



Maharashtra Governor C P Radhakrishnan To Be NDA's Vice Presidential Candidate, Confirms JP Nadda

(Gns). Maharashtra Governor C P Radhakrishnan has been chosen as the National Democratic Alliance's (NDA) candidate for the upcoming Vice Presidential election, BJP national president and Union Minister JP Nadda announced.

The decision was approved during an NDA leadership meeting in Parliament on August 7, where Prime Minister Narendra Modi and JP Nadda were authorized to make the final choice on behalf of all alliance partners. The BJP parliamentary board-which includes

PM Modi, Nadda, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, and Home Minister Amit Shah-will now give the formal nod to the selected candidate.

Maharashtra Governor C P Radhakrishnan has been nominated by the NDA as its candidate for the Vice Presidential election, scheduled for September 9, following Jagdeep Dhankhar's resignation. The election is open for nominations from August 7 to August 21, with Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha

members voting. The Vice President's office became vacant following Jagdeep Dhankhar's sudden resignation due to health reasons. In response, the Election Commission has scheduled the Vice Presidential



polls for September 9, with the nomination window open from August 7 to August 21. Members of both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha will vote to elect India's second-highest constitutional office

bearer.

Ahead of the elections, the BJP is holding a special workshop for its MPs from September 6 to 9, including mock voting exercises to ensure full participation and error-free balloting. NDA MPs are expected to attend similar sessions, underscoring the alliance's focused strategy for victory.

The Vice President of India occupies a position of significant constitutional importance, acting as the country's second-highest officeholder and serving as the de facto chairman of the Rajya Sabha, giving the role substantial legislative authority.

Amit Shah to release special postal stamp on Vithalbhai Patel centenary at Speakers' conference: Vijender Gupta

(Gns). Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah will release a special commemorative postal stamp marking the centenary of Vithalbhai Patel, the first elected Indian President (Speaker) of the Central Legislative Assembly in 1925, at the upcoming All India Speakers' Conference 2025 to be held in the Delhi Vidhan Sabha.

Announcing this, Delhi Assembly Speaker Vijender Gupta on Sunday said, "Honouring our parliamentary pioneers is not just about remembering history, but also about drawing inspiration for the future. In this spirit, the stamp is being released as a centenary tribute to Shri

Vithalbhai Patel."

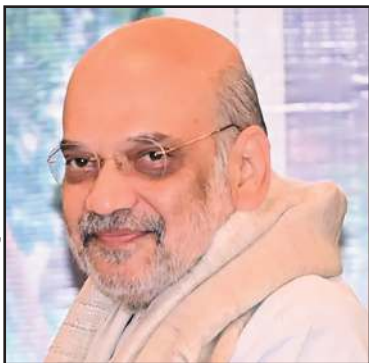
The commemorative issuance will take place in the presence of Union Minister of Communications and Development of North Eastern Region Jyotiraditya M Scindia.

The stamp, issued by the Ministry of Communications in collaboration with India Post, will honour Patel's distinguished parliamentary legacy and monumental contributions, Gupta said.

This will also honour him for his role in the country's freedom movement and his historic leadership as the first Indian to preside over the Central Legislative Assembly on August 24, 1925.

Gupta highlighted that

Patel's tenure was marked by impartiality, unwavering adherence to parliamentary procedures, guarding leg-



released on Patel's birth centenary, symbolising the nation's lasting reverence for his service to democracy.

Gupta said that the release of this stamp will form an integral part of the All India Speakers' Conference 2025, which will bring together Speakers, Deputy Speakers, Chairpersons, and Deputy Chairpersons from Legislative Assemblies and Councils across the nation.

The conference, scheduled for August 24-25, will deliberate on key issues such as constitutional foundations, the growth of democratic institutions, and the integration of Artificial Intelligence in parliamentary functioning.

The Speaker recalled that on September 27, 1973, a commemorative postal stamp had also been

islated independence, promotion of meaningful debate, and a commitment towards democratic values.

meeting and constitute a task force under the chief secretary for better coordination of relief and rehabilitation measures.

Among its other demands were immediate relief payments to the bereaved families, food and shelter for displaced people, deployment of NDRF and SDRF teams to trace missing persons, and timely compensation for damaged houses, cattle sheds, orchards and farmlands. It also pressed for urgent arrangements to ensure smooth supply of ration, medicines and transportation of apples from affected regions.

The CPI(M) said its district and local committees have been directed to actively assist in relief efforts on the ground.

It appealed to the people of Himachal Pradesh to stay united in this hour of crisis and assured that the party would extend all possible help to those in need.

CPI(M) urges Centre to declare Himachal rains national disaster

(Gns). The State Committee of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) has voiced deep concern over the heavy loss of life and property caused by incessant rains in Himachal Pradesh and urged the Centre to declare the calamity a national disaster.

The party conveyed condolences to the families of those killed and assured full support to the people affected during this crisis.

"As per official data, 261 people have died and 38 are missing so far. The estimated damage stands at Rs. 2,144 crore. Around 2,385 houses have been damaged, of which 566 have completely collapsed. In addition, 360 shops and 2,174 cattle sheds have been destroyed, while 1,626 animals and more than 25,000 poultry birds have perished this monsoon season," said CPI(M) state secretary Sanjay Chauhan.



"Basic services such as drinking water supply, power and road connectivity remain severely disrupted across the state. Districts including Mandi, Kullu, Shimla, Kangra, Sirmour, Una, and Chamba have suffered the most," he added.

The party highlighted that national highways and other key roads are blocked, cutting off several regions and leaving farmers unable to transport

apples and other crops to markets, pushing them towards major financial losses. It also complained that relief work is not reaching many villages on time, with ration supplies and emergency medical services still

disrupted in several areas. Shortage of staff across government departments, it said, has further slowed down operations. The CPI(M) demanded that the Centre should immediately release at least Rs 3,000 crore as disaster relief and formulate a concrete policy, backed by scientific research, to address such calamities in the future.

The party also called upon the state government to convene an all-party

duties," a press communique issued by the Rashtrapati Bhavan said on Saturday.

Ajay Kumar Bhalla, a 1984-batch IAS officer of

the Assam-Meghalaya cadre, has been serving as the Governor of Manipur since January 3, 2025. Prior to his gubernatorial appointment, he served as Union Home Secretary for nearly five years, until August 22, 2024.

Given the current socio-political landscape in Manipur and Nagaland, Bhalla's leadership will be crucial in maintaining stability and fostering development in both states.

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Guv Ravi engaging in cheap politics out-smarting opposition: Chief Minister MK Stalin

(Gns). Launching a scathing attack on Tamil Nadu Governor RN Ravi, Chief Minister MK Stalin on Sunday charged him with indulging in 'cheap politics' outsmarting the opposition to malign the DMK government, which is on course to a successive term based on its performance.

"There is a person sitting in the Governor's bungalow, whose cheap politics surpasses that of the opposition. Sitting there, he continues to mock the Dravidian Model, the Dravidian language and cooks up a non-existent couplet of Thirukkural," the Chief Minister said, addressing the gathering after launching welfare programmes at Dharmapuri.

He was responding to Ravi's strong criticism of Tamil Nadu lagging far behind in school and high-

er education despite high enrollment, with poor literacy and numeracy. The Governor also raised alarm bells over rising atrocities

Dravidian Model Government. He had discovered that there is no security for women and that crimes against women

Debunking Ravi, the Chief Minister, citing the NCRB data, pointed out that "The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) of the Union Government itself reveals BJP-ruled Uttar Pradesh topping the list of crimes against women. This being the reality, the Governor is giving vent to his frustration on every stage he is on. If that is the case - poor law and order situation, how come we secured Rs 10 lakh crore investment?"

Asking whether any certification is needed for the high performance of the DMK government, Stalin said the Union Government's data has debunked the allegations levelled by the Governor. "That is why we want Ravi to continue in the Raj Bhavan, which is politically beneficial to us," he quipped.



against Dalits, indicating an alarming deterioration in the law and order situation.

Stung by Ravi's strong criticism, the Chief Minister, in his rebuttal, said, "The Governor is peddling fear and anxiety with the sole intention of maligning the

are on the rise, at an alarming rate."

With elections round the corner for the state assembly, Stalin has started doubling up his attack on the Governor, continuing in office even after his tenure was over months ago

Himachal unveils eco-tourism policy to develop 77 sites

(Gns). The Himachal Pradesh government has launched a new eco-tourism policy aimed at developing 77 eco-tourism sites across different forest circles in the state.

The initiative is expected to generate Rs 200 crore in revenue over the next five years, while creating jobs, boosting the rural economy, and ensuring the protection of the environment.

Chief Minister Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu said the policy seeks to strike a balance between tourism and conservation.

"Our goal is to attract visitors in a manner that safeguards forests, rivers, and wildlife, while generating livelihood opportunities for local communities," he stated.

Himachal Pradesh, known for its snow-capped peaks, lush forests, pristine

rivers, and rich biodiversity, has always drawn nature lovers. The Eco-Tourism Policy 2024 has been framed to use this natural wealth responsibly by promoting activities such as trekking, bird watching, forest camping, jungle walks, homestays, and interpretation trails.

Of the 77 sites, eco-tourism operators have already been selected for seven popular locations, including Potter Hill and Shoghi in Shimla, Solang Nallah in Kullu, and Kasol in Parvati Valley. The remaining sites are being developed in phases across districts such as Mandi, Bilaspur, Rampur, Solan, Nahan, Hamirpur, Nalagarh, Dharamshala, Palampur, Chamba, Dalhousie, Nurpur, and

Rekong Peo.

The government is linking eco-tourism with its larger biodiversity conservation goals. Under the Rajiv Gandhi Van Samvardhan Yojna,

saplings are being planted and maintained on 1,000 to 1,500 hectares of forest land this year, supported by a budget of Rs 20 crore. Local groups, including mahila mandals, yuvak mandals, and self-help groups, are participating in the programme, with Rs 1.2 lakh allocated per hectare for sapling maintenance. The state aims to increase its forest cover to 30 percent by 2030.

Local participation is central to the new policy. Committees have been formed in each forest circle to oversee projects, while more than 70 nature guides and 135 Multi-Purpose Workers have already been trained by the Himachal Pradesh Eco-Tourism Society. Over 100 forest rest houses and camping sites can now be booked online, and a trekking management system has been introduced with 245 trails mapped and categorised by difficulty.

The initiative is already showing results. In 2024, Himachal recorded over two lakh tourist arrivals, including 82,000 foreign visitors - a 13.24 percent rise compared to the previous year.

With tourism contributing 7.78 percent to the state's Gross State Domestic Product, officials believe the new policy will give a further boost to the economy while setting an example of sustainable growth.



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

Editorial

No-deal situation

The much-hyped summit between US President Donald Trump and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin in Alaska has ended much as many had expected: with lofty statements, vague promises, and no ceasefire in Ukraine. For all the anticipation of a dramatic breakthrough, what unfolded was a political spectacle that left all sides exactly where they began.

Mr. Trump, who prides himself on his ability to cut deals, walked away without one. His claim of “great progress” was strikingly hollow, unsupported by any concrete steps or timelines. Even his earlier assurance that there was only a “25 per cent chance of failure” now rings as self-inflicted damage to his image. The optics of standing silently while Mr Putin dominated the opening remarks were unusual for an American President, and symbolised the uneven dynamics of the encounter. Mr Putin, on the other hand, achieved what he wanted most: global visibility and a platform to project himself as an equal to the US President. By securing centre stage without yielding on any substantive issue, he reinforced the perception that Moscow’s hardline conditions remain immovable.

His repeated emphasis on the so-called “root causes” of the war was a thinly veiled signal that Russia’s objective of weakening Ukraine’s sovereignty remains unchanged. For Ukraine, the absence of a deal brought relief but also unease. Relief, because no concessions were forced on Kyiv in a closed-door arrangement. Unease, because the summit underlined once again how Western threats ~ whether of sanctions or deadlines ~ rarely translate into action. Every missed ultimatum emboldens Moscow to continue its assaults, testing the resilience of Ukrainian cities and the patience of its allies. Internationally, the Alaska summit also underscored the shifting balance of influence. European allies, wary of Mr. Trump’s unpredictability, are recalibrating their own positions while watching Moscow’s persistence with alarm.

For them, the absence of a deal was preferable to an ill-conceived compromise, but the failure to move even marginally forward highlights just how difficult coordinated diplomacy has become. The episode also leaves Washington with a credibility gap. Mr. Trump has repeatedly warned of “severe consequences” should Russia resist ceasefire calls, yet his latest comments only pushed decisions on sanctions into an undefined future. This hesitation risks creating the impression of bluffing ~ a dangerous signal in a conflict where deterrence rests heavily on consistent enforcement. What Alaska truly revealed is not the possibility of imminent peace, but the durability of a stalemate.

Moscow clings to maximalist demands, Kyiv refuses to accept subjugation, and Washington oscillates between bold rhetoric and ambiguous follow-through. Meanwhile, the war continues to exact its toll on lives, infrastructure, and international stability. If there is a lesson from the failed summit, it is that peace cannot be manufactured by political showmanship. Diplomacy without accountability becomes theatre, providing little more than symbolic photo opportunities. For Ukraine, the task remains survival; for its partners, the challenge is to transform words into action before repeated disappointment erodes both resolve and unity.

Digital Diwani: How India lost her online soul

(Gns).

In a May 2017 letter to The Economist, I highlighted India’s vernacular digital divide – how e-commerce companies limit themselves to English-speaking Indians while ignoring 1.2 billion potential vernacular users. But this language problem is merely a symptom of a deeper malaise: India’s systematic surrender of its digital sovereignty through the wholesale transfer of culturally significant domain names to foreign hands and all for a pittance – a fraction of their true value.

The New East India Company: The parallels to our colonial past are striking. Just as the East India Company’s Robert Clive secured the Diwani – the right to collect revenue from Bengal – for a private British entity in 1765, today’s “Domain Giants” like GoDaddy and Sedo have facilitated a modern extraction of India’s digital assets. The difference is that this time, Indian intermediaries are willing participants in the plunder. Consider the scale of what we’ve lost. When MicroStrategy sold Voice.com for \$30 million in 2019 – the largest publicly disclosed domain sale in history – it demonstrated the astronomical value of premium digital real estate.

Siliguri Model High School reaffirms values of unity

(Gns).

Siliguri Model High School (Sr. Sec.) observed Vibhajan Vibhishika Diwas on Thursday with solemn tributes and patriotic spirit, remembering the horrors of the 1947 Partition and reaffirming the values of unity and harmony.

The programme began with a tribute to the victims and survivors of Partition, followed by a cultural presentation. Students delivered speeches, songs, dances, and a moving skit that depicted the pain of

displacement while highlighting the enduring unity

of Indians beyond caste, creed, and religion.

The greatest tragedy lies not in what was sold but at the pathetic valuations at which these linguistic culturally resonant jewels were given away.

This neglect stems from colonial linguistic hierarchies – the very word “vernacular” derives from the Latin verna, meaning “home-born slave.” For over a century, it denoted the perceived inferiority of Indian languages relative to English. This psychological barrier persists in the digital realm, where English domains are seen as premium and vernacular ones as provincial. Contrast this with China’s approach. While India conducted a chaotic “first come, first served” digital land grab, China constructed a fortress.

The .cn domain boasts 22 million registrations compared to India’s 3 million for .in. Chinese investors like Cai Wensheng, the “domain king,” understood strategic value – he famously acquired Bharat.com and declared it worth “millions of dollars,” refusing all offers to sell. When Chinese company Qihoo 360 paid \$17 million for 360.com, it wasn’t acquiring foreign digital territory but upgrading within its protected domestic ecosystem. China’s state-controlled approach, while restrictive, has built immense domestic value rather than exporting it abroad. India’s digital sovereignty requires urgent intervention, starting with a fundamental rejection of the colonial mindset that devalues our linguistic heritage. We must stop sheepishly accepting that Hindi domain names with Indian names in them like ‘dawa’ or ‘taka’ are niche and therefore not to be valued as Western names. This is linguistic colonialism disguised as market reality.

script, and the profound emotional connection it creates with users who think and dream in that language. When 600 million Indians speak Hindi and hundreds of millions more understand it, a premium Hindi domain is not “niche” – it’s addressing a market larger than the entire population of Europe. When a Bengali domain connects with 300 million Bengali speakers globally, it’s not “specialized” – it’s serving a market larger than the United States. We need new valuation frameworks that recognize linguistic reach as legitimate market size.

An Indian domain name with ‘paisa’ or ‘beema’ or ‘yojna’ must be valued by its potential to serve India’s massive banking population in their preferred language, not dismissed because global speculators can’t pronounce it.

(Gns).

India’s digital revolution has been nothing short of transformative, yet for millions, it remains an experience mediated by a foreign language. With 22 official languages and hundreds of dialects, the country’s linguistic richness is both a treasure and a challenge.

For many, the inability to read or write fluently in English is a barrier that limits access to jobs, public services, healthcare, innovations ~ they are immediate, real-world enablers of dignity, efficiency, and inclusion. However, the road to a truly multilingual AI ecosystem is not without obstacles. The creation of high-quality datasets in Indian languages remains a bottleneck. While English and Hindi benefit from an abundance of digitised material, many regional and tribal languages lack the refined, structured data

sation drives, and transparent licensing of language datasets can accelerate development. Importantly, AI translation efforts must preserve diversity within languages, recognising regional variations rather than flattening them into a single “standard” form. The economic argument for such investment is as compelling as the cultural one.

By removing language barriers, businesses can

Polls, Power, Asia

(Gns).

President Donald Trump’s second term is already colliding with voter concerns over the economy, immigration and tariffs. As his approval ratings falter, domestic political forces may reshape U.S. policy in the Indo-Pacific. At the Trump administration’s six-month mark, voters are growing uneasy. According to a July 16-20 Wall Street Journal poll, majorities disapprove of the president’s handling of key issues such as foreign policy (51 per cent), inflation (55 per cent), immigration (51 per cent), the economy (53 per cent) and tariffs (57 per cent).

Mr. Trump’s job approval is also underwater with 46 per cent of voters approving and 52 per cent disapproving of his performance in office. These concerns are colliding with an economic slowdown ~ one marked by stalled hiring, declining private investment and mounting uncertainty caused by aggressive deportations and an unpredictable tariff regime. Adding to the unknowns is a lack of clarity as to who is available for hire given the Trump administration’s aggressive deportation of foreign-born labourers. Although voters have reservations about Mr. Trump, voters trust Republicans more than Democrats on handling a variety of policies. According to the poll, Congressional Democrats lag Republicans on immigration (28 per cent to 45 per cent), the economy (27 per cent to 38 per cent) and on inflation (28 per cent to 38 per cent). The only policy areas where Democrats are favoured more than Republicans are in health-

care (40 per cent to 26 per cent) and vaccines (40 per cent to 31 per cent).

Concerning deportations, polls indicate that voters are happy with removing illegal aliens who have committed crimes.

year’s Congressional elections. Participants in the survey were asked how they would vote if the 2026 Congressional midterm elections were held today. More voters said they would back a Democrat for

wrench into President Trump’s legislative agenda. It would also probably result in Congressional investigations into the president’s administration.

What would these political developments portend

for Washington’s relations with the Indo-Pacific? In the short term, the president would have less bandwidth to pursue his domestic and overseas priorities as he fends off a Democrat controlled Congress. This would distract from Pacific-foc used agendas from trade wars to diplomacy to handling the rise of China. It could also result in decreased presidential travel to Asia and even less attendance at regional summits (ASEAN, APEC, etc.). Regardless of these constraints, Mr. Trump’s ideological commitment to tariffs means Asia should expect Washington to continue aggressively levying import taxes on countries in efforts to open foreign markets and achieve specific policy objectives.

Over the longer term, a divided government in Washington could result in Mr. Trump having less of a

Congress over a Republican by 3 points, 46 per cent to 43 per cent. Moreover, 55 per cent of the poll’s respondents said that the U.S. is heading in the wrong direction while 39 per cent say it is heading in the right direction.

These numbers ~ and the Republicans’ very narrow majority in the House ~ indicate advantages for the Democrats in the November, 2026 midterm contests. An added edge for Democrats next year are historical trends. While there are exceptions, the president’s party typically loses U.S. House of Representatives seats in midterm elections. Since 1994, the president’s party has lost the national House popular vote in seven out of eight midterm elections. A loss of the current Republican majority in either the U.S. House or U.S. Senate would throw a

Even so, survey research has found voters want fair treatment of individuals who, despite entering the country unlawfully, have become productive members of their communities. Under normal circumstances, the minority party’s prospects at the polls would be better. However, Democrats today are still unpopular with the July 16-20 Wall Street Journal poll finding a 33 per cent approval rating and a 63 per cent disapproval rating ~ the highest such approval-disapproval deficit in 35 years.

These poor numbers for the Democrat Party reflect voters’ continued rebuke of the Biden administration in spite of their current dissatisfaction with President Trump. Nonetheless, unhappiness with the Democrats does not appear to be damaging the party’s prospects for next

GM/WR SHRI VIVEK KUMAR GUPTA INAUGURATES NEW HEALTHCARE FACILITIES AT JAGJIVAN RAM HOSPITAL

General Manager of Western Railway Shri Vivek Kumar Gupta, along with Smt. Neeta Gupta, President of Western Railway Women's Welfare Organization (WRWWO), visited Western Railway's Jagjivan Ram Hospital (JRH), Mumbai and inaugurated several new and important healthcare facilities on Friday, 15th August, 2025. On this occasion, Additional General Manager of Western Railway, Shri Pradeep Kumar, Divisional Railway Manager of Mumbai Central Division, Shri Pankaj Singh, senior railway officers, doctors and hospital staff were also present.

According to a press release issued by Chief Public Relations Officer of Western Railway, Shri Vineet Abhishek, during the visit, GM Shri Gupta inau-

gurated newly constructed 6 level fire escape ramp, renovated Obstetrics & Gynecology and Pediatric

healthcare services will further strengthen the hospital's medical infrastructure and provide enhanced



ward with newly developed 4-bedded Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), as well as Audiometry & BERA facilities. These new

medical care to the patients. Shri Gupta commended the hospital's commitment for providing high-quality healthcare to Railway bene-

IPU-IIF unveils indigenous electric patrolling vehicle 'ZOOTY'

(Gns). IPU-IIF incubated start-up, Mazout Electric has launched ZOOTY, an all electric patrolling vehicle for our Indian defence personnel.

According to Mr. Akhil Gupta, founder & CEO, it is an attempt to lead with a vision to indigenize and simplify vehicle electronics for all forms of electric vehicles.

At Mazout Electric, a team of 7 engineers, built ZOOTY as a side project to test their technologies and launched it on 15th August 2025, on the auspicious occasion of India's 79th Independence day at East campus of the University.

Zooty is a compact, patrolling electric scooter, designed with a clear purpose: to serve the logistical heroes who keep our large spaces running. Think of it as the perfect partner for security guards on their

rounds, facility managers overseeing a campus, or even an assistant helping someone navigate a large hospital.

Powered by a robust 0.8 kWh battery, Zooty delivers

capacity, it effortlessly carries a rider and essential gear toolkits, documents, or supplies.

What truly sets Zooty apart is its heart: the advanced in-house elec-



a practical range of over 20 km on a single charge with a top speed of 24kmph. Its fast-charging feature takes it from 0 to 90% in under an hour, keeping downtime to a minimum.

With a 120 kg payload

tronics.

From the microcontroller to the IoT system, every key component is built by the team. This makes it an indigenously developed product with in-house built powertrain electronics, with

ficiaries and becoming first Railway hospital to get NABH certification. He emphasized the importance of adopting modern technology and patient-centered approach with compassion and empathy. The project marks a significant step forward in expanding access to medical care for the community.

On this occasion, Medical Director Dr. Mamta Sharma briefed about the facilities available in JR Hospital and expressed gratitude for the support extended by various Railway departments in completing the projects, while Dr. Konda Anuradha, PCMD/WR, lauded the efforts of doctors and staff of JR Hospital in providing excellent health care and expressed gratitude to the General Manager for all the support and guidance.

dev-X1 and MZ-01 performing the role of controller and IOT respectively.

This allows facility managers to monitor and control the vehicle remotely making it one of the smartest, most connected utility EVs in the market.

This isn't just a product launch, it's a celebration of what's possible when passionate entrepreneurs, a supportive institution, and a shared mission come together to solve real-world problems. None of this would have been possible without the vision and unwavering support of the University and IPU incubator, said Akhil.

Akhil's quote: "We are especially grateful to IPU for not just supporting this venture, but for truly believing in it. We look forward to deployment of Zooty in IPU's campuses in the next few months, and scale from there.

Gorakhpur's temple tourism gets a boost with ₹45 crore development push

(Gns). The Uttar Pradesh Government has sanctioned ₹45 crore for the development and beautification of ancient temples in Gorakhpur, with a focus on upgrading facilities for pilgrims and tourists. The initiative is aimed at restoring the grandeur of rural shrines, enhancing visitor experience, and positioning Gorakhpur as a major hub for religious tourism.

Announcing the projects, Tourism and Culture Minister Jaiveer Singh said, "Uttar Pradesh continues to lead the nation in religious tourism. From Ayodhya and Kashi to Mathura, our spiritual centers are witnessing record footfall. Gorakhpur is fast emerging as a destination of significance, with its wide network of temples, monasteries, and heritage

sites attracting growing numbers of devotees and

Gorakhpur offers a diverse tourism portfolio with



tourists."

Gorakhpur is home to iconic landmarks such as the Gorakhnath Temple, Shri Digambar Jain Temple, Jatashankar Gurudwara, Kalika Sthan, Chitragupta Temple, Sant Kabir Ashram, and Shri Ramjanaki Temple. The new projects will provide modern amenities at these revered sites, strengthening faith among devotees while boosting tourist inflows.

Beyond temples,

attractions like Ramgarh Tal, Gita Vatika, the world-renowned Gita Press, as well as several museums and parks. These collectively draw visitors from across Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Uttarakhand, and other states.

Tourism in the district has been growing rapidly. According to department data, Gorakhpur welcomed 3.65 million tourists in 2024. In just the first quarter of 2025, more than 1.54 mil-

lion visitors arrived. At this pace, annual footfall is expected to reach 5-5.5 million by year-end. To accommodate this growth, the government is also promoting homestays, giving travelers more options while boosting local livelihoods.

Minister Singh emphasized, "The Tourism Department is committed to preserving Uttar Pradesh's religious and cultural heritage while integrating it with modern facilities. These projects, particularly focused on temples in rural areas, will create robust tourism infrastructure, generate local employment, and strengthen the region's cultural identity. By giving our spiritual heritage a modern dimension, we are ensuring both preservation and prosperity."

Senior Congress Leader Calls RSS 'Indian Taliban'

(Gns). A fresh political row has erupted after senior Congress leader BK Hariprasad likened the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) to the "Indian Taliban". His remarks came in response to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Independence Day address, in which the PM hailed the RSS as the world's largest non-governmental organisation devoted to nation-building.

Hariprasad, a former Rajya Sabha MP, sharply criticised the Prime Minister for praising the RSS from the Red Fort. "They are trying to disturb peace in the country. I equate the RSS with the Taliban. They are Indian Taliban, and the PM is appreciating them from the Red Fort," he told ANI.

Senior Congress leader BK Hariprasad compared

the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) to the Indian Taliban, criticizing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's praise of the RSS during his Independence Day

also questioned the organisation's financial transparency and legal standing. "It's a shame that RSS is not a registered body. We don't know where they get their funds from. Any NGO



address; Hariprasad also questioned the RSS's financial transparency and accused the BJP and RSS of historical revisionism regarding the Partition.

The Congress leader

in India must be registered under the Constitution, so why not RSS?" he asked.

Allegations of Historical Revisionism

Hariprasad accused the BJP and RSS of "twisting

history". He claimed that the first formal resolution for Partition was moved in Bengal under AK Fazlul Huq, with Syama Prasad Mookerjee-founder of the Jana Sangh-playing a role. "BJP and RSS are masters of rewriting history. They are trying to pin Partition on Congress when leaders like Jinnah and Savarkar themselves argued for separate states," he asserted.

Modi's Counter-Narrative

In contrast, Modi's Independence Day speech portrayed the RSS as a patriotic force. "With the aim of welfare of Maa Bharati, swayamsevaks dedicated their lives to the service of the motherland. The RSS is the biggest NGO in the world, with 100 years of dedication," the PM declared.

"The Yash Mangalam Show"s new special poetic film "Main Bharat Hoon..!" dedicated to the spirit of patriotism

Launched in Mumbai on the eve of Independence Day

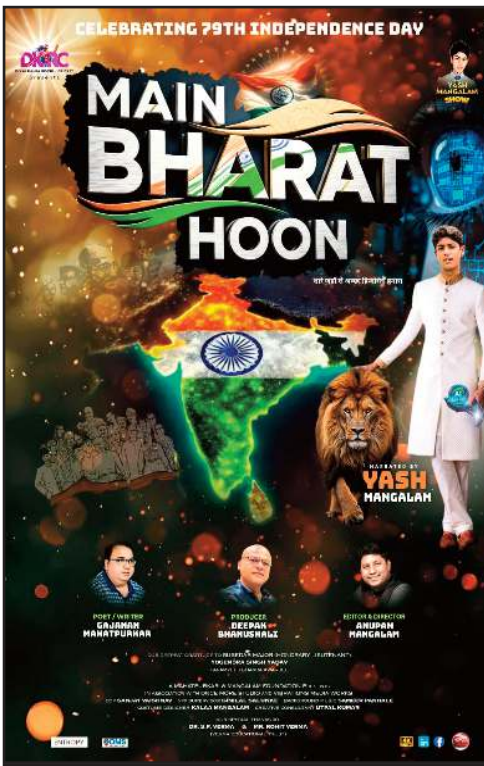
Mumbai, 15th August. The special poetic film "Main Bharat Hoon..!" produced as the latest offering of "The Yash Mangalam Show", which is continuously gaining popularity by becoming a great brand in the world of digital content creation due to its creative excellence, was launched in the Mayanagari Mumbai on Thursday, 14th August, 2025 on the eve of Independence Day. This short film dedicated to the passionate spirit of patriotism has beautifully depicted the rich past and various global achievements of our country India as a glorious chariot moving continuously on the challenging path from glorious history to dynamic present and bright future. India's historical legacy, technological advancements, geographical beauty, cultural heritage, valour of its brave soldiers and India's ever-growing influence in the world have been effectively captured in this special film.

After the continuous success of various poetic videos released recently on the popular internet medium YouTube, this wonderful film has been uploaded as the latest episode of the popular "The Yash Mangalam Show" by "Once More Studio, Mumbai" under the banner of "Mahatpurkar & Mangalam Foundation" by the elegant channel of YouTube "The Yash Mangalam Show-2025", which has been widely appreciated for its unique content and unique style of presentation. Earlier, impressive episodes of this popular show like "Dharohar: A Poetic Saga", "Shilpkar", "Yoga Retreat",

"Sehat Ke Rakhwale" and "Kargil Vijay Diwas - A Poetic Saga have received a very good response on YouTube. The show is hosted by the energetic presenter Yash Mangalam, who at the age of just 15 is gaining a good position in the world of show-biz due to his powerful style of presentation. Yash's performance is indeed captivating and his range of emotions in this film will make the audience really impressed. This special film has been written impressively by Mumbai's well-known lyricist, stage anchor and media & public relations consultant Gajanan Mahatpurkar, in which his special poetic expression created under the title "Main Bharat Hoon..!" has

been excellently filmed. It is worth mentioning that 8 poetic videos written by Gajanan Mahatpurkar have already created a stir on YouTube. In the same sequence, now through the latest film "Main Bharat Hoon..!", the magic of Gajanan Mahatpurkar's powerful writing and the skillful direction of well-known film director and editor Anupam Mangalam is becoming popular on YouTube. The producer of this special film is Bollywood's well-known line producer Deepak Bhanushali, who has played his role very well in popular films like Ek Tha Tiger, Jai Ho, Kick and

Rangrezz. This short film has been presented by a sports organization named "Divya Kanya Rising Cricket" i.e. DKRC, whose mission is to promote the young talents of India,



A view of the poster of the latest film "Main Bharat Hoon..!" created by "The Yash Mangalam Show" on the occasion of Independence Day.

especially the talented women cricket players at the national level. This powerful, impressive and sensitive film has been brought to the screen through precise editing and skilled direction by Mumbai's trusted director of advertising and film industry, Anupam Mangalam, who has rich experience of making more than 300 advertising films in the last 25 years. The soulful music of this newly created film has been given by Sameer Pakhale. Videography has been ensured by Sanjay Vaishnav, VFX supervision by Giniilal Salunke and costume designing by Kalaa

NDMA warning overlooked: Could Kishtwar cloudburst deaths have been averted?

(Gns). Could the catastrophic cloudburst last Thursday, which has so far claimed over 65 lives and left more than 80 people missing, have been averted had the Jammu and Kashmir administration heeded the flash flood and landslide alert issued by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and suspended the Machail Mata pilgrimage for a day?

The NDMA had issued the alert on Wednesday evening, just hours before the tragedy struck.

Fingers are being raised at the Union Territory administration for having ignored the weather alert and allowed the pilgrims to go ahead for the 8.5 km trek to the shrine from the roadhead.

The NDMA on Wednesday issued an alert

for heavy rain and thunder-showers in Jammu, the Pir Panjal range, and the

Singh, who also holds the earth sciences portfolio, said the IMD had already



Chenab valley, warning of possible flash floods, landslides, and shooting stones at vulnerable places over the next 48 hours.

Voices are being raised for fixing accountability for not heeding the weather alert that has led to the loss of a large number of human lives.

Replying to questions from the media, Dr Jitendra

predicted heavy rain for three days. However, he noted that it is difficult to predict a cloudburst, which happens due to a number of local factors that lead to changes in a particular section of the atmosphere.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said a collective view must be taken by the hill states of J&K, Uttarakhand, and Himachal

Mangalam. Creative consultant is Utpal Kumar. At the beginning of the film, heartfelt gratitude has been expressed towards Param Vir Chakra winner Subedar Major Yogendra Singh Yadav. Special gratitude has been expressed towards Dr. SP Verma and Rohit Verma of Verma Education Trust on the poster of the film. Post production has been done by "Once More Studio Mumbai". It is noteworthy that this special film released on the important occasion of Independence Day is getting a very good response on social media and its exceptional quality is being appreciated on a large scale. The main lines of this special film are written like this:-

"main bhaarat hoon..! vishv ke nakshe par seemaon se pare, main ek saadhana hoon..! us sarvashaktimaan ke nirmal aaraadhana hoon..! main ek bhaavana hoon....! sangharsh kee, samarpan kee, reetiyon kee, rivaazon kee, main mittee kee us khushaboo mein hoon, jo kisaan ke paseene se nikalatee hai aur lahalahaatee phasalon ke manamohak nartan mein machalatee hai, main bachchon kee us muskaan mein hoon, jinakee maasoomiyat mein bhaarat ka sanskaar jalakata hai aur yuvaan kee un sapanelee aankhon mein hoon, jinamen desh ka sunahara bhavishy chamakata hai, apane bahaadur sainikon ke balidaanee khoon ke nirupam svaabhimaan se lathapath hoon..! main bhaarat hoon..! main bhaarat hoon..!"

This special film can be seen on this YouTube link:-

https://youtu.be/gKH_e1CWRpY?si=eALXOW57REShfGQ

Pradesh, which have recently suffered colossal losses due to cloudbursts, glacial lake outbursts, and freak weather events.

The issue of whether the loss of life could have been averted by the authorities needs to be examined, he said.

Meanwhile, MLA and chairman, committee on environment, Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami, has said that the deadly cloudburst has once again brought into sharp focus the vulnerability of Jammu and Kashmir's Himalayan region to extreme weather events like flash floods, landslides, avalanches, etc. The tragic incident underscores the existential threat posed by climate change to the fragile environment of the Himalayan range and its ecological balance.

Donald Trump Suggests "Best Way" To End Russia-Ukraine War After Meeting Putin In Alaska

(Gns). The war in Ukraine has once again taken center stage in U.S. foreign policy - this time through Donald Trump's lens of deal-making. What began as a push for an immediate ceasefire has now evolved into something more ambitious: a comprehensive peace agreement.

Trump's shift came after his Alaska summit with Vladimir Putin - a meeting that produced no dramatic breakthrough, but reshaped the former president's strategy. On his flight home, Trump reached out to Volodymyr Zelensky and key European leaders, arguing that ceasefires are little more than "temporary pauses" in violence. If the war is to end, he suggested, it must be through direct

negotiation and a lasting settlement.

Donald Trump is now pursuing a comprehensive peace agreement for the

Germany have shown receptive interest, and Zelensky is preparing for a visit to Washington.

Not everyone shares

calling Trump's promise of U.S. security guarantees to Kyiv a meaningful step forward.

The heart of the debate lies in Putin's proposal: Ukraine would surrender Donetsk and Lugansk outright, while frontlines in two other contested regions would be frozen. Trump didn't dismiss it. For Kyiv, however, the idea of conceding Donbas remains unthinkable.

Zelensky in the Hot Seat All eyes now turn to Zelensky's upcoming visit to Washington. Last time he met Trump, sparks flew over Ukrainian gratitude for U.S. aid. This time, Trump has made it clear: Zelensky must lead the negotiations himself, though with Europe standing alongside. Paris, London.



war in Ukraine following a summit with Vladimir Putin, aiming for direct negotiation and a lasting settlement; however, European leaders like Kaja Kallas have voiced skepticism, while countries like

Trump's optimism. Kaja Kallas, the EU's foreign policy chief, accused Putin of playing for time, with no real intention of ending the war. Yet Germany's Chancellor Friedrich Merz struck a different chord,

EC Rejects Opposition's Voter Fraud Allegations, Cites Missed 'Claims And Objections' Window

(Gns). The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Saturday dismissed allegations of voter fraud in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, stating that the Opposition had missed the proper window to raise objections regarding the electoral rolls.

In its press release, the poll body emphasized that the correct stage to flag errors was during the "Claims and Objections" period, which takes place ahead of every election.

The Election Commission of India (ECI) refuted claims of voter fraud in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, explaining that the window for raising objections regarding electoral rolls had closed. The ECI stated that the appropriate time to address roll errors was during the Claims and Objections

period, which precedes each election.

"Recently, some political parties and individuals are raising issues about errors in Electoral Rolls, including



those prepared in the past," the Commission said. "The appropriate time to raise any issue with the Electoral Rolls would have been during the Claims and Objections period of that phase. That is precisely why Electoral Rolls are shared with all political parties and candidates. Had

these concerns been raised through the proper channels at the right time, the concerned SDM/EROs could have corrected genuine mistakes before elec-

Reaffirming its commitment to transparency, the ECI stressed that electoral roll preparation always follows established law, rules, and guidelines. The body also pointed out that "some political parties" and their booth-level agents (BLAs) had failed to properly review the rolls and flag errors in time.

"ECI continues to welcome the scrutiny of Electoral Rolls by Political Parties and any Elector. It will help SDMs/EROs remove errors and further purify the Electoral Rolls, which has always been the objective of the Commission," the statement concluded.

The Commission explained that after the publication of draft electoral rolls, both digital and physical copies are circulated among political parties and also made available on the ECI website. Electors and parties are then given a full one-month period to file

claims and objections before the final rolls are published. Once finalized, copies are again provided to all recognized parties and uploaded online.

What set this incident apart was the note Shivam left behind. In stark, haunting words, he wrote: "If you are reading this, I am dead. My death is my own decision. Nobody is involved in this. I have been planning this for a year." He admitted

that he had not attended classes for two years and even asked the university to refund the unused fees to his family.

Shivam Dey, a 24-year-old BTech student at Sharda University in Greater Noida, was found deceased in his hostel room on Friday, with a note indicating his death was a personal decision and criticizing India's education system; this follows a recent incident involving a dental student at the same university, prompting investigations and discussions on student well-being.

Sharda University student suicide A Cry Against the

Sharda University Student Commits Suicide; Death Sparks Questions on Education System

(Gns). A pall of grief has descended on Sharda University in Greater Noida after the death of 24-year-old BTech student Shivam Dey, who was found hanging in his hostel room on Friday. The young man, originally from Madhubani in Bihar, had been living in the HMR hostel. Police rushed to the spot after receiving the information and later sent the body for a post-mortem examination. A forensic team also inspected the room.

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System The note was not only a farewell but also a critique. Shivam voiced frustration at India's education system, remarking that unless it is fixed, the country cannot progress. He also expressed a wish for his organs to be donated - a final gesture of contribution even in death.

His family, devastated by the news, questioned how the university allowed two years of absence without ever alerting them.

A Pattern of Tragedy

This is not the first such case at Sharda University. Just last month, a second-year dental student took



her life in the women's hostel, leaving behind a note alleging humiliation and harassment by faculty. The incident triggered protests on campus and led to the arrest of two staff members.

The recurrence of such tragedies has raised urgent concerns about student well-being, institutional responsibility, and the crushing pressures within the education system.

Investigation Underway

Police have confirmed that the case is under investigation and assured that every angle will be examined. Meanwhile, the incident has once again stirred a debate on the mental health crisis among students and the reforms urgently needed in higher education.

Indian Army Band Mesmerizes Crowd at Lulu Mall, Lucknow

The vibrant sounds of patriotism and martial music filled the air yesterday as the esteemed Indian Army Band delivered a captivating performance at Lulu Mall, Lucknow. The event, held in the mall's atrium, drew a massive crowd of shoppers and onlookers who were left enthralled by the band's exceptional display of musical prowess and discipline.

The performance, a part of the Army's ongoing outreach program, aimed to foster a stronger connection between the armed forces and the civilian population. The band, comprising highly skilled musicians, presented a diverse repertoire of tunes, including martial melodies, patriotic songs, and popular Bollywood numbers, showcasing the versatility and talent within the Indian Army.

"We are honored to have had the opportunity to perform for the people of Lucknow," said the bandmaster. "Our music is a reflection of the courage,



sacrifice, and dedication of every soldier serving our nation. We hope that our performance today has inspired a sense of pride and patriotism in the hearts of the audience."

The audience responded with thunderous applause and cheers after each piece, with many people singing along to the patriotic tunes. The event served as a powerful reminder of the armed

forces' unwavering commitment to the nation and its people. Lulu Mall management expressed their gratitude to the Indian Army for the memorable performance. "It was a privilege to host the Indian Army Band at our mall. Their performance was not only a treat for the ears but also a source of great inspiration. We thank them for their service and for bringing such a unique and patriotic

experience to our patrons," said Mr. Sameer Verma, Regional Manager, Lulu Mall, Lucknow.

The event concluded with a standing ovation, leaving a lasting impression on everyone present. The performance at Lulu Mall is another testament to the Indian Army's commitment to engaging with the community and strengthening the bonds of national unity.

ADG Agra Zone stuck in the crowd of Mangala Aarti of Bankebihariji Maharaj

Mathura. This time a different scene was seen in the Mangala Aarti, which was held once a year on the festival of Janmashtami at the Bankebihari temple in Vrindavan. Only 600 people were allowed in the Aarti. Common devotees were not admitted to Aarti. Only pass holders reached, but policemen were crowded during this period. It is clearly visible in the video that went viral on social media that there was a crowd of policemen in the temple. ADG Agra Zone and people accompanying him barely came out in the crowd. Even a woman's

health suddenly deteriorated by getting caught in the



In the video released on social media, policemen trying to take out the crowd stuck ADG

crowd. Other women around somehow handled

them. At the time of Aarti, this time there were such

Kulshrestha also got caught in the crowd, then the policemen took them out. Local people and devotees are seeing resentment about this incident. He says that Mangala Aarti is a religious and spiritual event, which devotees from all over the country and abroad come to Vrindavan to see. In such a situation, common devotees were stopped in the name of security and the crowd of police was in Aarti. This is not right. The government is ending VIP culture, but not happening in temples.

Folk art and Krishna Leelas lived Braj culture

Folk artists gave their artistic performances on the forums on Sunday at the three-day Sri Krishnotsav,

The devotees who have become different devotees, the initiative of the Uttar Pradesh Braj Tirtha Vikas Parishad,

Vice President Shailzakant Mishra honored artists

Mathura. The birthplace of Lord Krishna, Mathura and Leela Site Vrindavan Gokul Nandgaon Govardhan Barsana has created a splash of Shri Krishnotsav for three days. During this time, amazing enthusiasm is visible in the people. People from abroad are immersed in folk art with the spiritual cultural heritage of Braj. Here folk artists here are delighting the devotees by demonstrating Braj culture. At the initiative of the

Uttar Pradesh Braj Tirtha Vikas Parishad to drench the devotees in the euphoria of the birth anniversary of Lord Krishna, more than 400 artists are making a splash with cultural pre-

is happening, and somewhere the wonderful enjoyment of Raas is raining. Different pastimes are being staged on different forums. If there is humor on a stage, then the pres-



Vice President Shailzakant Mishra honoring artists

sentations in Toli Braj, which is scoring in the wonderful splash of Braj culture with the birthplace of Shri Krishna. Somewhere Makhan Leela

entation of Natya dance art on someone continued to express people. Prior to Janmashtami, the procession of 250 artists was a confluence of folk arts of

UP Gau Seva Commission, Patanjali join hands for rural sustainability

(Gns). In a major initiative to boost Uttar Pradesh's rural economy, the state Gau Seva Commission has joined hands with Patanjali Yogpeeth to promote cow protection, Panchgavya products, natural farming, and biogas expansion across the state.

The Gau Seva Commission entered into a partnership with Patanjali Yogpeeth following discussions between Commission Chairman Shyam Bihari Gupta and Yoga Guru Baba Ramdev and Patanjali Co-Founder Acharya Balkrishna in Haridwar.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath firmly believes that "the village cow is the foundation of the village's progress." To advance this vision, Patanjali Yogpeeth has pledged full technical support to the state's initia-

tives.

Under this partnership, cow shelters will no longer

Ramdev is also expected to visit Uttar Pradesh soon to meet CM Yogi Adityanath



remain just centres of conservation, but will be transformed into hubs of rural industry, driving the production of Panchgavya products and biogas. Baba

and finalise the roadmap.

According to Dr Anurag Srivastava, OSD of the Gau Seva Commission here on Sunday, 2 to 10 cow shelters in each of the

75 districts will be developed as large model centers. Open sheds, fencing, and security arrangements will be created in cow sanctuaries to ensure the free movement of cows.

This initiative will also unlock sales under a 50 per cent commission model. Patanjali Yogpeeth will further support the programme through training, quality control, formulation, certification, and licensing.

In addition, advanced technologies such as geofencing, cow tagging, photo mapping, and fodder inventory tracking will be introduced in cow shelters. Natural inputs like neem, cow urine, and vermicompost will also be supplied to every village, helping farmers reduce costs, improve soil fertility, and strengthen environmental sustainability.

Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian to visit Armenia and Belarus next week

(Gns). The announcement was made by Mehdi Sanaei, political advisor to Iran's President, in a post on the social media platform X.

Sanaei said improving bilateral relations with Armenia and Belarus, especially in the trade area, and signing cooperation documents would be on the President's agenda during the visits, adding that the trips had been scheduled for late June but were postponed.

Pezeshkian's visit to Armenia is expected to take place as Armenia and Azerbaijan, which had been at loggerheads over the mountainous Nagorno-Karabakh region since 1988, signed on August 8 a peace agreement in Washington.

Included in the peace agreement is a deal to create a transit corridor across southern Armenia, with the

project's exclusive development rights granted to the United States, Xinhua news agency reported.

opments in the Caucasus with senior Russian and Armenian diplomats.

In two separate meet-



Iran has repeatedly voiced opposition to the transregional players' presence in the region and warned against any changes to the region's geopolitics and historical borders.

On Wednesday, Iran's Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi exchanged views on the latest devel-

ings with Igor Khovaev, Russia's special representative for the normalization of ties between Armenia and Azerbaijan, and Vahan Kostanyan, Armenia's Deputy Foreign Minister. Araghchi also discussed bilateral relations with the two countries, according to statements released by the Iranian Foreign Ministry.

In both meetings, Araghchi underlined Iran's principled position of supporting the establishment of peace between Armenia and Azerbaijan, highlighting the necessity to peacefully resolve regional issues through efforts by the countries of the region and in the absence of foreign interference.

Speaking to Khovaev, he called for using regional mechanisms to resolve regional issues, promoting cooperation and convergence in the region, and guaranteeing the security and collective interests of countries in the Caucasus.

Araghchi said Iran and Russia adopted similar positions on important regional and international issues, stressing the need to continue and promote bilateral consultations and cooperation to safeguard their shared interests.