

The Democratic News

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Millions of Arbaeen pilgrims have embarked on long walking journeys toward the holy city of Karbala in Iraq to commemorate forty days after the martyrdom anniversary of Imam Hussein (AS) known as Arbaeen.

139 Indians Released from Russian Army, MEA Pushes for Return of Others

MEA says 139 Indian nationals have been released from the Russian Army. India is working to bring back the remaining Indians and has again warned against risky overseas job offers.



The Democratic News
New Delhi: 31 July

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Friday, July 31, confirmed that 139 Indian nationals have been released from the Russian Army so far. The government said it is continuing efforts to secure the release of the remaining

two dozen Indians who are reportedly still serving in the Russian military. MEA Confirms Release of 139 Indians Speaking during a bi-weekly media briefing in New Delhi, MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said the government has been consistently engaging with the Russian authorities. MEA Warns Against

Risky Overseas Job Offers The MEA once again cautioned Indian citizens against accepting suspicious overseas employment offers. Randhir Jaiswal said:202 Indians Believed to Have Joined Russian Armed Forces The Ministry said in December that 202 Indian nationals were believed to have been recruited into the Russian armed forces. Earlier Advisory Against Joining Russian Army In September 2025, the MEA issued a strong advisory urging Indian nationals not to join the Russian Army, following reports that several Indians who travelled to Moscow were being deployed in combat roles in the Ukraine war.

DEMAND FOR IMMEDIATE UN COMMISSION TO INVESTIGATE ALLEGED ATTACKS ON KARBALA

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31 July

The Imam Mahdi (AJ) Basij Society of Ali Naqipalam, Andhra Pradesh, has sent a letter to the United Nations Secretary-General calling for the immediate establishment of an independent commission of inquiry to investigate the alleged military attacks on holy sites and pilgrims in Karbala, identify those responsible, and ensure the protection of the city's holy shrines and pilgrims. According to a report by Hawza News Agency, the Imam Mahdi (AS) Basij Society, Ali Naqipalam, Andhra Pradesh, submitted the

protest letter to the UN Secretary-General on July 30, 2026. In the letter, the organization expressed grave concern over the alleged military attacks on holy sites and pilgrims in Karbala and urged the United Nations to establish an independent and transparent commission to investigate the incident. The letter states that the Imam Mahdi (AS) Basij Society is committed to promoting world peace, protecting religious freedom, and preserving sacred cultural heritage. In line with this mission, the organization conveyed its deep concern to the United Nations regarding the recent events in Karbala.According to the



letter, the area surrounding the Imam Husayn (AS) Shrine was allegedly targeted during the reported military attacks, and

there were also reports of damage to the shrine of Hazrat Awn ibn Abdullah (AS). The organization strongly condemned the

alleged attacks, describing them as violations of human values, religious freedom, and respect for sacred places.



Maulana Syed Ali Naqi Zaidi, the representative of Ayathullah Shaikh mohd yaqoobi in India, is these days deeply engaged in serving the pilgrims of Imam Hussein (AS) day and night at the Mawkib established in Karbala-e-Mualla.At present, Karbala-e-Mualla has become the spiritual centre of the world, where a magnificent global gathering takes place on the occasion of Arbaeen. More than approximately 20 million pilgrims from across the world participate in this grand gathering.To serve and welcome these mourners and pilgrims, the people of Iraq, without any distinction, dedicate themselves to serving them day and night. Their spirit of sacrifice, love, hospitality and brotherhood is truly an unparalleled example.

DONATION THEFT PROTEST: BJP SLAMS PAPPU YADAV OVER 'SAFFRON ROBES'; OPPOSITION HITS BACK

Speaking to IANS within the Parliament complex, BJP MP Sakshi Maharaj said: "From the country's freedom till today, the Congress, and now Priyanka Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, and the entire Opposition have continuously insulted sants, saffron, and Sanatan.

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A row erupted after Purnia MP Pappu Yadav wore saffron robes during a protest at the Parliament premises against the embezzlement of donations made at Ayodhya's Ram Temple, with the BJP calling it an "insult to Sanatan" and accusing the Congress and the Samajwadi Party of playing a role in it. The Opposition on its part hit out at the ruling BJP and asked what major action had been taken against the main accused in the donation theft case. Speaking to IANS within the Parliament complex, BJP MP Sakshi Maharaj said: "From the country's freedom till today, the Congress, and now Priyanka Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, and the entire Opposition have continuously insulted sants, saffron, and Sanatan. The way they tried to insult Sanatan by bringing Lord Ram



and donations into their protest and acting like 'Kalmemi'...the people of the country are watching and will teach them a lesson in the next election." Union Minister Giriraj Singh accused the Congress and Samajwadi Party of "dressing up" MP Pappu Yadav as a

sadhu and "calling him 'chanda chor'." "They made him wear saffron robes. It is unfortunate for the country and for political parties like the Congress and the Samajwadi Party, which, for the sake of votes, have worked to defame Sanatan. Sanatan will respond to this, and this is an offence that we will never forgive," he told reporters outside Parliament House. While maintaining that there is no objection to wearing saffron robes, BJP MP Dinesh Sharma said: "If you wear the attire of a sant and then run around claiming that sants steal money or donations, it is an insult to the tradition." "This kind of indecent behaviour cannot take place in the Parliament... Even if you (Pappu Yadav) are with the Congress does not mean you can oppose Sanatan," he remarked.

COCKROACH JANTA PARTY COMES TO RUCHIKA'S DEFENCE AFTER FIR BOOKED

Abhijeet Dipke questioned if there are two different laws in this country, one for the youth and the other for the BJP and its ministers.

Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) founder Abhijeet Dipke on Friday, July 31, criticised the FIR against a 25-year-old Ruchika Singh for making "objectionable" remarks against Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He asked if an FIR will be booked against the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) IT Cell as well. "If you are filing a case for using profanities, then when will a case be registered against the BJP IT Cell that has been using abuses against girls online? They never respected women and proudly wrote in their bio

'followed by PM Modi.' Aise logon ne ladkiyon ko gandhi gandhi gaaliya di thi (Such people hurled filthy abuses at the girls)," said Dipke in a video message.He pulled up BJP MP Ramesh Bidhuri's remarks against MP Danish Ali in Lok Sabha in 2023, saying the issue is not just about the BJP IT Cell. "Baat bas BJP IT Cell tak nahi hai, inke member of parliament Ramesh Bidhuri ji inhone kin shabdo ka istemal kiya tha fellow member of parliament ke liye sab ko yaad hai. UP CM Yogi

Adityanath unhe ne ANI cameraperson tha unhone uske liye bhi gaaliya di thi (It is not just about the BJP IT Cell; everyone remembers the language their MP Ramesh Bidhuri used against a fellow MP. UP CM Yogi Adityanath also hurled abuses at an ANI cameraperson)," he recalled."Why is there a case being registered?" he said. The CJP founder said that if cases started getting registered for hurling abuses, then most of the FIRs would be lodged against the BJP IT Cell and BJP ministers.

REVANTH FLAGS MIDDLE EAST JOB SCAMS TARGETING TELANGANA WORKERS

Hyderabad: Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Friday, July 31, expressed concern that a large number of workers from North Telangana who seek employment in the Middle Eastern countries are often falling prey to fraud by agents. He asked Telangana Overseas Manpower Company (TOMCOM) officials to enter into agreements with manpower agencies in the destination countries to assist the workers, besides helping the aspirants in obtaining passports. Reddy said such agreements would enable TOMCOM to intervene, hold discussions, and ensure justice for the workers in case they face any difficulties abroad, an official release said. Reddy, who held a meeting on the Skill, Human Capital and Knowledge Training Initiatives (SHAkti) department, said TOMCOM would help the aspirants in providing training, organising job fairs, facilitating passport services and securing good job opportunities abroad. He directed officials to collect the details of agents who facilitate overseas migration of workers and to register the particulars of every individual sent abroad by them. A former IFS officer would be appointed as the CEO of TOMCOM to oversee these operations, the release said. He directed officials to collect the details of agents who facilitate overseas migration of workers and to register the particulars of every individual sent abroad by them.



Iran Army targets US Ahmad al-Jaber airbase in Kuwait

The Iranian Army says it has targeted key facilities at US-run Ahmad al-Jaber Air Base in Kuwait, as newly analyzed satellite imagery also points to fresh damage at another US-operated base in the Persian Gulf state.

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TEHRAN: 31 July

The Iranian Army says it has targeted key facilities at US-run Ahmad al-Jaber Air Base in Kuwait, as newly analyzed satellite imagery also points to fresh damage at another US-operated base in the Persian Gulf state. The Army's Public Relations Office said the strike marked the 27th phase of Operation

Sa'eqeh and was carried out in response to recent US military attacks on Iran, including an airstrike on a residential home on Qeshm Island.According to the statement, loitering drones targeted aircraft shelters, satellite communications systems and equipment storage facilities at Ahmad al-Jaber Air Base. It described the installation as a major hub for US air and surveillance operations and a vital center

for the logistical support of American forces. The retaliation comes as the US has been targeting southern Iranian provinces since earlier in July after violating the terms of the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding.Tehran has responded with repeated missile and drone attacks targeting US-operated military facilities across the region under Operation Nasr 2 and Operation Sa'eqeh (Lightning).