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

Gas leak at pharma company in Palghar; at least 4 dead

NEW DELHI: At least four workers have died and two others are in serious condition after inhaling nitrogen gas leaked at a pharmaceutical company located in the Tarapur MIDC of Maharashtra's Palghar district. Officials, cited by PTI, said that the leak took place at Medley Pharma, located in the industrial area of Boisar. Chief of Palghar district disaster management cell, Vivekanand Kadam, said that between 2.30 pm and 3 pm, nitrogen gas in one of the units of the company leaked, affecting the staff working there. The deceased have been identified as Kalpesh Raut, Bangali Thakur, Dheeraj Prajapati and Kamlesh Yadav.

YouTuber calls Maya mummy, named in FIR

NEW DELHI: Puneet, who runs the channel 'Puneetsuper_starrr' with 24.9 million subscribers, uploaded a 20-second clip where he used the term six times. The video sparked anger among BSP supporters, prompting Ghaziabad BSP president Narendra Mohit to file a complaint. Puneet later issued an apology.

Foxconn is no longer Apple's iPhone factory

NEW DELHI: Foxconn has been long known as the industrial backbone behind Apple's iPhone production. The company is now undergoing a dramatic transformation. The Taiwanese tech giant is now shifting its focus from consumer electronics to the field of artificial intelligence. Foxconn is now moving towards building AI servers which power everything ranging from cloud computing to generative AI. The company is making this strategic move due to the increasing demand of AI infrastructure. **Beyond the iPhone assembly line** Foxconn has been the name synonymous with Apple.

Monsoon session of Parliament washed out

The month-long parliamentary session was dominated by controversies

Offensive

□ **Opposition offensive on SIR during the session was met with resistance**

NEW DELHI: Monsoon session of Parliament ended Thursday the way it began on July 21 - with opposition MPs in the well, adjournments, and washout of proceedings. The month-long parliamentary session was dominated by controversies about Bihar electoral rolls review and Pahalgam terror attack, with INDIA bloc on the offensive. When Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla tried to conduct the proceed-



ings on Thursday, reminding the protesting members that it was the last day of the session, his pleas were met with barbs from a few members about a discussion on SIR still being possible on the last day. Opposition offensive on SIR during the session was met with resistance from govt, leading to daily protests involving

use of placards and aggressive sloganeering, which were preceded by large demonstrations at Parliament entrance every morning. At the end, an anguished Birla blamed "organised disruptions" for fall in productivity. Out of 120 hours allotted for proceedings, LS functioned for around 30% of its scheduled time and RS -

Govt agreed to discuss the Indo-Pak clashes

The only orderly business conducted was the discussion on Pahalgam attack-Operation Sindoor, which occupied LS and RS for two days each over three days. When opposition drew up its list of issues for discussion ahead of the start of session, Pahalgam and SIR figured on the top. While govt agreed to discuss the Indo-Pak clashes.

where the disruptions were eclipsed briefly by the shock resignation of vice president Jagdeep Dhankhar on the first day of the session - for around 39% of its allotted time.

China stands by India, firmly opposes 50% US tariff & threat to hike



NEW DELHI: With PM Narendra Modi and President Xi Jinping set to carry forward the Sino-Indian rapprochement in their upcoming meeting in Tianjin, Chinese ambassador to India Xu Feihong Thursday backed India on the issue of US tariffs saying China strongly opposed the Trump administration's move to impose 50% tariffs on India for its oil procurement from Russia. Xu said in the face of such acts, silence or compromise

only emboldens the bully. "US has imposed tariffs of up to 50% on India and even threatened more. China firmly opposes it. China will firmly stand with India to uphold the multilateral trading system with WTO at its core," said the ambassador. He also said the essence of trade was to complement each other's advantages and achieve mutual benefit and win-win results, not a calculation of who loses and who gains.

Lateral entry not subject to reservations, government informs Rajya Sabha

NEW DELHI: Ministry of personnel on Thursday said 63 appointments made in central government departments since 2018 through lateral entry, were not subject to reservation as they were made for specific assignments, keeping in view the candidates' specialised knowledge and domain expertise. In reply to a written ques-

tion in Rajya Sabha, junior minister for personnel Jitendra Singh said "since each of these appointments were made against single-post cadre, reservation is not applicable in view of Supreme Court judgement in the case 'PGIMER, Chandigarh vs. Faculty Association and Ors.'" "Accordingly category-wise data of the appointed offi-

cers has not been maintained," he added. The minister said of the 63 officers appointed in three cycles (2018, 2021 and 2023) so far at the level of joint secretary, deputy secretary and director, 43 are currently in position across various ministries/departments. Following a political row.

Aadhaar curbs in Assam to check frauds by illegals

Freeze

□ **Applicants from the SC, ST and tea tribes will get an additional year to enrol**



GUWAHATI: The Assam cabinet approved Thursday a proposal to freeze issuance of Aadhaar to first-time adult applicants in the state from October 1 as part of a revised SOP meant to curb fraudulent enrolment, especially by suspected illegal immigrants. CM Himanta Biswa Sarma, who had announced in June that all new Aadhaar applications would need to be vetted by the district administrative heads, said citizens above 18

without the 12-digit unique identification number would get "a final one-month window" until Sept-end to apply for theirs. Applicants from the SC, ST and tea tribes will get an additional year to enrol for Aadhaar. After the general deadline ends, only deputy commissioners are authorised to approve enrolment in the "rarest of rare cases" based on reports from police, special

branch and foreigners' tribunals. Sarma said Aadhaar coverage in Assam had exceeded the state's population at 103%. SC, ST and tea tribes are the exception, with 4% still unregistered. "We have taken this decision based on the surge of Bangladeshi immigrants caught entering the state illegally, especially over the past year. Just the other day, we pushed back seven of them".

AAP assures support for opposition's VP candidate

NEW DELHI: In a show of solidarity, Congress and TMC leaders accompanied the opposition's Vice Presidential candidate former Supreme Court judge B Sudarshan Reddy to the residence of AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal who assured his party's full support. Though AAP has disen-



gaged from the bloc it joins hands with INDIA bloc members on issues where it deems fit and

Sanjay Singh from the party was present when Reddy filed his nomination in the presence of

Assured

□ **Congress's Pramod Tiwari and Hussain and TMC's Kalyan were present**

top opposition leaders earlier in the day. AAP has three MPs in Lok Sabha and out of its

10 MP posts in Rajya Sabha currently it has nine MPs including the estranged Swati Maliwal. One seat fell vacant after MP Sanjeev Arora won the Ludhiana West assembly bypoll in June. Congress's Pramod Tiwari and Syed Naseer Hussain and TMC's Kalyan Banerjee were present at the meeting.

Bihar SIR: Election Commission's affidavit in Supreme Court

Hearing

□ **That the name of any eligible voter will not be removed from the list**



New Delhi: Amid the protests over the special revision campaign of the voter list in Bihar, the Election Commission has filed an affidavit in the Supreme Court. Rejecting the allega-

tions of removing the names of voters from the voter list, the Election Commission said that the name of any eligible voter will not be removed from the list. In a petition filed in the Supreme Court regard-

ing the special intensive revision campaign of the voter list in Bihar, the Election Commission was accused that the names of 65 lakh voters have been removed from the voter list of the state during the SIR.

1996 dhoti-pulling case against one of BJP's 1st 2 LS MPs dropped

AHMEDABAD:

Twenty-nine years after then Gujarat minister Atmaram Patel's dhoti was pulled during a BJP function at Sardar Patel Stadium, a city sessions court on Thursday dropped the criminal case against former Union minister A K Patel, one of the two first BJP Lok Sabha members. Another BJP politician, Mangaldas Patel, was also accused in the case, registered at Naranpur.

US says road to peace in Russia-Ukraine runs through India



as a penalty for buying Russian oil beyond August 27, while accusing New Delhi of profiteering from transac-

tions with Moscow. "I love India. Look, [President Narendra] Modi is a great leader. But please, please

India, like, look at what is, what your role here is in the global economy and good here. It's like, what you're doing right now is not creating peace, it's perpetuating the war," Navarro said, adding, "They don't need oil — it's a refining, profiteering scheme," he added. According to Navarro, India "uses the money that they get from us when they sell us stuff" to buy Russian oil.

USAID didn't give \$21 million for poll turnout: US embassy

NEW DELHI: USAID did not provide funding of \$21 million for voter turnout in India between 2014 and 2024, the US embassy has informed the Indian govt, according to a reply by ministry



of external affairs in response to a Parliament question. US President Donald Trump had earlier questioned the alleged funding, saying he suspected "they were trying to get someone else elect-

ed". MoS for external affairs Kirti Vardhan Singh said that on July 2, 2025, the US embassy shared data that, it said, covered USAID funding in India from 2014 to 2024.

Shikara boy, 17, rows to first gold of Khelo India for J&K

SRINAGAR: The unhurried rhythm of a shikara gliding through the Dal is one of Kashmir's oldest inheritances. On Thursday, a 17-year-old Kashmiri

boy swapped the oars of his shikara for a kayak paddle and whipped up a frenzy generations of his family hadn't known — shouts of "Mohsin! Shabhash, Mohsin!"

from the banks of the lake as he neared the finish line of a 1000m kayaking competition to give J&K the first gold of the ongoing Khelo India Water Sports Festival.

Google pulls offline map app from Play Store per government requests

Delhi: Google and Apple removed MAPS.Me offline navigation app from Play and App Store. The app misrepresented India's border. To Google's nodal officer, P r i y a d a r s h i Banerjee, the Survey of India (SoI) submitted MAPS.Me a notice under Section 79(3)(b) of the IT Act, 2000, in December 2024. The software misrepresents Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, according to the notice. The app's Google Play Store homepage now displays "We're sorry, the requested URL was not found on this server". SoI reportedly provided notice to Google, but since the app is unavailable on Apple's App Store for Indian consumers, it's unclear if Apple was notified.

The publisher accessed the letter using Lumen Database. It says: "The maps.me app on Google PlayStore portrays an Indian map with an incorrect external boundary, endangering India's sovereignty and integrity. The Survey of India (SoI) was appointed by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (Meity) in 2020 to "disable access to incorrect maps of India." Nitin Gadkari said that the roads ministry is developing annual and 'lifetime' passes for private cars to allow unlimited travel across the NH network for a single toll payment. Private cars account for 60% of NH traffic, but only 20-26% of toll income. Gadkari remarked during a

'Barrierless Tolling in India' workshop, "Private automobiles generate less money. The majority of toll revenue comes from commercial vehicles. To avoid problems, we're exploring yearly passes. People will be relieved but we will not lose." They stated that the government is developing a plan to private toll high pass user counts on certain stretches. Primus Partners and Think Infra's thinking paper, released by Gadkari, claimed that GNSS-based tolling will enhance traffic flow by eliminating delays, lowering travel time by 20-30%, and saving 8-10 minutes each toll station. The environment include reducing carbon emissions by 50 lakh tonnes and saving Rs 12,000 crore in fuel costs.

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

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

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

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

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

Pradhan defends UGC 2025 draft, calls Cong claims 'false'

Delhi: The University Grants Commission (UGC)'s proposed rules on faculty recruitment and promotions in higher education planted seeds of a new political conflict between Tamil Nadu and Kerala and the Centre. Compared to the June 30, 2010 gazette notification, the vice

appointment process appears unchanged. The states' argument that the new legislation will provide chancellors (governors) more VC selection discretion has caused controversy. Kerala called the draft regulations "an overreach by the central govt, rendering states

powerless in the higher education sector," but M K Stalin declared preparations to dispute the governor's VC appointment powers. UGC draft regulations a "direct attack on federalism and state rights" since they offer state governors substantial authority.

The GST Council voted to exempt gene therapy used to cure cancer from taxes

Delhi: The GST Council voted to exempt gene therapy used to cure cancer from taxes. and postponed a proposal for lower rates while lowering the tariff on fortified rice kernels used in PDS to 5%. The council determined that 18% GST would be applied to the margin of suppliers for all used cars, including electric vehicles. Even though there won't be any tax transactions involving private citizens, businesses or used car sellers would be subject to the fee. According to Sitharaman, states desired a greater fee, but the Center had suggested a 5% tax on EVs. The GST Council issued a number of clarifications, one of which was that ready-to-eat



The council determined that 18% GST would be applied to the margin of suppliers for all used cars, including electric vehicles

popcorn would be subject to a 12% tax, similar to the namkeen tax, if it were pre-packaged with salt and spices.

Caramelized sugar will be subject to an 18% tax. In a similar vein, the council stated that as voucher transactions were

neither a delivery of commodities nor services, they would not be subject to taxes. It also made it clear that small enterprises that pay rent to unregistered landlords and are covered by the reverse charge system will not be required.

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Starbucks workers expand strike across several US cities

Starbucks workers have extended their ongoing strike to four more cities, including New York, according to the union that represents more than 10,000 coffee shop workers. The strike stemmed from failed negotiations between Starbucks and union representatives, with disputes over wages, staffing levels, and work schedules remaining unresolved. According to news agency Reuters, the five-day strike, which began on , initially impacted Starbucks

locations in Los Angeles, Chicago, and Seattle. As of Saturday, the industrial action has expanded to include New Jersey, New York, Philadelphia, and St. Louis. While the union did not specify the location of the walkout in New Jersey, it confirmed that the strike continues to disrupt operations in the newly added cities.

The union's strike spans in 10 cities, including Columbus, Denver and Pittsburgh, during the festive period, potentially affect-

ing the company's Christmas revenue. The workers' United had earlier indicated that the industrial action could extend to "hundreds of stores". Eve. Discussions between Starbucks and the union began in April. The company recently reported conducting over eight negotiation sessions, resulting in 30 agreements. The coffee chain manages more than 11,000 outlets across the United States, with approximately 200,000 staff members.

UGC bans 3 private universities from PhD admissions for 5 years

Due to academic misconduct and UGC PhD regulations, OPJS University (Churu), Sunrise University (Alwar), and Singhania University (Jhunjhunu) have been forbidden from accepting PhD students for five years (2025-26 to 2029-30). Admissions at three Rajasthan universities were suspended immediately. Following admission exam protocols, Research Advisory Committee (RAC) creation, and thesis evaluation criteria, the UGC found their practices inadequate. Another 30 are being examined. The UGC said, "After analysing/ examining/ evaluating the information/ data submitted by the universities, the Standing Committee has found that three universities did not



follow the provisions of the UGC PhD regulations and also the academic norms for the award of PhD degrees... the responses received from these universities were not found satisfactory." UGC chair M Jagadesh Kumar stressed PhD program integrity and said additional Indian universities are being reviewed. To maintain Indian higher education's reputation, violations may result in similar punishments. PhD programs should be held to the

highest standards by universities. Institutions that violate UGC's PhD regulations will be punished. We are also inspecting PhD programs at other universities. Those that breach PhD regulations will also be punished.

Incorrect institutions must be barred from admitting PhD candidates. We must protect Indian higher education's integrity and worldwide standing "UGC chair M Jagadesh Kumar stated.

Admission is based on points from various categories

"Nursery admissions began. The Directorate of Education (DoE) announced in November that the second list would be revealed on February 3"

Delhi: The first list for 2025-26 nursery admission at Delhi's private unaided schools. Initially, major school lists had 100 to 200 pupils. Nursery admissions began November 28, 2024. The Directorate of Education (DoE) announced in November that the second



list would be revealed on February 3. All admissions will be completed by 14.

Parents now have four to five days to accept admission, verify, and pay costs. Schools vary, but ours gives parents four days to pay

fees. We will then work on the second list, depending on the vacancy. Tania Joshi, principal of The Indian School in Sadiq Nagar, south Delhi, said their list of 114 kids was released Friday.

Jyoti Arora, princi-

pal of Mount Abu Public School in Rohini, northwest Delhi, claimed that based on prior trends, 20-25% of first-list candidates will not take admissions. 100 students are on the first list. We will see some rejections since parents apply to numerous institutions and occasionally wish to wait for their first choice, Arora said.

According to DoE, admission is based on points from various categories. Most schools consider distance between the student's home and school, if the candidate has siblings in the same school, and whether anyone in the family is an alumni.

IIT Kharagpur teachers petition governors. Restore HoD positions

Delhi: The IIT Kharagpur Teachers' Association (IITTA) urged the institute's board of governors to expunge show-cause notices issued to 86 faculty members, restore their administrative positions, and protect the association's office bearers from arbitrary or retaliatory actions amid the faculty-administration dispute. In September, the IIT Kharagpur teachers' associa-



tion accused director Virendra Kumar Tewari of "nepotism" and "arbitrary faculty recruitment" in a letter to the Union Ministry of

Education, sparking a confrontation. They wanted an academically qualified, inclusive governance-experienced successor. When the administration sent show-cause notices to IITTA office bearers and disciplined them for not answering within seven days, tensions rose. Show cause notices were sent to 86 academic members who signed a petition supporting the IITTA, wors-

ening the situation. The IITTA said several of the 86 academic department heads were replaced. The administration also said people who answered or apologized would not be punished. After an unusual general body meeting, the IITTA approached the board of governors. They worry the administration may act fast and deny office bearers a fair hearing.

Prayagraj swayed to the tunes of Anup Jalota

Laagi Lagan Meera Ho Gayi Magan... Bhajan mesmerized everyone

Akhand Bharat Sandesh



Prayagraj. Krishna Janmotsav was celebrated by Shri Krishna Janmashtami Committee in Kidganj. A grand bhajan evening was organized on Wednesday. In which Bhajan Samrat Anup Jalota made the devotees dance with his tunes. Along with this, famous bhajan singer Surya Prakash Dubey also gave his devotional musical performance. The inauguration was done by lighting the lamp by Swami Batuk Maharaj and Mayor Ganesh Kesarwani. At the beginning of the cultural programs, Ganesh Vandana and devotional worship of Maa Durga were presented, which

illuminated the entire atmosphere with spiritual aura. On this occasion, when Bhajan Samrat Padmashree Anup Jalota took the stage, his sweet voice waves overwhelmed the devotees. He started his presentation with the famous bhajan "Maiya Mori Main Nahi Makhan Khayo". The devotees present there started dancing as soon as they heard it. He made the atmosphere Krishna-like by presenting dozens of

popular bhajans like "Aisi Laagi Lagan Meera Ho Gayi Magan", "Jag Mein Sundar Hain Do Naam Chahe Krishna Kaho Ya Ram", "Achyutam Keshavam Krishna Damodaram", "Wo Kala Ek Bansuri Wala", "Shyam Piya Mohe Rang De Chunariya", and "Nand Ke Anand Bhayo Jai Ho Nandlal Ki". Anup Jalota announced from the stage that he is working with the resolve to serve Sanatan Dharma through

bhajans. So far, he has trained 500 bhajan singers. His aim is to bring the eternal spiritual power of India to the world stage. Special artists from Mumbai During the program, many grand artistic tableaux including Lord Mahakal, Mahakali, Shri Krishna-Sudama Milan were also presented, which further enhanced the beauty of the program. These tableaux were presented by special artists from Mumbai. Coordinator of the program Ayush Agrahari along with his team welcomed all the artists including Anoop Jalota and Surya Prakash Dubey by presenting them a memento of Lord Krishna and making them wear clothes.

Mukhyamantri Yuva Udyami Vikas Abhiyan emerges as state youth's top choice

Lucknow: Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath is persistently taking essential steps toward making the state a one trillion-dollar economy. As part of this initiative, the Yogi government is running various schemes to make the state's youth self-reliant and to provide opportunities for self-employment. Among these, the Mukhyamantri Yuva Udyami Vikas Abhiyan has become the top choice for the youth of Uttar Pradesh. This can be ascertained from the fact that nearly 2 lakh applications have already been received in just four months of the current financial year, while the Yogi government had set a target of 1.5 lakh applications for the year 2025-26. These numbers clearly show that the scheme.

Trust Dies in School: Aditya's Death Shakes a City, Awakens a Question'

Akhand Bharat Sandesh



Ghazipur : The tragic and suspicious death of 16-year-old Aditya Verma, a resident of Ward No. 25, at Sunbeam School located in Maharajanagar under the jurisdiction of Muhammadabad police station, has not only shattered a family but has sent shockwaves throughout the district. The incident, which occurred on the morning of August 18 within the school premises, is no longer just a heartbreaking episode—it has transformed into a searing question mark on the education system's negligence, the school's silence, and the apathy of society. Today, Thursday, August 21, a rally demanding justice began at Shaheed Park and reached the District Magistrate's office. Tears filled every eye, hands

held placards demanding justice, and hearts shared the same pain—"Will Aditya ever get justice?" The memorandum submitted by the local traders' association raised several piercing questions: Where was the school's security? If tensions among students were known earlier, why were they ignored? What is the school administration's silence and inaction after the incident trying to hide? These questions not only highlight the institutional failure of educational institutions but also expose how these so-called "temples of learning" are turning into emo-

tionless concrete structures. A mother's lap is now empty. A sister has lost her beloved brother. And a father still crosses the morning he dropped his son at the school gate, hoping he would return home safe. People are openly saying—this is not just Aditya's death, it's a tragedy that should awaken every parent. If the culprits are not punished now, tomorrow another child like Aditya may fall victim. Trader associations and local citizens have warned—"If the investigation is delayed or suppressed, the movement will only intensify." Today, the air in Ghazipur carries more than the dampness of tears—it carries the heat of growing anger. Now is the time for the administration and the school system not just to respond, but to prove that Aditya's innocent death will not go in vain.

The issue of farmers' problems dominated the meeting of Bharatiya Kisan Union



Protest

Farmers are worried about fertilizers, on which Union expressed protest

Subodh Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Kaushambi : A meeting of Bharatiya Kisan Union Shramik Janshakti was held in Chail Tehsil on Wednesday. Many farmers participated in this meeting where all the problems of the farmers were discussed.

All the problems in Balhe Pur village and Kishanpur Ambari village were also discussed in the meeting. Ration cards of

poor farmers, laborers are not being made, on which anger has been expressed and at the same time farmers are not getting fertilizers in cooperative societies.

Farmers are worried about fertilizers, on which Kisan Union expressed protest and demanded solution of problems by giving a memorandum related to various demand letters including the demand for providing fertilizers to the farmers to the Sub-District Magistrate Chail under the leadership of District President Sanjay Singh Yadav. Many farmers were present on this occasion.

District level art festival competition concluded

Akhand Bharat Sandesh



Prayagraj. Under the initiative being run by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, a district level art festival competition was held in Government Inter College Prayagraj. In this, students of various schools participated in music, dance, drama, visual arts and traditional story reading competitions. Chief guest Prayagraj Mayor Ganesh Kesarwani inaugurated the competition by lighting the lamp. He said that after independence, from 2015, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has revived the culture of India by starting the art festival. District School Inspector P.N. Singh welcomed the chief guest by giving a bouquet and said

in his address that the children of the district will develop comprehensively through various art forms. Government Inter College Principal Dharmendra Kumar Singh was the program coordinator and Dr. Akanksha Keshari was the district nodal. The competition was held in solo and group categories of twelve art forms. Amit Sugam stood first in solo music singing and St. Anthony Girls Inter College stood first in group. Amritanshu Dwivedi stood first in

solo music instrument, Kartik Srivastava in solo music instrument and PM Shri Government Inter College Prayagraj stood first in group singing and St. Anthony Girls Inter College stood first in singing group. Raksha Dwivedi stood first in solo dance and St. Anthony Girls Inter College stood first in group. Sania Bano, Shaile Victor, Drishti Yadav, Swadha students of St. Anthony School stood first in drama group. Scindia Bose stood first in visual arts solo paint-

ing and Amanshu Tiwari stood first in visual arts solo sculpture. Subha Tiwari and Shraddha Yadav stood first in traditional story reading. The program was conducted by Dr. Prabhakar Tripathi and Ravindra Kumar Yadav. Principal Dharmendra Kumar Singh expressed gratitude for the correct and transparent decision of the jury and thanked the participants who came from urban and rural areas and the administrators of Government Inter College. On this occasion, Dr. P.P. Singh, Dr. Santosh Singh, Dr. Upasana Rani Verma, Dr. Abdul Qadir, Vanshraj, Kumud Tiwari, Jagdish Narayan Dwivedi, Vinay Prakash, Ravikant, Rakesh Kumar and all the teachers were present.

Woman jumps in front of train with son, police trying to identify them

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Prayagraj. In Soraon area, a woman along with her six-year-old son jumped in front of a train and gave up their lives. Mother and son died a painful death after being hit by the train. The incident took place near Saghanganj railway station in Soraon police station area of

Gangapar. After the train left, when the people from the vicinity reached, they found the bodies of both lying on the railway track. Police reached the spot and inquired, but till now the woman and her son have not been identified. The woman was roaming around the railway track for a long time. According to eyewitnesses, the woman

Death

People in the area where the incident took place have not been able to identify

was roaming around the railway track for a long time. She had a polythene in her hand. At present, the police has taken the bodies in its possession and

started trying to identify them. People in the vicinity are being questioned but the woman and the child have not been identified yet. Police is contacting nearby police stations. Local people say that the woman looked like an outsider because she was never seen in the area before. Police is also contacting nearby police stations and missing

reports are being scrutinized to identify the woman. Soraon police says that further action will be taken after identification. At present, it is being investigated whether it is a suicide or some other reason that forced the woman to take this step. **Nearby CCTVs are being scanned** Soraon Inspector Keshav Verma says

that nearby CCTV cameras are being checked to see which way the woman came from, which vehicle she got off from so that she can be identified. Efforts are being made to identify her by sending pictures to nearby villages. People in the area where the incident took place have not been able to identify the woman and the child.

Yogi govt installs over 35 lakh smart meters in UP, every unit found accurate

Smart Metres bring in transparency and convenience for consumers Smart Meters Ensure Transparency, Strengthen Consumer Confidence

Lucknow: To ensure consumer convenience and a transparent system, Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation Ltd (UPPCL) is installing smart meters on a large scale. The target is to install 2.73 crore smart meters across the state, of which 35 lakh smart meters have already been installed. The Yogi government aims to provide every consumer in the



state with transparent, safe, and world-class electricity service, making the smart meter proj-

ect a top priority. According to an official statement, a false narrative is being spread that

smart meters run fast and inflate consumption. In reality, smart meters are completely safe, transparent, and consumer-friendly. They use the same consumption measurement technology as existing electronic meters. A false impression is being spread that smart meters run fast and show higher consumption. On August 20, as part of a statewide cam-

paign, 550 smart meters were inspected across Uttar Pradesh, including in Lucknow and other districts. During checks in the state capital, meters of consumers such as Kanti Yadav (Vishal Khand), Rajni Singh (Chinhat), Deepak Singh (Faizabad Road), and Kamini Pandey (Indira Nagar) were all found to be recording accurate consumption.

Farmers Encouraged for Food Processing and Self-Employment; Certificates Distributed

Akhand Bharat Sandesh Ghazipur :

Under the Horticulture and Food Processing Department, an event was organized by the Government Fruit Preservation Center, Ghazipur, in Gram Panchayat Maheshpur Kala, Nyay Panchayat - Maheshpur Kala, Block - Kasimabad on August 21, 2025. The event was inaugurated by Ashish Kumar, District Horticulture Officer, Ghazipur. At

Program

This ongoing program is being conducted across various development blocks

the conclusion of the program, participating farmers were awarded certificates. During the event, Syed Hasim Mahmood, In-charge of the Government Fruit Preservation Center, inspired the farmers through a two-day

awareness campaign under the Mukhyamantri Food Processing Village Self-Employment Scheme, encouraging them to set up food processing units and engage in self-employment. This ongoing program is being conducted across various development blocks and is scheduled to be held next on August 22, 2025, at Block Headquarters asimabad.

Editorial

Why Iran, Israel avoided crossing red lines

The Israeli reaction took place within the week. On April 19, they struck a military airbase near the city of Isfahan, and Iranian officials also claimed to have shot down small drones near the northern city of Tabriz, but this was downplayed. Isfahan Province, in the centre of Iran, is home to significant Iranian military infrastructure, including a large air base, a major missile production complex, and nuclear facilities. As per reports in the Jerusalem Post, the Israelis were targeting an air defence radar site near Isfahan that's part of the protection of the Natanz nuclear facility. The choreography of missile strikes once again ensured that there were no casualties and, moreover, no targeting of Iranian nuclear facilities. Iranian media and officials described a small number of explosions, which they said resulted from air defences hitting three drones over Isfahan. They referred to the incident as an attack by "infiltrators" rather than by Israel, obviating the need for retaliation. The Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian, downplaying the attack, said, "They're ... more like toys that our children play with, not drones." He also added, "As long as there is no new adventurism by Israel against our interests, we are not going to have any new reactions." With Israel remaining deadlocked in Gaza, where around 130 Israeli hostages remain but have inflicted more than 34,000 civilian casualties, including women and children, the Iranian strikes must have seemed like a welcome relief as the narrative shifted from the humanitarian crisis Israel is causing in Gaza. Further, in a timing that cannot be a mere coincidence, the US House of Representatives quickly passed an aid package of \$26.38 billion for Israel. With no hostage deal or ceasefire mechanisms apparent, the risk of miscalculation remains high. The region remains in a uniquely dangerous position, in which Prime Minister Netanyahu may feel that he has little choice but to escalate with Iran in order to maintain public support. But responses to the strike within Israel have exposed the country's political fissures. Security Minister Itamar Ben Gvir described the strike on Iran as "feeble" or "lame". In response, Israeli opposition leader Yair Lapid called for him to be sacked and said his remarks had ridiculed and embarrassed Israel.

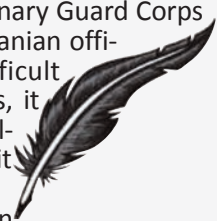
Things were going Iran's way

Since the 1979 revolution, Iran has taken an anti-Israeli posture and, as part of its deterrence strategy, has cultivated and financed support for the 'axis of resistance' network in Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Yemen, and Palestine, surrounding Israel's borders.

The Hamas attack on October 7 suited Iran's agenda. Israel had suffered an unprecedented and humiliating setback; its much-lauded intelligence and defences had failed. Its subsequent actions in Gaza had received widespread condemnation and aligned the Middle Eastern countries against Israel. Israel's war was steadily harming its image, simultaneously exposing the hypocrisy of its Western backers. Israel was getting increasingly isolated internationally due to its disastrous war in Gaza.

The Palestinian cause in the region and around the world had been resurrected. Sympathy for Palestinian, particularly in the West, was more volatile. Iran did not need to intervene; its proxies acted on its behalf. Hezbollah had been routinely shelling Northern Israel, and the Houthis in Yemen have launched numerous unsuccessful missile and drone strikes against Israel, disrupting global shipping. However, Israel's attack against the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) in Damascus forced Iranian officials to make a more difficult choice. Iran had two choices, it could refrain from overt retaliation and continue to benefit from the present situation.

The spotlight would remain on the atrocities in Gaza.



Maryam Kartarpur Sahib overture points at new Pak thinking

The election results also showed that Imran, despite all that the army and the People's Democratic Movement government had thrown at him, retained a substantial measure of support in Punjab. At the same time the Pakistan Peoples Party did well in Sindh. Very difficult PML(N)-PPP negotiations, clearly overseen by the army, from behind the scenes, followed. The arrangement that emerged saw Shehbaz Sharif as prime minister forming the government with outside PPP support, Asif Zardari becoming president of Pakistan, and Maryam becoming the first woman CM of the Punjab. In this the person who has temporarily lost out is Hamza Sharif

but the final word has not been said on how the reconciliation of political interests between Maryam and Humza will eventually occur.

Now, to return to Maryam's visit to Kartarpur Sahib, she made an impressive speech to the sangat. She struck the right notes. She spoke in chaste Punjabi and projected herself as the daughter of Punjab who was the first woman to become CM in either Pakistani or Indian Punjab. She stressed her family's background in the village of Jati Umra in the Amritsar district from where her grandfather had migrated to Pakistan in 1947. Three other points that she made deserve special mention. One, that Pakistan was a

place where the minorities had the freedom to practice their faith and only recently the country had marked Eid, Easter, Holi and now she had come to be with the Sikh pilgrims at Baisakhi. Maryam's reference to this aspect is part of Pakistan's current endeavour to project itself as a moderate and liberal Muslim country. This is, of course, at variance with the prevalence and growth of extremist Islamist forces which want the country's governance to be strictly in accordance with the Sharia. The second point — and one of great significance — was Maryam's mention of the commonalities between Muslims and Sikhs. She took care to use the formulation

"you" and "us"; thus, carefully avoiding mentioning either Islam or Sikhism or Muslims and Sikhs. Obviously, she did not want to ruffle the feathers of the Pakistani ulema. She said that both "you" and "us" believe in one power which is the supreme power of the universe. She added that both "you" and "us" believe in honest living and earning through righteous means and giving to charity. Finally, Maryam referred to her father Nawaz Sharif's conviction that neighbours should open their hearts to each other and live in peace and also cooperate and trade with each other. It is true that Nawaz has always wanted to trade with India.

Analysing Raisi's Islamabad visit and its impact on India



amid talks covering religious, cultural, investment, and diplomatic spheres. Iran reportedly launched missile strikes on two strongholds of the anti-Iranian rebel organisation Jaish al-Adl (Army of Justice) on January 16 in the province of Baluchistan, Pakistan. A major actor in the ongoing tensions between Iran and Pakistan is Jaish al-Adl, which was founded in 2012 by Abdul Rahim Mollazehi as a breakaway faction of Jundullah. As an "unprovoked violation" of its airspace, Pakistan denounced the bombing. The assault posed a threat to Pakistan's formidable army chief, Gen Asim Munir, whose reputation for toughness and resolve has been a point of contention in his relations with other nations as well as at home. This made political analysts wonder if Iran respected Pakistan's sovereignty. Retaliating quickly, Pakistan launched a surprise

attack two days later using fighter jets and missiles directed at the purported hideouts of anti-Pakistan ethno-nationalist insurgents in the Sistan-Baluchistan region who were allegedly operating from Iranian soil. In light of worries about regional security, these incidents do highlight the complex and unstable dynamics that define Iran and Pakistan's relationship, especially as root causes of terrorism, smuggling, and border infiltration are not addressed. Pakistan serves as Iran's primary regional ally against adversaries such as Saudi Arabia and other Western powers. Iran's keen interest in joining China's economic corridor initiative aligns with Pakistan's close ties to Beijing. Notably, over 70 per cent of the electricity in Pakistan's Gwadar port city is sourced from Iran. The proposed gas pipelines, including the "peace pipeline" intended to

supply Iranian gas to India via Pakistan, have faced setbacks, notably India's withdrawal in 2009 due to US sanctions on Iran. However, Iran and Pakistan remain committed, signing a separate gas supply agreement. Notably, in June of that year, both nations entered into a multibillion-dollar agreement to develop a gas pipeline. However, while Tehran successfully completed construction of a 900-kilometre pipeline on its side by 2011, Islamabad still grapples with the task of installing 80 kilometres of pipeline on its territory. This discrepancy has sparked tensions, with Tehran issuing warnings of potential legal action and threats of an \$18 billion fine due to missed deadlines. Despite Islamabad's recent pledge to finalise the project by September of this year, doubts linger over its feasibility. The primary obstacle remains Pakistan's apprehension of invoking U.S. sanctions, a concern that has consistently hindered progress, echoing previous justifications for delays. Conversely, assuming a hostile stance towards Iran upsets the delicate equilibrium of Pakistan's already complicated neighbourly ties. Tensions with India continue despite a current cease-fire along the border. The Taliban's support for the TTP's anti-Pakistan insurgency has caused relations between the two parties to

deteriorate dramatically on Pakistan's western border. The recent deportation of Afghan refugees from Pakistan has further caused tensions between Pakistan and Afghanistan. During Raisi's visit, the Pentagon warned of sanctions for those engaging in business with Iran. Three Chinese firms aiding Pakistan's missile programme were recently sanctioned for WMD proliferation. Iran immediately shot back, stating that Israeli aggression on Iranian soil will result in a drastic shift in the balance of power. Raisi warned Israel on Tuesday: "Things will be different if the Zionist regime commits an error once again. If Tel Aviv attacks Iran once more, 'Israel will be completely different' and 'there will be nothing left of the Zionist regime'. According to Iranian Ambassador to India, Iraj Elahi, Tehran is optimistic that India will start purchasing crude from them again, as it did prior to May 2019, when the purchases stopped due to US sanctions against the West Asian nation. In order to advance the Chabahar Port project and strengthen bilateral relations, President Ebrahim Raisi might visit India later this year. Bypassing Pakistan completely, India will have access to Afghanistan through the Chabahar port, a symbol of strategic and economic cooperation between Iran and India.

Defence spending shoots up as conflicts rise globally

Total global military expenditure reached an all-time high of \$2443 billion in 2023, an increase of 6.8 per cent in real terms from 2022. This was the steepest year-on-year increase since 2009. The 10 largest spenders in 2023 were led by the United States, China, and Russia, all of whom increased their military spending. It was the ninth consecutive year of a rise in military spending. Also, it was the first time since 2009 that military expenditure went up in all five of the geographical regions. Particularly large increases were seen in Europe, Asia, Oceania, and West Asia. Clearly, there is a deterioration in peace and security. As the states prioritise military expenditure and strength, there is a risk of a spiral effect in the

neighbourhood. Russia's military spending increased by 24 per cent to an estimated \$109 billion in 2023, marking a 57 per cent rise since 2014, the year that Russia annexed Crimea. The Russian 2023 military expenditure was 16 per cent of total government spending and 5.9 per cent of GDP. Russia's military and war-related spending is set to rise sharply in 2024 under new federal budget plans for 2024–26 signed into law by President Vladimir Putin in November 2023. The plans suggest that the Russian government is committed to pursuing the war to a successful conclusion. Some have questioned the economic assumptions, though. Russia's rising debt burden has also meant reduced allocations to some key social

spending, including housing, education, and healthcare. Ukraine was the 8th largest military spender in 2023. Yearly spending surged 51 per cent to reach \$64.8 billion. It represented 58 per cent of total government annual spending. Interestingly, this spending was 59 per cent of Russia's defence expenditure. Ukraine also received at least \$35 billion in military aid during the year, including \$25.4 billion from the USA. When combining the two, it became

91 per cent of Russian spending. The US remains NATO's major spender, but European members have increased their share. In 2023, the 31 NATO members accounted for \$1,341 billion, equal to 55 per cent of the global military expenditure.

Ppro-India hare and hunting with anti-India hounds

India has not just become the "only bright spot" economically, as the IMF wants us to believe, but also diplomatically and geostrategically, the country has started behaving like a global power. Image: REUTERS In 2021, The New York Times posted an online advertisement for the job of a South Asia business correspondent based in New Delhi. One of the requirements sought for the position even startled the staunchest of NYT supporters. For, the American newspaper, quite categorically, sought the candidate to be critical of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his "muscular nationalism". Explaining its stand, the newspaper wrote, "India's future now stands at a crossroads. Mr (Narendra) Modi is advocating a self-sufficient, muscular nationalism centred on the country's Hindu majority. That vision puts him at odds with the interfaith, multicultural goals of modern India's founders." Interestingly, the NYT has never put such preconditions for postings in Hong Kong or in mainland China. It has never asked the applicants to prove their pro-democratic credentials for a position in Hong Kong, or to publicly criticise Emperor Xi Jinping for a job in Beijing. If one thought the problem was NYT-centric, then hang on. Others in the West, too, aren't behind in targeting Prime Minister Modi and India. The Time magazine, for instance, just when Prime Minister Modi landed in Washington, DC, for his first official state visit in June 2023, questioned the very idea of India being an American ally. "India is not a US ally, and has not wanted to become one," a Time article thundered on 21 June. Interestingly, an even more scathing article appeared in the magazine a day earlier—on 20 June: "India's Worsening Democracy Makes It an Unreliable Ally." The Economist isn't behind either. It has often reproached Prime Minister Modi for stoking "divisions in the world's biggest democracy". It has singled out the Modi government

for its "flagrantly biased approach to citizenship" and delivering "collective punishment" for the people of the Kashmir Valley. It goes on to say that the "electoral nectar for the BJP" has become "political poison for India". It would, however, be wrong to assume that Western prejudice is only Modi-centric. Although it is today largely influenced and inspired by anti-Modism, prejudice is deeply entrenched against India and its rising global influence. This explains why the West has very rarely celebrated India's dance with democracy in the past seven decades. This despite the fact that India since Independence has been a case of democratic miracle—the only genuine democracy in the region between Israel and South Korea. Moreover, no other country, despite socio-political advancements and economic prosperity, comes even closer to India's democratic successes. What the country could achieve in 75 years, it took Britain and the United States centuries to reach there. Interestingly, in the given timeframe, the US found itself amid the Civil War which almost tore the country into two halves, but for Abraham Lincoln's sagacious leadership. It took the US another 50 years to make voting gender neutral and 100 years to give the Blacks the basic voting rights—something that India bestowed upon its citizens in one go in 1947 despite unprecedented poverty and astounding illiteracy. Yet, in the 1950s and '60s, the West was busy writing democratic India's obituaries: Its balkanisation was a foregone conclusion, and the only thing keeping the country together was Nehru! "What after Nehru?", was the most obvious question being asked during those times. After Nehru, during Indira Gandhi's time, the democrats of America and Britain found great comfort in Mao's company and had even dispatched an aircraft carrier, Enterprise, to bully India at the height of the Bangladesh war!

Both BJP, AIADMK want to improve relations in TN

Delhi: Julie Mariappan says that 18 months after breaking relations with BJP and abandoning NDA, AIADMK leadership is warming up to the saffron party for a possible 2026 Tamil Nadu assembly election partnership. An AIADMK delegation led by general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami met with Union home minister Amit Shah. Both desire to advance the relationship. Next steps are forthcoming. Shah vowed to prevent the 'corrupt DMK govt' from returning in 2026 "AIADMK leader states. Shah accepted several AIADMK requests. Palaniswami told Delhi media that the conference discussed Tamil Nadu concerns such delimitation, the two-language policy, MGN-REGS and SSA dues, and the Tasmac scam. As the 2026 election approaches, the alliance will be decided. Shah and party president J P Nadda will



Transport department fined 95L for 2019 tree felling

Delhi: In 2019, the National Green Tribunal NGT order Delhi's transport department to pay ₹95.05 lakh for cutting 495 trees for bus depots in Burari without afforestation. The tribunal ruled that the forest department's license to transplant 168 trees

and plant 4,950 saplings was violated, making the practice "illegal." A panel of judge and expert Dr. Afroz Ahmed computed environmental compensation using Uttarakhand Pollution Control Board (UKPCB) rules and asked all states, including Delhi.

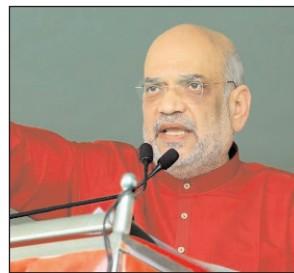
meet Tamil Nadu BJP national co-in-charge P Sudhakar Reddy night. State BJP president K Annamalai went to Delhi. While the AIADMK delegation met Shah, the Union minister's offi-

cial X handle had a 2026 Tamil Nadu electoral message. "As soon as the NDA govt is formed in Tamil Nadu in the year 2026, the 'flood of liquor' and 'storm of corruption' will stop."

Pakistan is Congress' blunder and PoK is Nehru's legacy

Congress' appeasement policies handed Kashmir over to terrorism

Jammu, (NL Bureau), Senior BJP leader Amit Shah has recently cleared any doubts regarding India's current national security policy and how it is correcting the blunders of the Opposition. The brunt of the tortures inflicted on the nation by Congress' politics still manifests today in the form of Pakistan-sponsored terrorism. The historical blunder by Pandit Nehru gave birth to PoK,



and during the same period, India lost 38,000 square kilometres of its territory to China. Even after the decisive victory in 1971, the Opposition-led government squandered the opportunity to take control of 15,000 square kilometres of land and PoK. Instead, by releasing 93,000 Pakistani prisoners of war, it committed the greatest strategic blunder in history. This cowardly outlook of the

Opposition encouraged terrorism. The Opposition gave open patronage to Jamaat-e-Islami and Hurriyat, which pushed the entire Valley into the grip of terrorism. This is why India kept suffering at the hands of terrorism for decades. Shedding tears over a terrorist killed in the Batla House encounter while not expressing any sympathy for martyr Mohan Chand Sharma reflects the true mindset of Congress. But today, the picture has completely changed. With Prime Minister Narendra Modi's unwavering political will and Union Home Minister & Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah's visionary strategy.

New prison factories will employ 100 more prisoners

Delhi: The Delhi prison department will modernize and add factories to employ 100 more prisoners. New paper, carpentry, and oil production units are planned by the department. The units will make eco-friendly products like custom-printed paper carry bags, file covers, and stationery, as well as beautifully packaged coconut,

sesame, almond, and mustard oils. "The new jail factory units aim to deploy over 100 inmates and emphasize 'earn while studying' A prison official stated new high-tech equipment will be purchased. Officials say Tihar jail number 2 has six units: carpentry, oil, paper, weaving, tailoring, and baking. Mandoli and other jails have weaving,

jute bags, perfume, pickles, confecti carpentry, and underwear facilities. Different facilities employ over 2,500 convicts. Last year, 215 inmates joined jail number 2's industries, mostly for carpentry, followed by bakery and paper. "We plan to increase the number of units so that more inmates can receive vocational training.

Delhi's BJP government will pass a bill to safeguard stray cows. GST Section 150

Delhi : Urban Development Minister Ashish Sood announced the move during a Delhi Assembly debate on stray cows and other animals. GST Registration Cancellations Misuse. "After careful consideration, we will pass a cow conservation and protection law to avoid departmental confusion. Sood said relevant Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita (BNS) parts will be considered for legislation incorporation. He stressed that the bill will protect cows and keep the streets clean by avoiding stray livestock. "The suggestions represent House opinions and appeal to Sanatan-valued Delhiites. He stated



that everyone has thoughtfully addressed this topic. A stringent enforcement mechanism will prevent cow exploitation, illegal cattle trade, and owner neglect under the proposed law. The government is budgeting for new cow shelters and their maintenance.

BJP MLA Ashok Goel

introduced a private member motion requesting the government to build and maintain more shelters. Our culture and religion call the cow our mother, but many people abandon her when she stops delivering milk. Goel claimed this causes traffic, accidents, and sanitary difficulties.

MPs Get 24% Salary, Pension Increase; New Allowances

Delhi: MPs' wages would rise 24%, along with pensions and allowances for former MPs, according to the Indian government. The Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs notified these adjustments, matching them with the 1961 Income Tax Act Cost Inflation Index. This national revision follows the Karnataka government's large wage boost for the Chief Minister, ministers, and MLAs.

Delhi govt to enact law for cow conservation and protection

Delhi: Varanasi MC orders closure of meat shops in city limits during Navratri. The Varanasi Municipal Corporation (MC) has issued an order to shut all meat and fish shops within the civic body limits during the Navratri festival. The decision was unanimously approved in the corporation's executive meeting. "This is the first time a decision has been taken to keep all meat and fish shops closed during Navratri, starting March 30. Officials have been directed to enforce the order and shop owners



were informed about the decision taken in the executive meeting," said Varanasi Mayor Ashok Tiwari. Tiwari said in Thursday's meeting of the Municipal Corporation's executive council, a member proposed a complete closure of meat and fish shops during Navratri. There are around 400-500 meat and fish shops operating within

the city limits. The shopkeepers violating the order will face legal action, he added. Navratri will conclude on April 7. In January this year, the Varanasi civic body had issued notices to meat shop owners operating within a two-kilometer radius of the Vishwanath Temple, directing them to shut down for "violating rules."

The directive was based on a resolution passed by the corporation last year, which prohibited meat shops from operating within this radius.

State Hospitals Get Aushadhi Kendras

Delhi: The Delhi government will open Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Kendras in all state-run hospitals to provide patients with affordable medicines. All Delhi government hospitals save Ayurvedic, Unani, Siddha, and Homeopathic ones must have at least one such kendra on campus, according to officials. Patients can buy cheaper generic drugs instead of running to other hospitals' pharmacies to obtain branded ones. GB Pant Hospital, Lok Nayak Hospital, Sanjay Gandhi Memorial, Rajiv Gandhi Super Speciality Hospital, Guru Nanak Eye Centre, Maulana Azad Institute of Dental Sciences, Babu Jagjivan Ram Memorial Hospital, and Chacha Nehru Bal Chikitsalaya are state-run hospitals that have opened



medicine stores. The hospital administration can buy medicine from the Jan Aushadhi Kendra in times of crisis, instead of buying it locally, unless it is required. This month, the BJP government decided to open the pharmacies, according to senior health department officials. Delhi health minister Pankaj Kumar Singh has ordered all medical superintendents and health officials to expedite medicine procurement through the PMBJP under the central government's

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.

Pakistan is Congress' blunder and PoK is Nehru's legacy

India no longer sends dossiers on terrorism – it sends missiles

Jammu: Senior BJP leader Amit Shah has recently cleared any doubts regarding India's current national security policy and how it is correcting the blunders of the Opposition. The brunt of the tortures inflicted on the nation by Congress' politics still manifests today in the form of Pakistan-sponsored terrorism. The historical blunder by Pandit Nehru gave birth to PoK, and during the same period, India lost 38,000 square kilometres of its

territory to China. Even after the decisive victory in 1971, the Opposition-led government squandered the opportunity to take control of 15,000 square kilometres of land and PoK. Instead, by releasing 93,000 Pakistani prisoners of war, it committed the greatest strategic blunder in history. This cowardly outlook of the Opposition encouraged terrorism. The Opposition gave open patronage to Jamaat-e-Islami and Hurriyat, which pushed

the entire Valley into the grip of terrorism. This is why India kept suffering at the hands of terrorism for decades. Shedding tears over a terrorist killed in the Batla House encounter while not expressing any sympathy for martyr Mohan Chand Sharma reflects the true mindset of Congress. But today, the picture has completely changed. With PM Modi's unwavering political will and Union Home Minister & Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah's visionary

strategy, what once seemed impossible under Congress has now been made possible. Not just the nation, but the entire world has witnessed that India no longer responds to terrorism with dossiers, but with missiles. 'Operation Sindoor' is proof that under the Modi government, our armed forces, equipped with modern weapons, have the capability to dismantle Pakistan's entire air defence system within half an hour. By entering

the enemy's stronghold and annihilating them in 'Operation Sindoor' and eliminated the Pahalgam terrorists in 'Operation Mahadev', India has declared its invincible strength.

Yet the Opposition tried to bury these historic victories under the dust of its petty political interests. Today, the concern for PoK remains confined to Opposition speeches, but the nation knows that only the Modi government can bring it back.

Many Delhi government ILBS services are now charged

Delhi: Delhi's autonomous Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences (ILBS) now charges for formerly free services, including body packaging (mortuary services). Dr. Arun Kumar Rastogi, chief operations (medical), ordered that corpse packaging services will cost Rs

1000. A patient warming system will cost Rs 500 per day, infusion pump services for ICU, HDU, and ward patients would cost Rs 500, 300, and 200, respectively. Additionally, nebulisation costs Rs 100 every session. It charges Rs 250 for half-day oxygen/medical gas use

and Rs 500 for full-day use. Admission medical record fees are Rs 300.

The domiciliary virtual consultation package is Rs 1800, while private and suite ward attendant fees (8 hours/night shift) are Rs 1000. The institute also changed service fees. USG

screening costs Rs 450, up from Rs 385. Dietician consultation prices have increased from Rs 100 to Rs 250 and virtual OPD consultation fees from Rs 400 to Rs 600. Dr. Rastogi declined to discuss the topic due to his busy schedule.

TN should appeal SC ruling on domicile quota

Delhi: A day after the Supreme Court banned domicile-based reservation in specialized and higher education including PG medical courses, MK Stalin's Tamil Nadu government declared it would file a review petition to vindicate its rights and uphold social justice. Health minister Ma Subramanian said the SC order would affect the state's 69% reservation and quotas for in-service applicants in government medical colleges and minorities in self-financing medical colleges. He said that the order would violate state rights. The Union government receives 15% of undergraduate medical seats and 50% of postgraduate medical and super speciality seats through the state quota each year. "All super spe-



cialty seats were lost. "TN gave government doctors a quota for super speciality courses after a court battle," he told reporters. He stated the Centre takes seats unfilled due to a lack of candidates. He said states invest fully in PG and super speciality medical education but share 50% of all-India quota seats. "Now, the judgment deprives us of all seats," Subramanian told reporters. According to him, the verdict will have a major impact on 2025-26 admissions but not 2024.

BBL: Melbourne Stars sign Adam Milne

Melbourne: The Melbourne Stars have signed New Zealand fast bowler Adam Milne to play in the Big Bash League (BBL) before Christmas. He will replace Pakistan leg-spinner Osama Mir, who will not be able to play in the first three matches of this season. The Stars are set to announce a new captain this week after Glenn Maxwell became captain at the end of last season. Maxwell is unlikely to be fit for the first match against the Perth Scorchers on December 15.

This IIM Got Rs 54 Lakh Highest Salary, Rs 5 Lakh Summer

Delhi: IIMs and other premier management institutes are conducting their final placement drives. Final placement season at IIM Mumbai began on November 25 and ended. Microsoft offered the highest remuneration, Rs 54 lakh per year. Coca-Cola paid a record Rs 5 lakh for a two-month summer internship. This year, 78 firms offered 373 jobs at IIM Mumbai's final placement season. Popular brands include Amazon, Microsoft, and Coca-Cola. IIM Mumbai placements saw a 15% boost in average stipend, according to a report. Top 10% of the



cohort received an average pay of Rs 48 lakh in job placements. Additionally, the top 50% of the batch received an average remuneration of Rs 35 lakh. IIM Mumbai ranks sixth in NIRF 2024. After being known as NITIE

Mumbai and then NILE, it became the Indian Institute of Management in 2023, becoming the 21st IIM in the country. MBA registration at IIM Mumbai began on November 4. Registration ends January 31, 2025.

Hartek and NSS join hands to empower 50 disabled with prosthetic limbs

Chandigarh: Hartek Foundation, led by CEO Harkirat Kaur, has partnered with Narayan Seva Sansthan (NSS) to provide prosthetic limbs to 50 differently-abled individuals, taking a significant step toward building an inclusive

society. During a meeting in Mohali, NSS Director Palak Agarwal shared the organization's four-decade journey of humanitarian work, which includes free surgeries, distribution of prosthetic limbs, assistive devices, and

skill development programs benefiting lakhs across India. Inspired by NSS's impactful initiatives, Hartek Foundation pledged support to help restore mobility, self-reliance, and dignity to 50 individuals.

Hartek Foundation and Narayan Seva Sansthan join hands to empower 50 disabled with prosthetic limbs

Chandigarh: In a meaningful step towards fostering an inclusive society, Hartek Foundation under the leadership of CEO Harkirat Kaur has partnered with Narayan Seva Sansthan (NSS) to provide prosthetic limbs to 50 differently-abled individuals. The collaboration marks a shared commitment to empower and uplift those with physical disabilities, enabling them to regain mobility, self-reliance and dignity. On this occasion, Palak Agarwal, Director, Narayan Seva Sansthan met Harkirat Kaur in Mohali and discussed the organisation's four-decade-long journey of humanitarian service which includes free surgeries, dis-



tribution of prosthetic limbs, assistive devices and skill development programs for lakhs of people across India. Inspired by NSS's impactful work, Hartek Foundation extended its support to help

50 individuals receive prosthetic limbs, giving them a new lease on life. Speaking on the occasion, Harkirat Kaur said that Narayan Seva Sansthan is not only working to uplift the differently abled

but also those overlooked by society. Thanking her counterpart, Palak Agarwal said this partnership goes beyond assistance as it brings hope and confidence to those who need it most.

Kerala cuts minority scholarships due to financial difficulties

Delhi : Kerala's government has cut minority community scholarships by 50%, putting thousands of students' education at risk, citing the financial crisis. Nine of the 11 minority welfare scholarship programs originally allotted Rs 13.6 crore are affected by the decision. The Government says the plan size reduction is a priority, but the disproportionate cut to minority student educational support raises questions about governmental priorities and social justice. Twitter shares The Prof Joseph Mundassery Scholarship, which received Rs 5.2 crore this



year, suffered most. It has saved Muslim, Sikh, Jain, and Parsi high-achieving children by paying Rs 10,000 to those who scored A-Plus in all SSLC subjects and Rs 15,000 to those who scored 80% in upper secondary or 75% in vocational higher secondary. It ensured that bright students from underprivileged backgrounds were not forced to drop

out due to financial constraints by prioritizing BPL students and providing provisions to economically weaker APL students. The crucial APJ Abdul Kalam Scholarship for minority students has also been cut in half. Those admitted to government-approved colleges on merit, with priority for BPL families, receive the Rs 6,000 grant.

The government of Maharashtra says it would not pay for eggs for the midday meal

Delhi : The opposition vehemently criticized the decision, as Maharashtra became the latest BJP-ruled state to ban eggs from midday meals for students in grades 1 through 8. The school education department changed the list of foods served during midday meals in a government resolution this week, eliminating the inclusion of sugar and eggs. Rather, it instructed schools to serve nachni sattu and "egg pulao" as optional meals. Nonetheless, it stated that these things, as well as sugar for desserts, had to be organized by the general public without the need for further government support. The state has changed the list to adhere to the meal items prescribed by the Center, accord-



ing to an official who defended the action. While some states use their own resources to offer eggs, the federal government, which provides 60% of the funding for midday meals, does not include them in its list. Goa and Madhya Pradesh recently banned eggs due to criticism from some groups. Aaditya Thackeray, a Sena (UBT) MLA, criticized the move and questioned why the government chose to substitute rice kheer and nachni sattu for eggs and sugar.

Adani cancels \$533mn US port loan in Sri Lanka

Delhi: After US securities and wire fraud allegations, Gautam Adani's Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone withdrew from a finance deal with a US agency for a Sri Lankan port terminal project and used its own resources. After the US indictment, American loans are harder to get. The US International Development Finance Corporation (IDFC) agreed to lend \$553 million to Sri Lanka. 's

Indian students in Canada panic as Ottawa requests docus again

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 last week. Some were



Indian students have made up a large portion of Canada's rising international student enrollment. The ministry of external affairs reports that Canada has 4.2 lakh Indian students, followed by the US with 3.3 lakh.

required to verify their credentials at IRCC headquarters in person. "Many students are confused and worried," Indian students have made up a large portion of Canada's rising international student enrollment. The ministry of external affairs reports that Canada has 4.2 lakh Indian students, followed by the US with 3.3 lakh. The sudden

email flood left pupils unsure about their future. "We chose Canada for its welcoming environment, but this unfair," said Adilabad-based business management student in British Columbia. Students want IRCC to clarify and resolve their concerns. For now, urge students to submit documents quickly to avoid difficulties. "

IIT Kharagpur teachers petition governors. Restore HoD positions

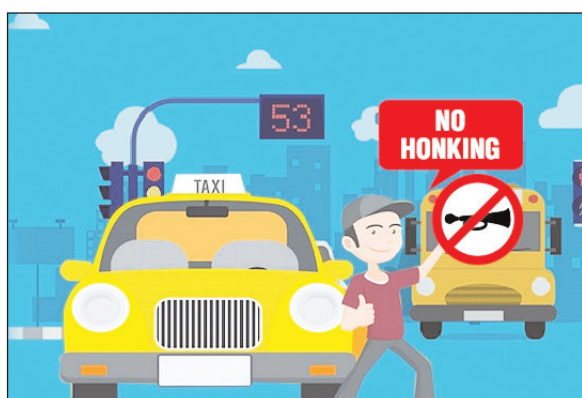
Delhi: The IIT Kharagpur Teachers' Association (IITTA) urged the institute's board of governors to expunge show-cause notices issued to 86 faculty members, restore their administrative positions, and protect the association's office bearers from arbitrary or retaliatory actions amid the faculty-administration dispute. In September, the IIT Kharagpur teachers' association accused director Virendra Kumar Tewari of "nepotism" and "arbitrary faculty recruitment" in a letter to the Union Ministry of Education, sparking a confrontation. They wanted an academically qualified, inclusive governance-experienced successor. When the administration sent show-cause notices to IITTA office bearers and disciplined them for not answering within seven days, tensions rose. Show cause notices were sent to 86 academic members who signed a petition support also said people who answered or apologized eral body meeting the IITTA approached the board of governors. They worry the administration may act fast and deny office bearers a fair hearing, further undermining trust.

Tiranga Yatra Pays Tribute to Armed Forces

Chandigarh: Nearly 500 people especially from the Sikh community, participated in the Tiranga Yatra organised by Dr. Jagmohan Singh Raju (Retd. IAS) with blessings from Sant Baba Pritpal Singh Ji. Beginning at Gurdwara GurSagar Sahib near Sukhna Lake and ending at Gurudwara Sahib, Sector 7, the procession celebrated patriotism and communal harmony. Participants carried the Indian Flag and Nishan Sahib, accompanied by a live band playing patriotic tunes. Leaders from Sikh, Hindu, Muslim, and Christian communities joined in. Dr. Raju called the Yatra a tribute to the Armed Forces and a symbol of India's strength and unity.

Honking ban ordered by DoE for schools

Delhi: The Delhi DoE has instructed all schools to prohibit illegal parking and honking. In response to increased noise and congestion outside schools, the Delhi Pollution Control Committee DPCC wrote to civic bodies, including DoE, with directives. New guidelines require private unaided recognized schools to create a silence zone awareness plan and issue letters to SHOs to reduce illegal parking and honking. All deputy directors of education (DDEs) at the district and zonal levels have been asked to inform school heads and ensure compliance with these measures. Dr. CS Verma, DoE deputy director at science. Order emphasized school zone traffic restriction. Officials said the initiative improves learning conditions. "Traffic congestion outside schools has been a long-standing issue, with frequent complaints from parents and residents about vehicles blocking gates



and causing excessive honking," a DoE spokeswoman said. Mount Abu School principal Jyoti Arora in Rohini said illegal parking and honking around Delhi schools are longstanding difficulties. "We are fighting a court case regarding an illegal auto stand near one of our schools," she said, adding that morning traffic is terrible. Erickshaws and street vendors choke roads, she said. Delhi Parents' Association president Aprajita Gautam said most schools are in traffic zones and may struggle to comply. Parents should limit horn use to reduce this. School transportation limitations and no-honking signs.

Telangana govt resolute in raising reservation

HYDERABAD:

Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao announced on that the Congress government is determined to increase reservation for backward classes in education, employment, and political representation from 23% to 42%. In a post on the social media platform 'X,' he highlighted that the population of backward classes in the state stands at 56.36%, based on the recent caste survey conducted in Telangana.

The US canceled 2,000 Indian visa appointments



Delhi: The US embassy in India reported the cancellation of over 2,000 visa applications. Indians are one of the largest groups of immigrants to the US for labor, tourism, and study. Fraud prompted the US Embassy in India crackdown. Due to "bad actors" or bots' severe appointment system infractions, the embassy deactivated their accounts. "Consular Team India cancels 2,000 bot-made visa appointments. We don't tolerate agents and fixers who break scheduling rules. "Effective immediately, we are cancelling these appointments and sus-

pending the associated accounts' scheduling privileges," said the message. US visa applications in India are already backlogged, notably for B1 and B2 applicants. This visa is for business and tourism. Application wait times in 2022-23 ranged from 800 to 1,000 days. New Delhi has regularly expressed reservations about the wait time with

Washington. In 2022, foreign affairs minister S Jaishankar complained to then-US secretary of state Antony Blinken about visa delays. The Biden administration blamed COVID-19 for the backlog. During his January visit to Washington for Donald Trump's inauguration, Jaishankar raised the issue again with Marco Rubio, Blinken's successor.

The dual degree option at DU will help students learn more

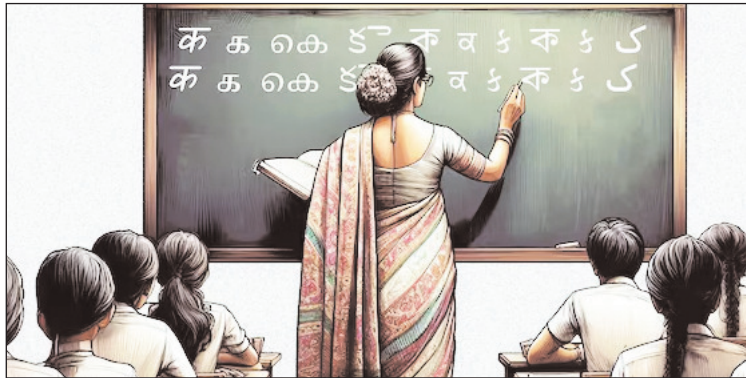
Delhi: The University of Delhi (DU) now allows students to pursue two degrees simultaneously. DU students can enroll in one degree through the normal mode at any DU-affiliated college or department and a second through Open and Distance Learning (ODL) through the School of

Open Learning. This policy gives existing students the option to expand their academic horizons without choosing between conventional and distant education. It has restrictions, though. Even with normal and ODL enrollment, students cannot enroll in two identical degrees (such as

BCom Hons and BCom Pass). DU dual degree qualifying requirements are simple but require careful planning. Students must meet both degrees' academic requirements. Attending classes, completing assignments, and passing tests for each program.

Most states, even non-BJP, give Hindi or Sanskrit as 3rd language

Delhi: As the Centre and Tamil Nadu argue over the controversial "three-language formula" in schools under the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, most Hindi-speaking states, including those ruled by non-BJP parties, offer Sanskrit as a third language of study. Non-Hindi-speaking states usually offer Hindi. Private schools are offering foreign languages as third languages due to student demand. The method allows states to choose Indian languages for government and private schools. Most states have implemented the "three-language formula" up to Class 8, with some extending it to Class 10. Tamil Nadu, however, has a two-language policy.



Hindi, Sanskrit, and other languages are taught as third languages in most states, along with the region's mother tongue and English, depending on the medium of teaching. French, German, and Spanish are also in demand in Hindi- and non-Hindi-speaking countries. The Tamil Nadu govern-

ment has refused to sign an MoU with the Centre to implement the PM Schools for Rising India (PM-SHRI) scheme, which aims to upgrade 14,500 schools and make them model schools that embody NEP 2020, citing concerns about the "three-language formula" and Hindi language imposition.

IT-Delhi rose 255 places to 171st globally

Delhi: Among Indian universities for sustainability, IIT-Delhi rose 255 places to 171st globally, according to 2025 QS Rankings released. The QS Sustainability Rankings include 78 Indian universities, with nine of the top 10 improving and 21 new institutions entering. Two IITs—Delhi and Kanpur—are in the world's top 100 for impact. With 177 and 67 rank improvements, each became fourth and fifth in India. Bangalore's IISc is among the world's top 50 environmental education schools.

NAAC adopts e-inspections for new accreditation

Delhi: To eradicate corruption and speed up accreditation, the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) has stopped physical college inspections. Accreditation teams will now perform evaluations exclusively online, replacing on-cams visits with virtual examinations. But for colleges, the changeover will be hybrid; most inspections will be remote, but some reviewers will still visit campuses to retain some monitoring. The decision fol-



lows the CBI's recent arrests in the case involving Andhra Pradesh's Koneru Lakshmaiah Education Foundation (KLEF), where management reportedly bribed NAAC peer visit inspectors for good ratings. "We chose to do whatever it takes

to eliminate corruption. "Stopping in-person visits will greatly reduce the issue," stated NAAC executive committee head Prof Anil Sahasrabudhe. "With so many weekly inspection visits, it was hard to track what happened. Now, all this is recorded." NAAC head Ganesan Kannabiran hailed the switch to online inspection a "surgical strike" against corruption. The latest CBI lawsuit challenged NAAC's peer review system.

Kerala cuts minority scholarships due to financial difficulties

Delhi : Kerala's government has cut minority community scholarships by 50%, putting thousands of students' education at risk, citing the financial crisis. Nine of the 11 minority welfare scholarship programs originally allotted Rs 13.6 crore are affected by the decision. The Government says the plan size reduction is a priority, but the disproportionate cut to minority student educational support raises questions about governmental priorities and social justice. Twitter shares The Prof Joseph Mundassery Scholarship, which received Rs 5.2 crore this year, suffered most. It has saved Muslim, Sikh, Jain, and Parsi high-achieving children by paying Rs 10,000 to those who scored A-Plus in all SSLC subjects and Rs 15,000 to those

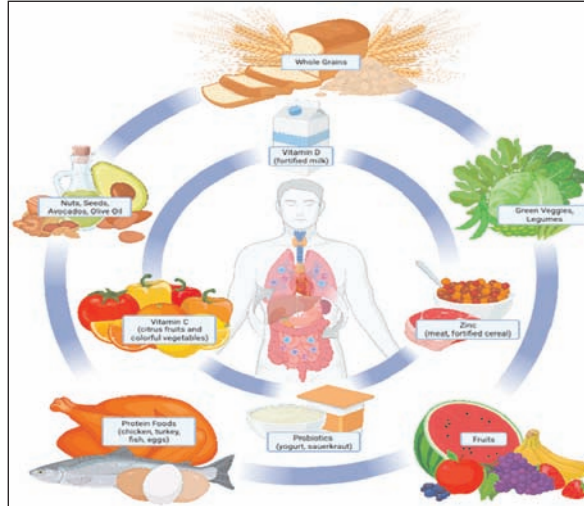


who scored 80% in upper secondary or 75% in vocational higher secondary. It ensured that bright students from underprivileged backgrounds were not forced to drop out due to financial constraints by prioritizing BPL students and providing provisions to economically weaker APL students. The crucial APJ Abdul Kalam Scholarship for minority students has also been cut in half. Those admitted to government-approved colleges on merit, with priority for BPL families,

receive the Rs 6,000 grant. Since it reserves 30% of funds for female students, the reduction could hurt young women from poor families who already struggle to enter higher education. Another affected program is the Mother Teresa Scholarship, which helps Christian, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, and Parsi students in government nursing and paramedical diploma programs. Many aspiring nurses and paramedics, whose families cannot afford professional training, may have to quit.

Hospital visits decreased, learning metrics improved. Meal program passes

Delhi: The State Planning Commission SPC found that Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin's breakfast policy had improved health and education in government schools, which shows that hospital visits among government primary school pupils reduced by 68.4% in rural areas and 29.4% in urban areas throughout this period, illustrating the program's impact on nutritionally challenged regions. In addition to health metrics, the Tamil Nadu State Planning Commission reported to Stalin on 13 March that the plan has increased student involvement in class. Nearly 5,300 urban and rural children showed improvements in attention and comprehension. Students' attention without urging grew



from 85.8 percent to 93.7 percent, and their ability to follow teachers' instructions increased from 91.3 percent to 95.5 percent. Students are also completing more written work, rising from 89.6% to 95.4%. The ability to learn new content increased from 88.1 percent to 92.5 percent, while lesson recall increased from 71.4 percent to 77 percent. Nearly 5,300

urban and rural children showed improvements in attention and comprehension. Students' attention without urging grew from 85.8 percent to 93.7 percent, and their ability to follow teachers' instructions increased from 91.3 percent to 95.5 percent. Students are also completing more written work, rising from 89.6% to 95.4%.

SC calls Punjab's NRI quota a 'fraud' on medical education

Delhi: The Supreme Court called Punjab's medical colleges' extension of the non-resident Indian (NRI) quota a "fraud" that excludes meritorious candidates. A bench chaired by Chief Justice of India (CJI) Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud dismissed petitions challenging a Punjab and Haryana high court ruling that invalidated the Punjab government's proposal to widen the NRI quota criteria to include distant relatives. We must end NRI quotas today! The bench, which included Justices JB Pardiwalla and Manoj Misra, said the NRI quota was being used to circumvent merit-based admissions. The bench called such a broad interpretation of NRI eligibility, which permitted distant relatives to qualify, a "money-spinning tactic" that undermined the school system. "All three petitions fail. Keep this under control. This scam must end. This NRI business is a scam. Senior counsel Shadan Farasat stated that Himachal Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh previously employed the larger NRI quota interpretation during the hearing. The Court rejected these arguments, stressing that the larger definition weakened merit and permitted less deserving individuals to be admitted based on money and connections rather than academic performance. The panel agreed with Bhandari that NRI quotas should be kept for real NRIs and merit should not be ignored.



The regulator met with the carrier to discuss restoring

Delhi: Business Standard sources reported that SpiceJet informed the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) that it will spend Rs 400 crore in two years to restore 36 grounded planes. The regulator met with the carrier last Friday to discuss restoring grounded jets. Sources said this followed the airline's Rs 3,000 crore qualifying institutional placement from global investors and mutual funds. The airline did not respond to Business Standard's request for comment. At the QIP, the airline identified 36 grounded aircraft out of 58. This was mostly due to lesser payment defaults, aircraft maintenance financial issues, and component shortages. The airline informed the regulator that seven of the 36 grounded planes would return by year's end, sources added. The remaining 29 aircraft should be



reactivated in 15-21 months. "Overall, the airline anticipates it will take 18-24 months to bring all grounded planes back to service," source said. SpiceJet announced that it will lease seven planes to improve flying operations immediately while repairing grounded planes. It said the seven leased planes will join the fleet by November 15. Sources say the carrier's grounded jets will undergo Airbus and Boeing-mandated return-to-service (RTS) procedures. The DGCA will allow commercial passenger flights after the RTS process.

RTS is the procedure of restarting a grounded aircraft.

Maintenance, repairs, inspections, and regulatory compliance are required.

Change in rules marks discount broker turning point

Delhi: Domestic rating agency Crisil said discount brokerages like Zerodha and Groww will be most affected by recent regulatory changes to curtail investors' derivatives activity. Narayanan claimed derivative trades account for up to 80% of bargain brokers' revenue and under a third of full-service brokerages'. Largest impact, with new customer acquisition.

CCPA can open a "class action" under the Consumer Protection Act

Delhi: The Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI) instructed vehicle testing agency ARAI to investigate whether Ola Electric violated consumer rights as a recipient of the government's EV incentive scheme. After the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) issued Ola Electric a show cause notice for consumer rights violations, misleading advertising, and unfair trade practices, MHI took action. Charges during free service period or warranty, car delivery delays, and service/repair delays are additional cited infractions. Old Electric is a FAME-II and PM E-DRIVE



beneficiary under ARAI's eligibility requirements. Thus, MHI must get your opinions on the issue promptly "The ministry's letter to the testing centre stated. It further stated that under two EV incentive schemes, all OEMs, including Ola Electric, must maintain service centres to address consumer issues and provide warranties. Earlier, Union consumer

affairs secretary and CCPA chief commissioner Nidhi Khare confirmed that the National Consumer Helpline (NCH) has been receiving complaints for about a year. The company didn't answer problems effectively." CCPA can open a "class action" under the Consumer Protection Act if comparable complaints affect a 'class' of customers.'

Toyota Urban Cruiser Hyryder Festival Edition Launched

Delhi: Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) launched the Urban Cruiser Hyryder 'Festival Limited Edition' packed with Toyota Genuine Accessories (TGA) Package. The Festival Limited Edition of Urban Cruiser Hyryder adds 13 specially designed TGA. On the exterior, it has chrome and ornamental accessories on the mud-

flap, door visor (premium with SS insert), front and rear bumper garnish, head lamp garnish, hood emblem, body cladding, fender garnish, rear door lid garnish and door chrome handle. On the interior, the Festival Edition comes with an all-weather 3D floor mat, leg room lamp, and a digital video recorder. As part of this

special launch, TKM is offering a complimentary package worth ₹50,817 for the customers opting for Urban Cruiser Hyryder Festival Limited Edition made available at dealerships across India until 31st October. This exclusive package is available for the V and G grades of both the Neo Drive and Hybrid variants.

Raptee.HV Launches T 30 High-Voltage Electric Motorcycle In India - Details

Delhi : Raptee.HV, the Chennai-based EV startup, launched India's first high-voltage electric motorcycle, which is developed with the technology being used in Electric cars across the world. Called the Raptee T 30, it is the first of its kind to use universal charging standards that are used by cars. In simple words, it uses a CCS2 charging port. The motorcycle is priced at ₹ 2.39 lakhs, ex-showroom. The Raptee.HV Motorcycle has an IDC Est range of around 200 km and a real-world range of over 150 km on a single charge. The company claims that it can accelerate from 0 to 60 kmph in under 3.5 seconds. The 5.4 kWh battery pack is IP67-rated, and it takes 60 minutes for a 20-80 per cent juice-up via a 3.3 kW charger. Through a fast charger, the same can be done in just 30 minutes. Also, the brand is offering a warranty of 8 years of 80,000 km on the battery pack. The T 30 rides on a set of 17-inch rims with a 110-section tyre on the front and a 150-section tyre at the rear. Moreover, the suspension includes 37 mm USD forks on the front and a telescopic shock absorber at the rear. Braking duties are performed by a 320 mm rotor at the front and a 230 mm disc at the rear. The motorcycle has advanced software features for an enhanced riding experience, including 3 riding modes and a 7-inch LCD instrument cluster. It comes equipped with connected features as well. There are four colours on offer - Horizon Red, Arctic White, Mercury Grey and Eclipse Black.

Tata Consultancy Services mcap cross Rs 15 lakh crore mark as shares soar

NEW DELHI: Shares of Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) jumped 4% on Tuesday, taking its market valuation to above Rs 15 lakh crore mark. The stock of the country's second most valued firm by market valuation jumped 4.05% to settle at Rs 4,133.45 apiece on the BSE.

The Indian Real Estate Sector Expects Equity Investments of Rs 74,815 Crore

Delhi : According to a survey by CBRE South Asia, the real estate sector registered equity investments of \$8.9 billion (Rs 74,815 crore) in the first nine months of , surpassing the increase of \$7.4 billion (Rs 62,210 crore) in 2023 and demonstrating a year-over-year rise of 46%. The Indian real estate market has experienced a massive boom, reaching its highest point since 2018. A significant quarterly equity investment totaling \$2.6 billion (Rs 21,857 crore) between July and September is highlighted in the report.

Mumbai, Bengaluru, and Chennai drove this expansion, contributing 66 percent of equity inflows in Q3 with



their respective subscriptions of \$0.96 billion (Rs 8,070 crore), \$0.40 billion (Rs 3,362 crore), and \$0.34 billion (Rs 2,858 crore). With capital inflows of \$0.31 billion (Rs 2,605 crore), \$0.27 billion (Rs 2,269 crore), and \$0.02 billion (Rs 1,681 crore), respectively, Delhi-NCR, Pune, and Hyderabad also

saw a sizable portion of investments. Domestic investors, especially construction businesses, who accounted for roughly 79% of equity inflows during the July-September quarter, were the main drivers of the increase in investment momentum.

Of the overall inflows of for-

New Income Tax Return e-filing portal in the works? What taxpayers can expect

The Income Tax Department is set to revamp the e-filing ITR portal with substantial changes aimed at making it more user-friendly for taxpayers. Internal circular from the tax department dated October 8, which is not publicly available, "The operations phase of the existing Integrated e-filing and Centralised Processing Centre (IEC) 2.0 is coming to an end and the process of bringing in a new Project.

The Tata Group is set to expand the fleet of its budget airline, Air India Express, by transferring all-economy configuration planes from its full-service carriers, Air India and Vistara. This move is part of the group's strategy to better compete with Indigo, the market leader in the Indian aviation industry. Sources familiar with the plan told that the first phase will involve the transfer of 17 Airbus A320 Neo aircraft from Air India to Air India Express. Additionally, 10 of



Vistara's all-economy A320 Neo aircraft will join Air India Express once the merger between Vistara and Air India is finalized. The entire transfer process is expected to be completed by mid-2025. Experience significant capacity expansion, with the addition of 17 planes from Air India and 15

Boeing 737 Max planes from its own order by the middle of next year. Over the past 10 months, the airline has already added 26 new Boeing 737-8 aircraft to its fleet. The Tata Group is currently restructuring its aviation business, which will result in the consolidation of four airlines into two.

Solar panel maker Waaree Energies is gearing up to float its initial share

Delhi: Solar panel maker Waaree Energies is gearing up to float its initial share sale involving fresh issue of shares worth Rs 3,600 crore. The Mumbai-based company's Initial Public Offering (IPO) will conclude on 23 and the bidding for anchor investors will open for a day on October 18,



according to the Red Herring Prospectus (RHP). As per the documents, the IPO is a combination of a fresh issue of equity shares aggregating to Rs 3,600 crore and an Offer For Sale (OFS) of 48 lakh equity shares by a promoter and existing shareholders, according to the Draft Red Herring Prospectus (DRHP). Those selling shares in the OFS are -- promoter Waaree Sustainable Finance Private Ltd and shareholder Chandurkar Investments Private Ltd. Proceeds from the

Globe Civil Projects files draft papers with Sebi for IPO

NEW DELHI: Engineering, procurement and construction company Globe Civil Projects Ltd on Tuesday said it has filed preliminary papers with markets regulator Sebi to raise funds through an initial public offering. The initial public offering (IPO) is entirely a fresh issue of 1.9 crore equity shares with no offer-for-sale component, according to the DRHP filed with Sebi. The company plans to list the shares on BSE.

India's first high-speed 280 kmph trains soon! ICF awards contract for new trainsets to BEML

Delhi: India is set to launch its first indigenous high-speed trains, built by BEML with a test speed of 280 kmph. Featuring modern amenities, these trainsets will consist of 8 cars each, costing Rs 27.86 crores per car, and to be delivered by the end of 2026. The trainsets will be the first indigenously designed and manufactured in India, with a test speed of 280 kmph. (AI image) India's first indigenous high-speed train soon! In a big boost for Indian Railways' dreams of offering high-speed rail connectivity, the national transporter has awarded the contract for manufacturing high-speed trainsets to BEML. These trainsets will be the first indigenously designed and manufactured in India, with a test speed of



280 kmph, marking a significant step forward in the country's high-speed rail journey. The trains will feature a fully air-conditioned, Chair Car configuration, offering modern passenger amenities such as reclining and rotatable seats, special provisions for passengers with restricted mobility, and onboard infotainment systems, ensuring a comfortable and enjoyable travel experience.

BEML Limited has secured a contract from Integral Coach Factory (ICF), Chennai, for the design, manufacturing, and commis-

sioning of two high-speed trainsets. Each trainset will consist of 8 cars, with a price of Rs 27.86 crores per car, resulting in a total contract value of Rs 866.87 crores. This contract value includes design cost, one-time development cost, non-recurring charges, and a one-time cost for jigs, fixtures, tooling, and testing facilities, which will be utilized for all future high-speed projects in India. BEML's Bengaluru rail coach complex will be responsible for the construction of these trainsets, with a scheduled delivery by the end of 2026.

Gurugram Rate Soars 160%, Housing Prices in Top 10 Cities Soar 88% in 5 Years

Delhi : In the last five years, the average cost of newly constructed residential properties in India's top ten cities has increased by an astounding 88%, per a report released on Monday by real estate data analytics company PropEquity. The greatest increase in prices was seen in Gurugram, where average prices shot up 160% from Rs 7,500 per square foot in 2019 to Rs 19,500 per sq foot in .



Mumbai, on the other hand, saw the least gain over the same period, going from Rs 25,820 per sq ft to Rs 35,500 per sq ft, or 37%. Noida (146%), Bengaluru (98%), Hyderabad (81%), Chennai (80%), Pune (73%), Navi Mumbai (69%), Kolkata (68%), Thane (66%), and Mumbai are the next cities in terms of price growth after Gurugram. In the top 10 cities—Bengaluru, Chennai, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Mumbai, Thane, Navi Mumbai, Pune, Noida, and Gurugram—the survey examined 15,000 new launch projects that included flats, floors, and villas. In the past five years, real estate prices have increased dramatically in all major cities. The factors that have contributed to such a steep rise include the massive infrastructure development, the growing interest from NRIs, HNIs/UHNIs, and stock market gainers looking to create wealth and generate income through real estate investment, rising sentiments towards homeownership, and the general shift towards luxury/super luxury homes as a result of rising aspiration and affluence.