

THE INDIAN MAIL

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Jindal Steel's Q1 net profit falls 44 pc to Rs 844 crore

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Asked Jadumani to leave no room for doubt in judges' decision: Boxing coach Belwal on close-bout Judging at CWG

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Lok Sabha passes anti-paper leak bill



New Delhi, July 29 : The Lok Sabha has passed the anti-paper leak bill introduced by the Central Government to curb the leakage of examination question papers. Following a discussion, the House approved the bill by a voice vote. It rejected amendments proposed by the opposition seeking changes to the bill. The legislation incorporates provisions for taking strict

action against those involved in paper leaks and examination malpractices. The government stated that the bill aims to enhance transparency in the conduct of competitive examinations nationwide and safeguard the interests of candidates. Following the passage of this anti-paper leak bill, Speaker Om Birla adjourned the Lok Sabha proceedings until Thursday. The bill has been drafted to impose a prison term of up to ten years and a fine of up to 10 crore on those found guilty in paper leak cases.

Rajya Sabha approves 'Vande Mataram' amendment bill

New Delhi, July 29 : The Rajya Sabha has approved a key bill aimed at upholding the dignity of the national song 'Vande Mataram'. Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai introduced the bill in the Upper House on the 24th of this month, and the House passed it on Wednesday following an extensive debate. Legislation is now set to be enacted to treat any act of insulting 'Vande Mataram'—or intentionally disrupting its rendition—as a serious offense under the law. As part of the 'Vande Mataram Bill,' the Central Government has proposed key amendments to the



historic 'Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971.' The Centre clarified that the primary objective of this bill is to extend the same high level of legal protection currently enjoyed by the National Anthem, 'Jana Gana Mana,' to the National Song, 'Vande Mataram.'

Uproar in Lok Sabha over Rahul Gandhi's 'idiot' reference; Rijiju says unparliamentary

New Delhi, July 29 : Massive uproar erupted in the Lok Sabha on Day 2 of the debate on the paper leak bill on Wednesday, with the Opposition and Treasury benches resorting to noisy altercations, triggered by Leader of Opposition (LoP) Rahul Gandhi's 'unparliamentary' language. The chaos erupted over Rahul Gandhi recounting his conversations with a student from the 'Chhatron ki goonj' -- a pan-India Congress campaign against the paper leaks -- and terming those not listening to the students as "idiots".

As Gandhi kept reiterating 'idiot' and 'andhbhakt' jibes, citing his candid conversations with the girl student, the ruling party members objected to the use of unparliamentary language. Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju stood up to counter Rahul Gandhi and cited the rulebook to admon-



Huge relief for Telangana irrigation projects in Supreme Court

Hyderabad, July 29: The Supreme Court has granted significant relief to key irrigation projects in Telangana, such as Palamuru-Rangareddy, Seethamma Sagar, and Gauravelli reservoirs. Although the Court set aside the Office Memorandum (OM) issued by the Union Ministry of Environment and Forests in 2021, it clarified that all environmental clearances already granted based on that order remain fully valid. The bench led by Chief Justice Surya Kant stated that this verdict applies only prospectively.

Heavy rains in Telangana

Hyderabad, July 29 : Due to the influence of a severe cyclonic storm, heavy rains are falling across Telangana. Due to this, streams, rivers and ponds are overflowing and flowing. Crops are submerged. Roads have been washed away due to the rising floodwaters in many places. This has disrupted vehicular movement. Reservoirs have filled up and become waterlogged.



Destroying institutions is the goal of the 'Axe Party' chief: CM Chandrababu

Amaravati, July 29: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu stated that people usually enter politics with the resolve to build institutions. However, he lashed out at Y.S. Jagan, alleging that the leader of the 'axe party' aims to destroy those very institutions. On Wednesday, CM Chandrababu held a meeting with party leaders present at the Secretariat in Velagapudi. They discussed recent developments in this context. Party leaders brought to the Chief Minister's notice that former CM Y.S. Jagan is scheduled to visit YCP leader and former Minister Sidiri Appalaraju—who is currently lodged in Srikakulam Jail—on Thursday. He responded to this information. CM Chandrababu Naidu said that those who build institutions respect the laws and abide by them. But he said that the leaders of the Godali party have no respect for the laws. He criticized the YSRCP leader's behavior by consulting those who wanted to tamper with evidence and sacrifice the life of another person



if a shepherd dies. He remarked that the leader of the 'Axe Party' lacked even the basic humanity to take a person to the hospital after he had been crushed under car wheels in the past.



Special Intensive Revision

25 June, 2026 onwards

Election Commission of India

Election Commission of India is conducting Special Intensive Revision of Electoral Rolls from 25 June, 2026 onwards to include eligible citizens, and to ensure no ineligible citizen is included in the Electoral Rolls



Hurry!

Submit the filled-in enumeration forms, before 3 August, 2026 to your BLO.



Details to be filled in the Enumeration Form

Latest Passport size photo, Aadhaar number (optional), Phone number, and details of Parents and Spouse.

(The details of your parents or grandparents mentioned in the Special Intensive Revision conducted in 2002.)

For details visit <https://voters.eci.gov.in> Same details should be mentioned in the current Enumeration Form.

Online Updation: Visit <https://voters.eci.gov.in> and Fill the Enumeration Form, and upload. Share the acknowledgment with your BLO.



Scan here for

Website: <https://voters.eci.gov.in> / <https://ecinet.eci.gov.in> / <https://www.eci.gov.in>

For more details contact: Booth Level Officer (BLO)/AERO/ERO/DEO

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Opinion Mail



India and Thailand discuss strengthening strategic partnership, people-to-people ties

India and Thailand continue to strengthen their strategic partnership through enhanced maritime, air, and road connectivity, deepening people-to-people ties and tourism linkages. The discussions were held during a meeting held between India's Ambassador to Thailand, Puneet Agrawal, and Thailand's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Transport Phipat Ratchakitprakarn, according to the statement released by Indian Embassy in Thailand on Friday on X. India and Thailand elevated the bilateral ties to Strategic Partnership during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Bangkok in April last year.

On July 16, Agrawal met Urasa Mongkolnavin, Director-General (DG) of the Department of South Asian, Middle East and African Affairs at Thailand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and held discussions on issues of mutual interest to strengthen the strategic partnership between both nations.

"Ambassador Puneet Agrawal met Mrs. Urasa Mongkolnavin, DG of the Department of South Asian, Middle East and African Affairs, Thailand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Both sides exchanged views on various issues of mutual interest such as high level visits, trade and investment, people to people connect, public health and traditional medicine, etc to further strengthen the Strategic Partnership between India and Thailand."

Agrawal also met Thailand Trade Representative Chutintorn Gongsakdi at the Government House, with discussions focussed on further strengthening trade and investment ties.

"Ambassador Puneet Agrawal had a cordial and fruitful meeting with H.E Mr. Chutintorn Gongsakdi, Thailand Trade Representative at the Government House. Discussions focused on further strengthening trade and investment ties between India and Thailand through identifying areas of complementarities, resolving tariff and non tariff barriers and having a balanced trade for mutual benefit," the Indian Embassy in Thailand wrote on X. Last month, Agrawal called on Thailand's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sihasak Phuangketkeow, with both sides discussing ways to deepen the strategic partnership by expanding bilateral trade and investment. "Discussions focused on further strengthening India-Thailand Strategic Partnership by enhancing bilateral trade and investment ties in a balanced manner, religious, cultural and people to people linkages, connectivity initiatives and greater coordination on regional issues, among others," the Indian Embassy stated.

CMS administrator

Dr Oz says pharma investment shifting to US



Washington, July 29 : Pharmaceutical companies are increasingly investing in the United States as the Trump administration pushes to expand domestic drug manufacturing, Medicare and Medicaid Services Administrator Dr Mehmet Oz said on Wednesday. Speaking at a White House briefing, Oz said major drugmakers were already expanding operations in the United States and suggested

the trend could accelerate as the administration pursues policies aimed at boosting innovation and reducing dependence on overseas production. "There is a lot of investment coming to America," Oz said. His comments came in response to a question about when Americans could begin seeing the results.

Tehran chose diplomacy and dialogue but was attacked in midst of negotiations: Iranian FM

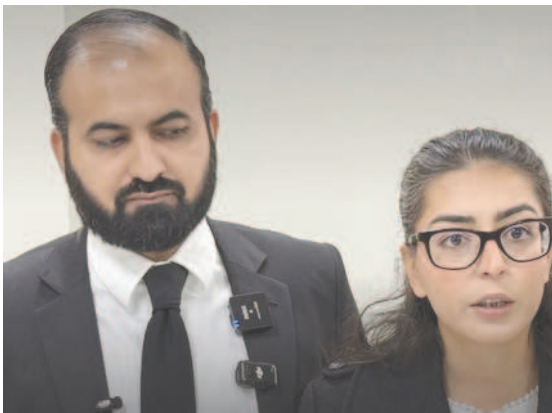
Bishkek, July 29 : Iran's Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi said on Wednesday that the world's silence, or a hesitant stance, on attacks being committed against Tehran would encourage the "aggressors" to repeat their crimes. In a speech delivered at the meeting of foreign ministers of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) member states in the resort town of Cholpon-Ata in Kyrgyzstan, Araghchi taunted the international community for its silence on the US-Israeli aggression. "He cautioned that no country could be sure of not being the

next victim of attacks on educational, medical, critical infrastructure, economic facilities, and even peaceful nuclear facilities under the supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency," Iran's official news agency IRNA reported. The Iranian Foreign Minister stated that the aggressions took place while Tehran had chosen diplomacy and dialogue but was attacked in the midst of negotiations. According to Araghchi, these actions undermine trust in diplomacy and question the credibility of peaceful mechanisms. According to the Iranian Embassy in India, Araghchi



also warned that any participation, cooperation, or assistance in acts of aggression against Iran would entail international responsibility for the parties concerned. "Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, addressing the Meeting of Foreign

Ministers of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) member states, warned that any participation, cooperation, or assistance in acts of aggression against Iran would entail international responsibility for the parties concerned.



Pakistan: 'Deeply flawed' trial of human rights lawyer couple grows more complex

Islamabad, July 29 : The National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA) has challenged Pakistan Supreme Court's May 12 order that directed Islamabad High Court (IHC) to decide on the sentence suspension pleas of lawyers Imaan Zainab Mazari-Hazir and her husband, Hadi Ali Chattha, in the social media posts case within two weeks, local media reported. While the May 26 deadline given by Supreme Court has passed already, the IHC, at the request of the prosecution, adjourned the hearing of Imaan Zainab Mazari-Hazir and her husband's pleas requesting suspension of their sentences, leading Pakistani daily Dawn reported. The couple was sentenced in the case in January, with subsequent petitions being filed against their conviction in February. More than three months after the pleas were filed, the Supreme Court on May 12 directed the IHC to decide on Imaan Zainab Mazari-Hazir and Hadi Ali Chattha's petitions in two weeks.



Nepal's public debt grows more than fourfold in a decade

Kathmandu, July 29 : Nepal's public debt has increased more than fourfold over the past decade as the country borrowed heavily to cope with the impact of two major crises — the 2015 earthquake and the COVID-19 pandemic. According to statistics released by the Public Debt Management Office (PDMO), Nepal's public debt reached NPR 2.974 trillion at the end of fiscal year 2025-26, which ended in mid-July, up from NPR 697.68 billion at the end of fiscal year 2016-17, representing a 4.26-fold increase over the decade. The PDMO said public debt rose by 11.25 per cent year on year in fiscal year 2025-26. Of the total public debt, external debt accounted for 53.77 per cent, while domestic debt made up the remaining 46.23 per cent. Nepal borrowed heavily from both

domestic and external creditors to finance the reconstruction of infrastructure damaged by the 2015 earthquake, which killed nearly 9,000 people and destroyed public and private infrastructure, including thousands of homes. As a result, public debt surged by 31.48 per cent in fiscal year 2017-18, when reconstruction activities gathered pace. Just as the country was recovering from the earthquake, the COVID-19 pandemic struck, forcing Nepal to borrow more to address the public health emergency and the economic losses caused by the pandemic.

China's Belt and Road Initiative faces new US pushback

Washington, July 29 : Two Republican lawmakers have introduced legislation aimed at countering China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), arguing that Beijing is using infrastructure financing and investment deals to expand its economic and strategic influence around the world. Congressman Scott Fitzgerald of Wisconsin and Congressman Zach Nunn of Iowa on Wednesday unveiled the Thwarting Regional Adversary Investments Now (TRAIN) Act and the Build Responsible Infrastructure Development for the Global Economy (BRIDGE) Act.

The measures seek to strengthen the US response to what the lawmakers described as China's growing use of economic leverage through overseas investments, loans and infrastructure projects. "China has turned the Belt and Road Initiative into a weapon of economic coercion, building leverage through debt, controlling critical infrastructure, and pulling countries deeper into Beijing's orbit," Fitzgerald said. "The TRAIN Act helps countries avoid walking into those traps in the first place, and the BRIDGE Act ensures the United States is better positioned to address this challenge," he added. According to Fitzgerald's office,



the TRAIN Act would direct the State Department to assist partner governments that are not considered adversarial in analysing and mitigating legal and financial risks before accepting investment or lending from China or other foreign adversaries. The lawmakers said the effort is intended to help countries better evaluate the long-term implications of infrastructure financing and investment arrangements. The BRIDGE Act would establish it as US policy to counter

efforts by the People's Republic of China and the Chinese Communist Party to create what the legislation describes as an integrated economic and political order under Beijing's leadership that could threaten US national security, foreign policy and economic interests. Under the proposal, the Secretary of State, working with the Secretary of Commerce, the chief executive officer of the US International Development Finance Corporation and other agencies, would be required to submit a report to Congress within 180 days assessing China's use of BRI to advance its global objectives. The legislation comes amid continuing debate in Washington over how to respond to China's expanding economic footprint in developing countries.

US DHS chief clashes with Democrats on court rulings

Washington, July 29 : US Homeland Security Secretary Markwayne Mullin repeatedly clashed with Democratic senators over immigration enforcement, court orders

and the rule of law, exposing deep divisions over the Trump administration's handling of border security and deportation policies. The sharpest exchange came during a Senate Appropriations



Subcommittee hearing when Senator Christopher Murphy of Connecticut questioned whether the Department of Homeland Security would comply with federal court rulings that found agency actions unlawful. Murphy accused DHS of operating outside legal boundaries.

South African court temporarily halts impeachment proceedings against Ramaphosa

Cape Town, July 29 : A South African High Court on Wednesday ruled in favour of President Cyril Ramaphosa in his bid to halt impeachment proceedings against him over the Phala Phala case. In a majority judgment, the Western Cape High Court granted Ramaphosa an interim interdict preventing the Parliament's impeachment committee from proceeding with its work until his challenge to the independent panel report is decided. Ramaphosa filed an urgent application on June 12 seeking to prevent the parliamentary Impeachment Committee from

proceeding with its inquiry into his conduct regarding the Phala Phala case, Xinhua News Agency reported. Ramaphosa argued in court papers that the inquiry should be suspended, while he challenged an independent panel report, which concluded that there was prima facie evidence suggesting he may have committed serious misconduct in connection with the matter. On May 26, the president launched a separate challenge, asking the Western Cape High Court to review and set aside the panel's findings.



US eyes India in shipbuilding push against China

Washington, July 29 : India has emerged as a potential strategic partner in the United States' effort to counter China's dominance in global shipbuilding, with congressional witnesses identifying New Delhi alongside Japan and South Korea as part of a long-term allied strategy to diversify maritime industrial capacity away from Beijing. The issue came into focus during a hearing of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on East Asia and the Pacific, where lawmakers and experts warned that China's overwhelming control of commercial shipbuilding has become both an economic and national security challenge for the United States and its allies. Japan and South Korea were repeatedly described as America's principal partners because of their established shipbuilding industries.



India releases Rs 42.3 crore to Bhutan to support 13th Five-Year Plan projects

Thimphu, July 29 : India and Bhutan held the 17th Monthly Coordination Meeting in Thimphu, where both sides discussed progress and charted next steps for projects underway in the Himalayan nation with the Indian government's support. The meeting organised on Wednesday was co-chaired by the Deputy Chief of Mission at the Embassy of India in Thimphu and the Director General of the Department of Macro-Fiscal and Development Finance (DMDF) in Bhutan's Ministry of Finance. During the meeting, Indian Deputy Chief of Mission Aniket

Govind Mandavgane handed over cheques amounting to Rs 42.3 crore (Bhutanese Nu 423 million) to the Bhutanese Ministry of Finance towards the implementation of projects under the 13th Five-Year Plan of the Himalayan nation. According to the Indian Embassy in Thimphu, Rs 16.86 crore (Nu. 168.6 million) was released for strengthening infrastructure facilities for the Zhung Dratshang, the Central Monastic Body in Bhutan. The funding aims to create conducive living, learning, and spiritual environments; preserve and continue cultural and spiritual

practices; and ensure the sanitation, safety, and well-being of monks and nuns. Additionally, Rs 15.01 crore (Nu. 150.1 million) was allocated for the construction of the modern, high-standard Khuru-Kuenphen bridge on Bajo-Khuru SNH, which was inaugurated on March 27. Meanwhile, to improve road transport, Rs 5.44 crore (Nu. 54.4 million) was released for upgrading 17 km of road to the standard of a Primary National Highway to align with the entire length of the Northern East West Highway (NEWH).

US sees stable China trade, flags WTO crisis

Washington, July 29 : The United States has described its trade relationship with China as "stable" while warning that the global trading system risks becoming "less relevant" if reforms are not undertaken, US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer said. Speaking at the Hudson Institute on Wednesday (local time), Greer said Washington

is maintaining a cautious balance with Beijing, avoiding escalation while protecting economic and national security interests. "Right now, the United States and China, I would characterise our economic and trade relationship as stable," he said. "What we are not looking for is massive confrontation." At the same time, he underlined that the US continues to impose

"substantial tariffs on Chinese goods," particularly in advanced manufacturing sectors, as part of efforts to address a "huge trade deficit that's exploded." Greer noted that the US goods trade deficit with China fell by \$130 billion last year, a 30 per cent decline, calling it evidence of "real change." He added that Washington is also seeking to secure supply chains,



including access to rare earth materials, which remain central to ongoing discussions with Beijing. "We almost always talk about rare earth with the Chinese," he said, adding that the US is also pursuing domestic self-sufficiency and partnerships to reduce dependence.



Trump nominee vows tougher AI export controls

Washington, July 29 : President Donald Trump's nominee to oversee US export controls on sensitive technologies pledged this week to ensure America's most advanced technologies do not aid the military ambitions of its adversaries, while promising to work closely with allies and Congress to keep export controls effective as competition with China intensifies. Appearing before the Senate Banking Committee, Abby Warren, nominated to serve as Assistant Secretary for Export Administration at the Commerce Department's Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS), described export controls as one of Washington's most important national security tools amid the global race for artificial intelligence and advanced semiconductors.



Over 12,000 Mongolian children vaccinated against HPV

Ulan Bator, July 29 : At least 12,847 children aged 11 have been vaccinated against the human papillomavirus (HPV) as part of Mongolia's nationwide campaign, as per the country's Health Ministry, reports said. The vaccination drive, officially launched late last month, aims to combat cervical cancer -- a significant public health concern in Mongolia. Hospitals across the country are offering free HPV vaccinations to 11-year-old girls and boys with parental or guardian consent, following the government's decision in December 2023 to include the HPV vaccine in the National Immunisation Schedule for this age group, Xinhua news agency reported citing local media. According to the ministry, there are more than 78,600 children aged 11 in Mongolia.



Rubio warns China, cites tensions near Philippines

Washington, July 29 : Voicing concerns over China's activities in the South China Sea, Secretary of State Marco Rubio on Wednesday reaffirmed U.S. support for the Philippines, describing Manila as a critical partner in the Indo-Pacific amid growing regional tensions. Testifying before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Rubio said he had raised concerns about Chinese actions near the disputed Scarborough Shoal in multiple engagements with Chinese officials and warned against efforts to alter the status quo. "We're very concerned about recent activity, once again, near Scarborough," Rubio said. He added that the issue

had been raised during his first meeting with Chinese officials and in subsequent diplomatic exchanges. Rubio's remarks came during an exchange with Senator Bill Hagerty, who highlighted the Philippines' strategic importance due to its location along key maritime trade routes in the Indo-Pacific. The secretary described the Philippines as "a critical partner" and pointed to expanding defence and economic cooperation between Washington and Manila. "I spoke to President Marcos on Sunday," Rubio told lawmakers, referring to Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. He said the two countries were working together on defence cooperation, military interoperability, technology development, and economic diversification. Rubio cited a new agreement involving a former U.S. military facility in the Philippines that will support joint activities in artificial intelligence and advanced technologies.



Chinese scientists identify key Ebola virus mutation

Beijing, July 29 : Chinese researchers have unveiled a crucial mutation in the Ebola virus that significantly enhanced its infectivity during a major outbreak, providing new insights for epidemic surveillance and drug development. The study, published in the journal Cell, focused on the Ebola virus disease (EVD) outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) from 2018 to 2020, the second-largest in history, which caused over 3,000 infections and more than 2,000 deaths, Xinhua news agency reported. "The research tells us that during major emerging infectious disease outbreaks, real-time genomic surveillance and evolutionary analysis of the pathogen are crucial," said Professor Qian Jun from Sun Yat-sen University. "This is not only able to warn of changes in transmission risk but also to prospectively assess the effectiveness of existing drugs and vaccines, guiding us to preemptively adjust control strategies," Jun added.

Trump's DNI pick sparks Capitol Hill storm

Washington, July 29 : US President Donald Trump's appointment of Bill Pulte as Acting Director of National Intelligence triggered a sharp political clash on Capitol Hill, with top Democrats questioning his qualifications while Republicans largely deferred judgment and pointed to the temporary nature of the move. House Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries called the appointment "another indication of how unserious, reckless and dangerous Donald Trump and his administration are with respect to the national security of the American people."





Triple blow for Cauvery delta farmers as groundwater declines, salinity rises and Mettur water remains elusive

Thanjavur, July 29 : Kuruvai paddy cultivation in parts of the Cauvery delta has come under severe stress as farmers grapple with a combination of rapidly declining groundwater levels, rising salinity and the continued non-release of water from the Mettur dam. The situation has been further aggravated by an intense heatwave, which has accelerated evaporation, and a reduction in the duration of free electricity supply for

agricultural pumps. Farmers in Papanasam, Tiruvaiyaru and adjoining areas of Thanjavur district say they are struggling to protect their standing kuruvai crop after relying almost entirely on groundwater for irrigation this season. Their concerns intensified after Tangedco informed them on Wednesday that the daily free power supply for agricultural pump sets would be reduced from 18 hours to 14 hours.

Tej Pratap Yadav extends support to Prashant Kishor in Bankipur by-election

Patna, July 29 : In a significant political development ahead of the July 30 Bankipur Assembly by-election, Tej Pratap Yadav, National President of the Janshakti Janata Dal (JJD), has announced his party's support for Jan Suraj candidate Prashant Kishor. Speaking to the media on Friday, Tej Pratap Yadav said that after internal discussions, his party had unanimously decided to back Prashant Kishor in the by-election. "The members of our party and I have decided who to support. We are supporting Prashant Kishor," he said. Explaining the decision, Tej Pratap Yadav claimed that he had spoken with Prashant Kishor earlier in the day.

According to him, Kishor said that the BJP should not be allowed to win the Bankipur seat and that preventing its victory reflected the aspirations of many people. Tej Pratap added that he agreed with this view and reiterated his support for the ongoing protests by students and youth over issues such as the alleged NEET paper leak. He said the protests reflected widespread public dissatisfaction and argued that concerns raised by students deserved serious attention. Tej Pratap Yadav alleged that examination paper leaks had become a recurring problem in Bihar and criticised the government over its handling of the issue. He claimed that despite repeated instances of examination irregu-



larities, effective action had not been taken, adding that the state's education system was facing serious challenges. He also criticised the condition of the healthcare system, alleging that it required significant improvement. Referring to student demonstrations and protests at Jantar Mantar, he said the agitations highlighted public concerns over issues such as examination transparency and accountability. Tej Pratap Yadav said that Bankipur has traditionally been

considered a Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) stronghold but claimed that public sentiment now favours political change. He also referred to Veena Manvi, a leader from the Janshakti Janata Dal, saying she had been active in the constituency for nearly 15 years and enjoyed support among women voters. According to him, after discussions within the party, the JJD decided to support Prashant Kishor in the absence of its own candidate.

Global seafood buyers eye Lakshadweep as sustainable tuna export hub

Kochi, July 29 : Lakshadweep's traditional tuna fisheries are drawing growing international attention, with an eight-member delegation of seafood traders and fisheries experts from the United States, Thailand, South Korea, the Maldives, Vietnam, and Austria exploring sourcing and export op-

portunities from the island chain. The visit signals a potential breakthrough for the region's marine economy, long constrained by logistics and limited market access. The delegation visited key islands, including Kavaratti, Agatti, Minicoy and Androth, holding extensive discussions with local fishers, fishermen cooperative societies, and seafood entrepreneurs.

Central to the talks was Lakshadweep's pole-and-line tuna fishery, globally regarded as one of the most eco-friendly fishing practices. Delegates highlighted the premium quality of tuna harvested from the islands' pristine waters and expressed keen interest in both fresh and processed exports. Beyond raw tuna, the visiting traders explored opportuni-

ties in value-added products, including frozen loins, ready-to-cook formats, and masmin, the traditional dried tuna delicacy that has niche demand in international markets. Industry experts underlined that rising global preference for sustainably sourced seafood has significantly increased the commercial appeal of Lakshadweep tuna.



In UP's Prayagraj, women getting empowered, turning self-reliant through RSETI training

Lucknow, July 29 : The Rural Self Employment Training Institutes (RSETIs), operational in Uttar Pradesh's Prayagraj district, are training youth and women in various forms of vocational training and preparing them to have an economic standing of their own. RSETIs, an initiative of the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), is a dedicated infrastruc-

ture platform in each district to impart training and skill upgradation of rural youths, including women, geared towards entrepreneurship development. RSETIs are managed by banks with active co-operation from respective state governments. A couple of trainees, enrolled for the 35-day 'Junior Beauty Practitioner' (Small Entrepreneur).



Delhi Police arrests illicit liquor supplier, seizes 150 quarters under anti-drug campaign

New Delhi, July 29 : The Dwarka District Police arrested an alleged illicit liquor supplier and seized 150 quarters of illegal liquor along with a scooter used for transportation of the booze, as part of their ongoing enforcement drive under the anti-drug campaign.

Jharkhand chefs at Bharat Parv offer visitors a culinary journey with cultural pride

New Delhi, July 29 : Celebrating indigenous ingredients and traditional cooking, the Jharkhand stall at the 25th Bharat Parv near Red Fort is attracting many visitors, an official said on Wednesday. Looking to savour the authentic and time-honoured flavours of Jharkhand at the Institute of Hotel Management (IHM) Ranchi Stall, visitors are enjoying each moment of the culinary journey, the official from the Ministry of Tourism said. The stall showcases the state's rich food heritage, rooted in tribal traditions, rural practices, and sustainable, millet-based cuisine, it said.

resented under the umbrella of Jharkhand Tourism, the stall's menu highlights a wide range of traditional and festive preparations that represent everyday food practices across Jharkhand. A signature offering, Dhuska with Aalo Chana ki Sabji, features crispy fermented lentil-rice bread served with a wholesome potato and chickpea curry, a beloved comfort dish across the state, said the statement. Traditional sweets such as Arsha Pitha, made from rice flour and jaggery, showcase age-old festive recipes, while lesser-known indigenous snacks like Dumbu invite visitors to explore Jharkhand's unique culinary identity, said the statement.



A key focus of the state's food stall is its emphasis on millet-based cuisine, aligning with national initiatives promoting nutrition, sustainability, and climate-resilient agriculture. Innovative offerings such as Ragi Sev and Ragi Samosa reinterpret popular snacks using nutrient-rich finger millet. Wholesome meal options like Chawal Chilka with Sabji and Madua Chilka with Sabji reflect traditional grain-based diets, paired with seasonal vegetables to provide balanced and nourishing meals, said the official statement.

Gujarat residents save big with PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana

Ahmedabad, July 29 : In the Sola area in Gujarat's Ahmedabad, residents are saving big by installing solar panels, thanks to PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana initiated by the Central government. This initiative, launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is transforming lives by enabling families to generate their own electricity through solar panels, significantly reducing their dependency on the grid and slashing power bills. One such success story is that of Pradeep Rawal, a resident of the Sola area in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, who is getting financial benefits brought by adopting solar energy. Three years ago, he installed a

6-kilowatt solar panel system at his home. Since then, his electricity bills have been a thing of the past. In fact, Rawal no longer pays any power bills, instead, the electricity department credits him for the energy he generates. Rawal, who previously spent an average of Rs 60,000 annually on electricity bills, now enjoys the savings and even earns credits for the surplus energy his system generates. "I used to pay around Rs 15,000 to Rs 17,000 every year, but after installing the solar panel, I am getting credits. In March, the electricity department deposits



around Rs 60,000 into my bank account, thanks to the energy produced by my rooftop panels," Rawal shared. The 25-year guarantee on his solar panel system ensures he can continue reaping the rewards without any issues. "I paid a one-time fee of Rs 7,000 for the system installation. Since then, there have been no problems. In our society, nearly everyone has installed solar panels. It's an excellent scheme," he added. Rawal also praised PM Modi's initiative to promote solar energy, calling it a remarkable vision for the country. "The way PM Modi's initiative to provide electricity through solar panels is progressing is quite impressive.

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POSSESSION NOTICE					
[See rule 8(1) of the security interest [Enforcement] Rules, 2002] (For immovable Properties)					
Where as the Undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Mahindra Rural Housing Finance Ltd. (here in after referred to as MRHFL) having its Jangaon, Telangana. Under the Securitization Reconstruction of Financial Assets & in compliance of Rule8(1) of Enforcement of Security Interest Act , 2002, and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (12), read with Rule3 of the Security Interest(Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued demand notice/s on the date mentioned against each account calling up on the respective borrower/s to repay the amount as mentioned against each account within in 60 days from the date of notice/s) date of receipt of the said notice/s. The borrower/s having failed to repay the amount, notice is here by given to the borrower/s and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property /ies described here in below in exercise powers conferred on him/her Under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on the dates mentioned against each account . The borrower/s in particular and the public in general is here by cautioned not to deal with the property/ies and any dealing with the property/ies will be subject to the change of Mahindra Rural Housing Finance Ltd. For the amount and the interest there on as per Loan Agreement. The borrowers attention is invited to provisions of Sub section (8) Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.					
S. No	Agreement No/ Fin No	Name And Address Borrower/ Co-Borrowers & Guarantor	D.Notice Amount & Date	Date of Possession Taken	Description of The Immoveable Properties
1	XRESJAN 00614510/ 747365	Mr& Mrs Ellamula Ashok S/o Kistaiah, Mr&Mrs. Ellamula Kistaiah S/o Musalaiah, Mr& Mrs. Ellamula Swathi W/o Ashok, Sy.No:604 H.No:5-59/1 Ramavaram,[V] Kodakandla,[M] -Jangaon,[D] Telangana-506222. And Mr. & Mrs. Narige Sattaiah S/o.Narsaiah, Sy. No:5-57 Ramavaram,[V] Kodakandla,[M] -Jangaon,[D] Telangana-506222	Rs. 1,87,405/- 19.09.2020	28.07.2026	Sy.No:604 H.No:5-59/1 Ramavaram,[V] Kodakandla,[M] -Jangaon,[D] Telangana-506222. Area Of Land (Sq.Ft.)201. Within The Following Boundaries: East: Open Place, West: House Of T.Somaramulu, North: Road, South: Open Place.
2	XRESPAC 01068014/ 1373199	Mr.& Mrs. Chigurumamidi Kumaraswamy S/o. Rajakomuraia, Mr& Mrs. Chigurumamidi Latha W/o. Kumaraswamy, H No 3-02 Venkateshwaraipally,[V] Sultanpur, Regonda, [M] -Parkala [M] -Jangaon,[D] , Telangana - 506348 And Mr.&Mrs. Lingala Sudhakar S/o. Chinnarajala H No 1-3 Sultanpur, Regonda,[M] -Parkala[M] Telangana-506348	Rs. 1,46,994/- 05.11.2023	28.07.2026	H No 3-02 Venkateshwaraipally,[V] Sultanpur, Regonda, [M] -Parkala[M], Telangana -506348 Area Of Land (Sq.Ft.)163. Within The Following Boundaries: East: House of Chigurumamidi Rajaiha West: Agriculture Land of Chigurumamidi Thirupathi, North: Open Place Of Agriculture Land, South: House of Chigurumamidi Rajakomuraiah.
3	XRESJAN 00652309/ 798797	Mr& Mrs Teegala Mahender , Mr& Mrs Teegala Somalamma, Sy.No: 50 H.No:3-55/1 Ramannagudem, [V] Lakshmakapalle, Kodakandla,[M] Jangaon,[D] Telangana-506302. And Mr.& Sy.No:8-4 H.No:8-4 Sarpanch Thanda [V] Mondrai Kodakandla,[M] Warangal-Jangaon, [D] Telangana -506302.	Rs. 1,87,374/- 19.09.2020	28.07.2026	Sy.No:50 H.No:3-55/1 Ramannagudem, [V] Lakshmakapalle, Kodakandla,[M] Jangaon,[D] Telangana-506302. Area Of Land (Sq.Ft.)167. Within The Following Boundaries: East: Road, West: Road, North: House Of Ilaiah, South: House Of Chinna Yellaiah.
4	XRESJAN 00652291/ 800998	Mr& Mrs Mudavath Maluchuru Mr& Mrs Mudavath Venkanna, And Mudavath Kanthamma Sy.No:150 H.No:1-06 Bothalaparre,[V] Narmetta, [M] Jangaon [D] , Telangana - 506145 And Mr.&Mrs. Bhukya Devendar Sy.No:1-82 H.No:1-82 Bothalaparre [V] Narmetta [M] -Jangaon [D] Telangana-506145.	Rs. 2,58,567/- 11.11.2022	28.07.2026	Sy.No:150 H.No:1-06 Bothalaparre,[V] Narmetta, [M] Jangaon [D] , Telangana -506145. Area Of Land (Sq.Ft.) 167. Within The Following Boundaries: East: House Of M.Rupasingh, West: House Of Mourya Veeranna, North: House of Mundavar Balaji, South: House of Mourya Balaji.
5	XRESJAN 00652573/ 800304	Mr& Mrs Donthuri Saibaba, Mr& Mrs Donthuri Swathi, Sy.No:120 H.No:2-62 Chowdur, [V] Devarupulla, [M] Jangaon, Telangana-506303. And Mr.&Mrs. Gugulothu Balu , Sy.No: 120 H.No:3-65 Padamatilthanda [V] Madhapuram [V] , Devarupulla,[M] -Jangaon,[D] Telangana-506302.	Rs. 2,45,918 /- 11.11.2022	28.07.2026	Sy.No:120 H.No:2-62 Chowdur, [V] Devarupulla, [M] Jangaon, Telangana-506303. Area of Land (Sq.Ft.) 334. Within The Following Boundaries: East: PR Road, West: House Of Ananthoji Krishna Hari, North: House of Jalli Mallaiiah, South: House of Donthuri Upender.
Date: 30-07-2026, Place: Jangaon			Sd/- Authorized Officer, Mahindra Rural Housing Finance Limited		



Over 7.3 crore ITRs filed for AY26 so far as govt pushes simpler, tech-driven tax regime

New Delhi, July 29 : More than 7.3 crore income tax returns (ITRs) were filed for Assessment Year 2026, surpassing the number filed in the previous year, Revenue Secretary Arvind Shrivastava said on Wednesday. Speaking about the ongoing reforms in the direct tax system, Shrivastava said the Income Tax Department should increasingly be viewed as a facilitator for honest taxpayers rather than merely an enforcement agency. He stressed that the use of technology must make tax administration smarter, more efficient and less intrusive. He said the government remains committed to greater automation, reducing human interface and en-

surging faster and more seamless services for taxpayers. Deepening and widening the faceless tax ecosystem, while providing greater tax certainty, consistency and ease of compliance, will continue to be among the department's key priorities. Highlighting the department's performance during FY26, the Revenue Secretary said around 2.24 lakh tax appeals were disposed of during the year, registering a nearly 30 per cent increase over the previous year. He added that the department also resolved nearly four lakh taxpayer grievances, achieving a disposal rate of about 95 per cent.



Shakti Pumps Q1 net profit drops 47 pc to Rs 51.6 crore

New Delhi, July 29 : Shakti Pumps (India) Limited on Wednesday reported a sharp 46.7 per cent decline in its consolidated net profit for the April-June quarter (Q1 FY27), as lower operating margins weighed on earnings despite robust growth in revenue. The company posted a consolidated net profit of Rs 51.6

crore for the quarter ended June 30, compared with Rs 96.8 crore in the corresponding quarter of the previous financial year (Q1 FY26), according to its stock exchange filing. Revenue from operations, however, rose 37.9 per cent year-on-year to Rs 859 crore from Rs 623 crore, it added in its filing.

Jindal Steel's Q1 net profit falls 44 pc to Rs 844 crore

Mumbai, July 29 : Jindal Steel on Wednesday reported a 43.6 per cent year-on-year (YoY) decline in its consolidated net profit to Rs 843.8 crore for the quarter ended June 30 (Q1 FY27). The company's consolidated net profit fell from Rs 1,495.97 crore in the corresponding quarter of the previous financial year and was also lower than Rs 1,041.24 crore reported in the January-March quarter (Q4 FY26), according to its stock ex-

change filing. Consolidated revenue from operations rose 25.9 per cent year-on-year to Rs 15,482.13 crore during the quarter, compared with Rs 12,294.48 crore in the year-ago period. However, revenue declined sequentially from Rs 16,217.93 crore recorded in the preceding quarter, as per its filing. Total consolidated income stood at Rs 15,501.32 crore in the April-June quarter, up from Rs 12,324.88 crore a year earlier but lower than Rs 16,484.28 crore in the previous quarter. The company's total consolidated



expenses increased to Rs 14,296.36 crore from Rs 10,306.97 crore in the corresponding quarter last year. Other comprehensive income for the quarter came in at Rs 99.86 crore, according to its filing. Basic earnings per share (EPS) declined to Rs 8.30 in Q1 FY27 from Rs 14.73 in the year-ago quarter and Rs 10.27 in

the preceding quarter. Alongside its quarterly results, Jindal Steel announced a series of changes to its senior management. The board appointed Vidya Rattan Sharma as an additional director and managing director for a two-year term with effect from July 24, 2026.



Bank of Baroda Q1 profit plunges 72 pc to Rs 1,278 crore on one-time loss; NII grows 9.5 pc

Mumbai, July 29 : State-owned Bank of Baroda on Wednesday reported a sharp 71.9 per cent decline in its net profit for the April-June quarter (Q1 FY27), as a substantial one-time loss of Rs 5,680 crore weighed heavily on its bottom line despite healthy growth in net interest income and interest earnings. The public sector lender posted a net profit of Rs 1,278 crore for the quarter ended June, compared with Rs 4,541 crore in the corresponding quarter of the previous financial year (Q1 FY26), according to its stock exchange filing. The sharp fall in profitability was primarily attributed to the one-time loss recognised during the

quarter. However, the bank's core operating performance remained resilient, with net interest income (NII) rising 9.5 per cent year-on-year to Rs 12,525 crore from Rs 11,435 crore, supported by steady growth in its lending business. Interest income also registered healthy growth, increasing 6.8 per cent year-on-year to Rs 33,211 crore from Rs 31,091 crore in the year-ago period. Operating profit before provisions and tax stood at Rs 8,127 crore during the quarter, marginally lower than Rs 8,236 crore reported a year earlier. The bank's asset quality weakened slightly on a sequential basis. Gross non-performing assets (GNPA) rose to 1.99 per cent at

the end of June from 1.89 per cent at the end of March, while net non-performing assets (NNPA) increased to 0.50 per cent from 0.45 per cent in the previous quarter. Despite the one-time loss, the bank reported a sharp decline in provisions. Total provisions fell to Rs 643 crore during the quarter from Rs 3,150 crore in the preceding quarter and Rs 1,967 crore in the corresponding quarter last year, as per its filing. The lower provisioning requirement points to an improvement in the bank's underlying credit costs, even though asset quality witnessed a marginal deterioration during the quarter.

Govt directs GitHub to remove Bitchat repositories citing security concerns

New Delhi, July 29: The government has directed software development platform GitHub to remove repositories hosting Bitchat - the decentralised messaging application -- citing concerns that the platform could be exploited to evade lawful surveillance and facilitate unlawful activities, developer Jack Dorsey said on Wednesday. Taking to social media platform X, Dorsey shared an issued notice by the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) -- the cybercrime arm of the Ministry of Home Affairs -- under provisions of the Information Technology Act and the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021. According to the notice shared by Dorsey.



73 pc of e-commerce, tech startups planning workforce expansion in India

Bengaluru, July 29 : About 73 per cent of the e-commerce and tech startups are planning workforce expansion, signalling a net employment change of 8.9 per cent, a report showed on Wednesday. This surge is fuelled by advancements in AI, the rise of Web 3.0 applications, and the increasing adoption of direct-to-consumer (D2C) models, said the 'Employment Outlook Report' for October 2024 to March 2025 by TeamLease Services. Employee retention has also taken centre stage. With 88 per cent of e-commerce firms intensifying their focus on targeted incentives, recognition programs, and career development opportunities, companies are prioritising a motivated.

SAIL Q1 net profit falls 10 pc sequentially to Rs 1,644 crore; revenue declines nearly 15 pc

New Delhi, July 29 : Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) on Wednesday reported a 10.4 per cent sequential decline in its consolidated net profit for the April-June quarter (Q1 FY27), as lower revenue and other income weighed on the state-run steelmaker's earnings. The company posted a consolidated net profit of Rs 1,644 crore for the quarter ended June, compared with Rs 1,835 crore in the January-March quarter (Q4 FY26), according to its stock

exchange filing. Revenue from operations declined 14.8 per cent quarter-on-quarter to Rs 26,246 crore from Rs 30,813 crore. Earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortisation (EBITDA) fell 5.8 per cent sequentially to Rs 4,153 crore from Rs 4,408 crore. However, the company's operating margin improved by 150 basis points to 15.8 per cent from 14.3 per cent in the previous quarter, as per the filing.



India's forex reserves rise by \$1.08 billion to \$676.24 billion: RBI

Mumbai, July 29 : India's foreign exchange reserves rose by \$1.08 billion to \$676.237 billion for the week ended July 17, extending their upward trend, according to data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Wednesday. The latest increase follows a gain of \$964 million in the previous reporting week, when the country's forex re-

serves climbed to \$675.157 billion. The RBI's weekly statistical supplement showed that the country's foreign exchange reserves continued to strengthen after recovering from the declines witnessed earlier this year amid heightened global uncertainties. India's forex reserves had surged to an all-time high of \$728.494 billion during the week ended February 27. For the same period, foreign currency assets, a major

component of the reserves, increased by \$4.549 billion to \$551.057 billion. Expressed in dollar terms, the foreign currency assets include effects of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units, such as the euro, pound, and yen, held in the foreign exchange reserves. Value of gold reserves dropped by \$3.48 billion to \$101.749 billion during the week, the RBI said.

MP: Scindia campaigns for Ashutosh Tiwari, pitches BJP's development plank in Datia

Datia, July 29: Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia on Wednesday campaigned for Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) candidate Ashutosh Tiwari in the Datia Assembly by-election, highlighting the Centre and the Madhya Pradesh government's development initiatives and urging voters to back the party to sustain the pace of growth. Addressing a public meeting at Badoni in Datia district,

Scindia said the bypoll was not merely about electing an MLA but about strengthening Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a "Viksit Bharat". Claiming that the BJP government had fulfilled every promise made to the people of Datia, Scindia said the region had witnessed rapid development under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi. "Every promise made to the people of Datia has been fulfilled. Now, vote for the Lotus to keep the pace of



development intact," he said. The Union Minister said the BJP government had ensured stoppages of the Taj Express and Jhelum Express at Datia, established a Kendriya Vidyalaya and

strengthened the region's power infrastructure through a project worth nearly Rs 200 crore at Badoni. He also announced that the foundation stone for the proposed Gwalior-Bhind-Etawah

four-lane highway would be laid soon, saying the project would improve connectivity across the region. Listing other projects, Scindia, who is Lok Sabha MP from Guna, said Datia had received an airport built at a cost of around Rs 100 crore, a medical college, a veterinary college, CM Rise schools, drinking water schemes and sewerage projects during the BJP's tenure. Targeting the Congress, Scindia alleged that its 2018 government in Madhya Pradesh failed to deliver development and was marred by corruption.



US lawmakers target Chinese robots over security

Washington, July 29: A bipartisan group of US lawmakers this week pressed ahead with legislation aimed at preventing Chinese-made humanoid and quadruped robots from becoming embedded in America's critical infrastructure, warning that Beijing is using the same strategy it employed to dominate the global drone market and could exploit connected robots for espionage and sabotage. The proposal, known as the GUARD Act, was the focus of a House Energy and Commerce Communications and Technology Subcommittee hearing that examined a series of bills on communications security, artificial intelligence, broadband deployment and illegal robocalls. Lawmakers from both Republican and Democratic parties.

Engineering student shot dead while resisting robbery bid in Bihar's Chhapra

Patna, July 29 : An engineering student was gunned down after being attacked by unidentified robbers in Bihar's Chhapra city on Wednesday evening. The incident occurred near Kachari Railway Station in Chhapra city, the district headquarters of Saran. The deceased has been identified as Vikas Tiwari, a resident of Shakti Nagar locality under the Nagar police station area. According to family members, Vikas Tiwari is an engineering student studying in Patna and was returning home on Tuesday evening after getting down at Kachari railway station. While on his way home, criminals allegedly attempted to snatch his mobile phone and other belongings. When he resisted the robbery attempt, the attackers shot him at close range, leaving him severely injured. Local residents rushed to the spot after the incident and helped transport the injured student to Sadar Hospital. He succumbed during the treatment. The incident created panic and anger in the area, with locals expressing concern over rising criminal activities. Upon receiving information, a team from Nagar Police Station reached the hospital and initiated an investigation.



Medical colleges in Budhni, Chhatarpur and Damoh to be operational from next semester : Rajendra Shukla

Bhopal, July 29 : Construction of three new medical colleges in Budhni (Sehore district), Chhatarpur, and Damoh is nearing completion, and the institutions will be made operational from the next academic semester, Madhya Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Rajendra Shukla said here on Wednesday. Addressing a review meeting of the Public Health and Medical Education Department, Shukla said officials have been directed to ensure that all remaining infrastructure work, procurement of furniture and equipment, and recruitment of teaching and support staff are completed on time to facilitate the approval process of the National Medical Commission (NMC). "The construction of medical colleges in Budhni, Chhatarpur, and Damoh is in the final stage. Officials have been instructed to initiate the NMC approval process so that these institutions can become operational from the next semester," Shukla said in a statement. During the meeting, the Deputy CM also re-

viewed the recruitment process for medical assistants and paramedical staff across the state. He stressed the need for regular monitoring of recruitments being conducted through the Public Service Commission and the Staff Selection Board and directed officials to complete all formalities on priority. Shukla further called for a detailed review of existing recruitment models for specialist doctors and directed that the necessary recruitment process be initiated immediately. "Timely posting of specialists is essential for developing community health centres as first referral units.



Congress leaders must thank CM Sarma for beef ban: Assam BJP chief

Guwahati, July 29 : Assam BJP chief Bhabhesh Kalita said on Wednesday that the opposition leaders must credit the ruling party for banning the beef in the state. "Rakibul Hussain brought up the beef issue during the election. He accused us of distributing beef to get votes. This accusation did not go well with the voters and Congress put up a very poor show in the Samaguri assembly by-election," he told media persons. He also asserted that Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma was quick to challenge the Congress on this false narrative.

CBI registers case against ex-Punjab DGP Mustafa, wife after son's death

Chandigarh, July 29 : The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has filed an FIR against former Punjab Director General of Police (DGP) Mohammad Mustafa, his former legislator wife Razia Sultana, among others, regarding the death of their son Aqil Akhtar under mysterious circumstances in Haryana's Panchkula.



Blue economy seen as key to US security

Washington, July 29 : The United States must strengthen its fisheries, maritime infrastructure, shipbuilding capacity and workforce development to remain competitive in the rapidly expanding global blue economy, lawmakers and industry leaders told a Senate hearing. At a Congressional hearing on "The Blue Economy: Advancing American Fisheries, Maritime Industry, and Coastal Economies," Sen. Dan Sullivan said America's oceans, coasts and waterways are central to economic growth, food security and national defence. "The blue economy encompasses the industries, activities and of course, the communities that rely on our oceans, coasts.

US Senators press DHS on H-1B fee for rural doctors

Washington, July 29 : US senators from both parties raised concerns about the impact of a \$100,000 H-1B visa fee on rural hospitals, pressing Homeland Security Secretary Markwayne Mullin to consider relief for foreign doctors recruited to underserved communities. During a Senate Appropriations Subcommittee hearing on the Department of Homeland Security's fiscal year 2027 budget request, Senator Susan Collins of Maine raised the issue of difficulties that

the rural healthcare providers face in attracting specialised medical professionals. Collins told the hearing that a hospital in Presque Isle, a rural community in northern Maine, recently had to pay the fee to secure a much-needed surgeon from overseas. She argued that medical providers serving remote areas should be treated differently from employers recruiting highly skilled workers in sectors with larger domestic labour pools.



Trump drug plan adds 160 medicines

Washington, July 29 : Medicare and Medicaid Services Administrator Dr Mehmet Oz on Wednesday said the Trump administration has added 160 more medicines to its drug-price transparency platform and announced that eligible Medicare beneficiaries will be able to obtain certain weight-loss drugs for \$50 a month beginning July 1. Speaking at a White House briefing, Oz said the

administration's effort to lower prescription drug costs was already producing savings for consumers. "Almost 1 in 3 Americans, when they go to a pharmacy to pick up a medication that their doctors prescribe for them, leave empty-handed because they can't afford the medication," he said. Oz argued that Americans pay significantly more for medicines than consumers in other countries for the same products manufactured by the same companies.

"Our drug prices are about three times higher on average than the same drugs made in the same facilities and the same American factories, often than they are charging patients overseas in Europe, Asia, and other parts of the world," he said. The CMS administrator said the administration negotiated with 17 major pharmaceutical companies and secured agreements under a "most favored nation drug pricing strategy".

US senators push tougher law on foreign threats

Washington, July 29: Two bipartisan US senators have introduced legislation to create the first federal definition of transnational repression, increase criminal penalties for offenders and centralise federal oversight of related investigations, saying foreign governments are increasingly targeting dissidents, activists and journalists on American soil.

The Stop Transnational Repression Act, introduced by Democratic Senator Adam Schiff of California and Republican Senator John Curtis of Utah, would establish new legal tools to prosecute acts of transnational repression and strengthen the federal government's response to threats carried out by foreign governments or their proxies against individuals living in the United States.

The bill's introduction comes after a series of high-profile cases involving alleged attempts by foreign governments to intimidate, surveil or attack critics abroad. Among the cases cited by the senators is an alleged assassination plot against a Sikh activist and US citizen in New York that the FBI disrupted last year. According to public court documents, the intended target had allegedly been identified by an Indian government employee.

The senators also pointed to China's recently enacted Ethnic Unity and Progress Promotion law, which they said could provide a legal basis for targeting individuals beyond China's borders, and to alleged Iranian efforts through proxies to kidnap or kill US-based journalists critical of Tehran.



"With transnational repression on the rise, it is critical that we take strong action to investigate and prosecute bad actors who would intimidate and attack dissidents and critics on US soil. This is a bipartisan effort to counter a national threat that reports show is only expanding in scope, with new and brazen efforts by countries like China and India trying to expand its intimidation of those not in lock step with the regime. In order to safeguard fundamental rights and freedoms for everyone on US soil, we need the clarity and the teeth that this bill provides, and I hope my colleagues will act quickly to pass our legislation," Schiff said. Curtis said no foreign government should be permitted to threaten people living in the United States. "No foreign government should be able to threaten or silence people on American soil. Whether it's the Chinese Communist Party, the Iranian regime.

Bangladesh: Awami League alleges 'violent political retaliation' after custodial death of party leader

Dhaka, July 29 : Bangladesh's Awami League strongly condemned the custodial death of another party leader, Bablu Mia, in Sirajganj District Jail, alleging that the incident once again exposed the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) government's "violent political retaliation" carried out within state detention facilities. The remarks came after 52-year-old Bablu Mia reportedly died at a hospital in

Sirajganj on Wednesday, a day after he fell ill in jail, according to prison authorities. Speaking to Bangladeshi newspaper The Daily Star, Bablu's daughter, Meem Khatun, said her father was arrested on June 21 in connection with a violence case. "A case was filed against my father in 2025 over an incident from 2023, and he was arrested in that case. My father was completely fine when he was arrested," she said.



UN regional commissions call for urgent, equitable, sustainable energy transition

Bangkok, July 29 : As the 13th International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development concluded in Bangkok, five United Nations Regional Commissions issued a joint statement underscoring the urgent need for a just, sustainable and equitable global energy transition. The statement emphasised a commitment to support UN member states in accelerating renewable energy deployment and improving energy efficiency, intending to triple global renewable energy capacity and double energy efficiency improvement rates by 2030, helping member states meet both SDG 7 and Paris Agreement objectives, Xinhua news agency reported.

Romania shoots down drone breaching airspace

Bucharest, July 29 : Romanian President Nicusor Dan said Wednesday that Romania shot down a drone breaching its airspace in Buzau County. He said that the authorities are conducting investigations at the scene of the incident to establish all the

circumstances in which the drone entered Romania's airspace and to identify it, Xinhua News Agency reported. "It is important to note that the area was uninhabited, which is why the pilot was able to fire from above," Dan added. Romania's Ministry of National Defence said in a

press release that its radar surveillance system detected an aerial target approximately 20 km east of Sulina. The track subsequently penetrated the national airspace. An F-16 fighter aircraft of the Romanian Air Force engaged the target with an air-to-air missile and neutralised

it over an unpopulated area in the vicinity of Padina, Buzau County. Two Italian Air Force Eurofighter Typhoon aircraft, conducting NATO Air Policing Service, and two Romanian Air Force F-16 aircraft were scrambled to respond to the situation.



US lawmaker flags China-linked car security risk

Washington, July 29 : A senior US lawmaker has raised concerns over a Commerce Department decision allowing a foreign automaker with significant ties to China to continue selling and producing connected vehicles in the United States. This could expose sensitive data, undermine national security safeguards and create loopholes in restrictions aimed at keeping Chinese technology out of the American auto market, Representative Debbie Dingell, a Michigan Democrat, warned. In a letter to Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick, he questioned a recent authorisation granted by the Office of Information and Communications Technology and Services (OICTS) despite the administration's connected vehicle security restrictions.

"The Department of Commerce finalized these rules because connected vehicle technologies present clear national security risks," Dingell wrote.

She said modern connected vehicles are capable of collecting and transmitting large amounts of sensitive information, including geolocation data, driving patterns, infrastructure mapping, operational diagnostics and personal consumer information.

"These systems can enable remote access to vehicle functions. As the Department itself recognized, these technologies are vulnerable to exploitation by our adversaries and could be leveraged for surveillance, intelligence gathering, or disruption of critical infrastructure," she said.

Dingell argued that the authorisation appears to create a pathway for companies with substantial ownership, operational or governance ties to the People's Republic of China (PRC) to continue accessing the US market despite the intent of the connected vehicle rule.

**HDB Financial Services Ltd.**

Registered Office: Radhika, 2nd Floor, Law Garden Road, Navrangpura, Ahmedabad-380009.
Branch Office:- Shree Balaji PSR Tower, 1st Floor, H.No.1-8-616, 1, Prakash Nagar, Begumpet, Hyderabad, Telangana-500016.

DEMAND NOTICE Notice U/s 13(2) read with Section 13(13) of Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002

You, the under mentioned borrower/ mortgagor is hereby informed that the Company has initiated proceedings against you under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and that the Notice under 13(2) of the Act sent to you by Registered Post Ack. Due for borrower's has been returned undelivered. Hence you are hereby called upon to take notice and pay the outstanding loan amount mentioned against the said account with interest accruing there from within **60 days** from the date of this publication, failing which the company will proceed against you by exercising its right under Sub-sec (4) of Section 13 of the Act by enforcing the below mentioned security to realize its dues with interests and costs. It is needless to mention that this Notice is addressed to you without prejudice to any other remedy available to the company.

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ Mortgagor	Loan Account No's:	Date of NPA & Demand Notice	Amount Due in Rs./ as on
1	1) Geetha Handlooms, 4-41/5, Arjalabavi Nalgonda - 508001, Telangana. 2) Rathnagiri Boga, 3) Boga Geetha H.No. 4-41/5 Industrial Area Arjalabavi Nalgonda - 508001, Telangana.	62685839	Date of NPA: 07.07.2026 Demand Notice Date: 20-07-2026	Rs.18,80,212.67/- as of 14-07-2026 and future contractual interest till actual realization together with incidental expenses, cost & charges etc.

SCHEDULE OF THE SECURITIES:- All that piece and parcel of house bearing municipal door no. 10-4-41/5/A (PTIN No. 1042045344) constructed part plot no. 96, within survey no. 1559, comprising total area as per plan 242 sq.yards = 202.34 sq.mtrs, Plinth Area 560.00 Sft., with R.C.C. Age of building 14 years, and bounded as follows: **North:** Part of open house plot no. 96, **South:** Proposed internal way, **East:** Proposed internal way, **West:** Plot no. 97.
Date: 20-07-2026, **Place:** Nalgonda **Sd/- Authorised Officer, HDB Financial Services Ltd.**

**HDB Financial Services Ltd.**

Registered Office: Radhika, 2nd Floor, Law Garden Road, Navrangpura, Ahmedabad-380009.
Branch Office:- Shree Balaji PSR Tower, 1st Floor, H.No.1-8-616, 1, Prakash Nagar, Begumpet, Hyderabad, Telangana-500016.

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Sr. No.	Name of Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ Mortgagor	Loan Account No's:	Date of NPA & Demand Notice	Amount Due in Rs./ as on
1	1) S M Egg Traders, Plot no. 26 J P Nagar Miyapur Hyderabad-500049 Telangana. 2. Syed Mohseen Plot no. 26, PH-1 J P Nagar Miyapur Hyderabad-500049 Telangana. 3. Syed Mujahid H.No.: 26 J P Nagar Miyapur Hyderabad-500049 Telangana. 4. Syed Mohid Plot no. 26, PH-1 J P Nagar Miyapur Hyderabad-500049 Telangana. 5. Syed Nishanth Begum, Plot no. 26, PH-1 J P Nagar Miyapur Hyderabad-500049 Telangana. 6. Syed Mohid H.No.: 4-26 J P Nagar Miyapur Hyderabad-500050 Telangana	3486431 5956820 35132595 71218509	Date of NPA: 03-07-2026 Demand Notice Date: 20-07-2026	Rs.37,49,481.32/- as of 14-07-2026 and future contractual interest till actual realization together with incidental expenses, cost and charges etc.

SCHEDULE OF THE SECURITIES:- All that the house no. 4-26, on plot no. 26, with a Plinth Area of 3000 square feet of ground+first floors, each floor, 15500sft, Admeasuring 255.55 sq yards or 213.66 square meters, in survey no. 20 situated at Ramannaguda Village, Serlingampally Mandal, Under GHMC Serlingampally Circle, Ranga Reddy District Telangana State, and bounded by: **North:** 40 ft wide road, **South:** plot no. 24, **East:** plot no. 25, **West:** 30 wide road.
Date: 20-07-2026, **Place:** Hyderabad **Sd/- Authorised Officer, HDB Financial Services Ltd.**

**HDB Financial Services Ltd.**

Registered Office: Radhika, 2nd Floor, Law Garden Road, Navrangpura, Ahmedabad-380009.
Branch Office:- Shree Balaji PSR Tower, 1st Floor, H.No.1-8-616, 1, Prakash Nagar, Begumpet, Hyderabad, Telangana-500016.

DEMAND NOTICE Notice U/s 13(2) read with Section 13(13) of Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002

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Sr. No.	Name of Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ Mortgagor	Loan Account No's:	Date of NPA & Demand Notice	Amount Due in Rs./ as on
1	1) Urban Monk Plot no. 6, 7 & 15, Sy. No. 114, 115 & 116 Dolly Arcade Nagole, Uppal Medchal, Malkajgiri Hyderabad-500068, Telangana. And Also: Semi Finished Flat No. 105 in first floor block no. 4 of Green Terraces admeasuring 57 sq yards, sy no. 37/E Hyderabad-500068. 2. Dundigalla Vasantha Lakshmi, 3. Dundigalla Raghavendra 12-1-533/GT/B4/105 Bandlaguda Anand Nagar, Nagole Hayathnagar Hyderabad-500068, Telangana.	49702601	Date of NPA: 03.07.2026 Demand Notice Date: 20-07-2026	Rs.57,93,745.33/- as of 14-07-2026 and future contractual interest till actual realization together with incidental expenses, cost and charges etc.

SCHEDULE OF THE SECURITIES - I: All that the Flat no. 105, in first floor, in first floor, in municipality house bearing no. 12-1-533/gt/b4/105, (pti no. 1031207154) block no. 4, of "Green Terraces", having super built up area of 1205 sq.ft. and one covered car parking slot in parking area in cellar/still floor, with an undivided share of land admeasuring 57 sq.yds., out of Ac:2-18 gts., covered by in Survey No.37/E, and the land admeasuring 1050 sq.yds, covered by in survey nos. 37 & 38, total 12908 sq.yds., situated at near anand nagar colony, behind Sravanasri Enclave, Bandlaguda village Uppal Rdvenue Mandal, Medchal-Malkajgiri Reddy Dist, Telangana state & bounded as follows: **Boundaries for Entire Land: North:** Land belonged to A. Krishna Reddy (Sravanasri Enclave), **South:** Land belonged to A. Laxminarasimha reddy, **East:** 30, wide Internal Road, **West:** Road, **Boundaries for Entire Land: North:** Open to sky, **South:** Open to sky, **East:** Corridor, **West:** Open to sky.
Date: 20-07-2026, **Place:** Hyderabad **Sd/- Authorised Officer, HDB Financial Services Ltd.**

**HDB Financial Services Ltd.**

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Branch Office:- Shree Balaji PSR Tower, 1st Floor, H.No.1-8-616, 1, Prakash Nagar, Begumpet, Hyderabad, Telangana-500016.

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Sr. No.	Name of Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ Mortgagor	Loan Account No's:	Date of NPA & Demand Notice	Amount Due in Rs./ as on
1	1) Famous Engineering Services, H.no. 29-1430/1 Kakatiya Nagar Neerudmet Hyderabad-500056, Telangana. 2) Mohammed Galib H.No. 4-98/15 New Narsimha Nagar Mallapur Hyderabad-500076, Telangana. 3) Syed Naheda Sultana, H.No.29-1430/1 Road no.3 near Gauri shanker APTS Kakatiya Nagar Hyderabad-500056, Telangana. 4. Mohammed Akbar H.no.29-1430/1 Road no.3 Kakatiya Nagar Near Gauri shanker APTS Neerudmet Hyderabad-500056, Telangana. 5. Jamila Begum H.no.29-1430/1 Kakatiya Nagar Neerudmet Hyderabad-500056, Telangana.	5871904	Date of NPA: 03.07.2026 Demand Notice Date: 20-07-2026	Rs.9,51,539.2/- as of 14-07-2026 and future contractual interest till actual realization together with incidental expenses, cost and charges etc.

SCHEDULE OF THE SECURITIES - I: All that the House bearing no. 29-1430/1a, (Pltn No.1170705604) on plot no. 146, in sy no. 281, 282/1, 287, 288/1, Admeasuring 166.66 sq. yds or 139.32 sq.mtrs, situated at Kakatiya Nagar Neerudmet , within the limits of GHMC, under Malkajgiri Circle and mandal Medchal-Malkajgiri District, Telangana having boundaries: **North:** Neigh, house on plot no. 145, **South:** Part of plot no. 146, **East:** 25' feet wide road, **West:** 25'0 wide road.
Date: 20-07-2026, **Place:** Hyderabad **Sd/- Authorised Officer, HDB Financial Services Ltd.**

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Sr. No.	Name of Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ Mortgagor	Loan Account No's:	Date of NPA & Demand Notice	Amount Due in Rs./ as on
1	1) ELV Developers, H.No. 5-80 plot no. 139 PR colony, Teachers Colony Gurrugunda, Nadergul Rangareddy-501510, Telangana. 2) Erugadindla Venkatamma, H.No.5-80 Teachers Colony Plot No. 139 PR Colony Gurrugunda Ranga Reddy-501510 Telangana. 3) Erugadindla Srinivas H.No. 5-80 Plot no. 139 Teachers Colony PR Colony Gurrugunda Ranga Reddy-501510 Telangana. 4) Erugadindla Vinod H.No. 5-80 Plot no. 139 Teachers Colony Gurrugunda Hayathnagar Ranga Reddy-501510 Telangana.	43156154 3540013 UID 73856120	Date of NPA: 03.07.2026 Demand Notice Date: 20-07-2026	Rs.1,47,45,198/- as of 14-07-2026 and future contractual interest till actual realization together with incidental expenses, cost and charges etc.

SCHEDULE OF THE SECURITIES - I: All that the piece and parcel of the house bearing no. 5-80, (Pin No. 1177001176) on plot no. 139, in survey no. 142, Admeasuring 300 sq.yards or equivalent to 250.83 sq.mtrs., Having Plinth Area of 1618 Sft. in ground floor, 1618 Sft. in first floor, 941 Sft. in second floor and 529 Sft. in Third floor, with R.C.C. Roof, Situated Rest of Area, Gurrugunda H/O. Nadergul village, Balapur Revenue Mandal, (Erstwhile Saroonnagar Mandal), Under Badanpet Municipal Corporation, T.S. Ranga Reddy District, Registration in the office of Sub-Registrar, Champapet, And bounded by: **North:** Plot no. 153, **South:** 30' wide road, **East:** 40' wide road, **West:** Plot no. 140.
Date: 20-07-2026, **Place:** Hyderabad **Sd/- Authorised Officer, HDB Financial Services Ltd.**

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Sr. No.	Name of Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ Mortgagor	Loan Account No's:	Date of NPA & Demand Notice	Amount Due in Rs./ as on
1	1) Oxy Vision Home Care H.no. D-23 P & T Colony Rich Mond Villas Sun City Hyderabad-500001, Telangana. And Also: H.No. 6-6-23/1, Part of Plot No. 23, Block D, S.No.96/2 & 96/3 Bandlaguda Jagir village and municipality, Gandipet Mandal, Ranga Reddy District, Hyderabad-500001. 2. Ayesha Siddiqua, 3. Minhaj Ullah Khan, F.No. 608, 6th Floor Crescent Heights Apartments Dagah Khaliz Khan Kismatpur Hyderabad - 500086, Telangana.	54586716	Date of NPA: 03.07.2026 Demand Notice Date: 20-07-2026	Rs.1,14,36,611/- as of 14-07-2026 and future contractual interest till actual realization together with incidental expenses, cost and charges etc.

SCHEDULE OF THE SECURITIES - I: All that the House bearing no. 6-6-23/1, (1260110744), On Pat of plot no. 23, Block D, admeasuring 236 square yards, or 197.29 square meters (Out of 345 square yards, with ground _ 2 Upper floors, with built up area 5520 square feet", situated at in survey Nos96/2 & 96/3 Bandlaguda Jagir village and municipality, Gandipet Mandal, Ranga Reddy District, Telangana State, and bounded as follows: **North:** Plot no. 22, **South:** 33'-0" wide Road, **East:** 40'-0" Wide road, **West:** Part of plot no. 23 & plot no. 24.
Date: 20-07-2026, **Place:** Hyderabad **Sd/- Authorised Officer, HDB Financial Services Ltd.**



Piyush Goyal files police complaint over AI-generated deepfake video, warns of strict legal action

New Delhi, July 29 : Union Commerce and Industry Minister, Piyush Goyal, on Wednesday said that a deepfake video, created by maliciously manipulating footage of his interaction with the media outside Parliament using Artificial Intelligence (AI), is being circulated on social media with the intent to spread misinformation. The Union Minister said he has lodged a police complaint in connection with the matter.

Taking to social media platform X, Goyal said, "A deepfake video, created by maliciously manipulating with the help of AI footage of my interaction with the media outside Parliament, is being circulated on social media with the intent to spread misinformation." He further stated, "I have lodged a police complaint regarding this matter, and an FIR (No. 123/26) was registered at the Chanakyapuri Police Station today, July 29, 2026, at 4:35 A.M.

Indonesia to import two million live cattle by 2029

Jakarta, July 29 : Indonesia will import two million live cattle by 2029, with an annual target of around 400,000, to support the increase in domestic meat and milk production, said the Ministry of Agriculture on Wednesday. "There are more than 200 investor entities committed to the livestock sector, with most local investors opting for partnership schemes, while foreign investors tend to build their own farms," said Agung Suganda, director general of livestock and animal health at the Ministry of Agriculture. He noted that 134 investors are engaged in dairy cattle farming, while around 70 are involved in beef cattle farming. About 90 per cent of farms in the country are small-scale and not integrated with the processing industry, Xinhua news agency reported. Investments in dairy cattle farming are expected to be realized by 2025, with at least 1.5 million hectares of land available across the country.



Odisha signs landmark MoUs to drive tech revolution

Bhubaneswar, July 29 : Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Wednesday said that the signing of two Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with globally renowned HCLTech and India's indigenous artificial intelligence company Sarvam AI marks the beginning of a new revolution in Odisha's industry and technology sectors. The landmark MOUs were signed in the presence of CM Majhi at the Convention Centre of Lok Seva Bhawan here on Friday. He said the initiatives would significantly strengthen Odisha's technology-driven economic growth while creating direct em-

ployment opportunities for thousands of highly educated and skilled young men and women in the state. Under the historic partnership, HCLTech will establish its Global Delivery Centre in Odisha, a move expected to give the state's IT ecosystem a strong global identity. In addition, HCLTech, in collaboration with Sarvam AI, will set up an AI-optimised Data Centre in the state. The Odisha government will also establish a sovereign, fully indigenous AI Park, within which the proposed data centre will be located. The proposed HCLTech Global Delivery Centre will involve an investment of around Rs 730

crore, significantly strengthening Odisha's digital ecosystem. The facility is expected to generate direct employment opportunities for more than 6,000 highly educated and skilled youth from the state. Notably, the two projects are expected to attract investments of nearly Rs 15,000 crore over the next five years. Majhi said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of Digital India has transformed the country into a technology-ready nation, and that Odisha is now emerging as a frontrunner in driving this wave of innovation. "Earlier, we were dependent on foreign AI platforms, but today our indigenous AI platform, Sarvam, has become capable of matching any technology in the world. In the coming days, it will be extensively used in the fields of agriculture, healthcare, education and defence," said Majhi.



Prataprao Jadhav highlights people-centric approach to cancer awareness, integrative care

New Delhi, July 29 : Integrative models combining modern oncology with Ayush systems can significantly improve quality of life, particularly for the vulnerable sections of society, Union Minister Prataprao Jadhav said on Wednesday. He emphasised that safeguarding public health requires a proactive and people-centric approach to cancer awareness and prevention. Jadhav noted that the Ministry's expanding initiatives — including integrative cancer-care centres, collaborative research efforts and community-focused programmes — aim to ensure that affordable.

No gas shortage behind industrial unit closures in Morbi, Surendranagar: Gujarat officials

Ahmedabad, July 29 : No industrial units in Gujarat have shut down due to gas shortages despite the ongoing West Asia crisis, officials claimed on Wednesday, underlining that disruptions in the sector are linked to supply chain and viability issues. Speaking at a state-level press briefing in Ahmedabad, K.C. Sampat, Additional Commissioner of the Industries and Mines Department of Gujarat, said a comprehensive review across districts showed that out of the state's 4,11,733 registered industries, 1,212 are currently non-operational and around 28,517 are functioning at reduced capacity. A significant concentration of affected units is in Morbi,

where 984 units are shut, and 1,577 are operating at partial capacity out of 2,568 units, along with 217 closures in Surendranagar. "The impact of the West Asia situation has currently remained limited on the state's industrial sector, and most industries are operating regularly, although some are partially affected," Sampat said. He attributed closures to "issues such as transportation, supply chain disruptions and viability constraints," adding that "no major incidents of worker layoffs have been recorded." Sampat said the government is working at all levels, from the state to districts, with continuous coordination involving industries, GIDC offices and labour departments. "Industrialists and associations are providing real-time inputs, and issues related to

raw materials, transportation and supply chains are being addressed continuously," he said. Meetings with major industrial associations were also held in South Gujarat on March 28 to address labour concerns, including food security. To support workers, 159 industrial community kitchens have been operationalised, providing daily meals to around 50,000 workers. Authorities are also supplying five kg LPG cylinders for daily use, and prioritising piped natural gas (PNG) connections for essential services and industrial canteens. Highlighting supply management, Sampat said LNG and LPG constraints at the national level are being closely monitored while ensuring domestic supply remains unaffected. "Operations are being carried out under the highest priority to ensure that domestic LPG



and PNG supply remains uninterrupted," he said. Fuel supply has been prioritised for key sectors including steel, automobiles, textiles, dyes, chemicals and plastics, with lower reductions for fertiliser and dairy units. He added that industrial gas supply has been rationalised to protect domestic consumption, and temporary permission has been granted from March 30 for three months to use alternative fuels such as coal, kerosene, biomass and waste-derived fuels.

"The restriction on solid alternative fuels for industrial and commercial units has been removed for three months to ensure operational flexibility," Sampat said. LPG distribution hours have also been extended, including night-time delivery. Dipen Chauhan, Senior Vice President of Gujarat State Petroleum Corporation, said gas supply across the state remains stable, with no disruption to CNG or PNG availability.



K'taka BJP alleges KPSC recruitment scam, seeks fresh exam

Bengaluru, July 29 : Karnataka Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Wednesday alleged large-scale irregularities in the recruitment of Veterinary Officers by the Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC) and demanded that the state government immediately withhold the selection list and

order a fresh examination. Leader of the Opposition Chalavadi Narayanaswamy claimed that the recruitment process violated government norms governing backlog vacancies reserved for Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST). He also referred to allegations of bribery and nepotism in the selection process. According

to him, KPSC had issued a notification in 2024 to fill 400 Veterinary Officer posts, including 342 general vacancies and 58 backlog posts reserved for SC/ST candidates. He alleged that while competitive examinations and interviews could be conducted for general vacancies.

MP govt to honour Urdu poet Bashir Badr with literary award

Bhopal, July 29 : In a heartfelt tribute to the celebrated Urdu poet Bashir Badr, the Madhya Pradesh government has announced the establishment of a literary award in his name to preserve and promote his rich literary legacy. The announcement was made by Culture Minister Dharmendra Singh Lodhi during his visit to the poet's residence in Bhopal's Eidgah Colony on Wednesday. Lodhi met with Badr's grieving family members, including his wife Rahat Badr and son Tayyab Badr, to offer condolences and discuss the poet's invaluable contribution to Urdu literature.



PM Modi prioritises Northeast development : MoS Murugan

Aizawl, July 29 : Union Minister of State for Information & Broadcasting L. Murugan on Wednesday said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Central government accord high priority to the development of the entire Northeast region. Addressing an interactive session in Kolasib district, the Union Minister said the Prime Minister has often emphasised that the development of the Northeast is integral to India's development. He added that significant efforts are being undertaken to improve road connectivity.

Critical minerals now central to US diplomacy: Rubio

Washington, July 29 : Critical minerals have become a central pillar of American diplomacy, with US embassies around the world increasingly focused on securing supply chains and reducing dependence on China, Secretary of State Marco Rubio told lawmakers. Testifying before the

House Appropriations Subcommittee on National Security, Department of State and Related Programs, Rubio said the Trump administration has elevated critical minerals to the forefront of its diplomatic agenda as competition with China expands beyond trade and technology into strategic re-

sources. "In every embassy around the world, critical minerals are a key component of our diplomacy," Rubio said. The Secretary described critical minerals as essential to the future of advanced manufacturing, artificial intelligence, defence systems, semiconductors and clean

energy technologies. He said the administration is working with partners across multiple regions to develop alternative supply chains that can reduce vulnerabilities created by China's dominance in mining, refining and processing key minerals. Rubio pointed to recent diplomatic initiatives, including international meetings focused on mineral security and cooperation among allied nations.



Indian Ambassador intensifies engagements in the US, visits Lehigh University

Washington, July 29 : India's Ambassador to the United States Vinay Kwatra visited Lehigh University campus in Pennsylvania to discuss US-India relations and global partnerships in higher education. He also held a fireside chat with former US Ambassador to India Richard Verma. Kwatra posted on X on Wednesday, "Spoke with brilliant young students at @LehighU University in Pennsylvania at a fireside chat with my friend @RichardRVerma. We discussed India's growth vision, strong India-US relationship and the role of the Indian American diaspora in furthering the partnership." During the chat, Kwatra highlighted the contributions of the In-

dian-American community in the country. "There are a large number of Indian origin, American nationals, who are contributing enormously to the community building and to the nation building in the US," the Lehigh Daily News quoted him as saying. On energy, Kwatra highlighted that India's purchases from the US have increased 60-70 per cent in the last few months. The Indian ambassador has intensified his engagement efforts, meeting multiple stakeholders in the country. On Wednesday, Kwatra met US Senator Steve Daines and discussed current bilateral trade engagement, signing of the 10-year defence framework agreement

and opportunities for collaboration in technology and innovation between the two nations. "It was an honour to meet Senator Steve Daines, esteemed member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Thanked the Senator for his strong support in strengthening the India-US ties. We had an enriching conversation on the current bilateral trade engagement, the signing of the 10-year defence framework agreement and opportunities for collaboration in technology and innovation between our countries. Appreciate his leadership in steering the priorities of our bilateral relationship in the US Senate," he posted on X.



Bulgaria busts migrant smuggling network

Sofia, July 29 : Bulgarian authorities have dismantled an organised crime group involved in smuggling illegal migrants from Asia and North Africa to Western Europe, arresting five suspects.

The operation took place on Wednesday in Sofia, leading to the arrest of three Syrian citizens. Two additional members of the group, also Syrian nationals, were subsequently identified and apprehended, Xinhua news agency reported. During the operation, authorities confiscated phones, SIM cards, vehicle documents, and detailed notes related to the organisation and payment of illegal migrant groups. Witnesses, including Bulgarian and foreign nationals, were also interrogated. Preliminary investigations revealed that the group arranged transportation using trucks and vans to move migrants from the Black Sea city of Burgas, located 75 km north of the Turkish border, to Sofia.

US science shift raises concerns for researchers

Washington, July 29 : The Trump administration's plans to overhaul the US scientific research system sparked fresh debate in Congress this week over the future of international researchers and the country's ability to attract global talent, an issue closely watched by thousands of Indian students and scientists pursuing advanced studies and research in the United States. At a hearing before the House Committee on Science, Space and Technology, White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) Director Michael Kratsios defended a new strategy aimed at ushering in what the administration calls a "Golden Age of Science", while Democratic lawmakers

argued that funding cuts, uncertainty and policy changes risk weakening America's research leadership. "Our economic leadership and technological dominance cannot be taken for granted in a rapidly changing world," Kratsios said. "The United States no longer stands alone as an industrial and scientific superpower. Unleashing a golden age of American science requires new focus and reforms." Kratsios said a report released by his office proposes reforms that prioritise individual scientists, introduce more flexible research grants, strengthen links between scientific discovery and manufacturing, and expand the use of artificial intelligence to accelerate research.



Tech to defence, India and US deepen partnerships via Seattle

Seattle, July 29 : Over a year after its opening, the Indian Consulate in Seattle continues to deepen New Delhi's relations with the Pacific Northwest states of the United States through opening of new visa application centres and enhanced Indo-US cooperation in the fields of technology, higher education, defence and agriculture. It was agreed during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's US visit in June 2023 that India would take steps to operationalise its Consulate in Seattle before the end of 2023. A few months later - in November 2023 - the first Consulate General of India in Seattle was opened. Located in one of the world's leading tech hubs that is home to major companies like Microsoft, Amazon, and Boeing, its inauguration marked a new chapter in India-US diplomatic ties that have grown tremendously over the last 10 years under the leadership of

PM Modi. Its consular jurisdiction spans over nine Pacific NorthWest States of Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, North Dakota, South Dakota and Nebraska. Consul General Prakash Gupta, an Indian Foreign Service officer, told IANS that the consulate continues to focus intensely on strengthening India-US cooperation in areas of technology and data. "Given that technology is our focus, India must have a footprint where the tech hub is," he maintains. Gupta highlighted that, as technology continues to evolve, India's young population will have a decisive role to play in future, especially in the sphere of artificial intelligence. He also noted that the defence sector is one area where US giants can deepen their engagement with India.



US continues to work with Quad partners, says State Department official

Washington, July 29 : A senior State Department official told IANS that the Trump administration remains committed to working closely with its Quad partners and such cooperation will continue in the future. While responding to a question from IANS at the State Department, Casey Mace, US Senior Official to the Asia-Pacific Economic Forum

(APEC), on Wednesday, termed the collaboration among the Quad partners as "fruitful." "I can say and confirm that we continue to work with our Quad partners. It's been a really, very fruitful configuration for us to cooperate with these close partners of ours, and that work continues," Mace told IANS.

Pakistan: BLF chief accuses 'puppet' Balochistan CM of enacting draconian detention law

Quetta, July 29 : Balochistan Liberation Front (BLF) chief Allah Nazar Baloch has accused Balochistan Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti of implementing a "draconian detention law" while alleging that, on an average, five people are abducted and disappeared daily in the province by the Pakistani law-enforcement agencies. In a statement shared on social media platform Truth Social, Baloch urged the United Nations, the European Union, Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch,

and the global intelligentsia to speak out against the ongoing genocide of Baloch people in the province. "The puppet Chief Minister of occupied Balochistan, acting on the advice of his masters, has enacted a draconian detention law. I strongly appeal to international human rights organisations to raise their voices against this tyranny," Baloch wrote on Truth Social. "These detention centres are reminders of Nazi concentration camps. On average, five people are abducted and disappeared daily by Pakistan's law-enforcement agencies. The policy of 'kill and dump' has been further intensified by this rogue state in

Balochistan," he added. Allah Nazar Baloch questioned Baloch parliamentarians of remaining silent on brutal actions taken by the authorities in Balochistan, terming silence in times of injustice "complicity." He termed Baloch freedom movement "legitimate" and in accordance with international laws and principles. "I also want to address those Baloch parliamentarians who claim to be non-vio-



lent. If that is truly the case, why is there complete silence from them in the face of such brutal actions by the hard state? Silence in times of injustice is complicity. The world is moving toward a multipolar order, yet the United Nations still exists and carries moral and legal responsibility. "I urge the UN, the European Union, Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, and the global intelligentsia to speak out against the ongoing genocide of the Baloch nation. The Baloch freedom movement is legitimate and conducted in accordance with international laws and principles.

'Jadeja will definitely play':

Ashwin backs three-spinner strategy for SL Tests

Chennai, July 29 : Former India off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin has backed India to field three specialist spinners in the opening Test against Sri Lanka, saying Ravindra Jadeja, Manav Suthar and Kuldeep Yadav should all feature in the playing XI as the visitors prepare for the two-match World Test Championship series beginning in Galle on August 15.

“Jadeja will definitely play. Manav Suthar took seven wickets in the last game - he'll play. And Kuldeep Yadav should also play. That makes three spinners. I think they should go with Saransh Jain at No. 7, which leaves - No. 5 Rishabh Pant, No. 4 Shubman Gill, No. 3 Devdutt Padikkal or Sai Sudharsan, Yashasvi Jaiswal, and



KL Rahul. That leaves two fast-bowler spots,” Ashwin said on his YouTube channel. India's squad marks the return of Ravindra Jadeja to the Test set-up after recovering from the tennis elbow injury that had sidelined him since the IPL earlier this year. Left-arm spinner Manav Suthar has retained his place after an impressive outing.

Mirabai Chanu begins Asiad

preparations in Glasgow after historic CWG gold

Glasgow, July 29 : Less than three days after rewriting the record books with yet another Commonwealth Games gold medal, Olympic silver medallist Mirabai Chanu is already back in training, shifting her focus to the next major target on India's sporting calendar, the 2026 Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan. The Indian weightlifting icon was spotted training in Glasgow as she began preparations for the continental showpiece.

With the Commonwealth Games title secured, Mirabai has wasted little time in turning her attention to the only major multi-sport prize that has so far eluded her. The Manipur-born



weightlifter opened India's gold-medal account at the Commonwealth Games 2026 by clinching the women's 48kg title in commanding fashion. Despite failing her opening 82kg snatch attempt, she recovered brilliantly to clear the weight on her second lift before raising the bar to 85kg, setting new Commonwealth Games and Commonwealth records in the snatch.



'Disappointed but trying to take positives': Pakistan skipper Sana after loss in Sri Lanka ODIs

Hambantota, July 29 : Pakistan captain Fatima Sana admitted her side was disappointed after surrendering a 1-0 lead to lose the three-match ODI series 2-1 against Sri Lanka, but insisted the team would focus on the positives and use the experience as part of its growth.

Pakistan made a winning start to the series before Sri Lanka bounced back to claim the final two matches and seal the series. Despite the setback, Sana said the team would take the lessons forward rather than dwell on the result. “We are disappointed because of the way we started in the first match and how we performed after that. We are disappointed, but we are still trying to take as much positive from this as possible,” Sana said in a video released by the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB). The skipper admitted Pakistan's batting unit failed to make the most of favourable batting conditions, especially after losing early wickets.

She called on the younger players to shoulder more responsibility and support the senior batters.

“It's a batting track and the way we didn't bat that much, our early three wickets fell. After that we tried, but we were already in the struggle phase. So I think after seniors, if there is a responsibility on juniors, they should avail that opportunity. It's a sign that the younger players in the middle order should step up as much as they can,” she added. Sana, however, found plenty of positives in the performances of several players. She praised openers Gull Feroza and Sadaf Shamas for providing solid starts, while highlighting Sidra Amin's consistency despite batting under pressure. She also lauded Muneeba Ali for adapting well in the middle order.

Asked Jadumani to leave no room for doubt

in judges' decision: Boxing coach Belwal on close-bout Judging at CWG

Glasgow, July 29 : India boxing coach Hari Kishan Belwal expressed concern over the refereeing standards at the Commonwealth Games, saying close contests have been difficult for Indian boxers. After Mandengbam Jadumani Singh assured the country of at least a bronze medal after outclassing Mwale Mwengo in the men's 55kg quarterfinals in the competitions at the Commonwealth Games 2026, Belwal said the team's strategy has been tailored to ensure leave no room for debatable decisions in close contests. “Even the slightest margin has been proving costly here. That's why I told Jadumani to go for complete dominance so there would be no room for doubt in the judges' decision,” Belwal told IANS after Jadumani Singh's quarterfinal victory.

"Then they know that India has already improved a lot in boxing. So wherever we have a close contest bout, they think of taking it. Because if it's a one-sided bout, they can't do it. Where it's a close bout, they try to take it away," he added. Asked about on the tactical approach employed during the bout, Belwal explained that the coaching staff instructed Jadumani to execute a strict "score, move, score, move" strategy to neutralise his Zambian opponent Mwale Mwengo. "When we saw his (Mwale Mwengo) pre-



vious bout, he opponent threw a round-continuous punch. So we had planned that we will not stand in front of him. If we stand, he will throw a punch. So score, move, score, move. This was our strategy.

"Our main target was to win the first round 5-0. After that, we planned to brief them for the next round. Regardless of our overall goal, our

focus was to take the first round 5-0. We thought that securing a 5-0 win right away would allow us to take the next round 5-0 as well, leaving us mentally relaxed, just as we enjoyed the final round," Belwal explained.



CWG 2026: Rain, risk and the rulebook - Why athletics goes on despite the downpour

Glasgow, July 29 : Glasgow's unpredictable weather has become as much a talking point as the medals themselves at the 2026 Commonwealth Games. As rain lashed the athletics arena yet again, many spectators were left asking the same questions: Why are the events continuing? What if an athlete gets injured? Why can't the schedule be changed or a reserve day be kept?

The concerns are understandable. Watching sprinters explode out of wet starting blocks and long jumpers land on slippery runways naturally raises fears about safety. Yet athletics, unlike many other sports, has long learned to coexist with the elements.

Why doesn't athletics stop because of rain? The simple answer is that rain alone is not considered

dangerous enough to halt competition. World Athletics regulations allow competitions to continue in wet weather as long as the venue remains safe and there is no immediate threat from severe weather.

Also, modern synthetic tracks are designed with advanced drainage systems that prevent water from accumulating, allowing athletes to maintain grip even during heavy showers. Officials constantly monitor conditions throughout the session. If the surface becomes unsafe or visibility is significantly affected, they have the authority to delay or suspend competition.



'Kane keen to stay at Bayern Munich,' says CEO Dreesen on contract talks

Munich, July 29 : Bayern Munich CEO Jan-Christian Dreesen has revealed that striker Harry Kane is keen to extend his stay with the Bundesliga champions, with both the club and the England captain eager to reach an agreement over a new contract. Kane, who joined Bayern from Tottenham Hotspur in 2023, has been in sensational form in Germany, scoring 146 goals in 147 appearances across all competitions. His current contract is due to expire at the end of the coming season, but Bayern are hopeful of securing the 33-year-old on a longer deal.

“Both parties are very keen to extend his contract. Now we need to make sure those expectations align and that we find common ground. As far as I know, he is still in the USA. We will speak when he returns, as we had arranged,” Dreesen told reporters on Wednesday.

Indian women's hockey team heads to Europe for FIH World Cup

New Delhi, July 29 : The Indian women's hockey team departed for Europe on Wednesday to begin the final leg of its preparations for the FIH Hockey World Cup Belgium and the Netherlands 2026, with two practice matches against Germany scheduled before the tournament gets underway next month.

The squad travelled from Bengaluru to Mumbai before boarding its flight to Frankfurt, where it will train and play back-to-back friendlies against the hosts on July 31 and August 1. The matches are expected to help the team settle into European conditions and fine-tune combinations ahead of the World Cup. After concluding its training camp in Germany, India will travel to Amsterdam on August 2 to complete its



build-up before the competition begins. India has been drawn in Pool D and will open its campaign against China on August 16. The team will then face South Africa and England in the remaining group-stage fixtures as it looks to secure a place in the knockout rounds.

Gill returns to ODI summit, Sooryavanshi storms up T20I rankings

Dubai, July 29 : India's dominance in the latest ICC rankings was underlined on Wednesday as Shubman Gill regained the No. 1 spot among ODI batters, while 15-year-old Vaibhav Sooryavanshi emerged as the biggest mover in the T20I batting charts after a breakthrough series against Zimbabwe. Fresh off India's 3-0 clean sweep in Harare, Sooryavanshi enjoyed a spectacular leap of 230 places to break into the top 50 of the T20I batting rankings for the first time.

