

THE INDIAN MAIL

HYDERABAD **SATURDAY, 01 AUGUST 2026** VOL : 16 No : 337 PAGES : 12 ₹ 4 PUBLISHED FROM HYDERABAD & VIJAYAWADA



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Revanth orders research centre at Young India Skill University

Hyderabad, July 31 : Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has directed officials to establish a research centre at the Young India Skill University (YISU) to promote innovation and research. The Chief Minister reviewed the functioning of the Skill Development department at his residence here on Friday. Minister for SHAKTI (Labour, Employment, Training & Factories), Mines & Geology, Dr. G. Vivek Venkatswamy and senior officials attended the meeting. On the occasion, Revanth Reddy instructed officials to facilitate internship opportunities in leading companies for students pursuing engineering in government colleges. The Chief Minister also called for the introduction of Electric Vehicle (EV).

Govt introduces family certificate to simplify citizen documentation: Bhatti

Hyderabad, July 31 : Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka said the Congress government has introduced the Family Certificate to enable people in Telangana to easily furnish details about themselves and their family members whenever required by government departments, institutions, or other organisations. He was speaking at a Special Intensive Revision (SIR) awareness programme held at Ma-



hatma Jyotirao Phule Praja Bhavan in Hyderabad on Friday. Transport Minister Ponnam Prabhakar, Telangana Minorities Residential Educational Institutions Society Vice-Chairman Faheem Qureshi, and others attended the programme. Bhatti Vikramarka said the government has compiled and made available at Tahsildar offices information relating to family members who are beneficiaries of government welfare schemes.

Former MLA Peddi Sudarshan Reddy Passes Away

Hyderabad, July 31 : Senior BRS party leader and former Narsampet MLA Peddi Sudarshan Reddy has passed away while undergoing treatment at Yashoda Hospital in Secunderabad in the early hours on Friday. He was 54 years old. On July 26, he fell critically ill at his residence in Hanamkonda.



KTR appears before court in Formula E-car race case

Hyderabad, July 31 : Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) working president K.T. Rama Rao on Friday appeared before the special ACB Court here in the Formula E-car race case. Rama Rao and other accused in the case personally appeared in the court in response to the summons issued in May. Indian Administrative Service officer Arvind Kumar and former Chief Engineer of the Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority, B.L.N. Reddy, also appeared before the court. KTR and others paid sureties of Rs 1 lakh each and completed other formalities. The court later adjourned the hearing in the case to August 25. Former Ministers Sabita Indra Reddy, Mahmood Ali, MLA Kaushik Reddy, BRS leader Praveen Kumar and several other party leaders.

Stage set for Bhogapuram Airport's inauguration by PM

Visakhapatnam, July 31 :The stage is set for the inauguration of Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport at Bhogapuram in Vizianagaram district of Andhra Pradesh by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday. The Prime Minister, who will be reaching Bhogapuram around 11 a.m., will undertake a walk-through of the passenger terminal building. At around 11:30 a.m., he will inaugurate the airport. He will also lay the foundation

stone, inaugurate and dedicate to the nation multiple development projects worth over 17,900 crore in Bhogapuram and address the gathering on the occasion. Governor S. Abdul Nazeer, Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, Civil Aviation Minister K. Ram Mohan Naidu and senior officials will attend the event. Developed under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) mode at a cost of over 5,640 crore, the Greenfield airport has been de-



signing systems and intelligent operational monitoring solutions. These systems are expected to enhance operational efficiency, improve passenger convenience and safety, and optimise resource utilisation. The project incorporates several sustainability features, including energy-efficient heating.

PM to dedicate to nation projects worth 17,900 crore in Andhra Pradesh

Visakhapatnam, July 31 : Prime Minister Narendra Modi will dedicate to the nation various development projects worth over 17,900 crore during his visit to Andhra Pradesh on Saturday. He will lay foundation stones and inaugurate multiple projects at the inauguration of Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport at Bhogapuram in Vizianagaram district. The Prime Minister will lay the foundation for the ASIP Semi-

conductor Project at Visakhapatnam, being developed with an investment of over 460 crore. The facility is being developed by ASIP Technologies Pvt Ltd in partnership with AFACT, Republic of Korea. According to an official release, it is Andhra Pradesh's first semiconductor manufacturing facility approved under the India Semiconductor Mission. The facility will manufacture around 96 million semiconductor chips annually and create high-skilled employment opportunities, while also fostering a robust ancillary ecosystem to support semiconductor manufacturing. The Prime Minister will lay the foundation stone for the Transmission System for Integration of Kurnool-IV Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) - Phase-I (4.5 GW), being imple-



mented by POWERGRID through a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), with an investment of about 5,550 crore. He will also inaugurate the Transmission System for Kurnool Wind Energy Zone/Solar Energy Zone (Andhra Pradesh).

Dissolution of Governing Bodies of 19 Universities and Removal of Nominated Members



Amaravati, July 31: The government has made key changes in the governance of universities in AP. The government has taken a decision to dissolve the governing bodies of 19 universities. The nominated members appointed during the previous government have been removed. To this extent, the government has issued orders regarding the dissolution of the governing bodies of the respective universities.

Construction of Indiramma Towers to begin at the end of August : Minister Ponguleti

Hyderabad, July 31: Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy announced that the construction of Indiramma Towers will begin in the last week of August. He said that the tender process for Indiramma Towers will be started in CURE. Speaking to reporters on Friday, he said that in the first phase, houses will be constructed in 16 assembly constituencies. He said that the identification of sites in 4 more constituencies has been completed. He reiterated that the government's target is to construct one lakh Indiramma houses.



NIEPID Organises Independence Day Celebrations-2026 under the Theme "India Independence 1947-2047"

Hyderabad, July 31 : The National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities (NIEPID) (Divyangjan), under the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MSJE), organised a series of activities in connection with Independence Day Celebrations-2026 under the theme "India Independence 1947-2047: The Spirit of Viksit Bharat" at its Headquarters, Regional Centres (RCs) and Composite Regional Centres (CRCs). The celebrations commenced with the National Pledge, reading of the Preamble to the Constitution in Hindi and English, interpretation in Indian Sign Language (ISL), and an orientation session on the objectives of the programme. The inaugural programme was attended by the Director, Deputy Director (Administration) In-charge, faculty, staff, students, parents and Persons with Intellectual Disabilities (PwIDs). Organised from July 22 to 29, the celebrations

aimed to promote patriotism, constitutional values, accessibility, inclusion and active participation of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) in line with the vision of Viksit Bharat @ 2047. The Institute conducted a range of activities, including essay writing, poster making and quiz competitions, an exhibition on assistive technologies and innovative rehabilitation products, a seminar/webinar on the Indian Freedom Movement and inclusive nation building.

SCCL focuses on coal output, flood preparedness during monsoon

Hyderabad, July 31 : With power demand increasing across the State during the monsoon season, Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) is fully geared up to ensure uninterrupted coal supply to thermal power stations, said Chairman and Managing Director Dr. Buddhaprakash Jyoti. He directed all area general managers to supply 28 to 32 rakes of quality coal every day in accordance with the requirements of thermal power plants. The CMD was addressing a review meeting with General Managers of all SCCL Areas through video conference from Singareni Bhavan.



SIR in Telangana gets another extension, enumeration now till Aug 10

Hyderabad, July 31 : The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Friday announced an extension for the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral roll in the Telangana state, pushing the deadline for enumeration from August 3 to August 10.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, MEDIDI RAVI KUMAR, S/o RAMA RAO resident of Door no 3-37, Kadali village, Razole Mandal, Dr.B.R Ambedkar Konaseema Dist. A.P That in my passport my First wife name was mentioned MEDIDI CHANDRA KALA. She was died I Solamanized second marriage with MEDIDI CHANDRA SHANTHI. Hence I request please remember my second wife name was MEDIDI CHANDRA SHANTHI.

SBFC
(erstwhile SBFC Finance Private Limited)

Registered Office:- Unit No.103, First Floor, C&B Square, Sangam Complex, Village Chakala, Andheri-Kurla Road, Andheri (East), Mumbai-400059.

DEMAND NOTICE

Whereas the borrowers/co-borrowers mentioned hereunder had availed the financial assistance from SBFC Finance Limited. We state that despite having availed the financial assistance, the borrowers/mortgagors have committed various defaults in repayment of interest and principal amounts as per due dates. The account has been classified as Non-Performing Asset on the respective dates mentioned hereunder, in the books of SBFC as per guidelines of Reserve Bank of India, consequent to the Authorized Officer of SBFC Finance Limited under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 ("SARFAESI Act") and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notices on respective dates mentioned herein below, calling upon the following borrowers/mortgagors to repay the amount mentioned in the notices together with further interest at the contractual rate on the amount mentioned in the notices and incidental expenses, cost, charges etc. until the date of payment within 60 days from the date of receipt of notices. The notices issued to them on their last known addresses have returned un-served and as such they are hereby informed by way of public notice about the same.

Sl. No.	Name of the Borrower / Address	Date of Demand Notice & NPA	Loan No. and Outstanding Amount	Property Address of Secured Assets
1	1. Mr. Bandi Sridhar (Applicant) 2. Mrs. Bandi Maheshwari (Co-Applicant 1) Add: H No - 9-47/1, Situated at Palakurthy Village and Jangaon, Dist. TS. 506317.	Demand Notice Date: 21-04-2026 NPA Date: 04th July 2026	Loan AccountNo. SBFCCLAP0000260892 (PR018 79237) and SBFCCLAP0000283743 (PR01908679), Loan Amount of Rs.20,68,000/- (Rupees Twenty Lakh Sixty Eight Thousand Only) Out of which Rs. 16,00,000/- for Facility Agreement No. SBFCCLAP0000260892 (PR018 79237) and Rs. 4,68,000/- for Facility Agreement No. SBFCCLAP0000283743 (PR01908679), Total Outstanding amount: Rs. 22,71,912/- (Rupees Twenty Two Lakh Seventy Nine Thousand One Hundred and Twenty One Only) as on 11th July, 2026, plus unapplied interest from the date of 12th July, 2026.	All that the piece & parcel of Property bearing H No - 9-47/1, Situated at Palakurthy Village and Jangaon, Dist. 506317. And bounded By: East: House of Bandi Rajayya, West: Vacant Land of Veeramanni Vamsheedhar Rao, North: Gram Panchayat C. C. Road, South: House of Chilikumar Somalaxmi

In the circumstances as aforesaid, the notice is hereby given to the above borrowers, co-borrowers, to pay the outstanding dues as mentioned above along with future interest and applicable charges within 60 days from the date of the publication of this notice failing which further steps will be taken after the expiry of 60 days of the date of this notice against the secured assets including taking possession of the secured assets of the borrowers and the mortgagors under Section 13(4) of the SARFAESI Act and the applicable Rules thereunder. Please note that under Section 13 (13) of the SARFAESI Act, no Borrower shall, transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise any of his secured assets referred to in the notice, without prior written consent of the secured creditor.

Dated: 01-08-2026, Place: Jangaon/Telangana Sd/- Authorized Officer, SBFC Finance Limited

Implementation of Police Act Section 30 across the District and -Rallies, processions and public meetings should not be held without prior permission : District SP D. Janaki IPS

Mahabubnagar, July 31 : Keeping in mind the maintenance of law and order and public peace in the district, Section 30 of the Police Act will be implemented across the Mahabubnagar District from August 1 to 31, 2026, District SP Smt. D. Janaki IPS said in a statement. During the period when Section 30 is in force, rallies, processions, dharnas, protest programs, public meetings or meetings with large numbers of people should not be organized without prior permission from the concerned police officers. She warned that strict action will be taken against those who violate the rules and act in a manner that disturbs public peace and security. Similarly, he clarified that legal action will be taken against those who spread false propaganda, rumors, religious hatred, or messages that lead to social tension through social



media platforms. The district SP advised the people to respect the law and cooperate with the police department and to obtain prior permission from the concerned police officers if they want to organize meetings, conferences or other public events. She urged everyone to act responsibly in maintaining peace and security in the district.

BAJAJ HOUSING FINANCE

Corporate office: Cerebrum IT Park B2 Building 5th Floor, Kalyani Nagar, Pune, Maharashtra-411014. Branch office: 2nd Floor, Sita City One, 7-1-22/2, Leelanagar, Greenland Road, Amerpet, Near Begumpet Flyover, Hyderabad, 500016.

Demand Notice Under Section 13 (2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002. Undersigned being the Authorized officer of M/s. Bajaj Housing Finance Limited, hereby gives the following notice to the Borrower(s) Co-Borrower(s) who have failed to discharge their liability i.e. defaulted in the repayment of principal as well as the interest and other charges accrued there-on for Home loan(s) Loan(s) Against Property advanced to them by Bajaj Housing Finance Limited and as a consequence the loan(s) have become Non Performing Assets. Accordingly, notices were issued to them under Section 13 (2) of Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and rules there-to, on their last known addresses, however the same have been returned un-served/un-delivered, as such the Borrower(s)/Co-Borrower(s) are hereby intimated/ informed by way of this publication notice to clear their outstanding dues under the loan facilities availed by them from time to time.

Name of the Borrower(s)/ Guarantor (s) (LAN & Name of Branch)	Description of Secured Asset (Immovable Property)	Demand Notice Date & Amount
Branch : HYDERABAD, LAN: H400HHL0753144, 1. Bezwada Sai Kiran (Borrower) At: 48-535/3/1, Ganesh Nagar, Hyderabad, Telangana-500055. Also At: Flat No. G-2, In Ground Floor, Yours Residency, Hydreshakota Village Ranga Reddy District, Telangana - 500091	Schedule Of Property: All That Piece And Parcel Of The Non-Agricultural Property Described As: All That The Flat No. G-2 (Bearing Municipal Door No.5-58/6(G2), In Ground Floor, With A Built-Up Area 1095 Sq. Feets (Including Common Area & Car Parking, Excluding Terrace) In The Complex Known As "Yours Residency", On Plot No.6, In Survey No.26, Along With An Undivided Share Of Land Admeasuring 35.00 Sq. Yards (Out Of 297 Sq. Yards) Situated At "Hydreshakota Village" Under Bandlaguda Jagir Municipal Corporation, Gandipet Mandal, Ranga Reddy District, T.S. And Bounded As Follows:- (Plan No.1260302370), Nore Open To Sky. South: Open To Sky. East: Open To Sky. West: Corridor & Staircase	16th July 2026, Rs.31,56,471/- (Rupees Thirty One Lakh Fifty Six Thousand Four Hundred Seventy One Only)
Branch : HYDERABAD, LAN: H400HHL1325456 and H400HHL1328350, 1. Tanniru Dhanaiha (Borrower) At: Flat No 101, 1st Floor, Shiva Sai Nilayam (Sumathi Residency) Village Korremula, Chowdarguda, Ghatkesar Mandal, Malkajgiri, Secunderabad, Telangana - 500088, 2. Tanniru Laxmi Tirupattamma (Co-Borrower) 1 & 2 Both At: F.No 101, Sumathi Residency, Hyderabad, Doctors Colony, Korremula, Telangana, 500092.	Schedule Of Property: All That Piece And Parcel Of The Non-Agricultural Property Described As: All That The Semi Finished Flat No.101, In First Floor, Of (Sumathi Residency) "Shiva Sai Nilayam", Admeasuring 950 Sqft., Of Plinth Area (Including Common Areas And Car Parking Area) Together With Undivided Share Of Land Admeasuring 28 Sq. Yds., Or 23.40 Sq. Mtrs., Out Of Total Land Admeasuring 391 Sq. Yds., Or 326.9 Sq. Mtrs., Constructed On Plot Nos.23, 22 Part And Open Plots, In Survey No. 7734/3, 772/E1, 772/E2, 772/A And 775, Situated at Korremula Village, Chowdarguda Gram Panchayat, Ghatkesar Mandal, Medchal-Malkajgiri District, Telangana State, And Bounded By: Entire Land Boundaries: North: Plot No.1 Part, South: Plot Nos.21 And 24, East: Neighbour's Land & Plot No.22 Part, West: 30' Feet Wide Road, Flat No.101, In First Floor, Boundaries: North: Flat No.102, South: Open To Sky, East: Corridor And Staircase. West: Open To Sky.	16th July 2026, Rs.38,99,537/- (Rupees Thirty Eight Lakh Ninety Nine Thousand Five Hundred Thirty Seven Only)

This step is being taken for substituted service of notice. The above Borrowers and/or Co-Borrowers (Guarantors) are advised to make the payments of outstanding along with future interest within 60 days from the date of publication of this notice failing which (without prejudice to any other right remedy available with Bajaj Housing Finance Limited) further steps for taking possession of the Secured Assets/mortgaged properties as per the provisions of Sec. 13(4) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002. The parties named above are also advised not to alienate, create third party interest in the above mentioned properties. On which Bajaj Housing Finance Limited has the charge.

Dated: 01-08-2026, Place: Hyderabad Sd/- Authorized Officer, Bajaj Housing Finance Limited

SHIRIRAM Finance

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

Branch Office Address: Shriram Finance Ltd., D.No. 44, S.D.Road, Secunderabad-500003

Notice to the Borrower Informing about Sale (30 days' notice) 8 (6) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002

To:

S.no	Particulars of Borrowers / Guarantors
1.	Maha Electronics Private Limited Rep By Its Prop. Sale Venkateshwarlu, R/o. H.No: 5-9-13, Room No. 515, 5 th Floor, Taramandal Complex, Saifabad, Hyderabad-500004. (Borrower)
2.	Sale Venkateshwarlu, S/o. Shankaraiah, Aged About 62 Years, Occ: Business, O/o. Maha Electronics Private Limited, Safaibad, R/o. P.No: 29 & 30, Feel Good Homes, Gandamguda, Hydeshakota, Rajendra nagar, Ranga Reddy Dist-500008. AND ALSO AT Sale Venkateshwarlu, S/o. Shankaraiah, Aged About 62 Years, R/o. P.No: 801, 802 & 803, P.No: 806 & 807, J.P.Town Ship, Immulnarva Village, Kothur Mandal, Mahaboobnagar District. (Co Borrower /Guarantor)
3.	S.Punyavathi, W/o. Venkateshwarlu, Aged About 54 Yrs, R/o. P.No: 29 & 30, Feel Good Homes, Gandamguda, Hydeshakota, Rajendra nagar, Ranga Reddy Dist-500008. (Guarantor)
4.	Sirasala Venugopal, S/o. Venkata Ramaiah, Aged About 50 Years, R/o. P.No: 61 & 62, F.No:302, Hirise Chalapatthi Residency, Pragathi Nagar, Kukatpally, Hyderabad-500072. (Guarantor)

Sub: Sale of property belonging to Sale Venkateshwarlu, S/o. Shankaraiah (CO-BORROWER/ PROPERTY HOLDER) in the account of SECUSTF1802270006 for realization of amount due to Shriram Finance Limited under The Securitization And Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002. Shriram Finance Limited, Secunderabad - Branch, the secured creditor caused a demand notice dated 28.06.2022 under section 13(2) of The Securitization And Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, calling upon you to pay Rs.49,26,586/- (Rupees Forty Nine Lakhs Twenty Six Thousand Five Hundred and Eighty Six only) within the time stipulated period therein. Since you failed to comply the said notice within the stipulated period, the Authorized Officer, has taken symbolic possession of the immovable secured assets under Section 13(4) of the Act read with Rule 8 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on 28.04.2025. Even after taking possession of the secured asset, you have not paid the amount due to Shriram Finance Limited. As such, it has become necessary to sell the below mentioned property by holding public e-auction after 30 days from the date of receipt to this notice through online mode. The date and time of e-auction along with the Reserve Price of the property and the details of the service provider, in which the e-auction to be conducted, shall be informed to you separately. Therefore, if you pay the amount due to Shriram Finance Limited along with subsequent interest, costs, charges and expenses incurred by Shriram Finance Limited before the date of publication of sale notice, no further action shall be taken for sale of the property and you can redeem your property as stipulated in sec.13(8) of the Act.

Schedule of Property: (Property holder Name is Sale Venkateshwarlu Mortgage deed dated 28.02.2018 Registered as Document No.1983/2018 on the file of the office of Sub-Registrar at (Shadnagar)) All that the land marked as plot bearing Nos. 801 admeasuring 400 Sq. Yards P.No. 802 admeasuring 400 Sq. yards, Plot no. 803 admeasuring 400 Sq.yards, Plot no.806 admeasuring 400 Sq.yards and Plot no.807 admeasuring 400 Sq.yards, in Total land admeasuring 2000 sq.yards or 1673 sq.mts in survey Number 227/UJ & 192/A1, situated at J.P. Town Ship, Immulnarva Village & Grampanchayat, Kothur Mandal, Mahaboobnagar District, and Bounded as follows: Plot Nos. 801, 802 & 803 East: Plot No. 804, West: Plot No. 800, North: 40 Feet Wide Road, South: Plot No. 806, 807, & 808 Plot Nos. 806 & 807 East: Plot No. 805, West: Plot No. 808, North: Plot No. 803, & 802, South: 80 Feet Wide Road

Note "It is informed that "SHIRIRAM CITY UNION FINANCE LIMITED" has been amalgamated with "SHIRIRAM TRANSPORT FINANCE LIMITED" as per order of NCLT, Chennai. Subsequently the name of "SHIRIRAM TRANSPORT FINANCE LIMITED" was changed as "SHIRIRAM FINANCE LIMITED" with effect from 30.11.2022 vide Certificate of Incorporation pursuant to change of name dated 30-11-2022."

Date: 29-07-2026, Place: Immulnarva. Sd/- Authorized Officer, SHIRIRAM FINANCE LTD

SHIRIRAM Finance

Office Address M/S Shriram Finance Ltd., F No 307 IV th Floor, Alluri Trade Center, Opp: KPBB Bhagya Nagar Colony, Swagath Complex, Kukatpally, Hyderabad-500072 And Branch Office At Miyapur

Regd Office: Sri Towers, Plot No.14A, South Phase, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai - 600032; Website : <http://www.shriramfinance.in/auction>

E AUCTION SALE NOTICE IN RESPECT OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES BELONGS TO: Mrs.Preeti Gupta

E Auction Sale Notice for sale of the Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstructions of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security interest Act, 2002 read with Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules under Rule 9 (1) issued now after expiry of 30 days of the Intending sale Notice dated. 27.05.2025. Since all of you have failed to exercise your right of redemption as contemplated under section 13 (8) of Act 54/2002 r/w Rule 8 (6) of the Security interest (Enforcement) Rules,2002, this notice for e-auction sale is issued. This is to inform the borrowers / guarantors/ mortgagors / co-applicants / co-borrowers as under.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the borrowers / guarantors/ mortgagors / co-applicants / co-borrowers that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the secured creditor, will be sold in "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" basis on 04.09.2026 between 11.00 A.M. to 01.00 P.M. through E Auction for recovery of dues of Rs. 42,36,604/- with further interest, costs other charges and expenses thereon, from the date of demand notice dated 24.08.2024 to till realization to Shriram Finance Limited (Secured Creditor) as per Demand Notice dated 24.08.2024 issued U/s 13(2) of SARFAESI Act, to the Borrower/Guarantor(s) mentioned below

Agreement No: MIYPRTF2209270002 Name and address of the Borrower/Guarantor(s) 1. Preethi.Guptha, W/O. Hithesh Kumar, Aged about 38 Years, Occ: Sri Krishna Fabrics Business, R/O. Flat No : 104, Amrutha Valley , Road No : 12, Banjarhills, Hyderabad - 500034. 2. Hithesh Kumar Shubhakaran, S/O. Shubhakaran.Agarwal, Aged about 36 Years, Occ: Sri Krishna Fabrics Business, R/O. Plot No : 404, 4th Floor,Royal Apartments, Road No :8 , Near Kalpa School,Banjara Hills, Hyderabad - 500034. 3. Ashok Kumar Gupta, S/O. Kirodimal Gupta, Aged about 70 Years, Occ: Fabrics Business, R/O. Plot No : 38, Flat No : 201,2nd Floor,Super Arbor Apartments, Huda Heights, Shaikpet, Hyderabad- 500096.

Description of immovable property: (Property belongs to Preeti Guptha): All that the All that FARM SITE NO.130,admeasuring 500 Square Yards or 418.41 square meters in Survey No.242 in Millinium Enclave,situated at Pedda Shapur Village and Gram Panchayat,Shamshabad Mandal,Ranga Reddy District, bounded by : North: Farm Site No.129, South: Farm Site No.131, East: Farm Site No.127, West: 30 Feet Wide Road. Encumbrances, if any: NIL

Agreement no	Reserve Price of The Property	EMD Amount	By way of Sub EMD	Bid Increase Amt	Auction Date	EMD Submission Date	Property Inspection Date
MIYPRTF2209270002	Rs. 24,37,500/- (Rupees Twenty Four Lakh Thirty Seven Thousand Five Hundred only)	Rs.2,43,750/- (Rupees Two Lakh Forty Three Thousand Seven Hundred and Fifty only)	DD in favour of SHIRIRAM FINANCE LTD	Rs.10,000/-	04-09-2026	03-09-2026	02-09-2026

The interested bidders required assistance in creating login ID & Password, uploading data, submitting bid, training on e-bidding process etc., may contact M/s. Shriram Automall India Limited contact person: Mr.Gaurav Namboodiri, Contact No.9833922941 Mr.Gaurav Namboodiri <gaurav.n@samil.in> and for any property related query may contact Shriram Finance Limited Authorized Officer, N.Srinivasa Reddy, Ph. No.: 8978380201, during office hours and working days.

The Authorized Officer reserves the right to reject any or all bids without furnishing any further reasons. The online auction will be conducted on website (<https://eauctions.Samil.in/home>) of our auction agency Shriram Auto Mall India Limited, and for the place of Tender Submission/ for obtaining the bid form / Tender open & Auction, please visit the website <https://eauctions.Samil.in/home> and for detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer to the link <https://www.shriramfinance.in/auction> provided in the Shriram Finance Limited website.

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Place: Miyapur, Date: 31-07-2026 Sd/- Authorised Officer, Shriram Finance Ltd.

Bengal govt to introduce new attendance system in various depts using mobile phones

Kolkata, July 31 : The West Bengal government is set to bring a major change in the attendance system of government employees, a government official said on Friday. From now onwards, there is no need to install any separate biometric hardware machine in the office of respective departments. Under the new rules, employees will be able to give attendance directly from the office premises using their mobile phones. As a result, not only will the government save a huge amount of money, but the attendance process will also be easier and hassle-free.



A notification has been issued by the Finance Department in this regard recently, the official said. According to the official, this modern system should be implemented as soon as possible. For this, various departments have been asked to look into their own software solutions. According to sources, although the work of installing biometric machines in various departments has started over the past few years.



BJP welcomes Sikkim Budget, seeks stronger focus on revenue generation

Gangtok, July 31: BJP's Sikkim unit on Friday welcomed the state government's Rs 18,455-crore Budget for 2026-27, describing it as development-oriented, while urging the government to place greater emphasis on revenue generation, timely implementation of projects and employment creation. Speaking to IANS, BJP-Sikkim spokesperson Passang Sherpa said the Budget contained several initiatives that would benefit farmers, improve road infrastructure and strengthen healthcare, but stressed that the state must work towards reducing its dependence on borrowings by creating sustainable sources of income. Sherpa welcomed the allocation of Rs 5,896 crore for capital expenditure and Rs 11,733 crore for revenue expenditure, saying investments in infrastructure would contribute to Sikkim's long-term growth.



Anganwadi centres serving nearly 8.9 crore beneficiaries : Minister

New Delhi, July 31 : With over 14 lakh Anganwadi centres, Anganwadi Didis are reaching pregnant mothers, lactating mothers, adolescent girls and children, serving nearly 8.9 crore beneficiaries, according to Union Minister for Women and Child Development Annpurna Devi. She emphasised that 'Poshan Maah' and 'Poshan Pakhwada' have taken the shape of a true 'Jan Andolan', with crores of activities taking place across the country.

Odisha: Congress sets up fact-finding team to probe police excess in Sijimali

Bhubaneswar, July 31 : The Odisha Congress on Friday constituted a 13-member fact-finding committee to investigate alleged police excesses against displaced people protesting against construction work by a private company at Sijimali in Rayagada district. As per the instructions of Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC) president Bhakta Charan Das, a committee has been formed under the chairmanship of Koraput MP and AICC in-charge for the northeastern states—Manipur, Tripura, Sikkim, and Nagaland—Saptagiri Ulaka. The team will visit Sijimali on Friday and submit its inquiry report at the OPCC office. "While the displaced people were protesting at Sijimali in Rayagada district to press for the fulfilment of their demands, the act of repression carried out by the police is highly condemnable. The Congress party

will continue its efforts until justice is delivered to them. To enquire into the incident, OPCC president Bhakta Charan Das has constituted a fact-finding committee," reads an office order. The party also alleged that the way the police have suppressed the protests of displaced people at Sijimali in Rayagada district, while they were peacefully pressing for their demands, is deeply reprehensible. Such actions not only undermine democratic rights but also silence the voices of vulnerable communities who are seeking justice. The Congress party further said that whenever mineral extraction or industrialisation has taken place in



Odisha, neither the government nor the administration has shown the will and sincerity to address the issue of displacement effectively.? Owing to the persistent insensitivity of successive governments and administrations towards affected people, the displaced have been denied justice. Since the government itself is involved in illegal mineral extraction.

Gujarat Police arrest man in Rs 20 lakh burglary case

Ahmedabad, July 31 : The Ahmedabad Police have solved a Rs 20 lakh house-breaking theft reported in the Kalupur area within hours of the case being registered, arresting a 37-year-old suspect at Kalupur Railway Station while he was allegedly attempting to leave Gujarat with part of the stolen cash. The burglary took place between 6 p.m. on July 24 and 7 a.m. on July 25 at R.M. Handloom House, Shop No. 3, Sadhu Vaswani Mansion in Sindhi Market, Revdi Bazar. According to police, the accused allegedly pulled the shop's left-side shutter away from the wall, entered the premises and stole around Rs 20 lakh in cash from an unlocked safe inside the shop. Following the complaint, Kalupur Police Station registered a complaint under Sections 305, 331(3) and 331(4) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023. Considering the seriousness of the offence, Ahmedabad Police Commissioner Anupam Singh

Gahlaut and Joint Commissioner of Police (Sector-1) Neeraj Badgajar directed that the case be investigated on priority. Deputy Commissioner of Police (Zone-3) Rupal Solanki supervised the investigation and instructed the Local Crime Branch (LCB) Zone-3 to detect the offence at the earliest. Working under the supervision of DCP Solanki, Police Sub-Inspector V.H. Rathod led multiple LCB teams that collected and analysed CCTV footage from the crime scene and surrounding areas. Investigators also carried out technical analysis to trace the suspect's movements before and after the burglary. Police said the breakthrough came through a combination of CCTV footage, technical data and human intelligence, which indicated that the suspect was carrying the stolen cash in a bag and was preparing to leave the state from Kalupur Railway Station. Acting on the information, the LCB team intercepted the suspect outside the station entrance on Sunday and arrested him. The arrested accused has been



identified as Sabir alias Chhotu Sheikh, 37. He is currently residing in a tin-roof dwelling at Shihori Market in Kalupur area of Ahmedabad and is originally from Hajipur village in Hooghly district of West Bengal. Police recovered Rs 14 lakh in cash and a mobile phone valued at Rs 10,000, taking the total value of recovered property to Rs 14.10 lakh. "The accused had come to Ahmedabad around six to seven months ago through an acquaintance from his native village. He frequently visited the complainant's shop to purchase handkerchiefs and, during those visits, noticed that large amounts of cash were kept in the shop's safe," officials said. Investigators alleged that he planned the theft because he needed money for his grandmother's medical treatment. Police said the accused took advantage of rainy weather to conceal his identity by wearing a raincoat and covering his face. "At around 3 a.m., he used an iron rod to pull the shop shutter away from the wall, lifted it sufficiently to enter the premises and stole the cash from the safe," officials said. Investigators further said the accused has a previous criminal record in West Bengal, having been arrested earlier in two theft cases registered at Dhaniakhali Police Station and one theft case registered at Gurap Police Station. The investigation is continuing to recover the remaining stolen amount and complete further legal proceedings.

Delhi BJP chief Harsh Malhotra holds 'Yuva Samvad' with college students

New Delhi, July 31 : Delhi Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) President Harsh Malhotra on Friday organised "Yuva Samvad (Gen-Z with PM Modi)", in which around 50 young students pursuing higher education at various universities and colleges across Delhi, along with some parents accompanying them, participated, a party leader said. During the two-way interaction, discussions were held on the development and expansion of universities and higher educational institutions in India between 2014 and 2026. The participants also discussed the removal of certain unnecessary chapters from the curriculum and the inclusion of chapters of national importance. The students also expressed their support by signing alongside Harsh Malhotra, the BJP leader added.



LGBTQ+ community should not be isolated from society: RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat

Hyderabad, July 31 : RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat said on Friday that LGBTQ+ people should not be isolated from society as they are also human beings and have the right to live. Stating that they have been part of Indian society, he said they deserve dignity and their own space. Speaking at an event here, he observed that Indian traditions had long recognised such communities and quietly made arrangements for them. "LGBTQ+ and all such things are talked about extensively. Such tendencies are present in society. Some are innate, determined by nature itself; neither we nor they can do anything about it—that is simply how they were born. However, some are acquired later due to mindset, or arise from physical inclinations. Such things exist everywhere. We cannot say they did not exist in our society. We are human beings too, so they existed here as well," he said.

TN cracks down on M-sand units operating without valid registration

Chennai, July 31 : The Tamil Nadu government has intensified its crackdown on irregularities in the state's mineral resources sector following the change in administration, with a series of surprise inspections exposing widespread violations in quarrying and manufactured sand (M-Sand) production. State Minister for Mines and Minerals, Prabhu, has been conducting unannounced in-

spections across several districts, directing officials to seal quarries found operating in violation of mining regulations. The government has also ordered the mass transfer of mineral resources department officials suspected of failing to prevent or act against illegal mining activities. The government's enforcement drive initially triggered a sharp increase in the price of M-Sand, as producers cited disruptions caused by stricter action against

black granite quarries. However, the proposed price hike was withdrawn after the minister convened a meeting with industry associations and warned them against exploiting the situation. At the same time, the government ordered a detailed inquiry into alleged violations committed by M-Sand manufacturing units. According to a senior official from the Department of Geology and Mining, M-Sand is produced by crushing and processing hard

black stone to serve as an alternative to river sand, which is increasingly restricted due to environmental concerns. The Tamil Nadu government has long recommended the use of M-Sand for construction activities as a sus-



tainable substitute for natural river sand. The official explained that all M-Sand manufacturing units are required to register with the Public Works Department (PWD). These registrations must be renewed periodically, generally every three to five years, to ensure compliance with quality and operational standards. Tamil Nadu currently has 506 registered M-Sand manufacturing units.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public is hereby informed that my client is intend to purchase the below mentioned schedule property. If any persons of the Public have any objections they have to submit the objections along with documentary proof to the undersigned within 7 days from this day. After expiry of stipulated date of time we shall proceed with the sale transaction and any claims whatsoever manner thereafter will not be entertained under any circumstances.

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Boundaries:

• North: Plot No-160/P. • South: Plot No-159/P. • East: 30 Feet Road. • West: Plot No-138 and 139.

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Opinion Mail



Govt has adequate resources to handle spike in petroleum, fertiliser subsidy bills : FM Sitharaman

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Sunday that while the Middle East conflict has led to an increase in the country's petroleum and fertiliser subsidy bill due to the spike in global prices, the government has an adequate resource buffer to manage the situation without any changes in the Budget estimates for 2026-27. Speaking at the NDTV Profit Business Leadership Awards function here, the Finance Minister said, "I have kept buffers which can take care of it and therefore at this stage, I don't think I'll look at my budget number for readjusting," as she referred to the government support for oil and fertiliser imports at higher prices. The government has "some resources kept aside" to meet challenges arising from rising risk insurance premia as ships pass through war zones, she added. The Finance Minister further stated that the deficient monsoon rains due to the El Nino effect were adding to existing inflation risks. "Inflation therefore cannot be just imported. It is also our own want of rain and the monsoon being less-than-normal that could also add to price pressures," she said.

Sitharaman highlighted that several indicators, including goods and services tax collections, pointed to resilient economic growth in the country. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has also projected a robust 6.6 per cent growth rate for the economy during 2026-27 despite the supply chain disruptions due to the Iran war and the adverse impact expected on the country's agriculture sector due to the deficient monsoon.

India's fiscal burden is growing as the fertiliser subsidy bill faces a massive surge alongside major financial support extended to petroleum and fuel retailers due to ongoing geopolitical shocks in West Asia. The original FY27 budget allocation for fertiliser subsidies was set at approximately Rs 1.71 lakh crore. Surging global import prices for urea, DAP, and vital raw materials like natural gas have pushed the projected requirements much higher. State-run oil marketing companies –Indian Oil, BPCL and HPCL have received nearly Rs 1.23 lakh crore in financial assistance to absorb shocks and freeze retail fuel prices for extended periods in order to protect consumers from skyrocketing global prices. The LPG subsidy component alone is projected to comfortably cross Rs 1 lakh crore against modest initial budget assumptions as global energy markets remain volatile.

EDITORIAL
the indian mail



Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf to approach court to seek permission for Aug 5 protest

Islamabad, July 31 : The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders have announced that they will approach the court to seek permission for holding a protest on August 5 as the Lahore Deputy Commissioner Syed Musa Raza has not yet responded to their request for holding a peaceful gathering, local media reported on Friday. While addressing a press conference at the Lahore Press Club, PTI Lahore President Mian Akram Usman said the party had applied to the Lahore Deputy Commissioner for permission to hold a peaceful protest; however, they have not yet received a response, Pakistan-based daily Dawn reported. Usman added, "Against this

silence, we will go to court and execute our August 5 plan." PTI Secretary General Salman Akram Raja said that party founder Imran Khan was being held in solitary confinement and was not allowed to meet lawyers despite facing 300 cases. Akram Raja added, "After the 26th Constitutional Amendment, expecting justice from the courts is tantamount to deceiving yourself." He said that public movement in Pakistan on August 5 is a call from Imran Khan and his sisters and expressed hope that people of the country would come out on the streets. Last week, the PTI Parliamentary Committee decided to hold a nationwide movement starting August 5 for the release of party chief Imran Khan and to raise other demands, according to local media. August 5 will mark the completion of three years of Imran Khan's imprisonment. The decision was taken during a meeting chaired by PTI's Interim Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan held in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. During the meeting, the PTI leaders discussed matters about the party's Parliamentary affairs.

Sri Lanka: India hands over IT equipment to ancient temple in Dambulla

Colombo, July 31 : The High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka on Friday handed over IT equipment and related accessories to the country's revered and ancient cave temple in Dambulla. The equipment will enable traditional Buddhist education at the Pirivena using modern methods and technology. "Handed over IT equipment and related accessories to Sri Welagamba Mahapirivena at Sri Lanka's revered and ancient cave temple at Dambulla. This will enable traditional Buddhist education at the Pirivena using modern methods and equipment," Santosh Jha, High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka, wrote on X. "Our shared commitment to promote Buddhist heritage and values remain the strongest manifestation of our timeless bond and civilisational partnership," he added. On Wednesday, the High Commissioner also handed over Indian assistance to the fishermen community in Jaffna. "Supporting coastal livelihoods, Provided assistance to the fishermen community in the Kayts division of Jaffna. Briefed them about India's initiatives in the fisheries sector, including the development of Point Pedro harbour, Karainagar boatyard, the Centre of Excellence in the Northern province, training opportunities for fishermen.



Iranian, Russian FM's discuss Ukraine's attack on Iran's ship in Caspian Sea

Tehran, July 31 : Iran's Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi and his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov condemned Ukraine's "illegal" attack on an Iranian commercial ship in the Caspian Sea during a phone call on Friday, according to Iran's foreign ministry. Araghchi condemned Ukraine's move as a "dangerous adventurism and clear violation of the fundamental principles of the United Nations Charter," stressing that Iran would decisively defend its national security and interests, the ministry said in a statement. Lavrov, for his part, denounced the attack as an "action in violation of international law and a threat against the trade routes between Russia and Iran," the statement

added. The two ministers also discussed regional developments following what Tehran described as the U.S. "breach of promises and imposition of insecurity on the Strait of Hormuz," according to the statement. According to Iran's foreign ministry, the attack took place at 3:00 a.m. local time on Saturday (2330 GMT on Friday), and led to the vessel's explosion and a sailor's death, Xinhua news agency reported. The semi-official Mehr news agency on Sunday reported that three sailors were also injured in the attack. Earlier, Araghchi also called on the EU to take "decisive" action against Ukraine's targeting of an Iranian commercial ship in the Caspian Sea. He made the remarks on Saturday in a phone call with EU foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas, in which the two sides discussed the latest regional developments, according



to a statement by the Iranian Foreign Ministry. Araghchi condemned the Ukrainian attack, urging the EU, UN Security Council, and international community to hold its "perpetrators" and supporters to account, according to the statement. The two sides also addressed developments in the Strait of Hormuz, stressing the need for diplomatic initiatives to manage regional tensions, it added. In a separate statement, the

ministry said it summoned Ukraine's charge d'affaires in Tehran on Saturday over the attack, formally delivering a note of protest condemning the "hostile and criminal" act. Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky said on Saturday that Ukrainian forces had hit a Russian warship and vessels used for transporting Iran-linked military cargo in the Caspian Sea.

Monsoon death toll in Pakistan crosses 100 : NDMA

Islamabad, July 31 : The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) of Pakistan on Friday reported that the death toll from the monsoon rain, flooding and landslides has risen to 107 since June 26, local media reported. According to NDMA, 344 people have been injured due to monsoon-related incidents. 447 houses were damaged, and 269 livestock have died, Pakistan's Samaa TV reported. Seven people died in Punjab, two in Sindh, and one each in Pakistan-occupied Gilgit-Baltistan (PoGB) and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa during the past 24 hours. "Meanwhile, 25 people were injured, including

20 in Punjab, three in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and two in Sindh," Samaa TV reported. The NDMA urged residents, particularly those living in vulnerable areas, to remain vigilant and follow official safety advisories as monsoon rains continue in parts of the country. These fatalities were caused by drowning and structural collapses, while injuries were reported due to roof collapses and electrocution, Pakistan-based daily Dawn reported. As many as three people, including a man, a woman and a child, were killed, while five others were injured in four separate roof-collapse incidents in Lahore's Garhi Shahu Railway Colony, Bobby Plaza, Saggian Pind and Kahna. Two people, including a



man and a child, were killed and three others, including a woman and two children, were injured after the roof of a house collapsed near Adda Dhing Shah in Kasur district of Punjab. A woman died after the roof of a house collapsed due to heavy rain in Faisalabad, while a child drowned in rainwater that had accumulated in fields near Pathan Colony in Gujranwala. Road access to several parts of Pakistan-occupied Gilgit-Baltistan (PoGB) remains cut off for the fourth consecutive day as flash floods and glacial lake outburst floods (Glofs) continue to damage highways.

USTR Greer says India 'comes out on top' in trade deal with EU

Washington, July 31 : A day after India and the European Union concluded what is being billed as the mother of all trade deals, US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer said the landmark Free Trade Agreement positions India strongly amid shifting global trade dynamics driven by the United States' new economic approach. Asked for his impression of the India-EU Free Trade Agreement in a Fox Business interview, Greer placed the deal in the context of President Donald Trump's push to prioritize domestic production and restrict unfettered access to the American market. "First of all, strategically, it's important to understand that because President Trump has prioritized domestic production and essentially started charging a fee for other countries to access our market, these countries are trying to find other outlets for their overproduction," Greer said. He said this shift has forced major trading partners, particularly the European Union, to seek alternative export destinations.



"And so the EU is turning to India to try to find a place," Greer said. "The EU is so trade dependent, they need other outlets if they can't keep sending all their stuff to the United States," he added. Greer said he had reviewed details of the newly announced India-EU agreement and concluded that New Delhi stands to gain significantly from the deal. "I've looked at some of the details of the deal so far. I think India comes out on top on this, frankly," he said.



Senegalese President launches new political party

Dakar, July 31 : Senegalese President Bassirou Diomaye Faye officially launched his own political party, named "Kiiraay, Les Patriotes republicains" (Kiiraay, the Republican Patriots), at a founding assembly in Dakar, government officials said on Friday. The new party grew out of the Diomaye President Coalition, which backed Faye's candidacy in the March 2024 Presidential election. Participants at the assembly adopted the party's founding documents and unveiled its motto "The Homeland First". In Wolof, "Kiiraay" conveys the idea of protection, shelter or a shield. Ac-

cording to party officials, the new formation aims to bring together political parties, movements and individuals supporting the President's agenda, Xinhua news agency reported. The party's establishment was overseen by former Prime Minister Aminata Toure, whom Faye had tasked with uniting his supporters under a single political organisation. The launch comes amid a political split between Faye and Ousmane Sonko, his former Prime Minister, who now serves as President of the National Assembly.



US seeks private sector push to rival China abroad

Washington, July 31 : The United States must deploy its private sector more aggressively across global markets to counter China's expanding footprint, Deputy Secretary of State Christopher Landau said, calling commercial diplomacy a "key foundation" of American foreign policy. Framing economic engagement as central to both geopolitical competition and long-term global stability, Landau argued that Washington must better mobilise its businesses to compete abroad. "The one question that I wake up thinking about every single day... is how do we... ensure that the U.S. private sector is... beating out the Chinese entities in every corner of the globe?" he said in his address at the Atlantic Council's Global Prosperity Forum.

Pakistan's current response to TB insufficient as cases continue to rise: Report

Islamabad, July 31 : Tuberculosis (TB) remains one of the deadliest diseases in Pakistan as it claims tens of thousands of lives each year. More than 1,800 new cases of TB being reported daily and approximately 140 casualties each day demonstrate that Pakistan's current response to the disease is inadequate, a report has stated. The figures released on World Tuberculosis Day by the World Health Organisation (WHO).



South Korea closely monitoring Russia's reported preparation for more North Korean troops: Foreign ministry

Seoul, July 31 : The foreign ministry said Friday it is closely monitoring military cooperation between North Korea and Russia following Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky's claim that Moscow is preparing to receive another 30,000 North Korean troops for its war against Ukraine.

In a recent post on X, Zelenskyy said Russia is preparing to bring in an additional 30,000 North Korean troops, with preparations under way since June in Russia's Voronezh region to receive them. The Ukrainian president also claimed Pyongyang was preparing to transfer additional ballistic missile launchers to Russia. He did not offer any intelligence or specific details supporting his claims. "The government is closely monitoring developments related to military cooperation between North Korea and Russia," the foreign ministry said in a brief statement, while declining to comment on intelligence matters. "The government main-



tains the position that military cooperation between North Korea and Russia in violation of UN Security Council resolutions must be stopped immediately," it added. According to government sources, there have been no confirmed signs so far of an additional deployment of North Korean troops. North Korea is believed to have already deployed about 20,000 troops and military engineers to support Russia's war efforts, with around 14,000 estimated to be currently serving on the front lines, Yonhap news agency reported. Last week, North Korean Foreign Minister Choe Son-hui visited

Moscow, where she met Russian President Vladimir Putin and Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, fueling speculation about further military ties between the two sides. North Korea began sending troops to Russia in October 2024 after Russian President Vladimir Putin and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un signed a comprehensive strategic partnership treaty in Pyongyang four months earlier. Ukraine and its allies estimate that North Korea has deployed about 14,000 combat troops to Russia's Kursk region. Additional engineering and military construction units have reportedly increased.



Somali forces step up operations against al-Shabaab, kill 16 militants

Mogadishu, July 31 : Somalia's National Intelligence and Security Agency (NISA), supported by international partners, has killed 16 al-Shabaab militants, including two key operatives, in Somalia. According to NISA, Friday evening's joint operations targeted the Miirtaqwo and Tardo areas in the Middle Shabelle and Hiran regions, destroying key enemy vehicles and equipment. It said the first operation targeted and destroyed an al-Shabaab facility known as the "Security House", where

equipment for Radio Andalus was stored, Xinhua news agency reported. Abdisamad Mohamed, head of the Radio Andalus propaganda unit, and operative Ali Salad were killed in the operation, while another member was seriously injured. Equipment belonging to Radio Andalus, the station used by the group to broadcast extremist propaganda, was also destroyed during the operation. "These operations are part of ongoing efforts to dismantle al-Shabaab and destroy the facilities and equipment used to carry out terrorist acts," NISA said.

According to NISA, subsequent operations in the Tardo area of Hiran targeted al-Shabaab militants mobilising for attacks in Goobo and Waabweyn. Security experts said the latest operations reflect intensified security efforts aimed at dismantling al-Shabaab networks and restoring safety for civilians in one of the country's most volatile regions.



Libya: Protesters shut down UNHCR office in Tripoli over migrant concerns

Tripoli, July 31 : Hundreds of Libyan protesters on Friday afternoon shut down the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Tripoli, driven by concerns over what they described as the "settlement" of irregular migrants inside the country, according to local media reports and eyewitnesses. The demonstrators gathered outside the agency's headquarters in central Tripoli, chanting for the deportation of irregular migrants and rejecting any arrangements that could lead to their permanent stay in the country. Video footage circulating on social media showed protesters blocking the compound's entrances, with security forces deployed nearby, Xinhua news agency reported.

African Union official calls for collective efforts to curb hate speech

Kigali, July 31: African Union Special Envoy on the Prevention of Genocide and Other Mass Atrocities Adama Dieng called for urgent actions to combat racism, negative ethnicity, xenophobia, and all forms of intolerance in the region. Speaking at the International Conference on Genocide Prevention in Kigali, the Rwandan capital, Dieng said on Friday that the Rwandan genocide against Tutsi in 1994, in which about a million people were killed, did not start with machetes but dehumanisation of the Tutsi ethnic group. He noted that the conflict in South Sudan started as a political crisis, where hate speech across ethnic lines was encouraged and instigated, Xinhua news agency reported.



Afghan refugees in Pakistan want three-months time to return to Afghanistan

Kabul, July 31 : Several Afghan refugees living in Pakistan have urged Pakistani government and Afghan authorities to resolve existing challenges through talks and provide them adequate time to return to Afghanistan gradually with dignity, local media reported on Friday. These refugees stated that rapid deportations and increasing pressure has caused serious challenges for Afghan residents. Haji Nazar, one of the Afghan refugees, requested Pakistani government to give them three-month time so that refugees can return to Afghanistan in an orderly manner, Afghanistan-based Tolo News reported. "The Pakistani government should give us a three-month deadline so that refugees can return to their country in an

orderly and phased manner. Right now, Afghans are facing many difficulties," Tolo News quoted Haji Nazar as saying. Speaking to Tolo News, refugee rights activist, Allah Mir Miakhail, stated, "Security agencies are arresting and deporting Afghan refugees everywhere. Most refugees need time to wind up their businesses and affairs. Many families are registered with the Proof of Registration (PoR) cards, but these cards have now become invalid." Refugee rights activists emphasised that return process must be voluntary, gradual and receive support of international organisations to stop a new humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan. Another activist Ali Reza Karimi stated that many of the Afghan refugees have been deprived of



basic human rights and are living in a state of uncertainty due to lack of legal and valid identity documents. Earlier this month, Taliban said that the problems faced by Afghan refugees in Pakistan are rising and stressed that Pakistani government should respect refugee rights and stop arresting and harassing Afghan migrants. "Unfortunately, problems faced by Afghan refugees in Pakistan are increasing, with arrests, harassment.



South Korea's Unification minister expresses hope for bigger ASEAN role in securing peace on Korean Peninsula

Seoul, July 31 : South Korea's Unification Minister Chung Dong-young met with Thai Ambassador Tanee Sangrat on Friday and expressed hope that the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) will play a bigger role in promoting peace on the Korean Peninsula. "I expect ASEAN to play a greater role in promoting peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula, with the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF).



Indonesia strengthens border surveillance against evolving drug trafficking methods

Jakarta, July 31 : Indonesian authorities have strengthened cross-border monitoring through enhanced data sharing and early detection measures at ports, airports and border crossings to counter increasingly sophisticated drug trafficking methods. Abdul Kadir Karding, head of the Indonesian

Quarantine Agency (Barantin), said Friday in Jakarta that narcotics traffickers continue to adapt their methods, including exploiting border areas under quarantine supervision. "Stronger cooperation between agencies is needed due to Indonesia's high volume of trade and goods movement through ports, airports and border crossings," Karding said.



20 AIIMS institutions ink pact to establish pan-India collaborative research consortium

New Delhi, July 31 : The All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, on Friday, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish a pan-India collaborative framework to enhance biomedical and clinical research in the country. The agreement made on AIIMS Research Day 2026 aims to foster joint research projects, multi-institutional studies, clinical trials, exchange of researchers, and systematic sharing of knowledge and best practices across the AIIMS network. The participating institutions include AIIMS located at New Delhi, Bathinda, Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Bibinagar, Bilaspur, Deoghar, Gorakhpur, Guwahati, Jammu, Jodhpur, Kalyani, Madurai, Mangalagiri, Nagpur, Patna, Raebareli, Raipur, Rajkot, and Rishikesh. "The establishment of this col-

laborative research consortium reflects our collective commitment to advancing high-quality, nationally relevant research. By bringing together the strengths of AIIMS institutions across India, we aim to generate robust scientific evidence, promote innovation, and support informed decision-making in healthcare. This platform will continue to evolve as a key driver of collaborative research in the years ahead," said Prof. M. Srinivas, Director, AIIMS Delhi. The research will also include emerging areas such as artificial intelligence (AI) in healthcare, affordable cancer therapies, healthcare-associated infections, and metabolic disorders. The agreement provides for the nomination of nodal officers and single points of contact in each institution to facilitate effective coordination.



Arunachal Guv praises Army initiatives in border areas

Itanagar, July 31 : Arunachal Pradesh Governor Lt Gen K. T. Parnaik (Retd) on Friday lauded the continued commitment of the Indian Army towards the comprehensive development of border areas, noting that its sustained efforts are instrumental in enabling inclusive growth, strengthening community resilience, and promoting na-

tion-building at the grassroots level. According to a Lok Bhavan official, Lt Gen Parnaik visited the Border Brew Cafe at Zemithang in Tawang district earlier in the day. The Governor commended the initiative as an inspiring example of community participation and entrepreneurial spirit in frontier regions.



Gujarat family reaps benefits of PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana

Gandhinagar, July 31 : In an example of the Union government's commitment to empowering citizens through sustainable energy solutions, a family from Vavol village in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, is witnessing significant changes to their daily life, thanks to the ambitious PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana. This initiative by the Narendra Modi government, aimed at providing solar-powered electricity to households, is helping reduce electricity costs while promoting clean energy.

BJP MP Aparajita Sarangi urges Odisha govt to reconsider halting metro rail project

Bhubaneswar, July 31 : Member of Parliament Aparajita Sarangi on Friday wrote to Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, strongly urging the Odisha government to revisit its recent decision to halt the Bhubaneswar Metro Rail Project. In her letter, Sarangi emphasised that Bhubaneswar is at a "tipping point" due to rapid urbanisation, rising traffic congestion, and the growing demand for sustainable mobility solutions.

"Bhubaneswar has been witnessing rapid urbanisation and population growth in recent years, leading to increasing traffic congestion, increasing pressure on existing public transport systems and a growing demand for sustainable urban mobility solutions. It is almost at a tipping point now. Our city needs a high-capacity, cost-efficient and modern public transport system," she said. She argued that a Metro Rail system is the most viable long-term solution to transform public transport in Bhubaneswar and its adjoining areas, including Cuttack,

Jatni, and Khurda. "The Metro is the most viable long-term solution which can transform public transport in the City and adjoining areas, including Cuttack, Jatni and Khurda. Metro will provide better transport facility to senior citizens, women, children, students, working professionals, vendors and differently abled people," she said. Sarangi further stressed that shelving the Metro Rail Project would impact job creation, economic stimulation, and planned urban development. "Shelving the Metro Rail Project means missing out on multiplier



effects such as job creation, economic stimulation, and urban development," she wrote, stressing that the project is not merely about transportation but about shaping Bhubaneswar into a modern, smart city," she said. Highlighting key points, she stated that the combined population of Bhubaneswar, Cuttack.

Sabarimala restrictions not rooted in gender bias, Centre tells SC

New Delhi, July 31 : The Union government on Friday reiterated before the Supreme Court that restrictions at the Sabarimala temple are not rooted in gender discrimination, arguing that several temples across the country impose practices that are either male- or female-centric based on faith and tradition. Appearing before a nine-judge Constitution Bench headed by Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant, Solicitor General (SG) Tushar Mehta submitted that the 2018 verdict allowing entry of women of all age groups into the Sabarimala temple proceeded on an incorrect assumption that men were treated as superior and women placed on a lower pedestal. "I have given instances of temples where men are not allowed... There are temples where male priests are mandated to wash the feet of women devotees. There is the Pushkar temple, the only Brahma temple in the country, where married men are not allowed. There is also a temple in Kerala where men go dressed as women.



Gujarat: Doctors remove tooth lodged in man's airway in two minutes

Ahmedabad/Panchmahal, July 31 : Doctors at Ahmedabad Civil Hospital have successfully removed a tooth that had remained lodged in the airway of a 47-year-old man from Panchmahal district for nearly one and a half years, using an advanced bronchoscopic procedure that took just two minutes. The patient, Balvantbhai, was admitted to the hospital's Pulmonary Medicine Department on July 20 after suffering from persistent coughing and severe breathing difficulties for the past month. Medical examination revealed that a tooth had become deeply lodged in one of the branches of his airway. According to the patient, the tooth had fallen out on its own around one and a half years ago and accidentally entered his airway while he was drinking water. The condition remained undetected until his symptoms worsened, prompting him to seek specialised

medical treatment. Given the complexity of the case, specialists from the Pulmonary Medicine, Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT), and Anaesthesia departments jointly prepared a treatment plan. On July 23, the multidisciplinary team carried out the procedure in the operation theatre using an advanced bronchoscopic technique, successfully removing the tooth without complications in just two minutes. Dr Nalin Shah, Head of the Pulmonary Medicine Department, said the case was highly unusual because foreign body aspiration is generally seen in young children rather than adults. "Generally, cases of foreign bodies becoming lodged in the airway are seen in young children. However, a tooth remaining stuck in the airway of a 47-year-old adult for one and a half years is extremely rare. If any foreign body remains in the airway for a prolonged period.



Govt proposes to make 'Country of Origin' filter mandatory on E-commerce platforms

New Delhi, July 31 : The government on Friday proposed to make it mandatory for e-commerce platforms to provide searchable and sortable filters based on the 'Country of Origin' for packaged commodities sold online. The move will enhance consumer empowerment and transparency in online shopping, the Consumer Affairs Ministry said in a statement. This proposed amendment marks another important step toward building a transparent, consumer-friendly, and competitive e-commerce ecosystem that aligns with national priorities and enhances consumer trust in digital marketplaces. The Department of Consumer Affairs issued the Draft Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) (Second) Amendment Rules, 2025, proposing to make the 'Country of Origin' filter mandatory online. The draft amendment rules have been published on the Department's website for public consultation, and comments from stakeholders are invited up to November 22.

Suresh Gopi moves SC against Kerala HC's refusal to reject election plea

New Delhi, July 31 : Union Minister and BJP MP Suresh Gopi has moved the Supreme Court challenging the Kerala High Court's refusal to dismiss, at the threshold, an election petition questioning his victory from the Thrissur Lok Sabha constituency in the 2024 general elections. A Bench of Justices PS Narasimha and Alok Aradhe on Friday adjourned the matter to August 31 after taking up Gopi's special leave petition (SLP) challenging the April 1 judgment of the Kerala High Court. Gopi has challenged the Kerala High Court's decision rejecting his preliminary objections to the maintainability of the election petition and directing that the matter proceed to

trial on the allegations of corrupt electoral practices. In an order passed on April 1, a single-judge Bench of Justice Kauser Edappagath rejected Gopi's plea seeking dismissal of the election petition at the threshold, holding that the challenge to its maintainability could not be sustained. "The upshot of the findings is that the challenge to the maintainability of the election petition raised on all grounds must fail. Hence the preliminary objections raised by the respondent (Suresh Gopi) are overruled. Election petition is not liable to be dismissed in limine," the Kerala High Court had said. However, the High Court struck off one allegation relating to the distribution of shade umbrellas to vendors in a vegetable market while directing that the remaining allegations be tried on merits.



"The corrupt practices alleged with regard to the distribution of shade umbrellas to the vendors at the vegetable market mentioned in para 16 of the election petition are struck off. The respondent (Gopi) shall face trial for the other corrupt practices alleged in the petition," the High Court had ordered. The election petition was filed by Binoy A.S., district president of the All India Youth Federation (AIYF) in Thrissur, seeking to have Gopi's election declared void under the provisions of the Representation of the People Act.

Non-Hindus come to Haridwar to pollute, desecrate Kanwar Yatra: Kali Sena chief

Haridwar, July 31 : Kali Sena's National President Swami Anand Swaroop Maharaj on Friday said that shops operated by non-Hindus will be "forcibly removed" from Haridwar's Kanwar Mela and strict action will be taken against them. He further claimed that non-Hindus aim to "pollute" the Hindu pilgrimage and urged local authorities to stop them

from selling holy items. The Kanwar Yatra 2026 starts July 30, coinciding with the first day of the holy Sawan month, and culminates with the Sawan Shivraatri Jal Abhishek on August 11. It draws Shiva devotees from across the nation who carry holy water of the River Ganga from Haridwar. Kali Sena positions itself as a Hindu organisation.



India can emerge as a global mining and construction equipment manufacturing hub: Report

New Delhi, July 31 : India has the potential to position itself as a global manufacturing and export hub for mining and construction equipment (MCE) by accelerating localisation, strengthening technology adoption, boosting research and development, and implementing supportive policy reforms, a report has said. The joint report released by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Boston Consulting Group (BCG) titled "Pressing the Throttle: How India's Mining and Construction Equipment Industry

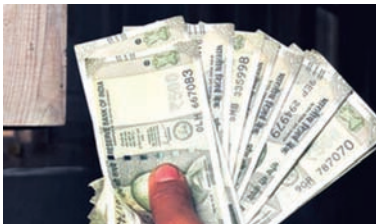
Can Support Domestic Ambitions and Become a Global Force", assesses the current state of India's MCE sector and lays out a roadmap to enhance domestic manufacturing, improve global competitiveness and support the country's long-term infrastructure and industrial growth. Released at a time when India is witnessing record investments in infrastructure, mining, manufacturing and clean energy, the report said sustained capital expenditure across roads, railways, ports, airports, urban infrastructure, mining and renewable energy would create significant opportunities for the sector over the coming years.

According to the report, India's mining and construction equipment industry has grown into one of the world's fastest-expanding markets, with an estimated market size of \$17 billion and an annual growth rate of 10-12 per cent. It projected that capital expenditure across MCE-linked sectors would rise from around Rs 5.5 lakh crore in 2025 to Rs 9-10 lakh crore by 2030, driven by the country's infrastructure development agenda. The report noted that India's mechanisation intensity remains well below the global average, leaving considerable scope for higher equipment demand, im-



proved productivity and wider adoption of advanced technologies. It also highlighted that exports of mining and construction equipment have expanded significantly over the past decade, creating opportunities for Indian manufacturers to strengthen their presence in global markets. Emerging technologies such as automation, digitalisation, electrifi-

cation and connected equipment are expected to reshape the industry and improve its competitiveness. Commenting on the report, CII Director General Chandrajit Banerjee said the mining and construction equipment sector is central to India's infrastructure and industrial growth ambitions.



8th Pay Commission consultations with stakeholders slated for Aug 7, 10

New Delhi, July 31 : The 8th Central Pay Commission has announced two more rounds of stakeholder consultations in New Delhi next month as it continues discussions on pay revision and other service-related benefits. In a notice, the Commission said it will interact with associations, federations and unions of Central Government and Union Territory (UT) employees which are located or registered in Delhi on August 7 and 10. Eligible associations and unions can apply for an appointment with the Commission until July 31. The Commission said only those organisations that have already submitted their memorandum and have not yet interacted with the Commission in New Delhi or any State and UT are eligible to request a meeting.



RBI pegs real GDP growth at 6.6 pc for FY27, inflation at 5.1 pc amid global disruptions

Mumbai, July 31 : The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday projected real GDP growth for 2026-27 at 6.6 per cent -- with Q1 at 6.6 per cent; Q2 at 6.3 per cent; Q3 at 6.5 per cent; and Q4 at 6.8 per cent -- saying that prolonged global supply chain disruptions, volatility in global financial markets, and weather-related shocks continue to pose downside risks to the domestic growth outlook. India's manufacturing and services PMI suggest that both sectors continue to be resilient, and business expectations are still positive, said RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra after the three-day MPC meeting. "On the demand side, private consumption, aided by discretionary spending, has remained resilient so far. Fixed investment has also maintained its momentum despite cost pressures. Merchandise exports recorded strong growth in April 2026, notwithstanding elevated freight and insurance costs," he noted. Services exports are also holding up well, reflecting sustained demand despite concerns about AI. "Overall, the economic situation has broadly exhibited resilience.

India's banking sector poised for continued resilience : S&P Global

New Delhi, July 31 : India's financial sector is poised for continued resilience, bolstered by structural improvements and robust economic growth prospects, according to the S&P Global Ratings 2026 banking outlook. "We anticipate asset quality will stabilize, with weak loans in the banking sector projected to decline to approximately 3.0 per cent of gross loans by March 31, 2026. This positive trend is supported by healthy corporate balance sheets and enhanced risk management practices," said Deepali Seth-Chhabria, Analyst, S&P Global Ratings. While underwriting standards for retail loans remain strong and delinquencies manageable, the rapid growth of unsecured personal loans could introduce some risks. S&P Global foresees loan growth slightly outpacing nominal GDP, particularly in the retail segment. However, deposit growth may lag, potentially impacting credit-to-deposit ratios. According to the rating agency, credit costs are expected to normalize from a decade-low of 0.8 per cent in fiscal 2024 to a range of 0.8 per cent - 0.9 per cent. Despite this, profitability should remain strong, with returns on average assets projected around 1.2 per cent in fiscal 2025, she further pointed out.



CBDT issues guidance note on crypto tax to be paid in India

New Delhi, July 31 : The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has issued a detailed guidance note for Indian crypto platforms and foreign exchanges operating in the country to explain in a simple manner the issues related to reporting taxes and transactions under the provisions of the Income Tax Rules, 2026. The guidance note reiterates that the primary compliance burden falls on Reporting Crypto-Asset Service Providers (RCASPs), not directly on individual investors. It further explains reporting mechanisms for entities transacting across different jurisdictions which have kicked in with the Union Budget introduced in February 2026. The Guidance Note is intended to explain the reporting obligations of Reporting Financial Institutions (RFIs) contained in the relevant Rules notified by the Government of India in a simple manner. Given that the Common Reporting Standard (CRS) is developed jointly by participating jurisdictions, including India, working with the OECD, the Commentary on CRS and other relevant materials have also been cited, so as to facilitate their reference by the RFIs, where so required, according to the CBDT statement. The guidelines further clarify that crypto service providers should not treat a 'crypto asset user' as an individual user, if it benefits or accounts for

another individual or entity as an agent, custodian, nominee, signatory, investment advisor, or intermediary. "Instead, the individual or entity on whose behalf the Crypto-Asset User relationship is in place should be treated as the Crypto-Asset User, and identification should be carried out on that basis," the guidance note states. The note also makes it clear when a crypto service provider transfers payments made in crypto assets from a customer to the merchant for a value greater than \$50,000 and acts as an agent for the customer, it should report such transfer as a 'Reportable Retail Payment Transaction'. In the case of the service provider is acting as an agent of the merchant, the transfer will be reported as such and not as a retail transaction. In this case, the customer of the merchant will become the "crypto asset user" whose transaction will get reported for taxation.



HDFC Bank board finds 'business overreach', fines CEO and CFO Rs 1 lakh each

Mumbai, July 31 : HDFC Bank on Friday said its board has issued warning letters and imposed a monetary penalty of Rs 1 lakh each on Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Sashidhar Jagdishan, Chief Financial Officer Srinivasan Vaidyanathan and Group Head – Retail Assets Arvind Vohra following the conclusion of an internal review into the bank's deposit arrangements with the Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation (MSRDC). The action follows the findings of a Special Disciplinary Committee of Independent Directors, which examined the bank's arrangements with the state-owned corporation for mobilising deposits in 2017 and 2021.

FCNR (B) deposits may have surpassed 2013 level of \$26 billion in just 45 days: SBI report

New Delhi, July 31 : India may receive FCNR (B) deposits in the range of \$65-70 billion by the end of the RBI scheme on September 30, and overall \$80-\$85 billion, an SBI Research report said on Friday. The RBI figure of \$20 billion inflows (till July 17) came as a positive reprieve, chiefly with a smart FCNR (B) corpus of \$17.4 billion. "We now estimate that FCNR (B) since then has already crossed 2013 level of \$26 billion in just 45 days," said Dr. Soumya Kanti Ghosh, Group Chief Economic Adviser, SBI. The RBI data indicates that FCNR (B) deposits worth \$17.4 billion have been mobilised till July 17, 2026 and trend suggests that PSBs are major drivers of this mobilisation. "We also be-



lieve that significant majority of existing FCNR deposits which are going to mature in August/September 2026 will be renewed under the new scheme (gravitated by higher interest rates) and will boost the FCNR (B) inflows," the report mentioned. Preliminary estimate indicate that amount worth \$10 billion on a conservative basis in addition to base line estimates are going to be mobilised mostly through those economies where tax concessions are available. "Nevertheless, given the current trend we believe that total amount mobilised so far in 45 days has easily crossed the total amount mobilised in 2013 in three months," the report noted.

LG Energy Solution remains in red in Q4 amid EV demand slump

Seoul, July 31 : LG Energy Solution, South Korea's leading battery maker, on Friday reported its fourth-quarter net loss of 772.5 billion won (\$541.3 million), remaining in the red compared with a year ago, amid an ongoing slump in electric vehicle (EV) demand. The company said in a regulatory filing that it continued to post an operating loss of 122 billion won for the October-December period, compared with a loss of 225.5 billion won a year earlier. Sales fell 4.8 per cent on-year to 6.14 trillion won. The loss was nearly fivefold, or 391.4 per cent, higher than the average estimate, according to a survey by Yonhap Infomax, the financial data firm of Yonhap News Agency. LG Energy Solution said it has received a tax credit of 332.8 billion won through the Advanced Manufacturing Production Credit (AMPC) under the U.S. Inflation Reduction Act. Excluding the AMPC, the company recorded an operating loss of 454.8 billion won in the fourth quarter, the company said.



For all of 2025, the company said its net income came to 80.8 billion won, down 76.1 percent from a year earlier. The operating profit for the year rose 133.9 percent on-year to 1.34 trillion won. Annual sales decreased 7.6 percent to 23.67 trillion won. "Last year, due to various policy changes affecting the EV sector, the overall demand environment contracted, leading to an on-year decrease in sales of 7.6 percent," the company said in a release. LG

Energy Solution, however, said its annual operating profit more than doubled as the company focused on selling high-margin products and began full-fledged production of new energy storage system (ESS) batteries in the North American market. In 2026, LG Energy Solution said it plans to expand its annual sales by 15-20 percent by focusing on small batteries and the ESS segment.



Bangladesh measles outbreak claims four more lives; death toll rises to 605

Dhaka, July 31 : At least four more people have died from measles and measles-like symptoms in Bangladesh on Friday, raising the total number of confirmed and suspected deaths to 605 since March 15 this year amid an escalating health crisis in the country, local media reported. According to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), the deaths were reported in the 24 hours leading up to Friday morn-

ing. Among the four fatalities, one was a confirmed measles death, while the remaining three died with symptoms of the disease, Bangladeshi media outlet UNB reported. Reports suggest that the number of confirmed deaths surged to 91, while suspected deaths reached 514. The DGHS also recorded 1,136 new suspected cases over the last 24 hours, increasing the total to 75,708.

Sweden launches new program to curb violence against women

Helsinki, July 31 : Sweden has launched a new program to combat what Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson called "one of the largest and most frightening social problems" facing the nation: men's violence against women. Speaking at a press conference in Stockholm on Friday (local time), Kristersson said he will chair a new ministerial council on kvinnofrid ("women's peace").



South Korean, US Marine chiefs discuss expanding military cooperation, joint drills

Seoul, July 31 : The chiefs of the South Korean and US Marine Corps have discussed ways to expand military cooperation and joint drills in a bid to strengthen their combined defence readiness posture, officials said Friday. Lieutenant General Ju Il-suk held talks with his US counterpart, General Eric M. Smith, at the Pentagon, near Washington, on Tuesday (local time), according to South Korea's Marine Corps. The two sides shared the understanding that the allies' Marines will make efforts to bolster a combined defence posture even after the US transfer of wartime opera-

tional control (OPCON) to Seoul, Yonhap News Agency reported. Smith underscored the role of the Marine Corps in forming a "strong and lasting" alliance, and voiced hope to continue their joint drills and personnel exchanges to contribute to the security on the Korean Peninsula. Meanwhile, Ju also visited a Korean War veterans memorial, the Arlington National Cemetery and the Korean War memorial commemorating the Changjin Reservoir Battle to pay respects to US soldiers who fought in the 1950-53 Korean War. The visit, scheduled from June 1-7, comes at the invitation of the US Marine Corps Forces Command.



Meanwhile, South Korea and the United States on Wednesday discussed the timeline for follow-up talks on Seoul's push for nuclear-powered submarines and its bid to secure the right to enrich uranium and reprocess spent nuclear fuel for peaceful purposes. The talks -- the second and final day of a meeting that began Tuesday -- were part of efforts to advance agreements reached at an October summit between the leaders of the two countries last year.

South Korean PM vows balanced approach in setting 2035 emission reduction goal

Seoul, July 31 : South Korean Prime Minister Kim Min-seok on Friday vowed that the government will reflect demands from civil and industrial sectors as much as possible when setting the nation's greenhouse gas emission reduction goal for 2035. "Based on respect for the Constitutional Court's ruling, the government will seek wisdom that reflects the international community, local civic groups and industrial sectors," Kim said during a high-level policy consultation meeting between

the ruling party and the government, Yonhap News Agency reported. Last week, the government unveiled two proposals for the nationally determined contribution (NDC) by 2035, one of which will be submitted to the United Nations. Under the first option, South Korea would cut greenhouse gas emissions by between 50 and 60 per cent by the target year, while the second option calls for a reduction of between 53 and 60 per cent. Following the announcement, industry and environmental groups voiced concerns over the proposed targets, arguing they are

either too high or too low. In a ruling in August last year, the Constitutional Court stressed that greenhouse gas reduction targets must comply with scientific and international standards while avoiding excessive burdens on future generations. The government plans to finalise the proposal this week after further discussions through the ruling party-government consultation meeting, deliberation by a presidential committee and approval by the Cabinet. On November 6, the South Korean government unveiled its proposal



to cut greenhouse gas emissions by at least 50 per cent by 2035 from the 2018 level. In a public hearing, the government unveiled two proposals for the nationally determined contribution (NDC) by 2035, one of which will be submitted to the United Nations. The first option would require the country to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by a minimum of 50 per cent and a maximum of 60 per cent, while the second option calls for a slightly more ambitious goal of reducing emissions by a minimum 53 per cent and a maximum 60 per cent by the target year.



NIA arrests absconder in Laos human trafficking, cyber slavery case

New Delhi, July 31 : A man who arranged flight tickets and documents for victims in Laos human trafficking and cyber slavery case was arrested by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) in coordination with the Delhi Police's Special Cell, an official said on Friday. Kamran Haider's arrest on Friday marked a significant step by the agency towards dismantling the international human trafficking syndicate, said the official. Along with co-accused, Kamran Haider was directly involved in arranging flight tickets and documents for the victims, and in facilitating their illegal border crossings, with the help of contacts in the Golden Triangle Region, he said. NIA had charge-sheeted Kamran and four others in October 2024 in relation with a network of traffickers and touts involved in various illegal activities. The four co-accused were identified as Manjoor Alam alias Guddu, Sahil, Ashish alias Akhil and Pawan Yadav alias Afzal alias @Afroz. All the accused were involved in sending vulnerable Indian youths to the Golden Triangle Region in Lao PDR, where they were forced to commit cyber scams targeting European and American citizens.

Digital arrest: 1700 Skype IDs; 59000 WhatsApp accounts blocked

New Delhi, July 31 : The Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) identified and blocked more than 1,700 Skype IDs and 59,000 WhatsApp accounts used for Digital Arrest, the Parliament was informed on Friday. Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai told Lok Sabha that till November 15, more than 6.69 lakh SIM cards and 1,32,000 IMEIs as reported by police authorities have also been blocked by the Central government. Replying to a question on cyber frauds and crimes from K. Eswarasamy of DMK, MoS Rai said, "The Ministry has set up the I4C as an attached office to deal with all types of cyber crimes in the country, in a coordinated and comprehensive manner." The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) is also operating an automated cyber threat exchange platform for collecting, analysing.



Google exploring collaborations on AI-driven initiatives in Himachal

Shimla, July 31 : Google India is exploring collaborations on AI-driven initiatives aimed at transforming public services in Himachal Pradesh. To integrate technology in digital agriculture, health, education and public grievance, Google head Ashish Watal called on Chief Minister Sukhvinder Sukhu at his official residence Oak Over. Sukhu said the state government was committed to leveraging artificial intelligence (AI) and modern technology for public benefit. He acknowledged Google's expertise in these areas and asked the company to consider investing in the information technology (IT) sector in the state and highlighted the investor-friendly environment in the state. He said that the state govern-

ment plans to develop a "people empowerment platform" in collaboration with Google through the Labour and Employment Department. This platform would connect citizens with skilled service providers such as plumbers, electricians and carpenters that would ensure convenience while generating employment opportunities for the youth of the state in the unorganised sector, he said. The Chief Minister said that to enhance grievance redressal, the government intended to upgrade the Mukhyamantri Seva Sankalp Helpline -- 1100 with generative AI. He said that the aim of this initiative is to provide faster and more effective solutions while ensuring consumer satisfaction. In the education sector, AI-based teaching modules would be piloted in two government senior secondary schools in the state to improve learning outcomes and modernise teaching methods. He said that advanced technology has the potential to revolutionise agriculture and disaster preparedness.



Bribes offered to Oppn nominees to make MLC polls unopposed: Congress

Buldhana, July 31 : The Maharashtra Congress President Harshwardhan Sapkal on Friday launched a scathing attack on the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), accusing it of trampling on democratic values due to its insatiable greed for power. Sapkal alleged that crores of rupees are being offered to opposition candidates to coerce them into withdrawing their nominations and render the upcoming Legislative Council (MLC) elections unopposed. He stated that the BJP has cast aside all political morality to achieve this. "The BJP does not want democracy. They want to replace the election system with a nomination system," Sapkal declared during a press conference in Buldhana. Elaborating on the situation, Sapkal noted that the voters for the ongoing Legislative Council elections comprise elected representatives from local self-government bodies.

UK grooming scandal reveals decades of abuse by Pakistani-heritage gang : Report

London, July 31 : British Conservative MP Katie Lam's call for a national inquiry into UK grooming gangs exposes a scandal in which gangs of Pakistani British heritage systematically exploited vulnerable children -- mostly white and Sikh girls -- from the 1990s through the 2010s, devastating communities in towns like Rotherham, Rochdale, and Telford. "Predators targetted girls as young as 11 in everyday spots like parks, bus stops, or schools, luring them with flattery, alcohol, drugs.





Bhopal to begin free passenger trials of electric buses from tomorrow under PM-eBus Sewa

Bhopal, July 31 : Another major step towards modernising public transport and shifting to electric vehicles is underway in Madhya Pradesh's Bhopal, officials said on Friday. Under the Central government's 'PM-eBus Sewa' initiative, trial runs carrying passengers will commence on Monday. Passengers will not be charged any fare during this trial period; the service will remain completely free until the proposed of-

ficial launch on August 15. Prior to the passenger trials, the e-buses underwent five days of operational testing without passengers. These tests were conducted to evaluate timings, traffic navigation and overall system functionality across various routes. With the successful completion of the empty runs, preparations to operate the buses with passengers are now complete. In the initial phase, 10 electric buses will be deployed across two

routes, with Board Office Square designated as the central hub of the network. The first route will operate from Bairagarh Depot to Kolar, passing through Lalghati, Peer Gate, Moti Masjid, Kamala Park and New Market. The second route will start from Depot Square and proceed to the Coach Factory via Board Office, Chetak Bridge, Subhash Nagar, Prabhat Chauraha and Ashoka Garden.

Tunisia busts drug trafficking network near capital

Tunis, July 31 : Tunisian security units have dismantled a drug trafficking network active in the Grand Tunis area, the largest metropolitan area in Tunisia, seizing 3 kg of cocaine, the National Guard said Friday on its Facebook page. In two separate operations, the security units arrested five individuals and seized the cocaine, varying quantities of narcotic pills, money, jewelry, and three vehicles, said the National Guard. It provided no information on the timing of the operations or the nationalities of the suspects. The Tunisian government has taken a strong stance against drug trafficking, with hundreds of individuals involved in the crime arrested during recent nationwide operations, Xinhua news agency reported.



Nandan Nilekani panel formed to 'fix' PM Modi's 'image': Congress

New Delhi, July 31 : The Congress on Friday dismissed the constitution of a task force on exam reforms, headed by Nandan Nilekani, as an exercise aimed to "fix" Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "compromised image". Jairam Ramesh, Congress MP and General Secretary in-charge Communications, took to social media to criticise the creation of the task force. "Friends, in June 2024, after it bungled multiple examinations including NEET-UG, the Modi Government constituted a High-Level Committee of Experts headed by Dr K Radhakrishnan to 'ensure transparent, smooth and fair conduct of examinations'," wrote Ramesh on X. "In July 2026, after the Modi Government has yet again bungled the NEET-UG and other examinations, it has constituted a 'High Powered Task Force' to focus on examination reform," he said.



South Korea vows unhindered preparations for US policy shifts amid political turmoil

Seoul, July 31 : South Korea's trade ministry said Friday it will work closely with related government agencies and local businesses to avoid any disruptions in preparing for the launch of the new US administration amid ongoing domestic political turmoil. Trade Minister Cheong In-kyo discussed such strategies with trade and international relations experts in Seoul, a week after President Yoon Suk Yeol declared martial law, which was lifted just six hours later following a National Assembly vote to end it, Yonhap news agency reported. During the meeting, participants reviewed Seoul's progress in preparing for the incoming Donald Trump administration, which has hinted at shifts in Washington's trade policies, including the imposition of sweeping tariffs of at least 10 per cent on all imported goods.



South Korean ex-defence chief issued order to prevent lawmakers from gathering at National Assembly

Seoul, July 31 : Former Defence Minister of South Korea, Kim Yong-hyun issued an order to prevent 150 lawmakers from gathering at the National Assembly on the night of last week's martial law declaration, a military commander said on Friday. Lt. Gen. Kwak Jong-keun, chief of the Army Special Warfare Command, claimed at a parliamentary session that he did not follow Kim's order and explained it to troops dispatched to the scene last Tuesday, Yonhap news agency reported. Kwak is among military commanders involved in martial law operations who have been under investigation by the prosecution over their role in the decree enforcement.

Fake visa, overseas job fraud racket busted in Delhi, three arrested

New Delhi, July 31 : The Delhi Police have busted an organised interstate cyber fraud syndicate involved in cheating people on the pretext of providing overseas jobs and visa services, police said on Friday. According to officials, the action was initiated following a complaint received on the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal (NCRP), after which technical surveillance and digital tracking led investigators to Rani Bagh in Delhi, where a raid was conducted, and key accused persons were apprehended. Police confirmed that FIR No. 16/26 dated March 26 under Sections 318(4)/61(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita

(BNS) was registered at the Cyber Police Station, South District. In a press release, Delhi Police said, "Cyber Police Station, South District, New Delhi has successfully busted an organised interstate cyber fraud racket involved in cheating innocent persons on the pretext of providing overseas jobs and visa services." The case began after a complainant alleged that he was contacted via WhatsApp and induced to pay money for an overseas job and visa arrangement. However,



after receiving payments, the accused allegedly stopped responding. During the investigation, police traced the suspect's mobile number to Rani Bagh, following which a targeted raid was carried out. A dedicated team led by Inspector Hansraj (SHO Cyber Police Station), along with Inspector Abhimanyu and staff members Head Constable Tarun, HC Satveer,

and Constable Vinod, conducted the operation. Three accused persons have been arrested in the case: Nand Kishor Prasad from Hooghly, West Bengal; Ahmad Hayat Khan from Aurangabad, Bihar; and Mustaq Khan from Shaheen Bagh, New Delhi. Police said one of the accused holds an MBA in Marketing and Sales, while another is a graduate in History from Delhi University. During interrogation, investigators revealed that the syndicate was allegedly being operated by a mastermind identified as Shadab (@ Mohd. Khusnood), who was responsible for generating leads through online platforms.



Experts chart roadmap for strengthening project execution across energy and mining CPSEs

Vadodara, July 31 : The three-day third edition of Bharat CPSEs' Consultative Conclave 2026 on Project and Asset Management successfully concluded on Friday here with experts charting out a roadmap for strengthening project execution, asset management and organisational excellence across Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) in the energy and mining sectors a day before at Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya (GSV) Vadodara, after insightful deliberations on strengthening project execution, asset management and organisational excellence. The event was organised jointly by the Capacity Building Commission (CBC) and the Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) under the Union Ministry of Finance with Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya (GSV) as the strategic knowledge partner.

Himachal Governor opens Minjar Fair that symbolises blossom of maize

Chamba (Himachal Pradesh), July 31 : Himachal Pradesh Governor Kavinder Gupta on Friday inaugurated the week-long International Minjar Fair, a centuries-old traditional Hindu fair that symbolises the blossoming of maize in this historical town located on the banks of the river Ravi. The fair opened with the hoisting of the Minjar flag. (The Minjar refers to silk tassels that glow like maize blossoms in the sun). During the fair, people adorn themselves with Minjars on their colourful costumes and pray for timely rain and a bumper crop. The embroidery on the Minjars is done mostly by Muslims. Extending greetings to the people of Chamba and the state, the Governor said the centuries-old festival is a vibrant sym-



bol of the state's rich cultural heritage, communal harmony and living traditions and plays an important role in preserving Himachal's unique identity. Addressing the gathering at the historic Chaugan, the Governor said Himachal Pradesh has preserved its rich traditions, folk art, fairs and festivals for generations.

He urged the younger generation to remain connected with their cultural roots and take pride in India's cultural heritage. "Festivals like Minjar not only preserve our cultural traditions but also strengthen the bonds of unity, brotherhood and social harmony," he said.

PMK chief Anbumani Ramadoss urges Centre to ban social media for children under 16

Chennai, July 31 : PMK president Dr Anbumani Ramadoss has urged the Union government to enact a nationwide law prohibiting children below the age of 16 from using social media, arguing that such a measure is essential to safeguard their physical health, mental well-being and academic future. In a statement, Anbumani welcomed France's decision to ban social media access for children under 15, describing it as a signifi-



cant step toward protecting young people from the harmful effects of excessive digital exposure. The French Parliament recently approved the legislation, which will prevent children below 15 from creating social media accounts from September, while existing accounts belonging to children in that age group will be suspended.



Jayant Patil urges Maha govt to scrap DPT vaccine strain sale

Mumbai, July 31 : NCP (SP) MLA Jayant Patil, in a letter to Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, opposed the proposed sale of the seed strain of DPT (diphtheria, pertussis, and tetanus) vaccines to a private company.



Nearly 70,000 foreign nationals processed amid South Africa's repatriation drive

Johannesburg, July 31 : A total of 68,138 foreign nationals have been processed in South Africa between June 14 and July 24, with the majority repatriated to their native countries, a government official said on Friday. Mmamoloko Kubayi, Chairperson of the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Migration, made the remarks at a media briefing in Pretoria on the government's latest progress in dealing with the migration challenges in the country. The repatriations come amid a recent rise in attacks targeting

foreign nationals in South Africa, which has prompted some migrants to opt for voluntary return. Kubayi said the government has been working with representatives of countries of origin to facilitate the repatriation process, Xinhua news agency reported. "Regarding deportations and repatriations, we can confirm that since Malawian nationals assembled at Sherwood in KwaZulu-Natal from June 14 to July 24, a total of 68,138 foreign nationals have been processed.

INS Sudarshini departs for Portugal's Ponta Delgada after representing India at SAIL 250 in US

Washington, July 31 : Indian Navy's sail training ship INS Sudarshini has departed from the US' Boston, as part of ongoing Lokayan 26, and has now set course for Ponta Delgada, Azores (Portugal). During her stay in the US, INS Sudarshini represented India at the SAIL 250 celebrations and the International Naval Review 250, showcasing India's rich maritime heritage while strengthening maritime partnerships through professional and cultural engagements.



World Bank president Ajay Banga backs jobs push, cites India model

Washington, July 31 : Underscoring job creation as the core of global development strategy, World Bank president Ajay Banga has pointed to models like India's cooperative sector as examples of scalable growth solutions. Speaking at the Atlantic Council ahead of the annual Spring meeting of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund, Banga said development efforts must shift focus from individual projects to broader outcomes centred on employment and economic opportunity. "Development isn't a charity. It's a strategy," he said, stressing that creating jobs is essential to sustaining growth and stability. He highlighted a looming demographic challenge, noting that 1.2 billion young people are expected to reach working age over the next 15 years, while far fewer jobs are likely to be created. "If you don't get these young people to have the opportunity of a job... dignity and hope come from the chance to have a job," he said. Banga outlined a three-part framework for driving job creation, built on infrastructure development, business-friendly governance reforms, and access to catalytic finance. The first pillar focuses on physical and human infrastructure, including roads, energy, education and healthcare. The second centres on reforms that en-



able businesses of all sizes to operate and expand. The third emphasises financing tools such as blended capital and insurance mechanisms to support investment. He also identified five key sectors for employment generation: infrastructure, agriculture, primary healthcare, value-added manufacturing and tourism. Drawing from his own background, Banga referenced India's dairy cooperative model as a successful example of how technology and organisation can transform rural livelihoods.



Solomon Islands to review security agreement with China

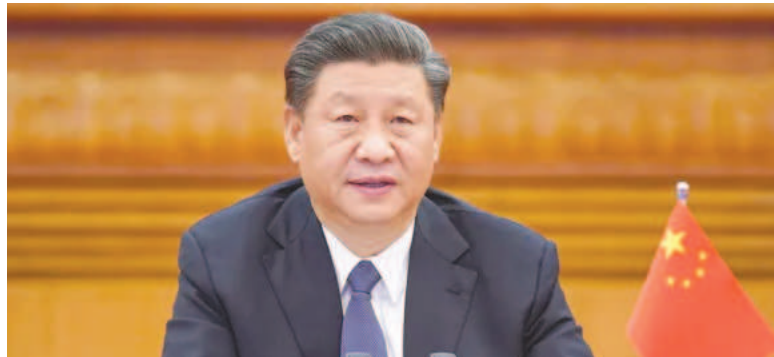
Canberra, July 31 : Solomon Islands Prime Minister Matthew Wale has announced that he would review a security agreement signed with China. Addressing a joint press conference with his Australian counterpart Anthony Albanese in Canberra, Wale said he had to remove "certain people from key positions" to gain access to the document and got a copy of it just a day before leaving for Australia. Wale's visit to Australia is his first overseas visit since assuming office in May.

Chinese President Xi Jinping's top military command consumed by paranoia: Report

Washington, July 31 : As China prepares for the 'Two Sessions', the country's biggest annual political event, new appointments are expected with key positions to be filled by Chinese President Xi Jinping's handpicked loyalists. However, new appointments cannot hide the fact that the Chinese People's Liberation Army's (PLA) aim is to become a world-class military in the coming years and will encounter immediate challenges, a report said on Friday. "On January 20, 2026, at a high-level study session for China's principal provincial and ministerial officials, there was a conspicuous

empty chair. Official reporting surreptitiously noted that "both" Vice-Chairmen of the Central Military Commission (CMC) were in attendance, yet the footage told a different story. General Zhang Youxia, the second-in-command of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA), was missing," a report in US based magazine, The National Interest, detailed "Four days later, the other shoe dropped. China's Ministry of National Defence confirmed that Zhang, alongside CMC member and Chief of Joint Staff Liu Zhenli, had been placed under investigation for 'serious violations of discipline and law.' While Beijing is no stranger to either military corruption or political indiscipline, Zhang's case is much more incen-

diary than business-as-usual," it added According to the report, the purges are creating a leadership vacuum in the PLA, with at least 14 of 81 generals promoted by Xi since October 2022, dismissed, and another 23 disappeared. "This creates a 'Schrodinger's general' problem, wherein officers who are technically in command have either disappeared from public view or are paralysed by the fear of being targeted next. That, combined with the rapid turnover of commanders in the Northern, Southern, and Central Theatres, as well as in services such as the PLA Army, Air Force, and Rocket Force, is likely to degrade morale and steadiness in the chain of command," it stated. The report highlighted that Zhang's extensive networks are



likely to come under scrutiny. Officials of China's Northern Theatre Commander Huang Ming and Southern Theatre Commander Wu Yanan, who previously worked with Zhang in the old Shenyang Military Region, are under close watch. "Officials such as Fan Yonxiang, Director of the CMC General Office, also worked with Zhang during Zhang's tenure as Head of the PLA General Armaments Department in 2015. While these networks merit deeper investigation, Xi's choice boils down to decimating

anyone who ever worked under Zhang's patronage or retaining experienced personnel within the force," it noted The report further said, "Instead, Xi now has a high command consumed by paranoia, where war planning takes a backseat to political survival. Flybys around Taiwan, or skirmishes with the Philippines in the South China Sea, will continue. But while Xi caged the tigers, he must hope that he has not declawed the dragon in the process."



South Korea's Defense minister highlights submarine bid in call with Canadian counterpart

Seoul, July 31 : Defence Minister Ahn Gyu-back held a phone call with his Canadian counterpart, David McGuinty, on Friday and underscored the commitment to expanding bilateral defence ties amid South Korea's push to win Canada's submarine procurement project, the defence ministry said. During the talks, Ahn expressed hope that the two countries would strengthen solidarity as key partners across a wide range of areas, including the submarine project, security and defence co-operation, and broader industrial collaboration. The ministers agreed that their joint exercise last month helped further enhance interoperability between their navies, while reaffirming their shared commitment to peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region. Ahn also praised the port visit of the 3,000-ton ROKS Dosan Ahn Chang-ho submarine to Esquimalt in Victoria last month, which marked the first trans-Pacific voyage by a South Korean submarine, the ministry said. The Canadian Patrol Submarine Project (CPSP) is a major procurement program involving up to 12 diesel-electric submarines.

Over 7.7 lakh km rural roads constructed under PMGSY: Govt

New Delhi, July 31 : As many as 1.82 lakh roads measuring a total length of over 7.7 lakh km and 9,199 bridges have been completed till 6th December 2024 at an expenditure of Rs 3.32 lakh crore, under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) since the scheme was launched, Minister of State for Rural Development Kamlesh Paswan informed the Lok Sabha on Friday. He also said that the Government of India had approved phase IV of PMGSY in September 2024 to provide all-weather connectivity to 250,000 unconnected habitations of population size 500+ in plains, 250+ in NE & Hill States/UTs, special category areas (Tribal Schedule V, Aspirational Districts/Blocks, Desert areas) and 100+ in LWE affected districts, as per Census 2011. The PMGSY-IV covers unconnected habitations which have become eligible in view of their population increase as per the census 2011. The minister said the Government of India, as a part of the poverty reduction strategy, launched the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY-I) on 25th December 2000 as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme to provide rural connectivity, by way of a single all-weather road, to the eligible unconnected habitations of designated population size (500+ in plain areas and 250+ in North-Eastern States, Himalayan States and Himalayan Union Territories and some special areas as per 2001 census) in the core network for uplifting the socio-economic condition of the rural population. In the critical Left Wing Extremism affected blocks, habitations with a population of 100 persons and above as per the 2001 census are also covered. Various independent evaluation studies, conducted



by NITI Aayog, Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad (IIM-A), World Bank India and International Labour Organization (ILO), on Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), have concluded that it has improved access to education and health care facilities, facilitated employment generation in both farm and non-farm sectors and helped farmers in getting better farm prices, the minister said. The evaluation of PMGSY, at the national level, by NITI Aayog, in 2020, has specifically mentioned that the scheme is well aligned with India's International Goals and contributes to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

UN warns funding shortfall threatens nutrition support programmes in Afghanistan

Kabul, July 31 : The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) has said that a funding shortfall in 2026 is threatening nutrition programmes that support 5.7 million children and mothers in Afghanistan, local media reported on Friday. In a statement, the OCHA said that millions of vulnerable Afghans could lose access to essential health and nutrition services until humanitarian organisations receive urgent funding. The agency said that financial constraints have already reduced the capacity of humanitarian partners to respond to increasing needs, especially among children and mothers, who are at risk of malnutrition, Afghanistan-based news agency Khaama Press reported. The UN OCHA's statement comes as Afghanistan

continues to face one of the world's most severe humanitarian crises, triggered by poverty, food insecurity, weak public services and limited access to healthcare. Years of conflict, restrictions on humanitarian and development activities and economic disruption have resulted in millions of Afghans now reliant on international assistance. The UN agency's latest warning showcases the potential consequences of reducing international humanitarian funding at a time when needs remain high in Afghanistan. Funding shortages could force aid agencies to reduce the coverage of nutrition programmes, resulting in vulnerable people remaining without timely assistance, Khaama Press reported. The situation is especially concerning in remote and under-served areas of Afghanistan.





India, Zimbabwe agree to enhance bilateral defence ties

New Delhi, July 31 : India and Zimbabwe agreed to enhance bilateral defence ties by expanding existing cooperation in areas such as training, support and maintenance of common air assets, the Ministry of Defence said. The inaugural meeting of the India-Zimbabwe Joint Defence Committee (JDC) took place in New Delhi on Friday. "Both sides agreed to enhance bilateral defence ties by expanding existing cooperation in areas such as training, support and maintenance of common air assets. They also discussed ways to collaborate in new areas, including joint manufacturing, counter-terrorism, border management and peacekeeping," the Ministry of Defence said in a statement. According to the Ministry, the meeting was co-chaired by

Joint Secretary Amitabh Prasad from the Indian side and Zimbabwe's Permanent Secretary Aaron Daniel Tonde Nhepera, who is leading a 12-member high-level delegation on a two-day visit to India. The Indian delegation comprised representatives from the Department of Defence Production Services and Armed Forces Medical Services. "India and Zimbabwe share a steadily deepening defence partnership. The first JDC meeting has further reinforced the ties by operationalising the objectives laid down in the MoU on Defence Cooperation signed by the Defence Ministers (India's Rajnath Singh and Zimbabwe's Oppah Muchinguri-Kashiri).

Iran's support for Hezbollah 'strategic mandate': Supreme Leader

Tehran, July 31 : Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Sayyid Mojtaba Hosseini Khamenei on Friday described Iran's support for Hezbollah as a 'strategic mandate' in a letter to Hezbollah's Secretary-General Sheikh Naim Qassem, local media reported. In his response to a letter from the Hezbollah leader reaffirming his allegiance, Mojtaba Khamenei hailed the group for standing 'like an unyielding rock' against Israel's 'savage aggression', Iran's official



Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported. "In line with the policy set by the great martyred Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Imam Sayyid Ali Khamenei (may God be pleased with him).



Brunei Sultan chairs key energy companies' board meetings

Bandar Seri Begawan, July 31 : Brunei's Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah chaired board meetings of key energy companies in Brunei, encouraging a mindset of collaboration and urgency among stakeholders and management, local media reported. According to the local daily Borneo Bulletin, the 224th Board of Directors Meeting of Brunei LNG and the 110th Board Meeting of Brunei Gas Carriers (BGC) took place at the Prime Minister's Office building on Friday, Xinhua news agency reported. The Sultan reflected on the challenges,

achievements, and invaluable lessons learned across the Brunei Shell Joint Venture Companies throughout 2024. The Sultan stressed the importance of all companies upholding the highest standards of ethics and compliance, as well as fostering a culture of integrity across all levels of the organisations. The meeting was attended by key stakeholders, including representatives of the Brunei government, Shell PLC, and Mitsubishi Corporation, as well as members of the respective management teams from Brunei LNG and BGC.

South Korea's unification ministry says DMZ access bills not in conflict with armistice

Seoul, July 31 : South Korea's unification ministry said on Friday that pending bills granting the South Korean government control of non-military access to the Demilitarised Zone (DMZ) do not conflict with the armistice as the bills require advance consultation with the United Nations Command (UNC). The

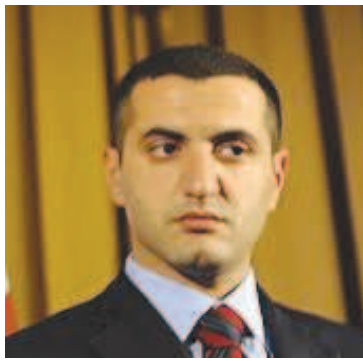
ministry's stance came a day after the UNC voiced strong opposition to the bills, calling them "completely at odds" with the armistice agreement that ended the 1950-53 Korean War.

"The ongoing parliamentary discussion on DMZ-related bills requires advance consultations with the UNC for approval of DMZ

access, and therefore does not conflict with the armistice at all," the unification ministry said in a notice to the press, Yonhap News Agency reported. The ministry said it will continue to cooperate on the DMZ access bills, in respect of the National Assembly's legislative rights. The ministry has thrown its support behind the bills,



proposed by ruling party lawmakers, aiming to give the government the authority to regulate non-military access to the DMZ, as part of efforts to promote the peaceful use of the military buffer zone separating the two Koreas.



Russia busts international fraud scheme linked to former Georgian defence chief

Moscow, July 31 : Russia's Federal Security Service (FSB) said that it has dismantled an international fraud network allegedly operating in the interests of former Georgian Minister of Defence Davit Kezerashvili. The network of "call centres," which was part of a larger international organised crime group, was involved in mass fraud targeting citizens from the European Union, Canada, Brazil, India, and other countries, Xinhua news agency reported quoting the FSB. The suspects deceived victims under the guise of making investment transactions, amassing approximately \$1 million in daily profits, the statement read, adding that around 100,000 individuals in over 50 countries were defrauded in the scheme.



Seven new suspected H5N1 bird flu cases reported in Australia

Canberra, July 31 : Authorities in South Australia (SA) on Friday reported seven new suspected cases of the deadly H5N1 bird flu strain.

Clare Scriven, SA's minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, told reporters that all seven new suspected cases were found in greater crested terns located on the state's southeast Limestone Coast. Of the suspected new cases, she said five were found in the same town over two days. Samples from all seven birds were initially tested by local authorities and have now been sent for confirmatory testing by the Australian Centre for Disease Preparedness to determine if local transmission has occurred. Once confirmed, it

would take the total number of H5N1 cases in Australia to 27 after the highly pathogenic strain was first detected on the mainland in mid-June.

SA's Chief Veterinary Officer Skye Fruean said while speaking alongside Scriven that local authorities would increase surveillance in areas where they expect to see seabirds considered high-risk species for carrying the deadly strain, including crested terns. Federal Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Julie Collins said earlier on Monday that there have been no H5N1 mass mortality events in Australia and there has been no evidence of the strain in poultry or agricultural systems.

INS Airavat arrives in Sri Lanka's Colombo for operational turnaround

Colombo, July 31 : Indian Naval Ship (INS) Airavat arrived in Sri Lanka's Colombo for an operational turnaround, reaffirming the strong maritime partnership between the two nations, the Indian Navy said in a statement on Friday.

"Guided by the timeless ethos of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" and aligned with the Government of India's vision of MAHASAGAR and Neighbourhood First, INS Airavat arrived in Colombo on 01 Jun 26 for an operational turnaround. The port call reaffirms the strong maritime partnership between India and Sri Lanka," the Indian Navy Spokesperson posted on X.

Sri Lankan Navy welcomed INS Airavat, commanded by Commander IP Patil, at the Port of Colombo, according to the statement released by the Sri Lankan Navy. During their stay in the island, the ship's crew is scheduled to participate in several professionally enriching events and camaraderie-building programmes organised by the Sri Lanka Navy.



India-funded college building opens, school project begins in Nepal

Kathmandu, July 31 : A new college building was inaugurated, and the foundation stone for a school building was laid in two districts of Nepal's western Sudurpaschim Province on Friday under a scheme funded by the Indian government, the Indian Embassy in Kathmandu said on Thursday. The building of Kedar Surya Multiple Campus in Badikedar Rural Municipality of Doti district, constructed with financial assistance from the Indian government, was jointly inaugurated by Basist Nandan, First Secretary at the Embassy of India in Kathmandu, and Bhairav Bahadur Saud, Chairperson of Badikedar Rural Municipality. The campus, formerly known as Shree Kedar Jyotipunja Multiple Campus, was renamed Kedar Surya Multiple Campus before its inauguration. The double-storey campus building, featuring seven rooms on each floor along with allied facilities, was constructed under the Indian government's High Impact Community Development

Project (HICDP) programme. The project was implemented through Badikedar Rural Municipality. Affiliated with Tribhuvan University, Kedar Surya Multiple Campus offers Bachelor of Education (B.Ed.) and Bachelor of Business Studies (BBS) programmes. According to the Embassy, Rural Municipality Chairperson Saud, the campus management, and other stakeholders appreciated the development support provided by the Indian government. They said the new infrastructure would help strengthen educational facilities in the region. Meanwhile, the foundation stone for a new building at Shree Maheshwar Secondary School in Bhimdatt Municipality of Kanchanpur district was laid on Thursday. The foundation stone was jointly laid by First Secretary Nandan and Nilam Lekhak Joshi, Deputy Chief of Bhimdatt Municipality, according to the Embassy. The school building will be constructed with financial assistance of around NPR 19 million from the Indian government under the HICDP programme. The project will be implemented through Bhimdatt Municipality. According to the Indian Embassy, it is the 11th High Impact Community Development Project being undertaken in



Kanchanpur district. Speaking at the foundation-laying ceremony, Deputy Chief of Municipality Joshi and other local stakeholders appreciated India's development assistance and said the new infrastructure would help improve the learning environment for students and teachers in the municipality. The HICDP programme is one of the key components of Nepal-India development cooperation, supporting projects in sectors such as education, health, community infrastructure, and capacity building across Nepal. Launched in 2003, HICDPs were previously known as Small Development Projects. The initiative supports small-scale infrastructure and community-based projects through local authorities, focusing on priority sectors identified by the Nepal government, including health, education, drinking water, sanitation and drainage, rural electrification, hydropower,

and river training. Since the inception of the HICDP programme, nearly 600 projects have been undertaken by the Indian government across all seven provinces and 74 districts of Nepal, according to the Embassy. "In addition, the Indian government has gifted 78 ambulances and 40 school buses to institutions working in the health and education sectors of Sudurpaschim Province, including nine ambulances and three school buses in Doti district," the Embassy said in a statement. The Embassy said the HICDP programme reflects the continuing development partnership between India and Nepal and supports Nepal's efforts to improve infrastructure and promote socio-economic development in priority sectors.



Your humility, determination, commitment always earned everyone's respect: Raina on Rahane's retirement

New Delhi, July 31 : Former India batter Suresh Raina paid a glowing tribute to Ajinkya Rahane following the latter's decision to draw the curtains on his international career, adding that the right-handed batter's humility, determination, and immense contribution to Indian cricket. Rahane, who represented India in 85 Tests, 90 ODIs, and 20 T20Is, announced his retirement from international cricket and all formats on Thursday. Known for his stoic technique and solid performances in overseas conditions, Rahane famously led India to a historic Border-Gavaskar Trophy series triumph in Australia in 2020/21. "What a journey it's been, Jinks @ajinkyarahane88! Congratulations on a fantastic career. It was always a pleasure sharing the dressing room and the field with you. Your humility, determination, and commitment to the team have always earned everyone's respect. "Wishing you and your family all the happiness and success in this new chapter. Keep inspiring, brother. Thank you for everything you've done for Indian cricket," Raina wrote on his 'X' account on Friday. Rohit Sharma, Rahane's long-time team-mate in the Indian set-up, lauded his commitment and professionalism which set him apart from others. "We've shared the dressing room for so many years and I know how much hard work has gone into everything you've achieved. Your commitment and professionalism have always set you apart.

Real Madrid sign striker Espi from Levante

Madrid, July 31 : Real Madrid signed striker Carlos Espi from Levante for a reported fee of around 25 million euros. "Real Madrid C.F. and Levante U.D. have reached an agreement for the transfer of the player Carlos Espi, who will be linked to our club for the next five seasons, until June 30, 2031," confirmed the Real Madrid website. "At 21 years old, Carlos Espi has played three seasons at Levante, during which he appeared in 66 matches and scored 20 goals. Last season, he was named the best U-23 player in the league," the club added. Espi scored 13 goals in 27 appearances for Levante last season, with most coming in the closing weeks of the campaign as he played a key role in helping the club avoid relegation. Villarreal and several Premier League clubs had been linked with Espi, who celebrated his 21st



birthday on July 24. Levante had left him out of its preseason friendlies to minimize the risk of injury. His arrival comes as Real Madrid nears the sale of striker Gonzalo Garcia to Fulham for around 40 million euros.

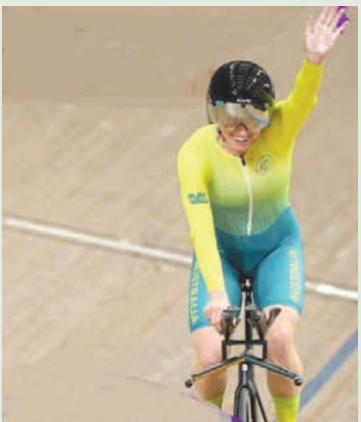
Windies pacer Alzarri calls coach Sammy's selection remark 'controversial, without context'



St John's (Antigua), July 31 : Fast bowler Alzarri Joseph has hit back at West Indies head coach Daren Sammy for saying he 'declined selection' for the ongoing Test series against Pakistan, calling the coach's remarks 'controversial, without context'. Addressing the public fallout surrounding his absence from the Test series, Joseph clarified that he opted out of the

two-match series because his body was simply not ready for the rigours of playing Test cricket following him returning from a prolonged injury layoff due to a recurrent lower-back stress fracture. "We had a chat, myself and the head coach. I've also had a chat with CWI and if you realise the statement CWI released said personal reasons. Mr Sammy, being around for a long time, he knows exactly what that statement would have done so. "To be honest, I have nothing to say to Mr Sammy in terms of his statement.

CWG 2026: Australia continue to rule with three gold in cycling



Glasgow, July 31 : Ryan Elliott, Leigh Hoffman and Daniel Barber surge to the final gold of the evening in the Men's Team Sprint as Australia dominated the proceedings at the Sir Chris Hoy Velodrome. This was Australia's third gold of the evening. The England trio of Joe

Truman, Hamish Turnbull and Harry Ledingham-Horn couldn't keep up with the Aussies and had to settle for silver. The bronze medal race unfortunately couldn't take place with Welsh rider Ioan Hepburn suffering a medical situation on the start line, so Trinidad & Tobago pick up bronze - their first cycling medal of the Games. It's been a strong start to the Track Cycling and Para Track Cycling for Australia, who collected three golds, two silvers and one bronze medal in Thursday's seven finals at the Sir Chris Hoy Velodrome. Wales trio sprint to first gold Wales collect their first gold in the velodrome as Lowri Thomas, Emma Finucane and Rhian Edwards storm back on the last two laps to win the Women's Team Sprint in a new Commonwealth Games record of 46.760secs, having taken bronze at Birmingham 2022.

FIH WC: Mandeep, Abhishek and Lakra highlight importance of consistency and chemistry

New Delhi, July 31 : As the Indian men's hockey team gears up for the FIH Hockey World Cup 2026, forwards Mandeep Singh, Abhishek and Shilanand Lakra have underlined the importance of chemistry, consistency, teamwork and meticulous preparation as they look to spearhead India's campaign at the marquee event. The FIH Hockey World Cup, to be jointly hosted by Belgium and the Netherlands from August 15 to 30, will see India begin their campaign in Pool D against Wales on August 15 before taking on England and arch-rivals Pakistan. Veteran striker Mandeep Singh, who is set to feature in his fourth World Cup, said he has now taken on the responsibility.



'Haven't come across Fleming, but heard good things about him': Robinson

London, July 31 : Fast bowler Ollie Robinson said he has 'heard good things' about incoming head coach Stephen Fleming and is looking forward to an exciting new era for England's Test side following a turbulent time that saw skipper Ben Stokes retire from international cricket and Brendon McCullum get sacked from his coaching role. The England & Wales Cricket Board (ECB) confirmed on Thursday that Fleming, the former New Zealand captain who recently left as five-time champions Chennai Super Kings (CSK) head coach.

'We miss our 4-year-old son': Coach-husband Ravinder opens up about sacrifice after Seema's CWG discus throw bronze

Glasgow, July 31 : Amidst the celebratory cheers following Indian discus thrower Seema Kaliramna's bronze medal-winning performance at the Commonwealth Games 2026, her personal coach and husband Ravinder opened up about the emotional tug-of-war as the couple's four-year-old son, Rudra, stayed back in India. Seema, 27, secured a podium finish with a best effort of 58.65m at the Scotstoun Stadium, marking her maiden major international medal. However, behind the podium glory was a deeply personal story of sacrifice and a last-minute scramble to get to Glasgow. "We missed our son a lot," Ravinder told reporters after the event. "He could not come because he did not have a passport, and my own travel was uncertain until the last moment. My visa was approved only on the evening of the 28th, and I flew here on the 29th, so it was not possible to bring



him along. However, he watched the event from home. When I called home, he said that he slept 2 minutes ago. He is not used to waking up late," Ravinder told IANS. Speaking to IANS after the medal win, Seema, who dedicated her medal to her husband for his constant mentorship and support throughout her career and post-motherhood comeback, echoed similar feelings. "My son is at home. I miss him a lot.