

THE INDIAN MAIL

HYDERABAD **SUNDAY, 02 AUGUST 2026** VOL : 16 No : 338 PAGES : 12 ₹ 2 PUBLISHED FROM HYDERABAD & VIJAYAWADA



Pine Labs reports 67 pc sequential fall in Q1 net profit

Fintech company Pine Labs on Saturday reported a 67 per cent quarter-on-quarter decline in its consolidated net profit to Rs 19.57 crore for the first...

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Hyd hosts Global uro-oncology summit

Hyderabad emerged as the hub of global uro-oncology research with the commencement of SOGOCON 2026, the fifth annual conference of the Society of Genitourinary Oncologists...

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CWC 2026: Preeti clinches women's 54kg boxing gold with dominant unanimous victory

India's Preeti produced a commanding performance to win the gold medal in the women's 54kg boxing event at the Commonwealth Games 2026, defeating Canada's S.S. Delgado...

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Telangana's economic development is scaling new heights : CM Revanth Reddy

Hyderabad, Aug 1 : Chief Minister Revanth Reddy said that Telangana's economic development is reaching new heights. He revealed that the state's per capita income has reached Rs. 4,18,931 in the financial year 2025-26, an increase of Rs. 38,900 compared to the previous year. He said

that registering a growth of 10.23 percent in a single year is a testament to Telangana's economic growth. Stating that Telangana has emerged as one of the best performing states in the country, he said that these results have been possible due to investment attraction, employment generation, industrial development and economic growth. Rapid development with investments and employment: Revanth Reddy said that Telangana's development.



KTR asks Congress to rein in leaders before bringing Hate Speech Bill

Hyderabad, Aug 1 : BRS working president KT Rama Rao stated that the Congress government should first ensure its own leaders cease making inflammatory remarks before proceeding with the proposed Hate Speech Bill in the Assembly.

Speaking at a seminar hosted by the Telugu newspaper Nava Telangana in Hyderabad on Saturday, he suggested that the government should lead by example, urging Congress leaders to moderate their language before criticizing others for hate speech.

The BRS working president further accused both state and central governments of attempting to censor media content and publications. He claimed that numerous posts and reels shared on social media over the past four days had been removed under duress, and alleged that individuals were being imprisoned for speaking or sharing truthful information.

As an illustration, he cited the case of Nalla Balu, who was detained for 15 days in Telangana for simply reposting content on X that was not objectionable.

Referencing TPCC president Mahesh Kumar Goud's comments on combating fake news online, KT Rama Rao emphasised the need for fact-checking content across both mainstream and social media.

Tummala orders complete digitisation of market committees, tighter monitoring

Hyderabad, Aug 1 : Minister for Agriculture, Marketing and Cooperation Tummala Nageswara Rao has directed officials to expedite measures to make the Agricultural Marketing department more transparent and efficient through the extensive use of technology. Chairing a review meeting of the Marketing department at the Secretariat on Saturday, the Minister reviewed the department's functioning.



Komatireddy calls for collective efforts for village development

Nalgonda, Aug 1 : Minister for Roads & Buildings and Cinematography Komatireddy Venkata Reddy on Saturday called upon villagers to work together to ensure the overall development of their villages. The Minister participated in various development

programmes in Nalgonda and Thipparthi mandals of Nalgonda district. He inaugurated a PWD road constructed at a cost of ₹1.35 crore at Pavuralagudem, a hamlet of Chinna Suraram village in Nalgonda mandal. He also interacted with residents during meetings held in Chinna Suraram, Pedda Suraram and Chandanapally villages.

PM Modi inaugurates Bhogapuram Greenfield International Airport



Visakhapatnam, Aug 1 : Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport at Bhogapuram in Vizianagaram district, near here, on Saturday. After landing at the runway of the Greenfield Airport, the Prime Minister inaugurated the passenger terminal building and undertook a walk-through along with Governor S. Abdul Nazeer, Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan and Civil Aviation Minister K.

Ram Mohan Naidu. The top leadership of GMR Group and the Civil Aviation Minister explained the special features of the airport to the Prime Minister. The terminal was decorated to showcase the culture, traditions, and arts of Andhra Pradesh. PM Modi had a close look at large-scale Etikoppaka artwork displayed at the airport's welcome gate. When the PM stepped out of the airport and headed towards the venue of the public meeting on a special vehicle along with Chief Minister, Deputy Chief Minister

and others, tribal women performed the traditional 'Dhimsa' dance to welcome him. According to officials, the 'Dhimsa' dance by 13,500 tribal women created a Guinness World Record. The Prime Minister was seen clapping to appreciate the colourful and impressive dance performance by tribal women. At the public meeting venue, PM Modi will lay the foundation stone, inaugurate and dedicate to the nation multiple development



projects worth over 17,900 crore in Bhogapuram and address the gathering on the occasion. Developed under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) mode at a cost of over 5,640 crore, the Greenfield airport has been designed to handle 6 million passengers annually. The airport is expected to provide a significant boost to tourism, trade, investment and employment generation in Andhra Pradesh while strengthening air connectivity in the region.



Tribal girls' Thimsa dance is amazing: CM Chandrababu

Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu expressed his delight at the welcome accorded to Prime Minister Narendra Modi by 13,500 tribal girl students and women per-

forming the Thimsa dance during the inauguration of the Bhogapuram Airport. Taking to the social media platform X, he praised the Thimsa dance performance by the tribal girls at the event as magnificent.

They stated that a world-record-setting performance was presented featuring over 13,000 tribal girls. They noted that the Thimsa dance showcased the culture and traditions of Andhra Pradesh to the world. The Chief Minister praised the grand welcome accorded to Prime Minister Narendra Modi by tribal girls.



Pawan Kalyan orders probe into death of tiger in Nagarjunasagar-Srisailem Tiger Reserve

Amaravati, Aug 1 : Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Environment and Forests, Pawan Kalyan, on Saturday ordered a probe into the death of a tiger at the Nagarjunasagar-Srisailem Tiger Reserve. He said the incident of a tiger's death in the Racharla Beat of the Giddalur Division within the Nagarjunasagar-Srisailem Tiger Reserve (NSTR) came to his attention. He posted on 'X' that for nature's balance to remain undisturbed, the conservation of tigers is of utmost importance. "The loss of even a single tiger's life is a matter of grave concern. This incident serves as yet another reminder of our responsibility to protect our forests and wildlife," he said. Pawan Kalyan said he had directed the NSTR Field Director to conduct a comprehensive and transparent investigation to uncover the reasons behind this

death. "Was it a natural death? Or was there any human intervention, such as poaching, poisoning, or other mischief? A thorough enquiry must be carried out from these angles. A post-mortem and forensic tests should be conducted in accordance with wildlife conservation regulations to determine the actual cause



of death," he said. To prevent such incidents from recurring in the future, he instructed forest department officials to immediately increase patrolling in forest areas and strengthen field-level vigilance. "Protecting Andhra Pradesh's forest wealth and the biodiversity here is the duty of all of us. The coalition government is committed to forest conservation and wildlife protection.

Telangana Police Recruitment-2026 Notification Released

Hyderabad, Aug 1 : The state government released the Telangana Police Recruitment-2026 notification on Saturday. The notification has been released for the recruitment of a total of 7,437 posts. It has been clarified that applications are being accepted online only. It has been said that applications are being accepted from August 19th to September 9th.

Investigation of pending cases should be expedited and charge sheets should be filed quickly : District SP Smt. D. Janaki, IPS

Mahabubnagar, Aug 1 : District SP Smt. D. Janaki, IPS has ordered to expedite the investigation of pending criminal cases under the jurisdiction of all police stations in the district and file charge sheets within the stipulated time. On Saturday,

the SP held a review meeting with court duty officers and court liaison officers at the conference hall of the district police headquarters. On this occasion, all the police station house officers of the district participated in the meeting through SHOs online. Pending



matters related to court matters, progress of investigation, filing of charge sheets, coordination of court hearings and other issues were discussed in detail. Speaking on this occasion, the SP directed the officers to complete the investigation in every case with

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

DEMAND NOTICE

Whereas the borrowers/co-borrowers/guarantors/ mentioned hereunder had availed the financial assistance from **M/s. Shriram Finance Limited** (Shriram City Union Finance Limited, amalgamated with Shriram Transport Finance Company Limited, subsequently Shriram Transport Company Limited name Changed as **Shriram Finance Limited**, by it's Incorporation Certificate dt.13-11-2022), is a company registered under the Companies Act, 2013 and also registered with RBI to do Non-Banking Finance business having its registered office at Sri Towers, Plot No.14A, South Phase, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai- 600032 and branch office at **NIRMAL**, (hereinafter referred as Company/ Lender). We state that despite having availed the financial assistance, the borrowers/guarantors have committed various defaults in repayment of interest and principal amounts as per due dates. The account has been classified as Non Performing Asset in accordance with the directives/guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India, consequent to the Authorized Officer of **SHRIRAM FINANCE LTD.** under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 & in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) read with Rule 3 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notices on respective dates mentioned herein below under Section 13(2) of SARFAESI Act, 2002 calling upon the following borrowers /guarantors / mortgagors to repay the amount mentioned in the notices together with further interest at the contractual rate on the amount mentioned in the notices and incidental expenses, cost, charges etc until the date of payment within 60 days from the date of receipt of notices.

The notices issued to them on their last known addresses have returned un-served and as such they are hereby informed by way of public notice about the same.

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

NAME OF THE BORROWER(S)/ Co-Borrower(S)/Guarantors
1. Ravi Peddi, S/O: Rajeshwer, H.No: 7-31, Vill: Pipri, MDL: Armoor, Dist: Nizamabad, Pincode: 503224. 2. Peddi Rajeshwar, S/O: Vishwanatham, H.No: 7-65, Vill: Pipri, MDL: Armoor, Dist: Nizamabad, Pincode: 503224. 3.Gaddam Chaithanya, W/O: Pedda Rajanna, H.No: 7-19, Vill: Pipri, MDL: Armoor, Dist: Nizamabad, Pincode: 503224.
NPA DATE DATE OF DEMAND NOTICE OUTSTANDING AMOUNT LOAN AMOUNT
09.04.2022 08.07.2026 Rs. 28,12,933/- Rs. 15,00,000/-

PROPERTY ADDRESS OF SECURED ASSETS: NIRMALTF1903300013-Description of the Immovable Property (Property holder Name is **RAVI PEDDI S/O: RAJESHWER** Mortgage deed dated 30.04.2021 Registered as Document No 3976/2021 on the file of the office of Sub-Registrar at **ARMOOR**. Open Plot In Sy.No.310/2 Admeasuring To An Extent Of 870.83 Sq. Yards Or 728.12 Sq.Mtrs. Situated At Armoor Town & Mandal, Nizamabad District. **Towards North:** Road (Armoor To Pipri) **Towards South:** Land Of Harijanawada **Towards East:** Open Plot Of Vendee **Towards West:** Land Of Mujahid

In the circumstances as aforesaid, the notice is hereby given to the above borrowers, co-borrowers and/ or their guarantors (where ever applicable) to pay the outstanding dues as mentioned above along with future interest and applicable charges within 60 days from the date of the publication of this notice failing which further steps will be taken after the expiry of 60 days of the date of this notice against the secured assets including taking possession of the secured assets of the borrowers and the mortgagors under Section 13(4) of Securitization and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and the applicable rules there under.

Please note that under Section 13 (13) of the said Act, no Borrower shall, transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise any of his secured assets referred to in the notice, without prior written consent of the secured creditor.

Date:01-08-2026,
Place: Armoor.

Sd/- Authorised Officer,
Shriram Finance Limited

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The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

PROPERTY ADDRESS OF SECURED ASSETS: SANNGTF2104290009- Description Of The Immovable Property All That The Piece And Parcel Of Land Bearing Plot No. 592. (In Ganesh Garden- II), Admeasuring 200 Sq. Yards Or Equivalent To 167. 226 Sq. Mtrs. In Survey Nos. 7, 18, 19, 20, 22, 26, 23 Part & 31, Situated At Mangalpally(V), Ibrahimpatnam(M), Rangareddy(D), And Bounded As Follows: Towards East: Road, Towards West: Plot No: 605, Towards North: Plot No: 591, Towards South: Plot No: 593.

Date:01-08-2026,
Place: Rangareddy & Nalgonda.

Sd/- Authorised Officer,
Shriram Finance Limited

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The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

PROPERTY ADDRESS OF SECURED ASSETS: DLSKNTF01310003-Description Of The Immovable Property All That The Property Bearing Semi Finished Flat No. 113. 114. And 115. (Part Of Old No. 1 To 4) In D Block In First Floor Of The Building Complex Known As Lakshmi Complex In The Premises Bearing Mch No. 8-4-315/6/L/76 (Old No. 8-4-315/6/1 And 2) Admeasuring 1000 Sq. Ft. Out Of 2500 Sq. Ft (Including Common Areas And Parking Areas) Along With Proportionate Undivided Share Of Land Admeasuring 12 Sq. Yard Out Of 30 Sq. Yards Situated At Near Sanath Nagar Flyover Bridge, Erragadda, Hyderabad, And Bounded As Follows: Towards East: Flat No. 112 (Part Of Old Nos. 1 To 4), Towards West: Flat No. 116 (Part Of Old Nos. 1 To 4, Towards North: Staircase And Corridor, Towards South: Open To Sky.

Date:01-08-2026,
Place: Hyderabad.

Sd/- Authorised Officer,
Shriram Finance Limited

IDBI Bank Limited,
3rd Floor, D.No.5-9-89/1 and 2, Chapel Road, Hyderabad-500001, Telangana, Tel: 040-67694177/ 67674053, www.idbibank.in

PROPOSAL OF WILFUL DEFAULTERS' IDENTIFICATION COMMITTEE

Borrower/s: M/s Saptagiri Fertilizer Depo, represented by its Proprietor Shri K.Ramesh Reddy, House No.16-7-41, Near Old Grain Market, Warangal, Telangana-506001.

Notice to the persons/ entities herein below mentioned

IDBI Bank Ltd. ("Bank") had initiated proceedings under the 'Reserve Bank of India (Commercial Banks - Treatment of Wilful Defaulters and Large Defaulters) Directions, 2025' dated November 28, 2025 ("RBI Master Directions") against the entities / persons herein below mentioned ("you"/"your") and had issued the **Show Cause Notice ("SCN") dated 16-03-2026**, based on the "Wilful Defaulter Identification Committee II" ("WDIC II")'s prima facie view that one or more events of "Wilful Default" appear to have involved. Pursuant thereto, upon perusal of the records and having regard to the facts and circumstances, the WDIC II was satisfied that you are fit to be declared as "Wilful Defaulter(s)" on the below mentioned criteria.

Date: 02-08-2026
Place: Hyderabad

Sd/- (DV Krishna Reddy) Deputy General Manager
IDBI Bank Limited

Azharuddin meets Timor-Leste envoy, discusses strengthening bilateral ties

Hyderabad, Aug 1 : Minister for Minorities Welfare and Public Enterprises Mohammed Azharuddin on Saturday met Karlito Nunes, Ambassador of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, and Aurélio Barros, First Secretary, and discussed ways to further strengthen ties between India and Timor-Leste. The meeting was held in the presence of Nawab Mir Najaf Ali Khan, grandson of Mir Osman Ali Khan, the last Nizam of Hyderabad. The dignitaries exchanged views on promoting mutual cooperation across various sectors, strengthening people-to-people ties and exploring new opportunities for collaboration in areas of common interest. Azharuddin appreciated the growing diplomatic engagement between the two countries and expressed confidence that such interactions would contribute to stronger bilateral relations and lasting friendship.

Azharuddin meets Timor-Leste envoy, discusses strengthening bilateral ties

Assam exports 1st consignment of Purabi Ice Cream to Bhutan in 'sweet milestone for India'

New Delhi, Aug 1 : The first international consignment of 5,627 litres of Purabi Ice Cream has been exported from Assam to Bhutan, opening new avenues for value-added dairy exports from the region, according to an official statement issued on Saturday. The export consignment, flagged off by Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma in Guwahati, will reach key markets across Bhutan, including

Thimphu, Paro, Phuentsholing and Wangdue, strengthening the presence of dairy products from Assam and the northeastern Region in neighbouring international markets, the statement said, Manufactured by the West Assam Milk Producers' Cooperative Union Limited (WAMUL) and marketed by North East Dairy and Foods Limited (NEDFL), Purabi Ice Cream is produced using milk procured through Purabi Dairy's extensive cooperative network of

dairy farmers across Assam. The inaugural consignment comprises a diverse range of products, including cups, family packs, cones and gallon packs, catering to both retail consumers and institutional buyers in Bhutan. Commenting on the development, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal, said it was "a sweet milestone for India!" "Facilitated by APEDA, this achievement reflects the growing strength and global competitive-



ness of India's dairy sector while opening new avenues for our dairy farmers. The initiative will create new income opportunities, expand access to international markets and strengthen the livelihoods of our dairy farmers across

the northeastern region," the minister added. The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) facilitated the shipment by extending support in export documentation, regulatory compliance, market access facilitation and stakeholder coordination, ensuring the seamless movement of the consignment to Bhutan while strengthening the export ecosystem for processed dairy products from the northeastern region. APEDA has been consistently promoting exports of agricultural and processed food products from the northeastern region by facilitating exporters in meeting inter-

national standards and accessing overseas markets. The export reflects APEDA's continued efforts to promote value-added products from the region and expand their global market reach, the statement said. Bhutan's geographical proximity provides a natural advantage for expanding dairy exports from Assam and serves as an important gateway for enhancing the presence of Made-in-Assam dairy products in neighbouring international markets. Going forward, the NEDFL plans to diversify its export portfolio by introducing additional Purabi Dairy products. with longer shelf life and pro-

IIT Kanpur Professor booked after wife alleges domestic violence, harassment

New Delhi, Aug 1 : A professor at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur has been booked by the Kalyanpur police following a complaint filed by his wife, who has alleged domestic violence, physical assault, mental harassment and marital cruelty. The complainant is also a faculty member at IIT Kanpur, serving as an assistant professor. According to the complaint, the woman married IIT Kanpur professor Nishith Srivastava in December 2012. The couple has two minor children. The woman has alleged that she and her children have been living under con-

stant mental stress and fear for the past several months due to the alleged behaviour of her husband. In her complaint, the woman has alleged that her husband was involved in a relationship with a married PhD scholar who was working under him in 2022. She has further alleged that since November 2025, he has been involved in another alleged inappropriate relationship with a female professor. The complainant claimed that when she objected to the alleged relationships, her husband's behaviour became more aggressive. She alleged that she was pressured to accept the situation and remain silent. The woman has accused her hus-



band of physical violence and intimidation. She alleged that on November 11, 2025, her husband damaged household items, threw belongings and destroyed her children's books during an argument. She further alleged that he threatened her with a kitchen knife during the incident. The complaint also mentions an alleged incident on January 15, 2026. The woman claimed that after she confronted her husband over the alleged relationship, he

assaulted her, resulting in injuries to her eye, ear and head. The complainant has also alleged that on July 5, 2026, her husband attempted to enter the house against her wishes, following which she called security personnel and a dispute took place. She further alleged that CCTV cameras installed at the residence were being used to continuously monitor her and her children's activities.



Tripura emerges fastest-growing economies in NE, attracts Rs 2,000 cr investment interest at Bengaluru conclave

Bengaluru/Agartala, Aug 1 : Tripura has emerged as one of the fastest-growing economies in the Northeastern region, with GDP performance comparing favourably with other states, a top official said. Tripura Industries and Commerce Department Secretary Kiran Gitte, while addressing a Business Conclave in Bengaluru, said on Saturday that sustained public investment, improved governance outcomes, and a growing focus on private sector participation are steadily reshaping perceptions about the state's economic potential. Addressing the gathering, the senior IAS officer said that the Tripura government is proactively strengthening the

Ease of Doing Business framework through a series of policy reforms, procedural simplifications, and time-bound approval mechanisms. He emphasised that Tripura offers significant untapped potential across both emerging and traditional sectors. This is supported by a skilled talent pool, improving connectivity, and a responsive institutional framework. He encouraged industry participants to explore long-term partnership opportunities with the state. The Bengaluru roadshow and Business Conclave was organised as a focused outreach initiative aimed at engaging industry leaders, investors, startups, and institutional stakeholders from southern India.



Delhi court convicts Bihar MLA Raju Kumar Singh for culpable homicide in celebratory firing case

New Delhi, Aug 1 : A Delhi court has convicted Bihar BJP MLA Raju Kumar Singh for culpable homicide not amounting to murder and violation of provisions of the Arms Act in connection with the death of a woman architect during celebratory firing at a New Year's Eve party hosted at a farmhouse in the national capital in 2018.



'Jal Ganga Samvardhan' campaign to be linked with 'Krishak Kalyan Varsh', says CM Mohan Yadav

Bhopal, Aug 1 : Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Dr Mohan Yadav on Saturday said that the Jal Ganga Samvardhan Campaign will be linked with the state government's 'Krishak Kalyan Varsh' (Farmer Welfare Year) to strengthen water conservation efforts and improve farmers' livelihoods. Addressing a review meeting at the Chief Minister's

residence, Dr Yadav said that the campaign is currently being implemented across Madhya Pradesh with a focus on constructing water structures and reviving dried water sources through recharge.

Oppn criticises Colonel Purohit's promotion to Brigadier rank



New Delhi, Aug 1 : The Congress and NCP-SP on Saturday criticised the promotion of Lieutenant Colo-

nel Prasad Shrikant Purohit, who was acquitted in the 2008 Malegaon blast case last year, to the rank of Brigadier by the Indian Army. The Indian Army cleared Colonel Purohit's promotion, marking a significant development in a long-running service dispute linked to his career progres-

Mayawati's nephew Akash Anand to kickstart BSP's poll campaign from Hathras, next month

Lucknow, Aug 1 : Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) supremo Mayawati's nephew Akash Anand is set to formally launch the party's election campaign for the 2027 Uttar Pradesh assembly elections from Hathras district on August 10. This will kickstart the beginning of an extensive statewide outreach programme aimed at energising the party cadre, particularly its youth base and also mobilising supporters for the high-voltage poll battle next year. Akash Anand, the BSP national coordinator will address a public meeting in the Sadabad assembly constituency of

Hathras, marking the beginning of the party's election campaign. During the event, the BSP is likely to announce its candidate for the Sadabad seat. Sources said the name of Avin Sharma is being considered for the constituency and may be officially declared during the programme. The party has also planned a programme in Jewar, Gautam Buddh Nagar, as part of its election strategy. While the details of the event are yet to be announced, Akash Anand is expected to hold workers' conference in Jewar on August 25. The BSP may announce its candidate for the Jewar assembly seat during the programme.



The BSP has intensified its preparations for the 2027 Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections by focusing on strengthening its organisation across the state. Party supremo Mayawati has emphasised on holding divisional-level meetings and activating workers at the booth level. The party leadership has assigned re-

sponsibilities to office-bearers to ensure better coordination and mobilisation on the ground. As part of its election strategy, the BSP has started announcing candidates for the 2027 assembly polls.

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The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (B) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Name Of The Borrower(S)/ Co-Borrower(S)/Guarantors	NPA DATE	Date Of
1) Katepalli Venkatesham, S/O: Katepalli Yadaiah, Age: 55 Years, Occ: Self Employee, R/O: H No: 1-35, Sunkishala, Valigonda, Bhuvanagiri-508112, B/O: "Swathi Hospital", At 4-48, Beside Anitha Hotel, Police Station Road, Narayanapur, Nalgonda-508253, 9951255495.	09.04.2023	19.06.2026
2) K Manoj Kumar, S/O: Katepalli Venkatesham, Age: 32 Years, Occ: Pvt Employee, R/O: H No: 1-51/1 (Or) 1-35, Sunkishala, Valigonda, Bhuvanagiri-508112, Q/O: "Neuberg Diagnostics Private Ltd", Working As" Lab Technician", At # 1-8/8/24, 1st Floor, Cyber Towers, Hitech City, Madhapur, Hyderabad-500018, 9553058081. 3) D Rohith Kumar, S/O: Rambabu, Age: 28 Years, Occ: Pvt Employee, R/O: H No: 4-53, Metpally, Warangal-506366, Q/O: "Artach Info System Pvt Ltd", Working As: "System Operator", At # 1st Floor, Cyber Towers, Patrika Nagar, Hitech City, Hyderabad-500081, 9515595944.	Amount Outstanding Rs. 2047089/-	Loan Amount Rs. 800000/-

PROPERTY ADDRESS OF SECURED ASSETS: DLSKNTF221140003- DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
All That The Residential House Bearing No. 1-51/1 (Assessment No. 67), Constructed With Brick Walls And R.C.C. Roof Built Up Areaar 360 Sq. Feets, Admeasuring 140 Sq. Yards Or Equivalent To 117.04 Sq. Mtrs., Situated At Sunkishala(V), Valigonda(M), Yadadri-Bhuvanagiri(D), Under Sunkishala Gramapanchayathi, And Bounded As Follows: Towards East: House Of Katepally Uppender, Towards West: Plot Of Ethapa Nagesh. Towards North: 12 Feet Cc Road. Towards South: House Of Munga Narsimha.
In the circumstances as aforesaid, the notice is hereby given to the above borrowers, co-borrowers and/or their guarantors (where ever applicable) to pay the outstanding dues as mentioned above along with future interest and applicable charges within 60 days from the date of the publication of this notice failing which further steps will be taken after the expiry of 60 days of the date of this notice against the secured assets including taking possession of the secured assets of the borrowers and the mortgagors under Section 13(4) of Securitization and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and the applicable rules there under.
Please note that under Section 13 (13) of the said Act, no Borrower shall, transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise any of his secured assets referred to in the notice, without prior written consent of the secured creditor.
Date: 01.08.2026
Place: BHUVANAGIRI, NALGONDA, HYDERABAD & WARANGAL.

Sd/- Authorised Officer,
Shriram Finance Limited

Opinion Mail



PM Modi to launch 'Nasha Mukta Yuva for Viksit Bharat Sankalp Abhiyaan' on August 2

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch the “Nasha Mukta Yuva for Viksit Bharat Sankalp Abhiyaan” on August 2 with the aim of inspiring young people across the country to actively participate in the mission to build a drug-free India. The campaign will begin as a nationwide Jan Bhagidari (people’s participation) movement, led by MY Bharat youth volunteers, with the objective of uniting the country’s youth in a collective effort against substance abuse. The initiative is designed to encourage young citizens to contribute towards the vision of a Nasha Mukta Bharat while supporting the broader goal of Viksit Bharat 2047. According to the campaign plan, nearly 10,000 locations across India will participate simultaneously following the Prime Minister’s launch, with more than one crore (10 million) youth expected to take part in the national pledge against drug abuse. The campaign will bring together a wide range of organisations and institutions, including MY Bharat volunteers, the National Service Scheme (NSS), youth clubs, schools, colleges, universities, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), industrial associations, and more than 125 spiritual organisations, making it a large-scale, community-driven movement. Under the initiative, over one crore young people are expected to take the Nasha Mukti Pledge and dedicate themselves to serving the nation as Nasha Mukta Yuva Volunteers. Organisers said volunteers and organisations making significant contributions to the campaign will be recognised and honoured at the 50th, 75th and the 100th week milestones. A key feature of the programme is that it is not intended to be a one-day event. Instead, it has been conceived as a 100-week sustained Jan Bhagidari movement, aimed at maintaining long-term public participation and awareness on the issue of substance abuse. As part of the campaign, a range of activities will be organised every Sunday over the next 100 weeks. These will include sports events, walkathons, meditation sessions, cultural programmes, art competitions, nukkad natak (street plays), and community engagement activities. The objective is to channel the positive energy of young people towards nation-building while encouraging healthy lifestyles and discouraging substance abuse. The campaign is aligned with Prime Minister Modi’s vision of a “Nasha Mukta Bharat” and seeks to strengthen the national resolve towards achieving the goals of Viksit Bharat 2047 through public participation. The central message of the initiative, according to the campaign organisers, is that “drug-free youth are the greatest strength of Viksit Bharat”. Through the nationwide movement, the government aims to take this message to young citizens across the country and encourage their active participation in creating a healthier and drug-free society.

Every 10 unit rise in annual PM2.5 exposure raising death risk in Indians : Study

Every 10 micrograms per cubic metre of air increase in annual exposure to fine particulate matter 2.5 (PM2.5) is associated with an 8.6 per cent increased risk for mortality across India, finds a study. The study, published in the journal Lancet Planetary Health, revealed that long-term exposure to PM2.5 pollution concentrations higher than the 5 micrograms per cubic meter annual average recommended by the WHO is potentially associated with 1.5 million deaths a year in India. The findings showed that the 1.4 billion people in India live in areas with PM2.5 concentrations above that recommended by the WHO guidelines. "High levels of annual PM2.5 exposures are observed in India causing a huge mortality burden (not limited to cities that are highlighted during the extreme pollution episodes), signaling the need for systematic and not symptomatic approach," said Suganthi Jaganathan, doctoral researcher, Centre for Health Analytics Research and Trends (CHART), Ashoka University.

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri's China visit reflects mature foreign policy : Report

New Delhi, Aug 1 : Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri's visit to China demonstrates a cautious but deliberate move to stabilise one of Asia's most consequential bilateral ties and reflects India's mature foreign policy, a report said, noting that it should not be considered a breakthrough but a reset in tone and intent. "It reflects a mature foreign policy -- one confident enough to recognise complexity, to accept that rivals can still talk, trade, and set guardrails around their competition without pretending the underlying rivalry has disappeared. The real test will lie in follow-through: whether this round of dialogue translates into sustained calm at the border, fairer economic terms over time, and resilient channels of contact that can withstand the next crisis of confidence," Arjun Mehta wrote in a report in India Narrative. "In a fractured global order where great-power relationships increasingly default to confrontation, even modest, hard-won stability between India and China is a strategic asset worth pursuing — not because it resolves their rivalry, but because it makes that rivalry safer to live with," he added. Border stability remained at the centre of Misri's visit to China. India's stance on China has remained that normalcy in bilateral ties depends on tranquillity at the border, not the other way around. Foreign Secretary's meetings during his China visit indicate that a final settlement on the boundary question remains years away; however, the two nations now know the importance of maintaining contact through patrol protocols, hotlines and military-to-military talks that stop a local skirmish from escalating into something graver, according to the report. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Tuesday said that India and China were moving ahead with their earlier understanding on the resumption of border trade through the designated trading points of Lipulekh, Shipki La and Nathu La Pass.



On Monday, Misri and China's Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Hua Chunying held a meeting and reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral ties. The two sides acknowledged the importance of maintaining peace and tranquillity in the India-China border areas. “Foreign Secretary Shri Vikram Misri met H.E. Ms Hua Chunying, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of China. They reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral relations. They discussed means of advancing the vision of the two leaders that India and China are partners and development opportunities for each other, including through mutually beneficial outcomes across trade and economic ties, culture, and people-to-people exchanges. Both sides acknowledged the importance of maintaining peace and tranquillity in the India-China border areas,” the Embassy of India in China stated on X. The Foreign Secretary discussed ways to enhance bilateral exchanges between India and China at the political and people-to-people levels during his meeting with Hong Liang, Deputy Secretary General of the 14th National Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), in Beijing. He also met Sun Haiyan, Vice Minister of the International Department of the CPC's Central Committee, and discussed ways to deepen implementation of the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping for bilateral ties. “Foreign Secretary Shri Vikram Misri commenced his official visit to China today with a meeting with H.E. Sun Haiyan, Vice Minister of the International Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China. They discussed ways to deepen implementation of the guidance of the leaders for bilateral relations, including addressing issues of priority to both sides and by promoting political, people-to-people, academic and think-tank exchanges,” the Indian Embassy noted.

Calls for global intervention grow amid brutal crackdown by Pakistani forces on PoK protesters

Islamabad, Aug 1: As unrest in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) continues to escalate, a human rights documentation and monitoring body has called on the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) to intervene fol-

lowing reports of lethal firing by Pakistani forces on peaceful protestors in the occupied territory that left over 40 civilians dead and dozens injured. In its urgent appeal to UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Turk, the PoK-based group Jammu Kashmir Human Rights Observatory (JKHRO) stated that the killings occurred after the peaceful Long March organised by Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC).

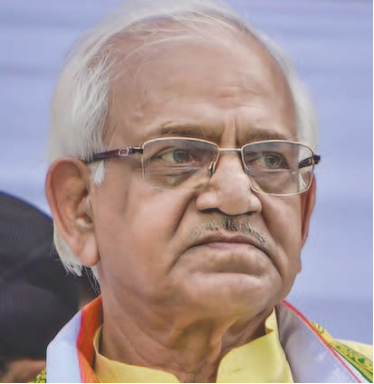


London: BNM exposes Pakistan's human rights abuses in Balochistan

London, Aug 1 : The Baloch National Movement (BNM) staged a protest in London outside the Prime Minister’s House against ongoing human rights violations across Balochistan, including enforced disappearances, collective punishment, and the “genocide” of civilians by the Pakistani forces. The demonstrations held this week were part of the month-long BNM Global Campaign running from March 10 and brought together a large number of members of the Baloch diaspora. According to the BNM, during the protests, a structured awareness campaign was launched, with activists distributing pamphlets at key political.

Fresh tussle in Trinamool as Sovandeb Chattopadhyay shares resolution naming him LoP

Kolkata, Aug 1 : A fresh political slugfest erupted in West Bengal on Saturday after senior Trinamool Congress (TMC) legislator Sovandeb Chattopadhyay made public a resolution dated May 6, signed by 67 party MLAs, endorsing him as the Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in the state Assembly. However, expelled Trinamool Congress legislator Ritabrata Banerjee, who is officially the leader of the Trinamool Congress’s legislative party and also the official leader of the opposition, ridiculed Chattopadhyay’s move, pointing out that the signatures of many of the legislators were put in block letters. Banerjee also questioned whether the alleged nomination letter had been formally submitted to the Speaker’s office. He further flagged discrepancies in the document, noting that the colour of the third page did not match the first two and that it lacked any signatures. He further said that since a Criminal Investigation Department (CID) probe in the matter was going on, it would not be wise on his part to make more



comments on this. “All I can say is that the truth will be known only if forensic experts examine this document thoroughly and track the tower location of the MLAs on that day. All I can say is that this letter will further fuel the investigation that has begun into the signature forgery case, he said. Last month, Trinamool Congress general secretary Abhishek Banerjee had sent a letter to the office of the new Speaker of the West Bengal Assembly, Rathindra Bose, naming Sovandeb Chattopadhyay as the Leader of Opposition, Nayna Bandopadhyay and Asima Patra as the two deputy leaders of the opposition, and Firhad Hakim as the Chief Whip of Trinamool Congress’s legislative party in the Assembly.

VDCs in J&K's Doda district given specialised training in automatic weapons, guerrilla warfare

Srinagar, Aug 1 : Village Defence Committee (VDC) members in Jammu and Kashmir’s Doda district have been given specialised training in handling automatic weapons and techniques of guerrilla warfare. VDC members of Doda district have expressed confidence in tackling any security challenge following specialized training in handling automatic weapons and guerrilla warfare techniques, officials said on Saturday. As part of efforts to strengthen security in far-flung border villages, the Special Operations Group (SOG) of Doda Police conducted a training programme for VDC members from villages adjoining Himachal Pradesh’s Chamba district. A police spokesperson said the initiative was aimed at enhancing internal security and improving the preparedness of



local defence volunteers to effectively counter possible terrorist activities in vulnerable areas. The training, led by Deputy Superintendent of Police (Operations), Amit Kumar, focussed on the handling of Self-Loading Rifles (SLRs) recently issued to VDC members and imparted skills related to guerrilla warfare. The programme was held at Lower Bheja village and attended by VDC members from Katyara.

\$2.2 trillion in infra investment to help India become \$7 trillion economy by 2030

An estimated investment of \$2.2 trillion into infrastructure development is imperative to support India’s GDP size to expand to \$7 trillion by 2030, according to a report. To achieve an economic size of \$7 trillion, India’s economy is required to grow at a CAGR of 10.1 per cent between 2024-2030, according to the report by Knight Frank India. The investment opportunity for private participation in infrastructure development in India ranges between \$103.2 billion to \$324 billion. “India stands at the cusp of a transformative era in infrastructure development. By harnessing the power of private investment.



Syrian constitution,
parliament suspended
for three months: report

Damascus, Aug 1 : The Syrian constitution and parliament have reportedly been suspended for three months, according to Sawt al-Asima, a news outlet supportive of militant groups that overthrew the Assad government. The outlet reported the development on Saturday, citing unnamed sources, but did not provide details on how the suspension would be implemented. Earlier, Syria's Military Operations Administration announced Monday that it has lifted the curfew previously imposed on Damascus and its surrounding areas, calling on residents to resume their daily activities and return to their workplaces. In a statement, the administration encouraged citizens to "contribute to building the new Syria".



Indian UN peacekeeping award winner calls
for dialogue, diplomacy to end Lebanon conflict

United Nations, Aug 1 : Indian Army Major Abhilasha Barak, who received a UN peacekeeping award, has urged diplomacy to find an end to the conflict in Lebanon so that rebuilding can begin in the war-devastated country where she is a peacekeeper. "What I foresee further is that talks should take place, diplomacy should come into action, and hopefully the ceasefire will continue", Barak said at a news conference on Saturday (local time) "And then we can move on to rebuilding the community, not just physically with their roads and destroyed homes, but also (healing) the post-trauma, which they are going under", she said when asked about the situation in Lebanon. "We must work on that as a community, as a government, and as peacekeepers, and rebuild Lebanon", she said. Barak earlier received the 2025 Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award from Secretary-General Antonio Guterres. Calling her a role model, Guterres said, "As a frontline commander, she has engaged

thousands of women and girls through vocational training and programmes for education and health" and is "transforming the lives of women and girls, even under the most challenging circumstances". Barak is the Engagement Team Commander and Gender Focal Point in the Indian Battalion deployed with the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) that operates in an area where clashes between Tehran-backed Hezbollah and Israel have heightened since the Iran war began. UNIFIL is currently the most dangerous operation, and seven peacekeepers have been killed since March, the most recent fatality on Wednesday. US President Donald Trump brokered a ceasefire there that has often been broken, and vast areas of Lebanon have been devastated. Peace in Lebanon is linked to ending the Iran war and opening the Hormuz Strait,



the closure of which has affected India's gas and petrol supplies. Tehran has made a ceasefire in Lebanon between Israel and Hezbollah a condition for suspending hostilities with the US. About her work in Lebanon, she said, "As an engagement team commander, my aim was to interact and engage with all the members of the community, especially with women and adolescent girls who had a resistance in interacting with the male peacekeepers". She said to make the women and girls self-reliant and financially independent, they organised programmes like vocational training. "At the same time, we provided them with awareness sessions for education and health. We carried out physical fitness activities, recreational activities, and we also did some cultural exchange programs", she added. Barak is the first Indian Army woman combat helicopter pilot. She said that she was also an air traffic controller.

Heads of Ukrainian, Iranian foreign
ministries hold phone call after vessel attack



Kyiv, Aug 1 : Ukraine's acting Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha said that he called Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi by phone. In a post on X, Sybiha wrote that during the "frank conversation" he stressed that Ukraine's goal is "to avoid unnecessary escalation." Iran accused Ukraine of attacking an Iranian commercial ship in the Caspian Sea on Saturday, leading to the vessel's explosion and a sailor's death, Xinhua news agency reported. Sybiha said he had reiterated that all of Ukraine's actions

were "aimed solely at defending our country" and "never intended to target civilian vessels or people." "This is also true with regard to Iran's statements about their national who died and a civilian vessel that was targeted in a recent incident," he noted. "I emphasised the necessity to refrain from any escalatory steps," he added. Araghchi said on Saturday that his Ukrainian counterpart, Andrii Sybiha, has assured him that Ukraine's Saturday attack on an Iranian commercial ship was "unintentional" and that Ukraine "does not seek escalation."

US revives drug origin debate, cites Indian exports

Washington, Aug 1 : US lawmakers renewed a push to require country-of-origin labeling on prescription drugs, citing temporary restrictions on pharmaceutical exports during the Covid-19 pandemic by India as evidence that America's drug supply remains vulnerable to foreign disruptions. The call came during a hearing of the Senate Special Com-

mittee on Aging titled "Truth in Labeling: Americans Deserve to Know Where Their Drugs Come From." Committee Chairman Rick Scott announced his CLEAR LABELS Act, legislation that would require prescription drugs sold in the United States to disclose where they and their key ingredients are made. "What we uncovered during this investigation will shock you,"

Scott said. He said 91 per cent of prescriptions in the United States are for generic drugs. Of those, "almost 94 per cent use APIs produced and processed overseas and factories predominantly in Communist China and India." Scott said the lack of transparency leaves patients, doctors, and pharmacists without basic information about the medicines they use. He argued that overseas manufactur-

ing also complicates federal oversight. When US regulators inspect foreign drug plants, Scott said, they often give advance notice. That allows facilities time to prepare before inspectors arrive. "That's crazy," he said, citing reports of unsanitary conditions found even after warnings. Scott framed the issue as both a health and security concern.



UK govt unveils
updated framework to
boost house building

London, Aug 1 : The Labour government in the United Kingdom (UK) on Saturday unveiled updated measures aimed at overhauling the planning system for new housing development, requiring local councils to commit to a house-building timetable. As part of its broader plan to construct 1.5 million homes before the next general election, the government introduced housing targets for councils. This initiative builds on the Labour Party's commitment to deliver an annual target of 370,000 new homes in England, addressing the needs of approximately 1.3 million households currently on social housing waiting lists. The updated measures also include specific guidelines for releasing land from the Green Belt -- protected areas surrounding urban regions designed to prevent urban sprawl and preserve natural landscapes.



South Korea: Lee says paying full respects
to those killed in service an important 'social duty'

Seoul, Aug 1 : South Korean President Lee Jae Myung said Saturday honoring and paying due respects to those killed while serving the country is a social duty the nation should uphold. Lee made the remarks in a speech at a Memorial Day ceremony, a national holiday commemorating those who sacrificed themselves while serving the country, including those who fought for independence from Japan's 1910-45 colonial rule of Korea. Saturday's ceremony at Seoul National Cemetery was attended by 3,000 uniformed service members, government officials, national merit recipients and their families. Among the attendees were the family members of a 34-year-old Coast Guard officer who was killed last year while trying to rescue a person from a tidal flat, as well as the fami-

lies of two service members killed in an Army helicopter crash in February. "Commemorating the spirit of the patriots and paying them full respect is a social duty that we should faithfully uphold," the president said. The president highlighted the enactment next year of a law expanding benefits for the families of independence fighters, saying the government is also faithfully fulfilling its promise to provide financial support to the spouses of war veterans. The president also reaffirmed his commitment to expanding the network of veterans hospitals into remote areas, including Gangwon Province and Jeju Island. "Respect for devotion is the driving force that sustains and advances the national community," Lee said, adding the government "will not fail to reward such noble devotion."

North Korea and Russia united by
bridge, least visible connection to satellites: Report



Moscow/Pyongyang, Aug 1 : Russia and North Korea are completing the first direct road connection, with the construction of a two-lane bridge, one kilometre long and about seven metres wide, over the Tumen River, between the localities of Khasan and Tumangang, which runs alongside the already existing railway connection. The infrastructure, the result of a project launched after the strategic partnership agreement signed by Russian President Vladimir Putin and the Supreme Leader of North Korea Kim Jong-un in June 2024 - and which should have been inaugurated last June but is not yet completed on the Russian

side - seems to signal Moscow and Pyongyang's intention to strengthen their military cooperation, with the transport of North Korean soldiers and engineers to Russia, and Russian high-tech military components to North Korea, Italian News Agency Adnkronos reported. North Korea's road network is much more extensive than its railway network, making it more difficult to monitor in its entirety. Loading and unloading operations can be done anywhere and faster, so loads are less exposed to satellite passage. And while trucks always appear the same in satellite images, train wagons reveal much of their content in satellite-taken images. In addition, the new infrastructure cost 100 million dol-

lars against a trade exchange of 34 million (2024 data). Tourism is also limited to escorted tours for no more than 10,000 people per year (in 2025), with a final destination 500 kilometres from the crossing. The railway tracks in the two countries have different gauges, so trains must be modified before crossing the border. North Korea had sent 14,000 soldiers to fight alongside the Russians in Kursk, after the incursion of Ukrainian forces in August 2024, two thousand of whom reportedly fell on the front. Volodymyr Zelensky has announced that Pyongyang intends to send another 30,000 troops now.

Rajasthan: BJP legislator accuses ex-CM Ashok Gehlot of corruption, Cong Dy LoP attacks BJP govt on SIR

Jaipur, Aug 1 : The Rajasthan Assembly witnessed intense political sparring as members of the ruling BJP and the Opposition Congress traded sharp allegations during the debate on the Governor's address. Corruption, governance failures, and welfare schemes dominated the discussion, leading to repeated disruptions in the

House on Saturday. BJP MLA Atul Bhansali launched a strong attack on the Congress, alleging large-scale corruption during its tenure. He claimed that a Rs 25 crore scam occurred in the Rajasthan Urban Infrastructure Development Project in Jodhpur, the former Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot's own Lok Sabha constituency of Sardarpura. Bhansali said the BJP government had delivered

on its promise of zero tolerance towards corruption, citing action taken in the paper leak case and pointing out that a Minister from the previous Congress-led Rajasthan government was jailed. Mahesh Joshi, a former Rajasthan Minister, was sent to jail on corruption charges in Jal Jeevan Mission case. "Scams committed during the previous Congress government are now being exposed. Cor-



ruption in one's own Lok Sabha constituency is the most shameful act," Bhansali added. Hitting back at BJP leader Atul Bhansali, Deputy Leader of the Opposition Ramkesh Meena accused the BJP of large-scale irregularities in the Special Intensive Revision scheme.



‘Operation Tiger’ active year-round: Maha Minister Sarnaik

Mumbai, Aug 1 : Maharashtra Transport Minister Pratap Sarnaik responded on Saturday regarding the Shiv Sena's ‘Operation Tiger.’ He stated that their ‘Operation Tiger’ remains active 365 days a year. If any individual subscribes to the ideology of the late Balasaheb Thackeray or Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and wishes to join their ranks, they will not be turned away; however, everything will be conducted openly and transparently. Speaking to reporters, Sarnaik said several Shiv Sena (UBT) MLAs came to meet him during the Legislative Assembly session. “As the Transport Minister, it is my responsibility to address everyone’s grievances. As for ‘Operation Tiger,’ we do not hold clandestine meetings. Anyone

who wishes to align with our ideology is welcome,” he said. Regarding the court’s directive to inspect the electronic voting machines in the Chandivali Assembly constituency, Sarnaik stated that the court’s order would be fully respected. “The court has directed an inquiry; therefore, the inquiry must proceed. It is the responsibility of all of us to abide by the court’s decision,” he remarked. The Transport Minister expressed his support for the Central Government’s decision to make toll plazas completely cashless. ? He said, “This decision was taken under the leadership of Union Minister for Road Transport, Nitin Gadkari. We, on behalf of the State Government, are also working in this direction. This is a necessary step to eliminate traffic congestion at toll plazas.”

Must act now to implement women quota before 2029 polls, Rijiju tells Kharge

New Delhi, Aug 1 : Countering Congress' allegation that the government is "hurrying" the implementation of the Women's Reservation (Amendment) Bill, Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju said on Saturday that not acting now may make the quota's implementation by 2029 general elections difficult. "If we don't act now, it is possible that women's reservation may not be implemented in time for the 2029 elections," Union Minister Rijiju said, offering to respond to some of the concerns raised by Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge in a letter addressed to

Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Kharge's letter came in the backdrop of the Union government proposing a Special Session of Parliament next week to deliberate on and pass the Bill. He disagreed with Kharge's allegation that the special session of Parliament was convened without consulting the Opposition. Urging the Congress President to join efforts to move forward with necessary amendments, Union Minister Rijiju said, "Should we allow a possible delay in implementation or make our best efforts to meet the expectations of the people to implement it as soon as possible?" "In our humble view,



this is the most appropriate and logical moment to move forward with the necessary amendments," the Union Minister added. Union Minister Rijiju also dismissed the Rajya Sabha Opposition leader's allegations of the Central government not consulting the Opposition on the key legislation.

AAP questions Congress ex-CM Bhattal's assertion on bomb blasts in Punjab

Chandigarh, Aug 1 : The Aam Aadmi Party in Punjab on Saturday slammed the Congress leadership for maintaining a “criminal silence” over the shocking statements made by its former Chief Minister Rajinder Kaur Bhattal.



India remains world’s fastest-growing economy despite global uncertainty: Defence Minister Singh

New Delhi, Aug 1 : Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday said that at a time when many countries are facing economic uncertainty, India continues to stand out as the world’s fastest-growing major economy. He further said that India’s economy grew by 7.7 per cent

in FY 2025-26, with growth accelerating to 7.8 per cent in the fourth quarter, underscoring its resilience and the underlying strength built over the last 12 years through the mantra of 'Reform, Perform, Transform'. Defence Minister Singh took to social media 'X' and said, "At a time when many countries are fac-

ing economic uncertainty, India continues to stand out as the world’s fastest-growing major economy. India’s economy grew by 7.7 per cent in FY 2025-26, with growth accelerating to 7.8 per cent in the fourth quarter, underscoring its resilience and underlying strength built over the last 12 years through the mantra

of 'Reform, Perform, Transform'. "Under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, India has combined economic growth with stability, confidence, sustainability, and credibility. His unwavering commitment to nation-building, focus on innovation, infrastructure, and entrepreneurship.



Punjab launches 'Next Generation Road Renovation Programme'

Chandigarh, Aug 1 : In a significant step to upgrade urban road infrastructure, the Punjab government has launched the "Next Generation Road Renovation Programme". The initiative focuses on the rapid upgradation of major roads and key junctions in the state’s largest urban centre to improve connectivity and ease of movement for commuters. The project will be executed on the NHAI pattern under the hybrid annuity model to ensure durable roads along with a 10-year maintenance framework. Elaborating on the project, Housing and Urban Development Minister Hardeep Singh Mundian on Saturday said the government is making focused efforts to strengthen road infrastructure across the state to ensure better connectivity and smooth transportation facilities for the people.

Bengal CM hails police after illegal arms recovered from Sandeshkhali pond

Kolkata, Aug 1 : Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari on Saturday praised the West Bengal Police after a large cache of illegal firearms was recovered from a pond in Sandeshkhali in North 24 Parganas district.

In a post on X, Adhikari said, "Kudos to the West Bengal Police for a Major Breakthrough. On precise intelligence inputs, the Special Task Force (STF) conducted extensive raids across multiple locations near Sarberia Bazaar in Kumrakhali, Basanti, and

Sandeshkhali areas. Forces have successfully seized a massive cache of illegal firearms and ammunition hidden away to disrupt peace." The comments from the Chief Minister came after a huge cache of firearms and cartridges hidden

in a pond belonging to a Trinamool Congress leader was recovered on Saturday morning. Special Task Force (STF) of West Bengal Police searched the Manipur area in Sandeshkhali in the morning, based on a tip-off from a secret source. The officers



uncovered a cache of weapons in the pond.

Jamnagar’s JCC heart institute suspended from PMJAY-MA scheme over cardiology irregularities

Ahmedabad, Aug 1 : Gujarat state health department has intensified its crackdown on hospitals flouting norms under the government’s flagship Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana -- Mukhyamantri Amrutam (PMJAY-MA) scheme. As part of this ongoing action, Jamnagar’s JCC Heart Institute has been suspended from the scheme for violations of guidelines and irregularities in cardiology and cardiovascular thoracic surgery procedures. The hospital has been fined over Rs 6

lakh for irregularities found in 105 cardiac procedures, while Dr Parshv Vohra (G-28538) has been suspended with immediate effect for medical lapses in cardiology and cardiovascular surgeries. Health Minister Praful Pansheriya stated that the state government is committed to ensuring transparent, accountable, and citizen-centric healthcare, adding that PMJAY-MA is a “blessing for the poor and needy,” and any form of malpractice or negligence will not be tolerated. According to the investigation, the hospital manipulated laboratory and ECG reports in three cases to falsely



show the need for cardiac procedures. A further state-level review of 262 cases revealed discrepancies in 53 cases, where cardiac procedures were performed even when not medically required. In addition, during surprise inspections, the health department also found violations at two other private hospitals. Sadbhaavna Hospital in Palanpur was fined for performing surgeries through unempanelled doctors, and Samanvay Hospital in Junagadh was penalized for overcharging and booking patients under higher-priced packages than permitted.



PM Modi-led FTA strategy opens access to \$60 trillion markets: Piyush Goyal

New Delhi, Aug 1 : India’s recent Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with major economies are opening access to markets worth nearly \$60 trillion and supporting the country’s push to become a global export hub, Union Commerce

and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Saturday, crediting Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s leadership for the trade expansion strategy. A video shared by the minister on social media platform X highlighted that the FTAs negotiated under PM Modi’s leadership were aimed at expanding market opportunities for Indian exporters.



RBI slaps Rs 41.80 lakh fine on Canara Bank

Mumbai, Aug 1 : The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Saturday imposed a penalty of Rs 41.80 lakh on Canara Bank for not complying with certain provisions of directions issued by the central bank on 'Know Your Customer (KYC)' and 'Unclaimed Deposits and Inoperative Accounts in banks'. An inspection of Canara Bank carried out by the RBI revealed that the bank did not upload KYC records of certain customers onto the Central KYC Records Registry (CKYCR) within the prescribed timeline. Canara Bank also classified certain accounts as inoperative, despite the last customer-induced transaction being less than one year old in such accounts, according to a Reserve Bank statement. This penalty has been imposed in exercise of powers conferred.

Over 1.20 crore senior citizens enrolled under ABVV scheme

New Delhi, Aug 1 : More than 1.20 crore senior citizens have been enrolled under the Ayushman Bharat Vay Vandana scheme, which has delivered over 13.84 lakh treatments worth Rs 3,000 crore, the government said on Saturday. The Mission Indradhanush drive vaccinated 5.46 crore children and 1.32 crore pregnant women who had not been immunised earlier, the statement noted. The share of zero-dose children -- those who have received no vaccines at all -- fell from 0.11 per cent of the population in 2023 to 0.06 per cent in 2024. The government runs the Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP), which targets 2.67 crore newborns and 2.9 crore pregnant women annually, offering free vaccines against 12 diseases.



S. Korea's debt-to-GDP ratio projected to reach 60 pc by 2030

Seoul, Aug 1 : South Korea's national debt is projected to approach 60 per cent of its gross domestic product (GDP) by 2030, government data showed on Saturday, with the pace of increase widely expected to accelerate amid slowing growth and growing fiscal burdens. The country's debt-to-GDP ratio stood at 49 percent last year, up 3 percentage points from a year earlier, according to the national settlement report from the fi-

nance ministry, reports Yonhap news agency. The increase marks the largest annual gain in five years, after a 5.7 percentage-point surge in 2020, when the economy was hit by the COVID-19 pandemic. According to the national fiscal management plan submitted by the finance ministry to the parliament in September, the country's debt-to-GDP ratio is forecast to rise from 51.6 percent in 2026 to 53.8 percent in 2027, 56.2 percent in 2028 and 58 per-

cent in 2029. Industry observers, however, believe the rise may further accelerate if GDP growth slows this year or fiscal pressures intensify. Major economic organisations have lowered their growth forecasts for South Korea this year amid a prolonged conflict in the Middle East. The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) projects the country's economy will grow 1.7 percent this year.

Sensex ends lower ahead of US Fed rate decision, Nifty at 24,198

Mumbai, Aug 1 : The domestic benchmark indices closed in red on Saturday amid weak global cues as market sentiment remained cautious ahead of the key US Fed meeting. US Fed Chair Jerome Powell was set to release the policy statement late on Friday (US time) during the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) meeting. According to experts, the Indian market is experiencing a breakdown in the early Santa Claus rally, with the impact

being more pronounced in India compared to developed markets due to the rapid appreciation of the dollar. Market sentiment remains cautious which is further influenced by India's premium valuation, which is significantly above the current earnings growth trajectory that has slowed over the last two quarters. On Wednesday, heavy selling was seen in the media, PSE, PSU Bank, financial service, metal, private bank and commodities sectors of the Nifty at the end of trad-



ing. At closing Sensex settled at 80,182.20 down by 502.25 points, or 0.62 per cent and Nifty ended at 24,198.85 down by 137.15 points, or 0.56 per cent. Nifty Bank ended at 52,139.55, down by 695.25 points or 1.32 per cent. The Nifty Midcap 100 index closed at 58,723.25 at the end of trading after dropping 378.65 points or 0.64 per cent. Nifty Smallcap 100 index closed at 19,230.35 after dropping 168.10 points or 0.87 per cent. On the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE), 1,447 shares



Pine Labs reports 67 pc sequential fall in Q1 net profit

New Delhi, Aug 1 : Fintech company Pine Labs on Saturday reported a 67 per cent quarter-on-quarter decline in its consolidated net profit to Rs 19.57 crore for the first quarter of FY27, even as revenue from operations registered sequential growth. The company had reported a consolidated net profit of Rs 59.36 crore in the January-March quarter of FY26. However, on a year-on-year basis, the company's net profit rose more than fourfold from Rs 4.79 crore in the corresponding quarter of the previous fiscal, supported by strong growth in income. Revenue from operations rose to Rs 736.92 crore during the April-June quarter from Rs 700.51 crore in the preceding quarter. On a year-on-year basis, revenue increased

from Rs 615.91 crore. Total income stood at Rs 765.87 crore during the quarter under review, compared with Rs 741.44 crore in the previous quarter and Rs 653.08 crore in the corresponding quarter last year. Total expenses increased to Rs 728.14 crore during the quarter from Rs 681.92 crore in the preceding quarter and Rs 657.86 crore a year earlier. Profit before tax (PBT) came in at Rs 31.73 crore for the April-June quarter, down from Rs 68.41 crore in the previous quarter but higher than Rs 4.84 crore reported in the year-ago period.

Adani Group's advertisement on wind turbines, not just commercial but a beacon of hope

New Delhi, Aug 1 : A unique and out-of-the-box advertisement, on wind turbines and renewable energy by the Adani Group, is taking the internet by storm as it comes across as not just a commercial but a beacon of hope for millions, still living in darkness or facing long bouts of power cuts. The 1.30-minute video, with the tagline 'Pehle Pankha Aayega, Phir Bijli Aayegi' takes the viewers by surprise and also goes on to illustrate how clean energy can light up lives, without polluting the environment. The short but incisive video narrates the story of Tamtu, a young boy from a village who along with his father has been spending nights in darkness, waiting for the electricity to knock on their doors. When out of curiosity, Tamtu asks his father, "Papa, when will the electricity come?"



Bitcoin plummets below \$60,000 for first time since October 2024

New Delhi, Aug 1 : Bitcoin fell below \$60,000 for the first time since October 2024, extending a broad reversal that has seen the largest cryptocurrency lose more than half its value from an October peak above \$126,000. The cryptocurrency slid as much as 7 per cent to \$59,101, and was trading at \$59,743.21 apiece early on Saturday. Bitcoin is suffering from liquidity shifts especially by institutional



investors and capital rotation into sectors drawing fresh investor attention such as artificial intelligence, defence, energy and infrastructure.

PLI scheme for White Goods: 13 firms commit Rs 1,914 crore investment in 4th round

New Delhi, Aug 1 : Thirteen companies have filed applications with a net committed investment of Rs. 1,914 crore in the fourth round of the production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme for White Goods (Air Conditioners and LED Lights), the government said on Saturday. The application window was open from September 15, 2025 to November 10, 2025. To date, the PLI scheme for White Goods has attracted Rs 10,335 crore of committed investment from 80 approved beneficiaries. The Scheme is ex-

pected to generate production worth Rs. 1.72 lakh crore and create around 60,000 direct jobs across the country. In the fourth round, over 50 per cent of the new applicants are Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), reflecting the growing confidence of small and medium enterprises in joining the air conditioner and LED components manufacturing value chain, according to an IT Ministry statement. The statement further said that among the 13 applicants, one is an existing beneficiary under the PLI Scheme for White Goods, committing an additional investment of Rs 15

crore. According to the ministry, nine applicants, representing 75 per cent of the total, have applied for manufacturing Air Conditioner components with a cumulative investment of Rs 1,816 crore. These investments focus on manufacturing copper tubes, aluminium stock, compressors, motors, heat exchangers, control assemblies, and other high-value components. The remaining four applicants have proposed investments worth Rs. 98 crore for LED component manufacturing, including LED chips, drivers, and heat sinks. The proposed investments cover six states across 13 dis-



tricts and 23 locations, contributing to regional industrial growth and employment generation. Approved by the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on April 7, 2021, the PLI Scheme for White Goods — with a total outlay of Rs 6,238 crore — aims to establish a

complete component ecosystem for Air Conditioners and LED Lights in India. It is projected to increase domestic value addition from the current 15–20 per cent to 75–80 per cent, positioning India as a key global manufacturing hub for white goods.



Man stabs three women in Paris, says 'Allah commanded me'

Paris, Aug 1 : Three people were injured in a knife attack in Paris, and a male suspect was arrested. The attack occurred at around 11:30 a.m. on Saturday (local time) in northwestern Paris, where a man armed with two kitchen knives attacked passersby on the street. The victims received medical treatment, with two of them in critical condition, reports Xinhua news agency, citing French media reports. The suspect was apprehended at the scene by an off-duty police officer. He had provided "only a self-reported identity" and was making "incoherent statements," French Interior Minister Laurent

Nunez told the media. Nunez urged "great caution regarding the motives behind this extremely violent act." France's National Anti-Terrorism Prosecutor's Office (PNAT) is monitoring the situation, according to media reports. Several videos of the incident have been circulating on social media. One video captured the suspect making a religious statement as he was being restrained. "It is Allah who commanded me," the accused, lying on the floor, was heard saying in the video. This came just a day after another Islamic radical attack in Germany on Saturday, which left one woman dead and 29 others

injured. On Saturday evening, a van was driven into a crowd near Berlin's Tiergarten park. The driver then attacked passersby with a weapon believed to be a machete, leaving one woman dead and 29 others injured. The incident occurred near the site of the city's Christopher Street Day pride parade. The suspect in the vehicle ramming and stabbing attack in Berlin was shot dead by police on Sunday evening, local police said in a statement. Police said the suspect was located at around 6:00 p.m. (1600 GMT) in the Spandau district of Berlin.

CAQM teams detect 102 road dust violations in Greater Noida

New Delhi, Aug 1 : Eight teams constituted by the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) detected 102 instances of road dust violations in Greater Noida, noting that the problem remains a significant concern at several locations, an official said on Saturday. Violations were observed on internal roads, sector roads, and major corridors, including Beta, Delta, Alpha, Gamma, Eta, Sigma, Omicron, Zeta, Ecotech, Knowledge Park and Techzone, as well as on several 60-m, 80-m and 130-m-wide roads connecting key junctions and rotaries.



Pakistan: Education system for girls falters after Grade 5 amid state failures

Islamabad, Aug 1 : Pakistan's education system falters at the transition from primary to secondary education, where a girl completing Grade 5 encounters "an invisible wall". With distant middle schools, unsafe transport, male-dominated teaching staff and hesitant families, girls are left behind after primary school, while the state failed to act, a report said on Saturday. Writing for Pakistani daily, The Express Tribune, Nishat Riaz, Chief Executive of Malala Fund Paki-

stan, said that this is not a failure of ambition -- Pakistan's girls have hunger for learning as they have braved floods, conflict and poverty to attend school — but encounter a system that stops halfway and calls it achievement. "In Pakistan, we have become very good at celebrating beginnings — a new school building, a photograph of smiling girls holding textbooks; a ribbon-cutting ceremony with media coverage. We excel at these moments: the promise, the optimism.

India emerges as stabilising, norm-reinforcing actor in Arctic: Report

New Delhi, Aug 1 : India's most credible role in the Arctic lies in being a stabilising, norm-reinforcing force, promoting openness, sustainability, and multilateralism without pretence amid the great-power rivalry in the region. Although India's position is often ignored in the evolving landscape, its significance in the region becomes clear when the Arctic is viewed not as a remote polar enclave, but an interconnected system linking climate, oceans, trade, and governance across latitudes, a report said on Saturday. "India's Arctic engagement has been grounded in science, norms, and diplomacy rather than power or commerce. Since 2008, the Himadri research station in Svalbard has anchored India's polar presence, enabling sustained contributions to the study of cryosphere dynamics, atmospheric circulation, and Arctic-monsoon linkages. This work is far from academic. Arctic warming alters jet streams, intensifies weather



volatility, and affects monsoonal behaviour across South Asia. For India, the Arctic is upstream of food security, disaster resilience, and economic stability," Sanjay Kumar Verma, a former Indian diplomat, wrote in 'India Narrative'. "This scientific credibility has translated into diplomatic acceptance. As an observer at the Arctic Council, India has acted with discipline and restraint, respecting the primacy of Arctic states.

Australia: Indian Air Force actively engages in Exercise Pitch Black

Darwin (Australia), Aug 1 : The Indian Air Force (IAF) on Saturday said that its contingent is actively engaged in the Exercise Pitch Black 2026 alongside the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) and Air Forces from 20 nations in Australia's Darwin. Exercise Pitch Black 2026 is a biennial multinational air combat exercise that brings together Air Forces of top countries and provides a unique opportunity to enhance interoperability be-

sides strengthening operational cooperation. "The Indian Air Force contingent is actively engaged in Exercise Pitch Black 2026 alongside the Royal Australian Air Force and Air Forces from 20 nations," the IAF stated on X. "A spectacular Rafale flypast over Darwin's iconic Mindil Beach marked the opening of the exercise. The IAF contingent also clinched Gold in the multinational football tournament. Training Together. Integrating Seamlessly. Flying Stronger," it added. Last week, the Indian contingent



met Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese during the opening ceremony of Exercise Pitch Black 2026 at Darwin. "From the seabed to the sky - the India-Australia defence relations are set to touch the sky with glory! Our Indian Air Force contingent had the privilege to interact with Prime Minister of Australia Anthony Albanese during the opening ceremony of Exercise Pitch Black 2026 at Darwin."

India can play an important role in bridging Palestine and Israel: Palestinian Foreign Minister

New Delhi, Aug 1 : Noting that India is a friend of both Palestine and Israel, Palestinian Foreign Minister Varsen Aghabekian on Saturday said that New Delhi can play an important role in bridging both sides. The visiting Foreign Minister, who arrived in New Delhi earlier in the day to attend the 2nd India-Arab Foreign Ministers meeting (FMM) and the 4th India-Arab Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) 2026, asserted that Palestine expects India to actively participate in the ongoing peace efforts. Speaking to IANS, Aghabekian stated that Palestine sees the forthcoming meeting as a platform to hold discussions on the issue of Palestine, the reconstruction of Gaza, the peace plan and other issues that are of interest to India and the Arab world. When asked about India's role in advancing peace between Palestine and Israel, the minister said, "India is a friend of both Palestine and Israel and as such it can play a very important role in bridging both sides and injecting ideas maybe because of its position as a friend to both countries. So, in that regard we would expect that India would do whatever it takes to actively participate in any peace efforts."

Japan downgrades description of China in diplomatic report, drops 'most important' tag

Tokyo, Aug 1 : Japan has downgraded its description of China in its 2026 Diplomatic Bluebook released on Saturday, showcasing strained ties between two nations triggered by Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi's remarks in November, local media reported. In the annual report submitted by Japanese Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi at a Cabinet meeting, China is referred to as an "important neighbouring country" instead of "one of the most important bilateral relations" in the 2025 edition, Japan's leading news agency Kyodo News reported. The change made in the report regarding China's description apparently reflects the strained ties between two nations following Takaichi's remarks in parliament in November last year, where she had said that a Chinese attack on Taiwan could be regarded as a survival-threatening situation for Japan and lead to a response from the Japanese Self-Defence Forces (JSDF). Notably, China considers Taiwan as part of its territory and insists on its reunification with the mainland, by force if necessary.



Two held for links with Pakistani handler: Probe into Karnataka case reveals wider online network

Tumakuru (Karnataka), Aug 1 : The investigation into the case involving the arrest of two individuals for their alleged links with a Pakistan-based person through social media, and for engaging in activities considered prejudicial to India's national security and sovereignty, has revealed that the youths attempted to organise others against the nation and carry out disruptive activities, police said on Saturday. Karnataka's Tumakuru Police arrested two youths, Allabakash (23), a resident of Sriramnagar in Tumakuru and Zameer Khan (23), a mason from Davanagere, on Friday for allegedly maintaining contact with a Pakistan-based individual through social media.

The police stated that they were engaged in activities considered prejudicial to India's national security and sovereignty. The arrests were made under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA). The gang was busted by Tumakuru city police based on confirmed intelligence inputs from central intelligence agencies. Sources stated that the Pakistan-based most-wanted terrorist named Rana Umar was the handler of the accused persons. Through the accused, the Pakistani handler was building an organised network successfully in the region. Investigators further stated that both individuals were allegedly in continuous contact with the Pakistan-based handler for nearly 20 days through multiple social media platforms, including

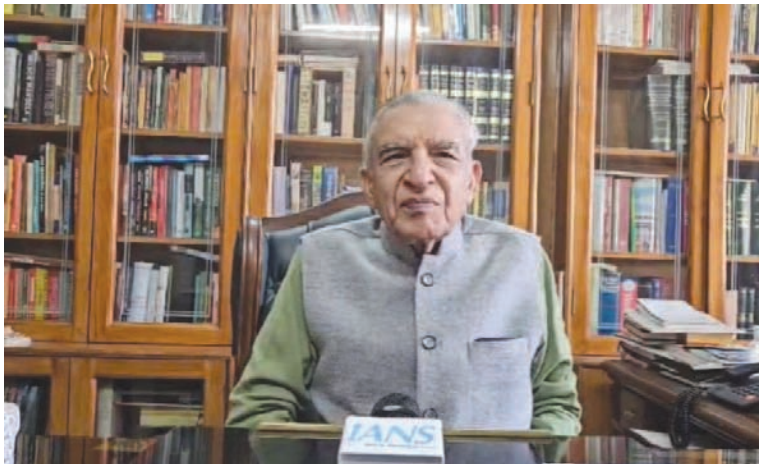


Instagram, X and WhatsApp groups. According to police sources, the accused were initially drawn into conversations involving religious discussions, which later allegedly shifted towards narratives of unity and retaliation. Officials claimed that the communication gradually evolved into discussions about provocative activities. The investigation also suggested that the handler referenced past incidents, including the killing of a cleric in Pune, and allegedly spoke about retaliation. Police suspect the existence of a wider network with possible followers in different parts of the country.



Double whammy: Eight of family travelling for last rites to Beas die in horrific road accident in Punjab

Chandigarh, Aug 1 : At least eight people, comprising women and children, were killed and 11 suffered grievous injuries on Monday in a head-on collision between an overcrowded pick-up (a commercial vehicle usually used for transporting people) and a heavy-duty truck in Punjab's Ferozepur district, police said. Nearly 25 people, all belonging to a close-knit family from Jalabad village, were travelling to a religious place Beas in Amritsar district to perform the last rites of a family member. The accident occurred on the Ferozepur-Fazilka road at around at 5.40 A.M. The collision between the pick-up vehicle and the truck was so massive that the former was dragged and damaged massively. The police, passersby and local residents had to tear down mangled remains to take out several occupants who were trapped inside the vehicle. Four occupants of the pick-up vehicle were killed on the spot, while four succumbed to injuries on the way to hospital. Ferozepur Senior Superintendent of Police Rajinder Singh told the media that the victims were travelling to Beas to immerse the ashes of a deceased relative in the Beas River.



BJP wanted to change Constitution, LoP Rahul is trying to save it : Pawan Bansal

Chandigarh, Aug 1 : As the BJP accuses Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, of disrespecting the Indian Constitution, former Union Minister and senior Congress leader, Pawan Bansal on Saturday countered the claims, pointing out that during their second

term, the BJP had expressed intentions to amend the Constitution if they won more than 400 seats. The BJP has frequently alleged that the Congress does not respect the Indian Constitution, despite the fact that the LoP is often seen with a copy

of it. Talking to IANS, Pawan Bansal said, "When the Constitution was framed, the Constituent Assembly held lengthy discussions on every aspect, considering the sentiments of the Indian people, our heritage, and our future.

India, UNDP discuss evolving dynamics in UN system and need for reforms

New Delhi, Aug 1 : India and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on Saturday held discussions on enhancing collaboration between both sides to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and digital transformation. Secretary (West) at the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) Sibi George met UNDP Acting Administrator Haoliang Xu, discussing evolving dynamics in the United Nations system and the need for reforms. "Secretary (West) Sibi George received UNDP Acting Administrator Haoliang Xu and discussed India-UNDP collaboration to achieve SDG goals, digital transformation besides India's project assistance to foster South-South cooperation to achieve SDGs.



Pappu Yadav questions NTA functioning, paper leak probes during LS debate

New Delhi, Aug 1 : Independent MP from Purnea, Rajesh Ranjan, popularly known as Pappu Yadav, on Saturday launched an attack on the Centre during the Lok Sabha debate on the Examination Amendment Bill, raising concerns over the functioning of the National Testing Agency (NTA) and the handling of examination paper leak investigations. Participating in the discussion, Pappu Yadav said the NTA, established in 2018, had accumulated Rs 3,654 crore between 2019 and 2024. He questioned the government's appointment of the agency's leadership and alleged that the same official had been repeatedly entrusted with key positions despite facing adverse judicial findings. "The Centre appointed as NTA chairman a person who had served in Madhya Pradesh and had been found guilty by a court. The same individual was later appointed Chairman of the Union Public Service Commission and then Chairman of the NTA. Is there only one officer in the entire country capable of holding these positions?" Yadav asked. He further alleged that the NTA was being run by only 24 officials, despite conducting examinations for six to eight crore candidates every year. "I want to know why six to eight crore application forms are being processed every year and why such a huge amount of money goes to the NTA.



Who are the people who have a stake in the NTA?" he said. Raising concerns over the investigation into examination paper leak cases, Yadav questioned the role of central investigative agencies. "Who will conduct the investigation? The CBI has released five main accused in the paper leak case, including Sanjeev Mukhiya, who was allegedly a key accused in the NEET-UG paper leak and other examination paper leak cases in Bihar. The Central government also constituted an SIT and took away the state's investigative powers," he alleged. During his speech, the Purnea MP urged the government to adopt best practices from other countries to strengthen India's examination system.

DRI seizes 522 kg cannabis worth Rs 2.61 crore in Nagpur; two arrested

Nagpur, Aug 1 : The Nagpur Regional Unit of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), Mumbai Zonal Unit on Saturday has busted an interstate drug smuggling syndicate and seized more than 522 kg of ganja (cannabis) valued at approximately Rs 2.61 crore. Acting on specific Intelligence inputs, DRI officials inter-

cepted a long-platform truck travelling from the Odisha-Andhra Pradesh border towards Maharashtra via National Highway 53. The vehicle was stopped at the Mathni toll plaza near Mouda in Nagpur district. During a thorough search of the truck, officials discovered over 522 kg of cannabis concealed inside a specially designed hidden

compartment. The contraband was allegedly being transported as part of an interstate drug trafficking network operating along the Odisha-Central India corridor and supplying narcotics to Maharashtra. Based on the investigation, two individuals linked to the smuggling network were apprehended. During questioning, the accused



allegedly admitted their involvement in the illegal transportation of the contraband. They have been

arrested under the relevant provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985, and further investigations are underway to identify other members of the syndicate. The latest seizure adds to a series of major anti-drug operations conducted by the DRI in recent months. Earlier, on May 31, the DRI seized 104.9 kg of ganja in Bihar and arrested two accused in connection with the case. In another significant operation on April 13, the DRI's Nagpur

Regional Unit dismantled an interstate drug trafficking racket and seized 853 grams of cocaine valued at an estimated ?4.26 crore. According to officials, the operation was carried out based on specific Intelligence inputs. DRI officers intercepted a female Indian national travelling on Train No. 22692 Hazrat Nizamuddin-KSR Bengaluru Rajdhani Express when it passed through Nagpur Railway Station on April 12.



Nadda slams Kharge, cites major health gains in NFHS-6 under Modi govt

New Delhi, Aug 1 : Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda on Saturday strongly countered Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge's criticism of the Narendra Modi government over healthcare and nutrition indicators, asserting that the latest National Family Health Survey (NFHS-6) data demonstrates significant improvements in India's public health landscape over the past decade. In a series of posts on X, Nadda accused the Con-

gress leader of presenting a selective interpretation of the survey findings and said that public health should not be reduced to political rhetoric. "Shri Kharge ji's half-knowledge is dangerous. Public health is too important to be reduced to political rhetoric. Selective reading may serve politics, but facts serve the nation," Nadda said. The Union Minister argued that NFHS-6 data highlights substantial progress in maternal healthcare under the leadership of

Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Comparing the latest survey with NFHS-3 conducted in 2005-06, Nadda pointed to a rise in first-trimester antenatal registration from 43.9 per cent to 76.2 per cent, institutional deliveries from 38.7 per cent to 90.6 per cent, and births attended by skilled health personnel from 46.6 per cent to 91.3 per cent.



India-US trade deal will devastate Indian agriculture, says Punjab AAP

Chandigarh, Aug 1 : The Punjab Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), on Saturday, condemned the so-called India-US trade deal, calling it a "dangerous, anti-farmer and anti-national agreement that will devastate Indian agriculture and push millions of farmers towards economic ruin". Punjab AAP Spokesperson Kuldeep Dhaliwal said that Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Sunil Jakhar "is celebrating the deal without understanding, or deliberately hiding, its catastrophic consequences for India's poor and marginal farmers".

Punjab to illuminate villages with over 3 lakh LED streetlights

Chandigarh, Aug 1 : Punjab's New and Renewable Energy Minister Aman Arora said on Saturday that the state government has launched a unique initiative, 'Mukhya Mantri Roshan Punjab Yojna', to illuminate all villages with solar-powered LED streetlights at an outlay of Rs 550 crore. The Minister described the project as one of the biggest rural lighting initiatives, under which more than 3 lakh solar LED lights will be installed across Punjab. Minister Arora said the State Cabinet, led by Chief Minister Bhagwant

Mann, approved the programme on Saturday to ensure reliable and cost-effective lighting in villages. He noted that solar streetlights are preferred due to their zero electricity cost, reliability and suitability for rural areas. The project will be implemented by the Punjab Energy Development Agency (PEDA), with installation to be carried out in a phased manner between June and October 2026. The scheme will follow a revised funding pattern, with 70 per cent contribution from the state government and 30 per cent from gram panchayats.



India and China taking forward border trade resumption through three designated points : MEA

New Delhi, Aug 1 : The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Saturday said that New Delhi and Beijing were moving ahead with their earlier understanding on the resumption of border trade through the designated trading points of Lipulekh, Shipki La and Nathu La Pass. Addressing the bi-weekly media briefing in New Delhi, MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said that the decision dated

back to August 19, 2025 with both India and China now taking forward the understanding. "I would like to draw your attention to the press release that was issued on, if I'm not wrong, on August 19, 2025. In that press release, you would have seen that both sides had agreed that border trade through three designated trading points, namely Lipulekh, Shipki La, and Nathu La Pass would be resumed. So, you know, it is a decision which was taken at that

time, and we had informed you as and when these discussions took place. And now those things are being taken forward," said Jaiswal. In August 2025, National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval met Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi in New Delhi and held a fresh round of Special Representatives (SR) dialogue on the boundary question. During the visit, the Chinese Foreign Minister also held bilateral talks with External Affairs Minister (EAM)



S Jaishankar and called on Prime Minister Modi. According to the MEA, during the meeting between EAM Jaishankar and his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi, the two countries agreed to reopen border

trade through the three designated trading points, including Lipulekh Pass, Shipki La Pass and Nathu La Pass. This was followed by continued high-level diplomatic engagements between the two sides.

On Monday, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, currently on a visit to Beijing, called on China's Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hua Chunying, and acknowledged the importance of maintaining peace and tranquillity in the India-China border areas. "Foreign Secretary Shri Vikram Misri met H.E. Ms Hua Chunying, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of China. They reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral relations. They discussed means of advancing the vision of the two leaders that India and China are partners and development opportunities for each other.

As risks multiply for energy, need for diversification and global cooperation more urgent: IEA

New Delhi, Aug 1 : Countries around the world are contending with pressing energy security threats and growing longer-term risks across an unprecedented range of fuels and technologies, thrusting energy into the heart of geopolitical tensions and elevating it as a core issue of economic and national security. In this context, the latest edition of the IEA's World Energy Outlook (WEO) underscores the need for governments to pursue greater diversification of supplies and increased cooperation with one another to help navigate the uncertainties and turbulence ahead. The 2025 edition of the WEO,

the most authoritative global source of energy analysis and projections, covers a broad range of trajectories, highlighting different opportunities and vulnerabilities - but also commonalities. It does this through three main scenarios, none of which are forecasts. Each maps out a distinct energy future, enabling an analysis of the implications of different policy, investment and technology choices for energy security, affordability and emissions. Among the many trends common to all the scenarios in this year's WEO is the world's growing need for energy services over the coming decades -- with demand rising for mobility, heating, cooling, lighting and other household and



industrial uses; and increasingly for data and AI-related services. In particular, a group of emerging economies -- led by India and Southeast Asia and joined by countries in the Middle East, Africa and Latin America -- comes to increasingly shape energy market dynamics in the years ahead. Collectively, they take up the baton from China, which accounted for half of global oil and gas demand growth and 60 per cent of electricity demand

growth since 2010, although no country or group of countries comes close to replicating China's energy-intensive rise. Amid these shifts, traditional energy risks affecting the security of oil and gas supply are now accompanied by vulnerabilities in other areas, most visibly in supply chains for critical minerals due to high levels of market concentration.



11 killed, eight injured in road accident in South Africa's KwaZulu-Natal

Johannesburg, Aug 1 : At least 11 people were killed and eight others injured Saturday morning in a road accident on the R102 near Lotus Park, south of Durban, in South Africa's KwaZulu-Natal Province, local media reported. The South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC), citing ALS Paramedics, a local emergency service, said that 11 people, including one child, were declared dead at the scene after a truck collided with a minibus taxi, while eight others sustained critical injuries and were taken to the hospital for urgent medical treatment. ALS Paramedics spokesperson Garrith Jamieson said the crash occurred at around 7:30 am lo-

cal time (0530 GMT), adding that the truck veered off the road during the collision, pinning the minibus taxi against a tree, Xinhua News Agency reported. The spokesperson urged motorists to use alternative routes as emergency personnel and police continued rescue and recovery operations. An investigation is underway to determine the cause of the accident. On January 19, a total of 19 people were killed following a collision between a school transport vehicle and a truck in Vanderbijlpark, south of Johannesburg, South Africa, local authorities confirmed. Preliminary reports indicated that 11 learners were declared dead at the scene.



HPV vaccine can end cervical cancer, says Indian-American radiation oncologist

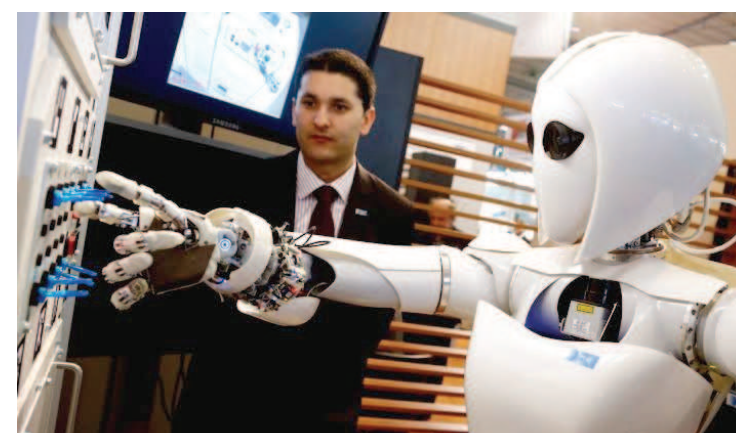
Washington, Aug 1 : Indian-American radiation oncologist Dattatreya Nori has said HPV vaccination could give India a decisive advantage in its fight against cervical cancer and help eliminate the disease in the coming years. "Now, with the HPV vaccination, we have an upper hand, and in few years, we'll be able to eliminate cancer of the cervix from India," Nori said in an interview with IANS. The 2026 Padma Bhushan awardee described cervical cancer as preventable, detectable and curable, making the continued loss of lives particularly distressing for doctors working in oncology. "Cancer of the cervix is preventable, is detectable, is treatable and curable," he said. Nori said about 200 women die of cervical cancer every day in India.



IOM warns of rising criminal networks in human trafficking

Nairobi, Aug 1 : The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) warned on Saturday that hundreds of thousands of people across Africa have been trafficked by criminal networks and forced into online fraud operations that generate billions of dollars in illicit profits annually. IOM said human trafficking networks are increasingly targeting job seekers across East, Horn and Southern Africa, forcing victims into illegal activities amid reports that nationals from Kenya, Ethiopia and neighbouring countries have been trafficked into scam compounds operating in Asia, Xinhua News Agency reported. "The identification of East Africans among victims rescued from scam compounds demonstrates that trafficking for forced criminality is no longer a distant threat. Criminal networks

are actively targeting job seekers across our region with false promises of employment abroad," Frantz Celestin, IOM regional director for East, Horn and Southern Africa, said in a statement issued in Nairobi, the capital of Kenya. Ahead of the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons to be observed on July 30 under the theme "Trapped Behind the Scam," IOM said the growing threat highlights how organised criminal networks.



US blocks new foreign robots over cyber risks

Washington, Aug 1 : The US Federal Communications Commission has blocked new models of foreign-produced advanced robots and connected power inverters from entering the American market, citing cybersecurity, surveillance and supply-chain risks.

The FCC added the two categories to its Covered List on Saturday after a White House-convened interagency body determined that the products posed "unacceptable risks to the national security of the United States or the safety and security of United States persons."

Australia acts against anti-Semitic hate preachers — Will others follow suit



Dhaka, Aug 1 : At a time when antisemitism is resurging across continents — manifesting in rhetoric, violence, and organised incitement — the response of democratic governments remains uneven and, at times, troublingly

inconsistent. While some nations continue to permit the entry and public amplification of extremist clerics, others are beginning to recognise the dangers posed by such figures.

LJP (Ram Vilas) names Ashraf Ansari for Bihar MLC polls, setback for RLM

Patna, Aug 1 : After the BJP and JD(U), the Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) has also declared its nominee for the upcoming Bihar Legislative Council elections. Acting on the directions of the

party's National President and Union Minister, Chirag Paswan, the party has fielded Ashraf Ansari as its candidate. With this announcement, all the seats allocated to the National Democratic Alliance (NDA).



US Senator Warren seeks Nvidia CEO testimony on China

Washington, Aug 1 : Senator Elizabeth Warren, the top Democrat on the Senate Banking Committee, has invited Nvidia President and Chief Executive Officer Jensen Huang to testify at a public hearing on artificial intelligence next week, placing renewed focus on the company's business interests in China and US export controls. In a letter dated July 27, Warren asked Huang to appear before members of the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs at a hearing scheduled for June 11 in the Dirksen Senate Office Building. The invitation comes as lawmakers continue to scrutinise

the rapid growth of artificial intelligence technologies and their implications for national security, economic competitiveness and US-China relations. "I write to invite you to participate as a witness before members of the United States Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs at a public hearing regarding artificial intelligence on June 11, 2026, in the Dirksen Senate Office Building," Warren wrote in the letter. Warren said Huang's appearance would provide senators with an opportunity to hear directly from the head of one of the world's most influential AI chipmakers.



Asia underrepresented among UNSC permanent membership; should be rectified, says Guterres

United Nations, Aug 1 : Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has said that Asia is underrepresented on the Security Council's roster of permanent members, and this should be rectified. Speaking to reporters on Saturday (India time) about his priorities for the year, he pressed for reforming the Council because "the centrality of the peace and security system lies in the UN and within" it. While as the secretary-general he could not say what the reformed Council should be, his personal opinion, he said, is "that we should have permanent members from Africa in the Security Council, the same representation of Latin America".



African leaders raise concern over resumption of conflict in Middle East

Addis Ababa, Aug 1 : African leaders have raised alarm over the resumption of the Middle East conflict, which they said is driving a severe economic and security crisis in Africa through energy shocks, supply disruptions, and soaring prices. The remark was made during the 49th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council of the African Union (AU) on Saturday in Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia. Speaking at the event, Mahmoud Ali Youssouf, chairperson of the AU Commission, said Africa is bearing the brunt of the crisis in

the Middle East, with multiple countries on the continent facing a high cost of living driven by soaring energy prices. "The resumption of the conflict between Iran and the United States is causing runaway inflation. The supply chain is disrupted due to the closure of the Strait of Hormuz. The Bab el-Mandeb Strait is also threatened. Energy, grain and fertiliser prices are soaring," Youssouf told the session, Xinhua News Agency reported. He said the fallout is likely to last for months based on assessments made by the United Nations Eco-

nomics Commission for Africa (UNECA) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Claver Gatete, executive secretary of UNECA, said the global environment has become increasingly uncertain amid spikes in energy, food, and fertiliser prices due to the ongoing conflict in the Middle East. "Trade tensions, geopolitical fragmentation, conflicts including the conflict in the Middle East, climate shocks, declining development finance and high debt-servicing costs continue to impact investment and development prospects in Africa," Gatete said.

India and Greece discuss ongoing initiatives of cooperation between both Air Forces

Athens, Aug 1 : India's Ambassador to Greece, Ravi Shankar, on Saturday met Lt. Gen. Demosthenes Grigoriadis, Chief of Hellenic Air Force General Staff and discussed the ongoing initiatives of cooperation between the two Air Forces. According to the Indian Embassy in Greece, India's participation in INIOCHOS - a major annual multinational air combat training exercise hosted by the Hellenic Air Force - and Greece's participation in Tarang Shakti - the Indian Air Force's (IAF)

largest biennial multinational air combat exercise - has fostered mutual understanding and partnerships. "Ambassador Ravi Shankar met Lt Gen Mr. Demosthenes Grigoriadis, Chief of Hellenic Air Force General Staff. He discussed the ongoing initiatives of cooperation between our two Air Forces. India's participation in INIOCHOS and Greece's in Tarang Shakti has fostered mutual understanding and partnerships," the Embassy wrote on X. The Indian Ambassador also met Giorgos Chioureas, Mayor of the West Mani region, and discussed



areas of potential collaboration with the West Mani region, with regard to the workforce from India. "Ambassador Mr. Ravi Shankar met Mr Giorgos Chioureas, Mayor of the West Mani region. He discussed areas of potential collaboration with the West Mani region, viz workforce

from India in hospitality, construction and the farm sector. Tourism, both inbound and outbound, is another promising area," the Embassy stated. On July 16, Ambassador Ravi Shankar presented his Letter of Credence to the President of Greece.



Trump casts US midterms as ideological fight, rallies Republican voters

Washington, Aug 1 : US President Donald Trump has cast the coming midterm elections as an ideological struggle, urging Republican voters to retain control of Congress and warning that their political opponents had "literally" become communists. Trump made the appeal during a virtual tele-rally for Congressman Andy Ogles ahead of the Republican primary in Tennessee's Fifth Congressional District. "We gotta win the midterms and keep," Trump said before pausing. "And they really literally have turned out to be communists. Keep the communists out." Trump did not identify particular candidates or organisations as communists.

He used the warning while promoting the tax provisions passed with Republican support and presenting them as a central part of the party's mid-term message. The president highlighted measures covering income from tips, overtime work and Social Security. He said those policies should give Republicans a strong electoral advantage. "Those are things that alone should give us a tremendous victory in the midterms," he said. Trump also praised Ogles for supporting his administration's border, energy, military and election policies. He described the Tennessee congressman as a reliable vote who had helped enact the administration's agenda.



Over 40 suspected bandits killed in northern Nigeria

Abuja, Aug 1 : At least 40 suspected bandits, including eight suspected senior commanders, were killed after Nigerian security forces repelled an attack on a village in the northern state of Katsina, a state government official said Saturday. Nasir Mu'azu, commissioner for internal security and home affairs in Katsina State, said in a statement that joint security operatives engaged the bandits after the group attacked Guga village in Bakori Local Government Area on Saturday. According to Mu'azu, intelli-

gence reports had indicated that the bandits planned to attack several villages before launching co-ordinated assaults on Bakori town, Xinhua News Agency reported. He said Idi Abasu Aiki, the alleged leader of the bandit group, was believed to have sustained life-threatening gunshot wounds during the exchange of fire, as security forces forced the attackers to retreat in disarray. The attempted attack, believed to be linked to an earlier operation in the same area on July 7 during which security forces reportedly inflicted heavy losses

on the bandits, was aimed at regaining lost ground and undermining the community-based security architecture established by the state government, Mu'azu said. According to the official, security forces have launched clearance operations to recover weapons and other items abandoned by the fleeing attackers, while surveillance has been intensified to prevent further attacks. Meanwhile, on Sunday, more than 30 people, including children.

EAM Jaishankar congratulates Tone Kajzer on becoming Slovenia's Foreign Minister

New Delhi, Aug 1 : External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar on Saturday congratulated Tone Kajzer on his appointment as Foreign Minister of Slovenia and expressed his desire to work together. Tone Kajzer, a former diplomat, was officially sworn in on Saturday evening, following a parliamentary confirmation hearing earlier that week. He assumed office under the newly endorsed right-wing coalition government led by Prime Minister Janez Jansna.



Renewed violence in DR Congo threatens civilians amid Ebola outbreak: UN

United Nations, Aug 1 : Increased deadly attacks in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) this week isolate communities and threaten the Ebola response, UN humanitarian have warned. The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) on Saturday (local time) said the intensifying violence is claiming civilian lives and severely restricting humanitarian access in North

Kivu and South Kivu provinces. OCHA said that in North Kivu, local authorities reported an armed attack in Beni territory on Tuesday night that killed at least 24 civilians and triggered fresh displacement.



'It's about time I repay them': Foden after signing new City deal

New Delhi, Aug 1 : Phil Foden says he is determined to repay Manchester City's faith in him after signing a new long-term contract, with the England midfielder viewing the arrival of new manager Enzo Maresca as the perfect opportunity for a fresh start following two difficult seasons. The 26-year-old recently extended his contract at the Etihad Stadium until 2030. He admitted that the club's decision to offer him a new deal, despite his recent struggles, has given him renewed confidence. "It has made me feel relaxed,

and I can just concentrate on being the best version of me and give back to the football club for trusting in me," Foden said. "It's nice to see the support from the club, and it means a lot. It's about time I try to repay them and give back to the club." Foden had the best season of his career in 2023-24, scoring 19 goals as City won the Premier League title. He earned both the PFA Players' Player of the Year and Premier League Player of the Season awards. However, he has not been able to match that success over the past two seasons, managing only 10 goals last sea-

son and failing to score in his last 31 appearances for club and country. The academy graduate made his senior debut under former manager Pep Guardiola at 17. Since then, he has made 369 appearances for City, winning six Premier League titles, one UEFA Champions League, and two FA Cups. With Guardiola leaving at the end of last season and former assistant Enzo Maresca taking over, Foden believes the club has entered a new and exciting chapter. "Very good—a fresh start, a new manager, and so far, I'm really enjoying it," he said.



'Incredible and proud day for Sri Lanka' – Sangakkara praises Pathirage for CWG Javelin gold

London, Aug 1 : Former Sri Lanka captain Kumar Sangakkara said Rumesh Tharanga Pathirage winning a historic gold medal in men's Javelin Throw at the 2026 Commonwealth Games here has led to an incredible and proud day for his nation to rejoice. Pathirage, 23, became only the fifth Sri Lankan to win a Commonwealth Games gold medal.



Taipei Open: Tanvi Sharma enters final with dominant straight-games win

Taipei, Aug 1 : Tanvi Sharma continued her impressive run at the Taipei Open 2026 by storming into the women's singles final with a commanding straight-games victory, keeping India's title hopes alive at the BWF Super 300 tournament. At the Taipei Arena on Saturday, world number 34 beat the fifth seed and home favourite Huang Yu-hsun 21-17, 21-11, completing the victory in just 33 minutes and thus securing her spot in the final on Sunday against Nguyen Thuy Linh from Vietnam. In contrast to her quarterfinal match against Thailand's fourth seed Supanida Katethong, in which she had to recover from a setback during the match to win in three games,



Tanvi was in full control during the semifinal and kept the home crowd from having any chance of a comeback, concluding the match in straight games with a confident all-round performance. The last achievement marks a major milestone in the young player's swift ascent over the last two years. As part of India's gold-medal-winning team at the 2024 Badminton Asia Team Championships.

West Indies aim to turn home conditions into 'fortress', says captain Roston Chase

New Delhi, Aug 1 : Buoyed by success in recent performances, West Indies skipper Roston Chase said his side wants to make their home conditions in the Caribbean a 'fortress,' where visiting teams struggle to win, as they prepare for the second and final Test against Pakistan starting on Sunday. West Indies hold a 1-0 lead in

the two-match series following their 90-run victory in the opening Test at Tarouba last week, coming on the heels of a series win over Sri Lanka. "We're very blessed and very happy for the results that we've been having at home so far. But I want to make home our fortress, where we make it very difficult for teams to come to the Caribbean and beat us. "Because it's our own conditions,

we know them inside out, and better than the opposition. So I think we want to really make home advantage count, and we've been doing that well so far. So, as I said, we're lucky to continue in the vein of form that we've been in, and to take victory in this second game," Chase told reporters. A victory in the upcoming clash at the Queen's Park Oval will help West Indies overtake England and

be at seventh spot in the World Test Championship (WTC) points table. "After having the year last year, we sat down with the plan and said that this is where we want to be. And as I said, we're exactly where we want to be. We want to level up. "We want to just come into this second Test, not take anything for granted, just go through the processes that we've sat down and talked about.



CWG 2026: Preeti clinches women's 54kg boxing gold with dominant unanimous victory

Glasgow, Aug 1 : India's Preeti produced a commanding performance to win the gold medal in the women's 54kg boxing event at the Commonwealth Games 2026, defeating Canada's S.S. Delgado by a unanimous 5-0 decision in the final at the SEC Hall 5 on Saturday. Preeti dominated the contest from the opening bell, with all five judges scoring each of the three rounds 10-9 in her favour for a perfect 30-27 verdict. She also registered a knockdown during the bout, underlining her superiority over the Canadian boxer. The Indian pugilist displayed excellent footwork, sharp combinations and tactical discipline throughout the contest, denying Delgado any opportunity to stage a comeback. Her aggressive yet controlled approach earned unanimous approval from the judges.



'Football is not for sale': UEFA hails FIFA's withdrawal of controversial WC investment plan

Geneva, Aug 1 : UEFA has welcomed FIFA's decision to abandon its controversial proposal to sell a stake in the commercial rights of its competitions, including the FIFA World Cup, calling the reversal "a victory for the whole game" while urging world football's governing body to rebuild trust through greater transparency and accountability. In a strongly worded statement issued after FIFA President Gianni Infantino confirmed the withdrawal of the proposed FIFA Forward Enterprise (FFE) project, UEFA said the plan had been unanimously rejected by its member associations and opposed by federations and confederations worldwide. "UEFA welcomes FIFA's decision to withdraw its plan to sell a stake in its com-

petitions, including the World Cup, into private hands," the continental governing body said. It also thanked fans, clubs, leagues, players, national associations and confederations, as well as political leaders and commentators, for opposing the proposal.

'No need to rip everything up' - Root eager to blend Bazball mindset with tactical smarts in second stint

London, Aug 1: Reappointed as England's Test captain, veteran batter Joe Root has stated that he will not completely rip apart the fearless approach built by the side over the last four years, but plans to sharpen certain areas to turn the team into a more 'formidable' unit starting with the upcoming series against Pakistan. For the series against Pakistan starting on August 19, Root will team up with interim head coach Marcus Trescothick, with newly appointed Test coach Stephen Fleming to join from the series against South Africa,

set to happen later this year. "I've spoken briefly (with him). If I'm being really honest, there was a big reason why I wanted to do it. I'm very excited by the way he sees the game, where he sees us sit as a team and the work that we have to do to get to where we want to get to. All of that got me very excited about taking this role on. "So I'm very much looking forward to working with him.

