

THE INDIAN MAIL

HYDERABAD **TUESDAY, 18 AUGUST 2026** VOL : 16 No : 354 PAGES : 12 ₹ 2 PUBLISHED FROM HYDERABAD & VIJAYAWADA



Charlie Dean to captain England in Ireland ODI series

Charlie Dean will captain England in the upcoming three-match ODI series against Ireland, with the all-rounder handed another opportunity to lead the side after deputising during...

12



Hi-Tech Pipes Q1 profit slips 4 pc, shares fall nearly 7 pc

Hi-Tech Pipes on Monday reported a 4.2 per cent year-on-year (YoY) decline in consolidated net profit for the June quarter (Q1 FY27), as a sharp rise in expenses and finance costs...

07



TET row: Jagan slams Chandrababu Naidu for suspension of 5 teachers for taking woes to Centre

Former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister and YSR Congress Party President, Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, on Monday...

03

Telangana election body releases draft electoral rolls under SIR

Hyderabad, Aug 17 : The Telangana State Election Commission has published the draft electoral rolls prepared following the first phase of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR). Addressing media persons here on Monday, Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Sudarshan Reddy stated that the initial phase of the state-wide exercise is complete, with enumeration form reception crossing 78 per cent. During the verification process, over two per cent of voters were identified as deceased, while nearly 60 lakh records reflected entries with anomalies. Additionally, approximately 32 lakh electors were found to be un-



mapped. Consequently, notices are slated to be issued to roughly 92 lakh individuals across the state. The CEO advised voters who receive notices to respond at the earliest by submitting the necessary supporting documents for verification.

Food security, welfare and voting rights at heart of Congress agenda: Natarajan

Bhongir, Aug 17 : AICC Telangana in-charge Meenakshi Natarajan on Monday placed food security and protection of the rights of the poor at the centre of the Congress party's organisational and political agenda, saying the welfare measures being implemented by the Telangana government reflected the party's long-standing vision of ensuring



that no vulnerable family was denied food, shelter, healthcare or democratic rights. Addressing a meeting of the Political Affairs Committee of the erstwhile Nalgonda district at Bhongir, Natarajan drew a direct link between the right to vote and the right of ordinary citizens to access the social security measures created. for

Assam government's sensational decision: 20% salary cut for entering into a second marriage



Guwahati, Aug 17 : Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has issued a warning to government employees, stating that action will be taken against those who marry a second time without legally divorcing their first wife. He announced that 20 percent of the salary of an employee who enters into a second marriage would be deducted and deposited into the first wife's bank account.

High-level panel on banking to be formed soon: FM Sitharaman

New Delhi, Aug 17: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Monday that the government will soon announce the composition of a high-powered committee to recommend how the banking sector should play its role in supporting the country's transformation into a developed economy by 2047. Addressing the inauguration of the two-day conclave of heads of public sector banks and financial institutions here, Sitharaman said.



Naga Babu appointed chairman of AP Green Executive Committee

Amaravati, Aug 17 : Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan's brother Nagendra Rao Konidela, also known as Naga Babu, has been appointed as the chairman of the Andhra Pradesh Green Executive Committee. Naga Babu is a member of the State Legislative Council and one of the key leaders of Jana Sena headed by his brother.

Development is possible only by raising educational standards: CM Chandrababu

Amaravati, Aug 17 : Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu addressed the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly regarding the Mega DSC recruitment issue. He stated the belief that providing quality education and skills transforms students into excellent human resources. He noted that by promoting the IT sector, they had produced world-class human resources in the field of technology. He highlighted that the Telugu Desam Party has always encouraged the education sector and recalled the reforms introduced by NTR in the past through residential schools.

He stated that it was NTR who established a women's university to provide higher education opportunities for women. He mentioned that, during the early days of his tenure as Chief Minister, he took immediate action to address the lack of schools. The Chief Minister stated that a primary school has been established for every kilometer, an upper primary school for every three kilometers, a junior college and an engineering college for every mandal, and a medical college for



every district. He emphasized that development is possible only by raising educational standards. He lashed out at the previous admin-

istration for boasting about implementing reforms between 2019 and 2024 without filling even a single teacher post.



CM Vijay announces expanded farm loan waiver, commits additional Rs 953 crore

Chennai, Aug 17 : Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay on Monday announced an expansion of the cooperative farm loan waiver scheme, committing an additional Rs 953.06 crore to provide greater financial relief to farmers across the state. Making a statement under Rule 110 in the Assembly, Vijay said agricultural loans of up to Rs 75,000 obtained from cooperative institutions would be waived completely. Farmers with outstanding loans ranging from Rs 75,000 to Rs 1 lakh would receive a waiver of up to Rs 75,000.



Special Intensive Revision
25th June, 2026 onwards



Chief Electoral Officer
Telangana

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

Check your name in the Draft Electoral Rolls
Published on **17.08.2026.**
If you don't find your name in the electoral rolls
Contact: Booth Level Officer (BLO)/AERO/ERO

Use Form-6
If you are completing 18 yrs. of age by 1st October, 2026, and not registered as a voter in any Assembly constituency.
Apply with latest Photo, Age proof etc., & submit declaration form
(New Enrollment)

Use Form-7
In case of Objections such as Dead Voters / Duplicate Voters etc.,
(Deletions)

Use Form-8
If you want to correct your detail, Mobile Number Update, Change of address / Voter ID card
(Corrections)

Period of filing Claims & Objections:
17.08.2026 to 16.09.2026

Publication of Final Electoral Rolls:
19-10-2026



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

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



CEOTelangana
ChiefElectoralOfficerTelangana
CEO_Telangana

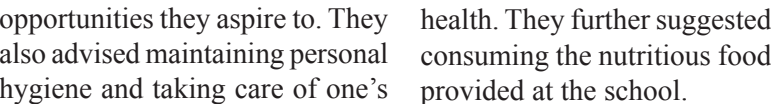
For further details call
1950
10.30am - 5pm. Toll Free

Your Vote - Your Responsibility. Update your details in the ELECTORAL ROLLS - Contribute to a robust voter list.

Vemulawada, August 17 : District Collector Garima Agarwal advised all students to study according to a planned schedule. The District Collector inspected the Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalyaya (KGBV) in Vemulawada town on Monday. She first examined the attendance registers of teachers, staff, and students. She then visited the kitchen to check the quality of vegetables, fruits, eggs, lentils, and rice, and verified their expiry dates. She checked the food items being prepared for the day against the menu chart. While the students were having their meal, she interacted with them and inquired if quality food was being served in accordance with the menu. She also visited the Intermediate second-year CEC classroom and asked the students about their fu-

Speaking on the occasion, District Collector Garima Agarwal ordered that quality food be provided to students strictly according to the menu. She directed officials to ensure that all students attend classes. She advised stu-

dents to study their subjects diligently according to a plan and to start practicing with question papers for all subjects right away. She expressed the hope that they would pursue their education with a clear goal and eventually settle into the jobs or self-employment



Rajanna Sircilla, Aug 16 : District Collector Garima Agrawal directed officials to conduct an extensive awareness campaign regarding AIDS control at the grassroots level. On Monday, she flagged off an awareness rally from the District Integrated Office Complex (IDOC), organized jointly by the National AIDS Control Organization, the State AIDS Control Society, the District AIDS Prevention and Control Unit, and the Medical and Health Department. Subsequently, she unveiled posters featuring the toll-free number 1097 and a QR code. The rally commenced at the IDOC,

passed through the New Bus Stand, Ambedkar Crossroads, and Gandhi Chowk in Siricella town, reached the Manair Bridge, and concluded upon returning to the IDOC. These awareness activities, which began on the 12th of this month, will continue until the 18th. Speaking on the occasion, District Collector Garima Agrawal emphasized the need to provide information regarding AIDS diagnostic tests, treatment, medication, and counseling at all

government hospitals. She ordered that confirmatory tests be conducted rigorously in areas where positive cases are detected. She also directed officials to organize awareness meetings and competitions for the youth and students.

ZP CEO Venkata Madhava Rao, District Medical Officer Angela Alfred, District Educational Officer Mondaiyya, doctors (Dr. Nayamaja, Sudha Goni, Mahesh Goud, and Karthik).



Rajanna Sircilla, Aug 17: District SP Mahesh B. Githe stated that the “Grievance

cials and directed them to resolve the victims' issues quickly and in accordance with the law. Speaking on the occasion, the SP emphasized the goal of bringing police services closer to the people and resolving public grievances. He instructed police officers and staff to treat complainants visiting the station with courtesy, accept their petitions and complaints, conduct field-level inquiries if necessary, and ensure justice is delivered according to the law. He noted that this approach fosters confidence and trust in the police department among complainants. He added that complaints received during Grievance Day.

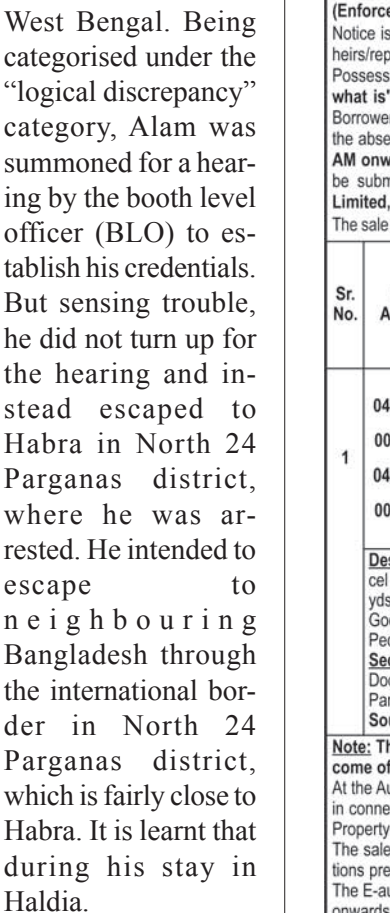
Hyderabad, Aug 17 : The Telangana Government has waived crop loans worth Rs.20,616.89 crore for 25,35,964 farmers as part of its commitment to farmer welfare, claimed Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao. The Minister said the one-time waiver covered crop loans up to Rs.2 lakh, including principal.

CHANGE OF NAME
I **GUDALA HASWANTH (New Name)**, S/o Gudala Suresh Kumar, previously called **GUDALA HASANTH SRI SATYA RAJKUMAR (Old Name)**, Resident of Door No.4-156 Vedurumudi Village, Kapileswaram Mandalam, R.D.Br.Ambedkar Konaseema Dist,pincode 533307, Now Changed My Name from **GUDALA HASANTH SRI SATYA RAJKUMAR (Old Name)** to **GUDALA HASWANTH (New Name)**. Hence forth I will be called as **GUDALA HASWANTH (New Name)** for all purpose.

Arrested Pakistani national in Bengal used name of co-accused's father to get Indian ID cards

Kolkata, Aug 17 : Wahab Alam, the Pakistani national arrested in Habra, West Bengal, had used the name of the co-accused Mohammad Izaz's father to get Indian identity documents, an investigation by the Special Task Force (STF) has revealed. Sources said that Alam, after illegally entering India in 2012, not only stayed at Izaz's residence in Topsia, East Kolkata, for a long time but also used the documents of Izaz's father to secure Indian identity cards for himself. The Indian identity documents recovered by the STF sleuths from Alam include Aadhaar card, PAN card and EPIC card. All these documents show Izaz's father as Alam's father. It is learnt that Alam's wish was to get an Indian passport for himself by virtue of those documents.

However, that wish could not be fulfilled because of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise in



AXIS FINANCE LIMITED

NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

(Under Rule 8(6) read with Rule 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002)

E-Auction Notice of 15 days for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Rule 8(6) and Rule 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the below mentioned Borrower and/ Co- Borrower, or their legal heirs/representatives (Borrowers) that the below described immovable property mortgaged to **Axis Finance Ltd. (AFL)**, the Possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of AFL, will be sold on **03-09-2026** on "As is where is" and "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" and without any recourse basis" for recovery of outstanding dues from below mentioned Borrower and Co-Borrowers. The Reserve Price and the Earnest Money Deposit is mentioned below. Notice is hereby given that, in the absence of any postponement/ discontinuance of the sale, the said secured asset / property shall be sold by **E-Auction 11:00 AM onwards** on the said **03-09-2026**. The sealed envelope containing Demand Draft of Amount for participating in E- Auction shall be submitted to the Authorised Officer of the AFL on or before **02-09-2026 till 4:00 PM** at Branch address **Axis Finance Limited, Ground Floor, Block-C, Sanali Info Park, Road No-2, Banjarahills, Hyderabad, Telangana-500034**.

The sale of the Secured Asset/ Immovable Property will be on "as is where condition is" as per brief particulars described herein below:

Sr. No.	Loan A/c. No.	Name of Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s) Legal Heir(s) Legal Representative/ Guarantor(s)	Date of Demand Notice and amount mentioned in demand notice	Type of possession	Reserve Price	Outstanding as on
1	0456MMA 00009101	Mr.Madhav Kali Prasad Dasari (Borrower Cum Mortgagor)	28/05/2025 Rs. 1,10,69,071/- (Rupees One Crore Ten Lakh Sixty Nine Thousand and Seventy one Only)	Physical	Rs.64,24,285/- (Rupees Sixty Four Lakhs Twenty Four Thousand Two Hundred Eighty Five Only) Rs.45,76,934/- (Rupees Forty five Lakhs Seventy Six Thousand Nine Hundred Thirty Four only)	Rs.1,08,80,518 /- (Rupees One Crore Eight Lakhs Eighty Thousand Five Hundred Eighteen Only) due as on 17/08/2026
	0456MMA 00009100	Mrs. Hymavathi Dasari (Co-Borrower)				
	Description of Immovable Secured Asset: ITEM No 1 - Security towards LAN - 0456MMA00009101: All that piece and parcel of the Residential Building bearing Door No-1138, a RCC Road Corridor & First floor in R.S no 53/3 to an extent of 188 sq yds of site situated at Rayalam Village, Rayalam Gram Panchayathi area, Bhimavaram Sub-registrar, Bhimavaram Mandal, West Godavari District and bounded by: North: 78 Links - Site of Nadimipalli Krishnakurami, South: 49 ½ links - Site of Narayanapur Peddiraju, East: 79 Links - Site of Kallakuri Salyanarayana Raju, West: 49 ½ Links - 16 Link width joint way. ITEM No 2 - Security towards LAN - 0456MMA00009100: All that piece and parcel of the Residential Building bearing Door No-1144 (Old Door No-1-82), a RCC Road in R.S no 53/3 to an extent of 150-4 sq yds of site situated at Rayalam Village, Rayalam Gram Panchayathi area, Bhimavaram Sub-registrar, Bhimavaram Mandal, West Godavari District and bounded by: North: Joint way, South: Site of Vegesina Subbaraju, East: Site and building of Saji Padmavathi, West: Site of Shaik Suban Vali.					

Note: The bidders are advised to conduct due diligence before submitting the bid. The auction shall be subject to the outcome of the litigation. Dispute if any.

At the Auction, the public generally is invited to submit their bid(s) personally. No officer or other person, having any duty to perform in connection with this sale shall, however, directly or indirectly bid for, acquire or attempt to acquire any interest in the Immovable Property sold.

The sale shall be subject to the conditions prescribed in the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 and the terms and conditions prescribed:

The E-auction of the properties will take place through portal <https://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net/EPROC/> on 03.09.2026, 11:00 a.m. onwards. For further details please refer to the notice published in the newspapers and at websites: <https://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net/EPROC/> and www.axisfinance.com

Contact Person Details & Mob. Nos.:
Mr. Srinivas R Mob:0160160151 & Mr. Ayan Bhattacharya :Mob: 9811710558

Place: West Godavari
Date: 18.08.2026

Sd/- Authorised Officer
Axis Finance Ltd.

Registered Address: Add at C-2, Wadia International Centre, Pandurang Budhkar Marg, Worli, Mumbai-400025.

CIN No. U65921MH1995PLC212675.

Branch Address: Axis Finance Limited, Ground Floor, Block-C, Sanali Info Park, Road No-2, Banjarahills, Hyderabad, Telangana-500034



Commercial flight operations begin at Andhra's Bhogapuram as Visakhapatnam airport slips into history

Visakhapatnam, Aug 17 : Commercial flight operations commenced at the newly developed Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport at Bhogapuram in Vizianagaram district from midnight as Visakhapatnam Airport in Andhra Pradesh slipped into history. All commercial operations at

the Civil Enclave at Visakhapatnam Airport (INS Dega) shifted to Bhogapuram Airport, about 45 km away, with effect from 00.01 hours on Monday (August 17). The International Air Transport Code “VTZ” for Visakhapatnam Airport was transferred to Bhogapuram International Greenfield Airport. Scoot Airlines’ flight to Singapore was the first to take off from the new airport around midnight.

TET row: Jagan slams Chandrababu Naidu for suspension of 5 teachers for taking woes to Centre

Amaravati, Aug 17 : Former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister and YSR Congress Party President, Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, on Monday slammed Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu over suspension of five teachers for meeting Union government representatives to seek exemption from the Teacher Eligibility Test (TET) for in-service teachers. Y.S. Jagan took to social media to question the Chief Minister over vindictiveness against government employees, particularly teachers. “On the first day, teachers belonging to teachers’ associations in YSR Kadapa district were suspended, and on the second day, teachers from Anantapur and Sri Sathya Sai districts were suspended. Why were these five teachers suspended? What crime did they commit?,” asked the YSRCP chief. Y.S. Jagan mentioned that more than one lakh senior teachers are facing difficulties because they are now being asked to write the TET examination after so many years of service, even though no such TET requirement existed when they joined service. “Is it a crime for them to seek exemption from this rule and submit a representation to the Union Government with the support of MPs standing by them,” Y.S. Jagan asked. Demanding immediate revocation of the suspensions, the YSRCP chief urged CM Naidu to apologise to the suspended teachers and rectify the mistake. He warned that YSRCP



will take this issue seriously and extend complete legal support to the teachers in challenging these unjust suspensions. Y.S. Jagan said, “Your Red Book-driven jungle raj is now not even sparing government teachers. Chandrababu garu, should you not have been the one to urge the Union Government to remove this TET requirement? As a partner in the NDA, why did you not pass a resolution in the Assembly and exert pressure on the Centre?” “You failed to do what you were supposed to do. You abandoned the problems of senior teachers. But when they themselves tried to bring their problems to the notice of the Union Government with the support of our party MPs, you branded them politically motivated and suspended them,” he said. “Is their only fault that they tried to do what you could not? Is submitting a representation a crime? Does it warrant suspension? Instead of resolving an issue.

Junior doctors across Andhra Pradesh intensify strike to demand hike in stipend

Amaravati, Aug 17 : Demanding a hike in stipend, junior doctors across Andhra Pradesh on Monday began a total boycott of emergency services, disrupting healthcare delivery in government medical colleges and teaching hospitals. Andhra Pradesh Junior Doctors’ Association (APJUDA) had given a call for the boycott of emergency services to press

for their demands, including long-pending stipend revision. About 9,000 resident doctors, medical interns, junior residents, super-speciality postgraduates, senior residents, and doctors deployed under the District Residency Programme (DRP) scheme were staying away from duties, affecting Intensive Care Units, casualty wards, and labour rooms. Junior doctors in all 19 govern-

ment medical colleges in the state are participating in the strike. The phased strike began on August 11 with a time-bound withdrawal of non-emergency services. With no written assurance coming from the government, APJUDA intensified its protest. Non-emergency healthcare services remained fully suspended across all government teaching hospitals, superspeciality units,

and peripheral medical colleges. The government said it has made arrangements to ensure that patients do not face difficulties due to the junior doctors’ strike. The department of health is continuously reviewing the situation with District Collectors, medical college principals, and hospital superintendents. Additional doctors are being kept on standby wherever needed. Spe-



cial arrangements are being made to ensure the uninterrupted functioning of emergency departments, ICUs, maternity services, operation theatres, NICU, PICU, dialysis units, and trauma services, it said. Measures are being taken to en-

sure the availability of medicines, oxygen, blood, and essential medical supplies, said an official release. According to APJUDA, the stipend hike has been pending since January 1. As per an order issued by the Health, Medical and Family Welfare Department in 2009, there will be a biennial revision of junior doctors’ stipends by about 15 per cent. APJUDA leaders said despite repeated appeals, the authorities failed to give a clear assurance on a stipend hike.

YSRCP tried to stall DSC recruitment process, alleges Nara Lokesh

Amaravati, Aug 17 : Dismissing the allegations of irregularities in recruitment of teachers through Mega DSC, Andhra Pradesh Education Minister Nara Lokesh alleged in the Assembly that YSR Congress Party leaders deliberately tried to stall the recruitment process by approaching courts. Making a statement in the Assembly on Monday, Nara Lokesh said 141 cases were filed in 148 days, seeking to stop or stall the District Selection Committee (DSC). Nara Lokesh claimed that the government was able to withstand the legal challenges because the Mega DSC notifica-

tion was prepared carefully and in compliance with all rules. He said he had instructed the department that he would take serious action if the notification failed at any stage of legal scrutiny. He asserted that the coalition government ultimately completed the Mega DSC recruitment, issued offer letters, trained the selected teachers and deployed them in schools, calling it an achievement of the “people’s government”. Lokesh also claimed that recruitment under sports quota was conducted transparently, with the objective to encourage athletes. He clarified that the objective was not to subject sportspersons to regular tests, but to encourage and promote sporting talent by providing appointments through the sports quota. He added that, under the leadership of the minister concerned and in accordance with the Centre’s recommendations, the number of recognised sports disciplines was expanded from 29 to 65.



Lokesh announced that the State government will conduct the DSC every year as a firm commitment to the youth, saying there would be “no second thought” and that the government would not go back on its promise. He said the government had already filled 3,000 teacher posts through DSC this year as part of the Mega Job Calendar. He told the House the government has so far filled around 10,060 posts through the Mega Job Calendar, covering Group-1, Group-2 and DSC recruitments, while the TET examinations were also completed recently.

Zahirabad Industrial Smart City to be ready by March 2028: Sridhar Babu

Hyderabad, Aug 17 : The development of the Zahirabad Industrial Smart City will be completed by March 2028, with the Telangana government targeting investments of around ₹15,000 crore and employment opportunities for nearly two lakh people, IT and Industries Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu said. The Minister made the announcement while participating virtually from the Telangana Secretariat on Monday in a meeting of the National Industrial Corridor Development and Implementation Trust (NICDIT), chaired from New Delhi by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Union Minister for Commerce



and Industry Piyush Goyal. Chief Ministers and Industries Ministers from various States participated in the video conference. The Zahirabad Industrial Smart City is being developed over 3,245 acres and is envisioned as a major industrial and manufacturing hub in Telangana. Once fully operational, the project is expected to generate direct and indirect employment for nearly two lakh people.

Medak Fort should be developed as major tourist destination: Vivek

Medak, Aug 17 : Minister for Labour, Mines and Geology Dr. G. Vivek Venkataswamy unveiled a special postal cover dedicated to the Medak Fort on Monday. On the occasion, the Minister congratulated the Postal department for recognising the historical significance of the Medak Fort and releasing a

special postal cover. He said that with Medak now serving as a district headquarters, there is a need to develop the Medak Fort into a prominent tourist destination. “As the fort is a heritage property, necessary clearances must be obtained from the Central government.



POSSESSION NOTICE - (for immovable property) Rule 8(1)				
Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of IFL Home Finance Limited (Formerly known as India Infoline Housing Finance Ltd.) (IFL, HFL) under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, a Demand Notice was issued by the Authorised Officer of the company to the borrowers / co-borrowers mentioned herein below to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of IFL HFL for an amount as mentioned herein under with interest thereon. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act. If the borrower clears the dues of the "IFL HFL" together with all costs, charges and expenses incurred, at any time before the date fixed for sale or transfer, the secured assets shall not be sold or transferred by IFL HFL, and no further step shall be taken by IFL HFL for transfer or sale of the secured assets.				
Name of the Borrower(s) Co-Borrower(s)	Description of secured asset (immovable property)	Total Outstanding Dues (Rs.)	Date of Demand Notice	Date of Possession
Mrs. Venkata Subbalakshmi Venmarapu Mr. Venmarapu Venriya Labourer Agricultural Property Area: 350 Bounded By: North: 28, South: 30, East: 42, West: Road	All that piece and parcel of Plot No. 29, Survey No. 439/1, 442/1, Etc., Velampalem Village, Ramachandrapuram Mandal, East Godavari District, AP. 533255 Area Admeasuring (In Sq. Ft.): Property Type: Built up area Property Area: 350 Bounded By: North: 28, South: 30, East: 42, West: Road	Rs. 320721.00/- (Rupees Three Lakh Twenty Thousand Seven Hundred and Twenty One Only)	10/02/2026	12/08/2026
Mrs. Navita Sai Ratham Patbinedi Mr. Patbinedi Saran Kumar Daily Labour (Prospect No. IL10923448)	All That Piece And Parcel Of Survey No 356, plot No 438, venulapalli Layout, Dwarapudi Village, Mandapeta Mandal Dr. B. Arbedkar Konaseema, 533341 Area Admeasuring (In Sq. Ft.): Property Type: Land area, Saleable, area Property Area: 350.00, 350.00 Bounded By: North: As Per The Title Documents And Technical Reports South: As Per The Title Documents And Technical Reports, East: As Per The Title Documents And Technical Reports, West: As Per The Title Documents And Technical Reports	Rs. 142696.00/- (Rupees One Lakh Forty Two Thousand Six Hundred and Ninety Six Only)	10/02/2026	12/08/2026
Mrs. Gudde Venkata Nagaraji Mr. Saitibabu Jana Mrs. Janga Janu Labourer Agricultural (Prospect No. IL10791098)	All That Piece And Parcel Of Plot No.453, Survey No. 339, Venti Nara Village, Mandapeta Mandal, Mandapeta District, East Godavari, Andhra Pradesh, India 533308 Area Admeasuring (In Sq. Ft.): Property Type: Built up area Property Area: 350 Bounded By: North: Plot No.452, South: Plot No.454, East: Road, West: Plot No.440	Rs. 145953.00/- (Rupees One Lakh Forty Five Thousand Nine Hundred and Fifty Three Only)	10/02/2026	12/08/2026
Mr. Yaramsetty Suresh Mrs. Yaramsetty Chenga Maha Lakshmi Mansoon Work (Prospect No. IL10658903)	All That Piece And Parcel Of Plot No. B-506, Syno. 267, 268, 269, 270, 272-A, 350, 351/A, Pasumaru Village, Chikakurupeta Mandal, Guntur District, Ap 522616 Area Admeasuring (In Sq. Ft.): Property Type: Built up area Property Area: 350 Bounded By: North: Plot No. 507, South: Plot No. 505, East: Plot No. 516, West: Road	Rs. 130375.00/- (Rupees One Lakh Thirty Three Thousand Three Hundred and Seventy Five Only)	10/02/2026	12/08/2026
Mr. Shaik Pedda Subhani Mrs. Shaik Hasina Subhani Tailoring Works (Prospect No. IL10681259)	All That Piece And Parcel Of Plot No. 28, Sy No. 825/1, Santhamgurun, santhamagulum, Mandal, Prakasam Dist ap 523302 Area Admeasuring (In Sq. Ft.): Property Type: Area up to 20 Bounded By: North: Plot No. 27, Shaik Dilsha Boundary East: Road, West: Plot No 9, Shaik Sadiam Boundary	Rs. 167205.00/- (Rupees One Lakh Sixty Seven Thousand Two Hundred and Five Only)	10/02/2026	12/08/2026
Mrs. Banavathu Tirupathamma Mr. Banavathu Sankarnaik Agriculture (Prospect No. IL10938130)	All That Piece And Parcel Of Plot No. 9, Syno. 503/1, Neelawarapuram Village, Achampeta Mandal, Guntur District, Ap 522409 Area Admeasuring (In Sq. Ft.): Property Type: Built up area Property Area: 350 Bounded By: North: Plot No. 8, South: Road, East: Road, West: Side	Rs. 159489.00/- (Rupees One Lakh Fifty Nine Thousand Four Hundred and Eighty Nine Only)	10/02/2026	12/08/2026
Mr. Jayarao Kommlu Mrs. Meri Kommlu Jayarao Dairy Farm (Prospect No. IL10704010)	All that piece and parcel of H.No. 1-101, Sy No. 57, Palapadu, Narasaraopet mandal of Guntur district, Presently in Palnadu District in Andhra Pradesh. 522603 Area Admeasuring (In Sq. Ft.): Property Type: Land Area, Built up, Area Property Area: 653.00, 520.00 Bounded By: North: Kommlu Bulibabu, South: Kommlu Vijayamma East: Davala Kokammaru, West: Panchayathi Road	Rs. 383071.00/- (Rupees Three Lakh Eighty Three Thousand and Seventy One Only)	10/02/2026	12/08/2026
Mrs. Potluri Venkata Ramana Mr. Potluri Nagaraju Venkataramana Kirana Store (Prospect No. IL10724871)	All That Piece And Parcel Of Plot No. 37, Syno. 327/1, Amrutaluru Village, Amrutaluru Mandal, Guntur District, Ap 522002 Area Admeasuring (In Sq. Ft.): Property Type: Built up area Property Area: 350 Bounded By: North: Plot No. 38, South: Road, East: Road, West: Plot No. 36	Rs. 165098.00/- (Rupees One Lakh Sixty Five Thousand and Ninety Eight Only)	10/02/2026	12/08/2026
For Further Details Please Contact To Authorised Officer At Branch Office: Door No 4-14-111 A, 1st Floor, Opposite Sivalayam, Anjaneyapet, Amaravathi Road, Guntur - 522007/ Or Corporate Office: Plot No. 98, Phase-iv, Udyog Vihar, Gurgaon, Haryana. Place: Guntur Date: 18.08.2026				
		Sd/- Authorised Officer, For IFL Home Finance Limited		

BAJAJ HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED
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, Ameerpet, Near Begumpet Flyover, Hyderabad, 500016.
Authorized Officer's Details: Name: Shreeshaal Badiger, Email Id: shreeshaal.badiger@bajajhousing.co.in, Mob No. 8073273577 / 9916551047.

APPENDIX IV -A [Rule 8(6)] SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
E-Auction Sale notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the securitisation and reconstruction of financial assets and enforcement of the security interest act 2002 read with proviso to rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken over by the Authorized Officer of the Bajaj Housing Finance Ltd (Secured Creditor) will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", "Whatever there is" and "Without Recourse Basis" also subjecting to the outcome of OS:5563/2024 pending before II Junior Civil Judge at City Civil Court, Hyderabad, for recovery of the loan dues, applicable interest, charges and costs etc., payable to Bajaj Housing Finance Ltd as detailed below

Details Of Borrower/Co-Borrowers/ Guarantor(S) And Loan Details	1.Date & Time of E-Auction, 2. Last Date of Submission of EMD, 3. Last Date of the Property Inspection	1. Reserve Price, 2. EMD of the Property, 3. Bid Increment
LAN:- H400HLP0115715 & H400ECN0384769, 1. Ruby Enterprises (Borrower), (Through Its Proprietor/ Authorized Signatory/ Managing Director), 2. Abdul Raheem (Co-Borrower), 3. Sanjeeda Parveen (Co-Borrower), All The Above At 16-3-99/17 Flat No 503, Tirumala Alluri Nivas New Malakpet, Hyderabad - 500036. Outstanding dues of Rs.49,15,975/- (Rupees Forty Nine Lakhs Fifteen Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventy Five Only) as on 12/08/26 along with future interest and charges accrued w.e.f. 12/08/26.	1) E-Auction Date: 05/09/2026 Between 11:00 AM To 12:00 PM With Unlimited Extension Of 5 Minutes, 2) Last Date Of Submission Of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) With Kyc is: 03/09/2026 Up To 5:00p.M. (Ist.) 3) Date Of Inspection: 18/08/2026 To 02/09/2026 Between 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM (Ist).	1) Reserve Price For Immovable Property Rs.28,50,000/- (Rupees Twenty Eight Lakhs Fifty Thousand Only), 2) Earnest Money Deposit (EMD): 2,85,000/- (Rupees Two Lakhs Eighty Five Thousand Only) 10% Of Reserve Price, 3) Bid Increment: Rs.25,000/- (Rupees Twenty Five Thousand Only) & In Such Multiples.
Description of the Immovable Property: Schedule: All That The Flat Bearing No.503, In Fifth Floor Of The Building Complex Known As Tirumala Alluri Nivas, Admeasuring Super Built-Up Area Of 983 Square Feet, Inclusive Of Common Area, Together With Undivided Share Of Land Admeasuring 34.00 Square Yards, From And Out Of 907 Square Yards, In Premises Bearing Municipal No.16-3-99/17/7, On Plot No.7, Situated At Chanchalajuda, Malakpet, Hyderabad, Telangana State, Boundaries For Flat North By: Open To Sky, South By: Flat No 504 East By: Open To Sky, West By: Flat No 502.		
Terms and Conditions of the Public Auction are as under: ● The Secured asset will not be sold below the Reserve price. ● The Auction Sale will be online through e-auction portal. ● The E-auction will take place through portal https://bankauctions.in , on 05/09/2026 from 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM with unlimited auto extension of 5 minutes each. ● For detailed terms and conditions please refer company website URL. https://www.bajajhousingfinance.in/auction-notices or for any clarification please connect with Authorized officer.		
Notice Date: 14-08-2026 Place: Hyderabad		Authorized Officer (Shreeshaal Badiger) Bajaj Housing Finance Limited

OPINIONmail



India, Southern African Customs Union sign terms of reference towards trade pact

The government on Wednesday said that India and the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) have signed the Terms of Reference (ToR) for negotiations towards a Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) between India and SACU, marking an important step towards strengthening trade and economic engagement. The negotiations seek to provide preferential market access to an already established commercial relationship, with significant complementarities in engineering goods and machinery, automobiles, pharmaceuticals, textiles, agriculture and agri-processing. Calling for a balanced, fair and equitable trade agreement between India and the SACU, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal emphasised the partnership can help diversify markets and create opportunities for both sides to prosper. Goyal said India can play an important role in supplying affordable medicines and supporting the development of new talent in the IT sector in the SACU region.

India can also help integrate SACU countries into global supply chains in areas where their businesses are competitive and where skills and talent can be developed or are already available. According to Goyal, India's engagement with Southern Africa is rooted in a longstanding partnership of equals and extends well beyond trade. He recalled that Southern Africa occupies a special place in India's national memory, noting that "India's relationship with Southern Africa did not begin with commerce. It began with conscience." Recalling Mahatma Gandhi, he also highlighted India's support for the peoples of Southern Africa in their struggle against apartheid. "What we sign today does not by itself lower a single tariff or clear a single container. Only a final agreement will do that," he said, calling for an early conclusion of the PTA. Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal said this is India's first ToR signing with the African region and noted SACU's significance as the oldest customs union in the world.

He stated that the PTA is envisaged to cover eight important chapters, including trade in goods and market access for goods; rules of origin and origin procedures; customs procedures and trade facilitation; trade remedies.

South African Parliament Speaker not to oppose President Ramaphosa's bid to halt impeachment inquiry

Cape Town, Aug 17 : South Africa's Parliament Speaker Thokozile Didiza will not oppose President Cyril Ramaphosa's urgent bid to halt the impeachment proceedings, the Parliament said on Monday. Ramaphosa filed an urgent application, seeking to suspend the Impeachment Committee's work while challenging the findings of an independent panel report into the Phala Phala affair. In court papers, he argued that the proceedings should be paused pending a judicial review of the report, Xinhua news agency reported.

the President launched a separate challenge asking the Western Cape High Court to review and set aside the panel's findings. Didiza filed a notice on Friday, saying that she would abide by the Western Cape High Court's decision. The move means that the Parliament will not contest the application. In a statement on Tuesday, the Parliament said Didiza's notice to abide will be filed alongside an explanatory affidavit to assist the court. "Given the content of the explanatory affidavit, the Speaker believes that the stance adopted is not only necessary but is entirely



consistent with the respective roles and responsibilities of the Assembly versus those of the Impeachment Committee," it said. The development came days after the Impeachment Committee said it would oppose Ramaphosa's urgent court application and had asked

Didiza to join the committee in opposing the President's bid. The impeachment process was revived after South Africa's Constitutional Court ruled last month that the Parliament had acted unlawfully when it rejected the panel's report in 2022.

EDITORIAL
the indian mail

Rose Valley chit fund scam: ED completes return of Rs 127 crore to victims

Kolkata, Aug 17 : In the Rose Valley Group chit fund scam, the ED has so far returned Rs 127.69 crore to 1.73 lakh victims, an official said on Monday. The Enforcement Directorate (ED), Kolkata Zonal Office, in coordination with the Asset Disposal Committee (ADC), has continued to play a pivotal role in the restitution process for victims of the Rose Valley Group scam, resulting in completion of 16 phases of fund disbursement, the ED said in a statement.



Violence against women is embedded in Pakistan's institutions: Report

Islamabad, Aug 17 : Violence against women in Pakistan is embedded in institutions, upheld by Jirgas tolerated by the state and reinforced with media narratives, as per a local media report. "The normalisation of abuse reflects hostility toward female autonomy. Punitive measures alone cannot dismantle this system. . . International obligations lose significance when justice is replaced by silence. Low conviction rates, state reluctance to confront Jirgas and media complicity sustain impunity, leaving women vulnerable and unprotected," the report by Pakistan Observer said. On June 5, young physician Mahnoor Narsir was attacked with acid by a staff member at Quetta's civil hospital, marking another act of gendered brutality. "This was not merely an assault; it was a grave act of gender-based violence and workplace insecurity, emblematic of the perilous conditions women face in Pakistan," the report said. TikTok influencer Sana Yousaf was shot dead in her Islamabad home in June 2025, hours after celebrating her 17th birth-



day. Noor Mukadam was beheaded by her boyfriend in 2021 after rejecting his marriage proposal, an incident that sparked outrage nationwide. "The events of January 2026 exposed judicial complicity in perpetuating this crisis. Pakistan's Supreme Court reduced a rape conviction to fornication, cutting a 20-year sentence to five years and reducing the fine, reinforcing systemic reluctance to confront gender-based violence," the report noted. The low single-digit conviction rates are the reality for domestic violence, rape and "so-called honour killings", while abductions see a dismal 0.1 per cent convictions. "The judiciary's failure is not incidental; it is structural, reflecting a broader reluctance to challenge patriarchal norms and tribal authority."

South Korean President Lee appoints new senior secretaries for communication, civil affairs

Seoul, Aug 17 : South Korean President Lee Jae Myung has appointed new senior presidential secretaries for communications and civil affairs, along with three other aides, the presidential chief of staff

said Monday. Seong Ghi-hong, former CEO and president of Yonhap News Agency, was appointed presidential secretary for public relations and communication, while Han Chan-sik, a former senior prosecutor, was named presi-

dential secretary for civil affairs, the official said. Kim Kyoung-ja, former vice chairperson of the country's biggest umbrella union, the Korean Confederation of Trade Unions, was appointed presidential secretary for social affairs, Yonhap



News Agency reported. Former Army commander Kang Gun-jark and Song Ki-ho, a senior official at the National Security Office.



North Korea vows to secure 'unparalleled' retaliatory capability over South Korea's nuclear submarine push

Seoul, Aug 17 : North Korea has denounced South Korea's efforts to build a nuclear-powered submarine, calling it a step toward "nuclear armament," and warned of "unparalleled power" to neutralise threats, Pyongyang's state media said Monday. In a commentary carried by the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA), Jang Kum-chol, first vice minister of North Korea's foreign ministry, said that Seoul's goal was "to secure the right to produce nuclear materials, free from the restraint of the item on reprocessing nuclear waste fuel and prohibiting uranium enrichment, and ultimately pave the way for making a leap forward to nuclear armament." He

warned that Seoul's nuclear cooperation with Washington on nuclear submarine development will further destabilise the Korean Peninsula and pose a grave challenge to North Korea's security and maritime sovereignty, Yonhap News Agency reported. "The possession of the unparalleled power capable of neutralising all sorts of existing or newly-emerging potential threats and responding to any military attempt of the enemy states to provoke the strategic sovereignty security of our state with the retaliatory attack which make them impossible to survive.



Left flank of Democratic Party has setback with defeat of radical in Wisconsin primary

New York, Aug 17 : The left flank of the Democratic Party had a setback when its controversial candidate for Governor of Wisconsin, Francesca Hong, lost to a moderate in the Primary belying polls in a state often the weathervane for national political winds. On the other side, President Donald Trump's favoured candidate, a right-winger, lost the Republican nomination for Governor of Minnesota in primaries on Monday. In another closely-watched

primary, another Trump-backed candidate Darline Graham, the sister of the late Senator Lindsey Graham, failed to get a majority in the Republican primary in South Carolina. Under the state's rules, she will go into a runoff against Ralph Norman, party hardliner, who came second with eight per cent fewer votes than her in a crowded field. Mike Lindell, the pillow-magnate backed by Trump, lost the Republican primary for Minnesota Governor to State House Speaker Lisa Demuth by about 11 per cent. Lindell, who subscribes to the claim that Trump had defeated former President Joe Biden in 2016, characteristically has claimed the primary was rigged. Hong, a Democrat Socialist with some extreme views.

UN warns 7.5 million people in Pakistan face high levels of food insecurity

Islamabad, Aug 17 : A new assessment by the United Nations (UN) has revealed that around 7.5 million people in Pakistan face high levels of food insecurity and malnutrition after a year that witnessed heavy monsoon floods, prolonged drought, dry spells, and a rise in violence. around 1.25 million people will face 'emergency' levels of acute food insecurity, characterised by large food gaps and high levels of acute malnutrition, the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) report said. Immediate lifesaving assistance is required to prevent a "catastrophe" for over a million people in Pakistan in emergency levels of food insecurity. Residual 2025 monsoon flood impacts, drought, and localised insecurity have weakened agriculture.



China sanctions cross the line into unilateral coercive measures: Report

Manila, Aug 17 : China’s sanctions against Philippines Defence Secretary Gilberto ‘Gibo’ Teodoro Jr. and his family are crossing the line into unilateral coercive measures, a local media report said on Monday. The sanctions were announced by China earlier this month, banning Teodoro and his family from entering mainland China, Hong Kong, and Macao, and prohibiting Chinese entities from conducting business with them. China accused Teodoro of making "irresponsible remarks" that allegedly undermined Chinese interests, sabotaged the ties between the nations, after Teodoro’s remarks about Philippine rights in the West Philippine Sea.



Foreign diplomats urge South Sudan to free Machar to avert crisis as mediation begins



Juba, Aug 17 : Foreign diplomats have called on South Sudanese President Salva Kiir to reverse action on the reported house arrest of First Vice President Riek Machar to prevent further escalation of the country's political tensions. In a joint statement issued in the South Sudanese capital of Juba on Monday evening, the diplomats from Britain, the Netherlands, Norway, France, Germany, the United States, and the European Union delegation also called on Kiir and other leaders with control or influence over armed groups to order an immediate cease-fire. The diplomats said they are gravely concerned about the reports that Machar has been detained at his residence. "We call on President Kiir to reverse this action and to prevent further escalation. We note that First Vice President Machar's position in the government is established under Article 1.7.2 of the 2018 Peace Agreement (the R-ARCSS)," the foreign envoys said.

US revokes over 600 visas in crackdown on birth tourism

Washington, Aug 17 : The United States has revoked more than 600 visas from foreign nationals as part of a new campaign against birth tourism, the State Department said on Monday. The department said it had established a Birth Tourism Prevention Task Force to identify visa holders who travelled to the United States to give birth and individuals who facilitated such travel.



South Korean PM holds 2045 Strategy Committee meeting, selects 17 core tasks

Seoul, Aug 17 : The South Korean government held a second meeting on Monday of the 2045 Strategy Committee charged with drawing up a blueprint and strategies for what South Korea should look like in 2045 and identified 17 core tasks with the goal of announcing the final strategies by the end of the year, officials said. The committee, launched in May, is aimed at developing long-term national development strategies to muster up national capabilities so as to deal systematically with hard-to-resolve challenges, such as polarisation, demographic changes, regional extinction and climate change. The year 2045 carries a symbolic meaning as the centennial of Korea's liberation from Japan's 1910-45 colonial rule, reports Yonhap news agency. "The 2045 national development strategy should be a strategy for all people, not just the government alone. What's more important than anything

else is to collect wisdom from all people across generations," Prime Minister Han Seung-sook said while presiding over the committee's second meeting. "We will try to select future-oriented, daring and challenging tasks to build an 'irreplaceable Republic of Korea' in every aspect by 2045, the 100th anniversary of the liberation," she said. During the meeting, the National Research Council for Economics, Humanities and Social Sciences reported that South Korea faces a polycrisis involving AI transformation, demographic and climate crises, and geopolitical hegemony competition while trapped in a "double bottleneck".

Nepal not seeking British mediation on border issue with India : PM Balen Shah

Kathmandu, Aug 17 : Nepal’s Prime Minister Balen Shah on Monday clarified his previous statement regarding the possible involvement of the United Kingdom in resolving the Nepal-India border dispute, stating that Nepal is not seeking British mediation. During his first-ever appearance to answer lawmakers’ questions in the House of Representatives, the lower House of Parliament, on May 31, Prime Minister Shah said that Nepal had engaged not only with India and China but had also spoken with the British government, considering that historical records existed with the British government from the period of British rule in India. “Our view is that England (the UK) should also take an interest, as the issue dates back to the period when the British ruled India,” Shah had said. “Therefore, all these matters should be resolved through dialogue



and diplomatic negotiations.” In addition, Shah had remarked that Nepal had also encroached on Indian territory despite its longstanding complaints about Indian encroachment. The statement drew criticism from opposition political parties, foreign policy experts, and border analysts. On Sunday, Shah clarified his earlier remarks while addressing the inaugural session of the General Convention of the Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP), which began in the southern Chitwan district. “We have evidence regarding Kalapani and Lipulekh.

Kashmiri diaspora stages protest march in Belgium; condemns atrocities by Pak forces in PoK

Brussels, Aug 17 : Several members of the Kashmiri diaspora in Belgium staged a protest march from the European Parliament to the United Nations office in Brussels, condemning the killings of innocent civilians by Pakistani forces in Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK), amid the escalating unrest in the region. The protesters on Monday raised slogans against Pakistani forces and called for international attention to ongoing human rights abuses in PoK, including restrictions on essential services and the brutal use of force against demonstrators as the unrest continues to intensify in the occupied territory. This protest march came amid growing demonstrations by Kashmiri diaspora groups across the world, with protesters demanding international intervention over what they described as a brutal crackdown by Pakistani authorities in PoK. Earlier this week, PoK-based human rights documentation and monitoring body, the Jammu Kashmir Human Rights Observatory (JKHRO), recorded 93 civilian deaths during the escalating unrest in the occupied territory between June 5 and August 5. Last week, thousands of Kashmiri diaspora members



staged a protest march in Italy's Bologna city, condemning brutalities by Pakistani forces against peaceful protestors in PoK. The protesters expressed solidarity with the civil society group Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC) and called for an end to Pakistani security forces' operations in the region. Taking to its social media platform X, the JAAC said that in Italy, Kashmiris staged a strong protest and appealed to the international community to raise their voice against the "genocide" of unarmed civilians by the Pakistani forces. "Peaceful demonstrators are only demanding their basic rights," it added. Recently, several British parliamentarians expressed grave concern over brutalities by Pakistani forces against civilians in PoK during the anti-government protests.



Taliban warns Pakistan again, says Afghan forces 'fully prepared' to respond to any hostile action

Kabul, Aug 17 : Kabul on Monday said that its forces stand fully prepared to respond to any violation of Afghanistan’s territory, warning neighbours that recent cross-border tensions will be met with decisive action, local media reported. "Taliban authorities showcased hundreds of newly-graduated commandos this week as tensions with Pakistan rose sharply along the border. At a ceremony attended by

senior officials, Taliban Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Ghani Baradar said Afghanistan would not tolerate any violation of its territory and was prepared to respond to any aggression," Afghanistan's leading Khaama Press news agency reported. According to the Taliban Defence Ministry, the new commando units have received "full ideological and military training" and were ready to defend Afghanistan’s borders. "Baradar warned neighbouring countries not to test the patience of Afghans and not to view Afghanistan territory with ill intent. During the ceremony, Taliban forces carried out helicopter manoeuvres and ground tactics to demonstrate operational readiness. The ministry said any foreign force seeking to breach Afghanistan soil would face a decisive response," the leading media outlet reported.

China-linked firms grip US food supply : Senator Chuck Schumer



Washington, Aug 17 : Foreign players linked to China are tightening their grip over America’s food supply and influencing grocery prices, a top Democratic senator said, warning that rising consolidation in agriculture.

Keertana Finserv Limited Auction Notice

Notice is hereby given that the loans listed below, availed at the respective branches, remain unpaid despite prior Auction notices given. As a result, the pledged gold ornaments associated with these loans will be auctioned on **Aug 18, 2026**, at the respective branches where the loans were taken. If the auction is unsuccessful on this date, a subsequent auction will be conducted at Keertana's Branch in the respective District Headquarters on **Aug 19, 2026**. Should the auction remain unsuccessful, a final auction will be held on **Aug 20, 2026**, at **Keertana Branch, Krishna Lanka**. This notice serves as the official communication regarding the auction proceedings. **Final Auction Venue Address: Door No. 41-1/12-2, Hotel Lazeez Building, Near M Hotel, Nehru Nagar, Krishna Lanka, Andhra Pradesh, Pin Code - 520013.**

Addanki, KL: KL1855257, KL2076098, KL2069778, KL2053684, KL2047006, KL2077637, KL2050390, KL2074562, KL2082931, KL2043565, KL2068003. **Akkayyapalem, KL:** KL2081487. **Anantapur-2, KL:** KL2093688, KL2093690, KL2093691, KL2093710, KL2093723. **Atmakur, KL:** KL2011379B. **Kothakota, KL:** KL2085368, KL2087882. **Balapur, KL:** KL1836886. **Bangarupalayam, KL:** KL2092356, KL2073441, KL2084174, KL2075210, KL2053047, KL2061616, KL2047177, KL2062824. **Bhadrachalam, KL:** KL2091416. **Bhimadole, KL:** KL2091342, KL2055122. **Buchireddypalem, KL:** KL2078323. **Chilakaluripet, KL:** KL2088551. **Chimakurthi, KL:** KL2053291, KL2068456, KL2068547. **Chirala, KL:** KL2045448. **Chittoor, KL:** KL2044841, KL1935929, KL2087697, KL2089763, KL2089608. **Dharmavaram, KL:** KL1857329, KL2050793, KL1857850. **Gaiveedu, KL:** KL2081800, KL2073857. **Ghatkesar, KL:** KL1797595. **Gopalapuram, KL:** KL2074215. **Gunadala, KL:** KL2056306, KL2039137. **Guntakal-2, KL:** KL2070475. **Hayathnagar, KL:** KL2020594. **Hindupur, KL:** KL2055318, KL2083163, KL2093101. **Huzurabad, KL:** KL2080936. **Jaggampeta, KL:** KL2089103. **Kadiri, KL:** KL2077693. **Kadiri-2, KL:** KL2055889. **Kadiyam, KL:** KL1799028. **Kamareddy, KL:** KL1982694. **Kandukur, KL:** KL2066401. **Kanigiri, KL:** KL2091634, KL2076375, KL2053940. **Kovur, KL:** KL1973563. **Koyyalagudem, KL:** KL1833630. **Madakasira, KL:** KL2052387. **Madanapalle, KL:** KL2082074. **Mall, KL:** KL2082778. **Medaravetla, KL:** KL2074885, KL2057225. **Mummadivaram, KL:** KL2034326. **Narasaraopet, KL:** KL2057285, KL2050331. **Narpala, KL:** KL2093730, KL1688642, KL2093729. **Narsampet, KL:** KL2063380. **Narsipatnam, KL:** KL2026198. **Ongole, KL:** KL2090271. **Palakonda, KL:** KL1837850. **Palasa, KL:** KL2091143, KL2091994. **Pier, KL:** KL2083168, KL2083435. **Podili, KL:** KL1788326, KL1855284. **Prathipadu(EG), KL:** KL1843854, KL1843867. **Punganur, KL:** KL1734738, KL1825545. **Puttur, KL:** KL2087772, KL2092372. **Railway Koduru, KL:** KL2082192. **Rayadurgam, KL:** KL2093914. **Serilingampally, KL:** KL2072119, KL2067635. **Siddipet, KL:** KL2072620. **Srikakulam, KL:** KL2094612, KL2060184, KL2060491. **Srungavarapukota, KL:** KL1976735. **Sujatha Nagar, KL:** KL2085156T. **Sundupalle, KL:** KL2068331. **Tallapudi, KL:** KL2039207. **Tekkali, KL:** KL2055538, KL2055575. **Tuni, KL:** KL2093732, KL2093731. **Urvakonda, KL:** KL2089283. **Vellore, KL:** KL2090187. **Yelawaram, KL:** KL2056430.

Date: 18-08-2026 **Sd/- Authorised Officer, Keerthana Finserv Limited**



Australian police launch task force to target Pacific drug trafficking

Canberra, Aug 17 : Authorities on Monday launched a new task force to target organised criminals trafficking illicit drugs into northern Australia from Pacific nations. A statement from the Australian Federal Police (AFP) and the police force in the north-east state of Queensland said that the North Queensland Joint Organized Crime Task Force (JOCTF) would counter the growing threat of criminals sourcing methamphetamine and cocaine stockpiled in the Pacific, Xinhua news agency reported. It said that the task force will target organized criminals engaged in trafficking through the Torres Strait, the body of water that separates northern Queensland and New Guinea, to protect vulnerable communities and Australian sovereignty. "We believe there are tonnes of illicit commodities that have been stockpiled in the Pacific over many years, giving onshore and off-shore organized crime syndicates reliable.

Northeast region poised to emerge as nation's economic engine: Minister

New Delhi, Aug 17 : Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia said on Monday that the northeast region is set to emerge as the "economic engine" of the nation, as it is no longer just adopting new digital technologies but also leading the way in the country's growing economic expansion. "The northeast region has seen major development activities under the leadership of Prime

Minister Narendra Modi including expanding air, road and rail connectivity and waterways. At present northeast has 17 airports and is also well connected digitally," said Scindia, Union Minister for Development of the North Eastern Region (DoNER). Addressing the annual session of FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO), the minister said, "Each of the eight states of the northeast embodies unique strengths, re-

sources and opportunities, making this region an invaluable asset in India's growth story. "Most of its villages are already connected but by August-September this year and all villages will be digitally connected with 4G and 5G through the BharatNet programme," he told the gathering. The minister further stated that the government, with an investment of around \$16 billion, is setting up broadband digital high-

way which includes installing 27,000 cell towers out of which 15,000 have already been installed. "The process is expected to be completed by August-September this year which will connect each inch of the country with broadband and every single village in northeast with 4G and 5G connectivity" the minister noted. Women in the northeast region have been fast to use digital connectivity for increasing business.



"They are using North East Region Agri Commodity E-Connect (NERACE), launched by the government with an aim to integrate farmers and sellers, enhancing

agricultural connectivity in the region. They are selling Kiwis and other agri-products worldwide through this app," the minister explained.

NCB chief explores tool at AI Summit to outwit drug traffickers

New Delhi, Aug 17 : Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) Director General, Anurag Garg, visited the India AI Impact Summit 2026 at the Bharat Mandapam here to explore AI-driven solutions for strengthening enforcement and combating drug trafficking in the country, an official said on Monday. "During the visit, Garg and accompanying officials were informed by participants about the modern tools that can help outsmart drug traffickers," the official said in

a statement. Earlier, Garg, in a message, said, "As the nation's premier agency in the fight against drug trafficking and abuse, the NCB is committed to safeguarding the health and security of our society by eliminating the menace of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances." He said our mission is multifaceted -- ranging from intelligence gathering and enforcement to rehabilitation efforts and public awareness. "We work relentlessly to strengthen coordination among central and state agencies and en-



gage with international partners to ensure that India's borders remain impervious to the illicit drug trade," the NCB Director General added. Garg said that in recent years, the NCB has made significant strides in curbing drug-related crimes through our focused operations, enhanced inter-agency collaboration, and increased technological capabilities. "The success of these efforts hinges on the collective responsibility of all stakeholders, including law enforcement agencies, civil society, and each one of you," he added.

Meghalaya CM urges vendors' cooperation for inclusive public space

Shillong, Aug 17 : Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma on Monday reviewed the ongoing rehabilitation of street vendors at the newly established Polo Vendors' Market here and said cooperation among all stakeholders was essential to create safer and more inclusive public spaces in Shillong. Interacting with vendors after inspecting the market, Sangma said the relocation initiative was aimed at ensuring that "the general public can walk freely", while simultaneously protecting the livelihoods of vendors through financial and infrastructural support. He appealed to vendors and the public to cooperate with the gov-

ernment during the transition, adding, "This is the best way for us all to move together and move forward as a society." Acknowledging that relocation could create challenges for vendors, Sangma said solutions could be found only by cooperating and working.



After Disha's murder, SS(UBT) targeting Satish Salian's character: Shiv Sena

Mumbai, Aug 17 : Shiv Sena Deputy Leader and Spokesperson, Sanjay Nirupam on Monday alleged that after the murder of Disha Salian, the SS(UBT) is now maligning her father Satish Salian. He demanded that Mumbai Police disclose the truth behind the closure report on Disha Salian's death.

Bringing Punjab out of crisis, and making it secure, prosperous BJP's core agenda: Nitin Nabin

Jalandhar, Aug 17 : Affirming that Punjab not only "protects India's borders but also safeguards the soul of India", BJP President Nitin Nabin on Monday said bringing the state out of the present crisis and making it secure, prosperous and strong is the core agenda of the BJP. He was interacting with saints and spiritual leaders from across the state at the Sant Sammelan in Jalandhar.

"Punjab is not merely a state; it is the land of the Gurus' teachings, the penance of saints, and the blood of martyrs. It represents a living tradition of service, dedication and sacrifice," he said. Saying Punjab is currently grappling with the menace of drugs, the BJP chief appealed to every gurdwara committee, ashram, dera head and temple committee to take a pledge to help people come out of addiction. He added that it has been India's tradition for saints to guide

society. "If all religious organisations come forward, no force can stop Punjab's situation from changing," Nitin Nabin said the Sikh tradition "gives the message of 'Na no bairi, nahi begana' (no one is an enemy, no one is a stranger). This is the true spirit of Punjab, and this is the true spirit of India". He said Guru Nanak Dev taught all humanity the values of unity and equality. "This land bears witness to the penance of Guru Arjan Dev and bows



to the supreme sacrifice of Guru Tegh Bahadur. It carries the immortal message of the bravery of Guru Gobind Singh, the unparalleled sacrifice of the Sahibzadas, and Sarbat da Bhala (welfare of all)." The BJP

chief, who is on a three-day visit to the state, said: "Every grain of Punjab's soil reminds us that a nation is not sustained merely by power; it is shaped by the values imparted by saints.

Delhi Power Minister counters Kejriwal's claim on power outage

New Delhi, Aug 17 : Delhi Power Minister Ashish Sood strongly refuted Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) convenor Arvind Kejriwal's claims about power cuts in the national capital's Jagatpur Extension area. He labelled Kejriwal's allegations as exaggerated and politically motivated. Sood assured that

electricity in the area has improved, describing the reported outages as minor incidents rather than prolonged interruptions. Sood challenged Kejriwal's statements on social media, noting that data from the past year shows 21,597 power cuts lasting an hour or more -- an average of 59 outages per day. He also dismissed

Kejriwal's claims of no power cuts over the last decade as misleading, accusing him of spreading false information. To back his argument, Sood cited planned outages conducted for maintenance purposes and shared January 2025 data, which recorded 3,278 power cuts. He highlighted improvements



made under his leadership compared to the previous administration and outlined initiatives like a 24x7 control room.

'DMK, TVK sailing on same boat': BJP after TN Assembly passed CM Vijay's resolution

Chennai, Aug 17 : Tamil Nadu Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) spokesperson, Narayanan Thirupathy, on Monday remarked that the DMK and the TVK are "sailing in the same boat" regarding the Delimitation issue. His reaction comes after the Tamil Nadu Assembly passed a special resolution moved by Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay urging the Centre to permanently freeze the strength of the Lok Sabha at 543 and protect the existing distribution of Parliamentary

seats among states amid concerns over a future delimitation exercise. The DMK has, however, supported the resolution. Speaking to IANS, Thirupathy said: "Both DMK and TVK are sailing in the same boat, that is what we are saying, because the DMK is totally confused. First, what they said was that not even a single seat should be lost. Now it is being assured that more than 20 seats will be there for Tamil Nadu." Giving examples of leadership from the eastern, southern and western parts of the country.



Centre allocates Rs 491 cr for Tripura-Mizoram gas pipeline; PNG supply by 2028

Aizawl, Aug 17 : The Centre has allocated Rs 491 crore for the implementation of the Tripura-Mizoram natural gas pipeline project, Mizoram Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Minister B Lalchhanzova said on Monday. Replying to a query from opposition BJP MLA K. Beichhua in the Mizoram Assembly, the

Minister informed that the Centre has earmarked a total outlay of Rs 9,265 crore for the broader North East Natural Gas Pipeline Grid. Of this amount, Rs 491 crore has been specifically designated for the 119.5-km pipeline stretch connecting northern Tripura's Panisagar to Aizawl to supply natural gas for Piped Natural Gas

(PNG) connections meant primarily for cooking purposes. He said the terminal station of the pipeline project will be at Sihmui, about 21 km from Aizawl. The project is being executed by Indradhanush Gas Grid Limited (IGGL).



Havells India's Q1 net profit falls 33 pc sequentially, revenue down 17 pc

Mumbai, Aug 17 : Havells India on Monday reported a net profit of Rs 347.53 crore in the first quarter (Q1) of FY26, down 32.78 per cent on quarter-on-quarter (QoQ) basis from Rs 517 crore in Q4 FY26. Revenue from operations also dropped by 16.63 per cent, falling to Rs 5,455.35 crore from Rs 6,543.56 crore in the previous quarter, according to its stock exchange filing. Total income for the quarter also followed suit and stood at Rs 5,524.53 crore - marking a 16.45 per cent decline from Rs 6,612.28 crore in Q4 FY26. Year-on-year (YoY), the company also saw a drop in its profit. Consolidated profit after tax (PAT) fell 14.75 per cent from Rs 407.51 crore in the April-June quarter of the previous fiscal. Revenue from operations also declined 6 per cent YoY from Rs 5,806.21 crore in Q1 FY25.



LG Energy to acquire GM's stake in Michigan battery plant for \$2.04 bn

Seoul, Aug 17 : LG Energy Solution Ltd (LGES), South Korea's leading battery maker, said on Monday it will acquire General Motors' entire stake in their joint venture (JV) battery plant in the state of Michigan in the US for 3 trillion won (\$2.04 billion). The planned acquisition of the Ultium Cells JV 3 plant in Lansing, Michigan, is aimed at minimising the burden of fresh investments in facilities and "effectively"

Sun Pharma to acquire US-based Organon in nearly \$11.75 billion deal

New Delhi, Aug 17 : India's major drugmaker Sun Pharmaceutical Industries on Monday announced that it will acquire New York-listed Organon & Co in an all-cash deal valued at \$11.75 billion, its biggest overseas acquisition to date. Under the agreement, the pharmaceutical firm will acquire 100 per cent of Organon's outstanding shares at \$14 per share, translating into an enterprise valuation of

\$11.75 billion and an equity value of around \$3.99 billion, the company said in an exchange filing. The company said the acquisition is aligned with its strategy to scale up its innovative medicines business while strengthening its presence in established brands and branded generics.



Adani Total Gas' Q4 profit rises 9 pc, revenue jumps nearly 17 pc

Ahmedabad, Aug 17 : Adani Total Gas Limited (ATGL) on Monday reported a 9 per cent year-on-year (YoY) increase in its net profit for the quarter of FY26 ended March 31. The company recorded a consolidated net profit of Rs 168.34 crore in the March-ended quarter (Q4 FY26), compared to Rs 154.59 crore in the corresponding period previous financial year (Q4 FY25), according to its stock exchange filing. On a sequential basis, profit rose 8 per cent from Rs 157.22 crore in the December quarter. Revenue from operations for the quarter stood at Rs 1,694.61 crore, registering a robust 16.62 per cent jump from Rs 1,453.37 crore reported a year earlier, supported by higher gas consumption and continued expansion across segments. Operationally, ATGL maintained strong growth, with total gas volumes in Q4 reaching 297 MMSCM, up 13 per cent year-on-year. Earnings before interest, tax, depreciation, and amortisation (EBITDA) for the quarter rose to Rs 310 crore, also reflecting a 13 per cent increase compared to the previous year. For the full financial year FY26, the company

reported a 14 per cent rise in volumes to 1,133 MMSCM, while annual EBITDA grew 5 per cent to Rs 1,225 crore. The company continued to scale its distribution network and clean energy infrastructure during the year. Its compressed natural gas (CNG) station network expanded to 705 stations with the addition of 25 new outlets, while piped natural gas (PNG) household connections grew to around 1.1 million, including nearly 49,500 new homes added during the period. Industrial and commercial customer connections also increased to 9,965, with 214 new customers onboarded. ATGL further strengthened its infrastructure footprint by completing approximately 15,572 inch-kilometres of steel pipeline network.

Milky Mist IPO: Temasek-backed firm flags Rs 229 crore

contingent liabilities, milk-sourcing reliance, other key risks in RHP

New Delhi, Aug 17 : Temasek-backed dairy products maker Milky Mist Dairy Food Ltd has warned that its heavy dependence on milk procurement from Tamil Nadu, concentration of sales in South India and reliance on a handful of product categories are among the key risks to its business, according to its red herring prospectus (RHP) filed for its initial public offering. The company which opened its public issue for subscription between August 11 and August 13 has highlighted that 94.5 per cent of its raw milk procurement in fiscal 2026 came from Tamil Nadu, making it vulnerable to disruptions including adverse weather, disease outbreaks among cattle, farmer protests, policy changes and supply shortages in the state. In addition, any significant

disruption in Tamil Nadu could affect its ability to procure adequate quantities of quality milk, its primary raw material, and hurt production, sales and profitability, Milky Mist said. Apart from that, the company is also exposed to geographic concentration risk with South India contributing 69.2 per cent of revenue from operations in fiscal 2026. Any economic slowdown, competitive pressures, shifts in consumer preferences, regulatory changes or natural disasters in the region could have a disproportionate impact on its business, it said. In terms of dependence, the company further flagged that paneer, cheese and curd together contributed 59.1 per cent of revenue in fiscal 2026. Moreover, the company disclosed contingent liabilities of about Rs 229 crore.



7 top Indian firms add Rs 96,200 crore in market value

Mumbai, Aug 17 : The combined market value of seven out of the ten most highly valued Indian companies rose by Rs 96,200.95 crore last week, helped by an overall positive mood in the equity markets. The broader indices also supported the gains, with the BSE Sensex climbing 474.75 points, or

0.55 per cent, during the week and touching a new all-time high of 86,055.86 on Monday. Among the top gainers, Bajaj Finance added Rs 20,347.52 crore to its valuation, taking its market capitalisation to Rs 6,45,676.11 crore. HDFC Bank reported an increase of Rs 13,611.11 crore, pushing its

valuation to Rs 15,48,743.67 crore. ICICI Bank also saw a strong rise of Rs 13,599.62 crore, lifting its market worth to Rs 9,92,725.97 crore. Hindustan Unilever added Rs 7,671.41 crore during the week, taking its valuation to Rs 5,79,644.16 crore.

State Bank of India posted gains of Rs 6,415.28 crore to reach Rs 9,04,185.15 crore, while Infosys added Rs 6,273.15 crore, with its valuation now at Rs 6,47,961.98 crore. On the losing side, Bharti Airtel recorded the sharpest decline, slipping by Rs 35,239.01 crore in market value.

Hi-Tech Pipes Q1 profit slips 4 pc, shares fall nearly 7 pc

Mumbai, Aug 17 : Hi-Tech Pipes on Monday reported a 4.2 per cent year-on-year (YoY) decline in consolidated net profit for the June quarter (Q1 FY27), as a sharp rise in expenses and finance costs offset strong revenue growth. The company's consolidated net profit fell to Rs 20.04 crore in the quarter ended June 2026, compared with Rs 20.92 crore in the corresponding period last financial year (Q1 FY26), according to its stock exchange filing. Following the earnings announcement, shares of Hi-Tech



Pipes dropped as much as 6.9 per cent to Rs 78 on the NSE on Monday. Revenue from operations surged 78.5 per cent to Rs 1,412.8 crore during the quarter from Rs 791.4 crore a year earlier. Operating performance remained positive, with EBITDA rising 20.3 per cent to Rs 49.38 crore from Rs 41.03 crore in the year-ago quarter.

SK hynix beats Samsung Electronics in market cap for 1st time

Seoul, Aug 17 : Chip major SK hynix has surpassed Samsung Electronics in terms of market capitalisation for the first time, the bourse operator said on Monday. The market capitalisation of SK hynix reached 2,091 trillion won (\$1,358 billion) at 12:42 p.m., surpassing Samsung Electronics' 2,090 trillion won, according to the Korea Exchange (KRX), reports Yonhap news agency. It marked the first time that Samsung Electronics has given up its throne on the benchmark Korea Composite Stock Price Index (KOSPI) since steadfastly remaining at the top since 2000. It first ranked No. 1 in terms of market capitalisation in 1999. Shares of SK hynix rose 6.15 percent to 2,934,000 won, while Samsung Electronics moved up 0.99 percent to 357,500 won.



Meanwhile, SK hynix said last week it has begun shipping samples of its latest high-bandwidth memory (HBM) chip, the 12-layer HBM4E, to major global customers, marking another step in the race to supply next-generation memory for artificial intelligence (AI) applications.

"The company was able to deliver samples of the 12-stack HBM4E on schedule thanks to its advanced HBM development and production expertise for HBM," SK hynix said. "We will work closely with partners for mass production in a timely manner," it added.

Gujarat: ‘Mangalam canteens’ empower women to become self-reliant

Gandhinagar, Aug 17 : The rapidly expanding network of Mangalam canteens in Gujarat is bringing transformative change in the lives of people, particularly women across the state, by enabling them to harness their entrepreneurial spirit and help achieve ‘atmanirbharata’ in their respective fields.

By taking advantage of the scheme, hundreds of women have secured not just employment but are also setting new ‘growth models’ of self-sus-

taining enterprises, thereby inspiring fellow women residents to take the cue and launch their businesses.

Today, more than 200-250 Mangalam Canteens are operational at key locations, including government offices, educational and commercial centres, healthcare facilities, and NGO premises.

According to women in the ‘Sakhi Mandal’ (Self-Help Groups) who work at the Mangalam Canteen in Gandhinagar, their standard of living has improved significantly due

to increased income. Sarlaben, an employee at the Gandhinagar-based Mangalam Canteen, shared, "We are not highly educated; therefore, we come here to handle the kitchen duties. Through this work, we are able to support our families. The Gujarat government has provided a wonderful employment opportunity for women through this initiative. We do not possess many other specialized skills, so we—women from the villages—come here to cook meals and earn a livelihood for ourselves and our families."



Through the ‘Mangalam Canteen’ scheme, more than 1,700 women across the state have secured employment so far, generating a monthly income ranging from 10,000 to 50,000. A large number of women are also reported to have gained employment at the canteens based in Gandhinagar.

Mital Prajapati, the manager of the Mangalam Canteen, remarked, "Through the GLPC, a large number of women across the state of Gujarat have gained a means of livelihood."



CM Fadnavis launches

‘MahaChatur AI chatbot’ for skill training

Mumbai, Aug 17 : Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Monday launched the 'MahaChatur Artificial Intelligence chatbot', which aims to streamline the journey from education to employment, providing a unified platform for skill development, job opportunities, and entrepreneurial guidance. Speaking at the launch, CM Fadnavis highlighted India's "demographic advantage", noting that 65 per cent of the population is under 35. He stated that industries are looking for skilled manpower, and youth are looking for jobs, and that the 'MahaChatur chatbot' will serve as a vital bridge between the two. He added that the Artificial Intelligence-driven assistant, available via WhatsApp, offers a "one-stop solution" for skill training information and application processes, employment opportunity alerts, entrepreneurship guidance, market linkages, assessments, and grievance redressal.?

According to Fadnavis, a major highlight of the platform is its impact on the apprenticeship registration process. Under the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme and the Maharashtra Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme.



‘Anti-national, party of billionaires’:

Congress hits out at AAP after RS MPs’ switch

New Delhi, Aug 17 : Rajya Sabha MP and National Treasurer of the Congress, Ajay Maken, on Monday accused the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) of being a party of billionaires, calling the leaders of the Arvind Kejriwal-led outfit “anti-national”. Addressing media persons at AICC Headquarters, Maken said that the AAP is not only the B-Team of the BJP, but the party’s claim of being an outfit of people from humble backgrounds is also a lie, as most of its Rajya Sabha MPs are billionaires or “moneybags”. “The leaders of AAP are traitors, and now AAP should change its name to the Party of Billionaires,” he said. Ahead of the Delhi Rajya Sabha election in November 2017, our leader Sushil Gupta told me that he wanted to resign, said Maken. The Congress narrated: Gupta claimed that AAP is making me a Rajya Sabha member. My entire matter has been settled, and all the arrangements are done. On this, I said — There are already several candidates for Rajya Sabha seats there, how will they make you one? “But Sushil Gupta didn’t agree. He joined AAP, and in the end, AAP sent Sushil Gupta to the Rajya Sabha,” said Maken. “The AAP is a party that did not send Prashant Bhushan or Yogendra Yadav or Kumar Vishwas to Rajya Sabha but sent wealthy people to the Upper House,” he said, citing Gupta’s example. “Therefore, what I want to say is that AAP is such a party which, instead of sending qualified people to the Rajya Sabha.

Umrah pilgrimage fraud: Man gets 7-yr RI for duping devotees of Rs 1.2 crore

Bhubaneswar, Aug 17 : The Odisha Protection of Interests of Depositors (OPID) Court, Balasore on Monday sentenced a person to seven years rigorous imprisonment for duping devotees of Rs 1.2 crore on the pretext of providing cheap, secured and safe pilgrimage to Saudi Arabia for Umrah. The court delivered the judgement in a record time period of three months since the submission of a charge sheet in the case. The court has also asked the convict Nabeel Abdul Mubin Shaikh of Mumbai to pay a fine of Rs 2.75 lakh. If the con-



vict fails to deposit the fine amount, he would serve further imprisonment of 15 months. “The judgement of conviction came out as a part of speedy trial that took only 3 months and 5 days after submission of CS and 06 months and 15 days from the registration of the case.”



Punjab govt legalises transfer of prisoners to other states

Chandigarh, Aug 17 : The Punjab government has legalised the transfer of prisoners from its state jails to other states. The Transfer of Prisoners (Punjab Amendment) Bill 2026, introduced by Jails Minister Laljit Singh Bhullar, was unanimously passed by the legislative assembly on Monday.

Himachal received substantial grants from Centre: BJP

Shimla, Aug 17 : Himachal Pradesh’s former Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur on Monday said ever since the Congress government came to power in the state, it has regularly received substantial financial support from the Centre, but it keeps making serious remarks against the Centre, particularly the Prime Minister, in an attempt to divert public attention. He stated that the real issue is not whether the Revenue Deficit Grant (RDG) is mentioned in the Union Budget, but that even when the state was receiving the RDG, the government continued to claim financial distress. Leader of Opposition Thakur told the media here that, after the recommendations of the 16th Finance Commission, if the RDG is discontinued, it is the responsibility of the Congress government to manage finances effectively and take the state forward. “Blaming the Centre or previous (state) governments for their failures cannot solve the problem. If the government is unable to handle the situa-



tion, it should honestly admit it before the people,” the BJP leader said. “Referring to the first phase three-day Assembly proceedings that ended on Wednesday, Thakur said discussion on the Motion of Thanks after the Governor’s Address is both a rule and a convention. “However, the government is determined to introduce a political resolution on the RDG. The Opposition participated in the debate and highlighted failures of the government’s three-year tenure with facts.” He said during the Chief Minister’s reply, several figures were presented incorrectly.

Raj LoP questions state govt after prisoner shot dead on way to Jaipur jail

Jaipur, Aug 17 : Rajasthan Leader of Opposition (LoP) Tika Ram Jullu on Monday questioned the state government over the killing of a prisoner who was shot dead while being transported to the Jaipur jail, raising serious concerns over the security of inmates in police custody and the overall law and order situation in the state. A 45-year-old prisoner lodged at the Sanganer Open Jail was shot dead in Jaipur on Wednesday evening while he was travelling back to the jail from his home. The incident took place on Wednesday evening in the Janaki Vihar area of Dhabas under Karni Vihar police sta-

tion limits. The deceased, identified as Gangasahay Kumawat (45), was riding a motorcycle when two masked men allegedly approached him and opened fire. The attackers reportedly fired three round of fire, one of which struck Gangasahay in the head following which he died at the spot. According to Jaipur West Deputy Commissioner of Police Prashant Kiran, the assailants fled after the shooting. After receiving information from local residents, police teams from Karni Vihar, Bhankrota and Chitrakoot police stations reached the spot. A large mob gathered following the incident, while police teams collected evidence from the spot and began investigating the cir-

cumstances surrounding the killing. Police said Gangasahay was serving a jail sentence in connection with a 2018 murder case. According to the investigation, Gangasahay had been convicted for the murder of Mahendra Gurjar, a history-sheetser from the Moti Dungri area. He was subsequently lodged at Sanganer Open Jail. He had reportedly gone to his home in Dhabas and was returning to the open jail when he was attacked. Reacting to the incident, LoP Jullu criticised the state government and raised questions over law and order in Jaipur. Calling Jaipur the capital "under the shadow of fear and terror", Tika Ram Jullu said that two masked men riding a motorcycle



shot a man in broad daylight in Dhabas and fired three rounds. "The gunfire from brazen criminals in the capital signals that the writ of the law has eroded and the safety of the common people is left to the mercy of God," LoP Jullu said. He questioned the Rajasthan government over the

deteriorating law and order situation and asked, "Chief Minister (referring to Bhajan Lal Sharma), for how long must Rajasthan continue to live under the shadow of fear?" According to a complaint filed by Dharmendra Gurjar, a resident of Shastri Nagar, on April 25, 2018, his elder brother

Mahendra Gurjar, who lived in Moti Dungri and also owned a house in Ekta Nagar at Dhabas had gone to the property on his motorcycle on April 23. Dharmendra said that he was later informed by an acquaintance Babu Gurjar and local residents that Gangasahay, who owned Balaji Electricals, had attacked Mahendra during an argument. Mahendra died following the assault, according to the complaint. Gangasahay was subsequently convicted in the case and was serving his jail sentence at the Sanganer Open Jail. The broad daylight shooting has raised questions about the motive behind the attack. Police are investigating whether the killing was connected to the earlier murder case or stemmed from another dispute.



Giriraj Singh accuses Congress of 'damaging' Parliamentary system

New Delhi, Aug 17 : Union Minister Giriraj Singh on Monday accused the Congress, particularly party President Mallikarjun Kharge and Lok Sabha Leader of Opposition (LoP) Rahul Gandhi, of "damaging" the Parliamentary system by causing disruption due to their "stubbornness". The Monsoon Session of the Parliament witnessed a deadlock between the Centre and the Opposition, with the latter repeatedly demanding Union Home Minister Amit Shah's presence in the House and seeking a statement from him on the police action against students who participated in the July 20 protest march. Even as HM Shah said on Wednesday that he was "ready to answer everything", LoP Rahul Gandhi stated that the Opposition was not interested in the Home

Minister's "imagination or lectures" and added that the young generation wants to know who gave orders to "shoot" at them. Speaking to reporters, Giriraj Singh lashed out at LoP Gandhi, likening him to "unruly, mischievous children in villages". "Look at his (Gandhi's) face, his gestures and the way he speaks. As one of our MPs rightly said, he behaves like a child... In a parliamentary system, there is dignity and democratic decorum," he said. Further referring to LoP Gandhi, the Union Minister alleged: "You (Gandhi) cannot compare yourself with Amit Shah. He has delivered on issues like the abrogation of Article 370, removal of Article 35A and implementation of the CAA. You want terrorism to spread in the country.

MP: Unidentified man cheats people on pretext of providing homes under PMAY, probe underway

Indore, Aug 17 : The Madhya Pradesh Police is in the search of an unidentified person, who allegedly cheated more than a dozen people in Indore, on the pretext of providing homes under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) at minimum price, officials said. Police swung into action af-

ter receiving a complaint from an Indore-based resident identified as Chandan Pathak, who alleged that one of his room partners, took money from people on the pretext of providing homes and now left his room all of a sudden. In his complaint, Pathak told the police that he shared room with a person, who identifies himself as Deepak (fake name).



Tribal corporation scam: K'taka BJP demands Minister Nagendra's resignation

Bengaluru, Aug 17 : Karnataka BJP President and MLA B.Y. Vijayendra on Monday demanded that Minister B. Nagendra should quit the Cabinet, saying that he should step down if he has even a little respect for the Valmiki community. Speaking to reporters, Vijayendra said Nagendra was an accused in the alleged scam involving the Karnataka Maharshi Valmiki Scheduled Tribes Development Corporation and should not attempt to evade the allegations by in-

voking his community identity. "There is no personal animosity towards Nagendra. He himself should explain why a situation arose during Siddaramaiah's tenure as Chief Minister that forced him to resign," Vijayendra said. He alleged that

Nagendra was an accused in the alleged Rs 185-crore scam involving the Valmiki Development Corporation.



J&K minister rejects recruitment allegations, seeks probe into appointments over past decade

Srinagar, Aug 17 : Jammu and Kashmir Education Minister Sakina Itoo on Monday lashed out at the opposition Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), saying it should first seek a probe into recruitments made over the last 10 years. Itoo rejected allegations regarding recruitments and outsourcing, asserting that if the PDP is demanding an inquiry into recent recruitments, it should first seek an investigation into all recruitments carried out during the past decade. Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the Inter-

national Yoga Day celebrations at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre (SKICC) in Srinagar, the minister said the present government has nothing to conceal and is fully prepared to face any investigation. "If the PDP wants a probe into recruitments, it should first seek an investigation into all recruitments made over the last 10 years," Itoo said while responding to questions from the media. Rejecting the allegations levelled against the government, the minister clarified that the outsourcing system was not introduced by the present administration. She maintained that the

practice had been in place earlier and that the current government cannot be held responsible for policies initiated before its tenure. "The government has nothing to hide and is open to any kind of investigation," she said, adding that transparency and accountability remain among the administration's top priorities. The minister's remarks come amid an ongoing political debate over recruitment processes and outsourcing policies in various government departments. She reiterated that the government remains committed to ensuring fairness and transparency in all administrative matters. The PDP has been criticising the National Conference (NC) government headed by Omar



Abdullah for allegedly failing to provide employment opportunities to qualified unemployed youth in Jammu and Kashmir. The PDP has also criticised the NC government for engaging outside agencies to prepare question papers for written ex-

aminations, alleging that these are often leaked, thereby undermining the credibility of the recruitment process.



J&K High Court quashes PSA detention of Doda MLA Mehraj Malik

Jammu, Aug 17 : The J&K and Ladakh High Court on Monday quashed the detention order of J&K's sole Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MLA, Mehraj Malik, who was booked under the Public Safety Act in 2025. Justice Mohd Yousuf Wani announced in open court that the Public Safety Act (PSA) detention of Malik has been quashed. The court ruled the detention grounds as unsustainable, ending his custody since September 8, 2025, when he became the first sitting MLA in J&K to be booked under the stringent law. Malik, representing Doda, was detained for alleged "activities prejudicial to public order", involving accusations of provoking unrest and confronting officials. Over 18 cases/police reports were cited, with a 33-page dossier prepared against him. The High Court, however, found the PSA application, which allows for detention without trial, to be unjustified, granting a habeas corpus petition. The detention, the first of a sitting MLA under the PSA in the Union Territory, sparked protests, internet suspensions, and political controversy.

Punjab govt failed in procurement of wheat: MoS Ravneet Singh Bittu

New Delhi, Aug 17 : Launching a scathing attack on the Punjab government, Union Minister of State for Railways and Food Processing Industries Ravneet Singh Bittu on Monday said the AAP government has failed in procurement of wheat. He accused the state administration of criminal

negligence, gross mismanagement, and deliberately harassing farmers and farm labourers. Bittu said here while the Union government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi has made every possible arrangement for smooth procurement, the Punjab government has exposed its incompetence and anti-farmer

mindset. "The Centre has approved a massive Rs 30,973 crore cash credit limit (CCL) for Punjab. Every logistical and procurement arrangement has been completed in advance yet farmers are forced to sleep in 'mandis', their produce lies unattended, and labourers are suffering because the Punjab government has failed

on every front," Bittu said in a statement. He said the Centre had allocated 4.88 lakh bales (1 bale equal to 500 bags) for 2026-27 and also granted permission to procure additional stock through the GeM portal whenever required. Even quality specifications were relaxed by the Union government to ensure no farmer suffers losses.



"Despite all support from the Centre, the Punjab government has no excuse left. If bags are available, storage space is created, CCL is sanctioned, and procurement norms are relaxed, then why is wheat not being purchased on time?" he asked. Bittu also highlighted the proactive role played by the FCI and Indian Railways in clearing existing foodgrain stocks to create storage space.

Delhi Police arrest three 'Gangland' operatives, foil extortion plot in NCR

New Delhi, Aug 17 : Delhi Police's Special Cell has arrested three members of the newly formed Mathura-based criminal outfit "Gangland", including its alleged kingpin, Kanha Singh Jadaul alias Kanha Thakur, and foiled a suspected extortion plot targeting businesses in the National Capital Region (NCR). The arrests were made by a



team of Special Cell/South-West Range (SWR), led by Inspector Manender Singh under the supervision of ACP SWR Puran Chandra Pant.

AIMPLB may move Supreme Court against Uttarakhand's madrasa law

New Delhi, Aug 17 : The All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) said on Monday that it may approach the Supreme Court if the Uttarakhand High Court does not grant relief in pleas challenging certain provisions of the state government's law on

madrasa registration. Alleging that there appears to be a concerted attempt to undermine Islamic seminaries, the Board, in a statement, said that the Uttarakhand government has introduced a law making it mandatory for all madrasas to register with a government educational board. "We believe that this law is in clear violation of the guaran-

tees and Fundamental Rights enshrined in the Constitution; indeed, it is also contrary to the very expectations from a secular state," said AIMPLB President Maulana Khalid Saifullah Rahmani. "Some cases related to this matter are currently under consideration before the Uttarakhand High Court, and if necessary, the matter will also be taken to the Su-



preme Court," he said. Offering support to the cause on behalf of organisations such as Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind, Majlis Ittehad-e-Millat, Jamaat-e-Islami Hind and Jamiat Ahl-e-Hadith, Rahmani said that opposing the law.

Manipur: Security forces apprehend 7 more militants, recover huge cache of arms & ammunition

Imphal, Aug 17 : Continuing its operation against the militants' activities in Manipur, security forces nabbed seven more militants belonging to different proscribed outfits from different districts during the past 24 hours, an official said on Monday. A police official said that besides the seven militants, a large cache of arms and ammunition were also recovered

from Kakching, Imphal West, Imphal East, Bishnupur and Thoubal districts. The arrested militants belonged to PREPAK, different factions of Kangleipak Communist Party. The arrested militants were involved in abduction, forcible collection of money from traders, officials, contractors, and issuing threat notices to people. The Manipur Police have

arrested six militants of different outfits and seized a cache of arms and ammunition on Wednesday and Thursday. The official said that a big cylindrical shaped Improvised Explosive Device weighing 11 kg along with a large cache of arms and ammunition were recovered from Imphal East district. The recovered arms and ammunition include Carbine machine gun,

Excalibur rifle, .303 sniper rifle, foreign made pistols, 9 mm pistol with magazine, automatic single-barrelled gun, hand grenades with detonators, .303 LMG, INSAS rifles, LMG magazines, foreign made grenades, radio wireless set. Security forces also dismantled two bunkers and burnt down the remnants to ashes in Kangpokpi district.



Surge in attacks on aid workers across South Sudan: UN

Juba, Aug 17 : The United Nations (UN) relief agency has expressed concern after attacks in South Sudan killed six humanitarian workers in July, warning that rising violence severely threatens vital aid operations across the country. The UN Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) has said that humanitarian access across South Sudan remained severely constrained in July due to persistent conflict, violence against aid workers, administrative hurdles and degrading

infrastructure. "Restrictions on the movement of cash, fuel and communications equipment into opposition-controlled areas also persisted, affecting the delivery of cash-based and other essential assistance," the UN agency said in its report. It said two humanitarian workers were killed in Jonglei State, two in the Greater Pibor Administrative Area and two others in Warrap State, Xinhua news agency reported. According to OCHA, three humanitarian workers were abducted with ransom demands in Central Equatoria and Western Equatoria states, while



escalated hostilities in northern Jonglei forced the relocation of 10 aid personnel. In July, 65 humanitarian access incidents were recorded, up from 63 in June, primarily in localities including Upper Nile, Central Equatoria, Jonglei, and Unity in the country, as ongoing insecurity posed severe threats to aid personnel and operations, OCHA said. OCHA noted that a combination of escalating insecurity, movement restrictions, bureaucratic hurdles and weather-damaged infrastructure severely hampered humanitarian operations and delayed life-saving aid across South Sudan in July.

South Korea: Yoon used envoy appointment to shield ex-defence minister from Marine death probe, indictment shows

Seoul, Aug 17 : Former South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol rushed to appoint former Defence Minister Lee Jong-sup as the top envoy to Australia in 2026 to help him evade an investigation into a Marine's death, a special counsel's indictment showed Monday. The ousted president, already on trial for his botched martial law attempt, was further indicted earlier this week for allegedly helping Lee escape from the widening probe that centred on suspicions of negligence by senior Marine leadership. The indictment, obtained by Yonhap News Agency, alleges that in September 2023, Yoon discussed with his national security adviser, Cho Tae-yong, sending Lee to an ambassadorial post. That was when Lee had offered to step down as minister amid growing controversy over the young Marine's death, reports Yonhap news agency. As Cho suggested appointing

him ambassador to Australia, Yoon flagged the idea of Lee being considered for an envoy post during his meeting with former ministers, the indictment showed. Two months later, Yoon explicitly instructed Cho to make arrangements for Lee's appointment, according to the indictment. Cho allegedly went on to order foreign ministry officials to take steps to replace the ambassador, whose term had more than two years remaining. Lee was appointed to the position in March 2024. The indictment says that Yoon's orders led the foreign ministry to replace the ambassador to Morocco, as well as to make Lee's appointment to Australia look like a regular reshuffle. The indictment also alleges that the justice ministry was actively involved in helping Lee leave the country.



India must build capabilities to become a global chip power: Minister

New Delhi, Aug 17 : India must build capabilities of such scale and strength that, within the next few years, the nation establishes itself as a major global semiconductor power, according to Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw. He mentioned that the aim is to ensure that we do not depend on anyone else for our strategic needs and become self-reliant in our strategic sectors and to use indigenous chips. He handed over 28 chips fabricated at Semiconductor Laboratory (SCL) Mohali (including 600 bare dies and 600 packaged chips) by students from 17 academic institutions under the Chips to Start-up (C2S) Programme.



National Coast Guard. On Tuesday, the Indian Navy Chief held a series of talks with senior officials of the Mauritius government, exploring new avenues for collaboration between the two countries. The officials included Rampersad Soorojeebally, Commissioner of Police, Mauritius Police Force and Kan Oye Fong Weng-Poorun, Secretary for Home and Defence Affairs, Government of Mauritius.

India Navy Chief meets Mauritius PM, reviews maritime security cooperation

Port Louis, Aug 17 : Indian Navy Chief Admiral Krishna Swaminathan on Monday called on Mauritius Prime Minister Navinchandra Ramgoolam, holding discussions on ways to deepen maritime security cooperation between the two friendly countries. According to the Indian Navy, India's High Commissioner to Mauritius, Anurag Srivastava, was also present during the meeting. "Discussions during the meet-

ing were centred on strengthening maritime security cooperation, training exchanges, information exchange mechanisms, capacity building efforts and operational linkages between the Indian Navy and the Mauritius National Coast Guard," the Indian Navy posted on X. Admiral Swaminathan assured PM Ramgoolam of full support, assistance, cooperation and collaboration of the Indian Navy in the capability enhancement and capacity building endeavours of the Mauritius Police Force and



Hanoi: Visiting NCC delegation briefed on robust India-Vietnam defence ties

Hanoi, Aug 17 : A 15-member delegation from the National Cadet Corps (NCC), currently on a tour of Vietnam as part of the Annual Youth Exchange Programme, visited the Indian Embassy in Hanoi on Monday and interacted with Ambassador Tshering W Sherpa. The Ambassador briefed the visiting delegation on the forward looking multifaceted India-Vietnam relationship, including the strong and growing defence cooperation between both countries. According to the Indian Embassy, the delegation will visit defence, historical, cultural, and educational facilities in Hanoi and Nha Trang, thereby contributing to enhancing understanding and friendship between the youth of the two countries. Youth exchanges are an important pillar in the extensive people-to-people relations between India and Vietnam, the Embassy noted. Ambassador Sherpa on Wednesday also held a meeting with Vietnam's Ambassador-designate to India, Trinh Minh Manh, as he departs

for India. "A pleasure to wish success and an enriching experience in Incredible India to my fellow brother... We both believe in the progressive and future looking partnership between India and Vietnam. India accords the highest priority to the Enhanced Comprehensive Strategic Partnership with Vietnam, a key partner in our Act East Policy and Vision MAHASAGAR, and in the ASEAN framework. The sky is not the limit for our bilateral relationship," the Indian Embassy in Hanoi quoted Ambassador Sherpa as saying. Last week, India and Vietnam held high-level defence talks during Chief of the Air Staff (CAS).



Indian envoy to Canada meets Saskatchewan Premier, discusses bilateral ties

Ottawa, Aug 17 : Indian High Commissioner to Canada, Dinesh K. Patnaik, met the Premier of the Canadian province of Saskatchewan, Scott Moe, in a significant step towards strengthening the bilateral ties. Both sides reviewed significant potential to deepen bilateral partnership between the two countries, especially in food security, fertilisers, energy, and strategic cooperation. "Thank you, Scott Moe, for your warm hospitality. Our discussions highlighted the immense potential to further strengthen India-Canada ties, particularly in food security, fertilisers, energy, and strategic cooperation. Saskatchewan remains an important partner in the growing India-Canada relationship," the Indian High Commission in Ottawa quoted Patnaik as saying.

We wanted FCRA bill to be withdrawn, govt sent it to JPC: K.C. Venugopal

New Delhi, Aug 17 : As the Central government's resolution to refer the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026, to a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) was accepted by the Lok Sabha amid massive uproar from Opposition members, Congress MP K.C. Venugopal on Monday said that instead of bulldozing the FCRA Bill amid the din, the government was sending it to the JPC. Interacting with reporters outside Parliament, Venugopal said, "This Bill has been brought at the last minute. The session is going to end tomorrow. Today, at 12 noon, we received a message from the Lok Sabha Secretariat that (Home Minister) Amit Shah would move this Bill. However, Amit Shah is also absent today. The Minister of State moved the resolution to send it to the JPC. Instead of bulldozing the Bill amid the din, they are sending it to the JPC."



Pakistan Defence Minister Khawaja Asif's remarks on Israel 'incendiary, genocidal and reckless'

Tel Aviv, Aug 17 : Describing Pakistan Defence Minister Khawaja Asif's recent remarks on Israel as "incendiary, genocidal and reckless", a report said that responsible Muslim governments and leaders should be among the first to repudiate him.

It argued that Asif's claim that he speaks for the Muslim world should not go unanswered.

The Pakistani Defence Minister termed Israel an illegitimate state and "a threat to the entire Muslim world" and urged Muslim countries to form "a united military front" against it.

His remarks came a day after Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, and Turkey signed the Mecca Joint Defence Agreement, with Turkey's foreign minister re-



portedly comparing the collective defence pact to Article 5 of NATO. "Asif is the Defence Minister of a nuclear-armed country. Every part of that sentence should set off alarms. This was no criticism of Benjamin Netanyahu, the war in Gaza, settlements, occupation, or any particular Israeli policy. Asif denied the legitimacy of Israel itself. He then called for countries united by religion to organise mili-

tarily against it. That is a genocidal threat," a report in the 'Times of Israel' detailed. "Israel is home to nearly half the Jews in the world. It cannot be eliminated as a political abstraction. A military campaign capable of destroying Israel would necessarily place millions of Jews at risk of expulsion, subjugation, or death," it added.

US halts all visa issuance to Afghan citizens

Washington, Aug 17 : The United States has paused Afghan visas, Secretary of State Marco Rubio said, two days after a man from Afghanistan shot and killed one National Guard soldier and critically injured another near the White House. "President (Donald) Trump's State Department has paused visa issuance for all individuals travelling on Afghan passports," Rubio wrote on the social platform X. "The United States has no higher priority than protecting our nation and our people." "The Department of State has immediately paused visa issuance.



Philippine health authorities warn of water-borne diseases amid floods

Manila, Aug 17 : Philippine health authorities have issued an alert on water-borne diseases after floods hit the northern Philippines, local media reported on Monday. The local health centre in the Ilocos region, northwest Philippines, has warned residents of rising health risks as enhanced southwest monsoon rains continue to trigger flooding across the region, according to the Manila Bulletin. Residents were urged to guard against water-borne illnesses such as influenza, leptospirosis and dengue, which commonly spread during the rainy

season, according to DOH Ilocos Regional Director Dr Helen D. Tobias, Xinhua News Agency reported. She warned that leptospirosis can be contracted through exposure to floodwater contaminated with animal urine, and advised those who waded through floods to wash exposed body parts with soap and clean water and seek medical attention. Red and yellow alerts were raised for power grids in central and southern Philippines on Wednesday as several power plants remained unavailable, according to local media reports.

Vance leads Iran talks amid growing political scrutiny

Washington, Aug 17 : Vice President JD Vance has emerged as the public face of President Donald Trump's high-stakes diplomacy with Iran, taking charge of negotiations that could reshape the Middle East while also carrying the political risks of a deal that is already drawing criticism from both Republicans and Democrats. As technical talks on Iran's nuclear programme began in Switzerland, Vance found himself at the centre of an effort that the Trump administration describes as a historic opportunity to transform relations with Tehran after nearly four months of conflict.

"What the president has asked us to do is turn over a new leaf to transform our relationship with the people of Iran and to extend an outstretched hand," Vance said earlier. He said the

United States was willing to "fundamentally transform our relationship" with Iran if its leadership abandoned regional destabilisation and nuclear weapons ambitions. The vice president's role has expanded significantly since Trump announced a memorandum of understanding with Iran last week. While senior administration officials, including Secretary of State Marco Rubio, have largely remained out of public view, Vance has become the

administration's chief messenger and negotiator. His prominence was highlighted by Trump himself. Speaking before the talks, the president joked: "If it works out, I'm going to take the credit, if it doesn't work out, I'm blaming JD. You better be careful JD." The negotiations are unfolding against a backdrop of growing scepticism in Washington.



India-Kenya Joint Trade Committee meets in Nairobi, MoU signed



Nairobi, Aug 17 : The 10th meeting of the Joint Trade Committee of India and Kenya was held in Nairobi on Monday. The meeting was co-chaired by Commerce Secretary of India, Rajesh Agrawal and Principal Secretary for Trade of Kenya Regina Akoth Ombam, the High Commission of India in Kenya stated. Both sides held comprehensive discussions on enhancing bilateral trade, improving market access, addressing tariff and non-tariff barriers, and strengthening cooperation in key sectors, including pharmaceuticals, agriculture, digital public infrastructure, fintech, energy, including Renewable Energy and manufacturing, the High Commission posted on X. It highlighted that progress on development partnership and

collaboration in areas such as logistics, infrastructure planning and capacity building was also reviewed. The two sides reaffirmed their commitment to a more diversified, balanced and future-oriented economic partnership, and agreed to take forward institutional mechanisms to facilitate trade, resolve pending issues, and promote greater business-to-business engagement, it added. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the exchange of pre-arrival information for goods was signed between the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) and Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) at the sidelines of the 10th India-Kenya Joint Trade Committee meeting. The MoU was signed by Yogendra Garg, Member, CBIC, and Lilian Nyawanda, Commissioner General, KRA, in the presence of

Rajesh Agrawal and Regina Akoth Ombam, the post stated.

The agreement will enhance customs cooperation, enable faster clearances, improve risk management, and facilitate smoother bilateral trade between India and Kenya.

Earlier this month, India's High Commissioner to Kenya, Adarsh Swaika called on Kenya's National Assembly Speaker Moses Wetang'ula in Nairobi, as the two sides held discussions on further strengthening parliamentary exchanges and advancing bilateral ties through the Friendship Groups.

During the meeting, Swaika handed over a letter of Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla to Moses Wetang'ula, conveying the constitution of the India-Kenya Parliamentary Friendship Group in the Indian Parliament.



Trump claims US has 'total control' of Hormuz

Washington, Aug 17 : US President Donald Trump has said the United States has "total control" over the Strait of Hormuz and indicated that Washington intends to retain its hold over the strategic waterway. "The U.S.A. has total control over the Strait of Hormuz. I THINK WE WILL KEEP IT!" Trump said in a post on Truth Social. The US President described the naval blockade in sweeping terms. He said Iran could do nothing to challenge it. "Our Naval Blockade is being called, by everyone, 'A WALL OF STEEL,' and there is nothing Iran can do about it," Trump said. The President did not provide operational details about the

blockade. He also did not say how long the US expected to maintain control of the Strait or set out the conditions under which the operation could end. Trump used the post to portray Iran's military and political establishment as severely weakened. He claimed the country had lost its ability to mount an effective response to US actions. "They have no Navy, they have no Air Force, their remaining soldiers are unpaid, the IRGC is decimated and fleeing, and their 'Leadership' is uncertain, at best!" he said. The President offered no evidence in the post to support those claims. He also did not identify the Iranian leaders whose positions he described as uncertain.

US lawmakers urge Taiwan to boost defence budget

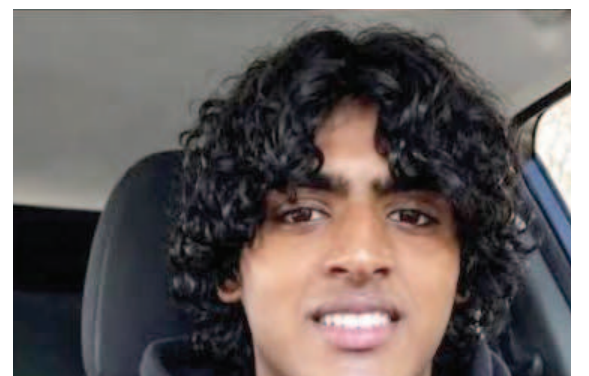
Washington, Aug 17 : A bipartisan group of senior U.S. lawmakers has urged Taiwan's leadership to significantly increase defence spending, warning that partial funding of a supplementary defence budget could weaken efforts to deter PRC "aggression". U.S. Senators Jim Risch, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Pete Ricketts, and Chris Coons, along with Representatives Young Kim and Ami Bera, led a bipartisan, bicameral letter to the leadership of Taiwan's Legislative Yuan. The letter was signed by 37 members of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives. Addressed to Speaker Han Kuo-yu, Chair Cheng Li-wun, Chair Huang Kuo-chang, and Caucus Whip Ker Chien-ming, the lawmakers expressed "our concerns with ongoing deliberations in the Legislative Yuan to only partially fund a supplementary budget request to enhance Taiwan's defensive capabilities".



Indian-American teen murders mother, brother in US home; searched ideas about killing family

Washington, Aug 17 : A 17-year-old Indian-American boy in Acton, a town about 40 kilometres northwest of Boston, has been charged with murdering his mother and younger brother after investigators said he had used the Internet and ChatGPT to search for ideas or fantasies about killing his family.

Arjun Aravind, an Indian-origin teenager, faces two counts of murder in the deaths of his mother, Sudha Venkatesan, 45, and his brother, Siddharth Aravind, 14, the Middlesex District Attorney's Office said.



He has also been charged with two counts each of assault and battery on a household or family member and assault and battery. Other charges include theft of a motor vehicle and use of a vehicle without authority.

'It's a slow recovery, happy to be back': An Se Young on Badminton WC opening win amid ankle issues

New Delhi, Aug 17 : World No. 1 An Se Young began her BWF World Championships campaign with a 21-14, 21-13 victory over Bulgaria's Kaloyana Nalbantova in New Delhi on Monday, but the South Korean star admitted she is still managing an ankle injury as she works her way back to full fitness. For An, the result was less about making a statement and more about finding her rhythm again after an injury-hit period. The 23-year-old, who had her ankle iced after the match, said she was pleased with how her body felt despite some lingering discomfort. "Yeah, I'm so happy to be back. Physically also perfect, so now I hope to get better in the next match. Yes, there's a little bit of pain, but I want to get back into a rhythm, so I hope it's more, and I hope to get a great result," she told reporters after her win. The recovery,



however, is still a work in progress. Asked about the injury and whether she was now fully recovered, An kept her assessment brief. "It's a slow recovery."

'Easy option is to call for change': Australia coach McDonald against rushing for regeneration

New Delhi, Aug 17: Australia coach Andrew McDonald has sounded a note of caution on a demanded shake-up in the Test side following its embarrassing defeat to Bangladesh in the first Test in Darwin. He has emphasised that the players, who have been put under scrutiny for their recent performances, still have a "fair bit of cricket left in them". Following the Aussies' first-ever defeat to Bangladesh at home on Sun-

day, voices grew louder over making tweaks to the Test side, starting with changes to one of the opening spots and that of No.3 as Jake Weatherland and Marnus Labuschagne are facing the heat. Former captain Ricky Ponting advocated for the shake-up, stating that the spots needed "regeneration". However, McDonald has put his weight behind the under-fire batters.



We've got a huge role to play in developing cricket across Europe: Maxwell on ETPL

Edinburgh, Aug 17 : Glenn Maxwell, Ravichandran Ashwin and Scott Edwards have expressed optimism about the inaugural European T20 Premier League (ETPL), with the trio stating that the tournament holds the potential to significantly boost the growth of the sport in the continent. The ETPL is scheduled to launch its maiden season on August 26 and brings together seasoned international campaigners and emerging cricketers in the region.



Charlie Dean to captain England in Ireland ODI series

London, Aug 17 : Charlie Dean will captain England in the upcoming three-match ODI series against Ireland, with the all-rounder handed another opportunity to lead the side after deputising during the team's recent series against New Zealand. After captain Nat Sciver-Brunt was unable to take part because of injury, Dean took over and will now be in charge of the considerably altered England team in Ireland. Some of the more experienced players have been left out or rested, giving a number of

up-and-coming players an opportunity to compete for a spot in the ODI squad. Sciver-Brunt and Danni Wyatt-Hodge are looking after their fitness and recovery, whereas Sophie Ecclestone, Lauren Bell and Amy Jones have not been chosen for the series. Alice Capsey, who served as England's reserve wicketkeeper at the most recent T20 World Cup, will now take on the role of wicketkeeper in Jones' absence. The two players in the squad who have not yet played at international level are Grace

Potts and Kira Chathli, both of whom have been part of the England set-up during the summer. Charis Pavely, who has already taken part in two T20 matches, might get the opportunity to play in her first ODI, while Tilly Corteen-Coleman will aim to build on the two ODIs she has already played, both of which were against New Zealand. Ryana MacDonald-Gay has likewise come back after having recovered from the lower-back injury which kept her out the previous year. The cricketer from Surrey has had a productive season with both her county and the Manchester Super Giants. Charlotte Edwards, England's head coach, stated that the Ireland series would offer the team with a valuable chance to refocus on 50-over cricket after the previous year had been mainly occupied by the shorter format.



Diksha Dagar drops one place to 11th on LET order of Merit after Swiss Open

Golfpark Holzhausen (Switzerland), Aug 17 : Diksha Dagar fell out of the Top-10 on the LET order of Merit after a missed cut at the Swiss Ladies Open this week. Diksha, who had reached Top-6 at one stage, is now 11th after starting the week at 10th. Among the other Indians Pranavi Urs is 46th, while Avani Prashanth, who did not play this week, is 53rd and Aditi Ashok, who has played only six events on the LET, is 55th. Hitaashee Bakshi is 133rd and Tvesa Malik is 117th and Vani Kapoor is 181st. The winner this week, Eleanor Givens jumped to 23rd after collecting 500 points for the win. South Africa's Casandra Alexander still leads the way on 1,899.98 points. Next event for the stars of the LET is a trip to the prestigious K Club for the 2026 KPMG Women's Irish Open. The tournament gets underway following an off-week on August 27. Earlier, Pranavi Urs closed the 2026 Swiss Ladies event with a modest even par 71 in the final round. She was the only one of the three Indians to make the cut this week. Pranavi, who shot 70-69 in first and second round totalled 3-under for the week and finished Tied-38th.

Ravindra Jadeja becomes first Indian left-arm bowler to pick 350 wickets in Test cricket

Galle, Aug 17: Ravindra Jadeja achieved another significant milestone in his illustrious Test career during the ongoing first match against Sri Lanka at the Galle International Stadium in Galle on Monday. Jadeja, who returned to the Test side after missing the one-off game against Afghanistan, has become the first Indian left-arm bowler to take 350 wickets in the longest international format. Jadeja achieved the feat on Day 3 of the first Test at the Galle International Sta-

dium when he removed bowling all-rounder Keshara Nuwantha in the third session of the moving day. The Indian iconic all-rounder got Nuwantha out with Shubman Gill taking the catch at covers after the Sri Lankan batsman tried whacking a ball towards covers but ended up hitting it to the thigh of an evading Yashasvi Jaiswal at silly point. The ball ricocheted towards Gill, who completed the catch. In the



process, Jadeja became the first Indian left-arm bowler to take 350 wickets in the Test format, with former fast-

bowler Zaheer Khan a distant second now with 311 wickets.



Darwish Rasooli to lead Afghanistan squad in Asian Games men's cricket event

Kabul, Aug 17 : Middle-order batter Darwish Rasooli has been named captain of the Afghanistan squad for the men's cricket

event in the upcoming 20th Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan. The games are scheduled to take place at the Korogi Sports Park

from September 17 to October 3. The venue had previously hosted the 2026 Men's T20 World Cup East Asia-Pacific Sub-regional Qualifiers. The Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) National Selection Committee on Monday finalised a 15-member squad and has opted for a blend of seasoned international experience and fresh talent. That has meant the likes of veterans Najibullah Zadran and all-rounder Karim Janat have been included alongside a cluster of top performers from the recently concluded edition of the Shpageeza

Cricket League (SCL) 2026. In-form top-order batter Mohammad Akram has earned his national call-up on the back of an impressive SCL campaign, where he emerged as one of the standout performers with 339 runs across eight innings, featuring a century and two half-centuries. Joining him is all-rounder Ismat Alam, who was adjudged the Player of the Tournament.



Smriti's skill, Harmanpreet's tenacity makes them exceptional competitors : Perry

London, Aug 17 : Legendary Australia seam-bowling all-rounder Ellyse Perry has lauded the skillsets of India captain Harmanpreet Kaur and vice-captain Smriti Mandhana, describing the latter's mind and skill as 'incredible' while highlighting the former's fierce competitive spirit. Ellyse recently led Birmingham Phoenix in The Hundred 2026 and concluded her campaign with a match-winning performance in their final league game. "What makes Smriti so successful? Her amazing skill. I think she's got incredible

willpower and a super-strong mind, the way she approaches the game, the way she prepares, the way she knows herself, the way she thinks about things, and the way that she likes challenges. "She's got it all. Harman, I think her greatest strength is her tenacity. She's a great competitor, and when she's going, she hits some of the biggest shots in the women's game," said Ellyse to JioStar. Reflecting on her own remarkable career longevity and personal evolution over the years.