

Security beefed up in Delhi ahead of I-Day celebrations

NEW DELHI, Aug 12 (PTI)

DELHI Police has beefed up security arrangements by deploying over 3,000 traffic police officers, more than 10,000 police personnel and 700 AI-based facial recognition cameras in the national capital ahead of Independence Day celebrations.

Additional police teams and paramilitary forces have been deployed at various locations including IGI Airport, railway stations, bus stands, malls and markets. On the occasion of Independence Day, more than 3,000 traffic police personnel will be deployed to regulate the traffic and will be deployed at major junctions across the national capital, and also on roads connecting the border to the Red Fort.



Indian Army soldiers patrol near the Line of Control (LOC) ahead of Independence Day, in Rajouri district, on Monday.. (PTI)

“Multiple layers of security arrangements will be in place in Red Fort. We have already procured 700 AI-based facial recognition CCTV cameras to

ensure robust security arrangements for Independence Day,” a senior police officer said.

Police said that these cameras will have high-resolution

pan-tilt-zoom features, allowing police to identify anyone from a distance. These cameras will be installed in and around the fort. The cameras with AI-based facial recognition and video analytic systems will ensure foolproof security, the officer said, adding that more than 10,000 security personnel will be deployed at the Mughal-era fort when Modi addresses the nation.

Police will also use a smartphone-based application to verify the identity of people coming to attend the event at the Red Fort, an officer said.

In addition, snipers, elite SWAT commandos, kite catchers and sharpshooters will be positioned at strategic locations for the security of the prime minister and other VVIP guests, police said.

'Mitra Shakti': India-Lanka joint military drill begins

NEW DELHI, Aug 12 (PTI)

A JOINT exercise between the militaries of India and Sri Lanka got underway in the island nation on Monday to facilitate interoperability and sharing of best practices, the Defence Ministry said.

The 10th edition of the India-Sri Lanka Joint Military Exercise 'Mitra Shakti' at the Army Training School, Maduru Oya, will be conducted from August 12-25. It will enhance the joint military capability to undertake counter-insurgency operations in a sub-conventional scenario under the UN mandate, the Ministry said.

Joint exercise 'Mitra Shakti' is an annual training event conducted alternatively in India and Sri Lanka. Its last edition was conducted in Pune in November 2023. "The aim of the joint exercise is to enhance the joint military capability of both sides to undertake counter-insurgency operations in a sub-conventional scenario under Chapter VII of the United Nations Mandate. The exercise will focus on operations in the semi-urban environment," the statement said.

The Indian contingent, comprising 106 personnel, is being represented by a Battalion of Rajputana Rifles along with personnel from other arms and services. The Sri Lankan contingent is being represented by personnel from the Gajaba Regiment of the Sri Lankan Army.

Ukrainian military is operating inside Russia's Kursk region: Zelenskyy

KYIV, Aug 12 (AP)

UKRAINIAN President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Monday confirmed for the first time that Ukrainian military forces are operating inside Russia's Kursk region.

Zelenskyy made the statement in a post on Telegram praising the country's soldiers and commanders "for their steadfastness and decisive actions." He did not elaborate further on the military incursion. He suggested that Ukraine would offer humanitarian assistance in the region, saying that government officials were instructed to prepare a

humanitarian plan for the territory.

Ukraine's top military commander says his forces now control 1,000 square kilometers (386 square miles) of Russia's neighbouring Kursk region, the first time a Ukrainian military official has publicly commented on the gains of the lightning incursion that has embarrassed the Kremlin.

General Oleksandr Syrskyi made the statement in a video posted Monday to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's Telegram channel. In the video, he briefed the President on the front-line situation.

FS Misri meets Nepalese counterpart, discusses ties

■ By Shirish B Pradhan
KATHMANDU, Aug 12 (PTI)

FOREIGN Secretary Vikram Misri on Monday held wide-ranging discussions with his Nepalese counterpart Sewa Lamsal and the two top diplomats reviewed the progress made in various bilateral initiatives and developmental projects and discussed opportunities for further collaboration. Misri's two-day visit is the first by the Indian foreign secretary to Nepal after the formation of the new Government led by Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli last month.

"Their wide-ranging discussions covered various aspects of the multifaceted cooperation



Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri calls on Nepal Foreign Secretary Sewa Lamsal and Foreign Minister Arzu Rana Deuba on Monday. (ANI)

between India and Nepal," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said in a statement. It said both Foreign Secretaries



reviewed the progress made in various bilateral initiatives and developmental projects and discussed opportunities for fur-

ther collaboration.

"Both sides committed to deepening bilateral cooperation and addressing shared challenges," the Nepalese Foreign Ministry wrote in a post on X. A statement issued by the Nepalese Foreign Ministry said the two sides reviewed the overall aspects of Nepal and India relations, including cooperation in the areas of energy and power sector, physical and digital connectivity, agriculture, tourism trade and transit, and people-to-people relations.

The two Foreign Secretaries agreed to continue advance engagements between the two sides, including through regular bilateral mechanisms, it

said. Misri also called on Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Urban Development Prakash Man Singh, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance Bishnu Prasad Paudel, Home Minister Ramesh Lekhak and Foreign Minister Dr Arzu Rana Deuba. "Ways to further strengthen India-Nepal cooperation in a variety of mutually beneficial areas were discussed during these meetings," the MEA said.

During the various engagements, both sides affirmed the close and friendly relations between India and Nepal which are deeply rooted in historical, cultural, civilisational and people-to-people ties, it said.

Hindenburg fails to dampen Adani stocks

MUMBAI, Aug 12 (PTI)

ADANI group stocks on Monday shrugged off initial losses resulting from Hindenburg Research allegations against market regulator, as a rise in broader market helped two of the group companies end in green.

Hindenburg on Saturday evening alleged that a conflict of interest is preventing SEBI chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch from doing a thor-

ough probe into allegations against Adani group. Buch as well as Adani group issued strong denials on Sunday.

Shares of Adani Enterprises Ltd, the group's flagship, slid as much as 5.5 per cent in early Mumbai trading and Adani Energy Solutions Ltd plunged 17 per cent as all of the conglomerate's 10 stocks traded lower. But the stocks pared bulk of the losses during the day. At the close of trade, Adani Green Energy Ltd as well as

Ambuja Cement Ltd ended in green.

Taken together, the Adani stocks lost Rs 22,064 crore in market capitalisation. Adani Enterprises ended with a loss of 1.09 per cent while Adani Energy Solutions closed 3.7 per cent lower.

At close of trading in Mumbai, Adani Wilmar had slumped 4.14 per cent over Friday's closing price, Adani Total Gas dropped by 4.03 per cent, NDTV declined by 3.08 per cent, and Adani Ports

dipped 2.02 per cent. ACC ended with a loss of 1.55 per cent and Adani Power 0.65 per cent on the BSE.

However, two of the group firms bounced back, with Ambuja Cements climbing 0.55 per cent and Adani Green Energy rising by 1.12 per cent.

During the early trade, shares of Adani Total Gas tanked 13.39 per cent, NDTV plunged 11 per cent and Adani Power dropped 10.94 per cent. Stocks of Adani

Adani Green Energy Ltd, Ambuja Cement Ltd end in green

Green Energy had declined 6.96 per cent, Adani Wilmar slumped 6.49 per cent, Adani Ports dived 4.95 per cent, Ambuja Cements skidded 2.53 per cent and ACC dipped 2.42 per cent.

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Congress wants stock market to crash: R ID