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عظیم الشان

محفلِ حمہداری تعالیٰ نعتِ رسولِ مجلسِ فی کربلوک

اتوار 30 اگست 2026 بعد نماز عصر

مرکزِ خدامتِ خلق، کراچی، کوہ نور کالونی، اکاپور روڈ نزد سائمنڈریا

طیب روحانی جسمانی عزیز کئی عام و ملت تحفظ ستاری
شاہ محمد عبدالقادر رشتہ
نبیرہ حضرت قطب کتب بنی کعبی مکرہ مدحت خلق

نیز گرامی
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بعد نماز مغرب:

بعد نماز عصر تا مغرب:

خصوصی خطاب حضرت حافظ صاحب و ذکرِ چہری

محفلِ نعتِ رسول

نظامِ العمل

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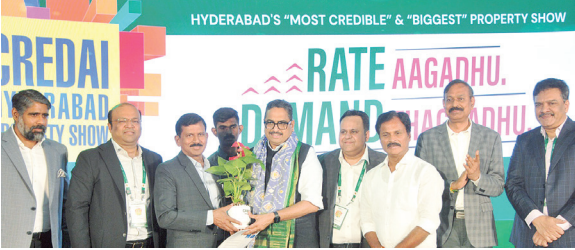
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Hyderabad’s Property Market Shines at CREDAI Show 2026



Munsif Bureau Hyderabad:, Aug.28 (NSS):

Telangana Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju and Bhongir MLA K. Anil Kumar Reddy inaugurated the CREDAI Hyderabad Property Show 2026 at HITEK on Friday. The event runs from August 28–30, showcasing over 300 RERA-approved

projects by more than 60 developers. Themed “Rate Aagadhu, Demand Thaggadhu,” the show brings together homebuyers, investors and builders. Visitors can compare properties, prices, amenities, approvals and financing options while exploring Hyderabad’s robust real estate demand.

Seerat Classes Held for Students at Jamaat-e-Islami Hind, Kishan Bagh

Munsif Bureau Hyderabad, Aug.28:

Seerat Classes Held for Students at Jamaat-e-Islami Hind, Kishan Bagh. Hyderabad: The Kishan Bagh unit of Jamaat-e-Islami Hind organised Seerat classes for boys and girls from 1 to 10 Rabi-ul-Awwal to familiarise them with the life and teachings of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). An examination was

held on 11 Rabi-ul-Awwal, followed by a prize distribution ceremony on 12 Rabi-ul-Awwal. Telangana Ameer-e-Halqa Mohammed Azharuddin distributed prizes to successful participants. In his introductory remarks, Tafzal Ahmed said that the best way to observe the month was to acquaint children with the Seerat-e-Tayyaba, the noble life and character of the Prophet. He said such programmes, along with prizes, would

strengthen children’s religious awareness and encourage them to learn and follow Islamic teachings. He noted that while the occasion is often marked by noise and celebrations in some sections of society, greater attention should be given to understanding and practising the Prophet’s teachings. Addressing the gathering, Mohammed Azharuddin congratulated the participants and urged them to remain connected with

Islamic teachings. He advised them to offer prayers regularly and respect and obey their parents. Through incidents from Islamic history and poems, he explained these values in an engaging manner. Asad Shareef, Ameer-e-Maqami, presented an overview of the Kishan Bagh unit’s activities. Feroz Khan thanked the organisers, parents and others involved. The programme concluded with a prayer by Mohammed Siddiq.



Konda Surekha Meets Revanth, Ties Rakhi After Parkal Controversy

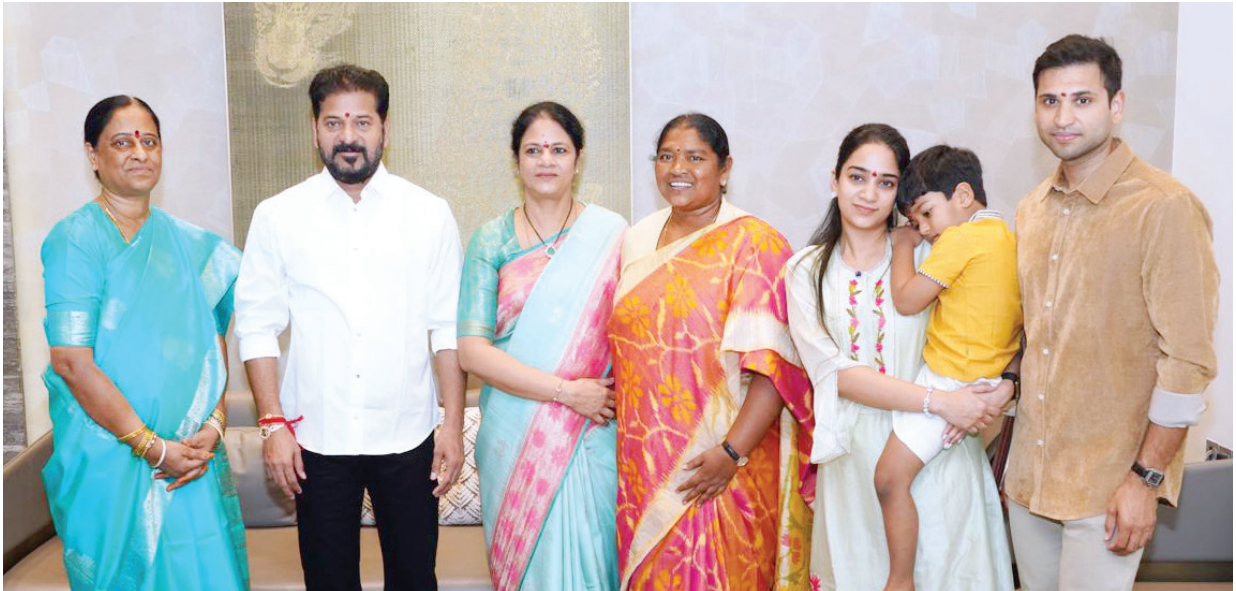
Munsif Bureau Hyderabad, Aug.28 (NSS):

Marking Raksha Bandhan, Forests and Environment Minister Konda Surekha on Friday visited Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy’s residence and tied a Rakhi to him. Accompanied by Panchayat Raj Minister

Seethakka, Surekha joined the Chief Minister’s family members in the festival celebrations. The visit was significant as it was her first visit to the Chief Minister’s residence following the recent Parkal controversy. After tying a gold Rakhi, Surekha left the residence

without speaking to the media waiting outside. Later, speaking to reporters at her residence, she said she had tied a Rakhi to Revanth Reddy for the third consecutive year. “I consider myself a sister to everyone and do not wish to make political comments during a festival,” she said.

Surekha added that the Chief Minister has continued to receive the support and blessings of women across Telangana. She said she prayed for God to give him the strength to lead the state’s development and hoped that he would continue to receive the blessings and support of women.



MIM MLC Mirza Rehmat Baig Gets Threat Calls Over Deepfake Videos, Cybercrime Case Registered

MIM MLC Mirza Rehmat Baig alleges callers threatened to circulate deepfake videos and morphed photos unless money was paid.

Munsif Bureau Nirmal:, Aug.28 (NSS):

A case has been registered at the Hyderabad Cybercrime Police Station following a complaint by MIM MLC Mirza Rehmat Baig, who alleged that unidentified persons had been repeatedly

threatening him over the phone and demanding money. According to the complaint, Baig had been receiving calls from unknown individuals for the past few days. The callers allegedly demanded money and threatened to circulate mor-

phed photographs and deepfake videos if he failed to pay the amount. They reportedly warned that the alleged material could cause embarrassment to his family and create political problems for him. The callers continued to contact the MLC

and allegedly repeated their demands, but Baig refused to give in to the threats. Instead, he approached the Hyderabad Cybercrime police and lodged a complaint regarding the calls and threats. Acting on his complaint, police registered a case on Thursday and

launched an investigation. Cybercrime officials are working to identify the persons behind the calls, trace their communication and ascertain the motive behind the alleged extortion attempt. Further details are awaited as the investigation is underway.

Telangana Minister Ponnam Prabhakar Receives SIR Notice Over Father’s Name Error in Voter List

Munsif Bureau Hyderabad:, Aug.28

Telangana Transport and BC Welfare Minister Ponnam Prabhakar received a notice from officials conducting the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls after an error

was noticed in his father’s name in the voter list. The Booth Level Officer (BLO) issued the notice on Friday, asking the minister to submit the necessary documents to verify and correct his father’s name in the electoral records. Following the notice, Ponnam

Prabhakar provided the required documents to the officials for making the correction. The minister, who also represents the Husnabad Assembly constituency, is the son of Ponnam Sattaiah Goud, who was also known as Ponnam Sattaiah.

Officials are carrying out the SIR exercise to verify electoral details and ensure that the voter list contains accurate information. The minister submitted the required documents to facilitate the correction of his father’s name in the electoral records.

“TELANGANA SINKING UNDER DEBT TSUNAMI”: BRS MLC SRAVAN TARGETS CONG GOVT

BRS MLC cites CAG figures, seeks White Paper on Telangana’s debt, revenue and liabilities.

Hyd, Aug 8: Senior BRS leader and MLC Dr. Dasoju Sravan on Friday launched a scathing attack on the Telangana government, alleging that the state’s finances were under severe strain and demanded a comprehensive White Paper on the condition of the exchequer. Citing CAG accounts for April-July 2026, Sravan claimed that a budgeted revenue surplus of Rs.6,857.76 crore had turned into a revenue deficit of Rs.19,266.83 crore within four months. He alleged that Telangana had already borrowed Rs.33,729.98 crore, or 57.7 per cent of its annual net borrowing limit of Rs. 58,458.71



crore. Interest payments during the period stood at Rs. 10,532.36 crore, he said. Sravan also flagged the poor performance in revenue mobilisation. He cited shortfalls in non-tax revenue, grants-in-aid, excise revenue, the state’s share of Union taxes, stamps and registrations and GST collections. He alleged that capital

expenditure remained considerably below the annual allocation, while a large portion of the available resources was being consumed by revenue expenditure, interest payments and pensions. The BRS MLC claimed that the financial situation could affect the government’s ability to implement its poll promises, including welfare

schemes, pensions, loan waivers and unemployment assistance. He also alleged that pending dues to educational institutions and hospitals were putting pressure on the social sector. Sravan demanded that Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy place a comprehensive White Paper before the Legislative Assembly, detailing the state’s debt, revenue position and liabilities. He further sought a transparent, scheme-wise financial roadmap explaining how the government proposed to fund its electoral promises without placing Telangana under an unsustainable debt burden.

Hiroshima Institute of TechnologyJoin Hands to Boost Technical Education

Munsif Bureau Amaravati:, Aug.28

The Telangana government is strengthening partnerships with leading technical education institutions in Japan to provide the State’s youth with international-standard technical education, skill training and employment opportunities, Minister for Shakti and Mines Gaddam Vivek Venkataswamy said. As part of the initiative, an in-principle agreement has been reached between the Hiroshima Institute of Technology (HIT) and Young India Skills University (YISU), the Minister said.A Telangana delegation led by Mr. Vivek

Venkataswamy, currently on a visit to Japan, visited the Hiroshima Institute of Technology on Friday. The delegation held extensive discussions with the institute’s leadership on technical education, skill development and creating industry-ready human resources in Telangana. The two sides agreed to initially establish the partnership through mutual understanding and jointly identify areas of cooperation based on Telangana’s skill and technology requirements and the needs of industries. Student exchange programmes will be a key component of the

HIT-YISU partnership. The initiative is expected to provide students from Telangana with first-hand exposure to Japan’s technical education system, laboratory-based training and industry-linked learning. Students will also have opportunities to gain practical experience in applying technical knowledge.The institutions also agreed to explore collaboration in faculty and trainer development, Training of Trainers (ToT) programmes, short-term technical courses, research and direct industry exposure. Priority areas will be identified based on local requirements in Telangana and

emerging employment opportunities.The discussions also covered potential cooperation in advanced manufacturing, mobility, automobile technology, artificial intelligence, electronics, automation, digital technologies and environmental technology. Vivek Venkataswamy said the engineering expertise and capabilities of the Hiroshima Institute of Technology were well aligned with Telangana’s rapidly expanding industrial and technological sectors. The proposed partnership, he said, would help strengthen skill development and create greater opportunities for Telangana’s youth.

“Withdraw electricity reforms act”: CPI(M) leads Basheerbagh Martyrs’ rally

Hyderabad, Aug 28

CPI(M) Telangana State Secretary John Wesley on Friday demanded the Central government for withdrawal of the proposed Electricity Reforms Act, alleging that the Centre was paving the way for greater corporate control over the power sector. Addressing a rally or-

ganised by Left parties from the Ambedkar statue at Tank Bund to the Basheerbagh Martyrs’ Memorial, Wesley said the free power being provided to farmers was a legacy of the historic Basheerbagh struggle. He alleged that the proposed reforms would increase the financial burden on consumers and said the Centre was pres-

suring States to install meters on agricultural pump sets and introduce charges for farm power. Wesley accused the BJP-led government of favouring corporate interests and alleged that public-sector power utilities built with public investment were being weakened. He also opposed any move to withdraw subsidies provided to farmers and poorer sec-

tions. CPI State Assistant Secretary E.T. Narasimha recalled the year 2000 Basheerbagh power struggle, saying thousands had marched to Hyderabad against power-sector reforms and tariff hikes. He paid tributes to Balaswamy, Vishnuvardhan and Ramakrishna, who died in police firing during the agitation.

Lottery Underway for Indiramma Housing Flats in Nampally



Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy and officials during the Indiramma Indlu housing lottery at Shantinagar, Hyderabad. (Image courtesy: Syed Omer)

Hyderabad, Aug 28

The beneficiary selection process for the Indiramma Indlu LIG Housing Towers project has begun in Nampally Assembly constituency through a lottery under the Telangana government's Core Urban Region Economy (CURE) housing programme.

Nampally is among 16 constituencies covered under the initiative. In the first phase, 480 flats have been proposed at Red Hills, near Niloufer Hospital and the Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board office. The lottery was inaugurated at Vets Garden near NICE Hospital,

Shantinagar, in the presence of Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, Nampally MLA Majid Hussain, Hyderabad District Collector Dr Priyanka Ala and Telangana Housing Board official V.P. Goutham. Beneficiaries are being selected category-wise for SC, ST, BC and Persons with Disabilities. A waiting list

comprising 20 per cent of the selected beneficiaries is also being prepared to fill vacancies arising from cancellations. The CURE housing programme received 60,720 applications, with 40,900 found eligible after verification. Applicants can check their status online through the Telangana Housing Board website.

BHATTI DIRECTS OFFICIALS TO EXPEDITE MINERAL EXPLORATION AT DEVADURGA GOLD-COPPER

Munsif Bureau
Hyderabad, August 28

Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka has directed officials to accelerate mineral exploration at the Devadurga Gold-Copper Block in Karnataka, secured by Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL)

through auction. During his visit to Hutti Gold Mines on Friday, Bhatti Vikramarka inspected the gold ore extraction process and interacted with officials. He enquired about the depth at which gold is currently being extracted. The Deputy Chief

Minister said the Devadurga block is located close to Hutti Gold Mines, offering SCCL an opportunity to benefit from its expertise and experience. He directed officials to use Hutti's technical knowledge and adopt advanced technologies to speed up ex-

ploration and assess the quantity and quality of mineral deposits. SCCL Director (Planning and Projects) Venkateshwarlu, General Manager Pankaj Kuleshrestha, Raichur Zilla Parishad member Amjad and senior officials of Hutti Gold Mines were present.

ONE-DAY OPEN DIALOGUE ON ISLAMIC MICROFINANCE & SMES HELD IN HYD

Hyderabad, Aug 28

A one-day Open Dialogue on "Islamic Microfinance and Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in India" was organised at White House Garden, Shamshabad, Hyderabad, bringing together experts and stakeholders from India and abroad to deliberate on the prospects and challenges of interest-free finance and entrepreneurship. The programme was organised by Maarefa Academy, India, an educational platform working to provide accessible and quality education and training in the field of Islamic finance. Experts in economics, banking and microfinance participated in the programme, while several speakers also joined online. The first session focused on Islamic Microfinance. The session began with

opening remarks by Dr. Prof. Shariq Nisar, former Visiting Fellow at Harvard Law School. The formal proceedings commenced with the recitation of the Holy Quran by Ikram-ur-Rahman Falahi, who joined the programme from Abu Dhabi. Usama Khan introduced Sahulat Microfinance Society and explained its efforts to promote interest-free microfinance in India and support Muslim traders, industrialists and aspiring entrepreneurs through financial guidance and economic development initiatives. Muhammad Saleem Qazi, Managing Director of Bait-u Nasr, spoke about the organisation's history, objectives, development and present activities. He said Bait-un-Nasr was established in Mahim, Mumbai, through the efforts of M.H. Khathkate, with the objective of



providing interest-free financial assistance to members of the Muslim community and other needy people. He said the organisation currently operates 9 active branches across Mumbai, Thane and Mumbra and is moving towards greater use of modern technology and fintech. Its services include interest-free savings accounts, gold loans and Hajj and Umrah savings schemes. Dr. Imad Ali, founder of Maarefa Academy, introduced the academy and

spoke on the importance of human dignity and self-reliance. He emphasised that earning through one's own efforts is preferable to depending on others and highlighted the principle that the giving hand is better than the receiving hand. Dr. Shariq Nisar subsequently spoke on the need for microfinance, observing that one of its major objectives is to help low-income communities overcome poverty by providing them access to financial resources and opportunities.

35yr old Mohd Imran Tolichowki Resident Dies After Falling into Mallapur Lake

Hyd, 28 Aug: A 35-year-old man from IAS Colony in Tolichowki died after accidentally falling into Mallapur Talab under the limits of Balapur Police Station. The deceased was identi-

fied as Mohammed Imran. According to preliminary information, Imran fell into the lake, following which the Disaster Response Force (DRF) team was alerted and rushed to the spot. The Balapur police reached the

spot and took up the investigation. The body was shifted to Osmania General Hospital for a post-mortem examination. After the rescue operation, Imran's body was shifted to Osmania General

Hospital for a post-mortem examination. Police are currently investigating the circumstances that led to the man's fall into the lake and are gathering further details.

Prophet Muhammad (Pbuh) Came As Mercy To The Entire World, Elevated The Status Of Women

Hyderabad, Aug 28

Prof. Ashraf Rafi said Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was sent as a mercy not only for Muslims but for all humanity and gave women dignity, respect and an honoured position in society. She was speaking as the chief guest at the 11th Women's Evening Gathering and Naatia Mushaira organised at Aiwan-e-Ahmed, Malakpet. Prof. Rafi highlighted the Prophet's teachings and exemplary conduct towards women, saying he taught people to treat their families with love, kindness and respect. She stressed that women's dignity and rights were consistently upheld by the Prophet (PBUH), and referred to his guid-



ance during the Farewell Pilgrimage, in which he emphasised kindness and good treatment towards women. Describing Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) as Rahmat-ul-lil-Alameen — a mercy for all the worlds — Prof. Rafi recalled incidents from his life reflecting compassion, forgiveness and respect

for humanity. She cited the instance when the Prophet stood respectfully as a non-Muslim funeral procession passed by, reminding his companions that the deceased was a human being deserving of respect. Speaking about Seerat-e-Tayyiba, Prof. Rafi urged women to take an active role in the moral

and religious upbringing of their children. Expressing concern over the younger generation's growing distance from religious values, she called upon parents to spend more time with their children and familiarise them with Islamic teachings and the life of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

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Quick Update

Gold declines for 3rd day, prices tumble Rs 3,300 as US dollar gains strength

Munsif Bureau
NEW DELHI: (Aug 28)

Gold's shine dimmed further on Friday, with prices falling by Rs 3,300 to Rs 1.62 lakh per 10 grams in the national capital as a resurgent US dollar and profit-booking by traders extended bullion's losing streak to a third session.

The yellow metal of 99.9 per cent purity depreciated by Rs 3,300 to Rs 1,62,400 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes) from Thursday's closing level of Rs 1,65,700 per 10 grams, according to local traders.

RSS, BJP links likely behind terror module, alleges Congress leader

Munsif Bureau
New Delhi, Aug 28

Congress leader Udit Raj on Friday alleged that the espionage network linked to Pakistan's ISI, that was busted by Delhi Police Special Cell, "very likely have links" to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS). The Delhi Police arrested a young couple from here, who had been in contact with Pakistani intelligence officers since 2024 and became associated with the network through social media plat-



forms. Speaking to IANS, Congress leader Udit Raj alleged: "It is very likely

that they would turn out to be workers of the RSS-BJP.

Alliance Air flight suffers tyre burst while landing at Bilaspur airport, all 41 on board safe

Munsif Bureau
Bilaspur (Chhattisgarh),

A Delhi-Bilaspur flight operated by Alliance Air suffered a tyre burst while landing at Bilaspur airport on Friday, though all 41 people on board were safely evacuated, officials said.

The incident involving flight 9I613 occurred at around 11 a.m. when the aircraft, carrying 37 passengers and four crew members, was landing at the airport, an official said.

According to officials, the aircraft's left-side tyre suffered a puncture during the landing. Following the

incident, all passengers and crew members were safely evacuated from the aircraft and taken from the runway to the terminal building.

There were no reports of any injuries in the incident, officials said.

The airline subsequently cancelled the flight that was scheduled to operate onward from Bilaspur, the official said.

Further details about the incident are awaited.

lliance Air is a government-owned regional airline in India that primarily connects tier-2 and tier-3 cities with major metropolitan centres.

Founded in April 1996 as a subsidiary of Indian Airlines, the airline was earlier known as Air India Regional. Following the privatisation of Air India, Alliance Air now operates independently under AI Asset Holding Limited (AIAHL), a government-owned special purpose vehicle.

Headquartered in New Delhi, Alliance Air has operational hubs in Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Kolkata and Mumbai.

Its fleet comprises mainly turboprop aircraft, including ATR 72-600,

ATR 42-600 and Dornier 228 aircraft. Alliance Air currently connects 55 destinations across India, operating more than 80 departures every day.

The airline has been a frontrunner in the Centre's flagship UDAN (Regional Connectivity Scheme), playing a key role in expanding affordable air connectivity to underserved and unserved regions. On April 27, 2017, the Hon'ble Prime Minister flagged off the first UDAN flight on the Shimla-Delhi route.

, with Alliance Air having the distinction of being the launch carrier.

India steps up humanitarian assistance to Nepal, third flight to carry more relief material

Munsif Bureau
Kathmandu/New Delhi, Aug 28 (IANS)

India is stepping up its humanitarian assistance to Nepal following the devastating flash floods that has left hundreds dead, with a third aircraft carrying relief supplies expected to depart for the neighbouring country Friday evening, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) stated.

Addressing a bi-weekly press briefing in New Delhi on Friday, MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said the flight would carry 12-13 tonnes of essential supplies, including portable generators, dignity kits, food, water purification tablets and medicines,



based on requirements conveyed by the Nepali side.

"As this tragedy unfolded, the same day we mobilised our humanitarian

assistance efforts and we had one aircraft; the first aircraft departed on 26th August in the evening. It carried 10 tonnes of relief

materials, which included temporary shelters, blankets, hygiene kits, solar lamps and medicines.

HM Shah celebrates Raksha Bandhan with girls suffering from Type-1 diabetes in Gandhinagar



Gandhinagar, Aug 28 (IANS) Union Home Minister and Gandhinagar Lok Sabha MP, Amit Shah, celebrated Raksha Bandhan on Friday with girls suffering from Type 1 juvenile diabetes, who tied rakhi to him on the occasion. The girls met HM Shah as part of an initiative in the Gandhinagar parliamentary constituency aimed at ensuring free insulin for children aged up

to 18 years diagnosed with Type-1 juvenile diabetes.

Shah wished the girls on Raksha Bandhan and extended his wishes for their good health and bright future. Children with Type 1 diabetes require insulin injections throughout their lives.

According to party sources, the cost of lifelong treatment can place a substantial financial burden on economically weaker and

deprived families.

The initiative follows guidelines issued on April 30 for Diabetes Mellitus in children under the 'Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK) 2.0'.

In Gandhinagar, an integrated system covering screening, diagnosis, insulin and treatment, monitoring and follow-up has been established to provide children aged between zero and 18 years with free insulin for life. Speaking during the Raksha Bandhan celebration, Shah said the initiative is a significant step towards ensuring that children from poor and middle-class families did not remain without essential insulin because of the cost of treatment.

DA Cancels Licence Of Cipla Pharma's Pune Unit

The Maharashtra Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has cancelled the C&F drug sale licence of Cipla Pharma & Life Sciences' Pune unit over serious irregularities linked to the Reactin Plus Tablets case. The action followed an inspection during which officials found an unauthorised advertisement along with multiple violations related to drug storage, stock records and the recall process. Drug Stock Worth Rs 11.19 Lakh Seized

As part of the action, the Maharashtra FDA seized drug stock worth Rs 11.19 lakh.

Calcutta HC Sets Deadline for Fresh CBI Probe in RG Kar Case

Kolkata, Aug

The Calcutta High Court on Friday fixed the time limit for the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to complete its new probe in the rape & murder of a woman junior doctor of state-run R.G. Kar Medical College & Hospital here in August 2024.

A division bench of Justice Shampa Sarkar and Justice Tirthankar Ghosh announced the deadline as the CBI submitted a progress report on the fresh investigation in the matter during a closed-door hearing.

After studying the progress report, the bench directed the CBI to wind up the fresh investigation process within the next three weeks, sources

aware of the proceedings in the closed-door hearing said.

It is learnt that the family members of the victim had earlier filed a plea to investigate 54 aspects in the case, on which the CBI counsel informed the court that it had investigated 16 aspects, sources said.

The CBI, sources said, informed the court about the aspects it had investigated in the fresh phase of the investigation. It is learnt that on the night of August 8, 2024, when the incident took place, a delivery boy had brought dinner for the doctors working in the Emergency Department of RG Kar along with the victim.

The CBI told the court that the investigators have

questioned the delivery boy. In addition, sources said, CBI also informed the court that the four doctors who had eaten with the victim that night have also been questioned.

Thereafter, the CBI counsel sought four weeks of time from the court for winding up the fresh investigation process. But the court granted three weeks only.

The next hearing in the matter had been fixed on September 24.

The Kolkata police initially investigated the case before it was transferred to the CBI following court intervention. Sanjay Roy, a former civic volunteer attached to Kolkata Police, was the sole convict in the case and is currently

Rs 40 lakh bribe: CBI arrests two GST officials

New Delhi, Aug 28 (IANS) The CBI arrested an IRS officer serving as Additional Commissioner of Central Goods and Services Tax (CGST), another GST official and their accomplice in Raigad district of Maharashtra, in a Rs 40 lakh bribery case, an official said on Friday.

Vinay Kumar Kantheti, Additional Commissioner of GST (IRS-2009), Rakesh Kumar Sinha, Superintendent of GST, and private person Narinder Rajput were arrested on Thursday, the CBI official said in a statement.

Jaishankar Receives 21 Tamil Nadu Pilgrims Rescued from Nepal Floods

Munsif Bureau
New Delhi, Aug 28

The External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar on Friday received 21 pilgrims from Tamil Nadu who arrived at the Delhi airport from Kathmandu after being rescued from the devastating floods that hit the Himalayan nation on Wednesday.

"I welcomed a group comprising 21 tourists from Tamil Nadu who were rescued from the floods that occurred in Nepal. I was deeply moved upon hearing their experiences firsthand. I express my gratitude to the Nepali Army and the government of that country for carrying out this rescue operation.

I commend the efforts

of the Indian Embassy in Nepal in smoothly coordinating their return to India," EAM Jaishankar stated on X.

The 21 Indian nationals were part of the groups that had travelled for Kailash Mansarovar Yatra through various travel agents. India continues to send further assistance to Nepal, including mobilising Bailey bridges to assist in rescue and relief efforts. New Delhi has also set up a control room here in the Ministry of External Affairs which is functioning round the clock.

The MEA officials are also in touch with the state governments from where people have travelled for the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra.

Earlier in the day,



EAM Jaishankar held a meeting with officials of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and the Embassies in Kathmandu and Beijing to discuss the relief and rescue efforts for Nepal in the wake of the deadly floods.

During the meeting, MEA officials informed about the relief supplies that will be sent to Nepal.

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal, and other officials were present during the meeting.

"Discussed the relief and rescue efforts underway in Nepal today. Our Embassies in Kathmandu and Beijing provided an updated picture in respect of the status and well-being of Indian nationals.

PM Modi expresses grief over Norwegian King Harald V's death

Munsif Bureau
New Delhi, Aug 28 (IANS)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday expressed grief over the passing of Norway's King Harald V and also offered condolences to the royal family and the people of the country.

PM Modi recalled his meeting with King Harald V during his two-day visit to Norway in May. PM Modi was conferred with Norway's top honour, the Grand Cross of the Royal Norwegian Order of Merit, by the Norwegian King.

Deeply saddened by the

passing of His Majesty King Harald V of the Kingdom of Norway. I fondly recall meeting His Majesty during my visit to Norway earlier this year and was deeply touched by his warmth and profound sense of service to his nation.

My heartfelt condolences to the Royal Family and the people of Norway," PM Modi posted on X.

Norway's King Harald V passed away at the age of 89 on Friday, the Royal House of Norway said in the statement.

China could have mitigated damage with timely warnings: Ex-army officer on Nepal floods

IANS
New Delhi, Aug 28

If China had issued timely and transparent warnings, it "could have significantly mitigated the devastation" caused in Nepal due to the massive flash floods, defence expert Major General P.K. Sehgal (Retd.) said on Friday.

His remark comes as the death toll from the devastating floods in Nepal's Bhotekoshi region rose to 469, with 977 people still out of contact, according to the latest update released by the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority

(NDRRMA) on Friday.

Speaking to IANS, Major Gen Sehgal (ret'd) said: "There is absolutely no doubt that China could have significantly mitigated the damage caused due to the catastrophe in Nepal, had it issued timely and transparent early warnings --which it failed to provide." "Secondly, on social media, the people of Nepal are openly holding China responsible because due to heavy Chinese construction, the local ecology -- which is already extremely fragile -- (has been severely disturbed)," he added.

The Army veteran

claimed that China's own engineers had advised against large-scale construction, building dams, river diversion projects, tunnelling, and cutting new roads in these fragile zones, warning that it would be detrimental.

"Chinese decision-makers raised concerns as well, but the country's establishment disregarded them," he said.

Maj Gen Sehgal (ret'd) further stated: "As far as Nepal's government is concerned, it has maintained a hushed silence as the nation gets large-scale equipment and money from China."



Gujarat Police's 'She Team' marked Raksha Bandhan on Friday by tying a 'Raksha Sutra' to Director General of Police (DGP) Gyanendra Singh Malik.



Kim Jong-un expresses sympathy over deadly Nepal floods

Munsif Bureau
Seoul, Aug 28 (IANS)

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un sent messages of sympathy to Chinese President Xi Jinping and Nepali President Ram Chandra Poudel on Friday over the devastating flooding in the Himalayan region, state media said.

More than 500 people were killed, and over 1,500 others remained missing in China and Nepal as of Friday after massive flooding and landslides hit the Himalayan region bordering China on Wednesday, according to foreign media reports, Yonhap News Agency reported.

In his message to Xi,



Kim expressed his “deepest condolences” to the Chinese leader, its party and government, people, victims and bereaved families, and expressed hope that the aftermath of the disaster would be cleared as soon as possible and residents in the affected areas would regain peace and stability, the Korean

Central News Agency (KCNA) said. In his message to Poudel, Kim expressed his “sincerest condolence and sympathy” to the Nepali government and people, as well as victims and bereaved families, over the casualties and missing persons, the KCNA said in a separate dispatch.

Nepal flash flood disaster caused by high-altitude glacier collapse: China

IANS
Beijing, Aug 28

China on Friday said the collapse of a high-altitude glacier in Nepal may have triggered the devastating flash floods along the Tibet-Nepal border, which have killed hundreds and caused widespread destruction.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian said experts and official institutions in China and Nepal had conducted preliminary assessments of the disaster. “According to their analysis, the disaster may have been triggered by the collapse of a high-al-



titude glacier in Nepal,” he said.

The assessment broadly aligns with preliminary findings by Nepalese authorities and a revised analysis by the

US Geological Survey (USGS). The disaster is believed to have begun when an ice-rock avalanche struck the Lhende River, temporarily blocking its flow. The natu-

ral barrier subsequently gave way, sending a massive surge downstream into the Bhotekoshi and Trishuli river systems.

The floods caused extensive damage to settle-

ments, roads, bridges and hydropower infrastructure across the affected Himalayan region.

Asked about Indian tourists and pilgrims reported missing or stranded in Tibet, Lin said details were being verified and that China was maintaining communication with relevant countries’ embassies.

Chinese authorities said more than 1,000 people, including 555 tourists, had been evacuated from Gyirong County near the Nepal border. State media reported that no tourists remained stranded in the affected area.

CHINA: 5 KILLED, 558 MISSING AFTER FLASH FLOODS IN TIBET

Munsif Bureau
Tokyo, Aug 25 (IANS)

China on Friday said five people were killed and 558 others, including 260 foreigners, remain missing after flash floods struck a port along the China-Nepal border in Tibet.

The flash floods hit Gyirong County in the Tibet Autonomous Region on Wednesday, sweeping through villages and towns near the border area. It claimed as many as 538 lives in Nepal.

According to Tibet’s

emergency management department, the death toll in the region has risen to five, while 558 people are still missing.

Among the missing, 260 have been identified as foreign nationals but their nationalities have not been released yet.

A large number of Indian pilgrims are visiting Tibet to take part in the Kailash Manasarovar Yatra following improvement in ties between China and India. Indiabusiness news

Some of the Indian pilgrims were reportedly at the immigration building

at the Tibet-Nepal border when it was hit hard by the flash flood. Videos showing a massive flash flood engulfing the large immigration building went viral globally. Earlier in the day, Chinese officials said more than 1,000 people, including 555 tourists and 499 locals, were evacuated from Gyirong County, China’s state-run Xinhua news agency reported.

No tourist remains stranded in the area now, according to the state-run Global Times.

When asked for details of the foreign tourists missing in Tibet, Chinese

Foreign Ministry spokesman Lin Jian said Beijing is coordinating with the relevant embassies about the details.

Rescue efforts continue in the region with civil aviation authorities also joining. By Thursday, civil aviation services had transported 324 rescue personnel and delivered 24 tonnes of rescue equipment, daily necessities and medical supplies to the disaster-hit area, providing support for emergency response and the relocation of affected residents, the report said.

Roads leading to the

port on the Chinese side were cut off by the flash floods, which also impacted communications and power supplies. State-run CGTV reported that phased progress has been made in restoring emergency communication support and infrastructure.

One telecom base station has been successfully restored, two new base stations have been put into operation and 5G inter-network roaming functionality has been simultaneously activated, the report quoted the Ministry of Industry and

Information Technology as saying.

Late on Thursday, China sounded a Level-IV alert, warning that a newly formed barrier lake at the confluence of two rivers faces a high risk of breaching and flooding downstream areas.

Chinese authorities estimate that about 2 million cubic metres of water had accumulated in the barrier lake near the confluence of Chhochen Khola and Purepu Tsangpo rivers, with another 3 million cubic metres potentially flowing into it over the next three days.



Two arrested in Nepal for stealing earrings from dead woman's body after viral video

Munsif Bureau
Kathmandu, Aug 28 (IANS)

Nepal Police said they had arrested two men for allegedly stealing gold earrings from the body of a woman who was swept downstream into the Narayani River during devastating floods in the country.

After a video showing the incident went viral on social media and sparked widespread outrage, police arrested the suspects after identifying them through an examination of the video. The footage showed two men pulling the woman’s body from the river before allegedly removing earrings from both her ears.

Nepal Police later shared a video, saying that the men allegedly involved in stealing the earrings from the dead woman had been taken into custody.

A police official from the District Police Office, Chitwan, Suraj Budha, said the duo were arrested on Thursday. According to a statement from the District Police Office, Chitwan, Madan Bhujel, 25, and Umesh Chaudhary, 38, both temporarily residing at



Bharatpur Metropolitan City, in southern Chitwan district, were arrested near Pokhara Bus Park of the city. Police also shared the video of the alleged theft and informed the public that the suspects had been arrested. In the viral video previously shared on social media, two men can be seen using wooden planks and the woman’s hair to pull her body out of the water. They then appear to remove earrings from both ears and place them aside. Several people can be seen standing around the scene,

with some recording the incident on their phones.

Chitwan Police said their investigation established that the body had been swept away by the deadly floods that wreaked havoc in parts of the country and was carried into the Narayani River in the southern plains.

Police described the incident as an inhuman act at a time when people are suffering from the disaster. The arrests came as Nepal continues a massive search-and-rescue operation.

US plans online passport renewal abroad

Munsif Bureau
Washington, Aug 28 (IANS)

The US State Department has proposed allowing qualified American citizens living abroad to renew their passports entirely online, eliminating the need for two visits to an Embassy or Consulate.

The proposed rule, published in the Federal Register on Friday, would

expand the department’s Online Passport Renewal platform to eligible applicants in foreign countries.

The programme would be introduced overseas in phases. The department will maintain a list of participating countries on its travel website as implementation progresses.

The proposal could benefit American citizens living in India once the

service is authorised there. The department has not yet identified the countries that will be included in the first phase. Eligible applicants would be able to submit their applications, pay the required fee and upload passport photographs online. “By enabling eligible persons overseas to submit applications, pay fees, and upload photos entirely online, the traditional re-

quirement for two in-person visits to a consular post would be eliminated,” the State Department said.

It said the digital system would also remove the need to transfer physical applications from overseas diplomatic missions to a passport agency in the United States for adjudication. The change is expected to accelerate processing and reduce the

logistical difficulties faced by Americans living overseas, including securing appointments at embassies and consulates.

The department estimates that expanding online renewal overseas could add about 220,000 eligible applicants to the platform during fiscal 2027.

It expects nearly 10.51 million people to submit

Pak Announces PKR 5 Million Compensation For Families Of Infants Killed In Hospital Fire

Munsif Bureau
Islamabad, Aug 27 (IANS)

The Pakistan government on Friday announced compensation of PKR 5 million each for families of 14 infants killed in a devastating fire at a public hospital.

“This is a small effort to share in their sorrow,” Parliamentary Affairs Minister Tariq Fazal Chaudhry said while announcing the compensation.

The incident occurred on Wednesday in the gynaecology ward of the Pakistan Institute of



Medical Sciences (PIMS) in the capital, sparking anger over the failure of authorities to save the newborns.

Chaudhry said he would visit PIMS to hand over a cheque to one of the affected families, adding that the compensation amount would be deposited in the accounts of the deceased children’s mothers.

Meanwhile, Health Minister Mustafa Kamal, while addressing the Senate, the upper house of Parliament, promised a fair investigation and assured that those responsible would be held accountable.

Norway's new King takes regnal name Haakon VIII

Munsif Bureau
Oslo, Aug 28 (IANS)

Norway’s new monarch will reign as King Haakon VIII and use the motto “Alt for Norge” (“All for Norway”), according to an official record of the Council of State published by the Norwegian government on Friday.

At an extraordinary Council of State held at the Royal Palace in Oslo at 11:30 a.m. (0930 GMT), the new King formally informed the government of the death of his father, King Harald V, and said he had assumed his duties as Norway’s King in accordance with the Constitution, Xinhua News Agency reported.

“I will take the name Haakon VIII and continue the same motto chosen by my father, grandfather and great-grandfather: Alt for Norge,” he said.

Haakon VIII also thanked the government and the Norwegian people for their support and sympathy for the Royal Family. Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Store expressed condolences on behalf of the government and the Norwegian people, saying the whole nation was in mourning and

Iran's FM says diplomacy possible if US understands pressure does not work

Munsif Bureau
Tehran, Aug 28 (IANS)

Iran’s Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi said on Friday that diplomacy with the United States can get back on track if Washington realises that pressure against Tehran does not work.

He made the remarks in a post on X, referring to his meeting on Thursday with Qatari Prime Minister and



Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani in Tehran, during which the two sides held

“creative discussions.” “Putting diplomacy back on track isn’t impossible. It hinges on US understanding of one simple fact: pressure doesn’t work,” said Araghchi.

He called on the United States to build trust, speak respectfully, acknowledge Iran’s rights, and uphold its commitments toward the country, Xinhua News Agency reported. On June 18, the United States and

Iran signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on ending the war in the region.

Under the MoU, the two sides were scheduled to hold negotiations within 60 days, ending on Aug. 17, to reach a final agreement. However, the fate of the talks remains unclear following an escalation between the two countries last month. Earlier this month, US President

Donald Trump announced “the most crushing economic operation ever taken” against any country providing a lifeline to Iran. “This will be Economic Warfare and Isolation on an unprecedented scale,” he said, calling the move “an economic D-Day.”

A senior Iranian security official said on Thursday that if the United States commits any “malicious” act.

Trump offers aid after Nepal-Tibet floods

Munsif Bureau
Washington, Aug 28

US President Donald Trump said Washington had offered Nepal any assistance it needed as the State Department reported that approximately 90 Americans may have been affected by the devastating floods along the Nepal-Tibet border. “We’ve called Nepal and offered any help that they need,”

Trump told reporters at the White House on Thursday. “That was brutal,” he said. The State Department said three American citizens had been safely rescued in Nepal. It was not aware of any US citizen deaths as of 8 a.m. Eastern Time on Thursday. The department said the US embassies in Nepal and China were working with local tour

Pre-Festive Crackdown: Maharashtra Launches Statewide Drive Against Illegal Sugar Hoarding

The Maharashtra government has launched a statewide crackdown on illegal sugar hoarding and speculative trading amid a sharp rise in wholesale and retail sugar prices ahead of the festive season.

The Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Protection Department has ordered strict inspections and monitoring of sugar stocks, sales and transportation across the state. The drive will continue until November 30, 2026, following directives from the Union Ministry of Consumer Affairs.

Under the new guidelines, traders and distributors cannot hold more than 4,000 quintals (400 tonnes) of sugar or retain stocks for over 30 days. Bulk consumers using more than 10 tonnes a month cannot maintain inventory exceeding a 15-day requirement.

All sugar sellers and distributors have also been directed to register on the central Food Stock Monitoring Portal and update their stock details every Friday.

Sitharaman Invites Canadian Financial Institutions To Invest In India’s Infrastructure Sector

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday invited Canadian financial institutions to invest in India’s rapidly expanding infrastructure sector, highlighting significant long-term opportunities in transport, energy, urban development and digital infrastructure.

Addressing a high-level India-Canada Business Roundtable in Canada, Sitharaman said India’s rapid infrastructure expansion offers substantial opportunities for global institutional investors looking for long-term investments. Canadian Finance and Revenue Minister François-Philippe Champagne was also present at the meeting, which brought together policymakers, senior officials from the banking and financial sectors and representatives of the private sector from both countries.

Sitharaman urged Canadian financial institutions to explore opportunities available at the Gujarat International Finance Tec-City International Financial



Services Centre (GIFT IFSC), describing it as an emerging hub for cross-border financial activities. She highlighted investment opportunities in banking, fund management, reinsurance, sustainable finance, global capability centres, and aircraft and ship leasing.

The Finance Minister said India’s financial ecosystem has undergone significant transformation over the past decade, with the expansion of capital markets, wider access to insurance, innovation in fintech and the devel-

opment of digital public infrastructure such as the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) creating new opportunities for global investors and financial institutions.

She said India’s infrastructure sector is expanding rapidly and requires increasing amounts of long-term capital. Transport, energy, urban development and digital infrastructure, she noted, offer considerable scope for international institutional investors to participate in India’s growth.

Sitharaman also highlighted the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) as a commercially driven platform connecting global institutional capital with infrastructure and development opportunities in India. She referred to investment opportunities through Infrastructure Fund II and Private Markets Fund II, saying these platforms can provide international investors with avenues to participate in India’s long-term development. Highlighting the im-

pact of economic and financial reforms undertaken over the past decade, Sitharaman said measures including the Asset Quality Review, the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code and the government’s 4R strategy have contributed to strengthening India’s banking system.

She pointed out that the gross non-performing asset ratio of scheduled commercial banks declined sharply from 11.18 per cent in March 2018 to 2.31 per cent in March 2025, its lowest level in nearly two decades.

Sitharaman also underlined the complementary strengths of the Indian and Canadian economies, saying India offers large-scale economic growth and investment opportunities, while Canada brings long-term capital, institutional capabilities and expertise across various sectors. She said combining these strengths could help increase investment flows and further deepen economic and financial cooperation between the two countries.

Viral Fevers Trigger Rise in False Typhoid Diagnoses as Doctors Warn Against Overreliance on Widal Test

As viral fevers continue to rise during the ongoing season, doctors in Hyderabad have warned against the growing reliance on the century-old Widal test for diagnosing typhoid, saying the test can frequently produce false-positive results and lead to unnecessary antibiotic use.

Doctors say patients visiting clinics with fever are often advised to undergo a Widal test and may subsequently be told that they are suffering from typhoid, even when the actual cause could be a viral infection. Hyderabad is an area where typhoid is endemic, and many people may already have antibodies in their blood due to previous exposure. As a result, the presence of antibodies can sometimes cause the Widal test to show a positive result even in the absence of an active typhoid infection.

While the Widal test has recognised limitations, doctors also point to the practice of unnecessarily prescribing the test, particularly at some neighbourhood clinics and in areas where unqualified practitioners operate. Such indiscriminate testing, they say, can create confusion among patients and encourage the unnecessary use of broad-spectrum antibiotics.

Doctors said experienced physicians generally consider a patient’s clinical history, symptoms and the possible source of infection before recommending a

Widal test. Contaminated drinking water remains an important source of typhoid infection, while indiscriminate testing without adequate clinical assessment can result in false-positive reports.

Another major concern is the failure to consider regional variations in baseline antibody levels while interpreting Widal test results. Doctors said the test can produce false positives and therefore needs to be prescribed and interpreted carefully.

According to medical experts, culture-based testing is often preferred to confirm typhoid. However, the interpretation of Widal results can vary from one locality to another because antibody levels in the population are not uniform. A reading considered significant in one area may not necessarily have the same meaning in another locality.

Doctors said the problem is further complicated by the fact that many healthy people living in areas exposed to contaminated water systems may already carry antibodies against typhoid bacteria. If laboratories apply a standard cutoff without taking local antibody levels into account, healthy individuals can be incorrectly labelled as typhoid patients. Doctors said culture-based tests can take several days, while patients with high fever often require immediate treatment.

Gen Z in APAC Shows Low Adoption of Mobile Antivirus Despite High Cyber Risk

Generation Z users in the Asia-Pacific region are spending more time online but are less likely to adopt basic cybersecurity measures such as

mobile antivirus software and regular password changes, a new report by Kaspersky has found.

The report, based on a survey of around 7,200

people globally, said 56 per cent of Gen Z respondents in APAC spend more time online than offline, while 75 per cent consider smartphones

their primary device for internet use.

Only 26% have advanced cybersecurity knowledge; just 22% use mobile antivirus.

India Post GDS Recruitment 2026: 10th Pass Candidates Can Apply for Postal Jobs Without Written Exam



The Department of Posts has released a recruitment notification for Gramin Dak Sevak (GDS) posts across various postal circles in the country. The recruitment drive will fill vacancies for Branch Postmaster (BPM), Assistant Branch Postmaster (ABPM) and Dak Sevak positions, offering an opportunity for Class 10 pass candidates to join the postal department without appearing for a written examination. The One-Time Registration (OTR) process for eligible candidates will begin on August 31, 2026, and remain open until September 19. Candidates can submit their online applications from September 2 to September 21. The department has also provided a correction window on September 23 and 24, during which applicants can rectify errors or make

permitted changes to their applications.

A key feature of the recruitment is that candidates will not have to appear for any written examination for the BPM, ABPM and Dak Sevak posts. Selection will be made primarily on the basis of marks obtained in Class 10. This means candidates with a strong academic record in Class 10 will have an advantage during the selection process. Applicants must have passed Class 10 and should have studied Mathematics and English along with the relevant local language. Candidates are also required to possess basic computer knowledge. Knowledge of riding a bicycle is another mandatory eligibility requirement for these posts.

The application fee has been fixed at Rs 100.

However, women candidates, Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and persons with disabilities are exempted from paying the application fee. Applicants must be between 18 and 40 years of age. The upper age limit will be relaxed by five years for SC and ST candidates, three years for OBC candidates and 10 years for persons with disabilities, subject to the applicable rules. For the Branch Postmaster position, the TRCA pay scale ranges from Rs 12,000 to Rs 29,380. For Assistant Branch Postmaster and Dak Sevak posts, the pay scale ranges from Rs 10,000 to Rs 24,470. In addition to the prescribed remuneration, eligible GDS employees may receive incentives for providing services related to India Post Payments Bank.

The recruitment notification lists 918 vacancies in Andhra Pradesh and 419 vacancies in Telangana. Although the total number of vacancies across all postal circles has not been clearly specified in the information available, candidates can check the vacancies for individual postal circles and divisions through the “Vacant Posts” section on the official recruitment website.

Selected GDS candidates generally work for around four hours a day, depending on the requirements and nature of their assigned duties. Their responsibilities may include postal operations and other services handled through the concerned branch post office. GDS employees may also be involved in providing India Post Payments Bank services and can receive additional incentives for such work. The Postal Department will provide necessary devices such as laptops, computers or smartphones for carrying out official duties, wherever required. Candidates selected for these positions must also reside in the vicinity of the concerned post office, as applicable to the particular post.

With selection based on Class 10 marks and no written examination, the India Post GDS recruitment is expected to attract a large number of candidates who have completed their secondary education. Eligible applicants are advised to complete the OTR and application process within the specified dates and carefully check the circle-wise vacancy details and eligibility requirements before submitting their applications.

RSS Debate Brings India’s Constitutional Values, Religious Diversity and Inclusive National Identity Back Into Focus

The recent remarks by senior Congress leader Sam Pitroda, backing New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani’s criticism of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), have once again brought into focus a larger and more fundamental question: What kind of India does the country want to be in the 21st century?

Pitroda’s comments, made in an exclusive interview with IANS, deserve to be viewed not merely through the prism of party politics or an individual political controversy, but against the broader constitutional and social framework of India. His central argument was that India’s strength lies in its diversity and that the country must remain a place where people of different religions, castes, languages and regions enjoy equal rights and dignity.

At the same time, Pitroda acknowledged that the RSS chief’s gathering in New York was a private event and that any organisation has the right to hold such a gathering. This distinction is important. In a democratic society, criticism of an organisation and its ideology must coexist with the right of that organisation and its members to assemble and express their views within the law.

The controversy surrounding Mamdani’s comments, therefore, should not be reduced to a simple political confrontation. It raises questions about perceptions of India among its own citizens as well as among the Indian diaspora and international observers.

The RSS, founded in Nagpur in 1925, has played a significant role in India’s social and political landscape and describes itself as a cultural and social organisation focused on national service and character-building. Its influence, however, has also generated intense political debate, particularly over questions concerning nationalism, secularism, minority rights and the relationship between religion and public life.

Pitroda’s recollection of his childhood is particularly significant. He described growing up in a village where Muslim, Jain, Sikh and tribal families lived alongside one another peacefully. Whether or not one agrees with his assessment of contemporary India, his memory points towards an important element of the Indian experience: diversity has never been merely a constitutional principle; it has also been a lived reality for millions of Indians.

India’s Constitution guarantees equality before the law and freedom of religion. These principles are not privileges granted to one community over another. They are the foundation upon which the republic rests.

Any discussion about the country’s political or cultural direction must therefore take into account the concerns of every community, including the majority as well as religious and social minorities.

Pitroda’s criticism that there is a gap between the words and actions of the RSS is an allegation and should be treated as such. Such claims require evidence and cannot be established simply through political rhetoric.

Equally, criticism of the RSS should not automatically be dismissed as an attack on India, Hinduism or Indian nationalism. A mature democracy must allow organisations to be scrutinised while protecting their legitimate right to participate in public life.

His statement that he respects people with different political and ideological views, but objects when discourse becomes hateful or violent, also offers a useful principle for public debate.

Political disagreements are inevitable in a diverse democracy. The challenge is to ensure that disagreements do not turn into hostility between communities or into an atmosphere of fear.

The larger lesson from this debate is that India’s identity cannot be defined by one political party, one organisation or one ideology. India belongs equally to its Hindus, Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Jains, Buddhists, Jews, Dalits, Adivasis and every other community that forms part of its social fabric. This is not merely a political slogan; it is an idea embedded in the constitutional vision of the republic.

The RSS, Congress and every other political or social organisation have a role to play in shaping public discourse. But with influence comes responsibility. Organisations that seek to influence society must be judged not only by their stated objectives but also by their conduct, their treatment of dissent and their approach towards communities different from their own.

Ultimately, the debate sparked by Mamdani’s remarks and Pitroda’s response should encourage a more constructive conversation about India rather than deepen existing divisions. The country’s greatest strength has always been its ability to accommodate differences without losing its sense of unity.

The India that future generations inherit should be one where disagreement does not become hatred, where faith does not determine citizenship, and where equality is not merely promised but experienced by every citizen. That is the larger constitutional idea that deserves to remain at the heart of the national conversation: an India where diversity is respected, equality is protected, and every citizen enjoys equal rights and dignity.



Shubman Gill Hails India's Series Win Over Sri Lanka, Says Youngsters Have Shown Great Promise



New Delhi, Aug 28

India captain Shubman Gill has described the team's recent 1-0 Test series victory over Sri Lanka as a highly encouraging campaign, saying the two-match tour produced several positives, particularly the impressive performances of young players Devdutt Padikkal and Manav Suthar. India secured a 1-0 series win after the second Test ended in a draw. Gill said the performances of the youngsters were among the biggest takeaways from the series and praised them for making the most of the opportunities they received.

Padikkal was one of India's standout performers during the tour. Batting at No. 3 in the absence of B. Sai Sudharsan, the young batter accumu-

lated 328 runs, including two centuries, and made a strong impression with his consistency and approach at the crease.

Gill praised Padikkal's ability to convert starts into big scores, saying a batter who gets set should make the most of the opportunity. He described Padikkal's batting as a very positive sign for the Indian team and said his performances reflected the right mindset required at the highest level. Left-arm spin bowling all-rounder Manav Suthar was another major positive for India. He claimed 16 wickets in the series, including an outstanding 10-wicket match haul during India's 165-run victory in Galle. Gill was particularly impressed by Suthar's ability to create wicket-taking opportunities whenever he came

into the attack. The India captain said the youngster has the potential to become a key part of India's spin attack for many years and expressed hope that he would continue developing and performing at the same level.

However, Gill admitted that India would have preferred to finish the series with another victory after being in a strong position in the second Test at the SSC Ground. India had hoped to complete a 2-0 series sweep after taking control of the match early on, but Sri Lanka fought back strongly during the final stages to secure a draw. Gill said the result was disappointing from India's perspective but also acknowledged the way Sri Lanka handled the final three days of the match. He said India could learn from the opposition's determination and tactical approach.

Despite missing out on a second successive victory, Gill said the series provided valuable lessons for the Indian side. He praised the team's overall performance and stressed that the emergence of young players was a particularly encouraging development.

Gill now hopes India can carry the momentum and lessons from the Sri Lanka tour into their upcoming series in New Zealand, with the captain confident that the experience gained by the youngsters will benefit the team in the longer term.

Prasidh Krishna Named 'Impact Player of the Series' After India's 1-0 Win Over Sri Lanka

New Delhi, Aug 28

India fast bowler Prasidh Krishna was named the 'Impact Player of the Series' following India's 1-0 Test series victory over Sri Lanka.

Krishna played a key role with the ball, taking seven wickets in two matches, while delivering disciplined spells despite the intense heat and demanding conditions in Galle and Colombo.

After receiving the award, Krishna credited the team's reserve players and support staff for their efforts behind the scenes. He praised them for their contribution during long practice sessions and for helping the players throughout the challenging tour.

India's Performance Analyst Hari Prasad Mohan also praised Krishna for his discipline, tactical awareness and analytical approach.

He said the fast bowler regularly seeks detailed data to improve his bowling strategies and adapts his plans according to the conditions and opposition.

Krishna's ability to consistently ask questions of the batters and make an impact whenever he was given the ball earned him special recognition at the end of the series.

The award adds another positive to India's successful Sri Lanka tour, with Krishna emerging as one of the key contributors to the team's series victory.

Imam-ul-Haq's Calf Injury Puts Lord's Test Participation in Doubt

New Delhi, Aug 28

Pakistan have suffered an injury setback during the ongoing second Test against England at Lord's, with opening batter Imam-ul-Haq's participation in the remainder of the match in doubt after he sustained a calf strain.

Imam suffered the injury while fielding on the opening day of the Test on August 27. The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) confirmed that scans revealed a low-grade strain to his left calf muscle. He is currently undergoing treatment under the supervision of the team's medical staff, with his further participation dependent on his recovery.

Imam spent part of the evening session off the field on the opening day and did not come out to open Pakistan's innings on Day 2. With Pakistan having no provision for a replacement except in cases of concussion, the team could be forced to continue without him if he fails to recover.

In Imam's absence, former Test captain Shan Masood opened the innings alongside Azan Awaiz after England were bowled out for 290 in the first session of Day 2.

Controversy Over Transgender Cricketer's Participation in Women's Cricket; Marizanne Kapp Objects

New Delhi, Aug 28

South African all-rounder Marizanne Kapp has objected to transgender cricketer Anaya Bangar being allowed to pursue opportunities in women's cricket, questioning Cricket Australia's policy.

Kapp criticised the move on Instagram, saying transgender athletes should not compete in women's cricket. Her comments have sparked debate over inclusion and competitive fairness.

Anaya, daughter of former India cricketer

Sanjay Bangar, began her transition in 2023 and underwent gender-affirming surgery in March this year. She has reportedly met Cricket Australia's eligibility and testosterone requirements for elite women's cricket.

The issue has renewed discussion around transgender participation in women's sport following the ICC's restrictions introduced in 2023.

Kapp's remarks have sparked a fresh debate over the balance between transgender inclusion and competitive fairness in women's cricket.

Neeraj Chopra Qualifies for Diamond League Final After Finishing Sixth in Overall Standings



New Delhi, Aug 28

India's Olympic and World champion javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra has qualified for the Diamond League final after finishing sixth in the overall standings at the end of the league season.

Chopra accumulated 12 points from just two appearances in the Diamond League this season. He missed three legs, including the Zurich meeting, but his performances in the events he contested were enough to secure his place in the season-ending final.

Chopra began his Diamond League campaign in Doha, where he finished fourth with a throw of 85.69 metres in his return to competition after recovering from a back injury. He then com-

peted in the Lausanne Diamond League earlier this month and produced a stronger performance, finishing second with an 88.05m throw.

The Zurich Diamond League meeting brought the regular league season to a close. Sri Lanka's Rumesh Tharanga Pathirage won the event with an impressive 92.07m throw, while Anderson Peters finished second with 86.93m and Czech Republic's Dawid Wegner took third with 85.16m. Chopra has had a challenging period due to injuries but has continued to remain among the leading javelin throwers in the world. The Indian star also won a silver medal at the 2026 Commonwealth Games, throwing 85.83m and finishing behind Pathirage.

Reflecting on his re-

cent struggles, Chopra said the past 10 months had tested him in ways he had not expected. Despite the setbacks, he has successfully returned to competition and will now focus on the biggest event of the Diamond League season.

The Diamond League final will be held in Brussels on September 4 and 5, where Chopra will look to reclaim the prestigious title he won in 2022. His victory that year, achieved with a throw of 88.44 metres, made him the first Indian athlete to win the Diamond League title. Chopra finished runner-up in the Diamond League finals in 2023, 2024 and 2025, and will now aim to end his latest campaign on a high by challenging for the title once again.

Praggnanandhaa Creates History, Becomes First Indian to Win Grand Chess Tour Title



New Delhi, Aug 28

Indian chess star Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa created history by becoming the first Indian to win the prestigious Grand Chess Tour title, defeating Fabiano Caruana 15-13 in a thrilling final at the Saint Louis Chess Club in the United States.

The 21-year-old Chennai-born grandmaster produced a remarkable comeback after falling behind in the opening phase of the final. He lost the Classical section 3-9, but bounced back strongly in

Rapid chess, completely dominating Caruana with an 8-0 victory.

With the title within reach, Praggnanandhaa maintained his composure in the Blitz section, which ended 4-4, giving him a 15-13 victory on aggregate and securing his place in Indian chess history.

The Grand Chess Tour final tested players across all three formats — Classical, Rapid and Blitz — making Praggnanandhaa's comeback particularly impressive. His ability to adapt quickly between formats

proved decisive against the experienced Caruana.

Caruana finished runner-up, while American Wesley So secured third place after defeating Germany's Vincent Keymer in the third-place playoff.

Praggnanandhaa also took home the biggest prize of \$200,000, while Caruana received \$125,000. Wesley So earned \$75,000 for third place and Keymer received \$50,000.

Praggnanandhaa had reached the final after defeating Keymer 19-9 in the semifinal. Caruana advanced to the title clash after overcoming Wesley So 18-12 in the other semifinal.

The Indian grandmaster, who became a Grandmaster at just 13 years of age in 2018, currently has a rating of 2750 and is ranked 12th in the Classical section of the latest FIDE rankings.

The Grand Chess Tour season concluded with the grand finale in St Louis from August 21 to 28. Praggnanandhaa entered the knockout stage as the No. 1 seed after finishing at the top among the leading full-tour players during the regular season.

His historic victory marks another major milestone in the rapid rise of Indian chess on the global stage. The top three finishers have also earned invitations to the 2027 Grand Chess Tour, giving Praggnanandhaa another opportunity to defend his title and further strengthen his position among the world's elite players.

SALMAN KHAN CELEBRATES RAKSHA BANDHAN WITH SISTER ARPITA, FLAUNTS RAKHIS ON HIS WRIST



Mumbai, Aug 28

Bollywood superstar Salman Khan celebrated Raksha Bandhan with his sisters, sharing warm family moments as Arpita Khan Sharma performed the traditional rituals and tied a rakhi to the actor.

Arpita shared a video on social media in which she was seen performing aarti and applying tilak to Salman before tying the rakhi on his wrist. The celebrations offered fans a glimpse of the close bond shared by the Khan family.

Salman was also spotted at the residence of his sister Alvira Khan on Friday. After stepping out of her home, the actor

stopped to pose for the paparazzi gathered outside. He happily displayed the rakhis tied around his wrist by his sisters, while a tilak could also be seen on his forehead as part of the traditional Raksha Bandhan celebrations.

The actor opted for a casual look for the occasion, wearing a maroon T-shirt with blue jeans and a cowboy hat. As he was about to leave in his car, photographers requested him to show the rakhis on his wrist, and Salman obliged with a smile.

Sohail Khan's son, Nirvaan Khan, was also spotted at Alvira's residence during the family gathering. Alvira, a fashion designer and film

producer, is married to actor and producer Atul Agnihotri.

Arpita, who was adopted by veteran screenwriter Salim Khan as a child, shares a close relationship with Salman and the other members of the Khan family. She is married to actor Aayush Sharma.

Meanwhile, Salman has several projects lined up on the professional front. He will next be seen in the upcoming war drama "Maatrubhumi: May War Rest in Peace," which was earlier titled "Battle of Galwan." Directed by Apoorva Lakhia, the film is based on the 2020 Galwan Valley clash between Indian and Chinese troops. Produced under the banner of Salman Khan Films, the movie also stars Chitrangda Singh in the female lead role. Salman is also set to return as the host of the popular reality television show "Bigg Boss 20."

Raksha Bandhan celebrations reflected the close-knit bond of the Khan family, with Salman Khan warmly participating in the traditional rituals and proudly showing off the rakhis tied by his sisters.

