

# AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

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

## Flood in more than 1000 villages of Punjab

**Pathankot/Dehradun:** After heavy rains in eight districts of Punjab, 1018 villages are in flood. So far 8 people have died in the floods and rains. 3 people are missing. More than 11 thousand people have been shifted to safer places. Due to the rising water level of the Ravi river, the Dhussi dam in Ghonewale of Gurdaspur broke. Due to this, the water reached Ajnala city about 15 km away. 80 villages are sub-

### In Ballia, there is rapid erosion on the banks of the Ganges

In Ballia, there is rapid erosion on the banks of the Ganges. Due to this, 24 houses of Chakki Nauranga and Bhagwanpur area were submerged in the Ganges in 24 hours. UP: Road washed away in Farrukhabad, villagers built a



merged in water due to the floods. A landslide occurred in Badar village of Reasi

temporary bridge. The Ganges river is in spate in Farrukhabad. More than 50

villages have been hit by floods. The road in Bhudhiya Bheda was washed away in the flood. After this, the villagers were commuting by boat, but were facing difficulties due to the strong current. Now the villagers have built a temporary bridge

district of Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday morning. So far 7 bodies have

been recovered from the debris. At the same time, 4 people died due to cloud-

burst in Rajgarh of Ramban. One woman is missing. Vaishno Devi Yatra in Katra has been stopped for 6 days. Meanwhile, Mani Mahesh Yatra has been stopped in Chamba district of Himachal Pradesh. So far 10 pilgrims have died, 4 are still missing and 7 others are injured. In Uttar Pradesh, there are flood-like conditions in 18 districts due to continuous rain. So far 774 houses have collapsed in the rain.

## Important talks between Modi and Xi on the sidelines of SCO

**PM Withdrawal of troops has brought peace on the border: Modi, Dragon and Elephant should come together: Jinping**

### Bilateral

Its objective is to take bilateral relations forward. Prime Minister Narendra Modi



### An atmosphere of peace has been created on the border: Modi

During the bilateral meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, 'We had very useful discussions in Kazan last year, which gave a positive direction to our relations. An atmosphere of peace and stability has been created.

### It is very important for the dragon and elephant to come together: XI

During this, Jinping said that China and India are the two most ancient civilizations of the world. Both are the most populated countries of the world and are part of the Global South. It is very important to remain friends, to be good neighbours.

**Tianjin :** Prime Minister Narendra Modi held talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in Tianjin. This is their first bilateral talks in about ten months. Its objective is to take bilateral relations forward. Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in his opening statement that the talks held in Kazan last year gave a positive direction to India-China relations. He mentioned that an atmosphere of peace and stability has been created after the disengagement on the bor-

der. Modi emphasized that this atmosphere provides an opportunity to take the relations between the two countries forward. Modi said that the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra has started again. This journey not only has religious importance, but is also a medium to

connect the people of both the countries. He described it as a symbol of mutual trust and cooperation. This decision will further strengthen the cultural relations between the two countries. Prime Minister said that direct flights between India and China are

being resumed. He described it as an important step for business, and public relations. Modi said that this cooperation is linked to the interests of 2.8 billion people of both countries and it will contribute towards the welfare of the entire humanity.

### There was a stir in Bengal due to the discussion of SIR, there was a race to get birth certificates

**Kolkata:** The Central Election Commission has intensified preparations for the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the voter list in Bengal. Work has begun to revise the voter list. In this episode, there is a rush among people for birth certificates before the SIR in the Muslim-dominated districts of Bengal bordering Murshidabad, Malda, North and South Dinajpur. People are

seen standing in queues since morning in municipalities, gram panchayats and courts to get their birth certificates corrected, digitized or issued a new one by paying double the normal price of Rs 10 per stamp paper. They fear that after the special intensive revision in the state, a campaign for the National Register of Citizens (NRC) can be launched.

### Massive explosion in firecracker factory in Lucknow

**Lucknow:** A sudden explosion took place in a firecracker factory in the capital Lucknow on Sunday. The entire area was shaken by the loud explosion. Hearing the sound, people ran out of their houses towards the spot.

Local people started trying to save the people trapped inside. The incident took place in Behta area of Gudamba police station area.

## 'India should not be unfairly targeted in Ukraine war'

**New Delhi:** After a phone conversation with his Finnish counterpart Elina Valtonen, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said that India should not be unfairly targeted in the context of the Ukraine war. The Foreign Minister's remarks are being seen in the context of US allegations that India is helping Moscow's 'war machine'



by buying crude oil from Russia at a discounted price. We always supported dialogue and diplomacy -

Jaishankar said in a post on the internet media platform X - 'Our discussion focused on the Ukraine war and its consequences. India should not be unfairly targeted in this context. We have always supported dialogue and diplomacy.' White House trade adviser Peter said this week that the 50 percent duty imposed.

## Claim: 'India has also backed out from the trade deal with America'

**New Delhi:** After Operation Sindoor, relations between India and America have started to sour. After not getting the credit for ceasefire between India and Pakistan, Donald Trump is leaving no stone unturned to ruin the decades-old relations between the two countries. The Trump administration has imposed a tariff of 50 percent on India. After seeing America's attitude, India has also refused to bow down. At the same time, now the news is coming out that India can also withdraw from the trade deal with America. Trump's claims rejected. The country's former Finance Secretary Subhash Garg has made many big claims. He says that Trump is constantly saying that India is making huge profits by buying oil from Russia at cheap prices.

### Tariff

The Trump administration has imposed a tariff of 50 percent on India

However, this statement of Trump is just a political stunt, the economic reality is something else. How much profit does India make by buying oil from Russia? According to Subhash Garg, India is saving \$2.5 billion (approximately Rs 2.22 lakh crore) in a year by buying oil from Russia. Trump is exaggerating these figures and using it as a weapon to impose tariffs on India. Explaining the mathematics of oil from Russia, the former Finance Secretary said that India buys oil from Russia at the rate of \$3-4 (Rs 264-352) per barrel. Trump is using it as a political gimmick.

## 'Committed to promote renewable energy'

**Jaipur:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the countrymen in the 125th episode of Mann Ki Baat program on Sunday. Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma listened to the Mann Ki Baat program at the Chief Minister's residence. In his address, the Prime Minister called upon the countrymen to work with commitment towards the

### PM Modi will visit China from 31 August

**New Delhi:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi is going to visit China from 31 August. News agency Reuters has claimed this citing sources. According to the agency, PM Modi will go to China to participate in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) meeting. However, it has not been officially confirmed yet. SCO was established in 2001. At present, there are 10 members in SCO, which includes China, India,

### Infuses

The CM said that the Prime Minister's address infuses new energy in the people.

goal of self-reliant and developed India by encouraging Vocal for Local. He said that in the coming festive season, the common people



should proudly adopt Swadeshi in gifts, clothing, decoration and lighting. He said that the attention of the whole world is towards India. The world is eyeing the

hidden possibilities in India. The Prime Minister said that the influence of Indian culture has increased in all parts of the world and there has been an increase in love and reverence for Ramayana and Mahabharata. The Chief Minister said that the Prime Minister's address infuses new energy in the common people.



Haryana Chief Minister Naib Singh Saini paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi .

'He said that those who came to power by doing appeasement politics are neither here nor there today'

## Today UP is proud of its heritage, development and education: Yogi



BJP are not based on appeasement but on satisfaction which reaches every person without any discrimination. Attacking the opposition, he said that there was a time when power was just a shop for those doing appease-

ment politics. They had made education a den of copying, anarchy and casteism. But today the same people are worried about satisfaction. Our government does not follow appeasement, but walks on the path of satisfac-

tion. That is why the public's trust is with the BJP today. . CM Yogi said that this school is not only a center of education but will also become a source of culture, discipline and self-reliance. Citing the instructions given by Prime Minister Narendra Modi towards the meaningful use of BOC fund, he said that now this money, is being spent on the education of the children of workers. In the earlier governments,

this money had become a means of distribution and corruption. The Chief Minister said that till now 18 Atal residential schools have been established in the state, which are providing completely free, quality education to more than 18,000 workers and orphan children. He called it the government's unwavering commitment towards education. He said that the BJP government has put an end to cheating in education.

### 'Vocal for Local', only one path 'Self-reliant India: PM



### Mann Ki

He praised the role played by the army, doctors, administration and common citizens

**New Delhi:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in his monthly radio program 'Mann Ki Baat' on Sunday that natural disasters have put the country to a great test in this monsoon season. Floods and landslides destroyed homes and farms, washed away bridges and roads and left many families in crisis. He said that the grief of the families who have lost their loved ones is the grief of the entire nation. The Prime Minister said that the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) personnel and security forces were engaged in relief

work day and night in the affected areas. Search and rescue operations were accelerated using technology like thermal cameras, live detectors, sniffer dogs and unmanned aerial vehicle surveillance. Relief material was delivered by helicopters and the injured were evacuated by air. He praised the role played by the army, doctors, administration and common citizens in the hour of crisis.



## Consider Aadhaar, other IDs in Bihar drive: Supreme Court

**Delhi:** The Supreme Court asked the Election Commission of India (ECI) to also consider Aadhaar cards, voter IDs and ration cards, as acceptable proof of eligibility for inclusion in electoral rolls in its ongoing special intensive revision (SIR) of the list in Bihar, even as it agreed to examine whether the poll body's exercise violated legal provisions or could potentially lead to mass disenfranchisement ahead of assembly elections due later this year. Underlining that the matter "goes to the root of the functioning of the democratic republic" and involves "the right to vote," a bench of justices Sudhanshu Dhulia and Joyimalya Bagchi said it would examine three key questions -- ECI's powers to conduct such an exercise, the manner in which the SIR is being conducted, and its timing, and



### EC: 3 out of 4 Bihar voters have filed enumeration forms

**Delhi:** The Election Commission of India (ECI) press notice states that three out of four Bihar electors have submitted their enumeration forms for the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. Since the SIR directives were released on June 24, 5.87 crore (58.7 million) forms (74.39% of total) had been collected. The EC stated around 77,000 Booth Level Officers (BLOs), fixed the matter for next hearing on July 28. The court also directed the poll body to file its counter affidavit within a week

20,603 newly appointed BLOs, election officials, and over 400,000 volunteers are working to collect and digitize forms for the Bihar assembly elections later this year. With a new verification module, BLO is digitizing and uploading 3.73 crore (37.3 million) forms. An EC official said the new "real time" in ECINet AERO/EROs to verify against the EPIC number who has uploaded.

and noted that no interim order was being passed at this stage since, by ECI's own schedule, the draft electoral rolls.

## DU will discuss the Viksit Bharat curriculum and Gita-based courses

**Delhi:** According to officials, the standing committee of Delhi University (DU) will meet to evaluate suggestions for a number of value addition courses (VAC), including four that are centered on the Bhagavad Gita and one called An Introduction to Viksit Bharat. The committee's emphasis on incorporating modern applications of Indian philosophy and development topics into the curriculum is highlighted in the agenda, which was made public on Wednesday.

With themes like "Gita for Holistic Life," "Gita and Leadership Excellence,"

"Gita for Sustainable Universe," and "Gita for Navigating Life Challenges," four of the six VACs that are being considered are centered around the Bhagavad Gita. Based on Karmayoga, Jnanayoga, and Bhaktiyoga, the Gita for Holistic Life syllabus suggests teachings on self-management, resolving problems in modern life, and methods of action, knowledge, and devotion. The course will also include practical components. The other courses will cover similar thematic applications of Gita's teachings to leadership, sustainability, and life's prob-

lems. Gita may undoubtedly be able to offer us some direction, but it seems ridiculous to introduce so many VACs on Gita. In addition to practical elements like field trips to communities, self-help groups, and farmers' organizations, the proposed chapters will address the role of technology, infrastructure, agriculture, and sustainability, he said. A VAC titled "The Science of Happiness" is also on the schedule. The Centre for Hindu Studies has also suggested starting a PhD program in Hindu Studies, which is anticipated to begin.

## LJP (RV) chairman and cabinet minister Chirag denies becoming a future CM

**Delhi:** The declaration that LJP (RV) chairman and union cabinet minister Chirag Paswan would run in the Bihar assembly elections later this year surprised everyone. His Lok Janshakti Party would form a pre-poll coalition with the ruling Janata Dal United for the

first time. Paswan's party won all five seats in last year's general elections, but it's not in the legislature. The 42-year-old son of LJP founder and former minister Ram Vilas has spoken out contrary to his coalition partner BJP. He told why he wants to fight, the Waqf

law, and the constitution preamble amendment. Haven't spoken to them.

This is my third term as a member of Parliament, and over the previous 11 years, I have realized that my vision for my state—Bihar first, Bihari first.

## Telangana Cabinet to implement 42% quota for BC

**Delhi :** The next local body elections in Telangana would see a 42% reservation for Backward Classes, according to the 19th Cabinet of the state government. This comes after the Telangana Assembly approved two crucial bills over four months ago, paving the way for a 42% quota for Backward Classes in public sector employment, schools, and municipal elections in both urban and rural areas. During a press meeting in Hyderabad, cabinet ministers Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy and Ponnampet Prabhakar announced the imminent promulgation of an ordinance including this provision. The state's advocate general was also consulted by the Cabinet



before making the decision, according to Srinivas Reddy. As per the directives from the Telangana High Court, the state of Telangana must conduct its local body elections no later than three months from now. The Telangana Backward Classes (Reservation of seats in urban

and rural local bodies) Bill, 2025 and the Telangana Backward Classes (Reservation of seats in educational institutions and of appointments for posts in services under the state) Bill, 2025 were the bills that were passed by the Telangana Assembly in March.

### Police in Noida will design a 4-kilometer Kanwar Yatra route

**Delhi:** In Noida, devotees will embark on a four-kilometer journey that begins at Mayur Vihar, continues past the Shani Temple and the Okhla Bird Sanctuary, and ends at Kalindi Kunj. According to the police, in preparation for next week's Kanwar Yatra, they have devised a strategy for traffic control to ease the journey of Kanwar pilgrims via Noida on their route to Delhi and Faridabad. The four-kilometer journey that pilgrims will take in Noida begins at Mayur Vihar and ends at Kalindi Kunj, stopping at Shani Temple and the Okhla Bird Sanctuary.

## A 2,200-crore expansion is planned: BITS Pilani chancellor



**Delhi :** Aditya Birla Group chairman and Birla Institute of Technology & Science (BITS) Pilani chancellor Kumar Mangalam Birla announced major expansion plans for the prestigious educational institution, including AI adoption, ed-tech ventures, and Indian campus capacity increases. Birla spoke at BITS Pilani's 2025 convocation, where 17,041 students graduated while former chief justice DY Chandrachud was chief guest. The rich industrialist invested around ₹2,200 crore in three

projects to expand the university. The institute will invest 1,000 crore in a state-of-the-art AI+ campus in Amaravati, 1,219 crore in expanding and modernizing its three Indian campuses in Pilani, Goa, and Hyderabad under 'project vistaar', and ₹35 crore in launching BITS Pilani Digital, its dedicated EdTech platform. The 35-acre AI+ cam-

pus in Amaravati will provide undergraduate twinning programs, cotutelle doctoral degrees with leading worldwide schools, and master's programs in AI/ML, innovation, and strategy. Undergraduate twinning programs allow students to split their four-year degree program between an Indian institution and a foreign partner univer-

## IIT Kharagpur teachers petition governors. Restore HoD positions

**Delhi:** The IIT Kharagpur Teachers' Association (IITTA) urged the institute's board of governors to expunge show-cause notices issued to 86 faculty members, restore their administrative positions, and protect the association's office bearers from arbitrary or retaliatory actions amid the faculty-administration dispute. In September, the IIT Kharagpur teachers' association accused director Virendra Kumar Tewari of "nepotism" and "arbitrary faculty recruitment" in a letter to the Union Ministry of Education, sparking a confrontation. They wanted an academically qualified, inclusive governance-experienced successor. When the administration sent show-cause notices to IITTA office bearers



### Government issues Waqf Act rules

**Delhi :** The Union government issued the guidelines to operationalize the disputed Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025, focusing on the central portal where Islamic charitable endowments will be registered and leaving other details to the states. The 32-page minority affairs ministry document will be presented to Parliament on July 21 during the monsoon session. A senior ministry official said the rules will be republished in the gazette if Parliament modifies them. The act was elaborate, thus the rules are short and focused on the portal. The ministry's task is complete, and Parliament will set the rules.

and disciplined them for not answering within seven days, tensions rose. Show cause notices were

sent to 86 academic members who signed a petition supporting the IITTA, worsening the situation.

### China lashes out in anger as Dalai Lama affirms right to choose successor

**Delhi:** Dalai Lama effectively excluded China from the process of selecting his successor by stating that the 600-year-old institution of spiritual head of Tibetan Buddhists will remain even after his death and that a trust he established will be the only authority to recognize his reincarnation. Controversy has surrounded the institution's future ever since the Nobel laureate and leader of Tibetan Buddhism stated in 2011 that he would make a decision.

## Mohan Bhagwat suggests leaders retire at 75, sparking Opposition suspicion.

**Delhi:** Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) president Mohan Bhagwat's comment about resigning at 75 has opposition lawmakers wondering how it will affect Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who turns 75

this September. At the Nagpur book presentation for RSS ideology Moropant Pingle, Bhagwat stated, "When you turn 75, it means you should stop now and make way for others." Bhagwat also remem-

bered Pingle's humor. In his lecture, Mohan Bhagwat recalled that Moropant Pingle once said that if you are honoured with a shawl after 75, you should quit now, you are old; stand aside and let others

come in. He said Moropant, despite his dedication to national duty, believed in gracefully retiring at age. Many the remark as a hidden message to PM Modi, sparking a political controversy.

## Dolly Chaiwala's franchise gets 1,609 requests 'despite hate'



**Delhi :** Two days after revealing his ambitious franchise intentions, Nagpur-based tea seller Sunil Patil, known as Dolly Chaiwala, received 1,609 applications. The online star, known for his eccentric serving technique and viral cooperation with Bill Gates, is turning his tea cart into a statewide business. Dolly expressed gratitude to his supporters and addressed being mocked for his upbringing and lack of schooling. "But I spent 20 years behind my tea cart, in the sun and

rain, through good and bad times, hoping things would change. I persevered. I'm lucky, but more proud, today." He called the franchise announcement "a symbol of possibility for the millions who start life with

nothing but a dream." "People can laugh at me or call me names," Dolly said. He announced the franchise on social media, stating that it is India's first viral street brand and now a commercial opportunity.

From carts to flagship cafés, we're launching countrywide and need passionate people to achieve this objective." The announcement included a link to an application form on his Instagram account and listed three franchise formats: a cart stall for Rs 4.5 lakh to Rs 6 lakh, a shop model for Rs 20 lakh to Rs 22 lakh, and a flagship cafe for Rs 39 lakh to Rs 43 lakh. After going viral, the post received mixed reviews. Many social media users applauded Dolly on his rise, but others worried



# Minister Nand Gopal Gupta distributed appointment letters to 40 newly selected Anganwadi workers for City South

● Minister Nandi congratulated the newly selected Anganwadi workers and motivated them to work with honesty and integrity

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

**Prayagraj.** On Sunday, under the Child Development Services and Nutrition Department, Minister, Industrial Development, Export Promotion, NRI, Investment Promotion, Uttar Pradesh Government Nand Gopal Gupta (Nandi) distributed appointment letters to 40 newly selected candidates in Vidhan Sabha City South out of a total of 452 selected Anganwadi workers in Prayagraj district in the auditorium of Vikas Bhawan Prayagraj. The program was inaugurated by the Minister by lighting the lamp. The newly selected 40 candidates in Vidhan Sabha City South include 18 from Child Development Project City



Special priority to the campaign to modernize the Anganwadi centers: Nandi

The Minister said that under the valuable guidance of the Hon'ble Prime Minister and the successful leadership of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, our double engine government has given special priority to the campaign to modernize the Anganwadi centers as well as to make them

resource-rich. Under various schemes to modernize the Anganwadi centers, the availability of smart TV, water RO, nutrition garden is being ensured.

The Hon'ble Minister said that Anganwadi centers lay the foundation for the bright future of children.

I, 12 from Child Development Project, City II and 10 newly selected

Anganwadi workers from Child Development Project Chaka. Minister

## "Government is committed to the development of centers"

It not only makes children physically and mentally healthy but also empowers women. He said that our double engine government is committed to the overall development of Anganwadi centers. He said that only a healthy child becomes an aware citizen. The newly selected 40 Anganwadi work-

ers received the appointment letter from the hands of the Minister and everyone's faces lit up with joy and everyone expressed their gratitude to the Minister. The Minister promised to provide pre-school kits to the Anganwadi centers again. Earlier, the Hon'ble Minister has enriched 50 Anganwadi centers.

Nand Gopal Gupta Nandi congratulated the newly selected Anganwadi workers and motivated them to work with honesty and integrity and said that no work is big or small, with the dedication to work, even small work can reach heights. The Anganwadi selection has been made

transparent and fair by the state government through online process, in which all people are getting equal opportunity in our government without any discrimination, which fulfills the commitment of our government of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas.



Hon'ble Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on the occasion of the Vimukta Jati Diwas celebration organized for the welfare of the freed and nomadic castes at Bhaagidari Bhawan, Lucknow on Sunday.

## Operation Sindoor made the world realize India's strength: CM Yogi

**Lucknow :** Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday inaugurated the defence equipment and drone manufacturing unit, aircraft engine, and defence aerospace test facility in Gautam Buddha Nagar. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath was present at the event.

## Bhanouri theft case solved in 24 hours, three accused arrested



Akhand Bharat Sandesh

**Prayagraj.** The police solved the big theft case that took place in Bhanouri village of Kaundhiara police station area on Friday night in just 24 hours. This incident had created a sensation in the entire area. The victim's family had told in the complaint that three thieves entered the house by jumping the boundary and took away two boxes, two sacks of grains and a mobile phone. Gold and silver jewellery worth about Rs 16 lakh and cash worth Rs 4.5 lakh were kept in the boxes. When pregnant woman Anjali Patel protested against the theft, the thieves made her unconscious by hitting her head on the wall, which spread panic among the fami-

ly members. As soon as the information of the incident was received, the police, forensic team and dog squad reached the spot and started investigation. This incident had created an atmosphere of fear in the village. ACP Kaundhiara Vivek Yadav said in a press conference that the incident is very serious, so several police teams were formed and investigation was done from every aspect. Late Sunday evening, the police disclosed the case and arrested three accused including Lavkush. Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police Yamunanagar Jang Bahadur Yadav said that the Kaundhiara police arrested the accused with the help of technical surveillance.

## Police arrested the tantrik who plotted to sacrifice Yash

Yash was killed by a relative on the instructions of a tantrik



### Arrested

□ The brutal manner in which he was killed has shaken the entire district

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

**Prayagraj.** Another bloody game was played in the name of superstition and tantra-mantra. 17-year-old student of Sadiapur, Piyush Singh alias Yash, who was a promising student of 11th standard, became a victim of the conspiracy of his own relatives and a fake tantrik.

The brutal manner in which he was killed has shaken the entire district. On the

morning of 26th August, while going to school, Yash was called home by his relative grandfather Saran Singh and was brutally killed on the evil advice of tantrik Munlal.

After the murder, the body was cut into nine pieces with a chopper and saw and thrown at different places.

When Saran Singh was throwing the torso of the body in the drain of Kuria Yadav Basti near Naini's Hi-Tech City, an old woman saw it and the secret of his brutal game was revealed. The police recovered the torso, later the head was also found in the Kachhar area of Rasulabad, but till now the other parts of the body have not been found.

## District level national folk dance competition organized

### Culture

□ The District School Inspector said that folk dances preserve culture

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**Prayagraj.** Under the National Population Education Project, a district level folk dance competition was organized in Government Girls Inter College, Civil Lines, in which children from various government secondary and Kasturba Gandhi schools of the district participated. The chief guest of the program, District School Inspector P N Singh inaugurated the competition by lighting the lamp. The school's principal Neelam Mishra and Dr. Akanksha Keshari welcomed the chief guest by giving him



a bouquet and Kiran Rai decorated him with a badge. The District School Inspector said in his address that folk dances preserve culture and tradition while also giving a message to the society. Students get an opportunity to develop their identity and skills. Competitions organized in schools provide a platform for learners to showcase their talent and bring different cultures together.

Neelam Chaturvedi, Dr. Shanu Kesharwani and Chandravati were included in the jury in the program. In the folk dance

competition, with the message of Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao, GGIC, Civil Lines got the first place and GGIC, Jasra got second place and GGIC, Mungari got third place. In the competition, the girl students gave the message of environmental protection, population education, gender equality etc. through folk dance.

In the poster competition, Mishti, a student of GGIC, Civil Lines, got the first place and Shiva Gaur, a student of Government Higher Secondary School, Dandapur, got the second place. While in the essay

## Citizen satisfaction is the true measure of an officer's work: CM



and the government is fully accountable to the people. The CM added that complainant satisfaction and feedback will be the true benchmark of an officer's performance. The Chief Minister was reviewing law and order, grievance redressal, preparations for upcoming festivals,

flood relief, dengue prevention and health services through video conferencing with divisional commissioners, district magistrates, police chiefs and senior officers. Calling the safety of women and daughters a top priority, CM Yogi directed that Anti-Romeo Squads be made more active across all districts. He announced that a new phase of Mission Shakti will be

launched during Sharadiya Navratri, and asked districts to begin preparations immediately. The CM also expressed satisfaction over the peaceful conduct of recent festivals, while directing police and administration to remain on high alert for Barawafat, Anant Chaturdashi, and Vishwakarma Puja. During the meeting, the Chief Minister released

division-wise, district-wise, tehsil-wise, zone-wise, range-wise, and police station-wise rankings based on the disposal of IGRS and CM Helpline complaints. He instructed officers to ensure grievance redressal with sensitivity and respect for victims' sentiments, warning that disciplinary action will follow against those filing false or misleading reports.

Special guests were Dr. AK Saxena, District President Anil Yadav and Referee Virendra Singh Thakur

## Wrestlers showed their strength in the Dangal

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**Uttaran.** Annual Virat Dangal Mela and Jawabi Birha program was organized in the memory of late Ramsundar Yadav near Jagatpur railway crossing in Uttaran police station area of Prayagraj district. The main organizer of the program was Gram Pradhan Rajiv Kumar Yadav. Samajwadi Party state president Shyamlal Pal was present as the chief guest. State



Secretary Ravind Yadav also attended the program. Special guests were Dr. AK Saxena, District President Anil Yadav and Referee Virendra Singh Thakur. Wrestlers from Prayagraj, Jaunpur, Varanasi, Kachhwa,

Ghazipur, Mau, Ballia, Banaras, Kanpur, Pratapgarh and Kaushambi participated in the Dangal. Among the women wrestlers, Raunak Kaushambi, Santoshi Kanpur, Nidhi Singh Kachhwa, Tanu Banaras and Sandhya



Phaphamau performed. Shyamlal Pal said that the tradition of Dangal is becoming extinct. He emphasized the need to save it. Wrestling gives a different identity along with physical development. The Birha program was to start at 9

pm, in which there was to be a competition between singers Suraj Yadav and Ruchi Yadav. A large number of people from the village and nearby areas reached the venue.

The program was conducted by Krishna

Yadav. This event has been taking place continuously for years. Apart from giving a platform to rural talents, it has also given the message of unity and brotherhood in the society. Advocate Devendra Singh Yadav, Kamlesh Pal, Gulab Yadav, Master Shyam Yadav, former district panchayat member Raj Bahadur Yadav, Ram Sumerpal, Vikas Yadav, Sushil Kumar, Shivmangal, Pramod Kumar, etc. were present on the occasion.

## Yogi govt links 13 lakh families to Zero Poverty campaign

**Lucknow:** In just ten months, the Yogi Adityanath government has identified 13.32 lakh of Uttar Pradesh's poorest families under the Zero Poverty Campaign, setting a new benchmark in poverty eradication. Of these, more than 3.72 lakh families are already receiving multidimensional benefits, underscoring the government's commitment to uplifting the underprivileged. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath first announced the campaign in his Independence Day address on August 15,

2024, and officially launched it on October 2, 2024. The mission aims to ensure that no family is left deprived of basic needs or social security, with a target to identify at least 25 ultra-poor families in every Gram Panchayat. Each family is being linked to housing, employment, healthcare, education, and livelihood opportunities to secure long-term transformation under the drive. As of August 2025, Azamgarh leads with 42,082 families identified, followed by Jaunpur (39,374).

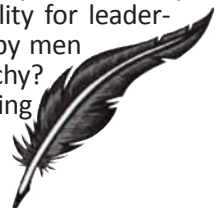


## Editorial

### Naturally disqualified from being empathetic

At a time when gender equity discussions are taking centre stage, IIT Kharagpur's reductive framing of women through the 'Campus Mothers' initiative as default caregivers is tragically regressive. Reinforcing outdated gender norms under the guise of support, it sidelines efforts for gender parity and ultimately does a disservice to all genders. The urgent need to expand mental health support on college campuses and create multiple avenues of care and intervention is not under debate here. What merits scathing scrutiny is the blatant gender stereotyping disguised as an innovative initiative. The core idea of community-based health-care initiatives like 'Campus Mothers' is not new. One of the earliest examples is Assertive Community Treatment (ACT), developed in the US in the 1970s, which includes Peer Support Specialists to provide mental health support. From India, Atmiyata is a community-based mental health initiative that has shown evidence-based success in Maharashtra and Gujarat. Similar community mental health models in Japan and other countries have also shown encouraging rates of success. However, in their decades-long global history, community mental health support has never been the exclusive domain or responsibility of women. Framing caregiving as inherently feminine erases the contributions of others and reinforces regressive gender norms that hinder gender equitable participation in both caregiving and mental health advocacy. By soliciting the active participation of women as 'Campus Mothers', the initiative is likely to exclude other genders, especially men from this important mental health initiative, undermining the very equity that such programmes should strive to promote. "Many of these women have experienced motherhood themselves—some have grown up children who may now be living abroad or otherwise independent. Having gone through motherhood, they understand the unique challenges children face," said the director of IIT Kharagpur, Suman Chakraborty. We find this quote especially problematic.

The notion that experiencing motherhood inherently grants women a magical capacity for empathy is both reductive and exclusionary. By that logic, men—having never experienced motherhood—are naturally disqualified from being empathetic. But empathy is not biologically bestowed through motherhood; it is cultivated through a range of life experiences, self-awareness, and emotional engagement. The best counsellors and therapists, or psychiatrists are not defined by their gender or parental status. A nurturing environment requires participation from all genders. Since 'Campus Mothers' involves training, why not train all genders? This initiative deliberately propagates the surrogate maternal figure, reinforcing the "run-to-mommy-when-hurt" stereotype. Equally troubling is the assumption that older women, having completed their primary caregiving roles, now need something to "fill their time". And 'Campus Mothers' is supposed to be a productive way to keep them occupied. This framing is deeply patriarchal and condescending, reducing women's identities to domestic roles and positioning them as permanent caregivers for other people's children once their own have left home. Audaciously enough, the 'Campus Mothers' initiative has also been called a leadership opportunity for women. "By involving women as key emotional anchors on campus, the initiative also promotes women's participation and leadership in the academic community," reads an article on The Bridge Chronicle. What kind of leadership opportunity is envisaged for women who participate in this programme? Do they get visibility for leadership roles traditionally held by men in the administrative hierarchy? Or do they get awards elevating them as 'Super Moms'?



## The RJD's attempt to expand its social coalition by adding EBCs to its MY base did not deliver results

As Bihar gears up for the assembly elections later this year, the opposition Rashtriya Janata Dal has appointed Mangani Lal Mandal as its new state president—the first time it has chosen someone who belongs to the Extremely Backward Classes, or EBCs, a voting bloc that comprises 113 castes and makes up 36 per cent of the state's population. So far, though, EBCs have shown an aversion toward the RJD. Instead, they have gravitated toward the JDU, now in alliance with the BJP, which mobilised its election machinery in Bihar immediately after winning the Delhi assembly election. The question now arises whether the RJD will succeed in its efforts to attract EBCs through the appointment of Mandal. Based on an analysis of caste-wise candidate nominations by the RJD and JDU, and their respective victories in the 2020 Bihar assembly election, I argue that the RJD needs to move beyond political appointments for the mobilisation of such communities. It also needs to focus on exclusive policies intended to empower EBCs. Otherwise, it will be extremely difficult to break the scepticism of the EBCs. Bihar is well known for caste-based political mobilisation. The caste background of can-



didates is an important indicator of how parties build their social coalitions. It also helps us to understand the support of different castes for various political parties. Let's take a look at the caste-wise candidate nominations and wins of the RJD and JDU in the 2020 Bihar assembly election. This analysis examines the caste composition of nominees and elected representatives from the RJD and JDU in the 2020 Bihar Assembly election, based on candidate data from media reports. The graph below shows that the RJD's highest number of candidates came from the Yadav community (58). After them, only three other groups—EBCs (19), Scheduled Castes (19), and Muslims (18)—had candidates in double digits. Seen as a whole, the RJD focused primarily on its traditional MY (Muslim-Yadav) base, followed by an attempt to bring in EBCs. However, its EBC candidates performed badly. Out of 19 nominated, only four won. In con-

trast, JDU's EBC candidates performed impressively. It nominated 17 EBC candidates, out of which 12 won. The party's overall ticket distribution was also not concentrated on any one social group. Seven social groups—Yadav (18), EBC (17), SC (16), Kurmi (15), Kushwaha (15), Muslim (11), and Bhumihar (10)—had candidates in double digits. It's worth noting, though, that the highest number of JDU candidates also came from the Yadavs. This nomination profile might be symbolic, but it also conveys a message that the party is not against the legitimate representation of any particular social group. Here, the RJD did not appear as above board, as it had nominated only one candidate from the Kurmi caste, which is the support base of the JDU. In short, the above comparative analysis reveals EBCs have largely steered clear of the RJD.

Despite nominating a larger number of candidates from the

group, only four of its 19 EBC candidates won, compared to 12 of JDU's 17. It is often stated that Nitish Kumar has created a constituency of women, MBCs, and Mahadalits, and these social groups have gradually become a strong support base of the JDU. To break the social base of any political party, a rival typically deploys two strategies: ticket splitting and policy changes. The former means nominating candidates from those castes and communities, while the latter involves promising policies that benefit them. The RJD relied on the first strategy, nominating a high number of EBC candidates in the 2020 election. One may counter that the RJD also adopted the strategy of policy change by promising 10 lakh government jobs, from which EBCs would also potentially benefit. So why did EBCs not respond to such promises?

One answer could be low educational attainment among EBCs and their limited ability to benefit from reservation policies. Across North Indian states, EBCs have demanded a sub-categorisation within OBC reservations, arguing that they are unable to compete with politically dominant OBC groups such as Yadavs and Kurmis. The BJP responded by

appointing the Justice Rohini Committee to examine this demand. At the same time, welfare schemes introduced by the Narendra Modi government have also reached these communities. Because of its alliance with the BJP, the JDU has benefited from both strategies—ticket splitting and policy response—while opposition parties like the RJD have remained stuck on the former. This could partly explain the aversion of EBCs toward the RJD. In the upcoming election, RJD's Tejashwi Yadav is promising to extend the limit of reservation, along with the introduction of a domicile policy for government jobs. However, none of these policies are specifically targeted to address the grievances of EBCs. Unless the party does that, it would be a herculean task to break the aversion. To sum up, the RJD's attempt to expand its social coalition by adding EBCs to its MY base did not deliver encouraging results in the last election. Relying on ticket-splitting alone to mobilise these communities hasn't worked. The party now needs to explore mechanisms beyond candidate nomination. Offering specific welfare schemes could be one of them. Otherwise, it may just be staring at a repeat of 2020.

### Bombay HC has left women advocates without a PoSH shield

The Bombay High Court recently rejected a petition asking it to order the Maharashtra-Goa Bar Council and the Bar Council of India to set up permanent committees for handling sexual harassment complaints under the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace Act, 2013. Every woman advocate in India is now outside the PoSH net. The Division Bench of the Bombay High Court concluded that no employer-employee relationship exists between advocates and Bar Councils. That nexus is the linchpin of the PoSH Act. The Act's architecture presupposes an employer capable of setting up an Internal Complaints Committee (ICC), enforcing penalties, and supervising compliance. Since Bar Councils are not "employers" and advocates are not "employees", the judges held, PoSH's machinery simply has nothing to attach itself to. Hence, there is no obligation to set up ICCs at state or national Bar Councils. The Court noted that victims of sexual harassment could

instead use the avenue of filing a complaint of misconduct under the Advocates Act. The Bombay High Court order reopens the faultline that has shadowed the PoSH Act since its birth. The Act traces back to the Vishaka guidelines rooted in the 1992 gang rape of Bhanwari Devi, a government field worker who was attacked by dominant-caste men while campaigning against child marriage. Although the Supreme Court invoked constitutional guarantees to establish guidelines on redressing sexual harassment at work, it confined those safeguards to a model that required a formal employer. When Parliament finally codified PoSH in 2013, that structure was embedded in the Act. The duty to constitute ICCs, train staff and committee members, and create a safe working environment was placed wholly on an identifiable employer. The Bombay High Court Bench relied squarely on that design architecture to reject the current plea.

### S-400 systems, which form the outermost layer of India's integrated air defence



On the sidelines of the otherwise contentious Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit in Qingdao, a quiet yet significant development unfolded. India was once again assured by Russia of the timely delivery of the remaining two S-400 Triumf air defence systems. Russian defence minister Andrei Belousov himself communicated this to his Indian counterpart Rajnath Singh, offering some comfort to New Delhi's strategic planners. Indian media outlets covered the commitment with cautious relief. The S-400 systems, which form the outermost layer of India's integrated air defence shield, have proven particularly effective during Operation Sindoor. They successfully integrated with domestically developed platforms like the Akash surface-to-air missiles, L-70 anti-aircraft guns, and indigenous drones. Unsurprisingly, there is a growing consensus within India's strategic community that New Delhi must not only complete the current S-400 procurement but also explore future acquisitions, possibly including the more advanced S-500 systems. However, this optimism belies the long and complicated journey of the S-400 deal. Signed in 2018 at a value of \$5.43 billion, the agreement was initially hailed as a bold assertion of India's strategic autonomy, especially during the Trump administration. In

2020, NATO ally Turkey faced sanctions under CAATSA (Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act) for pursuing the same system. India had escaped US sanctions, a testament to its rising importance in the evolving Indo-Pacific calculus. Yet, what was once a symbol of defiance and diplomatic balance has now become a victim of President Putin's protracted war in Ukraine. Originally scheduled for delivery between 2021 and 2023, the first three S-400 systems did arrive by late 2021. The remaining two, however, remain undelivered as Russia's war in Ukraine enters its fourth year, with no clear end in sight. The timeline has repeatedly slipped. There are at least four critical factors behind these delays, which highlight both vulnerabilities and priorities of the Russian defence sector, as well as the geopolitical complexities surrounding Moscow's partnerships. Russia has suffered significant material losses in Ukraine. While propaganda from both sides makes verification difficult, independent monitoring groups like Oryx have documented that at least 12 S-400 systems have been partially or completely destroyed. This is significant, given the S-400's role as the backbone of Russia's long-range air defence, with more than 30 regiments reportedly in service.

### Is it the birth of a new political force of disruption?

The American Party. Is it the birth of a new political force of disruption and even hope in the United States, or just another Independence Day startup with a flag? While most Americans were busy enjoying fireworks and patriotic ballads on July 4, Elon Musk was hunched over his phone, obsessing not over liberty but over the results of a poll he posted on X, the platform formerly known as Twitter, now moonlighting as his personal megaphone and emotional weather vane. The question was, should he launch a new political party? The answer, to his delight, was a resounding yes, with nearly two-thirds of

1.2 million respondents cheering him on. Musk took this as nothing short of divine instruction, promptly declaring the birth of the America Party. Until recently, billionaires busied themselves buying sports teams or building vanity rockets. But that looks old-school. Starting your own political party? That's the new superyacht. Musk insists this isn't just a passing whim but a much-needed emancipation from what he calls the "Uniparty", his term for the interchangeable swamp monsters that allegedly populate both the Republican and Democratic machines. "Do you want independence from the two-party

system?" he asked his followers. Over 1.2 million users clicked "yes", which in Muskland is basically a constitutional convention. But before we light any more sparklers in celebration of the claim of American democracy's rebirth, let's step back. Is this really a new political force or just Musk rage-quitting the Republican Party in full view of his followers? After all, just weeks ago, he was Donald Trump's golden boy, literally. Musk was chairing the Department of Government Efficiency (aka 'Doge'), a symbolic nod to his uncanny ability to combine governance with meme stock aesthetics. Trump praised

Musk as a genius who would revolutionise Washington. Their bromance, once sealed with Tesla stock and campaign donations, turned into an electrified divorce. Musk denounced Trump's new tax-and-spend 'orgy' as fiscal lunacy. Trump, in return, called Musk a "train wreck" trying to force electric cars down America's throat. To which Musk replied, essentially: "Fine. I'm starting my own party. With blackjack. And freedom." At first glance, this seems like classic Silicon Valley hubris - another tech mogul who believes that because he can colonise Mars, he can also fix swing states.



## Centre requests a vendor survey from MCD under the 2014 Act

**Delhi :** The central government ordered the Municipal Corporation of Delhi to conduct a sellers' survey across the city under the Street Vending (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act 2014. The under secretary of the Union housing and urban affairs ministry wrote to the MCD commissioner to review the vendors' association's representation, citing a National Hawker Federation letter. The letter recommended 2014 Act-compliant action. "NHF's representation raises major concerns about Delhi's street vendor treatment and regulation. Under secretary Asgar Ali wrote that the current vendor survey lacks transparency and legal compliance, excludes town vending committees (TVCs), continues harassment and evictions despite valid identification, and lacks proper social protection." "It calls for immediate action to halt flawed survey



### NDMC accepts mech sweepers, pink toiles, temple upkeep

**Delhi:** Officials said the Municipal Council (NDMC) approved a series of civic infrastructure projects on to improve public amenities in Lutyens' Delhi, including the purchase of new mechanical road sweepers (MRS), the construction of "pink

practices, reconstitute and empower TVCs through inclusive elections, develop a heat-wave preparedness plan for vendors, legally recognise and integrate weekly markets into urban planning, enforce the provisions

toilets" for women in all major markets, and the beautification of key temple complexes. Along with policy issues, the council overwhelmingly condemned the 1975 Emergency, calling it a "dark phase" that violated human freedoms.

of Street Vendors Act 2014, create urban space for vending and utilise NULM funds transparently," it said. NHA secretary Anil requested TVC-led implementation, policy review, and stakeholder coordination.

## Centre informs SC child's caste certificate not affected by marriage

**Delhi:** The Centre responded to a public interest litigation (PIL) filed by retired Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) school teacher Santosh Kumari, who questioned the Capital's policy of issuing OBC certificates to any "paternal blood relative".

The petition demanded a statewide policy to grant such certificates to children of OBC single mothers, whether separated or divorced. The Indian Department of Social Justice and Empowerment responded, "The central government is of



the view that any child born to an OBC parent, whether the parents are separated or divorced, should be entitled to an OBC caste certificate based on the credentials of either the OBC father or the OBC mother, depending on who has custody or is actively raising the child." It

stated that adding such benefits would need a "comprehensive reevaluation of the criteria governing OBC classification, which are rooted in indicators of social and educational backwardness rather than merely lineage or parentage." In circumstances where an OBC certificate is awarded based only on the mother's qualifications, "It must be clearly established that the child has been living with and brought up solely by the mother."

A preventive mechanism should also be in place to avoid misuse of this benefit."

## Govt may extend excise policy for 3 months

**Delhi:** The Delhi government may extend the excise policy for three months. According to reports, the committee struggled to improve customer experience, make retail liquor stores accessible throughout the city, and ensure brand and variant availability. They stated that

the chief minister has given stringent orders to eliminate favoritism and make the policy "fool-proof" to corruption. Sources said these difficulties hampered the disputed policy issued in Nov 2021, which was withdrawn in Aug 2022 after CBI filed a case over suspected irregularities

in its design and implementation. The policy may take time to finalize, and the current one expires in a week. Then it was discussed to extend the policy for at least three months. "A source claimed the political dispensation will make the ultimate decision.

# In sweeping election-year move, Biden offers citizenship to American spouses

**KOLKATA:** West Bengal governor CV Ananda Bose, facing molestation charges from a former employee of Raj Bhavan, announced that he would present Raj Bhavan's CCTV footage to 100 private citizens of Bengal, excluding "Mamata Banerjee and her police". "Under the Sach Ke Samne programme, anyone who wants to see the CCTV footage can send an email to [adrcrajbhavankolkata@gmail.com](mailto:adrcrajbhavankolkata@gmail.com) or call the Raj Bhavan to

register their names at 033-22001641. The first hundred would be allowed to see the footage inside Raj Bhavan at 11.30am on May 9," Raj Bhavan said in a statement. The programme is aimed at addressing what was described as "mischievous and fabricated allegations" by police regarding the handling of CCTV footage related to the case. In response, state finance minister Chandrima Bhattacharya questioned governor

Bose's decision, asking why he was withholding the CCTV footage from police if he was innocent. She said: "The CCTV footage should be on public display if he is such an honest and innocent person. But here he is playing with the dignity of women, so he wants to shield it from police and is even unwilling to show it to the CM. Why can't the CM see it, if there is no foul play?" CM Banerjee and Trinamool have been going after the governor.

### Advertising on FOBS should be authorized by the government

**Delhi:** In order to raise more money for their maintenance, the Delhi government has chosen to allow advertising on approximately 120 pedestrian bridges, according to In order to better maintain the foot overbridges, PWD minister Parvesh Verma said that he instructed the department's engineers to develop a thorough proposal. A lot of these bridges need to have their escalators and lifts fixed because they're in bad shape.

## PF funds can be accessed using ATMs



**Delhi:** The government has increased the limit from ₹1 lakh for automated settlement of advances or partial withdrawals to ₹5 lakh. With the increased threshold of ₹5 lakhs, more advanced claims can now be processed automatically, within three days of submission, thanks to auto-settlement. The government announced in a statement that members will be able to receive timely financial support when they need it the most, thanks to the increased cap and speedier fund

access. At a ceremony marking the 100th day of the third tenure of the Modi government, Mandaviya initially announced the limit modification, which takes effect on Tuesday. An employee's provident fund (PF) account will be available to users while dealing with an ATM, in

addition to conventional savings accounts, according to the minister. Then, the user can make transactions and withdrawals of qualified amounts without having to submit an application to the state-run retirement funds manager, the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO). The PF account will be linked to ATMs, so employees can access their cash directly according to their eligibility, according to Mandaviya.

## Hundred Devi Buses Discontinued Service From Narela

**Delhi:** 100 electric buses, once green but now saffron in color, were ceremonially christened by chief minister Rekha Gupta at the recently constructed Narela bus depot. Green has always been associated with environmentally conscious actions, and the recent color change has sparked some controversy. "The BJP is trying to inflame Hindu sentiments by painting Devi buses saffron," stated AAP Delhi convener Saurabh Bharadwaj. The Hindu faith will be offended by bus stains containing vomit, paan, spit, and mucus. Gupta justified the decision by saying, "Delhi is vibrant and colourful...so, as an experiment, green and orange buses have been introduced." She went on to say that the launch was dedicated to Lord Jagannath and



that it happened to coincide with Rath Yatra. Devi buses, which are nine meters long and have 23 seats plus room to stand for seventeen, are purpose-built for last-mile connectivity and are perfect for navigating the city's tight roadways. The wheelchair-accessible, air-conditioned buses have amenities such as panic buttons, CCTV cameras, and real-time tracking. Gupta stated that more than 2,000 e-buses are currently in operation in Delhi.

### Govt allocates 12,952 crore for public transport system

**The BJP** government, led by Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, presented its maiden budget on Tuesday, March 25. Gupta presented 1 lakh crore budget for 2025-26, a 31.56% increase from last year. In the budget for the financial year 2025-26, the government has allocated 12,952 crore to improve Delhi's public transport system. It has allocated 1,000 crore to improve the connectivity of Delhi with the NCR region.

## Franco-Italian regional aircraft major ATR sees India emerge as its biggest market

**NEW DELHI:** Franco-Italian regional aircraft major ATR sees India emerge as its biggest market in the next five years. And as that happens, the turboprop-maker says "it will be foolish not to increase our footprint here" in terms of sourcing of components, pilot training and others. "India currently has 65 ATRs - 45 with IndiGo and 20 with Alliance Air. IndiGo is to get five more. Startup carrier Fly91 (which is being launched by aviation industry veteran Manoj



Chacko) will get its first leased ATR anytime now and the second in a week or so," Jean-Pierre Clercin, ATR's head of commercial for Asia Pacific, said. "Indonesia has about 100 ATRs and is currently our biggest market. India and Brazil come after that. But

the way Indian economy and air travel in the country is booming, within five years India will have the maximum ATRs given the government's focus on regional air transport through ude desh ka aam naagrik (UDAN) scheme," Clercin said. ATR feels India will

### Social justice to be focus of BJP's Bihar polls campaign

**Delhi:** The ruling Bharatiya Janata Party-led National Democratic Alliance is placing social justice at the core of its election campaign in Bihar, with a focus on Prime Minister Modi and chief minister Nitish as champions of the poor and socially marginalised, people familiar with the strategy said. The BJP is keen to go to the polls, expected in October-November, as part of a strong coalition to tap into the "collective vote bank" of allies in the state, where it is in power with chief minister Nitish Kumar-led Janata Dal (United) or JD(U). Other NDA constituents are Union minister Chirag Paswan's Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas), former CM Jitan Ram Manjhi-led Hindustani Awami Morcha (Secular) and Upendra Kushwaha's Rashtriya Lok Samta Party (RLSP). The NDA constituents will jointly contest elections that are likely to be held later this year.

need 50-150 such planes in the next

## The pending health trade licenses will be expedited by MCD

**Delhi:** The deliberative arm of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi has announced a streamlined procedure for the approval of all outstanding health trade licenses. Mayor Raja Iqbal Singh expressed gratitude to chief minister Rekha Gupta for doing away with the need to



get a no-objection certificate from the Delhi Police, saying that this will allow more businessmen to save time. From October 2019 till now, the corporation has received 50,422 applications for health trade licenses. Out of these, 3,323 are currently being processed, 21,666 have been

issued, and 25,430 have been rejected, according to data published on the corporation's website. On the other hand, out of a total of 51,780 applications, 1,587 were pending processing, 13,354 were issued, and 36,839 were denied by the Delhi Police.



## Dual Degrees Granted Prior to 2022 by UGC

**Delhi:** Students can breathe a sigh of relief as the University Grants Commission (UGC) has revised its provisions regarding dual degrees. Acquired degrees prior to 2022 will now be recognized as valid, as long as they were earned in accordance with UGC requirements. Starting from that day forward, students were able to pursue two degrees simultaneously according to a notification issued by the UGC. All degrees earned at the same time prior to April 13, 2022, were null and void. Those UGC guidelines state that a student cannot claim benefits based on two degrees earned concurrently before 13 April 2022, and they also state that these degrees will not be recognized. The UGC resolved to revise this previous regulation during its



meeting on April 3, 2025. Guidelines were subsequently updated and released on June 5, 2025. New regulations make it possible to recognise a student's dual degree completion provided both degrees were earned in accordance with UGC requirements. If you want to get two degrees at once, you have to meet the requirements set out by the UGC. Both classes should not have conflicting schedules. Both courses can be taken in physical mode, however the class times need to be different.

### No Kashmir, Palestine in DU psychology syllabus

**Delhi:** The Standing Committee on Academic Matters reportedly eliminated the Israel-Palestine conflict, Kashmir crisis, and dating app suicides from DU's psychology syllabus proposal. The study discussed Mahabharata, Bhagavad Gita, and Israel-Palestine and Kashmir wars. He claimed "Kashmir is resolved" and "we don't need to teach Israel-Palestine". The committee head rejected another proposal to integrate dating app psychology.

## Indian medical students in Iran face uncertainty amid Iran-Israel rivalry

**Delhi:** The Indian government began Operation Sindhu to evacuate its residents, including over 6,000 students, from war-torn Iran amid rising tensions with Israel.

New Delhi received 110 Indians, mostly students, on the inaugural flight from Yerevan, Armenia. Due to instability in Ukraine and Russia, most MBBS students chose Iran. However, the Iran-Israel war has placed their careers on hold indefinitely, worrying these youngsters. Hasan Zaidi from Agra, Uttar Pradesh, who studied MBBS in Iran in



2024 at Arak University of Medical Sciences, Arak, told Education Times he only wants to return.

He to India after his first year of study. We initially thought the war would finish shortly and we wouldn't need to return. I chose Iran because the

war in Russia and Ukraine made schooling dangerous. A similar issue has occurred in Iran unexpectedly. Safety is why I selected this country, adds Hasan. Tehran is dangerous. Iranians are moving to safer locations.

## DU'S 4th-yr plan raises concern over teaching load and staff gaps

**Delhi:** Teachers at Delhi University are raising concerns about increasing workload and lack of assistance as the university prepares to welcome its first group of undergraduates in their fourth year. According to 202 faculty members, the university is moving forward without doing a

realistic assessment of teaching capacity or infrastructure needs, since the seventh and eighth semesters are set to start in late July and early August under the Undergraduate Curriculum Framework (UGCF). The increasing disparity between sanctioned teaching hours

and the number of hours presently needed as a result of the extra academic year is a big worry, they claimed. "In some of our department meetings, we real-ised there's a huge shortfall," remarked a faculty member from the geography department.

## DU's Decline to Publish Articles on Islam, Pakistan, and China Sets Off

**Delhi :** An alleged set of political science graduate papers focusing on Islam, Pakistan, and China were recently rejected by a tribunal at Delhi University. Many members were opposed to the plan. People felt strongly about it; some thought it was an example of ideological censorship, while others saw it as a way to make the curriculum more "India-centric and bias-free." The Standing Committee for Academic Matters at DU met and decided to eliminate four elective courses: Islam and International Relations, Pakistan and the



World, China's Role in the Contemporary World, and State and Society in Pakistan. When the group reconvenes on July 1, they will finally get down to reading and discussing paper number five: Religious Nationalism and Political Violence. Professor

Monami Sinha, who was on the committee, disagreed with the decision and claimed that the changes show an effort to water down content that is controversial but still relevant to academia. We contended that thorough research on China and Pakistan.

### 750 books in 22 languages to be added in curriculum

**Delhi:** Twenty-two Indian languages classified under phase I and phase II of the Bharatiya Bhasha initiative - have now been integrated into the academic framework of universities. Under the Bharatiya Bhasha Pustak Scheme (BBPS) -headed by the University Grants Commission and the Bharatiya Bhasha Samiti over 1,000 authors have been mobilised to - produce foundational textbooks in these languages, with 23 universities as nodal agencies.

**Delhi:** A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between the Universities of Leeds (UoL) in the United Kingdom and Delhi (DU) in India, formally establishing a strategic academic relationship between the two institutions. The two institutions hope to strengthen their capacity-building efforts, exchange teachers and students more easily, and increase their collaborative research through this arrangement. The institution has released a state-



ment stating that the MoU lays the groundwork for a lasting academic partnership that will include collaborative research, academic events, co-teaching, and shared learning platforms. In order to facilitate international cooperation and the generation of new

information, the two schools intend to forge closer relationships with one another. The social science faculty at the University of Leeds spearheaded the development of the friendship that would eventually blossom into the cooperation.

## 3rd-gen IITs struggle with low enrollment and placements

**Delhi:** Five third-generation

Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) founded between 2015 and 2016 are falling short of their intake targets, with fewer masters and PhD enrolments than available seats, declining placements, and faculty vacancies. The government announced six new IITs in Palakkad, Bhilai, Jammu, Dharwad, Tirupati, and Goa in 2015, with a "initial intake of 180 students in the first year from temporary campuses, increasing to 450 in the second year and to 928 (including 840 undergraduates) in the third year". In 2017, the Union Cabinet changed the intake



estimates. According to 2017 Cabinet-approved figures shared by IIT Tirupati, by 2023-24, IIT Tirupati and IIT Palakkad would have 2,550 students (900 undergraduates) and the remaining IITs 2,540 students (1,170 undergraduates) across all courses. Right to Information (RTI) Act data and open source data suggest that many of these institutes are still falling short of the predicted figure.

At present, IIT Tirupati has 1,700 students, which is expected to rise by 2021-22. IIT Tirupati director K.N. Satyanarayana said "The Cabinet approval for construction of a permanent campus for 1,200 students was given only in November 2017 as part of Phase A. COVID years delayed targets. The Cabinet recently approved Phase B construction to accommodate 1,300 more students (2500) by 2029.

## Class 10 CBSE final two board exam policy: first option mandatory, second optional

**Delhi:** The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) announced its final policy for two board exams for Class 10 students in 2026, making the first mandatory and the second optional. The Board produced a policy draft in February and solicited stakeholder input. CBSE Controller of Examinations Sanyam Bhardwaj reported that 65% of pupils supported twice-assigned tests. To ensure pupils take the first exam seriously, teachers and principals advised making it mandatory. The 2023 National Curriculum Framework, modified to reflect the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020,



**" Exams are between February and May. The CBSE has ruled that students who are missing in three or more courses during the first board exam, which would be the major exam, cannot sit the second (optional) exam. According to the final policy, such students would be placed in the 'Essential Repeat' category "**

allows students two attempts each year—one main exam and one optional improvement exam—to minimize the high-stakes character of board exams. Exams are between February and May. The CBSE has ruled that students who are missing in three or more courses during the

first board exam, which would be the major exam, cannot sit the second (optional) exam. According to the final policy, such students would be placed in the 'Essential Repeat' category and can only retake the major tests in February the following year.

## AR and VR have the potential to make cultural heritage more accessible to everybody



**Delhi:** India has to make use of technology to market and protect its history. Dr. Neeru Misra, a visiting professor at the BL Institute of Indology in Delhi and a former director of the ICCR, will discuss the challenges of digital preservation and how new technologies might help preserve cultural artifacts for future generations. When used to the preservation of artifacts and cultural history, digital technology and artificial intelligence (AI) will have a revolutionary impact. The process of digitization involves creating digital archives that are resistant to damage by using high-resolution imagery and 3D modeling to preserve artifacts. Scholarly investigation and popular appreciation will be made easier with this measure, which will safeguard physical degradation and guarantee accessibility on a worldwide scale. Predicting possible harm, analyzing environmental conditions that impact artefact deterioration, and enabling exact restoration are all ways in which artificial intelligence (AI) enhances preservation. As an added bonus, it uses historical data to restore damaged or lost works while maintaining their authenticity. In addition to these initiatives, VR and AR provide democratized access to cultural heritage by providing virtual experiences of historical sites and artifacts.

## University of Leeds, University of Delhi sign MoU



## Raptee.HV Launches T 30 High-Voltage Electric Motorcycle



**Delhi :** Raptee.HV, the Chennai-based EV startup, launched India's first high-voltage electric motorcycle, which is developed with the technology being used in Electric cars across the world. Called the Raptee T 30, it is the first of its kind to use universal charging standards that are used by cars. In simple words, it uses a CCS2 charging port. The motorcycle is priced at ₹ 2.39 lakhs, ex-show-room. The Raptee.HV Motorcycle has an IDC Est range of around 200 km and a real-world range of over

150 km on a single charge. The company claims that it can accelerate from 0 to 60 kmph in under 3.5 seconds. The 5.4 kWh battery pack is IP67-rated, and it takes 60 minutes for a 20-80 per cent juice-up via a 3.3 kW charger. Through a fast charger, the same can be done in just 30 minutes. Also, the brand is offering a warranty of 8 years of 80,000 km on the battery pack. The T 30 rides on a set of 17-inch rims with a 110-section tyre on the front and a 150-section tyre at the rear. Moreover, the

suspension includes 37 mm USD forks on the front and a telescopic shock absorber at the rear. Braking duties are performed by a 320 mm rotor at the front and a 230 mm disc at the rear. The motorcycle has advanced software features for an enhanced riding experience, including 3 riding modes and a 7-inch LCD instrument cluster. It comes equipped with connected features as well. There are four colours on offer - Horizon Red, Arctic White, Mercury Grey and Eclipse Black.

## FM reports 1100 out of 1200 state and national schemes under DBT

**Delhi:** Direct bank account transfers have been assured for 1,100 out of 1,200 national and state government projects, according to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. One hundred hundred out of one thousand two hundred federal and state programs get their funding sent straight to their bank accounts by DBT. She emphasized that the Public Financial Management System is crucial to the improvement of DBT. She said that PFMS has allowed the government to give benefits directly by cutting out middlemen at the 49th Civil Accounts



Day festivities. It was said "Everything is direct payment, so no middlemen, no unborn children getting allowances." All recipients have their funds deposited into accounts that have been biometrically verified. Out of the 1200 national and state schemes, DBT is in charge of 1100. By going

digital, PFMS has made all financial transactions more transparent and efficient, doing away with discrepancies and delays in fund distribution. The Minister of Finance made a point of mentioning that around 250 external systems, such as the Government e-Marketplace, GSTN, PM Kisan, and TIN 2.0, connect with PFMS. Efficient financial transactions and cooperative federalism are both facilitated by full integration. Through the integration of financial systems, the government may enhance the tracking of fund flows and ensure accountability.

## EU, India will sign FTA by year-end

**Delhi:** The sides promised "concrete steps" to finish the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor. The FTA states that the parties would "work as trusted partners to enhance market access and remove trade barriers". Modi and Leyen stressed IMEC. Modi said, "Concrete steps will be taken to take it forward. The

IMEC will promote global trade, sustainable growth, and prosperity. The IMEC was announced at the September 2023 G20 in New Delhi. India, the US, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and various European nations are involved. The corridor will link India, West Asia, and Europe via train, road, and sea. Lal was asked if

Europe would require lower wine, cheese, and automobile taxes. Leyen traveled to India with 22 EU Commissioners. It emphasizes our value. India and the EU are and space cooperation. The two sides agreed to have "focused discussions" on the military sector and marine domain awareness to strengthen shared assessment.

## When oil prices drop every month, US stocks go up

**Delhi:** Wall Street indexes rose in choppy rises as in-line European markets ended flat, continuing their 10-week winning streak. The Federal Reserve is expected to decrease interest rates twice this year, according to U.S. inflation figures. Crude prices fell 1%, the first monthly decline since November, as markets braced for fresh levies from Washington and crude exports from Iraq's Kurdistan region. According to a White House source, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy of Ukraine will depart the Oval Office early Friday after a contentious meeting with Trump. Following reports of falling yearly inflation and sluggish consumer spending in the lat-



est statistics tracked by the Federal Reserve, U.S. Treasury rates hit multi-month lows. A drop of 2.93 points, or 0.34%, was recorded by MSCI's global stock index. Crypto values dropped after the Trump boom waned. The U.S. personal consumption expenditures (PCE) price index fell from

2.6% in December to 2.5% last month, according to the Bureau of Economic Analysis, which is part of the Commerce Department.

Core personal consumption expenditure, the favored inflation indicator of the Federal Reserve, fell to 2.6% from 2.9% following an upward revision. Inflation of

### Manufacturing activity slows to a 14-month low in February

**NEW DELHI:** Activity in the country's manufacturing sector grew at its slowest pace in 14 months as production and new orders moderated but it still remained robust, a survey showed. The HSBC India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) registered a reading of 56.3 in Feb, down from 57.7 in Jan, but still indicative of further improvement in the health of the sector. The 50-point mark separates from contraction in the survey, which is compiled from responses to questionnaires sent to 400 manufacturing firms.

## Keep existing FY interest rate at 8.25%: EPFO board

**Delhi:** The central board of trustees of the Employees Provident Fund Organisation proposed keeping the interest rate at 8.25% for the current financial year. The finance minister must approve this before money is credited to seven crore subscribers. The Employees Provident Fund EPF has high and predictable returns compared to other fixed-income instruments, ensuring savings growth. The finance ministry taxed interest income obtained by people



who pay over Rs 2.5 lakh yearly a few years ago, claiming it would affect only 1% of subscribers. EPFO's 8.25% returns are far greater than PPF's 7.1%. Compounding is available with PPF's Rs 1 lakh annual investment cap. SBI is offering 7.5% on two- to three-year fixed deposits, however the interest income is

taxed and compound interest is not available. A 30% taxpayer will receive 5.25% post-tax FD returns. The EPFO board also amended the Employees' Deposit-Linked Insurance EDLI program to provide a minimum payment of Rs 50,000 to EPF members who die without one year of continuous service.

## Graduates of state universities are unable to secure employment due to a lack of English ability

**Delhi :** Using the success stories of Punjab and Karnataka, the NITI Aayog suggests that state public universities work with international language organizations to provide programs for English and foreign language proficiency. The employability of the students who graduate from these institutions is greatly impacted by their "inadequate" skill in the English language. State public universities are essential to reaching the NEP 2020 objectives; they educate more than 80% of all college-aged students and were the focus of a new report from the National Institution of Transforming India Aayog, "Expanding Quality Higher Education Through States and State Public Universities," which was published. Local



### NGT requests DPCC report after plea says unlawful dyeing units continue.

**Delhi:** The applicant, an environmental activist, told the National Green Tribunal that more illegal dyeing facilities were operating in Khyala and Meethapur village in Delhi after the authorities alerted them of their actions. The tribunal ordered the Delhi Pollution Control Committee to act and report in four weeks. In another matter related to such units, a joint committee recommended a campaign to sensitize the public about illegal industrial activity.

businesses in a lot of states rely heavily on outside expertise and materials. One factor contributing to this trend, according to the poll, is the low English proficiency among local kids. This shows that state

## Apple will invest \$500bn and employ 20k in the US

**Delhi:** Apple will invest over \$500bn in the US over the next four years, starting with a Texas advanced manufacturing complex. Over that period, the tech giant intended to add 20,000 positions, with the "vast majority" in R&D, software, and AI. How much the spending accelerates the com-



pany's current activity is unclear. The amount includes

supplier and Apple TV production costs, according to Apple. Days after Apple CEO Tim Cook met with President Donald Trump, who has prioritized US business investment, the news was made. It stated that the 250,000-square-foot. Houston factory will construct servers "previously manufactured out-

side the US" to power Apple Intelligence, its AI system. The iPhone maker said it would open in 2026 and employ "thousands". Apple is also boosting its data center capacity in , Arizona, and Nevada and doubling its \$5bn funding for Trump's first-term manufacturing fund to \$10bn.

## Byju's loses \$533 million loan fraud case in US court

**Delhi: U.S. bankruptcy court** rules Riju Ravindran, Byju's parent business Think & Learn, and hedge fund Camshaft Capital guilty of \$533 million fraud and "breach of fiduciary duty." The beleaguered edtech business Byju's Alpha has been found to have engaged in several fraudulent financial transfers and conversions, according to a ruling issued by the Delaware Bankruptcy Court. Byju brother Riju Ravindran was found to have breached his fiduciary duty as director

of Byju's Alpha, according to the court. The court's clear recognition that Riju Ravindran, Camshaft, and Byju's engaged in a worldwide fraud including the theft of \$533 million is something we are grateful for. In a statement, the lenders hailed this as a major victory in their fight to reclaim the stolen assets that properly belong to them.

Byju successfully obtained a \$1.2 billion five-year term loan from Glas Trust through the establishment of his Alpha

special purpose financial organization. Having defaulted on its loans, Byju's Alpha was placed under trusteeship in March 2023. A group of 37 banks and other lending organizations gave Byju \$1.2 billion. Byju's Alpha's limited partnership interest in Camshaft Capital was transferred to William Morton's hedge fund, Camshaft Capital Fund. with the proceeds of about \$533 million in term loans, according to the lenders.

### Mittal's \$976 million Airtel stake sale

**Delhi:** Sunil Bharti Mittal's business sold \$976 million in India's No.2 wireless carrier to raise funding for new ventures. According to an exchange statement, Bharti Airtel Ltd. founder Indian Continental Investment Ltd. sold 0.84 percent interest or 51 million shares for Rs 8,485 crore (\$976 million), nearly a fourth of which was bought by Bharti Telecom Ltd. Other investors were not named in the trade at Rs 1660.46 per share, a tiny discount to

Monday's finish of Rs 1,675.6. The document said the shares were "allocated only to key marquee long only names, both global and domestic." Mittal is investing in Africa and OneWeb, which merged with Eutelsat in 2023, at the time of the sale. Last year, closely held Bharti Enterprises Ltd. bought 24.5% of BT Group Plc. Bharti Telecom now owns 40.47 percent of Airtel, reinforcing its "previously stated intent of strengthening its position. as the principal vehicle



## Zomato's Q4 net profit falls 77% to Rs 39 crore

**Delhi :** Eternal Ltd. (previously Zomato) announced a 77% drop in overall net profit to Rs 39 crore in Q4 FY25 from Rs 175 crore the year before. Zomato, which owns Blinkit, lost 33% of its quarterly net profit to Rs 59 crore in October-December. Overall expenditures rose 67% to Rs 6,104 crore from Rs 3,636 crore. QoQ, costs rose over 10%. Food delivery company consolidated income from operations rose 64% to Rs 5,833 crore from Rs 3,562 crore in the January-March quarter of the previous financial year. Zomato earned Rs 6,201 crore in the quarter, up from Rs 3,797 the year before. Its expenses rose from Rs 3,636 crore to Rs 6,104 crore. Zomato shares finished at Rs 232.5 on the BSE, up 0.58 percent. According to its stock exchange filing, Blinkit opened 294 net new stores in Q4 and is on track to reach 2,000 by



December 25. Deepinder Goyal, Founder and CEO, Eternal, said, "We don't see any long-term structural reason for this slowdown, as the fundamentals – low penetration of restaurant food and increasing urbanisation and per capita income in India – remain unchanged." The company has several promising initiatives in the pipeline and hopes some will work and lead to higher growth without compromising profitability. The company began reporting NOV and GOV for its B2C activities (food delivery, rapid commerce, and going-out) in Q4 FY25.

### Wagah closure hurts Afghan dry fruit imports

**Delhi:** The closing of the Attari-Wagah border has hampered the movement of dry fruits from Afghanistan to India, which may raise domestic prices by 10 to 25%. Afghanistan is India's greatest dried fruit supplier despite war and civil upheaval. Anil Mehra, National President of the Federation of Grocery and Dry Fruit Commercial Association, when the Attari-Wagah border closed, no trucks transporting dry fruits from to Attari had come. "50 trucks are at the Pakistani Wagah border.

## Private sector capex may fall 25% to Rs 4.88 lakh cr in FY26: Govt survey

**Delhi:** A government survey research estimates private business capital spending will drop 25% to Rs 4.88 lakh crore in 2025-26 from Rs 6.56 lakh crore in FY25. The Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation's Forward-Looking Survey on Private Sector CAPEX Investment Intentions between November 2024 and January 2025 found that private corporate capex was Rs 3.94 lakh crore in 2021-22, Rs 5.72 lakh crore in 2022-23, and Rs 4.22 lakh crore in 2023-24. To establish a fixed panel, 2,172 firms provided complete infor-



mation for all five years of the reference period. The government said the aggregated (unweighted) capex data from this panel of firms is credible for five-year capital expenditure trends. Over four years from 2021-22 to 2024-25, aggregate capex (unweighted) increased 66.3%. Of the

3,064 responding companies, 2,172 planned 2025-26 capex. The data suggests respondents are cautious when revealing capital spending plans. The research advised caution when interpreting 2025-26 Capex data due to the conservative stance and fear of responding firms.

## Possible goal of India-US trade deal: equal access to technology

**Delhi:** According to insiders, as part of the intended bilateral trade agreement (BTA), India is expected to request that the United States relax export controls and provide it with access to vital technologies on par with important American

allies such as Japan, Australia, and the United Kingdom. Furthermore, they mentioned that India might be interested in pursuing these kind of concessions in the following industries: semiconductors, biotechnology, artificial intelli-

gence (AI), pharmaceuticals, quantum computing, and telecom equipment. Textiles, gems and jewelry, leather goods, clothing, plastics, chemicals, shrimp, oil seeds, chemicals, grapes, and bananas are among the labor-intensive sectors.

## ATM withdrawals cost more: All about the new fees

**Delhi :** ATM users in India will incur revised transaction rates starting May 1, 2025, under the RBI's amended fee regime. The revisions aim to simplify ATM usage charges and promote digital banking for both financial and non-financial activities. Under the new guidelines, metro consumers will get three free ATM transactions each month and non-metro customers five. Free transactions include cash withdrawals and balance checks.

After this limit, banks can charge Rs 23 per transaction, excluding taxes. This applies to ATM and CRM transactions, although CRM



cash deposits are free. Many big banks have revised their client policies: HDFC said, "With effect from 1st May 2025, the ATM transaction charge rate beyond free limits will be revised from Rs 21 + taxes to Rs 23 + taxes."

Bank emphasized that only cash withdrawals at HDFC Bank ATMs exceeding the free limit will be charged, while non-financial transactions are free. Other banks' ATMs count both sorts of transactions toward the free limit.

## Promoters of Prudential, HCL to form health insurer

### Amazon Launches Project Kuiper Satellite Internet Service

**Delhi:** A United Launch Alliance Atlas V rocket launched the payload into Low Earth Orbit from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station.

Amazon claimed it had contacted all 27 satellites by morning and was activating them "nominally." Amazon launched two test satellites in 2023, but this is its first full-scale deployment. The corporation expects to launch over 3,200 satellites using ULA's Atlas V and Vulcan rockets, Blue Origin, and others. Amazon thinks it needs 580 operating satellites to supply internet connectivity.

**Delhi:** Prudential and HCL Group promoters announced a separate health insurance joint venture. Prudential Group Holdings, Prudential's UK affiliate, would own 70% of the joint venture, while HCL Group promoter Vama Sundari Investments will own 30%. HCL founder Shiv Nadar gave his daughter Roshni Nadar Malhotra large shares in Vama Sundari Investments, giving her power. Prudential had its first branch in Kolkata in



1923, making India a critical market, according to CEO Anil Wadhvani. "Today, we have a significant presence with life insurance and asset management businesses providing a comprehensive offering of insurance and wealth products," Wadhvani. ICICI Bank has partnered with Prudential, a FTSE 100

company, for over two decades in life insurance and asset management. The Prudential cooperation intends to provide quality health insurance in India, according to Vama executive director Shikhar Malhotra. "Through this collaboration, we aim to advance our common mission to enhance access to quality health insurance and drive greater penetration across the country," stated. If approved by regulators, Amar Joshi will lead the joint venture.

## The government raises sugarcane FRP by 4.41% to Rs 355 per quintal for 2025-26

**Delhi:** The government raised the fair and remunerative price (FRP) of sugarcane by 4.41 percent to Rs 355 per quintal for the 2025-26 season in October.

An official statement said the Cabinet Committee



on Economic Affairs (CCEA) chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi made this decision in the interest of sugarcane farmers. Sugarcane FRP is Rs 340 per quintal for 2024-25. Sugar mills must pay sugarcane growers FRP, the minimum price set by the Indian government. I&B Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw told the media after the

meeting that the FRP of Rs 355 per quintal for a 10.25% basic recovery rate was approved. "The FRP for sugar season 2025-26 is 4.41 per cent higher than current sugar season 2024-25," says the report. Farmers will receive Rs 3.46 per quintal for each 0.1% sugar recovery increment above 10.25%. FRP decreases by Rs 3.46 per quintal.

## For 2025-26, I-T Department notifies ITR forms 1, 4

**Delhi:** Individuals and companies with income up to Rs 50 lakh must file ITR forms 1 and 4 for assessment year (AY) 2025-26 with the income tax department. Anyone with long-term capital gains up to Rs 1.25 lakh in a fiscal year can submit ITR-1. Previously, they had to file ITR-



2. With the notification, individuals, HUFs, corporations with income up to Rs 50 lakh, and

those with business and professional incomes in 2024-25 (April-March) can file I-T returns. ITR Form 1 (Sahaj) and ITR Form 4 (Sugam) are easier forms for many small and medium taxpayers. Sahaj can be filed by a resident with an annual income of up to Rs 50 lakh from

salary, one residential property, other sources (interest), and agricultural income up to Rs 5,000. Individuals, Hindu Undivided Families (HUFs), and firms (other than LLPs) with yearly income up to Rs 50 lakh and business and profession revenue can file sugam.

## Q4 Adani Enterprises net profit jumps 7.5x to Rs 3,845 crore, incubating enterprises thrive

**Delhi :** Adani Enterprises Ltd. (AEL), the flagship firm of the Adani Group, reported strong financial results, with net profit rising 7.5 times to Rs 3,845 crore in Q4 FY25 from Rs 449 crore in FY24. Adani Wilmar Ltd.'s 13.5% stake sale in Q4 gave AEL an outstanding gain of Rs 3,946 crore. Revenue rose 2% to Rs 1,00,365 crore and consolidated PBT rose 16% to Rs 6,533 crore in FY25. Incubating firms' solid operational performance drove EBITDA up



26% to Rs 16,722 crore last fiscal, the company said. Gautam Adani, Chairman of Adani Group, said Adani Enterprises is establishing firms that will shape India's infrastructure and energy sector. Our scale, speed, and sustainability drove our strong FY25 success. The billionaire industri-

alist said disciplined execution, future-focused investments, operational excellence, innovation, and sustainability drove impressive development across our incubation businesses. Adani New Industries Limited (ANIL) began expanding solar cell and module operations

### WB: Oil prices might drop 17% and commodity prices 12%

**Delhi:** Commodity prices, according to the World Bank, could drop 12% this year, with the oil index possibly falling 17%, as a result of slowing economic development. "If realised, these declines will end a period of ele-

vated inflation-adjusted commodity prices in the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic and Russia's invasion of Ukraine," recent commodities Markets Outlook. Reports indicate that supplies might be higher this year.

for 6 GW in Q4 FY25 with financial close. Improved realization and operational efficiency drove solar module sales up 59% to 4,263 MW and greater

EBITDA margins. The company reported that ANIL wind business expanded capacity to 2.25 GW in Q4 FY25 with 5.2 MW, 3.4 MW, and 3.0 MW WTG.