

FAIR REPORT

THE DAWN OF A FEARLESS PEN



FESTIVE ROAR

Artistes perform ‘Pulikkalli’, the traditional tiger dance, during the ‘Athachamayam’ procession marking the beginning of the 10-day Onam festival in Thrippunithura, Kochi, Sunday.

10 Rajya Sabha MPs elected to AIIMS and other statutory bodies unopposed
■ FAIR REPORT
NEW DELHI

Ten members of the Rajya Sabha have been elected to various statutory bodies, including AIIMS institutes across the country, as the number of candidates equalled the vacancies. While Rajya Sabha MP Gulam Ali has been elected to be a member of the AIIMS, Awantipora; Ashok Kumar Mittal has been elected as a member of AIIMS, Bathinda; and Rajneesh Kumar Agrawal as a member of AIIMS, Bhopal. AGP MP from Assam Birendra Prasad Baishya was elected as a member of AIIMS, Guwahati; BJP MP from Jammu and Kashmir Sat Paul Sharma was elected as a member of AIIMS, Vijaypur; I S Inbadurai as member of AIIMS,

AT NIMBAHERA, ATAL’S LEGACY CAST IN ASHTADHATU

As Rajasthan unveils a towering tribute to the former Prime Minister, the political and ideological legacy of Atal Bihari Vajpayee takes centre stage once again

■ FAIR REPORT
NIMBAHERA
In a political landscape crowded with symbols, few carry the quiet weight of history like Atal Bihari Vajpayee. On Sunday, Nimba hera in Chittorgarh became the latest site to enshrine that legacy, as Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah unveiled an Ashtadhatu statue of the former Prime Minister at JK Circle, marking Vajpayee’s death anniversary.

The ceremony was less about a statue than about the man it seeks to immortalise—a statesman whose political journey stretched across decades of opposition, power, war, diplomacy and national transformation.



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With Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma present, Shah paid floral tribute to Vajpayee and invoked a life he described as unwaveringly anchored in “nation first”. The setting—Mewar, the land of Maharana Pratap—gave the tribute an unmistakably historical resonance.

Vajpayee’s political biography remains inseparable from some of the defining moments of modern India. The Pokhran nuclear tests of 1998 announced India’s strategic ambitions to the world despite international pressure. The Golden Quadrilateral sought to redraw the country’s physical connectivity. The Kargil conflict of 1999 tested his leadership at a moment of military and diplomatic crisis.

But Vajpayee’s enduring imprint was not confined to policy. He represented a political vocabulary in which ideological conviction could coexist with parliamentary accommodation, and where opposition did not necessarily mean political hostility.

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Before the Red Fort, a Morning Ritual: PM Modi and His ‘Friends’



■ FAIR REPORT
NEW DELHI

Before the Prime Minister heads out to lead the nation from the historic Red Fort, there is a quieter ritual that remains a part of his morning routine.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi shared a glimpse of that personal routine on Instagram, writing: “Feeding my friends every morning is a daily routine.”

He recalled that on Saturday morning, his “friends” somehow realised that he was leaving early for the Red Fort. They came to meet him as he was preparing to leave.

The moment offers a rare glimpse beyond the formalities of high of-

fice—away from official meetings, security protocols and the Independence Day schedule.

For Prime Minister Modi, the morning begins not only with the responsibilities of the nation’s highest office, but also with a simple act of affection and care.

On a day when the Prime Minister would go on to address the nation from the Red Fort, the morning began with an altogether different audience—his four-legged friends, waiting for their daily meeting. A small routine. A simple gesture. And a reminder that even at the centre of power, some bonds remain refreshingly uncomplicated.

Who Really Runs the Congress? Kharge, Gandhi Family and the Vande Mataram Controversy

■ FAIR REPORT
NEW DELHI

at the Congress headquarters, a question far bigger than a song appeared to be on display: Who really holds the reins of the Congress? Mallikarjun Kharge may be the party’s national president on paper. But the events surrounding the Independence Day rendition of Vande Mataram, as alleged by critics, have once again triggered a political

charge that the Gandhi family continues to exercise authority far beyond the formal party hierarchy. The controversy centres on an alleged interruption of the national song in the presence of Kharge, with Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi being accused of directing that the rendition be stopped. If the videos are interpreted in that manner, the political optics are difficult to ignore.

YOUNG INDIA’S IDEAS, INNOVATION AND ENTERPRISE TO DRIVE RAJASTHAN’S 2047 AMBITION

■ FAIR REPORT
BIKANER/JAIPUR

Rajasthan’s youth must become not merely job seekers but job creators, Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma said on Saturday, underlining the role of innovation, skills and entrepreneurship in the state’s roadmap towards a developed Rajasthan by 2047. Addressing young people at a ‘Viksit Rajasthan 2047’ dialogue at the Institute of Water Science and Water Management in Bikaner, Sharma said the state’s young population represented its “biggest strength” and would play a decisive role in building a developed, self-reliant Rajasthan and a new India.

The Chief Minister said the government was creating an ecosystem in which young people could turn ideas into solutions, particularly in agriculture, healthcare, water conservation and public service. Technology-driven innovation, he said, would be critical to addressing challenges across these sectors.

From job seekers to job creators

Sharma said the government’s objective was to transform Rajasthan’s youth from employment seekers into employment generators. The state has introduced 36 policies, including the Rajasthan Youth Policy, while placing greater emphasis on



startups, entrepreneurship and self-employment.

Local processing units for agricultural and other local produce, he said, could simultaneously generate employment and give Rajasthan’s products access to global markets.

The government is also establishing Atal Gyan Kendras in every gram panchayat, equipped with libraries, e-libraries and e-Mitra facilities, to expand young people’s access to knowledge and digital services.

Paper leaks: “Tough action against the mafia”
The Chief Minister also sought to reassure young aspirants on the integrity of recruitment examinations, saying the government had taken stringent action against those involved in paper leaks.

According to the government, 410 examinations have been conducted without paper leaks, while appointments have been made to more than 1.78 lakh posts. Recruitment processes for another 1.32 lakh posts are underway, with preparations for recruitment to more than 70,000 additional posts in progress. The private sector, Sharma said, has also generated employment

opportunities for around four lakh young people.

AI, coaching and sporting talent

Referring to Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s Independence Day announcements, Sharma said free online coaching for young people and AI training for one crore youth would create new opportunities in education and employment. He also highlighted the proposed national-level search for sporting talent aimed at strengthening India’s performance at the Olympics. During the interaction, the Chief Minister heard directly from young participants, who shared their experiences, ideas

and suggestions for Rajasthan’s development trajectory.

Five new e-buses for Bikaner

The Chief Minister also flagged off five new PM e-buses in Bikaner, positioning the initiative as part of the state’s push towards cleaner and more convenient public transport.

Union Minister of State for Law and Justice (Independent Charge) Arjun Ram Meghwal, MLAs Jethanand Vyas, Vishwanath Meghwal, Tarachand Saraswat and Anshuman Singh Bhati, Additional Chief Secretary Dr Rajesh Yadav and a large number of young participants were present at the event.

Nation pays tribute to Atal Bihari Vajpayee on 8th death anniversary

FAIR REPORT
 ■ New Delhi

The nation paid homage to former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee on the occasion of his death anniversary on Sunday. The BJP stalwart breathed his last on this day in 2018. Vajpayee served as the Prime Minister on three occasions. The first BJP leader to become prime minister, Vajpayee was born on December 25, 1924, in Gwalior.

His first term as the Prime Minister was for only 13 days in 1996. He served his second term for a period of eleven months from 1998 to 1999 and then a full term from 1999 to 2004. He was awarded India's highest civilian honour — Bharat Ratna — in 2015. Dignitaries will pay floral tributes to the former Prime Minister at his memorial Sadaiv Atal, here.

President Droupadi Murmu, Vice President CP Radhakrishnan, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid floral tributes to Vajpayee at his memorial. Former President Ram Nath Kovind, Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha Harivansh, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, Union Minister Rajnath Singh, Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, and BJP National President Nitin Nabin were also present on the occasion.

Radhakrishnan, in a social



President Droupadi Murmu along with VP CP Radhakrishnan, PM Narendra Modi, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Delhi CM Rekha Gupta and BJP National President Nitin Nabin during former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's death anniversary at his memorial 'Sadaiv Atal' in New Delhi PTI

media post, said that his enduring legacy will always remain a source of inspiration for the nation. He added that his commitment to nation-building, inclusive leadership and national pride continues to inspire generations.

Sharing a social media post, Prime Minister Modi called Vajpayee an extraordinary statesman blessed with remarkable vision, who dedicated his life to the service of the nation. He added that the words and efforts of the former Prime Minister inspired generations and his leadership strengthened the nation. He also said Vajpayee's focus on good governance and public welfare will always continue

to guide countrymen.

In his tributes, Speaker Om Birla noted in a social media post that Vajpayee was such a titan of Indian politics whose personality embodied a unique confluence of patriotism, democratic values, sensitivity, and extraordinary oratory.

He added that over a parliamentary career spanning more than five decades, he was elected to the Lok Sabha ten times and to the Rajya Sabha twice. Birla said that the former Prime Minister will always be remembered as a fiery parliamentarian, a powerful orator, an accomplished journalist, and a sensitive poet.

Union Home Minister Amit

Shah unveiled a statue of Vajpayee in the Chittorgarh district of Rajasthan. He highlighted that the former prime minister's value-based politics brought the vision of 'Antyodaya' and good governance to the ground for the first time. He described Vajpayee as a patriotic politician who devoted every moment of his life to the nation.

"On one hand, he made the entire world aware of India's strength through nuclear tests and the Kargil War, while on the other hand, his value-based politics brought the vision of Antyodaya and good governance to the ground for the first time," Shah said.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh also visited Vajpayee's memorial and said that under his leadership, India achieved new heights in economic and social development.

"His contribution to India's progress will always be remembered. His personality, ideals and unwavering commitment to serving the nation will always remain a source of inspiration for us," he said.

BJP President Nabin said, "A towering statesman and true visionary, Atal Ji's life was dedicated to national service, integrity, and good governance. His ideals will forever guide our path towards nation-building," he said.

PM thanks global partners, neighbours for 80th I-Day greetings

FAIR REPORT
 ■ New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday thanked his Israeli counterpart Benjamin Netanyahu for his greetings on India's 80th Independence Day, and hoped the bilateral special strategic partnership grows even stronger, unlocking new opportunities and forging deeper people-to-people connections.

Modi also conveyed his gratitude to French President Emmanuel Macron, Nepal Prime Minister Balendra Shah and Bhutan Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay among others for their wishes on India's Independence Day.

In his message, Netanyahu congratulated India and "my dear friend" Prime Minister Modi on the country's 80th Independence Day.

The Israeli prime minister noted that India and Israel achieved independence one year apart and both the countries are two ancient nations that seize the future together to bring a better life for the people of the two countries.

"Our innovation and friendship are boundless. The best is yet to come!" he said. Thanking Prime Minister Netanyahu for his



warm wishes, Modi hoped that the "India-Israel Special Strategic Partnership grow even stronger, unlocking new opportunities and forging deeper people-to-people connections between our nations."

Israeli President Isaac Herzog also greeted President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Modi on the occasion of Independence Day.

"I hope that we will continue to strengthen this beautiful friendship between Israel and India," he said.

Modi said India deeply values its friendship with Israel. "We remain committed to further strengthening our Strategic Partnership for the benefit of our people," he said.

The prime minister also thanked French President Macron for his warm wishes.

Nation Focus



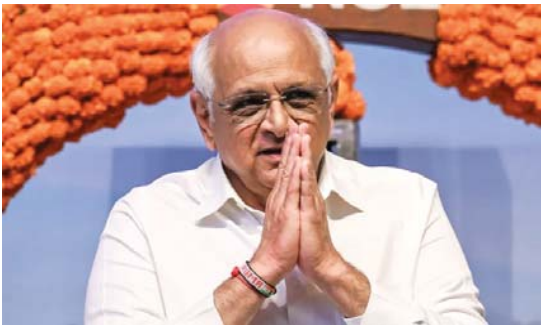
MEHBOOBA MUFTI VISITS FLOOD-AFFECTED RAJOURI

Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti on Sunday visited several flood-affected areas of Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district to assess the ground situation, urging the Government to provide relief to the affected families.

Mehbooba expressed concern over the extensive damage to residential houses, agricultural land, business establishments and water supply infrastructure, besides the loss of lives in the natural calamity.

At least 11 people were killed and several others went missing when torrential rains on July 19 triggered landslides and flash floods in the twin border districts of Poonch and Rajouri. Interacting with affected families, she was informed that many victims were yet to receive adequate Government assistance and were facing difficulties in rebuilding their homes and restoring their livelihoods.

(PTI)



GUJARAT CM PATEL IN US, CANADA TO WOO INVESTORS

Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel on Sunday embarked on an official visit to the United States and Canada to promote the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit 2027 and invite global investors to participate in the state's growth story. Patel will be in the two countries from August 17 to 24 and is scheduled to hold meetings with business leaders, industry representatives and potential investors. Roadshows and business-to-business interactions are also planned as part of the overseas outreach programme.

The visit is aimed at showcasing Gujarat's industrial strengths, investment opportunities and business-friendly ecosystem to international stakeholders.

The state Government is also seeking to deepen international partnerships and facilitate greater collaboration between global business groups and companies based in Gujarat.

(PNS)

IMD sounds red alert: As Odisha braces for more heavy rain, over 2.37 lakh evacuated

FAIR REPORT
 ■ Bhubaneswar

The Odisha Government on Sunday sounded a high alert across the state after the IMD forecast extremely heavy rainfall in some areas following the formation of a fresh low-pressure area over the Bay of Bengal. The state has evacuated over 2.37 lakh people to safety as heavy rain continued for the second day, adding to the plight of people in flood-hit northern districts, an offi-

cial said. Chief Secretary Anu Garg, who reviewed the situation following the IMD forecast, said the leaves of all Government employees had been cancelled and those on leave were asked to report for duty immediately.

"We have asked the district collectors to remain on high alert as the IMD forecast very heavy rain for three days from August 16 to 18," Garg told reporters. She said fresh flooding had affected 5.15 lakh people in 947 villages under



331 gram panchayats across 49 blocks and five urban areas.

The state has so far evacuated 2.37 lakh people and sheltered them in 293 relief camps, she said. Garg said three senior IAS officers had been sent to the worst-hit districts of Balasore, Bhadrak and Jaipur to coordinate with the district administrations and monitor relief and rescue operations. Additional chief engineers of the Water Resources Department have also been deployed to

oversee the safety of embankments and carry out immediate repairs in case of breaches, she said.

Around 90 rescue teams, including 36 ODRAF, seven NDRF and 47 Fire Services teams, have been deployed in vulnerable areas, Garg said.

Teams from the health, water resources, housing and urban development, and fisheries and animal resources departments have also been deployed in the affected areas, she said.

10 Rajya Sabha MPs elected to AIIMS and other statutory bodies unopposed

FAIR REPORT
 ■ New Delhi

Ten members of the Rajya Sabha have been elected to various statutory bodies including AIIMS institutes across the country, as the number of candidates equalled the vacancies.

While Rajya Sabha MP Gulam Ali has been elected to be a member of the AIIMS, Awantipora; Ashok Kumar Mittal has been elected as a member of AIIMS, Bathinda; and Rajneesh Kumar Agrawal as a member of AIIMS, Bhopal.

AGP MP from Assam Birendra Prasad Baishya was elected as a member of AIIMS, Guwahati; BJP MP from Jammu and Kashmir Sat Paul Sharma was elected as a member of AIIMS, Vijaypur; I S Inbadurai as member of AIIMS, Madurai; and Madan Rathore as a member of AIIMS, Jodhpur.

Lahar Singh Siroya has also



been elected as a member of the Central Silk Board, BJP MP from Himachal Pradesh Sikander Kumar has been elected as member of the Council of the National Institutes of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship and Management and BJP MP from Haryana Rekha Sharma was elected as a member of the National Assisted Reproductive Technology and Surrogacy Board.

The members were elected as there were equal number

of vacancies as the number of candidates nominated for elections to the statutory bodies, a notification by Rajya Sabha secretariat said.

In another notification, the RS Secretariat said the number of candidates being

equal to the number of members to be elected to the Committee on Public Accounts and Committee on Public Undertakings, the following members were declared duly elected to these Committees.

BJP MP Sukhendu Sekhar Ray and DMK MP Tiruchi Siva were elected as members of the Committee on Public Accounts and Mohammed Nadimul Haque was elected as a member of the Committee on Public Undertakings.

With the number of candidates being equal to the number of members to be elected to the Committee on Welfare of Other Backward Classes, the following members were declared duly elected to be the members of the committee for a term of one year beginning from the date of the first sitting of the committee.

The members elected to the OBC Committee are Masthan Rao Yadav Beedha, Subhasish Khuntia, Amar Pal Maurya, Mayankumar Nayak, AA Rahim, KRN Rajeshkumar, Kalpana Saini, Paka Venkata Satyanarayana, Ashok Singh and Bhim Singh.

Army dog Tyson honoured with Mention-in-Despatches for bravery in Jammu and Kashmir operation

FAIR REPORT
 ■ Jammu

Tyson, the youngest member of the Indian Army's Dog Squad attached to 2 Para Special Forces, has been honoured during the Independence Day 2026 celebrations for showing "bravery and extraordinary courage" during a counter-insurgency operation on February 22, 2026, in Kishtwar.

The name of Tyson, a German Shepherd of the Remount Veterinary Corps, appeared among 89 Mention-in-Despatches (MiD) approved by President Droupadi Murmu on the occasion of Independence Day celebrations.

Tyson was part of the Indian Army's crack team, entrusted with the responsibility to neutralise the terrorists hiding inside a mud house hideout in the Passerkut area of Chhatroo,



Kishtwar.

Displaying raw courage, the Army's sniffer dog, equipped with a K9 surveillance camera system, led from the front even after suffering a bullet injury in his leg. His presence close to the mud house hideout helped the crack team locate the presence of terrorists during the fierce gunfight.

Tyson's remarkable bravery stood out during the anti terrorist operation

and resulted in the elimination of three terrorists belonging to the Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) terrorist outfit. Tyson was later retrieved and safely evacuated from the encounter site and airlifted for specialised medical care.

Tyson is the only animal hero among the 89 personnel chosen for MiD, which is an official military commendation recognising bravery and meritorious service in a

combat zone. "Tyson displayed extraordinary courage by taking the first bullet while leading the entry into the terrorists' hideout.

Undeterred by his injuries, he pressed forward and launched a fierce assault, compelling the terrorists to open fire and thereby confirming their presence.

His fearless action enabled troops of White Knight Corps, J&K police and CRPF to precisely engage and neutralise three Pakistan-sponsored terrorists," Army had said in a post on X.

Tyson is part of the elite squad of Army assault dogs, which are trained like soldiers for high-risk operations.

They are used in situations where a human soldier may be exposed to immediate danger, locating hidden terrorists, detecting threats and helping troops establish the enemy's position.

Jitendra Singh calls for making preventive healthcare, diabetes prevention national priority

FAIR REPORT
 ■ New Delhi

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology and Science, Dr Jitendra Singh, who is also a Professor of Medicine and Diabetologist, has called for making preventive healthcare and prevention of diabetes a national priority. He also stressed that the growing burden of diabetes in rural India requires a community-led, technology-enabled and data-driven response.

Addressing the inauguration of the RSSDI 'Diabetes Rural Outreach Digital Portal' and launch of VISHWAS, the Diabetes Awareness Video Library, the minister said with more than 70 per cent of India's population below the age of 40, protecting the health and productive poten-



Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology Jitendra Singh (second from right) launches the book 'Rheumatology Essentials', written by Professor Anand N Malaviya (second from left), Founder HoD of Rheumatology at AIIMS New Delhi, during a function in New Delhi on Sunday PTI

tial of the country's young population is essential to the vision of India@2047.

The programme organised by the Research Society for the Study of Diabetes in India (RSSDI) on Independence Day, brought together leading

experts and stakeholders from the diabetes and healthcare ecosystem.

Dr Anuj Maheshwari, President, National RSSDI; Dr Rakesh Parikh, Secretary General, National RSSDI; Dr Banshi Saboo, Chair, IDF

South-East Asia; and Rizwan Koita, Chairman, NABH, were among the prominent participants. The RSSDI Rural Outreach Programme and VISHWAS are aimed at taking diabetes awareness, screening, treatment, follow-up and digital health resources closer to communities.

Singh said India has made remarkable progress in healthcare, scientific research and digital innovation, and the next important step is to ensure that these advances reach every citizen, particularly people living in rural and underserved communities.

He said rural India is no longer untouched by the diabetes epidemic and that early detection, timely intervention, lifestyle modification and sustained follow-up are essential to reduce the burden of the disease and its complications.

Describing the RSSDI Rural

Outreach Programme as an example of how professional medical societies can complement national health efforts, the Minister said that adopting villages and creating a structured model for awareness, screening, treatment and long-term follow-up can bring specialist expertise closer to communities that need it most. The programme has already reached around 30 villages across several States, with further expansion planned in the coming years.

Singh said the newly inaugurated digital data portal marks an important milestone in strengthening community healthcare through systematic documentation. A standardised digital platform can enable continuity of patient care, monitoring of outcomes and generation of valuable evidence for future public health strategies.

Army Chief General on 3-day Nepal visit

FAIR REPORT
 ■ New Delhi

Army Chief General Dhiraj Seth on Sunday left for Nepal on Sunday for an official visit from August 17 to 19. The visit aims to further strengthen the close defence cooperation and military-to-military ties between India and Nepal, the defence ministry said here on Sunday.

Giving details about his schedule, it said the Army Chief will lay a wreath at the Army Pavilion, Tundikhel and receive a Guard of Honour at the Nepali Army Headquarters.

He will interact with the Chief of the Army Staff, Nepali Army and will be briefed by the Director General, Military Operations, Nepali Army on issues of mutual interest.

Thereafter, General Seth will attend the Investiture



Army Chief General Dhiraj Seth

Ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhawan, where, in keeping with the unique tradition between the Indian and Nepali Armies, he will be conferred the Honorary Rank of General of the Nepali Army by Nepal President Ram Chandra Paudel.

On August 18, General Seth will address the student officers of the Army Command and Staff Course at Shivapuri and interact with instructors and foreign student officers.

He will also be interacting with senior Dignitaries of Nepal on issues of mutual interest. On August 19, General Dhiraj Seth will attend an Ex-Servicemen Rally at Pokhara, felicitate Veer Naris and Gallantry Awardees and interact with Indian Army Veterans.

He will return to India the same day.

India and Nepal are two nations with shared historical, social and cultural link-

ages which remain unparalleled in the world.

Terms fondly referred to as the 'Roti Beti Ka Rishta', the Janakpur-Ayodhya and the Lumbini-Bodhgaya connect make our nations natural partners with symbiotic relations. The partnership between India and Nepal is defined by our democratic principles and shared interest in ensuring regional peace and stability.

