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Telangana to roll out 1.05 crore new smart ration cards on Aug 15

Hyderabad, Aug 6 : The Telangana government has finalised plans to roll out new white ration cards to approximately 1.05 crore eligible families across the state, beginning August 15. Civil Supplies Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy on Thursday announced that Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy will formally launch the initiative in Sangareddy on Independence Day. Simultaneously, distribution drives will take place across all 119 Assembly constituencies. "Every eligible family will be provided with a ration card," Uttam Kumar Reddy assured, noting that officials have been directed to expedite final beneficiary verifications via e-KYC. As part of the



rollout, beneficiaries will receive high-durability, credit-card-sized PVC ration cards. The waterproof smart cards feature QR codes alongside updated security measures. To prepare for the launch, the Civil Supplies department is closely monitoring the secure transit of printed cards to district locations.

"Social justice is our mission": Kavitha unveils TRS agenda, warns of Delhi stir



Hyderabad, Aug 6 : TRS (Telangana Rakshana Sena) president Kalvakuntla Kavitha on Thursday asserted that her party is committed to building a Telangana rooted in social justice, describing it as the foundation of a new political movement in the state. Addressing the "Social Justice Telangana" meeting at Saroornagar, Kavitha alleged that the 42% reservation Bill for Backward Classes was being delayed and questioned both the Centre and the state government over its pending approval. She warned that the party would launch an agitation in Delhi after Sankranti if the Bill is not cleared before the upcoming Budget Session. Calling social justice a "Dharma Poratam", Kavitha said she would continue fighting for the rights of marginalized communities despite being born into an upper-caste family. She also demanded the installation of Professor Jayashankar's statue at Tank Bund and urged the Centre to confer the Padma Bhushan on the Telangana ideologue.



Rape case: Former Tehelka editor Tarun Tejpal sentenced to 10 years in prison

Mumbai, Aug 6 : Former Tehelka editor Tarun Tejpal has been sentenced to ten years in prison. The Goa Bench of the Bombay High Court delivered a key verdict in a sexual assault case registered in 2013. Along with the ten-year prison term, a fine of 5 lakh was imposed. He was ordered to surrender within two weeks.



Bhatti-led delegation explores advanced mining technology in US

Hyderabad, Aug 6 : A high-level Telangana government delegation led by Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka, along with senior officials from Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) and GMMCO Ltd., visited the Caterpillar Demonstration & Learning Center (Proving Ground) in Tucson, Arizona, and the Komatsu Mining Corporation facility at Longview, near Dallas, Texas. The visits were part of the delegation's ongoing tour of the United States and focused on gaining insights into advanced mining technologies, equipment and operational practices. The delegation also explored opportunities to adopt modern and efficient technologies to strengthen and further modernise mining operations in Telangana. At Tucson, the delegation reviewed live demonstrations of Caterpillar's latest heavy earth-moving and mining equipment, including autonomous and tele-remote operated machinery, and discussed operator training and safety systems relevant to opencast coal mining operations. At the Komatsu facility in Longview, the delegation inspected the manufacturing and assembly of large-scale mining machinery and held discussions on technology collaboration, equipment supply.

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Revanth pays tributes to Jayashankar on birth anniversary

Hyderabad, Aug 6 : Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy paid floral tributes to the portrait of Professor K. Jayashankar at his residence in Jubilee Hills on Thursday on the occasion of the latter's birth anniversary.



AP Cabinet approves 47-storey twin towers in Amaravati

Amaravati, Aug 6: An Andhra Pradesh Cabinet meeting was held under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu. Minister Parthasarathi briefed the media on the decisions taken during the meeting. He



stated that the Cabinet gave the green signal to transfer 19.55 acres of land in Yedula Musturu to APIIC and approved the transfer of 13.45 acres in Thimmasamudram to CUDA.

Two minutes are enough for me to control Jagan and Co : CM Chandrababu

Amaravati, Aug 6 : A Cabinet meeting chaired by Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu was held on Thursday at the State Secretariat. During the meeting, the Chief Minister provided guidance to the ministers on several key issues. He discussed these matters for three and a half hours and directed ministers and alliance leaders to be prepared for the local body elections. CM Chandrababu stated that it would take him only two minutes to rein in the lawlessness perpetrated by Jagan and his

associates, but expressed anger that they are committing crimes under the guise of politics. He noted that everyone is observing the uproar being raised over the DSC issue and mentioned that the facts regarding the DSC have already



been explained to the public. He also criticized YCP leaders for facing rebukes from the courts. He expressed anger that YCP leaders were creating a ruckus despite this. CM Chandrababu questioned why YCP leaders were staging protests regarding the DSC now.

CJP announces 'Kya Bolti Public?' nationwide campaign; Abhijit Dipke unveils action plan on education and unemployment

Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar, Aug 6 : Cockroach Janata Party (CJP) founder Abhijit Dipke on Thursday announced the party's upcoming strategy, including a nationwide campaign titled 'Kya Bolti Public?' starting this September to understand public sentiment across Maharashtra and India. He was speaking to reporters after the conclusion of two-day national core committee meeting which took place following national attention drawn by protests at Jantar Mantar in Delhi on the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) paper leaks. The primary goal of the initiative is to bring the daily grievances of students, youth, and ordinary citizens di-



rectly to the attention of the administration. At the core of this campaign lies the issue of the nation's deteriorating education system and skyrocketing school and college fees. Dipke expressed his firm resolve to hit the streets to address issues impacting the general public. Launching a sharp attack on the increasing commercialisation and exorbitant costs of education.

Jana Sena MP seeks two additional AIIMS for Andhra Pradesh

Amaravati, Aug 6 : Jana Sena MP, Lingamaneni Ramesh, has urged the Centre to sanction two All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS)-level institutions for Andhra Pradesh. In a letter to Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda, the Rajya Sabha MP sought his intervention for strengthening tertiary healthcare infrastructure in the State. He sought two AIIMS-level institutions, one each in Rayalaseema and North Coastal Andhra (Uttarandhra); and expansion of AIIMS Mangalagiri by establishing additional super-specialty departments, advanced research centres and increasing its institu-



tional capacity. The MP wrote that he was making the request in view of the healthcare requirements of the reorganised State of Andhra Pradesh, regional healthcare disparities and the need to provide equitable access to world-class medical care.

Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) reported a standalone net profit of 13,492 crore for the quarter ending June 30, 2026 (Q1 FY27)

Mumbai, Aug 6 : The Board of Directors of Life Insurance Corporation of India (“LIC”) has approved and adopted the standalone and consolidated financial results for the quarter ending June 30th, 2026. Below are the key highlights of our standalone performance. The Profit after Tax (PAT) for the quarter ended June 30th, 2026 was ¹ 13,492 crore, compared to ¹ 10,986 crore for the quarter ended June 30th, 2025 registering a growth of 22.81%. In terms of market share measured by First Year Premium Income (FYPI) (as per IRDAI), LIC continues to be the market leader in Indian life insurance business with an overall market share of 60.10%. For the quarter ended June 30th, 2026, LIC held a market share of 38.89% in Individual business and 70.90% in the Group Business. The Total Premium In-

come for quarter ended June 30th, 2026 was ¹ 1,27,250 crore as compared to ¹ 1,19,200 crore for the quarter ended June 30th 2025, registering a growth of 6.75%. The Total Individual Business Premium for the quarter ended June 30th, 2026 increased to ¹ 75,416 crore from ¹ 71,474 crore in the corresponding period of the previous year, showing an increase of 5.52%. The Group Business total premium income for the quarter ended June 30th, 2026 was ¹ 51,834 crore as compared to ¹ 47,726 crore for the quarter ended June 30th 2025, showing an increase of 8.61%. A total of 31,02,281 policies were sold in the individual segment during the quarter ended June 30th, 2026 as compared to 30,39,709 policies sold during the quarter ended June 30th 2025 registering an increase of 2.06%. The Yield on Investments on policyholder’s fund excluding unrealized gains was 8.28% for the quarter ended June 30th, 2026 as against 8.45% for quarter ended June 30th, 2025. Shri R Doraiswamy, CEO & MD, LIC said: – “We are happy to maintain our leadership in both Individual and Group Business dur-



ing the first quarter of this financial year, despite increasing competitive intensity in the life insurance industry. Our overall market share by First Year Premium Income was 60.10% for the first quarter of FY 2026-27 and this fits in well with our market share strategy. What gives us even more happiness is that our VNB has grown by 61% plus and our VNB margin has expanded by 7.5% to 22.90% this year. This is a direct outcome of our product diversification and distribution strategy. I want to thank all our customers and our distributors and employees for their faith and efforts in these volatile times globally. Just very recently the Government of India has sold an additional 6.5% of shares through an OFS which has been well received by the markets. I want to welcome the new shareholders through the OFS into the LIC shareholder family and also thank the existing shareholders who have participated in the OFS for their continued faith in LIC. This year on 1st September 2026 LIC shall complete 70 years of existence and we hope we will bring many occasions of joy to our customers through innovative product launches and other initiatives

Acharya Professor Kothapalli Jayashankar's aspirations are an ideal for today's generation : District SP Smt. D. Janaki, IPS



Mahabubnagar, Aug 6 : Acharya Professor Kothapalli Jayashankar sir is a great man who, as an ideologue for the establishment of Telangana state, spread the aspiration of the people of Telangana to the world and dedicated his entire life for the establishment of a separate state, said Mahabubnagar District SP Smt. D. Janaki, IPS. On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Acharya Professor Kothapalli Jayashankar sir, District SP Smt. D. Janaki, IPS along with police officers and staff, garlanded his portrait and paid tributes. Speaking on the occasion, the SP

praised the services rendered by Professor Jayashankar as an ideologue for the emergence of Telangana state as memorable. He was said to be a great person who, for six decades, spread the need for a Telangana state to the country and abroad and inspired the people with the spirit of the movement. The SP said that his life is an example for today’s youth and a symbol of dedication to community service. He advised the police officers and staff to take Jayashankar sir’s ideals as inspiration and gain the trust of the people by providing more efficient and transparent police services to the people.

Andhra Pradesh handicrafts get technological boost with QR code initiative

Amaravati, Aug 6 : Andhra Pradesh's handicrafts sector has received a major technological boost with the launch of a unique QR code-based authentication and information system aimed at enhancing transparency, promoting artisans, and curbing counterfeit products.

The initiative, launched by the Andhra Pradesh Handicrafts Development Corporation (Lepakshi), enables buyers to access detailed information about handicraft products through a simple scan of a QR code attached to each item. The system was developed following the suggestion of Deputy Chief Minister Pawan

Kalyan, who has been advocating measures to secure greater recognition for the state's rich handicraft traditions. According to an official release, the initiative aligns with Pawan Kalyan's vision of taking Andhra Pradesh's handicrafts to a global audience while ensuring artisans receive due credit for their cre-

ations. During the recently concluded Andhra Pradesh Handicrafts Festival, he had proposed the introduction of a comprehensive QR code system that would provide buyers with detailed information about individual artworks and the artisans behind them. Developed within a month by Lepakshi, the QR code plat-

form is claimed to be the first such initiative in the country. The system has been structured around three key parameters: art, product, and artisan details. By scanning the code using a mobile phone, customers can instantly access infor-



mation on the history and cultural significance of a product.

बैंक ऑफ इंडिया
Bank of India

HYDERABAD MAIN BRANCH
P.B No.134, 5-8-659, Abids, Nampally
Station Road, Hyderabad-500001,
Telangana Tel No: 040- 23203478, 23204117 Fax No.
23203225. mail:HYDmain.telangana@bankofindia.co.in

DEMAND NOTICE
NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF SARFAESI ACT, 2002
Whereas the notice is hereby given that the following Borrower/Guarantor as mentioned below have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest of the loan facilities obtained by them from the bank and the loan has been classified as non performing asset (NPA). The notice was issued to them under section 13(2) of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 on their last known addresses, but they have been returned unserved and as such they are hereby informed by way of this public notice.
Name of the Borrower & Mortgagor: 1) Mrs. Dova Estheer Hymavathi W/o Dova Raghunath R/o Villa no. 25, Plot no. 95, Prajaya Gulmohar Kuntloor Village, Hayathnagar, Ranga Reddy Hyderabad . Also at R/o 11-14-261/H5/301, Block C Phase 2, Chitra Layout LB Nagar Hyderabad Telangana -500074. Mr. Dova Vamshinath S/o. Dova Raghunath R/o Villa no. 25, plot no. 95 Prajaya Gulmohar Kuntloor Village, Hayathnagar, Ranga Reddy Hyderabad 501505 Also at R/o 11-14-261/H5/301, Block C Phase 2, Chitra Layout LB Nagar Hyderabad Telangana -500074.
Demand Notice date: 31-07-2026 NPA Date: 29.07.2026
Amount Outstanding: Rs.45,91,517.66/- (Rupees Forty five lakh ninety one thousand five hundred seventeen and sixty six paise) plus further interest @ 9.45% pa + 2% penal interest at compounded with monthly rests from 30.06.2026 and all costs, charges, expenses etc incurred by the Bank
DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTIES
All that piece and parcel of the Duplex house in plot no. 25, (its consisting Ground floor and First Floor), admeasuring an area of 280 Sq.yards or 234.08 Sq.Mtrs. along with built up area of 2100 sq.feet in RCC Roof in survey nos. 106(Part) to 119(Part), situated at PRAJAY GULMOHAR in Kuntloor Village, Hayathnagar revenue Mandal, Ranga Reddy District, Under Pedda Amberpet Nagar Panchayat, Under registration sub district, Hyderabad- East at Hayathnagar in the name of Smt. Dova Estheer Hymavathi W/o Shri D Raghunath and bounded By:- North: Boundary Wall & Neighbours Land, South: Plot no. 26 & Plot no. 27(P). East: Road, West: Plot no. 24.
If you the above mentioned person/s fail to repay the above mentioned amount due by you with future interest and incidental expenses, costs as stated above in terms of this notice under section 13(2) of SARFAESI Act within 60 days from the date of this notice, the Bank will exercise all or any of the rights detailed under SARFAESI Act and other applicable provisions of the said Act. This notice is without prejudice to the Bank's right to initiate such other actions or legal proceedings, as it deem necessary under any other provisions of law.
Date: 31.07.2026, Sd/- Authorised Officer,
Place: Hyderabad Bank of India

AXIS FINANCE LIMITED
Branch Office: Ground Floor, Block-C, Sanali Info Park
Road No-2, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad, Telangana-500034
APPENDIX-IV [See Rule 8(I)] (For immovable property)
PHYSICAL POSSESSION NOTICE
[As per Appendix IV read with rule 8(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002]
Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Axis Finance Limited (AFL), under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of Powers conferred under Section 13 (2) read with the Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a demand notice dated 28/05/2025 calling upon the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) / Mortgagor(s) 1.Mr. Madhav Kali Prasad Dasari (Borrower) 2.Mrs. Hymavathi Dasari (Co-Borrower) have mortgaged the immovable properties being 'All that piece and parcel of the Flat no D-1 on the 3rd Floor, in the Apartment building "VENKATA PADMA HEIGHTS" admeasuring 1832 sq.ft including common areas and car parking space, undivided vacant site to the extent of 71.25 sq yds or 59.57 sq mtrs constructed on site bearing Plot no 7 as per L.P No 54/193 admeasuring 570 sq yds or 476.58 sq mtrs, bearing D No 2-18-23/2A, present assessment no 1060037712 and present Door no 2-18-23/3 in Old Ward no 2, New Ward no 5, Block no. 2, in T.S no 1/77 situated at Madhavnagar, Kakinada, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs.1,10,69,071/- (Rupees One Crore Ten Lakh Sixty Nine Thousand and Seventy one Only) due as on 06th May 2025 with further interest at the contractual rate thereon till the date of payment within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.
The Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) / Mortgagor(s) having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) / Mortgagor(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Physical Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) read with Section 14 of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on 4th day of Aug of the year 2026.
The Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) / Mortgagor(s) in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Axis Finance Limited for an amount of being Rs.1,10,69,071/- (Rupees One Crore Ten Lakh Sixty Nine Thousand and Seventy one Only) due as on 06th May 2025 and further interest thereon at the contractual rates together with costs, charges, etc. of Axis Finance Ltd until the full payment or realization in full.
The Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) / Mortgagor(s) attention is invited to provisions of sub section (8) & sub section (13) of section 13 of the said Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.
Details of Secured Asset ITEM no 1 mortgaged as security towards LAN 0456MMA00005738: All that piece and parcel of the Flat no D-1 on the 3rd Floor, in the Apartment building "VENKATA PADMA HEIGHTS" admeasuring 1832 sq.ft including common areas and car parking space, undivided vacant site to the extent of 71.25 sq yds or 59.57 sq mtrs constructed on site bearing Plot no 7 as per L.P No 54/193 admeasuring 570 sq yds or 476.58 sq mtrs, bearing D No 2-18-23/2A, present assessment no 1060037712 and present Door no 2-18-23/3 in Old Ward no 2, New Ward no 5, Block no. 2, in T.S no 1/77 situated at Madhavnagar, Kakinada, Kakinada Municipal Corporation Limits, Kakinada Mandal, Kakinada Sub-Registrar, East Godavari and bounded by: Boundaries of the Land, North: 59'-0" Site Belonging to Pithapuram Maharaaja, South: 59'-0" Road, East: 87'-0" Municipal Road West: 87'0" Site and House Relating to D No 2-18-23/2. Boundaries of the Flat North: Open to Sky, South: Open to Sky, East: Open to Sky, West: Common Corridor, Lift & Staircase.
Date: 04/08/2026, Sd/- Authorised Officer,
Place: East Godavari Axis Finance Ltd.,



BRS, BJP relying on false propaganda for political gains: TPCC chief

Hyderabad, Aug 6 : Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) President Mahesh Kumar Goud on Thursday accused the BRS and BJP of running a deliberate misinformation campaign and making false allegations against the Congress leadership for political mileage. Addressing a meeting of the TPCC Vichar Vibhag (Intellectual Cell) at Gandhi Bhavan, Mahesh Kumar Goud came down heavily on the opposition parties, stating that they were continuously spreading falsehoods to target the Congress. Highlighting the ideological legacy of the party, the TPCC chief emphasised the Vichar Vibhag's pivotal role in strengthening the Congress's found-

dation since the era of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. He noted that the Intellectual Cell has historically been at the forefront of promoting democratic values, constitutional principles, and progressive thinking within both the party and the broader society. Reiterating the party's core philosophy, Mahesh Kumar Goud said the Congress remains fiercely committed to inclusive governance. He assured that the party will continue to champion the welfare and development of all citizens irrespective of caste, creed, religion, or region and will always stand with farmers, students.

Govt will stand by small contractors: Komatireddy

Hyderabad, Aug 6 : Minister for Roads & Buildings and Cinematography Komatireddy Venkata Reddy assured small contractors that the State government would stand by them and take steps to resolve their pending issues. “Do not be discouraged. If any bills are pending, bring them to my notice. You can approach me through your association or come directly to the Secretariat or meet me personally and explain your problems. Nobody should lose heart. If necessary, we will discuss your issues with Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and take steps to resolve them,” he said. The Minister said issues relating to gravel, crushers and mining would be discussed with the concerned Minister and the Chief Minister, and necessary measures would be taken to address the problems faced by contractors. He stressed the need for a proper mining policy to prevent contractors from facing arbitrary notices and unnecessary difficulties. Komatireddy Venkat Reddy on Thursday visited the grieving family of Bandari Srinivas Reddy in Vanasthalipuram, Hyderabad. Srinivas Reddy, a contractor from Nagarkurnool district.



CS participates in Bonalu celebrations at Secretariat

Hyderabad, Aug 6 : The Bonalu festival was celebrated with great fervour at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Telangana State Secretariat on Thursday under the auspices of the Secretariat Employees' Association. Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju partici-

pated in the celebrations and offered special prayers. The Chief Secretary took part in the special pujas performed at the Sri Nalla Pochamma Temple located within the Secretariat premises and prayed for the well-being, peace, prosperity, and good health of the people of Telangana. On the oc-

casion, Secretariat employees offered the traditional Bonam to the Goddess with devotion. The celebrations featured vibrant cultural performances, including the traditional dance of Pothurajus, drum processions, and artists in colourful traditional attire.

management, cybercrime prevention, road accident prevention, and welfare initiatives. Speaking on the occasion, the DIG advised the officials to work with greater vigilance in maintaining law and order while effectively utilizing modern technology for crime control. He directed them to make more efficient use of technology to expedite the investigation and resolution of theft cases registered in the district. He ordered a focus on robust investigations and the collection of evidence to increase the conviction rate of accused persons in registered cases. Commending the district police force for the improved conviction rate, he appreciated their efforts. He further instructed the court monitoring team to continuously oversee every case and coordinate to ensure that witnesses appear in court during trials.

district. After receiving a guard of honor, the DIG inspected the office premises and departments such as the Special Branch, IT Core, and District Crime Records Bureau (DCRB), inquiring about record maintenance, digital data management, and the use of technology. DIG Sunpreet Singh (IPS) expressed satisfaction with the performance of the Rajanna Sircilla district police. On this

It is understood that the college owners spent Rs. 6 lakh to Rs. 10 lakh for each university. It was found that the signatures of the former DGs of GHMC, Hydra and Fire were forged for the NOCs. The police believe that if the owners of the respective colleges are detained and a full investigation is conducted, the real facts will come out. It is reported that criminal action may be taken against the college owners based on the findings of the Hydra report and the police investigation.

Hyderabad, Aug 6 : BRS working president KT Rama Rao accused both the Congress and the BJP of neglecting Telangana's welfare and re-establishing Delhi's dominance over the state. He urged a renewed commitment to safeguarding Telangana's distinct identity, dignity, and self-governance. During an address at Telangana Bhavan on Thursday, commemorating the birth anniversary of Telangana's ideologue.

BAJAJ HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED			
BAJAJ HOUSING FINANCE	Corporate office: Cerebrum IT Park B2 Building 5th Floor, Kalyani Nagar, Pune, Maharashtra-411014. Branch offices: At Pimpri, Pimpri, Sita City Road, 7-1-222, Leelanagar, Greenland Road, Amerpet, Near Bhandarkar, Hyderabad-500016 / 18th Floor, Usman Plaza, No.21/143/70-B, Opp. Royal Function Hall, SKD Colony, Adoni / 1st Floor, Somsawar Complex, 16/130B, Above Ilici Canal, Silv Talkies Road, Guntakal / 1st Floor, Above Syndicate Bank, No.3-7-86, Lakshminarayan Nilayam, Jathralakatta veedhi, Giddalur - 523357.		
	Demand Notice Under Section 13 (2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002: Undersigned hereby intimates that the following notice to the Borrower(s) Co-Borrower(s) who have failed to discharge their liability i.e. defaulted in the repayment of principal as well as the interest and other charges accrued there-on for Home loan(s)/ Loan(s) against Property advanced to them by Bajaj Housing Finance Limited and as a consequence the loan(s) have become Non Performing Assets. Accordingly, undersigned is directed to the said Borrower(s) Co-Borrower(s) to pay the outstanding dues of principal and interest and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and rules there-to, on their last known addresses, however the same have been returned un-served/ undelivered, as such the Borrower(s) Co-Borrower(s) are hereby intimated/ informed by way of this publication notice to clear their outstanding dues under the loan facilities availed by them from time to time.		
Name of the Borrower(s) Guarantor (s) (LAN No., Name of Branch)	Description of Secured Asset (Immovable Property)	Demand Notice Date & Amount	
Branch : HYDERABAD, LAN: HA00HL14406393 (Borrower) (Through 1 Proprietor Partner / Director) : S. S. Chintal, S. S. Chintal, Chintal, Hyderabad, Telangana - 500054 1. Sammaiah Alamshetti 2. S. A. Swarna (Co-Borrower) Both The Above At: Plot No. 144, Survey No. 144, Godhumakunta, Hyderabad, Telangana-501301.	Schedule of Property: All that piece and parcel of the Non-Agricultural Property described as: All That The Semi-Finished Residential Plot No.83, Adjoining To Survey No.129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770,		

Opinion Mail



Congress backs Rahul's delimitation stand; BJP hits back with 'dynastic politics' jibe

A major political controversy erupted after Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, alleged that the Centre's proposed delimitation exercise would weaken the political representation and interests of several states, prompting sharp reactions from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), its allies, and Congress leaders. Speaking to reporters at Mamallapuram in Chennai on Saturday, Rahul Gandhi called upon political parties across the country, particularly those in Tamil Nadu, to unite against the delimitation exercise, alleging that it would undermine the state's political representation and interests.

LoP Gandhi accused the BJP of attempting to use delimitation to reduce Tamil Nadu's political influence. He said all regional and national parties should come together in Parliament to defeat any legislation that could adversely affect the state's representation.

He alleged that the proposed exercise was designed to "disenfranchise" the people of Tamil Nadu and take away their political power. While the BJP strongly criticised LoP Gandhi's remarks, the Congress maintained that the proposed delimitation exercise posed a serious challenge to the interests of the Southern states. Congress MP Manickam Tagore told reporters, "For delimitation, we are very clear that next week is going to be an important week in the history of Tamil Nadu. Tamil Nadu's voice should not be reduced. Delimitation is against Tamil Nadu. Previously, all 40 MPs from Tamil Nadu voted against this delimitation." "Therefore, we are very clear that now also, you should ask each MP from Tamil Nadu what they are going to do regarding delimitation. I am one of those MPs, and I can say that I will vote against it," he added. Congress MP Imran Masood, speaking to IANS, said that delimitation will pose a "major challenge to the country's integrity".

"It'll be unfair to all South Indian states," he claimed. Congress MP Sukhdeo Bhagat also opposed the proposal, saying, "I am against delimitation, and that's why I'm against it; because of the way it has been done in Assam. The BJP government is there, and they are deliberately doing it from the perspective of votes, not from the perspective of representation, purely from the perspective of votes."

"If we look at the 543 members we have today in Parliament, I think many of our people don't even get to participate fully. We just remain a small part inside Parliament. Will increasing the number be fair to people?" he asked.

On the other hand, the BJP and its allies asserted that Congress is taking delimitation as a threat because it is a "dynastic political party".

BJP spokesperson Tuhin Sinha also hit back at the Congress leader, saying that it is "natural that the parties most affected by the issue of delimitation are the dynastic political parties".

"They fear that when more young people enter politics, when the number of seats increases by 50 per cent, and when youth and women from non-dynastic and non-political backgrounds enter politics in large numbers, their grip and control over their respective parties will weaken," he said.

Rejecting Rahul Gandhi's allegations, Sinha added, "I would like to tell Rahul Gandhi that we have repeatedly clarified that the number of seats in the Southern states, as well as in every other state, will increase on a pro-rata basis."

Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya, speaking to IANS, said, "Rahul Gandhi is making every possible effort to ensure that the government is not able to undertake any major work, any good work, or any work in the interest of the country, because he dances to the tune of foreign forces. But I have full faith that the Members of Parliament elected from different political parties understand all these things." Rajasthan BJP President Madan Rathore also defended the proposed exercise, telling reporters, "Congress feels that if delimitation takes place, they will lose their position." "Today, there are some Lok Sabha constituencies with a population of 50 lakh, while some have only 1 lakh people. Therefore, this process has to be carried out. Delimitation must happen," he added. Janata Dal-United MLC Neeraj Kumar Singh said the issue should be debated within the constitutional framework instead of being politicised.

EDITORIAL

the indian mail

'Not afraid to engage the Quad':

ASEAN sends strong message to China, says report

New Delhi, Aug 6 : The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) has sent a strong message to China with the recent events at the 16th Foreign Ministers' Meeting of the East Asia Summit (EAS), a forum for strategic, political, and economic dialogue comprising 19 countries in Manila, according to a report.

On the sidelines of the 16th Foreign Ministers' Meeting, the Quad Foreign Ministers met and issued a dedicated joint statement on cooperation with ASEAN. They also reiterated their commitments unveiled at the 11th Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting in

New Delhi. According to the report by 'The Diplomat', this opened the door to a more substantive relationship with the Quad, and this achievement should not be underestimated, as ASEAN has spent much of the past year mulling questions about drift and division.

It said that the statement reflected the Quad's willingness to overcome its appeasement of China. Despite being inherently a counterweight to China, the Quad avoided being seen as enraging Beijing, but the meeting in Manila seems to shed this longstanding hesitation. Beijing is a full participant in the East Asia Summit and the ASEAN Regional Forum.

In the joint statement, the Quad



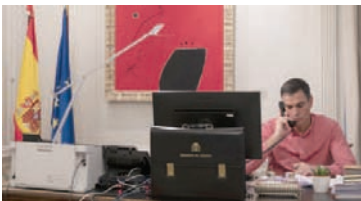
countries called themselves "ASEAN Comprehensive Strategic Partners" and noted "the practical implementation of the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific", as part of their agenda.

"The fact that ASEAN accepted and enabled the Quad's effort to insert itself as a stakeholder with a collective interest in the region is significant. Beijing has repeatedly described the Quad as an Asian NATO and has made its dis-

comfort with the grouping known. Further, ASEAN has always sought to avoid becoming an arena for great power rivalry. Beijing is a full participant in the East Asia Summit and the ASEAN Regional Forum," the report noted.

The report called this joint statement a response to critics who question the Quad's lack of engagement with regional countries.

Spanish PM urges EU unity over Ceuta migrant crisis



Madrid, Aug 6 : Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez on Thursday called on the European Union to convene an extraordinary meeting of interior ministers to coordinate a common response to the recent migrant crisis in Spain's North African enclave of Ceuta, while criticising what he described as the "selfish" attitude of some member states. In a letter addressed to European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, Sanchez expressed his "serious concern" over the reaction of some European governments following the mass irregular crossings into Ceuta. Sanchez said around 50,000 migrants had entered Ceuta irregularly, but that Spain had restored control of the border in less than 48 hours, provided humanitarian assistance, returned virtually all of those who had crossed illegally.



UNIFIL's uncertain future worries residents in Southern Lebanon

Beirut, Aug 6 : With the current mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) set to expire at the end of 2026, residents in southern Lebanon's border communities are increasingly concerned that any reduction or withdrawal of the peacekeeping mission could affect security, livelihoods and daily life. Although the UN Security Council has extended

UNIFIL's mandate until December 31, 2026, debate over the mission's future beyond that date has continued, prompting growing concern among residents in southern Lebanon, many of whom say the force has become an integral part of daily life.

Established in 1978 under UN Security Council Resolutions 425 and 426, and expanded after the 2006 Lebanon-Israel war under Resolution 1701, UNIFIL has around 10,500 peacekeepers from

around 50 troop-contributing countries. Beyond monitoring the cessation of hostilities and maintaining stability along the UN-demarcated Blue Line, the force has undertaken demining operations, provided medical services, and supported environmental and development projects across southern Lebanon. Residents said the mission also plays an important role in the local economy.

US embassies urge citizens to 'consider departing' Mideast countries amid heightened tensions

Cairo, Aug 6 : The US embassies in some 10 Middle East countries on Thursday warned American citizens to exercise caution and "consider departing or be prepared to depart should there be escalation."

On their websites, the US embassies in countries including Israel, Jordan, Iraq, Egypt, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Saudi Arabia issued similar security alerts, reports Xinhua news agency.

"Due to heightened tensions in the Middle East, the security environment remains complex with the potential for unforeseen escalation," the alerts said, adding that Americans in the region should consider departing, or be prepared to depart should there be escalation. The embassies advised US citizens in the Middle East to exercise caution and heightened vigilance and to be prepared for flight cancellations, periodic airspace closures, and potential travel disruptions.

They also advised US citizens

outside the region to "seriously reconsider travel to and through the Middle East."

Earlier on Saturday, Iran's semi-official Tasnim news agency reported that Iran has prepared an "extensive" plan to respond to potential attacks on Iranian infrastructure. Tasnim cited a senior security official as saying that Iran has prepared an "extensive" plan in response to US media's recent claims about possible US and Israeli strikes against its infrastructure. The plan reportedly involves targeting vital Israeli infrastruc-



ture and US energy infrastructure in the Middle East.

The developments came amid renewed exchanges of airstrikes between the United States and Iran after days of pause, as well as the emergence of a new Red Sea front involving Yemen's Houthis and Saudi Arabia.

US proposes final review on Lake Powell, Lake Mead reservoirs

Los Angeles, Aug 6 : The US government has released a final environmental review outlining a 10-year framework to operate the country's two largest reservoirs, enabling it to impose steep water cuts amid ongoing divisions among the

seven basin states on how to share the dwindling water supply. The Bureau of Reclamation released guidelines for operational rules to be updated every two years through 2036 pertaining to the country's two largest reservoirs, Lake Powell and Lake Mead in the

southwestern United States, enabling adjustments to water releases, conservation and cutbacks in response to river conditions, according to the review. The document states that annual water deliveries to Arizona, California and Nevada could be slashed by up to



3.7 billion cubic meters - 40 per cent of their combined Colorado River allocation.



India and Bahrain discuss strengthening bilateral ties and naval cooperation

Manama, Aug 6 : Deputy Chief of Naval Staff, Vice Admiral Tarun Sobti called on Bahrain Prime Minister and Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa at the Riffa Palace, discussing the strengthening bilateral ties and naval cooperation between India and Bahrain. "VAdm Tarun Sobti, Deputy Chief of Naval Staff Indian Navy, called on HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces and Prime Minister of Bahrain, at Riffa Palace on 10 Feb 26. Discussions were focussed on strengthening bilateral ties and

naval cooperation in fields including Information Sharing, Joint Training, Capacity Building and Future Warfare," the Indian Navy Spokesperson stated on Thursday. Earlier this month, External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar met his counterpart from Bahrain, Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani before the start of the 2026 Critical Minerals Ministerial convened by the US Secretary of State Marco Rubio. In January, the Indian Embassy in Bahrain hosted a reception celebrating India's 77th Republic Day, where Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani was the Chief Guest. According to the statement shared by Embassy on X, over 400 dignitaries, including MPs, senior Govt officials, and members of the Diplomatic Corps attended the reception. In another post on X, Indian Embassy in Bahrain wrote, "Leadership of the CMF, prominent businessmen, Bahrain Chamber & Bahrain India Society representatives, three Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awardees, and members of the Indian & Bahraini community also joined."

South African opposition politician Malema sentenced to five years in prison

Cape Town, Aug 6 : South African opposition politician Julius Malema was sentenced on Thursday to five years in prison for firearm-related offences.

Malema, the founding leader of the far-left Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF), is one of the most prominent politicians in South Africa.

The lengthy sentence was delivered on Thursday morning at the Magistrate's Court in KuGompo City, formerly East London, in the Eastern Cape province. Large screens were set up outside the courthouse, where hundreds of EFF party supporters gathered to hear the fate of their political leader, Xinhua News Agency reported.

The charges stem from an incident on July 28, 2018, when Malema discharged a semi-automatic assault rifle into the air during an EFF political rally in Mdantsane, a largely residential township in Eastern Cape province.



Nearly 477,000 children experiencing disruptions to schooling due to Hurricane Melissa: UN

United Nations, Aug 6 : Nearly 477,000 children in Cuba, Haiti and Jamaica are experiencing significant disruptions to their schooling three weeks after Hurricane Melissa hit the Caribbean, a UN spokesperson said. With many schools damaged or closed, children have been forced to miss classes or study in temporary spaces that may not be equipped for proper learning, said Stephane Dujarric, spokesperson for the UN secretary-general, at a daily briefing.

In response, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) is working with local governments and partners to deliver supplies and trying to rehabilitate damaged schools, he said.

In Cuba, UNICEF has pre-positi-

oned supplies to reach 21,000 students, including school kits, while in Haiti, it has provided 2,800 school kits in Sud and Nippes departments, and additional actions are planned in the coming weeks, he said.

In Jamaica, the agency has provided teaching and learning materials along with up to 100 temporary learning spaces to support 10,000 children, said the spokesperson.

Additionally, 500 teachers will be trained, building on the 1,000 teachers who have already been trained in the Return to Happiness methodology, equipping them to support their own recovery and provide psychosocial assistance to approximately 18,000 students.

Syria's interim leadership announces new 'transitional government'

Beirut, Aug 6 : Syrian leader Ahmed al-Sharaa has announced the formation of a "transitional government" in the Syrian capital of Damascus. The announcement, initially scheduled for earlier this month, came on Thursday amid international calls for an inclusive Syrian transition following recent sectarian bloodshed, as the country's new leaders seek to reunite and rebuild Syria and its institutions after overthrowing former Syrian President

Bashar al-Assad's government on February 12 which brought an end to 14 years of civil war. The new Cabinet retains key figures from the interim leadership, Xinhua news agency reported.

Asaad Hassan al-Shibani, previously interim chief of foreign affairs authority, was appointed Foreign Minister, while former Intelligence Chief Anas Khattab was named Interior Minister. Marhaf Abu Qusra, who oversaw defence affairs in the interim administration, will serve as Defence Minis-

ter. The government also introduced several structural changes, including the creation of a Ministry of emergency and disasters to address natural and humanitarian crises, as well as a dedicated Ministry of youth and sports.

Veteran opposition figure Hind Kabawat, a member of Syria's Christian minority and longtime Assad opponent, was named social affairs and labour minister, the first woman to be appointed by Sharaa. The leader of the White Helmets, the Syrian rescuers who



worked in rebel-held areas, Raed al-Saleh, was appointed Minister of emergency situations and disasters.

The Islamist-led authorities who now dominate Syria have vowed to protect minorities, especially after fighting earlier this month between gunmen from Assad's Alawite community and militia linked to the Sunni rebel forces that overthrew him led to civilian massacres.



US airstrike kills several ISIS operatives in Somalia

Mogadishu, Aug 6 : The United States Africa Command (AFRICOM), in coordination with the Federal Government of Somalia, conducted an airstrike on several ISIS-Somalia targets in the east African country.

The airstrike was conducted on Thursday in the southeast of Bosaso, Puntland, in the north-eastern region of the country.

According to the initial assessment, AFRICOM said that multiple ISIS-Somalia operatives were killed, and no civilians were harmed. It stated that ISIS-Somalia's malicious efforts threaten US security interests.

"ISIS-Somalia has proved both its will and capability to attack US and partner forces. This group's malicious efforts threaten US security interests," AFRICOM said in a statement.

"Additionally, AFRICOM, alongside the Federal Government of Somalia and Somali Armed Forces, continues to take action to degrade ISIS-Somalia's ability to plan and conduct attacks that threaten the US homeland, its forces, and the civilians abroad," the statement further read. Meanwhile, AFRICOM added that the specific details about the operation will not be released to ensure continued operational security. In a similar attempt on March 25, the AFRICOM and the Somali government conducted multiple airstrikes against ISIS-Somalia in the vicinity of the Golis Mountains.

US lawmakers introduce bipartisan resolution to defend India ties

Washington, Aug 6 : US Representatives Ami Bera and Joe Wilson on Thursday introduced a bipartisan resolution reaffirming the strategic value of the India-US partnership and its role in promoting stability and shared democratic priorities. The resolution received strong bipartisan support with 24 original cosponsors, including members such as Sydney Kamlager-Dove, Rich McCormick, Deborah Ross, Rob Wittman, Suhas Subramanyam and Jay Obernolte. The resolution

emphasised the shared fight against terrorism, calling for "continued cooperation on counterterrorism, including the swift prosecution of the perpetrators of the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks." It also mentioned the terrorist attack in Pahalgam in April, which killed 26 people, saying that the attack was "claimed by The Resistance Front (a proxy of Lashkar-e-Taiba), highlighting the persistent threat of cross-border and proxy terrorism in South Asia." Lawmakers stressed that support for deepening ties with India has been a constant across

party lines and presidential transitions. "For more than three decades, it has been the policy of the United States under administrations of Presidents Clinton, Bush, Obama, Trump, and Biden to strengthen the strategic partnership with India, recognising its importance to regional stability.



Tibet needs visionary leadership to negotiate with Beijing: Report

Beijing, Aug 6 : The Tibetan struggle cannot be sustained by a four-decade-old playbook and requires leaders willing to take risks, think beyond familiar approaches, and devise strategies that bring Beijing.

Turkey says detained Swedish journalist faces terror charges for 'insulting' Prez

Istanbul, Aug 6 : Turkey on Thursday said that the Swedish journalist Joakim Medin, who was detained on his arrival to cover unrest in the country over the jailing of Istanbul's mayor Ekrem Imamoglu, has been charged with terror-related offences and insulting Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

Medin, who works for the Dagens ETC newspaper and was assigned to cover protests over the jailing of Istanbul's mayor, "has been arrested on charges of 'membership in an armed terrorist organisation' and 'insulting the president,'" according to the Turkish presidency. In a bulletin published by Turkey's "Disinformation Combat Centre," the presidency said the journalist

was "known for anti-Turkey news and his closeness to the terrorist organisation PKK," the banned Kurdish militant group.

Medin's employer, Dagens ETC, had raised concerns over his whereabouts after he was unreachable for two days.

Speaking on the arrest of the journalist by the Turkish authorities, Swedish Foreign Min-



ister Maria Malmer Stenergard said Medin's arrest was being taken "seriously."

Earlier, Mark Lowen, a BBC correspondent, was detained in Istanbul, where he was covering the protests and political crisis ignited by the arrest of Imamoglu.

Turkey later deported the correspondent who was covering the anti-government protests in the country after he was detained and labelled "a threat to public order."



Bengal minister Agnimitra Paul announces hefty fine for leaving construction materials on road for building house

Kolkata, Aug 6 : West Bengal Municipal Affairs and Urban Development Minister Agnimitra Paul on Thursday made it clear that if anyone leaves construction materials on the road while building a house then he or she will have to pay a fine this time. The Minister told that this new system will be implemented in the state from September 1. On Sunday, Minister Paul was present at several programmes of Siliguri Municipal Corporation (SMC). There, facing the media, she said, "Building a house and leaving stones, sand, bricks on the road, this will not happen. We will charge a fine. When you are building a house, keep all these

things inside. The road is not your own property." Minister Paul also said that if someone buys vacant land, the person concerned will have to take the responsibility of cleaning it. According to the Minister, "Sometimes a person will build a house after 30 years after buying a land. Till then there will be bushes, drains, ponds on that land. That will not happen anymore. Just as it is your responsibility to clean the house, the area in front of the house or the garden, it is also your responsibility to keep the vacant land clean. It will not happen that the people of the house will suffer from dengue because of your vacant land." Recently, Agnimitra Paul also gave a strong message about illegal parking. She said that cars can be parked in the designated parking spaces.



Bihar fishermen receive fish marketing kits under PMMSY, thank Modi government

Patna, Aug 6 : Under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), many fishermen and workers associated with the fisheries sector in Bihar were provided with fish marketing kits and bicycle ice boxes on Thursday. This brought joy and a smile to their faces, after which they expressed their gratitude to the Modi government for the remarkable step towards improving their lifestyle and livelihood. Many fishermen spoke to IANS about the Centre's innovative scheme, elaborating on how this could bring a decisive change in their lives. Rikhu Devi said, "I got the cycle. We will definitely see some change. First, we used to sell the fish on the road, now we will take our cycle around." Ram Pravesh Chaudhary told IANS that he wants to reach more customers after getting bicycle ice boxes from the government and earn more income.



Punjab Police bust trans-border drug smuggling racket; 6 kg heroin seized, 2 held

Tarn Taran, Aug 6 : In a significant development, Punjab Police on Thursday busted a cross-border drug smuggling racket and apprehended two drug traffickers who were colluding with Pakistan-based smugglers, in the trafficking of drugs in the state. A large cache of 6 kg heroin was recovered from their possession, Director General of Police (DGP) Punjab Gaurav Yadav told the press and also informed about the modus operandi of drug traffickers operating from Tarn Taran. He said that drones were deployed to drop drug consignments in the state, from across the border. Those arrested have been identified as Hardeep Singh alias Deep and Harjeet Singh, both residents of Village Thathi Sohal, Tarn Taran.

Confident that those opposing will join RSS fold: Dattatreya Hosabale

Nagpur, Aug 6 : Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh General Secretary Dattatreya Hosabale on Thursday said that RSS does not believe in opposing anyone and is confident that one day, those opposing its work will join the fold. He said that in the last 100 years, Sangh, as a movement of national reconstruction, has travelled from neglect and ridicule to curiosity and acceptance. "When Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh is completing the hundredth year of its service, there is an evident curiosity about the way Sangh perceives this landmark. It has

been crystal clear for the Sangh since its inception that such occasions are not meant for celebration but provide us with an opportunity to introspect and rededicate to the cause. It is also a chance to acknowledge the contributions of the stalwart.



Delhi: Masquerading as 'Arjun', Waseem arrested for planting illegal firearms to implicate brother-in-law

New Delhi, Aug 6 : In what appears to be a case of personal enmity, a 28-year-old man has been arrested by Delhi Police for deliberately planting illegal firearms at his brother-in-law's residence to falsely implicate him in criminal cases, officials said on Thursday. A team of the Welcome Police Station (PS) successfully unearthed the alleged conspiracy of the accused and recovered two country-made pistols from his possession, leading to the registration of a fresh Arms Act case. An official statement said that on July 31, during investigation of FIR No. 388/2026, U/s 25 Arms Act, PS Welcome, a police team comprising Head Constables Lalit, Harender, Kuldeep, Constable Ravi, and Soni under the supervision of Inspector Rupesh Kumar Khatri, SHO/PS Welcome, reached Ghaziabad's DLF Border, at Rajiv Colon's Gali No. 4, and apprehended the accused from his mobile repair shop.



Shiv-Sena UBT leader Priyanka Chaturvedi targets UP CM Adityanath over 'land jihad' remark



Mumbai, Aug 6 : Shiv Sena-UBT leader Priyanka Chaturvedi on Thursday lashed out at Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath over his "land jihad" remark, saying "We have heard enough of this in 10 years of his rule, when is he going to fulfill the promises made to people?" A political row erupted after CM Adityanath, while addressing 'Shri Ram Katha Mahotsav' on Tuesday, said: "... After all, what were Khar-Dushan doing, what were Maricha and Subahu doing, they too were involved in 'land jihad'. Forcibly occupying. Forcibly spotting any empty land and pitching their own tent on it. All of this must stop." The Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister also said: "The land of India cannot be a 'dharma-shala' for those invaders who have no faith in India.

Rajasthan Congress chief raises concerns over curriculum changes

Jaipur, Aug 6 : Rajasthan Pradesh Congress Committee President Govind Singh Dotasra on Thursday criticised the state government's decision to remove four books from the school curriculum for the 2026-27 academic session. Dotasra said that the removal of books such as Rajasthan's Freedom Movement and Gallantry Traditions (Class 9), His-

tory and Culture of Rajasthan (Class 10), Golden India After Independence (Class 11), and Golden India After Independence - Part 2 (Class 12) would result in students being exposed to a "half-truth". He questioned the rationale behind removing these texts and asked whether the objection was to the narrative of nation-building. "If there were factual inaccuracies, they could have been corrected.

BJP all prepared for Panchayat and local body elections in Rajasthan, says Madan Rathore

Jaipur, Aug 6 : Rajasthan Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) President Madan Rathore has said the party is fully prepared for the upcoming Panchayat and local body elections scheduled to be held in the state. He added on Thursday that the party's organisational structure is strong down to the booth level, with responsibilities assigned to every party

worker, and expressed confidence that the BJP would register a resounding victory. Rathore noted that the BJP has won more than 80 per cent of the seats in the by-elections conducted so far. He also highlighted the party's victory in the local body by-election held in State Congress President Govind Singh Dotasra's own Assembly constituency.



Reimagining growth: Odisha's shift to a technology-led economy

Bhubaneswar, Aug 6 : Odisha aims to become a net exporter of compute and develop population-scale Odia-language applications to strengthen last-mile public service delivery. To realise this vision, the state government has forged a strategic partnership with Sarvam AI, an Indian artificial intelligence company, to develop a

sovereign AI capacity in Odisha. Informing about the landmark development in a video message, Odisha's Electronics and Information Technology department minister, Mukesh Mahaling, has said that Odisha has signed an MoU with @SarovamAI to build a sovereign AI capacity hub - a landmark step towards India's self-reliant AI future. "This is not just a data centre; it is

a strategic move to position Odisha as India's leading AI capacity provider. From a mines-driven economy to a mind-driven economy, Odisha is redefining its growth trajectory. Traditionally known for its mineral and metal-driven strengths, the State is now decisively transitioning towards a technology-led digital economy," Mahaling added. He also underscored that the state

government, in partnership with Sarvam AI, targets to establish a 50 MW AI-optimised facility with an investment of around Rs 20,000 crore, backed by significant capital investment incentives from the State. "The facility will host nearly 25,000 GPUs, create thousands of high-skilled direct and indirect jobs, and firmly establish Odisha as a key pillar of India's sovereign



AI and compute ecosystem, accelerating the journey towards Viksit Odisha, Viksit Bharat," noted Mahaling. It is pertinent here to mention that

the Odisha Government, on February 6, signed an MoU with Sarvam as part of the state's ongoing efforts to build a secure, inclusive, and Odia-first artificial intelligence ecosystem aligned with Vision 2036 and Vision 2047. The MoU was signed in the presence of President Droupadi Murmu on the sidelines of the recently held Black Swan Summit 2026 in Bhubaneswar. The MoU gives impetus towards making AI a long-term public capability.

Gold posts 1.16 pc weekly dip amid firmer dollar

Mumbai, Aug 6 : Gold prices dipped 1.16 per cent on a weekly basis as higher US Treasury yields and a firmer dollar capped safe-haven demand.

On Thursday, MCX gold August futures gained 0.06 per cent while MCX silver September futures dipped 1.13 per cent. Currently gold futures stand at Rs 1,41,599, while silver futures stood at Rs 2,17,488 per kg. The price of 10 grams of 24-carat gold was at Rs 1,42,860 on Friday down from Rs 1,44,532 seen on Monday market opening, according to data published by the India Bullion and Jewellers Association (IBJA). Gold and silver remained volatile through the week, with bullion briefly rallying around 2 per cent after the US Federal Reserve left interest rates unchanged. Gold later extended those gains into Thursday as the dollar softened later in the week.

"Silver was comparatively steady, trading within a relatively narrow range, while the broader precious metals complex maintained a cautious tone as investors awaited fresh macroeconomic catalysts and greater clarity on the Federal Reserve's policy path," an analyst said. Commodity markets had a turbulent week as the US-



Iran conflict traversed multiple times from de-escalation to renewed hostilities. Though crude prices eased, investors are cautious about inflation fears lifting US Treasury yields and supporting the dollar, both weighing on demand for non-yielding precious metals. The Fed's relatively hawkish stance, combined with a still-resilient labour market and sticky inflation expectations driven by the recent rise in oil prices, reduced expectations of near-term rate cuts and pushed the implied probability of a September rate hike to roughly 63 per cent. Iran's Revolutionary Guard turned back tankers in the Strait of Hormuz, while Saudi Arabia convened 43 countries to form a maritime coalition to protect Red Sea shipping following a Houthis blockade.



Hyundai, Kia sell over 100,000 EVs in Europe in Jan-June

Seoul, Aug 6 : Hyundai Motor and Kia sold more than 100,000 electric vehicles (EVs) in Europe in the first half of the year as the South Korean automakers stepped up efforts to strengthen their presence in the region, the companies said on Thursday. A total of 131,032 EVs were sold in Europe during the first six months of 2026, up a sharp 41.8 per cent from 92,365 recorded in the previous half, according to Hyundai and Kia. Kia's EV3 compact sport utility vehicle (SUV) was the bestselling model with 27,121 units sold, followed by Hyundai's Instar subcompact

SUV with 16,594 units and Kia's EV4 sedan with 14,502 units, reports Yonhap news agency. If the current sales pace continues through the end of the year, the companies expect annual EV sales in Europe to surpass 200,000 units for the first time since they entered the European EV market in 2014. Hyundai and Kia first topped 100,000 annual EV sales in Europe in 2021.

ECLGS 5.0 crosses 1 lakh guarantees, covers Rs 48,484 crore in loans: Govt

New Delhi, Aug 6 : The Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) 5.0 has crossed a major milestone, with the total number of guarantees issued under the scheme surpassing the one lakh mark, according to official data released on Thursday. As of June 9,

2026, a total of 1,06,549 guarantees have been issued under ECLGS 5.0, covering guarantees worth Rs 48,484.26 crore, the Ministry of Finance said. The achievement highlights the extensive scale of credit support being provided to lenders and borrowers amid liquidity pressures arising from the West Asia crisis. The scheme, which was approved by the Union Cabinet on May 5, 2026, aims to facilitate additional credit of Rs 2.55 lakh crore to existing borrowers facing financial challenges due to the ongoing geopolitical situation in West Asia.



AI needs massive power surge, says Trump

Washington, Aug 6 : President Donald Trump said the United States is allowing private companies to build their own power plants to meet what he described as massive electricity demand driven by artificial intelligence. In an interview with Fox Business's Larry Kudlow, Trump said AI infrastructure requires unprecedented energy capacity. "AI, for whatever reason, needs massive amounts of electricity, right? More electricity than the entire country produces right now by double," he said. Trump said the national grid cannot be rebuilt overnight to handle that demand. As a result, he said his administration is permitting companies constructing large facilities to generate their own power. "I'm letting everybody that builds a plant build their own electric plant," he said. "They're gonna become like a utility." He said developers are constructing large-scale facilities and will operate independent generating systems.

Persistent Systems' Q1 net profit falls 8.7 pc sequentially to Rs 483 crore

Mumbai, Aug 6 : IT major Persistent Systems Limited on Thursday reported an 8.7 per cent quarter-on-quarter (QoQ) decline in its consolidated net profit for the first quarter of the financial year 2027 (Q1 FY27). According to the company's exchange filing, consolidated net profit stood at Rs 483 crore during the April-June quarter, compared with Rs 529 crore in the preceding quarter (Q4 FY26). Revenue from operations rose 6.1 per cent sequentially to Rs 4,303 crore from Rs 4,056 crore in

the January-March quarter, the IT major added in its filing. However, profitability weakened during the quarter. Earnings before interest and taxes (EBIT) declined nearly 11.8 per cent to Rs 582 crore from Rs 659 crore in the previous quarter. The company's EBIT margin also contracted by 280 basis points to 13.5 per cent in the first quarter, compared with 16.3 per cent in the preceding quarter. Commenting on financial performance, Sandeep Kalra, Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director, Persistent said that the performance was underpinned by a



record quarterly total contract value (TCV) of \$1.15 billion, reflecting continued momentum in larger client engagements, including a 6.5-year strategic services agreement with a leading global technology company with a TCV of more than \$650 million. "We signed a business combination agreement with Nagarro, a leading European digital engineering company listed on the Frankfurt Stock Exchange. This transaction is in line with the M&A strategy we have consistently outlined to strengthen our capabilities and expand our geographic footprint.

Private equity investment in Indian real estate doubles to \$637 mn in Q1

New Delhi, Aug 6 : Private equity investment in Indian real estate rose to \$637 million across nine transactions in Q1 2026, marking a 2.1 times increase from \$300 million seen in Q1 2025, a report said on Thursday. The report from real estate consultancy Knight Frank India said.



Elon Musk's wealth plunges by over \$600 billion as SpaceX, Tesla shares tumble

New Delhi, Aug 6 : Elon Musk has seen his personal fortune shrink by more than \$600 billion in just over a month after a sharp decline in the shares of SpaceX and Tesla, even as he continues to double down on artificial intelligence, autonomous driving and robotics. Musk's net worth has fallen to around \$684 billion from a peak of nearly \$1.33 trillion reached on June 16, when SpaceX briefly propelled him to become the world's first-ever trillionaire. The wealth erosion alone exceeds the total net worth of every other billionaire except Musk himself. The decline has been driven primarily by a steep correction

in SpaceX shares following the company's blockbuster market debut. After raising \$75 billion in what became the largest initial public offering in history, SpaceX listed at \$150 per share, above its IPO price of \$135. Investor enthusiasm initially pushed the stock up more than 50 per cent within three trading sessions, with shares touching a record closing high of nearly \$202 on June 16. However, the rally proved short-lived. SpaceX shares have since slumped about 46 per cent from their peak to a record low of \$108.37, wiping out hundreds of billions of dollars from Musk's fortune. The pressure on Musk's wealth has been compounded by weak-



ness in Tesla shares. The electric vehicle maker's stock has dropped 17 per cent since the company reported its second-quarter earnings on July 22. Tesla missed analysts' profit estimates for the first time in more than two years and posted negative free cash flow as spending on artificial intelligence and robotics accelerated. The company said higher operat-

ing expenses tied to AI investments, lower average selling prices and weaker regulatory credit revenue weighed on profitability despite an increase in vehicle deliveries. Despite the near-term financial pressure, Musk remains committed to an aggressive investment strategy. He has said Tesla plans to spend more than \$25 billion this year, nearly three times the amount invested last year, to expand its capabilities in AI-powered self-driving technology, robotaxis and humanoid robots.

India's ETF AUM grows over 5 times in 5 years, retail investor folios jump 11-fold: Report

Mumbai, Aug 6 : India's Exchange-Traded Funds (ETFs) have seen tremendous growth over the last five years, with total Assets Under Management (AUM) rising more than five times and retail investor folios increasing eleven-fold, a new report said on Thursday. The total AUM of ETFs in India grew nearly 5.5 times between March 2020 and March 2026, according to a new report released by Zerodha Fund House. By the end of this period, ETFs accounted for Rs 8.38 lakh crore, making up around 13 per cent of the overall Rs 65.74 lakh crore.



Punjab CM dedicates two Schools of Eminence to Ludhiana

Ludhiana, Aug 6 : Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Thursday dedicated two new Schools of Eminence to Ludhiana, taking its tally in the district to 16. The new campuses, equipped with modern classrooms, state-of-the-art laboratories, an auditorium and other advanced facilities, are part of the state's efforts to strengthen public education and provide world-class learning infrastructure to students. Asserting that sustained investment in education has transformed government schools into institutions of excellence, the Chief Minister said improved infrastructure, overseas teacher training and modern teaching practices have led to

a growing preference for government schools among parents. CM Mann said Punjab has risen from 27th to the number one position in school education across the country, reaffirming his government's commitment to building a healthy, educated and drug-free Punjab through quality education for every child. The Chief Minister also spent time interacting with students during his visit to the newly inaugurated School of Eminence. Mann visited classrooms, science laboratories and other academic facilities, where he took stock of the modern infrastructure and interacted with students about their studies, scientific experiments and learning experience. CM Mann also met teachers and school staff, ap-



preciating their dedication towards strengthening the education system in the state. During the visit, several students enthusiastically sought the Chief Minister's autograph, while some presented him with handmade portraits as a token of affection and gratitude. At the function, a parent also presented the Chief Minister with a bouquet and lauded the government's initiatives to transform the education sector under his leadership. Addressing the gathering, CM Mann said, "Today is a historic day for the people of Punjab, especially for the residents of Ludhiana. Two new Schools of Eminence buildings at Kidwai Nagar and Miller Ganj are being dedicated to the people. "With these two additions, Ludhiana now has 16 Schools of Eminence, making it the first district in Punjab.

Rana Sanga a 'traitor': Islamic cleric Tauqeer Raza stirs fresh row

Bareilly, Aug 6 : Islamic cleric Tauqeer Raza on Thursday reiterated the label of "traitor" for Rajput ruler Rana Sanga, mirroring a recent statement by Samajwadi Party (SP) MP Ramji Lal Suman. During a press conference, Raza said: "Babur didn't come to India; he was invited to come. Babur never did any attack on India. Babur attacked Ibrahim Lodhi. But Rana Sanga was the one who cheated him (Babur). He (Rana Sanga) asked Babur to start capturing from Delhi, while Rana Sanga was supposed to start from Agra. So, the motive of Rana Sanga was to make Babur attack India." Raza further alleged that he (Rana Sanga) only wanted Babur to come and loot India and do destruction of

Delhi so that Rana Sanga could become ruler. "Rana Sanga broke his promise to Babur. Angered by Rana Sanga's breach of promise, Babur attacked India. Rana Sanga cheated and betrayed his own country," he added. Earlier, Samajwadi Party (SP) MP Ramji Lal Suman, during a Parliament session, also branded Rana Sanga a "traitor", leading to controversy. Suman claimed the 16th-century Rajput ruler invited Mughal ruler Babur to defeat Ibrahim Lodi, ultimately paving the way for the Mughal Empire. The MP's statement triggered a backlash, with Karni Sena activists vandalising his Agra residence near Hari Parvat Chauraha on Wednesday.



India-backed housing project advances Sri Lanka's affordable housing drive: Report

New Delhi, Aug 6 : An India-funded housing initiative is emerging as a key pillar of Sri Lanka's efforts to improve living conditions for underprivileged families and strengthen long-standing bilateral ties, according to a report. According to a report by 'Ceylon News 24 News Web', the latest phase of the Indian Housing Project marks another milestone in the development partnership between India and Sri Lanka, reflecting New Delhi's continued support for the island nation as it rebuilds its economy and social infrastructure following recent financial challenges.

Haridwar strengthens cleanliness, security measures as Kanwar Yatra draws lakhs of devotees

Haridwar, Aug 6 : As the Kanwar Yatra progresses, authorities in Uttarakhand's Haridwar have put in place extensive cleanliness, security and crowd-management measures to ensure the smooth conduct of the annual pilgrimage and provide a safe and hassle-free experience for the lakhs of devotees arriving in the holy city. The Kanwar Yatra began on July 30, coinciding with the first day of the sacred month

of Sawan, and will conclude on August 11 with the Sawan Shivratri Jal Abhishek. Every year, the pilgrimage attracts Lord Shiva devotees from across the country, who collect holy water from the River Ganga in Haridwar and carry it to Shiva temples in different parts of north-east India. Speaking to IANS, Haridwar Municipal Commissioner Nandan Kumar said, "During the Kanwar Yatra, a large number of devotees

visit, so we arrange toilets in large numbers. We have currently installed around 300 FRP and steel toilets, along with nearly 60 mobile toilets that will remain available in the municipal area.



Gen Z's new age protests are reshaping India's political landscape, says VCK chief Thirumavalavan

Chennai, Aug 6 : Viduthala Chiruthaigal Katchi (VCK) President Thol. Thirumavalavan said on Thursday that India's Gen Z is emerging as a powerful and unpredictable political force, with its unconventional methods of mobilisation and protest challenging traditional political strategies and compelling govern-

ments to respond. Speaking at a programme, Thirumavalavan added that it was becoming increasingly difficult for political parties and leaders to anticipate what young people wanted and the kind of social and political changes they expected. The attitudes, priorities and methods adopted by the younger genera-

tion were markedly different from those associated with conventional political movements, the VCK President said. Referring to recent youth-led protests, the VCK leader added that large numbers of young people had mobilised and succeeded in putting pressure on the Union government. He noted that campaigns driven by

young activists, particularly through social media and other digital platforms, had demonstrated a capacity to build momentum rapidly and take political establishments by surprise. Thirumavalavan said traditional opposition parties, including the Congress and the Communist parties, had organised several protests on major public issues over the years. However, he added that the latest generation of protesters had shown that decentralised mobilisation, online campaigns and unconventional forms of agitation could sometimes produce political results more quickly than established methods.



Delhi govt junks AAP allegation of school bicycle scam

New Delhi, Aug 6 : Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MLA and Delhi government Spokesperson Harish Khurana said on Thursday that Aam Aadmi Party's Delhi convener Saurabh Bharadwaj's allegation of school bicycle scam in the city is "baseless" and an "attempt to divert public attention from the scams in Punjab". Khurana said the AAP allegation, based on the complaint of a business company, is an attempt to shield Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann, who is caught in a web of scams, including the one linked to school bags, and six separate exam paper leak cases. He said AAP Convenor Arvind Kejriwal and his party leaders have lost their mental balance due to the defeat of Delhi. Khurana has added that the Punjab government made a tailor-made tender and excluded all the local companies of Punjab from the tender process and then a company from Delhi bought four lakh bags with government money for free distribution to

the students of Class 11 and Class 12 in government schools. The BJP leader said the bags were made in the colours of 'AAP' flag -- yellow and blue -- and the Chief Minister's photo was also affixed on them. Distribution of bags made using the ruling party's flag colours is like bribing students of Class 11 and Class 12 who will vote for the first time after 18 years in Punjab elections next year, he added. Khurana said that the businessmen who manufacture and sell school bags in Punjab are angry with the AAP government for purchasing four lakh school bags from outside Punjab at arbitrary prices.



Woman, lover arrested for murder of 15-year-old son in Jharkhand

Sahibganj (Jharkhand), Aug 6 : A woman and her lover have been arrested from Ratanpur village in Jharkhand's Sahibganj district for the murder of her 15-year-old son, police said on Thursday. The accused have been identified as Meenu Devi and Rohit Sah. Both were taken into custody and later sent to judicial custody after they were produced in a court. According to police officials, the crime came to light during an investigation into the suspicious death of a teenager, Ayush. Preliminary findings revealed that Meenu Devi was involved in an illicit relationship with Sah, who is her nephew. Police said that on February 7, when Meenu Devi's husband, Hemant Sah, had stepped out for some work, Rohit Sah visited the house. During this time, Ayush saw the two in a compromising position and began shouting.



Delhi : Notorious criminal nabbed under Arms Act, has history of 50 criminal cases

New Delhi, Aug 6 : In a major development, the Delhi Police Crime Branch on Thursday apprehended a notorious criminal named Rahul Ranjan from Jahangirpuri after months of pursuit. The criminal was on the run and wanted in at least two cases of the Arms Act and theft. The notorious criminal is a habitual offender and has been involved in about 50 cases, including robbery, snatching, theft, NDPS, attempt to murder and more, informed the police. The Crime Branch, acting on a tip-off on Sunday, reached the spot where he was hiding and took him into custody. For months, he had been changing his place of stay to evade arrest. Secret information about Rahul Ranjan was received by a police head constable.



Iran reiterates offer to mediate Af-Pak conflict

Tehran, Aug 6 : In an irony of sorts, Iran has reiterated an offer to mediate between Pakistan and Afghanistan to sit across the negotiating table and resolve the neighbours' ongoing border clashes and occasional raids into each other's territory. Irony, because earlier Pakistan offered to help reconcile Iran and the United States; that effort began with considerable

ambition, but the effective efforts later came from Qatar. The Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding, a provisional arrangement intended to end the war, served as an impressive diplomatic menu that failed to meet the diners' taste. Meanwhile, Pakistan itself has been slipping further into domestic chaos, its global ambitions marred by internal pressures. Economic distress, political dysfunc-

tion, military might dictating political and diplomatic processes, and running feuds with neighbours have all led to the slide. For a long time, Islamabad has actively been trying to keep Washington happy, including its foray into recent peacemaking even as a war with Afghanistan was raging in its backyard. Similarly, it allied with the United States in launching a not-so-covert war in Afghanistan against Soviet

invasion in the 1980s, which its own defence minister has since criticised. Earlier, it joined the Washington-led Baghdad Pact in the 1950s, which was intended to keep then-Soviet Russia from expanding. Later, Pakistan's President Ayub Khan had claimed that Islamabad was losing faith in the pact due to its inability to help allies. The statement came after Pakistan's Civil War within and its defeat by India in successive



battles. Islamabad has also tried to help the United States and China in diplomatic rapprochement. Through this, it is maintain-

ing an "all-weather" relationship with Beijing even while pushing closer relations with the Islamic world.



Bangladesh: Jamaat's moral standards questioned amid controversy over its lawmaker

Dhaka, Aug 6 : The recent expulsion of Gazi Nazrul Islam, a lawmaker of Bangladesh's Jamaat-e-Islami party, over accusations of "moral turpitude", followed by allegations that he assaulted members of his own staff, has put the radical Islamist outfit under intense scrutiny. Jamaat attempted to salvage its image by cutting ties with the lawmaker, but only after facing widespread public criticism and media attention, a report has stated. "Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami has long presented itself as the moral alternative to the country's traditional political parties. It has built its political

identity on the promise that faith-based politics would produce cleaner governance, stronger accountability and higher ethical standards than the patronage-driven politics that has defined Bangladesh for decades. That claim is now facing its first real test," according to a report published in leading Bangladeshi newspaper, Daily Sun. Emphasising that power does not create character but merely reveals it, the report said the party leadership's attitude towards women has been particularly disturbing. "Top leaders of Jamaat have publicly stated that a woman cannot lead the party because, in their interpretation of Islam.

Enhancing pride of Bharatvarsha in every field: PM Modi hails women's power as 'hallmark of strong India'

New Delhi, Aug 6 : Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday hailed women's power as the hallmark of a strong India saying that mothers, sisters and daughters are enhancing the pride of "Bharatvarsha" in every field. In a post on X, PM Modi wrote, "Our women's power is the hallmark of a strong India. The mothers, sisters, and daughters of the nation are enhancing the pride of Bharatvarsha in every field today with their unbreakable

resolve, devotion, and spirit of service." The Prime Minister also shared a Sanskrit verse, offering salutations to Goddess Ambika and invoking her blessings for the



nation's welfare. The verse read: "We offer our reverent salutations to Ambika - worshipped by all the gods and great sages - who, through her divine power.

'PoK unrest result of long neglect in the region

New Delhi, Aug 6 : Decades of neglect in the Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir (PoK) is snowballing into a movement that may have similarities with the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War, according to a media report. The region recently came into the spotlight following police crackdown against civilian demonstrators. PoK, over the past few years, has been engulfed in unrest, driven by a grassroots movement over economic hardships and entrenched political structures, geopolitics commentator Ravi Verma wrote in 'The Secretariat'. He mentioned that the Jammu Kashmir Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC), a coalition of traders, activists, and civil society groups, has been spearheading the protests since 2023, and the economic grievances have evolved into a broader political struggle. The current protests in the region have been largely triggered by soaring inflation, high electricity tariffs, and high costs for staple subsidised goods.



Yunus govt has 'visceral hatred' for Hasina, Awami League: Former diplomat

New Delhi, Aug 6 : India's former High Commissioner to Bangladesh, Pinak Ranjan Chakravarty, on Thursday termed the conviction of former Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina as "political vendetta", asserting that all those in power in Dhaka currently have a "visceral hatred" for her and the Awami League party. In an interview with the IANS, Chakravarty stated that Bangladesh's interim government led by Chief Advisor Muhammad Yunus lacks support and warned that the verdict against Hasina might lead to more turbulence in Bangladesh. When asked whether death sentence given to Sheikh Hasina is result of fair judicial process, he responded, "I think by all accounts, it is political vendetta, which they have been pursuing for quite some time because people who are in power in Dhaka have a visceral hatred for Hasina and the Awami League for a few reasons. One of them is that the Jamaat-e-Islami, which is now calling the shots, participated in the agitation and is now pressurising the government to do all these things like the death sentence because their own leaders who participated in the genocide and helped

the Pakistani army in 1971 were convicted by this tribunal and were executed. This tribunal, of course, was set up by Hasina." "So, they blame Hasina for revenge and now they seek revenge. The students also feel that she used too much excessive force which killed a lot of people -- almost, I think 1200 to 1400 people -- and so they are also seeking revenge. The third party which is seeking revenge is Professor Yunus himself because he also had a lot of difficulties and was very bitter about Hasina because she had filed many cases or got them filed against him for tax evasion, money laundering, etc. So, I think that is also a fac-

US House passes bill targeting China over Taiwan

Washington, Aug 6 : The US House of Representatives has passed a bill that would push to exclude China from major international financial institutions if Beijing poses an immediate threat to Taiwan. The legislation, introduced by Rep. Frank D. Lucas of Oklahoma, is known as the PROTECT Taiwan Act. It would make it US policy to seek the removal of Chinese representatives from key multilateral bodies if the president notifies Congress that China poses an immediate threat to Taiwan's security. Under the Taiwan Relations Act, the president must inform Congress if such a threat arises. If that notification is made, the bill calls for excluding China from organizations such as the Group of 20 major economies, the Financial Stability Board and the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision. "The United States' response to an invasion of Taiwan should be robust and include numerous sanctions and economic penalties.



South Korea: Democratic Party puts merger talks with minor party on hold

Seoul, Aug 6 : The leader of South Korea's ruling Democratic Party (DP) said Thursday that discussions on a possible merger with the minor liberal Rebuilding Korea Party will be put on hold until after the June local elections.

CCI gives Adani Group clean chit in SECI tender case

New Delhi, Aug 6 : The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has given a clean chit to Adani Enterprises and Adani Green Energy in a SECI tender case, finding no prima facie case of contravention of fair market competition norms warranting an investigation. "Upon consideration of the facts and circumstances of the present case, the Commission is of the view that there is no prima facie case of contravention of provisions of Sections 3 and 4 of the Com-

petition Act warranting an investigation into the matter. Therefore, the matter is directed to be closed forthwith under Section 26(2) of the Act," the CCI ruling stated. Regarding the allegation of abuse of dominant position by the Adani Group, the Commission noted that power in India is generated through various sources such as coal, solar, wind, hydro and nuclear. It added that both private and public sector companies operate in the power generation market. The Commission observed that the Informant had not placed on

record any evidence to establish why solar power, or public and private power generation companies, should be treated as distinct markets. It further noted that the power generation market in India comprises several significant players, including National Thermal Power Corporation, Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd., Tata Power Co. Ltd., Torrent Power and Reliance Power. The Adani Group, therefore, prima facie, does not appear to be a dominant player in the market. Even in the renewable energy seg-

ment, other prominent players such as Tata Power, JSW Energy and Suzlon Energy are present, the Commission noted. The Commission also observed that the allegation of deriving benefits such as cross-subsidisation and economies of scale from other Adani Group entities does not establish dominance under Section 4 of the Act.



Regarding other allegations -- including leveraging, exclusion, creation of entry barriers, bid rigging and discrimination -- the Commission said no cogent evidence had been produced by the Informant. With regard to clause-specific allegations, the Commission observed that no evidence was provided to show that the Request for Selection (RFS) documents were designed to favour only large players.



Congress is modern-day Muslim League: BJP's Tuhin Sinha

New Delhi, Aug 6 : BJP National Spokesperson Tuhin Sinha launched a scathing attack on the Congress party on Thursday, accusing it of aligning with radical groups and displaying separatist tendencies.

Drawing parallels with pre-

Independence politics, Sinha claimed that the Congress has effectively become the “modern-day Muslim League.”

“I have said before and I repeat today that the Congress party is the modern-day Muslim League,” Tuhin Sinha said, referring to the recent bypoll in

Kerala where the Welfare Party of India, affiliated with Jamaat-e-Islami, extended support to the Congress-led UDF candidate Aryadan Shoukath. “Recently, in the Kerala bypolls, Congress colluded with the Jamaat-e-Islami affiliated party and sought their support,” he added.



Assam simplifies business registration through single-window portal: CM Sarma

Guwahati, Aug 6 : Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Thursday highlighted the state's efforts to improve the investment climate, saying entrepreneurs can now register and start their businesses through the Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) portal in just seven simple steps. In a post on social media platform X, Sarma said: “Doing business in Assam has never been this easy. Through the Ease of Doing Business portal, a one-stop solution to all your business needs, you can register and start your business in just seven easy steps.”



Anganwadi centres' vital role is to shape young minds: Gujarat child rights chief

Ahmedabad, Aug 6 : A kit and prize distribution programme was organised on Thursday for Anganwadi children by Mahila Seva Sangh in Chandkheda, where Gujarat State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (GSCPCR).



Mizoram: Drugs valued at Rs 2.35 crore seized, 3 arrested

Aizawl, Aug 6 : Mizoram Police, in two separate operations conducted over the past 24 hours, arrested three drug peddlers, including two residents of Rajasthan, and seized narcotic substances worth an estimated Rs 2.35 crore, officials said on Thursday.

A senior police official said that a vehicle travelling from Manipur towards Aizawl was intercepted by police personnel in Saitual district on the outskirts of Keifang. The vehicle was being driven by Somraj (32).



During a thorough inspection, police recovered 71 packets of suspected opium fluid concealed inside various compartments.



'There should be freedom, can't force it on anyone': Shia cleric Kalbe Jawad on new 'Vande Mataram' protocol

Lucknow, Aug 6 : As the Union Home Ministry issued fresh guidelines mandating that all six stanzas of 'Vande Mataram' be sung or played at designated government functions and in schools across the country, Shia Muslim cleric Kalbe Jawad on Thursday said there should be freedom and that it cannot be forced on anyone. The new rules also state that when both the national song and the national anthem are performed at the same event, 'Vande Mataram' must precede 'Jana Gana Mana'.

Reacting to the guidelines, the Lucknow-based cleric said that people should have the freedom to choose whether they want to recite the song or not. He also pointed out that Bankim Chandra Chatterjee wrote 'Vande Mataram' during British rule and said it was originally meant as a message against colonial rulers.

Talking to IANS, Kalbe Jawad said: "There should be freedom, whether you read it or not. You cannot force anything on anyone. You cannot force religion on anyone. This is a religious slogan."

Nepal: Construction of another school building begins with Indian assistance

Kathmandu, Aug 6 : Construction of a school building at Khajura Rural Municipality in the western Banke district of Nepal's Lumbini Province has begun with financial assistance from the Government of India, the Indian Embassy said.

Gitanjali Brandon, Counsellor at the Embassy of India in Kathmandu, and Dambar Bahadur B K, Chairman of Khajura Rural Municipality, jointly laid the foundation stone for a new building for Shree Jana Kalyan Secondary School.

The Indian government will provide approximately NPR 32 million under its High Impact Community Development Project (HICDP) programme to construct the infrastructure.

According to the Embassy, the project will be implemented through Khajura Rural Municipality. It is the eighth HICDP undertaken in Banke district with Indian assistance.



Maha to introduce separate Ready Reckoner rates for skyscrapers, slums

Mumbai, Aug 6 : The Maharashtra government has decided to establish separate Ready Reckoner (RR) rates for skyscrapers and slums located within the same vicinity. Moving away from the uniform pricing model, future property rates will be categorised on the basis of infrastructure and amenities available in the respective areas.

State Revenue Minister Chandrashekhar Bawankule on Thursday announced the decision while marking the

completion of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 12 years in office. The RR rate is the minimum property value fixed by the government for a specific locality. No property can be legally registered below this benchmark.

Minister Bawankule said a comprehensive three-phase survey campaign has been launched across the state using micro-zoning techniques, beginning with Mumbai.

The Maharashtra Remote Sensing Applications Centre (MRSAC) has been officially appointed to spearhead the survey.



The Revenue Department has initiated the process in accordance with the Maharashtra Stamp (Second Amendment) Government Bill No. 9, which was introduced in the Legislative Council during the Budget Session of the state legislature. The Revenue Department is fast-tracking preparations to implement the decision by the next financial year immediately after the completion of the survey.

South Australia investigates mass tern deaths amid suspected H5 bird flu

Canberra, Aug 6 : South Australian state authorities are investigating a mass bird mortality event after more than 80 dead and sick greater crested terns were found on an island off the state's southeast coast. Testing is underway to determine whether the birds were infected with the H5 strain of avian influenza, the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) reported on Thursday. State aerial surveillance on Friday detected 49 dead and 35 sick greater crested terns on Baudin Rocks, about five km south of Cape Jaffa, the ABC reported. The state's Chief Veterinary Officer Skye Fruean said it was "very unlikely" the birds would test negative for H5, although laboratory results were still pending. The state of South Australia has now recorded 39 of Australia's 53 confirmed H5 bird flu cases, according to official updates, Xinhua news agency reported. Australian Chief Veterinary Officer Beth Cookson said the risk to agriculture.



Another haul of areca nuts smuggled from Myanmar seized in Mizoram

Aizawl, Aug 6 : Assam Rifles, along with Customs, have seized a large consignment of smuggled areca nuts, also known as Burmese Betel nuts, valued at Rs 1.79 crore in Mizoram, officials said on Thursday.

A defence spokesman said that Assam Rifles troopers and Customs officials, in a joint raid, recovered 321 bags of areca nuts, which were found dumped in a jungle near Zote-Tlangsam crossing point in Champhai district on Wednesday night.

The areca nuts, smuggled from Myanmar, were dumped in the jungle with the intention to ferry them to other parts of India. The recovered items have been handed over to the Cus-

toms Preventive Force in Champhai. This is the second consignment of Myanmar areca nuts seized in Mizoram within nine days. Assam Rifles and Customs officials, in a joint operation on March 21, seized a consignment of areca nuts, contained in 180 bags, valued at Rs 1.08 crore from the same district. Champhai, which shares an unfenced border with Myanmar, is a hotspot for the smuggling of various drugs, foreign cigarettes, areca nuts, arms and ammunition, and exotic animals and their parts.

Large-scale smuggling of areca nuts from Myanmar is seriously affecting farmers in Assam, Mizoram and Tripura, where betel nuts grow in large quantities. Mizoram Chief Minister Lalduhoma had said on Friday that



due to the illegal import of 'areca nut' from Myanmar, local cultivators in the state have faced serious challenges in selling their produce at competitive prices. Addressing the training-cum-seminar on 'Scientific Methods of Cultivation of Areca nut and Pest Management', he emphasised that the government is working diligently to address these difficulties and take corrective measures.



Prataprao Jadhav leads discussion on future of Ayush sector

New Delhi, Aug 6 : Minister of State for Ayush Prataprao Jadhav on Thursday kicked off discussions at the “Chintan Shivir 2026,” an event organised to discuss key policies, strengthen institutions, and plan the future of the Ayush sector. Jadhav said that the Chintan Shivir reflects the government's resolve to strengthen policy direction and effective implementation in the Ayush sector. Building on the foundation of the first Shivir, he noted that the current conclave aims to review progress, identify gaps, and chart a practical, future-ready roadmap. He also highlighted the growing relevance of Ayush in addressing lifestyle disorders through its holistic approach, aligned with the vision of “One Earth, One Family, One Future” and the call

for “Heal in India, Heal by India.” The two-day strategic brainstorming event in Delhi will witness various sessions dedicated to diverse Ayush domains and is scheduled to conclude on Friday. Jadhav said that the increased budgetary allocation reflects the government's commitment to strengthening education, research, infrastructure, and global outreach in the Ayush sector. He emphasised the need for evidence-based research, inter-ministerial convergence, and a whole-of-government approach, while calling for greater focus on innovation, digitalisation, entrepreneurship, and public awareness.

Urging stakeholders to translate deliberations into actionable outcomes at the grassroots level, he expressed confidence that Ayush will play a key role in achieving the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.

China became principal enabler of military capabilities of Israel's adversaries : Report

Jerusalem, Aug 6 : The conflict involving Iran exposed the reality of China being one of the principal enablers of Pakistan and Iran, two of Israel's most consequential adversaries, a report said.

"Unlike the United States or Russia, China has built its influence without alliances or expeditionary deployments, relying instead on arms transfers, dual-use technology, industrial cooperation, economic investment and diplomatic cover. The effect has been the steady strengthening of states that often share an interest in limiting Israeli and

American reach across the region and actively empowering terrorists against Israel," said Sergio Restelli in a report on the Times of Israel.

It said the pattern is clearly illustrated with Pakistan, as for more than three decades, China has turned Islamabad into its closest military partner.

"The Pakistan Air Force now relies heavily on Chinese-built aircraft, including the JF-17 and the J-10CE, while its Navy is acquiring Chinese submarines and frigates and its missile and air defence systems have benefited from extensive Chinese coop-

eration," the report highlighted. China remains one of Iran's principal strategic partners even with international sanctions limiting conventional arms transfers for years, making it no less significant.

"Chinese firms have supplied dual-use technologies, industrial equipment and components tied to sectors that support Iran's military industry. The 25-year strategic cooperation agreement signed in 2021 deepened this relationship further, expanding cooperation in energy, infrastructure, technology and security," the report noted.

For their part, Iran and Pakistan also steadily expanded security cooperation along their shared border, which faces insurgent threats. The two countries built mechanisms for military coordination after repeated border crises, and intelligence exchanges on opposition groups became routine.

"China sits at the centre of this triangle, maintaining deep military ties with Pakistan while cultivating a broad strategic partnership with Iran. There is little public evidence of a formal trilateral intelligence arrangement aimed at Israel, but China is well



positioned to benefit from information generated through its ties to both countries, since military exercises, defence dialogues, technology cooperation and security consultations all create channels for information flow that would not otherwise exist," Restelli emphasised in the Times of Israel report.

The report noted that with Iran's proxy network extending across

Lebanon, Syria, Iraq and Yemen, and Pakistan having the largest armed forces in the Islamic world and remaining a nuclear power, this is not an abstract concern for Israel.

"While there is no concrete evidence, it is assumed and possibly a reality that a lot of Iran's nuclear technology comes from Pakistan with tacit support from China," the report noted.

"China rarely appears on the battlefield, but its influence is visible in the weapons systems, industrial capacity and strategic resilience of states whose interests often run counter to Israel's own, and it deserves more attention than it has so far received," Restelli highlighted.

Monsoon death toll in Pakistan rises to 126, over 400 injured

Islamabad, Aug 6 : The death toll in Pakistan during this year's monsoon season from June 26 to August 1 rose to 196, while the number of injured people climbed to 404, local media reported on Sunday, citing the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA). The primary cause for fatalities in Pakistan during monsoon season was electrocution, followed by flash floods, drowning, lightning and other rain-related incidents like house collapse and falling of trees.

In the report on Thursday, the NDMA said that four people were killed in rain-related in-

cidents, including drowning and lightning, during the past 24 hours. Furthermore, 16 people were injured during the past 24 hours, with the maximum number of casualties reported in Punjab, Pakistan's The Express Tribune reported. According to the report, 47 people died while 295 people were injured in Punjab from June 26 to August 1. A total of 55 people died, and 82 others were injured in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa between June 26 and August 1. As many as five people died, and seven others were injured in Sindh, while Balochistan saw eight deaths and 15 injuries.

In the statement, the NDMA mentioned that nine people were res-

cued in Punjab, five people in Sindh and two people in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa during the rescue operations conducted during the past 24 hours, The Express Tribune reported.

Earlier in July, road access to several parts of Pakistan-occupied Gilgit-Baltistan (PoGB) remained cut off as flash floods and glacial lake outburst floods (Glofs) continue to damage highways and hamper restoration efforts.

Thousands of residents and tourists remained stranded as road closures severed access to several valleys. Flood-hit communities also continued to face shortages of drinking water, electricity and communication services," the

daily Dawn reported. According to residents of Hisper Valley in Nagar district, patients and students were facing severe hardships. People were facing a shortage of food, medicine and other essential supplies, Dawn reported. People from Diamer, Astore, Ghizer and other affected districts of PoGB also complained of facing electricity and water supply disruption along with shortage of essential commodities.



Iranian FM warns US against 'adventurous' actions

Tehran, Aug 6 : Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi warned the United States against taking any "adventurous" actions, saying those responsible would bear the consequences, according to Iran's semi-official Mehr news agency.

Araghchi made the remarks during separate phone conversations with Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff Asim Munir, Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan and Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud, during which they exchanged views on the latest regional developments, Mehr said in a report.

Araghchi told Munir and Fidan that Iran was fully prepared to safeguard its national sovereignty, territorial integrity and national security, and would respond decisively to any act of

aggression, reports Xinhua news agency. In talks with his Saudi counterpart, Araghchi warned that any hostile US or Israeli action, as well as any regional support for it, would draw a firm, proportionate response from Iran's armed forces, it added.

Also on Saturday, Iran's Foreign Ministry accused the United States of violating the peace memorandum of understanding they reached mid-June, citing its continued strikes on Iranian targets, blockade on Iranian ports and commercial shipping, and stepped-up economic pressure. In a statement, the ministry vowed to continue to resist US "unlawful aggression" and to firmly defend its national dignity and independence.

The remarks followed renewed exchanges of airstrikes between the United States and Iran after days of pause.



Before the pause, the United States had launched multiple waves of strikes against Iranian targets, saying they were in response to Iranian attacks on vessels in the Strait of Hormuz and aimed at "degrading Iran's ability to threaten commercial shipping." Earlier, Araghchi has warned Britain against any military cooperation with the United States in carrying out strikes on Iran. Araghchi made the remarks during a phone call with British Foreign Secretary Ed Miliband on Thursday.

Seoul says it explained to US background of unification minister's remarks on North Korea's nuclear facility in Kusong

Seoul, Aug 6 : The South Korean unification ministry has explained to the United States that Unification Minister Chung Dong-young identified North Korea's Kusong region as the third location housing a uranium enrichment facility based on publicly available information, officials said Thursday. In a rare revelation of information about North Korea, Chung said in a parliamentary session in March that North Korea is running another uranium enrichment facility in the northwestern region of Kusong, along with previously reported ones in Yongbyon and Kangson. The local newspaper DongA Ilbo reported the US has strongly protested to South Korea over Chung's remarks, citing the revelation of sensitive information about the North.



South Korean warship ROKS Daejeon gets 'top gun' honour at RIMPAC

Seoul, Aug 6 : The South Korean Navy's 3,100-ton frigate Daejeon has won the top honour at a live-fire gunnery competition held during this year's Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) exercise, the service said on Thursday.

The ROKS Daejeon scored the highest points among 13 warships from 10 countries that took part in the Naval Surface Fire Support (NSFS) Rodeo competition held in Hawaii last month, according to the Navy.

It marked the first time in 16 years that a South Korean warship took the top prize since the Navy's King Sejong the Great destroyer won the competition in 2010, Yonhap News Agency reported. Launched in 1971, RIMPAC is a biennial exercise designed to enhance cooperation among participating countries in securing sea lines of communication and countering potential security challenges at sea. South Korea served as the commander of the Combined Force Maritime Component during RIMPAC conducted in and around the Hawaiian Islands, making it the first Asian country and the fourth non-US participant to assume the commanding role. The gunnery competition took place on July 12, but the results were announced during the closing ceremony of the exercise held on Thursday. On July 29, a senior US Navy official described South Korea's role in leading combined maritime forces during a multinational exercise as a "historic leadership milestone," as he pointed out a core theme of the exercise -- shared responsibility. Vice Adm. Jeffrey Jablon, deputy commander of the US Pacific Fleet.



Balochistan coal mine tragedy exposes hazards of Pakistan's mining industry: Report

Islamabad, Aug 6 : The recent coal mine tragedy in the Spin Karez area of Quetta in Pakistan's Balochistan, which claimed the lives of 34 miners, has once again ripped open the hazards of the country's mining industry, according to a local media report.

The workers were reportedly several thousand feet underground carrying out routine mining operations on Thursday morning when a powerful methane gas explosion ripped through the mine, triggering a partial collapse and trapping

dozens of miners beneath the debris. The unfortunate death of the miners, who hailed from Shangla district in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, has plunged their hometown into mourning as 22 of those dead belonged to Mian Kallay Pirabad in the district, Aftab Hussain wrote in The Express Tribune.

The remaining victims hailed from neighbouring villages. Most of the deceased were related to one another or belonged to the same extended families and clans. In fact, several households have lost more than one family member, leaving several children or-

phaned and women widowed. All the victim of the disaster had travelled hundreds of kilometres from Shangla to Balochistan in search of work to support their families.

"For decades, Shangla has remained one of Pakistan's economically disadvantaged districts. Limited industrial development, scarce employment opportunities, poor agricultural productivity and widespread unemployment have forced thousands of young men to seek work in coal mines across Balochistan, Sindh, and Punjab," Hussain wrote. Local estimates

say that nearly 65 per cent of Shangla's population depends directly or indirectly on coal mining for its livelihood. Moreover, it has evolved into a profession passed down through generations rather than merely being an occupation. The Express Tribune noted that similar coal mine mishaps across Balochistan have claimed the lives of hundreds of workers from Shangla, while thousands have been left permanently disabled, in the past several decades. "On several occasions, the bodies of five or six workers have arrived in Shangla within a single week,"



wrote Hussain.

According to social activists and local residents, miners from Shangla continue to work without basic legal protection. "Most are

not formally registered with government authorities and lack access to social security, the Employees' Old-Age Benefits Institution (EOBI).



Three-match T20I series added to India women's tour of SA

Johannesburg, Aug 6 : Cricket South Africa (CSA) on Thursday announced that a three-match T20I series has been added to the schedule for the Indian women's cricket team's multi-format tour of South Africa, set to happen in December 2026. As per CSA, the addition of T20I series in the itinerary comes with an eye to prepare for next year's inaugural ICC Women's Champions

Trophy, to be played in Sri Lanka in February 2027. India had toured South Africa for a five-time T20I series in April this year as part of preparation for the Women's T20 World Cup, but they lost by 4-1. The tour, scheduled to run from December 9 to 30, will now conclude with the newly added T20I series. A festive Boxing Day T20I encounter will take place on December 26 at Willowmoore Park in Benoni. The final two T20Is

will be played at the NWC Oval in Potchefstroom on December 29 and 30 respectively. The multi-format tour will kick off with a one-off Test match at St George's Park in Gqeberha from December 9 to 12. Following the red-ball fixture, the two sides will compete in a three-match ICC Women's Championship (IWC) ODI series across Paarl, Cape Town, and Bloemfontein between December 16 and 22.

Nurjahan Jamani gears up for ITTF World Para Future after impressive showing in Kazakhstan

Ahmedabad, Aug 6 : India's No. 1 para table tennis player Nurjahan Noorali Jamani will look to build on her strong showing in Kazakhstan when she competes at the

ITTF World Para Future Lahti 2026 in Finland from August 28 to 30 at the Pajulahti Olympic Training Center. The World No. 27 reached the quarterfinals at the recently concluded ITTF World Para Future



Aktobe in Kazakhstan. Nurjahan narrowly missed a place in the last four by just two points.



Korea Masters: Anmol bows out; Tanvi prevails into QFs

Asan city, Aug 6 : India's Anmol Kharb's Korea Masters campaign came to an end in the pre-quarterfinals after a hard-fought loss to Olympian Vu Thi Trang of Vietnam here on Thursday. Anmol suffered a 23-21, 15-21, 21-18 loss against an Olympian here at Asan Yi Sun-sin Gymnasium on Thursday.

England recall Lawrence for first two Tests against Pakistan, Cox to bat at No.3

New Delhi, Aug 6 : Jordan Cox is set to bat at the crucial number three position, while batter all-rounder Dan Lawrence has earned a Test recall after two years after being named in England's 16-member squad for the first two Tests against Pakistan, starting on August 19 at Headingley. Cox steps into the top order to replace Jacob Bethell, who has been ruled out of the entire three-match series after failing to recover from a right knee injury.



'Jadeja's experience on turning tracks will be vital in Sri Lanka': Deep Dasgupta

New Delhi, Aug 6 : Former India wicketkeeper-batter Deep Dasgupta believes senior left-arm spin bowler Ravindra Jadeja's vast experience of bowling on spin-friendly tracks will be crucial for the team during the upcoming Test series in Sri Lanka, starting on August 15. With many players in the current squad currently on their

first Test tour of Sri Lanka, Jadeja and KL Rahul are the only players who have played red-ball cricket before in the island nation. Rahul was here on tours of 2015 and 2017, while Jadeja played here in the 2017 trip, where India won 3-0. "If we talk about experience, this is the first Test series for many players in Sri Lanka. I think Jadeja is a player who has played before.

Even on spin-friendly pitches, it's not like you come and hit the ball, and you get the wicket. Instead, for excelling there, a need for varying speed, line, and length is needed. "Like we have seen in fast bowling, if you see a green pitch, a lot of the guys get carried away and bowl short balls. There is lateral movement, but the batter doesn't get out. Even on spin-friendly pitches, it's an art to know the right line and length to bowl, which then offers turn. "Jadeja knows how to use his experience. He has played in pitches like this before, and in Sri Lanka as well. I think it will be important for him to share his experience.



Hockey India names Shileima Chanu-led squad for Women's Junior Asia Cup

New Delhi, Aug 6 : Hockey India on Thursday announced the junior women's team for the AHF Junior Asia Cup 2026, scheduled to be held in Moqi, China, from August 30 to September 13. The squad comprises 18 players along with two alternate players and will be led by midfielder Khaidem Shileima Chanu, having undergone an extensive period of preparation under the guidance of newly appointed coach Tim White, who took charge of the team earlier this year. As part of their preparations for the continental tournament, an extended squad recently returned from a productive exposure tour of the United Kingdom. The tour provided the players with valuable international match experience and key learnings, strengthening preparations ahead of the Junior Asia Cup. The tournament will bring together the continent's leading jun-

ior teams, serving as a key platform for the next generation of Asian hockey talent. The match schedule and pool compositions will be announced closer to the start of the tournament. "I am proud of the commitment and determination these young players have shown in earning their place in the squad for the Junior Asia Cup," said coach White. "Over the past few months, they have worked tirelessly to improve every aspect of their game, and I have seen them grow both as individuals and as a team." White urged the players to make the most of this opportunity and consider it as a launchpad to realise their bigger dreams. "This tournament is an important opportunity to test ourselves against Asia's best and continue our journey towards bigger goals. We will approach every match with confidence and discipline.



Football: Brazil midfielder Danilo on Atalanta radar

Rio de Janeiro, Aug 5 : Brazil midfielder Danilo dos Santos is close to joining Italian Serie A club Atalanta, according to media reports. Danilo is contracted to Botafogo until June 2029 with a release clause reportedly in excess of 30 million euros. Manchester United, AC Milan and Zenit St Petersburg have also been linked with the 25-year-old. Danilo has made 43 appearances for Botafogo, scoring 11 goals and providing seven assists, since joining the Rio de Janeiro club from Nottingham Forest in July 2025. He has been capped eight times for Brazil and represented his country at this year's FIFA World Cup in the United States, Mexico and Canada. Meanwhile, Botafogo have reached an agreement to sign forward Danilo Pereira on loan from Scotland's Rangers, the Brazilian club said. The

27-year-old will be tied to Botafogo until June 2027 with an option to buy, the Rio de Janeiro club said in a statement. Danilo has scored 16 goals in 76 appearances for Rangers since joining the club from Feyenoord in July 2023. He is Botafogo's sixth signing of Brazil's current mid-season transfer window, joining Warleson, Gabriel Batista, Paulinho, Lucas Monzon and Domingos Andrade. Botafogo are currently ninth in the 20-team Brazilian Serie A standings with 26 points from 19 outings.

I've won everything at Liverpool; I want to help Spurs win trophies: Andy Robertson

New Delhi, Aug 6 : Andrew Robertson opened up about his decision to leave Liverpool and join Tottenham Hotspur, stating that he won everything with Liverpool now he wants to help Spurs win trophies. Tottenham have signed Scotland captain Robertson on a free transfer following the expiration of his contract at Liverpool in June after a re-

markable nine years at Anfield. "Having played for Liverpool for nine years is a long time. I gave everything for the badge and won everything there. But it's also exciting to have a new challenge at this stage of my career, and when the Tottenham Hotspur opportunity came up, I was excited to go for it. Now that it's here, I'm looking forward to settling in and giving my best for the fans.

