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UNIQUE GIFT OF KRIYAYOGA ASHRAM AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE TO GIVE IMPETUS TO WORLD BUILDING AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT.

'Even Trump doesn't know ... ': Army chief flags fog of 'clueless' future

NEW DELHI: Army chief General Upendra Dwivedi on Saturday addressed a gathering in his hometown Rewa in Madhya Pradesh, where he reflected on Operation Sindoor, spoke about the future of warfare, and even took a dig at US President Donald Trump over his unpredictable statements and recent claims about mediating peace between India and Pakistan. Speaking at an event at TRS College, General Dwivedi highlighted the uncertainty and complexity of emerging global challenges. He said, "... Future challenges are coming. They're instability, uncertainty, complexity, and ambiguity... You and I are completely clueless about what the future holds." "Even Trump Doesn't Know...": Army Chief on Rapidly Evolving Security Challenges

He then added, "What is Trump doing today? I think even Trump doesn't know what he is going to do tomorrow. Challenges are coming so quickly that by the time you try to grasp an old challenge, a new one emerges, and the same security challenges our military faces. Whether it's on the border, terrorism, natural disasters, or cyber warfare. The new things that have started: space warfare.

Teacher caned kids for discipline, not to harm, says HC; quashes case

KOCHI: Kerala high court has set aside a criminal case against a Palakkad school-teacher who caned three class 5 students for fighting, ruling that he acted within his authority to maintain classroom discipline. Justice C Pratheep Kumar, delivering the order on Oct 16, said the teacher's actions were aimed at correcting the students and helping them grow into responsible citizens, not at causing harm. The case had been registered by Vadakkencherry police after parents complained that the teacher struck their children on the legs during class at 10am on Sept 16.

Delhi Blast : Police invokes UAPA; probe into vehicle explosion widens

Families mourn after deadly blast near Red Fort

New Delhi: A powerful explosion near Delhi's Red Fort Metro Station left multiple vehicles in flames, killing eight people and injuring several. Seven fire tenders and police teams rushed to the spot as authorities declared a high alert across the city. The reason behind the blast remains unknown, and investigation is underway.

Families mourn after deadly blast near Red Fort

"There were only two earning members in the family, we don't know how we will survive without them," says relative of deceased. A high-intensity explosion ripped through a slow-moving car at a traffic signal near the



Red Fort metro station on Monday evening, killing at least nine people and gutting several vehicles.

'Govt of India and state govts will not spare those indulging in terrorism': UP minister Jaiveer Singh

On blast near Red Fort in Delhi, UP minister Jaiveer Singh said, "Our condolences to those who died, those who are injured in the blast, and their families. May the injured recover soon

and return to their home. All investigation agencies reached the spot immediately and are investigating the matter. I believe that strictest action will be taken after proper investigation...Govt of India and State Govts will not spare those indulging in terrorism and those who are anti-nationalists." "Canada offers its condolences to the families of the people who were killed in today's horrific explo-

sion in New Delhi and wishes those injured a speedy recovery," High Commission of Canada in India posts on X. Investigators are examining more than 100 CCTV clips, including footage from nearby toll plazas "Delhi Police have obtained CCTV footage showing the suspect's car entering and exiting the parking area. The footage indicates that the suspect was alone at the time. Investigators are now tracing the route towards Daryaganj, while more than 100 CCTV clips, including footage from nearby toll plazas, are being examined to establish the complete movement of the vehicle," Delhi police sources told.

Wave of patriotism and unity sweeps Uttar Pradesh under CM Yogi leadership



Gorakhpur

A sea of tricolors fluttered in countless hands and chants of "Vande Mataram" and "Bharat Mata Ki Jai" echoed through the air as petals rained down, as Gorakhpur witnessed an extraordinary celebration of patriotism and unity on Monday. This vibrant spectacle unfolded during the Ekta Yatra led by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of the Iron Man, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. The Chief Minister flagged

off the historic march from his home constituency, Gorakhpur City, with the Yatra proceeding from the Municipal Corporation premises to Vishwambhar Pathak Park near Geeta Vatika, resonating with national pride and the spirit of "Nation First." "Before beginning the march, the Chief Minister paid floral tributes to his revered guru, the late Mahant Avedyanath, at the Municipal Corporation and garlanded the statue of Rani Lakshmbai, the heroine of the First War of Independence.

The needy will receive housing and assistance for their daughters marriages: CM

Gorakhpur

During his visit to Gorakhpur, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath met with people and listened to their problems during the Janta Darshan held at the Gorakhnath Temple on Monday morning. He offered heartfelt support for the needy, financial assistance for the marriage of daughters from economically disadvantaged families,



and treatment of those suffering from serious illnesses. He stated that the government is committed to

providing the benefits of welfare schemes to every needy and eligible person and to effectively resolving every problem. While listening to the people's problems during the Janta Darshan, the Chief Minister directed officials to demonstrate prompt sensitivity to public issues and ensure their resolution with transparency. During the Janta Darshan held at the Gorakhnath Temple on

Monday morning, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath met with approximately 200 people. The Chief Minister personally visited the people seated in the auditorium of Mahant Digvijaynath Smriti Bhavan and listened to their problems one by one. Listening carefully, he took their applications and referred them to the relevant administrative and police officers for resolution.

Trade talks: Trump says US close to getting 'fair deal' with India; adds a 'love us again' twist

United States President Donald Trump on Tuesday (Monday in the US) said his administration is working on "a very different deal" with India than those negotiated in the past.

"They don't love me, but they'll love us again. We're getting a fair deal, just a fair trade deal," said Trump. "We're making a deal with India, a much different deal than we had in the past. So right now, they don't love me, but they'll love us again. We're getting a fair deal, just a fair trade deal. We had pretty unfair trade deals...But we're getting close. Scott, I think we're pretty close to doing a deal that's good for everybody, right?" the US president said as per the White House. "India is home to one of the world's oldest civilisations, the largest country in the world and it's got over 1.5 billion people and we have a fantastic



relationship with the Prime Minister Modi and Sergio has only enhanced that because he's become already friendly with the Prime Minister...It's also the fastest-growing middle class, and it's an important economic and strategic security partner in the Indo-Pacific region...As Ambassador Sergio will work to fortify our country's bond, promote investments in key US industries and technologies, increase American energy exports, and expand our security cooperation," Trump said. Union commerce minister Piyush Goyal on

Wednesday gave an update on the ongoing India-US trade talks amid persisting tensions, as India deals with 50% tariffs. The union minister indicated that while discussions on the India-US Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA) are "going on very well," there remain "many sensitive and serious issues" that will require additional time. "Talks are going on very well. There are many sensitive and serious issues, so naturally, it takes some time," Minister Goyal told ANI when asked for an update on the trade talks.

Ganguly blasts Team India selectors for ed Shami snub

NEW DELHI: Former India captain Sourav Ganguly said on Monday that Mohammed Shami should return to the national team in all formats. Ganguly said Shami is fit and bowling well, but the selectors appear to be looking beyond the 35-year-old pacer, who has not been picked for the upcoming two-Test series against South Africa. Shami last played



for India in the Champions Trophy in March. "Shami is bowling exceptionally well. He is fit

and we saw in the three Ranji Trophy matches, where he's won Bengal on his own," Ganguly said on Monday. Shami

took 15 wickets for Bengal in the first two Ranji Trophy matches this season. He bowled 91 overs in the three matches, going wicketless in the game against Tripura. Shami had undergone ankle surgery after the 2023 ODI World Cup, where he ended as the leading wicket-taker with 24 wickets at an average of 10.70. "I'm sure the selectors are watching

and there is a communication between Mohammad Shami and the selectors. But if you ask me, in terms of fitness and skill, it's the Mohammad Shami we know of. So, I really don't see any reason why he can't keep playing Test matches, One-day cricket and T20 cricket for India. Because that skill is enormous," Ganguly said, as quoted by news agency.

The Panchayat Advancement Index will become a mirror of rural progress- Minister Om Prakash

touchwithworld.com
Sachin Malik Lucknow

The Panchayat Raj Department, Government of Uttar Pradesh successfully organized a one-day state-level workshop today at the Panchayati Raj Directorate Lohia Bhawan Aliganj Lucknow to discuss the dissemination of the Panchayat Advancement Index, Version 1 and 2 and to discuss the progress of Gram Panchayats on the revised indicators. The workshop was chaired by Minister of Panchayati Raj, Om Prakash Rajbhar. Approximately 200 participants, including Principal Secretary, Panchayati Raj



Department Anil Kumar, Director, Panchayati Raj Department Amit Kumar Singh and other departmental officials, project managers from various divisions and heads and secretaries of Gram Panchayats who have performed outstandingly in the PAI, actively participated. The main objective of this workshop was to strengthen the

role of Panchayats in achieving the nine themes of the Local Development Goals (LSDGs). The objective was to ensure the performance of Gram Panchayats was assessed based on quality baseline data. Gram Panchayats that performed exceptionally well in PAI versions 1 and 2 were also honored during the workshop. Today state-level workshop honored Gram Panchayats that performed best under the Panchayat Advancement Index. Dhanauri, Bibipur and Saraura Gram Panchayats from Bakshi Ka Talab block in Lucknow, along with Milak Amawati from Moradabad district.

UP cops begin crackdown on loudspeakers

LUCKNOW: To curb noise pollution, police launched a three-day drive in UP Sunday to remove or regulate over 1,400 loudspeakers from religious and public places, reports Pathikrit Chakraborty. The campaign, initiated under the supervision of additional director general (law and order) Amitabh Yash, was launched after reports indicated widespread violations of prescribed noise limits.

Multiplicity of ownership of vehicle points to possibility of terror angle

NEW DELHI: No craters, no shrapnel or pellets - this was the first impression of the forensic and anti-terror experts who arrived at the spot after the car bomb explosion near the Red Fort on Monday evening. While it puzzled the investigators, a plausible explanation soon emerged with some experts saying that it was possible that a crater may not be formed if the car was in motion. "It could be a highly inflammable chemical, which may have caused the casualties. It's a high-



end explosive material," said a source, hinting at the possible use of a mixture of ammonium nitrate and RDX. However, a detailed blast analysis report will confirm or deny these theories, he added. A possible link with the Faridabad seizure was also being

actively explored. All angles are being probed and National Investigation Agency is likely to take over the probe into the FIR, which was being filed by Delhi Police late on Monday. Also read | Rush-hour blast kills 9 near Red Fort The initial probe led

police to a man named Salman from Gurgaon, who allegedly owned the 'HR 26 7674' i20 car involved in the blast. He told police that he had sold the car to someone named Devendra in March. Police then contacted the RTO to fetch further details of the sellers. However, the multiplicity of ownership of the vehicle raised eyebrows as this was a preferred modus operandi of terrorist groups while choosing a vehicle for SVB-IED (suicide vehicle-borne improvised.

'Like Nehru, Indira': Shashi defends Advani's legacy; argues 'don't reduce career to one episode'

NEW DELHI: Senior Congress leader and MP Shashi Tharoor has once again appeared to display a soft corner for the ruling BJP, this time praising its veteran leader and former deputy Prime Minister Lal Krishna Advani.

Tharoor not only lauded Advani's decades of public service but also defended his political legacy, drawing a parallel between him and former Prime Ministers Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi. He said that just as Nehru

should not be judged solely by the "China setback" and Indira Gandhi not only by the Emergency, the same fairness should be extended to one of the BJP's founding members. "Reducing his long years of service to one

episode, however significant, is also unfair. The totality of Nehruji's career cannot be judged by the China setback, nor Indira Gandhi's by the Emergency alone. I believe we should extend the same courtesy to Advaniji,"

Tharoor wrote on X. His remarks came as he wished Advani on his 98th birthday on November 8, praising his "unwavering commitment to public service, modesty and decency," and calling him "a true statesman."

'India won't be buying Russian oil': Trump doubles down on claim

US President Donald Trump on reiterated his claim that "India won't be buying Russian oil," a claim that has since been refuted by New Delhi.

Speaking at a joint press briefing with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy at the White House, Trump repeated his stance on India's ener-

gy imports, saying, "India won't be buying Russian oil anymore." While Trump has advocated using tariffs to curb Russia's war in Ukraine, provided Nato

Students Shine at 69th State-Level Kurash Championship

Barabanki

The 69th State-Level School Kurash Championship commenced on Monday at the auditorium of Government Inter College, Barabanki. The three-day event was inaugurated by Additional Chief Secretary Partha Sarathi Sen Sharma, who lit the ceremonial lamp to mark the beginning of the competition. Speaking on the occasion, the ACS said that sports teach individuals to compete not with others, but with themselves, to enhance their inner potential and abilities. He emphasized that true victory in sports comes through self-discipline, focus and consistent effort. Assistant Director of Education Jai Shankar, District Inspector of Schools O.P.



Tripathi, and Basic Education Officer Santosh Kumar Dev Pandey jointly offered floral tributes to Goddess Saraswati. District Magistrate Shashank Tripathi attended the event and encouraged the participants, praising Barabanki for excelling not only in academics but also in sports. (Patriotism Reflected in Cultural Presentations) The Chief Guest was warmly welcomed by NCC cadets

and the school band. Students of Pioneer Inter College presented a melodious welcome song, while the girls of Kasturba Gandhi Residential School, Masauli, performed a vibrant patriotic dance. On the occasion of the 150th anniversary of “Vande Mataram,” all students sang the iconic song in unison, filling the auditorium with patriotic fervor. More than 225 students

from 11 Divisions across the state are participating in the Kurash Championship, showcasing their athletic talents and sportsmanship. (“No Bouquet, Only Book” Campaign) The Additional Chief Secretary also introduced the “No Bouquet, Only Book” campaign, aimed at encouraging students to embrace books over bouquets and social media distractions. He announced that henceforth, winners in various competitions will be awarded books instead of trophies to promote the habit of reading. He further directed that each student should read one book every week and present its summary during the morning assembly—a step aimed at improving their expression, comprehension and

critical thinking skills. (Teachers Must Also Inspire Reading) Sharma urged teachers to also engage in regular reading and share book summaries with students to cultivate a healthy reading culture in schools. He encouraged activities such as school magazines, story writing and bookmark designing to nurture creativity among students. The program was conducted by Ashish Pathak, lecturer at National Inter College, while the vote of thanks was proposed by BEO Santosh Kumar Dev Pandey. Among those present were GGIC Principal Suvidha Vats, Vice Principal and Library In-Charge Dr. Poonam Singh and a large number of teachers and educators from various institutions.

Three smugglers arrested, 44 kg of marijuana worth 11 lakh rupees recovered



Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Kada Kaushambi. A joint team of Saini Kotwali police and the Special Operations Group (SOG) arrested three marijuana smugglers from a white Venue car without a number plate on the bridge on the Dhata-Sirathu road in Saini Kotwali. Those arrested include Nikhil Mishra, son of Bhaiya Lal, a resident of Mau in Chitrakoot district, Anil Singh, son of Ramchandra Singh, a resident of Kopamau police station in Mau, and Kallu Patel, son of Bihari Patel, a resident of Karvi in Chitrakoot district. After formalities, the

police presented the accused in court. Police recovered 44 kg 190 grams of illegal marijuana, estimated to be worth approximately 11 lakh rupees, from the smugglers. The Venue car used in the marijuana smuggling was also recovered. During interrogation, the smugglers revealed that the marijuana was brought from Odisha and they were to deliver it to a person in Khaga on Monday. They commit this act out of greed for money. Police have registered a case against the arrested accused under relevant sections at Saini police station and sent them to court.

Uttar Pradesh Secures First Position in the Country with Highest Registrations in India Skills Competition



Lucknow

Under the guidance of Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Vocational Education, Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Kapil Dev Agarwal and the effective leadership, visionary approach and continuous supervision of Mission Director Pulkit Khare Uttar Pradesh has achieved the first position in the country by securing the highest number of registrations for the India Skills Competition 2025. In continuation of this remarkable achievement, a high-level meeting of the Mission-level Committee was organized on Monday at the Skill Development Mission headquarters under the chairmanship of Mission Director Pulkit Khare. The objective of the meeting was to strengthen the strategy for continuous review, training and mentoring of the registered youth and ensure their participation at the state, national and international levels. During the meeting, Mission Director Pulkit Khare discussed the detailed action plan and effective strategies for the successful execution of the India

Skills Competition 2025. He emphasized that strong coordination should be maintained with participants selected from various districts and that the capabilities of youth should be enhanced to meet national and international standards through the involvement of experienced trainers, subject experts and industrial institutions. He further instructed that special focus be given to skill trials at district and divisional levels, selection and evaluation processes and continuous mentoring and motivation of participants. He said that transparency, impartiality, competitiveness and quality must remain the top priorities at every stage of the competition so that the youth of Uttar Pradesh can showcase their talent and bring laurels to the state and the nation. Committee members deliberated in detail on various aspects such as skill training, competition management, evaluation systems and strategies to maintain participants morale. The Mission Director emphasized that continuous progress reviews must be ensured and that the quality of training should be given utmost attention.

Miracle in Guraila Village: Cow Gives Birth to Three Calves at Once

Barabanki

An astonishing incident in Guraila village under Masauli block on Monday left everyone amazed. A desi (native breed) cow belonging to Rajesh Mishra, son of late Chhabilal, gave birth to three calves at the same time. The rare occurrence quickly became the talk of not just the village but also the surrounding areas. According to locals, as soon as the news spread, people from nearby villages gathered to witness the unusual event. Villagers offered jaggery and other feed to the cow and calves as an act of reverence and service to the holy animal. Veterinary experts have termed this a rare



and remarkable biological occurrence. Rajesh Mishra family is overjoyed. They said the cow had been part of their household for a long time. On Monday, when she delivered three calves one after another, the family was astonished. Fortunately, all three calves and the cow are healthy. The family is now fully devoted to their care. Rajesh Mishra, who

comes from a poor background and does not own agricultural land, said the event felt like a divine blessing. He added that the conception happened naturally, without any artificial insemination. (What the Doctor Says) Dr. Sanjeev Kumar, Veterinary Officer of the Animal Husbandry Department, said that a cow giving birth to three calves at once is

an extremely rare and unusual occurrence. Normally, a cow releases only one ovum during conception, leading to a single offspring. However, in rare cases, the egg may split, resulting in the development of two or even three embryos in the womb — a biological phenomenon leading to such extraordinary births. Dr. Kumar added that while cases of twin births are occasionally reported, the birth of three calves at once is indeed exceptional. He assured that the department has arranged for necessary medicines and medical supervision to ensure the health and safety of the cow and her calves.

A young man crossing the road was hit by a car, killing two girls



Kaushambi. A young man, visiting relatives in Mahagaon, in the Sandipani Ghat police station area, was returning home from the fields on a bike with his aunt's two daughters on Friday at around 10 a.m. As he crossed the national highway near Mahagaon without looking, a car oncoming from the front hit the bike, causing all three riders to fall onto the road and writhe in pain. The young man died a painful death at the scene of the accident. And in this accident both the girls are seriously injured. Seeing the accident, people from the vicinity reached the spot.

The matter has been reported to the police station and ambulance. The police reached the spot and took the injured to the hospital for treatment and took the body of the deceased youth in their custody and sent it for postmortem. On getting information about the accident, the family members and relatives reached the spot crying. There is chaos at the spot. After hitting the bike, the car went out of control and entered the Gomti river, crushing another bike parked on the road. After the accident, the airbag of the car opened, hence the occupants of the car were not seriously injured.

Meritorious Players Felicitated at GAIL DAV

Auraiya

On Monday, the Principal of GAIL DAV Public School, Deepa Sharan, honoured outstanding performers of the state-level sports competitions as well as the students selected for national-level championships. The selected players were felicitated with trophies and medals for their commendable achievements. A total of 35 students from the school have been selected to participate in the National-



level Boys Category Sports

Competitions. In the Under-14 category, Arpit, Dev and Ansh excelled in Taekwondo, Heesham was selected for Snooker & Billiards, Arnav, Sudhanshuman and Aksh Singhal were selected in Table Tennis (Team Category) while Sudhanshuman also secured his place in the Table Tennis (Singles Category).

In the Under-17 category, Ribhav, Yash and Vatsal were selected for the Table

Tennis (Team Category) while Ribhav Deswal made it to the Table Tennis (Singles Category).

The Football Team consisting of 15 students has also qualified for the nationals. In the Under-19 category, Navdeep, Shivansh and Arit were selected in Taekwondo. Trinayan Phukan qualified in Discus Throw and Vikhyat Singh secured his place in Yoga (Singles Category). After felicitating the young achievers,

Principal Deepa Sharan congratulated all the players and praised their hard work, discipline and dedication. She added that sports play an integral role in education as they instill confidence, team spirit and leadership qualities among students. She extended her best wishes to all the participants for their upcoming national-level competitions and expressed hope that they would bring laurels to the school and the district.

SP chief accuses ruling party of economic mismanagement and weakening public trust

Akhilesh Slams BJP Over Inflation, Gold Prices and Governance Issues

Lucknow

Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav on Monday took a sharp dig at the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), alleging that the ruling dispensation financial decisions have pushed common citizens into hardship. Addressing a press briefing at the party headquarters, Yadav remarked that while the government once collected currency through demonetisation, it now appears to be “targeting gold,” a move he linked to the



soaring prices of the precious metal. (Rising Prices Breaking the Backbone of the Poor) The SP leader said that escalating prices of essentials have shattered the dreams of ordinary people. “Middle-class

families can no longer afford the simplest gold ornament for their daughters’ weddings,” he pointed out. He added that the promise of doubling farmers income has remained only a slogan, while the

cost of living continues to spiral due to rising fuel, construction and electricity expenses. (Questions Raised on Law, Order and Corruption) Yadav also expressed concern over what he called the deteriorating law and order situation in Uttar Pradesh. Citing recent seizures and scandals, he alleged that several irregularities have direct links to those associated with the ruling party. He further claimed that land-related disputes and encroach-

ments are being facilitated under official protection. “The administration’s intelligence system has weakened to such an extent that infiltration and illegal activities are going unchecked,” he said. (Healthcare and Governance Under Scrutiny) Turning his attention to the health sector, Yadav said that mere inauguration of hospitals is not enough when patients are still deprived of proper treatment. He criticised the government for cele-

brating the opening of private medical facilities instead of strengthening public healthcare where life-saving treatments remain out of reach for the poor. (Focus on PDA Alliance and Electoral Fairness) Reiterating his commitment to social equity, Yadav emphasised that the party will continue to work towards protecting the interests of the PDA — backward classes, Dalits and minorities. He announced that the SP will challenge in court.

The accused of raping a teenage girl was arrested in a police encounter

Kaushambi. On Wednesday night, the police engaged in a police encounter with the accused who had raped a schoolgirl in the Manjhanpur Kotwali area. During the encounter, the accused opened fire on the police team, which in turn returned fire. The accused was injured by the police bullets and was taken into custody and admitted to the hospital for treatment. According to the information, a woman from Manjhanpur Kotwali area had given a complaint letter to SP Rajesh Kumar and told that Shahnur Alam, a resident of Malak Pinjari village, trapped her daughter in his love trap and raped her, not only this, he kept raping her by blackmailing her for several months.



After the woman's complaint, the SP formed a police team to arrest the accused, the police team was searching for the accused, when information was received regarding the accused, the police team surrounded him, during this the accused Shahnur Alam started firing at the police team, in the retaliatory firing of the police, the accused got shot in the leg and he fell down injured, the police arrested the injured accused and admitted him to the district hospital for treatment.

DM held a meeting with representatives of political parties regarding the SIR Program

The District Magistrate asked representatives of all political parties to appoint booth-level agents

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Prayagraj: A meeting was held on Monday in the Sangam Auditorium, chaired by District Magistrate Mr. Manish Kumar Verma, with representatives of all national and state-recognized political parties to ensure the smooth completion of the Special Intensive Revision Program. Based on the eligibility date of 01.01.2026 issued by the Election Commission of India, the distribution of counting forms has been underway since 04.11.2025 under the



Special Intensive Revision Program for the electoral rolls of the district's Assembly constituencies. As per the schedule set by the Commission, the counting forms will be distributed and collected from each voter by the BLOs by going door to door till 04.12.2025. In the meeting, the District Magistrate requested the representatives of all the political parties to

appoint/orient booth level agents assembly wise and coordinate with the BLOs through the booth level agents appointed by them to complete the intensive revision program successfully.

Apart from this, the political parties which have not yet appointed booth level agents were also requested to immediately appoint booth level agents and provide their list to the

concerned Electoral Registration Officer's office and the District Election Office. In the meeting, the District Magistrate also informed all political parties that as per the Commission's instructions, Booth Level Agents of all recognized political parties have been permitted to submit applications in bulk under the Special Intensive Revision Programme, subject to

the condition that no Booth Level Agent will submit more than 50 forms per day to the Booth Level Officer before the publication of the document, i.e., till 04.12.2025, and not more than 10 forms per day thereafter.

Before submitting the forms to the Booth Level Officer, the Booth Level Agent will submit a list of applications, along with an undertaking that he/she has personally verified the details of the applications and is satisfied that they are correct. On this occasion, Additional District Magistrate Administration/Deputy District Election Officer Mrs. Pooja Mishra, representatives of all national and state recognized political parties and concerned officials were present.

Dhaba operators are staging all sorts of drama to escape the charge of attempted murder

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Kaushambi

Advocate Shiv Prasad Tripathi, a resident of Tiwari Ka Purwa village in the Mahewa Ghat police station area, was attacked seven months ago on April 4, 2025, and underwent prolonged treatment. The case, Crime No. 54 of 2025, is registered at the Mahewa Ghat police station. The Mahewa Ghat police have assumed the responsibility of protecting the accused in this case. To protect them, they began conspiring to ensure the attackers escape. However, the police conspiracy has been exposed. If police officers investigate the matter, action may be taken against the police station. It is noteworthy that Ramkumar Kewat, a resident of Tiwari Ka Purwa village in the Mahewa Ghat police station area, works as a laborer at Hemraj Yadav's dhaba in Hinauta. Despite his labor, the dhaba owner is not paying him his wages. It is reported that after not receiving his wages for four months, he stopped working at the dhaba and started working at a brick kiln in Bamhrauli. He was shot in broad daylight on November 5. Mohit Yadav and Sudama Yadav

forcibly took him from the brick kiln to a dhaba and beat him up. They threatened him with a pistol and said that they would not pay him his wages but would implicate him in battery theft. By accusing him of battery theft, the laborer was forced to name the sons of lawyer Shiv Prasad Tripathi. A conspiracy is being hatched to save the sons of Hemraj, who had carried out the fatal attack, so that the people who had carried out the fatal attack on the lawyer could escape. Not only this, Sudama Yadav and Mohit Yadav caught the dhaba laborer and took him to the police station and handed him over to the police. The police did not listen to the laborer in front of the dhaba operator's crumbs, but the police also beat and threatened the laborer and made a video of it by pressuring him to accept the theft case. The atrocities being committed on the bonded laborer do not end here; they want to make him work as a bonded laborer in the dhaba again. While the lawyer has complained about the matter to the police officers, the laborer Ramkumar has also complained about the matter to the police officers.

Electricity consumers are unable to get their transformers even after several months

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Kaushambi The people of the district are troubled by the arbitrary behavior of officers in the store room of the Kaushambi power substation. Even after several months, transformers are not supplied to tube well operators from the store room of the power substation. A hefty sum is charged instead. Four months ago, after a farmer from Ambawa West village under the Manjhanpur substation obtained a tube well connection, an order came to the store room to supply the transformer to the connection holder. During this time, officers are absent, and the store is being operated by Sharda Prasad Mishra. Even four months after the order, the consumer has not received the transformer. Consumers are continuously demanding a 25 kVA transformer for the 10 HP tube well connection in Ambawa West. In Kaushambi, the power department's store room is unable to provide transformers to farmers' tube wells after four months. The Yogi government's orders do not seem to be implemented by the power department.

Corruption is rampant here, and officers have become unruly. The failure to provide transformers on time has created an uproar in the entire district. Officers are playing a carefree life, ignoring the problems of consumers. The issue remains unresolved. A clerk in the department appears to be controlling the entire system and is extorting large sums from tube well consumers. The department failed to comply with the Yogi government's directive to provide transformers within three days. Even after four to six months, hundreds of people are still unable to receive transformers. Officers are extorting money from helpless consumers. Who will stop these extortionists? After a public complaint was made via Twitter to the Governor, Chief Minister, and the MD and Chairman of the Electricity Department of the Purvanchal Vidyut Vitran Nigam, the response was: "Sir, for any electricity-related issues, please provide your contact number, address, and the name of the relevant substation so that we can contact you and resolve your problem appropriately."

The Chief Development Officer directed bankers to expedite the disposal of pending loan applications

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Kaushambi. A meeting of the District-Level Advisory Committee was held in the Udayan Auditorium under the chairmanship of Chief Development Officer Vinod Ram Tripathi. During the review of the credit-deposit ratio, the Chief Development Officer expressed displeasure over the very low credit-deposit ratios of the State Bank of India, Punjab National Bank, and Central Bank of India. He directed all bankers to improve the credit-deposit ratio as per the standard. During the bank-wise review of pending loan applications in various banks, he told all the bankers that the applications of various public welfare schemes- Prime Minister Employment Generation Programme, Chief Minister Youth Self



Employment Scheme, ODOP, Chief Minister Youth Entrepreneur Scheme, Prime Minister Employment Generation Programme, Chief Minister Village Industry Employment Scheme, Chief Minister Matikala Employment Scheme, PM Swanidhi Scheme and PMFME Scheme etc. should be disposed of expeditiously and the approved loan applications should be disbursed expeditiously. During the review of agriculture sector, MSME, other priority sector and primary sector under the annual loan plan, the Chief

Development Officer directed all the bankers to make progress as per the target. He directed to open accounts of labour support groups and make CCL in them under the National Rural Livelihood Mission for the financial year 2025-26. During the review of the progress of linkage, all the bankers were instructed to dispose of the pending files expeditiously. The Chief Development Officer released the Probabilistic Loan Scheme 2026-27 booklet prepared by NABARD.

NABARD's District Development

Manager Anil Sharma informed that in the year 2026-27, the potential of bank loan of Rs. 210016.51 lakh has been estimated for the priority sector in Kaushambi district. In this, loans for agriculture sector, other agriculture related activities like dairy, irrigation, agricultural mechanization, land development, poultry, fisheries and storage etc., besides other priority sectors for small, micro and medium industries like education, housing, renewable energy etc. have been estimated. Lead District Development Manager Naveen Jha informed in the meeting that as per the loan plan, the targets for the year 2026-27 will be given to all the banks before 01 April 2026. He explained in detail about the progress made by the banks in this quarter.

Illegal encroachments removed from 10 locations

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Prayagraj. A campaign against illegal encroachments is being conducted under the leadership of the District Magistrate in all tehsils of Prayagraj district. On Monday, as part of a comprehensive campaign against illegal encroachments on barren land, barns, new fallow land, chaulk marg, and pond land, illegal encroachments were removed from a total of 10 locations in all tehsils of the district. New fallow land in village Khajurikala and Chapro in tehsil Koraon, drain land in village Lediari, and barren land in village Pandariya have been freed from encroachment. Pond land in village Jhanjhrachau in tehsil Bara and chaulk marg land in village Badgadi have been freed from encroachment. Chaulk marg in village Dhamour in tehsil Phulpur, chaulk marg and drain land

in village Pali have been freed from encroachment. The land of the Chak Marg in village Sarai Chandrabhan alias Nanansai of Soraon has been freed from encroachment. District Magistrate Prayagraj Manish Kumar Verma has directed the Sub-Divisional Magistrates and other officials of all tehsils to take immediate action on the complaints related to encroachment. On the other hand, District Magistrate Prayagraj has directed all the Sub-Divisional Magistrates and Tehsildars to get a new survey done of the government land/Gram Sabha land located in the tehsil and on its basis determine the categories of encroachment and take action against the encroachment accordingly. Till now, this campaign has shown positive results and in the coming days, the campaign against encroachment will continue uninterrupted.

Intensive checking campaign launched as part of Traffic Campaign

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Ganganagar

As Traffic Month began, traffic awareness campaigns were being conducted at various locations, and intensive vehicle checking was underway. Under the direc-



tion of Police Commissioner Prayagraj, under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner of Police, Ganganagar Kuldeep Singh Gunawat, and Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police, Ganganagar Pushkar Verma, all police stations in the Ganganagar Zone launched a campaign against illegal trucks and dumpers operating with-

out number plates during Traffic Month. During the night checking campaign, 13 trucks and dumpers were checked.

Four trucks and dumpers were seized under Section 207 of the MV Act, and action was taken. Traffic rules were also raised and people were encouraged to follow them to prevent any untoward incidents.

Prayagraj's literary and cultural identity will reach new heights

Groundbreaking ceremony for Sahitya Teerth (Literary Park) completed

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Prayagraj. With the aim of establishing Prayagraj's literary and cultural heritage on the world stage, the groundbreaking ceremony for the Sahitya Teerth (Literary Park) project, under the Prayagraj Municipal Corporation, was held on Sunday at the Civil Lines site. At the groundbreaking ceremony, Mayor Umesh Chandra Ganesh Kesarwani, in the presence of literary figures, councillors, social workers, and prominent citi-



zens, performed the ceremonial groundbreaking ceremony and announced the start of construction. In his address, Mayor Mr. Kesarwani stated that every possible effort will be made to ensure Prayagraj's

name is etched on the world's consciousness as a literary pilgrimage site. This site will become a pilgrimage center dedicated to Prayagraj's literary heritage, displaying statues of great literary figures,

their biographies, and their works. Besides, literary rituals and cultural events will also be organised here regularly. He also informed that the construction work of Sahitya Teerth project will be done by C&DS (Construction and Design Services). This place will become a centre showcasing the literary and cultural heritage of Prayagraj. The programme was conducted by Dr. Abha Madhur Srivastava. On this occasion, litterateur Shailendra Madhur said that this is a historic moment not only for

Prayagraj but for the entire Hindi literary world. The initiative taken by the Mayor is a matter of pride for the litterateurs. Many scholars including litterateurs Ashok Besharm, Ram Kailash Pal Prayagi, Abha Madhur Srivastava, Jitendra Mishra Jalaj, Santosh Shukla Samarth, Amit Jaunpuri, Yogesh Jhamajham, Pawan Srivastava expressed their views in the programme. The Mayor honoured all the litterateurs and writers. On this occasion, area councillor Ran Vijay Dabhu Bhai expressed

his gratitude and Rohit Singh Rana gave detailed information on the concept of Sahitya Teerth. A large number of litterateurs and citizens including Ramesh Pasi, Girjesh Mishra, Narsingh, Ashok Jain, Raunak Gupta, Kiran Jaiswal, Ayush Agrahari, Sanskar Sinha, Mayank Yadav, Neeraj Tandon, Mithlesh Singh, Sunita Chopra, Sonika Agarwal, Sushil Kharbanda, Ram Lochan Sahu, Krishna, Ravi Mishra were present in the Bhoomi Pujan programme.

A job fair will be held on November 13th

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

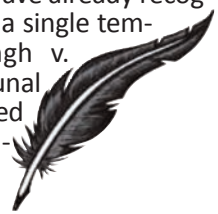
A job fair will be held on November 13th. Various private sector companies will conduct recruitment for approximately 1,500 vacant positions at the job fair. Akhand Bharat Sandesh Prayagraj. The Regional Employment Office, Prayagraj, will organize a job fair on November 13, 2025, at The Palm Academy, Karailbag, Prayagraj, starting at 10:00 a.m. Various private sector companies will conduct recruitment for approximately 1,500 vacant positions at the fair.

Candidates with high school/intermediate/graduate/ITI/Diploma/B.Tech/MBA degrees, aged 18 to 45, can participate in the job fair by registering on the Rojgar Sangam portal (rojgaarsangam.up.gov.in) and submitting photocopies of all their educational certificates, mark sheets, and caste certificates. Candidates can obtain detailed information regarding the vacancies on the Rojgar Sangam portal. There will be no travel allowance for participation in this fair, according to the Assistant Employment Officer, Prayagraj.

Editorial

Tax terror and India's same-sex couples

When a homemaker and a lawyer went to the Bombay High Court this month, they were not asking for the right to marry; they were asking for the right not to be taxed for giving gifts to each other. In their petition, they argued that Section 56(2)(x) of the Income Tax Act exempts gifts between spouses from tax, but does not extend that exemption to same-sex couples since the law does not recognise them as spouses. In their case, the absence of marriage recognition meant the presence of a tax bill. It is a reminder that even without entering the debate on marriage equality, the law is already punishing same-sex couples in small and large ways that are rarely discussed. This tax case is not an isolated problem. It is one of the many points in a web of laws where the word 'spouse' decides who is entitled and who is excluded. Inheritance laws under the Hindu Succession Act, 1956 or the Indian Succession Act, 1925 give priority to a legally recognised spouse, leaving partners as legal strangers. Many states also offer concessional stamp duty for property transfers between spouses, but same-sex couples pay the higher rate because they cannot produce a marriage certificate. In practice, it can mean paying significantly more for the same transaction. These gaps are not just about money; they appear in moments of crisis. Research on discrimination in Indian hospitals has shown that queer people are often denied recognition of their chosen partners as next of kin. In emergencies, this can mean being refused entry to an intensive care unit (ICU) or being blocked from giving consent for urgent treatment. The Surrogacy (Regulation) Act of 2021 and the Assisted Reproductive Technology (Regulation) Act, 2021 go further, excluding same-sex couples from surrogacy and restricting adoption to single individuals or married heterosexual couples. In effect, the laws treat them as incapable of raising a child together, no matter their stability or commitment. Employment rules reinforce the same pattern. In government service, Leave Travel Concession (LTC), medical reimbursement, and family pension benefits are tied to a recognised spouse. Private companies may choose to extend coverage, but the default language in most HR manuals mirrors the government's. Studies of India's insurance sector show that traditional group health insurance schemes frequently exclude same-sex partners, and even where some progressive companies extend coverage, it is not guaranteed by law. The Employees' Provident Fund allows broader nominations, but pension rules under the Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995 limit eligibility to spouses or children. Even when a company accepts a same-sex partner as a nominee, it is a discretionary gesture, not a right protected by law. Immigration policy adds another layer of instability. A foreign national married to an Indian citizen can apply for a dependent visa or be registered as an Overseas Citizen of India, but same-sex partners cannot. They rely on tourist or business visas that require regular renewals, creating a constant risk of separation if paperwork lapses or rules change. These are invisible forms of insecurity that heterosexual couples rarely have to confront. The lack of recognition also weakens legal protections when relationships end. The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005, while covering women in domestic relationships, leaves uncertainty about its application to same-sex couples. Maintenance and alimony provisions in personal laws and the Criminal Procedure Code apply to spouses, shutting out partners who may have been financially dependent for years. Without these remedies, breakups can mean abrupt eviction, loss of shared assets, and no legal recourse. India's own courts have already recognised that families do not fit a single template. In the *Deepika Singh v. Central Administrative Tribunal* judgment, the court observed that such atypical manifestations of the family unit.



Can fundamentally change the reality of Balochistan?

No single power—be it the United States, China, Russia, Iran, or India—can fundamentally change the reality of Balochistan or the lives of its inhabitants on either side of the border. Borders always divide; they are never as "organic" or as "natural" as we imagine them. Balochistan remains a complex geographical and ethnographic conundrum. In interviews I have conducted with Baloch human rights activists, a stark reality often emerges: the people are not regarded as citizens, and their lives are not valued. This is not merely a humanitarian crisis—it is a strategic condition. For security analysts,

mastering the terrain is half the battle—after all, geopolitics is quite literally the politics of geography. The shared challenge facing India, China, Pakistan, and Iran is that, contrary to the neat abstractions of the nation-state, their borders stretch into regions better described as frontiers—zones of transition rather than lines of separation. These areas are dynamic, expansive, and marked by extreme poverty and shifting norms. The issue is not the rule of law, but the absence of it. This civilisational challenge defines Balochistan, as it does Kurdistan and, for decades, Afghanistan. How India engages with this liminal-

ity carries strategic consequences. Baloch militancy can be broadly divided into two ideological currents: First, the Baloch Liberation Army (BLA), a secular ethnonationalist insurgency opposing both Pakistan and China, echoes the outlook of the People's Defense Units (YPG) in Syria. Second, Jaysh al-Adl (Army of Justice), a Sunni-Jihadi group operating from the Iranian side of the border and a successor to Jundallah, resembles Al-Nusra Front in its tactics and ideology. Despite their ideological differences, both the BLA and Jaysh al-Adl groups engage in similar tactical operations.

Across Balochistan, irregular forces compete with Pakistani and Iranian security services for control over territory, populations, smuggling routes, and revenue. Control remains fluid.

The US designation of the BLA as a Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO) ostensibly responds to attack patterns. Yet, the focus on secular insurgents rather than jihadist actors creates a paradox—especially given the tactical symmetry across the border—emerging from overlapping identities, pulls and pressures. Baloch groups are held together by tribal, kinship, religious, and paramilitary networks.

Digital innovation and citizen-centric policies, aim to eliminate inefficiencies



As the Minister of Revenue and Land Reforms in Bihar, I am honoured to lead a department that forms the bedrock of our state's socio-economic framework under the dynamic leadership of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and the visionary guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Land is not merely an asset in Bihar; it is the foundation of livelihoods, heritage, and progress. Since assuming this role in February 2025, my team and I, in alignment with the state government's commitment to transformative governance, have prioritised reforms to modernise the land management system. These initiatives, rooted in digital innovation and citizen-centric policies, aim to eliminate inefficiencies, reduce disputes, and empower millions with secure property rights. They resonate with PM Modi's ambitious vision for a Viksit Bharat by 2047 and Nitish Kumar's relentless pursuit of a prosperous, inclusive Bihar. In this article, I highlight our key achievements, their impacts, and how they contribute to the shared vision of a developed India. PM Modi's Viksit Bharat 2047 vision, articulated in his historic 103-minute Independence Day speech on 15 August 2025 from the Red Fort, envisions India as a \$35 trillion economy by its centennial independence, leading globally in technology, defence, and inclusivity. He urged every institution and individual to work toward this goal, emphasising self-reliance (Atmanirbhar Bharat), innovation, and citizen empowerment. In Bihar,

Nitish Kumar's government has embraced this vision, driving policies that blend technological advancement with grassroots development. His leadership has been instrumental in transforming Bihar from a state of challenges to one of opportunities, with land and water reforms serving as critical pillars. Our initiatives in the Revenue and Land Reforms Department align seamlessly with PM Modi's call for a developed India and Nitish Kumar's focus on equitable growth, ensuring Bihar contributes significantly to the Viksit Bharat mission. Under the state government's digital-first approach, championed by Nitish Kumar, we have accelerated the Bihar Bhumi portal, a flagship platform that reflects PM Modi's Digital India vision and Bihar's commitment to ease of living. This portal enables landowners to access, verify, and update records remotely, streamlining processes like mutation and ownership verification. In February 2025, we extended the self-declaration window for plot details until February 2026, allowing citizens to provide their ownership details, plot numbers and areas to update Khatian

(record of rights) and online land record. This has allowed the processing of thousands of applications while reducing corruption and backlog, mirroring the state government's focus on transparency and PM Modi's success with national schemes like Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT). Bihar's pioneering Integrated Land Record Management System with Spatial Mutation portal, the first in India to automatically update land maps with property transactions, enhances transparency and reduces disputes, contributing to the Viksit Bharat goal of efficient governance. A statewide toll free helpline — 18003456215 — for land related issues has also been launched, facilitating information and complaint redressal and bringing government close to masses. The Rajaswa Maha Abhiyan, launched on 16 August and running until 20 September, is a testament to Nitish Kumar's emphasis on grassroots governance. This door-to-door campaign, which has seen the distribution of over 23 lakh Jamabandi (land register) copies and correction forms so far, leverages GIS mapping and drone surveys for precision. Panchayat-level camps

with laptops ensure real-time data entry, making services accessible in remote areas and embodying PM Modi's last-mile connectivity ethos and Bihar's inclusive development model. Integrated with the Bihar Bhumi portal, the campaign allows citizens to track applications, fostering trust and participation, which are the key tenets of both Viksit Bharat and Nitish Kumar's citizen-led governance. To amplify outreach, we engaged PR professionals to leverage social media platforms like X and Meta aligning with PM Modi's innovative communication strategies and Nitish Kumar's focus on public engagement. This has educated Biharis on land rights, driving transparency and participation, much like the state's successful awareness campaigns for schemes like Saat Nishchay. On 7 May this year, Bihar, under Nitish Kumar's visionary Jal-Jeevan-Hariyali Mission, became the first Indian state to launch the Gazetteer-cum-Atlas of Water Bodies, mapping over 550 rivers, 4,500 wetlands, and 1.06 lakh ponds with Unique Identification Numbers (UIDs). This initiative, inspired by water body depletion in Darbhanga, supports PM Modi's Jal Jeevan Mission and Viksit Bharat's sustainability goals, as well as Nitish Kumar's environmental agenda. Enriched with historical, socio-economic, and environmental data, the atlas aids anti-encroachment efforts, plans new ponds in water-scarce areas, and strengthens water conservation.

It aligns with PM Modi's praise for the Jal

Jeevan Mission's success in providing tap water to about 15.7 crore rural households and Nitish Kumar's focus on sustainable rural development, positioning Bihar as a model for water resource management. Beyond digitalisation, the state government has prioritised structural reforms to support PM Modi's vision of a streamlined, self-reliant governance framework and Nitish Kumar's goal of administrative efficiency. The Bihar Amin Cadre Rules, 2025, enforced in August, reorganise amins' cadres with seniority lists and performance-based promotions, ensuring a skilled workforce for land surveys. This supports the statewide survey, extended to December 2026, covering 661 villages with GPS and drone technology to update cadastral maps and resolve disputes. These efforts echo PM Modi's push for institutional reforms, as seen in his Task Force for Next-Generation Economic Reforms, and Nitish Kumar's focus on disciplined governance. Our district-wise ranking system, introduced in April 2025, evaluates performance on mutation efficiency and revenue collection, with Sheikhpura leading the state. This fosters competition and efficiency, aligning with PM Modi's call for accountability and Nitish Kumar's emphasis on performance-driven administration. We have also addressed disruptions like the recent survey workers' strike, reflecting the state government's resolve for uninterrupted progress, a principle shared with Viksit Bharat.

India-China ties — improvement signs are loud, problems sliding under the radar

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar recently warned journalists against linking present trends in India-China relations with India's more recent frustrations vis-à-vis the US. There is a strong degree of truth in this warning. Contrary to the prevailing analysis that Trump has induced India and China to improve and repair ties, the bilateral relationship has shown little to no sign of improvement and arguably has even deteriorated under the calmer surface. Let me explain. At present, the quantum of trends as well as indications of 'improved' ties in the bilateral relationship can be divided into four categories. First, a return to diplomatic and economic 'normalcy' such as the resumption of flights, religious pilgrimages and border trade. Second, increasing talk of economic convergence amid a gradual return of Chinese investments. Third, growing peace and tranquillity at the border. And finally, strategic/geopolitical convergences in the age of

Trump. Across all these four domains, 'improvement signs' are loud but misleading or chimeral, while 'deteriorating' trends are getting more entrenched under the radar. This entails signs such as resumption (or planned resumption) of direct flights, exchange of journalists, enhanced people-to-people ties, issuing of visas for businesspersons, resumption of border trade and the sharing of hydrological data. The drip-feed of small but persistent and incremental news pertaining to these developments shapes and reinforces the idea that ties are improving over time. However, this is based on a false causal theory. The two countries are aiming to reinstate exchanges and processes that were the norm until 2019. However, no one was ever of the view back in 2019 that relations were positive and improving because such exchanges existed. In other words, the resumption of these processes says very little about real improvement in ties.

India must move Japan from 'old friend' trap to real partners

After months of diplomatic turbulence, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is finally embarking on a bilateral visit that matters. It's not Washington, not Moscow, not Beijing, but Tokyo. Japan has always been a natural partner for India. It's a relationship anchored in shared democratic values, economic complementarities, and maritime imperatives. Yet despite this "naturalness", India-Japan ties have rarely lived up to their potential. This visit, the first by an Indian Prime Minister in seven years, comes at a moment of strategic fluidity: after a heartbreak with the United States, a misconstrued reset with China, and an even more misconstrued rebound with Russia. Against this backdrop, turning to Japan is not only timely but necessary. The timing itself is deliberate. The visit precedes India's participation in the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), a grouping increasingly dominated by China, backed by Russia, and including Pakistan, which is ever more entangled in Beijing's orbit. If India is to remain relevant in this shifting regional balance—and beyond—anchoring its partnership with Japan provides an indispensable

counterweight. The India-Japan story is often told with nostalgia. Conferences, policy papers, and panel discussions frequently dwell on the sentimental—the Azad Hind Fauj, the elephant gifted to Japan, or Rabindranath Tagore's exchanges with Japanese thinkers. Even in more contemporary discussions, Shinzo Abe's landmark "Confluence of the Two Seas" speech in 2007 often dominates, credited with inspiring the vision of a free and open Indo-Pacific and, eventually, the Quad. These legacies are important, but excessive reliance on them has created a trap. When a partnership is framed primarily through the lens of "past goodness", it risks obscuring the urgency of present opportunities. Too much of India-Japan engagement has either been anchored in historical frameworks or subordinated to the Quad, leaving bilateral possibilities underexplored. For a relationship described as "natural", its underperformance in tangible outcomes is striking. India and Japan's partnership has underdelivered because New Delhi has played it too safe. For one, it has not kept pace with Tokyo's transformation into a more assertive security actor,

leaving defence technology cooperation underexploited and co-development opportunities on the table. Trade too has been disappointing—stuck around \$22 billion despite decades of Japanese investment. Japan's vast development footprint in South Asia through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has barely been woven into India's regional playbook. Most importantly, India still clings to a narrow view of security, ignoring Japan's sharper recognition that the Euro-Atlantic and Indo-Pacific are now inseparably linked.

By staying cautious instead of ambitious, India has allowed a "natural partnership" to remain underwhelming, missing the chance to shape the regional order alongside one of its most reliable allies. To be sure, there are visible positives with the latest visit. Japan is expected to invest around \$68 billion in India's semiconductor and other tech sectors, part of its strategy to diversify away from China. For decades, Japan's overseas development assistance (ODA) was its primary foreign policy tool, compensating for constitutional restrictions on military engagement.

Citywide development projects to receive about Rs 800 crore

Delhi: Various development projects in the city of Delhi were funded by the government and allocated to civic organizations. The sum total was Rs 820 crore for the Municipal Corporation of Delhi, Rs 8 crore for the NDMC, and Rs 5.5 crore for the Cantonment Board. Biomining operations at three Delhi garbage sites were sanctioned with Rs 50.8 crore as part of the first tranche of the basic tax assignment for the fiscal year 2025-26. The rapid biomining at these places and the subsequent decrease in rubbish mounds will be made possible by this amount, according to MCD. The dump sites in Okhla, Bhalswa, and Ghazipur each received releases of Rs 20.3 crore, Rs 20.8 crore, and Rs 9.7 crore, respectively. The Delhi government is dedicated to promptly paying its fair part to local bodies, according to chief minister Rekha Gupta. "Local bodies play a key role in that journey to transform



Free electricity up to 1,200 units for Ramleela and Durga Puja committees

Delhi: The Delhi government will provide free electricity up to 1,200 units to Ramleela and Durga Puja committees and meters for the same will be installed on just 25% security deposit, Chief Minister Rekha Gupta said.

Moreover, to ease administrative hurdles, the government will issue no-objectionable certificates (NOC) for various services through a single-window system, eliminating the need for

Delhi into a modern and developed capital," she said. Considering this, our

these organising committees to approach multiple departments, the CM said. Gupta added that public amenities such as toilets, security arrangements, health-care services, ambulances and fire brigades will also be ensured at the venues of Ramleela and Durga Puja. She made the announcements after meeting representatives of Ramleela and Durga Puja committees at the Delhi Secretariat.

government disbursed the initial funding of 820 crore rupees. to the MCD, 8 crore

Delhi has extended its electric vehicle policy until November

Delhi: Delhi government has decided to extend the deadline for its Electric Vehicle (EV) Policy by four months, bringing it to November 15. This decision was made since a draft of the policy is currently being reviewed and is awaiting clearance. According to Pankaj Singh, the minister of transport, the document is currently undergoing revisions and will likely be finalized in at least four months. For the time being, we have prolonged the present policy until November 15 and may do so again if needed, he stated. In order to make sure that everyone may enjoy a



cleaner, more sustainable transportation system, we are talking to professionals and looking into all possible possibilities. An increase in EV registrations and a general uptick in interest have been observed recently. The present electric vehicle policy has been extended multiple times since its

inception in 2020 and its expiration in August 2023. At present, e-rickshaws and e-carts can receive a 25% purchase incentive up to 5,500.

, two-wheelers can receive 5,000 per kWh of battery capacity up to 30,000, and e-cycles can receive 30,000. Additionally, 30,000 can be subtracted from the

NDMC approves night food bazar at Connaught Place & India Gate

Delhi: NDMC approved 16 major proposals aimed at improving civic infrastructure, enhancing public services and promoting citizen welfare. Among the key initiatives that received the nod was a 'night food bazar' at Connaught Place and India Gate. The project

will see 50-60 food trucks operating daily between 10.30pm and 1am, offering a wide range of food and enriching the night-time experience for locals and tourists. The concept was proposed by Delhi minister and NDMC ex officio member Parvesh Verma. He

said the project will be developed along the lines of successful night markets in other parts of India.

"Indore's Sarafa Bazaar, a jewellery market by day, transforms into a night street food market, serving a wide variety of local delicacies late into the night.

Govt to involve corporates to clean up the river

Delhi: The government of Delhi has reached out to corporations in an effort to clean up the Yamuna River, level trash dumps, and reduce air pollution, among other environmental issues. Attendees at the "Revival of Yamuna and Delhi, A CSR Dialogue" event at Raj Niwas included VK Saxena, the lieutenant governor, Rekha Gupta, the chief minister, and Pravesh ma, the minister of water. Had conversations with top executives, government officials, and trade group representatives. Delhi Jal Board senior officials laid out a plan for how corporate social responsibility funds could be used. According to Gupta, businesses can help with sewage treatment by installing drains and tiny STPs



along the banks, as well as by contributing technological solutions. She proposed establishing a corpus fund as part of CSR. She went on to say that DJB will be the one to supply the list of projects eligible to receive the funding. The environmental problems in Delhi can only be solved if the government, businesses, and

citizens all pull together, and maintaining the Yamuna's purity is one of my government's top priorities.

The LG stated that the contamination of rivers, garbage mounds, and air had brought "international disrepute" to the city and were issues that the new government had inherited.

Paharganj hotels fined by DPCC for unlawful groundwater extraction

Delhi: For unlawfully using groundwater without paying for it, 441 Paharganj hotels and guesthouses have been fined Rs 1 lakh apiece by the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC). By August, out of the total, these establishments had yielded 4.28 crore rupees. According to the chief secretary's statement before the National Green Tribunal (NGT), 555 hotels and guesthouses had their groundwater use rates calculated by the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) from 2014 to 2015.

Delhi: With an inventive proposal to have them handled by evening courts starting, traffic challans—of which a backlog of more than two crore has accumulated in the district courts—may now be more easily resolved.

The courts will meet on all working days from 5-7 PM in all district courts under the name Evening Courts for Traffic Challans (ECTC). Beginning on December 20, 11 night-time courts in Saket, Rohini, Dwarka, Karkardooma, Tis



Hazari, and Patiala House will work to resolve 2,200 cases per day. With the exception of those marked as "contested challan," "sent to digital court challan," and "cognizance declined challan," all traffic challans

displayed on the Delhi traffic police webpage that are pending on or before December will be handled.

Direct downloads of the challan slips are available <https://traffic.delhipolice.gov.in/vecourtddc>.

Returning fourth-year students at 72% under NEP 2020's FYUP

Delhi: Nearly 72% of eligible students have opted to continue with the fourth year of Delhi University's Four-Year Undergraduate Programme (FYUP) under NEP 2020, according to Vice Chancellor Yogesh Singh. Up to the start of the new academic session on August 1, the university has allowed students to choose not to complete the fourth year. Out of more than 72,000 pupils, 20,221 have chosen not to continue, leaving more than 50,000. The fact that students are willing to opt out of the third



year demonstrates their value, which is quite encouraging, Singh told the media. All institutions affiliated with Delhi University will begin the fourth year on August 1. As part of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, the FYUP provides several ways out: a certificate after the first year, a diploma.

MCD gets nod to invite agencies for Phase-III biomining at Delhi landfills

Delhi: The mayor of Delhi has given the MCD the green light to ask agencies to participate in the Phase-III biomining of trash at the Ghazipur, Bhalswa, and Okhla landfills. In order to finalize the rate and agency, a proposal will be presented to the standing committee. We anticipate that construction will begin shortly, and the method to grant anticipatory approval has been implemented.

A 20-kilometer section of the Munak Canal will be maintained by the Delhi government

Delhi: Chief minister Rekha Gupta said that the maintenance of a 20-kilometer section of the Munak Canal, which runs from Bawana to Inderlok, will now be handled by the Delhi government instead of Haryana. This move is part of an effort to strengthen control over the canal, which is an important water lifeline for Delhi, and to address growing safety concerns. Two days prior to this decision, two boys, Aniket, nine years old, and Krishna, thirteen years old, drowned in the



canal. This tragedy renewed previous worries about safety along the waterway and sparked requests for more preventative

measures. Built between 2003 and 2012 as a section of the Western Yamuna Canal system, the 102-km Munak Canal provides

Delhi govt drafts new liquor policy: Outlets may exit residential areas; price parity with neig-

Delhi: In an effort to make the city of Delhi a better place to shop, the government has implemented a new excise policy with the goal of bringing in liquor outlets that are cleaner and better kept. There has been talk of moving liquor stores away from residential areas with a high concentration of people. Prices in Delhi should be comparable to those in

nearby states, according to the government. Key structural adjustments are being explored, according to government officials, while the policy is still being developed. A high-level committee led by PWD minister Parvesh Verma talked with representatives from the alcohol business for the first time.

Members of the group an essential lifeline for Delhi.

MCD committees fail to show up for meetings, prompting BJP leader to submit an appeal

Delhi: There has been a request for improved participation to aid progress in Delhi's Municipal Corporation, as councillor attendance at newly constituted committees is minimal. After almost two years of political uncertainty, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has finally



formed many committees.

However, authorities are now reporting that they are facing a new challenge: an alarming number of councillors are failing to attend meetings. Parvesh Wahi, the head of the house, wrote to all of the municipal councillors on Monday, urging them to "ensure their presence on scheduled

times" and to "understand the importance of the meetings." Oversight of topics such as public health, education, sanitation, horticulture, licensing, and disciplinary proceedings are supervised by around twenty statutory, ad hoc, and special committees within the company.

Pic: X

Rajinikanth to be honoured at IFFI 2025

Superstar Rajinikanth will be felicitated for completing 50 years in cinema at the closing ceremony of the 56th International Film Festival of India (IFFI), which will take place in Goa from November 20 to 28, 2025.

The festival will showcase over 240 films from 81 countries, including 13 world premieres, 4 international premieres, and 46 Asian premieres, and received a record 2,314 submissions from 127 countries, underscoring its global prominence.

"IFFI 2025 embraces inclusivity and diversity, spotlighting Indian regional cinema while nurturing

emerging filmmakers and digital storytelling," said Ashwini Vaishnav, Minister of Information and Broadcasting.

The opening film is Brazilian auteur Gabriel Mascaro's *The Blue Trail*, winner of the Silver Bear, Grand Jury Prize at Berlin 2025, following a 75-year-old woman on a defiant Amazon journey.

Japan is the Country of Focus, and the festival will honour legendary filmmakers including Guru Dutt, Ritwik Ghatak, and Salil Chowdhury.

Masterclasses by Vidhu Vinod Chopra, Aamir Khan, Ravi Varman, and others, along with screenings of award-winning films from Cannes, Berlinale, Venice, and TIFF, round out the festival's offerings.

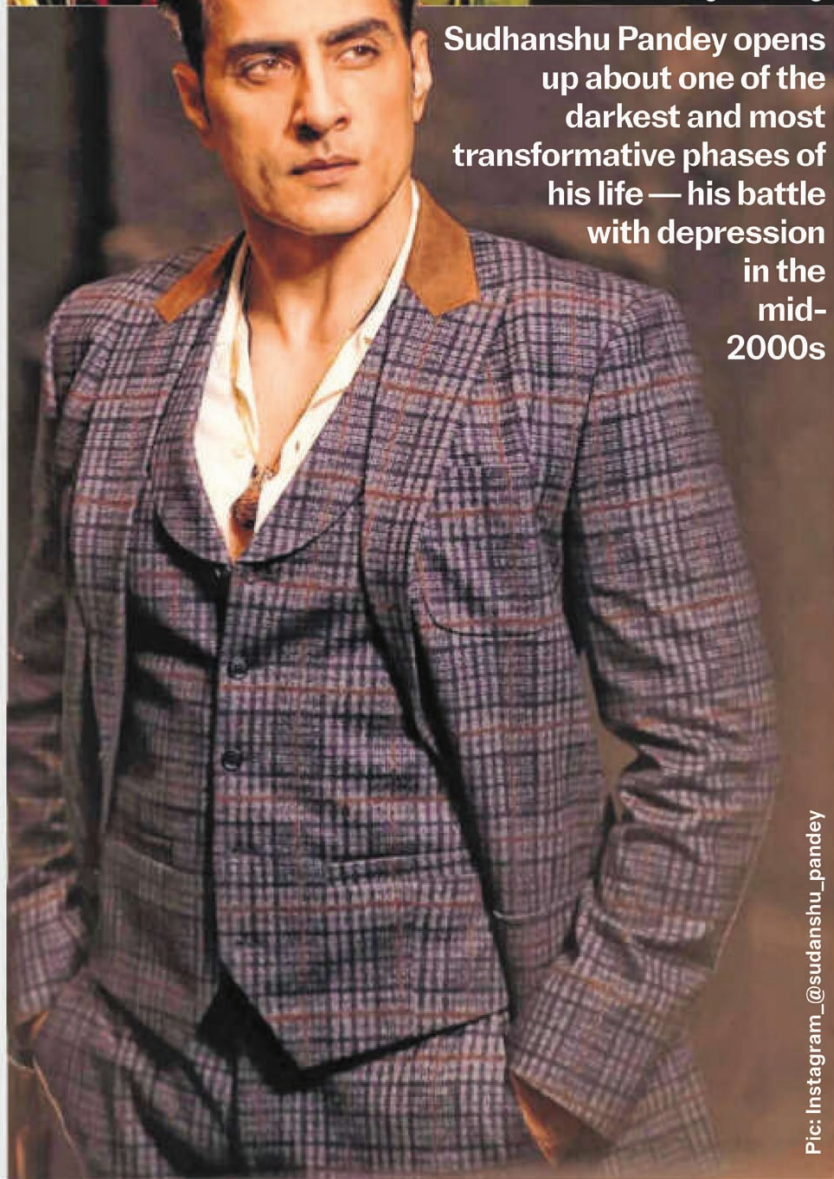
Anupam Kher's *Calorie* premieres at IFFI

Anupam Kher starrer *Calorie* will have its International Premiere at the 56th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Goa on 23 November 2025, in the prestigious Cinema of the World section. Directed by Eisha Marjara and produced by Joe Balass, the Indo-Canadian drama explores grief, identity, and healing within a Sikh-Canadian family. The film features Ellora Patnaik, Dolly Ahluwalia, Shanaya Dhillon-Birmhan, and Ashley Ganger. Having won Best Feature, Best Director, and Best Actor at IFFSA Toronto, *Calorie* releases in Canadian theatres on 28 November 2025, offering a moving cross-cultural family story of love, loss, and reconciliation.



A still from Singh Is Kinng

Sudhanshu Pandey opens up about one of the darkest and most transformative phases of his life — his battle with depression in the mid-2000s



Pic: Instagram @sudanshu_pandey

Sudhanshu opens up on depression

Sudhanshu Pandey, known for his powerful performances in both television and films, recently joined

for a candid conversation. The actor opened up about one of the darkest and most transformative phases of his life - his battle with depression in the mid-2000s. Speaking exclusively about the experience, the *Anupamaa* actor revealed that he suffered from severe panic attacks and a deep depressive phase that even doctors failed to diagnose initially. He shared how he found healing through faith, self-awareness, and open conversations - and why he now believes that phase was, in fact, a 'blessing in disguise.'

Recalling how his mental health struggle began, Sudhanshu shared, "Access you would look for only when you know that you're going through this. When you don't even know what has happened to you, then it becomes a very dangerous thing. I had no idea what was happening to me, even my doctor didn't. She couldn't recognise what it was. She sent me for an ECG. I was rushed to the hospital but everything came back normal. I still couldn't breathe beyond a point. It was a terrible panic attack. Terrible, terrible - like really

terrible. And in a matter of just a few seconds, I spiraled down into the deepest, darkest state of mind, which is called depression. I reached there, and I had no idea. In my mind, there was a world that I could see, and I was all alone."

Describing the depth of loneliness he experienced during that period, he said, "It was like watching planet Earth from deep dark space. You're just suspended there, floating, and you can see the planet Earth from far away. That kind of exclusion you go through - completely alone. It took me some time to understand it. Then I went to a psychiatrist, a friend of mine, who told me what it was and prescribed a tablet to calm me down. I took it and felt like a zombie. I said, 'This is not happening; I can't take tablets,' and I stopped. Four years later, I realised this is not permanent. I said to myself, 'Sudhanshu Pandey, this is not your end. You are here for much bigger things.'"

Opening up about his faith and how spirituality guided him through the darkness, Sudhanshu revealed, "I surrendered to *Mahakal* during that time. I started praying far more than I used to and all those things kept helping me. It took me four years to come out of it. But that phase was

one of the best phases of my life. It made me look at life differently, understand the value of life and people, and that's when I started my inward journey. I got in touch with my consciousness. It was a blessing in disguise because it made me a much better actor. It really changed me from inside."

Recalling how he continued working even during his lowest phase, the actor said, "I was shooting for *Singh Is Kinng* in 2007 while I was suffering from this. For two months, we were in Australia, on the Gold Coast. Ranvir Shorey, who had also gone through something similar, was carrying one of those pills. He gave one to me and said, 'Keep this — it's SOS. In case you feel it's not working, take this.' He was a lot of help. Because when you talk to other people, you feel so much better."

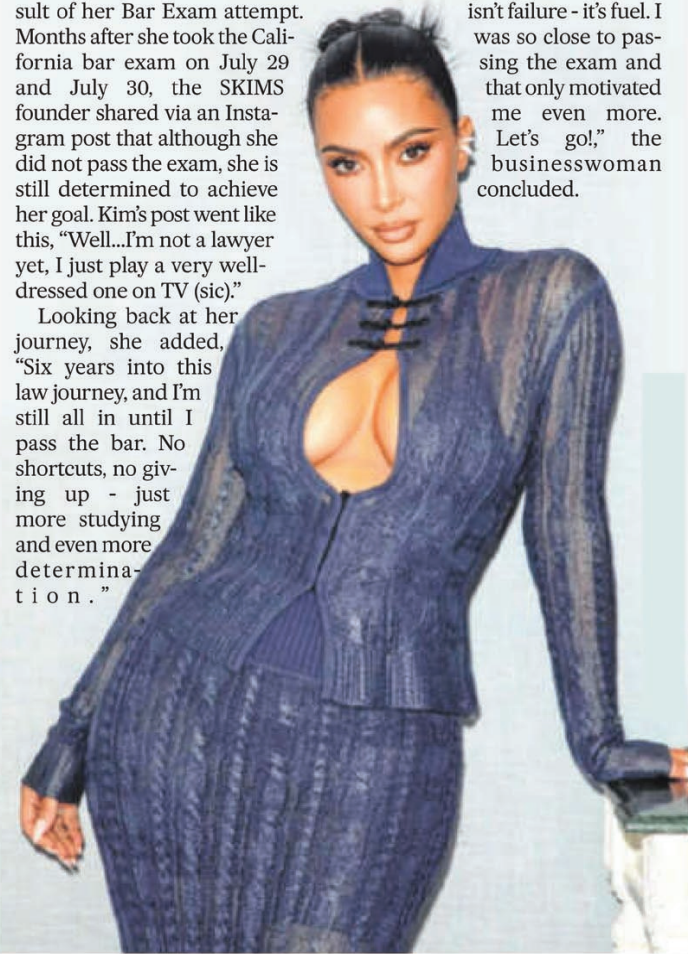
Emphasizing the importance of opening up about mental health, Sudhanshu concluded, "Talking is very important. Speaking out about it is very important. When you're going through something, you must talk because that really makes a lot of difference."

Kim Kardashian misses bar exam

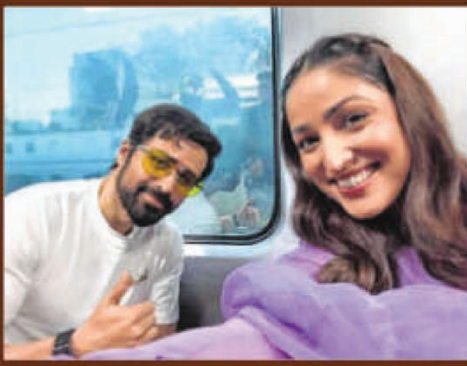
Reality star Kim Kardashian revealed she's 'not a lawyer yet' as she shared the result of her Bar Exam attempt. Months after she took the California bar exam on July 29 and July 30, the SKIMS founder shared via an Instagram post that although she did not pass the exam, she is still determined to achieve her goal. Kim's post went like this, "Well...I'm not a lawyer yet, I just play a very well-dressed one on TV (sic)."

Looking back at her journey, she added, "Six years into this law journey, and I'm still all in until I pass the bar. No shortcuts, no giving up - just more studying and even more determination."

"Thank you to everyone who has supported and encouraged me along the way so far. Failing short isn't failure - it's fuel. I was so close to passing the exam and that only motivated me even more. Let's go!", the businesswoman concluded.



Yami, Emraan surprise fans



Actors Yami Gautam Dhar and Emraan Hashmi, currently promoting their film *Haq*, were recently spotted at Nallasopara railway station. The duo also made a surprise visit to a movie theatre near Vasai during a screening of their film, with several posts of the impromptu appearances going viral on social media. In one viral post, the actors were seen waiting on the station platform, both wearing masks, accompanied by their security team, and interacting before boarding the train. For the outing, Yami wore a lilac suit, while Emraan kept it casual in a white t-shirt. Fans appreciated the spontaneous meet-and-greet moments with the stars.



Viral internet photos of Kirti and Rajeev

Kirti Kulhari finds love again

Actress Kirti Kulhari, 40, has found love again, years after her 2021 separation from husband and actor Saahil Sehgal. She is now reportedly dating her *Four More Shots Please!* co-star Rajeev Siddhartha, 39. Although the two were not paired opposite each other on the show, Kirti and Rajeev have seemingly found love in one another.

While Kirti and Rajeev are yet to make their relationship

official, their cosy photos have gone viral on social media, adding more fuel to the dating rumours and seemingly confirming that they are indeed a couple. While the timeline of their relationship remains unclear, Kirti once shared a photo with Rajeev in which the two were seen holding hands inside a car. Along with the picture, she wrote, "Have a beautiful time love. Till we meet again," and tagged Rajeev in the photo.



Pics: IMDb/X

MJ BIOPIC SETS BENCHMARK

Teaser trailer crosses 116 million views, becoming the most-watched music biopic preview ever

The much-awaited biopic on the King of Pop, Michael Jackson, has already set a record even before its release. The teaser trailer for the film, starring Jaafar Jackson as his legendary uncle, has taken the internet by storm.

Record-breaking trailer takes the Internet by storm
The trailer has amassed over 116 million views within just a couple of days of its launch. With this, it has officially become the most-viewed music biopic trailer of all time. Within just 24 hours of its release, the trailer garnered a staggering 116.2 million views worldwide, according to WaveMetric. It also marks Lionsgate's biggest trailer to date.

The film is all set to hit the big screens on April 24, 2026

Solo career and 1980s stardom
The story will also give a glimpse of Jackson's solo career and his unprecedented fame in the 1980s, a decade that cemented his status as the 'King of Pop' through music, iconic dance moves, and record-shattering albums.

From humble beginnings to global fame

The film traces Michael Jackson's remarkable evolution — from his humble beginnings as a young boy with extraordinary talent to his rise as one of the most influential entertainers in the world. It delves into his formative years performing alongside his siblings in the Jackson 5.

Jaafar Jackson channels the King of Pop

The trailer showcases Jaafar flawlessly recreating Michael's signature dance moves, including the iconic moonwalk, along with a glimpse of the legendary thriller sequence. It will reportedly begin screening in theaters next week.



Director Antoine Fuqua

Xbox, sales, and other businesses face Microsoft's worst layoff in years

Delhi:

Microsoft is cutting off 9,000 workers, its second huge lay-off in months and largest in over two years. Microsoft announced layoffs in its Xbox video game business and other departments. A memo to state officials listed 830 Redmond, Washington-based Microsoft employees as laid off. Microsoft called the layoffs "organizational changes" needed to operate in a "dynamic marketplace" and will affect numerous teams worldwide, including its sales business.

The corporation won't specify how many layoffs it had, but it was approximately 4% of its personnel a year earlier. Xbox CEO Phil Spencer wrote to gaming division staff Wednesday that



the changes will position the company "for enduring success and allow us to focus on strategic growth areas." Xbox would "follow Microsoft's lead in removing layers of management to increase agility and effectiveness," Spencer stated. MS had 228,000 full-time employees in June 2024, its last annual report. According to Microsoft, the latest layoffs would remove less than 4% of that staff. However, it has had at least three layoffs this.

Centre will borrow 8L cr, 54% of the objective

The government plans to borrow Rs 8 lakh crore, 54% of its Rs 14.8 lakh crore FY26 borrowing, in the first half. It didn't front-load the borrowing program to avoid raising rates while the RBI pumped record liquidity into the system. Since the market reported little demand for 30-year and longer bonds, the government announced it would borrow less in FY26. Thus, front-loading of the borrowing program has been avoided due to government (fiscal consolidation without compromising quality of expenditure).

Embark on the InvIT expressway with Gadkari's invitation to investors

Delhi : Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) will offer units valued at 25,000 crore in its infrastructure investment trust (InvIT) issue this fiscal year to retail investors. The state-run road builder is now pursuing ambitious goals, including the completion of the monetisation of over 50,000 crore worth of highway assets and the construction of 10,000 km of roadways. This ambitious endeavor aims to entice small investors to the highways. In its pursuit of higher-quality consultants, NHAI will also forgo



the habit of going with the lowest bidder when preparing highway detailed project reports (DPR). After all, a separate cadre would be formed by the NHAI subsidiary responsible for border road construction. According to Gadkari, the objectives

of the new regulations were to reduce India's logistics costs, which are currently over ten percent, and to construct infrastructure that meets international standards. "I am confident that with the work we have done to improve mobility in the country, the coun-

Bank loan growth drops for eighth straight month in February, RBI data reveals

Delhi: Central bank statistics revealed that personal and credit card loans fell for the eighth straight month in February due to Reserve Bank of India tougher policies. Last month, banks' credit rose 12% year-over-year, slower than 16.6% a year earlier,

excluding HDFC Bank's merger. Housing Development Finance Corp, Loans rose 11% in February, compared to 20.5% a year earlier, including the merger. In January, loan growth fell to 12.5% excluding the merger and 11.4% including it. Retail

demand for unsecured loans drove strong loan growth for several years in the banking sector. However, in late 2023, the RBI tightened capital requirements for personal, credit card, and non-banking finance company loans. In its Mumbai headquarters.

Minimum age for cab aggregator vehicles is 8 years

Delhi : All vehicles, including cars, buses, three-wheelers, and motorbikes, must be at least eight years old before aggregators like Rapido, Ola, and Uber may board. In updated regulations for aggregators, the road transport ministry stated that they must also adhere to goals established by state governments for the proportion of electric and zero-emission vehicles in their fleet. A driver's license and vehicle permit must be prominently placed on the back of the front seat next to the driver, as stated by the government, so that passengers may easily view them.



Although some jurisdictions already let private motorcycles and three-wheelers use aggregators, the regulation has been updated to explicitly include these vehicles in order to clarify things, as certain states do not permit bikes on these platforms.

According to the rules, aggregators must verify that "they are fit to be on-boarded" by conducting a psychological evaluation of the drivers. It was stated that aggregators have no authority to forbid or limit on-board drivers from using

Birla Co. recovers Rs 2 crore in stolen digital gold

Delhi : Hackers breached the ABCD mobile app run by Aditya Birla Capital and stole digital gold valued at approximately Rs 1.95 crore from 435 user accounts, according to Delhi. On June 9, the scam was exposed after multiple consumers contacted the company's call center to express their dissatisfaction with the theft of their digital gold. Concerned about this, the company's technical staff launched an internal investigation and filed a first information report. According to our sources, the affected accounts now have their balances returned by the company.

Delhi : After conversations with the finance ministry about the declining share of current and savings accounts in total deposits, public sector banks are reconsidering the requirement for minimum savings account balances. Since Canara Bank, Bank of Baroda, Punjab National Bank, and Indian Bank have eliminated this rule, customers who fail to maintain the required amount will not be penalized. Finance ministry authorities may have questioned banks about penalizing clients



who don't keep minimal balance in a recent meeting. Slowing low-cost current and savings account deposits raised concerns. RBI's financial stability report stated that "banks' liability profile is changing with the share of higher-cost term deposits and CDs growing compared to low-cost current account and savings

account (Casa) deposits" Jan Dhan data reveals that many of these accounts were originally dormant, but balances climbed steadily, lenders said. Traditional public sector banks had lower balance requirements than private banks and waived Jan Dhan account requirements. Private banks waive minimum balance requirements on pay accounts and accounts with a 'relationship value' threshold, which covers fixed deposits and other assets, in addition to Jan Dhan accounts.

Center permits aggregators to use white board bikes for passenger rides.

Delhi: The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways' 'Motor Vehicles Aggregator Guidelines 2025' aims to establish a light-touch regulation framework while addressing user safety and driver welfare. The guideline suggested that the state government allow aggregators to share non-transport motorcycles for passenger travel, reducing traffic congestion and vehicular pollution and providing affordable passenger mobility, hyperlocal delivery, and livelihood opportunities. The guideline states that the State government may allow passengers to travel on non-transport motorcycles under sub-section (3) of Section 67 of the Act. "The State government may, under sub-section (3) of Section 67 of the Act,



Total bids for three initial public offerings (IPOs) reached 22.5 billion rupees

Delhi : Nearly 22,500 crore rupees were raised in three separate initial public offerings (IPOs) that concluded. The combined target amount for all three was 2,562 crore rupees. According to data from the exchanges and merchant bankers, the 119 crore rupee IPO of Globe Civil Projects was subscribed 86 times, the 853 crore rupee IPO of Ellenbarrie Industrial Gases was subscribed 22 times, and the 1,590 crore rupee IPO of Mumbai-based real estate giant Kalpataru was subscribed 2.3 times.

impose fees on the aggregator for issuance of authorisations permitting non-transport motorcycles to undertake journeys through

such aggregator, on a daily/ weekly/ fortnightly basis, as may be determined by the state government," noted.

GST compensation fund likely to have 95k cr surplus

Delhi: They requested anonymity and stated the GST Council may determine how to use this extra compensation cess. Cess funds are used for a specified purpose and are levied in addition to taxes. These insiders claimed the GST Council, the top indirect



tax decision-making body, will meet before or after the Monsoon session of

Parliament, depending on member availability. They said the Council meeting is overdue and coming soon. Last December 21, the 55th GST Council met in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan. They stated the Council will discuss tax rate rationalization, compliance

ease, and cess reform during its 56th meeting. The council may replace the GST compensation cess on sin goods and luxury commodities like cigarettes and cars with two specific-purpose levies to fund health and clean energy projects.

Jindals considered a reverse merger with Akzo to list paints



Cement is already listed. "It (Akzo Nobel India) is a structured transaction where, at the time of the reverse merger, and based on the performance of the merged entity, their (private equity investors') capital would get converted to a stake in the merged entity," Parth Jindal, CEO of JSW

Paints, said. The transaction will be financed by JSW Paints internal accruals and promoter contributions of one-third each, in addition to private equity. Akzo will move JSW, which entered the decorative paints industry in 2019, to fourth after Kansai Nerolac, Berger Paints, and Asian Paints.

Personal, small biz loans prop bank credit growth

Delhi: Credit to small businesses and advances in the personal loans segment have helped keep the year-to-date growth in bank credit in positive territory. According to data on sectoral deployment of bank credit as of May 2025 released by Reserve Bank of India, overall bank credit grew 0.2% from end March 2025 levels. The growth over 12 months (year-on-year) was 9%. The sluggish growth in credit was

because credit to large industries shrinking by 3.8% Rs 26.8 lakh crore - a drop of Rs 1.06 lakh crore from end March levels. Year on year credit to large industries was up 1% compared to 7.1% growth a year ago. Similarly, credit to the services segment fell by 1.4% to Rs 50.9 lakh crore, a drop of Rs 75,800 from end-March 2025. This was largely because of a 4.5% drop in bank credit to non-banking finance companies.



NCLAT reduces penalty on Google to 216 crore in Play Store matter

Delhi: Appellate tribunal NCLAT upheld the order passed by fair trade regulator CCI against Google for abusing its dominant position with respect to Play Store policies, however, reduced the penalty on the tech giant to ₹216 crore from 936.44 crore. A two-member bench comprising Chairperson Justice Ashok Bhushan and Technical Member Barun Mitra said Google "has abused its dominant position and has violated Section", however in some sections, violation was "not proved, but penalty was still leviable on proof of violation".

Small savings program interest rates unchanged

Delhi: For the fifth quarter, 2025, the government maintained interest rates on PPF and NSC. The rates of interest on various Small Savings Schemes for the first quarter of FY 2025-26, starting on 1 April 2025 and ending on 30 June 2025, would stay unaltered from those notified for the fourth quarter of a finance ministry notification. The notification states that Sukanya Samriddhi deposits will earn 8.2% interest, while three-year term deposits will earn 7.1%. Popular Public Provident Fund (PPF) and post office savings deposit scheme interest rates remain at 7.1% and 4%, respectively. Kisan Vikas Patra investments mature in 115 months at 7.5%. National Savings Certificate (NSC) interest rates will stay at 7.7% for April-June 2025. Like the current quarter, investors will earn 7.4% from the Monthly Income Scheme. Small savings programs, mostly run by post offices and banks, have had the same interest rates for the sixth quarter.

Briefs

NELSON (NZ)

New Zealand beats the West Indies



Kyle Jamieson bowled a superb final over to seal a nine-run win for New Zealand over the West Indies here on Sunday in the third Twenty20 International. New Zealand leads the three-match series 2-1 and Jamieson also bowled the last over in the second match on Thursday which New Zealand won by three runs. The West Indies won the first match by seven runs and all three matches have been decided in the final over. New Zealand managed only 177-9 batting first but seemed headed for a comfortable win when the West Indies slumped to 88-8 in the 13th over at Saxton Oval. Romario Shepherd scored 49 from 34 balls and Shamar Springer 39 from 20 as the West Indies rallied to reach the last over needing 14 runs to win.

NEW DELHI

Williams joins Indian team camp



Forward Ryan Williams, who has relinquished his Australian passport to become an Indian citizen, has joined the Khalid Jamil-coached national team camp in Bengaluru, the All India Football Federation (AIFF) said on Sunday. Born in Perth, the 32-year-old entered the camp along with defender Jay Gupta. "Forward Ryan Williams, and defender Jay Gupta have joined the senior men's national team camp in Bengaluru," the AIFF posted on X. In what could mark a new beginning for Indian football, the game's national federation AIFF earlier this week roped in two overseas-based players -- Williams and Abneet Bharti -- for the national camp ahead of the AFC Asian Cup.

NEW DELHI

LSG likely to rope in Abhay Sharma



Former India U-19 fielding coach **Abhay Sharma** is likely to join Lucknow Super

MUMBAI

Indian football is perhaps at its darkest phase right now with the country's premier football competition, the Indian Super League (ISL) in doldrums after the All India Football Federation (AIFF) received no bids by the November 7 deadline for the tender issued to find a commercial partner to run the league.

Some of India's most storied football clubs including Mohun Bagan, East Bengal and Kerala Blasters have halted their operations with uncertainty looming large about the future.

The AIFF had a 15-year contract with the Football Sports Development Limited (FSDL) to run the Indian Super League. The contract expires on December 8 and therefore the need for a new commercial partner which has led to the entire AIFF-FSDL saga that has now impacted Indian football.

That has proved difficult, with no parties putting forward a bid despite discussions. The AIFF had initiated the tender process on October 16, following the Supreme Court's approval of a new constitution in September. The federation sought a commercial partner for the next 15 years to manage the ISL's broadcasting, sponsorship, digital, and merchandising rights.

The main point of contention was the AIFF's financial demand: an annual payment of 37.5 crore or 5 percent of the gross revenue (whichever was higher), in addition to the responsibility for production, marketing, and the gradual adoption of the Video Assistant Referee (VAR).

Although, initially there was interest and queries from entities including FSDL, FanCode (owned by DreamSports) and a foreign consortium, none of the parties submitted a formal bid.

As per certain reports, It is

CRISIS | ISL's future is uncertain after AIFF tender finds no takers

Indian football in doldrums



Pic: X/Bengaluru FC

understood that the financial model proposed by the AIFF was deemed unsustainable

Clubs suspend operations, players in the dark

While uncertainty remained, the AIFF convinced several reluctant clubs to participate in the Super Cup with the hope of securing a partnership via the tender process. However, that move has failed miserably, and the Indian football community is heading into an abyss. Reports indicate that Kerala Blasters FC, Mohun Bagan and Chennaiyin FC have all suspended training and operations given the uncertainty of the ISL.

Bengaluru FC and Odisha FC are yet to start pre-season.

'Resume the league ASAP'

They have to start the league as soon as possible. We are only in November, if we can begin the league in December, there is still a good 4-5 months season that can be played. There is nothing more shameful than the nation's top league finding no takers.

Such is the state that many franchises could be forced to suspend salaries and terminate contracts to stay afloat.

"It is a very hard time indeed. We have been worried since the news came out.

No communication has been made to the players or the staff, and we are all in the dark. I will wait for a couple of days before speaking to the club and understanding what the situation is," said a reserve team coach speaking to The Free Press Journal.

"They have to start the league as soon as possible. We are only in November, if we can begin the league in December, there is still a good 4-5 months season that can be played. There is nothing more shameful than the nation's top league finding no takers. The AIFF should set aside their ego, think about the betterment of Indian football and get working towards a solution. If that involves sitting

down with the FSDL again, so be it. The players and fans are hurting, and it cannot go on like this," said former East Bengal and Mohun Bagan midfielder **Mehtab Hossain** (quote, in box).

As per reports, the FSDL was willing to extend its agreement despite losses of more than Rs 5,000 crore in the last 15 years. The Reliance-backed subsidiary, however, was booted out with AIFF preferring new partners to take Indian football a step ahead. It had set a minimum turnover amount of Rs 250 crore for companies to participate in the bid. A guaranteed amount of Rs 37.5 crore a year to Indian football was set in the tender terms.

Sundar named Impact Player of the Series in Aus

Washington's efforts underlined his value as a utility player for India

BRISBANE

Washington Sundar's growing stature as one of India's most versatile all-rounders was recognised when he received the 'Impact Player of the Series' medal following India's 2-1 win in the T20I rubber in Australia.

In a behind-the-scenes video titled 'Dressing Room BTS' posted by the BCCI on Sunday, Sundar was all smiles as team operations manager Rahil Khaja presented him with the award. "Coming over here and getting an opportunity to play in Australia is amazing, and to have contributed to the team's victory makes me definitely happy," said the 26-year-old Sundar after receiving the medal.

Sundar's performances through the series underlined his value as a utility player in India's T20I scheme of things.

In the third T20I at Hobart, though he was not used as a bowler, Sundar was promoted up the order and he top-scored with a match-winning 49 off 23 balls, striking four sixes and three boundaries to guide India to a five-wicket win that levelled the series 1-1.

Then, in the fourth game, he was held back with the ball until the death overs, but responded by taking three wickets in five deliveries across two overs, triggering an Australian collapse that secured India's 48-run victory.

The win eventually helped the Suryakumar Yadav-led side seal the series 2-1 after the fifth match was washed out at the Gabba on Saturday.

Sundar also acknowledged the contribution of the team's COO Khaja. "It's such a great feeling to get this medal from him. We know the kind of work he (Khaja) puts in every single day."

Coming over here and getting an opportunity to play in Australia is amazing, and to have contributed to the team's victory makes me definitely happy

Washington Sundar, India all-rounder



Quiet comeback for Jemimah Rodrigues as Renegades win

India batter looked eager to make an impact but got out after facing nine balls, edging Alice Capsey

BRISBANE

Jemimah Rodrigues' return to competitive cricket after the high of the World Cup triumph turned out to be a quiet one as the Indian batting superstar managed only six runs in her team Brisbane Heat's seven-wicket defeat against Melbourne Renegades in the Women's Big Bash League here Sunday.

Rodrigues, who was playing her first match since India's historic ODI World Cup win last week, looked eager to make an impact but got out after facing nine balls, edging Alice Capsey to Deandra Dottin at backward point.

Rodrigues' subdued return may have disappointed her growing fan base but her presence added star value to the contest.

Brisbane Heat posted a video on their X handle, showing a smiling Jemimah making his way to the pitch, saying, "I am here in Brisbane, can you believe it, very excited



for today, let's go."

Her early exit came at a crucial juncture as Heat could only post 133 all out in 20 overs.

Nadine de Klerk (40 off 38 balls) and Chinelle Henry (29 off 22) offered resistance, but the Renegades' spinners dominated proceedings.

Skipper Georgia Wareham (3/12) and Alice Capsey (3/22) were outstanding in the middle overs, while Tess Flintoff (3/30) ensured there was no late flourish.

In reply, the Renegades chased down a revised target of 66 runs in 8 overs after a rain interruption, reaching

Brief Scores:

Brisbane Heat Women: 133 in 20 overs (Nadine de Klerk 40, Chinelle Henry 29; Wareham 3/12, Capsey 3/22, Flintoff 3/30)
Melbourne Renegades Women: 66/3 in 7.3 overs (Courtney Webb 34, Wareham 16 not out; Ginger 2/16, Hamilton 1/18).

the total in 7.3 overs. Courtney Webb led the way with an unbeaten 34 off 22 balls.

India's Shafali talks about struggles in the last one year

The 21-year-old Shafali was named player of the final for her 87 runs

CHANDIGARH

India's women's World Cup winner Shafali Verma on Sunday said she has faced a lot of struggles in the last year and worked "extremely hard" to improve her game, which culminated in a historic World Cup glory.

Picked as a replacement for the injured Pratika Rawal, the 21-year-old Shafali was named player of the final for her 87 runs with the bat and 2/36 with the ball in the team's 52-run win against South Africa.

"The last one year was very tough for me. I faced a lot of struggles, but I kept working extremely hard and was rewarded by God for my effort," Shafali told reporters after a felicitation programme here.

Shafali was called in to the Indian squad on the eve of the semifinal against mighty Australia and while she could not fire in the last four clash, the Haryana girl shone in the title clash.

"When I joined the Indian team ahead of the semifinal, I



The last one year was very tough for me. I faced a lot of struggles, but I kept working extremely hard and was rewarded by God for my effort

Shafali Verma, India Women opener

was determined to contribute to the World Cup victory. The final is always a big stage. Initially, I was a bit nervous, but I calmed myself, focused on my strategy, and executed it well. That helped me deliver an all-round performance," Shafali said.

After receiving a grand welcome upon her arrival in her hometown Rohtak, the swashbuckling opener urged girls to have self-belief and work hard, saying results will come.

"They should always put in the hard work in whatever field they may choose and also have self-belief, and results will follow," Shafali said.

The Harmanpreet Kaur-led side scripted a defining moment for Indian women's cricket by winning its maiden global title -- the 50-over World Cup -- with victory over South Africa in the final in Navi Mumbai last Sunday.

Shafali, who considers batting legend Sachin Tendulkar as her role model, talked

about her family's support throughout to achieve her dreams.

Replying to a question about the final, she said, "I was trying to stay calm and execute my plans and things went as per plan.

"The only thought was that we have to give it all in those seven hours for our country."

She also said she does not have any regret on missing out on scoring a century and stressed that lifting the World Cup was more important.

About the team's meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, she said the PM spent two hours with them and motivated them.

Shafali said she was now looking forward to meeting the Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on November 12.

four-day game

Batters help SA 'A' register 5-wicket win over India 'A'

BENGALURU

South Africa A's top-order batters ran roughshod over a set of regular Test bowlers in the ranks of India A, etching a memorable five-wicket win on the fourth day of the second four-day match here on Sunday.

Chasing an improbable-looking 417, South Africa, overnight 25 for no loss, never looked daunted by the size of target, and if anything, were determined to

overhaul it.

Jordan Hermann (91, 123 balls), Lesego Senokwane (77, 174b), Temba Bavuma (59, 101b), Zubayr Hamza (77, 88b) and Connor Esterhuizen (52 n.o., 54b) produced glittering fifties to power SA A to 417/5 with three overs remaining as the match went past the regular 5pm close to complete the 90-over quota.

It was the highest run chase in the 'A' matches. Perhaps, a no-going-back situation of needing to score 392 runs on the day to avoid

a 0-2 series defeat, spurred the combative instincts inside the South African batters, and it reflected in the innings of Hermann and Senokwane.

The openers added 156 runs off 258 balls to give South Africa an ideal launching pad, and in the first session alone they scored 114 runs in just 27 overs.

At 139 for no loss at lunch, it was clear that the BCCI Centre of Excellence pitch that offered plenty of assistance to pacers had lost its

sting after some heavy rolling.

But due credit should be given to Hermann and Senokwane for showing diligence to resist the experienced Indian bowlers.

Hermann, in particular, was impressive, executing some fabulous drives through the covers off pacer Akash Deep, and it would not be too long before the 23-year-old found himself in the senior South African side.

However, he would be kicking himself for spooning

a return catch to Prasidh Krishna a few overs into the post-lunch session.

Senokwane departed soon, as he missed a sweep off left-arm spinner Harsh Dubey to be adjudged leg before. The visitors were 197 for two at that stage in 53 overs. Though in a comfortable position, it was not clear whether they would push for a win, especially with two new batters in the middle.

But Bavuma and Hamza, particularly the latter, played some dazzling shots.



South Africa A's Zubayr Hamza plays a shot during the fourth day of the second unofficial Test.