

AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

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MORNING EDITION PRAYAGRAJ

Tuesday, 26 August 2025

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

GST reform: New rates may be implemented from September 22

New Delhi: To simplify the tax system in the country, the government is preparing to implement a new GST tax slab from September 22. This date coincides with Navratri (September 22 to October 2), which is expected to give relief to customers in festive shopping. The new slab may reduce tax on essential goods, which will benefit the general public. Experts believe that this will give impetus to the economy and small businesses will

Fitch retains India's sovereign rating at 'BBB-'

New Delhi: Fitch Ratings on Monday retained India's sovereign rating at 'BBB-' with a stable outlook and said that strengthening growth and improving fiscal credibility will lead to improvements in structural parameters. "India's rating is supported by its strong growth and solid external finances," Fitch said. Fitch forecasts GDP growth of 6.5 per cent in March 2026 (FY26), unchanged from FY25, and well above the 'BBB' average of 2.5 per cent. The report said India's economic outlook remains strong compared to peer countries.

also benefit. The government may soon make an official announcement about it. What is going to change? At present there are four slabs in GST - 5%, 12%, 18% and 28%. Under the new proposal, it will be reduced to two slabs 5% and 18%. Merit

goods i.e. essential goods will come in the 5% slab. The 18% slab will have standard goods and services. Apart from this, a special tax of up to 40% will be levied on ultra-luxury cars and sin-related products. When will the decision be taken? The GST Council meeting is to be held in Delhi on 3-4 September, in which the Finance Ministers of the Center and all the states of the country will participate. In this meeting,

We have forex reserves to cover 11 months of exports: RBI



Strong

The country's foreign exchange reserves are strong enough to cover 11 months

of imports, not exports. A cell will be formed to review RBI rules. Reserve Bank of India Governor Sanjay Malhotra has talked about setting up a regulatory review cell to review the rules of the central bank i.e. regulations. The RBI Governor has said that the proposed cell will review all regulations at least once in 5-7 years. Speaking during an event in Mumbai, the RBI Governor said that the central bank.

Opposition wants to convert jail into PM-CM house: Shah

Rahul had torn the ordinance to save Lalu in Parliament, changed his tune when the government fell: Shah

Issue

'Can any (CM), (PM) or Minister run the government from jail?



"I am completely innocent. I was granted bail earlier, the verdict came later. This was a case of political vendetta"

Even after going to jail, Delhi CM did not resign: Amit Shah

Nowadays a new tradition has come. Two years ago there was no such case. Leaders used to resign after being accused. They used to join politics only after being released. But some ministers of Tamil Nadu did not resign from their ministerial posts.

This was a case of political vendetta: Amit Shah

I was arrested later. The case was heard later, the verdict also came, which said that it was a case of political vendetta. I am completely innocent. I was granted bail earlier, the verdict came later. This was a case of political vendetta.

New Delhi: Amit Shah giving an interview to news agency ANI. In this, he talked about many issues including three bills, Vice Presidential election. Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday termed the opposition's protest on the Constitution (130th Amendment) Bill as wrong. He said, 'Can any Chief Minister (CM), Prime Minister (PM) or Minister run the government from jail? They want to get the option to run the government from jail.' Shah discussed Jagdeep Dhankhar's resignation, his own arrest, opposition's protest in Parliament.

He said, "If the Prime Minister of the country ever goes to jail, is it right for the Prime Minister to run the government from jail? Is it right for a Chief Minister to run the government from jail? Whichever party has the majority, someone else from it will come and run the government. If you get bail, then you can take up the post again." In fact, the Center introduced the Constitution (130th Amendment) Bill in the Lok Sabha on August 20. It has a provision that any Prime Minister-Chief Minister or any minister will have to resign if he is arrested or detained for 30 days. The condition is that the crime for which the detention or arrest has taken place should have a provision of 5 years or more punishment. The opposition is opposing this. Dhankhar.

Raina and other influencers should apologize on their YouTube channels: Court

Ordered

The Court has ordered social media influencers to publicly apologize

New Delhi: On Monday, the Supreme Court has given strict instructions to comedians and YouTubers not to create objectionable content on the disabled. The court has said that if any such content has been created, then an apology should be made for it immediately. Linking it to the case of stand-up comedian Samay Raina, the court has said that if such a thing ever happens, strict action will be taken against YouTubers and influencers. What did the Supreme Court say? The Supreme Court has ordered social media influencers including Samay Raina to publicly apologize in their podcasts and programs for making fun of the disabled. The Supreme Court said that those who insult the disabled will be fined, even if they are social media influencers. The Supreme Court asked the central government

to make clear guidelines to ban such statements and content on social media, in which the disabled, women, children and senior citizens are mocked or humiliated. The court also said that while making rules for social media, no hasty steps should be taken, rather a comprehensive framework should be prepared by taking the opinion of all the parties. The Supreme Court made it clear that the right to freedom of expression cannot be applied to any commercial content that hurts the sentiments of any community. Along with this, the court expressed displeasure over the apology of India's Got Latent show.

We killed after seeing their deeds: Rajnath

Reply

Defence Minister has given a befitting reply to the terrorists by referring

New Delhi: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has given a befitting reply to the terrorists by referring to the Pahalgam attack. He

Day After US' Buying Russian Oil' Tantrum.

New Delhi: India has issued a measured reply to US' criticism of its continued Russian oil purchases. "In securing our energy needs, we are guided by what is on offer in the market and the prevailing global circumstance," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said Friday evening. The US has ramped up pressure on India to stop buying Russian oil, arguing it amounts to funding Vladimir Putin's war.



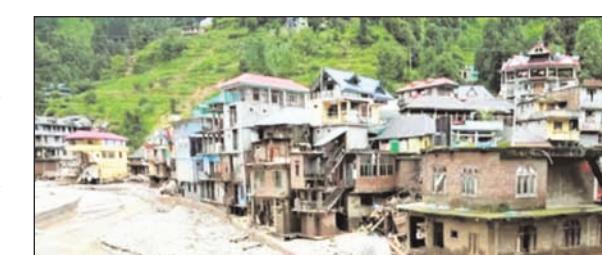
said that the terrorists killed people after asking their religion and we killed them after seeing their deeds. Speaking at the inauguration ceremony of Adarsh Defence

and Sports Academy in Jodhpur, Rajasthan, Rajnath Singh said, "The terrorists killed people after asking their religion, our soldiers killed the terrorists not on the basis of religion but on the basis of their deeds." "We gave a befitting reply to Pakistan. After the Pahalgam attack, the Indian Army entered Pakistan and destroyed

the terrorist hideouts. After this, Pakistan fired many missiles towards India. The Indian Army gave a befitting reply to this attack. Referring to Operation Sindo, the Defence Minister said, "In Operation Sindo, our army gave a befitting reply to Pakistan, carried out a precise attack on the designated target." Praising the efforts of Prime Minister Modi,

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

Himachal: Three national highways and 625 roads closed due to landslide,



an orange alert of heavy to very heavy rain in many areas today, while yellow alert will be effective for the state from 26 to 31 August. If we look at the rainfall data, the highest rainfall of 190 mm has been recorded in Kahu of

Bilaspur, 140 mm in Bhatiyat of Chamba, 120 mm in Malran, 111 mm in Amb, 110 mm in Aghgar, 104 mm in Bangana, 98 mm in Raipur Maidan, 95 mm in Ghumrur, 94 mm each in Bharwain and Naidun, 90 mm each in Salapad and Murari Devi, 87 mm in Dharamshala, 85 mm each in Bharedi and Kasauli, 84 mm each in Sundarnagar and Balwara. Due to heavy rainfall and landslides, traffic and electricity

RBI maintains GDP growth forecast at 6.50 percent



(MPC) for the current financial year 2025-26 that better than normal south and west monsoon, low inflation, increase in capacity utilization and favorable financial conditions are supporting domestic economic activities. He said that keeping all these in mind, the real GDP growth rate for the financial year 2025-26 is estimated to be 6.5.



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

Consider Aadhaar, other IDs in Bihar drive: Supreme Court

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



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

Delhi: The Election Commission of India (ECI) press notice states that three out of four Bihar electors have submitted their enumeration forms for the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. Since the SIR directives were released on June 24, 5.87 crore (58.7 million) forms (74.39% of total) had been collected. The EC stated around 77,000 Booth Level Officers (BLOs),

fixed the matter for next hearing on July 28. The court also directed the poll body to file its counter affidavit within a week

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Telangana Cabinet to implement 42% quota for BC



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

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

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

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

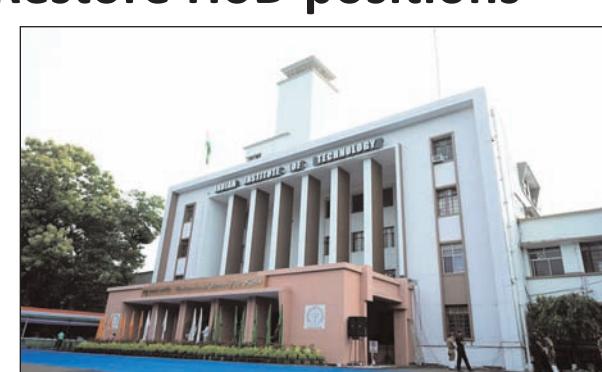
Delhi : Aditya Birla Group chairman and Birla Institute of Technology & Science (BITS) Pilani chancellor Kumar Mangalam Birla announced major expansion plans for the prestigious educational institution, including AI adoption, ed-tech ventures, and Indian campus capacity increases. Birla spoke at BITS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



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

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

IIT Kharagpur teachers petition governors. Restore HoD positions



Government issues Waqf Act rules

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

and disciplined them sent to 86 academic members who signed within seven days, tensions rose. Show cause notices were

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

nothing but a dream." "People can laugh at me or call me names," Dolly said. He announced the franchise on social media, stating that it is India's first viral street brand and now a commercial opportunity. From carts to flagship cafés, we're launching countrywide and need passionate people to achieve this objective." The announcement included a link to an application form on his Instagram account and listed three franchise formats: a cart stall for Rs 4.5 lakh to Rs 6 lakh, a shop model for Rs 20 lakh to Rs 22 lakh, and a flagship cafe for Rs 39 lakh to Rs 43 lakh. After going viral, the post received mixed reviews. Many social media users applauded Dolly on his rise, but others worried

Teachers gheraoed Vikas Bhawan for old pension restoration and many other demands aid

● We have many legitimate demands and old pension restoration is a big issue, the government should take initiative and resolve it

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Meja. In the divisional conference of the Joint Struggle Steering Committee under the leadership of Anurag Pandey, President of Inter-District Teachers Welfare Association, provincial and district officials of various organizations reached Vikas Bhawan on Sunday regarding various demands and old pension restoration and focused on their various demands and



insisted on restoring the old pension on priority basis.

During this, the issue of restoration of old pension of

teachers and their many other demands dominated the entire Vikas Bhawan campus.

In the pro-

gram organized under the chairmanship of the organization's divisional president Kamal Srivastava, many speakers expressed

their views and along with their demands, the demand for restoration of old pension was also prominently placed. On this occasion, RK Nigam, Vinay Singh, Prabhat Pandey, Shanti Bhushan Dwivedi of UTA, Lakshmi Narayan Pandey, Bhanu Pratap Singh, Anil Pandey, Vinay Tripathi, Ajit Singh, Brijendra Singh and Smriti Mishra etc., apart from many other officials were prominently present.

Life imprisonment to the accused of murder of minor

After unnatural rape



Sentenced

□ The post-mortem report confirmed that the minor was raped

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

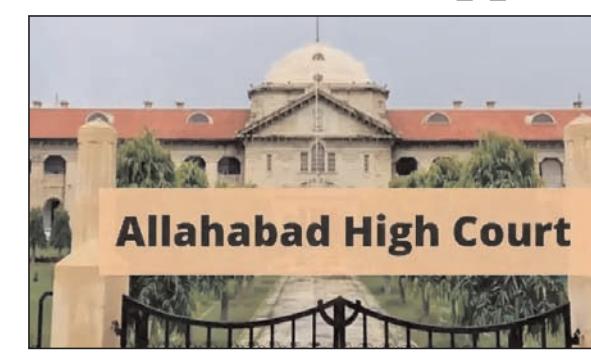
Prayagraj. The district court convicted the accused of murder and unnatural rape of a minor and sentenced him to life imprisonment. Also imposed a fine of Rs 27,000. This order was given by Additional Special Judge, POCSO Act Anju Kanaujia after hearing Special Public Prosecutor, POCSO Act Savita Pathak. According to the prosecution, the uncle of the victim had lodged a case in Naini police station in 2014 against Hori Lal Kahar resident Guthilla, police station Atarra district Banda and Nand Lal Bharatiya village Devrakhi police station Naini. It was alleged that on 14 February 2014, the nephew had gone out of the house to play and did not

Rejected

□ Te petition of the dismissed teacher has been rejected: High Court

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

return at night. The family members searched for him all night but could not find him. During the search in the morning, the women and children of the village told that your nephew was going towards the garden with Hori Lal and Nand Lal yesterday evening. Later, the victim's body was found in a drain near the village. The post-mortem report confirmed that the minor was raped. On the information given by the accused, the police recovered blood-stained pyjamas from Hori Lal's hut. Nandlal died in 2023 during the trial. The court convicted Hori Lal in the murder case and sentenced him to life imprisonment and ten years in the case of unnatural rape and also imposed a fine of 17 thousand. Also, in the case of POCSO, he was sentenced to ten years rigorous imprisonment and a fine of ten thousand. The court ordered that all the sentences will run simultaneously.



Prayagraj. The Allahabad High Court said that if a person gets a government job on the basis of fake documents, then his appointment will be considered void from the beginning. Such persons cannot make any legal claim on the salary and other benefits received from the job and they will have to return all the amount received. This order was given by Justice Manju Rani Chauhan on the petition of Kamlesh Kumar Nirankari. The petitioner was working as an assistant teacher in a primary school



GORAKHPUR. The 44th convocation of Deendayal Upadhyaya Gorakhpur University was held at Baba Gambhirnath Auditorium this afternoon. The ceremony was presided over by the Honorable Chancellor and Governor of Uttar Pradesh Anandiben Patel. Chief Guest Padma Shri Prof. Ashutosh Sharma,

Institute Chair Professor, IIT Kanpur delivered the convocation lecture and was awarded the honorary D.Sc. degree. Higher

Education Minister Yogendra Upadhyaya and Minister of State for Higher Education Rajni Tiwari were the special guests. Before the cere-



UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath attending the civil felicitation program on the arrival of the country's son, astronaut and Group Captain Shri Shubhanshu Shukla in Lucknow after the successful operation of the historic Axiom-4 mission.

Additional DM has given instructions to complete all the necessary action immediately

Keep war level preparations in view of the possible flood

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

charged from Dholpur on 23.08.2025 at 02:00 pm, due to which there is a strong possibility of increase in the water level in Yamuna river of Prayagraj district. He has instructed all the concerned officers to complete all the necessary action related to their respective departments immediately and keep war level preparations in view of the possible flood.

Rejection of application due to absence of two years gap in maternity leave is unfortunate: High Court

Prayagraj. Allahabad High Court termed it unfortunate to reject the application due to absence of two years gap in maternity leave. It said that the court has not considered the rule of granting maternity leave if there is a gap of two years between the birth of one child and the other as binding. Despite this, the officers act arbitrarily. Maternity leave applications are being rejected on the basis of absence of two years gap between two children. The court has directed the Director Horticulture and Food Processing UP Lucknow to appear on September 1 with an explanation and has asked why contempt proceedings should not be initiated against him by framing charges for disobeying the orders. This order has been given by a single bench of Justice Ajit Kumar on the petition of Sushila Patel.



The youth should take the nation forward: Governor Anandiben Patel

mony, Vidvat Padyatra was taken out, which was organized as a symbol of knowledge and tradition. The ceremony was attended by dignitaries of the city, teachers, officers, employees, students and other participants. Addressing the students, Chancellor and Governor of Uttar Pradesh Anandiben Patel said that the youth are the leaders of the country and their

biggest responsibility is to take the nation forward. She congratulated the students who received gold medals and said that those who have not received medals need not be disappointed. She said that every student has some special talent, in which teachers, family and friends play an important role in highlighting it. Describing teaching as service, she said that whenever she goes on tour, the students recognize her as their 'Shikshaika' - this is the biggest pride of a teacher. The Governor told the students that your presence in the lab, lecture and library should be mandatory. Uttar Pradesh is the state with the largest youth population in the country, so universities will have to work more responsibly.

Savitri Devi Nishad had come to Mejaroad to get her sick son's ultrasound done

A woman who came to get her son's ultrasound done died in a road accident in Meja Road

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Prayagraj. A woman who was returning home on a bike after getting an ultrasound done, got injured in a road accident when her saree flew in the air and got stuck in another bike coming from the front. She was being taken for treatment in an injured state when she died a tragic death on the way. According to the information received, Savitri Devi 45, wife of Umashankar Nishad, a resident of



Dashrathpur village of Paranipur in Meja police station area, had come to Mejaroad on a bike with her two sons to get an ultrasound done. It is said that the woman was returning home with both



sons after getting an ultrasound done. The elder son Vikas Nishad was driving the bike and Savitri Devi and her sick son Rakesh Nishad were sitting behind on the bike. As soon as they reached near

Mejaroad Power House, Savitri Devi's saree, which flew in the air, got stuck in a bike coming from the front, due to which her son, who was driving the bike, lost his balance and Savitri Devi fell on the road. Savitri Devi became unconscious due to a serious head injury. In a hurry, she was immediately taken to a hospital located on Mejaroad Koran Marg, where the doctors, seeing her critical condition,

referred her to the city hospital. During this, while taking Savitri Devi to another hospital for treatment, she died a painful death on the way. As soon as Savitri Devi's body reached home, there was an uproar. On getting the information, the outpouring in-charge Jevnia also reached the spot and expressed sympathy. Apart from three sons, Savitri Devi has a full family, her husband and people are crying badly due to her death.

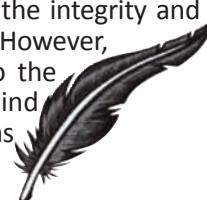
District Magistrate reviewed the fertilizer and logistics schemes

Bareilly. District Magistrate Avinash Singh held a review meeting of the schemes of the fertilizer and logistics department in the Collectorate auditorium on Monday. In the meeting, he laid special emphasis on the progress of Annapurna Model Shops. The District Magistrate directed that in the tehsils where land marking is pending, the process should be completed as soon as possible and work should be

Editorial

Civil servants are running India's regulatory bodies

Looking back at India's reform story of more than three decades, it is worthwhile to recall that economic liberalisation of the 1990s had a few implicit assumptions of how an economy should function and grow on a sustainable basis. One of those assumptions followed from the government decision to allow the private sector to operate in areas that were hitherto monopolised by state-owned enterprises. Under such liberalisation, it was assumed that while the government would continue to frame policies for areas opened up to the private sector, the regulation or enforcement of those policies would be undertaken by independent regulators through rules framed by them. A classic example of this thinking was India's telecommunications sector that was opened up to the private sector in the early 1990s. This was followed by the setting up of the Telecommunication Regulatory Authority of India or Trai a few years later. Subsequently, the business of basic telephone services, run in large parts of the country by a government department, was hived off to a newly created state-owned enterprise. Something similar, in varying degrees, happened in other areas such as the insurance, airports, and power sectors. In addition, the Competition Commission of India (CCI) was set up to regulate and adjudicate upon issues of market dominance and practices that undermined competition in various sectors. The principle was clear: Let the government frame the policy (and not run a business), while independent regulatory bodies could enforce the policy by framing necessary rules. Another implicit assumption behind such a separation of responsibilities between the government and the regulators was about who should steer those regulatory bodies. To impart autonomy and independence to these institutions and insulate them from government interference, the pool of talent for hiring key personnel was widened. Experts and private-sector professionals in related fields, along with even retired members of the judiciary (though under some pressure as was seen when the legislation for setting up the CCI was framed), were among those the government believed could be hired to head these regulatory institutions. Thus, the first chairperson of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission was an economist. Trai was set up under the chairmanship of a retired judge and its next chairperson was a former banker. Even the first capital market regulator was a banker in the late 1980s, and the first chairperson of the insurance sector regulator was a former chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes. The first full-fledged chairperson of the CCI was a retired Indian Administrative Services (IAS) officer. So, there was a mix of regulatory heads chosen from a pool of experts from both the government and the private sector. In spite of a few civil servants heading these institutions, the idea that continued to be pursued was to insulate regulation from the stranglehold or influence of the political executive. The third significant aspect of regulation in the early days of economic reforms was the framing of rules for appointing heads of regulatory bodies in a way that effectively ruled out conflicts of interest. Thus, a regulator would usually not be considered for another job in the government system after the completion of his or her term. The idea was that the regulator should be able to act freely and fairly without any expectation of future assignments from the government or the private sector. Indeed, one of the regulators under the law was, until recently, barred from accepting any government job after having served in that regulatory post. These were guardrails to preserve the integrity and independence of regulators. However, the situation with regard to the last two assumptions behind the regulatory framework has changed.



Trump believes Zelenskyy will have to give access to critical minerals

Mahesh Singh

Despite Ukraine's resistance, Trump believes Zelenskyy will have to give access to critical minerals in return for any future US support. Some in the Trump administration suggest Kyiv should provide Americans with those minerals in return for the US military and financial aid already received by Ukraine. Trump has blamed European leaders for not doing enough to end the Ukraine war. He has also complained for a long time that Europe has lived off the US for too long and it must pay for its security. Europeans have increased their defence budgets but not enough to survive without US support.

In the face of changing US policy under Trump, European leaders are working on a plan to guard against a Russian attack. This involves a proposal to deploy tens of thousands of peacekeeping troops in Ukraine. The proposal has the support of Britain and France and is in response to Zelenskyy's request of 100,000 troops. But the idea doesn't have wider support in Europe. Germany, another big power in the continent. Donald Trump has spent only a month in his second term as the US President. However, he has disrupted the international order, weakened the Western alliance and created a sense of insecurity and uncertainty among its members, surprising even some of his supporters. There has been a paradigm shift in US foreign policy under Trump. He is now closer to Moscow than Washington's traditional allies. He has embraced the Kremlin's narrative on



Ukraine and has sidelined US allies. Although senior members of the Trump administration have denied that the US has abandoned Kyiv and ignored its European allies, Trump himself has not made any serious attempts to pacify Ukrainians and Europeans. His closeness to Russia has been on display since he talked for 90 minutes on the phone with Russian leader Vladimir Putin, in which they agreed to start negotiations to end the Ukraine war, which will mark its third anniversary on Monday. Trump did speak to Zelenskyy soon after that call with Putin, but a nervous Ukrainian President warned that excluding his country from the talks would be "very dangerous". Events after that only made Ukrainians feel sidelined. Trump's Vice President, JD Vance, met European leaders in Munich two days later. But his comment that Europe will not be included in the peace talks only helped fuel the speculation that they were being left out of the future of

Ukraine, which is closer to their homes and in which they have invested a lot of money and effort since the Russian invasion. Vance's meeting with Zelenskyy did not go well either as the Ukrainian leader refused to give access to the country's vast reserves of critical minerals unless he was given security guarantees. That angered Washington. Ending the Russia-Ukraine war was Trump's major campaign promise. But hardly anyone expected him to brazenly take Russia's side and even blame Ukraine for the conflict, which he did. Last Tuesday, a US delegation led by Secretary of State.

Marco Rubio met the Russian delegation headed by Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov in Saudi Arabia, to discuss peace. Ukraine was not invited. Putin—who had been shunned by the US and its allies since the invasion of Ukraine—was delighted. A frustrated Zelenskyy dismissed the Riyadh talks as worthless. Trump did not like

those comments and called the Ukraine President a dictator, even accusing him of starting the war. Zelenskyy said the US President was living in a Russian-made "disinformation space". This infuriated Trump, who does not take kindly to any criticism. The proposal has been dismissed by Russia, which currently has about 600,000 troops in Ukraine. But even Britain and France, with much smaller armies than Russia, can't send troops to Ukraine without some backup from the United States. And that looks unlikely, for now. Trump's Ukraine envoy, General Keith Kellogg, who visited Kyiv and met Zelenskyy on Thursday, said all options must be open to deal with the outcome of peace talks. But he knows that any decision to provide any US military cover will be made by Trump who looks less inclined to do that. He described Zelenskyy as "a modestly successful comedian" who "talked the United States of America into spending \$350 Billion, to go into a War that couldn't be won, that never had to start, but a War that he, without the U.S. and 'TRUMP,' will never be able to settle." Trump's behaviour towards Zelenskyy is in stark contrast to Biden's, who had backed Ukraine against Russia with all the possible military and financial aid. President Biden travelled to Ukraine many times since the Russian invasion in February 2022 to display his administration's full support. He also promised NATO membership to Ukraine at a future date. Russia was severely punished for invading

Ukraine. The US joined hands with its allies to isolate Moscow. Russia faced tough sanctions and its assets in the West were seized. The International Criminal Court issued an arrest warrant against Putin for alleged war crimes in Ukraine. There were even plans to put Putin and his close allies on Nuremberg-style trials. Until a year ago, Ukraine's leader was talking about even liberating all its territory, including Crimea, which Russia annexed in 2014, with the help of Western military equipment. Ukraine even succeeded in occupying the Russian territory of Kursk, which it had thought would be used as a bargaining chip during negotiations with Moscow. But all that now looks like a distant dream. With Trump back in the White House, Ukraine fears that Russia will be allowed to keep all the occupied territory as part of the deal to end the war. Kyiv is now likely to be denied NATO membership. That could be a promise to Russia to end the war. The US under Trump has now even opposed calling Russia an aggressor in a G-7 statement being prepared to mark the third anniversary of the war. The US team removed the phrase from the first draft, which was prepared by Canada, the current holder of the group's presidency. It is not just Ukraine, America's European allies are also now nervous about the intent of Trump. Since the Second World War, they enjoyed the US security umbrella under NATO. But now they are unsure if the US under Trump will honour Article 5 of the NATO.

China isn't panicking about the US. It's looking at new EV markets for world dominance

Rashi Singh

In China, tariffs on electric vehicles by the United States are not considered mere trade restrictions but a direct challenge to the country's growing dominance in the global EV market. Far from dwelling on short-term disruptions, these tariffs are framed as catalysts for strategic shifts—igniting a new era of self-reliance, technological innovation, and market expansion. New regions beyond the US are now part of China's EV strategy. Southeast Asia, the Middle East, and parts of Africa now present more favourable opportunities, with fewer regulatory hurdles and growing demand. The tightening of tariffs by the West has only pushed China further into these regions. Chinese data shows that BYD's market share in Singapore reached 14.4 per cent of all new car registrations in 2024, marking a historic achievement for a Chinese brand. EVs are central to China's long-term economic, technological, and environmental leadership

vision. The strategy focuses on bolstering domestic innovation, ramping up investment in battery technology, and shifting toward regions with fewer trade barriers. For China, Western tariffs present an opportunity to refine policies, enhance industrial competitiveness, and reduce reliance on foreign markets. It seems China's push to accelerate its EV sector is unrelenting. The upcoming China EV 100 Forum (28-30 March) in Beijing, featuring key players from China's EV and tech giants, underscores this drive. As one Chinese vlogger observed, the goal is clear: China wants to foster scientific and technological innovation that will elevate its global standing and position it as a leader in the automotive industry. A major theme in Chinese discourse is the push for greater self-reliance in EV technology. In response to the imposition of Western tariffs, China has redoubled efforts to develop homegrown solutions that will succeed both domestically and globally.

UGC's Latest Caste Rules: When The Cure Worsens A Disease

Abhijay

The malaise of casteism took the lives of Rohith Vemula and Payal Tadvi. Their parents have pleaded with the Supreme Court of India to treat this malaise on campuses. If they needed medical advice on the inefficacy of an existing treatment for a physical malaise, then the physician may have mistakenly recommended something less effective to them. This is the case with the University Grants Commission's (UGC) response to the parents of Rohith Vemula and Payal Tadvi by proposing the 2025 draft regulations on equity. The draft tapers down the existing regulations of 2012 as it narrows the definition of caste-based discrimination, adopting a non-intersectional approach, and dispensing with commonly recurring situations of discrimination and the effects thereof. The 2025 regulations define discrimination as "unfair, differential, or biased treatment or any such act against any stakeholder on the grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth, or any of them". The isolated definition of caste-based discrimination as "only against the members of the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes" excludes the broader ways in which it operates. For example, a dairy caste Gujar student may be denied entry into a sponsorships and accounts-keeping committee on the assumption of being unreliable and unworthy of trust. In contrast, a trader caste Vaish student may be preferred on the assumption that Vaish people are good with money. A priestly caste Brahmin student may be placed in a supervisory role on the assumption that Brahmins are morally upright and trustworthy. As much as this is caste-based discrimination, it would not be addressed in the 2025 draft regulations despite Gujar being a protected legal category of Backward Classes. The 2025 draft wording "on the grounds only of" has

served as the rationale for non-intersectional interpretations. In 1981, the Supreme Court of India ruled that the alleged discrimination against air hostesses was not "on grounds only of" sex because of other factors that also constituted the category of air hostesses. This court ruling has established a non-intersectional approach to reading the given categories—of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth—in Article 15 of the Constitution. "Or" places a mutual exclusivity in the given categories. It can be caste or sex, it cannot be both. The 2012 regulations facilitate the possibility of intersectional reading by replacing or with and: "based on caste, creed, religion, language, ethnicity, gender and disabilities." The prospects of the words "or any of them" in the 2025 draft could be interpreted as the intersectional operation of given categories.

It's a distant possibility contingent on the courts making this kind of interpretation. Until then, women and LGBT queer students in the SC and the ST categories will struggle to prove that the discrimination against them is on grounds only of caste, because it could well be because of their gender identity and sexual orientation along with caste. Discrimination can be better understood in the context of its commonly recurring situations. In addition to naming the specificity of students in the SC and the ST categories, the third clause of the 2012 regulation lists eight situations of discrimination that operate squarely within the framework of admissions. Other sub-clauses further list 17 situations that operate more broadly "on the basis of caste, creed, religion, language, ethnicity, gender and disability". Doing away with all these situations in the 2025 draft regulations shows that the contexts integral to applying anti-discrimination frameworks.

Centre might need to do business with J&K's mainstream parties. Even if it's painful for Modi

Saariq

For fifty-two hours one summer in 1893, rain fell across Kashmir. A bear and a panther were found drowned side by side, their ancient hatred forgotten; ponies and cattle climbed into the verandahs of the elegant homes on the right bank of the Jhelum river. Faced with the wall of water, colonial civil servant Walter Roper Lawrence writes, the villagers of Tullamulla ripped the holy flags from their shrines and planted them along the flood plain to warn the waters away. Even nature, they reasoned,

would not dare insult the ancient saints. Everyone wasn't pleased with this deep popular faith—or charlatanism, if one so wished to call it. Kashmir was entering a new period of religious ferment amid messianic claims that the flood had been retribution for the sins of its people, like the Flood of Nuh, which destroyed the idolaters. Armed with ideas from Aligarh and Lahore, Mirwaiz Rasul Shah, the head of Srinagar's Jamia mosque, set about eradicating bid'a, the syncretic folk practices woven through folk Islam. In 1889,

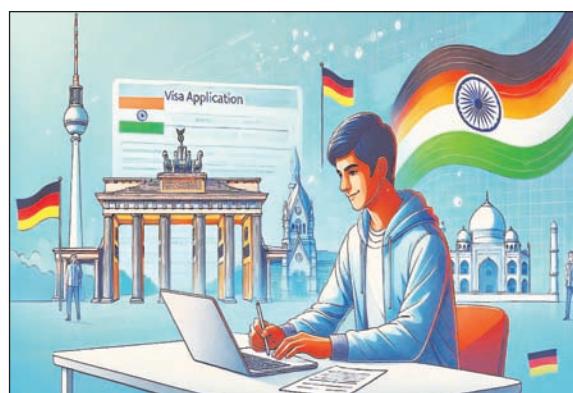
Rasul Shah established a seminary, the Nusratul Islam, at Rajouri Kadal, the first formal school offering both secular and religious education to Kashmir's Muslims. The seminary, today known as the Islamia School, flowered into an educational organisation, the Anjuman-i-Nusratul Islam. "Islam is a sick child that needs its mother's care and sympathy," one student at the Islamia School declaimed. In his public speeches, Mirwaiz Rasul Shah left little doubt about what that was: The deification of saints and veneration of holy

relics were Hindu practices which had corroded Islam from within. Late in the 19th century, scholar Yogiand Sikand writes, the neo-conservative Ahl-e-Hadith began to preach an even more austere new faith based on the laws of Sharia. The kernels of an Islamist movement had been planted in Kashmir's flood-ravaged soil. This month, almost unnoticed outside Kashmir, the Home Ministry banned the Awami Action Committee, the political platform that emerged from the Anjuman-i-Nusratul Islam.

Global visa concerns boost Indian student interest in Germany

Delhi : As immigration restrictions increase in the US and UK, Indian students are choosing Germany for a safe and transparent academic path. German officials have reaffirmed their commitment to creating a stable, open environment for overseas learners, citing a 35% increase in Indian applications.

Ambassador Dr. Philipp Ackermann said "In the context of the difficulties Indian students face in other countries, we have seen a sharp rise in interest for German universities and research institutions. Applications are up over 35% in the last several months." German institutions have 50,000 Indian students, ranking fifth after the US, UK, Canada, and



The PM SHRI Institute

Delhi: The Government of India is a major backer of SHRI School. Every student should feel welcomed and cared for in more than 14,500 PM SHRI Schools managed by the Central Government, State Government, UT Government, and local bodies like KVS and NVS. These schools should also provide a safe and stimulating learning environment, a variety of learning opportunities, and adequate physical infrastructure and resources that help students learn.

Presently, 30% of CAs are women, up from 8% in 2000

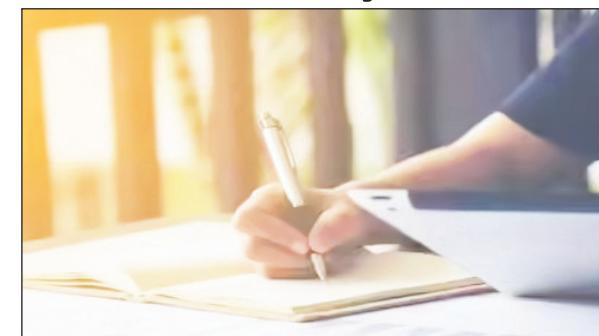


Delhi: Not only are women doing very well on various Chartered Accountancy exams, but they currently make up an unprecedented 48% of the candidates who qualify or pass the exams. Women certified public accountants now make about 30% of the field, a significant increase from 8% in the year 2000. Among the 8.63 lakh students, 43% are female. The attractiveness of accounting and auditing in India stems from a number of factors, including the country's low tuition rates, the abundance of available jobs, and the attractive starting wage of Rs 12.5 lakh for a fresh graduate. In 2020, four out of six top scorers were female; in 2021,

all top scorers were female; and in 2020, there were more women overall. Within two years, female candidates had accomplished the same thing they had in 2021. The last decade has seen 75 female candidates succeed at various levels of the chartered accountant test. In line with

the National Education Policy, 2020, the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India launched a new course in 2023. The head of the ICAI, Ranjeet Kumar Agarwal, "Participation of women in this profession in accountancy, tax and finance is increasing phenomenally."

Joint CSIR-UGC NET June 2025 exam on one day



Indian students in Canada have reported receiving emails to resubmit study permits, visas

Delhi: Indian students in Canada have reported receiving emails to resubmit study permits, visas, and educational records, including marks and attendance. IRCC, a federal department that handles foreign students, issued a request that panicked international students, many of whom have two-year visas. In response to the inflow of overseas students, IRCC is tightening its financial criteria and considering limitations on admissions. I was surprised by the email. My visa is valid till 2026, however I was requested to resubmit all my documentation. "Avinash Kaushik, "They even want proof of attendance, marks, where we are working part-time, etc." he said. Punjabi students reported a similar increase in emails.

These topics are Sciences receiving the applied for, with Life most.

60% of DU Students Are Planning to Stay for Graduate School

Delhi : Despite ongoing concerns regarding the program's implementation and sustainability, vice chancellor Yogesh Singh announced that more than 60% of undergraduates at Delhi University will participate in the FYUP's optional fourth year. "DU is ready for the fourth year," Singh announced during the university's executive council (EC) meeting, which also saw the approval of other academic and administrative proposals. He went on to say that the school is ready for the launch and that they are working on



solutions for institutions that are having trouble implementing it. "In colleges which have a shortage of faculty, provision will be made for engaging some guest faculty as well as regular teachers from the same college or other colleges to take additional classes," added Singh.

He did, however, emphasize that only regular faculty members, and not guest teachers, will be assigned to educate fourth-year students. Additionally, he assured everyone that both teaching and non-teaching staff members who work overtime would be well compensated.

Indian Army to host Spiti Marathon 2025 from Aug 22-24

The Indian Army will host the second edition of the Surya Spiti Challenge - Spiti Marathon 2025 from August 22-24 in Himachal Pradesh's Lahaul & Spiti district. Held under Operation Sadbhavana, the high-altitude event offers four race categories -

77km Kunzum La Ultra, 42km Full Marathon, 21km Half Marathon and 10km run. The event aims to promote adventure sports, foster civil-military ties and highlight the region's strategic and cultural significance.

With ₹30 lakh in prize money, it is open to civilians, athletes and defence personnel.

Supported by the HP Government, local administration, Himachal Tourism and other stakeholders, runners can register at www.spitimarathon.co

IITs introduce new, more adaptable multidisciplinary courses while discontinuing older dual degrees

Delhi: The classic five-year dual degree programs are being replaced by more adaptable, interdisciplinary options at the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs). Students' goals and the needs of employers are changing, therefore universities are rethinking the traditional dual degree model, which was once seen as a practical way for students to get a Bachelor's and Master's degree in the same academic year. The BTech pool is growing, and several IITs are absorbing students from five-year integrated programs. Higher student turnout as a result of more inclusive reservation policies and lower enthusiasm from prominent politicians are factors propelling this change. A growing number of students



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.

are opting for stand-alone BTech programs rather than dual degree programs because of the many benefits that students in the former receive, including hands-on experience in the field, internships, and early access to placement prospects by the third year.

Dubai's ambitious education reforms



Delhi : Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and Deputy Prime Minister, chaired a crucial Executive Council meeting that approved a comprehensive set of new policies to transform Dubai's education, environment, legal framework, and infrastructure governance. The bold initiatives include expanded student visas, employment pathways for 90% of graduates, clean air targets, and the launch of an international mediation centre to achieve Dubai's 2030 and 2033 strategic goals for innovation, sustainability, and global competitiveness. Dubai has implemented ground-breaking education and development strategies. "Youth are the architects of the future, shaping it with their awareness, optimism, and openness to the world," stated Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and Deputy Prime Minister. Dubai gives young people world-class academic, practical, and research opportunities. Dubai should attract top students from around the world and foster innovation. "By 2033, the emirate wants 50% of its university students to be international. Dubai currently has 37 international university branches and aspires to have over 70 by that year, including 11 top 200 universities.

DU accepts curriculum modifications despite resistance

Delhi: The Delhi University Executive Council accepted controversial curriculum modifications and other academic and infrastructure initiatives. The Academic Council approved the elimination of papers on Pakistan, Islam, and China from the post-graduate Political Science syllabus on June 5, despite internal objections. Executive Council member Mithuraj Dhusiya criticized the syllabus modifications' implementation. He claimed that several courses were revised before reaching the Academic Council, circumventing academic process and endangering openness.

Vice Chancellor Professor Yogesh Singh led the meeting, which confirmed Professor Rajni Abbi's appointment as Delhi University's South Campus director. The vice chancellor said the university is "fully prepared" for the National Education Policy 2020's fourth year of undergraduate study in 2025-26.

The Indian Army to host Spiti Marathon 2025 at 10,000-14,000 ft from August 22-24



New Delhi: The Indian Army is organizing the second edition of Surya Spiti Challenge - Spiti Marathon 2025 which is scheduled for August 22-24, 2025 at the Lahaul & Spiti district of Himachal Pradesh. This marathon is offering runners from around the world an extraordinary opportunity to compete in one of the highest altitude marathons on the planet. With four race categories—including the 77km Kunzum La Ultra, 42km Full Marathon, 21km Half Marathon and 10km run as the event's endurance, adventure and Himalayan panoramas in the quaint valley of Spiti. Organized under Operation Sadbhavana by the Indian Army, Spiti Marathon 2025 represents a mission to showcase the power of sport, community and India's Himalayan frontier. This year's event builds on the legacy of the inaugural High Altitude Marathon in Spiti which was first held on September 28-29, 2024 with the similar objectives. A total of ₹30 lakh prize money will be on stake across all categories. Registration is now open to athletes, civilians and defense personnel. A required medical examination during Bib collection ensures all runners are fit for high altitude.

Over 60% of June three-wheeler sales are EVs

Delhi: The Federation of Indian Automobile Dealers Associations reported that over 60% of three-wheeler retail sales in June 2025 were electric, indicating a strong increase in green mobility. From 55.5% in the same month last year, electric three-wheelers jumped to 60.2%. From little under 6% in June 2024, two-wheeler EV sales rose to 7.3%. The penetration of passenger electric vehicles—cars and SUVs—rose to 4.4% from 2.5% a year earlier. EVs made up 1.6% of truck and bus sales and 0.1% of construction equipment sales in the business sector.

June car retail sales reached 2 million, up 5% year-over-year. Construction equipment sales rose 55% due to infrastructure



spending. Tractor sales grew 9%, passenger vehicles 2.5%, commercial vehicles 6.6%, and two-wheelers 4.7%. FADA president C.S. Vigneshwar said early monsoon rains and the rise in electric vehicle options had influenced customer purchase decisions, especially for two-wheelers.

He noted that incentives and fresh bookings helped passenger vehicle sales, but liquidity and geopolitical concerns remain. According to experts, EV penetration across several industries is nearing an inflection point.

8th Pay Commission Could Hike Salaries 30–34%



fitment factor, a multiplier for revised pay. Ambit Capital expects a higher fitment factor than the 7th Pay Commission 2.57. One important point: A new Pay Commission eliminates the Dearness Allowance (DA), which is currently 55% of

the basic wage. Even if nominal basic pay rises dramatically, salary calculation is recalculated. For example, the 6th Pay Commission made Rs 7,000 a take-home wage of Rs15,750.

Even if the visa is approved, the individual may still face deportation proceedings



Priya Nair will replace Rohit Jawa as HUL's first female CEO

Delhi: American officials have reiterated their stance that visitors must adhere to all regulations or face deportation. Screening for US visas continues even after the visa has been awarded. We make sure that visa holders respect all US laws and immigration rules by checking them constantly. According to the US embassy in India, if they do not comply, their visas will be revoked and they will be deported. Representative picture: The visa process has become more stringent under the Trump administration. After halting processing of student visas at the end of May due to social media screening, it has only now begun processing them again for this fall. "Effective immediate-

ly, all individuals applying for an F, M, or J nonimmigrant visa are requested to adjust the privacy settings on all of their social media accounts to public to facilitate vetting necessary to establish their identity and admissibility to the United States under US law," the embassy stated.

Elon Musk says Tesla will ask shareholders about investing in xAI

Delhi: Elon Musk says Tesla will ask shareholders about investing in xAI. After the Wall Street Journal reported that SpaceX would invest \$2 billion in xAI, the billionaire spoke. Musk wrote on X that shareholders decide whether to invest in xAI. Musk also asked X users last year if Tesla should invest \$5 billion in xAI, saying he was testing the waters. It's not my call. To my mind, Tesla should have invested in xAI long ago. Musk replied to a post that a shareholder vote will be held. In reaction to



ChatGPT's popularity, Elon Musk founded xAI in early 2023. Since then, the company has released its Grok AI chatbot, which was updated to Grok 4 models. The chatbot rivals ChatGPT, Gemini, and Claude. Musk merged xAI and X earlier this year, image.png

ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund to sell 10% of Rs 10k crore IPO

Delhi: Another huge IPO is anticipated for this year. Prudential Corp of UK, ICICI Bank's joint venture partner in ICICI Prudential Asset Management, is selling 10% of the company through an IPO worth roughly Rs 10,000 crore. ICICI Bank, the

fund house's primary owner, said AMC filed the filings with Sebi. Two IPOs over Rs 5,000 crore have occurred this year: HDB Financial Services, an HDFC bank unit, completed its 12,500-crore IPO last month. February saw Hexaware Tech raise

valuing the AI startup at \$80 billion and X at \$33 billion. Musk wants \$200 billion in investments in the combined business, Bloomberg reports. Tesla investing in xAI looks to be part of his aim to integrate his corporate empire.

roughly Rs 8,760 crore. ICICI Prudential AMC manages I-Pru MF, which manages over Rs 9.5 lakh crore in investors' assets (AMFI data for April-June quarter). ICICI Bank owns 51% of the fund firm and the UK financial giant 49%. As countries like Vietnam adopt crypto, following America's example in the global digital economy, the timing is perfect. These bills may give Wall Street's top players the confidence to invest after waiting for clearer rules. There's significant emphasis on safeguarding average investors from frauds and dubious activities, not just luring big money. Instead of distrusting crypto, politicians are helping it grow and remain transparent. This amazing turnaround could change our understanding of digital assets and blockchain.

All EU and Mexico imports will be subject to 30% tariffs as imposed

Delhi: President Trump of the United States has decided to levy a 30% tariff on goods imported from Mexico and the European Union, with the duty going into effect on August 1. The new tariffs on two of the US's most important trading partners were announced by Trump in separate letters uploaded to his Truth Social platform. He blamed a trade imbalance with the European Union and

Korea, Japan, and South Korea. The tariffs are more severe than the 25% tax that Trump levied on Mexican imports earlier this year, with the exception of items that enter the US through the US-Mexico-Canada Agreement.



Tesla May Start Indian Deliveries in August

Delhi: Tesla Inc. will open its first showroom in India and begin deliveries next month, according to sources, as the Elon Musk-led electric vehicle maker seeks to capitalize on demand in the third-largest auto market to offset slowing sales elsewhere. The Mumbai showroom will mark



Tesla's formal market entry, giving prospective customers access to pricing, variants, and trim

options, according to one person, who requested anonymity, and Bloomberg News documents. Last month, Bloomberg News claimed that the Mumbai store was opening in mid-July and that the first Model Y rear-wheel drive SUVs from Tesla's China factory had arrived. People

say a second Tesla showroom in New Delhi would open in late July. Tesla's highly anticipated foray into the Indian market comes at a vital time for the EV maker, which suffered a drop in global sales in the second quarter despite Musk's claims that business

JPMorgan may reduce EM Bond Index China, India shares

Delhi: JPMorgan Chase & Co. may reduce the weight of China and India, the major bond issuers in its flagship emerging-market index, to reflect more developing-nation debt.

According to Bloomberg documents, the Wall Street bank is seeking customer opinion on changes to its GBI-EM Global Diversified Index, which tracks local-currency developing-nation debt by more than \$200 billion of assets. According to the documents, cutting a cap on individual countries

from 10% to 8.5% might increase the benchmark rate if nations with higher borrowing costs gain a larger position. Bigger yields represent bigger risks and returns. The documents indicate that the revisions are tentative and may not be implemented. At a consultation last year, JPMorgan proposed a

methodology adjustment that would have reduced China's index contribution to 6%, but then withdrew it. The latest modifications will reduce weighting for the major bond sellers in emerging countries like Indonesia, Mexico, Malaysia, China, and India, according to the documents.

Trump's latest announcements raise trade concerns for textile exporters

Delhi: Trump's newest tariff announcements have raised uncertainty, and purchasers are anticipated to postpone new orders. Textile exporters seem to have an advantage over Bangladesh, which Trump has slapped with 35% duty, but industry is watching India's bilateral trade deal with the US because Trump claims the agreement with Vietnam allows him to impose a 20% tariff, although there may be exceptions. As

usual, countries like Bangladesh are racing to Washington to equalize tariffs in the coming weeks. We must monitor tariffs. Buyers are confused, "SNQS International managing director V Elangovan said from Tirupur. "Retailers must stock shelves.

Since the Chinese were offering greater prices this year, our merchandisers in Shanghai last week could not compete. How they can do so

CAPSULES

Bitcoin first reaches \$121,000: What drives the rally?

Delhi: Bitcoin crossed \$121,000 for the first time, rising over 3%. In one year, the world's largest cryptocurrency doubled investors' wealth, rising almost 103%. Bitcoin traded at \$121,068. One bitcoin would be worth around Rs 1.04 lakh in Indian rupees. Ethereum and other cryptocurrencies rose over 3% to \$3,046 (approximately Rs 2.62 lakh each). Solana rose about 3.5 percent to \$167 (Rs 14,352). 'Crypto week' confidence has boosted cryptocurrencies in recent days. The US House of Representatives will discuss the 'Clarity Act' this week to regulate the crypto business. A bill to regulate stablecoins, U.S.-dollar-pegged cryptocurrency tokens, will be considered by the lower house of Congress. Bitcoin has risen about 30% in 2025 on Trump's pro-crypto stance. The cryptocurrency has risen 1,414 percent in five years. The crypto fear and greed index is 70, signaling an overheated market. Crypto funds received \$1.23 billion in one day on July 11 (latest statistics), with Bitcoin ETFs contributing approximately \$1.03 billion. This large institutional money inflow and frenzy around US 'Crypto Week', which begins today, are driving the crypto boom "Sivam Thakral, BuyUcoin CEO. As countries like Vietnam adopt crypto, following America's example in the global digital economy, the timing is perfect. These bills may give Wall Street's top players the confidence to invest after waiting for clearer rules. There's significant emphasis on safeguarding average investors from frauds and dubious activities, not just luring big money. Instead of distrusting crypto, politicians are helping it grow and remain transparent. This amazing turnaround could change our understanding of digital assets and blockchain.

Appeal to overturn BNS parts rejected by HC

Delhi: The Delhi high court rejected a request to have sections of the new penal code, Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita (BNS), dealing with crimes against the state and public tranquillity removed because it did not have the authority to do so. Offenses against the state are addressed in Sections 147 to 158 and include, among other things, acts that threaten the sovereignty, unity, and integrity of the country, assaults on the President or Governor, and attempts to compel or restrain the exercise of any lawful power. July 1, 2017, was the effective date of the new law that superseded the Indian Penal Code (IPC). Crimes against public tranquility are addressed under Sections 189–197 and include acts such as unlawful assembly, rioting, affray, and wanting to intentionally provoke a disturbance. Justice Anish Dayal and Chief



DJB served with a notice by NGT

Delhi: National Green Tribunal (NGT) has served notice on the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) following a petition alleging that private developers had unlawfully dug borewells and were drawing groundwater without authorization. According to the petitioner, Arun Kumar Tomar, nothing happened after he complained to the DJB chairman. According to Tomar, 19 private builders in Delhi had allegedly dug illegal borewells. The charges necessitate confirmation by means of a spot examination by the DJB, as pointed out Prakash Shrivastava. It further stated that the relevant SDM should subsequently take the required measures.

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which has not been done thus far. The judge ordered the DJB to look into the allegation and make sure the borewells were sealed and seized properly.

Justice DK Upadhyay ruled that the bench did not have the authority to issue such a directive because doing so would constitute legislation.

How Delhi's Delivery Boys Got Involuntary Into Drug Dealing?



retailer. He needed the extra cash. He ended himself in police custody after running afoul of the law as a result of this decision. Both incidents show how the bootlegging industry takes advantage of those who work in the gig economy by hiding behind the image of a nice delivery boy. In the southeast Delhi neighborhood of Govindpuri, 25-year-old Khurshid was apprehended in an abnormally large e-cart bag containing 400 quarters of booze that was stamped "For sale in Haryana only."

Delhi: Dashrath Kumar appeared to be just another delivery kid going about his business at first look. He was able to blend in with the crowd while wearing a red t-shirt donated by one corporation and carrying an orange bag from another. While onlookers were oblivious to it, authorities had been keeping tabs on Kumar while they investigated a bootlegging business. He was taken into custody and a significant amount of illegal alcohol was confiscated. The narrative of Sourabh is remarkably similar. He gave in to his vices and started delivering alcohol on the side while working as a delivery boy for an online

Govt plans 20km elevated corridor over Munak Canal



Govt allocates 12,952 crore for public transport system

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

MCD outsourcing 300 community centers

Delhi: Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) plans to outsource management of over 300 community centers and halls to improve user services. Singh said that the evaluation addressed community centre maintenance and planned to run them on public-private partnership (PPP) while maintaining discounted booking rates. We plan to run them on a PPP basis to improve service. Singh said booking rates would not rise. Community centers and halls offer subsidized space for weddings, parties, and other events. Despite increasing demand in Delhi, many



corporation-run community centers are underutilized. MCD has 299 community halls, 21 of which are unusable due to maintenance and repair. All eight community centers are closed since the corporation's activities aren't popular. The audit of community hall operations also showed the human resource shortage. A senior MCD official claimed community centers need staff. The community services department relies on community workers. These individuals will assist with water tanker bookings, operational issues, and maintenance.

The new Delhi drainage plan is due in 15 days

Delhi: Public Works Department (PWD) minister Parvesh Verma said a draft of Delhi's new drainage master plan will be ready in 15 days. It will include survey findings and expert recommendations from a year ago. After reviewing the draft, work will begin to overhaul the Capital's 50-year-old drainage infrastructure. "We received

the Najafgarh basin report and will receive the Barapullah and Trans-Yamuna basin reports in 15 days. After receiving all three findings, we will redesign Delhi's drainage network. We saw that drains need urgent repair and upgrading. Verma stated we will begin with urgent intervention areas. The PWD ultimately hired a consultant to

create a drainage master plan for Delhi's largest basin, Najafgarh, in May 2023. The consultant has one year to finish the recently filed project. Officials said PWD will examine feasibility and generate estimates based on consultant recommendations before sending them to the government for approval before work begins.

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.

Q1 FY26 liquor sales bring in Rs 2,662 crore for the Delhi

Delhi: According to officials, in the first quarter of 2025–26, the government corporations of Delhi sold almost 16.96 crore bottles of liquor, generating more than Rs 2,662 crore. In the period between April and June of 2025, DSIIDC sold 5.29 crore bottles of various alcoholic beverages, which was the biggest sales volume in the country. The following three companies, according to official statistics, sold 5 crore bottles: DTTDC, DSCSC, and Delhi State Civil Supplies

Corporation (DSCSC), and Delhi Consumer's Cooperative Wholesale Store (DCCWS). Under the present excise policy, the government of Delhi runs more than 700 vends for retail liquor sales through four agencies: DSIIDC, DTTDC, DSCSC, and DCCWS. The four companies made Rs 2,403 crore from 15.93 crore bottles sold in the first quarter of the previous fiscal year. This year's sales have brought in an additional Rs 259 crore, according to officials. Government excise tax collection goal for 2025–26 is Rs 7,000 crore.

L-G extends and raises 410 vocational instructors' compensation until 2026



36 crore for PTVT pay and vocational education. Saxena allowed two contractual part-time vocational teachers in the Hospitality and Tourism vocational stream to prolong their contracts from March 1, 2025, to February 28,

2026. The proposal also maintains nine PTVTs in four Delhi government-aided senior secondary schools for 2025–26. Delhi schools have employed contingent or contractual part-time vocational teachers from the late 1970s

The Posh Act also applies to online sexual harassment.

Delhi: Adapting the legal framework to evolving digital work environments is of utmost importance, according to Delhi High Court judge Justice Prathiba M. Singh. She emphasized that the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 (POSH Act) must cover incidents of sexual harassment of women during online meetings. Justice Singh argued that the term "workplace" should be properly broadened to encompass digital, virtual, and electronic platforms.

and early 2000s. Since the CBSE replaced the vocational stream with the National Skills Qualifications Framework, they have continued to offer vocational subjects.

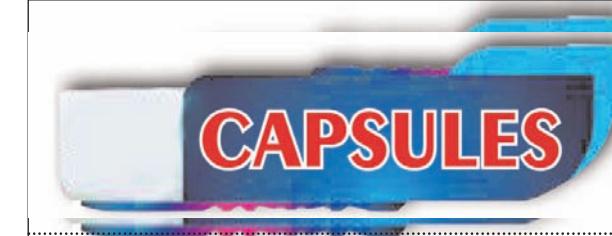
E-auction of 177 apartments approved under housing project



Delhi: The Housing Scheme 2025, which will provide 177 apartments for sale through online auction to those in the middle class and below, has received approval from the Delhi Development Authority (DDA). Some of the most desirable locations for these apartments include Vasant Kunj,

Pitampura, Jasola, and Dwarka. Additionally, it gave its stamp of approval to a package of measures meant to reinvigorate the commercial real estate sector of the city and entice massive investments to the area. A meeting of the DDA, presided over by Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena, was held

on July 11 to make these determinations. The government has slashed amalgamation fees for commercial properties from 10% of the circular rate to a pitiful 1%. The statement claimed that the move is made to make it more financially viable for developers to consolidate property.



Muslims are the religion with the most rapid global expansion



Delhi: From 2010 to 2020, Muslims became the world's fastest-growing religious group, according to a Pew Research Centre report. At the same time, the number of Christians, the largest religious group in the world, decreased by 1.8 percentage points to 28.8%. Reaching 1.2 billion in 2020, with 95% residing in India, the Hindu population increased at a pace comparable to that of the global population. In 2020, 79% of India's population identified as Hindu, up from 80% in 2010. 'How the Global Religious Landscape Changed From 2010 to 2020' shed light on the increase in the Muslim proportion, which went up from 14.3% in 2010 to 15.2% in 2020. Of all the world's population categories, only those who do not identify with any religion (also termed "nones") increased in percentage terms, adding 270 million to reach 1.9 billion. Muslims were the only other group to see this growth. To 24.2%, the proportion of "nones" increased by nearly a full percentage point.

Q1 FY26 liquor sales bring in Rs 2,662 crore for the Delhi



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Google under CCI investigation over gaming firm complaint

Delhi: India's Google regulatory issues are growing. In 2022, the Competition Commission of India (CCI) fined the US tech giant for abuse of dominant position in its Play Store and Android mobile device ecosystem. Now, the fairplay regulator is investigating a complaint filed by gaming company WinZO. CCI directed its investigation arm to investigate and report within 60 days after finding a *prima facie* case. "Based on the facts and circumstances of the case, the commission believes Google is in violation and justifies further inquiry. The CCI bench, chaired by Ravneet Kaur and three members, ordered the director general to investigate. A Google spokesman declined to comment. WinZO, an online gaming company, claimed that Google's Play Store prohibits Real Money Game hosting. "Due to Google's unreasonable and

restrictive policy, all apps offering real money games of skill are only available for download from their website (a process called sideloading)," it told CCI. On Android devices, using this process to reach WinZO displays a disclaimer/warning, tarnishing its image. WinZO stated warnings are without validity and "completely illegal" and cost the company. It also claimed Google displays another "baseless warning" when users pay for skill-based games. "Such payment warnings are arbitrary as Google has not set any criteria for displaying them," WinZO complained to CCI. The gaming company also claimed that Google has enabled DFS and Rummy downloads on the Play Store as part of a pilot project while restricting their app store availability. This action, it stated, "eliminate the level-playing

US retailers utilize Trump tariff threats to boost sales

Delhi: Local media stated that many US businesses are advising clients to buy now before President-elect Donald Trump's proposed tariffs hike prices. Trump threatened 60% tariffs on all Chinese goods and 10% to 20% tariffs on other goods during his campaign. He announced plans to impose 25% tariffs on Mexican and Canadian imports and 10% on Chinese imports.

The Union government wants 100% FDI in insurance

Delhi: The Union Finance Ministry proposed raising the insurance sector's FDI ceiling from 74% to 100% in a consultation paper. The insurance FDI limit was raised from 49% to 74% in 2021. The government said the proposal to alter insurance legislation will make insurance more affordable, grow the insurance industry, and streamline corporate operations.

An office memorandum dated November 26 proposed lifting the FDI ceiling in Indian insurance businesses from 74% to 100% and



allowing insurers to conduct one or more kinds of insurance business and associated or incidental operations. The suggestion also cut foreign reinsurers' Net Owned Funds from Rs 5,000 crore to Rs 1,000 crore. IRDAI can also set lesser entry capital (Rs 50 crore) for underserved or unserved regions on a case-by-case basis. The sector regulator is trying to increase capital in this capital-intensive industry. The Chairman of IRDAI suggests that the insurance market requires 50,000 crore yearly to double penetration in the country. Insurance penetration is the ratio of annual premiums issued to GDP.

Gold loans rise 50% in seven months

Delhi: Bank loans against gold jewelry rose 50.4% in the first seven months of the year. Despite single-digit growth in every other personal loan area, credit rose sharply. RBI issued sectoral deployment of bank credit. Gold loans totaled Rs 1,02,562 crore in March 2024. Growth was 56% year-over-year, up from

13% in October 2023. NBFCs' move and a preference for secured loans over unsecured ones contributed to the first-seven-month gold loan surge, bankers said. Bank loans to NBFCs fell 0.7% to Rs 1.5 lakh crore in the first seven months. Bankers also said that rising gold prices allow borrowers to repay previous loans

and get higher new ones. Analysts see rising gold loan demand as an indication of financial instability. RBI ordered banks and financial companies to review and fix their gold loan rules and procedures within three months last month. After an examination, evergreening was found to hide bad loans.

TRAI deadline may prevent Jio, Vi, and Airtel subscribers from receiving OTPs



"The TRAI implementation timeframe is phased. Operators will notify chain declaration violators daily until November 30. All non-compliant messages will be prohibited starting December 1"

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A former employee being sued by Google India for disclosing Pixel secrets

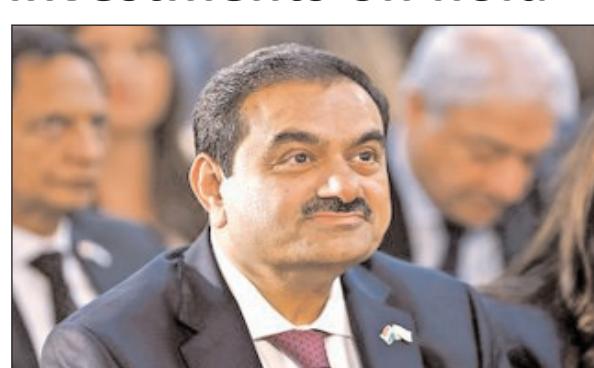
Delhi: Google and its subsidiary in India filed a lawsuit in the US against former Bengaluru office employee Harshit Roy for revealing trade secrets that were considered confidential. In order to prevent Roy from further disseminating the stolen trade secrets that had irreparably harmed Google, Google hired an outside investigator to find him. Among the information that was revealed were comprehensive specifications of proprietary hardware.

New Honda Amaze Variants and Top Features

Delhi: India will launch the third-generation Amaze on December 4, 2024, and unofficial bookings have begun. The car is arriving at dealer yards nationwide ahead of its much-anticipated launch. It will rival the new Maruti Suzuki Dzire, Tata Tigor, and Hyundai Aura. The 2025 Honda Amaze will come in three variants—V, VX, and ZX—with many interior and exterior changes. Since its inception in India over a decade ago, the Amaze has been a popular sedan. Several new features and technolo-

gies will be added. The top model will have a floating touchscreen infotainment system with wireless Apple CarPlay and Android Auto connectivity, automatic climate control, ADAS technology, six airbags, reversing camera, wireless smartphone charger, multi-functional steering wheel with mounted controls, rear AC vents, dual cup holders, type-c charging ports, and more. However, an electric sunroof, motorized seats, and 360-degree camera will be missing. It will keep its 1.2L four-cylinder

French energy giant Total puts Adani Gp investments on hold



NBCC India will buy sick PSUs and redevelop land banks

Delhi: Two sources say NBCC India Ltd. wants to buy defunct public sector undertakings (PSUs) to redevelop and monetize their land.

The state-run construction company wants to leverage its success in developing land for government-owned companies. Developer is in talks to acquire non-operational PSUs through a new entity to monetize their land banks.

30k cr bank guarantee relief for telcos



"Vi was accused of not paying its second bank guarantee of Rs 350 crore for spectrum purchased in a 2012 auction. November 1 was the payment deadline"

rules required the corporation to file bank guarantees 13 months before the next payment due date. The DoT requested bank guarantees from Vi for the September 2025 spectrum payment of Rs 24,747 crore. The DoT also asked the finance ministry to exempt operators from bank guarantees for spectrum payments. The waiver should help Vi. Telco shares

increased 7.8% intraday to Rs 7.53. After opening higher, Airtel shares fell 0.1% to Rs 1,577. Vi was accused of not paying its second bank guarantee of Rs 350 crore for spectrum purchased in a 2012 auction. November 1 was the payment deadline. Vi skipped the payment of about Rs 4,600 crore in 2016 auction guarantees two months earlier.

Bengal counters Centre in SC, says CBI can't conduct probe sans state consent

NEW DELHI: Counteracting Centre's stand that it wields no power over CBI which is an independent agency, West Bengal govt on Wednesday told Supreme Court that Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, under which the agency was formed specifically says that its superintendence shall vest in the central govt in all cases except those related to corruption and contended CBI probe can't be ordered in the state without its consent. Senior advocate Kapil Sibal told a bench of Justices B R Gavai and Sandeep Mehta that Sections 4 and 5 of the Act confer the power pertaining to superintendence and jurisdiction of the agency to the Centre. Putting forward the stand of the state govt that the central agency could not conduct a probe within its jurisdiction without its consent, Sibal said that it would destroy the federal structure if Centre forced its way into the state and conducted a probe. "Centre has no jurisdiction to allow its investigating agency to come in my state against my consent. Such an act is unconstitutional. It would be an encroachment on the rights and jurisdiction of the state and its police. It would be constitutional overreach and exceeding of jurisdiction and would destroy the federal structure of the country," Sibal said. The lawyer referred to various sections of Delhi Special Police Establishment Act to make a point that Centre controls CBI but clarified that role of Centre is only upto the registration of case but not investigation and probe was not influenced by it. Reading Section 4 of the Act, he said the superintendence of the Delhi Special Police Establishment in so far as it relates to investigation of offences under the Prevention of Corruption Act s.

Tgana rejects Adani's 100-cr contribution

Delhi: Telangana chief minister A Revanth Reddy announced that the state government will not accept the ?100 crore CSR donation from the Adani Group for the Young India Skills University in Ranga Reddy district, citing current circumstances and controversies. We thank you for committing 100 crore to Young India Skills University on behalf of your Foundation via letter. We have not sought donors for physical transfers of monies since the university did not acquire the IT exemption under section 80G, Ranjan wrote. The official added that he was "instructed by the chief minister not to seek the transfer of funds in view of the present circumstances and arising controversies". According to the US Department of Justice indictment, Adani executives and Azure Power executives bribed Indian government officials in five states to win solar energy supply contracts worth over \$2 billion over 20 years between 2020 and 2024. The scam purportedly started in Odisha and spread to Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Chhattisgarh, and Jammu & Kashmir. The Telangana chief minister said everyone may lawfully invest, despite accusations that the state government accepted Adani Group funding. Reddy said Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has stated that the company that wins the bids according to the regulations will invest.