

# AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

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

## SC quashed all his judgments, fortunately he has retired

**NEW DELHI:** "Fortunately, the (HC) judge has demitted office," said CJI B R Gavai on Friday while recalling the torrid time SC judges had in deciphering the incomprehensible language and reasoning in the judgments of Justice Sureshwar Thakur, who retired on May 17. The CJI and Justice K Vinod Chandran were hearing appeals filed by three men against an October 1, 2024, judgment of a Punjab and Haryana HC bench led by Thakur, who had reversed the

### Both the disclosure statement, and, the thereto recoveries

Consequently, both the disclosure statement, and, the consequent thereto recoveries, when do become efficaciously proven, therebys theretos immense evidentiary tenacity is to be assigned. Preeminently also when

trial court's decision to acquit them in a murder case. Advocates Sidharth Dave and Narender Hooda, appear-



thus they do corroborate the rendition of credible eye witness account vis-a-

ing for the accused and complainant, respectively, were also perplexed by Thakur's judgment and agreed to the

vis the crime event. Moreover, when the memos (supra) also lend corroboration also to the medical account, therebys through all the links (supra), the charge drawn against the accused becomes proven to the hilt."

CJI's suggestion that Haryana govt's appeal against the acquittal was needed to be decided afresh by HC.

When CJI asked for Hooda's view on the proposition, he said there have been problems with the judge's verdicts, with many of his decisions having been overturned by SC. To this, CJI said, "It is not 'many'. Every decision of the judge, which was challenged in SC, had been overturned. Fortunately, he has demitted office." A paragraph from the conclusion of the Oct-1 judgment of Justice Thakur's read: "Consequently, when therebys the above evident facts.

## TMC differs with opposition over joining JPC on bills

**NEW DELHI:** After the united outrage by opposition against the Constitution amendment bill that provides for automatic sacking of ministers and CMs jailed for 30 days, INDIA bloc is forced to wait to nominate MPs to the parliamentary panel to scrutinise the legislation in view of Trinamool Congress's reluctance to join it. Sources said TMC was pushing for boycott of the JPC, but the rest of the opposition wanted to be on the panel to ensure that Modi government did not get a free run on "the weapon to target the opposition-ruled states".



## We will not let the infiltrators snatch the rights of the people of Bihar: PM

The cost of all these is more than 13 thousand crore rupees

**Patna.** Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of various developmental projects including electricity, rail, road, health, housing, water supply, rural and urban infrastructure, cancer care, integrated river conservation worth more than Rs 13 thousand crores through remote during a program organized at Magadh University campus in Bodh Gaya of Gaya district on Friday. Governor Arif Mohammad Khan and Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, along with all the Union Ministers of Bihar and both Deputy Chief Ministers also participated in this program. In his address during the program, the Prime Minister praised the development work done in Bihar by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar.



### Bihar got full support from the Center: CM Nitish Kumar

**Gayaji.** Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Friday expressed happiness over the gift of more than 13 thousand crore rupees to Bihar from the Central Government. Addressing a public meeting organized on

the arrival of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Gayaji, he also mentioned the development work done in Gayaji. Chief Minister Nitish Kumar said in his address in Gayaji that Bihar is getting full support from the Central.

The Prime Minister said that today many schemes have been inaugurated and foundation stones have been laid for the development of Bihar. The cen-

tral government is working shoulder to shoulder with Chief Minister Nitish Kumar for the development of the state. Addressing the program, the Chief

### "This is the widest bridge in Asia"

"This is the widest bridge in Asia with a width of 34 meters. It is based on 18 pillars and has three-lane roads on both sides. A 100-metre wide rotary (Zero Mile) towards Aunta and an 80-metre-wide rotary towards Simaria have been built and given the shape of a park.

### It is the country's widest extra-dosed bridge

It is the country's widest extra-dosed bridge designed with a single segmental structure having a 34-metre-wide deck over the Ganga. With span lengths ranging from 57 m to 115 m and 70 m cantilever arms, the structure exemplifies engineering excellence," he said.

### The bridge parallel to the two-lane

RCD minister Nitin Nabin on Wednesday visited the bridge parallel to the two-lane rail-cum-road bridge, Rajendra Setu. He reviewed the preparations for the inaugural function at Simaria where PM Modi will also see the Simaria ghat before flying to Kolkata to inaugurate.

Minister said that today the Prime Minister has inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of 14 projects related to electricity, road and urban development across the

state from here, this is a very big thing. Also, two trains have been flagged off. The cost of all these is more than 13 thousand crore rupees.



Friday was a special day for Bhagalpur in terms of both politics and social concerns. Rahul Gandhi and RJD leader Tejaswi Yadav reached Bhagalpur today under the Voter Rights Yatra. A large number of people participated in this yatra.

## IAS officers body slams 'personal attacks' on CEC & family

**NEW DELHI:** IAS Officers' Association on Friday said it "strongly deprecates the unwarranted criticism and personal attacks" against chief election commissioner Gyanesh Kumar and his family members, who are also civil servants, amid allegations of 'vote theft' by certain opposition members. In a post on X, the association said such personal attacks are unconnected with the discharge of official duties. "We



stand for dignity and integrity in public service," it said. The assertion came days after Congress neta Rahul Gandhi warned the CEC and the two election commissioners, all former IAS officers, of 'action' when INDIA bloc "forms govt in Bihar and Delhi".

"The three election commissioners... I want to tell them that it is Modi's govt right now... But a day will come when there will be an INDIA bloc govt in Bihar and Delhi. Then we will take action against... You've stolen (votes) from the whole country," Rahul had said, in Bihar's Gaya on Aug 18. "CEC Kumar and his family members have been subject to online trolling following Rahul's warning and opposition.

## Trump names Sergio , a close aide, as US ambassador to India

**Washington:** US President Donald Trump on Friday nominated Tashkent-born Sergio Gor, a close aide and White House Director of Presidential Personnel as the Ambassador to India. If confirmed by the Senate, Gor will concurrently hold charge as Special Envoy for South and Central Asian Affairs. The region includes Pakistan and Bangladesh, among other countries, where Washington does not have ambassadors and US embassies are led by charge d'affaires. "For the most populous Region in the World, it is important that I have someone I can fully trust to deliver on my Agenda and help us, MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN. Sergio will make an incredible Ambassador," Trump said in a social media post, describing Gor as "a great friend, who has been at my side for many years. Gor, who is 39, will be the youngest US ambassador to India, and will come to New Delhi replacing Eric Garcetti, a Democratic appointee who returned to his native California at the end of the Biden presidency. Gor is known as a low-profile White House insider who, by Trump's own account, hired nearly 4,000 "America First Patriots" (MAGA faithful) across every department of the federal government in record time. "He worked on my Historic Presidential Campaigns, published my Best Selling Books, and ran one of the biggest Super PACs, which supported our Movement. Sergio's role as Director of Presidential Personnel has been essential .



## India to develop with France engine for desi stealth fighter

### Research

❑ The project, with DRDO's lab Gas Turbine Research Establishment

**NEW DELHI:** India is now finally getting set to kick off the collaboration with France to co-develop a new powerful jet engine for its indige-

Goyal held discussions with leading industrialists of the textile industry

**New Delhi:** Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Saturday met leading industrialists of the textile industry in Mumbai amid the US' announcement of imposing 25 per cent import duty (tariff) on India. Intensive discussions were held with the industrialists. During this, bold ideas were discussed to enhance global competitiveness, sustainability.



nous fifth-generation stealth fighter and other futuristic platforms, which will further bolster the already expansive strategic partnership between the two coun-

tries. Defence Research and Development Organisation will soon move the cabinet committee on security for the approval of the ambitious project with French major Safran, with 100% transfer of technology, to jointly design, develop, test, qualify, certify and produce the new 120 kilonewton engines in India, senior officials told TOI.

"DRDO has cleared the proposal by Safran, which already makes a variety of helicopter engines in India, as the best option for the twin-engine fifth-generation fighter called AMCA (advanced medium combat aircraft). The project, with DRDO's lab Gas Turbine Research Establishment, would cost almost \$7 billion," an official said.

### Clarified

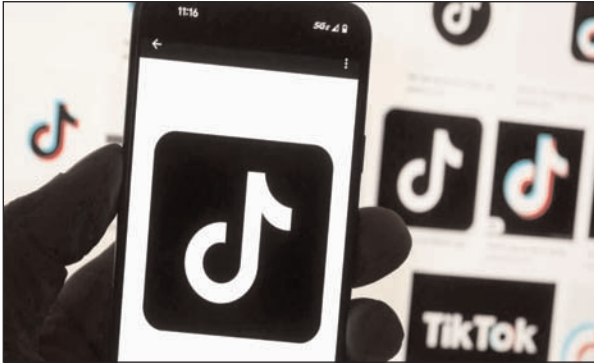
Any such statement/news is false and misleading," ANI quoted government sources

## Government says hasn't issued any unblocking order for TikTok

### SIR

❑ The government at the time said the apps were "prejudicial to sovereignty

**NEW DELHI:** The government on Friday clarified that no order has been issued to lift the ban on TikTok, news agency ANI reported, quoting sources. "The Government of



India has not issued any unblocking order for TikTok. Any such statement/news is false and misleading," ANI quoted govern-

ment sources as saying. The clarification came after Chinese apps like TikTok, AliExpress, and Shein

had become partly accessible in India. TikTok website is not allowing access further than the homepage, the TikTok mobile app is still completely inaccessible in India. No shopping is allowed through AliExpress, which is a subsidiary of online shopping major Alibaba.com. TikTok, Ali Express, along with 58 other Chinese apps, were banned in India in

June 2020 citing concerns over data security and privacy. The government at the time said the apps were "prejudicial to sovereignty and integrity of India, defence of India, security of state and public order." The move came two weeks after heightened tensions between India and China along the Line of Actual Control (LAC).



## Stopping Ayushman Bharat services, PVT hospitals in Haryana

**Delhi :** More than 600 private clinics in Haryana that were empanelled with Ayushman Bharat have ceased treating cards, which is a huge blow for those people. A number of persistent issues, including late or inadequate payments, are causing the hospitals to struggle, according to their statements. Last month, the state government was already notified by the Indian Medical Association (IMA) Haryana. The Health Secretary, Ayushman officials, and IMA Haryana met this, but no resolution was reached. The president of IMA Haryana, Dr. MP Jain, stated that this led to the decision to discontinue services. According to Dr. Jain, the state administration lacks the financial resources necessary to effectively administer the program, which is funded by the federal government. Additionally, more than 600 private hospitals are yet to get payment totaling



### Out of 13.9L allopathic physicians, just 996 used NMR

**Delhi :** Even though it has been about a year since the National Medical Register was introduced as "a comprehensive and dynamic database for all allopathic doctors," out of the 13.9 lakh allopathic doctors registered with state medical councils, just 996 include NMR registration. According to the National Medical Commission (NMC), 91% of the 11,200 registration applications that were submitted have not been approved, according to an RTI question. Despite considerable anticipation, almost Rs 500 crore, he said. The sum of thirty thousand rupees

the NMR site of NMC, which was supposed to register all MBBS doctors eligible to practice in India, has not taken off. The launch was attended by the Union health minister. Supporters of NMR said it would "strengthen the digital healthcare ecosystem" and pave the way for additional healthcare workers, like paramedics, to have their own registers. The fate of the approximately 35 lakh nurses and paramedics, who would make up more than twice the number of nurses, is uncertain in has been disbursed in the past three days, which is insufficient.

## Uttarakhand CM Releases Rs 20 Crore For Relief Operations

**Delhi :** The Chief Minister of Uttarakhand, Trivendra Singh Rawat, has ordered the transfer of Rs 20 crore from the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) to fund rescue and relief activities in the state following the glacier burst. The state administration released a statement saying that Mr. Rawat met with senior officials today to discuss disaster relief and rescue efforts. Helicopters delivered food and humanitarian supplies to remote settlements that had lost all means of communication. To inquire about the current situation of rescue and relief efforts in



the Reni region of Joshimath, the Chief Minister convened a meeting at the secretariat with high-ranking government, disaster-management, police, Army, and Indo-Tibetan Border Police authorities. There ought to be sufficient food supplies in the region, he told the cops.

"All necessary materials should be available on time to the personnel engaged in relief and rescue operations," added Mr. Rawat. The chief minister has ordered that officials periodically assess sensitive areas and that SDRF units be stationed close to such areas.

## Budget for Manipur passes Lok Sabha despite opposition outcry

**Delhi :** Amidst the chaos, the Lower House approved the Manipur Budget for 2025-26 by voice vote, even as the Congress-led Opposition's persistent protests wiped out Lok Sabha proceedings. The Opposition had been demanding a discussion

on the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral registers in Bihar. House members quickly adjourned for the day following the Bill's passage. Both the President and Parliament have decided to keep Manipur under President's Rule till

February 2026, which began this year. A total of Rs 30,969.44 crore, including the amount of Rs 35,103.90 crore that was initially proposed in March, is authorized under the Bill. The Union Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman, defended the decision.

## Omar writes to political party in support of statehood

**Delhi :** The chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir, Omar Abdullah, has written to every major national party, including the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), requesting that J&K be reinstated as a state. In his letter, the chief minister advocated for the return of statehood and called on lawmakers to introduce a measure during the current legislative session. "The restoration must not be viewed as a concession but as an essential course correction, one that prevents us from sliding down a dangerous and slippery slope where the statehood of our constituent states is no longer regarded as a foundational and



sacred constitutional right but reduced instead to a discretionary favour bestowed at the will of the central govt," Omar stated.

After reorganizing J&K state into two Union Territories, J&K UT and Ladakh UT, the Centre annulled the provisions of

Article 370 of the Constitution. On December 11, 2023, the Supreme Court supported the lower court's judgment to void Article 370, but they did note that Jammu and Kashmir should be re-stated promptly.

### Bastar villages get 300 phone towers

**Delhi:** Centre and state have built at least 300 cell phone towers in Chhattisgarh's Bastar region in areas freed from Maoist rule in the last year. Security troops and Maoists fight over cell phone towers. Tower construction is a government priority. Destroying them is equally vital to Maoists. According to sources, at least 32 cell phone towers were built in Abhujmad, a vast forest of 5,000 sq km in Maoist-affected Bastar regions. In recent years, security troops penetrated portions of Abhujmad that had never been mapped and was Maoist-controlled. A top security officer in

## Shinde meets PM, Shah, says will back NDA V-P nominee

**Delhi:** Eknath Shinde, leader of the Shiv Sena and former chief minister of the state, declared that his party would provide "unconditional support" to the NDA's vice presidential candidate. This could pave the way for other alliance partners to do the same, increasing the likelihood that a BJP candidate will be appointed to the constitutional position following the September 9 election. During his third visit to Delhi in less than a month, Shinde met with Amit Shah, the minister of home affairs, at Shah's



Parliament office and then made the news. After last month's departure of Jagdeep Dhankhar, an election for the position of vice president was deemed necessary.

During his meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Shinde offered his congratulations on the successful completion of

Operations Sindoor and Mahadev. People paid a lot of attention to the twin interactions.

Meeting with the BJP leadership, who allegedly helped bring down the Uddhav Thackeray government in 2022, was evidence of his ties with them, according to sources.

## Retail prices of 37 additional medications, emergency-use medications are capped

**Delhi :** The government has set a maximum price for four different types of emergency medications, as well as a retail price for 37 other types of drugs, including antibiotics and pain relievers, made by different companies. Ipratropium is one of the medications used for emergency purposes; it helps patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) avoid symptoms including wheezing, shortness of breath, coughing, and chest tightness. The maximum price per milliliter was set at 2.96 rupees. The medications Sodium Nitroprusside (an injectable used to quickly lower blood pressure in hypertensive emergencies, during surgery to reduce bleeding, and in cases of acute heart failure) cost Rs 28.99 per milliliter; Diltiazem (a pill used to treat high blood pressure and chest pain) cost Rs 26.72 per capsule; and Povidone iodine (a



### For LPG subsidies, the cabinet approves 42,000 crore

**Delhi :** About 330 million Indian households, including 103.3 million low-income families, would have access to cheaper cooking gas thanks to ₹42,060 crore that was granted under two separate categories in the current fiscal year by the Union cabinet. In the past, state-run oil marketing companies were given 30,000 crore as budgetary support to help middle-

class households with subsidised cooking gas. According to Ashwini Vaishnaw, the minister of information and broadcasting, in FY26, the government will continue to provide 12,060 crore to support the beneficiaries of the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana. He said, "PM Ujjwala yojana is globally recognized as one of the biggest examples of inclusive growth.

announcement was made by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority stating that manufacturers.

## More than 100,000 votes allegedly "stolen"; EC requests signed statement

**Delhi :** In 2024, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) was able to secure the seat in the Mahadevapura assembly segment of the Bangalore (Central) Parliamentary constituency due to 100,250 votes that were allegedly "stolen" from the voters. Rahul Gandhi, who is the

leader of the opposition in the Lok Sabha, accused the Election Commission of India of "colluding" with the political party.

The Election Commission wasted no time responding to his presentation—which contained the names of the affected voters—and request-

ed that he submit a declaration and oath in writing. Gandhi offered a breakdown of the "stolen" votes, asserting that a group of forty individuals spent six months reviewing the seven-foot-thick, non-machine-readable election registers provided by the Commission: 11, 965 vot-

ers were found to have entered the same information twice, 40,000 people had incorrect or fraudulent addresses, 10, 452 voters were in groups of 60 or 70 votes using the same address, 4,132 voters had photographs that did not match, and 3, 692 voters had used Form 6.

## 334 unrecognized parties delisted by EC due to violation of standards

**Delhi:** On Saturday, 334 RUPPS were delisted by the Election Commission for failing to comply with registration norms and/or regulatory requirements. The number of RUPPS has been cut from 2,854 to 2,520 in the most recent round of delisting, which EC has described as a comprehensive and ongoing strategy to clean up the political environment. In accordance with Section 29B and Section 29C of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, read with the relevant sec-



tions of the Income Tax Act, 1961, and the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968, delisted RUPPS are no longer eligible for

income-tax reductions. The rules provide that a political party will be removed from the registry of registered parties if it does not actively participate in elec-

tions for a period of six years. The EC had previously ordered the state and UT CEOs to verify 345 RUPPS in June to make sure they were following its rules and the RP Act's aforementioned requirements. The results showed that 334 out of 345 RUPPS did not meet the requirements mentioned above, according to the reports of the CEOs. The remaining cases have been returned to the CEOs for further review, according to EC's statement.



## 71 kidney stones removed in SRN hospital, operation lasted for 2 hours

**Akhand Bharat Sandesh**

**Operation**

He said that do not ignore any kind of urinary problem, pain or recurring infection

**Prayagraj.** 71 stones have been removed from the kidney of a 68-year-old man in Swaroop Rani Nehru Hospital. It took 2 hours for the doctors to operate on the stones. The patient is now completely healthy. His operation was done under the supervision of the head of the Urology Department,

Prof. Dr. Dilip Chaurasia. The team included urologists Dr. Shirish Mishra, Dr. Deepak Gupta and Dr. Adarsh. Stones found in both kidneys during examination



Khan (68), a resident of Banda district, used to

have severe pain in his kidneys. He also felt

difficulty in urination. He consulted many

doctors but the problem did not go away. Finally, he reached Swaroop Rani Nehru Hospital of Moti Lal Nehru Medical College. When the patient was examined, it was found that a lot of stones were deposited in both his kidneys. By operating on time, the doctors kept his kidneys safe and gave relief to the patient. The doctor said - if the operation was not done on time, the

kidney would have been damaged. Prof. Dr. Dilip Chaurasia said- This case was quite challenging. It is not common for such a large number of stones to come out at once. This is no less than a miracle for the patient. If there was no timely treatment, the patient's kidney could have been damaged. He said that do not ignore any kind of urinary problem, pain or recurring infec-

tion and contact a specialist immediately. The anaesthesia team also had a special contribution in this surgery. The team included Associate Professor Dr. Dharmendra Yadav, Dr. Pragati Saxena, Dr. Azim and Dr. Priyanka. They kept the patient's condition completely under control during the operation, so that the surgery could be completed successfully.

## DM reviewed the progress report of Aspirational Development Blocks-Bahria, Koraon and Manda

Instructed the CMO to ensure all the necessary arrangements in the BHND session

**Equipment**

All ASHA and Anganwadi workers must take all the necessary equipment

**Akhand Bharat Sandesh**



**Prayagraj.** Under the chairmanship of District Magistrate Manish Kumar Verma, the progress report of Aspirational Development Blocks-Bahria, Koraon and Manda was reviewed in Sangam Auditorium on Friday. In the meeting, the District Magistrate has instructed the officials of Panchayati Raj Department, Basic Education Department, Child Development

Nutrition Department, Health Department, Agriculture Department, Energy and Rural Development Department in Development Blocks Bahria, Koraon and Manda to take necessary action on the actionable points related to their department which are still pending. He has instructed the Chief Medical Officer to ensure all the necessary arrangements in the BHND session in

the respective blocks as well as to arrange for all the equipment. He said that all ASHA and Anganwadi workers must take all the necessary equipment to the VHND session and have instructed to do a complete check-up of ANC of pregnant women coming to the VHND session. He has given instructions to get high blood pressure and diabetes checked. The district magistrate has given instructions to

increase institutional deliveries in Baharia, Koraon and Manda.

It is notable that out of 23 development blocks of the district, 02 development blocks Baharia and Koraon have been selected by NITI Aayog, Government of India and development block Manda has been selected by the Government of Uttar Pradesh under aspirational block. In the absolute ranking of 108 aspirational blocks, Baharia is 15, Koraon is 63 and Manda is 68 and in delta ranking Baharia is 102, Koraon is 107 and Manda is 12. On this occasion, Chief Development Officer Harshika Singh and all the concerned officers were present.

**Gautam Buddha Nagar, Shravasti Lead July's Positive IGRS Rankings**

**Lucknow:** Under the leadership of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, continuous efforts are underway to make the IGRS more efficient, transparent, and people friendly. In this context, the July report was presented before the Chief Minister. Gautam Buddha Nagar secured the top position at the level of Police Commissioner, SSP, and SP by receiving the highest percentage of satisfied.



Hon'ble Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath ji holding a review meeting of the Urban Development Department at his official residence.

## Illegal arms factory busted in Banda, large number of illegal arms recovered

**Akhand Bharat Sandesh**



**Baberu/Banda.** Under the able guidance of Banda Superintendent of Police Palash Bansal, in order to control crime and criminals in the district and to take action against those who collect and sell illegal arms, Baberu Kotwali Police was patrolling and checking under the close supervision of Additional Superintendent of Police Shivraj and Police Circle

Officer Saurabh Singh, when information was received that a person is running an illegal arms factory in the forest of Gadra Nala Sahidan Dera in Baberu Kotwali area. In

which he manufactures and sells illegal arms. On receiving the information, Baberu Kotwali Police along with the force reached the spot on the evening of 21st August

and surrounded the area and arrested an accused Ram Bhajan son of Devlal Nishad resident of Tarsian Dera Majra Nibhaur police station Baberu. A large number of manufactured illegal pistols and semi-manufactured pistols, country-made cartridges, a large number of equipment for making illegal arms were recovered from his possession. On searching the deposit, a 315 bore illegal pistol and cartridges were recovered.

## High Court summons officials in the matter of increasing honorarium of Shiksha Mitras

**Prayagraj.** Allahabad High Court has directed four officers related to Basic Education to fully comply with the order of forming a committee to take a decision on increasing the honorarium of Shiksha Mitras or appear on 11 September. This order has been given by Justice Neeraj Tiwari while hearing the contempt petition of Vivekanand of Varanasi. The court has directed Kanchan Verma Director General of School Education-



Project Director Samagra Shiksha, Pratap Singh Baghel Director Basic Education, Surendra Kumar Tiwari, Secretary Basic Education Board and Deepak Kumar

Additional Secretary Basic Education UP to comply with the order and file an affidavit or appear on the next date to start contempt proceedings. It has been said in the petition that

## Bikaru case: Bail plea of accused rejecte

**Akhand Bharat Sandesh**

**Prayagraj.** Allahabad High Court rejected the bail plea of Shivam Dubey alias Dalal, accused in Kanpur's famous Bikaru case. The court said that the accused has given wrong information, so he cannot be given any relief. This order was passed by Justice Saurabh Shyam Shamsheri. The petitioner is accused of being involved in the incident along with the main accused Vikas Dubey, in which eight policemen were brutally murdered.

Additional Government Advocate Vikas Sahay told the court that the accused hid the fact in the affidavit that a case under the Gangster Act is registered against him and he has also been sentenced in the same case on 5 September 2023. The court remarked that there is no reason to believe that the accused is not aware of this information. Apparently due to concealment of criminal history, the court rejected the bail plea and said that now the bail plea of ??the accused will not be considered for a certain period.

## Successful completion of the fourth round of integrated 'Sampoorna' training

**Akhand Bharat Sandesh**

**Prayagraj.** The fourth round of the 5-day integrated teaching training program 'Sampoorna', conducted under the direction of Principal Rajendra Pratap, DIET Prayagraj, was completed from 18 to 22 August.

A total of 150 teachers from Korav and Saidabad blocks of Prayagraj district participated in this round. On the closing day, special guest Santosh Kumar (standing advocate) and chief guest Divesh Vikram Singh (additional chief standing advocate) gave motivational addresses to



the teachers and distributed certificates. Deputy Education Director/Principal Rajendra Pratap also encouraged the participating teachers! DIET spokesperson Akhilesh Singh, Pankaj Kumar Yadav, Dr. Prasun Kumar Singh, Surabhi Singh, Nidhi Mishra, Dr.

Kulbhushan Maurya, Dr. Abdul Mohyi, Vivek Tripathi, Dr. Rajesh Kumar Pandey and Principal of Government Inter College Neelam Chaturvedi and spokesperson Dr. Shalish Ram Tripathi, Pankaj Kumar Gupta, Aparna Sonkar had commendable cooperation in making this training successful.

## CM directs departments to focus on passenger safety, convenience, and revenue growth

## Priority to 'Made in UP' in e-bus procurement: CM

**Lucknow:** Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has instructed that priority be given to 'Made in UP' in the purchase of e-buses. He directed the Transport Department to ensure that, as far as possible, buses procured in the future are manufactured within Uttar Pradesh. According to the Chief Minister, this move will not only accelerate the state's industrial growth but also generate new employment opportunities at the local level. Reviewing the functioning of the Transport Department and the Uttar Pradesh



State Road Transport Corporation (UPSRTC) on Friday, the Chief Minister stressed that passenger convenience must remain the top priority. He called for expediting the construction of bus stations, promoting the operation of electric buses, focusing on road safety, and making every possible effort to enhance revenue. During

the presentation, officials informed that Roadways is developing 23 world-class bus terminals under the PPP model, with another 54 terminals planned in the second phase, while construction of 50 more is already underway. Additionally, UPSRTC is setting up electric depots

**Facility**  
CM highlighted that more than 78 lakh passengers availed the facility of free travel

in 8 cities, each equipped with 4 to 8 universal chargers of 240 kW capacity. The Chief Minister also directed that new routes be identified and private sector participation be encouraged for smoother transport services.

Expressing satisfaction, the Chief Minister highlighted that more than 78 lakh passengers availed the facility of free travel for three days—extended to women and one accompanying family member—on the occasion of Rakshabandhan. Discussing the department's

achievements, officials informed that 37.9 lakh new vehicles were registered in the state in 2024-25, while over 11 lakh vehicles were registered in the current financial year up to June alone. To promote electric mobility, tax and fee exemptions worth over ₹942 crore have been provided. The state has also enforced the 'No Helmet-No Fuel' rule to strengthen road safety. The Chief Minister further instructed that modern technology and better coordination with the police be used to minimize road accidents.

## Comply or appear in court

**Akhand Bharat Sandesh**

**Prayagraj.** Allahabad High Court has issued a contempt notice to Harishchandra, Executive Engineer (Research and Planning Section), Aligarh Irrigation Department. The court has directed him to comply with the order and file an affidavit by September 11, otherwise appear in person and face the proceedings. This order was passed by Justice Neeraj Tiwari while hearing the contempt petition of Ashok Kumar Sharma. Advocate Irfan Malik, on behalf of the petitioner, argued that Ashok Kumar Sharma was working as a surveyor in the Irrigation Department, Aligarh and retired on 31 July 2024. The

department had deducted Rs 16,10,989 from the retirement benefits. Citing the Supreme Court's Rafiq Masih case, the High Court declared this deduction illegal and ordered the amount to be returned within three months.

It was also clarified that if the amount is not returned on time, then 7% interest will have to be paid on it. The petitioner said that a copy of the order passed on January 20, 2024 was made available to the opponent on January 27, 2024, despite this the amount has not been returned till now. This contempt petition has been filed for disobeying the order. The next hearing of the case will be on September 11.



## Editorial

### The airport is being developed through a public-private partnership

**Some** geopolitical weight in the region. It presents no hesitation in developing the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK). It knows the disputed character of PoK and exercises no restraint. Instead, it tutors India on what it does in its sovereign territory. India understands China's cunning and exercises patience and quietness, making necessary preparations to check the latter's possible misadventures. However, the work-in-progress frontier highway will significantly strengthen India's border infrastructure and seamless connectivity. It will present a significant impetus for encouraging economic engagement in the region. Infrastructure and connectivity have always played a pivotal role in modernising the economy and opening the scope for economic. Noida International Airport Ltd (NIAL) at Jewar, in the Gautam Buddha Nagar district of Uttar Pradesh, conducted its first flight validation test on 9 December. According to NIAL officials, the first commercial flight from Noida International Airport is scheduled to take off on 17 April 2025. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi had inaugurated the construction of NIAL during a well-attended foundation stone-laying ceremony on 25 November 2021. An IndiGo test flight travelled from Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) to NIAL, completing the final security-related analysis for the facility. Officials stated that the flight was conducted under close coordination between the pilots and the air traffic controllers (ATC). There were no passengers on board when the flight landed on the 3.9-kilometre runway shortly after noon. Earlier, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) had granted flight and security approvals. Technically, the airport will now be readied for commercial operations. The Airports Authority of India (AAI) oversaw the exercise, and all data collected will be submitted to the DGCA for review. Supervising personnel included officials from the DGCA, the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA), NIAL, and the Uttar Pradesh Civil Aviation Department. The test assessed systems such as airspace coordination, communication protocols, emergency response readiness, and runway performance. Previous milestones included the successful calibration of the Instrument Landing System (ILS) and the Precision Approach Path Indicator (PAPI) in October 2024. "With the validation flight completed, we are committed to finishing the airport project before the end of April", said Union Minister.

for Civil Aviation Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu. "Today marks a very important occasion in the progress of the airport and definitely whatever support is required from the Ministry of Civil Aviation, we will continuously provide, so that the early operations from the airport can begin," he said. The aim is to complete the validation process by December 15, after which the airport concessionaire will apply for an aerodrome license, a key requirement for commercial operations. This greenfield airport will be the largest in the country. It is located approximately 72 kilometres from Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA), which, until now, has been the only other international airport in the National Capital Region and is nearing its capacity. Uttar Pradesh, India's most populous state, currently has 15 operational civil airports. The airport is being developed through a public-private partnership (PPP) model. It will be owned by Noida International Airport Ltd (NIAL) and operated by Yamuna International Airport Private Limited (YIAPL), a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) of Zurich Airport AG. In June 2022, Tata Projects.



## To stand in this house is to be reminded of what is most beautiful about religious faith

**Suman**

**To stand** in this house is to be reminded of what is most beautiful about religious faith: its ability to give solace and to inspire, its aspiration to these great and lovely heights, in which strength and delicacy are so perfectly conjoined. In addition, to be asked to speak here on this day, the fourth anniversary of the notorious fatwa of the late Imam Khomeini, is a particular honour. When I was an undergraduate at this college, between 1965 and 1968, the years of flower-power and student power, I would have found the notion of delivering an address in King's Chapel pretty far-out, as we used to say; and yet, such are the journeys of one's life that here I stand. I am grateful to the Chapel and the college for extending this invitation, which I take as a gesture of solidarity and support, support not merely for one individual but, much more importantly, for the high moral principles of human rights and human freedoms that the Khomeini edict seeks so brutally to attack. For just as King's Chapel may be taken as a symbol of what is best about religion, so the fatwa has become a symbol of what is worst. It feels all the more appropriate to be speaking here because it was while in my final year of reading history at Cambridge that I came across the story of the so-called satanic verses or temptation of the Prophet Muhammad, and of his rejection of that temptation. That year, I had chosen as one of my special subjects a paper on Muhammad, the rise of



Islam, and the caliphate. So few students chose this option that the lectures were cancelled. The other students switched to different special subjects. However, I was anxious to continue, and Arthur Hibbert, one of the King's history dons, agreed to supervise me. So as it happened I was, I think, the only student in Cambridge who took the paper. The next year, I'm told, it was not offered again. This is the kind of thing that almost leads one to believe in the workings of a hidden hand. The story of the 'satanic verses' can be found, among other places, in the canonical writings of the classical writer al-Tabari. He tells us that on one occasion the Prophet was given verses which seemed to accept the divinity of the three most popular pagan goddesses of Mecca, thus compromising Islam's rigid monotheism. Later he rejected these verses as being a trick of the devil

saying that Satan had appeared to him in the guise of the Archangel Gabriel and spoken 'satanic verses.' Historians have long speculated about this incident, wondering if perhaps the nascent religion had been offered a sort of deal by the pagan authorities of the city, which was flirted with and then refused. I felt the story humanized the Prophet, and, therefore made him more accessible, more easily comprehensible to a modern reader, for whom the presence of doubt in a human mind, and human imperfections in a great man's personality, can only make that mind, that personality, more attractive. Indeed, according to the traditions of the Prophet, even the Archangel Gabriel was understanding about the incident, assuring him that such things had befallen all the prophets, and that he need not worry about what had happened. It seems

that the Archangel Gabriel, and the God in whose name he spoke, was rather more tolerant than some of those who presently affect to speak in the name of God. Khomeini's fatwa itself may be seen as a set of modern satanic verses. In the fatwa, once again, evil takes on the guise of virtue; and the faithful are deceived. It's important to remember what the fatwa is.

One cannot properly call it a sentence, since it far exceeds its author's jurisdiction; since it contravenes fundamental principles of Islamic law; and since it was issued without the faintest pretence of any legal process. (Even Stalin thought it necessary to hold show trials!) It is, in fact, a straightforward terrorist threat, and in the West it has already had very harmful effects. There is much evidence that writers and publishers have become nervous of publishing any material

about Islam except of the most reverential and anodyne sort. There are instances of contracts for books being canceled, of texts being rewritten. Even so independent an artist as the filmmaker Spike Lee felt the need to submit to Islamic authorities the script of his film about Malcolm X, who was for a time a member of the Nation of Islam and performed the hajj or pilgrimage to Mecca. And to this day, almost one year after the paperback of The Satanic Verses was published (by a specially constituted consortium) in the United States, and imported into Britain, no British publisher has had the nerve to take on distribution of the softcover edition, even though it has been in the bookstores for months without causing the tiniest frisson. In the East, however, the fatwa's implications are far more sinister. 'You must defend Rushdie,' an Iranian writer told a British scholar recently. 'In defending Rushdie you are defending us.' In January, in Turkey, an Iranian-trained hitsquad assassinated the secular journalist Ugur Mumcu. Last year, in Egypt, fundamentalist assassins killed Farag Fouda, one of the country's leading secular thinkers. Today, in Iran, many of the brave writers and intellectuals who defended me are being threatened with death-squads. Last summer, I was able to participate in a literary seminar staged in a Cambridge college and attended by scholars and writers from all over the world, including many

### When a country actually sort of does not observe written agreements

**Abhinav**

Between the Indian and Pacific Oceans and resulted in the creation of the Quad. The centrality of India today to the Indo-Mediterranean and the Indo-Pacific, is a result of former prime minister Abe's strategic genius and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's eventual vision and persistence. The Indian move increases pressure on China which attaches great political, spiritual and strategic importance to Tibet. Tibet's Dalai Lama and its government in exile has sheltered in India, adding to tensions between the neighbours. The rumoured creation of a new Indian fighting command on the land border creates pressure for China at a time when it seeks to achieve dominance in the seas, both the South China Sea as well as the Indian Ocean. At the same time, Taiwan's Foreign Minister Joseph Wu Jaushieh was interviewed by a national Indian channel, infuriating the Chinese Communist Party. A

public protest was quickly issued by the Chinese embassy in New Delhi condemning the interview's content as "totally unacceptable". Taiwan and India have moved closer in several spheres as China's threat to Taiwan has increased with increased investments and manufacturing by Taiwanese companies in India to protect their value chain in case of an invasion by the mainland. India's policies at countering China have been deliberate, with the country starting to respond to Chinese aggression swiftly, especially given the upcoming general election. During his bilateral visit to Japan, India's Foreign Minister S Jaishankar said that China has not respected its agreements with India. "We can disagree on many things, but when a country actually sort of does not observe written agreements with a neighbour, I think, you have caused ... because ... then raises a question mark about the stability of the relationship and frankly.

### The battle for freedom of expression, and for political and gender rights

**Syed Hussain**

Since it was issued without the faintest pretence of any legal process. (Even Stalin thought it necessary to hold show trials!) It is, in fact, a straightforward terrorist threat, and in the West it has already had very harmful effects. There is much evidence that writers and publishers have become nervous of publishing any material about Islam except of the most reverential and anodyne sort. There are instances of contracts for books being canceled, of texts being rewritten. Even so independent an artist as the filmmaker Spike Lee felt the need to submit to Islamic authorities the script of his film about Malcolm X, who was for a time a member of the Nation of Islam and performed the hajj or pilgrimage to Mecca. And to this day, almost one year after the paperback of The Satanic Verses was published (by a specially constituted consortium) in the United States, and imported into Britain, no British publisher has had the nerve to take on distribution of the softcover edition, even though it has been in the bookstores for months without causing the tiniest frisson. In the East, however, the fatwa's implications are far more sinister. 'You must defend Rushdie,' an Iranian writer told a British scholar recently. 'In defending Rushdie you are defending us.' In January, in Turkey, an Iranian-trained hitsquad assassinated the secular journalist Ugur Mumcu. Last year, in Egypt, fundamentalist assassins killed Farag Fouda, one of the country's leading secular thinkers. Today, in Iran, many of the brave writers and intellectuals who defended me are being threatened with death-squads. Last summer, I was able to participate in a literary seminar staged in a Cambridge college and attended by scholars and writers from all over the world.

, including many Muslims. I was

touched by the friendship and enthusiasm with which the Muslim delegates greeted me. A distinguished Saudi journalist took my arm and said, 'I want to embrace you because you, Mr Rushdie, are a free man.' He was fully aware of the ironies of what he was saying. He meant that freedom of speech, freedom of the imagination, is that freedom which gives meaning to all the others. He could walk the streets, get his work published, lead an ordinary life, and did not feel free, because there was so much he could not say, so much he hardly dared to think. I was protected by the Special Branch; he had to watch out for the Thought Police. Today, as Professor Fred Halliday says in this week's New Statesman & Society, 'the battle for freedom of expression, and for political and gender rights, is being fought out not in the senior common rooms and dinner tables of Europe, but in the Islamic world.' In his essay, he gives some instances of the way in which the case of The Satanic Verses is being used as a symbol by the oppressed voices of the Muslim world. One of the many Iranian exile radio stations, he tells us, has even named itself Voice of the Satanic Verses. The Satanic Verses is a committedly secular text that deals in part with the material of religious faith. For the religious fundamentalist, especially, at present, the Islamic fundamentalist, the adjective 'secular' is the dirtiest of dirty words. But here's a strange paradox: in my country of origin, India, it was the secular ideal of Nehru and Gandhi that protected the nation's large Muslim minority, and it is the decay of that ideal that leads directly to the bloody sectarian confrontations which the subcontinent is now witnessing, confrontations that were long foretold and could have been avoided, had not so many politicians chosen to fan the flames of religious hatred. Indian Muslims have

## Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme

**Simran**

"One can expect new allocations towards augmentation of power distribution infrastructure,

, especially in high density/urban.

load centres, in view of the sharp rise in peak demand over the last few years," said Anujesh Dwivedi, Partner at Deloitte India. He noted that there may be some allocation towards supporting the preparatory work especially on the listing of power utilities, or some incentive mechanism for promoting initiatives on private sector participation or listing of utilities at the state level because they are increas-

ingly being seen as the much needed structural reforms the sector needs. The industry is optimistic of a wider coverage of the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme by including smart metering in infrastructure definition.

"This would direct more financing for a sector which seeks to bring down India's transmission and distribution losses to 12% and improve recovery for state utilities," Goyal said. Goyal also noted that power transmission despite significant potential has not seen any notable monetisation events which could address the latent investor demand. "Government should

announce a time-bound privatisation programme for assets owned by PGCIL," he said. The sector also sees the PLI scheme for solar value chain to continue with possible reduction in the duty structures for solar equipment. Jacob highlighted.

that there may be some rationalisation of duties on capital goods required for solar upstream manufacturing could be seen so that overall that industry can really take off. "We expect continuation and maybe broadening of the PLI support towards the solar module value chain. We already have a few interventions there, which are likely to

be extended deeper," Dwivedi said. Similarly, on the battery manufacturing front, the industry expects localization of the value chain given competing countries have already advanced beyond India. In the green hydrogen segment, the industry believes the government may bring in hydrogen purchase for specific sectors like (green) steel. On the EV front, the industry seeks more support towards building public charging infrastructure given the anticipated increase in the EV penetration. "Under the PM E-drive, we already have an allocation of about Rs 1,100 crores for FY26. Given that the final guidelines.



## Clinic workers in Mohalla seek help from High Court

**Delhi :** A writ suit has been filed in the Delhi High Court by staff members of Delhi's Aam Aadmi Mohalla Clinics (AAMCs) seeking relief from their ongoing job instability and inconsistent salary payments. In their petition, the healthcare initiative's doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and paramedics detail the difficulties they encounter on the job. The staffers have asked the court to rule against the "arbitrary removal" of current employees and to make sure that salaries are paid on time and consistently. Many employees are in emotional and financial pain because their salaries have been postponed for months, according to the petition. The AAMC staff is becoming increasingly dissatisfied with their employment security and the lack of openness from the administration, and this high court appeal arrives days before a similar file before the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT). Healthcare Workers



**Soon, borewells will be regulated, the assembly was informed.**

**Delhi :** The minister of water in Delhi, Parvesh Verma, recently said that the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) is forming an enforcement squad to bring an end to the city's widespread illegal borewells and will shortly unveil a lucid and realistic plan to regularize them. Water supply difficulties in unlicensed colonies, borewell sealing, and the water crisis as a whole will

be handled by the strategy, he claimed. During his speech in the Delhi assembly, Singh mentioned that borewells are now being sealed according to standards set by the NGT. He also mentioned that the proposed policy would make it possible to regularize them when necessary. In response to BJP MLA Jitendra Mahajan's worries over declining groundwater levels. Mohalla Clinics, both confirmed that many staff members have been effectively driven into forced unemployment.

## By the end of 2027, the PM's residential complex will be completed

**Delhi :** The Prime Minister's Residential Complex (Executive Enclave-2), which is now under development as part of the Central Vista rejuvenation project, is expected to be completed by the end of 2027, according to authorities from the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA). Originally scheduled to be completed by the end of 2024, the project was one of several Central Vista projects that were tender-issued in August 2022. Undoubtedly, the new V-P enclave and Parliament building, which are also components of the Central Vista renovation, were postponed by over a year.



The "sensitive nature" of the Executive Enclave-2 project was the reason MoHUA authorities would not disclose its development cost. The Control Room. Someone in a position of authority has confirmed that a command and control center will be established to oversee the safety and accessibility of the Central Vista Boulevard, which encompasses the Kartavya Path, the C-Hexagon surrounding the India Gate, and the Yuga Yugeen Museum (the latter of which will take the place of the North and South block buildings).

## Delhi may eliminate the necessity for MCD health trade licenses to run restaurants

**Delhi:** The Delhi government may soon eliminate the need for a health trade license from the civic body to build restaurants and cafés in the city to enhance the hospitality sector. At the "Expresso" Lt Governor V K Saxena announced the city's

restaurant licensing requirement is being eliminated. The Delhi government and MCD did not immediately respond to the development. Recently, the Delhi government eliminated the need for hotels, clubs, restaurants, and guest

homes to get a police 'Eating House Registration and Lodging Certificate' to serve liquor. The L-G removed the Delhi Police Commissioner's ease-of-doing-business permit for the eating house registration certificate last month.



## The capital's open-deck buses will soon be available for your riding pleasure

**Delhi:** Tourists visiting Delhi will be pleasantly surprised by the upcoming redesign of the city's Hop-on Hop-off (HoHo) bus service. The new buses will be cheaper to travel and will have decks that are partially open. Along with this, other routes will be added and the service's ticket pricing will be around INR 200, which is less than half of the existing ride. The new service is expected to launch before the end of this year, according to recent sources.



Tourists visiting various attractions across Delhi will have access to a flexible public transit network thanks to the service's introduction of interchange stations. The Delhi Tourism and Transportation Development Corporation (DTTDC) has submitted a revised model to the government for approval; the proposal was recently authorized by the government's planning department and is now awaiting clearance from the finance department. Further, the plan states that the government will provide rides at less than half the existing fare in order to attract more riders to the redesigned buses. The new 23 low-floor semi-open buses will replace the government's HoHo bus service. The estimated cost to the state government is INR 40 crore.

## At DDA's 'luxury' residences in Dwarka, residents deal with dripping pipes and crumbling walls

**Delhi :** Resident expectations for the comfort and amenities promised by a luxury building were high when they moved into their new flats at Golf View Condos, a premium Delhi building Authority (DDA) housing complex in Dwarka, around nine months ago. Leaky plumbing, crumbling plaster, defective wiring, and unfinished construction quickly ruined that promise. Even though they paid more than ₹2 crore for the houses, the buyers claim they are now spending even more money to make their apartments habitable. A resident who bought a flat for ₹3 crore three months ago and moved in three months ago



said that troubles started the day he took ownership. Seepage in the walls, malfunctioning wiring, and missing doors were all issues. In order to convert the property into what it was intended to be, he had to spend an additional ₹30 lakh on repairs and upgrades. Citing an absence of supervision, he also paid

for private security cameras to be installed in his building. According to another tenant, the redoing of the wiring and plumbing makes it practically impossible to move in without investing an additional 20 lakh. You need to dismantle the walls and replace the fundamental fixtures.

## A New Blood Donor App Is Coming Soon to Delhi

**Delhi :** Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta announced that the city will soon release an app listing blood donors who are willing to donate their blood voluntarily. A blood donation camp in the Anand Vihar area was the site of the announcement, given by Ms. Gupta. "Details of those who intend to donate blood will soon be available on a blood donor app. "Details about their blood type, when they last donated, and whether they are eligible to donate again .

## Promotion of legal services using social media platforms through a lens

**Delhi :** Lawyers promoting their legal services on social media have been "cautioned" by the Bar Council of Delhi, who recently issued a warning claiming that this activity violates professional ethics and devalues the legal profession. "Bar Council of Delhi has observed that many lawyers are indulging in posting content and videos to solicit work by way of advertisement, either directly or indirectly, through circulars advertising personal interactions,



interviews and producing their photographs to publish in connection with the cases, etc." according to the BCD notice. Section 36 of the Bar Council of India Rules forbids the practices described in the notice, which highlight the proliferation of unqualified legal influencers who are disseminating false information on important legal matters.

According to this part of the code of ethics, lawyers are not allowed to advertise or solicit clients in any way, shape, or form. The notice cautioned that the rule in question constitutes serious misconduct, and that advocates who violate it may face disciplinary proceedings . under section 35 of the Advocates Act, which authorizes the suspension or revocation of their license to practice law.

## DTC revives Shadipur housing project, submits layout

**Delhi:** The Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) has submitted the layout plan for the long-delayed redevelopment of its Shadipur staff housing society to the Delhi Urban Art Commission (DUAC) for approval, reviving a project that had been stalled for over two years due to bureaucratic delays. The Shadipur redevelopment is one of two DTC land monetisation projects, together with a Hari Nagar housing society, to generate cash from underutilized land assets. The Shadipur layout has been submitted and should be approved soon. Previously delayed financial approvals will also come in, said a DTC official. Both projects were delayed due to the non-formation of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) standing committee, an 18-



member body that approves layout designs and finances. Officials stated the body has not met in almost 30 months, blocking hundreds of citywide redevelopment and infrastructure ideas. As required by the Delhi Master Plan 2021, the redeveloped Shadipur colony will have five high-rise residential towers with 427 flats and 228 flats for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS). One tower has 4BHK apartments with ground plus 30 storeys and four towers.

**Lease over 35,000 sqm of DMRC office space to generate non-fare earnings**

**Delhi:** Officials stated the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) is leasing more than 35,000 square metres of office space across various unoccupied premises. Officials said the walk-in, first-come-first-served space is part of a larger push to boost non-fare revenue. The DMRC's IT Park near Shastri Park Metro station on the Red Line houses.

## Municipal Corporation of Delhi will seek pvt companies in an effort to expand tax base

**Delhi :** In an effort to increase its property tax collection, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) is reportedly planning to hire private operators to help it find homes that are not yet included in its tax database. An RFP is almost ready to be released in the next few weeks to select agencies that want the lowest share of revenue, according to a senior official from the MCD. Civic agencies in Odisha and Jodhpur have tested this concept, according to the official, and it is now



being adjusted for Delhi's specific circumstances. Private companies will scour the city for properties that are not subject to taxes, according to the proposed concept. The operator will receive a share of the tax revenue from these units once they are identified by the civic authority. The request for proposals is nearly complete. Increased revenue collection while strict adherence to regulations is the goal. The official stated that

although private agencies will be responsible for property identification, the accessor and collector department of MCD is the sole authority to issue tax notices.

## MCD panel to include NGOs in expedited dog sterilization efforts

**Delhi:** After its inaugural meeting, the community dog subcommittee announced its intention to examine current regulations that are impeding sterilization efforts and to approach the Delhi and central governments for assistance in removing these procedural barriers. The group



will convene again to discuss

strategies and tactics with the help of non-governmental organizations and those who feed animals. Its objective is to deliver its final recommendations in a month's time. According to Satya Sharma, chair of the standing committee, the MCD is determined to find long-term, compassionate solutions to the problems caused by community dogs. With the help of other competent organizations, we will begin a new discourse with NGOs that are currently involved in sterilization.

She promised to look into the rules that are causing delays.



## The highest-paid Indian IT CEO is Vijayakumar of HCLTech

**Delhi:** Vijayakumar, CEO of HCLTech, has surpassed \$10 million in pay to become the highest-paid IT CEO in India. For the fiscal year 2024-25, Vijayakumar, who is located in the United States, earned Rs 94.6 crore. This sum included Rs 15.8 crore in base salary, Rs 13.9 crore in performance-linked incentive, Rs 56.9 crore in long-term RSUs, and Rs 1.7 crore in bonus. Among Vijayakumar's contemporaries is K. Krithivasan, CEO of TCS, who, in the fiscal year of 2023-24, received Rs26.5 crore, a rise of 4.6% from the prior year. Salil Parekh, CEO of Infosys, saw a 22% increase to his salary, bringing it to Rs 80.6 crore. Srinivas Pallia, who became CEO of Wipro in April of last year, received Rs 53.6 crore; however, there is no historical data to draw from due to this being his first full year in the position. The company's annual report states

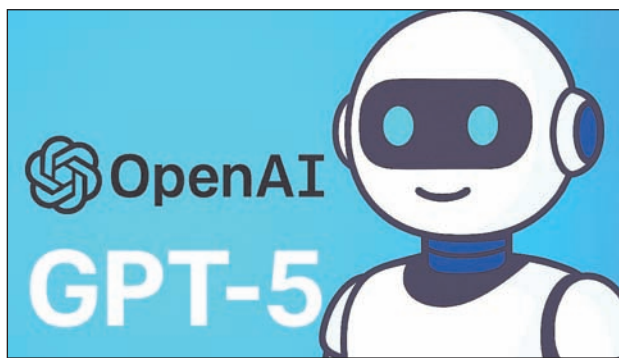


that Vijayakumar's compensation was increased by 7.9% over the previous year. Nonetheless, in the most recent fiscal year, employees (not including managers) saw a 3.1% average compensation increase. The 2024-25 fiscal year saw Vijayakumar's pay exceeding 662.5 times the median employee compensation. Following the NRC's recommendations, the Board of Directors has renewed Vijayakumar's appointment as Chief Executive Officer and Member of the Board of HCLTech effective September 1, 2018, until March 31, 2030.

### Chinese giant Ant to leave Paytm for 3.8k cr

**Delhi:** A term sheet stated that China's Ant Group will sell its 5.8% share in Paytm in one or more block agreements worth at least Rs 3,800 crore (approximately \$434 million). Alibaba Group's Ant Group (previously Ant Financial) invested in Noida's fintech early on. This deal eliminates Chinese ownership of Paytm. Ant Group would offer 3.7 crore Paytm shares at a floor price of Rs 1,020, a 5.4% discount to NSE closing price of Rs 1,078. Paytm wouldn't comment.

## Indian chatGPT market would soon surpass that of the US



**Delhi:** Users of ChatGPT, whether paid or free, and developers have access to OpenAI's newest AI mode, GPT-5, through the API. The business boasted that GPT-5 boosts reasoning, speed, accuracy, and mathematical prowess. Sam Altman, CEO, spoke at the inauguration about how the Indian market is becoming increasingly important. Among the world's greatest markets, India is second only to the United States, and it has the potential to overtake it, he declared. "The things that people in India are doing with AI are absolutely

astounding." Altman elaborated by saying that OpenAI is collaborating with Indian organizations to make AI more accessible and affordable. His intentions to visit the nation were also confirmed by him. According to OpenAI, GPT-5 is their top model for autonomous coding and

other coding-related tasks. With three sizes to select from—GPT-5, GPT-5-mini, and GPT-5-nano—developers may find the perfect balance between price and performance. The reasoning model in the API is GPT-5, and there is also a lighter, non-reasoning form called GPT-5-chat-latest.

## The pilot retirement age of Air India will be raised from 58 to 65 years

**Delhi:** Those in the know say that Air India has chosen to raise the retirement age for pilots to 65 and for non-flying employees to 60. The airline's current retirement age is 58 years for both pilots and non-flying staff. According to the sources, CEO and MD

Campbell Wilson made the announcement regarding raising the superannuation age during the airline's town hall. A change is being considered to elevate the retirement age of Air India pilots to 65 years and non-flying workers to 60 years. This will

bring their superannuation age in line with that of former Vistara. Air India has not issued any formal statement on the matter. Among the approximately 24,000 employees at Tata Group-owned Air India are approximately 3,600 pilots.

## The first universal banking license in ten years has been awarded to India's AU Small Finance Bank

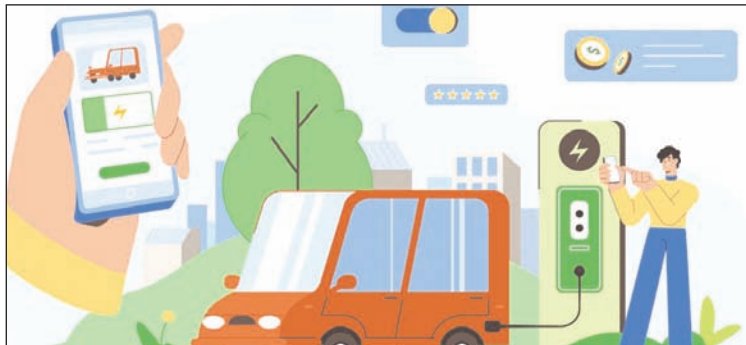


**Delhi :** India's AU Small Finance Bank (AUFINS), The first full-fledged banking license to be issued in nearly a decade was granted 'in-principle' clearance to transition into a universal bank by the banking regulator. The licence will enable AU Small Finance Bank to extend its operations beyond what is now possible for small finance banks, including taking on additional customers, forming subsidiaries, and offering larger loans. In 2014, the country's banking regulator, the Reserve Bank of India, published initial criteria for small financing institutions to become full-fledged banks.

In 2015, the rules were revised to include more specific requirements. These included a net worth of 10 billion rupees (\$114 million), a satisfactory performance history spanning five years, meeting capital requirements, being profitable recently, and having limited non-performing assets. Bandhan Bank, a microfinance institution based in Kolkata, was the last entity to receive such a license from the RBI in 2015. Net profit for the quarter came to 5.81 billion rupees, an increase of 16% year-on-year for AU Small Finance Bank. Gross bad loans as a percentage of total loans were 2.47%, up from 1.78% in the previous year.

## The PM E-Drive Scheme Will Be Continued By The Government Until 2028

**Delhi :** The PM E-DRIVE program, which aims to improve innovative vehicles with electric drive technology, has been given a two-year extension by the Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI). Due to particular difficulties encountered by e-trucks, e-buses, and testing agencies, the PM E-DRIVE initiative has had to extend its deadline. High starting prices, a lack of charging infrastructure, concerns about range, sluggish charging speeds, and the requirement for professional maintenance and operating skills are all obstacles. Originally scheduled to conclude in March 2026, this program was introduced in 2024. Some time ago, the govern-



ment announced that it would be extended until March 31, 2028. On the other hand, the program's subsidies for electric two- and three-wheelers are set to expire on March 31, 2026. To increase the production, distribution, and use of electric vehicles, as well as their charging infrastructure, the Indian government's

heavy industries ministry unveiled PM E-DRIVE with a budget of INR 10,900 Cr. The Electric Mobility Promotion Scheme 2024 (EMPS-2024) was superseded by it. According to the notice, March 31, 2026, will be the last day for registered e-2W, registered e-rickshaws and e-cart, and registered e-3W.

### Amazon shuts down Wondery podcast studio, lays off employees

**Delhi:** As reported by Bloomberg News, Amazon is reportedly reorganizing its audio division and will close its Wondery podcast studio, resulting in the loss of around 110 positions. This shift away from the internet giant's initial podcasting goals is a strategic move in response to industry-wide difficulties. As the Wondery team reorganizes to concentrate on personality-driven content (like the hit Jason and Travis podcast) and a new "creator services" group.

**Delhi :** According to US President Donald Trump, Apple has pledged to invest a total of \$600 billion in the US over the next four years, with an extra \$100 billion already committed. This, according to Trump, is "the greatest investment Apple has made in America," and he made the announcement at the White House with Apple CEO Tim Cook. Trump further by saying, "Apple will significantly boost spending on its domestic supply chain," referring to a new glass manufacturing plant in Kentucky that will be



utilized to create iPhone screens. Trump wasted little time claiming credit for Apple's February announcement that it would invest over \$500 billion in the US and employ 20,000 people. It expands upon previous announcements made in 2021, when Steve Jobs's business

stated its intention to invest \$430 billion in the nation and create 20,000 new jobs within the next five years. "In 24 factories across 12 states, American manufacturers are on track to make 19 billion chips for Apple this year alone," Cook stated in the Oval Office.

## US duty hike hurts JLR, Tata Motors Q1 profit

**Delhi:** Tata Motors' cash cow, Jaguar Land Rover, suffered a 30% drop in earnings due to US President Donald Trump's tariffs. Outgoing JLR CEO Adrian Mardell expects new trade deals signed between the US and the UK, effective June 30, and between the EU and US, announced July 27, reducing tariffs on UK- and EU-made vehicles exported to America from 27.5% to 10% and 15%, respectively, to reduce the financial impact of US tariffs in subsequent quarters. JLR operating profit fell 49% to 351 million pounds or Rs 4,130 crore in Q1FY26. JLR, purchased by Tata Motors in June 2008, reduced revenue by 10% to 6.6 billion pounds or Rs 77,662 crore in April after halting exports to the US for nearly a month in reaction to Trump's tariffs and phasing out older Jaguar models



### Mahindra to give Rs 400-500 cr ESOPs to 23,000 employees

**Delhi:** The group CEO and MD of Mahindra & Mahindra, Anish Shah, announced a first for the industry: a one-time Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOP) for about 23,000 employees, including factory floor workers. This is a reward for their role in the company's growth journey. Shah announced that the effort would encompass all three of Mahindra's main subsidiaries: Mahindra & Mahindra (car and agriculture industries), Mahindra Electric Automobile, and Mahindra Last Mile Mobility. For a huge Indian corporation to offer ESOPs to factory employees is unprecedented, if not unprecedented altogether. Restricted stock units (RSUs) will be used to distribute the shares. Since these ESOPs are open to all employees, it is something of which I am both pleased and proud of our company's culture.

built in the UK. With revenues. roughly 25% of JLR's

## Minimum balance for savings accounts at ICICI Bank increased

**Delhi :** The average minimum balance for new savings accounts created after August 1st, 2018 at ICICI Bank is now Rs 50,000, up from Rs 10,000. The majority of public sector banks are removing the minimum balance requirement, which coincides with this five-fold growth. The move by the second-largest private bank in the nation has been heavily criticized. Though it chose not to comment, ICICI Bank has updated its qualifying criteria and posted them on its website. The remaining balance is Rs 25,000 in semi-urban areas and Rs 10,000 in rural areas. The minimum balance requirement was last increased by the bank more than ten years ago. The income per capita has increased by over 100% since that time. Failure to maintain the minimum



### Samsung may make India a US hub amid rising tariffs

**Delhi:** Samsung may move some smartphone production from Vietnam if US tariffs drop in India. The world's largest smartphone maker would follow Apple in making India a top US smartphone manufacturing base. Samsung manufactures in various countries. Due to heightened US uncertainty, we are ready for several possibilities.

amount will result in a penalty of Rs 500, which is equivalent to 6% of the difference between the required and actual balance. The action by ICICI

Bank, which many bankers found puzzling, seemed, at first glance, to be an attempt to weed out low-value customers.

## Demand for jobs in rural areas plummets as rain sends many people back to the fields

**Delhi :** July saw a 10-month drop in demand for rural jobs under India's flagship state employment program. This could be due to seasonal swings or early indications of



economic resiliency in rural areas, as the monsoon season sent millions of workers back to the fields. Statistics from the Ministry of Rural Development show that in July, around 16.6 million families applied for jobs through the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA). Following June's 27.56 million, May's 28.38 million, and April's 20.12 million, that's a precipitous decline.

Agricultural activity associated with kharif sowing temporarily draws manpower from public works, causing a normal mid-year dip, which is reflected in the July decline. The seasonality of farm output is reflected in the demand for government-backed jobs in rural areas, which is further highlighted by the fall. However, there are significant regional differences and certain states' persistent dependence on MGNREGA that are not reflected in the national headline figures.



## HC grants Delhi 10 weeks to address EWS fee violations

**Delhi:** Delhi High Court ordered the Directorate of Education (DoE) to determine within 10 weeks on a case against various private schools for allegedly charging EWS and DG pupils fees. A panel of chief judge DK Upadhyay and justice Tushar Rao Gedela noticed that the Wazirpur JJ Colony Association had previously sent a representation to DoE on the subject, but the department had not acted on it. The court dismissed the petition and ordered the group to file a new, full representation within four weeks. It further ordered DoE to investigate and respond within 10 weeks of receiving the new representation. In its suit, the group accused numerous Delhi private schools of violating the Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009, by charging EWS/DG pupils and expelling those who couldn't pay. The RTE Act and Article 21A of the Constitution guar-



### Fees will be regulated for all Delhi private schools

**Delhi:** The minister predicted the passage of the Delhi School Education (Transparency in Fixation and Regulation of Fees) Bill, 2025, during the Delhi Assembly's Monsoon Session. He said the bill's largest benefit is halting a "decade of unchecked profiteering" by private institutions through equitable application. A toothless, reactive framework is replaced by a proactive, empowered, and transparent one by this bill. Previously, the DoE could only approve school fee increases under the land clause, but hundreds of smaller private schools raise tuition unchecked. Although parents of larger schools may object, a fee rise of ₹1,000 to ₹1,500 for a small private school in Najafgarh is a 50% increase. This is a significant hardship for that school's parents, yet they rarely complain, Sood added. He claimed that the land clause applies to 350 of 1,443 schools and that the Department of Education .

## Aiming for Defacement-Free DUSU Elections with a Rs 1 Lakh Bond

**Delhi:** In order to enforce order and avoid property damage during the Delhi University Students' Union (DUSU) election campaigns, the University of Delhi (DU) has released stringent regulations. A fair and disciplined election process is ensured by these new guidelines, which also seek to maintain the cleanliness and decency of the campus atmosphere. A Rs 1 lakh anti-defacement bond is required of all candidates nominated for any position in the DUSU. By posting this bond, the candidate promises that while campaigning, he or she will not engage in any behavior that could cause harm to or vandal-



ize college or university property. The amount of the bond will be lost if it is determined that the candidate or their supporters have violated these restrictions. This technique highlights the gravity of enforcing discipline on campus, much like the anti-ragging affidavit that students sign when they enroll. All academic units are

required by the university to hold orientation and sensitization workshops where students will learn about campus environmental preservation and the electoral code of conduct. By educating the public on the consequences of vandalism and promoting civil protest, these initiatives hope to counteract the problem.

### Academics fear FYUP may dilute relevance of UG in DU

**Delhi :** The academic community in India is concerned that the New Education Policy's (NEP) proposed four-year undergraduate program, FYUP, contains flaws that will lower the bar for higher education in the country. Professor Seema Das of Political Science at Hindu College, Delhi

University, believes that removing four required courses from the three-year bachelor's degree program would significantly water down the curriculum. "Reduction in core papers would not allow a graduating student to master the respective subject," according to Das. When picking up elec-

tives or research papers, it's likely that a select few fields will be favoured. Some classes might end up being scrapped entirely as a result of this, rendering the instructors obsolete. Rajesh Jha, a professor of political science at Rajdhani College, has stated that this might go against the NEP's principles.

## With an improved score, Delhi University achieves NAAC's top A++ grade



**Delhi :** In its most recent round of institutional assessment and accreditation, the University of Delhi was declared to have achieved the highest possible grade of A++ by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) on August 8. The accreditation is effective for five years, until 2029, according to the varsity's statement. The school achieved a cumulative grade point average (CGPA) of 3.55. Following DU's A+ rating and 3.28 cumulative grade point average in 2018, Vice Chancellor Yogesh Singh extended congratulations to the university's staff, students, alumni, and other stakeholders. He stated that the dramatic uptick was evidence of the university's dedication to excellent teaching, ground-breaking research, and responsible administration. Singh expressed enormous pride for the entire fraternity, stating that obtaining the NAAC A++ grade is a landmark moment in the university's history. Our faculty, students, non-teaching staff, alumni, and all stakeholders have worked tirelessly, and their unfaltering dedication has paid off. He spoke about how it will inspire them to "expand the horizons of excellence in teaching, research, and service to society" by setting even higher standards.

## Mid-Entry Window Opens Until August 10; More Than 9,000 Undergraduate Spots Remain Available at Delhi

**Delhi :** According to the list of open seats issued by the university's admissions division, there are over 9,000 undergraduate seats that are still vacant, thus students who have not yet obtained admission to colleges at Delhi University still have a chance. The institution has opened the mid-entry window for the 2025–26 academic session, giving applicants another chance to apply for undergraduate admissions using the Common Seat Allocation System (CSAS). A one thousand rupee (Rs.) non-refundable application fee is due



when submitted via the university portal. Before submitting their applications, students can use this window to see which seats are available, revise their course and college choices, and more. It is important to note that during the mid-entry

window, only candidates who were denied in Round 1 or Round 2 owing to faulty subject mapping, non-fulfillment of program-specific eligibility, or invalid documents will be allowed to fix their subject mapping and edit their preferences.

### Irish education minister invites Indians for education, research

**NEW DELHI:** James Lawless, Ireland's Education Minister, on Monday said his country is "very welcoming" for students and has a supportive post-study employment visa arrangement. "Ireland is a very welcoming country. We have a very cosmopolitan culture. We have many nationalities now in Ireland, and many people have made their home, including many, many Indians," the Irish minister said, when asked whether his government is considering any changes in post-study work or immigration policies to retain skilled talents.

## Test formats between the NEP and the SEP in Tamil Nadu

**Delhi :** The state of Tamil Nadu has defied the federal government's National Education Policy (NEP) by releasing its own policy on education, which is called the State Education Policy (SEP). When Chief Minister MK Stalin introduced the new strategy, he made it plain: Tamil Nadu's educational system will go its own way. Under Justice Murugesan's leadership, a fourteen-person group developed the Tamil Nadu SEP. This strategy upholds the two-language policy, rejects important NEP provi-



sions, and gives English, science, and artificial intelligence top priority. Up to the tenth grade, Tamil is a requirement for all students, regardless of whether they attend a state-run school or adhere to the CBSE, ICSE, or any other national board. It is quite evident that the state is against impos-

ing any language on its citizens. The NEET is strongly opposed by this person. Concerned about stress and inequity, Tamil Nadu has fought against it for a long time. As a result of the state's insistence on using NEP and NEET, the federal government allegedly withheld Rs 2,152 crore (Samagra Shiksha).

## Legislation to Regulate School Fees Adopted by the Delhi Assembly

**Delhi :** The 2025 School Fee Regulation Bill was approved by the Delhi State Assembly. A parent can now veto a decision to increase school fees, thanks to a recently passed bill. This prevents school administrations from making the decision to increase fees all at once. Even if just one parent objects to the proposed fee increase, it will not be authorized, according to Ashish Sood, Delhi's minister of education. The decision cannot be enforced by management, and parents will have the power to veto it. In addition, the measure specifies that institutions that are determined to have imposed excessive fees may be subject to fines or even the revocation of their future ability to submit fee modifications.

The extra payment must be returned with-



### CBSE loosens regulations on adding new sections

**Diviya Delhi:** The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has revised its affiliation rules to permit section growth based on built-up carpet area instead of land size, in an effort to alleviate space restrictions caused by the increasing demand for school admissions. The board took this action in response to comments made by schools that are having trouble meeting the demand for new admissions despite having more sections than allowed. According to CBSE's circular, children's health, social and psychological development, and sense of belonging could be negatively affected if they had to travel significant distances to attend school because there aren't enough seats in their neighborhood. Officials and school administrators stated that the decision will alleviate admission pressure.

in 20 business days if more than the allowed the school's fees are limit.

## J&K bans 25 books for 'false narrative' and 'glorification of terrorism'

**Delhi:** In an unprecedented action, the Jammu and Kashmir administration has ordered the seizure and prohibition of 25 books, stating they promote secessionism, glorify terrorism, and threaten national integrity and public order. On August 5, the Home Department issued S.O.203 to declare the books "forfeited," noting their "false narrative" and involvement in "misguiding the youth" of Jammu and Kashmir. Azadi by writer-activist Arundhati Roy, The Kashmir Dispute 1947–2012 by constitutional expert A.G. Noorani, and Kashmir at the Crossroads by political scientist Sumantra Bose are prohibited. David Devadas, Hafsa Kanjwal, Ather Zia, Anuradha Bhasin, and Tariq Ali all have novels on the list. After a thorough investigation, officials decided the content was "objec-



### IGNOU July 2025 registration deadline extended again

**Delhi:** The Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) has extended the deadline for admission and re-registration for the July 2025 session. Students now have until August 15, 2025, to complete the process. The applies to both new admissions and re-registration for continuing students. IGNOU offers courses in both distance learning (ODL) and online mode, and the application must be completed through its websites.

tionable" and "potentially harmful to public peace and the unity of the nation." The Home Department reported

that investigations and intelligence inputs showed that these publications radicalized adolescents.

## Controversy over the Maratha map prompts NCERT commission to review content

**Delhi :** A group of specialists was assembled by the National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT) to review comments made regarding the subject matter of many textbooks. According to officials, the group consisting of



esteemed faculty members and domain specialists from prestigious universities would be chaired by Ranjana Arora, head of NCERT's Curriculum Studies and Development (DCSD). Several textbooks' instructional content has recently been reviewed and provided feedback to NCERT. Therefore, in keeping with previous procedure, a Committee consisting of prominent specialists is being formed. In a statement, NCERT stated that the committee will review the feedback based on the evidence that is currently available and will deliver its report as soon as practicable. Three days prior to NCERT's announcement, former Jaisalmer royal family leader Chaitanya Raj Singh voiced his disapproval of one of the organization's recently published textbooks, citing what he saw as historical mistakes. In an X post, Singh took issue with a social studies map for eighth grade that showed Jaisalmer as an outpost of the Maratha Empire. Due to the lack of "any Maratha dominance, invasion, taxation, or authority" mentioned in "any authentic historical sources," he asserted.



## Privatized entities can employ Aadhar authentication

**Delhi :** The ministry of electronics and IT (Meity) announced that the Union government has amended the Aadhaar rules to allow private entities to use Aadhaar authentication for service delivery. The amendments aim to give residents "ease of living" and "better access to services". Ministry Notified Aadhaar Authentication for Good Governance (Social Welfare, Innovation, Knowledge) Amendment Rules, 2025, revising 2020 rules. "The amendment allows government and non-government entities to use Aadhaar authentication, promoting trusted transactions for both providers and users," stated the announcement. It stated that the amendment will make non-government e-commerce, travel, tourism, hospitality, and health services easier to use.

The 2020 rules allowed the Centre to

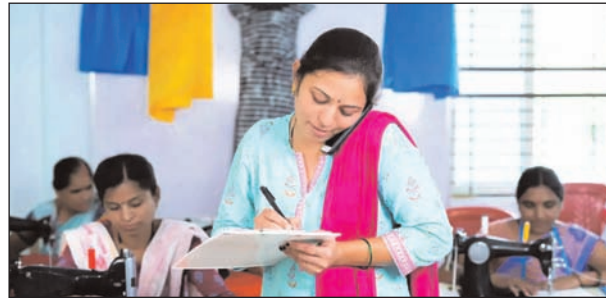


allow Aadhaar authentication only "in the interest of good governance, preventing leakage of public funds, promoting ease of living of residents and enabling better access to services for them" to use digital platforms for good governance, social welfare benefit dissipation prevention, and innovation and knowledge dissemination. The amendments removed "in the interest of good governance, preventing leakage of public funds access to services for them" and added "promoting ease of living of residents and enabling better access to services for them" as the fourth purpose, expanding the reasons for authentication.

Prasanna S, the Supreme Court's advocate-on-record who challenged Aadhaar's constitutionality, called the expansion the "spectre of a surveillance state", "unwarranted" and in violation of the top court's ruling that struck down Section 57 of the Aadhaar Act, 2016 to bar private entities from using authentication services. The 2025 Rules change contradicts the five-judge Supreme Court ruling in *Puttaswamy v Union of India* (2018). Section 57 of the Aadhaar Act, 2016 prohibiting private entities from employing authentication services was overturned. He claimed this amendment practically re-legislates what was ruled down.

## Women own almost 50% of small manufacturing businesses

**A survey found that 58% of manufacturing businesses were owned by women in 2023-24, up 4% from the previous year.**The Annual Survey of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises (ASUSE) 2023-24 found that 28.1% of workers were women. More than one-third (33.7%) of OAES' workforce is female in OAEs (owned enterprises). Female-owned businesses rose to 26.2% in 2023-24 from 22.9% in and 9.7% to 14.2% in other services. Female workers comprised 18.5% of recruited workers. Female workers were



most prevalent in manufacturing (46.5%), followed by other services (22.5%) and trade. West Bengal has the most female workers (12.7%), followed by Uttar Pradesh (10.4%) and Maharashtra (9.7%) in ASUSE 2023-24. West Bengal and Maharashtra have the most rural and urban female workers, at 16% and 13%,

respectively. Non-incorporated non-far establishments are not registered under the Companies Act 1956 or the 2013 Act.

Every fourth proprietary establishment in India was owned by a woman. Women run one-third of private businesses in Gujarat, Karnataka, Telangana, and West Bengal.

## Health and wealth benefit from flexible work hours

**Delhi:** The Economic Survey supports allowing manufacturers to average legally capped working hours over three weeks or longer rather than week-by-week. Industry captains want larger hours. It claims that agile regulations will assist management satisfy production

demands and grow. "New Labour Laws are an improvement. With flexible legislation and competent implementation, firms may develop and create more jobs. "They protect labor rights and boost wages," it stated. The Survey complained that labor laws like the

Factories Act (1948) limit working hours to 48 per week, whereas other nations "allow these caps to be averaged over multiple days and weeks". It said India's working hour laws impede manufacturers from satisfying demand and competing globally.



## Sebi to attract rural investors with MF-life insurance



**Delhi:** Sebi chief Madhabi Puri Buch stated that the regulator will offer mutual fund schemes with term life insurance. She added the FDA will soon release a combo product consultation paper. Puri Buch said the MF-insurance combo targets investors, particularly rural ones, where SIPs have great potential but low investment values. "We are now proposing to come out with a consultation paper again, to try and include insurance pure and simple vanilla life, term life insurance, along with our mutual funds, which is our main product for financial inclusion, and so that we are able to go, including to people where we have very, very low value SIPs coming from the hinterland, and to be able to offer them a combo product of term life insurance along with the mutual fund investment," said Buch. UTI Mutual Fund offers life insurance and tax savings. This 1971 program has a portfolio value of Rs 5,434 crore in December 2024. Even if existing investors can invest, UTIMF's website revealed no new applications for the schemes.

## IT panel to propose TV, print, online media umbrella

**Delhi:** The Parliamentary panel on communications and information technology, led by BJP lawmaker Nishikant Dubey, will recommend that the Union government form the Media Council of India to regulate print, television, and online media, sources said. A senior panelist suggested an umbrella body because the same content occurs across platforms. You work for a paper. The Press Council of India oversees your newspaper articles. No regulation exists for the identical story in the paper's online edition." There is no central regulator for online material, but two groups regulate print and electronic media. The Press Council of India, a statutory quasi-judicial



autonomous authority established by Parliament, protects press freedom and improves newspaper and news agency standards. Among other major media regulatory reforms, the panel, which addressed fake news extensively will recommend this. In the discussion,

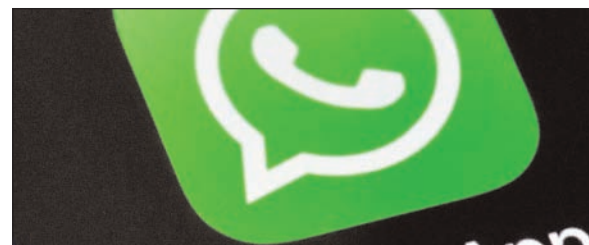
Dubey added, "Paid news is rampant. Illiterate and gullible individuals think alike. Without strict regulations, ethical boundaries are crossed. Investigative journalism is discouraged by expensive and lengthy legal fights for journalists and media corporations.

## Foreign insurers gain ownership via 100% FDI

**Delhi:** 100% FDI will attract new capital, as multinationals can now invest without worrying about control or Indian partners. The capital gains tax rate of 12% applies to ULIP proceeds, which do not benefit from tax exemptions, instead of the higher marginal tax rate of 30%. Crop cover reinsurance is exempt from service tax, and the threshold for tax deduction at source on insurance commission has risen from Rs 15,000 to Rs 20,000. M Nagraju, financial services secretary, said the FDI relaxation was one of the suggested insurance measures. , and the modifications would

## WhatsApp claims Israeli spyware Paragon targets users

**Delhi:** After the hack, WhatsApp issued Paragon a cease-and-desist letter. WhatsApp stated it "will continue to protect people's ability to communicate privately." Paragon wouldn't comment. WhatsApp officials reported a hacking attempt on 90 users. A number of civil society and media figures were targeted, although the official did not specify who or where. He said WhatsApp has stopped the hacking and was referring targets to Citizen Lab. Officials would not reveal how they determined



Paragon was responsible for the hack. He claimed law enforcement and industry partners were informed but declined to elaborate. Paragon sells high-end surveillance software to government clients, claiming it is essential to combating crime and defending national security. However, journalists, activists, opposition

politicians, and at least 50 US officials have found surveillance capabilities on their phones, raising fears about the technology's unregulated expansion. Paragon, which was apparently acquired by Florida-based investment group AE Industrial Partners last month, has strived to identify as a responsible industry actor.

## Public infrastructure spend-rises, but private sector participation falls

**Delhi:** The 2024-25 Economic Survey delivered to Parliament found that India still struggles with infrastructure development despite government efforts. The union government's capital investment on major



### The National Critical Mineral Mission gets 16,300 crore from the cabinet

**Delhi :** The Union Cabinet, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, launched the National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM) with a 16,300 crore expenditure and a projected 18,000 crore investment from PSUs and other businesses. "Several crucial decisions have created new scientific and technology prospects for our children, future generations, and the economy. Minister told a Cabinet briefing that PM Modi the National Critical Minerals Mission today.

infrastructure sectors grew 38.8% from FY20 to FY24, although private sector participation in core areas

remained low, according to the survey. "India needs a continued step-up of infrastructure investment.

## Price pressure caps senior citizen health premium hikes at 10%

**As medicare policy rates skyrocket for seniors over 60, Irdai has ordered insurers not to raise senior people' health premiums by more than 10% without approval. Before canceling senior health coverage, insurers must get regulator clearance. As healthcare prices rise, insurers are**



advised to standardize hospital empanelment and negoti-

ate package rates like the government's PM Jan Arogya Yojana. Irdai reported a large increase in prices for various health insurance policies for subscribers over 60. Premium rates depend on projected claims, administrative expenditures, and acquisition costs, the regulator said. Private

insurance doesn't standardize hospitalization expenses, unlike PMJAY, which negotiates consistent package rates, which drives these rises. Seniors have reported virtually doubling their costs when entering a higher age category during an insurer's pricing change.

## Redesigning agri export policies

**Delhi:** Three sources intimately involved in the process said India's six-year-old Agricultural Export Policy (AEP) will be overhauled as export destinations vary and the country's farm export basket diversifies. The planned study will improve Indian agricultural products' competitiveness, assure global standards compliance, and promote value-added products. The officials quoted above added on condition of anonymity that it will also aim to enhance commercial links with emerging countries while main-



taining strong partnerships with old partners. "Our agricultural exports have grown over the past five years. We must examine the policy to match export targets with market demands. One of the three persons cited above claimed

the agriculture ministry will assist with the review and set a deadline. India was the eighth-largest agricultural exporter in 2023 despite a drop from \$51.12 billion to \$48.77 billion in FY24. Recently, changing global demand pat-

### Norms to stop annoying calls and surrogate advertisements next month

**Delhi:** Thirteen businesses, including significant producers of alcohol, tobacco, and paan masala, have received notifications from the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) for using surrogate advertising. The dishonest practice of using the

same brand name to promote products that are prohibited from direct advertising is known as "surrogate advertising." Pralhad Joshi, the union minister of consumer affairs, stated that the CCPA is creating regulations to control the issue.

terns, trading partners, and agricultural technology have changed how and where agricultural products are sold. Two newly appointed MPC members have revived the Economic Survey's dis-

cussion on removing food inflation from monetary policy. Q2 GDP growth and November food inflation may have unnerved MPC outsiders.