

THE INDIAN MAIL

HYDERABAD **FRIDAY, 03 JULY 2026** VOL : 16 No : 308 PAGES : 12 ₹ 4 PUBLISHED FROM HYDERABAD & VIJAYAWADA



TN's Aavin denies milk supply decline, says Chennai sales rise
State-run dairy cooperative Aavin has strongly denied reports of a decline in milk supply, asserting that milk distribution across Chennai continues without interruption and that sales...

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USA could have upset India at T20 WC; ETPL can help European teams close the gap: Belfast captain Maxwell
Australia all-rounder Glenn Maxwell believes the gap between cricket's powerhouses and emerging nations is narrowing...

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Hyderabad Police Bust Ganja Racket and Supply of Ganja across the country through speed post : CP Sajjanar
Hyderabad CP Sajjanar said that a gang supplying ganja across the country through speed post has been arrested....

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Japan and India committed to strengthening ties as 'brother and sister': Takaichi

New Delhi, July 2 : Emphasising the need for deeper bilateral cooperation amid growing global uncertainty, Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi on Thursday said that Japan and India should build on their respective strengths to achieve shared prosperity. Addressing a joint press meet with Prime Minister Narendra Modi following their talks at the Hyderabad House in New Delhi.



Tribal MLAs urge Revanth to allocate additional Indiramma houses for agency areas

Hyderabad, July 2 : Adivasi and Tribal MLAs have requested Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy to allocate an additional 2,000 'Indiramma' houses to constituencies within Agency regions. The MLAs, led by Panchayat Raj Minister Seethakka, met Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy at the Secretariat on Thursday, where they presented petitions addressing various issues.



KTR slams Congress govt over cowardly retreat from debt face-off

Hyderabad, July 2 : Bharat Rashtra Samithi eorking president K.T. Rama Rao launched a blistering attack on Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and his cabinet Ministers on Thursday, accusing them of a cowardly retreat from a debate on state debts. Speaking to the media at Telangana Bhavan on Thursday.



WELFARE TENDERS & STATE DEBT High-volt drama unfolds Hyderabad over Congress-BRS open challenge

Hyderabad, July 2 : Tension situation prevailed at Gun Park and BRS Bhavan in Hyderabad on Thursday, marked by challenges and counter-challenges between Ministers and BRS leaders regarding the location for an open debate about alleged irregularities in welfare department tenders. Ministers Ponnam Prabhakar, Adluri Laxman, and Azharuddin, who had accepted the BRS's invitation for a debate, gathered at Gun Park and accused BRS leaders of not attending. They expressed their willingness to engage in dis-

cussions with any former BRS minister who might arrive, extending an invitation to the Somajiguda Press Club for the debate. In the meantime, former minister Harish Rao began his journey from Telangana Bhavan to Gun Park, which led to heightened tension as the police intervened to stop him.



VB-G Ramji scheme will improve the living standards of the poor : CM Chandrababu

Tirupati, July 2 : Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu stated that the 'Viksit Bharat Rozgar' scheme would bring light into

the lives of the poor. He remarked that this scheme would transform the face of the villages and improve the living standards of the underprivileged. CM Chandrababu

toured the Tirupati district on Thursday. The VB-G Ramji scheme was launched in Mukkuvaripalli. Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan attended the event alongside CM

Chandrababu. Speaking on the occasion, CM Chandrababu remarked that Andhra Pradesh is developing in all aspects under the alliance government. CM Chandrababu announced that a Google data center is coming to North Andhra. He stated that a fighter jet manufacturing facility is set to be established in Puttaparthi. He reiterated the commitment to transform Rayalaseema into a prosperous region. He announced plans to lay the foundation stone for a steel plant in Jammalamadugu. He clarified that the Polavaram project would be completed before the Godavari Pushkaralu. He explained that this scheme would provide employment to the poor for 185 days a year. He stated that a digital system has been implemented in this scheme to prevent the manipulation of records. He noted that the states' share in the VB-G Ram Ji scheme has increased from 10 percent to 40 percent.



'VB Ji Ram Ji' scheme is part of poverty eradication : Dy CM Pawan Kalyan

Tirupati, July 2: Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his support for the development of AP. On Thursday, the 'VB G RAM-G' scheme was launched in Mukkavaripalle in Tirupati district. Pawan at-

tended the program along with Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu. Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Chief Minister said that the VB G RAM-G scheme is part of poverty eradication.



I will never forget the Telugu Desam activists who walked with him during the Yuvagalam Padayatra : Minister Nara Lokesh

Tirupati, July 2 : Andhra Pradesh Education and IT Minister Nara Lokesh said that he will never forget the Telugu Desam Party workers who accompanied him on his Yuvagalam Padayatra. Lokesh participated in the wedding cer-

emony of Kamma Welfare and Development Corporation Chairman Nadendla Brahmam Chowdhury in Tirupati on Thursday and blessed the newlyweds. He warmly greeted the Yuvagalam team members at the event and recalled the memories of the Padayatra days. Lokesh interacted with the workers for about 15 minutes. He praised the role of the TDP cadre in the success of the Yuvagalam.

Jagan consoles family of Dalit youth who died by suicide due to police harassment

Vijayawada, July 2 : Former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister and YSR Congress Party President YS Jagan Mohan Reddy on Thursday visited the residence of Kranthi Kumar, a Dalit youth who recently died by suicide due to alleged police harassment.

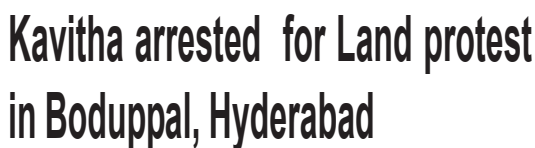




He said BRS leaders, including himself and K.T. Rama Rao, were present at Telangana Bhavan, but Congress leaders failed to honour their own challenge. Harish Rao said Minister Jupally Krishna Rao initially alleged that the previous BRS government had burdened Telangana with ₹8 lakh crore of debt but later reduced the figure to 7 lakh crore, questioning the credibility of the government's allegations. Harish Rao said the Congress government prevented the debate by deploying the police and obstruct-

ing BRS leaders from reaching the designated venue. He alleged that the government's actions demonstrated its unwillingness to defend its claims in public. Referring to the alleged irregularities in Gurukul tenders, Harish Rao said he, along with BRS leaders R.S. Praveen Kumar and Koppala Eshwar, had presented documentary evidence regarding alleged irregularities in the procurement process. He alleged that the government's refusal to participate in the debate had effectively

exposed the irregularities. The BRS leader further alleged that tenders for groceries, uniforms, footwear, notebooks and other supplies meant for Gurukul institutions had been manipulated, resulting in substantial financial loss to the State. He claimed that inflated procurement costs in items such as edible oils, spices and other essential supplies had caused significant loss to the exchequer. Harish Rao also alleged that procurement orders meant for LIDCAP, which benefits Dalit entrepreneurs, had been diverted in violation of existing government policy. He questioned how the government could deny irregularities when LIDCAP itself had formally represented that it had received such orders during the previous BRS government.

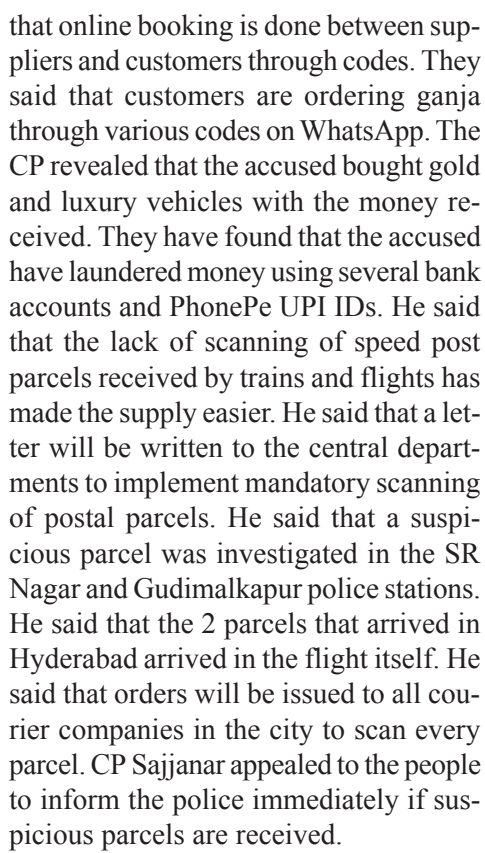


Hyderabad, July 2: Telangana Defence Force President Kavitha was arrested by the police in Boduppall. On Thursday, TRS is ready for a land struggle in Boduppall under Uppal constituency. As part of this, the police stopped Kavitha, who was carrying out a land struggle, when she reached Boduppall. This led to an argument between TRS activists and the police.

After a scuffle, the police detained Kavitha and TRS cadres. From there, she was taken to Bollaram police station.

Countdown starts for Congress government: Kavitha Kavitha said that the blood of Telangana activists and women was shed in Uppal today. Speaking at Bollaram PS, the TRS chief lashed out at the police for indiscriminate lathicharge on women and Telangana activists.

Hyderabad, July 2 : Hyderabad CP Sajjanar said that a gang supplying ganja across the country through speed post has been arrested. Speaking to the media on Thursday, he said that H-Fast officials and Gudimalkapur police conducted a joint operation and arrested the accused. He said that ganja is being delivered to the door through speed post. He said that Satyam Mishra from Jharkhand has been arrested. Satyam Mishra, who completed his intermediate, worked as a painter and quit. He said that after that, he worked as a lorry driver. Mishra, who got addicted to ganja in 2018, formed a syndicate with Rahul Jai, Sachin Mishra and Santosh and planted ganja in his own village. He said that he grows ganja with many people in the village, buys it and supplies it to customers. He said that four other accused are absconding. He said that ganja is being supplied to 21 states through speed post and courier services. Sajjanar said that they are supplying ganja to many cities including Hyderabad, Mumbai, Chennai, Delhi and Bangalore. They are deceiving postal officials by giving false declarations that there are medicines in the parcels. They have found that parcels were booked through speed post from Isri Bazaar and Phusro post offices. They said that orders are taken through WhatsApp and social media and cash transactions are done through UPI. They said that they get an income of about Rs. 1 lakh per day. They say that there is a turnover of Rs. 30 lakh to Rs. 35 lakh per month and Rs. 4 crore to Rs. 5 crore per year. They said



Indian Christian Day should be given official recognition and 3rd July should be declared a public holiday along with Christmas and Easter : UCPI National President Sri Kola Prasad

Vijayawada, July 2: A press meet was organized by the United Christian Protection India Council (UCPIC) on the occasion of Indian Christian Day at a local hotel on Thursday.

Speaking on the occasion, UCPIC National President and Founder Shri Kola Prasad said that the foundation of Christian faith in India was laid when Apostle Thomas, one of the twelve disciples of Lord Jesus Christ, came to India in the year 52 AD and preached the gospel. He said that Indian Christian Day is celebrated every year on July 3 to commemorate that historical occasion.

He demanded that the central and state governments officially recognize the Indian Christian Day, declare July 3 as a public holiday along with Christmas and Easter, increase the honorarium of pastors from Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 10,000, and allocate Rs. 3 lakh for repairs to many dilapidated churches. Most importantly, the government should form a peace committee to investigate the attacks on Christians, including retired DIGs and DGPs, and form a committee with leaders of all religions to investigate. The meeting was attended by Dr. Deva Dandala, editor of Spandana monthly magazine, Reverend Arun Kumar, representative of the Lutheran Church, Reverend Karunanidhi, representative of the CSI Church, Reverend Jangam Asia, representative of the Manna Church, Pastor Bira Raju, Pastor B Ravikanth, leaders and pastors of various Christian communities.

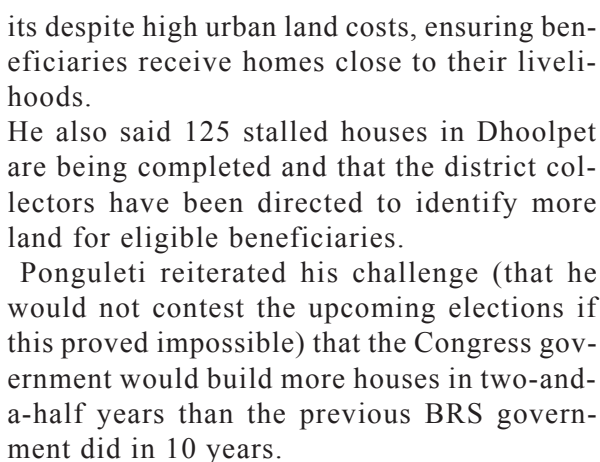
Amaravati, July 2: The AP government has taken a key decision on the retirement age of employees of PSUs, corporations and societies. The government has issued a GO increasing the current retirement age of 60 years to 62 years. The government issued the order on Thursday in accordance with the resolution approved by the state cabinet earlier.

According to the government order, this decision will be implemented retrospectively from January 1, 2022. Also, eligible employees who retired at the age of 60 years have the opportunity to return to duty. The government has clarified that there will be no salary for the gap period until they return to duty. It has been stated that the gap period will not be taken into account for seniority and promotions.

Hyderabad, July 2 : Telangana Revenue, Housing and Information & Public Relations Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy announced that the state government will soon invite tenders for the construction of one lakh Indiramma houses in the City Urban Region (CUR) within the Inner Ring Road limits. Land acquisition for the project across three municipal corporations would be completed within the next two to three days, as directed by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, he added.

Addressing a gathering after distributing allotment documents for double-bedroom houses in the Goshamahal Assembly constituency, Ponguleti said the government aims to provide a house to every poor family. He announced that, as a pilot, 500 - 1,000 houses would be taken up in each of the 19 CUR Assembly constituencies, with additional allocations planned in later phases.

Further, the minister said the government would construct houses within city limits.



Hyderabad, July 2 : Chilkalguda Police cracked a premeditated armed dacoity case by arresting four members of a criminal gang involved in the June 28 robbery at Jyoti Medical Hall in Padma Rao Nagar, Secunderabad. Police are continuing the search for the alleged mastermind and five other absconding accused.

According to police, the masked gang overpowered two security guards at knifepoint, confined them, used gas-cutting equipment to break into the penthouse, and escaped with Rs.30,000 in cash, including money stolen from the guards. An investigation involving CCTV analysis, technical surveillance, intelligence gathering and field inquiries revealed that the robbery had been meticulously planned over 10-15 days. The gang conducted reconnaissance of the premises, studied security arrangements and procured knives, masks, gas cylinders, gas-cutting equipment, motorcycles and a Tata Ace vehicle before executing the crime. The arrested accused have been identified as Rohit Pal (24), Devendra Kumar Jayswal (26), Prudhvi Raj (23) and Mohammed Salman (26).



Bank of Maharashtra
BRANCH: HFB KUKATALLY,
122, HSB NARADA RD, 24/5007,
www.bankofmaharashtra.com

Bank of Maharashtra

BRANCH: HFB KUKATALLY, 122, HSB NARADA RD, 24/5007, www.bankofmaharashtra.com

24/55008 - e-mail: brmg2473@mahabank.com in Corporate Office:
Montclair, 134/1, Baner, Pashan Link Road, Pashan, Pune 411021

DEMAND NOTICE

Under Section 13 (2) of Securitisation & Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002.

The accounts of the following borrowers with **Bank of Maharashtra** having been classified as NPA, the Bank has issued notice under S.13(2) of the SARFESI Act on the date mentioned below. In view of the non service of the notice on the last known address of below mentioned borrowers/Guarantors, this public notice is being published for information of all concerned.

The below mentioned Borrowers/Guarantors are called upon to pay to **Bank of Maharashtra** within days of the date of publication of this Notice the amounts indicated below due on the dates together with future interest at contractual rates, till the date of payment, under the loan/and other agreements and documents executed by the concerned persons. As security for the borrowers' obligation under the said agreements and documents, the respective assets shown against the names have been charged to **Bank of Maharashtra**.

Name & Address of the Borrower/Co-Borrower: 1. Mr. Nemina Sai Sandeep, H. No.12-1-1119-42/1, Indira Nagar, North Lalgauda, Secunderabad Hyderabad, Lalgauda, Telangana - 500017 2. Mrs. N Geetha H. No.12-1-1119-42/1 Indira Nagar, North Lalgauda, Secunderabad Hyderabad, Lalgauda, Telangana - 500017.	Total Outstanding Balance: Rs. 9811942.36/- (Rupees Ninety Eight lakh Eleven thousand nine hundred forty two and thirty six paise only) plus un-applied interest at prevailing rate from the date of default along with charges, other cost and expenses.
MAHA New HSG Non Sal Non Pri bearing Ac No. 60510157319 NPA Date on 21.06.2026	Demand Notice Date: 24.06.2026
Description of the Immovable Properties: All those plots and parcels of the Duplex House on Plot no. 552, Municipal House No.3-347(P/TIN No. 1226233762)/O.D. No. 3-49/7) Survey no. 412/8415 admeasuring 155.54 sq yards or 130.03 sq mts.having total plinth area 1726.31 Sq feet with RCC (i.e. in the Ground Floor 88.29 Sq Feet + in first floor 844.02 sq Feet) situated at Dammaiguda H/o Nagaram village under Dammaiguda Municipality, Keersa Mandal, Medchal-Malkajgiri District, Telangana State, and is bounded as follows: North: 20' Wide Road, South: House No.8-49/4, Plot No.55 East: House No.8-49/5, Plot No.53, West: House No.8-49/3, Plot No.51.	
Cersai Asset Id:- 200086510567	

If the concerned Borrowers/Guarantors shall fail to make payment to **Bank of Maharashtra** as aforesaid, then the **Bank of Maharashtra** shall be entitled to proceed against the above secured assets under Section 13(4) of the Act and the applicability of Rules entirely at the risks of the concerned Borrowers/ Guarantors as to the merits and consequences.

In terms of provisions of SARFESI ACT, the Concerned Borrowers/Guarantors are prohibited from transferring the above said assets, in any manner, whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise without the prior written consent of **Bank of Maharashtra**. Any contravention of the said provisions will render the concerned persons liable for punishment and/or penalty in accordance with the SARFESI Act. For more details notice may collect the unserved returned notices from the undersigned.

Date: 03-07-2026,
Place: Hyderabad

**Sd/- Chief Manager &
 Authorised Officer, Bank of Maharashtra**

Kolkata's College Street to get makeover on lines of London's famed Oxford Street

Kolkata, July 2 : The BJP government is set to give an international-standard makeover to Kolkata's famous College Street, state Municipal Affairs Minister Agnimitra Paul said on Thursday. The area will be developed as a completely pollution-free and no-vehicle zone

on the lines of London's famed Oxford Street. As a result, there will be no traffic congestion or honking in College Street. The bookstores, too, will be redesigned around a new theme. The state's Municipal Affairs and Urban Development Minister, Agnimitra Paul, announced the

ambitious plan at the Asansol District Library in West Burdwan district. Agnimitra Paul said the initiative is being undertaken to encourage the younger generation to move away from excessive dependence on mobile phones and the digital world and reconnect with books. She added that not only

Kolkata, but the industrial region of Asansol, would also benefit from similar initiatives in the coming years. Claiming that there is no substitute for books in the digital age, the minister said: "The current generation is getting stuck on mobile screens and moving away from books.



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, Aurum 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 Certificate dt.13-11-2022) a corporate body registered and incorporated as a company under the Indian companies Act 1956, is doing Non-Banking financial activities, having its Registered Office: Sri Towers, Plot No.14A, South Phase, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai – 600 032 and having its administrative office at 6th Floor (level 2), Building No.Q2, Aurum Q Parc, Gen 4/1, TTC, Thane Belapur Road, Ghansoli, Navi Mumbai-400710, 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 **29th June, 2026**.

Borrower Name and Address
1) Sathaiah Jala @Alias Sathaiah Jaala, S/O: Jala Anjaneyulu, Age: 52 Years, Occ: Self Employee, R/O: H No: 2-21/1, Wattimarthy, Chitlay, Nalgonda District -508114, B/O: Proprietor Of 'Sathaiah Dairy Farm' At # Same As Resi Address. 2) Gangamma Jala, W/O: Sathaiah Jala, Age: 47, Years, Occ: House Wife, R/O: H No: 2-21/1, Wattimarthy, Chitlaya, Nalgonda District-508114. 3) Arun Kumar Nandipati, S/O: Bikhshamaiah Nandipati @Alias Bixamaiah, Age: 38 Years, Occ: Self Employee, R/O: H No: 1-65/1, Wattimarthy, Chitlaya Mandalam, Nalgonda-508114, B/O: "Flower Decoration Business". (Borrowers/Co-Borrower /Guarantors/Legal Heirs) Amount due as per Demand Notice: Rs.51,04,676/- (Rupees Fifty One Lakhs Four Thousand Six Hundred And Seventy Six only)
Description of Property
VANASTF1804300011 - DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY Property holder Name is JALA SATHAIAH, Mortgage deed dated 04.05.2018 Registered as Document No 6330/2018 on the file of the office of Sub-Registrar at NALGONDA (R.O.) All That the open house plot No.39, Admeasuring 222.22 Sq.Yards, Or Equivalent To 185.77 Sq.Meters, In Survey No.126, Inside Residential Zone, Block No.B, Situated At Yellareddygudem Village, Marketpally Revenue Mandal, Nalgonda District And Bounded As Follows: Towards East: Plot No.40, Towards West: 20'-0" Wide Road, Towards North: 30'-0" Wide Road, Towards South: Land Of Others.
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: 29-06-2026, Place: Nalgonda Sd/- Authorised Officer, Shriram Finance Limited

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, Aurum 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 Certificate dt.13-11-2022) a corporate body registered and incorporated as a company under the Indian companies Act 1956, is doing Non-Banking financial activities, having its Registered Office: Sri Towers, Plot No.14A, South Phase, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai – 600 032 and having its administrative office at 6th Floor (level 2), Building No.Q2, Aurum Q Parc, Gen 4/1, TTC, Thane Belapur Road, Ghansoli, Navi Mumbai-400710, 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 **29th June, 2026**.

Borrower Name and Address
1) Lingaswamy Tigulla @ Alias Tigulla Lingaswami, S/O: Shettaiah Tigulla @ Thigulla Shattaiah, Age: 40 Years, Occ: Self Employee, R/O: H No: 2-108/1, Chinnu Kondur Village, Near Malana Temple, Choutuppal, Nalgonda-508252, B/O: Proprietor Of " Sri Anjali Mini Transport" At # Same As Resi Address. 2) Swamy S, S/O: S Lingaiah, Age: 43 Years, Occ: Govt Employee, R/O: Venkatapally Venkataiah, Vennala Hospital Beside, Thirumalagherry, Village Motkur Road, Nalgonda-508252, O/O: " Telangana Model School", Working As a "PGT Teacher" At # Thonda Tirumalagiri Village, Nalgonda-508252. (Borrowers/Co-Borrower /Guarantors/Legal Heirs) Amount due as per Demand Notice: Rs.43,42,508/- (Rupees Forty Three Lakhs Forty Two Thousand Five Hundred Eight only)
Description of Property
VANASTF1412300001 - DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY Property holder Name is THIGULLA LINGASWAMY, Mortgage deed dated 30.12.2014 Registered as Document No 5292/2014 on the file of the office of Sub-Registrar at Choutuppal) All That The Piece And Parcel Of Open Plot Admeasuring 302 Sq. Yards Or 252.47 Sq.Mtrs., In Sy.No.228, Block No. V, Darga Shareef To K. Satya Reddy House, Residential Zone. Situated At: Choutuppal Village And Grampanchayat, Choutuppal Mandal, Nalgonda District, M.P.Choutuppal, Z P. Nalgonda, Under Regn.-Sub-Dist. Choutuppal And Regn:Dist. Nalgonda And Bounded As Follows: Towards East: House Of Lakshmi Bai, Towards West: House Of Srisailem, Towards North: 20 Ft. Width Road, Towards South: Bus Stand Compound Wall.
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: 29-06-2026, Place: Nalgonda Sd/- Authorised Officer, Shriram Finance Limited

Public Notice For E-Auction Cum Sale
Sale of Immovable property mortgaged to IFL Home Finance Limited (IFL HFL) Corporate Office at Plot No.88, Udyog Vihar, Phase-IV, Gurgaon-122015, (Haryana) and Branch Office at: 3-6-25, Cinema Veedhi, Revenue Ward No.6, Tunj, East Godavari, Andhra Pradesh - 533401/27-4-42, Pulavarthi Vari Street, Revenue Ward No-15, Opp Dhanalakshmi Oil Merchant, Kakinda-533001 under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (hereinafter "Act"). Whereas the Authorized Officer ("AO") of IFLHFL had taken the possession of the following properties pursuant to the notice issued US 13(2) of the Act in the following loan accounts/prospect nos. with a right to sell the same on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS, AS IS WHAT IS BASIS AND WITHOUT RECOURSE BASIS" for realization of IFL-HFL's dues. The Sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the website: www.iflhome.com.

Borrower(s) / Co-Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s)	Demand Notice Date and Amount	Description of the Immovable property/ Secured Asset	Date of Physical Possession	Reserve Price
Mr. Shiva Koppiseti Mrs. Koppiseti Arjunakum Abhyaya Durga Wood Contract Works (Prospect No-IL10526101)	04/12/2025 Rs. 1095451/- (Rupees Ten Lakh Ninety Five Thousand Four Hundred and Fifty One Only) Bid Increase Amount: Rs.25000/- (Rupees Twenty Five Thousand Only)	All that part and parcel of the property bearing Sy.No.67/1, 67/1a, A.Venamarav Village, Alimalapuram Mandal, East Godavari District, AP - 533577, Area Admeasuring (In Sq. Ft.): Property Type: Land Area, Built Up Area Property Area: 1305.00, 827.00	16/06/2026 Total Outstanding As On Date 05/06/2026 Rs. 1187887.54 (Rupees Eleven Lakh Eighty Seven Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty Seven and Fifty Four Paise Only)	Rs.1210000/- (Rupees Twelve Lakh Ten Thousand Only) Earnest Money Deposit (EMD): Rs.121000/- (Rupees One Lakh Twenty One Thousand Only)
Mr. Shek Anvar Basha Mrs. Shek Ayisha Tea Come (Prospect No-IL1064948)	04/12/2025 Rs. 803609.90 (Rupees Eight Lakh Three Thousand Six Hundred Nine and Ninety Paise Only) Bid Increase Amount: Rs.20000/- (Rupees Twenty Thousand Only)	All that part and parcel of the property bearing: HS No. 8- 345, Survey No. 286-1, gollala mamidada Village, pedapudi Mandal, Kakinda District, AP. 533344 Area Admeasuring (In Sq. Ft.): Property Type: Area, Admeasuring, Built Up, Area Property Area: 648.00, 636.00	16/06/2026 Total Outstanding As On Date 05/06/2026 Rs. 899198.98 (Rupees Eight Lakh Ninety Nine Thousand One Hundred Ninety Eight and Ninety Eight Paise Only)	Rs.914000/- (Rupees Nine Lakh Fourteen Thousand Only) Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Rs.914000/- (Rupees Nine Lakh Fourteen Thousand Only)
Date of Inspection of property 05/08/2026 11:00 hrs -14:00 hrs		EMD Last Date 07/08/2026 till 5 P.M.	Date/Time of E-Auction 10/08/2026 11:00 hrs -13:00 hrs.	

Mode of Payment: EMD payments are to be made vide online mode only. To make payments you have to visit <https://www.iflhome.com> and pay through link available for the property/ Secured Asset only. **Note:** Payment link for each property/ Secured Asset is different. Ensure you are using link of the property/ Secured Asset you intend to buy vide public auction. **For Balance Payment - Login <https://www.iflhome.com> >My Bid >Pay Balance Amount.**

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:
1. For participating in e-auction, intending bidders required to register their details with the Service Provider <https://www.iflhome.com> well in advance and has to create the login account, login ID and password. Intending bidders have to submit / send their "Tender FORM" along with the payment details towards EMD, copy of the KYC and PAN card at the above mentioned Branch Office.
2. The bidders shall improve their offer in multiple of amount mentioned under the column "Bid Increase Amount". In case bid is placed in the last 5 minutes of the closing time of the auction, the closing time will automatically get extended for 5 minutes.
3. The successful bidder should deposit 25% of the bid amount (after adjusting EMD) within 24 hours of the acceptance of bid price by the AO and the balance 75% of the bid amount within 15 days from the date of confirmation of sale by the secured creditor. All deposit and payment shall be in the prescribed mode of payment.
4. The purchaser has to bear the cess, applicable stamp duty, fees, and any other statutory dues or other dues like municipal tax, electricity charges, land and all other incidental costs, charges including all taxes and rates outgoings relating to the property.
5. The purchaser has to pay TDS application to the transaction/payment of sale amount and submit the TDS certificate with IFL HFL.
6. Bidders are advised to go through the website <https://www.iflhome.com> and <https://www.iflhome.com/loans-properties-for-auction> for detailed terms and conditions of auction sale & auction application form before submitting their Bids for taking part in the e-auction sale proceedings.
7. For details, help procedure and online training on e-auction prospective bidders may contact the service provider E mail ID:- care@iflhome.com, Support Helpline Numbers :-1800 2672 499.
8. For any query related to Property details, Inspection of Property and Online bid etc. call IFL HFL toll free no. 1800 2672 499 from 09:30 hrs to 18:00 hrs between Monday to Friday or write to email:- care@iflhome.com
9. Notice is hereby given to above said borrowers to collect the household articles, which were lying in the secured asset at the time of taking physical possession within 7 days, otherwise IFL-HFL shall not be responsible for any loss of property under the circumstances.
10. Further the notice is hereby given to the Borrowers, that in case they fail to collect the above said articles same shall be sold in accordance with Law. In case of default in payment at any stage by the successful bidder / tender purchaser within the above stipulated time, the sale will be cancelled and the amount already paid will be forfeited (including EMD) and the property will be again put to sale.
11. In case of default in payments at any stage by the successful bidder / tender purchaser within the above stipulated time, the sale will be cancelled and the amount already paid will be forfeited (including EMD) and the property will be again put to sale.
12. AO reserves the right to postpone/cancel or vary the terms and condition of tender/auction without assigning any reason thereof. In case of any dispute in tender/auction, the decision of AO of IFL-HFL will be final.
STATUTORY 30 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 8 (6) OF THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002
The Borrower are hereby notified to pay the sum as mentioned above along with upto dated interest and ancillary expenses before the date of Tender/Auction, failing which the property will be auctioned/sold and balance dues if any will be recovered with interest and cost.
Place: East Godavari/Kakinda Date: 03-07-2026 Sd/- Authorised Officer, IFL Home Finance Limited

'Farmers and soldiers are the lifeblood of nation; making agriculture profitable our resolve'

Kota, July 2 : A farmers' workshop on natural farming was organised in Kota on Monday under the guidance of Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla. Around 1,000 farmers participated in the workshop, gaining insights into modern techniques for increasing income through natural farming, low-cost and high-quality cultivation, improved productivity, agricultural marketing, animal husbandry and horticulture. On the occasion, a book on natural farming was released, and progressive farmers who had made outstanding contributions to the agricultural sector were felicitated.

Addressing the workshop, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla began by saluting the farming community and raising the slogan, "Bharat Mata Ki Jai." He said, "Farmers within the country and soldiers guarding our borders are the lifeblood of the nation." He reaffirmed his commitment to improving the standard of living of farmers in the Hadoti region and making agriculture a profitable enterprise. He emphasised that natural farming is an integral part of India's ancient agricultural heritage and stressed that reducing the excessive use of chemical fertilisers is



K'taka SIR: Shivakumar urges voters to protect their franchise



Bengaluru, July 2 : Karnataka Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Thursday urged every eligible voter in the state to fill and submit the Enumeration Form during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls beginning June 30, warning that failure to do so could result in the loss of voting rights. The Chief Minister also announced that the government would establish

49,320 assistance centres across the state to help citizens complete the enrolment process. Addressing a press conference at the Vidhana Soudha, Shivakumar appealed to voters to cooperate with the Election Commission's exercise and ensure that their names remain on the electoral rolls. "Every voter in Karnataka must register and safeguard their right to vote. From June 30 to July 29, Booth Level Officers (BLOs) appointed by the Election Commission will visit every household and distribute the Enumeration Forms. Every voter must compulsorily fill out the form and submit it, along with the required documents and a recent photograph, within the stipulated 30-day period. This is the responsibility of every voter," he said. He cautioned that voters who fail to submit the form could lose their voting rights. "Deputy Tahsildars have been authorised to issue permanent residence certificates.

Tejashwi Yadav targets Bihar CM over inflation and unemployment

Patna, July 2 : The political confrontation between the ruling alliance and the opposition in Bihar has intensified after Leader of the Opposition Tejashwi Yadav launched a sharp attack on Chief

Minister Samrat Choudhary, describing him as a “rubber stamp” and a “selected Chief Minister.”

India maintained energy security, economic stability despite West Asia tensions : Union Minister



Vadodara, July 2 : India has maintained both its energy security and economic stability despite recent geopolitical developments in West Asia, Union Minister of Power and Housing Manohar Lal Khattar said on Thursday, attributing the country's re-

silience to long-term planning, power sector reforms and investments in urban infrastructure. Addressing the inaugural session of the Vibrant Gujarat Regional Conference (VGRC) for Central Gujarat in Vadodara, the minister said a reliable energy system.

adopting multi-cropping, horticulture, fruit cultivation, bee-keeping and animal husbandry to diversify their income and transform farming into a sustainable business enterprise. Highlighting Prime Minister Modi's farmer-centric vision, Birla said the Prime Minister had developed an exemplary irrigation model in Gujarat and expedited the completion of nearly 99 long-pending irrigation projects across the country to ensure water reached farmers' fields. He expressed confidence that key irrigation projects, including the ERCP and Parvan projects, would also be completed soon, providing long-term benefits to farmers across the region.

Public Notice For E-Auction Cum Sale
In exercise of the powers under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (in short referred to as SARFAESI Act) Rules, 2002 (in short referred to as RULES) and pursuant to the possession of the secured asset of the borrower/guarantor/mortgagors mentioned hereunder vested with the Authorized Officer under the said SARFAESI Act and RULES for recovery of the secured debts, the Authorized Officer has decided to sell the secured asset by the public in general and to the borrower, mortgagor and guarantors in particular, that the under mentioned property mortgaged to **PHOENIX ARC LIMITED** (formerly known as Phoenix ARC Limited acting in capacity as Trustee of Phoenix Trust FY26-14 (Phoenix) Regd. Office at 3rd Floor, Wallace Towers, 139/140/B/1, Crossing of Sahar Road and Western Express Highway, Vile Parle East, Mumbai- 400057 (pursuant to assignment of debts by IFL HOME FINANCE LTD in favor of PHOENIX AE Assignment Agreement dated 29.12.2025) will be sold on "AS IS WHERE IS, AS IS WHATEVER THERE IS AND WITHOUT RECOURSE CONDITION", by way of "online e-auction" for recovery of dues and further interest, charges and costs etc. as detailed below in terms of the provisions of SARFAESI Act read with Rules 8 & 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. The Sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the website: www.iflhome.com.

Borrower(s) / Co-Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s)	Demand Notice Date and Amount	Description of the Immovable property/ Secured Asset	Date of Physical Possession	Reserve Price
Mr. Swamythappa Gadi Mrs. Swapna Gadi (Prospect No-IL10358452)	22/04/2025, Rs.14,60,443/- (Rupees Fourteen Lakh Sixty Thousand Four Hundred and Forty Three Only) Bid Increase Amount: Rs.40,000/- (Rupees Forty Thousand Only)	All that part and parcel of the property bearing: Plot No.172 & 182, 1st Ward, Bandampalli HO Peddapalli Mandal, District: Peddapalli, Karimnagar, Telangana, 505172 Area Admeasuring (In Sq.Ft.): Property Type: Land Area, Property Area: 4479 (Built Up Area admeasuring 1246 Sq.Ft.)	29/11/2025 Total Outstanding As On Date 31/05/2026, Rs.17,80,239.87 (Rupees Seventeen Lakh Eighty Thousand Two Hundred Thirty Nine and Eighty Seven Paise Only)	Rs.45,54,320/- (Rupees Forty Five Lakh Fifty Four Thousand Three Hundred and Twenty Only) Earnest Money Deposit (EMD): Rs.4,55,432/- (Rupees Four Lakh Fifty Five Thousand Four Hundred and Twenty Two Only)
Mr. Ramula Mohan Mrs. Ramula Renuka (Prospect No-IL10770103)	24/10/2025, Rs.8,79,831/- (Rupees Eight Lakh Seventy Nine Thousand Six Hundred and Thirty One Only) Bid Increase Amount: Rs.20,000/- (Rupees Twenty Thousand Only)	All that part and parcel of the property bearing: Plot No.74, Sy.No.915, Pamidi Village, Pamidi Mandal, Ananthapuram District, A.P. 515775 Area Admeasuring (In Sq.Ft.): Property Type: Land Area, Built Up Area, Carpet Area, Property Area: 659.00, 1318.00, 1109.00	16/05/2026 Total Outstanding As On Date 20/06/2026, Rs.5,53,145.75/- (Rupees Nine Lakh Fifty Three Thousand One Hundred Forty Five and Seven Paise Only)	Rs.5,85,190/- (Rupees Five Lakh Eighty Five Thousand One Hundred and Ninety Only) Earnest Money Deposit (EMD): Rs.58519/- (Rupees Fifty Eight Thousand Five Hundred and Nineteen Only)
Mr. Kalyani Kumar Bangaru, Mr. Kumara Swamy Podugu Kiran Cyber Cafe (Prospect No-IL10102639)	10/03/2025, Rs.20,83,860/- (Rupees Twenty Lakh Eighty Three Thousand Eight Hundred and Sixty Only) Bid Increase Amount: Rs.25,000/- (Rupees Twenty Five Thousand Only)	All that part and parcel of the property bearing: Flat No: 101, In Ground Floor, Plot No: 56 Door No: 8-20-97/5lane, S.No: 39/5part, Salyam, Sec:10, Pradheerajanga Municipality & Dist.PIN Code: 535002, Area Admeasuring (In Sq. Ft.): Property Type: Built Up Area, Carpet Area, Land Area Property Area: 1401.00, 1050.00, 378.00	26/03/2026 Total Outstanding As On Date 20/06/2026, Rs.22,46,402.47 (Rupees Twenty Two Lakh Forty Six Thousand One Hundred Forty Seven and Two Paise Only)	Rs.28,00,000/- (Rupees Twenty Eight Lakh Only) Earnest Money Deposit (EMD): Rs.2,80,000/- (Rupees Two Lakh Eighty Thousand Only)
Mr. Maha Laxmi Rao Bandana Mrs. Laxmi Bandana (Prospect No-850785)	26/07/2021, Rs.6,18,037/- (Rupees Six Lakh Eighty Thousand and Thirty Seven Only) Bid Increase Amount: Rs.25,000/- (Rupees Twenty Five Thousand Only)	All that part and parcel of the property bearing: D.No.6-39, Rs.No.132/1, Gudalla Vampu, Muthyalapalli, Tadepalligudem, Andhra Pradesh,534281 (Land Area admeasuring 1089 Sq.Ft. and Built Up Area admeasuring 552 Sq.Ft.)	16/02/2026 Total Outstanding As On Date 31/05/2026: Rs.7,62,366.86	Rs.12,66,800/- (Rupees Twelve Lakh Sixty Six Thousand Eight Hundred Only) Earnest Money Deposit (EMD): Rs.1,26,680/- (Rupees One Lakh Twenty Six Thousand Six Hundred and Eighty Only)
Date of Inspection of property 03/08/2026 11:00 hrs - 14:00 hrs		EMD Last Date 05/08/2026 till 5 pm.	Date/Time of E-Auction 07/08/2026 at 11:00 hrs - 13:00 hrs	

Mode of Payment: EMD payments are to be made vide online mode only. To make payments you have to visit <https://www.iflhome.com> and pay through link available for the property/ Secured Asset only. **Note:** Payment link for each property/ Secured Asset is different. Ensure you are using link of the property/ Secured Asset you intend to buy vide public auction. **For Balance Payment - Login <https://www.iflhome.com> >My Bid >Pay Balance Amount.**

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:
1. For participating in e-auction, intending bidders required to register their details with the Service Provider <https://www.iflhome.com> well in advance and must create the login account, login ID and password. Intending bidders have to submit the payment of the EMD prior to participation. Upon payment, bidders are required to submit the electronically signed E-Tender Form/Bid Form (E-Sign) using their Aadhaar Number.
2. The bidders shall improve their offer in multiple of amount mentioned under the column "Bid Increase Amount". In case bid is placed in the last 5 minutes of the closing time of the auction, the closing time will automatically get extended for 5 minutes.
3. The successful bidder should deposit 25% of the bid amount (after adjusting EMD) within 24 hours of the acceptance of bid price by the AO and the balance 75% of the bid amount within 15 days from the date of confirmation of sale by the secured creditor. All deposit and payment shall be in the prescribed mode of payment.
4. The purchaser has to bear the cess, applicable stamp duty, fees, and any other statutory dues or other dues like municipal tax, electricity charges, and all other incidental costs, charges including all taxes and rates outgoings relating to the property.
5. The purchaser has to pay TDS application to the transaction/payment of sale amount and submit the TDS certificate with IFL HFL.
6. Bidders are advised to go through the website <https://www.iflhome.com> and <https://www.iflhome.com/loans-properties-for-auction> for detailed terms and conditions of auction sale & auction application form before submitting their Bids for taking part in the e-auction sale proceedings.
7. For details, help procedure and online training on e-auction prospective bidders may contact the service provider E mail ID:- care@iflhome.com, Support Helpline Numbers :-1800 2672 499.
8. For any query related to Property details, Inspection of Property and Online bid etc. call IFL HFL toll free no. 1800 2672 499 from 09:30 hrs to 18:00 hrs. between Monday to Friday or write to email:- care@iflhome.com
9. Notice is hereby given to above said borrowers to collect the household articles, which were lying in the secured asset at the time of taking physical possession within 7 days, otherwise IFL-HFL shall not be responsible for any loss of property under the circumstances.
10. Further the notice is hereby given to the Borrowers, that in case they fail to collect the above said articles same shall be sold in accordance with Law. In case of default in payment at any stage by the successful bidder / tender purchaser within the above stipulated time, the sale will be cancelled and the amount already paid will be forfeited (including EMD) and the property will be again put to sale.
11. In case of default in payments at any stage by the successful bidder / tender purchaser within the above stipulated time, the sale will be cancelled and the amount already paid will be forfeited (including EMD) and the property will be again put to sale.
12. AO reserves the right to postpone/cancel or vary the terms and condition of tender/auction without assigning any reason thereof. In case of any dispute in tender/auction, the decision of AO of IFL-HFL will be final.
STATUTORY 30 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 8 (6) OF THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002
The Borrower are hereby notified to pay the sum as mentioned above along with upto dated interest and ancillary expenses before the date of Tender/Auction, failing which the property will be auctioned/sold and balance dues if any will be recovered with interest and cost.
Place: Andhra Pradesh & Telangana States, Date: 03-07-2026 Sd/- Authorised Officer, Phoenix ARC Limited

OPINIONmail



India, Italy Air Chiefs discuss strengthening defence cooperation and military engagements

Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal A P Singh, held a meeting with Chief of Staff of the Italian Air Force, Lieutenant General Antonio Conserva, in New Delhi on Monday, discussing ways to further strengthen defence cooperation and enhancing military-to-military engagement. The two officials also discussed issues of mutual interest. "Lieutenant General Antonio Conserva, Chief of Staff of the Italian Air Force, called on Air Chief Marshal A P Singh, Chief of the Air Staff, during his official visit to India," the Indian Air Force (IAF) posted on X. "The visit featured discussions between the senior leadership of the Indian Air Force and the Italian Air Force on issues of mutual interest and avenues to further strengthen bilateral defence cooperation and enhance military-to-military engagement," it added. Earlier in the day, Lieutenant General Antonio Conserva paid homage to the fallen bravehearts at the National War Memorial. Last month, PM Modi was on a two-day official visit to Italy, where he held talks with Italian counterpart Georgia Meloni and President Sergio Mattarella. During their meeting, PM Modi and Meloni decided to elevate bilateral ties to the level of a Special Strategic Partnership. The two leaders welcomed the "strong momentum" of high-level exchanges and agreed to hold annual meetings of leaders, including on the sidelines of multilateral events, as well as regular ministerial and institutional-level meetings. Both leaders engaged in comprehensive discussions covering the entire gamut of the India-Italy partnership, according to the statement released by the Prime Minister's Office. They also reviewed the progress made in bilateral cooperation across all domains of the Joint Strategic Action Plan 2025-2029, agreeing to further expand collaboration in trade and investment, defence and security, science and technology, research and innovation, space, energy, AI and critical technologies, education, culture and people-to-people ties. PMs Modi and Meloni also expressed satisfaction with deepening defence cooperation through ministerial and official interactions, exchange of port visits, and regular engagement of defence forces. They welcomed the signing of the Joint Declaration of Intent, and an Industrial Roadmap for collaboration in co-design, co-development and co-production of defence products.

EDITORIAL

the indian mail

India gains as US firms de-risk China: USISPF

Washington, July 2 : India is emerging as a key beneficiary of American companies' efforts to reduce their dependence on China, with the shift gathering pace "in a very, very quiet manner", US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) President Mukesh Aghi said on Thursday. "A classic example is Apple, which is now making most of the iPhone 17 and planning for the 18 in India," Aghi said while opening the ninth USISPF Leadership Summit in Washington. Aghi said the broader India-US economic relationship continued to strengthen despite public attention on trade

negotiations, expressing confidence that a bilateral trade agreement would further accelerate commercial ties. "If you recall, the Prime Minister and the president agreed to take the trade to \$500 billion by 2030. And what we are seeing is the trade between the two countries is going up and up regardless of whether there is a trade deal or not. But I think with the trade deal, you'll see much more acceleration," he said. He pointed to growing collaboration in critical and emerging technologies, saying both countries were deepening cooperation in sectors ranging from critical minerals to advanced technology. "We also see tremendous partner-



ship taking place on the technology side between the two countries. We just had a back-to-silicon meeting. We talk about critical minerals between the two countries as to how we collaborate and move forward," Aghi said. He said India had also become an increasingly important hub for Global Capability Centres (GCCs), reflecting the confidence

American companies had in the country's skilled workforce. "We are also seeing effort put in by the US companies opening up more and more GCCs or Global Capability Centres in India. India now has around 2,800 Global Capability Centres and roughly 60 per cent are US companies leveraging the intellectual talent in India," Aghi said.

India strongly condemns Pakistan air strikes on Afghan territory



New Delhi, July 2 : The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Thursday stated that India strongly condemns Pakistan's air strikes on Afghan territory that have resulted in several civilian casualties, including women and children. "India strongly condemns Pakistan's air strikes on Afghan territory that have resulted in several civilian casualties, including women and children. This blatant act of aggression by Pakistan is an assault on Afghanistan's sovereignty and a direct threat to regional peace and stability," stated the MEA. "It reflects Pakistan's persistent pattern of reckless behaviour and

its futile attempt to externalise internal failures through desperate acts of violence beyond its borders. India conveys its condolences to Afghan families that have lost loved ones, prays for early recovery of those injured and reiterates its unwavering support for Afghanistan's sovereignty and territorial integrity," it added. At least 36 civilians, including women and children, were killed, while 163 others were injured in Pakistani military airstrikes in Afghanistan's Paktia, Paktika and Kunar provinces, Taliban Deputy Spokesman Hamdullah Fitrat confirmed on Thursday. Citing reports, Fitrat said the attacks car-

ried out on Sunday night in the Gayan district of Paktika, Tsamkani district of Paktia and Manogai district of Kunar by Pakistani forces resulted in the death of 36 civilians and injuries to 163 others, as well as complete destruction of three residential houses. According to Fitrat, Pakistani forces' jets bombed a civilian residence in Mandokhail village of Tsamkani district, killing one elderly man and a child and injuring several members of the family. He alleged that when local residents gathered to conduct rescue operations, the area was bombed for a second time, killing 28 villagers and injuring 158 others. Fitrat further said that in the Walust village of the Gayan district, another civilian residence was bombed, killing six individuals, the majority of whom were women and children. Additionally, in the Barolo village of the Manogai district, he said that the airstrike hit a civilian residence, resulting in significant property damage. Earlier in the day, Taliban spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid condemned Pakistani airstrikes in Afghan provinces, describing them as a "cowardly act of aggression".

India, Saudi Arabia sign MoU on Cooperation in Water Resources

Riyadh, July 2 : India's Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, Suhel Khan and Saudi Minister of Environment, Water and Agriculture Abdulrahman Abdulmohsen AlFadley on Monday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Cooperation in Water Resources at Saudi Water Week in Jeddah. "India-Saudi Arabia Strengthen Water Partnership at Saudi Water Week! A significant step in advancing the India-Saudi Arabia strategic partnership as Ambassador Dr. Suhel Khan and H.E. Eng. Abdulrahman Abdulmohsen AlFadley, Saudi Minister of Environment, Water and Agriculture, signed an MoU on Cooperation in Water Resources at Saudi Water Week in Jeddah."



Iran's President says 6-billion-USD frozen funds in Qatar to be released

Tehran, July 2 : Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian said on Thursday that frozen Iranian assets worth 6 billion US dollars currently held in Qatar will be released and returned to the country, according to the official news agency IRNA. He made the remarks during a meeting with a senior cleric in the central province of Qom, while elaborating on the achievements of a recently signed peace Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Iran and the United States, Xinhua news agency reported. Pezeshkian put the total amount of the country's frozen assets in Qatar at 12 billion US dollars, stressing that necessary follow-ups were being taken to return the remaining funds to the country. Describing the MoU as "a great victory" for the Iranian people, he noted that sanctions on Iran's petrochemical and oil exports have been lifted within the agreement's framework. Pezeshkian also said the United States eventually compelled Israel to accept the peace MoU, although Israel and certain other groups are



still opposed to the agreement's implementation. He reiterated Iran's positions on its nuclear activities, saying that the country does not seek to develop nuclear weapons, and its nuclear activities will be in accordance with its needs and within the framework of its declared policies. On June 18, Iran and the United States signed the MoU on ending the war in the region on all fronts, including Lebanon. Under the MoU, the two sides have agreed to hold negotiations within 60 days to reach a final agreement.

Earlier in the day, the United States and Iran had agreed to pause mutual attacks "for now" and hold talks on Tuesday in Doha, the capital of Qatar, to work out their dispute over the Strait of Hormuz, US media outlet Axios reported. The two sides will stand down "for now" and "vessels can move freely" as technical talks are set to continue, a US official was quoted as saying. The Tuesday talks were originally set to be held in Switzerland and focused on Iran's nuclear program.

INS Sudarshini undertakes high-level engagements in US



Washington, July 2 : Indian Naval Ship (INS) Sudarshini undertook a series of high-level engagements, including hosting Ambassador Vinay Mohan Kwatra and Lieutenant Governor of Maryland Aruna Miller, during its port call at Baltimore, Maryland. The crew also participated in the Baltimore City Parade. "Forging Maritime Bonds Across the Atlantic. During her port call at Baltimore, Indian Navy's Tall Ship INS Sudarshini undertook a series of high-level engagements, including hosting Vinay Mohan Kwatra, Ambassador of India to the USA and Aruna Miller.

Pakistan sees rise in online sale of narcotics: Report

Islamabad, July 2 : Pakistan has been witnessing a rise in online sale of narcotics in recent years with the digital transactions making it easier to access drugs. Youngsters in Pakistan are not only consuming drugs but are also being manipulated into becoming drug couriers, a report has detailed. Drugs traffickers are using technologies and global instability to introduce novel drugs and aggressively sell them in new markets, an editorial in leading Pakistani daily 'The News International' mentioned citing the World

Drug Report 2026. There has been a rise in new types of drugs in the market and some are reportedly more potent than before. Pakistan has also witnessed several cases of how drug networks are using these ways in recent years. The most prominent case among them is of drug dealer Anmol alias Pinky who is alleged to have sold cocaine in colleges, universities, schools, gatherings and posh areas of Karachi. At the same time, the drugs are being sold online and the market appears to be young people.





India, Kenya discuss strengthening cooperation in healthcare sector

Nairobi, July 2 : Indian High Commissioner to Kenya Adarsh Swaika called on Kenya's Cabinet Secretary of Health, Aden Duale, on Thursday, and discussed further strengthening between the two nations in healthcare, including pharmaceuticals, pharma manufacturing, equipment, medical devices, and capacity building. The Indian High Commission noted that India is a "trusted and long-standing partner" of Kenya in the health and pharmaceutical sectors. It also mentioned that India is a preferred place for thousands of people from Kenya for medical tourism each year. "High Commissioner Adarsh Swaika called on Cabinet Secretary for Health Aden Duale today. Discussions focused on further strengthening India-Kenya coop-

eration in healthcare, including pharmaceuticals, pharma manufacturing equipments, medical devices and capacity building. The meeting underlined the shared commitment for deepening partnerships for accessible and affordable healthcare," it said on X. "India remains a trusted and long-standing partner of Kenya in the health and pharmaceutical sectors. Indian pharmaceutical products command a major share of the Kenyan market, ensuring quality and affordability. India is also a preferred destination for medical tourism for thousands of Kenyans each year, reflecting the confidence in Indian healthcare expertise, advanced treatment facilities, and strong people-to-people links," it added.

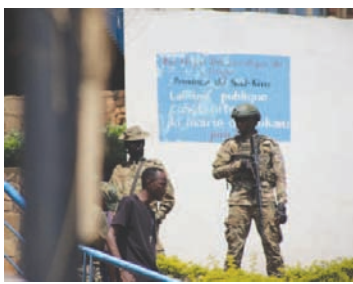
Escalating conflict disrupts education for over 100 million children in Arab states: UNESCO

Beirut, July 2 : A UNESCO report on Monday warned that escalating regional conflict has severely disrupted education across Arab states, affecting more than 100 million children and pushing fragile systems toward collapse. The crisis has affected education in at least 15 countries, disrupting learning for 52 million school-age children through school closures, reduced access or shifts to remote learning, the report said. Nearly 30 million children in the region were already out of school before the escalation. In the Gaza Strip, the report described a near-total collapse of the education system, with 97.5 percent of schools damaged or destroyed and more than 637,000 children out of school, Xinhua News Agency reported. Lebanon has also been heavily affected, with more than 1,100 public schools used as shelters and at least 570 schools closed or located in conflict zones, disrupting learning for over 240,000 students.



DR Congo govt, M23 launch new round of talks in Qatar

Goma, July 2 : A new round of dialogue between the government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and the March 23 Movement (M23) rebel group began on Thursday in Doha, the capital of Qatar, local media reported has reported. According to Radio Okapi on Monday, a UN-supported outlet, representatives from both the DRC government and the M23 arrived in Doha over the weekend at



the invitation of Qatari mediators. Sources familiar with the discussions said the current talks remain at a preliminary stage.

Ahead of UNSC meeting on India-Pakistan, Guterres 'pained' by ties reaching 'boiling point'

United Nations, July 2 : Ahead of the UN Security Council meeting on India and Pakistan, Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said on Thursday that it pains him that their ties have reached a "boiling point". "Tensions between India and Pakistan are at their highest in years", he said, calling on the two countries to step back from the brink. "It is also essential – especially at this critical hour -- to avoid a military confrontation that could easily spin out of control". "I understand the raw feelings following the awful terror attack in Pahalgam on 22 April", he said. "It pains me to see relations reaching a boiling point" between the two countries. Condemning the terror attack, he said, "Targeting civilians is unacceptable – and those responsible must be brought to justice through transparent, credible, and lawful means". "It is also essential – especially at this critical hour -- to avoid a military confrontation that could easily spin out of control.



Trump's chip export move to China sparks bipartisan outcry

Washington, July 2 : The Trump administration's decision to allow NVIDIA to export its advanced H200 artificial intelligence chips to China drew sharp and coordinated criticism on Capitol Hill, with senior lawmakers from both chambers warning that the move jeopardises US national security, undermines export-control policy, and strengthens Beijing's technological capabilities at America's expense. Congressman Gregory Meeks, the Ranking Member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, said the decision shows that "under this administration, our national security is for sale." Calling the move "a unilateral concession to China," Meeks warned it would "accelerate China's AI industry, giving away America's technological edge to the very companies trying to evade US export controls."

UNSC holds closed consultation on India, Pak situation; president Sekeris calls it productive

United Nations, July 2 : The Security Council met in a closed session on the tension between India and Pakistan, and its President Evangelos Sekeris described it afterwards as a "productive meeting". As he left the meeting on Thursday, he told reporters, "The Security Council is always helpful in such efforts"

to de-escalate. "It is the responsibility of the Council". "It was a productive meeting and helpful", he said. Since the meeting was a closed consultation, its proceedings are secret without official records. Assistant Secretary-General Mohamed Khaled Khari, who briefed the meeting, said on his way out that all want de-escala-

tion. Asked how he viewed it, he said, "Situation is volatile", and would not elaborate.



India-US ties must stand for shared values: US Congressman

Washington, July 2 : Delivering his remarks at the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) Leadership Summit, Democratic Congressman Ro Khanna sharply criticised President Donald Trump's foreign and immigration policies while arguing that the India-US partnership should ultimately be anchored in shared democratic values rather than transactional interests. Khanna, who represents California's Silicon Valley and is regarded as one of the Democratic Party's leading voices on technology and foreign policy, devoted much of his address to attacking Trump's approach to global alliances, tariffs and immigration before outlining his vision for America's relationship with India. He accused the Trump administration of weakening America's global standing through unilateral actions and trade policies. "We're gonna have to rebuild our relationships around the world," Khanna said, arguing that the next generation of American leaders would have to restore the country's credibility abroad.

Gor credits White House connections for faster results for US firms in India

Washington, July 2 : US Ambassador to India Sergio Gor said that his close relationships with President Donald Trump's Cabinet members and senior administration officials had enabled him to cut through bureaucracy and deliver quicker results for American businesses operating in India. Speaking at the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) Leadership Summit, Gor said his previous role as Director of the White House Presidential Personnel Office had given him direct access to many of the administration's top officials. "I think the circumstances that placed me in this position... are very unique," Gor said. "When a new president comes into office, there's 4,000 positions open. And it was that role that the president trusted me with to fill

those positions." That experience, he said, allows him to resolve issues quickly. "So today, when an issue does come up, I don't have to call 20 levels down." "Almost every secretary that we have in our cabinet is a friend of mine." "I talk to Secretary Rubio sometimes three times a day." "It's extremely efficient to be able to pick up the phone and somebody on the other end answers." Gor illustrated the approach with an example involving American and Indian pharmaceutical companies that had struggled for years to resolve regulatory issues. "We had a group of American pharmaceutical companies and Indian pharmaceutical companies... things that were getting stuck and had been stuck that way for several years."



Quad ministers to meet in Philippines: US Ambassador

Washington, July 2 : The foreign ministers of the Quad countries are expected to meet in the Philippines in about two weeks, US Ambassador to India Sergio Gor announced, saying the grouping remained central to advancing a free, secure and prosperous Indo-Pacific. Speaking at the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) Leadership Summit, Gor said the proposed meeting would bring together the foreign ministers of the United States, India, Japan and Australia on the sidelines of engagements in the Philippines. "I wanna make an announcement here today," Gor said. "We were very pleased to have the Quad meeting in Delhi, and that's something we aim to build up." "One of the things that we're actually looking to do is in about

two weeks, all four of our foreign ministers will be in the Philippines and we'll look forward to having a Quad meeting on the sidelines of the Philippines." Gor said the meeting would be followed by another ministerial gathering in Australia before leaders of the four countries meet at a future summit. "We do aim to have a Quad meeting at some point, a ministerial Quad meeting in Australia." "And followed ultimately by a leaders meeting which we're trying to nail down. That would include President Trump coming to India." The ambassador said maritime security remained one of the principal priorities for the Quad. "The Quad is extremely important," he said. He noted that one of the initiatives announced during the recent Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting in

New Delhi involved strengthening maritime capabilities across the Indo-Pacific. "One of the deliverables that was announced in Delhi was that the four countries will focus on building boats in the region. That includes Fiji specifically." "We wanna make sure that we are present in the Pacific. We're growing, we're enhancing our security, and we're working with trusted partners." "And India is on that list, very high that list." Gor also dismissed suggestions that the India-US defence partnership had weakened, saying practical cooperation continued to expand. "India still has more exercises with the United States than any other country by far." "Every single month there's something happening, whether it's Indian troops coming here, whether it's US troops going into the region."

Germany: Shooting in Stade leaves six dead, suspects arrested

Berlin, July 2 : A shooting incident on Thursday in the northern German city of Stade has left six people dead, with several others injured, some of them in serious condition, according to German media reports.



CM Vijay to visit Karur on July 10-11, meet families of stampede victims

Chennai, July 2 : Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay will visit Karur on July 10 and 11, marking his first visit to the district since the tragic stampede that claimed 41 lives during a TRK public meeting on September 27 last year. The stampede, one of the worst political rally disasters in recent years, triggered nationwide outrage and raised serious concerns over crowd management and event safety. The incident remains under investigation by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), which is probing the case under the supervision of the Supreme Court. In the immediate aftermath of the tragedy, Vijay was unable to travel to Karur because of security concerns and restrictions imposed by the police. Instead, he addressed the bereaved families through a video conference, expressing his condolences and assuring them of his support during the difficult period. Subsequently, the families of all those who lost their lives in

the stampede were invited to Mamallapuram, where Vijay met them personally. During the meeting, he offered his condolences and handed over financial assistance of Rs 20 lakh to each affected family. The amount was transferred directly to their respective bank accounts without delay. At the time, Vijay had also assured the families that additional assistance would be extended after assessing their long-term needs and family circumstances. According to party and official sources, the Chief Minister will utilise his upcoming two-day visit to Karur to once again meet the families of the victims and personally convey his condolences. The visit is also expected to reaffirm the government's commitment to supporting those affected by the tragedy. Apart from meeting the bereaved families, CM Vijay will participate in a series of official government programmes in the district.

Delhi L-G Sandhu discusses traffic management with top cops

New Delhi, July 2: Delhi Lieutenant Governor T.S. Sandhu on Thursday discussed traffic management in the capital with senior police officers, finalising strategies for area-specific solutions using intelligent traffic management systems and preventing illegal parking. After the meeting, the Lieutenant Governor said in a message on X, "Reviewed a detailed presentation by @dtptraffic today, along with @CPDelhi and senior officials." "It is encouraging to see the focused efforts and strategic interventions being undertaken to improve traffic management across Delhi. Targeted action to address major congestion points, combined with continuous engineering interventions and technology-driven solutions.



Bihar: Nishant Kumar performs housewarming ceremony at new Patna residence

Patna, July 2 : Bihar Health Minister Nishant Kumar on Thursday performed a Satyanarayan Puja at his newly allotted official residence, 5 Desh Ratna Marg in Patna, marking the housewarming ceremony on the occasion of Jyeshtha Purnima. Several family members participated in the religious rituals, including former Chief Minister and Janata Dal (United) national president Nitish Kumar. The ceremony was held amid ongoing changes in the allocation of official residences in the state capital and has drawn political attention due to the significance

of the bungalow's location. On the same occasion, Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary also organised a Satyanarayan Puja at his official residence. The religious ceremonies at these prominent government residences coincided with Jyeshtha Purnima, a day considered auspicious in Hindu tradition. Speaking to the media after the ceremony, Nishant Kumar said that the housewarming was organised after he was allotted the government bungalow. When asked whether he would permanently shift to the new residence, he smiled and said he would stay

there as well as at his father's residence, indicating he would continue spending time at Nitish Kumar's residence. He added that he had performed the housewarming ceremony, and that all family members, including his father, had participated in the Satyanarayan Puja at the new residence. The bungalow at 5 Desh Ratna Marg is considered one of the prominent government residences in Patna's VVIP area. It is located close to the Chief Minister's residence and adjacent to Nitish Kumar's official residence at 7 Circular Road.

Manipur: Sambit Patra to hold meetings with leaders and community heads

Imphal, July 2 : A week after 21 MLAs of Manipur urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah to reinstate a popular government in the state, BJP's North East in-charge Sambit Patra arrived in Imphal on Thursday and held meetings with some political leaders. A BJP leader said that Patra, during his two-day stay in Manipur, would hold a series of meet-

ings with MLAs and leaders of Meitei and Kuki-Zo communities. "Soon after his arrival in Imphal, Patra went to Churachandpur, where he met local MLA Vungzagin Valte (who belongs to the Kuki community). Returning to Imphal, he met former Chief Minister N. Biren Singh, Manipur Assembly Speaker Thokchom



Satyabrata Singh and other leaders," the leader said. The BJP's North East in-charge is likely to meet some MLAs, former ministers, and leaders of various factions. Manipur has been under the President's Rule since February 13, four days after the resignation of N. Biren Singh from the Chief Minister's post.



After end of e-KYC correction deadline, 1.88 crore women eligible for Ladki Bahin Yojana in Maharashtra

Mumbai, July 2 : After e-KYC correction deadline ended last month, around 1.88 crore women are eligible for the Ladki Bahin Yojana in Maharashtra. The state government had extended the deadline for correction in e-KYC process for the Ladki Bahin scheme till April 30, officials said on Thursday. "After the deadline end as per the data with Women and Child development department, around 1.88 crore women submitted the application for completion of process. In February, last payout for Ladki Bahin was to 1.75

crore beneficiary. Now after receiving the funds from the Finance department, payout for March and April will be given soon," an official from the Women and Child Development department said. Earlier, about 68 lakh accounts out of a total of 2.43 crore under the Maharashtra's flagship 'Ladki Bahin Yojana' have been closed permanently after these accounts failed to complete the mandatory e-KYC process.

While the deadline to complete it was March 31, it has now been extended to April 30, which might result in increase in the numbers of closed welfare scheme beneficiary accounts. The state releases around Rs 3,700 crore every month for around 2.25 crore beneficiaries, with each eligible woman receiving Rs 1,500 per month. Now, the amount will be reduced. The state government in the an-

nual budget for 2026-27 has slashed the allocation to the Ladki Bahin Yojana to Rs 26,000 crore against Rs 36,000 crore in 2025-26. The state government had carried out e-KYC exercise following complaints that male members were receiving benefits under the scheme or that some government employees had been registered as beneficiaries.

Villages in Ludhiana impacted with breach in Dhussi bundh in Sutlej

Chandigarh, July 2 : As Punjab is facing worst floods since 1988, several villages in Ludhiana district were impacted as water on early Thursday entered fields and destroyed several acres with the breach in the crucial Dhussi bundh in the Sutlej river near Sahnewal town. However, government officials claimed flood water was stopped by the "ring bundh" that they had erected temporarily as a preventive step. "If the Bhakra dam releases more water, it will create problem," an official said, adding "water was stopped by the ring bundh". The district administration had already moved residents in vulnerable areas to safer

locations. More than 1,500 people, including Indian Army and National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), personnel, NGOs and villagers, were deployed to reinforce and secure flood protection by raising the ring bundh. The swollen Sutlej has been flowing dangerously and villagers were working to strengthen the embankment by putting earth filled bags voluntarily to protect the fields and villages from flooding. Ludhiana Deputy Commissioner Himanshu Jain was constantly reviewing work on the temporary "ring bundh" going on war footing in Sasrali on Friday night. In appeal on Friday, the Deputy Commissioner asked the public not to panic over fake reports of

water breach circulating on social media, clarifying that no such incident has been reported in the district so far. While the floods have already severely impacted across the state, the rising water level of the Sutlej has posed a serious flood threat in Sahnewal's Sasrali Colony, water levels entering the fields and creating a highly critical situation. Extending their support, the Punjab BJP also joined the ongoing relief efforts. Party spokesperson Pritpal Singh Baliawal, accompanied by his Sahnewal team, had actively participated in the operations alongside the administration, working tirelessly to prevent any breach of the embankment.

Tripura eyes Rs 200 crore pineapple market, bets on fibre-based value addition

New Delhi/Agartala, July 2 : Tripura Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister Ratan Lal Nath on Thursday said that pineapple fibre can be processed into a wide range of high-value products, including textiles, garments, household items and eco-friendly packaging materials, opening up new avenues for revenue generation and employment. Speaking on the concluding day of the three-day Tripura Queen Pineapple Global Festival 2026 in New Delhi.



Centre to provide AI-enabled X-ray machines, other advanced medical equipment to Tripura

New Delhi/Agartala, July 2 : Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha on Thursday said the Centre would provide several modern medical machines and equipment, including 48 AI-enabled portable handheld X-ray devices, under the Prime Minister's Fund to strengthen healthcare infrastructure in the northeastern state. In a

Facebook post, the Chief Minister said that a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the Tripura Health and Family Welfare Department in New Delhi on Thursday for the supply, installation and operationalisation of advanced medical equipment in the state.

India's external debt touches \$762.8 billion

Mumbai, July 2 : India's external debt stood at \$762.8 billion at end-March 2026, an increase of \$26.3 billion over its level at end-March 2025, according to data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Thursday. The external debt to GDP ratio increased to 20.8 per cent at end-March 2026 from 19.8 per cent at end-March 2025. Outstanding debt of the government decreased, while non-government debt increased at end-March 2026 over the level a year ago, according to an RBI statement. Debt service, comprising principal repayments and interest

payments, declined to 5.8 per cent of current receipts at end-March 2026 from 6.6 per cent at end-March 2025. Valuation effect due to the appreciation of the US dollar vis-a-vis the Indian rupee and other major currencies amounted to \$24.6 billion. Excluding the valuation effect, external debt would have increased by \$51.0 billion instead of \$ 26.3 billion at end-March 2026 over end-March 2025, the statement said. At end-March 2026, long-term debt (with original maturity of above one year) was placed at \$613.5 billion, recording an increase of \$11.6 billion over its level at end-March 2025.

The share of short-term debt (with original maturity of up to one year) in total external debt increased to 19.6 per cent at end-March 2026 from 18.3 per cent at end-March 2025. Similarly, the ratio of short-term debt (original maturity) to foreign exchange reserves increased to 21.6 per cent at end-March 2026 (20.1 per cent at end-March 2025). Short-term debt on residual maturity basis (i.e., debt obligations that include long-term debt by original maturity falling due over the next twelve months and short-term debt by original maturity).



HDFC Bank appoints former Finance Secretary Rajiv Kumar as part-time chairman

Mumbai, July 2 : HDFC Bank has appointed former Finance Secretary Rajiv Kumar as its new part-time Chairman for a period of three years, according to a regulatory filing made by the private sector lender on Thursday. The appointment brings an experienced policymaker and former bureaucrat to the helm of the bank's board at a time when the institution is focusing on strengthening governance and oversight. Kumar succeeds former chairman Atanu Chakraborty, who stepped down

earlier this year citing concerns over practices that he said were not aligned with his personal values and ethics. In his resignation letter, Chakraborty emphasised that his decision was driven purely by matters of principle and that there were no other material reasons behind his exit. His abrupt resignation had sparked considerable discussion within the banking sector. Following Chakraborty's departure in March 2026, Keki Mistry was appointed as interim part-time chairman. His appointment was widely viewed

as a temporary arrangement intended to ensure continuity in board leadership. Given Mistry's long association with the HDFC group, industry observers had pointed to potential conflict-of-interest concerns if the interim arrangement had continued for an extended period. Rajiv Kumar brings with him more than three decades of administrative and financial sector experience. A 1984-batch Indian Administrative Service officer, he retired as Finance Secretary to the Government of India in February 2020.

BPCL to acquire 40 pc stake in Tiki Tar and Shell India for Rs 85 crore

New Delhi, July 2 : State-owned Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) on Monday announced that it will acquire a 40 per cent stake in Tiki Tar and Shell India Pvt Ltd (TTSIPL) for Rs 85 crore to strengthen its presence in the rapidly growing value-added bitumen (VAB) market. The strategic investment is aimed at accelerating BPCL's expansion in India's infrastructure sector, where demand for specialised bitumen products is expected to grow alongside road and airport construction, the PSU firm said in an ex-

change filing. The acquisition is expected to be completed within 90 days, subject to the fulfilment of customary conditions, it added. BPCL said the acquisition would help it capture opportunities in the value-added bitumen segment by leveraging TTSIPL's product portfolio and market presence. Registered with the Registrar of Companies, Mumbai, TTSIPL has an authorised share capital of Rs 37 crore and a paid-up capital of around Rs 36 crore, BPCL added. In the fourth quarter of FY26, BPCL reported a net profit of Rs 3,191 crore. Revenue remained broadly stable



at Rs 1.18 lakh crore, while EBITDA stood at Rs 10,061 crore. According to BPCL, petrol sales in Delhi crossed 27,800 metric tonnes (MT) in May 2026, compared with over 27,100 MT in the corresponding month last year, registering a growth of around 2.5 per cent. Diesel sales also witnessed steady growth during the month, reaching over 16,500 MT against more than 16,100 MT in May 2025, registering a growth of about 3 per cent. Shares of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd closed at Rs 301.35, down 2.74 per cent on the BSE on Thursday.

81pc of Japanese firms in India eye further investment as bilateral business ties strengthen

Vadodara, July 2 : Around 81 per cent of Japanese companies operating in India are keen to make a second or third investment in the country.



Need to expand insurance coverage to wider segment of population : M Nagaraju

New Delhi, July 2 : The policies of the companies should be oriented towards increasing overall insurance penetration and density, while ensuring retention of market share, said M. Nagaraju, Secretary, Department of Financial Services (DFS). He underscored the need to expand insurance coverage to a wider segment of the population, advising that companies should prioritise inclusion of more individuals under the ambit of insurance rather than concentrating predominantly on big-ticket policies. A meeting was convened here to undertake a comprehensive review of the vision strategy documents of three public sector insurance/reinsurance companies — Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC Re) and Oriental Insurance Co Ltd. (OICL). The companies were advised to devise investment and underwriting strategies to reduce loss ratios, according to a Finance Ministry document. Key areas that were deliberated upon are developing new and innovative customised products; augmentation of digital and technological capabilities while adhering to prescribed cybersecurity frameworks; expansion of insurance services through online platforms, timely resolution of public grievances; expanding distribution networks.

Sensex, Nifty open in green zone amid mixed global cues

Mumbai, July 2 : Indian benchmark indices opened in green zone on Thursday after two days of consecutive losses, amid mixed global cues and investor optimism of a US Fed rate cut. As of 9.30 am, Sensex advanced 231 points, or 0.27 per cent at 84,898 and Nifty added 66 points, or 0.26 per cent to 25,906. The broadcap indices performed in line with the benchmarks, with the Nifty Midcap 100 up 0.47 per cent and the Nifty Smallcap 100 adding 0.50 per cent. All the sectoral indices on NSE were trading in the green, with metal, power and realty being the major gainers, up around 0.5 per cent. Analysts said that liquidity has kept valuations high, justifying selling in the broader markets. A major concern is the excessive delay in the finalisation of the US-India trade deal. US President Donald Trump's statement on action against India for dumping rice in the US can hurt traders' sentiments. Traders expect a third consecutive Fed rate cut on Wednesday (US time) and will focus on the central bank's latest dot plot, economic projections, and Chair Jerome Powell's comments, according to reports. Market fundamentals are turning in favour of India.



Tata Motors eyes 1 million annual commercial vehicle sales after Iveco acquisition: N Chandrasekaran

New Delhi, July 2 : Leading automobile firm Tata Motors is targeting annual commercial vehicle (CV) sales of more than one million units in the coming years as it prepares to integrate Italy's Iveco Group, Chairman N. Chandrasekaran said on Thursday. Addressing shareholders at the company's second annual general meeting after the commercial vehicle business was demerged and separately listed, Chandrasekaran said the proposed acquisition of Iveco would significantly accelerate Tata Motors' global ambitions.



TN's Aavin denies milk supply decline, says Chennai sales rise

Chennai, July 2 : State-run dairy cooperative Aavin has strongly denied reports of a decline in milk supply, asserting that milk distribution across Chennai continues without interruption and that sales have, in fact, increased compared to the same period last year. The clarification comes after the Tamil Nadu Milk Agents and Workers Welfare Association alleged that private dairy companies were attracting milk producers by offering higher procurement prices than Aavin. According to the association, this had resulted in a decline

in Aavin's milk procurement, leading to a 30 per cent impact on milk supply in several areas. Rejecting the allegations, Aavin said there has been no disruption in procurement or distribution and that consumers across Chennai continue to receive all varieties of Aavin milk packets on a daily basis without any shortage. In an official statement, Aavin said it currently supplies an average of 14.50 lakh litres of milk every day across Chennai, ensuring uninterrupted availability through its extensive distribution network. The cooperative maintained that it remains fully committed to meeting consumer demand and has taken all necessary steps to ensure a steady supply of milk. To counter the claims of falling sales, Aavin also released comparative figures showing an increase in milk distribution during June this year. According to the data, the cooperative sold an average of 14.46 lakh litres of milk per day in June 2025.



Wanted in multiple NDPS cases, woman drug peddler arrested in J&K's Anantnag

Srinagar, July 2 : Police in Jammu and Kashmir's Anantnag district said on Thursday that they have arrested the most wanted female drug peddler and recovered contraband from her possession. A police statement said that in its sustained and uncompromising crackdown against drug trafficking, Anantnag Police achieved another significant success by apprehending a notorious female drug peddler involved in multiple narcotics cases. A police party of Police Post Dialgam had established a routine naka checking point at Laalan Bypass. During checking, one female was noticed approaching from Bondialgam towards Laalan.



Forex reserves expose Pakistan's bankruptcy vs India's boom, says Amit Malviya

New Delhi, July 2 : BJP leader Amit Malviya on Thursday highlighted the weakness of Pakistan's economy, citing the meagre \$15 billion in total foreign exchange reserves that the country has, in sharp contrast to India's massive forex kitty of \$688 billion.

CBI brings back fugitive Md. Navas Kakkat Ismail from UAE

New Delhi, July 2 : In a major breakthrough, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), working in close coordination with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), has successfully secured the extradition of wanted fugitive Md. Navas Kakkat Ismail from the United Arab Emirates.

The accused, who was the subject of a Red Notice issued through INTERPOL, was handed over to Indian authorities on May 4 and brought to Delhi. Ismail was wanted in connection with a case registered by the Delhi Police involving serious offences such as extortion, cheating, criminal misappropriation, forgery, impersonation and participation in an organised crime syndicate.



Investigators have identified him as a key conspirator in a racket that extorted money by impersonating government officials in collusion with other accused persons.



Delhi Police bust drug syndicate, arrest 3 foreign nationals with commercial quantity of Amphetamine

New Delhi, July 2 : In a major breakthrough under the ongoing drive against narcotics and as part of the 'Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan', Delhi Police have busted an alleged drug trafficking network involving three persons, including two foreign nationals found overstaying in India, and recovered a commercial quantity of Amphetamine, officials said on Thursday. According to police, the operation was carried out by a team from Patel Nagar Police Station following specific intelligence regarding the alleged supply of narcotic substances in the area. Officials said that on June 25, the police received reliable secret in-

formation indicating that a foreign national was actively involved in supplying drugs in the Patel Nagar area of the national capital. Acting promptly on the input, a dedicated raiding team comprising SI Dharmender, SI Piyush, SI Umesh, Head Constable Mukesh, Constable Ajay and Constable Sandeep was constituted under the leadership of Inspector Naveen Kumar, SHO of Patel Nagar Police Station, under the close supervision of ACP Sunil Kumar. The police team laid a strategic trap near the Shadipur Flyover and successfully apprehended one suspect. During the search, 54 grams of Amphetamine were allegedly recovered from his possession.



311 to be unified helpline number for all civic complaints in Delhi: Parvesh Verma

New Delhi, July 2 : Delhi PWD Minister Parvesh Verma on Thursday said that the government is close to adopting unified helpline number '311' for registration of civic complaints related to NDMC, MCD, DDA, Jal Board and public works and flood control departments. The decision to adopt an integrated helpline number was announced by Verma during his visit to the NDMC Control and Command Centre that currently operates the 311 helpline for the 42 sq. km area under its jurisdiction. During his inspection, the Minister emphasised that the NDMC Centre will now become the central hub for all major civic departments in Delhi.

Manipur Governor reviews ongoing National Highway projects

Imphal, July 2 : Manipur Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla on Thursday reviewed ongoing National Highway projects in the state and directed officials to ensure their timely completion, officials said. An official said that the Governor chaired a meeting in Raj Bhavan and comprehensively reviewed the progress of ongoing National Highway projects in the state. During the meeting, National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL) Executive Director, M.S. Deval, provided a detailed briefing on the current status of various national highway projects under construction in different parts of Manipur. He also highlighted key challenges affecting project execution. "Governor directed the officials to implement necessary measures to address these challenges and ensure timely completion of the projects," the official said. Manipur has two National Highways -- Imphal-Jiribam National Highway (NH-37) and Imphal-Dimapur National Highway (NH-2).



BSF seizes narcotics valued at Rs 3.38 crore along India-Bangladesh border

Kolkata, July 2 : The Border Security Force (BSF) has made a major seizure of narcotics valued at nearly Rs 3.38 crore along the Indo-Bangladesh Border (IBB), in the Murshidabad district of West Bengal, an official said on Thursday. "Around 2.30 a.m. on Thursday, troops of the 71 Bn BSF, posted at Border Outpost Khandua, spotted the suspicious movement of two persons behind their Domination Line. The troops immediately focussed their torched beams

on the two and ordered them to stop. Instead of doing so, the miscreants fled towards the Atrosia village, taking advantage of the dark and the cover provided by houses.



Nagaland University develops cost-effective material for energy storage devices

Kohima, July 2 : Nagaland University-led multi-institute research team has developed an innovative and cost-effective method to create an advanced material for building next-generation energy storage devices called 'Supercapacitors', officials said on Thursday. A varsity official said that the devices are gaining attention due to their ability to store large amounts of energy and charge very quickly, unlike traditional batteries. He said that these devices are widely seen as a potential solution to the growing demand for more efficient and sustainable energy systems. A critical part of a super capacitor's performance is the material used for its electrodes. However, the high cost of these

materials has been a barrier to widespread use. This research aligns closely with India's growing focus on clean energy and environmentally responsible technologies. The official said that the research team developed a new approach to produce aminated graphene, a derivative of reduced graphene oxide. This method is notably cost-effective, faster, and completes the entire procedure much more quickly than the traditional processes. Further, the obtained material also demonstrated good electrochemical properties. This kind of material can help improve the performance and lower the cost of energy storage systems. Initial lab tests have shown promising results.

Gujarat: Congress flags critical water shortage, says dam levels at 20 pc

Ahmedabad, July 2 : The Congress on Thursday claimed that a difficult drought-like situation in parts of Gujarat has left major dams in Saurashtra, Kutch and North Gujarat with only around 20 per cent of their total water storage, warning that the situation could worsen if rainfall does not

improve in the coming weeks. Addressing a press briefing at Rajiv Gandhi Bhavan, Gujarat Pradesh Congress Committee president Amit Chavda said that the state is witnessing an "alarming" decline in rainfall, which has directly impacted sowing and agricultural activity across the region. "Sowing has fallen by nearly 40 per cent compared to the same



period last year due to an acute rainfall deficit," he claimed. According to figures cited by the

Congress, Gujarat has received only around 1 inch of rainfall so far this June.



UP govt aims to double maize production by 2027

Lucknow, July 2 : Yogi Adityanath-led Uttar Pradesh government has set out an ambitious goal to double maize production in

the state by 2027 and hopes to increase the production to more than 27 lakh metric tonnes in the next two years. UP agriculture minister Surya

Pratap Shahi, addressing a Kharif seminar, laid out this vision of the state government and also shared a roadmap on achieving the targeted goal. He also urged the farmers to boost the production of key crops, including maize, tur, and mustard. He told the gathering, "The Government's sustained encouragement is yielding positive results. In the past eight years under CM Yogi's leadership, the production of pulses and oilseeds has doubled." As per government estimates, maize production in the state in

2021-22 stood at 14.67 lakh metric tonnes. The government aims to increase this to 27.30 lakh metric tonnes within the target period. Efforts are being made to expand the cultivated area and enhance productivity per hectare. Maize stands out for its versatility in terms of nutritional value, high yields, suitability for intercropping, and industrial applications. It can be cultivated throughout all seasons and on diverse types of land. The only critical requirement is proper drainage management in the fields.

India-Bosnia and Herzegovina discuss advancing key bilateral initiatives

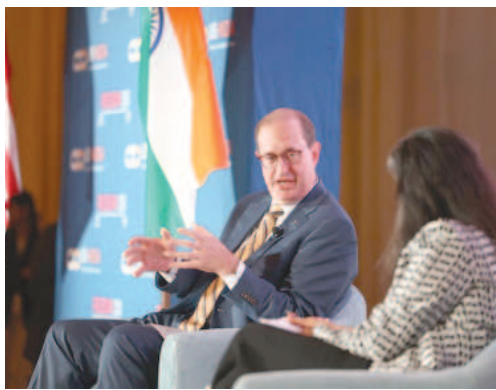
Sarajevo, July 2 : India's Ambassador Anshuman Gaur on Thursday called on Bosnia and Herzegovina's Foreign Minister Elmedin Dino Konakovic and discussed advancing key bilateral initiatives. "Ambassador Anshuman Gaur called on the Hon'ble Foreign Minister of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Elmedin Dino Konakovic, today. Conveyed warm greetings and best



wishes from EAM S Jaishankar," the Embassy of India, Budapest, representing India in Hungary and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

India key to Canada's diversification push: Envoy

Washington, July 2 : Canada sees India as the "most logical place" to diversify its trade and investment partnerships as countries rethink global supply chains amid geopolitical uncertainty, Canada's Ambassador to the United States, Mark Wiseman said. Speaking at the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) Leadership Summit.



I am not anti-US, not kneeling: Giorgia Meloni

Rome, July 2 : Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni on Thursday said that she is not anti-American but also not "kneeling", amid the recent controversy over US President Donald Trump's comments about the Italian PM.

"I am not anti-American today; I was not kneeling yesterday. I am a person who believes that the West is stronger united, who believes that Italy is stronger in a united West, and has worked and continues to work for this. After that, however, solid relationships are also based on frankness, and I am a frank person," Meloni said, speaking about Italy-US relations on '10 minuti' on Rete 4, Italian news agency Adnkronos reported.

Earlier this month, Italian Foreign Minister and Deputy Prime Minister Antonio Tajani announced the cancellation of his planned visit to Miami for a business forum, after the controversy over Trump's comments on Meloni.

"The serious and offensive words of President Trump towards Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni offend all of Italy. For this reason, I have decided to cancel my visit to the United States scheduled for the next 21 and 22 June," Tajani wrote on X.



NZ Central Bank warns of impact of AI rise on financial stability

Wellington, July 2 : The Central Bank of New Zealand warned on Thursday that the rise of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the financial sector presents both opportunities and risks to financial stability.

In its upcoming Financial Stability Report, the Reserve Bank of New Zealand (RBNZ) cautions that increasing reliance on AI could amplify vulnerabilities, with risks including system errors, data privacy breaches and market distortions. The growing dependence on a few major third-party AI providers raises concerns about market concentration, increasing the potential impact of cyberattacks, the report said. As AI tools and models become increasingly sophisticated and widely integrated across the financial services sector, they offer significant potential benefits. These include improved productivity, greater modelling accuracy, enhanced risk assessment capabilities, and strengthened cyber resilience - helping financial institutions better detect and manage threats, the report detailed.

"Alongside these opportunities lie potential vulnerabilities. Errors in AI systems, data privacy concerns and market distortions could amplify existing risks. The growing reliance on a small number of third-party AI providers may also contribute to market concentration, creating new channels for contagion and increasing the potential impact of cyber-attacks.," it said. "There is still considerable uncertainty around how AI will shape the financial system," said Kerry Watt, RBNZ Director of Financial Stability Assessment and Strategy. "While its impact could be positive, especially in enhancing resilience, it could also introduce or amplify vulnerabilities." The Central Bank highlights AI's potential to boost productivity, enhance risk assessment, improve



modelling accuracy, and strengthen cyber defenses across financial institutions, Xinhua news agency reported. Regulated entities are expected to manage AI-related risks within existing frameworks, and regulations must evolve to keep pace with technological change, RBNZ said, adding it will continue monitoring AI developments and regulatory responses to ensure the financial system remains robust in the face of innovation.



Italian Deputy PM Tajani arrives in New Delhi to bolster India-Italy strategic partnership

New Delhi, July 2 : Italian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Antonio Tajani arrived in New Delhi on Thursday for a three-day official visit to India, marking his second visit this year aimed at deepening the India-Italy Strategic Partnership. Welcoming the Italian Deputy Prime Minister, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) took to X, stating, "His engagements in Delhi and Mumbai will further strengthen India-Italy Strategic Partnership." During his visit, Tajani will hold talks with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar in New Delhi on Wednesday. He will travel to Mumbai and attend official engagements on Thursday, according to a media advisory is-

sued by the MEA. Tajani is scheduled to depart from Mumbai on Friday, following the conclusion of his engagements in India. Earlier in April, during his visit to India, Tajani and EAM Jaishankar reviewed the growing bilateral cooperation between the two countries under the ambit of Joint Strategic Action Plan (JSAP) 2025-29, which included the areas of trade and investment, defence and security, space, science and technology, clean energy transition, culture, tourism and people to people ties. According to the MEA, both sides expressed satisfaction at regular high-level interactions and exchanges.

Odisha Law Minister confirms sacred Daaru wood not used in carving of idols in Digha temple

Bhubaneswar, July 2 : Odisha Law Minister Prithiviraj Harichandan on Thursday clarified that the idols in Digha Jagannath temple were not carved from the surplus Daaru or sacred neem wood used in the making of deities of Puri Jagannath temple during the Nabakalebara. Speaking to media persons following discussions with the officials of Shree Jagannatha Temple Administration (SJTA), Puri, the Law Minister said, "The use of surplus Daaru or sacred Neem tree in the carving of the deities at the Digha Jagannath Temple is proved false during inquiry."



Denmark breaks ground on major carbon storage terminal

Oslo, July 2 : A groundbreaking ceremony was held Thursday for a new carbon dioxide (CO2) transit terminal at Port Esbjerg in western Denmark, marking a significant step toward the nation's goal to advance carbon capture and storage (CCS) technologies and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The terminal is part of the Denmark-based Greensand Future project, which aims to reduce CO2 emissions by CCS. Once completed later this year, the Esbjerg terminal will serve as a major infrastructure hub for the transport and storage of liquefied

CO2 and is expected to help achieve Denmark's national climate targets and contribute to the development of CCS capacity in the region. "This is a key milestone for the Greensand project and an important step in building a complete CCS value chain. Carbon capture and storage will be critical to achieving climate targets," said Mads Gade, CEO of the project operator INEOS Energy Europe, at the construction site. The terminal is designed to house six large tanks, each capable of storing around 1,000 tonnes of liquefied CO2. The CO2 will be col-

lected from Danish biogas plants and transported by truck to the Esbjerg terminal for temporary storage. Once the tanks are full, the liquefied CO2 will be loaded onto a vessel and transported to the INEOS Nini platform in the Danish North Sea. From there, it will be injected into geological formations located around 1,800 meters below the seabed for long-term storage, Xinhua news agency reported. The project entered its commercial phase in December 2024, when INEOS and its partners made a final investment decision.

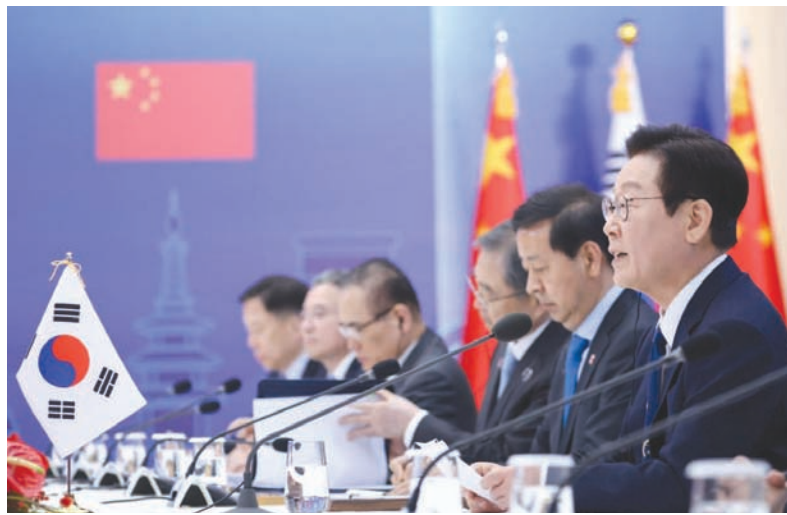
South Korea: Lee vows to enhance climate change cooperation with Pacific Island countries

Seoul, July 2 : South Korean President Lee Jae Myung on Thursday met with foreign ministers from Pacific Island countries and pledged to deepen cooperation on climate change and other shared global challenges. Lee held talks with the top diplomats from 15 Pacific Island nations and the sec-

retary general of the Pacific Islands Forum, who were in Seoul for the sixth Korea-Pacific Islands foreign ministers' meeting. "As a responsible member of the global community, the Republic of Korea is committed to taking the lead in addressing the pressing challenges facing humanity," Lee said, referring to South Korea's

official name. "We will respond proactively to the shared threat of the climate crisis and to support vulnerable countries in achieving self-sustaining growth based on Korea's own development experience to build a better future together," he added. Lee also highlighted Korea's

growing strategic ties with the region, noting its role as a major source of tuna and a key fisheries hub, as well as its significant potential for expanded cooperation in the mineral and energy sectors, Yonhap news agency reported. During the ministerial meeting hosted by Foreign Minister Cho Hyun on Thursday.





MP: Scindia lays foundation for 350 crore development projects in Guna

Guna, July 2 : Union Minister for Communications and Development of the North Eastern Region and Guna MP Jyotiraditya Scindia was recently on a four-day visit to Guna, during which he gave a fresh impetus to the district's development by inaugurating and laying foundation stones for various projects worth about Rs 350 crore. During his visit, Scindia participated in programmes related to environment protection, water conservation, irrigation, railways, roads, energy, skill development, agricultural infrastructure, women empowerment, health, and public welfare, while also reviewing the progress of ongoing development works. The visit began at the source of the Kuno River in Kanja village, where the Union minister planted a tree under the "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" campaign in response to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call. On the occasion, he launched the "Jal Ganga Sanvardhan Abhiyan," a people's movement to protect rivers. He also inaugurated a check dam constructed at a cost of Rs 17.98 lakh in Chinera village. Scindia emphasised that protecting water, forests, and land can only be achieved through public participation, and that environmental conservation is the collective responsibility of every citizen.

MP to get 13 MRI machines, 308 AI-enabled X-ray devices under PM-CARES: Dy CM Shukla

Bhopal, July 2 : Madhya Pradesh will receive 13 MRI machines, 11 mammography machines and 308 AI-enabled handheld X-ray devices over the next three years under the PM-CARES initiative, Deputy Chief Minister Rajendra Shukla said after attending a digital health programme in New Delhi on Thursday. The equipment will be provided under a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the Madhya Pradesh Public Health and Medical Education Department and the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The move is aimed at strengthening diagnostic services and improving access to modern healthcare across the state. Speaking to the press after the programme, Shukla said the new equipment would strengthen healthcare infrastructure, particularly in remote and rural areas. He said the advanced diagnostic equipment being provided under PM-CARES.



Gram Panchayat Development Plans must focus on outcomes: Secy Vivek Bharadwaj

New Delhi, July 2 : Panchayati Raj Secretary Vivek Bharadwaj on Thursday stressed that preparation of the Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) should focus on quality outcomes that bring real change at the grassroots, rather than being treated as a mere compliance exercise. Speaking at the inauguration of a two-day National Workshop organised by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj on the Preparation of Panchayat Development Plans, the Secretary noted that proper planning for asset creation through the GPDP would help prevent wastage of resources. Bharadwaj said there is a need to strengthen Panchayat-led planning through sustainability, clear institutional responsi-

bilities and effective utilisation of resources. He also underlined the role of digital platforms in ensuring long-term service delivery at the grassroots level and highlighted that greater citizen participation in Gram Sabhas would make decision-making more inclusive. The inaugural session of the workshop also witnessed the launch of the People's Plan Campaign (PPC) booklet for Preparation of Panchayat Development Plan (2026-27), the Report of the Committee on Enhancing the Quality of Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) and the re-



vamped eGramSwaraj planning portal. This workshop aims to strengthen participatory planning and improve the quality of Panchayat development plans, making them more effective, inclusive, and outcome-oriented. The workshop has brought together senior officials from Central Ministries, representatives from Panchayati Raj Departments and SIRD&PRs, Panchayat functionaries and other key stakeholders from across the country.

ED attaches WTC group's properties worth Rs 2,348 crore

New Delhi, July 2 : The Directorate of Enforcement's (ED) Gurugram Zonal Office has provisionally attached immovable properties valued at Rs. 2,348 crore under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), in connection with a massive real estate fraud involving WTC Faridabad Infrastructure Pvt. Ltd and other entities of the WTC group, headed by businessman Ashish Bhalla, according to an official statement issued on Saturday. The attached assets include approximately 159 acres of licensed and unlicensed land, along with unsold real estate inventory across Delhi-NCR, including



Gurugram, Faridabad, and Noida, as well as residential properties in Goa. Some commercial premises in Delhi-NCR have also been attached, the statement said. The attached properties have been identified as direct proceeds of crime.

BAP MLA Jaikrishn Patel bribery case: ACB recovers Rs 20 Lakh



Jaipur, July 2 : Bharat Adivasi Party (BAP) MLA Jaikrishn Patel, representing Bagidora constituency in Banswara district, has been sent to two days' remand after he was arrested in connection with a bribery scandal. The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) has now recovered Rs 20 lakh, allegedly linked to the bribe demand by the legislator. The ACB team raided Patel's

residence on Thursday. During the operation, a person reportedly fled the premises carrying cash. Patel was later arrested at his official residence in Jyotinagar, Jaipur. While the ACB has not disclosed exactly where the money was recovered or who was in possession of it, the agency confirmed that a forensic investigation is underway. CCTV footage from Patel's quarters has been seized, and the server room is being examined by the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL). Earlier, Patel, along with his cousin, was produced in a court in Jaipur and sent to a two-day police remand. Outside the court, Patel claimed he was being framed. The ACB has interrogated several of Patel's aides, including his gunman, driver, office staff, and social media team. All were released later that night.

Kazakhstan, Gujarat explore expanded cooperation in energy, education and investment ties

Gandhinagar, July 2 : Kazakhstan's Ambassador to India, Azamat Yeskarayev, called on Gujarat Governor Acharya Devvrat at Lok Bhavan in Gandhinagar on Thursday, during which both sides discussed ways to deepen cooperation in energy, education, agriculture, and industrial investment, while reviewing the historical and strategic dimensions of India-Kazakhstan relations. During the meeting, the Governor referred to the longstanding civilisational links between the two regions, stating that relations date back nearly 2,000 years. "Indian Buddhist monks and spiritual leaders had travelled to Central Asia in ancient times, spreading messages of peace, brotherhood and harmony," he said. Energy cooperation featured prominently in the discussions. Yeskarayev said, "Kazakhstan regards energy security as a key global concern and noted that the country holds around 40 per cent of the world's uranium reserves." He added that Kazakhstan, along with



Canada, is among the main suppliers of uranium to India for its nuclear energy programme. Agriculture and public health were also discussed, with Devvrat highlighting natural farming as an alternative to chemical-intensive agricultural practices. "The extensive use of chemical fertilisers and pesticides has been linked to rising global health concerns, including cancer, migraine and brain tumours," he said. He added that Kazakh agricultural experts have been invited to India for training in natural farming practices and said: "he regularly visits rural areas to encourage farmers to adopt the method".

Odisha govt approves new scheme to ensure timely fertiliser supply to farmers

Bhubaneswar, July 2 : In a bid to ensure the timely availability of fertilisers and curb black-marketing, the Odisha government has approved a new scheme to provide 100 per cent interest subvention on cash credit loans availed by cooperative societies for advance stocking of fertilisers. The scheme, titled "Interest Subvention on Cash Credit Loan for Prepositioning of Fertiliser," will be implemented by the Cooperation Department from the current financial year following approval by the Finance Department. According to an official statement, the decision was taken based on the recommenda-

tion of the Standing Finance Committee (SFC) chaired by the Commissioner-cum-Secretary of the Cooperation Department. The scheme aims to address the financial burden faced by Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies (PACS) and Large-sized Adivasi Multi-Purpose Cooperative Societies (LAMPCS), which procure and stock fertilisers well ahead of the Kharif and Rabi cropping seasons. By bearing the entire interest cost on cash credit loans, the government seeks to enable these cooperatives to pre-position adequate fertiliser stocks without incurring additional financial liabilities. The state government expects the initiative to increase the cooperative sector's share in fertiliser dis-



tribution from the existing 25-30 per cent to around 60 per cent from the Kharif 2026 season. Officials believe the move will help improve the availability of fertilisers to farmers while reducing the scope for diversion and black-marketing through private trade channels. The government has approved a financial outlay of Rs 42 crore for the five years from 2026-27 to 2030-31, with an initial allocation of Rs 5 crore for the current financial year.

Union Minister Ravneet Singh hails Akal Takht's directive to review sacrilege law

Chandigarh, July 2 : Union Minister of State for Railways Ravneet Singh Bittu on Thursday welcomed the decision of the Akal Takht Jathedar to seek a comprehensive review of the Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib Sakar (Amendment) Act of 2026 and to initiate wider consultations before such a sensitive piece of legislation is moved forward.



MP govt launches drive to digitise 150 million land records

Bhopal, July 2 : Madhya Pradesh government has started its biggest-ever land records digitisation exercise, targeting nearly 150 million old revenue documents under the Digital India Land Records Modernisation Programme (DILRMP). The initiative is aimed at making land records easily accessible to citizens, improving transparency in the revenue administration.

People-to-people ties 'secret sauce' of India-US relationship: Former US envoy

Washington, July 2 : People-to-people ties have been the "secret sauce" binding India and the United States through periods of diplomatic ups and downs, former US Ambassador to India Kenneth I. Juster said, as he traced the evolution of the relationship from early American consulates in India to today's comprehensive global strategic partnership. Speaking at the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) Leadership Summit, Juster said India and the United States had been connected in significant ways for centuries, long before the modern strategic partnership took shape.

"No two nations so far apart geographically have been so closely connected as the United States and India," Juster said. Juster noted that the United States established two of its earliest overseas diplomatic missions in India — in Calcutta in 1792 and Madras in 1794 — only a few years after opening its mission in Paris. He also recalled that President Franklin D. Roosevelt had pushed Britain on India's independence and that the United States established relations with India's interim government in September 1946, more than 11 months before India formally became independent. Juster said the post-Cold War relationship gained momentum af-



ter India's 1991 economic reforms but suffered a setback after India's 1998 nuclear tests. The subsequent talks between US Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott and Indian External Affairs Minister Jaswant Singh helped put ties back on track and paved the way for President Bill Clinton's 2000 visit to India. He said President

George W. Bush then sought to transform ties between "the world's oldest democracy" and "the world's largest democracy", with high technology and the civil nuclear agreement becoming central to that shift.

Bangladesh: Corruption probe launched against Hasina's principal secy

Dhaka, July 2 : In a continuous attempt to suppress former Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her aides, the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) has launched an inquiry against her then-principal secretary, Tofazzel Hossain Miah, on the allegations of amassing huge "illicit" wealth through "corruption and abuse of power," local media reported on Thursday. The ACC's spokesperson, Akhtarul Islam, confirmed the matter, stating that no further details could be divulged. "The decision to launch the inquiry was taken following the initial evidence of the allegations against Tofazzel in the ACC's intelligence unit report," said a senior official of

the ACC, speaking to media outlet bdnews24, on condition of anonymity. Hossain Miah was appointed as the principal secretary in 2022, and the contract was extended for another year in June last year. However, after assuming power in August last year.



IMF chief warns of 'much worse outcome' for global economy as Iran war drags on

New York, July 2 : International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva warned that the global economy would face a "much worse outcome" if the Middle East war drags on into 2027, with oil prices hitting around 125 dollars per barrel. "We are going to see inflation climbing up, and then inevitably, inflation expectations would start de-anchoring," she said at a conference hosted by the Milken Institute in Washington, D.C., on Monday (local time). She noted that current conditions, including a prolonged conflict, oil prices hovering at or above 100 US dollars per barrel, and mounting inflationary pressures, have already activated the IMF's "adverse scenario," reports Xinhua news agency. In April, the IMF issued three scenarios for global GDP growth in 2026 and 2027, namely the main "reference forecast," a middle "adverse scenario," and a much worse "severe scenario."

UN Assistant Secretary-General for Asia to brief Security Council closed session on India, Pakistan

United Nations, July 2 : UN Assistant Secretary-General Mohamed Khaled Khari will brief the Security Council at its closed-door meeting on Thursday about the tense situation between India and Pakistan following the terrorist massacre in Pahalgam, according to the Council president's office. Khari, who is from Tunisia, is in charge of the Middle East and Asia Pacific in the UN's Departments of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and Peace Operations. Council President Evangelos Sekeris is convening the closed consultations at the request of Pakistan's Permanent Representative Asim Iftikhar Ahmad. Because Pakistan, currently an elected member of the Council, asked for closed consultations, India will likely be shut out of it because, under Coun-

cil procedures, countries that are not members are not allowed to participate in the closed-door meetings, which are also referred to as "consultations of the whole". Pakistan's Foreign Ministry said in an X post that it will "formally apprise the UNSC of the latest developments in South Asia". The meetings are held informally in a side room, not in the Council chamber, and no records of the consultations are published. The meeting is scheduled for 3 p.m. in New York (12:30 a.m. Tuesday in India). Pakistan's UN

mission said that Ahmad will speak to reporters outside the Council after the meeting. It said it was asking for the consultations "in view of the deteriorating regional environment and rising tensions between India and Pakistan, particularly the situation in Jammu and Kashmir". The situation "poses a threat to both regional and international peace and security", Pakistan said. Ahmad said on Friday that Pakistan was considering calling a meeting of the Council because "kinetic action" by India was im-



minent. The Resistance Front, an affiliate of the Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba, has owned responsibility for the terrorist massacre of 26 people in Pahalgam. Following the attack, Prime Minister Narendra Modi vowed: "We will identify, trace, and punish every terrorist and their supporters. We will pursue them to the ends of the Earth".

Child abuse images spread, US senators seek action

Washington, July 2 : US senators warned that child sexual abuse images are being shared globally on a scale that outpaces victim identification, as a mother told a Senate hearing her daughter's abuse material is "still online" more than 25 years later, and lawmakers pressed for tougher action against offenders and online plat-

forms. At a Congressional hearing on this issue, Senator Josh Hawley said the issue concerns "children who are being exploited".



South African President urges slavery reparations to address Africa's debt and development

Johannesburg, July 2 : As Africa Month commemorations begin across the continent, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa has renewed calls for slavery reparations. Centuries of exploitation and the systematic looting of African resources continue to inflict lasting economic damage on African nations, Ramaphosa said in a newsletter released on Thursday. Reparations must go beyond financial compensation to include "increased foreign direct investment and market access for the African countries affected by slavery," the president said, Xinhua News Agency reported. He also called for tech-

nology and skills transfers, as well as the unconditional return of artifacts stolen from the continent centuries ago. According to Ramaphosa, reparations could provide critical support for the continent's developmental goals and help nations manage rising debt levels, burdens he links directly to the enduring economic legacy of slavery and colonial exploitation. "Not only were millions of Africans enslaved, but colonial powers grew wealthy from the vast tracts of African land they forcibly occupied and the valuable resources they extracted."

Nearly 3 million illegal immigrants leave US, says DHS Secretary Noem



Washington, July 2 : Nearly three million "illegal aliens" have left the United States of America during President Donald Trump's second term as a result of stepped-up enforcement, Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Kristi Noem told lawmakers on Thursday, anchoring her defence of the administration's immigration policy in a cascade of numbers. "Nearly three million illegal aliens have left the United States as a result of the administration's enforcement efforts," Noem said. That total includes "2.2 million that have voluntarily left and returned back to their native countries" and "more than 675,000 detentions and deportations".



EU seeks to exclude leather from revised anti-deforestation law

Brussels, July 2 : The European Commission on Thursday proposed to remove leather from the scope of the revised European Union (EU) Deforestation Regulation, in a move to avoid penalising EU producers of goods such as handbags and shoes. The draft delegated act, open for public feedback until June 1, proposes targeted amendments to the product scope, including adding soluble coffee and certain palm oil derivatives while excluding leather and retreaded tyres and so on, said the Commission in a statement, Xinhua News Agency reported. The Commission also unveiled a package of supporting measures to ensure the smooth and effective implementation of the revised law, following the adoption of the revised text by the European Parliament and the Council of the EU in December 2025. The measures include a simplification review report, updated guidance and frequently asked questions. The supporting measures are expected to reduce annual compliance costs for companies subject to the EU Deforestation Regulation obligations by about 75 per cent compared to the original regulation.



India intensifies earthquake relief efforts in Venezuela under Operation Amistad

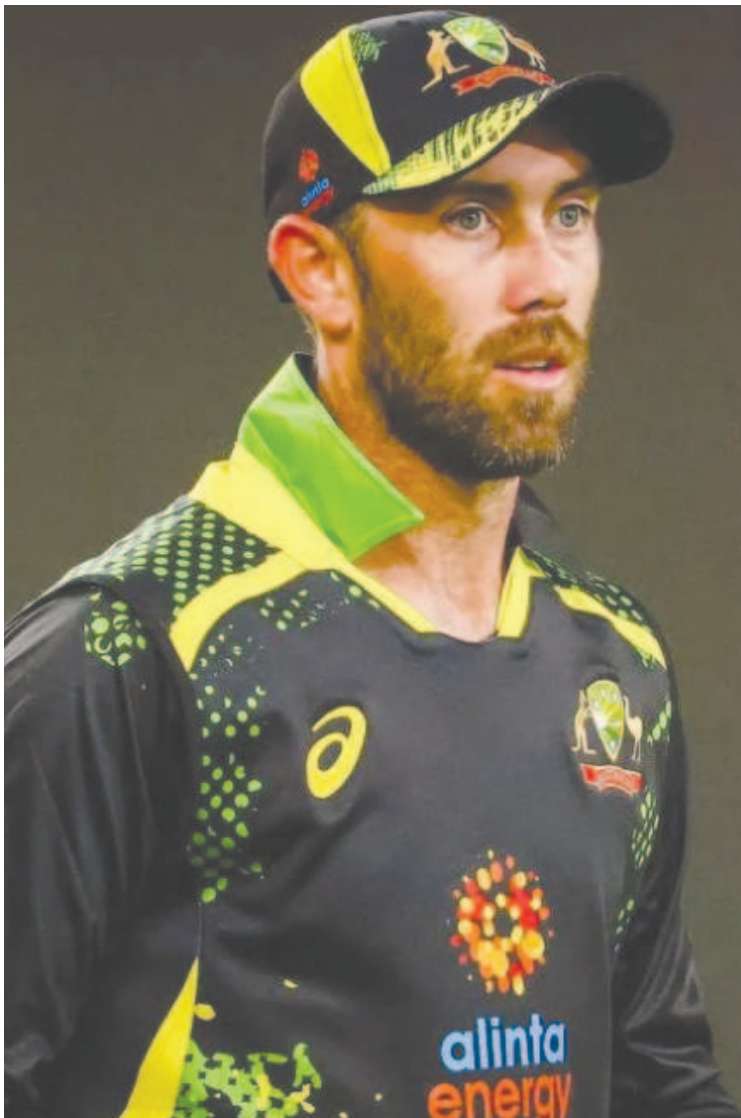
Caracas, July 2 : India has intensified its humanitarian outreach in earthquake-hit Venezuela under Operation Amistad, expanding relief efforts with a focus on providing medical assistance and emergency support to those affected by the disaster. The Embassy of India in Caracas, Venezuela, on Tuesday shared an update on X, saying: "OperationAmistad: India has intensified its efforts for disaster relief in Venezuela with a healing touch to those affected by the earthquake." Earlier, the Indian Army contingent deployed in Venezuela under Operation Amistad established a field hospital to provide urgent medical assistance to people impacted by the devastating earthquake. In a post on X, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said, "Operation Amistad underway in Venezuela."



ICC chair Jay Shah hails news LA Knight Riders Stadium as 'key milestone' for cricket's Olympic return

Los Angeles, July 2 : ICC Chairman Jay Shah hailed the inauguration of the LA Knight Riders Cricket Ground in Los Angeles as a significant step in cricket's global expansion, describing it as 'a key milestone' in the sport's return to the Olympic Games. The state-of-the-art venue, developed by the Knight Riders Group, hosted

its first-ever Major League Cricket (MLC) match on Wednesday as the Los Angeles Knight Riders took on Washington Freedom, making the franchise the first global cricket brand to establish an international-standard cricket stadium. Congratulating Bollywood superstar and Knight Riders Group co-owner Shah Rukh Khan, who described the project as the fulfilment of a dream, Jay Shah said the initiative would play a vital role in expanding cricket's footprint in emerging markets.



USA could have upset India at T20 WC; ETPL can help European teams close the gap: Belfast captain Maxwell

New Delhi, July 2 : Australia all-rounder Glenn Maxwell believes the gap between cricket's powerhouses and emerging nations is narrowing rapidly, saying the United States came close to upsetting India at the T20 World Cup and that the European T20 Premier League (ETPL) can further accelerate the rise of developing teams. Speaking after the ETPL 2026 Player Draft on Thursday, the Belfast Wolves' co-owner and captain said franchise leagues provide the exposure needed for Associate nations to consistently challenge the world's best. Asked whether ETPL could help make results like Ireland's recent T20I series win over India more frequent by giving European players a stronger competitive platform. The Australian cited the USA's performance against India at the T20 World Cup as evidence that emerging teams are already capable of challenging.



If Vaibhav needs to play, he should, but not at the expense of dropping someone: Pujara

New Delhi, July 2 : Former India batter Cheteshwar Pujara addressed the discussion surrounding India's top order ahead of the second T20I against England, making it clear that he does not believe Sanju Samson should lose his place to accommodate Vaibhav Sooryavanshi despite growing calls for the teenage batter to be included in the playing XI. The veteran batter added that constant speculation over Samson's place in the side was unnecessary, insisting the wicketkeeper-batter deserves a longer run.

"I think India should persist with Sanju Samson. I don't think he should be feeling any pressure. He has proved himself in the T20 World Cup and, with the kind of talent he possesses, he should be there in the playing XI," Pujara said on JioStar. "There shouldn't be a lot of noise about dropping Sanju Samson. He is a quality player and should get a longer run. Sanju just needs to bat naturally and not think too much," he added. While Pujara acknowledged that Sooryavanshi has earned an opportunity, he argued that the youngster's inclusion should not come at the cost of disrupting India's established top order. "If Vaibhav needs to play, he should play, but not at the expense of dropping someone, rather by resting someone. If you want to give him an opportunity, that is fine. But you shouldn't be dropping any of India's top three players, whether it's Sanju, Abhishek or Ishan Kishan."



'This win doesn't define us, but enjoy it like...', Gordon reveals Kane's message after Congo win

Atlanta, July 2 : Anthony Gordon has revealed that Harry Kane urged his team-mates to enjoy the moment when he brought the England squad together for a post-match huddle after the 2-1 win over DR Congo in the round of 32 of the FIFA World Cup 2026. Kane scored twice in the final 15 minutes as the Three Lions came from behind to reach the last 16, where they will face Mexico. For the first time in their history, England won a World Cup match after trailing at half-time. In nine previous instances where they were behind at the break, they had drawn twice and lost seven times. In the immediate aftermath, Kane spoke to his teammates on the pitch before he moved closer to the fans to join in the singing and stressed that the difficulty of the win should not stop them from savouring the moment. "He was saying that this win doesn't

define us; it doesn't win us the tournament, but enjoy it like any other nation," Gordon as quoted by England Football. "Sometimes the bigger nations have a tendency not to celebrate properly because they want to go further and they have high expectations, but that shouldn't be the case. It's a win in the World Cup against a tough team and now we're in the round of 16," he added. Gordon proved instrumental in England's turnaround, setting up both of Kane's goals after he was introduced from the bench in the 61st minute. However, rather than focus on himself, the 25-year-old was keen to highlight the contribution of his teammate, explaining how Kane's goalscoring prowess influenced his decision-making for both goals.



Praggnanandhaa joint second, Gukesh tied sixth after opening day of Grand Chess Tour Croatia

Zagreb, July 2 : The two Indian stars had contrasting starts to the Super Rapid & Blitz Croatia, the third event of the Grand Chess Tour, as Praggnanandhaa placed joint second, while world champion D. Gukesh was tied for sixth place at the end of the third round of the rapid section. Praggnanandhaa began with an impressive victory over Vincent Keymer before drawing against Maxime Vachier-Lagrave. Gukesh, meanwhile, suffered an opening-round defeat to Maxime Vachier-Lagrave but responded immediately with a win over Ivan Saric.

Taking inspiration from IPL, SA20 to grow ETPL's talent pool: Rotterdam Dockers co-owner Jonty Rhodes

New Delhi, July 2 : Drawing on his experiences with the Indian Premier League (IPL) and South Africa's SA20, former South Africa cricketer and Rotterdam Dockers co-owner Jonty Rhodes believes the European T20 Premier League (ETPL) can play a transformative role in developing cricket across the continent.

Rhodes said the league's long-term objective should be to expand Europe's talent pool and strengthen grassroots cricket, rather than merely producing a champion team. He made the remarks after Rotterdam selected emerging Ireland international Jai Moondra with their opening pick.



NZ quick Sears ruled out of Windies ODIs, Lister named replacement

Auckland, July 2 : New Zealand fast bowler Ben Sears has been ruled out of the upcoming ODI series against the West Indies with an ankle injury, with Ben Lister being named as a replacement in the 16-man squad. NZC said Sears had experi-

enced some ongoing pain in his ankle since the four-day Test against Ireland in May, which flared up during the final day of the third Test against England at Trent Bridge.