



JHARKHAND RIVERS IN SPATE FLASH FLOOD IN RIVER KOYEL IN DALTONGANJ AFTER 50 YEARS

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

DALTONGANJ : Relentless monsoon rains have pushed Jharkhand's major rivers above danger levels, with the Swarnarekha, Kharkai, Koel, and Damodar rivers causing flood threats in several districts. Palamu's Medininagar has seen over 200 homes affected as the Koel river overflowed, submerging low-lying areas and forcing cancellation of tourist bookings near Palamu Tiger Reserve.

The Koyel floods reminds of massive flood had come in this Koyel river in 1976 when families living on the bank of the river near Giriwar school, had to move into the upland located Palamu club for a



River Koyel in ferocious spate in Daltonganj

couple of days there waiting for the flood water to recede. Hussain Waris, 68, a well known lawyer said "This Friday flood is far more ferocious than 1976. It's highly turbulent. It's worrying." The lawyer reminded that safety amenities were less in those years than what people had today.

As the river Koyel is a rain fed river, it has flash flood once or twice every rainy season but this 2026 August flash flood surpasses all recent flash floods of 5 to 10 years said another resident of the river bank. Daltonganj town's low lying areas like Belwatiker, Kandu mohalla, Bhatti mohalla, Pahari

mohalla etc are inundated said sources.

A government middle school in Belwatiker in town had 1 foot water on the campus. Bikes and four wheelers got under flood water in the low lying areas. Nodal officer of the district disaster management Kundan Kumar who is the

additional collector made a detour of the flooded areas asking people to keep off the river.

DC Palamu Dilip Pratap Singh Shekhawat said, "District administration have alerted our civic and medical personnel to be in high alert to meet any exigency arising out of the flash flood." Administration is keeping a close watch on the houses located right in the bed of the river asking people to shift to safer places till the water recedes.

Sources said the flash flood brings in venomous and mon venomous snakes and hence people living on the bank of the river Koyel are advised to be careful and vigilant at night.

Bokaro DC receives Rakhi and I Day badges from Dantu school students

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

BOKARO : Students of Plus Two High School, Dantu, Kasmar, visited the Bokaro Collectorate on Friday and presented Rakhi and tricolour-themed Independence Day badges to Deputy Commissioner Ajay Nath Jha.

Students Usha Kumari, Sonali Kumari, Mojosarin Sajmin and Somi Kumari presented the Rakhi and badges as part of the celebrations for Raksha Bandhan and Independence Day. Appreciating the initiative, Deputy Commissioner Ajay Nath Jha said such efforts promote national consciousness, cultural values and a spirit of social



Students of Plus Two High School, Dantu, present Rakhi and tricolour-themed Independence Day badges to DC Ajay Nath Jha at the Collectorate in Bokaro.

unity among children. He extended his best wishes to the students and wished them a bright future.

Deputy Development Commissioner Shatabdi Majumdar, Trainee IAS

Arvind Radhakrishnan and Assistant Public Relations Officer Avinash Kumar Singh were also present and appreciated the students' enthusiasm and creative initiative.

XLRI takes new digital library initiatives, launches Nova 3.0



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

JAMSHEDPUR : XLRI - Xavier School of Management, Jamshedpur, has taken a major step towards strengthening its digital library services with the launch of new technology-driven initiatives aimed at improving access to academic and research resources.

The initiatives were unveiled during the celebration of National Librarians' Day at the Sir Jehangir Ghandy Library, commemorating the 134th birth anniversary of Padma Shri Dr. S. R. Ranganathan, widely regarded as the Father of Library Science in India.

A key highlight of the programme was the launch of Nova 3.0 - the XL-LibBot (AI Assistant) by Prof. H. K. Pradhan, Program Director - PGDM (Finance), Integrated with the Summon Discovery Service, the AI-powered

assistant will help users retrieve relevant electronic resources more efficiently.

Prof. Pradhan commended the XLRI Library for its high-quality services and its longstanding contribution to supporting the institute's academic and research community.

Another major initiative was the launch of "Retrospective Digitisation of Doctoral Theses" by XLRI Director Dr. (Fr.) Sebastian George, SJ. The initiative is aimed at preserving the institute's valuable doctoral research and making it accessible in digital form.

Dr. (Fr.) Donald D'Silva, SJ, Dean (A&F), launched XL-LibRemote, the library's in-house off-site access portal, providing users with convenient access to library resources beyond the campus.

The digital initiatives were part of a broader effort by the XLRI Library to enhance its services through technology while strengthening support for students, faculty members and researchers. D. T. Edwin, Head - Library, highlighted the library's growth in recent years, including its extensive resources, enhanced premium services and professionally trained human resources. He stressed the importance of continuous human resource development to keep pace with technological advancements.

JMM halts coal production, dispatch at Amrapali Project in Chatra

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

CHATRA : The Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) has intensified its opposition to the Centre's proposed Mineral Development and Regulation Amendment Bill, 2026, with party workers in Chatra announcing an indefinite halt to coal production and dispatch at the Amrapali Coal Project.

The move is part of the first phase of the JMM's statewide agitation against the proposed legislation. The shutdown has affected mining and coal transportation activities in the project area.

JMM Chatra district president Nilesh Gyasen said the Centre was attempting to weaken Jharkhand's rights over its mineral resources. He described the agitation as a fight for the state's rights, identity and economic interests rather than merely opposition to a bill.

"Jharkhand's mineral



resources cannot be compromised. The Centre must understand that the people of Jharkhand have the primary right over the state's land and mineral wealth," he said.

The party's district treasurer said the JMM would not remain a silent spectator to attempts to weaken Jharkhand. He said the party would continue its struggle over the rights to jal, jungle, zameen and mineral resources, and warned that the agitation could be expanded into a wider statewide movement if necessary.

JMM emergency Central Committee meet on August 20 over 'Anti-Jharkhand' Bill

RANCHI : The Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) has convened an emergency one-day extended meeting of its Central Committee on August 20 to discuss the political situation arising from the passage of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026 by Parliament.

According to an office order issued by JMM general secretary Vinod Pandey, the meeting has been called to deliberate on the prevailing political situation following the passage of what the party has termed an "anti-Jharkhand" legislation by the Central government.

The meeting will be held at 10.30 am at Sohrai Bhavan in Harmu, Ranchi.

All Central Committee office-bearers and members have been asked to attend the meeting. District presidents, district secretaries, district convenors, as well as the presidents and secretaries of the party's metropolitan units, have also been invited.

The meeting comes amid growing opposition from the JMM and the Hemant Soren-led state government to the amendments concerning mineral resources and the financial rights of states.

On August 13, Chief Minister and JMM leader Hemant Soren had strongly opposed the passage of the amendment bill in both Houses of Parliament. Soren also wrote to the President seeking withdrawal of the legislation and termed it a "black law".

Kharkai swells, water in low lying areas

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

JAMSHEDPUR : The threat of flooding intensified in Jamshedpur and adjoining areas on Friday as incessant rainfall pushed up the water level of the Kharkai River, which was flowing around 2.75 metres above the danger mark.

The situation worsened following heavy rainfall in Odisha, which caused the water level at Bangbil Dam to rise above the danger mark. Two sluice gates of the dam were opened, resulting in a sharp increase in the inflow into the Kharkai River and heightening the flood threat in downstream areas.

Several low-lying settlements along the riverbanks have been affected by the rising water level, with flood water entering residential areas. Bagbera Naya Basti was among the worst-affected localities, where water reportedly entered around 300 houses. Residents faced considerable difficulty as they rushed to shift their belongings and move to safer locations.

The rising water level triggered panic among residents living in vulnerable areas. Many families began moving essential household items and valuables to higher



River flows on the danger mark in Jamshedpur on Friday

ground as a precautionary measure.

The district administration has placed the situation under close watch and instructed residents of low-lying areas to move to safer and elevated locations. Administrative teams have been deployed to monitor the affected areas, while arrangements are being made to relocate residents wherever necessary.

Relief and rescue preparations have also been stepped up, with social organisations and local volunteers assisting affected families. Arrangements are being made for essential supplies, including food, drinking water and other necessities. Relief camps and temporary shelters are also being pre-

pared for people who may need to be evacuated.

Authorities have urged residents to remain vigilant and avoid going near riverbanks, flooded roads and water-logged areas.

People living in low-lying settlements have been advised to follow official instructions and shift to safer locations without waiting for the situation to deteriorate.

The Kharkai, one of the major rivers flowing through Jamshedpur, joins the Subarnarekha at Domuhani in Sonari. Its water level can rise rapidly during periods of intense rainfall, particularly when there is increased inflow from its upper catchment areas and release of water from upstream reservoirs.

Governor interacts with deaf and mute students in Dumka



Jharkhand Governor Santosh Kumar Gangwar inspects the computer laboratory and takes stock of academic facilities at the Deaf and Mute Residential School in Dumka.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

DUMKA : Jharkhand Governor Santosh Kumar Gangwar visited the Government Deaf and Mute Residential School in Dumka on Friday, where he interacted closely with the students and reviewed the existing academic activities, infrastructure, and institutional requirements. Emphasizing that specially-abled children are an integral part of mainstream society, the Governor stated that families, educational institutions, the community, and the government must work collectively to provide a supportive and nurturing ecosystem for their all-round development.

Addressing the gathering, the Governor motivated the students to have unwavering faith in their innate talents and potential, urging them to leverage education as a powerful tool to achieve their goals. He instructed the

school authorities and stakeholders to keep him apprised of any challenges or institutional needs so that timely intervention and necessary support could be extended from his level.

Drawing from his personal experiences, Governor Gangwar shared that being a native of the Bareilly district in Uttar Pradesh, where a similar school for deaf and mute students operates, he has long maintained regular interaction with educators in this domain.

During the visit, the Governor inspected the school's classrooms and computer laboratory, spending time understanding the teaching methodologies and encouraging the students. On the occasion, the Governor distributed assets to the students and also felicitated local senior citizens to mark the special visit.

Earlier, Governor Gangwar

reached the state's second capital, Dumka, on Friday on a two-day official visit to preside over the Independence Day celebrations. On landing at Dumka Airport via a state aircraft from Ranchi, the Governor was accorded a warm reception by Deputy Commissioner Abhijit Sinha, who presented him with a bouquet. A contingent of the district police force presented a ceremonial Guard of Honour on the airport tarmac.

Key dignitaries present at the airport reception included DIG Ambar Lakra and Superintendent of Police Pitamber Singh Kherwar, along with other senior civil and police administration officials.

From the airport, the Governor's motorcade moved directly to Lok Bhavan, Dumka, where elaborately secured hospitality arrangements have been made for his night stay. The official programme for Friday evening also featured an interactive high-tea session with top administrative functionaries at the venue.

As per the official schedule issued by the Raj Bhavan, the Governor will commence the national celebrations on Saturday morning by hoisting the National Flag at Lok Bhavan at 8:40 AM.

He will subsequently depart for the Dumka Police Line ground, reaching by 8:51 AM to officiate as the chief guest at the main district-level ceremony.

THE PROFOUND SYMBOLISM OF INDIA'S NATIONAL FLAG



BY RAJAT MUKHERJEE

Our national flag is a powerful emblem of India's philosophy of life and of the central, enduring ideals that guide our existence. It is a lofty symbol—not of military might, territorial claims or economic dominance. It poses no challenge to other nations. Instead, it is deeply moral, spiritual, poetic and inspiring. The Indian tricolour does not stand for narrow nationalism; it embodies universal humanism.

The topmost band is a bright, radiant saffron. This is the colour of

the fire-like robes worn by India's ancient community of sannyasis, the world's oldest order of renunciates. It represents the unquenchable, eternal flame of life and the burning core of reality. It symbolises the ideals of sacrifice, selflessness and service, and the lifelong austerity that life demands. Above all, it recalls the fiery trials endured by our freedom fighters and martyrs, and calls upon us to keep the lamp of liberty forever burning.

The middle band is pure white. White stands for purity and is universally recognised as a plea for

peace. In our flag it signifies peace on earth and goodwill towards all humanity—true world peace. When all colours merge, the result is white. Thus it represents the unity of our multi-hued national life and serves as a powerful symbol of India's national integration.

The lowest band is green, the colour of nature and the verdant earth. It reflects the ever-changing, multi-coloured poetry of the planet and reminds us to keep alive our sense of kinship with nature—the very ideal that sustained the vibrant life of ancient India through the cen-

turies. At the centre of the flag flies Ashoka's Dharma Chakra. This wheel stands for truth and the ceaseless cycle of life, the rotation and revolution of the planets. It symbolises the balancing forces of history and civilisation. Through this emblem we see time and eternity, the creative, evolving and transformative powers of the universe, and the twin principles of motion and equilibrium.

In its three colours and sacred wheel, the Indian national flag remains a living call to the highest ideals of humanity.

GRAND ANNUAL PRIZE CEREMONY AT RAJENDRA VIDYALAYA, GHUTIA

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

JAMSHEDPUR : A grand annual prize ceremony was organised at Rajendra Vidyalaya, Ghutia, on Friday. Somesh Chandra Soren, MLA of Ghatshila, graced the occasion as the chief guest. The event was also attended by S.K. Singh, acting president, Bihar Association, Amresh Sinha, school secretary and Khushbu Thakur, principal. The objective of the program was to honor and encourage students for their outstanding achievements in the academic sphere. Students were awarded prizes, certificates, and

cash awards for various accomplishments. Addressing the students, Chief Guest Somesh Chandra Soren inspired them to move forward with continuous hard work, discipline, and dedication. He commended the school's efforts in nurturing the students' talent. Expressing special gratitude to the Principal, Khushbu Thakur, the chief guest noted her remarkable efforts in reaching out to parents in remote rural areas, enrolling their children, and educating them to a level where they can now compete successfully with urban students. He added that

when these children achieve success and reach their goals in the future, they will certainly remember their Principal. During the ceremony, students showcased their talents through various cultural performances, filling the atmosphere with enthusiasm and joy. School Principal Khushbu Thakur expressed her gratitude to all guests, parents, teachers, and students, stating that the students' achievements are a source of pride for the school family. She pledged to continue striving for the holistic development of the students in the future.



S.K. Singh, acting president, Bihar Association, Amresh Sinha, school secretary and Khushbu Thakur, principal, inaugurate the annual day function

Bokaro celebrates Independence Day eve with patriotic fervour

PNS : BOKARO

A vibrant cultural evening was organised at Shibu Soren Smriti Bhawan (Town Hall), Bokaro, on the eve of the 80th Independence Day. Deputy Commissioner Ajay Nath Jha and Superintendent of Police Nathu Singh Meena jointly inaugurated the programme by lighting the ceremonial lamp.

Students from various schools presented patriotic songs, group dances and cultural performances highlighting the freedom struggle, national unity, cultural diversity and the vision of a developed India. The performances filled the auditorium with patriotic spirit and received enthusiastic applause. DC Ajay Nath Jha said Independence Day reminds everyone of the sacrifices of freedom fighters and called upon citizens to uphold national unity, integrity and democratic values. SP Nathu Singh Meena stressed the role of every citizen in nation-building and urged people to promote peace, harmony and brotherhood.

Students from MGM Higher Secondary School, DAV Public School, Chinmaya Vidyalaya, Shri Ayyappa Public School and various Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas participated in the programme.

District toppers in Matriculation and Intermediate examinations under JAC, CBSE and ICSE were felicitated with medals and certificates. Participating students were also honoured.

Photo caption: DC Ajay Nath Jha and SP Nathu Singh Meena inaugurate the Independence Day eve cultural programme at Shibu Soren Smriti Bhawan, Bokaro.





80 वें स्वतंत्रता दिवस की हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं



MUNNA SINGH, SENIOR POLITICIAN, HAZARIBAG

Seven workers, two from J'khand killed in Chamoli tunnel disaster

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

RANCHI : Seven workers died following a major landslide inside the under-construction Vishnugad-Pipalkoti hydropower project tunnel of THDC in Uttarakhand's Chamoli district on Thursday evening. Two of the deceased, identified as Vijay Kumar and Jitendra Kumar, were from Jharkhand. The incident occurred around 7 pm when a sudden landslide caused a large quantity of water and debris to enter the tunnel, trapping several workers inside. Rescue operations continued throughout the night amid difficulties caused by the heavy debris. Meanwhile, Chief Minister Hemant Soren directed the state's Labour Department and migrant control room to step up coordination and provide verified information to the families of affected workers.

Cong Satyagraha over Haldwani 'purification' row

RANCHI : The Jharkhand Congress on Friday organised a protest march and satyagraha in Ranchi against the alleged "purification" of a rally venue in Haldwani following Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge's public meeting. Led by Ranchi Rural District Congress Committee president Somnath Munda, party workers marched from near Ranchi College in Morabadi to Babu Vatika, raising slogans against untouchability, caste discrimination and social inequality. The protesters raised slogans including "Stop untouchability, stop discrimination", "Long live the Constitution", "Long live Babasaheb" and "Respect the Constitution, respect the nation."

80 वें स्वतंत्रता दिवस की हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं



SURJIT NAGWALA, POLITICIAN, CONGRESS PARTY HAZARIBAG

80 वें स्वतंत्रता दिवस की हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं



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- सिंटर की ओर से लसी
- सुयोप (काता मोरिदा) की ओर से उपचार
- एल्ले से नर की ओर से डिस्कस
- शस्त्रीयक रिपेरेन्सी की ओर से उपचार
- कोरियाई लेंग की ओर से उपचार
- अप कोरि डबल के नर कोरि से डिस्क

स्थापना वर्ष 2005

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HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY

80th

15TH AUGUST 2026

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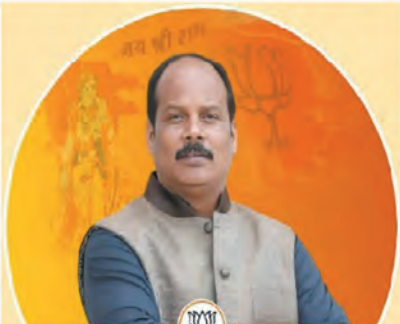
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80 वें स्वतंत्रता दिवस की हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं



प्रदीप प्रसाद

विधायक

हजारीबाग विधानसभा

सत्यमेव जयते

Government of India

Heartfelt greetings to all fellow citizens on the 80th Independence Day

I extend my best wishes to all of you on this great festival of Independence. There's only one mantra for 140 crore Indians - Viksit Bharat. To build a Viksit Bharat, we will neither stop nor bow down, and we will build a Viksit Bharat in 2047.

— Narendra Modi

Live telecast of the Independence Day celebrations from the ramparts of the Red Fort on Doordarshan Network from 6:30 AM onwards.

CBC 22201/13/0019/2627

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

ity 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 entertain-

ment 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.

UGC-NET 2026 provisional answer key to be out on August 16: NTA



UGC NET 2026

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

The provisional answer key for UGC-NET 2026 will be published on August 16, the National Testing Agency (NTA) said on Friday.

The NTA said the provisional answer keys for CSIR-NET and ICAR AIEEA (PG) and AICE (PhD) 2026 will also be published on the same day on its website.

“The provisional answer keys for UGC-NET, CSIR-NET and ICAR AIEEA (PG) & AICE (PhD) 2026 will be published on 16 August 2026 on NTA’s website,” the NTA said in a post on X.

The NTA advised candidates to rely only on official communications from the testing agency.

The agency conducted the UGC NET examinations on

June 22, 23, 24, 25, 29, 30, and a retest on July 5.

UGC-NET is conducted to determine the eligibility of candidates for the posts of Assistant Professor and admission to PhD programmes. The examination consists of two papers: Paper I, which includes 50 questions on teaching aptitude, reasoning ability, and general awareness, and Paper II, which contains 100 subject-related multiple-choice questions.

The Joint CSIR-UGC NET June 2026 examination were held on July 17 and 18 in Computer-Based Test (CBT) mode to determine the eligibility for the award of Junior Research Fellowship (JRF), appointment as assistant professor, and admission to Ph.D. programmes in institutions across India.

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संतोष कुमार गंगवार
राज्यपाल, झारखण्ड

समस्त झारखण्डवासियों को

स्वतंत्रता दिवस

की हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं

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सूचना एवं जनसंपर्क विभाग, झारखण्ड

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, destitution 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 IGNA 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 will 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 and Sanitation Committees and local communities taking a larger role in the operation, monitoring and sustainability of rural water systems.

Netaji row: BJP MP apologies after FIR

SAUGAR SENGUPTA
■ Kolkata

Bengal Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari on Friday said that law would take its own course after FIRs were lodged against BJP MP Ananta Maharaj alias Nagendra Roy for his derogatory remarks against Nnetaji Subhash Chandra Bose. The erring leader from Cooch Behar however apologised for his statements.

The Chief Minister said that Roy had done an “unpardonable” wrong saying however that it was good that he had proffered an apology for his statements. “Though law will take its own course ... his video (seeking apology) uploaded on social media last night should be taken with positive note considering his age ... I don’t have much to say about this,” Adhikari said adding how



the police had already arrested five persons and got deleted two more than 200 social media posts.

Earlier Maharaj appeared in a social media video seeking apology. He said, “regarding my statements I would like to state that if unintentional comments have hurt anyone emotionally then I feel sorry from the core of my heart.”

He had earlier referred to some documents that he

claimed authentic calling Netaji a “war criminal” and justifying the action taken by the British Government against him. When repeatedly reminded that by making such derogatory comments he was hurting national sentiments he said “the statements are not mine ... these are based on historical documents that I am referring to ... he had raised the Azad Hind Fauz by taking men from the British Army, and

then fought against the English...any other Government in the place of the British would have treated it the way they did ... he was a war criminal and was treated accordingly.”

Gopal Dey a local leader of Forward Bloc the party that was raised by Bose had filed an FIR against Maharaj. He said “Anant Maharaj has insulted the whole nation ... such a derogatory statement merited an FIR and we did it ... He should be arrested and expelled from the Rajya Sabha.”

Earlier the Chief Minister too had warned legal actions against those making disrespectful statements against Netaji. Tathagato Roy a senior BJP leader and former Tripura Governor too demanded strong action against Roy saying, “he should be immediately expelled from the BJP.”

Luck strikes in Panna: 7 workers find 17.96-carat diamond worth ₹50 lakh

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Bhopal

A stroke of luck has transformed the fortunes of seven daily-wage workers in Madhya Pradesh’s Panna district, who discovered a 17.96-carat diamond while working at a leased mine in Sarokha village. The diamond was found by Akhilesh Pal and six other workers, who had taken the shallow mine on lease around two years ago. After working for months without finding anything valuable, the group eventually abandoned the mine and left it untouched for nearly a year.

The workers later began operating another mine nearby. Following heavy rains, they returned to inspect the old site and spotted a stone lying near the surface. The stone was subsequently examined by diamond officials, who confirmed that it weighed 17.96 carats and was



of gem quality.

Diamond official Ravi Patel described the discovery as a valuable find and said the quality of the stone made it particularly significant. The diamond is expected to be put up for Government auction, possibly in October, with buyers from India and abroad likely to participate.

The stone could fetch around Rs 50 lakh at auction, according to officials. Under the applicable arrangement, the Government will deduct 12 per cent royalty from the sale proceeds, while the

remaining amount will be divided equally among the seven workers. The discovery adds to a series of significant diamond finds reported from Panna, where people working leased mining areas have occasionally struck valuable stones.

In June, a tribal family found an 11.19-carat diamond in the district, estimated to be worth around ₹30 lakh. The same family had earlier discovered a 19.22-carat diamond in 2024, which fetched ₹93 lakh at a Government auction.

Congress accepted India’s division for sake of power: BJP president Nitin Nabin

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Gurugram

Targeting the Congress over the Partition of India, BJP national president Nitin Nabin on Friday accused the party’s leadership of accepting the country’s division for the sake of power and alleged that it never publicly apologised to families who suffered during the tragedy.

Addressing a Partition Horrors Remembrance Day programme in Gurugram, Nitin Nabin said the Congress had suppressed the truth about Partition for years and claimed that its “divisive mindset” remains evident even today.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s decision to observe Partition Horrors Remembrance Day had this very objective: To ensure the new generation becomes aware of the reality of the Partition and the suf-

fering ordinary people endured at that time, he said.

The BJP president said the two-nation theory was discussed in the 1940 Lahore Resolution, and people sensed the country’s partition then, even before Independence.

Nitin Nabin said those who eyed power for themselves, those who dreamed golden dreams for themselves, gained power. “But those who dreamed of freedom had to play Holi with blood; they had to lose their loved ones. This pain lingers somewhere in all our hearts today. Those who hastened this transfer of power, thinking they saw their future in this partition, played with the futures of millions of Indians while securing their own,” he said.

The BJP president said today is a day to remember those who made sacrifices



Union Minister for Power and Housing Manohar Lal, BJP National President Nitin Nabin and others during a ‘Partition Horrors Remembrance Day’ programme in Gurugram, Haryana on Friday

and were displaced amidst the horrors of Partition. He paid his respects to all the families who lost their loved ones and endured the pain of displacement, offering them his tribute.

He said reflecting on the suffering of those families makes one realise that such a harrowing moment has likely never occurred in our

own lives. He said only a nation that understands its history and learns from it can steer its future in a better direction.

He alleged that the very Congress that laid the foundation for the country’s partition now speaks of uniting the nation, even though its divisive mindset remains evident today.

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. (PTI)



CM NAIDU FLAGS OFF 58 MODERN FIREFIGHTING VEHICLES IN ANDHRA

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Friday flagged off 58 modern fire-fighting 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 fire-fighting vehicles, 20 water bowsters and 13 Quick Response Multipurpose Fire-fighting 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. (PTI)

I-Day: CRPF gets highest gallantry, service medals among CAPFs

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) bagged the maximum gallantry and service medals — 86 in total — among the central paramilitary forces on the occasion of the 80th Independence Day.

The country’s largest paramilitary force received 24 gallantry medals (GM), five President’s Medals for Distinguished Service (PSM) and 57 Medals for Meritorious Service (MSM), according to a Ministry of Home Affairs notification on Friday.

The gallantry medals were earned from two counter-terrorist operations in Jammu and Kashmir and one operation against insurgents in Manipur, both taking place in 2024, officials said.

The force is expected to get a few gallantry medals that



are issued by the Ministry of Defence too, they said.

Deputy Inspector General (DIG) M Dhinakaran is among the PSM awardees.

The officer, who earlier served in the Special Protection Group (SPG), currently heads the CRPF Recruit

Training Centre in Avadi, Chennai.

Dhinakaran has served in the paramilitary force for over three decades, commanding units in the anti-Naxal operations theatre and providing leadership to the intelligence and VIP security

wings of the CRPF. “The PSM was awarded to the DIG in recognition of his long and distinguished service, integrity, dedication and exemplary professional performance,” an official statement said.

The CRPF, with an estimated strength of 3.25 lakh personnel, is the country’s lead internal security force with its units majorly deployed in three main combat theatres — anti-Naxal operations, counter-terrorist tasks in Jammu and Kashmir and anti-insurgency duties in the northeastern states.

The Border Security Force (BSF) is the only other Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) that was decorated with gallantry medals (20).

The border guarding force received 47 service medals (PSM and MSM) in addition to the other CAPFs.

PM, Shah pay tribute on Partition remembrance day, urge unity

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and several other ministers remembered the victims of the 1947 Partition on Friday, the eve of Independence Day.

The Modi Government has been observing August 14 as the ‘Partition Horrors Remembrance Day’ since 2021 in remembrance of those who lost their lives in riots after the country’s division and the ensuing exodus.

“Today we mark #PartitionHorrorsRemembranceDay. We recall the courage of all those who

were impacted by Partition. It was a moment in history that tore apart several lives - families were uprooted, loved ones were lost and immense suffering was endured,” Modi said on social media.

The prime minister said that despite the turmoil, people rebuilt their lives from nothing, turned adversity into achievement and contributed to the nation’s progress. Their lives remind everyone of the strength of the human spirit, he said.

“May this day deepen our resolve to preserve harmony and brotherhood in our nation and collectively work towards building a ‘Viksit Bharat,’” Modi said. “Let us



further strengthen the national spirit of goodwill and unity,” he said. Home Minister Shah said August 14 stands witness to one of the most brutal

chapters in history and the scar of the country’s partition, “which is a gift from the Congress”, will never be forgotten by history.

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.

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 emphasised that the domestic defence



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh interacts with Indian Army contingent from Commonwealth Games held at Glasgow in New Delhi

production, which stood at just ₹46,000 crore in 2014, has skyrocketed to a record ₹1.78 lakh crore in the Financial Year (FY) 2025-26, nearly a four-fold increase over the last decade.

He added that defence exports, which stood at a mere ₹686 crore in FY 2013-14, surged to an all-time high of ₹38,424 crore in FY 2025-

26, an increase of over 5,500 per cent. Rajnath Singh also pointed out that the defence budget has risen from ₹2.53 lakh crore in FY 2013-14 to ₹7.85 lakh crore in FY 2026-27, which is a reflection of India’s growing commitment to future defence technologies.

The defence minister said over the past year, the

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.

PRESIDENT'S MEDAL FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE (PSM)			
			
Smt. Shobha Dutta Assistant Inspector General of Police SP, CBI, Complaint & Coordination Cell, New Delhi	Sh. Manoj Banerjee Additional Superintendent of Police, CBI, BSF, Kolkata	Smt. Ginni Rana Additional Superintendent of Police, CBI Academy, Ghazabad	
			
Sh. Sanjay Kumar Samal Deputy Superintendent of Police, CBI, ACB, Visakhapatnam	Sh. Ramesh Chand Assistant Sub-Inspector, CBI, Head Office, New Delhi	Sh. Madan Lal Dhiman Assistant Sub-Inspector, CBI, IPCC, New Delhi	
MEDAL FOR MERITORIOUS SERVICE (MSM)			
			
Sh. Brijesh Singh Deputy Legal Advisor, CBI, ACB, Lucknow	Smt. Ginni Rana Senior System Analyst, CBI, TAPSI, Mumbai	Sh. Manoj Kumar Deputy Superintendent of Police, CBI, ACB, Delhi	Sh. Om Prakash Chandra Deputy Superintendent of Police, CBI, ACB, Kolkata
			
Sh. Anand Kumar Deputy Superintendent of Police, CBI, Complaint & Coordination Cell, New Delhi	Smt. Sarita Yadav Inspector, CBI, ACB, New Delhi	Sh. Roshan Kumar Sub-Inspector, CBI, SI, New Delhi	Sh. Dilbar Singh Bisht Assistant Sub-Inspector, CBI, SI, New Delhi
			
Sh. Govind Singh Bisht Head Constable, CBI, ACB, Lucknow	Sh. Kamlesh Kumar Gurjar Head Constable, CBI, ACB, Jaipur	Sh. Pal Pandian R Constable, CBI, ACB, Madurai	Sh. Ajay Kumar Singh Constable, CBI, ACB, Patna
			
Sh. Kalyanadurgam Samiullah 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 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.

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.

Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao officially comes to West Bengal

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ Kolkata

West Bengal was formally adopting *Beti Bachao Beti Padhao* scheme in Bengal, Chief Minister Suvenud Adhikari said on Friday. The previous Mamata Banerjee Government had refused to implement the scheme in the State.

“The previous Government had repeatedly stalled the *Beti Bachao Beti Padhao* project so conceived by our Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji... now we will implement this scheme in the State to ensure an all-round futuristic development of our girls.

Adhikari’s statement came on a day when previous flagship Kanya Shree project of the former Trinamool Congress Government was replaced by the Kanyaratna scheme launched by the BJP regime.

Under the Kanyaratna scheme, a girl child would be entitled to receive ₹2,000 from next year, up from the earlier 1,000 rupees.

Besides, the girl students would also get a one-time grant of ₹ 50,000 for higher studies. This was ₹25,000 during the previous



Government. Adhikari said that the girl students who would score more than 60 per cent marks in Class XII exams would get a scholarship under the existing Swami Vivekananda Scheme. Besides a new scheme was also launched after Swami Vivekananda that would entitle students to get an additional grant for higher studies at national level or even abroad.

“Girls are our assets and our government will provide them with all possible support they deserve for their future development,” Adhikari said adding 20.13 lakh schoolgirls will receive the ₹ 1,000 assistance this year for which the Government had earmarked ₹ 400 crore. Both the number of recipients and the amount would increase form the next year.

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 Satheesan 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 Benefit Transfer (DBT) under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) in Chandigarh on Friday

under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) in the Union Territories of Chandigarh and Dadra & Nagar Haveli.

Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Pralhad Joshi, Punjab Governor and Chandigarh Administrator Gulab Chand Kataria were among those present on the occasion.

During his address, Chouhan said that under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, the Government is leaving no stone unturned in ensuring that benefits reach the eligible beneficiaries.

He said that Parliament is for discussion and debate over issues of farmers and the poor.

Slamming the opposition, Chouhan said, "but they will not allow it to run. When we

accepted their one demand, they put another one and then came up with another one. It pains me to say these people are making a mockery of democracy," he said.

"Samvidhan ko kalankit karne ka paap kar rahe hai (They are committing the sin of disgracing the Constitution)," Chouhan further said.

The Monsoon Session of Parliament saw relentless protests by the opposition over the police action against students protesting against irregularities in exams and the alleged embezzlement of donations at the Ram temple.

14 ITBP officials awarded Police Medals on 80th Independence Day

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

A total of 14 officials of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) have been announced to be conferred with Police Medals on the occasion of the 80th Independence Day, 2026.

Of the 14 officials, three will receive the President's Medal for Distinguished Service, while 11 will be conferred the Medal for Meritorious Service.

President's Medal for Distinguished Service

The three ITBP officials selected for the President's Medal for Distinguished Service are:

1. Mandhir Ekka, Inspector General (GD)
2. Nishith Chandra, Deputy Inspector General (GD)
3. Mohan Singh, Inspector (GD)
4. Medal for Meritorious Service
5. The 11 officials selected for the Medal for Meritorious Service are:
 1. Rahul Yadav, Commandant (GD)
 2. Chhering Tashi Bodh, Commandant (GD)
 3. Arvind Chandra, Second-in-Command (GD)
 4. Jagdish Chand Masiwal, Deputy Commandant (Office)
 5. Rajendra Singh, Subedar Major (GD)



6. Bishan Dass, Inspector (Telecom)
 7. Mohan Singh Dogra, Inspector (CM)
 8. Narendar Singh, Sub Inspector (GD)
 9. Nandan Kumar Singh, Sub Inspector (Pioneer)
 10. Chain Singh, Assistant Sub Inspector (GD)
 11. Til Bahadur Chhetri, Head Constable (KS)
- The Director General, ITBP, along with the entire force family, conveyed congratulations and best wishes to all the medal recipients for their distinguished and meritorious service.

Serious doubts on intent, no discussion with parties: Congress attacks Govt on caste census

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

The Congress on Friday attacked the Government over the caste census issue, saying that not carrying a list of castes with responses recorded as shared by respondents raises "serious doubts on intent" and there had been no discussion with political parties.

Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said it had been widely expected that the caste question will be asked with a pre-prepared state-wise list as had been done in the Bihar and Telangana caste surveys with the response being just ticked appropriately.

"This has, unfortunately, not happened, raising serious doubts on intent," Ramesh said on X. Ramesh also shared on X Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge's letter of May 5, 2025 to Prime



Minister Narendra Modi on the caste census. "His very first and fundamental suggestion has been completely ignored. There has also been no discussion with political parties as demanded by Kharge ji," Ramesh said.

Kharge had written to Prime Minister Modi in May last year on the Government's caste census decision, urging him to draw upon the Telangana model as well as have a dialogue with all political parties soon on this issue.

Kharge had made three suggestions with the first one being about the design of the census questionnaire. Caste information has to be collected not for counting purposes but for achieving larger socio-economic objectives, Kharge had pointed out.

"The recently-concluded Telangana caste survey was designed and implemented with such goals in mind. The Union Home Ministry must draw upon the Telangana model—both the methodology adopted for finalising the

questionnaire as well the final set of questions asked," the Congress president had said. The Centre on Friday notified 40 questions with caste, place of Covid vaccination being two of them to be asked of respondents during the population enumeration phase of the Census, set to begin from September 1 in snow-bound areas, a Government order said.

The order from Registrar General of India Mrityunjay Kumar Narayan notifies questions such as whether the person belongs to a Scheduled Caste or a Scheduled Tribe and their caste.

The 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, according to a gazette notification issued earlier this month.



cell, serious illness, accident and suicide.

Maharashtra has 500 Government-run and 513 aided ashram schools, which are residential facilities for tribal children, the official said.

"In the past two years, 384 deaths were reported in Government ashram schools and 200 in aided schools," a senior official from the department said. The official said that 170 ashram school students died in 2024-25, while 214 deaths were reported in 2025-26. Of these, 36 died on school premises and 348 at home, he said.

In aided schools, 81 deaths were reported in 2024-25 and 119 in the next financial year. Of these, 30 deaths took place on school premises and 170 at home.



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.

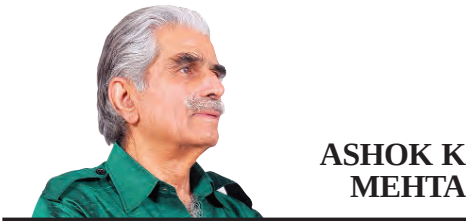
India remains the world's fastest-growing major economy, expanding above 6.5 per cent even as a rebased GDP series and a weaker rupee pushed its dollar ranking from an anticipated fourth place to sixth - a reminder that headline rank matters less than what growth does for a household budget. Elsewhere 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 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

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 Mukthinath 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 revive 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 before for physical reasons alone. Secondly, we need to examine the psyche of the 21st century modern man who faces high levels of worry, fear, anxiety at work as well as at home due to lack of values like tolerance, respect, patience and value-based co-existence.

Today, negativity of all kinds has increased and ethical and moral values have taken a nosedive. As a

result, the moral stamina of the society has been affected. Lastly, the third reason which is the root cause, for the present scenario is the huge accumulated stock of past negative karma that is the biggest link between disease, environment & lifestyle.

We live in an impure world because of the devastation we have inflicted on our external nature, which in turn has deteriorated under the influence of the vicious internal nature of human beings. We receive pain and suffering from people and situations in return for having created negative energy in the form of negative thoughts, words or actions in the past.

This process is a continuous vicious circle and despite the knowledge of the right and the wrong, humans are unable to change the course of their present action. This is where meditation comes to our rescue, as it helps us to connect to the Supreme Source and helps us to burn our past sins. It helps us to use HIS unlimited powers to absolve the burden of past negative actions so that we may regain and sustain our physical, mental, social and spiritual health.

In other words, regaining health and peace is a process possible only through spiritual elevation of human beings. So, let us get rid of our sick mentality to move into the age of enlightenment where our thoughts will be constantly loving, pure and harmonious.

The writer is a spiritual teacher and a columnist

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Humanity beneath the rubble

A devastating 7.4-magnitude earthquake struck western Colombia on Monday, turning the quiet rhythm of life in Cali, Pereira and communities across Chocó into scenes of destruction and despair. Homes collapsed, walls fractured and, within seconds, years of memories and dreams were buried beneath concrete and rubble.The disaster is a stark reminder of how fragile life can be. One moment brings tranquility; the next, cries for help and grief fill the streets.Yet amid the devastation, the enduring strength of humanity is visible.

Neighbours are digging with their bare hands in search of loved ones. Strangers are comforting one another amid the dust and ruins. Communities are refusing to surrender to despair.Statistics will record the number of casualties and authorities will assess the material damage, but no figure can capture the anguish of families searching for children, parents, brothers and sisters.Colombia must not be seen merely through the lens of destruction. It is a nation showing courage, solidarity and hope amid unimaginable suffering. Its people are not alone. Our prayers, compassion and support must cross borders to help Colombia rise from the rubble.

RANGANATHAN SIVAKUMAR | CHENNAI

Violence has no place in a place of worship

The reported attack on Shiromani Akali Dal president Sukhbir Singh Badal at a gurdwara in Nanded is shocking and deeply condemnable. A place of worship is meant to provide peace, prayer and reflection; there can be no justification for violence within such a sacred space.

The fact that Mr Badal was attacked while performing darshan makes the incident particularly disturbing. It is reassuring that security personnel acted swiftly and prevented the assault from becoming more serious. His receiving timely medical attention and undergoing surgery is also a matter of relief.Such incidents go beyond an attack on an individual.

They threaten the atmosphere of peace, communal harmony and mutual respect that society must preserve. Political disagreements and grievances, however serious, must be addressed through democratic and constitutional means, never through violence.The authorities must conduct a thorough and impartial investigation, establish the motive and examine whether there were security lapses. Political and religious leaders should meanwhile appeal for restraint and harmony.I hope Sukhbir Singh Badal makes a speedy and complete recovery.

SANJAY CHOPRA | MOHALI

Public property must serve the public

The Karnataka government's proposed Bill to regulate the use of government premises and public property by organisations, including unregistered bodies, has opened another chapter in the state's continuing confrontation with the RSS.Under the proposed Karnataka Regulation of Use of Government Premises and Public Property Bill, 2026, organisations would need permission from the concerned authority before holding events on government premises or public property.

The move could affect RSS shakhas conducted in government schools, colleges, public grounds and other government-owned spaces.The proposal follows Home Minister Priyank Karge's earlier demand that RSS activities in government institutions and public spaces be restricted. Karge had questioned the organisation's activities and sought greater transparency regarding its legal status, office-bearers, finances, expenditure and tax compliance.The dispute has since widened from the question of shakhas to a larger debate over the use of public property by organisations that are not formally registered.

Public spaces belong to citizens and must be governed by clear, neutral and transparent rules. At the same time, such rules must be applied impartially and not become instruments of political vendetta.

BHAGWAN THADANI | MUMBAI

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



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

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 that has hung over the country for a thousand years has not lifted yet. The danger is equal, the danger remains, and the cause of that danger is internal.

The greatest enemy sits within, not in the house next door but in the very heart, in the very lokdharma. It will not come from outside; it lies in that inner dishonesty which turns from fact, is afraid of the question, walks by fantasy instead of Shruti and invests in ritual in the place of knowledge. And so, even as this Independence Day is celebrated, remember that vigilance has no single day.

The festival is today; the watchfulness must be from today too, and every day after. This is not a matter of any declared result, of any medal of victory; it points a direction, and nothing more. Be careful, wake up. The direction is inward, and no one has promised a destination. Freedom asks to be lived as a responsibility rather than enjoyed as a festival; otherwise the sword stays where it is, and the next slavery, different from the old, will be no less deadly.

Acharya Prashant is a philosopher and author whose work centres on self-inquiry and its application to contemporary life



MP AJITH KUMAR

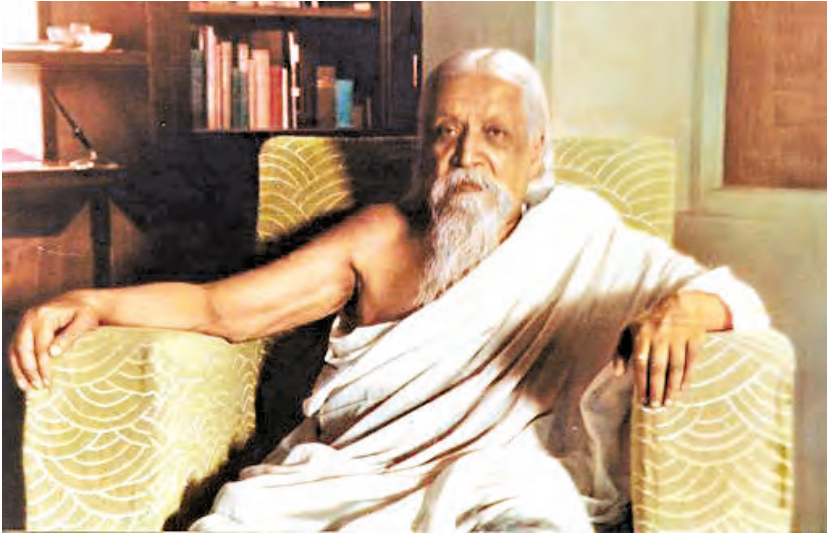
Of the many ancient knowledge systems humanity developed, India's Religion proved outstanding. She developed a coherent system, harmonizing values of inclusivity, and concordance into a balanced worldview. "India is an epitome of the world", commented the philosopher historian Arnold Joseph Toynbee who 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

everything but Beauty. Hence the aesthetic nature of the Greek culture, opined Sri Aurobindo. Ancient Romans ran in contrast. They discarded Beauty for the ethical aspects. Aesthetics gave way to ethics and disciplines of life. A strong and muzzled body was preferred to the beautiful. Romans never thought of a beauty attainable through discipline like the Greeks who never cared the discipline leading to a higher beauty. Beauty and discipline thus had run parallel, never to meet in a creative unity. But India harmonized the both, making discipline a means to realize the beauty.

Ethical life helped her realize the ultimate beauty, Saundarya which is a "joy forever". India's culture was both ethics and aesthetics perfectly mixed. It was satyam-sivam-sundaram - Truth-Bliss-Beauty, synonyms of the divine.

Though many in modern times interpreted Sanatana Dharma, Sri Aurobindo's emendation looms most important. dharayateti dharma - that which sustains is dharma. To sustain what is not specified, and hence the meaning 'sustain all and everything' including the very cosmic order. Rhythm or in Sanskrit the rita is the law of cosmic



order. What is not rita runs in contrast to the natural order. Everything moves in symmetry as if directed by an unseen power. This symmetry and harmony found in cosmic dynamism puzzled even scientists like Einstein as to whether God plays dice.

Even the very aim of diversity, it appears, is to lead things to a creative unity requiring coherence at all levels. For this, one must identify oneself with the entirety, see oneself in others and vice-versa which is the quintessence of Sanatana Dharma. This universal mutuality is the

dharma the ideal of national life. To Aurobindo India represented this dharma and believed, nation is parasakti or universal energy in geographical entity and dharma the priestess in its sanctum. Sidetracking this eternal dharma, nothing can thrive, especially the dharma-rashtra or the spiritual nation that is India. Hence the content of his Uttarapara speech, "The Sanatana Dharma, that is nationalism".

Man making was the mission of this dharma and turning the life divine was its end. To it man was of prime importance and the love of man

natural law working behind the secret of the existence. Lokasamgraha - 'holding together' has for long been in India's vision. 'Others first and oneself last' was India's ideal that looked to the world as one family - vasudhaiva kutumbakam. Individual consciousness being the split portion of universal consciousness, any action of man would affect the entire cosmos, opined Erwin Schrodinger when he addressed the question 'What is Life'.

Definitely our thought and action affect the universe and its consciousness both positively and negatively. Having realized this idea, ancient Indian thinkers made this

was pivotal to Aurobindonian vision which is centered on the worship of man. It aims at discovering and acknowledging the inherent divinity and the intrinsic superiority of man. Summing up India's religion of man Sri Aurobindo wrote: "Man must be sacred to man regardless of all distinction of race, creed, colour, nationality, status, political or social advancement. The body of man is to be respected, made immune from violence of outrage, fortified by science against disease or preventable death. The life of man is to be held sacred also, given scope, protected from violations, from suppression, from mechanization, from belittling influences.

The mind of man is to be released from all bonds, allowed freedom and range and opportunity, given all its means of self-training and self-development and organized in the play, of its powers for the service of humanity. And all this too is not to be held as an abstract or pious sentiment but be given full and practical recognition in the presence of men and nations and mankind".

This intellectual religion of man reflects a nation's aspiration, to quote Aurobindo, "to raise the world to god in deathless light, to bring god to the world on earth we come, to change the earthly life into life divine". This is the 'eternal religion' of India that stands above all fetters, limitations and confinements of creed, group or narrow minded nationalism.

Author is Kerala State President, Bharatiya Ithasa Sankalan Samiti

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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 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 chancellor, 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



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.

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 administra-

tion 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.

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.



**कार्यालय उपायुक्त-सह-जिला दण्डाधिकारी, राँची।
(जिला नजारत शाखा)**

आमंत्रण

स्वतंत्रता दिवस समारोह **15 अगस्त 2026** के अवसर पर मोरहाबादी मैदान में प्रातः 9.00 बजे

माननीय मुख्यमंत्री, झारखण्ड

श्री हेमन्त सोरेन

द्वारा सशस्त्र बल संयुक्त परेड निरीक्षण एवं झण्डोत्तोलन कार्यक्रम में आपकी उपस्थिति प्रार्थनीय है।

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80 वें स्वतंत्रता दिवस के पावन अवसर पर लोहरदगा सहित पूरे झारखण्ड वासियों को हार्दिक शुभकामनाएँ एवं जोहार



अपील

लोहरदगा पुलिस लोहरदगा के सभी भाईयों, बहनों एवं साथियों का स्वतंत्रता दिवस पर अभिनन्दन करती है एवं अपील करती है कि आप सभी लोहरदगा वासी जिला में शांति व्यवस्था, आपसी भाई-चारा बनाए रखें। जिले को नशा मुक्त बनाने में पुलिस प्रशासन का सहयोग करें, आईए, सड़क सुरक्षा के लिए यातायात नियमों का पालन करें एवं स्वयं तथा परिवार को सुरक्षित रखें। साथ ही साइबर फ्रॉड से बचने के लिए सोशल मीडिया के किसी भी प्लेटफॉर्म पर आनेवाले अनजाने लिंक को टच न करें, अनजाने वीडियो कॉल को टच तथा रीसिव करने से बचे।

पुलिस अधीक्षक, लोहरदगा— 9431706218
पुलिस उपाधीक्षक, (मु०), लोहरदगा— 9431361305
अनुमण्डल पुलिस पदाधिकारी, लोहरदगा— 9431129614

**निवेदक
लोहरदगा पुलिस परिवार**

ज्ञापक 412/लो०भा० . लोहरदगा, दिनांक-13/08/2026

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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 out-bound 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 \$ 2.35 billion from \$1.05 billion.

The shipments to the ASEAN (Association of South East Asian Nations) region grew 61.6 per cent to USD

The Pioneer

RANCHI | 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

the scheme and supported stronger-than-expected participation, the report said.

The inflows received through these measures will have a positive impact on banking system liquidity, with CareEdge expecting core liquidity to boost around ₹8.6 lakh crore.

However, this could be partly offset by a seasonal rise in currency demand and the maturity of the RBI's short forward book. The report estimates that currency in circulation (CiC) could rise by around ₹1.1 trillion in December from levels in June amid a seasonal uptick in festive periods.

The report said that assum-

ing maturity of around USD 30 billion in the RBI's forward position (short-forward book maturing in 3 months and within 1 year stands at USD 16 billion and USD 40 billion, respectively), this could create a drag of roughly ₹3 trillion. After accounting for the incremental CRR requirement on deposit growth, CareEdge estimate core liquidity could still reach a surplus of around ₹9 lakh crore.

This is expected to prompt the RBI to use liquidity management tools such as long-tenor variable rate reverse repo (VRRR) or Open Market Operation (OMO) sales to absorb excess liquidity, the report said.

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

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,

Rupee finds lift as dollar weakens

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Mumbai

The rupee appreciated 3 paise to close at 95.42 (provisional) against the US dollar on Friday, due to weakness in the greenback against major rivals overseas. According to forex traders, the rupee stayed under pressure due to foreign fund outflows and rising crude oil prices amid geopolitical uncertainties.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 95.39 and moved in a tight range of 95.38 to 95.44 against the American currency before ending the session at 95.42 (provisional), up 3 paise from its previous close. On Thursday, the rupee closed 12 paise lower at 95.45 against the US dollar.

Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst — Commodity and Currency, LKP Securities, said the rupee traded with a weak bias this week, although the overall movement remained

largely range-bound.

"Crude had surged around 25 per cent during July and continues to remain elevated, keeping the import-cost pressure on the rupee. Meanwhile, the dollar index remained below the 100-mark near 99.50, limiting the rupee's downside. Technically, the rupee is expected to remain in the 95.10-95.80 range in the near

term, with crude and the dollar remaining key directional triggers," Trivedi said.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.08 per cent lower at 99.78.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, was trading higher by 0.99 per cent at USD 87.93 per barrel in futures trade. Analysts said the dollar index retreated after a fall in US Treasury yields, and the data showed inflation in the world's largest economy at lower levels. Also, they said that oil prices bounced back after days of easing, as hopes of a deal to end the West Asia crisis remained uncertain, with both the US and Iran contradicting each other over ship transit conditions through the Strait of Hormuz.

कार्यालय—कार्यालयक अभियंता,
एन0आर0ई0पी0, लातेहार।
(E-mail ID- nrep-lat@jharkhandmail.gov.in)

सूचना

एतद् द्वारा सर्वस्वधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि PR 381309 Rural Development (26-27):D द्वारा प्रकाशित अति अल्पकालिन निविदा आमंत्रण, सूचना संख्या—05/2026-27/EE/NREP/LATEHAR का गुप संख्य1—NREP/LATEHAR/17/2026-27 एवं NREP/LATEHAR/19/2026-27 को अपरिहार्य कारण से रद्द किया किया जाता है।

कार्यालयक अभियन्ता,
एन0आर0ई0पी0, लातेहार

PR 387544 (NREP) 26-27 (D)

कार्यालयक अभियंता का कार्यालय
पथ निर्माण विभाग, पथ प्रमण्डल, गुमला
जयपुर रोड, गुमला (झारखण्ड) - 835207
(E-mail- eercdgumla-jhr@nic.in)

शुद्धि पत्र

इस कार्यालय के e-Tender Ref. No. RCD/GUMLA /578 dt. 06.08.2026 द्वारा आमंत्रित एवं PR संख्या 387017 Road (2026-27).D द्वारा प्रकाशित निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना के क्रमांक (5) में वेबसाइट पर निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि 11.08.2026 के स्थान पर 20.08.2026, क्रमांक (6) में निविदा प्राप्त करने की अंतिम तिथि 25.08.2026 के स्थान पर 03.09.2026 एवं क्रमांक (7) में निविदा खुलने का तिथि 27.08.2026 के स्थान पर 07.09.2026 पढ़ा जाय। शेष अन्य सूचनाएं यथावत् रहेंगी।

ह0 /—
कार्यालयक अभियन्ता,
प0नि0वि0, पथ प्रमण्डल, गुमला

PR 387556 Road(26-27)#D

झारखण्ड सरकार कार्यालयक अभियंता का कार्यालय, पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता स्वरक्षिता शीर्षकार्य प्रमंडल, राँची	
अति अल्पकालीन ईप्रोक्योरमेंट नोटिस, (प्रथम आमंत्रण)	
ई-निविदा आमंत्रण संख्या—DWSD/HEADWORKS/06/2026—27 दिनांक—14.08.2026	
1	कार्य का नाम Renovation of One Number Filter Bed No.-08 and etc. allied work New W.T.P. at Rukka Under D.W. S. Swamrekha Headworks Division, Ranchi.
2	प्राक्कलित राशि (रुपये में) 30,30,856.00 लाख (तीस लाख तीस हजार आठ सौ छप्पन रुपये) मात्र।
3	अग्रघन की राशि (रुपये में) 60,700.00 (साठ हजार सात सौ रुपये) मात्र।
4	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि 02 माह
5	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य (रुपये में) 5,000.00 (पाँच हजार)।
6	वेबसाइट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि एवं समय 21.08.2026 को अपराह्न 05:00 बजे
7	निविदा के पूर्व बैठक की तिथि 31.08.2026 को अपराह्न 04:00 बजे तक।
8	वेबसाइट पर निविदा प्राप्त की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय 01.09.2026 को अपराह्न 05:00 बजे।
9	निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय कार्यालयक अभियंता, पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता स्वरक्षिता शीर्षकार्य प्रमंडल, राँची।
10	विज्ञापनदाता का पदनाम एवं पता कार्यालयक अभियंता, पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता स्वरक्षिता शीर्षकार्य प्रमंडल, राँची।
11	जिनके द्वारा निविदा खोली जायेगी का पदनाम एवं पता 7541824824 E-Mail ID:- eedwsd.headworks@gmail.com
12	प्रोक्योरमेंट कार्यालय का सम्पर्क नं0
13	ईप्रोक्योरमेंट सेल का सहायता केन्द्र सं0 0651-2480345

नोट—1. निविदा अन्तर्गत परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य एवं अग्रघन की राशि ई-गवर्नेन्स विभाग झारखण्ड मंत्रालय बुर्ग, राँची के आदेश संह झापाक 120 दिनांक 03.10.2023 के अनुरूप प्राप्त की जाएगी।

2. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रघन की राशि का ई-भुगतान संवेक द्वारा दिया बैंक खाता से किया जाएगा। उसी खाते से अग्रघन की राशि वापस होगी। अगर बैंक खाता को बंद कर दिया जाता है तो उसकी सारी जवाबदेही संवेक की होगी।

3. प्राक्कलित राशि घट अथवा बढ़ सकती है उसी प्रकार से अग्रघन एवं परिमाण विपत्र की राशि भी देय होगी।

4. केवल ई निविदा ही स्वीकार किया जायेगा।

5. विस्तृत जानकारी हेतु वेबसाइट <http://jharkantenders.gov.in> पर देखें।

6. निविदा बिना कारण बताये कभी भी स्वीकृति या रद्द किया जा सकता है।

7. राज्य सरकार द्वारा निर्गत अद्यतन आदेश / परिपत्र लागू होंग।

8. उपरोक्त कार्य पत्र Jharkhand Procurement Policy लागू होगी।

9. विभागीय पत्रांक 1410 दिनांक 10.06.2026 मध्यस्थता एवं ई-बीडी संबंधी निर्गत अधिसूचना का अनुपालन करना सुनिश्चित करेंगे।

कार्यालयक अभियंता,
पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता स्वरक्षिता शीर्षकार्य प्रमंडल, राँची

PR 387622 Drinking Water and Sanitation(26-27)#D

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.

डी.बी.एल. पखवारा कोल माइंस

80th INDIA INDEPENDENCE DAY
AUGUST 15

80 वें स्वतंत्रता दिवस के पावन अवसर पर
डी.बी.एल-पी.सी.एम.पी.एल परिवार की
ओर से सभी देशवासियों को हार्दिक
शुभकामनाएं

DILIP BUILDCON LIMITED
INFRASTRUCTURE & BEYOND

PSPCL
PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LTD.

निवेदक
DBL-PSPCL परिवार

AFFIDAVIT

As per Affidavit No.167 dated 14.08.2026, I, BINITA BALA W/o LATE KALI CHARAN RAM, Resident of Tulbul, Neem Tola, P.O. Haradiyamo, P.S. Gomiya, District- Bokaro, Jharkhand - 829111 do hereby solemnly affirm and declare as follows :-

1. THAT I am Citizen of India.
2. THAT my actual and correct name is BINITA BALA, which is mentioned in my PAN CARD, SERVICE BOOK & BANK PASSBOOK
3. THAT in my ADHAR CARD, which Aadhar No. 9524 6136 1377 my name is written as Vinita Bala , which is not correct.
4. THAT BINITA BALA and VINITA BALA is the same and one person which is my name.
5. THAT the purpose of this Affidavit for correction my name in my name from VINITA BALA to BINITA BALA in my Aadhar Card, after gazetation.
6. THAT my statements furnished above are true.

SL.No.-7241, Date-25.07.2026

AFFIDAVIT

In, The Court of Executive Magistrate, Ranchi

I, GAURAV KUMAR TIWARY, S/o Mithilesh Kumar Tiwary, resident of Village Dharha Toli, Ward No.03, Lohardaga, P.O. & P.S. Lohardaga, District Lohardaga, Jharkhand 835302, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare on oath as follows:-

1. That I am citizen of India and residing at above mentioned address.
2. That my correct and real name is GAURAV KUMAR TIWARY mentioned in Adhar Card No.7281 6673 7398, and PAN Card No. ALJPT6302I.
3. That I obtained a PASSPORT NO. J9797119 did. 20.05.1988 valid upto 02.08.2021 my name record as GAURAV TIWARY in place of GAURAV KUMAR TIWARY.
4. That this affidavit is correction my name on Passport.

SL.No.-6316, Date-13.08.2026

आज़ादी के 79 साल

संघर्ष से सम्मान तक,
सपनों से नए भारत तक

यह उत्सव उस भारत का है
जो हर चुनौती के बाद और मज़बूत होकर उभरता है,
और हर दिन नई ऊंचाइयां छू रहा है।

अदाणी परिवार की ओर से
स्वतंत्रता दिवस की हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं

AFFIDAVIT

Before, The Executive Magistrate, Ramgarh

I, REKHA KUMARI, W/o- Sandeep Goswami, aged about 31 years, by faith- Hindu, by Nationality- Indian, R/o Villo- Saunda T5 Sur, P.O.- Saunda T5, P.S.- Patratu, Dist- Ramgarh (Jharkhand)-829133 do hereby solemnly affirm and declare as follows:-

1. That my sons actual & correct name is HONEY GOSWAMI which is mentioned in his Birth Certificate issued from Gram Panchayat Saunda D bearing Regn. No. B202420682100000089, date of Reg. 17.12.2024, date of issue-17.12.2024.
2. That my son's name has been wrongly mentioned as HANI GOSWAMI in his Aadhar Card bearing Aadhar No. 6669 3238 1807.
3. That HONEY GOSWAMI and HANI GOSWAMI both are names of same and single boy who is my minor son.
4. That I swore this affidavit to rectify and mention my correct name HONEY GOSWAMI in place of HANI GOSWAMI in my son's aforesaid Aadhar card.
5. That this affidavit is required for knowledge of Aadhar authority concern for doing needful purpose.
6. That the above statements made by me are genuine and correct. If it is found wrong in future then the entire responsibility will be mine.

SL.No.-7241, Date-25.07.2026

AFFIDAVIT

In, The Court of Executive Magistrate, Ranchi

I, GAURAV KUMAR TIWARY, S/o Mithilesh Kumar Tiwary, resident of Village Dharha Toli, Ward No.03, Lohardaga, P.O. & P.S. Lohardaga, District Lohardaga, Jharkhand 835302, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare on oath as follows:-

1. That I am citizen of India and residing at above mentioned address.
2. That my correct and real name is GAURAV KUMAR TIWARY mentioned in Adhar Card No.7281 6673 7398, and PAN Card No. ALJPT6302I.
3. That I obtained a PASSPORT NO. J9797119 did. 20.05.1988 valid upto 02.08.2021 my name record as GAURAV TIWARY in place of GAURAV KUMAR TIWARY.
4. That this affidavit is correction my name on Passport.

SL.No.-6316, Date-13.08.2026

80वें स्वतंत्रता दिवस की
हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं

अनुदीप सिंह
एसपी, पाकुड़

80 वें स्वतंत्रता दिवस के
पावन अवसर पर
पूरे भारत वासियों
को हार्दिक
शुभकामनाएं

विजय हांसदा
राजमहल, सांसद

80वें स्वतंत्रता दिवस की
हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं

अरविंद लाल
उप विकास आयुक्त, पाकुड़

PAKUR POLYTECHNIC, PAKUR
Approved by AICTE, Government of India | Affiliated to JUT, Ranchi

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Dr. Sushma Yadav
Principal

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को हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं

साइमन मरांडी
सिविल एसडीओ, पाकुड़

80 वें स्वतंत्रता दिवस के पावन अवसर
पर पूरे भारत वासियों
को हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं

मेघा भारद्वाज
डीसी, पाकुड़

80 वें स्वतंत्रता दिवस के
पावन अवसर पर
पूरे भारत वासियों
को हार्दिक
शुभकामनाएं

विजय कुमार
एसडीपीओ महेशपुर
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कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय

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जशपुर रोड, गुमला (झारखण्ड) - 835207

(E-mail- eercdgumla-jhr@nic.in)

शुद्धि पत्र

इस कार्यालय के e-Tender Ref. No. RCD/GUMLA/580 dt. 06.08.2026 द्वारा आमंत्रित एवं PR संख्या 387024 Road (26-27):D द्वारा प्रकाशित निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना के क्रमांक (5) में वेबसाइट पर निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि 11.08.2026 के स्थान पर 20.08.2026, क्रमांक (6) में निविदा प्राप्त करने की अंतिम तिथि 25.08.2026 के स्थान पर 03.09.2026 एवं क्रमांक (7) में निविदा खुलने का तिथि 27.08.2026 के स्थान पर 07.09.2026 पढ़ा जाय। शेष अन्य सूचनाएँ यथावत रहेंगी।

ह/ -

कार्यपालक अभियन्ता

पथ निर्माण विभाग, पथ प्रमण्डल, गुमला

PR 387553 Road(26-27):D

झारखण्ड सरकार

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय,

पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता स्पर्णरेखा शीर्षकार्य प्रमंडल, राँची

अति अल्पकालीन ईप्रोक्वैमेंट नोटिस

(प्रथम आमंत्रण)

ई-निविदा आमंत्रण संख्या-DWSD/HEADWORKS/07 /2026-27

दिनांक-14.08.2026

1	कार्य का नाम	Renovation of One Number Filter Bed No.-02 and etc. allied work New W .T.P. at Rukta Under D.W.S . Swamre kha Headworks Division, Ranchi.
2	प्राक्कलित राशि (रुपये में)	29,44,488.00 लाख (अन्योन्य लाख बीवालीस हजार बार सौ अठारवी रुपये मात्र)
3	अग्रघन की राशि (रुपये में)	58,900.00 (अग्रघन नौ सौ रुपये) मात्र।
4	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि	02 माह
5	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य (रुपये में)	5,000.00 (पाँच हजार)।
6	वेबसाइट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि एवं समय	21.08.2026 को अपराह्न 05:00 बजे
7	निविदा के पूर्व बैठक की तिथि	
8	वेबसाइट पर निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय	31.08.2026 को अपराह्न 04:00 बजे तक।
9	निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय	01.09.2026 को अपराह्न 05:00 बजे ।
10	विज्ञानदाता का पदनाम एवं पता	कार्यपालक अभियन्ता, पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता स्पर्णरेखा शीर्षकार्य प्रमंडल, राँची।
11	जिनके द्वारा निविदा खोली जायेगी का पदनाम एवं पता	कार्यपालक अभियन्ता, पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता स्पर्णरेखा शीर्षकार्य प्रमंडल, राँची।
12	प्रोक्वैमेंट कार्यालय का सम्पर्क नं०	7541824824
13	ईप्रोक्वैमेंट सेल का सहायता केन्द्र सं०	E-Mail ID:- eedwsd.headworks@gmail.com 0651-2480345

नोट-1. निविदा अन्तर्गत परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य एवं अग्रघन की राशि ई-गवर्नर्स विभाग झारखण्ड मंत्रालय धुर्गो, राँची के आदेश सं० 387024 दिनांक 03.10.2023 के अनुसार प्राप्त की जाएगी।

2. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रघन की राशि का ई-मुगलान जिस खाता से किया जाएगा। उसी खाते से अग्रघन की राशि वापस होगी। अगर बैंक खाता हो तो उसकी सारी जवाबदेही संवेदक की होगी।

3. प्राक्कलित राशि घट अथवा बढ़ सकती है उसी प्रकार से अग्रघन एवं परिमाण विपत्र की राशि भी देय होगी।

4. केवल ई निविदा ही स्वीकार किया जायेगा।

5. विस्तृत जानकारी हेतु वेबसाइट <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in> पर देखें।

6. निविदा बिना कारण बताये कभी भी स्वीकृति या रद्द किया जा सकता है।

7. राज्य सरकार द्वारा निर्गत अधिनियम / अधिनियम लागू होंगे।

8. उपरोक्त कार्य पर Jharkhand Procurement Policy लागू होगी।

9. विभागीय पत्रांक 1410 दिनांक 10.06.2026 मध्यस्थता एवं ई-बीडी संबंधी निर्गत अधिसूचना का अनुपालन करतों सुनिश्चित करेंगे।

कार्यपालक अभियन्ता,

पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता स्पर्णरेखा शीर्षकार्य प्रमंडल, राँची

PR 387623 Drinking Water and Sanitation(26-27):D

INVITING REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (R.F.P.)

WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

GOVERNMENT OF JHARKHAND

NIT NO. : WRD/JH/CE/DMPH/RFP/07/2026

National Competitive Bidding

1.

Name of the Work

Request for Proposal for Conducting Studies and Preparation of Detailed Investigation Reports on Comprehensive Dam Safety Evaluation/ Structural Health Assessment for Dam Rehabilitation/ Preparation of Emergency Action Plan, Operation and Maintenance Manual etc. of Torlow Dam under Chief Engineer, WRD, Ranchi, Water Resources Department, Govt. of Jharkhand

2.

Mode of Submission of Bids

Online through www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in

3.

Tender fee (In INR)

Rs. 10,000.00 (Ten thousand only) - (Non-refundable)

4.

Bid Security (In INR)

Rs. 1,00,000/- (One Lakh only)

5.

Time of completion

150 days from the date of LOA

6.

Date of availability of Bidding Document on Website

17/08/2026; 16:00 HRS

7.

Last Date and time of submission of pre-bid queries

24/08/2026; 11:00 HRS

8.

Date of Pre Bid Meeting

25/08/2026; 11:30HRS
Chief Engineer, Design Master Planning And Hydrology, Room No. 203, Second Floor, Jal Bhawan, Doranda, Ranchi, Jharkhand-834002

9.

Last Date of Submission of online Bids

07/09/2026; 15:30HRS

10.

Date & time of opening of Technical Bid

08/09/2026; 16:30HRS
Chief Engineer, Design Master Planning And Hydrology, Room No. 203, Second Floor, Jal Bhawan, Doranda, Ranchi, Jharkhand-834002

11.

Name of address of E-procurement officer

Chief Engineer, Design Master Planning And Hydrology, Room No. 203, Second Floor, Jal Bhawan, Doranda, Ranchi, Jharkhand-834002
Email: eedesign-wrd-jhr@nic.in
9162471847, 09787107524, 09599321224, 09304037930, 09110975717

12.

Helpline no.

Note:-Please see details on www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in

Chief Engineer

Design, Master Planning & Hydrology,

Water Resources Department,

Government of Jharkhand

PR.NO.387572 Water Resource(26-27):D

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय

ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमण्डल, चतरा

ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

डी0एम0एफ0टी0 मद से चतरा जिलान्तर्गत स्वीकृत निम्नांकित योजनाओं के क्रियान्वयन हेतु ग्रामीण विकास विभाग (ग्रामीण कार्य मामले), झारखण्ड सरकार द्वारा समुचित श्रेणी के निबंधित संवेदकों से एकल लिफाफा / द्वि (Two) लिफाफा पद्धति के अंतर्गत ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या :-RDD/SD/CHATRA/16/2026-27/RE_02

1. कार्य की विस्तृत विवरणी :-

युग्म सं०	प्रखण्ड	पंचायत	ग्राम	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि	अग्रघन की राशि	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि	लिफाफा पद्धति
7	Chatra	Paradih	Sajna	Construction of PCC Road From H/O Rajendra Singh To H/O Sudama Ram.	1018150	20400	2500	03 माह	एकल

2. वेबसाइट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि-20.08.2026

3. ई-निविदा प्राप्ति की तिथि एवं समय-दिनांक-20.08.2026 से दिनांक-29.08.2026 के अपराह्न 05:00 बजे तक

4. ई-निविदा खोलने का स्थान-कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमण्डल, चतरा।

5. ई-निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय -31.08.2026 अपराह्न 02:00 बजे

6. ई-निविदा आमंत्रित करनेवाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता -कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, चतरा।

7. ई-निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का दूरभाष सं०-9431060939 (संबंधित कार्यपालक अभियंता का दूरभाष नम्बर)

8. परिमाण विपत्र की राशि घट-बढ़ सकती है, तदनुसार अग्रघन की राशि देय होगी।

9. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रघन की राशि केवल Online Mode द्वारा स्वीकार्य होगी।

10. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रघन की राशि का ई-मुगलान जिस खाता से किया जायेगा, उसी खाते में अग्रघन की राशि वापस होगी। अगर खाता को बन्द कर दिया जाता है तो उसकी सारी जवाबदेही आपकी होगी।

विस्तृत जानकारी के लिये वेबसाइट www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in एवं कार्यालय की सूचना पत्र पर देखा जा सकता है।

कार्यपालक अभियन्ता,

ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, चतरा

PR 387515 Rural Development(26-27)#D

पुलिस अधीक्षक का कार्यालय रामगढ़

Email:- sp-ramgarh@jhpoliche.gov.in

आवश्यक सूचना, सर्वसाधारण के लिए सूचना

PAROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF PERSON ACCUSED (See Section 82)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that Sanjay Singh, Age-11 years R/o-5/o-Gopal Singh of Kedla 9 No Behind Tracker Stand, PS-Mandu(WB) Dist-Ramgarh has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence of punishable under section 341, 323, 504 of the Indian Penal Code, and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said Sanjay Singh cannot be found, and whereas It has been shown to my satisfaction that the said Sanjay Singh has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant);

Proclamation is hereby made that the said Sanjay Singh, is required to appear at Magistrate Courts before Sub Divisional Judicial Magistrate, Ramgarh to answer the said complaint on the day of 19-08-2026.

Dated, this day of 24-04-2026

Sd-J.M.F.C Ramgarh

Sub Divisional Judicial Magistrate, Ramgarh

अतः सभी जन सप्ताहारण से अनुरोध है कि यदि फरार संजय सिंह, पिता-गोपाल सिंह, पता-कंदला 9 नंबर समीप ट्रैक्टर स्टैंड थाना-माण्डू(बेवोडो) जिला-रामगढ़ कहीं मिलते/दिखते हैं तो इसके संबंध में पुलिस अधीक्षक कार्यालय/ Sub Divisional Judicial Magistrate, Ramgarh (Jharkhand) के न्यायालय में इसकी सूचना दे या निम्नांकित फोन नम्बर पर संपर्क कर इसकी जानकारी दें।

पुलिस अधीक्षक रामगढ़ मो० नं०-9431706113

ओ०पी० प्रमारी वेस्ट-बोकारो, जिला-रामगढ़।

मोबाईल नं०-7004367208

पुलिस अधीक्षक,

रामगढ़

PR 387539 Police(26-27)#D

समाहरणालय, खूँटी (जिला आपूर्ति शाखा)

Email ID-dsokhuntig200@gmail.com

मुख्यमंत्री दाल-भात योजना केन्द्रों के संचालन हेतु निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

सरकार के सचिव, खाद्य सार्वजनिक वितरण एवं उपभोक्ता मामले विभाग, झारखण्ड, राँची, के पत्रांक 20 (आय), दिनांक 19.06.2026 द्वारा वित्तीय वर्ष 2026-27 में राज्य योजनान्तर्गत सरकारी भोजन योजनान्तर्गत मुख्यमंत्री दाल-भात केन्द्रों के संचालन निमित्त शहरी दाल-भात केन्द्रों की सं० (नगर पंचायत)- 03 प्रखण्ड स्तर पर दाल-भात केन्द्रों की संख्या 08 कुल 09 केन्द्रों का संचालन हेतु आवंटन प्राप्त है, वर्तमान में सिर्फ 08 केन्द्र की संचालन किया जा रहा है, नगर पंचायत में 01 (एक) केन्द्र रिवत है। योजना के मुख्य बिन्दु निम्नवत् है :-

1. 05 (पांच) रुपये में 300 लाभकों को प्रतिदिन दिन में दाल-भात संबंधी इत्यादि संचालकों द्वारा खिलाना जायेगा।

2. संचालकों को इस हेतु एक रुपये प्रतिग्राम की दर से चावल की आपूर्ति सरकार द्वारा की जायेगी एवं प्रत्येक थाली में 200 ग्राम चावल की मात्रा (मात्रा 200 ग्राम कच्चे चावल की है) दिया जायेगा। इस प्रकार प्रतिदिन केन्द्र संचालकों को 60 किलोग्राम चावल 60 (साठ) रुपये में सरकार द्वारा उपलब्ध कराया जायेगा।

3. प्रत्येक केन्द्र पर 3.5 किलोग्राम (तीन किलो पांच सौ ग्राम) चना यो सोयाबीन सरकार द्वारा उपलब्ध किया जायेगा।

4. केन्द्रों को मुख्य बाजार क्षेत्र अधिक मजदूर धनवत् क्षेत्र, बस स्टैंड, अस्पताल आदि (जहाँ अधिक गरीब लोगों का आगमन होता है) में स्थापित किया जायेगा तथा केन्द्र भवन की व्यवस्था संचालकों द्वारा की जायेगी।

इस विज्ञापन के माध्यम से उपरोक्त दाल-भात केन्द्रों के संचालन हेतु सरकार के प्रधान सचिव, खाद्य सार्वजनिक वितरण एवं उपभोक्ता मामले विभाग, राँची के पत्रांक 3129 /राँची, दिनांक 08.11.2011 द्वारा महिला स्वयं सहायता समूहों से किया जाना है। महिला स्वयं सहायता समूहों से दिनांक 31.08.2026 तक मुहरबन्द बन्द लिफाफों में आवेदन आमंत्रित किया जाता है एवं आवेदन के साथ संस्था की विस्तृत विवरणी भी आवेदक उपलब्ध करावें।

ह/ -

जिला आपूर्ति पदाधिकारी, खूँटी।

PR.NO.387543 District(26-27):D

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय

ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमण्डल, चतरा

ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना।

डी0एम0एफ0टी0 मद से चतरा जिलान्तर्गत स्वीकृत निम्नांकित योजनाओं के क्रियान्वयन हेतु ग्रामीण विकास विभाग (ग्रामीण कार्य मामले), झारखण्ड सरकार द्वारा समुचित श्रेणी के निबंधित संवेदकों से एकल लिफाफा / द्वि (Two) लिफाफा पद्धति के अंतर्गत निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या :-RDD/SD/CHATRA/24/2026-27

1. कार्य की विस्तृत विवरणी :-

युग्म सं०	प्रखण्ड	पंचायत	ग्राम	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि	अग्रघन की राशि	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि	लिफाफा पद्धति
1	Mayurhand	Manjigawan	Tilra	Construction of PCC Road Sobind Ravidas House to Shiv Mandir.	3213300	64300	5000	3माह	एकल
2	Mayurhand	Manjigawan	Manjigawan	Construction of PCC Road From Gawadeti Mandir to H/O Sandeep Bhuiya..	2493300	49900	5000	3माह	एकल

2. वेबसाइट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि-19.08.2026

3. ई-निविदा प्राप्ति की तिथि एवं समय-दिनांक-19.08.2026 से दिनांक-27.08.2026 के अपराह्न 05:00 बजे तक

4. ई-निविदा खोलने का स्थान-कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमण्डल, चतरा।

5. ई-निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय -29.08.2026 अपराह्न 02:00 बजे

6. ई-निविदा आमंत्रित करनेवाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता -कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, चतरा।

7. ई-निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का दूरभाष सं०-9431060939 (संबंधित कार्यपालक अभियंता का दूरभाष नम्बर)

8. परिमाण विपत्र की राशि घट-बढ़ सकती है, तदनुसार अग्रघन की राशि देय होगी।

9. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रघन की राशि केवल Online Mode द्वारा स्वीकार्य होगी।

10. निविदा शुल्क अग्रघन की राशि का ई-मुगलान जिस खाता से किया जायेगा, उसी खाते में अग्रघन की राशि वापस होगी। अगर खाता को बन्द कर दिया जाता है तो उसकी सारी जवाबदेही आपकी होगी।

विस्तृत जानकारी के लिये वेबसाइट www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in एवं कार्यालय की सूचना पत्र पर देखा जा सकता है।

कार्यपालक अभियन्ता,

ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, चतरा।

PR.NO.387511 Rural Development(26-27):D

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय

ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमण्डल, चतरा

ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना।

डी0एम0एफ0टी0 मद से चतरा जिलान्तर्गत स्वीकृत निम्नांकित योजनाओं के क्रियान्वयन हेतु ग्रामीण विकास विभाग (ग्रामीण कार्य मामले), झारखण्ड सरकार द्वारा समुचित श्रेणी के निबंधित संवेदकों से एकल लिफाफा / द्वि (Two) लिफाफा पद्धति के अंतर्गत निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या :-RDD/SD/CHATRA/24/2026-27

1. कार्य की विस्तृत विवरणी :-

युग्म सं०	प्रखण्ड	पंचायत	ग्राम	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि	अग्रघन की राशि	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि	लिफाफा पद्धति
1	Mayurhand	Manjigawan	Tilra	Construction of PCC Road Sobind Ravidas House to Shiv Mandir.	3213300	64300	5000	3माह	एकल
2	Mayurhand	Manjigawan	Manjigawan	Construction of PCC Road From Gawadeti Mandir to H/O Sandeep Bhuiya..	2493300	49900	5000	3माह	एकल

2. वेबसाइट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि-19.08.2026

3. ई-निविदा प्राप्ति की तिथि एवं समय-दिनांक-19.08.2026 से दिनांक-27.08.2026 के अपराह्न 05:00 बजे तक

4. ई-निविदा खोलने का स्थान-कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमण्डल, चतरा।

5. ई-निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय -29.08.2026 अपराह्न 02:00 बजे

6. ई-निविदा आमंत्रित करनेवाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता -कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, चतरा।

7. ई-निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का दूरभाष सं०-9431060939 (संबंधित कार्यपालक अभियंता का दूरभाष नम्बर)

8. परिमाण विपत्र की राशि घट-बढ़ सकती है, तदनुसार अग्रघन की राशि देय होगी।

9. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रघन की राशि केवल Online Mode द्वारा स्वीकार्य होगी।

10. निविदा शुल्क अग्रघन की राशि का ई-मुगलान जिस खाता से किया जायेगा, उसी खाते में अग्रघन की राशि वापस होगी। अगर खाता को बन्द कर दिया जाता है तो उसकी सारी जवाबदेही आपकी होगी।

विस्तृत जानकारी के लिये वेबसाइट www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in एवं कार्यालय की सूचना पत्र पर देखा जा सकता है।

कार्यपालक अभियन्ता,

ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, चतरा।

PR.NO.387511 Rural Development(26-27):D

कार्यालय नगर पंचायत, खूँटी

ज्ञापांक: 1330

खूँटी, दिनांक: 14.08.2026

आवश्यक सूचना

15 अगस्त 2026 स्वतंत्रता दिवस के शुभ अवसर पर दिनांक 15.08.2026 को नगर पंचायत, खूँटी क्षेत्रान्तर्गत पड़ने वाले सभी वधशाला, मांस, मछली एवं मुर्गा-मुर्गी की दुकानें पूर्णतः बन्द रहेगी एवं क्रय विक्रय बन्द रहेगा।

दिनांक 15.08.2026 को मांस, मछली एवं मुर्गा-मुर्गी विक्री करते हुए पाए जाएंगे, उनके विरुद्ध आवश्यक कानूनी कार्रवाई की जाएगी।

कार्यपालक पदाधिकारी,

नगर पंचायत, खूँटी।

PR 387540 (Urban Development) 26-27 (D)

समाहरणालय, लातेहार (आपूर्ति शाखा)

(dso-latehar@jharkhandmail.gov.in)

अल्पकालीन निविदा

विभागीय ज्ञापांक-खा0प्र0-1 / ज0वि0प्र0(DSD) /6-8 / 2020-1811 / राँची, दिनांक- 29.07.2024 के निर्देशानुसार जन वितरण प्रणाली के तहत प्रखण्ड / शहरी क्षेत्र लातेहार के लिए झारखण्ड राज्य खाद्य एवं ससैनिक आपूर्ति निगम लिमिटेड के गोदाम से जन वितरण प्रणाली विक्रेता दुकान तक खाद्यान्न एवं अन्य सामग्रियों के लिए डोर स्टेप डिलीवरी हेतु परिवहन-सह-हथालन अभिकर्ता का चयन GeM Portal के माध्यम से किया जाना है। उक्त निविदा दो वर्ष के लिए किया जाएगा। साथ ही GeM Portal पर निविदा डालने की अंतिम तिथि दिनांक-29.06.2026 के अपराह्न 03:00 बजे तक निर्धारित की गई थी परन्तु किसी भी संवेदक के द्वारा निविदा में भाग नहीं लेने के कारण निम्नवत् 04 (चार) प्रखण्डों का GeM Portal के माध्यम से ऑनलाईन निविदा में भाग लेने हेतु दिनांक-29.08.2026 तक अवधि विस्तार की जाती है। GeM Portal में लातेहार जिला अन्तर्गत निविदा का बिड संख्या निम्न प्रकार है:-

SL.No.	District	Block/Godown	Bid No.	Dated
1	Latehar	Bariyatu	GEM/2026/B/7652304	12.06.2026
2		Herhanj	GEM/2026/B/7652204	12.06.2026
3		Garu	GEM/2026/B/7651895	12.06.2026
4		Mahuadanr	GEM/2026/B/7652554	12.06.2026

अतएव इच्छुक निविदादाता को GeM Portal से निविदा में भाग ले सकते हैं, जिसके लिए Gem Portal में निविदादाता का निबंधन होना आवश्यक होगा। विभागीय निर्देशानुसार Gem Portal में भाग लेने वाला ही निविदा ही मान्य होगा।

जिला आपूर्ति पदाधिकारी,

लातेहार

PR 387563 Food Public Distribution and Consumer Affairs(26-27)#D

CCL

Fuelling Sustainable Growth

80^{वां} स्वतंत्रता दिवस

की हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं

मेंट्रल कोलफील्ड्स लिमिटेड

भारत सरकार का एक उद्योग

(कोल हॉलिंग लिमिटेड की एक अपूर्णतः कंपनी)

दरभंगा हाउस, राँची - 834001 (झारखण्ड)

SARALA BIRLA UNIVERSITY

SARALA BIRLA PUBLIC SCHOOL, SARALA BIRLA UNIVERSITY, MAHADEVI BIRLA INSTITUTE OF NURSING & CLINICAL TECHNOLOGY

Birla Knowledge City, Mahilong, Ranchi - 835103

८०^{वें} स्वतंत्रता दिवस की हार्दिक शुभकामनाएँ !

15 August, 2026

15 August, 2026

SARALA BIRLA PUBLIC SCHOOL, SARALA BIRLA UNIVERSITY, MAHADEVI BIRLA INSTITUTE OF NURSING & CLINICAL TECHNOLOGY

Birla Knowledge City, Mahilong, Ranchi - 835103

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हिंडाल्को इंडस्ट्रीज लिमिटेड

झारखंड माइंस परिवार की ओर से

स्वतंत्रता दिवस

2026

की हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं

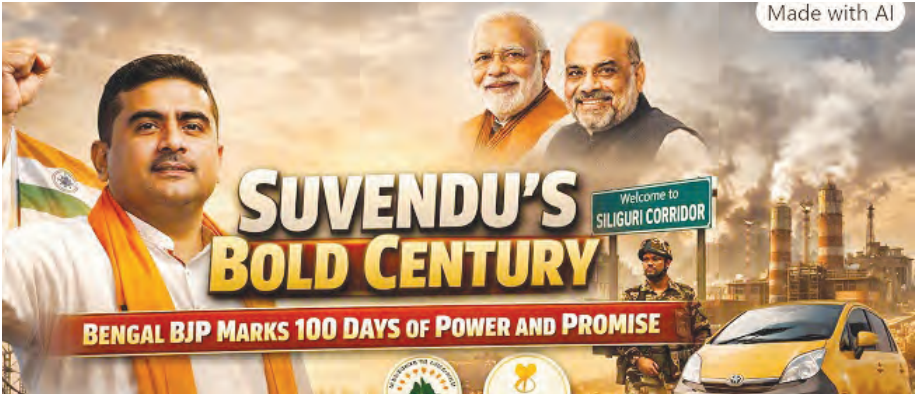
Classy century by Suwendu in first 100 days of Bengal BJP regime

Biz revival plan however needs to be sharper

By Valmiki

Bengal is supposed to turn over a new leaf after the assembly elections 2026. There has been a change of guard and the new regime, with the full backing of New Delhi, is expected to transform the state bottom upwards. The first 100 days of the Subhendu Adhikari led BJP government gets completed on or around next Sunday, August 16, going by the government formation date of May 9 when the first five cabinet ministers had come on board. This period has been relatively well spent so far.

As happens with lions in the wild, if the challenger wins the fight against the reigning leader of the pride and becomes the new boss, he first undertakes the job of stamping his authority everywhere. His harem, so long used to the ways of a different leader, must learn to know him, respect him, fear him and snuggle up to him. Outsiders beyond the limits of his territory also need to know that the new don means business. In the



first 100 days, Suwendu Adhikari has done just that. He has a very masculine way of going about doing things, bold and minus frenzy. His Bengali has an earthy Midnapore accent replete with its softish dental “S” and truncated intonation. Bengal, fed on a more orthodox city-bred phonetics with a maniacal pitch for the last 15 years, has welcomed the change so far.

However, that’s about where the similarity with the lord of the jungle ends. While the lion king is the beginning and end of everything, Subhendu lives in the shadow of Delhi.

Every action taken so far has been a follow-up of the promises made in the election manifesto or what Amit Shah had said would be done if voted to power. The speed with which several things have got done, also suggests that things were already kept ready, and they just needed to be introduced. BJP there, BJP here. That’s the entire magic of the “double engine Sarkar” concept.

Border security has got topmost priority, the Chicken’s Neck problem in the Siliguri Corridor being resolved, Ayushman Bharat introduced, Annapurna Yogana launched, religion

based welfare schemes abolished, state government job age limit raised, DA hiked by 20 percentage points, anti corruption, extortion, gunda-gardi etc being tackled with an iron hand. But re-industrialising Bengal wouldn’t be either that easy or speedy. There is nothing here to enforce or copy paste. It just requires a very deep understanding of what big investment actually requires of a state before it decides to fly in. It also requires a fine eye to separate the grain from the chaff in deciding who to woo, who not to woo, and why.

Suwendu, by his own

admission, has done a PhD in eliminating celebrity thugs from the days of Lakshman Seth of Haldia to Jahangir Khan “Pushpa” of Falta. He knows those things very well. Coming from an agrarian landholding background, he wouldn’t know much about industry. His industry minister Tapas Roy too isn’t any different. Roy’s basic training has been as a Somen Mitra protégé when he was in the Congress.

So Team Suwendu will have to rack its brains. Now, more than ever, it needs Delhi’s support in planning and deciding the way forward. Critical expertise in such matters, is much more readily available there than here. So what exactly is the nature of the turf that Suwendu is standing on in this context ? A) Bengal is primarily an agricultural state. The land is fertile, large portions of which is multicrop land. Fallow land is minimal. Last time land availability for industry caused a furore in the dying breaths of the CPIM government, it got revealed that fallow land

was just 7 per cent.

B) Once the hub of Indian industry, Bengal had driven out big businesses since the early 1970s, through misplaced ideologies of successive governments and political parties. Much of that industrial expertise has been lost forever.

C) Countless industries among those which stayed put, became sick and closed down over the decades due to any number of issues.

D) To cap it all, was the Mamata Banerjee sponsored mess in Singur. Driving Ratan Tata out of the state and ruining the Nano project was the ultimate insult and a shocker to Indian industry at large. That shook the confidence of India Inc to its foundations. Bengal became untouchable.

To bring the crème de la crème of Indian industry back therefore to Bengal isn’t going to be a cakewalk. Sure, a prod from Delhi might force a rethink, but first, Bengal needs to set its own house in order. And, for that, here

is a suggestion :

- With Delhi’s auspices, let a high-powered committee be formed to examine the issue in its entirety. Maybe prime minister Narendra Modi himself might want to chair it. Let the committee decide what kind of industry would be suitable for Bengal in 2026, what kind of infrastructure and market support can Bengal provide in return.

- Who can be on the committee ? Well, there can be a few mega names from India Inc., a few major union ministry representatives, Suwendu and two of his top ministers, but at least two big consultancy majors on board. Maybe all the minds together can find a way forward.

- Maybe a McKinsey or any of the Big Three consultancy majors can investigate all possible angles and document a White Paper. That at least would be a structured approach to this very complex problem and one far better than the hitherto whimsical attempts made by previous governments that invariably failed to make any impact.

Suwendu and Tapas Roy seemingly have started the game a bit differently. Media reports speak of small land parcels being made available to interested businessmen, a 1000-bed hospital project coming up or some closed jute mills and tea gardens in the Dooars and north Bengal region being reopened, groundwork being prepared for a hosiery project and so on. But that is a pittance.

If Bengal wants to be reckoned as the latest investment destination for India Inc., it needs to set up at least half a dozen really big industries that can also provide jobs to the state’s unemployed. For that, Suwendu Adhikari has got to seek Delhi’s help and subsequently pave the way for implementation of the projects planned so that when his government seeks re-election in 2031, it will have plenty to show. Time is on his side, he only needs a Luis de la Fuente to be able to lift the World Cup.

Jharkhand’s Mineral-Richest District Is Raising India’s Most Stunted Children

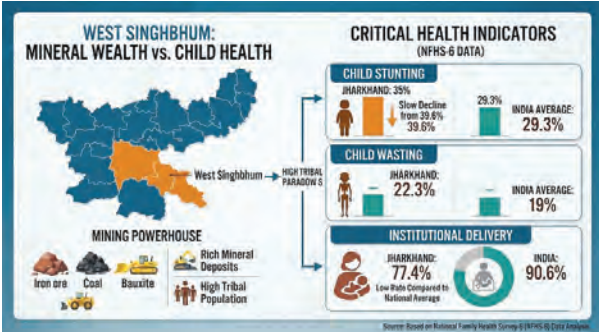
OPINION

By Prof. Anant Kumar

The author is a Professor at Xavier Institute of Social Service, Ranchi. The views expressed are personal. Email: pandeyanant@hotmail.com

West Singhbhum, home to some of Jharkhand’s largest tribal populations and its richest mineral deposits, recorded the highest child stunting rate among all districts in the country in the last National Family Health Survey. It lies in a state that mines iron ore, coal, and bauxite worth thousands of crores every year. NFHS-6, released by the Union Health Ministry in late May this year, reports that Jharkhand’s stunting rate has declined from 39.6 per cent to 35 per cent, whereas nationally it has fallen from 35.5 to 29.3 per cent over the same period, a steeper decline than Jharkhand’s.

Jharkhand’s 35 per cent still places it among the worst-performing handful of states, behind only Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Meghalaya, Bihar, and Gujarat. A state that was falling behind the national average five years ago is still falling behind it now. Wasting tells an even less encouraging story, with a negligible decline from 22.4 to 22.3 per cent between NFHS-5 and



NFHS-6. National wasting rates have barely changed, from 19.3 to 19 per cent. NFHS-6 analysis specifically flags Jharkhand as having one of the highest wasting rates in the country, a pattern that holds across survey rounds. Wasted children, dangerously thin for their height, face the most acute, immediate risk, distinct from the slower damage caused by stunting. None of this is simply a question of food availability. According to the latest figures, Jharkhand’s institutional delivery rate stood at 77.4 per cent in NFHS-6, compared with 75.8 per cent in NFHS-5, placing it among the handful of states with the lowest rates.

Nationally, the rate has climbed to 90.6 per cent. What matters more is the mechanism behind it. A mother who delivers without proper medical attendance is less likely to receive nutritional counselling, iron supplementation, and postnatal care that protect a child’s growth during the first thousand days, the exact window in which

stunting takes root and becomes hard to reverse.

This is where Jharkhand’s own delivery systems deserve scrutiny rather than another comparison table. The state already has the infrastructure meant to prevent this: Anganwadi centres under the Integrated Child Development Services scheme, the Poshan Abhiyaan nutrition mission, and the Public Distribution System. National figures show these systems can work, as the country’s stunting rate has now fallen below 30 per cent for the first time.

But a scheme functioning nationally is not the same as one reaching every block in Jharkhand, particularly the tribal, forested districts of West Singhbhum, Pakur, and Sahebganj, where this problem has always been worst. Roughly three in ten people in Jharkhand remain multidimensionally poor, and poverty and undernutrition go hand in hand almost everywhere. A family without a steady income cannot consistently buy vegetables, pulses,

milk, or eggs, even if the ration shop provides grain. Fixing hunger here cannot be separated from addressing income insecurity in the same households. If the state is serious, it must take three steps as a priority. First, the Department of Women and Child Development needs to commission a dedicated audit of Anganwadi coverage and growth monitoring in the worst-performing districts, rather than being judged against a statewide average that obscures where children are most affected. Second, the Department of Health, Medical Education and Family Welfare needs to strengthen institutional delivery and maternal nutrition support, specifically in these districts, since the first thousand days are when this outcome is decided.

Third, the state needs a standing coordination mechanism between food and civil supplies and rural development, since nutrition and poverty-reduction planning cannot continue to run as separate silos. A hungry child in Jharkhand is, more often than not, also from a poor household, and that has not changed from one survey to the next.

Jharkhand’s stunting rate has improved this time, but the rest of the country has progressed more quickly. Despite West Singhbhum’s wealth beneath the soil, the children above it still have not received as much benefit as they deserve.

When the Drug Becomes the Life

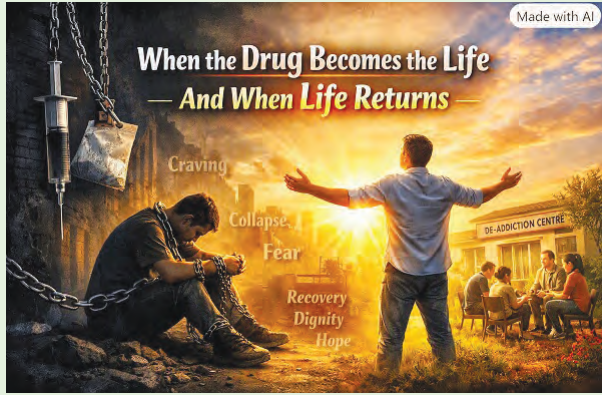
By Siddhartha Sinha



At 19, Sanjay’s world had narrowed to brown sugar. Six months of treatment helped him reclaim it. Today, he runs three de-addiction centres and says he has helped more than 300 young people. RANCHI, India — Addiction rarely begins with an intention to destroy a life. It may begin with curiosity, peer pressure, stress, loneliness—or the seemingly harmless thought: “Just once.” For Sanjay Pathak (name changed), tobacco came first. Drugs followed.

By 19, brown sugar had begun to organise his life around a single priority: the next dose. Education slipped away. Career plans collapsed. Relationships deteriorated. The future, once full of possibilities, became increasingly irrelevant. That is one of addiction’s most destructive effects: it shrinks a person’s world until the substance becomes more important than the life around it. When a family watches a son disappear.

For Sanjay’s father, addiction meant years of fear and helplessness. There were arguments, broken promises,



demands for money and constant anxiety about when his son would return and in what condition. The family tried persuasion, but nothing seemed to penetrate the grip of the drug.

Eventually, Sanjay himself asked for help. His father brought him to Dr. Siddhartha Sinha, senior psychiatrist at RINPAS, and treatment began. Sanjay later entered a de-addiction facility and, by his own decision, went to a rehabilitation centre in Bengaluru. For six months, he fought to remain drug-free. Craving did not disappear simply because he wanted to stop.

Recovery required more than removing the substance; it required learning to live without it. Detoxification removes a drug. Recovery rebuilds a life. Addiction is not simply a failure of willpower.

Dr. Sinha says brown sugar and other addictive substances can profoundly affect judgement, decision-making, behaviour, emotional regulation and social functioning. Repeated drug exposure can

strengthen the brain’s associations between the substance and reward or relief. Craving can become powerful even when the person understands the consequences. That does not erase responsibility. But it changes the clinical response. “Substance-use disorder is a complex medical and psychiatric condition,” Dr. Sinha says. “It should not simply be viewed as a character defect or a lack of willpower.”

Treatment may require medical care, psychological intervention, relapse-prevention strategies, family involvement and continuing follow-up. The family is part of the recovery. Sudden deterioration in studies or work, repeated demands for money, secrecy, lying, irritability, sleep changes, withdrawal from family or a dramatic change in social circles can be warning signs. They do not prove drug use.

But they should not automatically be dismissed as bad behaviour. Families often respond with anger or shame. Psychiatry asks for

something more useful: assessment, treatment and boundaries. Stigma can delay care. Support, on the other hand, can keep the door to recovery open. He went back to help others.

After treatment, Sanjay rebuilt his life. Then he decided to help people still trapped in the cycle he had escaped. Today, he runs two de-addiction centres in Mumbai and one in Pune. He says more than 300 young people have been helped through them. His transformation is striking: the young man who once became a source of anguish for his family is now trying to prevent other families from experiencing the same pain. But recovery is not simply abstinence.

It is the return of work, relationships, routine, dignity and purpose. Sanjay’s story does not mean everyone will recover in six months. Addiction can be chronic, relapsing and complicated by other psychiatric and social problems. It means something simpler—and more important: A person can be deeply trapped without being permanently lost. At 19, Sanjay’s life had narrowed to the next dose. Today, he is helping others imagine the next year. And perhaps that is the clearest definition of recovery: not merely learning to live without the drug, but finding a life worth staying free for.

(Dr Sinha is a Specialist Psychiatrist at RANCHI INSTITUTE OF NEUROPSYCHIATRY AND ALLIED SCIENCES)

15 August : What Does Freedom Mean to Us Today?

By Richa Sanchita

Every year, August 15 brings back a familiar set of images and memories. There is the Tricolour, the national anthem, children dressed as freedom fighters, patriotic songs and speeches about the sacrifices made during the freedom struggle. These are all an important part of the day. But as the years pass,

I sometimes wonder whether we have stopped asking what Independence Day actually means to us. For those of us born long after 1947, freedom is something we have always known. We have never experienced a foreign government ruling our country.

We have grown up with elections, the Constitution, courts, Parliament and the



right to vote. It is therefore difficult to imagine what it must have felt like to live in a country where important decisions about our own lives were taken by a power sitting thousands of miles away. That is perhaps why Independence Day is also a day to look back and understand what earlier generations went through. India’s freedom was not the result of one movement, one leader or one particular moment. It was a long and complicated struggle.

There were different approaches, different politi-

cal ideas and people who came from very different backgrounds. Some chose non-violence and mass movements, while others believed that more radical methods were necessary. Many went to prison, lost their livelihoods and, in some cases, their lives.

We naturally remember names such as Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, Sardar Patel, Subhas Chandra Bose and Bhagat Singh. But there were thousands of others whose names are not familiar to most of us. Students, farmers, workers,

women and ordinary families all became part of the movement in different ways. Their contribution reminds us that the freedom struggle was not simply a story of a few great leaders. It gradually became a movement in which ordinary Indians began to believe that they too had a role in deciding the future of their country.

Mahatma Gandhi understood this perhaps better than anyone else. His ability to connect a national political struggle with everyday life made the movement accessible to people who had never considered themselves political. The Salt March is a good example. Salt was something every household needed, yet the protest against the salt tax became a powerful expression of resistance.

It showed how an apparently simple issue could bring people together around a larger question of freedom. When indepen-

dence finally came on August 15, 1947, it was naturally a moment of great celebration. But it was also a deeply painful time. Partition had divided the country and forced millions of people to leave their homes. Families were separated, communities were torn apart and countless lives were lost. The celebrations of independence therefore existed alongside enormous human suffering.

That part of our history is important because it reminds us that the making of modern India was not a simple or easy process. We inherited a country with serious challenges—poverty, illiteracy, displacement and deep social divisions.

The leaders of the time had to build institutions almost from the ground up. One of the most important decisions was to create a constitutional democracy. The Constitution was not simply a document establishing the machinery of gov-

ernment. It placed the individual at the centre of the new republic and promised justice, liberty, equality and fraternity. India also took the remarkable step of giving adult citizens the right to vote.

At a time when a large part of the population was poor and many people had little or no formal education, this was an enormous democratic experiment. The idea was simple but powerful: citizenship was not to depend on wealth, education, caste or social position. Every citizen was entitled to participate in the country’s democracy.

Nearly eight decades later, we have travelled a long distance. India has changed enormously since 1947. We have developed new industries, built institutions, expanded education and become a major economy. Technology has transformed the way we work, communicate and even

the way we participate in public life. Yet development also brings new questions. What does freedom mean when social prejudice still determines opportunities for many people? What does equality mean when economic circumstances can decide the quality of education a child receives? What does freedom of expression mean in an age when information can spread across the country within seconds, sometimes without anyone checking whether it is true?

These are not questions that make us less proud of India. In fact, I believe they are questions that a mature democracy should be willing to ask. For me, one of the most important aspects of freedom today is the ability to respect another person’s rights even when we disagree with that person. Democracy becomes meaningful not when everyone agrees, but when people with

different opinions can live together, speak freely and still respect the law and each other. This is also why the Constitution remains so relevant. Independence gave us the freedom to govern ourselves, but the Constitution gave us a framework within which that freedom could be exercised. It placed limits on power and recognised rights that belong to citizens simply because they are citizens. So when we celebrate August 15, I think we should remember both parts of the story. We should remember those who sacrificed so that India could become independent, but we should also remember that independence created a responsibility for every generation that followed. The India of 1947 had its own challenges. The India of today has different ones.

Richa Sanchita is an advocate of Jharkhand High Court with more than 24 years of experience. Her area of expertise are Civil, Writs, Criminal and Banking.

Chennai open tennis to be held from November 2-8

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
Chennai

Chennai Open International Tennis Championships, a WTA 250 event, will be held from November 2-8, Tamil Nadu Tennis Association (TNTA) announced on Friday. It is being held for the third time here.

"A WTA 250 event is returning to India for the third time and the players expected to participate in the event



would be amongst the top 100 in the world," Indian tennis legend and TNTA

President Vijay Amritraj said. "The conduct of such an international women's event will fulfil a longstanding need of promoting women's Tennis and will encourage more girls in the state to play the sport which will immensely help them." He said the staging of the tournament will benefit the Indian and local players.

INDEPENDENCE DAY

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AK Singh

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झारखण्ड



शुभकामना संदेश

झारखण्ड सहित समस्त देशवासियों को

॥ स्वतंत्रता दिवस ॥

की हार्दिक शुभकामनाएँ।

जोहार!

15 अगस्त 1947 के दिन तिरंगे को सलामी देते हुए हमारा देश पराधीनता से मुक्त होकर एक स्वतंत्र राष्ट्र के रूप में विश्व पटल पर अपनी संप्रभुता के साथ स्थापित हुआ था। इस ऐतिहासिक दिवस को स्मरण करते हुए आज हम 80वां स्वतंत्रता दिवस गर्व और उत्साह के साथ मना रहे हैं।

शोषण और संघर्ष से भरे लगभग दो सौ वर्षों के औपनिवेशिक काल में अंग्रेजी सत्ता के विरुद्ध देश के महापुरुषों ने निरंतर राजनीतिक और वैचारिक संघर्ष किया। लगातार प्रतिवाद, सशक्त विरोध और सत्याग्रह के माध्यम से देश में व्यापक जन आंदोलन हुए, जिसने ब्रिटिश हुकूमत की चूलें हिला दीं। विश्व इतिहास के औपनिवेशिक शासन में हमारी आजादी की लड़ाई सबसे लम्बी और गौरवशाली संघर्षों में से एक है, जो 15 अगस्त 1947 को अपने लक्ष्य तक पहुँची।

इस ऐतिहासिक अवसर पर कृतज्ञ राष्ट्र अपने समस्त वीर शहीदों और स्वतंत्रता सेनानियों को विनम्र श्रद्धांजलि अर्पित करता है। जिनके त्याग और बलिदान से हमें एक स्वतंत्र और स्वाभिमानी राष्ट्र का नागरिक होने का गौरव प्राप्त हुआ। इस महान संघर्ष की विरासत हमें राष्ट्रीय एकता, अखंडता, समानता और लोकतांत्रिक मूल्यों के पथ पर निरंतर आगे बढ़ने की प्रेरणा देती है।

आइए, स्वतंत्रता दिवस के इस पुनीत अवसर पर हम एक कर्तव्यनिष्ठ, जागरूक और उत्तरदायी नागरिक के रूप में देश, समाज और पर्यावरण के प्रति अपने दायित्वों का आत्ममंथन करें तथा सामाजिक सौहार्द, लोकतांत्रिक मूल्यों और बंधुत्व के संदेश को जन-जन तक पहुँचाने का संकल्प लें।

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