

THE INDIAN MAIL

HYDERABAD **FRIDAY, 17 JULY 2026** VOL : 16 No : 322 PAGES : 12 ₹ 4 PUBLISHED FROM HYDERABAD & VIJAYAWADA



India's improving macros, rupee stability contribute significantly to pivot in FPI flows
The changes made by the government in taxation of debt investment have made debt investment in India... **07**



Indiramma houses must be completed according to the action plan : District Collector Garima Agrawal
District Collector Garima Agrawal directed officials to complete the construction of Indiramma houses in accordance with... **02**



FIFA WC: 'My head is a bit fuzzy with disappointment,' says Bellingham after semi-final heartbreak
England midfielder Jude Bellingham admitted he was 'gutted' after the Three Lions suffered a heartbreaking 2-1... **12**



Golconda Bonalu begins with traditional fervour

Hyderabad, July 16 : The historic Golconda Fort came alive with spiritual fervour and vibrant colours on Thursday, marking the grand commencement of the month-long Ashada Bonalu festival. The celebration began with the traditional presentation of the first bonam to the deity at the Sri Jagadambika temple atop the fort. Minister for Forest, Environment and Endowments Konda Surekha participated in the inaugural celebrations of the Golconda Fort Sri Jagadambika Ammavari Bonalu festival at Langar Houz Crossroads in Hyderabad. The Minister was accorded a grand welcome with traditional Purna Kumbha by temple priests amid Vedic chants upon her arrival at the venue. Along with Hyderabad in-charge Minister

Ponnam Prabhakar, she offered silk clothes to the presiding deity. Marking the commencement of the Bonalu festivities, the Ministers participated in the traditional rituals by offering the first Bonam to the goddess and fulfilling their vows amidst the rhythmic beats of drums, performances by Pothurajus, devotional dances by Shiva Sattulu, and vibrant cultural programmes presented by artists.



Sitarama project to be completed on priority: Bhatti

Hyderabad, July 16 : Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka made it clear that the People's government is moving forward with special focus on maximising the utilisation of the waters flowing in the Godavari River through both gravity and lift irrigation.

He was speaking to the media after conducting a field-level inspection of the Sitarama Lift Irrigation Scheme and the Seethamma Sagar multipurpose project in Bhadradi Kothagudem district on Thursday, along with Ministers Uttam Kumar Reddy and Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy.



KTR alleges Congress betrayed every section of society

Hyderabad, July 16 : Bharat Rashtra Samithi working president K.T. Rama Rao said the Congress government has completely lost the confidence of the people and will be remembered in history as a government that invited massive public resentment even before completing half of its term. He alleged that the Congress had transformed itself into a deceitful government by failing to implement the promises it made before the elections and betraying every section of society. That is precisely why every section of the people is now strongly opposing the Congress government, he said.



Minister Srihari received 100+ public petitions at Gandhi Bhavan 'face-to-face' prog

Hyderabad, July 16 : Telangana Minister for Animal Husbandry, Youth Services and Sports Vakiti Srihari on Thursday received over 100 public representations during a 'Face-to-Face' programme here at Gandhi Bhavan, directing the officials to take immediate action on grievances after speaking to them over the phone. The petitions covered issues per-

taining to Indiramma housing, land disputes, and grievances of employees and students. The minister said the Congress government was committed to ensuring justice for every eligible citizen and that the outreach programme was aimed at providing quick solutions to public issues.

Governor Nazeer calls on Pawan Kalyan

Hyderabad, July 16 : Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan has been suffering from shoulder pain for some time. It is well known that he underwent surgery on his right shoulder (rotator cuff) at the Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital in Mumbai.

Following the surgery, Pawan is currently resting at his residence in Hyderabad. Against this backdrop, AP Governor Justice Abdul Nazeer called on Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan on Thursday. The Governor visited Pawan's residence in Hyderabad to inquire about his health condition. He advised him to strictly follow the doctors' instructions and expressed the hope that he would recover quickly and resume his duties in full health. Governor Nazeer also visited the library at Pawan's residence and examined several books there. He discussed works by authors, scholars, and public policy experts. At Pawan's request, the Governor autographed a book.



YSRCP govt's vendetta drove away Amara Raja project to Telangana, claims Nara Lokesh



Amaravati, July 16 : Andhra Pradesh Minister for Education, IT and Electronics Nara Lokesh on Thursday expressed regret over the treatment meted out to the Amara Raja Group during the previous YSRCP government, alleging Andhra Pradesh had lost a historic industrial opportunity due to the "harassment and intimidation" faced by one of its most respected home-grown enterprises. Reacting to the inauguration of Amara Raja's new Customer Qualification Plant at the Divitipalli Giga Corridor in Telangana's Mahabubnagar district, Minister Lokesh said Andhra Pradesh owed an apology to Amara Raja Chairman Galla Jayadev and his family. "Over four decades, Amara Raja has been more than just one of Andhra Pradesh's greatest industrial success stories.



Jagan asks YSRCP MPs to raise public issues in Parliament

Amaravati, July 16: Former Chief Minister and YSR Congress Party President Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy said governance in Andhra Pradesh has completely collapsed under Chandrababu Naidu and directed YSRCP MPs to strongly

raise people's issues, corruption, illegal cases, farmer distress, employee problems, rising debt and scams in both Houses of Parliament during the Monsoon Session beginning July 20. Jagan chaired the YSR Congress Parliamentary Party meeting at the party's central office in Tadepalli to discuss the strategy to be adopted in Parliament. The meeting was attended by YSRCP Parliamentary Party leader and Rajya Sabha MP V.Y. Subba Reddy, Rajya Sabha MPs Meda Raghunath Reddy and Golla Baburao, YSRCP floor leader in Lok Sabha Peddireddy Mithun Reddy.

tral office in Tadepalli to discuss the strategy to be adopted in Parliament. The meeting was attended by YSRCP Parliamentary Party leader and Rajya Sabha MP V.Y. Subba Reddy, Rajya Sabha MPs Meda Raghunath Reddy and Golla Baburao, YSRCP floor leader in Lok Sabha Peddireddy Mithun Reddy.

PM to inaugurate redeveloped Hi-Tech city Railway Station Virtually

Hyderabad, July 16 : Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the redeveloped Hi-Tech City Railway Station in Hyderabad through video conferencing on Friday as part of the nationwide inauguration of 75 railway stations under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme. During his visit to Haryana, Chandigarh and Punjab.



Indiramma houses must be completed according to the action plan : District Collector Garima Agrawal

Rajanna Sircilla, July 16 : District Collector Garima Agrawal directed officials to complete the construction of Indiramma houses in accordance with the action plan, inspect progress at

the field level, and accelerate the pace of work. On Thursday, she held a teleconference with Housing Department officials, municipal commissioners, MPDOs, and other officials to review the progress of

Indiramma house construction and the ‘Vana Mahotsavam’ (tree-planting festival). The Collector inquired about the construction status across all mandals, as well as in the Sircilla and Vemulawada municipalities.

Housing Department officials and MPDOs briefed the Collector on the number of houses sanctioned, those currently under various stages of construction, and those already completed. She emphasized that of-

ficials must not show negligence in the sanctioning process and ordered them to ensure that houses.



Harish slams Congress govt over rising power outages, coal shortages

Hyderabad, July 16 : Former minister and BRS deputy floor leader T. Harish Rao on Wednesday accused the Congress government of pushing Telangana towards a severe power crisis due to its lack of foresight and failure in governance.

Addressing a press conference at Telangana Bhavan, he said unannounced power cuts had become a daily occurrence across the State,

causing immense hardship to farmers, students, traders and people from all sections of society. Harish Rao said that during the BRS government, uninterrupted power supply had become the norm, whereas under the Congress government, uninterrupted electricity itself had become news. He pointed out that farmers staged protests in front of electricity substations in 11 districts on Monday, expressing their anger over fre-

quent power disruptions.

Harish Rao alleged that the crisis was entirely man-made and blamed the Congress government for its failure to maintain adequate coal stocks for thermal power stations. He recalled that the BRS had repeatedly warned the government, through presentations and supporting data, that thermal plants were facing a serious shortage of coal despite the government’s claim that 40 lakh tonnes of coal were available.

According to Harish Rao, major thermal power stations, including Kothagudem, Kakatiya, Bhadradri and Yadadri, have coal reserves sufficient for only six to seven days. He said power generation had already stopped in Units 1 and 4 of the Yadadri Thermal Power Plant due to coal shortages, while generation at the Bhadradri Thermal Power Station had also been affected because of poor maintenance.

Every student must achieve their goal



Rajanna Sircilla (Vemulawada), July 16 : District Collector Garima Agrawal expressed her hope that students would make the best use of the facilities provided by the government and achieve their desired goals. She attended a uniform distribution program as the chief guest at the Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) in Marripalli, Vemulawada Rural Mandal, on Thursday and handed over the uniforms to the students. On this occasion, she inspected the quality and expiry dates of items in the school storeroom, including rice, vegetables, fruits, ghee, and other provisions. She also examined the menu chart and checked the food items being prepared. She inquired about the current educational status of former students who had excelled while studying at the school. Speaking on the occasion, District Collector Garima Agrawal urged every student to set a goal and work towards achieving it. She noted that while many compete for admission to residential schools, these students have secured a valuable opportunity to study there.

SHRIRAM FINANCE LIMITED
Registered Office: Sri.Towers, Plot No.14A, South Phase, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai-600032, Administrative office: 6th Floor (level 2), Building No.Q2, Arium Q parc, Gen 4/1, TTC, Thane Belapur Road, Ghansoli, Navi Mumbai-400710.

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE
Where as, the undersigned being the authorised officer of **Shriram Finance Limited**, (Shriram City Union Finance Limited, amalgamated with Shriram Transport Finance Company Limited, subsequently Shriram Transport Company Limited name Changed as **Shriram Finance Limited**, by it's Incorporation dt.30-11-2022) under the provisions of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (said Act) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 (said Rules) issued demand notices to the Borrowers details of which are mentioned in the table below to repay the amount mentioned in the said demand notices. The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken **Symbolic Possession** of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said Rules, on this **13th July, 2026**.

Borrower Name and Address
1) Shaik Shasher Pasha @ Alias Shaik Shamsheer Pasha @ Alias Shaik Shamsheed Pasha, S/O: Nanne Pasha, Age: 46 Years, Occ: Self Employee, R/O: H No: 3-88/1, Main Road, Kotha Gundlapally Village, M Yadagirigutta Mandal, Yadadri-Bhongiri Dist, Pincode: 508115, B/O: Proprietor Of Bharath Washing Center, Yadagirigutta V&M, Yadadri-Bhongiri Dist, 508115. 2) Shaik Shameem Sulthana, W/O: Shaik Shamsheer Pasha, Age: 39 Years, Occ: Self Employee, R/O: H No: 3-88/1, Main Road, Kotha Gundlapally Village, Yadagirigutta Mandal, Yadadri-Bhongiri Dist, Pincode: 508115, B/O: Proprietor Of Kiranam&General Store, Gundlapally Village, Yadagirigutta Mandal, Yadadri-Bhongiri Dist, 508115. 3) Mahmood Sirajuddin @Alias Mohammed Sirajuddin, S/O: Mohammed Haneef, Age: 62 Years, Self Employee, R/O: Hno: 5-3-82, Housing Board Colony, Ward No.19, Bhongiri Village And Mandal, Yadadri -Bhongiri Dist, Pincode: 508116, B/O: Proprietor Of Bharath Washing Center", Bhongiri Village And Mandal, Yadadri-Bhongiri Dist-508116. (Borrowers/Co-Borrower/Guarantor/Legal Heirs)

Amount due as per Demand Notice: Rs. 22,40,412/- (Rupees Twenty Two Lakhs Forty Thousand Four Hundred Twelve only)

Description of Property
BHONGTIF1406300008 - DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY Property holder Name: ISHAIK SHAHEEM, Mortgage deed dated 30.06.2014 Registered as Document No 5683/2014 on the file of the office of Sub- Registrar at Yadagirigutta) All That The Residential Plot In Sy. No. 23/A In GP Block No. 3, Admeasuring 123 Sq. Yards Or 102.84 Sq. Mts, Situated At Gundlapally Village, Yadagirigutta Mandal, Yadagirigutta Sub-District, Nalgonda District And Bounded As Follows: Towards East: Plot Of S. Ramulu,(Present: Others House), Towards West: Plot Of K. Ramaiah, (Present: Others House), Towards North: 25 Ft Wide Road, Towards South: Plot Of Ilaiah, (Present Others House).

This notice is also hereby to caution the general public at large that the authorized officer of SFL is in the lawful Symbolic Possession of the immovable property mentioned herein above and the Borrowers or any person shall not after receipt of this notice transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise deal with/ alienate any of the above mentioned secured assets referred to in this notice, without prior written consent of SFL.

Date: 13-07-2026, Place:Yadagirigutta. Sd/- Authorised Officer, Shriram Finance Limited

SHRIRAM FINANCE LIMITED
Head Office: Level-3, Wockhardt Towers, East Wing C-2 Block, Bandra Kurla Complex, (Bandra East), Mumbai 400051; Tel: 02242410400, 02240603100; Website: <http://www.shriramfinance.in/auction>

Branch Office Address: H.No:-8-1-66, Ground Floor, Janani Complex, Hyderabad Road, Siddipet.**Notice to the Borrower Informing about Sale (30 days' notice) 8 (6) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002**
To:**Date: 16-07-2026, Place: Siddipet. Sd/- Authorized Officer, SHRIRAM FINANCE LTD**

SHRIRAM FINANCE LIMITED
(Formerly Known as Shriram Transport Finance Company Limited)
Registered Office: Sri.Towers, Plot No.14A, South Phase, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai-600032, Administrative office: 6th Floor (level 2), Building No.Q2, Arium Q parc, Gen 4/1, TTC, Thane Belapur Road, Ghansoli, Navi Mumbai-400710.
Authorized OfficerAddress: Wyra Road, SBI Building, Khammam- 507001

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE
Where as, the undersigned being the authorised officer of **Shriram Finance Limited**, (Formerly know as Shriram City Union Finance Limited, amalgamated with Shriram Transport Finance Company Limited, subsequently Shriram Transport Company Limited name Changed as **Shriram Finance Limited**, by it's Incorporation dt.30-11-2022) under the provisions of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (said Act) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 (said Rules) issued demand notices to the Borrowers details of which are mentioned in the table below to repay the amount mentioned in the said demand notices. The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken **Symbolic Possession** of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said Rules, on this **13th day of July 2026**.**Amount due as per Demand Notice : Rs. 20,24,534/- (Rupees Twenty Lakh Twenty Four Thousand Five Hundred Thirty Four Only)****Date:13-07-2026, Place:Khammam. Sd/- Authorised Officer, Shriram Finance Limited**

SHRIRAM FINANCE LIMITED
(Formerly Known as Shriram Transport Finance Company Limited)
Registered Office: Sri.Towers, Plot No.14A, South Phase, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai-600032, Administrative office: 6th Floor (level 2), Building No.Q2, Arium Q parc, Gen 4/1, TTC, Thane Belapur Road, Ghansoli, Navi Mumbai-400710.
Authorized OfficerAddress: Wyra Road, SBI Building, Khammam- 507001.

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE
Where as, the undersigned being the authorised officer of **Shriram Finance Limited**, (Formerly know as Shriram City Union Finance Limited, amalgamated with Shriram Transport Finance Company Limited, subsequently Shriram Transport Company Limited name Changed as **Shriram Finance Limited**, by it's Incorporation dt.30-11-2022) under the provisions of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (said Act) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 (said Rules) issued demand notices to the Borrowers details of which are mentioned in the table below to repay the amount mentioned in the said demand notices. The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken **Symbolic Possession** of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said Rules, on this **08th day of July 2026**.**Amount due as per Demand Notice : Rs. 56,52,526/- (Rupees Fifty Six Lakh Fifty Two Thousand Five Hundred Twenty Six Only)****Date:08-07-2026, Place:Khammam. Sd/- Authorised Officer, Shriram Finance Limited**

SHRIRAM FINANCE LIMITED
(Formerly Known as Shriram Transport Finance Company Limited)
Registered Office: Sri.Towers, Plot No.14A, South Phase, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai-600032, Administrative office: 6th Floor (level 2), Building No.Q2, Arium Q parc, Gen 4/1, TTC, Thane Belapur Road, Ghansoli, Navi Mumbai-400710.
Authorized OfficerAddress: Wyra Road, SBI Building, Khammam- 507001.

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE
Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of **IFFL Home Finance Limited** (Formerly known as India Infotline Housing Finance Ltd.) (IFFL-HFL) under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, a Demand Notice was issued by the Authorized Officer of the company to the Borrower/Co-Borrowers mentioned herein below to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Rules. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of IFFL HFL for the amount as mentioned herein under with interest thereon. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section 13 of the Act. If the borrower clears the dues of the "IFFL HFL" together with all costs, charges and expenses incurred, at any time before the date fixed for sale or transfer, the secured assets shall not be sold or transferred by "IFFL HFL" and no further step shall be taken by "IFFL HFL" for transfer or sale of the secured assets.**Place: Andhra Pradesh & Telangana, Date: 17-07-2026 Sd/- Authorised Officer, For IFFL Home Finance Ltd**

Canara Bank
(Incorporated in India)
Cell: +917282082480/ Mail ID:cb13075@canarabank.com

DEMAND NOTICE
Notice issued Under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002.
The below mentioned person has been granted various credit facilities from time to time by way of financial assistance against various assets creating security interest in favour of the Bank. The particulars of property mortgaged by borrower/ guarantor by way of deposit of title deeds creating security interest in favour of the Bank are mentioned hereunder. As borrowers/guarantors have failed to discharge the debt due to the Bank, the account have been classified as Non Performing Assets as per the guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank of India.**Date: 10-07-2026, Place: Mankhal Sd/- Authorised Officer, Canara Bank**



Mansukh Mandaviya to
unveil 7 ESI healthcare projects
worth Rs 668 crore across India

New Delhi, July 16 : Labour Minister Dr Mansukh Mandaviya is set to inaugurate seven Employees' State Insurance (ESI) Healthcare projects across the nation from Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) Hospital in Sanathnagar, Telangana, it was announced on Thursday. These medical facilities, worth approximately Rs 668 crore, will cater to the healthcare needs of around 53 lakh beneficiaries across the country. The Minister on Thursday will inaugurate the new Outpatient Department (OPD) Block of ESIC Hospital, Sanathnagar, and virtually inaugurate the six projects — upgraded 200-Bedded ESIC Hospital, Beltola, Assam; 100-Bedded ESIC Hospital, Sriperumbudur, Tamil Nadu; ESIS Hospital, Rajamahendravaram, Andhra Pradesh; ESI Dispensary and Branch Office.

Mamata Banerjee's diminished
influence weakening Opposition: Ramdas Athawale

Mumbai, July 16 : Union Minister and Republican Party of India (RPI) chief Ramdas Athawale remarked on Thursday that while the INDIA bloc had initially emerged stronger, it is now "steadily weakening" and cited former West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's "declined influence" as one of the probable reasons. Speaking to IANS, Athawale said: "The Opposition is steadily weakening. It was relatively stronger in the beginning, but as Mamata Banerjee's influence has declined, several (Trinamool Congress) MPs have joined the NDA (NCPI). In Maharashtra, six MPs from the Shiv Sena-UBT have also come over to our side. DMK has also left the INDIA bloc,

that is why our NDA has further strengthened." "The Opposition is weakening and we are not responsible for that," he stated while asserting that the Opposition is itself responsible for its situation. Commenting on Lok Sabha Leader of Opposition (LoP) and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, Athawale said: "Rahul Gandhi is not fulfilling the responsibilities of the Leader of the Opposition. A Leader of the Opposition should cooperate with the government by offering constructive suggestions and guidance on what should be done in the public interest. But Rahul Gandhi keeps on attacking Prime Minister Narendra Modi and attempts to insult and abuse him."



Annamalai to lead
'We The Leaders' anti-drug conference in TN's Pollachi

Pollachi, July 16 : The newly formed public movement 'We The Leaders', headed by former Tamil Nadu BJP president K. Annamalai, will hold its first major public conference in Pollachi on Thursday, with the campaign centred on the theme, "Drug-Free Tamil Nadu". The awareness conference is scheduled to begin at 4 p.m. at Achipatti, near Pollachi, and is expected to attract thousands of participants from across the state. The event assumes significance as it will be the first major gathering led by Annamalai after he quit the Bharatiya Janata Party and launched the 'We The Leaders' movement. Organisers have made extensive preparations for the conference, transforming the venue into a sprawling convention space capable of accommodating around 20,000 people. To ensure that those un-

able to enter the main hall can still follow the proceedings, large LED screens have been installed outside the venue for live viewing. The conference hall has been decorated with striking visuals showcasing the region's landmarks, including the scenic Aliyar Dam and Pollachi's famous coconut groves. The organisers said the decorations were chosen to reflect the unique identity and cultural heritage of Pollachi while creating an attractive setting for the event. The programme will begin with a series of cultural performances carrying anti-drug awareness messages. Through music, dance and other artistic presentations, the organisers aim to spread awareness about the harmful effects of narcotic substances and encourage greater public participation in the fight against drug abuse, particularly among the youth.



Kashmir advocacy group to
intensify fight against drug addiction,
women to lead awareness drive

Srinagar, July 16 : The Kashmir Women's Organisation (KWO) has said the organisation will significantly intensify its campaign against drug addiction by placing women at the forefront of awareness, prevention and rehabilitation efforts under the Nasha Mukht Bharat campaign. Speaking to IANS on Thursday, KWO Chairperson Darakhshan Hassan Bhat, a PhD scholar, said that the KWO will expand awareness programmes, strengthen family support systems, facilitate counselling and rehabilitation through experts, and encourage women struggling with substance abuse to seek treatment without fear or social stigma. "The Lieutenant Governor, during the Gender Equity Fellowship event, asked us what we were doing under the Nasha Mukht Bharat campaign. We have already organised awareness drives and community outreach programmes, but now the time has come to accelerate our efforts," she said.



Assam to proceed towards efficient
pipe-based irrigation system, says Minister Hazarika

Dispur, July 16 : The Assam Agriculture and Irrigation Minister Pijush Hazarika said on Thursday that the state government is laying greater stress on modern pipe-based irrigation systems. Hazarika was visiting the Hatiamukh Irrigation Project at the Baghjap Gaon Panchayat during the day. This canal-based project, constructed at an estimated cost of Rs 30.67 crore, has brought nearly 5,800 bighas of agricultural land under assured irrigation, benefiting a large number of indigenous farmers in the area. Access to reliable irrigation has significantly strengthened agricultural activities in the region,

the Minister noted, urging farmers to undertake two to three cropping cycles annually by making optimum use of the facilities and various government schemes. While canal-based irrigation projects have played a vital role in supporting agriculture, the state government is now giving greater emphasis to modern pipe-based irrigation systems, Hazarika said. These projects can be completed within a shorter timeframe, ensure efficient water management, and avoid land acquisition challenges generally associated with conventional canal irrigation projects, the Minister added.

Shri Badrinath Dham
donation row: SIT submits probe report

Chamoli, July 16 : The departmental inquiry team constituted to investigate the alleged misappropriation of donations at the Shri Badrinath Dham has completed its probe and submitted the report to the CEO. According to the investigation, the preliminary findings purportedly suggest that the theft of devotees' offerings and valuables took place not just once, but on multiple occasions.

According to sources, the four-member inquiry team has detailed the entire incident and the findings of their investigation in an 18-page report. The SIT report has also offered suggestions to prevent such incidents in the future. The committee has clarified several aspects of the matter in the report. It has recommended installing more CCTV cameras in the temple's donation counting room and covering all 'blind spots' along the temple's circumambulation path with CCTV surveillance.



Sources indicate that the inquiry team could only retrieve footage dating back 14 days, prior to the incident on July 2. Due to the inferior quality of previously installed CCTV cameras, their storage capacity was limited to just 15 days. The alleged accused is seen misappropriating money in the footage from July 2. The team also found several segments of the footage from the preceding 14 days to be significant.

TMC's Saugata Roy opposes
Uniform Civil Code, says
it will affect minority rights

Kolkata, July 16 : Trinamool Congress (TMC) MP Saugata Roy on Thursday reiterated his party's opposition to the Uniform Civil Code (UCC), asserting that it would infringe upon the rights of minority communities. His remarks come on the back of West Bengal government constituting a high-level committee to prepare the draft UCC Bill for the state. Speaking to IANS, Roy reacted to the state government's decision to form the panel, saying, "... We oppose the Uniform Civil Code because it will take away the rights of minority communities. Muslims follow Shariat law, while Christians have their own marriage laws, it won't exist then. We do not support the UCC." His remarks came after the West Bengal government constituted a high-level committee headed by former Supreme Court judge Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai.



Jagadguru Paramhans Acharya writes to PM Modi seeking
appointment of UP CM Yogi, RSS chief Bhagwat at Ram Mandir Trust

Ayodhya, July 16 : Amid the controversy over the alleged irregularities of donations made at Ayodhya's Ram Temple, Tapasvi Chhawani Peethadhi shwar Jagadguru Paramhans Acharya on Sunday said that he

has written a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, urging the appointment of Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath as a lifetime member.



ONGC drills second
geothermal well in Ladakh

New Delhi, July 16 : Public sector Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has completed drilling its second geothermal well in Ladakh's Puga Valley, in a significant step toward developing India's first pilot geothermal power plant. The upstream oil giant's research and development arm, ONGC Energy Centre, drilled the well to a depth of 1,000 metres at an altitude of more than 14,000 feet in about a month, improving on the timeline and cost of its first geothermal drilling campaign, according to an ONGC statement. The latest well builds on the success of ONGC's first geothermal well in Puga, which produced steam at temperatures above the boiling point of water, demonstrating the area's geothermal resource potential, the statement said. ONGC said the second well would support the development of India's first 1-megawatt electric (MWe).



cess of ONGC's first geothermal well in Puga, which produced steam at temperatures above the boiling point of water, demonstrating the area's geothermal resource potential, the statement said. ONGC said the second well would support the development of India's first 1-megawatt electric (MWe).

UCC is as necessary as the
Constitution, says West Bengal drafting
committee member Tathagata Roy

Kolkata, July 16 : Member of the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) drafting committee in West Bengal and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Tathagata Roy on Thursday underlined that the proposed law is "as necessary as the Constitution", while attacking the previous Trinamool Congress government for "favouring" Muslims.



Centre clears Rs 1,647 crore
for 28 Delhi infra projects under SASCI scheme

New Delhi, July 16 : Chief Minister Rekha Gupta said on Thursday that the Central government has approved Rs 1,647 crore for 28 major infrastructure projects proposed by the Delhi government under the Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI) scheme. The approved projects include Delhi Metro works, the Barapulla Elevated Corridor.



OPINIONmail



Modi govt's foreign policy safeguards national interests, establishes long-term ties with global powers

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Sunday said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent foreign visits have resulted in significant strategic, defence, and economic benefits for the country. BJP national spokesperson Sambit Patra said this during a press conference at the party's headquarters in New Delhi on Prime Minister's recent visits to Seychelles, Indonesia, Australia, and New Zealand, as well as the visits of Japan's top leadership to India. Patra titled his presentation "10 Kadam, 10 Ka Dum" and noted that through these visits, India has further strengthened its role in the Indian Ocean and Indo-Pacific regions. He remarked that India is emerging as a "force for stability" across this entire region today.

"While governments and policies in many countries have changed over the past few years, India has established global trust through political stability, policy continuity, and economic strength. India has maintained its stability amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, global conflicts, and economic challenges," he said. The BJP MP described Prime Minister Modi's foreign visits as a move to "strengthen strategic alliances in the Indian Ocean and Indo-Pacific regions".

He noted that India has expanded its presence and cooperation in the maritime domain, extending from Seychelles to Indonesia. Citing Indonesia's Sabang Port, he highlighted its "immense strategic importance" due to its proximity to the Strait of Malacca. He pointed out that the Strait of Malacca is one of the world's busiest maritime routes, facilitating a vast amount of international trade. "Indonesia's interest in developing Sabang Port is significant for India from the perspectives of maritime security and trade. This initiative will strengthen India's strategic reach in the Indian Ocean region," he said. "Defence and maritime cooperation form a crucial foundation for any nation's strategic strength. While India previously relied heavily on imports to meet its defence needs, the country is now advancing in the fields of defence production and exports," the BJP spokesperson further stated. Citing the cooperation with Indonesia regarding the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile, he described it as a "testament to India's growing defence capabilities". "India is evolving from a mere purchaser of weapons into a partner and exporter of defence equipment," he said. Patra also highlighted the significance of the defence agreements signed between India and New Zealand.

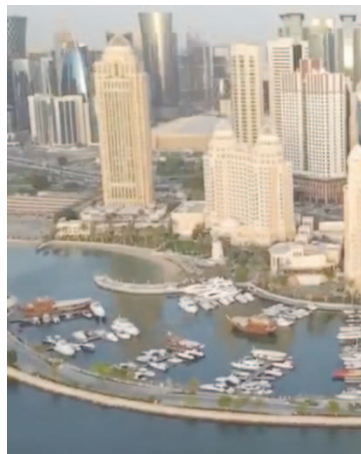
EDITORIAL
the indian mail

Qatar suspends maritime navigation, marine activities amid heightened security concerns

Doha, July 16 : Qatar's Ministry of Transport on Thursday announced a temporary suspension of maritime navigation and all marine activities as a precautionary measure to safeguard public safety. In a statement, the ministry advised owners and users of all maritime vessels, including leisure boats, fishing boats, jet skis, and other watercraft, to temporarily suspend sailing and all

marine activities until further notice. The ministry said the measure does not apply to vessels operating under international maritime conventions, Xinhua news agency reported. It added that the precautionary measure was taken in coordination with the relevant security authorities, urging the public to comply with the directive and obtain updates only through official channels. Qatar's Foreign Ministry, in a statement, has strongly condemned re-

newed Iranian attacks targeting its territory and several neighbouring countries, describing them as a flagrant violation of sovereignty, territorial integrity, and international law. Meanwhile, the US-led Joint Maritime Information Centre said on Sunday that despite Iran announcing the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, the southern route along the Omani coast remains available and has been expanded to accommodate two-way traffic.



Chinese projects in Tibet damaging local environment

New Delhi, July 16 : China is using Tibet as a resource hub to propel its renewable energy campaign, but this is happening at a high cost to the region's environment and the life of the local population, according to reports. China is building major green infrastructure in Tibet, including large solar projects and the planned Metok (Motuo) megadam on the Yarlung Tsangpo. Many batteries used in clean technologies also depend on materials produced in the region. Tibet therefore stands at the forefront of China's green energy development across wind, solar, and hydropower. Mineral explo-

ration and extraction in Tibet are also intensifying, again to fuel the green energy industry amid China's rising energy demand. China has also identified a new source of high-purity quartz in Tingkye County, Shigatse City, aiming to reduce reliance on imports of this critical material used in solar panels and semiconductors, according to the South China Morning Post. These developments reflect China's accelerating exploration of strategic minerals in Tibet. The expansion of solar farms is presented as beneficial for Tibet's ecology. However, Sangay Tashi's research suggests that it is difficult to definitively assess whether

such projects are truly helpful. Instead, deep uncertainty remains about how this widespread construction of solar farms may disrupt traditional cultural practices and ways of life in the future. Despite these concerns, China has reacted by cracking down on those who raise concerns about Tibet's ecological, cultural, and social landscape. According to Save Tibet, Chinese authorities arrested more than 1,000 Tibetans during protests against the Khamtok Dege Dam. Separately, Tsongon Tsering was reportedly suppressed for speaking out against illegal Chinese mining practices in Tibet.

Human Rights organisation
appeals to recognise
'Bangladesh's 1971 genocide' at UN



New Delhi, July 16 : During the recently concluded 62nd session of the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva, Human Rights Without Frontiers raised the need to recognise the mass atrocities committed in Bangladesh in 1971 as "genocide".

"It was a deliberate effort to connect past injustice with present-day human rights concerns -- particularly the protection of freedom of religion or belief," wrote Willy Fautre, Founder of Human Rights Without Frontiers (Belgium), in 'Modern Diplomacy'.

While the 1971 Bangladesh's war of independence is widely known for mass killings and displacement.

Chinese scientists warn of active fault line beneath China's mega dam on Yarlung Tsangpo



New Delhi, July 16 : Chinese scientists have raised fresh concerns over the geological risks facing China's massive hydropower project on the Yarlung Tsangpo river in Tibet, warning that an active fault line beneath the site could threaten the structural stability of the world's largest hydropower dam, a report has said. According to a report by the South China Morning Post (SCMP).

Hindu groups join White House faith dialogue

Washington, July 16 : Representatives of two prominent Hindu organisations in the United States participated in a White House Faith Office dialogue, joining faith leaders from across the country for discussions on issues affecting religious communities. The event, hosted by the White House Faith Office, brought together representatives from diverse faith traditions for a briefing and dialogue on matters important to faith communities. According to posts shared by the participating organisations, Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh (HSS USA) and BAPS Public Affairs represented Hindu Americans at the gathering. "HSS USA thanks the White House Faith Office for convening a dialogue on issues important to faith communities and for the opportunity to represent Hindu Americans," the organisation said in a statement.

"It was heartwarming to join in diverse faith traditions of prayer while sharing the same aspiration—the wellbeing of all Americans and the welfare of



our nation," it added. BAPS Public Affairs also welcomed the engagement with the administration. "BAPS joined faith leaders from across the country for a briefing hosted by the White House Faith Office on matters important to faith communities," it said. "As a representative of many Hindu Americans nationwide.



Two dead in mass shooting at Canada street festival

Toronto, July 16 : Two people were killed, and three others sustained injuries after a shooting near a street festival in Canada's Toronto, prompting a massive police response and heightened security in the area, officials said. The firing took place on Thursday (local time) in a neighbourhood where the

popular Salsa on St. Clair festival was underway, drawing large crowds for the annual Latino-themed cultural celebration. Toronto Police initially issued an alert warning of an active shooter and urged residents and visitors to avoid the area as officers responded to the incident.

IN-SPAN Centre launched to foster Nepal-India startup ecosystem

Kathmandu, July 16 : Two dozen Nepali startup entrepreneurs received mentorship and market exposure during an eight-week programme at the IIT Madras Pravartak Technologies Foundation in Chennai, India, from December last year to January this year. Selected through a competitive process by the Embassy of India in Kathmandu under the India-Nepal Startup Partnership Net-

work (IN-SPAN), the 24 entrepreneurs attended workshops, interacted with chief executives and senior executives of Indian startups, completed specialised training modules in artificial intelligence, semiconductors and solar photovoltaics, and undertook internships at Indian startups, according to the Indian Embassy. The programme also yielded tangible outcomes, with nine Nepali startups receiving incubation and

investment offers from the IIT Madras Incubation Cell, one of India's leading deep-tech incubators. The participants were part of the India-Nepal Startup Partnership Network (IN-SPAN), a joint initiative of the Embassy of India in Kathmandu and IITM Pravartak aimed at connecting emerging Nepali entrepreneurs with India's innovation, technology and startup ecosystem.



Following their return from a nearly two-month programme in India, the participants decided to transform the momentum generated by IN-SPAN into something bigger to promote the start-up ecosystem in Nepal too. They established a permanent institution, the IN-SPAN Centre of Excellence.



North Korea denounces NATO's ‘intention for inter-camp confrontation’

Pyongyang, July 16 : North Korea condemned "the United States and its vassal forces" for the inter-camp confrontation intention displayed at the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) Summit, a foreign ministry spokesperson said Thursday. The spokesperson made the remarks in a press statement reported by the official Korean Central News Agency, saying the

trans-Atlantic bloc is exacerbating the security environment of Europe and creating instability in the Asia-Pacific. The US-led NATO allies and their partners incited confrontation throughout the NATO Summit, held earlier this week in Ankara, Turkiye, the statement said, calling it clear proof that the organisation is "a war and confrontation body that goes against

international peace and security in all parts of the world while pursuing exclusive geopolitical interests." The statement noted that the US, Japan and South Korea's call for "denuclearisation", which "completely lost its timeliness and practical feasibility, can never affect the position of the DPRK (Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea).

US pledges major Ebola aid surge, slams WHO over delayed alert in Africa outbreak



Washington, July 16 : Pledging a major surge in assistance to contain a fast-moving Ebola outbreak in Central Africa, the Trump Administration sharply criticised the World Health Organization (WHO) for what American officials described as a delayed global alert that may have cost critical response time. Senior US officials said Washington had already committed about \$23 million in bilateral humanitarian and health assistance and was preparing a much larger package to fund up to 50 Ebola treatment centres.



WHO urges sustainable access to clean water, sanitation to curb cholera outbreaks in Somalia

Mogadishu, July 16 : The World Health Organization (WHO) on Thursday called on all stakeholders in Somalia to prioritise sustainable access to clean water and improved sanitation and support the widespread delivery of cholera vaccines to help address recurring outbreaks. These actions can protect vulnerable populations and ensure that life-saving health services reach those most in need, the WHO said. "Cholera remains a major public health challenge in Somalia, especially in regions affected by conflict

and displacement, and with limited access to clean water and sanitation," the WHO said in a statement issued in Mogadishu, the capital of Somalia. According to the WHO, Somalia recorded 768 new cholera cases in the last four weeks across 31 districts, with a rise in cases in the areas of Kismayu, Jowhar, Marka, Burhakab, Barawe, Borama and Baidoa. Of these cases, 399, or 52 per cent, were female while 407, or 53 percent, were children under five years, Xinhua news agency reported.

Australian govt blocks entry for Iranian visa holders

Canberra, July 16 : The Australian government has moved to block the entry of temporary visa holders from Iran amid the ongoing conflict in the Middle East. Tony Burke, minister for home affairs, on Thursday night announced that he has used laws passed by the federal parliament earlier in March to temporarily restrict Iranian visitor visa holders from traveling to Australia. He said in a statement that

the move would protect the integrity and sustainability of Australia's migration system, citing government concerns that the conflict has increased the risk that some visitors from Iran may be unlikely or unable to depart Australia when their visas expire. The six-month ban will only apply to people who have a subclass 600 visitor visa linked to an Iranian passport and does not apply to visa holders already in Australia, spouses or children of Australian citizens or permanent residents, or parents



of a child younger than 18 already in Australia. The subclass 600 visa allows holders to stay in Australia for up to 12 months for tourism or to visit family. "There are many visitor visas which were issued before the conflict in Iran which may not have been issued if they were applied for now," Burke said.



UK announces extra 75 million pounds to strengthen border security

London, July 16 : United Kingdom (UK) Prime Minister Keir Starmer announced on Thursday to inject an additional 75 million British pounds (97.3 million US dollars) to combat the people-smuggling issue. In a speech to the 92nd session of the Interpol General Assembly in Glasgow, Starmer called on global leaders to "wake up to the severity" of the challenge smuggling presents to border security. People-smuggling is "a vile trade that must be stamped out" and should be viewed as "a global security threat similar to terrorism," he said. The prime minister said the extra cash injection would bring investment in the UK's new Border Security Command over the next two years to 150 million pounds. The money will help fund additional specialist investigators and surveillance equipment. The announcement came after 5,417 people crossed the Channel in small boats in October, the highest monthly figure for illegal crossings since October 2022, Xinhua news agency reported.

Man dies, four others in serious condition following alleged shooting in Sydney

Sydney, July 16 : A man has died in hospital and four other men are in serious condition following an alleged shooting in southwest Sydney, police said on early Thursday. Police were called to Liverpool Hospital at about 8:30 p.m. on Friday, following reports two men -- both believed to be aged in their 20s -- had presented with multiple wounds, police in the Australian state of New South Wales said in a statement. One of the men underwent treatment but died a short time later. The other man remains in the hospital in a stable condition. Later on Tuesday, two men presented to Fairfield Hospital in critical condition, while a man appeared at Liverpool Hospital in a stable condition, where he is being treated for injuries, police said. Police have established a crime scene at a home in Canley Heights, some 30 km

west of Sydney's central business district. The Australian Broadcasting Corporation reported that it is understood the incident is linked to organised crime networks, Xinhua news agency reported. "I can confirm that police are looking for two males that entered the premises shortly before 8.20pm where a number of gunshots were heard from that premises," Detective Superintendent Craig Middleton said. Police set up a crime scene at a house in Arbutus St in Canley Heights, with NSW Police Commissioner Mal Lanyon revealing detectives from the NSW homicide squad also seized two vehicles used to transport the two injured men to hospital. A gang war has erupted across the city's west since the start of the year, with the two rivals involved in a spate of shootings and firebombings of homes and businesses associated with gang figures.



New antibody treatment boosts immune response against tumor: study

Jerusalem, July 16 : Israeli researchers and their colleagues from the United States developed an antibody-based treatment that empowers the body's immune system to effectively attack cancer cells and prevent their spread, Israel's Weizmann Institute of Science (WIS) said in a statement on Thursday.

WIS-led scientists revealed that a form of breast cancer known as triple-negative breast cancer encourages nearby immune cells to form "molecular bridges." These bridges prevent immune cells from attacking the tumor, resulting in immune suppression. The research team demonstrated that an antibody treatment block-

ing the formation of these bridges can revive the immune system's ability to mount a robust attack on cancer cells, halting tumor progression in mouse models. They explained that while the breast cancer cells themselves express very low levels of the protein CD84, which is used to build the bridges, they induce nearby

immune cells to produce large quantities of this protein, creating the bridges that suppress the immune response. The study also found that higher levels of CD84 in patients' tumors were linked to shorter survival times. Experiments with genetically engineered mice lacking CD84 re-



vealed smaller tumor growth, highlighting how CD84 within the tumor environment suppresses T cell activity in the immune system.

Vietnam strives to be among top three ASEAN countries in industrial competitiveness



Hanoi, July 16 : Vietnam strives to be among the top three Southeast Asian countries in terms of industrial competitiveness by the end of this decade, Vietnam News on Thursday cited the goal proposed by the Ministry of Industry and Trade as saying. The country's industrial sector aims to have over 40 per cent share in gross domestic product (GDP) by 2030. The manufacturing and processing industry alone is expected to account for around 30 per cent of the GDP, according to the ministry's action plan.

Pakistan: Sindhi leader urges UN to act on enforced disappearance of activists



Berlin, July 16 : Shafi Burfat, Chairman of the Jeay Sindh Muttahida Mahaz (JSMM), called on the United Nations and the international commu-

nity to take immediate notice of all forcibly disappeared Sindhi political activists and hold Pakistan's military and intelligence agencies accountable under international law. The Sindhi leader accused the Pakistani military and intelligence agencies of operating with complete impunity and arbitrarily arresting Sindhi political activists engaged in peaceful political struggle. He said many have been subjected to inhuman torture, prolonged illegal detention, enforced disappearance, and extrajudicial killing. Hundreds of Sindhi activists, he added.

Vance accuses Biden of asylum fraud

Washington, July 16 : US Vice President JD Vance accused the previous Biden administration of allowing widespread abuse of the American asylum system and said the Trump administration was prosecuting immigration-related fraud while tightening border enforcement. Vance told reporters at a White House news conference that one of the "biggest immigration frauds" under former President Joe Biden was the handling of asylum claims at the southern border. "The biggest immigration fraud that existed



under the Biden administration, it's not just that they let a flood of people across the southern border," Vance said. "But it's also that they allowed the asylum.



Centre kicks off e-Bill System for handling Rs 2 lakh crore fertiliser subsidy

New Delhi, July 16 : Union Minister for Chemicals and Fertilisers Jagat Prakash Nadda on Thursday inaugurated the e-Bill System, which will enable the government to process the fertiliser subsidy of approximately Rs 2 lakh crore at Kartavya Bhawan in the national capital. Addressing the event, the Minister said that this online system would play a significant role in strengthening transparent, efficient and technology-driven governance. Secretary Fertilisers Rajat Kumar Mishra said that the launch marks a major milestone in modernising the Department's financial operations. The newly launched system represents a paradigm shift from manual, paper-based processes to a fully digital, system-to-system workflow, eliminating the need for any physical movement of bills. This initiative is a significant out-

come of the unique technological partnership between iFMS (Integrated Financial Management System) of the Department of Fertilisers and PFMS of the Controller General of Accounts (CGA), Ministry of Finance. This transformation significantly enhances transparency and accountability by creating a centralised and tamper-proof digital audit trail for all financial transactions, thereby facilitating easier monitoring and audits. The system provides senior officials with real-time oversight of expenditures and strengthened financial control, as all payments are tracked and reported centrally under the unified system. The seamless data exchange between the Department's internal system and PFMS eliminates duplicate data entry, reduces manual errors.

Gurugram will be included in top 10 cities of country: Haryana Minister

Gurugram, July 16 : Haryana Industry and Commerce, Environment, Forest and Wildlife Minister Rao Narbir Singh said that the state government aims to include Gurugram in the top 10 cities of the country. He also directed the Municipal Corporation Manesar (MCM) officials to work towards freeing the government land from encroachment and ensuring polythene. Singh chaired a meeting with



the MCM officials and discussed points related to the MCM.

Bengal govt to organise cervical cancer vaccination camps in girls' schools

Kolkata, July 16 : West Bengal Health Department is now planning to reach the doorsteps of all girls' schools in the state and organise cervical cancer vaccination camps there. An insider from the state health department said that before organising these vaccination camps on the campuses of the girls' schools, the state government will take consent from the guardians of the students studying in those girls' schools. "The consent of a minimum of 50 guardians from a particular girls' school

will be necessary for that purpose. The district officials from the state health department will contact the headmistresses of the schools and request them to organise a meeting with the guardians and the health department officials. In those meetings, the guardians will be made aware of the importance of cervical cancer vaccination and the dangers of skipping such vaccination. After a detailed explanation, consent will be sought from the guardians to organise a cervical cancer vaccination camp in that respective institution," said the state health department official. He also explained the ratio-



nale for organising cervical cancer vaccination camps on the premises of the girls' schools. "From May 30 this year, the pilot project for vaccination camps to prevent cervical cancer among adolescent girls officially started in West Bengal, with Chief Minister Suwendu

Adhikari inaugurating the programme. From the end of May till July 10, a total of 1,92,940 girls have been vaccinated. However, the pace of vaccination has slowed down in the last two weeks. In this situation, the state government has taken a new decision.



J&K Assembly Speaker says detained MLA Malik can attend session if court or govt permits

Srinagar, July 16 : J&K Assembly Speaker, Abdul Rahim Rather, said on Thursday that it would be a welcome step if incarcerated Doda MLA Mehraj Malik attends the upcoming session, but clarified that the decision lies with the court or the government. Rather said Malik would need to seek permission through legal channels. "He needs to approach the court, or if the government allows him, he should attend. It depends on whether the government or the court permits him," he said. On the issue of PDP legislator Waheed Parra, Rather confirmed that the show-cause notice issued against him is still under examination. "Parra has submitted his reply, and the matter is under consideration," he said. The Speaker added that Parra had earlier spread misinformation claiming that the Assembly Secretariat had approved the Public Safety Act (PSA) against the Doda legislator, which, he clarified, was incorrect. "The Secretariat does not have such powers. PSA is imposed by the District Magistrate," Rather asserted. The Speaker said that the upcoming session of the J&K Assembly summoned by the Lt Governor on October 23 will be short and that a provisional calendar will be issued soon.

BJP warns of defamation case against Omar Abdullah over 'poaching' allegation, NC hits back

New Delhi, July 16 : The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders on Thursday threatened to lodge a defamation case against Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister and Vice President of the ruling National Conference (NC) Omar Abdullah if the latter is unable to present evidence that supports his allegation of the former conspiring to break his party. Addressing party workers a day earlier, the Jammu and Kashmir CM said: "When offers of money and ministerial posts failed, attempts are now being made behind closed doors to lure our MLAs. I will ensure the BJP cannot make a backdoor entry here." "They are trying once again to break the NC. I have been told that one of our

MLAs from Jammu was offered Rs 20-30 crore, a ministerial berth and a promise of statehood if he joined them. They think people's conscience is so cheap," he said without naming the MLA. Responding to the allegation, Leader of Opposition in the J&K Assembly and BJP MLA Sunil Sharma said: "We have already rejected these allegations and challenged Omar Abdullah to name the BJP leaders allegedly involved. He will not do so because these allegations are baseless. By making irresponsible statements.



Raj govt orders detailed probe into maternal deaths in Bhilwara and Banswara

Jaipur, July 16 : The Rajasthan government has taken the recent eight maternal deaths (six in Bhilwara and two in Banswara) with utmost seriousness and has ordered a comprehensive investigation into the incidents, officials said

on Thursday. State Health Minister Gajendra Singh Khimsar said that specialist officers from the Directorate of Medical and Health Services have been deputed to both districts to ascertain the actual causes of the deaths through a scientific and fact-based inquiry.

The Minister added that a meeting of gynaecologists from across the state has been convened on July 12 to review the cases, deliberate on necessary corrective measures, and formulate recommendations to further strengthen maternal healthcare services.

He will also visit Bhilwara on Tuesday to review the situation on the ground. Khimsar said that the preliminary report received from Mahatma Gandhi Hospital in Bhilwara has found no evidence of infection in the operation theatre. The report indicates that the



five women who died over a period of six days succumbed to different and unrelated medical com-

plications, with no common cause linking the deaths. One patient died due to Myocardial Infarction (heart attack) and was not pregnant. Another patient, who did not undergo surgery, died due to acute gastroenteritis, hypovolemic shock, septicemia, intrauterine fetal death, and severe anaemia.



Assam remediates 65 pc legacy waste in urban areas: CM Sarma

Guwahati, July 16 : Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said on Thursday that effective urban garbage management remains one of the lesser discussed achievements of his government, asserting that the state has already remediates 65 per cent of legacy waste in urban areas under the Swachh Bharat Mission.

AAP govt in Punjab misleading people on MGNREGA fund allocations: BJP

Chandigarh, July 16 : The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government in Punjab is misleading the people by making a false claim that Rs 23,446 crore is pending under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) from the Centre, state BJP General Secretary Anil Sarin said here on Thursday. Launching a sharp attack on Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema, Sarin alleged that figures from the Standing Committee on Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (2024-2025) are being misrepresented. He said that

while Cheema is "showing the first page of the report, the very next page of the same report clearly states that in 2024-25 there are no pending wage dues of MGNREGA workers in any state". Explaining the funding mechanism under MGNREGA, Sarin said the first instalment is released every year in the first half of April. Thereafter, once a state submits utilisation certificates in accordance with prescribed rules for the funds already received, the next instalment is released immediately. However, he said that if a state fails to submit utilisation certificates as per the rules, the Central



government cannot release the subsequent instalment under the provisions of the MGNREGA Act. Sarin further alleged that out of 13,304 panchayats in Punjab, audits of 5,915 panchayats have not been conducted so far. He also claimed that 10,653 cases of fraud or forgery have come to light under the MGNREGA scheme, but the AAP government in the state is avoiding action in these cases.



Contradictory messages from UP: SP chief talks alliance while Cong welcomes defectors on same day

New Delhi, July 16 : In an ironic turn, the day that Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav announced that alliance with its partners would continue in future elections, several of his party members crossed over to the Congress ahead of next year's Assembly poll. While de-

fections are not new in India's political landscape, the timing and scale of the move carry significant implications for the Opposition alliance strategy. The SP and Congress have earlier too entered into a tactical partnership under the broader INDIA bloc framework.

India's improving macros, rupee stability contribute significantly to pivot in FPI flows

New Delhi, July 16 : The changes made by the government in taxation of debt investment have made debt investment in India attractive for FPIs, which is also an important factor contributing to the stability in rupee, according to analysts. The shift in the stance of FPIs towards India, which turned positive beginning early July, is continuing. The total FPI investment through the secondary market (up to July 10) stands at Rs 5,155 crore.



Southeast Asian countries suffer as China's thriving rare earth industry poisons Mekong river

New Delhi, July 16 : China's thriving rare earth industry is leading to massive pollution in the Mekong River, that flows downstream into South East Asian countries like Thailand, with heavy metals like arsenic being confirmed in the river's mainstream sediment, according to a report in Myanmar's Mizzima news portal. The report highlighted that China tightened environmental enforcement on its own rare earth industry but shifted the mining operations across the border into Kachin and Shan States in Myanmar.



Eco-friendly cars account for half of new car registrations in S. Korea in H1

Seoul, July 16 : Eco-friendly vehicles accounted for half of new car registrations in South Korea in the first half of this year, driven by a sharp increase in electric vehicle (EV) sales, an auto market tracker said on Thursday. It marked the first time that eco-friendly vehicles made up more than half of new car registrations during the January-June period, according to the CarIsYou Data Research Center, which cited government data, reports Yonhap news agency. In the first six months

of the year, registrations of eco-friendly vehicles -- including battery electric, gasoline hybrid and hydrogen fuel-cell models -- totalled 429,163 units, accounting for 50.4 percent of the 851,833 newly registered vehicles, the data showed. The share of eco-friendly vehicles has risen steadily, from 9.1 percent in 2020 to 25.5 percent in 2023 and 38.5 percent in 2025. Meanwhile, the share of gasoline-powered vehicles fell to 39 percent in the first half, dropping below the 40 percent mark for the first time since 2016, when the figure stood at 39.9 percent.

Robust EV sales drove the overall increase in eco-friendly vehicle registrations. EV registrations surged 112.6 percent from a year earlier to 198,969 units in the first half, making EVs the only major power train category to post on-year growth. "An expanded lineup of new models and the early disbursement of government EV subsidies have helped eco-friendly vehicles become mainstream in the domestic auto market," an industry official said.

Solar, wind expansion in India set to trigger \$10-15 billion land investments by 2030

New Delhi, July 16 : An estimated \$110-120 billion investment is expected to flow into the Indian renewable energy sector in the next few years, primarily for solar and wind projects, a new report showed on Thursday. By 2030, the upcoming solar and wind projects would translate into \$10-15 billion opportunity in land aggregation and acquisition. This growth outlook is led by the

government's definitive targets to transition to cleaner and greener energy sources in its bid to become net zero in the long term, said the report by Colliers India. "India's renewable energy capacity stands at 251 GW, and with another 270-300 GW of expected solar and wind energy additions by 2030, the sector is set to enter its next phase of accelerated growth," said Badal Yagnik.



Tata Power to supply wind, solar energy to run Noida airport

New Delhi, July 16 : Tata Power announced on Thursday that it has signed an agreement with Noida International Airport (NIA) which will entail a total investment of Rs 550 crore in solar and wind power supply, as well as the development of essential dry utilities and smart energy infrastructure at the airport. Under this arrangement, Tata Power Trading Company Ltd. will supply 10.8 MW of wind power to NIA, with secured assets from Tata Power Renewable Energy Ltd.

(TPREL). In addition, TPREL will develop, operate, and maintain a 13 MW onsite solar power capacity to meet the airport's overall energy needs. Further bolstering the airport's operational resilience, Tata Power has undertaken the development of critical dry utilities, including essential electrical infrastructure, and will provide operation and maintenance (O&M) services for this infrastructure over a 25-year period to meet the airport's smart energy requirements.



Samsung Electronics to bring forward opening of 1st Yongin chip plant to 2029

Seoul, July 16 : Samsung Electronics is moving to begin operations at the first semiconductor fabrication plant in its Yongin chip cluster in 2029, one to two years earlier than planned, industry sources said on Thursday. The accelerated timeline comes as the government speeds up development of the Yongin National Industrial Complex, a national strategic project set to serve as the company's next-generation semiconductor manufacturing hub, reports Yonhap news agency. Samsung is currently planning to begin operations in 2029 at the first of six semiconductor plants to be built at the Yongin industrial complex, just south of Seoul, according to the sources. "An earlier start of operations at the first plant will enable Samsung to respond more quickly to rapidly growing global demand for artificial intelligence chips," an industry official said. Separately, the chipmaker said last month that, under its mega project investment plan, it plans to invest 2,030 trillion won (US\$1.35 trillion) in its Pyeongtaek and Yongin semiconductor clusters, along with 400 trillion won to build two new chip plants in Gwangju, 270 kilometers south of Seoul. Meanwhile, Samsung Group and SK Group vowed a combined investment of 896 trillion won (\$578 billion) in the southwest region, in line with the government's vision of pursuing shared growth in the artificial intelligence (AI) industry, the industry ministry said.

Kirloskar Industries' Q4 net profit falls 8 pc to Rs 43 crore

Mumbai, July 16 : Kirloskar Industries on Thursday reported a 7.90 per cent decline in its consolidated net profit for the March quarter (Q4) of FY26. The company posted a consolidated net profit of Rs 43.10 crore in the January-March quarter, compared to Rs 46.8 crore reported in the corresponding quarter of the previous financial year (Q4 FY25), according to its regulatory filing. Revenue from operations rose 4.55 per cent year-on-year to Rs 1,827.41 crore in the fourth quarter of FY26, against Rs 1,747.82 crore recorded in the same quarter last fiscal. The company's earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortisation (EBITDA) increased 4.8 per cent to Rs 216 crore during the quarter under review, compared to Rs 206 crore in Q4 FY25. However, the EBITDA margin remained unchanged at 11.8 per cent on a year-on-year basis. Along with its quarterly earnings, Kirloskar Industries also announced a final dividend of Rs 13 per equity share of face value Rs 10 each for the financial year 2025-26. "The Board of Directors has recommended a final dividend of Rs 13 (130 per cent) per equity share of Rs 10 each for the Financial Year 2025-2026, subject to the approval of the members of the Company at the ensuing Annual General Meeting," the company said in its exchange filing.



Indian stock market opens flat after US Fed rate cut

Mumbai, July 16 : The Indian benchmark indices opened flat on Thursday after the second consecutive rate cut by the US Fed, as selling was seen in auto, PSU bank, media, oil and gas sectors. Sensex was trading at 79,522.39 after slipping 19.40 points or 0.02 per cent. At the same time, Nifty was trading at 24,179.85 after slipping 19.50 points or 0.08 per cent. The market trend remained negative. On the National Stock Exchange (NSE), 746 stocks were trading in green, while 1463 stocks were trading in red. Nifty Bank was at 51,897.05 after slipping 19.45 points or 0.04 per cent. The Nifty Midcap 100 index was trading at 57,116.50 after gaining 7.35 points or 0.01 per cent. The Nifty Smallcap 100 index was trading at 18,749.75 after slipping 14.10 points or 0.08 per cent. Tata Motors, Reliance, ICICI Bank, Asian Paints, Maruti and NTPC were the top losers in the Sensex pack.

Niva Bupa Health Insurance's IPO subscribed 65 pc on day 1

Mumbai, July 16 : Niva Bupa Health Insurance Company saw its initial public offering (IPO) subscribed 65 per cent on the first day of bidding. The issue received bids of 11,19,04,400 shares against the offered 17,28,57,143 equity shares, at a price band of Rs 70-74, according to the data available on the stock exchanges, according to a company statement. Retail portion and non-institutional investors portion were sub-

scribed 0.71 times and 0.33 times respectively, whereas Qualified Institutional Buyer portion was subscribed 0.79 times. The issue will close on Thursday. The IPO is a mix of fresh issue of up to Rs 800 crore and an offer of sale (OFS) up to Rs 1,400 crore by Bupa Singapore Holdings Pte. Ltd., Fettle Tone LLP. A day before the opening of the issue, Niva Bupa Health Insurance Company raised Rs 990 crore from anchor investors.



Child deaths linked to Chandipura virus: Gujarat Health Minister

Surat, July 16 : Three children have died, and six others have tested positive for the Chandipura virus in Gujarat over the past 10 days, state Health Minister Praful Pansheriya said on Thursday, as authorities intensified surveillance and treatment efforts to contain the infection. Speaking to IANS in Surat district, Pansheriya said health officials had identified 17 suspected cases among children and sent samples for laboratory testing.

"We identified 17 suspected cases among children and conducted Chandipura virus tests. Of these, 10 children tested negative, while six tested positive for the virus and are undergoing treatment. Sadly, three children have died over the past 10 days," the minister said. The latest figures indicate an increase from the initial cluster of cases reported earlier this week in Panchmahal district, where two children died after testing positive for the virus. A third fatality was later reported after a six-year-old child from



Rajasthan, who was undergoing treatment at Himmatnagar Civil Hospital in Sabarkantha district, succumbed to the infection. State health authorities have stepped up surveillance in affected areas by conducting door-to-door screening, collecting blood samples from suspected patients and carrying out insecticide spraying after sand flies, the primary vectors associated with the virus, were detected in the affected villages. Medical teams have also been deployed to monitor children with symptoms and strengthen disease surveillance.



18-member panel to review ongoing survey identifying illegal, unrecognised madrasas in Bengal

Kolkata, July 16 : West Bengal Minority Affairs and Madrasah Education Department has constituted an 18-member committee to review the ongoing survey to identify illegally run unrecognised madrasas, often termed as 'Khariji Madrasahs', in 12 districts of the state. The review committee will start visiting the districts from July 15 and thereafter submit a detailed report to the state Minority Affairs and Madrasah Education department by July 21. Based on the review committee's recommendation, the department will take further action, said an official from the state secretariat of Nabanna. The 12 districts where such review exercises will be conducted are Cooch Behar,

North Dinajpur, Malda, Murshidabad, Birbhum, West Midnapore, East Midnapore, Nadia, Hooghly, Howrah, North 24 Parganas and South 24 Parganas. To recall, in the first week of June, a notification was issued on this count, directing the District Magistrates (DMs) to send comprehensive reports on madrasas in their respective districts to the state secretariat of Nabanna by July 5. Now, with the preliminary report from the DMs already available, state government insiders said that 12 districts have been identified which need a second round of survey in view of the high number of such unrecognised madrasas. Hence, the decision to conduct another round of review of the

state of affairs in the madrasa education system in these 12 districts has been taken before the state government takes the final administrative decision on them. In the earlier notification issued last month, the DMs were asked to provide relevant details of the madrasas in their respective districts, like the day of foundation of the madrasa concerned; whether they are registered with the state Minority Affairs and Madrasah Education Department or not; details of their registration; details of the students studying there and the teaching and non-teaching staff attached to them, whether these madrasas were residential or not and finally on the curriculum offered there. Before that, in May this year, immediately after taking charge as the new Minority Affairs and Madrasah Education minister in the new Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-ruled West Bengal government, Khudiram Tudu announced that the state administration would crack down on madrasas operating illegally.



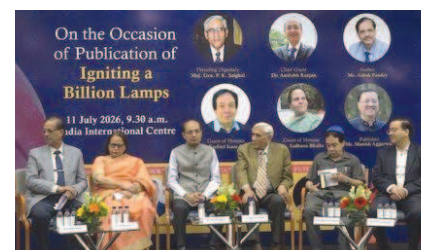
PM Modi's govt serving people without any discrimination: Kiren Rijiju

Dehradun, July 16 : Union Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju said on Thursday that the government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi is working with the spirit of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas", ensuring development for every citizen without any discrimination based on religion or community. Inaugurating the five-day 6th Lok Samvardhan Parv at Parade Ground, Dehradun, in the presence of Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, Rijiju

said: "This festival has emerged as an important national platform for artisans, weavers, craftspersons and entrepreneurs to showcase their talent, traditional craftsmanship and products." The five-day festival brings over 150 artisanal and food stalls, live craft demonstrations and cultural performances, marking the first-ever Lok Samvardhan Parv organised in partnership with the Uttarakhand government under the PM VIKAS Scheme.

Igniting Ideas Forum 2026 sparks national dialogue on education, leadership & nation-building

New Delhi, July 16 : The Igniting Ideas Forum 2026, hosted by Pitambar Publishing Company at the India International Centre in the national capital, unfolded as a vibrant national dialogue on leadership, education, and nation-building. The event marked the release of "Igniting a Billion Lamps" by eminent educationist and author Ashok K Pandey, and was designed as an intellectual forum rather than a conventional book launch. The gathering brought together leading educationists, policymakers, governance experts, and civil society members to deliberate on the future of India's education system. At the heart of the discussion was the question: What kind of leadership should be fostered in schools to prepare India for the future?



Aerial & satellite imaging planned as 'New Noida' project moves forward

Noida, July 16 : An important meeting regarding the Dadri Noida Ghaziabad Investment Region (DNGIR), also known as New Noida, was held on Thursday at the Noida Authority. The meeting was chaired by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Lokesh M. According to official information, several important decisions were made during this meeting, including the establishment of a temporary office near the Eastern Peripheral Expressway, as well as plans to obtain aerial and satellite photographs related to the project. Officials from all departments were present during the interactions at the meeting. The DNGIR area was notified on August 29, 2017, and its master plan for 2041 was approved by the Cabinet on October 18, 2024. The notified area encompasses a total of 80 villages in the Gautam Buddha Nagar and Bulandshahr districts. Development of the area is planned in four phases, scheduled to be completed by 2041. In the first phase, the development of 3,165 hectares of land is to be completed by 2027.



Chhattisgarh: Widow sisters of Ambikapur share touching story of transformation under PMAY scheme

Raipur, July 16 : Building a house is a dream of everyone's life. A person works arduously and rigorously to build a home of his dreams but for the poor and downtrodden families, this dream rarely transforms into a reality. However, the situation is no longer the same under

the Modi government. Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), a flagship scheme of the Modi government is helping realise the dream of many poor families to build their own 'pucca' houses.

India, Canada conclude 3rd round of negotiations for trade pact

New Delhi, July 16 : India and Canada concluded the third round of negotiations for the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) in Ottawa from July 6-10, it was announced on Thursday. The discussions witnessed positive progress across multiple negotiating tracks, reaffirming the shared commitment of both countries to conclude the negotiations in 2026, in line with the vision of the leaders, said Department of Commerce in a post on X. On the sidelines of the G7 Summit in Evian, France, last month, Prime Minister Narendra Modi signalled that he may visit Canada this year and hoped that the long-pending Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between both countries



will be signed before his visit. PM Modi made the comment during a meeting with Canadian counterpart Mark Carney. "You're right that we're very excited about the Free Trade Agreement. And, as you've invited me to come to Canada, I'm also trying to come this year. And, before I come, let's complete this agreement. We want to make a lot of progress in tech-

nology. In energy security, Canada can be a very big partner. So these are all the areas that will be discussed a lot today. And I'm very grateful to you that I'm getting a chance to meet all of you," said PM Modi. Carney said that both countries continue to make "very good progress" on concluding the FTA.



Pak flare-ups a result of misgovernance, repression of people

New Delhi, July 16 : This week's flare-up in Pakistan-Occupied-Jammu and Kashmir (POJK) is not one in isolation. The rise in voices of revolt from various parts of the country reflect decades of misgovernance and quixotic adventures by Islamabad. As Islamabad grapples with widespread revolt for independence in Balochistan and unrest in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP).



Russia to consider NATO's strengthening nuclear potential in its military planning: Minister

Moscow, July 16 : Russia will take the strengthening of NATO's overall nuclear potential into account in its military planning, the country's Deputy Foreign Minister said on Thursday. "We cannot ignore the obvious strengthening of the nuclear component of NATO's overall potential, which is in fact occurring as a result of Europe's efforts to develop its own

nuclear capabilities in addition to the US's corresponding 'umbrella,'" Sergei Ryabkov, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister, was quoted as saying by Russia's leading Tass news agency during an interview with local media. He also said that the strategic risks of a "head-on clash" between NATO and Russia are increasing.

US renews call to free Cuba prisoners

Washington, July 16 : The United States renewed its call for the immediate release of political prisoners in Cuba as Secretary of State Marco Rubio marked the fifth anniversary of the July 11, 2021, anti-government demonstrations, saying the Cuban people still deserve "a better future" after decades of repression and economic hardship under the Communist government. In a statement issued on the anniversary of the protests, Rubio said thousands of Cubans had taken to the streets five years ago demanding change for themselves and their families. "Five years ago, thousands of Cubans took to the streets to demand a better future for themselves and their families, seeking change after decades of repression and economic incompetence by the Communist regime," Rubio said. He said the government responded by crushing the demonstrations.

"True to form, the regime responded with brutality, beating peaceful demonstrators in the streets and arresting thousands of everyday Cubans," Rubio said. According to the Secretary of State, hundreds of those arrested remain in prison. "To this day, hundreds of Cubans remain unjustly detained for the simple sin of asking for basic rights, opportunities, and dignity. We reiterate our call for the immediate release of these, and all, political prisoners in Cuba," he said. Rubio said President Donald Trump and his administration wanted "a better future for Cuba and its long-suffering people." He said that after "decades of repression and gross mismanagement," Cuba's economy was "in freefall," leaving people to endure "blackouts, hunger, and deprivation." Rubio added that the United States had continued to support the Cuban people through humanitarian assistance and exports of food, medicine and other essential



goods. "In this Administration, we have offered Cuba aid, assistance with reconstruction, and the promise of a new relationship between our two countries, if the regime will only agree to make political and economic reforms to allow the country a chance at prosperity," he said. The Secretary of State accused Cuba's leadership of rejecting reform in favour of preserving its grip on power. "Sadly, the regime and its corrupt elites continue to refuse any efforts at meaningful reform, instead continuing to prioritise perpetuating their own total control over the Cuban people, and their dogmatic ad-

herence to their failed and morally bankrupt Marxist ideology," Rubio said. He also alleged that Cuba's leaders continued to consolidate economic control, move the country's remaining resources overseas and blame others for the island's problems. Rubio further accused the Cuban government of aligning itself with "America's enemies," calling it "a serious national security threat" by "hosting hostile foreign military, intelligence, terror, and operations less than 100 miles from our homeland and supporting dangerous subversive and terror networks in the United States itself."



Global index shows corruption is on the rise in Pakistan

New Delhi, July 16 : The widely quoted Corruption Perceptions Index, prepared annually by Transparency International, has ranked Pakistan 135 out of 180 countries for 2026, according to an article in the Pakistan media. There is a need to see the change in ranking of Pakistan over the years, as the incidence of corruption has been highlighted in a recent report by the IMF, the article in the financial newspaper Business Recorder said. In 2015, Pakistan was placed at 117 out of 168 countries, equivalent to the 70th percentile. Therefore, there has been a worsening in Pakistan's ranking over the last decade. This can be seen as a justification for the IMF report. Pakistan also has a low rating in the Human Development Index (HDI) of the United Nations Development Programme, which is considered generally the most appropriate index to assess the overall economic state of a country. The HDI has three components of education, health, and per capita income. It is an indictment of Pakistan, as it has the lowest ranking of 168 among South Asian countries.

Global family offices eye India as long-term investment destination

Washington, July 16 : Global family offices are increasingly turning their attention to India as a long-term investment destination, driven by diaspora-led entrepreneurship, technology innovation, and the country's expanding role in the global economy, the organizer of the world's largest and most exclusive gathering of family wealth has said. India is emerging as a key focus area for wealthy inves-

tors looking beyond traditional markets, particularly as Indian-origin entrepreneurs who built companies abroad are beginning to channel capital and expertise back home, Anthony Ritossa, founder of the Global Family Office Investment Summit, told IANS in an interview. Following the latest summit in Miami, Ritossa said his platform, launched in 2016 with a small gathering of 60 people in Dubai, has grown into a global network of family offices, entrepreneurs,

conglomerate business owners, and members of royal and ruling families. "It was a relatively small gathering back then," he said, adding that the summit series "snowballed since then" and now attracts repeat delegates from around the world. Chairman of the Ritossa Family Office, Ritossa is a family office influencer and impact investor. The Global Family Office Investment Summit now convenes in cities including Dubai, Miami,



Monaco, Riyadh, and locations on the French Riviera, bringing together decision-makers in what Ritossa described as a "safe harbor environment." Miami Mayor Francis Suarez, he noted, has char-

acterized the conference as "becoming a bridge between the US and the Middle East with Miami and Dubai being the gateway cities." Ritossa said the family office community differs from traditional venture capital in both mindset and time horizon. "Family office investment capital tends to be more permanent capital, and it takes a much longer-term horizon," he said, contrasting it with venture capital funds that often operate on shorter cycles and answer to limited partners. He said family offices have historically been early movers into emerging sectors.

South Korea's ministry defends 'two-state' language for peaceful coexistence with North Korea

Seoul, July 16 : The unification ministry on Thursday pushed back against criticism that its newly published white paper violates the Constitution, clarifying the controversial 'two-state' language falls under broader peace efforts on the Korean Peninsula. The ministry characterised the 'two-state' language as an "implementation strategy" to achieve the current administration's policy of peaceful coexistence with North Korea. "(It) is an implementation strategy to achieve the goal of the policy of peaceful coex-



istence on the Korean Peninsula -- institutionalisation of peaceful coexistence between South and North Korea," the ministry said in a statement, Yonhap news agency reported. It underscored its responsibilities of devising such strategies as the main government branch in charge of the peaceful coexistence policy.



Zambia to adapt India's eVIN platform to strengthen medicine supply chain management

Lusaka, July 16 : The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Zambia and UNDP India convened in Lusaka to launch support for adapting India's Electronic Vaccine Intelligence Network (eVIN) platform for Zambia's essential medicines "Track and Trace" and supply chain management system. The five-day mission running being conducted in collaboration with the Zambian Ministry of Health, the Zambia Medicines and Medical Supplies Agency (ZAMMSA), and the Smart Zambia Institute. The initiative brought together technical experts from Zambia and India under a South-South cooperation framework aimed at strengthening pharmaceutical supply chain visibility, accountability, and data-driven decision-making across the health sector. "Originally developed in India to strengthen vaccine logistics and stock visibility, the eVIN platform has become a globally recognised digital public health solution capable of enabling real-time inventory management,

temperature monitoring, and improved distribution efficiency. Zambia is now exploring the adaptation of the platform to support broader essential medicines management and health commodity tracking," read a statement issued by the UNDP. "The mission comes at a critical time as Zambia continues to strengthen resilience, transparency, and sustainability in the health sector amid increasing pressure on health financing systems and growing demand for digital accountability mechanisms. The initiative aligns with Zambia's national digital transformation agenda, health systems strengthening priorities, and ongoing efforts to modernise medicine supply chain management," it added. During the mission, the delegation will engage with senior officials from the Ministry of Health, Smart Zambia Institute, ZAMMSA, and UNDP while conducting technical working sessions and field assessments across national, provincial, district, and facility levels.

Pakistan's religious freedom claims under scrutiny amid persecution of minorities

Islamabad, July 16 : Pakistan has witnessed recurring allegations of forced conversions and marriages involving Sikh and Hindu girls, with such incidents continuing to raise concerns over the persecution of religious minorities in the country. Minority families in Pakistan have repeatedly alleged that their daughters were lured under the pretext of love or coerced into conversion before being married off, a report has stated. "Human rights organisations

at both national and international levels have also expressed concern over these issues. If Pakistan truly claims to be committed to protecting minorities and ensuring religious freedom, it must go beyond formal statements and ensure fair investigations, strict punishment for offenders, and justice for victims," a report in Khalsa Vox detailed. "The safety of minority girls, the protection of their religious rights, and the restoration of trust among their families are essential for any claim of religious tolerance to be credible. The



true test of any democratic and constitutional system lies in how effectively it protects its most vulnerable and minority citizens," it added. According to the report, Pakistan has long projected itself as a champion of religious freedom and the protection of minority communities. Through initiatives such as the Kartarpur Corridor and the facilitation of Sikh pilgrimages.

Israel Embassy in New Delhi hosts launch of Eyal Nir's book 'Budo for Life'

New Delhi, July 16 : The Embassy of Israel in New Delhi hosted the official launch of the book 'Budo for Life' by internationally acclaimed martial artist, leadership mentor, and technology executive Sensei Eyal Nir. During the event, held in the presence of Israel's Ambassador to India, Reuven Azar, the author presented the first copy of the book to the envoy, marking its official launch. Budo, often translated as the 'martial way', is a holistic and philosophical approach to martial arts deeply rooted in Japanese culture. It extends beyond the physical techniques of combat to encompass spiritual and ethical dimensions. Budo is not just about fighting; it's about self-improvement, discipline, and a journey toward enlightenment. Speaking to IANS, Nir said, "The name is Budo for Life. That means Budo, the traditional Japanese martial arts, not just for self-defence, which is obvious, but as a tool for life. It is for anyone, even people who do not practice martial arts, to apply in their personal and professional lives and in their daily routines by leveraging the wisdom.



Police arrest home tutor for sexually assaulting a 12th-grade student

Kolkata, July 16 : A home tutor who is accused of sexually assaulting a 12th-grade student by calling her to his home has been arrested by the police, said a senior police officer on Thursday. The incident was reported by the Lake Town police station in north Kolkata. According to the police, the tutor called the student to his home for tutoring about four days ago. The girl alleged that the tutor wanted to spend time with her under the pretext of

teaching. He gave her a drink laced with drugs. After taking the drink, the student fell unconscious within a few moments. At that time, the tutor allegedly sexually assaulted her. According to the police, the student fell sick after regaining consciousness, and she wanted to go home. Later, she returned home alone. Later, she complained to her parents against the tutor and narrated the entire incident. Eventually, a written complaint was filed by the family of the student at the Lake Town police station. On the basis



of that, the accused was arrested on Saturday night. The arrested tutor was produced before the Bidhannagar court on Sunday. Police said that an investigation into the incident has been initiated. They have requested the judge to grant the arrested person into their custody for the sake of the investigation.

Two-year-old girl abducted from Jharkhand rescued in MP's Singrauli

Singrauli, July 16 : The Police in Madhya Pradesh's Singrauli on Thursday claimed that they have rescued a two-year-old girl who was abducted from the Baidhan Bus Stand and brought her back safely from Jharkhand within 36 hours of the complaint. The incident occurred on May 16. The girl's father lodged a complaint at the Baidhan Police Station, saying that he was sleeping with his daughter at the bus stand. "When the girl's father woke up late at night, her daughter was reportedly missing," according to the police. After searching the area and failing to find his daughter, the girl's father suspected she had been taken away by an unidentified person. Police registered a case and started an investigation immediately into the matter. An Special Investigation Team (SIT) was formed under the supervision of Singrauli Superintendent of Police (SP), Shiayaz K.M., with 10 teams comprising around 150 police personnel which were deployed under the leadership.



SAIL inks pact with Administrative Staff College of India for special courses

New Delhi, July 16 : The Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) and Administrative Staff College of India (ASCI), Hyderabad on Thursday signed an MoU for academic collaboration under which the steel giant's executives will attend specialised courses to upgrade their leadership skills. "This MoU will facilitate the conduct of customised Management Development Programmes for the newly promoted executives of SAIL, among others. Collaboration with reputed institutions is part of the overall Learning & Development strategy of SAIL to provide further academic exposure to the company's executives facilitating them to grow in their leadership positions," the company said in a statement.

The MoU was signed at SAIL's corporate office in the national capital in the presence of KK Singh, Director (Personnel), SAIL and Nirmalya Bagchi, Director, ASCI, Hyderabad. Established in 1956 at the initiative of the government and the corporate sector, the ASCI, Hyderabad, has pioneered post-experience management education in India. Considered as the College for Practicing Managers, ASCI equips corporate managers, administrators, entrepreneurs and academicians with the skills to synthesize managerial theory and practice; and respond to the ever-increasing complexity of managerial issues confronting government, industrial enterprises and non-government organizations.



Drought deepens in TN's Namakkal as dry lakes leave farmers staring at crop losses

Namakkal, July 16 : An acute water shortage has gripped the Kumarapalayam region of Tamil Nadu's Namakkal district, leaving farmers struggling to save their crops as delayed monsoon rains and the non-release of water from the Mettur dam have pushed the area towards a severe agricultural crisis. More than 20 irrigation lakes in Kumarapalayam, Pallipalayam and Veppadai have dried up completely, depriving thousands of acres of farmland of their primary source of irrigation. With no significant rainfall and no canal water reaching the region, cultivation activities have come to a near standstill, raising fears of widespread crop failure and heavy financial losses.

Agriculture remains the backbone of the local economy, with paddy, turmeric, banana and sugarcane being the major crops cultivated across the region. Many farmers had already invested heavily in preparing their fields and purchasing seeds, saplings and fertilisers, largely through borrowed funds, expecting a normal irrigation season. However, continued water scarcity has left several fields uncultivated, while crops planted earlier are beginning to wilt. The prolonged dry spell has also severely affected groundwater availability, further worsening the situation for farming families. In several villages, the drying up of irrigation tanks has created concerns not only about agriculture but also about the availability of drinking water for

residents and livestock. Farmers fear that if water is not released soon or adequate rainfall is not received in the coming weeks, they could suffer substantial crop losses, making it increasingly difficult to repay agricultural loans and recover the investments made for the current cultivation season. Many are worried that another failed season could force small and marginal farmers deeper into debt and threaten their livelihoods. The crisis has prompted growing concern among local residents and social activists, who have urged the Tamil Nadu government to intervene immediately. They have sought urgent field inspections by agriculture and revenue officials to assess the extent of crop damage and the deteriorating water situation.



Gurugram: 294 illegal colonies to be legalised soon

Gurugram, July 16 : People residing in 294 illegal colonies of Gurugram are expected to get a big relief as the Municipal Corporation of Gurugram (MCG) has completed the survey of these colonies and submitted its report to the government. These colonies can be regularised as soon as the government approves so that lakhs of residents living here will be able to get basic amenities like water, roads, sewer and street lights for the first time. The Urban Local Bodies (ULB) Department issued a list of these colonies to the MCG in February 2023, in which it was directed to regularise them as per the prescribed standards. Under this, the survey has examined standards like road width of the colonies, area of the colony and validity of the land. This work took eight months in which the corporation ensured that all the colonies were assessed in depth during the survey. These colonies were mainly settled illegally around or between the regular colonies of the MCG limits.

Centre's funds for tap water scheme misused by BJP-led IMC: Ex-minister Mukesh Nayak

Indore, July 16 : Senior Congress leader and former minister Mukesh Nayak on Thursday levelled serious allegations against the BJP-led Indore Municipal Corporation (IMC), claiming that misuse of funds under the Centre's Jal Jeevan Mission resulted in more than 40,000 residents being forced to consume contaminated drinking water over the past six months. Speaking to IANS, Nayak, who is also in charge of the Madhya Pradesh Congress media department, alleged that the IMC failed to properly lay pipelines for new water connections in several residential areas, leading to sewerage lines being connected with Narmada water supply pipelines. He further alleged that despite funds being allocated by the Centre under the Jal Jeevan Mission, the IMC repeatedly floated tenders for laying new water pipelines but failed to finalise them. "In the past six months, tenders for new water lines were floated three times but were cancelled due to internal conflicts among local BJP leaders in Indore," Nayak claimed. Alleviating irregularities in the utilisation of central funds for the tap water programme, the Congress leader said that the water contamination had led to several deaths and widespread illness.



Nagaland CM urges broader Naga unity beyond borders for lasting political solution

Kohima, July 16 : Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio on Thursday emphasised that while physical integration of Naga-inhabited areas may not be immediately possible, unity in political, cultural, and social spheres remains essential for resolving the long-standing Naga issue. Speaking at the Tenyimi Youth Cultural Festi-

val at Naga Heritage Village Kisama, near Kohima, Rio reiterated that integration has consistently been a core demand, with the Nagaland Assembly passing multiple resolutions supporting it. However, he stressed the need to strengthen bonds beyond territorial limits, urging Nagas to remain united through shared identity, traditions, and custom-

ary laws. Highlighting the importance of cultural cohesion, Rio said that communities like the Tenyimi, spread across regions and states, are connected by common heritage and values. He noted that such unity can reinforce the broader Naga identity and earn greater recognition.

Bengal: Jadavpur MP sends legal notice to teacher recruitment scam middleman

Kolkata, July 16 : Jadavpur MP Saayoni Ghosh on Thursday sent a legal notice to Tapas Mondal, one of the 'middlemen' in the teachers' recruitment corruption case, who had made explosive allegations against her. The Jadavpur MP sent the legal notice because her name is being unfairly linked to the recruitment scam. She filed a defamation case for Rs 5 crore and served him with

a notice. Elected as the MP from Jadavpur constituency on a Trinamool Congress ticket, Saayoni Ghosh joined the NCPI party after Trinamool's defeat in the state Assembly elections. She



was one of the rebel Trinamool MPs in the Lok Sabha who switched after the party was going through turmoil. According to the legal notice, the middleman must immediately apologise and pay Rs 5 crore. Otherwise, she will take legal action against him. In this regard, she said the investigating agency called her once before, and she submitted 500 pages of documents.

Indian Ambassador

Abhishek Singh presents credentials to Benin Prez

Abuja, July 16 : India's Ambassador to Benin, Abhishek Singh, formally presented his Letter of Credence to Romuald Wadagni, President of Benin, at the Presidential Villa in Cotonou, the Indian High Commission to Nigeria stated on Thursday. The High Commission said that Abhishek Singh formally presented his Letter of Credence as Ambassador of India to President Wadagni at the Presidential Villa in Cotonou on 10 July 2026. President Wadagni graciously received Singh and extended his congratulations and best wishes for the assumption of his duties. Upon assuming his duties, Singh reiterated India's commitment to further strengthening its partnership with Benin and expressed confidence in the continued advancement of bilateral cooperation across diverse sectors. The High Commission added that it remains committed to fostering

and strengthening the bilateral partnership between India and Benin in the days to come. The High Commission in Abuja is concurrently accredited to Benin and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). The Ambassador also met with President Wadagni and discussed issues of bilateral importance. His tenure, it said, will further strengthen India-Benin ties. On Thursday, Singh met Olushegun Adjadi Bakari, Minister of Tourism and Foreign Trade, who is in charge of African Integration, Industry, and the Promotion of Private Investment. The High Commission wrote on X that Singh held productive discussions with Bakari on further expanding India-Benin bilateral cooperation, with a focus on enhancing trade and investment in pharmaceuticals, agriculture, digital payments, tourism.



Africa CDC, WHO chiefs to visit DRC's Ebola epicentre to accelerate response

Addis Ababa, July 16 : Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) Director-General Jean Kaseya and World Health Organisation (WHO) Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus are set to visit the epicentre of the ongoing Ebola outbreak in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) next week, as part of a joint mission aimed at accelerating outbreak response. This came after a meeting between heads of the two organisations in Geneva, Switzerland, where discussions focused on the continued Bundibugyo Ebola virus outbreak in the DRC and Uganda.

Israeli forces seize another aid flotilla carrying Korean activists: Civic group

Seoul, July 16 : Israeli forces have seized another humanitarian aid flotilla, carrying two activists from a South Korean civic group, headed for the Gaza Strip, the group said Thursday. The Lina Al Nabulsi, carrying South Korean activist Kim Ah-hyun and Korean American activist Jonathan Victor Lee, was confirmed to have been intercepted by the Israeli military in waters near the Gaza Strip at 2:50 a.m. Wednesday (Seoul time), according to the Korean Flotilla for a Free Palestine. The capture comes after Israeli forces seized the Kyriakos X aid flotilla on Monday, which was carrying South Korean activist Kim Dong-hyeon, among other activists from around the world, according to the group. An official at the civic group said Israeli forces have opted to detain those on board and sink the boats, rather than towing them as they previously had done.



Indian envoy inaugurates Sri Lanka-India Media Friendship Association Fest

Colombo, July 16 : India's High Commissioner to Sri Lanka, Santosh Jha, on Thursday, along with Deputy Minister of Mass Media, Kaushalya Ariyaratne, inaugurated the second edition of Sri Lanka-India Media Friendship Association (SLIMFA) Fest 2026. "SLIMFA Media Fest returns! High Commissioner Santosh Jha and Deputy Minister of Mass Media Kaushalya Ariyaratne inaugurated the 2nd edition of SLIMFA Media Fest 2026 in Colombo," the High Commis-

sion of India in Sri Lanka wrote on social media platform X. "Following the successful inaugural edition in 2025, the festival returned under the theme 'Staying Relevant in a Changing World', bringing together leading journalists, editors, media professionals, academics and digital creators from Sri Lanka and India to discuss the evolving media landscape," it added. On Thursday, the High Commissioner attended the India-Sri Lanka Trade Connect event. "Delighted to attend the India-Sri Lanka Trade Connect event organised by the High Commis-

sion of India in Sri Lanka, bringing together the FIEO business delegation and leading Sri Lankan business chambers. Pleased to witness the exchange of the FIEO-NCE MoU. Productive B2B networking and discussions reinforced the immense potential to expand bilateral trade, investment and business partnerships," the High Commissioner wrote on X. Earlier this week, he also handed over the Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) to Pradeep Sundaralingam, Sri Lanka's Deputy Minister of Plantation and Community Infrastructure.

Africa terror threat alarms US lawmakers

Washington, July 16 : Senior US military commanders warned Congress that Africa has become the new global centre of terrorism, with extremist groups rapidly expanding across the continent and posing growing threats to American and allied interests. The warning came during a House Armed Services Committee hearing where General Dagvin Anderson said the threat from ISIS and al-Qaeda affiliates in Africa had reached alarming levels. "Today, the epicentre of global terrorism is in Africa," Anderson told lawmakers. Anderson warned that ISIS leadership and al-Qaeda's financial networks were now deeply rooted in Africa, especially in West Africa and the Sahel region. "Both groups share the will and intent to strike our homeland," he said. The Commander of US Africa Command pointed specifically to the growing instability in Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso, warning that terrorist groups were increasingly controlling territory and exploiting weak governance structures. "The capture of a capital city would provide al Qaeda with all the trappings of a nation state to sponsor global terrorism," Anderson said. The hearing also revealed deep US concerns over expanding Chinese and Russian influence across Africa. "China views Africa as its second conti-



ment," Anderson said, accusing Beijing of securing strategic control over critical minerals and infrastructure. He also described Africa as "Putin's purse," saying Russia was exploiting instability to extract resources and manpower for its war machine. Lawmakers heard that the US military recently conducted a joint operation with Nigerian forces that killed ISIS global operations leader Bilal al-Maliki. According to Anderson, the operation demonstrated the importance of regional partnerships and intelligence cooperation. "The Nigerians have been instrumental throughout the last several

Nearly 25 pc of forced conversion cases through marriage in Pakistan involve Christian girls: Report

Brussels, July 16 : The European Parliament has adopted a resolution calling on the Pakistani authorities to end the abduction and forced conversion to Islam of girls belonging to religious minority communities, according to a latest report. Citing United Nations data for 2025, the resolution stated that Christian girls account for nearly 25 per cent of cases involving forced religious conversion through marriage. In the resolution, Members of the European Parliament urged Pakistan to establish a comprehensive national framework to eliminate child marriage and "create a national mechanism for handling complaints from families of abducted or forcibly converted girls from minorities.



Global rights group revives focus on religious persecution of minorities during 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War

Dhaka, July 16 : While Bangladesh's 1971 Liberation War against Pakistan has long been associated with mass killings, displacement and systematic repression, Brussels-based Human Rights Without Frontiers (HRWF) said that the religious dimension of the violence remains insufficiently recognised. The organisation noted that Hindu communities were disproportionately targeted and persecuted on the basis of their religious identity, a report has stated. The debate over formally

recognising the violence committed by the Pakistani forces during the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War as genocide has resurfaced at the United Nations following a statement by HRWF on July 3. Although the issue is not new, its renewed prominence reflects a broader shift in global human rights discourse, with increasing emphasis on addressing historical injustices that continue to shape present-day vulnerabilities, according to a report in Eurasia Review. "Commenting as the 62nd session of the UN Human Rights Council took place, HRWF director Willy



Fautre framed the issue not as a matter of retrospective classification, but as a pressing concern for present-day religious freedom. His intervention highlights an increasingly prominent idea within global governance—that accountability for past atrocities

is inseparable from the protection of rights today," it added. The report noted that the failure to fully recognise the religious aspect of the 1971 atrocities continues to have repercussions in the present.

US Congress introduces bill to designate Anti-Communism Week

Washington, July 16 : Legislation has been introduced in the US Congress to designate the first week as Anti-Communism Week and to seek an annual presidential proclamation honoring victims of communist regimes worldwide, according to a press release. Introduced by Senator Rick Scott in the Senate, the bill proposes to mark Mar 27 through 8 each year as Anti-Communism Week. The measure also asks the President to issue a yearly proclamation calling on Americans to observe the week. Scott said the legislation is meant to remember the victims of communist regimes and to reinforce



American values of freedom and liberty. He said communism has caused widespread suffering and death wherever it has taken hold. "Communism is one of the most destructive and deadly ideologies in human history, responsible for the suffering and deaths of millions while crushing freedom wherever it takes hold," Scott said. "As a nation founded on liberty and individual freedoms.

No matter what happens, Virat's belief system never changes : Nayar

New Delhi, July 16 : Former India assistant coach Abhishek Nayar has highlighted Virat Kohli's unwavering belief in his own methods as the defining trait behind the batting great's sustained success, recalling a conversation with the former India captain during a difficult phase in Australia. Sharing the anecdote while reflecting on Kohli's mentality, Nayar said the 36-year-old's confidence in his process never wavered despite a string of low scores, a quality he believes separates the game's elite from everyone else. Nayar revealed that he reached out to Kohli after the batter endured a difficult ODI series in Australia, where he registered two ducks. Having only recently moved on from the Indian team setup, Nayar remained in contact with Kohli and wanted to check on how he was coping with the lean spell. "I've known Virat for a really long time, but one thing I realised in the recent past is that the reason Virat Kohli is Virat Kohli is because of the belief systems he has. No matter what happens, that belief never changes," Nayar told JioStar. According to Nayar, Kohli's response reflected the calmness and conviction that have become synonymous with his career as he stated. , "When Virat was struggling in Australia and had those two ducks in the ODI series, I'd just come out of the Indian team, so we were still in touch. I asked him if everything was okay and whether there was anything he wanted to talk about.



After the end of IPL 2025, told myself that boys and RR ready to play without me, says Samson

New Delhi, July 16 : India wicketkeeper-batter Sanju Samson has opened up about his blockbuster trade from Rajasthan Royals to Chennai Super Kings before IPL 2026 began, stating that he felt his long-standing franchise was finally ready to transition into a new phase without him. Samson spent 11 years with RR and captained them for five seasons, before moving to CSK through a high-profile trade ahead of IPL 2026. "Moving on from RR was a very big decision for me. I believe that after playing for a team for some time, you start to feel like this is your team and nobody can remove you. "But I always had the awareness that there is a limited time for everyone at one place. You do your part, and you move out and after the end of IPL 2025, a point came when I felt that I should move on. I told myself that the boys are ready, and RR is ready to play without Sanju Samson. That is when I thought of leaving," Samson said on JioStar's 'Superstars.'

FIFA WC: 'My head is a bit fuzzy with disappointment,' says Bellingham after semi-final heartbreak

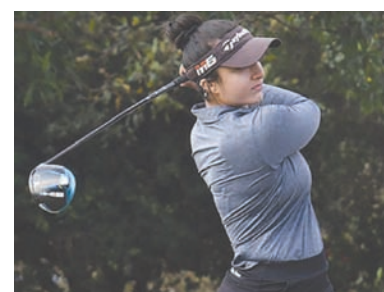
Atlanta, July 16 : England midfielder Jude Bellingham admitted he was 'gutted' after the Three Lions suffered a heartbreaking 2-1 defeat to Argentina in the FIFA World Cup 2026 semi-final, saying he had desperately hoped to be part of the squad that finally ended the nation's long wait for global glory. England looked on course for their first World Cup final since 1966 after Anthony Gordon gave

them the lead in the 55th minute at Atlanta Stadium. However, defending champions Argentina produced a dramatic late comeback, with Enzo Fernandez equalising in the 85th minute before Lautaro Martinez struck the winner in stoppage time to book a final against Spain.



F1 racer Arvid hails Sooryavanshi as part of sport's fearless new generation

Birmingham, July 16 : Formula One rookie Arvid Lindblad believes Indian cricket prodigy Vaibhav Sooryavanshi is part of a new wave of teenage stars redefining elite sport, saying advances in technology and access to better information are enabling athletes to reach the highest level at increasingly younger ages. The Racing Bulls driver shared his thoughts during the host broadcast of the first ODI between England and India at Edgbaston, where Shubman Gill's side secured a six-wicket victory to take a 1-0 lead in the three-match series. At just 18, Lindblad belongs to the same generation of emerging sporting talents as Mercedes driver Kimi Antonelli, Spain football sensation Lamine Yamal, and 15-year-old Sooryavanshi.



WPGT 2026: Ridhima stretches lead to two shots after Round 2 of 10th Leg

Kolar (Karnataka), July 16 : Ridhima Dilawari got over a late double-bogey to extend her overnight lead from one to two shots after two rounds at the tenth leg of the Women's Pro Golf Tour (WPGT) at the Zion Hills Golf County in Kolar, Karnataka, on Thursday. Ridhima, a three-time winner this season, had five birdies against two bogeys and a double bogey on the Par-17th. The birdie on the closing hole eased the pain as she carded 1-under 71 after a first-round 68. At 5-under 139, Ridhima is two shots clear of Amandeep Drall (69-72) and Vidhatri Urs (69-72). Vani Kapoor, winner last week, dropped as many as four bogeys, including back-to-back lapses on the eighth and the ninth, as she shot 1-over 73 and is in sole fourth. Young Saanvi Somu, armed with the experience of playing on the Ladies Access Tour in Europe, had a great start with four birdies in the first six holes. However, she lost that momentum as there were no more birdies.

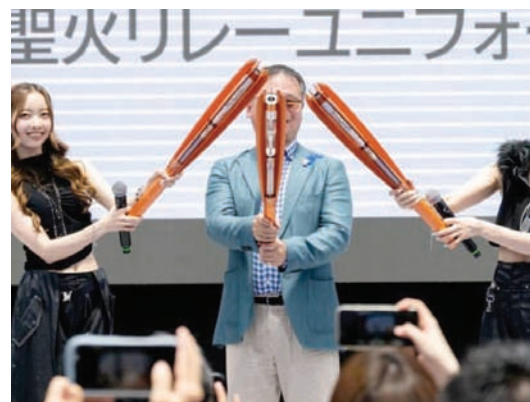
Asian Para Games 2026 marks 100-day countdown with unveiling of torch, medals

Nagoya, July 16 : The countdown to the Aichi-Nagoya 2026 Asian Para Games reached a significant milestone as the Organising Committee (AINAGOC) hosted the official 100 Days to Go ceremony, unveiling the Games' torch, medals, torch relay uniform, and commemorative gifts ahead of Asia's biggest Para sporting event. The celebration brought to-

gether government representatives, local officials, members of the Paralympic Movement, and the community, underscoring the growing excitement as Aichi and Nagoya prepare to host the Games from October 18 to 24. An Asian Paralympic Committee (APC) delegation, led by President Majid Rashed, attended the ceremony alongside representatives from AINAGOC, Aichi Prefecture, the City of Nagoya, and

other key stakeholders. The event highlighted the final phase of preparations for the Games, which will welcome around 3,000 athletes from 45 National Paralympic Committees, competing across 18 Para sports. Inspired by the Games' slogan, "Imagine One Heart," the newly unveiled medals symbolise people from diverse cultures coming together through sport while recognising the dedication and

perseverance of athletes on their journey to the podium. The torch relay uniform also reflects the same theme of unity, connection, and hope, representing athletes, volunteers, officials, and spectators



coming together to celebrate the Games. Medal winners will additionally receive commemorative gifts featuring the official mascot Uzumin in gold, silver, and bronze editions. Addressing the gathering, APC President Majid Rashed said.