



PM Modi praises President's thoughtful address on Independence Day eve

(Gns). Prime Minister Narendra Modi Thursday lauded President Droupadi Murmu's thoughtful address on the eve of India's 79th Independence Day. In her address, the President highlighted the collective progress of the nation and the opportunities ahead, while also reminding citizens of the sacrifices that paved the way for India's freedom.

The President called upon every citizen to contribute towards nation-building, emphasizing the importance of collective effort in driving the country's progress. PM Modi appreciated the President's message, acknowledging the significance of unity and cooperation in achieving India's goals.



"On the eve of our Independence Day, Rashtrapati Ji has given a thoughtful address in which she has highlighted the collective progress of our nation and the opportunities ahead," the prime minister

said in a post on his handle X.

"She reminded us of the sacrifices that paved the way for India's freedom and called upon every citizen to contribute towards nation-building," he further added.

As India celebrates its Independence Day, the prime minister's appreciation of the President's address underscores the importance of national unity and collective progress.

Operation Sindoor avenged past attacks, reflects India's resolve: Rajnath Singh

(Gns). Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday said that with Operation Sindoor, the Armed Forces not only avenged the barbaric terrorist attack in Pahalgam, but also the attacks on Parliament House, the Taj in Mumbai, and Amarnath pilgrims in the past.

In his 'Sandesh to Soldiers' on the eve of the 79th Independence Day, Singh said that the operation was a balanced military response amidst the asymmetric warfare being witnessed across the globe.

Dubbing India's actions during the operation as a shining example of precise and successful military strategy, and a glimpse of a new vision, technological advancements and self-reliance, the Defence Minister said that India successfully utilised cutting-edge apparatus such as drone war, layered air defence, electronic warfare

and network-centric operation, and proved that India is no longer dependent on foreign technology.

Speaking about the Pahalgam attack, Singh said, "It was not just an attack, but a direct blow to our courage, unity, and integrity. We gave a befitting reply to that cowardly attack through Operation Sindoor and Operation Mahadev."

"It was a clear message from India that we are tolerant, but when it comes to the safety of our people and the dignity of our country, we unite and face every challenge boldly. Operation Sindoor is part of India's new policy, a clear message that no matter how deep the roots of terrorism, its complete destruction will be ensured. This operation

will continue until the goal of the complete destruction of terrorism is achieved," he said.

Emphasising that Operation Sindoor was brilliantly executed, Singh said that within a few minutes, nine terror training camps, including the headquarters of Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed, were destroyed by precise missile attacks, and no civilian areas and Pakistani military establishments were targeted.

"The Indian Armed Forces neither crossed the Line of Control nor violated the international border, yet managed to give a crushing blow to the terror infrastructure hidden within the enemy's territory," he said.

He also commended the Indian Army, CRPF, and Jammu & Kashmir Police

for neutralising three terrorists – all 'A' category commanders of Lashkar-e-Taiba involved in the Pahalgam attack – during Operation Mahadev in Dachigam, J&K, last month. He further stated that India is carrying out 65 percent of the manufacturing on its own soil, and only 35 percent is being imported, compared to the time when 65-70 percent of defence equipment was imported to meet the security needs.

Singh added that annual defence production, which was around Rs 46,000 crore in FY 2014-15, has touched a record figure of Rs 1.51 lakh crore, while defence exports, which were around Rs 1,900 crore, have surged to an all-time high of Rs 23,622 crore. "We have set a defence production target of Rs 3 lakh crore and defence export target of Rs 50,000 crore by 2029," he said.

BJP questions Congress' silence on Sonia Gandhi becoming Indian voter before becoming citizen

(Gns). Continuing its attack on Congress with allegations of corrupt electoral practices throughout its rule, the BJP on Thursday once again raised the issue of Sonia Gandhi becoming an Indian voter without acquiring the country's citizenship. "Why no one from the party say anything on the matter," it asked.

Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, addressing a press conference here at the party headquarters, stressed that no Congress leader, including Rahul Gandhi, has responded to the question raised by the BJP. "Rahul Gandhi, who always roams around with a copy of the constitution, has not said

anything on it. He has been talking about issues related to the voters' list, why is he quiet on his mother getting a voter card issued before she could have become a citizen of the country," he asked.

The Union minister also talked about the "corrupt practices" that the Congress allegedly indulged in during its rule in various elections.

On Wednesday, first Union Minister Anurag Thakur, and then the BJP itself shared information, giving details of the "corrupt electoral practices" during the Congress' regime.

Shekhawat, while repeating the same during the press meet, highlighted

the issue of Sonia Gandhi getting her name inducted in the voters' list in New Delhi before becoming the citizen of India, wondering



why the Congress was not issuing any clarification on the matter. "Gandhi-Nehru family always indulged in unfair electoral practices – ballot boxes were destroyed with acid, booth capturing took place, and nominations were cancelled," he alleged, saying

the grand old party doing anything required to win elections was not new.

"It's been an age-old practice with the Congress," the BJP MP averred.

Shekhawat also accused Congress leader Rahul Gandhi of not supporting the country when it matters the most. "We have seen it many times, when the Congress leader should be showing solidarity with the country, he would do exactly the opposite, giving fodder to the anti-India forces," the BJP leader said, adding he has done it on various occasions such as when India was dealing with Pakistan militarily in May this year, and also by speaking against Indian interests on foreign soil.

President Droupadi Murmu Addresses Nation On Independence Day 2025 Eve

(Gns). President Droupadi Murmu extended her greetings to the nation on the eve of India's 79th Independence Day, calling it a matter of pride that both Independence Day and Republic Day are celebrated by citizens across the country with "great enthusiasm."

"These are days that especially remind us of our being proud Indians," the



President said in her address.

President Droupadi Murmu greeted the nation

on the eve of India's 79th Independence Day, highlighting the pride associated with both Independence and Republic Day celebrations. She emphasized India's democratic journey since 1947, with a focus on upholding democratic values and the Constitution.

Reflecting on the journey since 1947, President Murmu noted that after regaining freedom, India chose the path of a democracy in which

every adult was granted the right to vote. "We, the people of India, gave ourselves the right to shape our own destiny," she said, adding that despite challenges, the country has successfully upheld democratic values.

"For us, our Constitution and our democracy are above everything else," the President emphasised, underscoring the central role these principles play in shaping the nation's progress.

Her address set the tone for Friday's celebrations, which will see Prime Minister Narendra Modi hoist the national flag at the Red Fort and deliver his 12th consecutive Independence Day speech.

Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel to Address Citizens on Eve of 79th Independence Day

CM's Public Address to be Broadcast Across Various TV Channels

Gandhinagar, Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel will deliver a public address to the citizens of the state on the eve of the 79th Independence Day. This public address will be broadcast today, 14th August, on various TV channels.

On VR Live News channel at 6:30 PM, on Zee 24 Kalak News channel at 6:30 PM, on Nirman News channel at 7:00 PM, on Bulletin India News Gujarat channel at 6:00 PM, on News Capital channel at 6:15 PM, on Mantavya



News channel at 5:45 PM, on India News Gujarat channel at 7:30 PM, on Gujarat First News channel at 6:30 PM, and on TV13 channel at 6:30 PM.

Additionally, the Chief Minister's public address will be broadcast on CNBC Bazar at 7:00 PM, on GTPL In-Cable TV channel at

7:30 PM. The Chief Minister's address will also be telecast tomorrow, 15th August, at 9:00 AM on DD Girnar channel.

'Any Misadventure Will Have Painful Consequences': India Warns Pakistan On Nuclear Threats

(Gns). Tensions between New Delhi and Islamabad flared again on Thursday after India strongly condemned recent threats made by Pakistan's Army chief, General Asim Munir. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) accused Pakistan of resorting to anti-India rhetoric as a tried-and-tested distraction from deepening domestic troubles.

"It is a continuing pattern of reckless, war-mongering and hateful comments from Pakistani leadership," MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal told reporters, describing the approach as a "modus operandi to whip up anti-India sentiment" whenever the leadership faces internal crises.

India's Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) condemned Pakistan's Army chief, General Asim Munir's threats, and criticized Pakistan's anti-India rhetoric, especially regarding nuclear threats. The MEA also reiterated that India

does not recognize the Court of Arbitration's authority on the Indus

occupied Kashmir. The MEA reserved particular criticism for Munir's



Water Treaty, while simultaneously strengthening defense ties with the US.

Jaiswal's remarks carried a sharp warning: any "misadventure" by Pakistan would invite "painful consequences" - consequences India claims it has already demonstrated during Operation Sindoor in May. That operation, launched after a deadly terror strike in Pahalgam and subsequent Pakistani drone and missile activity, saw Indian forces target camps in Pakistan and Pakistan-

comments in the US, where he reportedly claimed Pakistan would "take half the world down" if threatened by India. Calling the rhetoric "nuclear sabre-rattling," India described it as not only "highly irresponsible" but also a serious threat to global stability. The statement went further, warning that Pakistan's military establishment - described as "hand-in-glove with terrorist groups" - casts doubt on the safety of its nuclear arsenal.

Dispute Over Indus

Water Treaty

On the separate but equally sensitive Indus Water Treaty issue, Jaiswal reiterated that India does not recognise the authority of the Court of Arbitration, calling its rulings "devoid of legal standing." He stressed that the treaty remains suspended as a "sovereign decision" in response to Pakistan's continued sponsorship of cross-border terrorism, including the Pahalgam attack.

Strategic Focus on the US

Even amid sharp words for Islamabad, India is deepening defence ties with Washington. A US Defence Policy Team will visit Delhi in mid-August, the 21st edition of the Yudh Abhyas military exercise will be held in Alaska later this month, and preparations are underway for the 2+2 Interseasonal meeting. The MEA described the India-US defence partnership as a "pillar" of the bilateral relationship.



Jio Air Fiber



Jio Tv +



Jio Fiber



Daily Hunt



ebaba TV



Dish Plus



DTH live OTT



Rock TV



Airtel



Amezone Fire



Roku Tv-US.UK

देश-दुनिया के नवीनतम समाचार
प्राप्त करने के लिए आज ही
गरवी गुजरात हिंदी चैनल देखिये

Holiday notice

Due to the holiday in office on 15 August Independence day & 16 Sri Krishna Janmashtmi will not receive the newspaper of 16-17 August, Next newspaper will be available on 18th August 2025, Monday.
- Editor

Editorial

Edge of insanity

Field Marshal Asim Munir’s latest nuclear outburst marks a chilling escalation in Pakistan’s strategic rhetoric. Speaking on American soil and quite possibly to his principal benefactor in Washington, he declared that if Pakistan faced existential defeat in a future war with India, it would “take half the world down” with it. This was not a calculated reminder of deterrence; it was a public signal that the country’s nuclear arsenal might no longer be guided by even the broad thresholds of rational use articulated by its military in the past.

For decades, Pakistan’s nuclear posture, however menacing, was couched in terms of certain red lines: major territorial loss, destruction of a large portion of its armed forces, economic strangulation, or severe internal destabilisation. These were, at least on paper, meant to convey that nuclear use was a last resort. The Pakistan Army chief’s statement discards such pretence. It presents Pakistan’s nuclear capability as a tool for pre-emptive coercion, unconstrained by the boundaries that once kept global alarm in check. This shift is not happening in a vacuum. Since India’s cross-border military responses in 2016 and 2019, and the more recent Operation Sindoor, Pakistan’s ability to rely on nuclear threats for strategic cover has steadily eroded.

The military chief’s bluster is an attempt to resurrect the fear that once deterred both India and the wider world from calling Islamabad’s bluff. By putting the prospect of nuclear chaos back at the forefront, he hopes to divert attention from Pakistan’s role in cross-border terrorism and to reinsert the nuclear card into every diplomatic and security calculation. But this is also theatre for a domestic audience. The newly-promoted Field Marshal is signalling that he is firmly in command, whether or not he eventually takes over the presidency.

In Pakistan’s military dominated political system, projecting such dominance is critical for survival. Generals there do not simply retire into quiet obscurity; they either consolidate power or risk being side-lined, often with dangerous personal consequences. His remarks also betray a deeper insecurity. Pakistan’s economy is in free fall, its industrial base is hollowed out, and its relative position to India ~ once competitive ~ shows a yawning gap. Munir’s crude comparisons between India’s prosperity and Pakistan’s stagnation reflect a frustration with realities he cannot reverse. In place of a development strategy, he offers the threat of destruction. For India, the lesson is sobering.

Munir’s readiness to abandon even the thin veneer of rational nuclear policy increases the risk of miscalculation. History shows that Pakistan’s wars have often been triggered by the hubris of military leaders who overestimated their position. The difference now is that the stakes have grown exponentially. An insecure general, eager to assert control and restore lost leverage, may well prove more reckless than his infamous predecessors. India must treat this not merely as bluster, but as a warning that strategic instability in the subcontinent has entered a more dangerous phase.

Why lose sleep?

(Gns). The West dislikes India’s growth because it undermines their global power, especially as their own influence declines. However, a strong and self-assured India is anathema to them; they can’t force it to do their bidding. Donald Trump is understandably frustrated by India’s refusal to meet his unreasonable demands. He made the UK, Japan, the EU, South Korea, and others agree to terms favouring America, which involved promises of large investments by them, unlikely to materialize.

Because of India’s principled stand against unrestricted free trade with the US, regardless of our genuine concerns and sensitivities, he was extremely annoyed and even called India’s economy dead. India’s mature response was only to remind that there are some red lines the government would never compromise.

For Trump, Indian grapes have indeed turned sour, but Indians need not unnecessarily lose sleep over his 25 per cent tariffs on our goods, despite our neighbours (Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Pakistan) and competitors (Vietnam, South Korea) having the advantage of much lower tariffs. The IMF has recently revised India’s growth forecast from 6.2 to 6.4 per cent for the current year. The worst-case scenario is a 0.2 to 0.3 percentage point reduction in GDP growth from Trump’s tariffs. It is to be remembered that India’s growth is driven primarily by domestic consumption rather than exports, and with inflation remaining well within targets and the monsoon progressing well, that consumption can only expand.

Domestic consumption accounted for 71.4 percent of our GDP in FY2024; exports comprised 21.2 per



cent, and imports were 23.5 per cent, leading to a net GDP reduction of 2.3 per cent. Still, the export sector is significant ~ it provides employment for about 90 million individuals, including informal workers, and represents almost 12 per cent of overall employment.

A majority are in labour intensive industries such as apparel (approximately 45 million), footwear, gems and jewellery, etc. During 2024-25, India exported goods valued at \$438 billion against imports worth \$721 billion, 17 per cent of which came from China alone. Fifty one per cent of all exports went to nine countries, each with over \$10 billion in imports. With \$87 billion (20 per cent), the USA was number one; the UAE was a distant second, with \$37 billion. The others were Netherlands, UK, China, Singapore, Saudi Arabia, Germany, and Bangladesh. Another \$111 billion of exports went to 19 more countries, each of which bought \$5-10 billion in Indian products. Without the USA, these nations represented 56 per cent of our exports. We already have trade agreements with most of these countries, like Australia, Bhutan, Japan, Malaysia, Mauritius, Singapore, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and the UAE. India signed major FTAs this year with the UK and EFTA, a regional bloc that includes Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland.

(Gns). For decades, successive governments have avoided acknowledging that the Himalayan mountains are fragile and highly vulnerable to natural hazards because of their limited carrying capacity. Dancing around this truth and ignoring it has been a persistent problem for the Himalaya and its residents. In the recent Uttarakhand tragedy that struck Dharali village, located at a height of about 2550 meters in Uttarkashi, the human death toll remains uncertain, but it is clear that a hundred are missing. The buildings were swept away in a matter of minutes. While we mourn the loss, we need to realise that the extreme weather events, followed by destruction, have become an annual occurrence in the on-going climate changes. Cloud bursts happen, flash floods follow, lives and property are lost, NDRF is called upon to respond, and the story ends ~ the dance continues. Recall the June 2013 floods in the same Bhagirathi basin; it seems there is no end in sight for the tragedies.

Whether due to callousness or our collective irresponsible attitudes, neither do the recurring calamities stop nor does the human

suffering. So, what keeps going wrong, and what can we do? One, numerous warnings, based on credible scientific evidence, reports, government regulations, and common sense have fallen on deaf ears. The omission and negligence are spectacularly well-known, even celebrated. There is no penalty for violators ~ individuals, groups, or the state apparatus that participates in or looks the other way. How is it that no one realised the entire settlement of Dharali village is located in the middle of the river channel and its natural flood zone?

A cursory look at the satellite images of the Dharali area from the early 2000s to the present shows that the size of the settlement has swelled, and buildings have moved dangerously closer to the river. It shouldn’t surprise us that the river/torrent behaved as it did during the cloud burst. It is in the nature of the Himalayan torrents to experience high-speed, high-volume discharge (flood) whenever extreme precipitation (rainfall) occurs upstream. Why blame nature? It is nature indeed, but what followed was not natural. It was man-made. Lesson one: The golden rule is to keep off the river channel as far back as one can. What

State-Level Celebration of the 79th Independence Day: Porbandar

Governor Shri Acharya Devvrat Chairs the At Home Program in Porbandar on the Eve of the 79th Independence Day; Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel and Other Dignitaries Grace the Event
Governor Acharya Devvrat extends greetings on the occasion of Independence Day
Gandhinagar, 14 August

2025: Governor Shri Acharya Devvrat chaired the At Home program on the eve of the state-level celebrations of the 79th Independence Day in Porbandar, the birthplace of Mahatma Gandhi.

The event, organised at Shri Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya in Porbandar,

was graced by Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel, Union Minister Shri Mansukh Mandaviya,



Minister Shri Kunvarji Bavaliya, and other dignitaries.

While extending greetings for the 79th Independence Day, the Governor said that this occasion is a moment to honour Mahatma Gandhi, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, and other patriots. He emphasised that by emulating Gandhiji’s efforts to preserve the nation’s rich national and spiritual heritage during the freedom

movement, the present generation can help India achieve holistic development—something for which

glaciated valley areas upstream, is about 30 kilometres (as the crow flies). This area abounds in unconsolidated rock debris, which, with sparse vegetation cover, is easily dislodged and can become deadly on steep gradients. In this case, as the water volume from the cloudburst at elevations of over 4,000m gathered momentum, it hurled massive loose material, providing the necessary force to cause destruction. Dharali village had no chance to escape the disaster. The village panchayats must have and maintain a carrying capacity register that provides clear information on these basic geological, climatic, and seismic facts/warnings. Three, there must be severe penalties for those in charge who allow the rapid growth of shanties, cheap hotels, and similar structures in the vulnerable locations with minimal carrying capacity. The offices of SDMs and DMs must be held accountable. Additionally, declare the river and channel banks

as red zones where no construction should be permitted. In particular, at elevations above 2,500 m, a strict zoning code should be enacted to



restrict the construction of new buildings. In the event of any wilful violation, an undertaking should be sought in writing that no compensation shall be awarded if a disaster were to strike.

That would deter most from building unlawfully. It is high time to enforce building regulations in these remote areas, too, barring minor renovations in old homesteads of local villagers. It might lead to some resentment, but finding innovative ways to bypass bureaucracy and

making approvals easier, but rigorous, would be helpful. Finally, there is an urgent need to recognise that in the mountains, you are always up against gravity ~ everything tends to roll downhill. Therefore, the government must take primary responsibility for preventing these areas from being transformed into large, unsustainable townships. With inherently low carrying capacity, exploiting them for cheap tourism revenue is a poor practice and should be heavily regulated.

It makes little economic sense, for the heavy expenditure incurred on responding to the disasters far exceeds the earnings over the years. I have previously written about easements to the local population for maintaining the ecological integrity of the mountains, rather than making massive expenditures following the disasters. Lesson four: The sustainable living model enunciated by the author for the Himalaya is a way forward. Development must be undertaken within the carrying capacity of the Himalaya based on the triumvirate of: (a) geological vulnerability, (b) ecological fragility and (c) cultural sensitivity of the region.

advancing towards multidimensional growth and a distinct global identity, with progress driven by industry, modern farming, sports, and infrastructure. Gujarat, led by Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel, has emerged as the nation’s growth engine.

The Governor stated that truth, non-violence, non-possession, non-stealing, and celibacy embody the essence of righteousness, which endures over time. He added that living by the truth fosters a happy and harmonious life.

Following the program, the Governor and Chief Minister exchanged Independence Day greetings. The Governor also visited the Natural Farming Haat and lauded farmers for adopting and promoting natural farming.

On this occasion, the police band performed the national anthem along with patriotic songs, showcasing national pride.

The tradition of hosting the At Home program in various Gujarat districts

each year—initiated by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi during his tenure as Chief Minister of Gujarat—has set an example for other states.

The event was attended by Union Minister of Labour and Employment Shri Mansukh Mandaviya, Minister of Water Supply Shri Kunvarji Bavaliya, Pujya Bhaishri Rameshbhai Oza, District Panchayat President Shri Parbat Parmar, Rajya Sabha MP Shri Rambhai Mokariya, MLA Shri Arjun Modhwadia, Chief Secretary Shri Pankaj Joshi, Additional Chief Secretary Smt Sunaina Tomar, Additional Chief Secretary Shri M.K. Das, Director General of Police Shri Vikas Sahay, former minister Shri Babubhai Bokhiria, District Collector S.D. Dhanani, District Development Officer Shri B.B. Chaudhary, District Superintendent of Police Bhagirathsinh Jadeja, along with prominent personalities and distinguished citizens.

Chip Politics

(Gns).

In a sharp turn from the rhetoric of outright bans, Washington has brokered a deal allowing two of its leading semiconductor firms to resume sales of customised AI chips to China ~ on the condition that 15 per cent of the resulting revenue flows directly to the US government.

These are not the flagship chips once deemed too advanced to cross the Pacific, but specially tailored, less powerful versions built to meet previous export restrictions. On paper, the arrangement offers a neat compromise:

American firms reclaim access to one of their most important markets, China gains the technology it wants, and Washington collects a significant cut ~ potentially up to \$2 billion ~ while keeping the most cutting-edge chips out of Beijing’s reach. Yet the deal’s novelty lies less in its economic arithmetic and more in the political precedent it sets.

The US has long restricted high-tech exports to strategic rivals in the

name of national security. This approach was meant to slow potential adversaries’ technological gains, especially in fields like artificial intelligence that can blur the lines between civil-



ian and military use. The reversal suggests that commercial interests and geopolitical bargaining have taken priority over the earlier security calculus. If the same chips were once considered a threat, what has changed other than the prospect of revenue?

For investors and industry, the uncertainty is as troubling as the restrictions themselves.

Semiconductor companies plan years ahead, betting billions on product develop-

ment and fabrication. Sudden political pivots ~ first a ban, then a negotiated levy ~ inject volatility into forecasts.

Shareholders may welcome renewed Chinese trade, negotiated case by case? And if so, does it strengthen US leverage, or dilute the coherence of its national security stance? China, meanwhile, benefits from restored supply at a time when its AI ambitions are expanding rapidly. For Washington, the deal may also serve as a bargaining chip in unrelated areas such as rare-earth minerals, where Beijing holds a near-monopoly.

This transactional flexibility may yield short-term wins, but it risks projecting an image of policy driven by opportunism rather than principle. The chip agreement is not simply a trade story. It is a marker of how the tech rivalry between the world’s two largest economies is evolving. What began as a straightforward contest to block or protect strategic technologies is morphing into a complex negotiation where security concerns, market access, and government revenue share the same table. In this new phase, the lines between protection, profit, and policy are becoming harder to tell apart.

WESTERN RAILWAY TO RUN SPECIAL TRAIN BETWEEN BANDRA TERMINUS & JAIPUR

Mumbai, For the convenience of passengers and with a view to meet the travel demand during the festive season, Western Railway will run a Special Train on Special fare between Bandra Terminus & Jaipur.

According to a press release issued by Chief Public Relations Officer of Western Railway, Shri Vineet Abhishek, the details of the train is as under:

1. Train No. 09726/09725 Bandra Terminus – Jaipur Special [2 Trips]

Train No. 09726 Bandra Terminus - Jaipur Special will depart from Bandra Terminus on Monday, 18th August, 2025 at 09:30 hrs, and will reach Jaipur at 06:45 hrs, the next day. Similarly, Train No. 09725 Jaipur – Bandra Terminus Special will depart from Jaipur on Sunday, 17th August, 2025 at 08:10 hrs, and will arrive Bandra Terminus at 04:55 hrs, the next day.

Enroute, this train will halt at Borivali, Vapi, Surat, Bharuch, Vadodara, Ratlam, Mandisor, Nimach, Chittaurgarh, Bhilwara, Mandal, Bijainagar, Nasirabad, Ajmer and Kishangarh stations in both directions.

This train comprises of AC 2-Tier, AC -3 Tier, AC -3 Tier (Economy), Sleeper Class and General Second Class Coaches.

The booking for Train No. 09726 will open from 16 August, 2025 at all PRS counters & on IRCTC web-site. For detailed information regarding timings of halts and composition, passengers may please visit www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in.

WR'S JUMBO BLOCK BETWEEN BORIVALI & GOREGAON STATION ON SUNDAY, 17th AUGUST, 2025

Mumbai, To carry out maintenance work of tracks, signalling and overhead equipment, a Jumbo Block of five hours will be taken on UP and Down fast lines between Borivali and Goregaon stations from 10.00 hrs to 15.00 hrs on Sunday, 17th August, 2025.

According to a press release issued by Chief Public Relations Officer of Western Railway, Shri Vineet Abhishek, during the block period, all UP and Down fast line trains will run on slow lines between Goregaon and Borivali. Due to block some Up & Down suburban trains will remain cancelled and some of the Andheri and Borivali trains will run up to Goregaon on harbour line.

Detailed information to this effect is available with concerned Station Masters. Passengers are requested to please take note of the above arrangements.

WR's MUMBAI CENTRAL DIVISION INTENSIFIES CLEANLINESS INITIATIVES DURING THE ONGOING "SWACHCHATA ABHIYAN" DRIVE



Glimpses of various activities being carried out under "Swachhata Abhiyan", campaign across Mumbai Central Division of Western Railway.

Mumbai, As part of the "Swachhata Abhiyan", being observed in view of the ongoing Independence Day celebrations of our nation, Mumbai Central Division of Western Railway has undertaken a series of impactful initiatives to promote cleanliness, hygiene, and public health awareness across its network. The Division remains committed to the values of Swachh Bharat and continues to lead from the front in maintaining high standards of sanitation and hygiene.

According to a press release issued by the Chief Public Relations Officer of Western Railway, Shri Vineet Abhishek, Shramdaan and intensive cleanliness drives, are being conducted across various stations, railway colonies, and office premises of Mumbai Central Division. Intensive cleaning was undertaken at several stations such as Churchgate, Andheri, Valsad, etc. while deep cleaning of railway tracks was undertaken at Santa Cruz station.

Shri Vineet further informed that Nukkad Natak, Swachhata rallies, etc are being organized at several locations across the Division with active participation from employees and public volunteers. A Nukkad Natak was performed at Borivali railway station, by the Scouts and Guide team. The engaging performance effectively raised awareness among passengers regarding cleanliness practices. Health check-up camps are being arranged for Swachhata workers. A health check-up camp was organized for On-Board Housekeeping Services (OBHS) staff of the Coach Care Centre at Mumbai Central. Similarly, health check-ups of Swachhata workers at Billimora was conducted to ensure their well-being.

Awareness drives for catering staff and inspections are also being carried out at food establishments, pantry cars and base kitchens. At Amalner and Dhondecha stations, the food samples from enroute trains were inspected by railway officials to ensure food safety.

These efforts reflect Western Railway's dedication to providing a clean and safe environment for passengers and staff. Western Railway encourages all stakeholders to actively participate in maintaining cleanliness in the spirit of national pride and civic responsibility.

US Wishes Pakistan On Independence Day, Appreciates Islamabad's Efforts On Counterterrorism

(Gns). The United States on Thursday wishes Pakistan on the occasion of its Independence Day.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio extended the wishes, highlighting the growing ties between Washington and Islamabad, particularly on security and trade.

On Pakistan's Independence Day, U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio conveyed warm wishes, noting growing security and trade ties between the United States and Pakistan, including potential economic cooperation and recent counterterrorism dialogue, amidst reported concerns from India over U.S. silence regarding nuclear threats allegedly made by Pakistan's General Munir.

In a formal statement, Rubio conveyed wishes on behalf of the United States. "On behalf of the United States, I extend our warm congratulations to the people of Pakistan as they celebrate their Independence Day on August 14. The United States deeply appreciates Pakistan's engagement on counterterrorism and trade," Rubio said.

The Secretary of State also signalled a desire for deeper economic ties. He said, "We look forward to exploring new areas of economic cooperation, including critical minerals and hydrocarbons, and fostering dynamic business partnerships which will promote a prosperous future for Americans and Pakistanis."

Rubio's warm statement comes as relations between the two nations appear to be strengthening. This upswing follows Washington's recent designation of the Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) as a foreign terrorist organization, a move that coincided with a visit to the US by Pakistan's Army Chief, Asim Munir.

Furthermore, the US has committed to new trade and investment deals aimed at developing Pakistan's oil reserves and mineral mining sectors.

However, this warming relationship is viewed with caution in New Delhi. The US and Pakistan recently held a counterterrorism dialogue, even as India presented what it described as strong evidence linking Pakistani terrorists to the Pahalgam attack.

Adding to the complexity, US President Donald Trump has claimed credit for brokering a ceasefire between India and Pakistan using trade as leverage. This assertion was directly refuted by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who clarified in Parliament that no third party was involved in the military conflict.

Concerns in India have also been raised over the US State Department's silence following reported nuclear threats made by General Munir, who allegedly said Pakistan "would take half of the world down". For some observers, Washington's lack of response is seen as an unwillingness to take responsibility for statements made by a key partner.



Cong Accuses Modi Govt of Being Biased In Allocating Semi-Conductor Projects

The Congress party has accused the Modi administration of favouring certain states in semiconductor project allocations, raising concerns about fairness. Four projects were approved, with claims of relocations impacting Telangana and Tamil Nadu in favour of Gujarat.

The Congress party has criticised the Modi administration for allegedly favouring states governed by the ruling party when allocating semiconductor manufacturing projects. Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh highlighted that four such projects have been approved in India. He claimed that a private company, after thorough research, applied for a project in Telangana but was asked to relocate to Andhra Pradesh.

Ramesh further alleged that similar relocations were previously enforced. Two semiconductor projects initially planned for Telangana were moved to Gujarat, and another intended for Tamil Nadu was also shifted to Gujarat. "Need anything more be said? The PM speaks of competition among states that will make India strong. But if the umpire is so blatantly biased, the competition becomes a farce," Ramesh commented.



Punjab Police intensify security measures for Independence-Day celebrations

(Gns). Amid heightened security to ensure peaceful Independence-Day celebrations, as mandated by Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann, senior police officers, including Special DGPs, ADGPs, and IGPs, have been deputed to each police district to personally supervise all security arrangements.

As per the directions of Punjab Director General of Police (DGP) Gaurav Yadav, these officers will brief their respective teams during full-dress rehearsals, review anti-terrorist operations carried out in the districts, secure all official functions, and implement other preventive measures to ensure foolproof security.

Special DGP Arpit Shukla, who will be stationed in Patiala to oversee arrangements, said the Punjab Police are fully prepared to ensure smooth night-long special operations, police teams in all districts continued search operations at crowded places for the second consecutive day on Thursday. The checks included hotels, sarais, railway stations, bus stands, markets, shopping malls, and public parks across Punjab.

In addition, the police teams continued their cor-



Relearning and upskilling key to adapting to technological evolution: RS Dy Chairman

(Gns). Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh on Thursday emphasized the importance of relearning and upskilling in adapting to the fast-paced technological evolution.

In an address to interns under the Rajya Sabha Internship Programme, Harivansh highlighted that adopting new technology is not just critical in improving productivity at an individual level but also relevant in strengthening governance at the grassroots.

The Deputy Chairman shared examples of how technology has transformed various sectors, citing the PM-Jan Dhan Yojana, which leveraged digital infrastructure like Aadhaar and mobile phones to improve banking coverage.

"According to a World Bank study, if we had continued to use the conventional method of opening bank accounts, it would have taken 47 years for us to open the number of bank accounts that we have now," he said.

The Deputy Chairman urged the interns to focus on building the right knowledge and skills rather than completely depending on technology. He emphasized that India's stable economic growth has set the right platform for youth to innovate, take risks, and pursue their entrepreneurial ambitions.

"Young India's new ideas and innovations will aid India's journey towards a developed nation by 2047," Harivansh said, adding that the world is paying a high premium for innovation. He encouraged the interns to leverage technology to drive growth and development, while also being mindful of its limitations.



Odisha Government partners with CEGIS to ensure effective public services

(Gns). The Odisha and Centre for Effective Governance of Indian States (CEGIS) entered into a partnership by signing an MOU to launch a Decision Support System (DSS) for enabling data-driven governance backed by analytical evidence.

It may be noted here that CEGIS Foundation is a non-profit organization having over 150 committed and motivated professionals contributing in nation-building.

CEGIS signed a non-financial MoU with a 5-year commitment with a focus on institutionalizing capacity building in Odisha.

Currently, CEGIS Foundation is working with five central Institutions, including the Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation (MoSPI), NITI Aayog, Capacity Building Commission, Karmayogi Bharat, India Intellectual Property Office.

The BJP Government in Odisha is intent on refurbishing health, education, disaster management, livelihoods, and digital infrastructure with an aim to ensure that every citizen receives effective, efficient, and equitable public services, he said.

"Over the next five years, this partnership will provide technical and analytical support across departments—helping us in policy decisions, optimize expenditure, and enhance the delivery of public service across key sectors", he further stated.

"The State Government of Odisha is committed to delivering seamless public services, ensuring that every citizen experiences convenience and efficiency at the last mile. This commitment is underscored by the government's investment in technology and training, aiming to eliminate bureaucratic hurdles and enhance overall accessibility", Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja, in his keynote address, said.

"There is a need for very strong capacity building and the partnership of the government. CEGIS will help fulfill the objective of the government in the future perspective," Development Commissioner Anu Garg said.



Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, refutes school closure allegations

(Gns). Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, addressing the state Assembly on Thursday, vehemently denied the Opposition's allegation of shutting down 29,000 schools in the state.

Asserting that no schools are being shut, he said those with under 50 students and within one-kilometre radius are being merged into integrated campuses with better facilities.

This school pairing initiative aims to achieve a 22:1 student-teacher ratio and raise education quality. As a result of this, he said, the state's education system has emerged stronger and more modern.

Recalling the situation before 2017, the CM said 1.56 lakh basic and affiliated schools in the state suffered from poor infrastructure, an imbalanced student-teacher ratio, and the highest dropout rate in the country. "Under the School Libraries, smart classes, playgrounds, and proper seating arrangements. has been sanctioned under the CM Nutrition Mission to provide a nutritious diet to children suffering from malnutrition and anaemia."

Highlighting the progress, the CM said since 2017, dropout rates have significantly declined and 40 lakh additional children have enrolled in schools. Under Project Alankar, 75-year-old inter-colleges are being renovated with new laboratories, smart classes, and drinking water facilities. "Courses in Artificial Intelligence, Robotics, and Space Technology have been introduced in 150 government ITIs. The state has also established 71 new government colleges and several universities, while 50 lakh youth have been provided tablets and smartphones under the Digital Education initiative," he added.

CM Yogi further said, "Bal Vatika and Pre-primary classes (LKG, UKG, and nursery) will be introduced for children aged 3–6 years in schools that remain. A ₹100 crore special package





Wishing Everyone a Very
Happy Independence Day



Hon'ble Chief Minister
Shri Bhupendraabhai Patel
Will Grace the

State-Level Flag Hoisting Ceremony

Date: 15th August 2025, Friday, 9:00 AM
Venue: Shri K. H. Madhvani Arts and Commerce College Ground,
Porbandar National Highway, Airport Road, Porbandar

**Gujarat,
the Pathfinder of Progress**

Gujarat presents its largest budget in
history, totalling ₹3.70 lakh crore

Allocation of ₹50 Thousand Crore
to bring Gujarat at
new heights of Development

Mukhyamantri Alpahar Yojana will fulfil
the vision of "Poshan Bhi, Padhai Bhi"

Under the 'Obesity-Free Gujarat'
Campaign, the Government will take care of
health of all citizens

20 Successful Years of Urban
Development: 2025 to be celebrated as the
'Urban Development Year'

**Celebrating
Independence Day on
the Historic land of Porbandar**

