

# AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

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

## Opposition will brainstorm to surround the government

### Meeting

He would not have become the Prime Minister. Along with this, many issues

**New Delhi:** The next meeting of the opposition parties' alliance India (Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance) will be held on August 7 at the residence of Congress MP and Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi. According to sources, this meeting will be held during dinner and many important issues will be discussed in it. What is the purpose of the meeting?Rahul Gandhi had recently alleged that about 70-80 seats were rigged in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.



### Rahul Gandhi's allegations on Election Commission

Rahul Gandhi once again launched a direct attack on the Election Commission and said, 'India's electoral system is dead. We have evidence that the Lok Sabha elections were rigged. About 1.5 lakh fake voters have been found. The

Election Commission does not exist anymore.' He claimed that the Congress conducted a thorough investigation in the last six months, which revealed this fact.

Although the Election Commission had called Rahul

He said that the Prime Minister won with a very narrow majority and if even 15 seats had been won correctly, he would not have become

the Prime Minister. Along with this, many issues can be raised in the meeting. Which includes the Special Intensive Revision

(SIR) process going on in Bihar, allegations of adding fake voters in Maharashtra, Operation Sindoor, India-US trade agreement and possible

### Statement of CPI General Secretary Raja

On the other hand, Communist Party of India (CPI) General Secretary D Raja said that Rahul Gandhi is personally calling the leaders. However, he also said that no concrete agenda has been decided yet.BoxFairness was expected from Election Commission - KC Venugopal.

### What are the opposition parties saying?

Shiv Sena (UBC) leader Priyanka Chaturvedi attacked the central government and said, 'Whether it is the Pahalgam terrorist attack or Operation Sindoor, the government is not showing any accountability. The Prime Minister himself said that Operation Sindoor is still going on, but on the other hand the army and government people are playing cricket - this is an insult to the martyrs.'

Gandhi on June 12 for talks on this issue, no response has been received so far. Current Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, Jharkhand CM Hemant Soren and Shiv Sena UBC chief Uddhav Thackeray.

parties participated, including NCP-SP chief Sharad Pawar, RJD leader and former Bihar Deputy CM Tejashwi Yadav.

## Buying products made in the country will make India self-reliant

### Self-reliant

Whatever goods you buy, if you buy goods made in India: Arjun Ram



### 'Swadeshi will decide our future'

While addressing a public meeting in Varanasi, the Prime Minister said that 'we should buy those things which are made with the sweat of some Indian and which are made with the skill of the people of India. Those who want the good of the country, who want to make the country the third largest economy.

then it will strengthen the Self-reliant India campaign. The Prime Minister has appealed to every citizen.

**New Delhi.** Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal appealed to all the citizens of the country to actively participate in the Self-reliant India campaign and buy only products made in India. The Union Minister said that the Self-reliant India campaign will be strengthened only by the united efforts of all. 'Every Indian should join the Self-reliant India campaign' The Union Law Minister said that 'Self-reliant India campaign is such a campaign in which every. Whatever goods you buy, if you buy goods made in India,

## India to record 18900 organ transplants in 2024: Nadda



**NEW DELHI:** India has achieved a spectacular milestone of performing over 18,900 organ transplants by 2024, Union Health Minister JP Nadda said today. This is the highest figure ever recorded in a year. He emphasized the importance of organ donors, saying their selfless work has turned suffering into hope and loss into life for many in the community. This is a significant jump compared to less than 5,000 transplants in 2013, Nadda said. He said India ranks third in the world in terms of the total number of organ transplants, behind only the US and China. The Health Minister said that India is a world leader in hand transplantation, which reflects our state-of-the-

### Selfless

Selfless work has turned suffering into hope and loss into life for many

art surgical capabilities and the unwavering dedication of our medical professionals. Since the launch of the Aadhaar-based NOTTO online pledge portal in 2023, 3.30 lakh people have taken the oath of organ donation, a great example of awareness in the country.Increase in cases of organ failure alarmingSpeaking at an event organized by the National Organ and Tissue Transplantation Organization to mark the 15th Indian Organ Donation Day, Nadda said .

## Bengal: Cannot change name, date of birth without proof

**Kolkata:** The West Bengal health department has banned arbitrary changes in birth and death certificates. No one will now be able to make any changes to these certificates without valid documentation and permission from the Registrar. The decision has been taken to maintain the credibility of certificates in the state and prevent forgery. According to the Department of Health, only local registrars will now allow any changes. The Registrar shall allow the variation of the certificate.



**New Delhi:** The Confederation of All India Traders (CAT) on Sunday announced a nationwide campaign from August 10 in support of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's appeal to the countrymen to buy and sell Indian goods. It aims to give priority to indigenous products. The decision was taken at the two-day National Business



Conference in New Delhi, which was attended by over 150 leading business leaders from 26 states of the country. CAT National General Secretary and MP from Delhi Chandni Chowk

Praveen said that all the business leaders unanimously decided to name the campaign 'Bharatiya Samaan Jhr H a m a r a S w a b h i m a n h v', describing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call as a symbol of India's identity. He said that the Prime Minister's appeal reinforces the spirit of self-reliant India.

## No objections received on draft voter list of Bihar

**New Delhi.** No political party has filed any claim or objection to the draft voter list in Bihar. General voters have submitted 941 claims and objections. The process started on August 1 and will continue till September A total of 1,60,813 Booth Level Agents (BLAs) have been appointed on behalf of various political parties, the Election Commission said in Bihar SIR 2025: Daily Bulletin on Sunday. Despite this, the Commission has not received any claims or objections.



## Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train to start soon

### Announced

This was announced by Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav in Bhavnagar



minutes. The total length of the bullet train will be 508 km, the Railway Minister said. The train will start from Bandra-Kurla Complex (BKC) in Mumbai and will reach Vapi, Surat, Anand, Vadodara and Ahmedabad in Gujarat. It will have a top speed

of 320 kmph. Introduction of several new train servicesFrom Bhavnagar terminus, the Railway Minister virtually flagged off the Ayodhya Express, Rewa-Pune Express and Jabalpur-Raipur Express. Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister

Mohan Yadav and Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Dev Sai were also present on the occasion.Many new railway projects in GujaratThe Railway Minister said that many new schemes are being launched in Gujarat. These include a new train between Porbandar-Rajkot, a Rs 135 crore coach maintenance facility at Ranavav station, a railway flyover in Porbandar town, a two-speed Shakti cargo terminal as well as a container terminal.

## Election Commission is abusing powers: P.S. Chidambaram

**New Delhi.** Senior Congress leader and former Home Minister P.K. Chidambaram has laid serious allegations against the Election



Commission (ECI) over the special intensive revision (SIR) process of voter lists in Bihar. He said the commission was trying to change the electoral structure and voter profile of the states, which was an "abuse" of rights and

should be opposed politically and legally. Concern expressed over Bihar and Tamil NaduP.S. In a post on social media X, Chidambaram wrote that 6.5 million voters may be disenfranchised in Bihar, while reports of 6.5 lakh new voters being added in Tamil Nadu are worrying and illegal. "Describing these people as permanent migrants is an insult.

## Disease spreading 7 times faster than national rate in Delhi

## Lung cancer becoming new epidemic in India

**New Delhi.** Lung cancer is consolidating its position as the most deadly cancer in the world and India has become one of the biggest hotspots. The number of lung cancer cases in India could reach 81,219 by 2025 end, up from 63,807 in 2015, according to World Health Organization (WHO) and Indian Journal of Medical Research (IJMR) reports. Experts see it as a looming non-



smoker cancer epidemic in India with pollution, industrial chemicals and lifestyle as major factors. According to the WHO, lung cancer kills more than 1.8 million people every year. In

2022, it was the most commonly diagnosed cancer in the world, with 2.5 million new cases accounting for 12.4% of total cancer cases. According to data from the National

### Reports

It was the most commonly diagnosed cancer in the world, in the community

Cancer Registry Program and Globocan 2020, India recorded 79,221 new cases of lung cancer and 70,264 deaths in 2020. According to experts, more than 50% of cases in India are identified at

advanced stage, when the possibility of treatment remains extremely limited. State-wise analysis has revealed that the rate is highest in states with metropolitan areas and industrial areas. According to the National Cancer Registry Program (NCRP), states like Maharashtra, Delhi, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka have the highest number of cases of lung cancer.

## Scam in nearly 100 seats: Raut

### Conspiracy

The Election Commission was part of this conspiracy: Shiv Sena (UBT) MP



about 100 seats. The Election Commission was part of this conspiracy. If this had not happened, Narendra Modi would not have become Prime Minister. On July 23, Rahul Gandhi had alleged that elections were being stolen in the country. He claimed that his party had done an in-depth study on a Lok

Sabha seat in Karnataka and traced the entire process of vote-stealing. "In Karnataka, we selected a seat and converted its voter list in digital format. The process took six months. After that, we understood how votes are stolen, who does it and where new voters are brought in," he said.Rahul Gandhi will keep evidence in front of the public"We have got the paper proof. We will present it to the public and the Election Commission," he said.



## The Indian military teaches locals in Jammu and Kashmir

**Delhi:** Training Village Defence Guards (VDGs) to bolster local security against terrorist threats has been initiated by the Indian Army in partnership with the Jammu and Kashmir Police. The program's overarching goal is to improve regional security by teaching locals how to defend their homes and communities. Training for minor tactics, squad post drills, and the use of automatic rifles is underway for around 600 individuals. Participants are able to put their newly acquired abilities to action in realistic scenarios thanks to training sessions held in close proximity to the villages. Structured training lasts at least three days for each VDG unit. With the help of teachers and materials from the Corps Battle School in Sarol, formations of the Indian Army are leading the training. Around 500 people in Rajouri and 85 to 90 in Doda and Kishtwar have been trained



### Jagannath temple body to apply for patents on names

**Delhi:** Amid the tussle between Odisha and West Bengal over naming of the Jagannath temple in Digha as Jagannath dham, the Jagannath temple management committee of Puri on Monday said it would apply for patent for expressions such as 'Srimandir', 'Jagannath Dham', and 'Mahaprasad'. The temple management committee

through the initiative, which was started in response to a request from the Jammu and Kashmir Police. The Jammu and Kashmir Police and the Army's

which met in Puri said. The Sri Jagannath Temple Administration would apply for patents of terms such as 'Srimandir', 'Jagannath Dham', 'Mahaprasad', 'logo of Srimandir', 'Shrikshetra', and 'Purushottam Dham'. It has been approved in a high-level meeting today," said SJTA chief administrator Arabinda Padhee.

Ordnance Depots are working together to offer VDGs Self-Loading Rifles (SLRs), giving them even more authority to protect their villages.

## Congress says Centre MSP doesn't cover inputs

**Delhi:** The Congress argued that Kharif crop Minimum Support Price (MSP) did not cover input prices and accused the Modi government of misleading farmers. The MSP has become the maximum agony for producers, Congress national secretary Randeep Surjewala said reporters at a news briefing. The Centre claims it has increased the MSP for crops, but Mr. Surjewala said it is far below the Swaminathan Commission's "cost (C2) plus 50%" calculation. Despite declaring MSP, the Centre is not buying crops at that rate, "cheating" farmers.



"What is the point of announcing the MSP without purchase" he questioned. Regarding the Centre's paddy MSP, the Congress leader argued that it was 766 lower than the C2 plus 50% formula. According to Mr. Surjewala, the government should have announced 3,135 MSP

for paddy, but instead only 2,369 MSP was announced. Even NDA/BJP-ruled states reported higher input prices than MSP, with Bihar, Gujarat, and Maharashtra recommending MSPs of 3,260, 3,000, and 4,783, respectively.

### 'Secularism must be two-way street': Pawan

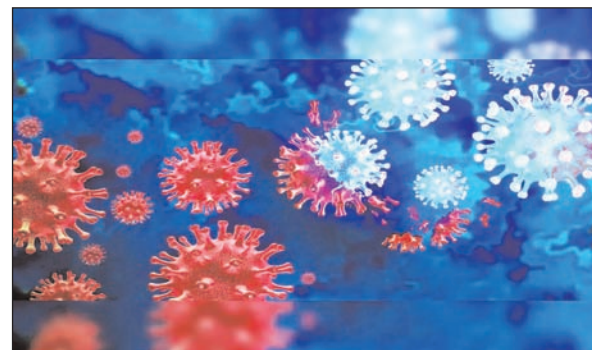
**Delhi :** Actor-turned-politician Pawan Kalyan condemned the arrest of a Symbiosis law student, who was booked for allegedly hurting 'religious sentiments' through a viral video posted during 'Operation Sindoor'. The student, arrested by West Bengal Police from Gurgaon following a court warrant, had earlier

deleted the video and issued an apology after it drew criticism online. Taking to X, Kalyan questioned the silence over repeated instances of alleged blasphemy by TMC leaders and MPs, accusing them of mocking Sanatana Dharma by calling it "Gandha Dharm". "Blasphemy must be condemned, always! Secularism isn't a

shield for some and a sword for others. It must be a two-way street. West Bengal Police, the nation is watching. Act justly for all," he said, urging equal condemnation of all such acts and impartial police action. The student was produced before Alipore court and remanded to judicial custody till June 13.



## Long-Covid affects 15% of newborns and toddlers, symptoms vary by age



**Delhi :** During another worldwide pandemic, a new study found that 15% of babies and toddlers had long-term COVID-19 and that symptoms vary by age. After a SARS-CoV-2 infection, kids with long Covid have symptoms for at least three months. About 15% of 472 infants and toddlers and 539 preschoolers recruited from March 2022 to July 2024 had lengthy Covid, according to the JAMA Pediatrics study. About 40 of 278 babies under 2 years old (14%) and 61 of 399 children aged 3 to 5 years (15%) experienced persistent symptoms. According to the study, newborns and toddlers have different long-Covid symptoms than preschoolers aged 3-5. Trouble sleeping, fussiness, poor appetite, stuffy nose, and cough were more common in infants and toddlers under 2 years old. Dry coughs and afternoon fatigue were more common in preschoolers (3-5 years old). Preschoolers with probably long Covid had 74% dry coughs.

## PMK schism widens as Ramadoss senior attacks son

**Delhi :** Senior Ramadoss accused his 56-year-old son of throwing a bottle at his mother, calling him a liar, and failing to lead the party "in the right direction" as their schism deepened. In Villupuram, the 85-year-old told the media, "Everyone worships their mother. At Pongal, Anbumani's mother asked if we made his second daughter the youth wing leader. Anbumani flung a bottle at his mother in reaction. Luckily, it impacted the wall instead of her. A sample." Anbumani opposed Ramadoss naming his daughter's son, P Mukundan, as PMK's youth wing chairman. Mukundan resigned Thursday for personal reasons. Ramadoss said his son was "creating internal power struggles" and lying "without shame". Anbumani called a



three-day party netas meeting on Friday. Anbumani's sources stated he didn't make a statement but proved party power. Anbumani doesn't listen or let them speak. I wanted PMK and AIADMK to cooperate for the 2024 LS elections. Anbumani and AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami discussed and formed an alliance.

However, Anbumani and Sowmya immediately wept and demanded a BJP coalition, "Ramadoss added. I gave in after they sobbed so long. AIADMK-PMK may have allied naturally. He stated that PMK could have won three seats and AIADMK six or seven. Ramadoss denied responsibility for Anbumani's activities as PMK's working president.

### Teachers overburdened, students didn't attend classes 18 govt schools

**Delhi:** class 12 board exam results were declared earlier this week, 18 govt schools in Haryana have come under scrutiny. No student passed from any of these schools. Most of these six are in Nuh, four in Faridabad, and one each in Gurgaon, Hisar, Jhajjar, Karnal, Palwal, Rohtak, Sonapat and Yamunanagar. The zero-pass record isn't the only concern. These schools are among 100 govt institutions that performed poorly in the boards, overshadowing the overall pass percentage of 85.7. In 82 schools across Haryana's 22 districts, the pass percentage.

## Gurugram Rate Soars 160%, Housing Prices in Top 10 Cities

**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 2024. 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.

## Kavitha rebels against BRS leadership, claims BJP merger

**Delhi:** In a revolt against Bharat Rashtira Samithi led by former Telangana chief minister K Chandrasekhar Rao (KCR), his daughter and state legislative council member Kalvakuntla Kavitha accused the BRS of merging with the BJP. Kavitha accused the party leadership, particularly her brother KT Rama Rao (KTR), the working president, in a meeting with media at her home. She stated BRS-BJP merger discussions were underway. Merging with the BJP was proposed while I was in jail. I advised my father against rushing to unite the BRS and BJP. I offered to serve six months or perhaps years in prison, she said. She was in jail from March to August 2024 for her alleged role in the Delhi excise policy scandal. The Supreme Court released her on bail. The siblings' fight



### Delhi high court upholds Army officer's termination for refusing to attend religious parade

**Delhi:** Delhi high court has upheld the 2017 termination of an Army officer who refused to participate in regimental weekly religious parades on the grounds that he belonged to the Christian faith. Samuel had challenged his dismissal without pension and gratuity, and sought reinstatement in service. In a May 30 order, a division bench of Justice Navin Chawla and Justice said: "Our armed forces comprise personnel of all religions, castes, creeds, regions and faiths, whose sole motto is to safeguard the country."

was revealed last week when Kavitha's May 2 letter to KCR was leaked. When asked about the letter accusing KCR of softening on the BJP, she stated her

father was like "God" but "surrounded by some demons" night. He continued, "There is only one leader for Telangana and that is KCR."

### NHAI, Greater Noida authority to build 4km elevated road

**Delhi:** The Greater Noida authority said it has approved a proposal to build a 4km elevated road from Sector 4 to the Delhi-Meerut Expressway. The road will start from the 130 Metre Wide Road in Sector 4, cross over Shahberi and Crossings Republik in Ghaziabad, and meet the



expressway. The National

Highways Authority of India (NHAI) will construct the road, officials said.

The Noida, Greater Noida and Ghaziabad development authorities are likely to bear the cost of this project, which has been budgeted for 400 crore, said Greater Noida authority officials. We

have given in-principle approval for this 4km elevated road because traffic congestion in Noida Extension is set to rise. We have written to NHAI to build the 4km elevated road because it can seamlessly connect Greater Noida with the Delhi-Meerut Expressway.

### Yeida approves Film City layout

**Delhi:** The Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (Yeida) approved the layout design for the projected Film City in Sector 21, allowing filmmaker Boney Kapoor-led Bayview Bhutani Film City Private Limited to begin building. On December 24, 2024, Bayview Bhutani submitted the layout plan for clearance because work cannot begin without it. Yeida officials approved the layout plan following a thorough planning and high-level committee assessment.

## Short on funds Temples and memorials to receive Rs 3,000 crore from Maharashtra government

**Delhi :** The financially constrained Maharashtra government approved plans to preserve and renovate monuments and temples in the state, with a total cost of Rs 2,954 crore. Included in this is the green light for a Rs 681.3 crore development plan to preserve the memorial to Ahilyadevi Holkar, a warrior queen from the 18th century, at her birthplace in Chaundi village, Ahilyanagar. The announcement was made at a cabinet



meeting at Ahilyanagar, just in time for the ruler's 300th birthday. The project is scheduled to be finished in three years.

Dedicating yourself to exploring Plans to build seven large pilgrimage centers in the

state totaling 5,503 crore rupees were approved at the same cabinet meeting. A portion of this amount was allocated to the following projects: the Ashtavinayak temples, the Tuljabhavani temple, the Jyotiba temple,

the Trimbakeshwar temple, the Mahalaxmi Mandir, the Mahargad development, and the Mahalaxmi Mandir.

The administration administratively approved four of the seven projects on Wednesday. Included in this is the Rs 147.8 crore Ashtavinayak temples construction plan, which calls for an outlay of 100 crore for the temples itself and 47.4 crore for associated expenses like lighting, architectural consulting, and electrification.



# The District Collector reviewed the preparations made to deal with the floods

- District Collector directed to ensure all necessary arrangements at flood relief centres
- The District Collector directed all nodal officers and Deputy Collectors to maintain order by continuously visiting their respective areas

## Meeting

He has directed the municipal corporation to maintain continuous cleanliness by placing cleaners

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**Prayagraj.** District Collector Manish Kumar Verma held a meeting with officials of all concerned departments in the auditorium of Circuit House on Sunday. He has directed the nodal officers of the flood relief centers to maintain food, water, electricity, sanitation and other necessary arrangements. All Deputy Collectors and other concerned officers have been directed to ensure all necessary arrangements by continuously visiting their respec-



tive areas. He has directed the municipal corporation to maintain continuous cleanliness by placing cleaners on shift duty in the flood relief centres. Similarly, he has asked the District Panchayati Raj Officer to maintain cleanliness in rural areas. He has directed to provide drink-

ing water at the flood relief centres, cleaning mobile toilets and emptying them with suction machines at regular intervals. He has directed the Chief Medical Officer to maintain the team of doctors including all necessary medicines at the flood relief centres. The District Collector

has directed the District Supply Officer to ensure timely supply of food and water to the flood relief centres. He has asked Additional District Collector Supply to ensure permanent deployment of officers shift wise at all flood relief centres. He has directed to ensure provi-

sion of food and drink as well as straw for animals at all flood relief centres. The District Collector has taken information from the Deputy Collector Sadar about the people stranded in the flood affected areas who are not coming to the flood relief centers and directed them to supply food packets and water. The District Collector has directed to ensure availability of dry ration in flood affected villages in rural areas where communication has been cut off and displacement has not occurred. He has directed to ensure 24 hours power supply at all flood relief camps. Chief Development Officer Harshika Singh, Additional District Collectors and officers of other concerned departments were present on the occasion.

## Team working till late night after receiving information of leakage in Mumfordganj sluice gate, located under control

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

**Prayagraj:**

Amidst the floods, panic broke out after learning of a leak in the Mumfordganj sluice gate. On receiving the information, officers of the irrigation department, the six-lane bridge construction agency and MLA Harshvardhan Bajpai also rushed to the spot late at night. Officials said there was no danger although pouring sandbags as a precaution continued till late night. The sluice gate has been closed due to continuous rise in the water level of the Ganga-Yamuna river. A leak was reported in the sluice gate late in the evening after heavy rain during the day on Saturday. On the information of the citizen committee members, MLA Harshvardhan Bajpai, officers of the irrigation department, flood control team and representatives of the company building the six-lane bridge rushed to the spot late at night. It is said that 25 bangles of the gate had to be turned on the spot. It was also rumored that it was the employees who opened the little gate which was closed. The gate was also suspected of being crooked. The work of pouring sand bags continued till late at night.



## Prompt Administrative Response Ensures Safe Rehabilitation of Flood-Affected Families in Semra



Akhand Bharat Sandesh

**Ghazipur :** In response to the crisis triggered by the erosion of the Ganga river in Semra village under the Muhammadabad tehsil of Ghazipur district, the local administration has acted swiftly to initiate relief and rehabilitation efforts. As the water level rose rapidly and the threat of damage escalated, Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Harshita Tiwari inspected the riverbank area and ensured the safe relocation of families affected by the erosion. Following the inspection and considering the seriousness of the situation, 10 families were immediately relocated to the Primary School in Semra.

The administration has arranged all essential facilities for the displaced families, including drinking water, electricity, toi-

lets, medical assistance, and sanitation. The SDM issued clear instructions to the revenue and police department officials, emphasizing, "The safety of the public is our top priority. Any kind of negligence will not be tolerated." She also urged villagers to avoid spreading or believing in rumors and to stay in constant contact with the administration. The affected families appreciated the government's prompt action and compassionate approach. They expressed that the administration's active role during this time of crisis provided them with both relief and reassurance. The proactive and sensitive response by the administration in Semra village has reinforced the belief that in times of disaster, the government stands firmly with its citizens—alert, empathetic, and fully accountable.

## Nature conservation and enhancement is the first duty of every citizen: Yogesh Shukla

**Meja:** On Sunday, BJP leader Yogesh Shukla launched the nature conservation journey and passed through the forest and calf dam in Dari Gram Panchayat and ended at Gaushala at Bhatauti. During the departure and conclusion of the yatra, Shri Shukla said that natural resources like water, forests, land and animals are essential elements for the safe life of the people and therefore their conservation and enhancement is the first duty of every citizen. Under the pressure of population, cities need agricultural land. The scope of agricultural land, is moving towards pas-



tures and fodder needs are being met by forests in such cases, proper management of land must be kept. He said that we also have to take into account that our land is now exhausted in an attempt to overproduce. BJP leader Yogesh Shukla said that forests are not just groups of trees but they are the mother of thousands of living things and medicinal plants. It is worth

mentioning that reaching Bachra Dam, Yogesh Shukla has appealed to the society for restrained use of water. The journey ended at the cowshed at Bhatauti among the cows. Afterwards, Yogesh Shukla said that the entire cow herd is revered for us and all kinds of livestock are useful for our life. All animals deserve our sympathy. He All teachers of the dis-

trict have been requested to try to take the students to such natural resource centers to give them proper knowledge about natural resources in their practical education. Jai Shankar on this occasion of the visit Pandey, Ram Pratap Pandey, Vipin Shukla, Surya Mani Yadav, Nandan Sonkar, Kuldeep Tiwari, Monu Tripathi, Seth Lal Gupta, Hridesh Mishra, Ashish Mishra, Rakesh Shukla, Satyam Tiwari, Sarvesh Pal, Sanjay Gautam, Harikant Pandey, Rakesh Yadav, Kuldeep Kumar, Subhash Dwivedi, Shiv Kaishash Nishad and many others were prominently present.

## Yogi govt steps up flood relief efforts, assists around 48,000 victims

**Lucknow:** Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath is closely monitoring the flood situation in Uttar Pradesh, issuing timely directives to ensure effective relief efforts. Acting on his instructions, state ministers are inspecting affected areas, while Relief Commissioner Bhanu Chandra Goswami informed that floods have impacted 37



tehsils and 402 villages, affecting 84,392 people. Of these, 47,906 have received assistance, and 2,759 animals have

been shifted to safer locations. Currently, 17 districts — including Kanpur, Nagar, Lakhimpur Kheri, Agra,

## Relief

Continuous rainfall impacts 402 villages across 17 UP districts

Auraiya, Chitrakoot, Ballia, Banda, Ghazipur, Mirzapur, Prayagraj, Varanasi, Chandauli, Jalaun, Kanpur, Dehat, Hamirpur, Etawah, and

Fatehpur — are grappling with the impact of flooding. Relief and rescue operations are underway in full swing, with continuous patrolling by NDRF, SDRF, and PAC personnel. Floods have caused damage to 343 homes so far, with compensation already distributed to 327 families.

Over 4,015 hectares of land has also been affected. Relief

supplies are being delivered using 493 boats and motorboats. To support those impacted, 6,536 food packets and 76,632 lunch packets have been distributed so far. Moreover, 29 community kitchens (langars) have been set up to provide fresh meals to the victims. The Yogi government is also prioritizing the well-being of livestock.

## CM reviews flood situation, festive law & order, drone activity

**Lucknow:** Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath held a high-level video conference from his official residence on Sunday evening to review the flood situation, law and order given upcoming festivals, drone activity, the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign, and progress in the Basic Education Department. Ministers in charge of various districts, senior officials, District Magistrates, and Superintendents of Police joined the meeting virtually. During the review, the Chief Minister directed offi-

cials in flood-affected areas to accelerate relief efforts. He interacted directly with officials from several districts to assess the ground situation. Emphasizing the safety of women in flood shelters, he instructed that proper security measures be ensured. The CM also ordered the provision of milk for children and strictly prohibited the use of small or medium-sized boats in rescue operations. He stressed that relief materials and food must be distributed promptly to all affected individuals.

## 160 Flood Outposts Active, Rehabilitation and Relief Operations Ongoing

## Administration on Alert Due to Rising Water Levels in Ghazipur

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**Ghazipur :** Acting on the directives of District Magistrate Avinash Kumar, continuous ground inspections are being conducted in flood-affected areas of the district, particularly in the regions of Sadar, Sevarai, Mohammadabad, Saidpur, and Zamania. Sub-divisional magistrates are actively overseeing the situation in their respective regions. In this context, the SDM of Mohammadabad con-

## Inspections

Residents can report emergencies or request assistance via the control room

ducted an inspection from Semra village, where 10 families were safely relocated to a flood outpost established at the Primary School, Semra-I. During the inspection, arrangements in the flood-affected areas were reviewed both on foot and via boat. The SDM checked the



accessibility routes to villages, safety measures for residents and livestock, and availability of fodder, drinking water, medicines, and other essentials. Instructions were issued to officials for ensuring proper facilities. He informed that 160 flood outposts are currently operational across

the flood-affected areas, with 44 designated flood shelters. Boat deployments include 30 in Saidpur, 80 in Zamania, 61 in Sevarai, 30 in Mohammadabad, 132 in Sadar, and 7 in Kasimabad. Residents can report emergencies or request assistance via the control room at 05482-

224041 and 9454417103. He urged people to ensure that children stay away from floodwaters and encouraged the use of the designated WhatsApp groups to directly communicate issues and concerns. Chief Revenue Officer Ayush Chaudhary also addressed the rising water levels and informed that 7 flood relief centers have been set up, with 40 boats continuously patrolling village peripheries for safety. In areas like Sabbalpur Kala, livestock and residents have been preemptively relo-

cated to safer zones. The shelters are fully equipped to accommodate affected individuals and animals. Preparations across all sub-divisions are complete to ensure the safety and relocation of flood-impacted populations and livestock. Data has already been collected regarding potentially affected families, pregnant women in vulnerable areas, and possible crop damage. This will help ensure that verification and aid distribution can be carried out without delay.



## Editorial

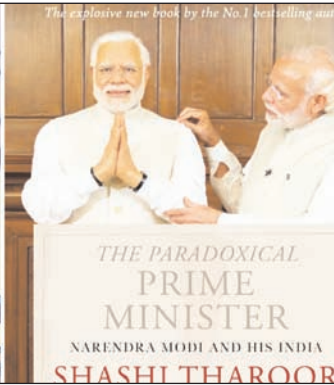
### India's GDP victory over Japan is still a year away

There has been much discussion about the assertions made by BVR Subrahmanyam, the CEO of NITI Aayog, India's only official think tank. Speaking at a press conference following the 10th NITI Aayog Governing Council Meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and presumably attended by senior bureaucrats, Subrahmanyam said that "as I speak", India has overtaken Japan in current dollar GDP. Critics of the government's assertion make two points, one relevant and the other "noisy". The relevant point is that the IMF World Economic Outlook (WEO) database clearly shows that for the fiscal year 2024-25 (ending in March 2025), India's GDP was \$3.9 trillion while Japan's was \$4.0 trillion—that is, Japan was 2.6 per cent ahead. Fortunately, both Japan and India have the same fiscal year—April-March—hence adjustments to WEO data are not needed. Equally clearly, the database presents estimates of India's GDP for fiscal year 2025-26 as \$4.187 trillion and Japan's as \$4.186 trillion—that is, India's GDP exceeds Japan's by 0.02 per cent in 2025-26. From this, many, if not most, analysts have erroneously concluded that this won't happen until March 2026. Why erroneous? Because it is a fiscal year conclusion, and the 'centre of gravity' of an April-March fiscal year is September. So, it is likely that the NITI Aayog CEO, in making his hasty conclusion, was wrong by only four months. As it happens, Subrahmanyam was hasty by approximately a year. Note that his conclusion and inference pertains to current dollar GDP, and we have to contend with the conversion from rupees to US dollars, and from Japanese yen to US dollars. First, let us look at the Indian estimate. Data just released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) on Friday shows that India's GDP in current prices for January-March 2025 quarter was Rs 88.17 trillion, or annualised Rs 352.7 trillion. On 23 May, the last market day before Subrahmanyam's assertion, the exchange rate was Rs 85.4/\$—that is, current GDP in March 2025 was 352.7/85.4 or \$4.13 trillion. Indian nominal GDP is growing by about 10 per cent a year. So, by March 2026, we should expect current India GDP to reach \$4.54 trillion. Now we examine the fortunes of Japan's GDP. The seasonally adjusted quarterly estimate of Japan's GDP is 624.9 trillion yen for Q1 of 2025. On 23 May, the exchange rate was 142.6 yen/\$; hence Japan's GDP in March 2025 was \$4.38 trillion, some 6.1 per cent ahead of India's GDP on the same date. Given that exchange rates change every day, we need to decide as to what exchange rate we should use. Amongst many, we can use a calendar year estimate, a quarterly estimate or a 23 May estimate. But no matter which one we use, it will be wrong because exchange rates do not remain constant, and the future is not asked to see, que sera sera. All of us are concerned with the 23 May estimate, hence the discussion and this note. Japan's nominal GDP growth has averaged 3.4 per cent for the last three years. Assuming this to be the average for 2025-26, the estimate for March 2026 is \$4.53 trillion GDP (as  $4.38 \times 1.034$ ). So it will be sometime in March 2026 that India's GDP will exceed Japan's in current dollars. Again, que sera sera, the conclusion will depend on what happens to exchange rates. Changes in exchange rates affect nominal dollar GDP calculations. Assume in March 2026 all estimates come true except the \$ yen exchange rate changes from 142.7 to 135 (the yen has become stronger by 5.7 per cent), then Japan's GDP will be 5.7 per cent higher and the day of decision will be delayed beyond March 2026. How do we interpret the dash to conclusion by the CEO? As a sports junkie, I recall countless occasions over the last 50 years when a sprinter looked over his shoulder to see his competitor – and lost the race. What do we learn from this data-heavy exercise?



## Tharoor's loyalty keeps colliding with Congress scepticism

"Would you be interested in contesting for the post of (UN) Secretary-General?" It's a question that then-Prime Minister Manmohan Singh asked Shashi Tharoor in New York in 2005. Tharoor, who was serving as the United Nations Under-Secretary-General, would later admit that Singh's question caught him a little off guard. Having served in various capacities at the UN since 1978, Tharoor felt that his "entire working life had seemed like a preparation" for the organisation's top post. Yet, he had no reason to believe that New Delhi was ready to back such a bid on his behalf, at least not at the time. India did eventually nominate him, albeit after a delay, for the position in mid-2006. Tharoor lost to Ban Ki-moon of South Korea, whose government mounted an aggressive campaign for its candidate. It was, however, the United States that emerged as the biggest stumbling block to Tharoor's candidacy. "Three factors—the bilateral relationship with Korea, a perception of a lack of conviction on India's part, and the Bush Administration's desire not to repeat the Kofi Annan experiment of a 'strong' Secretary-General—combined to ensure the US veto that scuttled my candidacy," he wrote in Open magazine in 2016. Two decades later, in a classic twist of irony, Tharoor finds himself embroiled in a controversy tinged with diplomatic hues. The same Congress party that once championed his bid for the highest seat in global diplomacy is now glum over the Centre naming him as the leader of a multi-party delegation visiting various world capitals on Operation Sindoor. His UN battle lost in



2006, Tharoor started spending more time in India and found a home in the Congress party, which offered him the post of Minister of State for External Affairs after his first Lok Sabha victory from Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, in the 2009 general elections. Tharoor continues to retain the seat, winning four elections on the trot. In 2015, Tharoor claimed that when he was still considering his options after the UN stint, he had also received offers to join the BJP and the Left. But he chose the Congress because, as he explained in 2009, "I have nothing economically in common with the ideology of the Left and Communist parties. Those who have followed my writing for years know that I have nothing in common with the communalism that has been unfortunately encouraged by people associated with the Bharatiya Janata Party... and that basically means the Congress party." Nevertheless, Tharoor's loyalty to the Congress has remained suspect in the eyes of a section of party leaders from the beginning. His words of praise for Narendra Modi just days after the Congress' drubbing in the 2014 general elections marked the beginning of a series of statements over the last decade that cemented

this perception. In a HuffPost article, Tharoor wrote that just as Modi "remade himself from a hate-figure into an avatar of modernity and progress, he is seeking to remake the BJP from a vehicle of Hindu chauvinism to a natural party of governance." He continued: "For an opposition member of Parliament like myself, it would be churlish not to acknowledge Modi 2.0's inclusive outreach and to welcome his more conciliatory statements and actions. The moment he says or does something divisive or sectarian in the Modi 1.0 mould, however, we will resist him robustly. India's people, and its pluralist democracy, deserve no less." Following criticism from his party colleagues, Tharoor reaffirmed his commitment to the Congress and the principles of secularism in a letter to the party's communication department. "By praising him (Modi) for specific things, we help frame public expectation of his continued behaviour and raise the bar against which we will judge him in future," he wrote. However, it did little to dispel the growing perception of Tharoor as a misfit within the Congress. As Congress general secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh told a press huddle last month, "Congress mein hona aur Congress ka hona

mein zameen aasman ka antar hai" (There is a major difference between being in the Congress and being of the Congress). At the same time, the Congress leadership agrees that any disciplinary action against Tharoor will likely backfire. "His popular appeal, especially in urban India, is not lost on the party," a senior Congress leader told ThePrint when asked whether the party was considering action against Tharoor. His standing has also risen at a time when Kerala, his home state, is heading to the polls in less than a year. As it is, a section of the party close to the Congress high command was miffed with Tharoor for accepting the Centre's invitation to lead a multi-party delegation on Operation Sindoor without first seeking the leadership's concurrence. His public statements during the trip have only deepened the rift. On 29 May, addressing a gathering of the Indian community in Panama, Tharoor said that in 2016 "for the first time, India breached the Line of Control between India and Pakistan to conduct a surgical strike on a terror base." "Even during the Kargil War, we had not crossed the LoC; in Uri we did. Then came the attack in Pulwama... this time we crossed not only the LoC but [also] the international border and we struck terrorist headquarters in Balakot."

"And let me say to you that this is going to be the new normal. The PM has made it very clear that Operation Sindoor was necessary because these terrorists came and wiped the sindoor off the foreheads of 26 women," he said. These remarks riled up the Congress leadership so much so that it endorsed statements by party

functionary Udit Raj, known for his controversial remarks, that Tharoor should consider becoming a BJP spokesperson. Tharoor hit back, dismissing such critics as "zealots" and "trolls". Congress spokesperson Pawan Khera, considered close to Rahul Gandhi, promptly produced excerpts from Tharoor's own book to highlight the contradiction in his position. In his 2018 book *The Paradoxical Prime Minister*, Tharoor had pointed out that the Congress, while in the government, had authorised many cross-border surgical strikes, but did not exploit them politically—an assertion that countered his statement that India under Modi crossed the LoC "for the first time" in 2016. "The shameless exploitation of the 2016 'surgical strikes' along the Line of Control with Pakistan, and of a military raid in hot pursuit of rebels in Myanmar, as a party election tool—something the Congress had never done despite having authorized several such strikes earlier—marked a particularly disgraceful dilution of the principle that national security issues require both discretion and non-partisanship," Tharoor wrote in the book. Currently in Colombia, Tharoor is yet to respond to Khera.

However, a tweet made by him in 2018 to introduce his book remains instructive. "My new book, *THE PARADOXICAL PRIME MINISTER*, is more than just a 400-page exercise in floccinaucinihilipilification," Tharoor had posted, emphasising that the book was more than just a critique of the prime minister. Perhaps Khera should take note.

### Orthodox Russia doesn't take orders from the Pope. Vatican can't convince Putin for a ceasefire

Russia's rejection of Vatican-led ceasefire talks with Ukraine should come as a surprise only to those who are ignorant of the historic animosity between the two religious institutions, the Vatican and the Russian Orthodox Church. Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov's clarification that it is a little 'awkward' for Orthodox countries to discuss issues on a Catholic platform should put at rest all efforts initiated by US President Donald Trump. The election of the hitherto unknown Robert Francis Prevost, a quiet lawyer-bishop with years of experience in Church matters, as the vicar of Jesus Christ, the first American Pope, does not change the ground realities of the Russia-Ukraine conflict. Patriarch Kirill of Moscow, head of the Russian Orthodox Church (ROC), did not attend the funeral of Pope Francis, though the two held a meeting in 2016 in Cuba, after almost 10 centuries of schism. There is no reason why Pope Leo XIV would broker peace between Russian President

Vladimir Putin and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy just because the president of America wants him to do it. Trump's idea of involving the Papal office in the Vatican, the highest seat of the Catholic Church, in the ceasefire talks was a blunder for several reasons. Russia's Russian Orthodox Church (ROC) and the Roman Catholic Church have been at loggerheads for over ten centuries, probably right from 988 when Grand Prince Vladimir was baptised. The theological split first appeared in 1054 when the then Pope Leo IX of Rome excommunicated Patriarch Michael Cerularius of Constantinople, who responded with his own excommunication of the Bishop of Rome, Pope Leo IX. The October Revolution of 1917 further alienated the two Christian faiths, even as Moscow under the brutal atheist regime of Vladimir Lenin and Joseph Stalin stifled religious freedom. After deriding religion as the 'opium of the masses.'

### Bangladesh Army Chief wants elections. Muhammad Yunus wants to get rid of him

Among military chiefs in the Indian subcontinent, Bangladesh Army chief Waker-Uz-Zaman must have the most unenviable job right now. While his Pakistan counterpart Asim Munir has been elevated to Field Marshal after a military confrontation with India, General Waker-Uz-Zaman risks losing his job. Or worse. His one big mistake? Saying that the national election be held by December this year so that Bangladesh can return to being an electoral democracy. On 22 May, The Daily Star, Bangladesh's highest-selling English newspaper, reported that Chief of Army Staff General Waker-Uz-Zaman said the national election should be held by December this year, "according to three sources with direct knowledge of his remarks made at a high-level gathering in Dhaka cantonment". "Bangladesh needs political stability. This is only possible through an elected government, not by unelected decision-makers," one source quoted the army chief as saying in an Officers' Address. This was not the first time the General had spoken about the national election. The Daily Star report mentioned an

event marking the National Martyred Army Day at Raowa Club on 25 February this year, where the General was quoted as saying—"Every time I spoke with Dr Yunus, I completely agreed with him that there should be a free, fair, and inclusive election and that the election should be held within December or close to that." Soon after, reports that Muhammad Yunus, caretaker to the interim government in Bangladesh, was mulling resignation came out. "He (Yunus) said he is thinking about it (resignation). He feels that the situation is such that he cannot work," Nahid Islam, student-led National Citizen Party chief, said on the night of 22 May, after a meeting with Yunus. Two days later, on 24 May, it was clarified that Yunus would remain as the head of Bangladesh's interim government by an adviser in his cabinet. Former High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh Veena Sikri claimed that the speculation about Yunus resigning was "complete drama" to distract from the Bangladesh Army chief's statement on elections. "He had no intention of resigning at all, and in fact, he

never said himself that he would resign," the former High Commissioner said in an interview. But this "complete drama" generated hate towards Yunus's perceived detractors, the main target being General Waker-Uz-Zaman. Students, radicals, and some of Bangladesh's most popular and influential YouTubers openly attacked the army chief. Bangladeshi journalist Sahidul Hasan Khokon told ThePrint that both the student-led, newly formed political party National Citizen Party and the Islamist political outfit Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami have been busy channelising mob rage against General Waker.

"The local media is not reporting this, but the mob is ready. If need be, there will be violent street protests against the Army, like there were during the July revolution against Hasina when the mob turned against the police and killed many policemen," Hasan said. Hasan added that Jamaat had got a free rein ever since Yunus took over and the new student's party will need more time to organise itself. Hence, December polls, as suggested by General Waker, would suit neither.

## India May Be Barking Up The Wrong Tree As It Takes On Pakistan In IMF

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) approved the disbursement of another \$1 billion to Pakistan under its latest Extended Fund Facility (EFF), reinstating Pakistan's dependence on international bailouts. As a country with a high dependence on imported oil, whenever oil prices hike or international borrowing declines, Islamabad's reserves take a further hit. Since 1958, whenever this occurs, Pakistan has approached the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for a bailout approximately every three years, seeking to save its economy under the condition of improving macroeconomic indicators. While the role of the IMF has been minimal in reforming Pakistan's governance, its fund facilities have stabilised the economy from falling into the pit grave. However, the key question remains: have IMF bailouts inadvertently enabled an environment to facilitate terror financing? If so, should India try to block IMF funds to Pakistan? Contrary to popular imagination, the IMF's role is distinct, and its programmes impose strict conditions that

compel Islamabad to demonstrate some accountability in governance and economic management. And India needs an accountable Pakistan. While the IMF can serve as a platform for India to signal its displeasure and apply international diplomatic pressure following the Pahalgam attack on April 22 by alleged Pakistan-backed terrorists, a more effective route to achieving strategic objectives would be to target terror financing networks and financial opacity through the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), the global watchdog on

money laundering and terror financing, where reports suggest India is already preparing to build a robust case against Pakistan. Persistent macroeconomic imbalances have led to a state of massive public debt, with the country facing massive external debt repayment dues. The Pakistani economy has structural weaknesses, from a narrow tax base to low productivity. Islamabad is also extremely dependent on imported energy, with energy imports accounting for 20 to 40 % of total imports. Of the previous 25 IMF programmes.

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## Delhi disbands school management committees

**Delhi:** The Directorate of Education (DoE) in Delhi has ordered the immediate dissolution of all school management committees (SMC) in government and government-aided schools. A circular states that committees would be reconstituted on May 9 through new elections. A school-level election committee managed by the head of school and supported by a teacher convener would elect new SMCs in each school, according to the circular. Due to an apparent cost hike, parents are frustrated and protesting. When SMCs should have addressed such concerns, many parents blamed mismanagement.

"The responsible authority dissolved all school management committees for government and government-aided schools of the Directorate of Education, GNCT of Delhi, immediately. The circular states



that a school-level SMC election committee, led by the school's head and assisted by its teacher convener, would hold elections to form a new SMC. Several DoE guidelines were issued. The new SMC shall comprise at least 50% women and representation from marginalized groups including Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes, and Economically Weaker Sections. The elected parents will choose a vice-chairperson. The SMC will also invite three social science, science, and math instructors as special invitees.

### Hindu University establishes public policy institute

**Delhi:** Hindu College at Delhi University has set itself apart from other Indian universities by creating a public policy lab. Officials have stated that the goal is to include real-world policymaking into both undergraduate and graduate programs. With the goal of democratizing and decentralizing the process of knowledge generation, the lab is designed to serve as a hub for policy simulations, applied research, and field-based insights. This will bring

## School rules protected kids from the heat

**Delhi:** As Delhi temperatures rise, schools have released new heat rules to safeguard pupils. New heat-reduction measures at schools have been added by the DOE. DOE requires "no classes be conducted in open-air environments" and no afternoon assemblies to protect kids. It ordered schools to cancel outside activities until the weather improves. Schools must always provide clean drinking water to emphasize hydration. The DOE requires planned water breaks and RO system and water cooler maintenance. Schools are required to ventilate



and have working fans in classrooms for comfort.

According to the DOE directive, all corridors must have fire extinguishers for fire safety. It has also advised schools to teach children to cover their heads in the sun, especially while commuting. It further states that "no student, parent, or

staff member shall stay or sit in open or exposed areas under direct sunlight." Health readiness is paramount. Any heat-related disease must be treated immediately. First aid packs should include oral rehydration for sick pupils. It requires reporting all heat-related illnesses to the nearest hospital.

## Global democracy has changed: Rahul

**Delhi:** Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said democratic politics have changed worldwide and that a decade-old rule no longer applies. The Lok Sabha Leader of Opposition argued that old political techniques are no longer effective against the modern concentration of capital, media, and social media. Gandhi stated the exist-

ing political leadership paradigm is "obsolete" and a new style of leadership must be built. Reclaiming democratic spaces and reinventing priorities like healthcare are the real challenges. "The modern concentration of capital, media, and social media overwhelms old tools. He claimed the traditional political model is anti-

quated and a new leadership style is needed. He said the Congress felt "trapped and isolated" in a political climate that no longer permitted it to operate freely, which led him to the "Bharat Jodo Yatra". The party felt confined and isolated some years ago. These new, aggressive politics aim to crush the opposition without talking.

## NEET-UG on May 4 amid malpractice prevention measures

**Delhi:** The National Testing Agency will hold NEET (Undergraduate) 2025 at 5,500 exam centres in India and abroad, up from 4,750 in 571 cities last year. The test will be held in 552 Indian and 14 overseas cities this year. The education ministry has tasked 180 central entities with checking center readiness. Assam's CM Himanta Biswa Sarma requested that all centers be at government-run institutions. Several cities have expanded due to candidates' first-choice center allocations. NTA officials say 90% of the centers are at government-run Kendriya Vidyalayas, Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas, and state schools. The datesheet for CUET-UG 2025, starting May 8, is still pending. After paperleak claims and widespread complaints about NEET-UG 2024, NTA organized state- and district-level logistics and security committees. The NTA consulted district magistrates (DMS), superintendents of police (SPs), and senior local officials before choosing exam centers. They and district coordinators will oversee operations to ensure smoothness.



## A survey on cybersecurity activities for curriculum design and education

**Delhi:** As our technological era progresses, cyber attacks have emerged as a major issue. Cybersecurity experts who can identify, stop, react to, or lessen the impact of cyberattacks are in great demand as a result of this problem. Nevertheless, there is a severe lack of trained cybersecurity experts around the globe. Many new cybersecurity education programs have emerged to meet this challenge; for example, computer science graduate programs.

## Capital sees the debut of Dola and Rahul's archery academy.

**Delhi:** The archery ground of the Sports Authority of India, which is part of the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium complex, was inaugurated by the Banerjee brothers, Dola and Rahul, who are Indian Olympians. The siblings intend to continue their fight to overcome India's Olympic medal drought in recurve archery even when they retire, and their academy will be the first of its type in the nation's capital. Archers Atanu Das and Deepika Kumari are moving forward with their goals. As the Indian team prepares to depart for Shanghai for the second stage of the World Cup, which will take place from May 6 to 11, the pair was in attendance for the inauguration. After the Paris Olympics, Deepika and Atanu began training at



Rahul's academy in Kolkata, he announced. No other archery academy here is headed by former Olympians. Learning from their experience is the nicest part of this academy, and it's one of a kind. Their insights, both conceptual and practical, have proven invaluable. Atanu and

Deepika are getting ready for the World Championships in Gwangju, South Korea, from September 5 to 12, and Deepika mentioned that both Dola didi and Rahul are up-to-date on the newest news and bring a fresh perspective to solving technical problems.

### NTA offers a paper leak reporting portal

**Delhi:** The NTA launched an internet website to report dubious NEET (UG) 2025 medical entrance exam allegations. This campaign follows the 2024 NEET-UG exam fiasco, which included question paper leaks and cheating in various states. NTA advised candidates to avoid fake claims in its publication. The organization cautioned candidates not to be deceived by unscrupulous elements who commit malpractice and make false claims. NTA Director General Pradeep Singh Kharola said candidates can report suspicious activities in three categories unauthorised websites or social media accounts claiming access to NEET question paper.

**Delhi:** The Directorate of Education has ordered all schools, including government, aided, private, and those under local bodies like the Municipal Corporation of Delhi and Municipal Council, to screen every student for 21 types of disabilities as defined by the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016. The Prashast mobile app and checklist instruct teachers to look for overt and subtle symptoms of difficul-



ties in pupils, such as bad handwriting, trouble making eye contact, lack of direction, and being lost in an imaginary world. Early disability identification, support, and inclusive education are the main goals. Teachers will learn how to utilize the app and record observations. Parents must

give a no-objection certificate before screening a youngster. Screening-identified disabilities will be evaluated by experts. School-level screening must end by July 25 and district coordinators must receive final reports including class-wise and consolidated data by July 31.

## Implications for management education in the creation and validation of a scale measuring student well-being in higher education

**Delhi:** In the increasingly stressful world of higher education, students' physical, mental, and social health are all part of what is known as student well-being (SWB). The higher education sector is confronted with the increasing difficulty of preserving and improving SWB in the face of excessive workloads, unmet expectations, and uncertainty around degree completion and employment. The current tools for evaluating SWB are too narrow in scope to adequately represent its complex character. Our research fills this need by creating and validating a multi-dimensional scale that accurately measures SWB's subtleties using a rigorous multi-study, multi-method, and multi-



sample strategy. Generation, purification, refinement, validation, and generalizability were the five systematic steps that made up this process. The outcome is a five-factor SWB scale that offers a comprehensive instrument for assessing and enhancing SWB in academic settings. These dimensions include academic, financial, physical, psychological resilience, and relational well-

### DU teachers raise issues of unoccupied reserved seats

**Delhi:** Teachers from Delhi University brought up issues with professor recruitment in front of a Parliamentary Committee, claiming that the SC/ST populations were marginalized on a systematic level. Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

## Doctors want standardization and oppose service bond policy after course completion

### The Delhi government has adopted a one-year bond program for doctors

**Delhi:** Long regarded as a suitable area for doctors to practice in medical institutions and hospitals after MBBS/MS/MD courses, it gave service-bond-free status and other benefits. The Delhi government has adopted a one-year bond program for doctors, who will face significant financial penalties if they fail. Doctors are angry about the government bond notification. Delhi doctors want the policy revoked or regularized. An anonymous senior health ministry official states, "Health



services like bond policy, working hours, and salary come under the state administration. Doctor bond measures have been strongly opposed by the NMC advisory. State governments make the final decision."

Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Kerala, Goa, West Bengal, Assam, Andaman and Nicobar

Islands, Arunachal Pradesh, and others have implemented service bond policies with different bond tenures. Dr. BN Gangadhar, Bengaluru NMC chairman, said the NMC can only advise states on bond policy. State governments impose bonds for numerous reasons. NMC wants to of doctors in the country so that the healthcare sector, even peripheral states, has enough qualified doctors and states can eliminate the mandatory bond policy.

## In order to incorporate AI across all academic streams, the AICTE has formed an expert group

**Delhi:** The formation of an expert committee by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) is a major development in the field of technical education in India. The committee's mandate is to help various academic programs, not limited to computer science degrees, incorporate AI and applied AI. Leading AI professionals from IITs and NITs are part of the committee, which is chaired by Anand Deshpande, managing director of Persistent Systems. The goal of the move is to encourage the lateral expansion of AI in several streams, including BBA, BCA, electrical engineering, and others. "We are forming a committee to introduce AI laterally across all programs, especially Applied AI," stated AICTE Chairman Prof. TG Sitharam. "The goal is to integrate AI and related courses into all academic programs so that students from all walks of life can learn the basics of AI and data analytics."

## A professor from IIT Delhi to head up IIM Lucknow

**Delhi:** The directorship of the Indian Institute of Management in Lucknow is anticipated to be assumed by a professor from the Indian Institute of Technology in Delhi (IIT-D). (Department of IIM-L). The esteemed management school will likely be led by an IIT professor for the first time. Though the official announcement has not been made yet, it has been learned that the nomination of Prof. MP Gupta has been approved by the board of governors of IIM-L.



## In a joint venture, Ambani and Adani will sell transportation fuel

**Delhi :** In a joint statement, Adani Total Gas Ltd and Jio-bp, an arm of Reliance Industries Ltd, announced their partnership to sell auto fuel at select outlets. Certain ATGL outlets will offer Jio-bp's gasoline and diesel, while Jio-bp outlets will incorporate ATGL's compressed natural gas (CNG) dispensers. "This partnership will enable us to leverage each other's infrastructure, thus enhancing customer experience and offerings," said Suresh P. Manglani, executive director and CEO of Adani Total Gas. After Reliance bought a 26% interest in an Adani Power project in Madhya Pradesh, the two opposing billionaires teamed together again. "We are united by a shared vision to offer our customers a superior selection of high-quality fuels," stated Jio-bp chairman Sarthak



Behuria. "The partnership between RIL and the Adani Group is anticipated to be extremely complementary, providing substantial operational advantage via their combined physical presence," stated Nirav Karkera, head of research at Fisdcom. A more holistic consumer experience is the goal of the relationship, which is why both companies are offering complementary items.

Both parties stand to benefit from this partnership, which is especially noteworthy in an industry where state-run corporations predominate.

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

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

## JioHotstar Reaches 300 Million Subscribers, Closer to Netflix

**Delhi:** JioHotstar, a worldwide OTT player from India, is closing in on Netflix's subscriber dominance. JioCinema and Disney+Hotstar now have 300 million users, up from 50 million in February 2025 after the 2025 TATA IPL. The 2025 Indian Premier League season greatly impacted JioHotstar's client base. It rose from 50 million subscribers in February to 280 million by May and 300 million currently. Digital viewership overtook television for the first time, causing tremendous development. Digital reach was 652 million versus 537 million TV viewers. The final IPL 2025 match



received 237 million digital viewers and 189 million TV viewers. Along with user growth, the platform broke revenue records.

Jiostar, the parent company of JioHotstar, announced that the 2025 IPL had the largest advertising and subscrip-

tion revenue. Historically, league rights were auctioned for 23,575 crore for TV and 20,500 crore for digital over 5 years, indicating great value. The IPL's peak internet viewership was 55.2 million and TV viewing time was 514 billion minutes.

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

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

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

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

## JSW to acquire Dulux Paints for 9,000 crore

**Delhi :** JSW Paints will buy 75% of Dulux-owner Akzo Nobel's India operations for Rs 9,407 crore (\$1.1 billion), the sector's biggest purchase amid rising competition. JSW Paints, founded by steel tycoon Sajjan Jindal in 2019, will become the fourth largest participant in the sector, controlled by Asian Paints, Berger Paints, and Kansai Nerolac. Aditya Birla Group launched Birla Opus in 2024. According to Indian takeover legislation, JSW Paints would openly offer Rs 3,929 crore to Akzo Nobel India's public stockholders for a 25% stake. Public shareholders would



receive Rs 3,418 per share in the open offer, while JSW Paints will pay the Dutch firm Rs 2,762.

Based on the open offer response, JSW Paints would buy enough shares from the Dutch company to maintain 75% ownership in

Akzo Nobel India. JSW Paints, part of the \$23-billion JSW Group, will market Akzo Nobel India after the purchase, with the Dutch corporation perhaps remaining a public shareholder.

### Birla Co. recovers Rs 2 crore in stolen digital gold

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

## The BSE was fined 25L for the unfair distribution of corporate information

**Delhi :** According to Delhi, the 45-page SEBI order confirmed that the BSE's system design allowed paying clients and the internal listing compliance monitoring (LCM) staff to view business announcements ahead of schedule. Prior to the information being made public on its website, this occurred. Because there were no measures in place to ensure that all stakeholders had equal and contemporaneous access to the data, the regulator deemed this to be a breach of norms. To keep information



inequality at bay and guarantee fair markets, this is crucial. After reviewing the Securities Contracts (Regulation) SECC (Stock Exchange and Clearing Corporations Regulations, 2018), SEBI determined that BSE had broken Regulation 39(3). All users must have fair and transparent access for stock exchanges to

comply with the rules. Additionally, the regulator brought attention to the fact that BSE neglected to establish a really basic syndication (RSS) feed, which would have mitigated the possibility of unequal access to corporate filings. Inspections revealed gaps, but BSE just created a time gap to fix the problem, according to SEBI. The regulator also pointed out significant problems with BSE's oversight of client code updates, which are permitted only for legitimate mistakes.

## NHAI to blacklist FASTags 'kept in hand', seeks details from toll operators

**Delhi:** Drivers who don't fix their FASTags on the windshield of their vehicles will face permanent blacklisting of tags, a measure taken in view of the malpractice of people handing out "loose or unfixed tags" for payment of highway-user fee, which leads to congestion at toll plaza lanes and sometimes altercations with toll collectors. The NHAI company dealing with toll collection and management of highways, IHMCL, has asked federations of toll collectors, highway builders and operators to report such cases for quick action. "Tags-in-hand" have been categorised as "loose tags". Despite repeated advisories against the practice there have been several cases of people handing out FASTag at toll gates for deduction



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

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

of user fee. In letters addressed to these federations, IHMCL said, "This leads to lane-level congestion due to manual handling and viola-

tion issues, misuse in closed-loop tolling operations, generation of false chargeback demands and overall disruption.

## GST compensation fund likely to have 95k cr surplus

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



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

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

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

## 1 in 5 Indians with over Rs 5 crore worth plans to relocate overseas

**Delhi:** One in five ultra-rich Indians with a net worth over Rs 25 crore plans to settle abroad for investment opportunities, tax advantages, and greater global connectivity, according to a Kotak Mahindra Bank private banking survey. The first two quarters of 2024-25 survey interviewed 150 ultra-high networth people (UHNIs) and private bankers in 12 cities. EY ordered and validated the findings with industry. For this report, those worth over Rs 25 crore were canvassed.



However, Kotak's private banking division targets individuals worth over Rs 300 crore. Many UHNIs buy abroad property for migration and permanent residency. "Ultra-HNIs are diversifying their portfolios and embracing domestic and global assets, setting the stage for a sig-

nificant increase. Alternative assets and equities are becoming more popular in domestic and international markets. Nearly a third of India's Ultra-HNIs own worldwide assets. With two in three ultra-HNIs planning structured wealth transition, succession planning is crucial.

### JB Chemicals' promoter KKR will sell 10% of the company for 2,6k crore rupees

**Delhi:** In a series of block agreements, the promoter of JB Chemicals — Tau Investment Holdings, a subsidiary of global private equity giant KKR — is selling around 1.6 crore shares, or 10.2% of the firm, for approximately Rs 2,575 crore (\$300 million). According to the deal's term sheet, the minimum price at which the shares can be sold is Rs 1,625—a 5%

reduction to JB Chem's closing price of Rs 1,709 on Wednesday on the NSE. Shareholding reports on the BSE indicate that as of December 31, 2024, KKR owned 53.7% of the pharmaceutical company situated in the city. Midway through 2020, at a share price of Rs 745, the PE giant had taken over the pharmaceutical manufacturer.



## CM Rekha visit at Sessions House amid mansion search

**Delhi:** Chief minister Rekha Gupta's recent visit to Sessions House, a lovely home in north Delhi's Civil Lines neighborhood, has alarmed judicial personnel. Gupta is looking for government housing. She visited the British-era cottage at 2 North End Road. Tis Hazari Court, the chief district and sessions judge, is renovating the enormous building. "The judiciary reveres Sessions House bungalow. Treating district courts this way is wrong. "Respect and preserve this house's legacy," stated a district court senior judge. Sessions House sits on nearly two acres and features a seminar and judicial hall, six-room residence complex, servant quarters, and grounds. According to a top Delhi government official, CM Gupta has considered numerous government bungalows over the past few weeks but has not decided on her



### ONLY 45% OF CAPITAL BWG COMPOST WET WASTE

**Delhi:** The MCD has identified Bulk Waste Generators (BWGs), which include large establishments like hospitals, hotels, and commercial buildings, as crucial in managing wet waste. A significant portion of Delhi's solid waste is wet waste, which, if properly managed through composting, can reduce the volume of landfill waste. The MCD has a

official abode. Gupta's predecessor, Atishi, lived in the AB-17, Mathura Road home during her brief term as chief minister,

responsibility to ensure the proper disposal of solid waste, including wet waste. The city generates a substantial amount of solid waste daily (around 11,000 tonnes), but only a portion of it is processed. The Supreme Court has criticized the MCD for its failure to implement the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016.

but AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal received a huge property at 6, Flagstaff Road in Civil Lines. image.png

## Former Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal seeks NOC to renew passport

**Delhi :** Former Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has moved a Delhi court seeking a no-objection certificate (NOC) to renew his expired passport. Kejriwal, who is currently an accused in the Delhi excise policy case, has requested a 10-year renewal. His passport expired in 2018. Special Judge Dig Vinay Singh of the Rouse Avenue Court issued notices to the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), asking them to file their replies when the matter is scheduled for next hearing. At the same hearing, the CBI informed the court that it



was prepared to begin arguments on framing charges in the corruption case related to the now-defunct Delhi Excise Policy for 2021-22. The CBI is handling the corruption investigation, while the ED is probing the linked money laundering allegations under the same FIR. In a separate but related development, the Delhi High

Court granted permission to businessman Amit Arora — another accused in the same case, to travel to Dubai between June 6 and June 16. Arora, director of Gurugram-based Buddy Retail Pvt Ltd, had requested the court to allow him to travel, citing the need for medical treatment for himself and his minor son.

## About 18% of Indians can report e-crimes

**Delhi:** Indian internet usage is reaching saturation, but only 18% of Indians know how to report cybercrimes, a government survey released found. Smartphone and mobile data use is higher among younger people. Despite frequent use (most respondents used the internet everyday), the poll found that even

young people struggle to create documents and presentations for school and work. However, the gender difference in mobile and internet use, excluding online transactions, is shrinking. The National Statistics Office's Comprehensive Modular Survey: Telecom (CMS: Telecom) of 34,950 homes in January-March 2025

produced these trends. NSO released the survey results on May 29. NSO last collected data on mobile phone and internet use in the Comprehensive Annual Modular Survey (CAMS) in July 2022-June 2023, which surveyed 3,02,086 households and posed questions about education and financial inclusion.

## Supreme Court approves south Delhi ridge group housing project

**Delhi :** The Supreme Court-appointed Central Empowered Committee (CEC) has approved a group housing project in Vasant Kunj Sector B, Pocket 1 in south Delhi for final approval. CEC stated none of the 23 trees on the proposed project site are being cut, even though 85% of it—4,553 sqm out of 5,353 sqm—is in the morphological ridge, a zone with the same legal safeguards as Delhi's designated ridge areas. CEC further reported to the highest court on May 14 that the area, while part of the morphological ridge, is flat and surrounded by DDA residential development. A private developer is oversee-



ing the project and must not cut or move any trees. CEC inspected 23 trees and found 19 healthy, three dried out, and one rehabilitated after falling.

The assessment stated that the project proponent must

plant 500 indigenous trees, 250 along internal routes and 250 along the project's boundary, to compensate for tree destruction. It said a 385-metre-long green barrier must be installed around the site's boundaries.

### Delhi Medical Council informs HC on public awareness campaign

**Delhi:** In response to rising fears of quack medicine and unlicensed practitioners in the nation's capital, the Delhi Medical Council (DMC) has notified the Delhi high court of various methods by which residents can confirm the legitimacy of their physicians. These include scanning QR codes on displayed certificates and making use of the online verification tools that the DMC provides on its website. In December 2023, counsel Sachin Jain petitioned the court, bringing up the issue.

## Over 14 lakh car drivers received traffic challans in 4.5 months

**Delhi :** Car drivers are the top traffic violators in Delhi this year, according to Delhi Police. Between January 1 and May 15, 14,11,801 drivers were cited for traffic violations, topping the list. In contrast, two-wheeler drivers earned 12,72,898 challans, 11% fewer than vehicle drivers. Despite the huge number of two-wheelers on Delhi's roadways, private automobile drivers broke 211.4% more traffic laws than business vans or cars. The report reached Delhi Police headquarters. A senior traffic



police officer noticed that vehicle drivers committed 54.48% more traffic offenses than two-wheelers in 2024. However, the first four-and-a-half months of 2025 show a diminishing margin. While 7,626 HGVs and 7,207 rural vehicles were penalized within the same period, they were the most disciplined

road users. Compared to 29,010 MGCV challans last year, 32,25,769 car drivers were fined in 2024. Other vehicle categories had many violations this year. Commercial vehicles and cars earned 4,53,363 challans, while auto-rickshaws got 3,10,712. LGVs received 2,17,565 challans and HTVs 21,600.

## DDA starts third housing scheme of year

**Delhi :** The Delhi Development

Authority (DDA) opened bookings for its 'Apna Ghar Awaas Yojana 2025' housing program, offering 7,500 apartments in Narela, Loknayakpuram, and Siraspur. The first day, May 27, saw 452 units rented in Narela, including 209 EWS, 136 LIG, 3 MIG, and 6 HIG. As well, 37 LIG and 48 MIG units were booked in Loknayakpuram and 13 in Siraspur. The program offers 564 LIG flats in Siraspur, 150 LIG and 96 MIG in Loknayakpuram, and 694 EWS, 5,384 LIG, 386 MIG, and 226 HIG in Narela. The residential flats have 15%–25% discounts across all categories. LIG flats in Loknayakpuram



, Narela, and Siraspur would be 25% off, and EWS, MIG, and HIG flats in Narela and Loknayakpuram will be 15% off "Officials added. All Indian citizens 18 and older can participate in the first-come, first-served policy. Registrations close August 26, with possible extensions. Online bookings on the DDA website cost Rs 50,000 for EWS flats, Rs 1 lakh for LIG, Rs 4 lakh for MIG, and Rs 10 lakh for HIG.

### 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.

## South Asia's 'largest' battery energy storage system opened in Kilokari, Delhi

**Delhi:** At Kilokari on Delhi Power Minister Ashish Sood launched South Asia's "largest" 20-MW battery energy storage system (BESS). According to BRPL, the system is India's "first commercially approved" utility-scale energy storage system and will improve electricity supply in South Delhi, which has over one lakh inhabitants. The 20-MW (40 MWh) BESS at the BRPL substation in Kilokari is South Asia's "largest" utility-scale system, it stated. It stated the energy storage system can



provide up to four hours of reliable daily power — two hours each day and night — to over one lakh inhabitants in South Delhi's densely populated Kilokari neighborhood. According to the statement, the system improves power supply, grid stability, power purchase costs, peak shaving,

network overloading, and renewable power integration. This project improves grid dependability, especially during peak demand, setting a new norm for urban energy management. The one-year project uses innovative Lithium Iron Phosphate (LFP) technology for

**Delhi:** Officials from the transport department indicated that the three interstate bus terminals (ISBTs) in the Capital may soon acquire prepaid auto stands and that room is being provided for a predetermined number of cars. The government is seeking bids for prepaid stand construction and operation at Sarai Kale Khan, Anand Vihar, and Kashmere Gate ISBTs. "We've noticed that cars are often parked haphazardly outside, and monitoring or assigning spots hasn't helped. The transport department official hopes the prepaid booths will assist get cars in line and reduce traffic outside the ISBTs. on the main road, freeing up room for buses. The Delhi Transport Infrastructure Development

safety, thermal stability, and longevity. The discom said the system's temperature-controlled

containers work well in Delhi's varied climates, making it perfect for crowded urban.

## The trial run of the Dwarka Expressway-airport tunnel has begun

**Delhi:** There will be a brief trial run of the tunnel connecting the Dwarka Expressway to Indira Gandhi International Airport. Every day from noon to three o'clock, the tunnel will be accessible to traffic as part of the trial. With eight lanes, the 3.6-kilometer-long tunnel is the largest and longest road tunnel



in India. The Dwarka

Expressway project includes it in Package 4. Only 18.9 km of the 29 km expressway is located in Haryana, while the remaining 10.1 km is in Delhi. The Dwarka Expressway tunnel provides a speedier and more direct route to the airport, according to the Gurugram Police, who are urging drivers from Sohna, Jaipur,

and the Southern Peripheral Road to take it. In preparation for a full-scale launch scheduled for mid-June, the experiment will examine traffic density, flow patterns, and vehicle movement. If any changes are required before permanent operation, the data collected during the trial will help.



## 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 Monday 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-

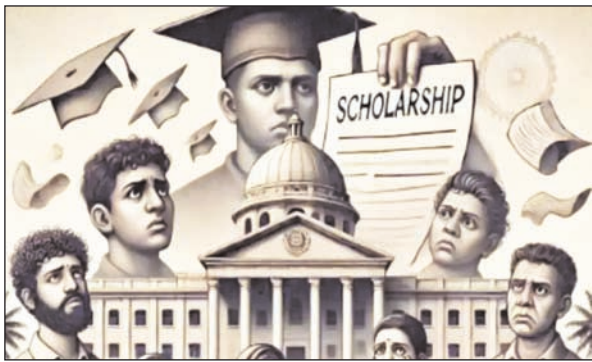


lows the CBI's recent arrests in the case involving Andhra Pradesh's Koneru Lakshmaiah Education Foundation (KLEF), where management reportedly bribed NAAC peer visit inspectors for good ratings. "We chose to do whatever it takes

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

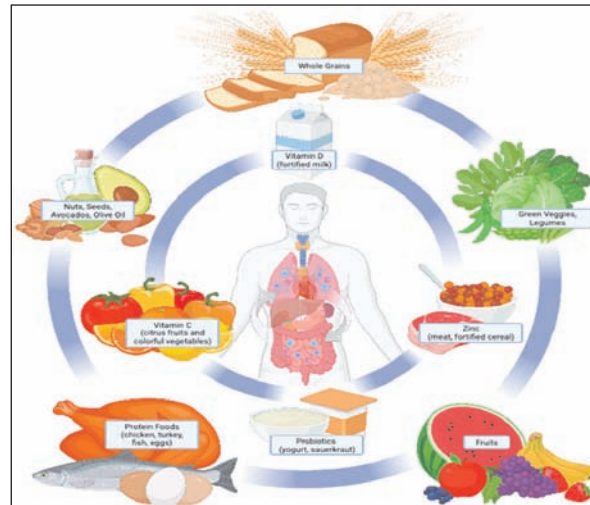


plan size reduction is a priority, but the disproportionate cut to minority student educational support raises questions about governmental priorities and social justice. Twitter shares The Prof Joseph Mundassery Scholarship, which received Rs 5.2 crore this year, suffered most. It has saved Muslim, 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.

## 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 Pardiwala 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.

