

FAIRREPORT

8015TH

AUGUST

INDEPENDENCE DAY

THE DAWN OF A FEARLESS PEN

₹389-Crore Development Push in Anupgarh as Rajasthan Announces Urban Repair Funds

■ FAIR REPORT
JAIPUR

Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma on Friday announced a major financial push for urban infrastructure, allocating 1 crore to each municipality, 3 crore to each municipal council and 10 crore to each municipal corporation for essential repair works during the monsoon.

During his visit to Anupgarh in Sri Ganganagar district, Sharma inaugurated and laid foundation stones for 131 development projects worth 389 crore. He said a committee headed by the district collector would identify repair works according to local requirements.

The Chief Minister said the state government had allocated 1,567 crore for Sri Ganganagar's overall development over the past two-and-a-half years, add-



ing that funds would not be a constraint for future projects. For Anupgarh, Sharma announced the restoration of the historic Anupgarh Fort and establishment of an Additional Superintendent of Police office. He also said the DPR for the Sri Ganganagar-Kotputli Greenfield Expressway was in its final

stage. The development package includes major investments in irrigation, roads, healthcare and railway infrastructure. Works include reconstruction and restoration of watercourses, canal strengthening and relining, road widening, and construction of ROBs and RUBs. Among the projects inaugurated

were solar power plants worth over 87 crore, a nursing college and hostel costing 21 crore, healthcare facilities worth 21 crore and FSTPs across four towns costing 33 crore.

Foundation stones were also laid for a 12-crore Kinnow Centre of Excellence, a new district hospital in

Anupgarh, multiple sub-health centres, a digital library and auditorium in Sri Ganganagar, and an RDF and compost plant in Anupgarh.

Union Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal said the region had benefited significantly from road and railway projects under the Bharatmala initiative.

Tricolour March in Sadulshahar Draws Massive Turnout, CM Bhajan Lal Sharma Says 'Nation First' Spirit Is Unshakeable

■ FAIR REPORT
SRI GANGANAGAR

Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma joined a massive Tricolour March in Sadulshahar on Friday, carrying the national flag as patriotic slogans echoed through the town.

Sharma walked with participants from Ambedkar Circle to Arut Chowk, turning the march into a highly visible display of national pride and public participation.

Addressing a public gathering before the march, the Chief Minister described the turnout as a reflection of the people's "unwavering patriotism" and their commitment to the principle of 'Nation First'.

The gathering, he said, demonstrated the enthusiasm and patriotic resolve of the people, with the Tricolour becoming the central symbol of the event.

The march comes amid a series of Independence Day-linked public programmes across Rajasthan, with



the national flag and themes of patriotism, unity and national service dominating public events.

With Sharma walking alongside citizens rather than merely addressing them from the stage, the Sadulshahar event sought to turn the message of patriotism into a mass public expres-

sion—one that placed the Tricolour at the heart of the political and civic spectacle. For the Rajasthan government, the event also offered an opportunity to reinforce its broader message of national pride, collective participation and 'Nation First' as the state prepares to mark Independence Day.



HOLIDAY NOTICE

The press and offices of FAIR REPORT will remain closed on August 15, 2026, on the account of Independence Day. Therefore, there will be no edition of the paper on August 16, 2026.

-EDITOR

Wishing all our valued readers a very Happy Independence Day!

Forest Department Cracks Down in Jaipur's Ramganj, 132 Birds Rescued from Illegal Captivity

■ FAIR REPORT
JAIPUR

The Rajasthan Forest Department has launched a crackdown on the illegal captivity and trade of protected birds, rescuing 132 birds, including 99 parrots and 33 munias, from cages in Jaipur's Ramganj area.

Acting on information provided by representatives of People for Animals, a Forest Department team conducted a raid in the Machhli Market area of Ramganj and recovered the birds from the possession of 71-year-old Noor Hasan, officials said.

The rescued birds included 87 Rose-ringed Parakeets, 12 Alexandrine Parakeets, 16 Red Munias and 17 Tricolour Munias, according to the department.

The operation was carried out under the directions of Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden K.C.A. Arun Prasad. A team led by Assistant Conservator of Forests Jitendra Singh Shekhawat, comprising two Range Forest Officers, forest guards and personnel from Ramganj police station, participated in the raid.

A case has been registered against the accused under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, and further legal proceedings have been initiated.

The seizure comes amid continuing concerns over the illegal capture, confinement and trade of wild birds in urban markets. The Forest Department said enforcement against wildlife trafficking would continue, signalling tighter scrutiny of establishments and individuals involved in the illegal possession or trade of protected species.

When the Lok Sabha Rose to Vande Mataram: Parliament Echoes to the Complete National Song in a Moment of National Unity

■ FAIR REPORT
NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha on Friday witnessed a rare moment of collective national sentiment as the complete rendition of "Vande Mataram" reverberated through the House, filling Parliament with a solemn patriotic atmosphere.

The rendition marked a significant moment in the political and cultural history of Parliament, bringing MPs across the political spectrum together in an expression of national pride.

As the familiar opening words of Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay's iconic composition filled the



chamber, the proceedings briefly took on a ceremonial character, with the House united in the spirit of patriotism.

The song, written by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay and later adopted

as India's National Song, has occupied a central place in the country's freedom movement. Its early verses became a powerful symbol of resistance to colonial rule and were frequently invoked by India's

nationalists during the struggle for independence.

The rendition in Parliament comes at a time when questions surrounding India's freedom movement, national symbols and the legacy of the Independence era continue to occupy public and political discourse. For many, the moment was more than a ceremonial rendition. It served as a reminder of a period when a song could become a rallying cry for a nation still under colonial rule. From the streets of the freedom movement to the floor of Parliament, "Vande Mataram" continues to carry the memory of India's struggle for freedom.

Indian Independence - Through the British Lens

WHAT 15 AUGUST 1947 MEANT IN LONDON



Hemraj Tikamchand Tiwari

By Special Feature Desk

For Indians, 15 August 1947 is remembered as the triumph of freedom after decades of struggle, sacrifice and resistance. But across the seas, in London, the same day represented something very different: the closing chap-

ter of the British Empire's most prized possession.

India was the "Jewel in the Crown" — strategically, economically and militarily vital to Britain. British narratives often highlighted railways, English education, law and administration as evidence of a "civilising mission". Yet this account existed alongside economic extraction, the weakening of indigenous industries, famine policies and political repression.

Then came the Second World War.

Britain emerged from the war economically ex-

The truth lies somewhere deeper

Britain did not leave India simply because it had "completed its mission". Nor was independence the result of a single movement or leader. It emerged from decades of Indian resistance combined with Britain's post-war economic exhaustion, political pressure and changing global realities. The tricolour rose in Delhi not merely because Britain chose to leave, but because the cost of continuing to rule India had become greater than the cost of surrendering the empire's crown jewel.

hausted and strategically weakened. Maintaining an empire was becoming increasingly expensive. Meanwhile, India's nationalist movement had transformed the political landscape. The Quit India Movement, the sacrifices of freedom fighters, the Indian National Army and growing political mo-

bilisation made continued colonial rule increasingly difficult.

By 1946, Britain faced another problem: mounting communal tensions and the political deadlock between the Congress and the Muslim League. Partition increasingly appeared to British policymakers as the quickest

route out of an escalating crisis.

Lord Mountbatten's accelerated timetable brought independence forward — but the haste came at an enormous human cost. Partition triggered one of history's largest mass migrations and unleashed horrific communal violence.

INDIAN INDEPENDENCE: THROUGH THE BRITISH LENS



BRITISH NARRATIVE	INDIAN NARRATIVE
• CIVILIZING MISSION • ECONOMIC NECESSITY • PARTITION AS PRAGMATIC • CHAOS WITHOUT BRITAIN	• FREEDOM STRUGGLE • ECONOMIC EXPLOITATION • PARTITION AS TRAGEDY • BRITISH OPPRESSION

IN FOCUS



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

Union health minister Nadda hospitalised

FAIR REPORT
■ New Delhi

Union Health Minister JP Nadda was admitted to AIIMS Delhi after he experienced uneasiness, the hospital said on Friday. Nadda underwent a coronary angiography after being admitted on Thursday. He is currently stable and admitted for observation in the cardiology department, it said.

“Union Health Minister JP Nadda was evaluated for uneasiness with tests, including a coronary angiography on the evening of August 13, 2026. He is currently stable and admitted for observation in the Dept of Cardiology, AIIMS,”



the hospital said in a statement. Nadda's hospitalisation came hours after the Monsoon Session of Parliament concluded on Thursday.

The Congress on Thursday condemned the “purification” of the rally venue in Uttarakhand's Haldwani after a public meeting addressed by party chief Mallikarjun Kharge and alleged that the incident reflected the “anti-Dalit” mindset of the BJP and RSS.

Govt to scrap 12-minute TV advertisement cap

FAIR REPORT
■ New Delhi

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

Unity essential to protecting Sanatan traditions: Adityanath

FAIR REPORT
■ Ayodhya (UP)

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

Addressing a programme in Ayodhya to commemo-

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

He said the country had suffered because people

were divided and lacked unity. Adityanath recalled questioning some clerics over the use of the word “animal” for the cow.

“Our Sanatan tradition and India's heritage — why did you call the cow an animal? And if I used the same word for you, how would you feel?” he said, adding that the clerics replied, “Sir, it was

a mistake.” Adityanath said he then asked whether it was a mistake or a deliberate act. “Will you teach us Hindus how to worship Gau Mata? None of our rituals is complete without Gau Mata,” he said. Adityanath also said cattle smuggling required police deployment that could otherwise be used elsewhere. “If the smugglers

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



UGC NET 2026

FAIR REPORT
■ New Delhi

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

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

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

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

The agency conducted the UGC NET examinations on

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

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

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

Haripura Health Centre Inauguration Raises Questions Over Protocol, Farmer Leader Seeks Clarification

■ FAIR REPORT
HANUMANGARH/SANGARIA:

The inauguration of a newly established health centre in Haripura village has triggered a political and administrative controversy, with farmer leader Balkaur Singh Dhillon seeking clarification from the district administration and the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly Speaker over the protocol followed at the event.

Dhillon said the Haripura health centre was sanctioned during the previous Congress government after efforts were made to secure the project through a personal meeting with then Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot. He questioned the circumstances under which the government facility was inaugurated by a person who is no longer the sitting MLA from the con-



stituency. The issue, he said, was not about an individual but about the institutional dignity attached to an elected office and respect for the mandate of voters.

Sangaria is currently represented by Congress

MLA Abhimanyu Poonia, who was elected by the people of the constituency. Dhillon questioned whether a former MLA, who does not currently hold the elected mandate, can officially inaugurate a government health facility.

“Who has the authority to inaugurate a government institution is ultimately a question of protocol and democratic propriety,” Dhillon said, demanding that the district administration make its position clear.

He has sought a specific clarification from the District Collector on whether a former legislator is authorised under existing government rules to inaugurate such a facility. If such a provision exists, he demanded that the relevant rule or protocol be made public. If not, he questioned the basis on which the inauguration programme was organised.

Dhillon has also urged the Rajasthan Assembly Speaker to take cognisance of the matter and seek an explanation from the concerned department and district administration. He said clear guidelines should be issued regarding the role of sitting elected representatives in inauguration ceremonies of government institutions.

“Government schemes and institutions are not the

private property of any individual or political party. They are created with public money,” Dhillon said, adding that such programmes should respect the office and dignity of the elected representative who currently holds the public mandate.

At the heart of the controversy is therefore not merely who inaugurated the health centre, but whether established administrative protocol was followed in recognising the authority of the current elected representative.

Dhillon said that in a democracy, “it is not the individual but the office and the people's mandate that must remain supreme.” He called upon the administration to put the facts and applicable rules on record and bring the matter to a clear conclusion.

Wards; OBCs Denied 21% Quota, Lottery on August 17

■ FAIR REPORT
JAIPUR

Rajasthan's urban local body elections are set to enter a decisive phase as the reservation lottery for 10,245 wards across 309 municipal bodies will be drawn on August 17, determining the caste-based composition of local governance for the next term.

The draw will fix reservations for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes in each civic body, while also finalising the distribution of 3,356 seats reserved for women councillors — 33 per cent of wards in every category, as mandated by law.

However, the numbers

have already stirred controversy before the lottery even begins. Of the 10,245 wards, only 1,933 — just 18.86 per cent — have been earmarked for OBC candidates, falling short of the 21 per cent quota the community has long demanded. OBC leaders have flagged the shortfall not merely in ward-level representation but also in reservations for urban body chief posts and district chief positions, warning that the gap could trigger fresh disputes once the draw is conducted.

With 6,123 wards remaining unreserved and the political stakes high ahead of the polls, all eyes will be on Jaipur come August 17.

‘Division Is Happening Around Us Every Day’: RSS Leader Babulal at Jaipur Partition Remembrance Event

■ FAIR REPORT
JAIPUR

The legacy of the Partition of India and what its memory means for contemporary society came into sharp focus at a programme organised in Jaipur on Partition Horrors Remembrance Day, where RSS Jaipur provincial pracharak Babulal called for greater vigilance against what he described as “division” taking place in society.

The programme, organised by the Akhil Bharatiya Sahitya Parishad, Jaipur, at the Shri Narad Auditorium of Pathey Bhavan, featured

a theatrical adaptation of Aur Desh Bant Gaya, based on the historical work of RSS writer and thinker H. V. Seshadri, followed by a seminar.

Addressing the gathering, Babulal began with the idea of Akhand Bharat and argued that while the Partition tragedy occurred historically in 1947, its consequences and forms of social division continue to be visible.

He spoke about the political and communal circumstances preceding Partition and referred to accounts of violence and displacement during the creation of Pakistan. He



also argued that Indian cinema has not adequately

portrayed the violence suffered by Hindus dur-

ing Partition.

Babulal further ques-

tioned the political decisions surrounding Partition and criticised what he described as the “compulsions” acknowledged by the leadership after Pakistan's creation.

Turning to contemporary India, he expressed concern over demographic trends among Hindus and said the younger generation needed to remain connected with its cultural inheritance and values. Referring to recent youth mobilisation in Delhi, he cautioned against what he described as attempts by “anti-national elements” to influence young people.

“We need to look around us, where division is happening every day,” he said, urging people to uphold their values while placing the nation first.

The highlight of the event was a performance of Aur Desh Bant Gaya by students of Aditi Mahavidyalaya, Delhi, depicting the human tragedy of Partition. The performance received appreciation from the audience.

State joint general secretary Dr Om Prakash Bhargava said the programme was organised as part of the run-up to the forthcoming Lok

Manthan event. Writers, academics, educators and journalists from across Rajasthan attended.

The Parishad's state general secretary Vishnu Sharma Harihar highlighted its initiatives in folk, youth and children's literature, while welcoming remarks and a vote of thanks were delivered by Radha Govind Karol.

Several prominent literary and academic figures, including Dr Vipin Chandra, Mool Chand Arya, Shyam Singh, Prof Nand Kishore Pandey, Dr Indu Shekhar Tatpurush, Prof Alpna Kateja and Dr Jitendra Kumar Singh, were present.

