature and use the names of Indian lakes. Such symbolism can make national celebrations more inclusive and rooted in India's diverse geography and heritage.

The spirit of decentralisation should be carried forward. Future celebrations could encourage regional innovation, local participation and community-led initiatives across the country.

Vande Mataram is not just a song it is the spirit of freedom that every Indian must have in his heart. What was true 150 years is true now.

Blending heritage with youthful ambition can give India's national celebrations a renewed meaning and help turn the idea of Viksit Bharat into a shared national endeavour.

VIJAYKUMAR H K | RAICHUR

Please send your letter to the info@dailypioneer.com. In not more than 250 words. We appreciate your feedback.

Why science alone cannot keep us healthy



RAJYOGI
BRAHMA
KUMAR
NIKUNJ JI

2ND OPINION

Recently many Indian metro cities witnessed a worst outbreak of dengue, chikungunya and malaria with death toll rising to hundred's even as the number of cases of the vector-borne disease had crossed a thousand numbers in most of these cities. These figures have once again posed a serious question for our society: why is it so that despite the advancement in science and technology, there is an upsurge in diseases everywhere? Who is to be blamed for this?

There are various factors responsible for it. Firstly, let us have a look at the physical environment which has degraded over the decades. Today the quality of natural elements like air, water, soil - and everything around us has been deteriorating, which can be attributed largely to unchecked man made activities that exploit nature



for development. Similarly, the quality of raw materials, the five elements that constitute our bodies, is also becoming poorer. Our bones, spine, teeth, delicate organs like eyes, heart, kidney, liver and others are impacted right at the time of their formation.

Synthetic fertilizers, insecticides and pesticides that sustain the crop production seep into our food, as a result of which our resistance power against diseases has lowered and we contract various infections than

Eight decades of transformation: From scarcity to self-confidence

The India of 1947 could scarcely have imagined the India of 2026. The India of 2026 must now show the same courage and imagination in building the India of 2047. As we salute the Tricolour, let us renew our commitment to a strong, prosperous, inclusive, self-reliant and just India and to the Constitution that has made this possible



VIJENDER GUPTA

As India celebrates its 80th Independence Day, we are not merely marking another anniversary of freedom. We are reflecting upon a remarkable national journey, one that began in 1947 amid hope, sacrifice and enormous uncertainty, and has brought us to an India that is increasingly confident, capable and determined to shape its own destiny. The India that became independent on 15 August 1947 was very different from the India we see today. We inherited poverty, widespread illiteracy, inadequate infrastructure, food insecurity, weak industrial capacity and the deep wounds of Partition. Yet, our founding generation possessed something more powerful than material resources: a profound faith in the Indian people and an unwavering commitment to democracy.

India's journey since then has not always been easy or linear. For decades, India continued to grapple with shortages, inadequate infrastructure, limited economic opportunities and the immense difficulty of delivering development to a population of continental scale. Yet, when we look at India today, we see a country that has progressively overcome many of the limitations that once appeared insurmountable. This transformation has acquired unprecedented scale and momentum over the last twelve years.

India today is among the world's leading economies and has emerged as a major centre of technology, digital innovation, manufacturing, entrepreneurship and human talent. Infrastructure is being created at a scale once difficult to imagine. Highways, railways, airports, digital networks and public infrastructure are connecting people and regions faster than ever before.

Technology has transformed the relationship between citizens and the State. Public services can increasingly reach beneficiaries directly and transparently. A new generation of Indians is growing up with aspirations very different from those of previous decades. Our youth are not merely seeking opportunities; they are becoming entrepreneurs, innovators, scientists, professionals and creators of opportunities themselves.

The journey from scarcity to aspiration, and from aspiration to self-confidence, is perhaps one of the defining stories of modern India. But India's greatest achievement cannot be measured only through economic statistics, infrastructure or technology. Equally remarkable has been the endurance of constitutional democracy in a country of extraordinary social, linguistic, cultural and religious diversity. When the Constitution came into force on 26 January 1950, India became a Republic founded on the ideals of justice, liberty, equality and fraternity. The Constitution gave institutional expression to the values for which generations of Indians had struggled. It established a democratic system in which sovereignty ultimately rests with the people, governments derive legitimacy through elections and State power remains subject to constitutional limitations. India's constitutional journey has not been without turbulence. The Emergency of 1975-77 was perhaps its gravest test, when democratic freedoms and constitutional rights came under severe strain. It remains a reminder that constitutional democracy can never be taken for granted. Yet, India's response demonstrated the remarkable resilience of its democratic system. That experience demonstrated an enduring truth: our democracy is resilient because the Constitution gives citizens not only rights, but also the institutional means to defend them.

Parliament and State Legislatures are the principal forums through which the aspirations, concerns and expectations of citizens are translated into laws and public policy. They are also institutions through which governments are questioned, public expenditure is scrutinised, competing viewpoints are debated and the executive is held accountable. Over the decades, our Constitution and laws have continued to evolve in response to changing social and national requirements.

An important milestone came through the 86th Constitutional Amendment of 2002 under the government of Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, which inserted Article 21A into the Constitution and recognised free and compulsory education for children



MP AJITH KUMAR

Of the many ancient knowledge systems humanity developed, India's Religion proved outstanding. She developed a coherent system, harmonizing values of inclusivity, and concordance into a balanced worldview. "India is an epitome of the world", commented the philosopher historian Arnold Joseph Toynbee who hailed her as the 'living civilization' that would unite and enlighten the future humanity. India's was a turbulent history with invaders pounding her recurrently, leaving her geographically and psychically torn. Bled white in terrorist violence, her glory often seemed almost irretrievably lost with enemies disturbing her national life. Denunciation of the motherland, derogatory writings against her and declining it for pay-offs were common. Problems confronting our nation are legion. Yet, she sojourns to her destination, determined and untouched by the turbulent surroundings.

India's all-inclusiveness, its readiness to imbibe and harmonize the noble aspects steeled her spirit. Greece was an aesthetic culture that glorified everything beautiful notwithstanding whatever defect what it deemed beautiful had. They would ignore



INDIA'S CONSTITUTIONAL JOURNEY HAS NOT BEEN WITHOUT TURBULENCE. THE EMERGENCY OF 1975-77 WAS PERHAPS ITS GRAVEST TEST, WHEN DEMOCRATIC FREEDOMS AND CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS CAME UNDER SEVERE STRAIN. IT REMAINS A REMINDER THAT CONSTITUTIONAL DEMOCRACY CAN NEVER BE TAKEN FOR GRANTED. YET, INDIA'S RESPONSE DEMONSTRATED THE REMARKABLE RESILIENCE OF ITS DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM. THAT EXPERIENCE DEMONSTRATED AN ENDURING TRUTH: OUR DEMOCRACY IS RESILIENT BECAUSE THE CONSTITUTION GIVES CITIZENS NOT ONLY RIGHTS, BUT ALSO THE INSTITUTIONAL MEANS TO DEFEND THEM

Vijender Gupta is Speaker of Delhi Legislative Assembly

between six and fourteen years of age as a Fundamental Right. In more recent years, legislative reforms have increasingly sought not only to regulate society but also to make governance simpler, more transparent and more responsive to citizens. The introduction of the Goods and Services Tax through the constitutional framework created a unified indirect taxation system and strengthened the idea of India as a common economic market. The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code created a time-bound framework for dealing with insolvency and represented a significant change in India's economic and financial architecture. One of the most interesting shifts in the philosophy of governance can be seen in the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2023. For decades, many relatively minor administrative and procedural defaults carried criminal consequences. The Jan Vishwas legislation decriminalised a large number of such minor offences across several Central laws, replacing imprisonment in many cases with monetary penalties.

It represents a change in the relationship between the citizen and the State, from a system based excessively on suspicion and criminalisation towards one based increasingly on trust. India has also undertaken a major transformation of its criminal justice framework through the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam. These laws seek to move India's criminal justice system away from structures inherited from the colonial period and towards a framework suited to the needs of a modern Republic. Another historic development came with the Constitution (One Hundred and Sixth Amendment) Act, 2023, which provides for reservation of seats for women in the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies.

These developments underline an important truth: A successful democracy must constantly respond to new aspirations, technologies, economic realities and social expectations while remaining anchored firmly in its constitutional values. As Speaker of the Delhi Legislative Assembly, I believe a legislature must never be viewed merely as a place where Bills are passed. It is where the people's voice must be heard, where the government must answer questions and where public grievances must find expression.

It is where differing political viewpoints must encounter one another through debate rather than confrontation outside the democratic process. Our parliamentary traditions teach us that disagreement is not a weakness of democracy. Democracy does not require unanimity; it requires respect for institutions, rules, constitutional boundaries and the legitimacy of differing opinions.

This is why the responsibility of protecting the Constitution cannot rest with institutions alone. It belongs equally to every citizen. The Constitution acquires strength not merely from the words written in it, but from the faith that citizens place in it and from the willingness of governments, legislatures, courts, political parties and citizens to respect its true spirit.

India's experience over eighty years tells us that institutions may be tested, political circumstances may change and the democratic journey may occasionally become difficult. But when citizens retain faith in constitutional processes, democracy possesses an extraordinary ability to correct itself and move forward. Many challenges that constrained India for decades are today being overcome. There is a growing confidence that India need not merely adjust itself to a world shaped by others; it can help shape that world. This confidence must become the foundation of our journey towards Viksit Bharat @ 2047. The next phase of development must combine economic growth with social responsibility, technological progress with human values, opportunity with inclusion and national ambition with constitutional morality.

Our young generation will be the principal architect of this future. Along with opportunity, we must give them faith in the Constitution, respect for democratic institutions, pride in India's civilisation and confidence in its future.

Independence Day: Why the sword Is still overhead



ACHARYA PRASHANT

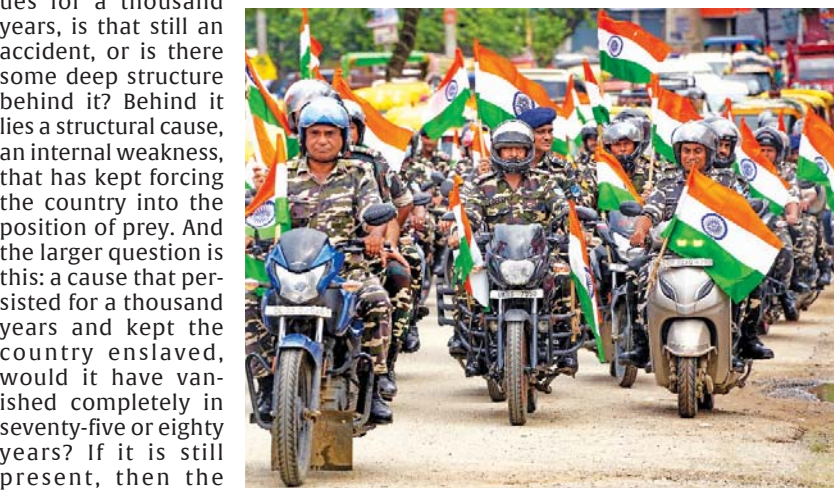
Today is the fifteenth of August. The tricolour is up on every gate and lapel, the anthem will play in the schools by mid-morning, and from the panchayat to the Red Fort the speeches are already written. The feeling is real; a people has every right to mark the day it stopped being ruled. And yet, even in the middle of this, one question tends to get buried every year, and it is worth raising precisely on this day.

India, or any other country in the world, at the moment of its founding, what is its condition, free or subjugated? Take a single human being. What is his default, freedom or captivity? No human being is born anyone's slave. An animal in the forest is free, a bird in the sky is free. You catch the bird and put it in a cage; only then is it subjugated. A nation is no different, and its natural condition too is freedom.

So what India celebrates on Independence Day begins to look a little strange. Freedom is the given; the more honest and more useful question is this: if everything is born free, where did bondage enter later? Was India always enslaved? No. Then where did the slavery come from? This is why I would want Independence Day observed as a day of self-examination. Eat the sweets of freedom today, by all means, but first ask how the bondage arrived, and whether it has truly left, or whether it still hangs over the country like a sword.

This slavery is not a matter of ten or twenty or fifty years: nearly a thousand years, sometimes a part of the land, sometimes the whole of it, under someone else's dominion. Whoever could come, came. From Europe the Portuguese came, the French came, the Dutch came, the British came; the only ones who did not come were those who could not, for reasons of geography.

From nearby came the Afghans, the Iranians, the Turks, the Arabs. Something that happens once, or twice, you may call an accident. Something that continues for a thousand years, is that still an accident, or is there some deep structure behind it? Behind it lies a structural cause, an internal weakness, that has kept forcing the country into the position of prey. And the larger question is this: a cause that persisted for a thousand years and kept the country enslaved, would it have vanished completely in seventy-five or eighty years? If it is still present, then the danger is still equal to what it was; the sword is still overhead.



So what is that cause? Political it cannot be; no political cause lasts this long. Coincidence it cannot be; that much is settled. The cause is cultural, something that has, by misfortune, dissolved into the air of India and settled there as culture, something held sacred and clung to. I call it lokdharma, the folk-religion.

Lokdharma is no external power; it is one's own ego, hardened into rite, tradition, custom and fantasy. It is the structure that merely looks like dharma, resting on Smriti texts severed from Shruti, on the Puranas and on ritual, while the real dharma, the Shruti-dharma of the Upanishads, of Advaita, of truth and freedom, stays far away. Where the very root of a religion lies in fantasy and fear, what price will fact carry there, or the question, or free thought? India is not a religious country; it is a folk-religious country. It accepted fear, superstition, division and self-interest in the name of dharma, and so it felt no hesitation in accepting its own defeat. This is the dishonesty within, the one that turns its face from fact and is afraid of the question.

In the age when the powers of Europe were working out their exact position at sea, what was India doing? While they were racing ahead in astronomy, India was tangled in the auspicious hour, and is tangled there still. The world moves ahead in science; this country moves ahead in casting horoscopes. This is the very astrology that pushed India back; had India attended to astronomy, its defensive strength at sea and on land would have been something else.

There was a news item these days: at a temple in Madhya Pradesh, the religious observance of Independence Day was held on the eleventh of August, because by the temple's panchang the true tithi of independence fell on that day. The train may arrive at seven in the evening; you will still reach the station at ten at night, because your reckoning says the moment is now.

A country that gives no value to fact will give none to knowledge; and for a country that gives no value to knowledge, there is no surprise in its subjugation. Today's Gen-Z is buried in astrology apps too. Lokdharma is still dominant; its grip has not loosened, it has only come forward in new shapes.

So on this Independence Day my request is only this: celebrate, but even amid the celebration, let the gaze turn inward for once. The sword



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**Odisha: Man gets life for
raping girl last year**



A fast-track court in Odisha's Angul district sentenced a 23-year-old man to life imprisonment for raping a girl in May last year, an official said on Friday.

The Ad-hoc Additional District & Sessions Judge-cum-Fast Track Special Court on Thursday pronounced its judgment and imposed a fine of ₹30,000 on the convict, Satyabrata Mishra alias Kalia.

If he fails to pay the fine, the convict will undergo imprisonment for another year, the Government counsel said. The court directed that upon realisation of the fine amount, the entire sum will be paid to the victim.

It also directed the authorities concerned to pay ₹7 lakh compensation to the victim under the provisions of the POCSO Act. The court convicted Mishra under the provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act and the SC & ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, the Government counsel said.

The convict lured the seven-year-old girl to a deserted place near their village before he committed the crime.

According to the prosecution, the incident took place on May 19, 2025. The victim's mother lodged a complaint the next day, and the police arrested Mishra on May 22.

Days before the incident, the convict had also sexually assaulted the minor.

(PTI)

**SC quashes criminal defamation
complaint against Rahul Gandhi**



The Supreme Court on Friday quashed the criminal defamation complaint and summons issued by a trial court against Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for his remarks against Hindutva ideologue Vinayak Damodar Savarkar, saying the required sanction under the law was not obtained.

The defamation case stems from Gandhi's comments on Savarkar made on November 17, 2022 during his Bharat Jodo Yatra at a rally in Maharashtra's Akola district.

Allowing Gandhi's plea, a bench of Justices Dipankar Datta and Sheel Nagu noted that the criminal proceedings lacked sanction required under the law to prosecute the Leader of the Opposition in this case.

Under Section 196 CrPC, sanction of the state Government is mandatory to take cognisance of an offence under Section 153A IPC (promotion of enmity between groups). "Additional Solicitor General and advocate for complainant, in the affidavit filed by UP, submits there is no disclosure of sanction.

In such view of the matter, the complaint and orders passed by magistrate stands quashed," the bench said. The top court had earlier censured Gandhi for "irresponsible" remarks on Savarkar at a rally in Maharashtra but stayed the criminal proceedings against him.

(PTI)

SC stays Madras HC order on Karur jobs

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

In a relief for the Tamil Nadu Government, the Supreme Court on Friday stayed an order of the Madras High Court which quashed Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay's order providing Government jobs to relatives of people who died in a stampede at Karur last year.

On July 10, Chief Minister Vijay distributed appointment orders to 31 relatives of those who died in the stampede on September 27, 2025 at Karur.

The stampede occurred at a rally addressed by Vijay, leaving 41 people dead and over 60 injured.

A bench of Justices JB Pardiwala and K Vinod Chandran issued notice to the petitioners who challenged the Government order and others.

"Who are you to question the policy of the Government? Suppose the sole member died in the tragedy, shouldn't the Government give some



employment to son or daughter? the bench told the PIL petitioner who had challenged state Government order. The top court's order came on a petition filed by the State and others challenging the high court's judgment.

The Madras High Court on July 27 had quashed Vijay's order providing Government jobs to relatives of people who died in the stampede,

CJI flags misuse of court clips

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

Voicing concern over the circulation of clips of court proceedings on social media without adequate context, Chief Justice of India Surya Kant has said that his oral remarks were "misquoted" and misused with "malicious intent" to mislead the youth of the country.

On May 15, 2026, the CJI, while hearing a case in the Supreme Court, had compared certain individuals with fraudulent degrees to "cockroaches" who become social media or RTI activists to attack the system.

The CJI's comment sparked widespread youth backlash, inspiring the satirical online movement "Cockroach Janta Party" (CJP).

In an interview with DD News, the CJI said clips of court proceedings are being circulated nowadays on social media without adequate context.

CJI Kant said whatever happened was truly unfortunate and clarified that he could never imagine such things regarding the people



involved.

"My comment was misquoted and misused. What was not said is presented as though it was said. This is extremely unfortunate. Particularly, it is a major malicious attempt to mislead the youth of the country," the CJI said.

Asking the media to report responsibly on judicial proceedings, the CJI said every citizen has a duty to maintain harmony in society.

"You are on social media, print media or any form of

media or you are simply a citizen. All of us have rights and constitutional duty and responsibilities.

"When we speak of rights, we must also possess the capacity to fulfil our obligations. Therefore, I would urge them to keep their responsibilities in mind; we must all make tireless efforts to ensure that harmony prevails in society," he said.

The over-a-month-long CJP-led protests at the Jantar Mantar against the NEET-UG paper leak led to a clash

between the agitators and police on July 20, which left several individuals from both sides injured. The protests resulted in the resignation of Dharmendra Pradhan as the Union education minister.

The CJI also referred to his recent order barring the unauthorised dissemination, reposting, uploading and monetisation of audio and video recordings of judicial proceedings on social media and other digital platforms.

Gujarat HC orders DCP transfer for impartial probe into assault

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Ahmedabad

The Gujarat High Court on Friday observed that the deputy commissioner of police (DCP) who allegedly slapped and beat handcuffed accused persons in public in Surat must be immediately transferred to ensure an impartial probe into the incident. A division bench of Chief Justice Sunita Agarwal and Justice DN Ray took up a suo motu PIL over the July 14 incident, after taking cognisance of a written complaint filed by a lawyer.

The case stems from an incident in which a deputy commissioner of police (DCP) and a group of policemen were allegedly seen in video footage parading the handcuffed accused persons publicly and subjecting them to repeated physical assault.

The Government pleader informed the bench that the



issue had come to the attention of the Director General of Police, who ordered an inquiry under the assistant commissioner of police (crime), and statements of all people identified in the videos have been recorded.

Chief Justice Agarwal, in her oral remarks, observed that the preliminary inquiry into the incident cannot be impartial if the police officer in question is in his post.

"Apart from the people present on the spot, there must be some police personnel who were witnesses. They will not speak. He is such a

senior officer, and he did something unacceptable. You continue with your preliminary inquiry, but you will have to transfer him. He should be posted somewhere else," the court noted.

The incident took place in a public place, and everybody saw it, and videos were also circulated, she said.

The matter will be heard next on August 21.

The amicus curiae submitted that the state home department had issued a circular dated May 7 following two High Court orders on similar incidents.

SC slams BCI's move against NALSAR students, says they have right to protest

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

"It's a dialogue between students and me," Chief Justice of India Surya Kant said on Friday as he sharply pulled up the Bar Council of India for its order that the 2026 graduates of Hyderabad's NALSAR University of Law not be enrolled as advocates following their objections to his proposed campus visit.

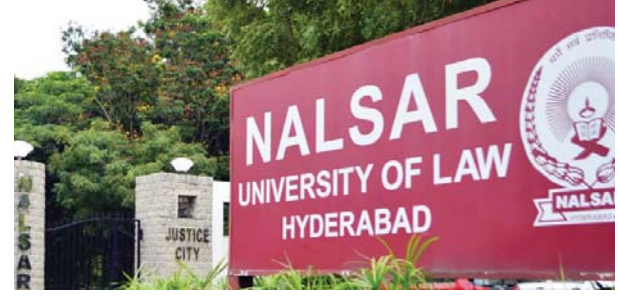
Students have a right to protest, the CJI-led bench said a day after the BCI directed all state bar councils not to enrol any 2026 graduate of the university until further orders. The order was reversed within hours after

an uproar on social media.

"It's a dialogue between students and me. Who are they (BCI) to interfere? This is totally uncalled for," the chief justice said after a plea challenging the BCI's circular was mentioned before it for urgent hearing.

"I myself, in my student days, was actively involved in student activities," he said.

The bench, also including Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana, asked NALSAR to tell its students to get enrolled as advocates at the earliest and said, "We will empanel them for legal aid cases." A section of students of the premier law institute had written to the vice chan-



cellor, registrar and professors of the institution, opposing any proposal to invite the CJI as chief guest to the varsity's convocation, the date of which is yet to be announced.

"Assuming even if they (students) are wrong, they have a right to protest. BCI

does not have any business in this," the bench said, terming the BCI's action "absolutely unnecessary".

Observing that students have the right to protest peacefully and nobody can stop them from doing so, the apex court asked the BCI's counsel whether a

SC backs Chandrababu Naidu in Amaravati case

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Friday refused to interfere with the Andhra Pradesh High Court order quashing a case against Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu and minister P Narayana in connection with alleged irregularities in the land pooling scheme in capital Amaravati.

A bench of Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana said it is not inclined to interfere with the high court order and clarified that the outcome of the petition will not have bearing on other cases, which should be adjudicated on its own merits.

Senior advocate Ranjit Kumar, appearing for Alla Rama Krishna Reddy, submitted that there were large-scale irregularities in the case which involved land of around 30,000 acres of over 25,000 farmers.

The bench told Kumar, "On the larger issue of farmers, we are with you. Whatever they are entitled to, we will



protect."

The CJI, however, pointed out that the present criminal proceedings were at the instance of a political rival and no farmer had come forward.

"Political battles should not be fought in court," the CJI told Kumar and disposed of the petition filed by Reddy challenging the July 15 order of the high court at Amaravati.

The FIR was registered under the Prevention of Corruption Act on March 12, 2021, following a complaint by then MLA Alla Rama Krishna Reddy over the land pooling scheme announced as per a 2016 Government order.

Calcutta HC seeks balance between census duties and students' education

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Kolkata

The Calcutta High Court on Friday said it wants both the Census exercise and education of students to continue smoothly, while hearing petitions by school teachers who claimed difficulties in performing Census duties within the prescribed timings.

A section of teachers challenged a Government notification appointing them as enumerators and supervisors for the Census exercise.

Justice Krishna Rao said the court wanted the Census work to continue without affecting the education of students, but the administration should ensure that those assigned the task are able to perform it despite their personal difficulties. The petitioners contended that they have to travel long distances to their respective schools and, with only Sunday as a weekly



holiday, find it difficult to perform Census duties within the prescribed timings.

"If a teacher is working 10 am to 4 pm everyday, coming from 40 or 60 km away, and gets a holiday only on Sunday, do they need to work on that day for some remuneration for the Census?" the court asked. Justice Rao said if teachers were required to undertake Census work during weekends, he would also seek the Chief Justice's approval to sit on Saturdays

and Sundays, as several petitions, including those related to the Special Intensive Revision (SIR), were pending before the court.

The court's observations came after the West Bengal Government's counsel submitted that the notification clearly stated that Census work should be carried out in a manner that does not affect academic activities in schools and should be undertaken after class hours or during weekends.

POCSO case: Delhi HC rejects doubts over homeless minor's testimony in case

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

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LG Electronics India posts strongest quarterly growth

LG Electronics India reported its strongest quarterly performance since listing in Q1 FY27, with revenue rising 15.5% to ₹72.33 billion. EBITDA grew 26.2% to ₹9.04 billion, expanding margins to 12.5%, while profit after tax surged 27.2% to ₹6.53 billion. Growth was broad-based across televisions, refrigerators, air conditioners and washing machines, supported by premiumisation and strong consumer demand.

Home Entertainment led the performance, with revenue rising 22.3% and EBIT margins expanding to 19%. Home Appliances & Air Solutions revenue grew 13.6%. Managing Director Hong Ju Jeon said the results reflected India's shift towards premium, technology-led and energy-efficient products. The company expects further momentum from the festive season, B2B expansion, exports and new capacity at Sri City, while managing geopolitical and commodity pressures through localisation and calibrated pricing.

(PTI)

Industry hails MMDR Bill over greater clarity on levies

Industry leaders on Friday welcomed the passage of the MMDR Amendment Bill, saying it will create a more uniform and investment-friendly regulatory framework for the mineral sector.

The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026, would improve ease of doing business, provide greater clarity on state-level taxes, cess and other levies on mineral rights and mineral-bearing lands, and help unlock the country's mineral potential.

Vedanta Ltd Chairman Anil Agarwal welcomed the passage of the bill, saying the changes would improve ease of doing business and help the country unlock its mineral potential.

In a social media post, Agarwal congratulated the Centre on the passage of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026 and highlighted its potential to strengthen the mining sector and contribute to India's economic ambitions.

"The changes to the law will greatly improve ease of doing business. This will help raise production, create massive jobs and promote self-sufficiency," the Chairman said.

Sumit Jhunjhunwala, Vice President, Sector Head, Corporate Sector Ratings, ICRA Ltd, said the bill will enhance clarity and predictability around uneven state-level taxes, cess and other levies on mineral rights and mineral-bearing land, including retrospective tax claims and potential contingent liabilities for mining companies.

He further said greater visibility on the overall fiscal burden on the mining sector could support investment decisions and improve the viability of projects, particularly those that are capital-intensive and have long gestation periods.

(PTI)

Exports to FTA partners gain momentum in Q1 FY27

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

India's exports to key free trade agreement (FTA) partner countries witnessed strong growth in the first quarter of 2026-27, with outbound shipments to Singapore and Sri Lanka more than doubling, according to the commerce ministry data.

India has so far signed 17 FTAs with a number of countries and groups, including Singapore, Malaysia, South Korea, Mauritius, the UAE, Australia, the European Union, Asean and the EFTA bloc. Out of this, 16 are operational.

The data showed that exports to Singapore surged 101.2 per cent to USD 6.52 billion during April-June 2026, from USD 3.24 billion in the year-ago period, while shipments to Sri Lanka rose 123.8 per

cent to USD 2.35 billion from USD 1.05 billion. The shipments to the ASEAN (Association of South East Asian Nations) region grew 61.6 per cent to USD 14.61 billion in the first quarter of this fiscal, from USD 9.04 billion in April-June 2025-26.

Exports to the South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA) region rose 36.6 per cent to USD 8.40 billion from USD 6.15 billion.

Among individual countries, Malaysia recorded a

The Pioneer

BHOPAL | SATURDAY | AUGUST 15, 2026

Coal demand to hit 1.6b tonnes

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Mumbai

India's coal demand is likely to touch 1.6 billion tonnes per annum by 2030, a top Government official said on Friday, underlining the need for transparent and market-driven pricing for the commodity.

Speaking at the Global Commodities Conclave here, Union Coal Secretary Vikram Dev Dutt said that the setting up of the 'coal exchange', a Government-established platform designed to work as an independent marketplace will be of help.

He said in each of the last two fiscal years, domestic coal production has crossed 1 billion metric tonnes and the demand is continuing to grow as the commodity is a mainstay of energy needs.

"Coal demand is projected to rise further to an estimated 1.6 billion tonnes by 2030," Dutt said, adding that we are at an "inflection point" where we are shifting from a scarcity scenario to one of surplus.

Such a shift underscores the need for "more efficient, transparent and market driven mechanisms for coal trade", he said, pointing out that till now the state-run Coal India has enjoyed a virtual "monopoly".

"While this model did serve its purpose for the time that it was designed, it

does not fully reflect the competitive, transparent and efficient price discovery that a market of India's scale and India's maturity deserves," he added.

The coal exchanges will provide commercial and captive miners ready and transparent access to a wider market, wherein

buyers and sellers can bid simultaneously enabling efficient, competitive, and market-driven price discovery, he said.

The Government plans to operationalise the coal exchange concept in "the months ahead", he said, without sharing affirm timeline.

FCNR, ECB measures to draw \$90-95 b capital inflows in FY27: Report

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Mumbai

The RBI's concessional swap windows for FCNR (B) deposits, external commercial borrowings and overseas foreign currency borrowings are likely to draw capital inflows of USD 90-95 billion in 2026-27, according to a report.

CareEdge, in its report, has revised its projections for FCNR flows, considering the inflows observed in the last two months. It now expects FCNR (B) inflows to reach around USD 80 billion, while external commercial borrowings (ECBs) and overseas foreign currency borrowings (OFCBs) are projected at USD 10-15 billion.

Taken together, the measures are likely to generate USD 90-95 billion of capital inflows in FY27.

The report said that considering the inflows received so far and expected to come, India's capital account surplus is now likely to increase to approximately USD 108 billion compared to a surplus of just USD 2 billion in the previous year.

As a result, India's balance of payments (BoP) is expected to improve to a surplus of USD 64 billion in FY27 compared to deficits of USD 23.6 billion and USD 5 billion in FY26 and FY25, respectively, the report added.

Between June 5 and July 31, 2026, these measures have

attracted USD 40.8 billion, with FCNR (B) inflows accounting for USD 36.7 billion, and ECBs and OFCBs together accounting for USD 4.1 billion.

Large banks are currently offering deposit rates in the 6.0-6.5 per cent range, while some smaller and newer

banks are offering rates close to 7 per cent for FCNR deposits.

Additionally, the availability of significant leverage for investors, with some foreign banks reportedly offering leverage as high as 19x-29x in some cases, appears to have enhanced the attractiveness of

Stock markets end lower amid geopolitical uncertainty

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Mumbai

Market benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty ended lower on Friday as elevated oil prices and the prolonged US-Iran impasse weighed on investor sentiment.

The 30-share BSE Sensex dropped 70.71 points, or 0.09 per cent, to settle at 78,009.25. During the day, it declined 395.59 points, or 0.50 per cent, to 77,684.37.

The 50-share NSE Nifty dipped 29.85 points, or 0.12 per cent, to end at 24,366.

From the Sensex pack, Asian Paints, InterGlobe Aviation, NTPC, Power Grid, State Bank of India and HCL Tech were among the major laggards.

Bharti Airtel, Adani Ports, ICICI Bank and Titan were among the winners.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, advanced 0.17 per cent to USD 87.15 per barrel. "Indian equity markets ended largely unchanged on

Top Gainers	Top Losers
Asian Paints: +1.68	Asian Paints: -1.68
InterGlobe Aviation: +1.82	InterGlobe Aviation: -1.82
Adani Ports: +0.57	Adani Ports: -0.57
ICICI Bank: +0.36	ICICI Bank: -0.36
NTPC: +0.35	NTPC: -0.35
Power Grid: +0.34	Power Grid: -0.34
Titan: +0.33	Titan: -0.33
SBI: +0.32	SBI: -0.32

Friday, struggling to build on supportive global cues as persistent uncertainty surrounding the US-Iran stand-off and the Strait of Hormuz kept investors cautious heading into the weekend. Despite a softer US inflation reading and record closes on Wall Street, elevated crude oil prices and the absence of any diplomatic breakthrough continued to cap risk appetite," Ponnudi R, CEO of Enrich Money, an online trading and wealth tech firm, said. Geopolitical tensions

remained the dominant market driver, he added.

"Indian equity markets ended lower on Friday as renewed geopolitical tensions in the Middle East pushed crude oil prices higher, overshadowing the positive global cues from Wall Street's record close. A notable positive for the domestic market was the Nifty-50's ability to defend the 24,325 support zone for the second consecutive session," Hariselman Radhakrishnan, Founder & CEO of HST Wealth, a Research Analyst firm, said.

The BSE SmallCap Select index declined 0.65 per cent and the MidCap Select index dipped 0.13 per cent.

Among sectoral indices, Housing Finance declined 1.40 per cent, MidSmall Private Banks Quality Tilt 0.58 per cent, MidSmall Private Banks 0.46 per cent, Oil & Gas 0.45 per cent, Energy 0.44 per cent and Services 0.39 per cent.

BUSINESS

11

Forex kitty jumps in one of biggest weekly expansions

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Mumbai

India's forex reserves jumped USD 14.136 billion to USD 707.002 billion during the week ended August 7, the Reserve Bank said on Friday.

The overall kitty had jumped by USD 10.512 billion to USD 692.866 billion in the previous reporting week ended July 31.

The reserves had expanded to an all-time high of USD 728.494 billion during the week ended February 27 this year before the onset of the Middle East conflict that led to several weeks of drop as the rupee came under pressure and the RBI had to intervene in the forex market through dollar sales.

For the week ended August 7, foreign currency assets, a major component of the reserves, increased USD 9.946 billion to USD 574.625 billion, the central bank's data showed.

Expressed in dollar terms,

the foreign currency assets include effects of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units, such as the euro, pound, and yen, held in foreign exchange reserves.

It can be recalled that the central bank and the Government had in July launched a series of measures, including the FCNR(B) scheme to attract more forex flows into the country. The country has so far received USD 40 billion under the schemes, as per reports.

Rupee finds lift as dollar weakens

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Mumbai

FROM THE WORLD

LONDON

2 injured as train derails

A passenger train derailed in southern England, seriously injuring two people and leaving nine others with minor injuries after three carriages overturned, the British Transport Police said.

The Southern Rail train from Victoria station in London to Eastbourne was carrying about 150 people when it went off the tracks outside the tourist town of Lewes on Thursday. Passenger Rob Bradley said the train began rocking as it picked up speed and the carriage he was riding in with his six-year-old daughter jumped upward and the brakes immediately engaged.

All passengers were evacuated within about three hours, the transport police said.

The cause of the derailment is under investigation. (AP)

PAKISTAN

Rubio greets Pak on I-Day

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio greeted the people of Pakistan on their Independence Day and said the two countries, through cooperation on regional mediation and critical minerals, were delivering "real results."

"On behalf of the United States of America, I extend warm congratulations to the people of Pakistan on their Independence Day," Rubio said.

"Together, through our cooperation on regional mediation, critical minerals, energy, counterterrorism, cultural heritage, and trade and investment, we are turning potential into progress and delivering real results for Americans and Pakistanis alike," he said."On this special occasion, we commemorate the partnership between our nations and the bonds of friendship between our peoples," Marco Rubio said. (PTI)

India, Bangladesh weigh Tarique's Delhi visit

ASHOKE RAJ ■ New Delhi

No date has been announced, but a series of high-level contacts suggests Bangladesh and India are laying the groundwork for a possible Prime Ministerial visit.

Bangladesh Prime Minister Tarique Rahman's possible visit to India is increasingly becoming a focal point of Dhaka-New Delhi diplomacy, with both sides signalling a willingness to deepen engagement even as the timing of the trip remains undecided.

Rather than a confirmed itinerary, the latest developments point to an active diplomatic process. Indian officials have reiterated that an invitation is on the table, while Bangladesh has indicated that a final decision will depend on the Prime Minister's schedule

and the outcome of ongoing discussions. India has extended two separate invitations to Tarique Rahman: one for a bilateral visit and another to attend the outreach session of the 18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi on September 12-13.

Indian Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal confirmed that both invitations remain valid, saying India would provide an update if there is progress.

For Tarique Rahman, such a visit would carry significance beyond protocol. It would provide an opportunity for the new Bangladesh government to engage directly with India on a broad range of issues and potentially establish a new framework for bilateral relations.

The possible meeting comes as the two neighbours seek to navigate a number of



complicated issues. Relations have faced tensions over the extradition request for former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, border security, trade and transit, water-sharing, energy cooperation and people-to-people movement.

At the same time, both governments have shown signs of wanting to keep communication channels open. Indian High

Commissioner to Bangladesh Dinesh Trivedi recently held separate meetings with Prime Minister Tarique Rahman, Foreign Minister Dr Khalilur Rahman and Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed.

During his meeting with Tarique Rahman, Trivedi conveyed Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's greetings and expressed New Delhi's intention to pursue relations

with Bangladesh in a positive and forward-looking manner.

The discussions also covered areas of mutual interest and possible avenues for expanding people-centred cooperation.

Trivedi later met Modi in New Delhi and briefed him on his discussions with the Bangladeshi leadership, indicating that the recent diplomatic exchanges are being closely followed at the highest level in both capitals.

The BRICS invitation has added another possible route for Tarique Rahman to travel to India. Bangladesh currently chairs BIMSTEC, and India has invited Tarique Rahman to participate in the BRICS outreach session in that capacity. New Delhi has described the invitation as part of the established practice of invit-

ing heads of regional organisations to BRICS outreach meetings.

If Tarique Rahman attends, the event could provide an opportunity for an informal or formal interaction with Indian leadership alongside the multilateral programme.

However, Bangladesh has not yet confirmed whether the Prime Minister will participate. State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaed Islam said recently that there was still time to decide, noting that the Prime Minister's schedule and ongoing discussions would be important factors.

While the proposed visit remains uncertain, energy cooperation has already emerged as a practical area of engagement between the two countries.

Bangladesh currently

receives diesel from India through a cross-border pipeline and has requested an increase in supply. Indian officials have said the request will be examined in light of India's domestic requirements, refining capacity and the availability of diesel.

The issue could become an important component of wider economic and energy discussions between the two governments. For Dhaka, securing reliable energy supplies is a major economic concern, while for New Delhi, any expansion of exports must be balanced against domestic demand and supply conditions.

The most politically difficult issue in the relationship remains Bangladesh's request for the extradition of former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina from India.

Two UAE tankers attacked while transiting Strait of Hormuz

ASSOCIATED PRESS ■ Dubai

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) is blaming Iran for firing drones at two tankers operated by a state-owned oil company as they sailed through the Strait of Hormuz, saying Friday that the attacks were acts of piracy. The attacks caused no casualties but underlined the dangers faced by vessels seeking to move cargo through the critical waterway that leads from the Persian Gulf to the open oceans as Iran keeps a firm grip on the passage.

Here's a look at the latest developments in the Iran war and the wider Middle

East. Full coverage can be found here.

Two tankers owned by Abu Dhabi's state-owned oil and gas company ADNOC were attacked Thursday evening while transiting the Strait of Hormuz, the company said. It added that the attack caused no injuries and that "the situation has been brought under control."

The British military's United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations Centre said two vessels were reported to have suffered minor damage when attacked by drones while transiting the Strait of Hormuz. It did not identify them as the ADNOC ships,



but it appeared to be the same incident.

The UAE's Foreign Ministry blamed the attacks on Iran and said they were a "fla-

grant violation" of the United Nations' principles of freedom of navigation.

"Targeting commercial shipping and using the Strait

of Hormuz as a tool of economic coercion or blackmail represents acts of piracy by Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps, and constitutes a direct threat to the stability of the region, its peoples, and global energy security," the Foreign Ministry said.

There was no immediate response from Iran.

President Donald Trump's son-in-law and negotiator Jared Kushner will travel to the Middle East next week to try to advance plans for an end to the conflict in Gaza after a deal recently announced by the Trump administration ran into Israeli opposition.

Trump orders Navy to return to older carrier jet-launch system

KONSTANTIN TOROPIN ■ Washington

President Donald Trump is ordering the US Navy to remove the advanced system used to launch fighter jets from its newest type of aircraft carrier and return to using older steam catapults that he has long said he prefers, according to a directive issued.

The new mandate would likely cost billions of dollars and revert the Navy's most advanced ships to a system that takes more sailors to operate and is more difficult



to maintain. The memo directs the Pentagon and the Navy to present Trump with plans to remove the Electromagnetic Aircraft Launch System, also known as EMALS, within two

months. It also says the Ford-class carrier's electromagnetic weapons elevators should be replaced.

The move comes after years of Trump railing against the new, magnetical-

ly powered catapult system that shoots fighter jets off the deck of the carriers. It also comes at a time when the US military is trying to find funding from Congress for all its desired equipment and as the Navy is struggling to fill its ships with enough sailors.

Trump's ire with the new technology goes back to at least 2017 in his first term, when he claimed the new system is "not good" and "doesn't have the power" of the older, steam systems in an interview with Time magazine.

"You're going to god-damned steam," Trump said

at the time. The topic has frequently come up since then at rallies and other events.

While Trump is looking to roll back the latest technology, the newest Chinese aircraft carriers employ electromagnetic catapults and France said it plans to use the system on its new carrier.

Trump's memo directs the fourth Ford-class carrier, the USS Doris Miller, to be the first ship to include the new changes. That will leave the USS Gerald R Ford, as well as the forthcoming USS John F. Kennedy and USS Enterprise, untouched. (AP)

Heavy rain causes flooding near Tokyo; kills five, disrupts train, air travel



MARI YAMAGUCHI ■ Tokyo

Record-breaking rainfall that pounded cities east of Tokyo overnight flooded roads and dozens of homes, stranded thousands of people, caused power outages and left at least five people dead and one missing.

The Japan Meteorological Agency downgraded its most severe warning for heavy rain in more than a dozen municipalities in Chiba prefecture as rain subsided Friday morning but forecast more rain later in the day.

Photos and television footage showed widespread damage after daylight, with homes, cars and parts of railway tracks flooded with muddy water.

The Ground Self-Defense Force said it dispatched buses to pick up about 4,000 stranded people who stayed overnight at the Soga train station, a local route that also serves Tokyo Disney, an operation finished later Friday. The theme park did not report any damage.

Thousands of people who were stuck overnight at the Narita airport serving the Tokyo region gradually left

as train service partially resumed Friday morning with delays. Flights in and out of Narita were operating normally Friday, with many people returning home at the end of Japan's Bon Buddhist holiday week.

Hundreds of people took shelter overnight at the Chiba prefectural government building.

The prefecture said five people were found dead and another person was missing. The victims included a man found floating on a flooded road in Ichikawa city and a woman who had been stuck in a flooded car in Sakura city. Two people were presumed dead after being pulled from flooded cars in Kashiwa city and in Chiba.

More than 170 homes were flooded in the prefecture and more than 300 people were taking shelter at public facilities as of Friday afternoon, Chiba officials said.

The torrential rain and flooding also knocked out power to about 18,000 homes Friday morning, down from 68,000 earlier, according to the TEPCO Power Grid. (AP)

Cook Islands PM Mark Brown expected to return to power following election

CHARLOTTE GRAHAM-MCLAY ■ Wellington

Cook Islands Prime Minister Mark Brown is expected to lead the South Pacific nation's Government for a second term after his party won more seats than any other group in this week's election.



Cook Islands Prime Minister Mark Brown

Voting continued for one of 24 Parliamentary seats in the country of 17,000 people, which is made up of 15 islands. Bad weather prevented electoral officers from reaching the island of Nassau earlier in the week and results there were expected late Friday New Zealand time.

However, Brown's Cook Islands Party, a nationalist group that has governed

since 2010, was already celebrating victory after winning 12 seats which promised a fifth term in power. A 13-seat majority is required to form a government, but Brown's party has joined with independent lawmakers to pass laws before.

"Today my heart is full of gratitude," Brown wrote on

Facebook. "Thank you to everyone who came out and voted, for taking part and making your voice heard. This is what makes our country strong."

In the seat yet to be decided, the incumbent, a member of Brown's party, is competing with an independent candidate. (AP)

Democrats set to finalise 2028 presidential primary calendar

MIKE CATALINI ■ Austin

Democrats are gathering to finalise their 2028 presidential primary calendar this week, setting the stage for a wide-open contest to succeed President Donald Trump and chart a path ahead as the party's voters oscillate between progressive and more moderate candidates.

The Democratic National Committee is expected to vote at its summer meeting in Austin, Texas, on the new order that frontloads states with more diverse populations.

The meeting

Iran President likely to attend BRICS Summit in Delhi

ASHOKE RAJ ■ New Delhi

Iranian President's proposed India visit comes amid heightened regional tensions and Tehran's call for a greater diplomatic role for New Delhi. Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian is scheduled to visit New Delhi in September to attend the 18th BRICS Summit, according to Iranian sources, bringing Tehran's leadership to India at a time of heightened tensions in West Asia.

The BRICS summit is scheduled to be held in New Delhi on September 12-13 under India's 2026 chairmanship. The meeting is expected to bring together leaders of the expanded grouping against the backdrop of growing geopolitical and economic uncertainty.

Pezeshkian's proposed visit is likely to add a significant geopolitical dimension to the

summit and provide an opportunity for India and Iran to discuss bilateral ties, regional security, connectivity, trade and energy.

India's BRICS presidency is being guided by the theme "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability." New Delhi is also seeking to use its chairmanship to promote dialogue and cooperation among countries with differing positions on major international issues. The Iranian president's visit would come amid intensified diplomatic engagement between New Delhi and Tehran.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi was in New Delhi in May for the BRICS Foreign Ministers' Meeting, where he held discussions with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar. The Strait of Hormuz and the wider regional crisis were among

the key issues surrounding his visit. Tehran has sought to emphasise diplomacy while maintaining its position on the ongoing confrontation involving Iran, the United States and Israel. Araghchi has said Iran is prepared to engage diplomatically under the right circumstances, while also stressing Tehran's concerns over the security arrangements surrounding the Strait of Hormuz.

Pezeshkian's presence in New Delhi could consequently provide an important opportunity for direct discussions between the Iranian leadership and the Indian government on the rapidly evolving regional situation.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Pezeshkian last met on the sidelines of the BRICS Summit in Kazan, Russia, in October 2024. During that meeting, the two



leaders reviewed bilateral relations and discussed regional developments, including the situation in West Asia. Modi also stressed the importance of de-escalation and diplomacy.

The two sides could use their next meeting to review cooperation in connectivity, trade, energy and regional security.

The Chabahar port project remains an important element of the India-Iran relationship. India views the Iranian port as a strategic connectivity link providing access towards Afghanistan and Central Asia and as an important component of its broader regional connectivity strategy. During their 2024 meeting, Modi and

Pezeshkian underlined the importance of the long-term contract relating to Chabahar and its potential to strengthen trade and economic linkages with Central Asia.

Iran's role within BRICS has also acquired greater significance since Tehran became a full member of the grouping in 2024. Iran joined Egypt, Ethiopia and the United Arab Emirates in the expansion that year, while Indonesia became a member in 2025. Iran is among the countries participating in BRICS activities under India's current chairmanship.

Pezeshkian's participation in the Delhi summit would underline Tehran's growing engagement with the expanded grouping and its efforts to strengthen ties with major emerging economies.

The waterway is a crucial artery for global energy sup-

plies, making developments around it particularly significant for India, which relies heavily on imported energy. The security situation around the strait has remained highly sensitive amid the confrontation involving Iran, the United States and Israel.

Iran has said it remains committed to facilitating safe passage for commercial shipping under conditions acceptable to Tehran. At the same time, Iranian officials have insisted that the arrangements governing the waterway cannot simply return to the pre-conflict status quo.

In recent weeks, Tehran has also linked the reopening of the waterway to wider diplomatic and security conditions, while talks involving Oman have focused on possible arrangements for shipping lanes and regional de-escalation. For New Delhi,

stability in the Gulf and uninterrupted commercial and energy flows remain major strategic interests.

Pezeshkian's planned visit comes at a time when India is seeking to maintain working relationships with multiple sides in a deeply divided geopolitical landscape. New Delhi has traditionally maintained engagement with Iran while simultaneously developing close ties with Israel, the Gulf countries, Russia and the United States. The approach has allowed India to preserve diplomatic channels across competing geopolitical camps.

The September BRICS Summit could therefore provide a broader platform for discussions on regional stability, energy security, connectivity and the role of diplomacy in resolving international disputes.

US special forces to step up drills in Philippines

JIM GOMEZ ■ Manila

American special operations forces are ready to step up warfighting-readiness exercises with counterparts in the Philippines and other countries in Asia to further strengthen a security alliance and help deter a major conflict in the region, a US military official said Thursday.

Adm Frank Bradley, commander of the US Special Operations Command, is in the Philippines after a trip to South Korea. He will then head to Japan for talks with military officials. He is the latest American military top brass to visit key Asian allies in recent weeks to reassure them of Washington's commitment to the region given the US pre-occupation with the war in Iran.

Bradley's command, which has about 80,000 personnel

and is based at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, Florida, undertakes the US military's most sensitive and dangerous covert operations. The majority of his forces are deployed in more than 80 countries worldwide, Bradley said.

He discussed with Filipino counterparts the Philippine military's continuing effort to modernise, intensify combat exercises with the US and other allies and broaden an arc of security alliances to deter China's increasingly hostile actions in the South China Sea.

China and smaller rival claimant states, including the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan, have been locked in tense territorial standoffs for decades in the disputed waters but confrontations have particularly flared between Chinese and Philippine forces. (AP)

ADB approves \$50 million emergency loan to Maldives

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
■ Male

The Asian Development Bank has approved a \$50 million loan as emergency assistance to the Maldives to strengthen its energy security in view of fuel shortage amid West Asia conflicts, media reports said.

The Maldives Government has been facing challenges in managing fuel and tourism-related expenditure because of the global hike in fuel prices and lowered number of tourist arrivals due to the conflicts in West Asia, according to news portal The Edition.

Around 94 per cent of electricity generation in the Maldives relies on imported fuel, while desalination plants also depend on fuel to operate. Therefore, the country has limited alternatives if access to fuel



becomes difficult, the state-run Public Service Media (PSM News) said on Thursday. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) said the loan will support the 'Energy Security Emergency Assistance Project,' which aims to strengthen the Maldives' energy security. The loan will help facili-

tate the import of fuel and ensure reliable electricity and water services in the country, it added.

ADB President Masato Kanda said the impact of a war should not be allowed to reach the daily lives of families or disrupt a country's borders. Kanda further said that

although ongoing conflicts around the world have driven up the prices of goods, ADB is working to aid in reliable electricity and water services for the people of the Maldives, the PSM News said.

The assistance provided through the ADB loan will facilitate the import of diesel needed to ensure uninterrupted electricity and water services, transport food and medical supplies, move people and goods between islands, and provide waste management services, the report said.

The bank has been constantly assisting the Maldives through loans for various development projects, The Edition said, adding, recently, it also provided a \$4 million loan for the Enhancing Climate Resilience and Food Security Project in 2024.

Kushner to visit Israel, Egypt for Gaza talks

MATTHEW LEE ■ Washington

President Donald Trump's son-in-law and negotiator Jared Kushner will travel to the Middle East next week to try to advance plans for an end to the conflict in Gaza after a deal recently announced by the Trump administration ran into Israeli opposition.

An official with the Board of Peace, the body Trump established to oversee the fragile ceasefire in the Israel-Hamas war, said Kushner, board high representative Nickolay Mladenov, and executive board member



and former British Prime Minister Tony Blair would arrive in Israel on Sunday.

The group will then travel to Cairo, where meetings of a Palestinian technocratic group set to assume control

of Gaza under a US-brokered ceasefire deal have been taking place for the past several months, the official said. The trip was reported earlier by Axios.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because planning for details of the trip has not yet been finalised, said the meetings would demonstrate the determination of Trump and the Board of Peace to "see peace, prosperity and sustainable security emerge" in a demilitarised Gaza where Hamas has ceded control to allow reconstruction of the devastated territory. (AP)



Union External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar meets German parliamentarian Juergen Hardt

PTI

Bangladesh shipyard gas leak leaves eight dead

ASSOCIATED PRESS ■ Dhaka

A suspected gas leak at a ship-breaking yard in southeastern Bangladesh killed at least eight people on Friday during the dismantling of a decommissioned ship, police said.

Several others were injured at the Ferdous Steel Ship Breaking Yard in the Sitakunda area, police inspector Mohammed Alamgir said. The initial death toll was six, he said, but two others died after being transported from the scene. The company didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

Senior Government factory inspection official

Mahbubul Hasan said the workers died due to toxic gas emissions from the ship, according to the official news agency Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha.

"The cause of the gas emission and whether adequate safety measures were in place for the workers at the yard are being investigated," he said. Bangladesh's ship-breaking industry is a multi-billion dollar global giant concentrated along a 20-km stretch of the Sitakunda coast in Chattogram.

Green campaigners complain that the industry lacks safety protocols and environmental standards.

World War II Memorial in Washington vandalised, upsetting Trump

ASSOCIATED PRESS
■ Washington

The World War II Memorial on the National Mall has been vandalised, with bubbles filling a fountain and "Clean hands dirty \$" written in red paint.

The vandalism comes weeks after President Donald Trump said the nearby Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool was deliberately damaged. He called the people responsible "animals."

"Our beautiful World War II Memorial was just hit by Spray Painting Vandals," he said on Friday on his Truth Social site. "THERE CAN BE NO GREATER INSULT TO THOSE

AMERICAN HEROES WHO DIED IN WORLD WAR II."

The Interior Department said that the US Park Police were on the scene following the Thursday vandalism and an

National vendor meet held in Kolkata to accelerate PM-Surya Ghar Scheme

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Kolkata

A National Vendor Meet under the PM-Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana (PMSGY) was jointly conducted by West Bengal State Electricity Distribution Company Limited (WBSEDCL) and REC Ltd on August 13 at Hotel Taj Bengal, New Alipore, Kolkata, with an aim to strengthen the implementation of the scheme and accelerate rooftop solar installations across West Bengal.

The meeting was chaired by Santanu Basu, IAS, Principal Secretary, Power Department, Government of West Bengal. Officials from REC Ltd, CESC, the Government of West Bengal, State and National Vendors, and Training Partners also participated in the meeting. Addressing the gathering, the Principal Secretary, Power Department, Government of West Bengal, emphasised that the imple-



mentation of PMSGY: MBY in the State would be further strengthened through the active participation and coordinated efforts of both State and National Vendors. He affirmed the collective commitment of the Government of West Bengal, REC Limited, WBSEDCL, Vendors, DISCOMS,

financial institutions and other stakeholders towards accelerating rooftop solar adoption and strengthening the implementation of PM-Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana in West Bengal. REC Ltd (PMSGY: MBY team) headed by S Jayanthi, ED, presented the perspective of the scheme as Nodal

Agency for implementation of PMSGY:MBY. She urged National Vendors to deploy adequate manpower and requested Brand Owners to expand their channel partner network across West Bengal to facilitate faster installation of rooftop solar systems.

NCC Cadets of 1 Assam battalion mark Har Ghar Tiranga across Kamrup district

TONY DAS ■ Guwahati

On the eve of the 80th Independence Day Celebrations, the NCC outfits of 1 Assam Battalion NCC, Guwahati Group, organised and participated in a series of patriotic events across Kamrup District under the national campaign 'Har Ghar Tiranga'. At KC Das Commerce College, a total of 40 NCC cadets participated in a Tiranga Rally and distributed national flags among citizens as a symbol of unity. The event was followed by an inspiring lecture by Brigadier Ranjit Borthakur, SM (Retd), on the theme 'The Horrors of Partition'. Cadets of Guwahati Commerce College also joined the celebrations with 20 NCC cadets taking out a Har Ghar Tiranga flag rally around the college campus. At Gauhati



College, NCC cadets along with cadets from 60 Assam Girls Bn NCC participated in a Tiranga Rally. The programme concluded with a drawing and poster-making competition aimed at promoting national integration and patriotism. In Jawaharlal Nehru College, Boko, 60 NCC cadets participated in a Har Ghar Tiranga Rally followed by the mass singing of 'Vande Mataram' and a Drawing & Poster Making competition. The events witnessed enthusiastic participation from cadets and faculty members. The celebrations reflected the spirit of 'Unity and Discipline' and reaffirmed the commitment of NCC cadets to the nation on the occasion of the 80th Independence Day.

CHANGE OF NAME

My old name was JAMILA SAIIFY. Written in My old Passport. I have changed my name. My new & full name is now known as JAMILA ALI W/O IBRAHIM ALI. Resident of H.No. G-407, Mapple Tree opp Bharat Petrol pump New Jail Road Bhopal 462038 (M.P.) Now I will be known as JAMILA ALI in all the Government & non Government official documentations.

The Pioneer Classified

CHANGE OF NAME

I, HARI SINGH alias HARI SINGH DHAKER S/O MAHARAJ SINGH DHAKAR R/O-36/389 Laxmi Colony Morena Madhya Pradesh-476001 I have changed my name to HARI SINGH DHAKER.

सेंट्रल बैंक ऑफ इंडिया
Central Bank of India

अचल संपत्तियाँ का विक्रय नोटिस: ई-नीलामी दि. 31, अगस्त 2026

क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय होशंगाबाद, आई. टी. आई. रोड, हरियाली चौक, यूनियन बैंक के पीछे, होशंगाबाद

प्रतिभूति हित (प्रवर्तन) नियम, 2002 के नियम 8(6) के परंतुक के साथ पठित वितीय आस्तियों का प्रतिभूति करण और पुनर्गठन तथा प्रतिभूति हित का प्रवर्तन अधिनियम, 2002 के अधीन अचल आस्तियों के विक्रय हेतु ई-नीलामी विक्रय नोटिस						
आम लोगों को तथा विशेष रूप से उद्योग लेने वाले और प्रत्याभूति - दाता को यह नोटिस दिया जाता है कि नीचे वर्णित अचल संपत्ति जो प्रतिभूत लेनदार के पास निरवधि/प्रभारित है, का मौकफिक कब्जा (नीचेवर्णित) प्रतिभूत लेनदार के प्राधिकृत अधिकारी द्वारा लिया गया है, जो "जहाँ है वहाँ है और जो कुछ भी है, जिस प्रकार है" एवं "दायित्व रहित" के आधार पर निम्नलिखित देनदारों, प्रत्याभूति - दाता तथा जमानतदारों से प्रतिभूत लेनदार की बकाया राशि की बसुली हेतु ई-नीलामी द्वारा बेचे जाने हेतु विस्तृत विवरण निम्नानुसार है:						
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ईएमडी (अनिवार्य अधिम धरोहर राशि) जमा करने की दिनांक एवं समय : 31.08.2026 को सायं 4.00 बजे या उससे पूर्व

ई-नीलामी की दिनांक एवं समय : 31.08.2026 को सुबह 12.00 बजे से सायं 4.00 बजे तक

विक्रय के निबन्धन और शर्तों के व्योरे के लिए कृपया नीचे दिये गए प्रतिभूत लेनदार की वेबसाइट अर्थात www.centralbankofindia.bank.in देखें या बैंक अंतर्गत सेवा प्रदाता मे. पीएमबी अलायंस के वेबपोर्टल <http://baanknet.com> पर उपलब्ध लिंक देखें। हेल्पलाइन नंबर +91-8291220220 या क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय होशंगाबाद मो. +91-7509555955 से संपर्क कर सकते हैं। ये संबन्धित कृणियों/ प्रत्याभूति-दाता/ जमानतदार को सरफेसी अधिनियम 2002 के नियम 8 (6) के अधीन पंद्रह (15) दिनों की वैधानिक विक्रय सूचना है।
दिनांक : 15.08.2026
स्थान : नर्मदापुरम
प्राधिकृत अधिकारी
कृते सेंट्रल बैंक ऑफ इंडिया

बैंक ऑफ बड़ौदा
Bank of Baroda
ZOSARB Jabalpur

Zonal Stress Asset Recovery Branch, 2nd Floor, JDA Building, Block- 10, Civic Center, Madhatal Jabalpur- 482002 (M.P.)
Ph.No. 0761-2480150, 2480160, Email - armbja@bankofbaroda.com

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

"APPENDIX- IV-A [See proviso to Rule 6 (2) & 8 (6)]

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 6 (2) & 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower, Mortgagor (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Bank of Baroda, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" and "Without legal recourse basis" for recovery of dues in below mentioned account/s. The details of Borrower(s) / Mortgagor (s)/ Guarantor (s)/ Secured Asset/s/Dues/Reserve Price/E-Auction date & Time, EMD and Bid Increase Amount are mentioned below-

S. No.	Name & address of Borrowers / Guarantors	Total Dues	Description of the Immovable Property with known encumbrances, if any name of Property Owner/Nature of Possession	Date & Time of E-auction	Reserve Price EMD Bid Increase amt.	Status of Possession Constructive/ Physical	Property Inspection Date & Time
1	1.M/s Arianth Coal Sales India Private Limited (Borrower) Address: Dhanshree Villa, E-4/108, Bhagira Apartment ke Samne, Arera Colony, Bhopal (M.P.)-462016 2.M/s Arianth Coal Sales India Private Limited (Borrower) Address: 304, Taniska W.E. Highway Kandivali East, Mumbai (M.H.) 400101 3.Mrs. Nirmala Jain W/o Mr Arun Jain (Director and Guarantor) Address: E-7/435, Arera Colony, Bhopal (M.P.) 462016 4.Mrs. Kalpana Jain W/o Mr Anil Kumar Jain (Director and Guarantor) Address: Dhanshree Villa, E-4/108, Bhagira Apartment ke Samne, Arera Colony, Bhopal (M.P.)-462016 5. Mr. Anil Kumar Jain S/o Shri Kapoor Chand Jain (Director and Guarantor) Address: Dhanshree Villa, E-4/108, Bhagira Apartment ke Samne, Arera Colony, Bhopal (M.P.)-462016 6. Shri Kapoor Chand Jain S/o Late Shri Munna Lal Jain (Deceased Director and Guarantor) through his legal heirs i.e. Mr Arun Jain (son), Mr. Anil Jain (son), Mr Arvind Jain (son) and Mr Manoj Jain (son) Address: Dhanshree Villa, E-4/108, Bhagira Apartment ke Samne, Arera Colony, Bhopal (M.P.) -462016 7. Mrs. Dhanshree Bai Jain W/o Shri Kapoor Chand Jain (Deceased Guarantor) through her legal heirs i.e. Mr Arun Jain (son), Mr. Anil Jain (son), Mr Arvind Jain (son) and Mr Manoj Jain (son) Address: Dhanshree Villa, E-4/108, Bhagira Apartment ke Samne, Arera Colony, Bhopal (M.P.) -462016 8. Mr. Arun Jain S/o Shri Kapoor Chand Jain (Guarantor) Address: E-7/435, Arera Colony, Bhopal (M.P.) -462016 9. Mr. Ankit Jain S/o Mr Anil Kumar Jain (Guarantor) Address: Dhanshree Villa, E-4/108, Bhagira Apartment ke Samne, Arera Colony, Bhopal (M.P.) -462016	Rs. 112,54,76,020.72/- + Interest and Other Charges	1. Residential Property Flat No. 303, Third Floor, Radha Krishna Apartment, Idgah Hills, Near Saint Joseph Convent School, Ward No. 9, Bhopal (Area of Flat- 73.23 Sq.Mtr.) standing in the name of Shri Anil Kumar Jain S/o Shri Kapoor Chand Jain Boundaries:- East - Road, West - Corridor, North - Flat No. 302, South - Plot No. 116	31.08.2026 2.00 pm to 6.00 pm	Rs. 1400000.00/- Rs.1400000.00/- Rs. 25000.00/-	Physical	24/08/2026 11.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.

For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer/visit to the website link <https://www.bankofbaroda.in/eauction> and online auction portal Baanknet.com. Also, prospective bidders may contact the authorized officer on Tel.No. 0761-2480150, 9810553775.
Place: Jabalpur, Date: 15.08.2026

Authorised Officer, Bank Of Baroda



समस्त देशवासियों को
साहस और शौर्य के
प्रतीक राष्ट्रीय पर्व
स्वतंत्रता दिवस
की हार्दिक
शुभकामनायें

मान. श्री लाल सिंह जी
श्रीमती रायश्री मुकेश किरार
अध्यक्ष न.प. मालनपुर

रिहान अली जैदी
मुख्य नगर पालिका अधिकारी
मालनपुर

समस्त देशवासियों को
साहस और शौर्य के प्रतीक राष्ट्रीय पर्व
स्वतंत्रता दिवस
की हार्दिक
शुभकामनाएं
नरेन्द्र कुशवाह
थाना प्रभारी गोहद

समस्त देशवासियों को
साहस और शौर्य के प्रतीक राष्ट्रीय पर्व
स्वतंत्रता दिवस
हार्दिक
शुभकामनाएं
रामनरेश यादव
थाना प्रभारी गोहद चौराहा

समस्त देशवासियों को
साहस और शौर्य के प्रतीक राष्ट्रीय पर्व
स्वतंत्रता दिवस
की हार्दिक
शुभकामनायें
बलराम यादव
थाना प्रभारी झाकरी

समस्त देशवासियों को
स्वतंत्रता दिवस
की हार्दिक
शुभकामनायें
संदीप मौर्य
महिला बाल विकास अधिकारी

आप सभी को
स्वतंत्रता दिवस
की हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं
अपील

नगर को स्वच्छता सर्वेक्षण में नंबर 1 बनाने में सहयोग करें।
कूड़ा इधर-उधर अथवा नालियों में न डालें।
डस्टबिन का प्रयोग करें।
सूखा एवं गीला कूड़ा अलग-अलग संकलित कर कूड़ा-गाड़ी में ही डालें।

विमला नरेंद्र दुधारिया
अध्यक्षा
कार्यालय नगर परिषद दबोह जिला भिण्ड (म. प्र.)

सोनू परिहार
सीएमओ

समस्त देशवासियों को
साहस और शौर्य के प्रतीक राष्ट्रीय पर्व
स्वतंत्रता दिवस
की हार्दिक
शुभकामनाएं
टी.एन. जाटव
पी.एच.ई. विभाग, गोहद

समस्त देशवासियों को
साहस और शौर्य के प्रतीक राष्ट्रीय पर्व
स्वतंत्रता दिवस
की हार्दिक
शुभकामनायें
अजय सिंह तोमर
उपसंगी पीडब्ल्यूडी विभाग

समस्त देशवासियों को
साहस और शौर्य के प्रतीक राष्ट्रीय पर्व
स्वतंत्रता दिवस
की हार्दिक
शुभकामनाएं
विश्राम शाक्य
नायब तहसीलदार गोहद

समस्त देशवासियों को
स्वतंत्रता दिवस
की हार्दिक
शुभकामनायें
जय सिंह भदौरिया (आबकारी ठेकेदार)
कम्पोजिट मंदिरा दुकान मण्डी तिराहा व भिण्ड रोड चौराहा

समस्त देशवासियों को
साहस और शौर्य के प्रतीक राष्ट्रीय पर्व
स्वतंत्रता दिवस
की हार्दिक
शुभकामनाएं
भगवती सगर
मण्डी सचिव, गोहद

समस्त देशवासियों को
साहस और शौर्य के प्रतीक राष्ट्रीय पर्व
स्वतंत्रता दिवस
की हार्दिक
शुभकामनाएं
राकेश कुमार श्रीवास्तव
नायब तहसीलदार गोहद

समस्त देशवासियों को
साहस और शौर्य के प्रतीक राष्ट्रीय पर्व
स्वतंत्रता दिवस
की हार्दिक
शुभकामनाएं
महेन्द्र गौतम
अनुविभागीय अधिकारी पुलिस

समस्त देशवासियों को
साहस और शौर्य के प्रतीक राष्ट्रीय पर्व
स्वतंत्रता दिवस
की हार्दिक
शुभकामनायें
श्वेता चंदेरिया
रजिस्ट्रार उप पंजीयक, गोहद

समस्त देशवासियों को
साहस और शौर्य के प्रतीक राष्ट्रीय पर्व
स्वतंत्रता दिवस
की हार्दिक
शुभकामनाएं
विवेक प्रभात
थाना प्रभारी एंडोरी

समस्त क्षेत्र एवं ग्रामवासियों को
साहस और शौर्य के प्रतीक राष्ट्रीय पर्व
स्वतंत्रता दिवस
की हार्दिक
शुभकामनाएं
अपील
नगर को स्वच्छ रखें
पेड़ लगायें
जल बचायें
मंजू जगदीश माहौर
मुख्य नगर पालिका अध्यक्ष, गोहद

समस्त देशवासियों को
साहस और शौर्य के प्रतीक राष्ट्रीय पर्व
स्वतंत्रता दिवस
की हार्दिक
शुभकामनाएं
सोनू परिहार
नगर पालिका सीएमओ, गोहद

समस्त देशवासियों को
स्वतंत्रता दिवस
हार्दिक
शुभकामनाएं
जितेन्द्र सिंह सिकरवार (आबकारी ठेकेदार)
कम्पोजिट मंदिरा दुकान अटल चौराहा व नया बस स्टैंड गोहद



जिनके अमर बलिदान से मिली स्वतंत्रता
उन वीरों को शत-शत नमन

नया मध्यप्रदेश

समानता का विश्वास, समावेशी विकास



नरेन्द्र मोदी, प्रधानमंत्री



‘स्वतंत्रता हमें केवल अधिकार नहीं देती, बल्कि यह कर्तव्य का स्मरण भी कराती है। आइए, हम सब मिलकर प्रदेश के समग्र विकास और समृद्धि के लिए निरंतर प्रयासरत रहने का संकल्प लें।’

डॉ. मोहन यादव
मुख्यमंत्री, मध्यप्रदेश

प्रदेशवासियों को
80वें स्वाधीनता
दिवस की
हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं



जुड़ें नए मध्यप्रदेश से