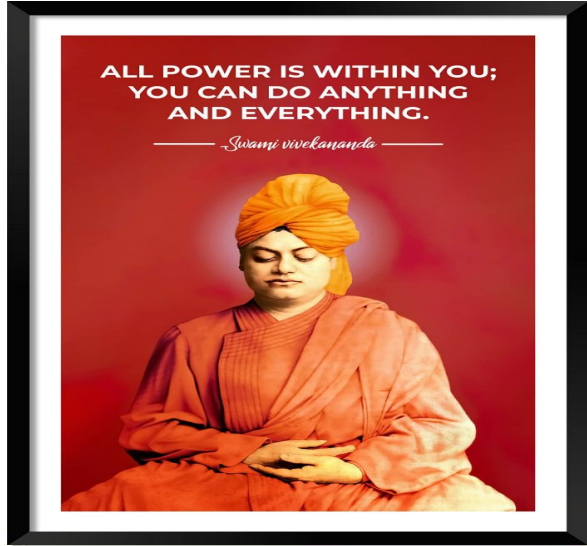
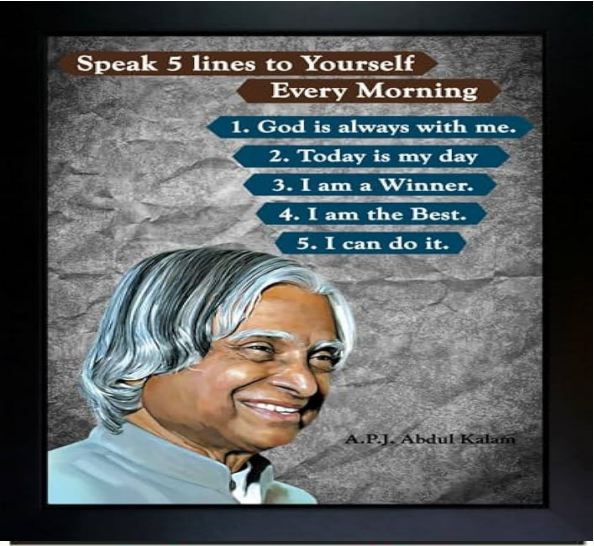




V Hanumantha Rao Dances With Students



Kamareddy: Senior Congress leader and Advisor to the Telangana Government V. Hanumantha Rao, participated in the 80th Independence Day cement V. Hanumant lebrations held at Indira Gandhi Stadium in

Kamareddy. Yellareddy MLA Madan Mohan Rao also attended the event. The celebrations featured cultural programmes and performances by students, who showcased their patriotic spirit through songs

and dances. Hanumantha Rao joined the students during the cultural performances and danced along with them. Students are seen dressed in traditional Banjara attire, performing with much ease and grace.

AP Will Develop With Centre's Cooperation



Kakinada: Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan participated in the Independence Day celebrations in Kakinada and hoisted the national flag. Speaking on the occasion, Pawan Kalyan said the country is celebrating 150

years of the national song, Vande Mataram. Reflecting on India's eight-decade journey, Pawan Kalyan said one generation fought for the country's independence, another safeguarded it, while the next laid the foundations for

nation-building. He said India is now moving towards becoming a strong, capable and self-reliant nation. He emphasised that it is the collective responsibility of the people to accelerate this journey and help the achieve its goals.

PM Modi Sports Red Tie-Dye Turban at 80th I-Day Celebrations

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi marked the 80th Independence Day with his signature flair, sporting a traditional tie-and-dye red turban for his 13th consecutive address to the nation from the historic ramparts of the Red Fort here. Modi paired his white kurta and chocolate brown vest with the traditional turban, common in Rajasthani and Gujarati culture. He also sported three pocket squares of saffron, green and white colours. Also Read - From AI to Semiconductors, Modi Unveils Roadmap for Viksit Bharat 2047 Modi's Independence Day turbans have evolved into a visual tradition of their own. Last year, he donned a

vibrant Rajasthani leheriya turban that fluttered in hues of orange, yellow and green -- a nod to tradition and a symbol of India's rich cultural tapestry. In 2023, he opted for a bandhani print in shades of yellow, green and red, and paired it with a black V-neck jacket. In 2022, he wore a saffron turban with red motifs and a flowing tail that he paired with a blue jacket and a stole. Also Read - Quality

Education Should Be Free For Every Kid : PhysicsWallah Founder In 2021, a cream-and-saffron turban complemented his half-sleeved kurta, while 2020 saw him adapting to the COVID-19 pandemic with a white scarf edged in saffron, used as a protective face covering. His debut Independence Day as prime minister in 2014 was marked by a fiery red Jodhpuri bandhej turban. The following years brought a kaleidoscope of colours -- from the yellow and multicoloured criss-cross turban in 2015 to a pink-yellow tie-and-dye version in 2016 and a bold red-



Strong Law and Order Key to Telangana's Growth

Hyderabad: Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy here on Saturday said that well maintained law and order is the first big requirement for the development of any state. "We are ensuring robust law and order, positioning Telangana as a safe destination for investments, industries, and international events," he said after hoisting the national flag at Golconda Fort in connection with Independence Day celebrations. Also Read - Future City Police to be Smart, Safe and Secure: Tarun Joshi He said the state government is crack-

ing down heavily on drug trafficking and food adulteration. "We have established a system called 'TG-SAFE' to tackle the menace of drugs and food adulteration. The TG-SAFE brings the control of both food adulteration and drug menace under a single umbrella," he said. "We will conduct extensive inspections and take stringent measures to curb adulteration through the coordination of dedicated legal, laboratory, and enforcement wings," he explained. Also Read - Ghatkesar: Speeding Lorry Hits Bike, 17-Year-Old Dies The state govern-



ment established the new TG Traffic Management and Road Safety Bureau to regulate traffic congestion in urban areas and reduce accidents on highways and the Outer Ring Road (ORR). "We have undertaken extensive state-wide

awareness programs regarding the safety of women, children, and the youth through 'SHE Teams,' Anti-Human Trafficking Units, and 'Bh arosa' centers," he said. Also has pioneered the establishment of child-friendly courts in the country through the 'Bharosa' project. "On this occasion, I extend my special congratulations to the police officers and staff who are maintaining law and order in the state," he said. Telangana has emerged as a role model for the coun-

try in digital governance. The government implemented the 'e-Office' system across all 36 Secretariat departments and conducted the country's first fully digital cabinet meeting and made over 581 government services accessible via WhatsApp. "We will conduct this program every Monday. We will soon launch an online 'PrajaVani' portal, enabling the submission of grievances from any part of the state. We will continuously monitor the progress of their resolution through a dedicated dashboard," he explained.

Naidu Takes RTC Bus to Mark First Anniversary of Stree Shakti Free Bus Scheme

Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Saturday took an APSRTC bus to mark the first anniversary of Stree Shakti, a free bus travel scheme for women. The Chief Minister boarded the bus from the Independence Day celebrations venue in the greenfield capital city of Amaravati, accompanied by the beneficiaries. During the journey, the CM interacted with some women beneficiaries of the scheme and inquired about their families, income, health and others aspects of life. Naidu also



explained about Sanjeevani, a digital health record scheme to a beneficiary and asked her if she practised yoga. Later, Naidu hosted high tea for the women who travelled with him at his

camp office in Undavalli village and interacted with them. to travel freely to various places. Women are able to save money through this (Stree Shakti) scheme," said Naidu. During the interaction, Naidu asked them to understand the government's various initiatives. He said the government was focusing on highly backward families to support them, create awareness among them

and asked people not to get swayed by inducements during elections. who were once looked down upon, have reached a stage where they are earning more and contributing to the society. He called on women to avail all the schemes being extended by the government and suggested them to market their DWCRA products for achieving financial success. Further, he appealed to the beneficiaries to work towards eradicating marijuana and remain vigilant against those committing crime under the guise of politics. women travel every day

under Stree Shakti, 87 crore journeys were recorded since its launch, said an official press release on Friday. The government is providing a subsidy of Rs 8.53 crore per day towards women's free travel under Stree Shakti and in one year it spent Rs 3,095 crore, it said. The scheme is being implemented under five categories of the Andhra Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation (APSRTC) buses, which include the Express, Ultra Pallevelugu, Pallevelugu, Metro Express and City Ordinary.

Telangana Governor Calls for Collective Participation in Building Viksit Bharat



Hyderabad: Telangana Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla on Saturday called upon every citizen to contribute to the building of a developed and self-reliant India, drawing inspiration from the sacrifices, courage and patriotism of the freedom fighters. The Governor was speaking after unfurling the national flag at the 80th Independence Day celebrations held at Lok Bhavan here. He also received the ceremonial salute from the police personnel. Also Read - Future City Police to be Smart, Safe and Secure: Tarun Joshi The Governor's spouse Janaki Shukla, Special Chief Secretary to the

Governor M. Dana Kishore, Joint Secretary K. Shashi kiranachary, and officers and employees of Lok Bhavan participated in the celebrations. Extending his greetings to the people of Telangana and the nation on the occasion, Shukla recalled the immense sacrifices made by freedom fighters and national leaders in securing India's independence. Also Read - Ghatkesar: Speeding Lorry Hits Bike, 17-Year-Old Dies He said their courage, sacrifice and patriotism should continue to inspire the nation in its journey towards a developed and self-reliant India. The Governor said India's strengths lies in its unity in diversity and that the country, by upholding these values, continues to provide direction and inspiration to the world. India, as the world's largest democracy, is moving rapidly towards becoming the world's third-largest economy, he said, adding that the

country was progressing with confidence towards the goal of Viksit Bharat. Also Read - V Hanumantha Rao Dances With Students at I-Day Celebrations in Kamareddy Describing Telangana as an important growth engine in the country's development journey, hri Shukla said Hyderabad had established itself as one of India's prominent growth centres. Though Telangana is a young State, it has earned a distinct identity within a relatively short period, he said. The transformation in the agriculture sector through irrigation projects, coupled with Hyderabad's growing presence in information technology, Artificial Intelligence, pharmaceuticals and biotechnology, was contributing moving rapidly towards becoming the world's third-largest economy, he said, adding that the to the State's development, stressed that economic and technological progress must go hand in hand with social well-being and youth empowerment.

Telangana BJP Leaders Celebrate Independence Day in Hyderabad



Hyderabad: Telangana State BJP president N Ramchander Rao, Union Minister Bandi Sanjay Kumar, MP Dr K Laxman and other senior party leaders participated in Independence Day celebrations at the Telangana BJP state headquarters in Nampally, Hyderabad, on Saturday. The leaders gathered at the party's state headquarters to mark 80th Independence Day and commemorate the country's journey since gaining independence in 1947. Also Read - Future City Police to be Smart, Safe and Secure: Tarun Joshi The celebrations were attended by senior BJP leaders and party workers, who came together to observe the national occasion. The event

at the Nampally headquarters formed part of the party's Independence Day programmes being held across Telangana. Ramchander Rao, who heads the BJP's Telangana unit, participated in the celebrations along with Union Minister Bandi Sanjay Kumar and Rajya Sabha MP Dr K Laxman. Other senior leaders and party functionaries were also present at the event. Rao hoisted the national flag at the event. Also Read - Ghatkesar: Speeding Lorry Hits Bike, 17-Year-Old Dies The programme was organised to mark the occasion and honour the sacrifices of the freedom fighters who played a role in India's independence movement. Independence Day is being celebrated

across Telangana with flag-hoisting ceremonies and programmes organised by government institutions, political parties, educational institutions and civil society organisations. The BJP state headquarters in Hyderabad also witnessed participation from party workers and leaders as the organisation joined the nationwide celebrations marking decades of India's independence. Hanumantha Rao Dances With Students at I-Day Celebrations in Kamareddy The leaders observed the national occasion at the state headquarters and paid tribute to the country's freedom struggle and the contributions of those who fought for independence.

Lean hours remain a major challenge for TGSRTC city bus services

Hyderabad: The Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TGSRTC) continues to struggle with the operational challenge of managing city buses during lean afternoon hours, particularly in the capital region. While city buses are often seen jam-packed with students, women, IT employees and other commuters during peak hours of the day, it is observed that between 12 pm and 3 pm, most buses run with many vacant seats, indicating a lower occupancy rate. Most times, just 25 per cent occupancy is seen on services. Over 3,500 city buses make over 30,000 trips across the city each day, with heavy demand witnessed between 8 am and 11 am and again from 4 pm to 9 pm. Women passengers have also increased due to the 'Mahalakshmi' women free travel facility. However, it is found that several services, includ-



ing Metro Express and E-buses, are recording low occupancy during afternoon hours. Commuters say RTC should move beyond traditional methods and adopt a more flexible hours management model. "I have to regularly travel between Narayanaguda and Secunderabad Railway Station. The route is used by hundreds of commuters. Most of the time, I find fewer services on the route during afternoon hours," said Sunny from Chikkadpally, adding

that the situation leads to growing use of private vehicles and bike taxis. Citizens also point out that dynamic pricing, which is often implemented on long-distance services by the RTC, could be tested in city services. Apart from this, offers and lower fares during this period could attract commuters. RTC authorities said it is difficult to reduce services during lean hours on certain college and IT-corridor routes as it could cause inconvenience to residents in nearby colonies.

However, they were redeploying services wherever possible, including bus stations, tourist spots and hospitals. Transport experts suggest that mini buses could also help the RTC address the problem. Instead of running large buses with low passenger loads during lean hours, mini buses could be roped in. To solve the problem, RTC will have to consider and work on deploying the right number and type of buses at the right time and on the right routes.

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MP Dr K Laxman. Other senior leaders and party functionaries were also present at the event. Rao hoisted the national flag at the event. Also Read - Telangana Governor Calls for Collective Participation in Building Viksit Bharat The programme was organised to mark the occasion and honour the sacrifices of the freedom fighters who played a role in India's independence movement. Independence Day is being celebrated across Telangana with flag-hoisting ceremonies and programmes organised by government institutions, political parties, educational institutions

and civil society organisations. The BJP state headquarters in Hyderabad also witnessed participation from party workers and leaders as the organisation joined the nationwide celebrations marking eight decades of India's independence. Also Read - Telangana to Witness Scattered Rains in Several Districts The leaders observed the national occasion at the state headquarters and paid tribute to the country's freedom struggle and the contributions of those who fought for independence. The celebrations come as India marks its 80th

Independence Day, with events being held across the country to remember the freedom movement and celebrate the nation's progress over the past eight decades. In Hyderabad, several government and political institutions have organised programmes to mark the occasion, with the Tricolour being hoisted at different locations and leaders extending Independence Day greetings to citizens. The Independence Day celebrations across the state are being held with patriotic programmes and public participation, as the country commemorates 80 years of independence.

Crop Insurance Deadline Likely To Be Extended

KAKINADA: Municipal administration and urban development minister P. Narayana said on Friday that he would consult Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on extending the deadline for crop insurance and that measures would be taken to resolve related problems by mobilising funds in a phased manner. Speaking at a district review committee meeting here, Narayana stressed the need for coordination between the Agriculture and Water Resources departments to protect crops from the impact of El Nino. Also Read - Minister Anam Falls Ill During I-Day Speech in Tirupati He directed



officials not to compromise on the quality of works and ensure that pensions, welfare schemes and housing and health security reached every eligible beneficiary. He also called for improving

facilities at government hospitals and schools and said a cardiologist would be appointed at a government hospital. Collector Harendhira Prasad said water was being released from the Yeleru Reservoir on a

rotational basis to address the impact of El Nino. MLAs Jyothula Nehru, Pantham Nanaji, Vanamadi Kondababu and Nimmakayala China Rajappa, MLC Perabathula Rajasekhar and others attended the

Future City Police to be Smart, Safe and Secure: Tarun Joshi

Hyderabad: The newly formed Future City Police Commissionerate organized a grand Independence Day celebrations at its headquarters in Ibrahimpatnam here on Saturday. Future City Police Commissioner Dr. Tarun Joshi hoisted the national flag in the presence of senior police officials and police personnel. Addressing the gathering, Joshi said: "On this Independence Day, let us remember that freedom is not merely what we inherited from our freedom fighters. Freedom is a responsibility that every generation must protect and strengthen, for a citizen, the first and most fundamental expression of that freedom is the freedom to live without fear; that is where policing becomes important." Also Read - Ghatkesar: Speeding Lorry Hits Bike, 17-Year-Old Dies He said a strong democracy needs a police force that is professional, impartial, accessible and humane—a police force that commands authority but earns trust. Reflecting on the newly



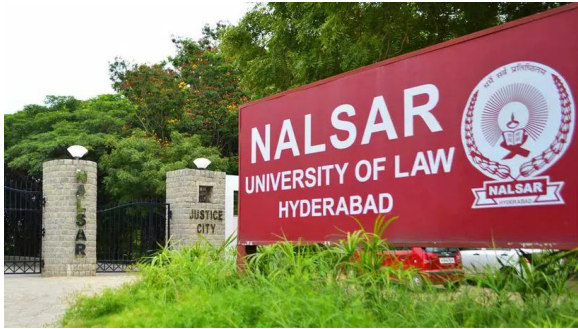
established Future City Police Commissionerate, Joshi said "Future City is being built as a city of the future—modern, technology-driven, sustainable and full of opportunity and we have the privilege of building its policing system from the ground up," he added. Also Read - V Hanumantha Rao Dances With Students at I-Day Celebrations in Kamareddy "We hato wards smart, safe and ve no old systems to inherit. We have an opportunity to create new ones. My vision for Future City Police is simple:

Smart, Safe and Secure," he said, adding that smart is the way to effectively use technology and intelligence. Safe is for every citizen, especially women, children and the vulnerable and secure is against conventional crime as well as the emerging threats of the digital age. Also Read - Live: Hyderabad Celebrates Independence Day with Patriotic Fervour "But while tech towards smart, safe and nology will be an important force multiplier, I firmly believe that the heart of policing will always

remain the police officer who stands before the citizens. As we celebrate Independence Day, let us commit ourselves to building a Future City that is not only modern in its infrastructure, but strong in its values; not only advanced in technology, but humane in its policing," he said. The celebrations concluded with a renewed commitment by the Future City Police Commissionerate towards smart, safe and secure policing, public safety, professional service and a strong with the community.

NALSAR students demand apology from BCI chairman

Hyderabad: NALSAR University of Law students on Saturday slammed Bar Council of India (BCI) Chairman Manan Kumar Mishra for his directive letters, which are now withdrawn, on not to enrol the university students in the State Bar Councils besides seeking a report from the Vice Chancellor over a row on inviting Chief Justice of India as the chief guest for convocation. They demanded an apology. In a statement, NALSAR Student Bar Council lambasted the BCI Chairman for using 'high objectionable' language – 'groupism' and 'dirty politics' within the University and the role of faculty in 'misleading, misguiding and instigating students' – in



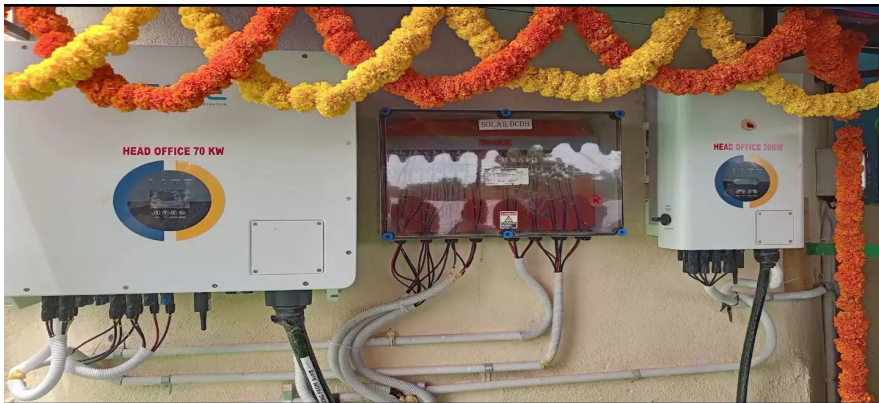
letters addressed to the Vice Chancellor Prof. Srikrishna Deva Rao . Terming those allegations unprofessional, unfounded, and without any substance, students said making such claims against members of the University family for mere peaceful expression of legitimate dissent is uncalled for and reeks of malice. "The modified letter stated the role of teachers and outsiders in instigating innocent students. By searching for the faculty member, alumnus, research scholar, or

without any substance, students said making such claims against members of the University family for mere peaceful expression of legitimate dissent is uncalled for and reeks of malice. "The modified letter stated the role of teachers and outsiders in instigating innocent students. By searching for the faculty member, alumnus, research scholar, or

"outsider" who supposedly orchestrated the campaign, the letter denies students ownership of their own political views. It reflects the classic 'anti-national' narrative, in which dissent is not engaged with on its merits but is explained away as the work of external actors manipulating impressionable students in a patronising fashion," said students. The issue began as some students sent an email to the Vice Chancellor expressing concern arises from the refusal of the Supreme Court Bench led by the CJI to allow urgent listing of a plea concerning the alleged brutal police action against protesters during the peaceful 'Chalo Sansad' demonstration

Rooftop Solar Push On Coal Turf

The Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) on Friday commissioned 1.23 MW of rooftop solar power plants across its corporate area buildings at Kothagudem, marking another step in the coal miner's expansion into renewable energy alongside its thermal business. Dr Buddha Prakash Jyoti, chairman and managing director of SCCL, inaugurated the plants at a function at the Singareni Head Office and formally connected a 100 kW segment on the main office building to the grid. The new rooftop systems have been installed on various company buildings within the Singareni Corporate Area complex at Kothagudem. Also Read - No Compromise on Telangana's River Water Share: Revanth Reddy Speaking after the inauguration, Dr



Buddhaprakash said SCCL, long known as a coal-producing company, was now making its mark in thermal as well as solar and floating solar power generation. He noted that, as an eco-friendly measure alongside coal and thermal operations, the company had already installed 245.5 MW of solar capacity at vacant sites across its premises. In line with directions from the central and

Telangana governments, more solar projects would be set up to help meet national and state energy requirements, he added. Also Read - Telangana Governor Calls for Collective Participation in Building Viksit Bharat The CMD said he was particularly pleased to commission the 1.23 MW of rooftop solar on corporate buildings, underscoring the sHe noted that, as an eco-hift towards using

company infrastructure for clean power. The event was attended by directors L.V. Suryanarayana (Operations), K. Venkateswarlu (Projects & Planning) and M. Thirumala Rao (E&M), besides senior GMS, union leaders from AITUC and INTUC, CMOAI representatives and other officials and employees. states/telangana/rooftop-solar-push-on-coal-turf-

TMC MP Mahua Moitra Claims Nadia Administration Ordered Her To Vacate Circuit House

Kolkata: TMC MP Mahua Moitra on Friday claimed that the district administration of West Bengal's Nadia ordered her to vacate the local circuit house late at night, after she was initially allotted a room at the state-owned property. Moitra, who moved into the property for her overnight stay following a parliament session, alleged that large crowds had gathered outside the premises shouting 'Jai Shree Ram' slogans after she refused to leave. In a social media post, Moitra, a Mamata Banerjee loyalist, asserted that as an elected MP, she was entitled to use the facility, but was being pressurised by the district authorities to move out in the middle of the night with the intent to harass her. "The room was given to me in a properly made-up manner, and I was even



served my dinner here. I moved in at around 6.15 pm, and since 10 o'clock the district administration is sending me messages to vacate the room," Moitra said in a video message on X. "I told them that I am obviously not going to move out and now I have received an order from the district authorities asking me to move out," she said

in the message, which she claimed was recorded around 11 pm. The Krishnanagar MP alleged that a large crowd had gathered outside the premises and shouted slogans with an intent to intimidate her. "The Supreme Court had asked me to face the people on the ground like a freedom fighter, and I am doing just that," Moitra said, declar-

ing her resolve to not back down. Moitra was referring to the apex court's observations in connection with a petition she moved seeking protection from the crowd culture of repeated attacks and pelting of eggs at TMC leaders. "The Calcutta High Court had told me that the district administration would provide me protection, and yet it is the same authority that's ordering me to move out and harass me," she said. Moitra also posted the order she received from the Nazareth deputy collector of Nadia. "In view of facilitating the annual maintenance cum, upkeep and cleaning arrangements, the Nadia circuit house (at Krishnanagar) shall not be available for service from the evening of August 14, 2026 till further orders," the purported order stated.

"Reservations already confirmed before 13th August, 2026 only shall be exempted from the general purview of this order," it added. Moitra had told me that the district administration would provide me protection, and yet it is the same authority that's ordering me to move out and harass me," she said. Moitra also posted the order she received from the Nazareth deputy collector of Nadia. "In view of facilitating the annual maintenance cum, upkeep and cleaning arrangements, the Nadia circuit house (at Krishnanagar) shall not be available for service from the evening of August 14, 2026 till further orders," the purported order stated.

No immediate response on the development was received from the Nadia district authorities.

'Will Pure Petrol Come From Your Father's House?': BJP MP Janardan Mishra Amid Criticism Over Ethanol



Rewa: BJP MP from Rewa, Janardan Mishra, who has often made headlines for his controversial remarks, has once again grabbed the eyeballs; this time, for his statements on E20 petrol. Amid the ongoing debate over ethanol-blended petrol in India, Mishra on Sunday defended the Centre's ethanol policy and asked the opponents, "Will pure petrol come from your father's house?" His remarks came days after Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convener Arvind Kejriwal alleged that the Central government has forcibly imposed the E20 policy without upgrading infrastructure or ensuring that existing vehicles are compatible with higher ethanol blends. Addressing an event to inaugurate new flight services from Rewa to Bhopal and Kolkata, Mishra said that India pro-

duces only 20 per cent of crude oil, while 80 per cent is being imported from abroad. In a video, Mishra is heard saying, "Air services from Rewa Airport are continuously expanding. Flight operations to various destinations have already commenced. In the near future, air services connecting Rewa to major metropolitan cities like Chennai and Madras may also begin, and this momentum will continue. Rewa is developing rapidly alongside the rest of the country; this progress is driven by the fact that India currently ranks third globally in the aviation sector." India set to become No 1 in aircraft and passenger numbers. The MP remarked, "Given the way Narendra Modi is leading the government—maintaining peace and stability—the day is not far when India will become the world's

number one nation in terms of the number of aircraft and air passengers. It is not merely a question of aeroplanes; it is about the development of the nation. Today, if there is any country where the highest number of jobs and employment opportunities are being created, it is India. India also boasts the lowest inflation rate globally. The country is moving steadily towards becoming self-reliant." Mishra also said that vehicles in India can run on ethanol blending, but some people are saying don't use it. "If ethanol is not produced, where will petrol come from, where will diesel come from?" He said a movement is being run against ethanol-blended petrol, with people claiming that vehicles should use only pure petrol. "A movement is underway claiming that ethanol won't work, pure petrol will. Will

Lucknow Students Block Road, Stage Sit-In Over Teacher Shortage; Minister Assures Action



Lucknow: Hundreds of students from a state-run residential school in the Para area of Lucknow staged a sit-in protest against the acute shortage of teachers on Friday, causing a temporary blockade on one of the important roads which leads to the Agra Expressway, according to the police.

Students of the Jai Prakash Narayan Sarvodaya Vidyalaya School took to Buddheshwar-Mohan Road with banners in the afternoon demanding the immediate recruitment of teachers due to the disturbances in their education.

The sudden road blockade caused a complete halt in traffic on the road from both sides for an hour due to the large queue of vehicles. After receiving information about the protest, Para inspector Suresh Singh reached the spot with a strong police contingent and was able to free the road after a struggle.

Social Welfare Minister of State

(Independent Charge) Asim Arun also reached there and calmed down the agitating students. The students and the principal of the school, Vinod Kumar, were taken to the school auditorium and a discussion was held in the presence of the minister. The school administration told the students that although their demands were genuine, obstructing the roads was not a solution for them.

Arun assured the agitating students that the problem of lack of teachers would be sorted out and the entire academic system restored soon. **Lucknow:** Hundreds of students from a state-run residential school in the Para area of Lucknow staged a sit-in protest against the acute shortage of teachers on Friday, causing a temporary blockade on one of the important roads which leads to the Agra Expressway, according to the police.

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'Vande Mataram' Rendered For First Time During Independence Day Celebrations At Red Fort

New Delhi: National Song 'Vande Mataram' was played for the first time during the Independence Day celebrations at Red Fort in New Delhi on Saturday. The National Song was rendered followed by the recitation of the National Anthem at the grand event. The mega function commemorates 150 years of the enduring legacy of 'Vande Mataram' as floral decoration on the ramparts depicted the national flag at the centre flanked by 'Vande Mataram' in Hindi. The National Song was rendered followed by the recitation of the National Anthem. (ETV Bharat) Prime Minister Narendra Modi led the 80th Independence Day celebrations at the Red Fort amid patriotic fervour and multi-layer security.

An Army band played the



tune of 'Vande Mataram' as the guests present on the occasion sang the national song. This was followed by the prime minister hoisting the national flag, and then the national anthem was recited.

After the flag hoisting, the tricolour received a 'Rashtriya Salute'. After that, flower petals were showered at the venue by two Mi-17 helicopters of the Indian Air Force -- one trooping the national flag and the other

carrying a flag depicting 'Vande Mataram'. Written in 1875 by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee, 'Vande Mataram' had turned into a rallying cry during the freedom movement. It was adopted as India's national song by

the Constituent Assembly in 1950. The government last November launched a year-long celebration to mark 150 years of 'Vande Mataram'. 'Vande Mataram' was initially composed independently and later included in Chatterjee's novel 'Anandamath'. It was first sung by Rabindranath Tagore at the 1896 Congress Session in Calcutta (now Kolkata). The chant 'Vande Mataram' as a political slogan was first used on August 7, 1905, according to a note '150 Years of Vande Mataram: A Melody That Became a Movement', shared by the government on November 6 last year. 'Vande Mataram' was first published in the literary journal 'Bangadarshan' on November 7, 1875. Later, Chatterjee incorporated the hymn in his novel

People, Forces Working Against India's Goal To Become Global Leader: RSS Chief Mohan Bhagwat In Independence Day

Nagpur: Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat on Saturday called on people to strengthen India's independence by making the country happy, prosperous, and secure so that it contributes meaningfully to the world and becomes "Vishwaguru", noting that many people and forces are working against this goal. He also emphasised that views of individuals may differ, but this diversity expresses unity. Addressing a gathering at the Sangh headquarters in Nagpur after hoisting the tricolour on the occasion of the 80th Independence Day, the Sangh chief urged people to strengthen the nation without compromising on core principles and confront challenges to make it a guide to the world. He said Independence Day is a matter of pride and celebration for all Indians. If the freedom struggle is counted from 1857, the country's ancestors made continuous sacrifices for



nearly 90 years to secure independence, Bhagwat added. "We feel proud of their sacrifices and are happy that their struggle reached a successful conclusion. But along with this, we must also remember that preserving the freedom achieved through so much effort and sacrifice is our responsibility," he said.

Citing Hindutva ideologue V. D. Savarkar, Bhagwat said it is the duty of citizens to ensure that all the

noble, progressive and beautiful outcomes of freedom become part of the nation. Bhagwat said the colours of the national flag, as we hoist it, convey important messages. He said saffron represents action, knowledge and sacrifice.

"The freedom of a nation is achieved through hard work and sacrifice, and after independence, these qualities help make the nation prosperous and secure. The saffron colour

reminds people of the need for sacrifice and dedication," the Sarsangchalak said. When sacrifice, commitment, hard work and knowledge become part of people's lives, society remains peaceful and minds become pure, he said. He further said white colour represents purity and inspires people to follow discipline while continually examining whether they are adhering to it. The result of these efforts is prosperity, represented by the green colour of the flag, he added. Bhagwat said people are different as individuals and may therefore hold different views. "However, this diversity also expresses unity. The Ashoka Chakra has many spokes, but all of them emerge from a single central point," he added. Bhagwat said the wheel (Ashoka Chakra) represents individual and social awareness, noting that its sharp spokes are kept within the limits of dhar-

ma, or discipline, so that society functions properly. "That is why we have placed this Dharma Chakra at the centre of our national flag. While hoisting the national flag, we should reflect on the ideas represented by these symbols. We must bring the essence of that reflection into our own lives. This is extremely necessary," he added. He said there is no doubt that India will remain an independent nation. "However, we must make the nation happy, prosperous and secure, and ensure that it makes its rightful contribution to the world. However, many people and forces are working against this goal and stand in our way. However, without abandoning our principles, we must face these challenges across the world and make India a nation that serves as a 'Vishwaguru', a guide to the world," he added. Bhagwat added that India must become a country that makes a meaningful contribution to the lives of all humanity.

Constitutional Values, Democratic Institutions Faced Serious Challenges In Last Decade: Kharge



New Delhi: Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, in a veiled attack on the BJP-led government at the Centre on Friday, said constitutional values, democratic institutions, and social harmony have faced serious challenges over the last 10 years.

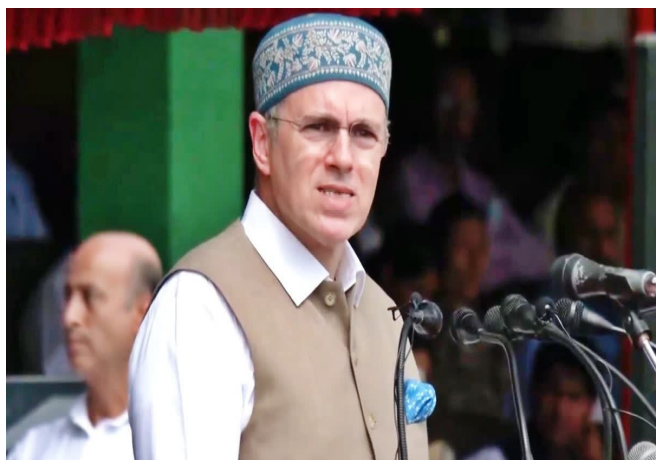
students' protest at Jantar Mantar here, categorically stated that youth deserve opportunities to fulfil their aspirations. In a message to the fellow citizens on the occasion of Independence Day, he said, "Warm greetings to all my fellow citizens on Independence Day. Paying homage to the freedom fighters, the Congress chief said, "We pay our humble

tribute to the countless freedom fighters who gave their all in the struggle for India's freedom. Their courage, sacrifice and unwavering faith in our nation continue to inspire us." "Over the past 79 years, India's journey has been one of remarkable achievements, struggles and collective resolve. We have travelled a long way, but as a nation, many aspirations remain unfulfilled," Kharge said. The Congress chief added, "For us, freedom was never merely liberation from British rule. It is the assurance bestowed upon every Indian by our Constitution: equality, dignity, justice and the freedom to speak with-

out fear. These values remain the greatest strength of our Democracy and the strongest safeguard of every citizen."

In an apparent attack on the ruling BJP, he said, "Over the past decade, our Constitutional values, democratic institutions and social harmony have faced serious challenges. Our youth deserve opportunities to fulfil their aspirations. Our farmers deserve dignity and justice for their toil. Our women deserve equality, empowerment and an equal voice in shaping India's future. Dalits, Adivasis, OBCs, minorities and economically weaker sections must receive the full measure of equality and justice promised by our Constitution." On this Independence Day, our greatest resolve must be hope, he added.

PoJK Would Have Been Fighting To Join Jammu Kashmir If Centre Hadn't Revoked Special Status In 2019: Omar in I-Day Speech



Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Saturday said people in Pakistan Occupied Jammu Kashmir (PoJK) would have been protesting to join Jammu and Kashmir if the Centre had not revoked the special constitutional guarantees in 2019.

"Today, when we see the situation in that part of Jammu and Kashmir across the Line of Control, it is said and we are worried. I realise, if our situation had not changed in 2019, the people of that part of Jammu and Kashmir would have been

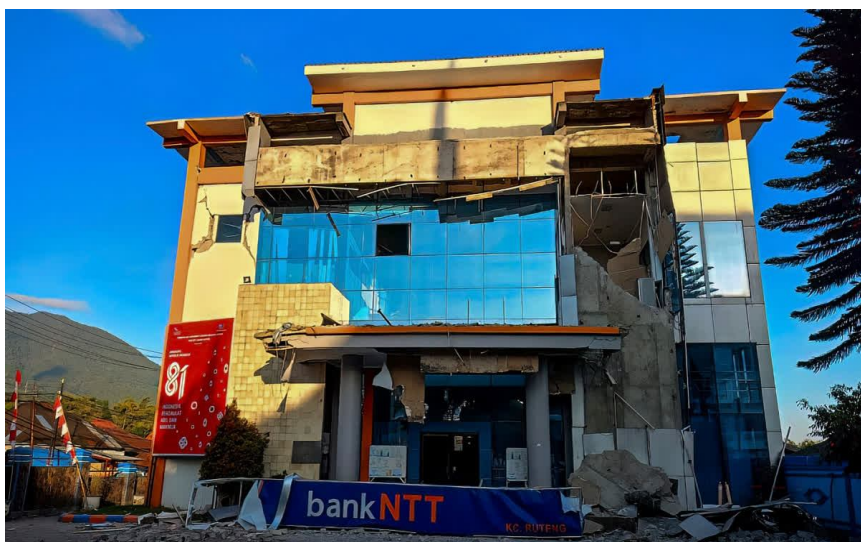
protesting to reunite with this part of Jammu and Kashmir is ours," Abdullah said in his Independence Day speech at Srinagar's Bakshi Stadium. He was referring to the abrogation of Article 370 and demotion of state into two union territories on August 5, 2019. "We have kept seats vacant for the other side in the hope that some day these will be filled," he added.

Amid tight security arrangements, hundreds of people participated in the celebrations to watch the spectacular performances and march pasts of the police, paramilitary contingents and students. The chief minister said

the decision of acceding to India 1947 has proved leaders right in the face of situation in PoJK. "The brave people of Jammu and Kashmir sacrificed their lives in thousands. When I look across the border and the LOC today, then I realize that 80 years ago, the decision our leaders took for us was the right decision, the people who raised this slogan, the attackers, the informers, they were right," he added. Abdullah said his government is committed to restoring the statehood and other constitutional guarantees to Jammu and Kashmir. "Our government is committed to restoring statehood and constitutional guarantees, and put Jammu and Kashmir on the path of development. We will work to fulfil these goals," he

7.7-Magnitude Quake Strikes Off Indonesia, Tsunami Warning Issued

Jakarta: An earthquake with a magnitude of 7.7 jolted off the coast of Flores Island in Indonesia early Saturday, the country's Meteorology, Climatology and Geophysics Agency (BMKG) said. The epicentre was located 36 km northeast of Mbay, East Nusa Tenggara province, with a depth of 15 km, according to the BMKG, which has issued a tsunami warning following the tremor, Xinhua news agency reported. Strong tremors were felt in several areas, prompting many panicked residents to rush into the streets for safe shelter, local media reported. There were no immediate reports of casualties. The initial jolt was followed by strong aftershocks in the same area, including one with a magnitude of 6.1. Indonesia's Meteorology, Climatology, and Geophysics Agency (BMKG) warned there was a possibility of tsunami waves being generated by the quake. "Tsunami modelling results indicate that this



earthquake has the potential to generate a tsunami in the provinces of East Nusa Tenggara, South Sulawesi, and West Nusa Tenggara," BMKG earthquake and tsunami director Wijayanto said. Indonesia sits on the Pacific "Ring of Fire" and is home to more Lombok island was hit by a powerful earthquake, followed by a series of aftershocks over the following weeks. The disaster killed more than 550 people across Lombok and neighbour-

ing Sumbawa, both popular tourist destinations. Later that year, another major disaster struck with 120 active volcanoes, making it one of the world's most volcanically active countries. Among Indonesia's history of deadly quakes is a devastating 9.1-magnitude tremor in 2004 that struck off the coast of Sumatra and triggered a tsunami that killed 220,000 throughout the region, including about 170,000 in Indonesia. In 2018, Indonesia's

Lombok island was hit by a powerful earthquake, followed by a series of aftershocks over the following weeks. The disaster killed more than 550 people across Lombok and neighbouring Sumbawa, both popular tourist destinations. Later that year, another major disaster struck Sulawesi. A 7.5-magnitude earthquake hit the island, triggering a devastating tsunami in Palu. More than 4,300 people were killed or reported missing in the disaster.

India Weather Update: More Monsoon Rain In Store For Several States



New Delhi: As the monsoon gathers momentum, large parts of India are likely to receive another spell of rain, with the weather turning across the Himalayan hills, the eastern plains, and the southern coasts. IMD has forecast heavy to very heavy showers, accompanied by thunderstorms, lightning, and gusty winds, in several pockets over the next few days, which could add to disruption in some areas.

Delhi has crossed its normal monthly August rainfall within the first eight days of the month. The IMD has predicted fairly widespread to widespread rainfall over Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Jammu & Kashmir today. While Delhi, Haryana, Chandigarh and Punjab are expected to witness widespread rainfall in the next five days. East Rajasthan is expected to receive heavy rain from August 11-12. Orange alert has been issued in four districts of Uttarakhand, including Dehradun, Bageshwar, Nainital and Champawat. These regions may see lightning strikes along with

intense rainfall.

A man wades through floodwater after the rising level of the Ganga inundated houses along Trilochan Ghat in Varanasi. A man wades through floodwater after the rising level of the Ganga inundated houses along Trilochan Ghat in Varanasi. (PTI) Central India: Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Vidarbha Under Heavy Rain Watch Rain activity is expected to intensify across central India. West Madhya Pradesh, East Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Vidarbha are likely to receive heavy rainfall, while fairly widespread to widespread rainfall is expected across Madhya Pradesh over the week. Heavy rainfall has triggered flooding in parts of Madhya Pradesh, including Mandla and Dindori, due to which rivers and streams are overflowing. Several ghats have been submerged while waterlogging has disrupted road connectivity. Citizens are experiencing traffic jams on the Dindori, Jabalpur, Amarkantak highway. East India: Bihar and West Bengal

Face Heavy Rainfall Threat In eastern India, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha and Sub-Himalayan West Bengal & Sikkim are likely to receive very heavy rainfall at isolated places during the week, while Gangetic West Bengal and Jharkhand are expected to witness widespread rainfall during the next few days. In Odisha, flood conditions have become critical with two people reportedly dying by drowning in the Jaipur and Kendrapara areas. Rescue teams and local authorities are monitoring vulnerable locations. Northeast India: Torrential Rains Disrupt Normal Life The monsoon is likely to remain vigorous over Northeast India, with fairly widespread to widespread rainfall expected across the region. Assam and Meghalaya are likely to receive heavy to very heavy rainfall, while Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura are expected to witness heavy rain at isolated places. West India: Konkan, Goa And Gujarat To See Active

Monsoon Conditions

On the western coast, Konkan & Goa, Gujarat Region and Madhya Maharashtra are likely to experience heavy rainfall on August 10 and it is likely to continue, while fairly widespread rainfall is expected over Konkan & Goa throughout the forecast period. South Peninsular India: Kerala, Karnataka and Telangana To Receive Rain In South India, the IMD has forecast heavy rainfall over Kerala & Mahe, while fairly widespread rainfall is expected over Kerala, Coastal Karnataka and Lakshadweep. Thunderstorms accompanied by lightning and gusty winds are likely over Interior Karnataka, Rayalaseema, Telangana and Tamil Nadu, with wind speeds reaching 50-60 kmph in some areas. Weather System Behind The Rain The IMD said a low pressure area over northeast Madhya Pradesh and adjoining Chhattisgarh was lying over north Madhya Pradesh and neighbourhood today. It is associated with cyclonic circulations extending up to aagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura are expected to witness heavy rain at isolated places. West India: Konkan, Goa And Gujarat To See Active

Young Rajasthan Artist Rajat Ojha Revives 500-Year-Old Kaavad Storytelling Tradition



Jaipur: Rajasthan's folk art and culture live not only in its colours, paintings and crafts, but also in stories passed down from one generation to another over centuries. Among these traditions is the nearly 500-year-old art of Kaavad, made from a series of small, door-like wooden panels painted with different scenes. A Kaavad is much more than an object created for display, for, within its folding structure lie stories, traditions, faith and the folk culture of Rajasthan. Every time one of its painted doors is opened, the narrative moves forward. And working to carry this tradition into the future is artist Rajat Ojha, from the Suthar community, currently studying at the Rajasthan School of Art in Jaipur. Kaavad continues to be handcrafted by artisans of the Suthar community living in Bassi near Chittorgarh. Rajat, who comes from the same region and is pursuing his education in Jaipur, has been working with the art form for several years now. Young Rajasthan Artist Revives 500-Year-Old Kaavad Storytelling Tradition (ETV Bharat) He has so far created around 35 to 40 Kaavads, depicting subjects ranging from the Ramayana and Krishna Leela to contemporary themes. "To call Kaavad merely an art form

would be unfair. It is Rajasthan's traditional method of storytelling," Rajat said. Its survival, he explained, has historically depended on the participation of three groups. The Suthar community constructs and paints the Kaavad, while members of the Bhat community narrate the stories illustrated on its panels. The yajman, or patron, arranges and supports the storytelling performance. Together, they transform a painted wooden structure into a living cultural experience. When Kaavad Told Stories Before Television And Mobile Phones Contrary to the present day when entertainment and information are readily available through mobile phones, television and digital platforms, there was a time when folk traditions were the principal sources of entertainment, knowledge and cultural education in Rajasthan's villages and

small towns. Traditions like Kaavad and Phad connected people with religious narratives, folk heroes, local histories and the culture of their communities. Kaavad performances were not limited to sacred stories. They also conveyed information about social life, customs and local traditions, allowing collective knowledge and memory to pass from one generation to the next. Each wooden door of the Kaavad opened a different scene and a new chapter of the story began. Young Rajasthan Artist Revives 500-Year-Old Kaavad Storytelling Tradition Materials required for Kaavad art How Kaavad Got Its Name The word "Kaavad" is believed to be related to kivaad, the Rajasthan word for a door or shutter. Just as the doors of a house or temple open one after another, the wooden panels of a Kaavad unfold in sequence. Different characters and scenes are painted on each panel. As the doors are opened, the next stage of the narrative is revealed. 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US Governors, Lawmakers Hail Bilateral Partnership In Messages For India's

Seattle/New York: Several American states and prominent leaders have applauded the strong India-US ties and the contribution of the diaspora community to the economic and cultural fabric of the country, in their messages on India's 80th Independence Day. Governors of states across the US — from New York to Seattle — have issued proclamations announcing that August 15, 2026, will be commemorated as 'India Day' in their respective jurisdictions. Prominent Senators and lawmakers have also extended messages of congratulations to India and the Indian-American community on the occasion, highlighting their achievements. Governor of the western US state of Montana, Greg Gianforte, in a special video message posted on X by the Consulate General of India in Seattle, said his state deeply appreciates the contributions of the Indian and Indian-American community to "our state's cultural, educational, and economic life". "Your commitment to innovation, learning, and community enriches



all of us." Alaska Governor Mike Dunleavy said the important milestone of India's 80th Independence Day honours the courage and determination of those who fought for freedom and self-governance. "Alaska is proud to be home to a vibrant Indian and Indian American community. Your contributions to our economy, our schools, our healthcare system, our businesses, and our communities make Alaska a stronger place," he said. In his message, South Dakota Governor Larry Rhoden said, "May the friendship between our people continue to grow stronger in the years ahead." Several US Pacific Northwest states,

counties and cities issued proclamations honouring India's 80th Independence Day. These include proclamations by the states of Washington and Nebraska, apart from the cities of Seattle, Bellevue, Kent, SeaTac and King County Council. Earlier, New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts and Delaware on the US East Coast issued proclamations, declaring August 15, 2026, as 'India Day' across the states. New York Governor Kathy Hochul had issued a proclamation recognising August 15, 2026, as 'India Independence Day' across the state. The proclamation noted that "a significant and

historic journey of rejecting colonial rule to embrace self-determination, self-governance, and the ongoing promise of democracy unites the United States and India—a connection deeply felt across our state, which itself served as a critical battleground for liberty during the struggle for American freedom". The New York proclamation states that the annual commemoration of India's Independence Day within the United States has evolved into a "magnificent testament to cross-cultural harmony, marked by vibrant festivals where multigenerational gatherings proudly honour the rich patriotic traditions of both nations, symbolising the

Indians, Pakistanis View Each Other As Greatest Threat:

Washington: A large section of Indians and Pakistanis view each other as their greatest threat, reflecting the deep-entrenched distrust between the two neighbours, a new survey has found. According to American think tank Pew Research, 54 per cent of surveyed adults in India described Pakistan as their greatest geopolitical threat, followed by China at 21 per cent. Similarly, 43 per cent of Pakistanis saw India as their greatest threat while 24 per cent each held the same views about Israel and China. Pakistanis clearly point to China (75 per cent) as their most important ally and, to a lesser degree, to Saudi Arabia (12 per cent). About a third of Indians say Russia is their top ally (36 per cent), while 16 per cent name the US. Roughly a third of Indians did not answer the question. Despite the camaraderie between US President Donald Trump and Pakistan's army chief Asim Munir, only 15 per cent of Pakistanis hold a favourable opinion about the US. An



overwhelming 90 per cent had a favourable view about C. Pew Research found that only 12 per cent of Pakistanis had confidence in Trump to do the right thing in world affairs, while 83 per cent held similar views about China's President Xi Jinping. Indians held much more positive views of Russia (58 per cent favourable) and President Vladimir Putin (51 per cent confidence) than Pakistanis do -- 39 per cent and 32 per cent respectively. Just 23 per cent of Indians view China positively, while 25 per cent trust Xi Jinping's global leadership. Forty-five per cent

of surveyed Indians viewed the US favourably, while 39 per cent expressed more confidence in Trump. The survey among adults in four South Asian nations — India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka threw up varying results. An overwhelming majority of Sri Lankans (79 per cent) express a positive view of India, compared with 42 per cent of Bangladeshis and 7 per cent of Pakistanis. Sixty-three per cent of Sri Lankans name India as their most important ally, while Bangladeshis and Pakistanis most often name India as their greatest threat. In the

US, 45 per cent of Americans view India favourably, while 50 per cent view it unfavourably.

As many as 50 per cent of Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents have a favourable view of India, compared with 42 per cent of Republicans and Republican leaners.

Over 54 per cent of Americans surveyed say that India's global influence in recent years has stayed about the same, while 30 per cent say it is getting stronger. Another 13 per cent say India's influence has been getting weaker.

India Asks International Community To Focus On "Atrocities" In PoK After Norway-Pakistan Discussion On Kashmir



New Delhi: India said that the international community should focus on "atrocities" being committed in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) in response to the Norwegian foreign minister, Barth Eide, discussing the issue of Kashmir in Pakistan. Eide, who was on a two-day visit to Pakistan, the first by a Norwegian foreign minister in a decade, said he discussed a range of issues, including the Kashmir dispute, during talks with Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar, who is also Pakistan's foreign minister, in Islamabad on Thursday. "I was happy to have this opportunity to discuss... regional issues ranging from Jammu and Kashmir to Afghanistan and, of course, the challenging relationship with that country and also with activities stemming out of Afghanistan," said Eide during a joint press interaction. There were no further details on what was discussed between the two sides on Kashmir. A joint statement released after the talks said that the "Pakistan side briefed on the issue of Jammu and Kashmir". Dar said during a joint press briefing on Thursday that he had briefed Eide on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute and also spoke about the Indus Waters Treaty. The discussions between Pakistan and Norway on Jammu and

Kashmir have gone down poorly in India. Responding to a question on Kashmir being discussed between Norway and Pakistan, Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said, "The whole of J&K and Ladakh are an integral and inalienable part of India". He added: "The issue that should concern the international community is the atrocities currently being perpetrated in the illegal PoK and use of PoK for cross-border terror." "Pakistan has been grappling with unrest in PoK and has been accused of unleashing a violent crackdown against protestors in the region who are seeking greater representation in the local assembly. The Joint Awami Action Committee, which had staged the protests, was banned by the government in June under anti-terrorism laws, and unrest has continued even as elections to the legislative assembly were held. Pakistan's foreign Office said the visit of the Norwegian foreign minister, who was on a two-day visit that ended Thursday, builds on high-level engagement between the two countries. Eide met with a cross-section of Pakistan's leaders, including Pakistan's army chief Asim Munir. There has been a recent uptick in diplomatic engagement between Norway, which once

played an active role as a mediator in international disputes, and Pakistan, which is one of the mediators between the US and Norway's State Secretary Andreas Motzfeldt Kravik had also visited Islamabad in May 2026. During the Norwegian foreign minister's visit, the two sides also discussed the recent defence pact between Turkey, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, and the Iran conflict. Still, it is the discussion on Kashmir that has high-level engagement between the two countries. Eide met with a cross-section of Pakistan's leaders, including Pakistan's army chief Asim Munir. There has been a recent uptick in diplomatic engagement between Norway, which once ignited unease in India, waned even as elections to the legchigh also shares good ties with Norway. Pakistan has over the years sought to internationalise the issue of Kashmir. "Norway FM's specific reference to J&K as a regional issue that he discussed with the Pak FM is objectionable," said former Foreign Secretary Kanwal Sibal on X. "He could have just referred to having discussed regional issues without highlighting J&K and giving satisfaction to Pakistan, which always wants to keep an international focus on the issue".

FS Misri Holds Talks With China's Vice FM Hua Chunying In Beijing

New Delhi: Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri met China's Vice Foreign Minister Hua Chunying here on Monday and discussed the entire gamut of bilateral relations. Misri, who is currently on an official visit to Beijing, also met Sun Haiyan, Vice Minister of the International Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC). Misri and Hua "reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral relations and discussed means of advancing the vision of the two leaders that India and China are partners and development opportunities for each other, including through mutually benefi-



cial outcomes across trade and economic ties, culture, and people-to-people exchanges," the Indian Embassy in Beijing said in a post on X. "Both sides acknowledged the importance of maintaining peace and tranquillity in the India-China border areas," it added. Earlier, Misri met Sun and "discussed

ways to deepen implementation of the guidance of the leaders for bilateral relations, including addressing issues of priority to both sides and by promoting political, people-to-people, academic and think-tank exchanges," the Embassy said. Misri also met Hong Liang, Deputy Secretary General of the

14th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC). Hong was previously the Director General of the boundary department of the Chinese Foreign Ministry. "They discussed ways to enhance bilateral exchanges at the political and people-to-people levels," the Embassy said. Misri, who was previously India's Ambassador to China, will hold a few meetings with officials on Tuesday, officials said. His visit followed the meeting between External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on the sidelines of the

Experts Warn Against Nixing 60-Day Grace Period For Foreign Workers In US

Washington: The US proposal to eliminate the 60-day grace period for H-1B workers seeking employment after job loss will cause severe human displacement and loss of highly skilled talent, mostly from India, experts said. Indian nationals are among the largest beneficiaries of H-1B employment visas, comprising 71 per cent of all successful applicants in the 2024 fiscal year. The Department of Homeland Security has proposed eliminating the 60-day grace period that allows H-1B workers and certain other legal nonimmigrants to remain in the US after their employment ends while they find another sponsor, change status, or prepare to leave. "Scrapping the existing 60-day grace period entirely represents a severe regression that directly harms legal immigrants who have contributed significantly to the United States' technological and economic leadership," Ajay

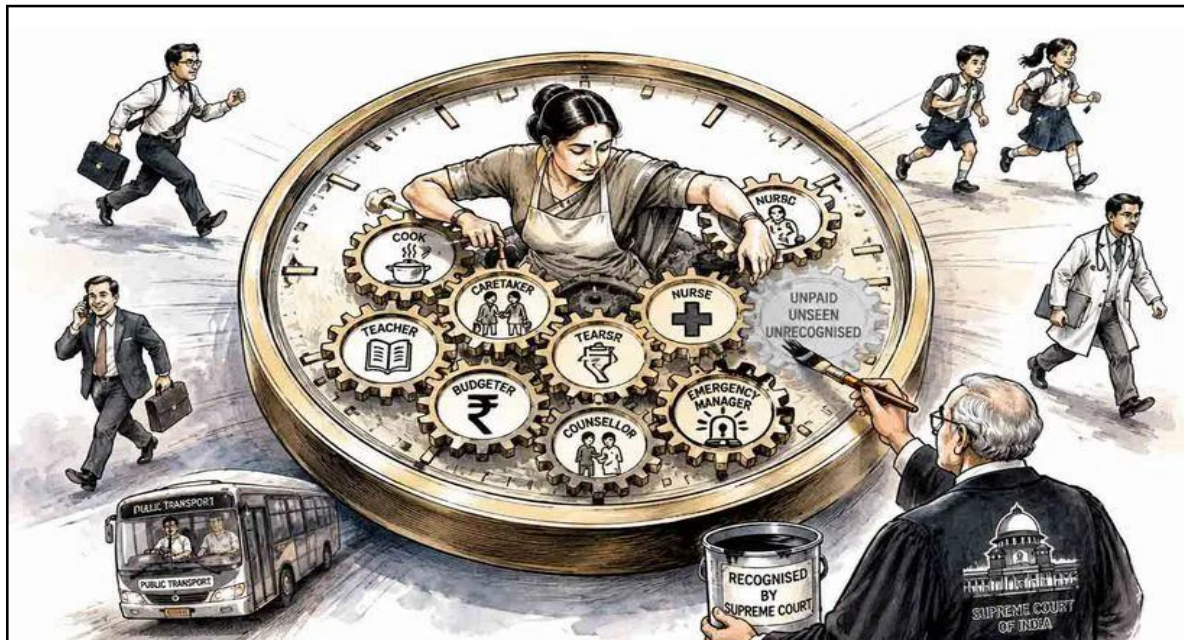


Jain Bhutoria, a former White House advisor, said in a statement. American attorney Adrian Pandev said all start-up founders quit their corporate jobs and utilise the 60-day grace period to file change of status petitions for their new ventures. "Without it, the employee is incentivised to not mention anything to their current employer until the new petition is filed or even approved. That means the current employer could be finding out they are losing a team member on extremely short notice," Pandev said in a post on

X. "This would impact US employers as much as employees," he added. Bhutoria condemned the proposed policy of the Department of Homeland Security. "Eliminating the 60-day grace period is inhumane and unworkable. When a worker faces a sudden termination, 60 days is already dangerously short. Stripping away this protection entirely leaves thousands of law-abiding individuals with zero time to wrap up their lives," he said. He urged South Asian community organisations, business leaders,

and advocacy groups to prepare for public comments once the rule is officially published in the Federal Register to ensure the administration hears the full impact of this proposal. Bhutoria, during his tenure as advisor to then-President Joe Biden, had proposed extending the grace period from 60 days to 180 days, citing the reality of corporate hiring practices, where technical interview rounds and visa transfer paperwork often take months to complete. "This proposal strikes at the heart of the South Asian immigrant community and skilled workforce. I urge DHS and the administration to withdraw this proposal immediately and instead adopt a compassionate, pragmatic 180-day grace period that respects human dignity and protects America's competitive edge," Bhutoria said. According to him, hundreds of thousands of South Asian tech, healthcare, and engi-

Kaleshwaram and KCR's vision for Green Telangana



When we look at the problems facing the Kaleshwaram project today, a serious question naturally arises for the people of Telangana — has the vision and determination that created such a massive water system weakened, or has the present administrative machinery failed in its responsibility to protect and properly manage it? During K Chandrashekhara Rao's tenure, Kaleshwaram earned recognition as a world-class lift irrigation project. It transformed dry lands into green agricultural fields, filled tanks, improved groundwater levels, and restored confidence among farmers. If deficiencies are seen in such a system, the question is not whether KCR's vision was right or wrong; the real question is whether the present management has failed to carry that vision forward with the same commitment.

Many people still believe that with proper technical maintenance, responsible administration, and farmer-centric decisions, Kaleshwaram can once again take Telangana agriculture back to its earlier period of growth and prosperity. Hope For Farmers KCR's foresight changed the future of Telangana.

The Kaleshwaram project is a historic water mission that lifted the waters of the Godavari into the heart of drought-prone lands, brought water to villages that had been waiting for decades, and gave new hope to farmers who had fallen into despair. This is not merely an irrigation project; it is a permanent symbol of Telangana's self-confidence, built through KCR's vision, political commitment, administrative courage, and concern for future generations. The determination to bring Godavari waters to the dry regions of Telangana was not an ordinary administrative decision; it was a challenge thrown at history itself. KCR believed that people should not suffer from thirst while a mighty river flowed through the State. That philosophy became the foundation of the Kaleshwaram project. He transformed what many considered impossible engineering challenges into opportunities and created a water system that attracted national and international attention. The scale of construction, the lifting capacity, and the technical coordination all con-

vey one message — it is a saga of determination that sought to rewrite Telangana's future through water.

There was a time when waiting for water was a part of life in Telangana. If the rains came, there was a crop; if they failed, there were debts, migration, and hopelessness. Though the Godavari flowed through the State, its waters did not reach the drought-hit regions. Challenging this historical imbalance, the Kaleshwaram project emerged as a turning point in the water history of Telangana. Built on the principle of taking water from where it is available to where it is needed, the project became a combination of engineering strength, administrative determination, and scientific planning. Kaleshwaram created the capacity to lift nearly 44,993 cusecs of water. With an investment of more than Rs 23,889 crore, the project developed into a comprehensive network of pump houses, barrages, reservoirs, tunnels, and canals. In terms of technical scale, speed of execution, and construction spread, it earned a special place not only in India but also in the field of global water engineering. Engineers, water-resource experts, and administrative analysts have described it as one of the most prestigious infrastructure projects of modern Telangana. When the world's lift irrigation systems are examined, Kaleshwaram stands out for its scale, technical complexity, lifting capacity, distribution network, and integrated water management approach. Lifting Godavari waters in multiple stages to great heights and delivering them to lakhs of acres through reservoirs, tunnels, pump houses, and canals is regarded as a rare engineering achievement. Any country has built large water projects, but Kaleshwaram is unique in combining irrigation, drinking water supply, groundwater recharge, and future water planning within a single integrated vision. It is not merely one of the largest lift irrigation projects; it is a model that showcases India's capability in modern water management.

The impact of this project is not confined to statistics alone. Thousands of acres that once depended entirely on rainfall now enjoy irrigation security. Dry

tanks were revived, groundwater levels improved, and crop diversity increased. Along with paddy, cotton, maize, vegetables, and horticultural crops expanded. Increased farm incomes created new economic activity in rural areas. Agriculture once again began to appear as a viable and respectable occupation. Greater cash flow in farmers' hands, active rural markets, and employment in agriculture-related activities became important indirect benefits of the project. Social Water Revolution

Kaleshwaram also had a significant impact on drinking water supply. Many villages and towns were connected to stable water systems. Dependence on water tankers during summer reduced in several areas. The burden on women who had to walk long distances to fetch water was eased. The project demonstrated how water security is closely linked to public health, dignity, and quality of rural life. In that sense, Kaleshwaram was not only an irrigation project; it was also a social water revolution.

KCR's idea of Kaleshwaram was not limited to constructing lifting structures; it included a disciplined and scientific system for using water according to the needs of farmers and ensuring that Telangana remains permanently green. Contemporary newspaper reports, engineering analyses, and official documents released during the implementation phase reveal another important aspect. KCR's idea of Kaleshwaram was not limited to constructing lifting structures; it included a disciplined and scientific system for using that water according to the needs of farmers. He believed that if floodwaters flowing wastefully into the sea were stored, transferred through a chain of reservoirs, distributed through well-maintained canals, and supported by coordinated electricity supply, pumping systems, and irrigation management, Telangana could remain permanently green.

His vision was larger than irrigation alone. Dry tanks had to be filled, migrant farmers had to return to their lands, multi-crop agriculture had to replace uncertainty, groundwater had to be recharged, and farming families had to come out of the debt cycle. He believed that

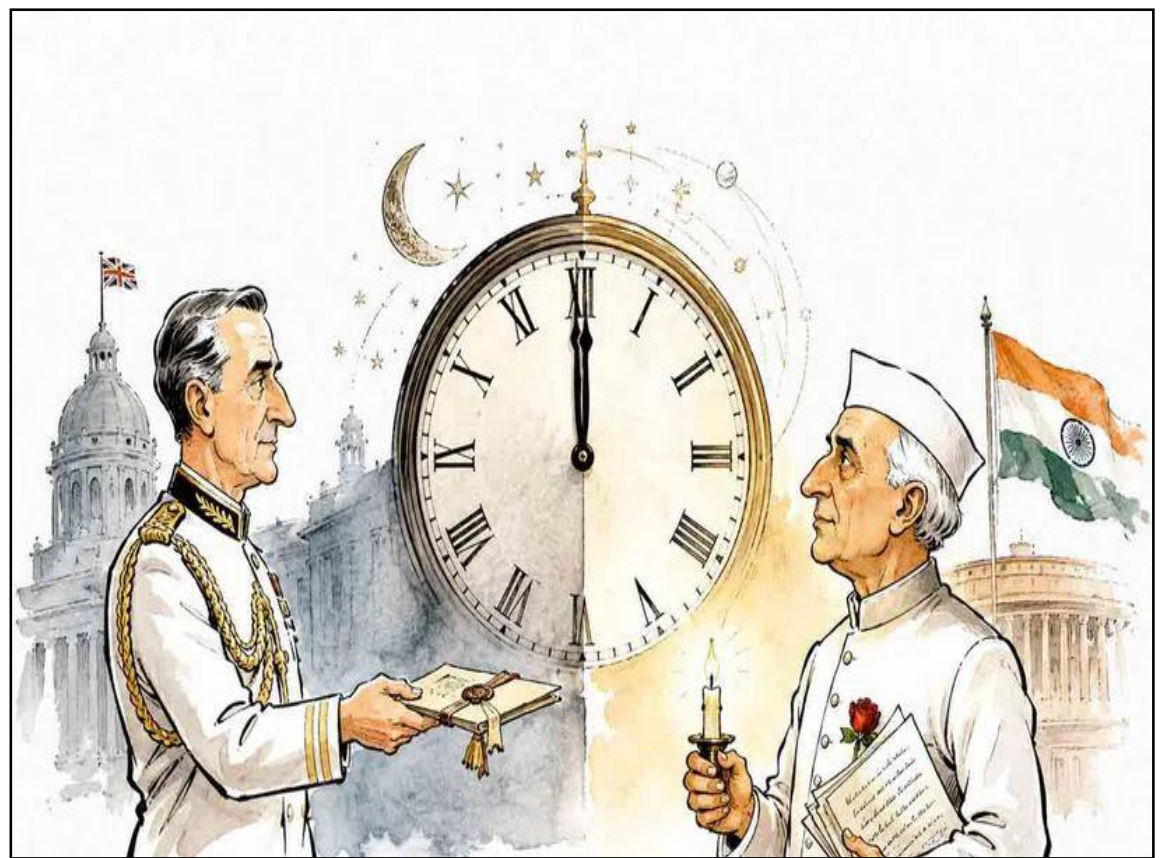
with proper governance, the stretch from North Telangana to South Telangana could become a continuous belt of green fields and that regions once known for water scarcity could become grain-producing zones. This was not merely a development programme; it was a state vision to rebuild Telangana's social, economic, and agricultural future around water. Present Situation

This is where the present situation demands careful examination. The technical, structural, and maintenance problems now associated with Kaleshwaram have created concern among the public. But do these problems indicate the failure of the project's original idea, or do they expose weaknesses in the present administrative system that has failed to preserve it with the same commitment? When a water system that once inspired confidence among farmers begins to face difficulties, the more relevant question is not whether the vision was wrong, but who has failed to maintain it effectively.

With proper technical care, transparent management, accountable administration, farmer-oriented decisions, timely repairs to pumping systems, scientific reservoir management, and systematic canal maintenance, Kaleshwaram can once again restore Telangana agriculture to its earlier momentum. The same flow of water that once turned dry lands green still possesses the power to transform farmers' lives. The growing public feeling is that the problem lies not in the project's conception, but in the administrative will required to carry it forward with the same determination.

Kaleshwaram is not merely a system that lifts water; it is an integrated water civilisation. It reflects the idea of storing floodwaters and using them when needed. In an era of climate change, uncertain rainfall, and increasing water demand, such planning becomes a guide for the future. The project treats water not simply as a resource to be consumed, but as a foundation for long-term security. To speak about Kaleshwaram today is not merely to remember a structure. It is to speak about the dignity of farmers, rural revival, water equity, and the security of future generations. Water is not only a gift of nature; Kaleshwaram showed

Midnight muhurtham—why India became Independent



Indian independence came in the last hours of 14 August 1947, in the early hours of August 15. At midnight, the transfer of power from the British government to India took place, and the Constituent Assembly assumed the authority to govern the country. Why did all this happen at midnight and not on August 14 or on the morning of August 15? These questions naturally arise. Behind this decision lies an interesting story.

Constitution of many paradoxes Opinion: Hyderabad's Day of Deliverance The British government had officially announced that the transfer of power to India would take place on 15 August 1947. For many Indians, religious beliefs and traditional practices are important considerations. There is a strong belief that planetary positions affect human life. That's why, before every auspicious work, astrologers check Ra hukalam, tithi, nakshatras, etc. With such beliefs in mind, some national leaders of the time consulted scholars and astrologers to determine whether August 15 would be an auspicious day. August 15 was a Friday, and fell on Chaturdashi. The scholars pointed out that after 2:30 am, Amavasya would begin and, therefore, August 15 was not a good day. August 14 was also not regarded as particularly auspicious. They suggested August 17 as a favourable date. This left the leaders with a difficult problem. If the transfer of power were held on August 14, Lord Mountbatten would be in Karachi for the transfer-of-power ceremony in Pakistan. He could return to Delhi only later that night. Moreover, the British government had already announced in Parliament that India would get independence on August 15. Prominent journalist and scholar KM Panikkar is said to have suggested a solution: the Constituent Assembly would meet at 11 pm on the night of August 14. At the stroke of midnight, it would assume power from the British government. This arrangement allowed the British government's announced date of August 15 to remain

unchanged while also accommodating the astrological considerations.

At 10 am on August 15, Mountbatten took a special oath as Governor-General before the Constituent Assembly. Goodwill messages poured in from across the world. The Indian national flag was hoisted on the grand building, now Parliament House. A gun salute marked the occasion. Mountbatten's Appointment On 31 July 1947, Constituent Assembly Chairman Dr Rajendra Prasad announced the programme for August 14-15 ceremonies. He said that the leader of the House, Jawaharlal Nehru, should request Lord Mountbatten to accept the office of Governor-General. However, a great sacrifice named Mahaveer Tyagi objected. He pointed out that the Assembly had never discussed the question of Mountbatten becoming the Governor-General of India, nor had it ever agreed to appoint him to that position. He argued that without passing a formal resolution to this effect, it was not right to invite Mountbatten to the Assembly. August 15 was a Friday, and fell on Chaturdashi. Scholars pointed out that after 2:30 am, Amavasya would begin and, therefore, August 15 was not a good day. August 14 was also not regarded as particularly auspicious.

In response, Dr Rajendra Prasad said that he would bring this matter before the House in the form of a resolution. However, several members immediately rose and said: "no, no." They insisted that the matter should proceed as had already been decided. Thus, in the Constituent Assembly, Lord Mountbatten came and took charge as the Governor General of India without any discussion, acceptance, or resolution. Transfer of Power

The historic Constituent Assembly session began at 11 pm on August 14, 1947, under the chairmanship of Dr Rajendra Prasad. At the stroke of midnight, the Assembly formally assumed power for the governance of India. House leader Nehru moved the historic resolution, which was introduced before

the House and subsequently approved by the members.

Jawaharlal Nehru would convey the Assembly's decision to Mountbatten. The national flag was subsequently presented to the Assembly by Hansa Mehta. On the occasion of the transfer of power, the House also approved, as a mark of appreciation, a song written in Chinese by India's Ambassador Dr Chin Lu. Following this, the first few lines of 'Saare Jahan Se Achha Hindustan Hamara' and the opening lines of 'Jana Gana Mana' were sung by the members of the House. Immediately thereafter, the House was adjourned until 10 am on August 15. This is how the historic transfer of power unfolded that momentous night.

A Misstep at the Start There is also an interesting incident worth recalling. On the night of August 14, Nehru went to Viceroy's House and informed Mountbatten about the recommendation for his appointment as India's Governor-General. He handed over to him a cover containing a list of the names of the Council of Ministers. After everyone present had left, Mountbatten opened the cover, only to find nothing inside! The cover was empty, which surprised him. Whoever had prepared the cover had forgotten to put the list inside it. Though it seemed like a humorous incident, Nehru's governance appeared to have begun with a kind of "misstep at the very beginning". A Funny Incident

There's an interesting anecdote associated with that historic night. When Nehru came back from Viceroy's House, he delivered his famous speech. The lighting in the Assembly was inadequate, making it difficult for Nehru to read the notes from which he was speaking. He asked for a candle so that he could see the text clearly. Photographers captured that moment. That candlelight speech became historic. Nehru's speech became famous as the "Tryst with Destiny", delivered in candlelight. Pakistan's independence was formally marked on August 14. It was said that Muhammad Ali Jinnah preferred August 14 because it coincided with the 27th day of Ramzan, considered holy by Muslims.

The Assembly then endorsed Mountbatten's appointment as Governor-General of India from August 15. Dr Rajendra Prasad announced that Jawaharlal Nehru would

When And Where To Watch India vs Sri Lanka For Free?



A two-match Test series between India and Sri Lanka is set to begin as both teams are gearing up for it. The first match of the series will be played in Galle, Sri Lanka, from August 15. Preparations for the series are already underway. The Indian team emerged triumphant in the practice match, and they will aim to continue their winning momentum in the series opener. This marks Shubman Gill's first tour of Sri Lanka, both as captain and as a player. The two-match Test series is being played as part of the World Test Championship (WTC), making it all the more

significant. The Indian team is currently at the bottom of the points table. However, winning both matches could boost their standing and keep their hopes of reaching the World Test Championship final alive. A defeat, on the other hand, would worsen their situation. That is precisely why the importance of this series rises manifold. Head to head record India boasts an impressive record in Sri Lanka; Team India has not lost a Test series there since 2008. A total of 46 Test matches have been played between the two teams so far; India has won 22 of these and suffered defeat in 7,

while 17 matches ended without a result. Where to watch India vs Sri Lanka Test series The live telecast of the matches will be shown on the Sony Sports Network as they hold the media rights for the matches. For live streaming, viewers can tune in to the Sony LIV app and website. Where to watch India vs Sri Lanka Test for free? There is no option to watch the match for free on mobile but viewers can watch the matches for free on D There is no option to D Sports. Squads KL Rahul, Shubman Gill(c), Devdutt Padikkal, Sarfaraz

Khan, Rishabh Pant(w), Ravindra Jadeja, Kuldeep Yadav, Manav Suthar, Mohammed Siraj, Prasidh Krishna, Auqib Nabi, Dhruv Jurel, Gurnoor Brar, Saransh Jain Sri Lanka: Nishan Madushka, Lahiru Udara, Dinesh Chandimal, Kamindu Mendis, Dhananjaya de Silva(c), Pasindu Sooriyabandara, Niroshan Dickwella(w), Ramesh Mendis, Prabath Jayasuriya, Asitha Fernando, Dilshan Madushanka, Vishwa Fernando, Lahiru Kumara, Sonal Dinusha, Milan Priyanath Rathnayake, Keshara Nuwantha

VVS Laxman Defends BCCI COE Amidst Growing Injury Crisis



Former India cricketer VVS Laxman has come out in defence of the BCCI Centre of Excellence amidst the growing crisis. He has said that the role of the institution goes beyond just the rehabilitation of injured players. "CoE is not merely a rehab centre. There are bigger roles to play for it in helping cricketers achieve excellence," Laxman said while addressing a press conference in Bengaluru. The COE has come under criticism in recent days as the Indian players have suffered injuries and questions

have been raised over the time taken by the rehabilitation for the players. Laxman further added that injuries are part and parcel of the game, but blame is not the right term to use while analysing the situation. "Injuries are part and parcel of injured players at any player's career. That's why a monitoring system is very critical. And we don't use the term blame, then we will be trying to find scapegoats," Laxman said. COE's injury management programme has been under discussion as Jasprit Bumrah, Harshit Rana

and Nitish Kumar Reddy are some of the players undergoing rehabilitation at the facility. India are all set to play a two-match Test series against Sri Lanka on August 15. Bumrah's presence in the team becomes most crucial for the team considering they have been going through a dip in form recently. Injured players at present Recently, news emerged that left-handed batsman Sai Sudharshan has also been ruled out of the series due to injury. With this, Sudarshan joined the list of players along with Jasprit Bumrah, Harshit Rana, Nitish Kumar Bengaluru since then. Fat bowler Jasprit Bumrah has not yet recovered from the left knee injury he sustained during the second ODI against England in Cardiff last month. As a result, 29-year-old Jammu and Kashmir fast bowler Aaqib Nabi has been included in the Indian Test squad for the Sri Lanka tour.

Rana, Nitish Kumar Reddy and Washington Sundar who are not available for the Test series against Sri Lanka due to injuries. Sudarshan suffered a toe injury during the India A team's tour of Sri Lanka last month. He scored two centuries in both A Test matches. He has been undergoing rehabilitation at the Centre of Excellence in crucial for the team considering they have been going through a dip in form recently. Injured players at present Recently, news emerged that left-handed batsman Sai Sudharshan has also been ruled out of the series due to injury. With this, Sudarshan joined the list of players along with Jasprit Bumrah, Harshit

India's FCNR (B) Inflows Projected To Touch USD 80-85 Billion;

New Delhi: India may now receive Foreign Currency Non-Resident (Bank) deposits in the range of USD 65-70 billion by the end of the scheme and overall USD 80-USD 85 billion, according to an SBI Research report. The total amount mobilised so far in 45 days has crossed the total amount mobilised in 2013 over a three-month period. "Given the current trend, we believe that the total amount mobilised so far in 45 days has easily crossed the total amount mobilised in 2013 in 3 months! Overall, we believe India may now receive FCNR (B) deposits in the range of USD 65-70 billion by the end of the scheme and overall USD 80-USD 85 bn," the SBI Research report stated. The report noted that public sector banks served as the primary drivers of this mobilisation. Citing data from the Reserve Bank of India, the report noted that FCNR(B) deposits worth USD 17.41 billion were mobilised till July 17, 2026. The total deposit inflows reached USD 20.72 billion till July 17, which included USD 1.97 billion from Overseas Foreign Currency Borrowings (OFCBs) and USD 1.34 billion from External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs). The report mentioned that total FCNR deposits were expected to reach USD 26-28 billion by July 23 alone. SBI Research revised its total FCNR forecast at the end of the scheme



upward to USD 65-70 billion from an earlier estimate of USD 40-45 billion. "We also believe that a significant majority of existing FCNR deposits which are going to mature in Aug/ Sep'26 will be renewed under the new scheme (gravitated by higher interest rates) and will boost the FCNR (B) inflows," the report added. "Our preliminary estimate indicates that an amount worth USD 10 billion on a conservative basis, in addition to baseline estimates are going to be mobilised mostly through those economies where tax concessions are available," the report said. Foreign Currency Assets (FCA) increased by USD 7.6 billion from June 8 till July 17. Meanwhile, deposit mobilisation recorded USD 17.4 billion for FCNR(B) flows, possibly reflecting that the exchange process at the

RBI by the banks was happening gradually, accounting for roughly 44 per cent of the total amount. "The next reporting for FCA for July is for the week ended July 24 and the week ended July 31, and we expect for the next 15-day period (17 Jul-31 Jul) FCA inflows could touch USD 10-12 billion based on current trends," the report said. "This should make most of the overall FCA accruals/growth (till July end) of USD 17-20 billion post the RBI meas. The report mentioned that total FCNR deposits were expected to reach USD 26-28 billion by July 23 alone. SBI Research revised its total FCNR forecast at the end of the scheme upward to USD 65-70 billion from an earlier estimate of USD 40-45 billion. "We also believe that a significant majority of existing FCNR deposits which are going to

mature in Aug/ Sep'26 will be renewed under the new scheme (gravitated by higher interest rates) and will boost the FCNR (B) inflows," the report added. "Our preliminary estimate indicates that an amount worth USD 10 billion on a conservative basis, in addition to baseline estimates are going to be mobilised mostly through those economies where tax concessions are available," the report said. Foreign Currency Assets (FCA) increased by USD 7.6 billion from June 8 till July 17. Meanwhile, deposit mobilisation recorded USD 17.4 billion for FCNR(B) flows, possibly reflecting that the exchange process at the RBI by the banks was happening gradually, accounting for roughly 44 per cent of the total amount. "The next reporting for FCA for July is for the week ended July 24 and

Stock Markets Extend Losses To 4th Day On Surging Crude Oil Prices



Market benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty ended lower on Thursday, extending losses for the fourth straight session, as a sharp jump in crude oil prices due to escalating tensions in West Asia weighed on investor sentiment. The 30-share BSE Sensex declined 363.66 points, or 0.47 per cent, to settle at 76,391.39. During the day, it tanked 603.07 points, or 0.78 per cent, to 76,151.98. The 50-share NSE Nifty dipped 126.65 points, or 0.53 per cent, to end at 23,869.60. From the Sensex pack, Adani Ports, Bajaj Finance, InterGlobe Aviation,

Axis Bank, State Bank of India and Tata Steel were among the major laggards. Mahindra & Mahindra, Tata Consultancy Services, Eternal and Bajaj Finserv were among the winners from the pack. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, jumped 4.52 per cent to USD 98.32 per barrel. "Indian equity markets extended their decline as escalating tensions between the US and Iran, a sharp rise in crude oil prices and renewed concerns over global AI spending weighed on investor sentiment," Ponnudi R, CEO of Enrich Money, an online trading and wealth tech firm, said.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 819.20 crore on Wednesday after a day's breather, according to exchange data. "With crude oil prices approaching the USD 100 per barrel amid concerns over further disruptions to global energy supplies, investor sentiment remained subdued as markets reassessed inflation risks and corporate margins," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Nair, Head of Research, Limited, said. In Asian markets, South Korea's KOSPI jumped 4.40 per cent. Japan's Nikkei 225, Shanghai's SSE Composite index declined 191.45 points, or 0.79 per cent, to end at 23,996.25.

and Hong Kong's Hang Seng index also ended higher. Markets in Europe were trading lower. US markets ended in the negative territory on Wednesday. On Wednesday, the Sensex tanked 715.06 points, or 0.92 per cent, to settle at 76,755.05. "Corporate margins," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Nair, Head of Research, Limited, said. In Asian markets, South Korea's KOSPI jumped 4.40 per cent. Japan's Nikkei 225, Shanghai's SSE Composite index declined 191.45 points, or 0.79 per cent, to end at 23,996.25.

Vishwanath & Sons Box Office Collection Day 1: Here's How Much Suriya's



Suriya's latest film Vishwanath & Sons has opened in theatres with a decent response on its first day. Directed by Venky Atluri, the family drama hit theatres on Friday and has received positive reactions from audiences. While the final Day 1 collection is yet to be reported, the film has shown a steady start at the box office. Vishwanath & Sons Box Office Collection Day 1 According to live data shared by industry tracker Sacnilk, Vishwanath & Sons has collected Rs 8.50 crore net in India so far on its opening day. The film's India gross collection currently

stands at around Rs 10.03 crore. The final Day 1 numbers are expected to increase as collections from more shows are added. The film is currently running in around 4,361 shows across India, with an overall occupancy of 35.9% so far. collected around Rs 3.66 crore net from 1,682 shows. Interestingly, it has recorded a higher occupancy of 39% so far. About Vishwanath & Sons Vishwanath & Sons stars Suriya as Sanjay Vishwanath, an international pistol shooter whose life changes after a family crisis. The film also features Mamitha

Baiju, Raveena Tandon and Radikaa. The film has also received encouraging early reviews from viewers. Its family emotions, humour and Suriya's performance have been among the aspects getting attention. The positive word of mouth could help the film perform better during the weekend. Tamil And Telugu Box Office Collection The Tamil version has contributed the most to the film's opening-day collection so far. It has earned around Rs 4.84 crore net from 2,679 shows, with an occupancy of 34%. The Telugu version has

collected around Rs 3.66 crore net from 1,682 shows. Interestingly, it has recorded a higher occupancy of 39% so far. About Vishwanath & Sons Vishwanath & Sons stars Suriya as Sanjay Vishwanath, an international pistol shooter whose life changes after a family crisis. The film also features Mamitha Baiju, Raveena Tandon and Radikaa Sarathkumar in important roles. Written and directed by Venky Atluri, the film mixes family emotions, romance, humour and drama. Suriya is seen in a comparatively lighter role in the film.

AR Rahman's Son Ameen Meets With Car Accident In Chennai



Chennai: A.R. Ameen, son of celebrated music composer A.R. Rahman, was involved in a car accident near the Kathipara flyover in Guindy, Chennai. Ameen and the others travelling in the vehicles escaped with minor injuries. Ameen was travelling with his friend in a car from Koyambedu when they collided with a vehicle coming from the opposite direction. The accident took place near the busy Kathipara flyover, a key junction in the city. Ameen and his friend were reportedly injured in the accident, but their injuries were said to be minor. The driver of the other vehicle also escaped with minor injuries. No major injuries have been

reported so far.

The incident has attracted attention in the Tamil film industry. Further details about the accident are awaited. Police officials are looking into the circumstances surrounding the collision. Ameen has been associated with music from a young age. He made his playback singing debut with the 2015 Tamil film O Kadhal Kanmani, directed by Mani Ratnam. He lent his voice to the song Maula Salli Wasallim and later continued to work as a singer in films and independent music. Over the years, Ameen has also performed in his father's stage shows and contributed to various musical projects. He has sung in multiple languages and worked with several

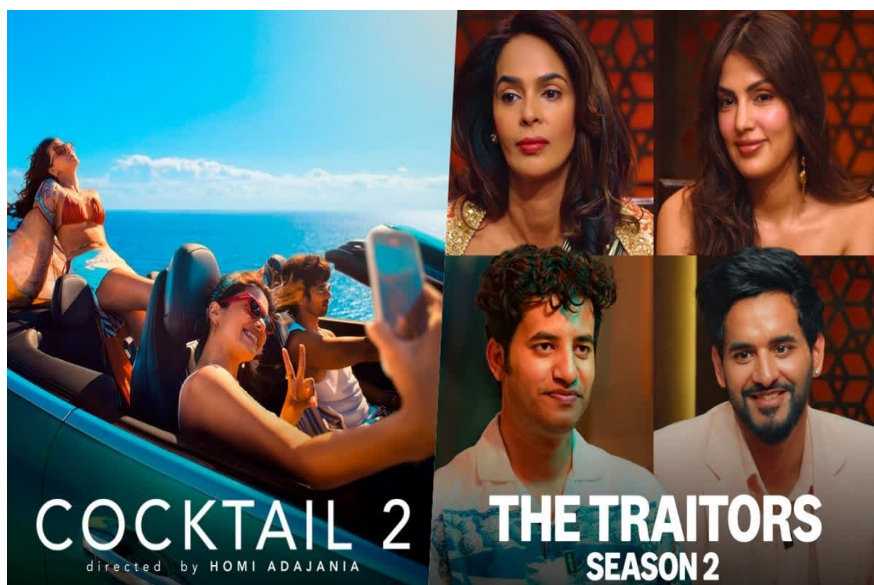
music composers.

More recently, Ameen worked on the Tamil version of Chikiri Chikiri from Ram Charan's film Peddi. He also featured in the independent single Bheegi Bheegi with singer Jasleen Royal, which features actors Dulquer Salmaan and Mrunal Thakur. Meanwhile, A.R. Rahman continues to have several projects lined up. The composer has been associated with a number of major films and is expected to have a busy period ahead with projects including Ramayana: Part 1 and 2, Batwara 1947, Moon Walk and an upcoming untitled project with actor Dhanush. The incident has attracted

attention in the Tamil film industry. Further details about the accident are awaited. Police officials are looking into the circumstances surrounding the collision. Ameen has been associated with music from a young age. He made his playback singing debut with the 2015 Tamil film O Kadhal Kanmani, directed by Mani Ratnam. He lent his voice to the song Maula Salli Wasallim and later continued to work as a singer in films and independent music. Over the years, Ameen has also performed in his father's stage shows and contributed to various musical projects. He has sung in multiple languages and worked with several music composers. d director Mari Selvaraj.

Cocktail 2, The Traitors Season 2, Aakhri Sawal & More To Watch

The weekend is here, and there are plenty of new movies and shows to watch on OTT platforms. From the return of The Traitors to the romantic drama Cocktail 2, there is something for every kind of viewer this Friday. Here's a look at the latest OTT releases arriving this weekend, including Aakhri Sawal, Don't Say Good Luck, Bharat Bhagya Viddhaata, My Best Friend, His Girlfriend and Me and more. The Traitors Season 2 Release Date: Already Streaming Platform: Amazon Prime Video Cast: Host - Karan Johar; Contestants - Malika Sherawat, Munawar Faruqui, Shweta Tiwari, Rhea Chakraborty, Abhishek Malhan, and more. In The Traitors Season 2, hosted by Karan Johar at a majestic palace, a group of celebrity contestants must work together to complete challenges and build a cash prize. However, a secret few are chosen as "Traitors" to quietly eliminate the other players ("Faithfuls") each night, while the rest try to unmask and vote out the deceivers before the game ends. Cocktail 2 Release Date: August 14 Streaming Platform: Netflix Cast: Shahid Kapoor, Kriti Sanon, Rashmika Mandanna, Kunal (Shahid Kapoor) and Diya (Rashmika Mandanna) are a couple living together for a long time who do not care



about marriage. While vacationing in Sicily, Italy, they meet Diya's old friend Ally (Kriti Sanon). Diya, who is insecure, asks Ally to test Kunal's loyalty by trying to seduce him. The plan backfires when Ally falls in love with Kunal. It then creates a chaotic love triangle that follows them back to India. Aakhri Sawal Release Date: August 14 Streaming Platform: Lionsgate Play Cast: Sanjay Dutt, Namashi Chakraborty, Amit Sadh, Sameera Reddy, Nitu Chandra The political drama film Aakhri Sawal, directed by Abhijeet Mohan Warang, follows a volatile young scholar named Vicky (Namashi Chakraborty) who publicly accuses his mentor, Professor Gopal

Nadkarni (Sanjay Dutt), of institutional bias after his critical thesis on the RSS is rejected. This academic dispute explodes into a nationwide televised debate touching on major Indian historical events, which ultimately uncovers a deep, buried secret that ties the professor's past to the ongoing ideological clash. Don't Say Good Luck Release Date: August 14 Streaming Platform: Netflix Cast: Sunny Sandler, Melanie Lynskey, Max Greenfield, Stephanie Beatriz, Bebe Neuwirth The movie Don't Say Good Luck follows Sophie Birenbaum (Sunny Sandler), a high school student who gets the lead role in her school's musical Waitress. As she deals with rehearsals, a

crush on her co-star and changes in her friendships, she gets heart-breaking news that her mother's cancer has returned. Sophie must cope with her mother's illness while going through the usual ups and downs of teenage life. She eventually finds comfort by expressing her feelings through her performance on stage. Bharat Bhagya Viddhaata Release Date: August 14 Streaming Platform: ZEE5 Cast: Kangana Ranaut, Girija Oak, Smita Tambe, Prasad Oak, Esha Dey Bharat Bhagya Viddhaata is a thriller film directed by Manoj Tapadia and starring Kangana Ranaut. Set during the horrific 2008 Mumbai attacks, the plot follows a brave group of nurses and staff inside

Batwara 1947, Toxic, Ohh My Dog, Awarapan 2 & More Movies To Hit Screens Next Month



August 2026 has a lot of exciting movies coming to theatres. From action thrillers and family dramas to horror comedies, historical stories, and biographical films, audiences will have plenty of options to choose from. Here's a look at the major theatrical releases hitting cinemas in August 2026, including Batwara 1947, Toxic: A Fairytale for Grown-Ups, Awarapan 2, I'm Game, and more. Cast: Pankaj Tripathi, Pawan Malhotra, Rajesh Kumar, Geeta Agrawal Sharma, Maahi Rai, Vijay Mishra, Sulakhyana Baruah Ohh My Dog is a Hindi family thriller movie that tells a story about a young boy (played by Maahi Rai) who forms a deep, unexpected bond with a stray dog. The plot takes an adventurous and suspenseful turn when dogs in the neighbourhood start mysteriously disappearing. This prompts the young boy to go on a brave mis-

sion to uncover a larger dog-trafficking ring and rescue his missing pet. The movie ?Korean Kanakaraaju is a Telugu-language horror-comedy about a hot-headed, alcoholic young man named Kanakaraaju (played by Varun Tej) from the Rayalaseema region of India. His ordinary life takes a wild turn when he comes across a mystical dragon vase from Korea. A supernatural Korean spirit inside the vessel possesses him, granting him immense superpowers and turning him into an unstoppable force whenever someone says the word "Korea". This cross-cultural possession leads to massive supernatural chaos, dragging him and his friends into a dangerous conflict involving the Korean mafia across both India and South Korea. Inspired by Asghar Wajahat's play Jis Lahore Nai Vekhya, O Janya E Nai, Batwara 1947 is set against

the backdrop of the 1947 Partition of India. The story follows a Muslim family, led by a patriarch, Sikander Mirza, played by Sunny Deol, who migrates from Lucknow to Lahore and is allotted a large house. However, they discover that the elderly Hindu owner, Mai, played by Shabana Azmi, still lives there and firmly refuses to leave her ancestral home. While the family's patriarch tries to deal with this unexpected situation with courage and compassion, a local antagonist named Yaqoob Pehalwan (played by Abhimanyu Singh) seeks to stoke communal hatred to forcefully evict the old woman. Amidst the surrounding violence, fear, and chaos of 1947, the narrative focuses on the unlikely emotional bond and shared humanity that grows between the Muslim family and the elderly Hindu woman as they choose coexistence over