

# AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

Title Code - UPENG04488

NATIONAL ENGLISH DAILY

MORNING EDITION PRAYAGRAJ

Saturday, 20 September 2025

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

## Noida hostel firing incident: Gunshot kills 22-year-old student

**NOIDA:** A 22-year-old student was found dead with a gunshot wound in the head while his close friend lay critically injured with a similar wound inside a private hostel room in Knowledge Park in Noida on Tuesday morning. Police are trying to piece together how the gunshots were fired and what led to the shooting as the two students were considered "inseparable" by friends.

The incident occurred around 10.30am at RCI Vidya Vihar hostel in Knowledge Park-III. The two students - Deepak Kumar (22) from Andhra Pradesh and Devansh Chauhan (23) from Agra - were both enrolled in the PGDM programme at Birla Institute of Management Technology (Bimtech). They were, however, not roommates. It was in Kumar's room where the shots were fired. Chauhan is in Kailash hospital. His condition is critical. Both bullets came from the same licensed revolver, which was fully loaded and belonged to Chauhan's father Surender Singh Chauhan, who retired as a circle officer in UP STF on Aug 31. Chauhan, who went home last Saturday to attend his father's farewell party, is believed to have sneaked the gun out when he left for his hostel on Tuesday.

## SC acquits death convict in 7-year-old's rape-murder

**NEW DELHI:** Supreme Court on Wednesday acquitted a death convict in rape-murder of a seven-year-old girl in Uttarakhand in 2014 and said the highest degree of circumsppection should be exercised by courts before awarding the death penalty. The gruesome rape-murder was termed as the 'Little Nirbhaya' case and had sparked outrage across the state.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath, Sanjay Karol and Sandeep Mehta quashed the trial court and Uttarakhand HC's order to convict him and award the extreme punishment.

## Centre plans stricter coaching rules, stronger role for schools

Boards have been urged to set up diagnostic and mock-test centres as credible

### Outcomes

❑ Flagged how ads showcasing toppers while "concealing the bulk of outcomes"

**NEW DELHI:** Government is drafting a regulatory framework for India's booming coaching industry, starting with a crackdown on misleading ads and a mandate for full disclosure of teaching methods, faculty credentials, and student success rates. Proposals include limits on daily instructional hours and compulsory data on enrolment versus results to prevent parents and



students from being swayed by exaggerated claims. The push aims to restore schools as the primary centres of learning. Boards have been urged to set up diagnostic and mock-test centres as credible alternatives to private coaching and to give greater weight to board exam results in

college admissions. Education ministry's committee on "Reducing Student Dependence on Coaching Centres," in a meeting last month, noted that coaching has grown into a parallel system with little accountability.

Members flagged how ads showcasing toppers while "con-

"This will bring honesty to the sector"

"This will bring honesty to the sector," a member said, adding that the industry thrives on selective success stories while ignoring dropout rates and mental health costs. To reduce pressure on teens juggling school-work with intensive preparation, the committee suggested capping daily hours. Officials said limits could align with child-protection guidelines.

cealing the bulk of average outcomes" distort expectations and fuel an unhealthy race. The panel proposed that institutes publish audited data on student intake.

## 'Welcome new interim govt': India hails Nepal as fellow democracy

**NEW DELHI:** India on Friday welcomed the formation of Nepal's new interim government under Prime Minister Sushila Karki, calling the neighbouring democracy a close partner and pledging continued cooperation.

In a statement, the ministry of external affairs said, "We welcome the formation of a new Interim Government in Nepal, led by Right Honourable Mrs Sushila Karki. We are hopeful that this would help in fostering peace and stability." "As a close neighbour, a fellow democracy and a long term development partner, India will continue to work closely with Nepal for the well-being and prosperity of our two peoples and countries," it added.

Karki was sworn in as



Nepal's interim Prime Minister at a ceremony in Sheetal Niwas, the presidential office, with President Ramchandra Paudel administering the oath. She was chosen days after violent "Gen Z" protests toppled the KP Sharma Oli government. The protests, triggered by a short-lived social media ban, quickly grew into a wider movement against corruption, nepotism and entrenched political elites. Demonstrators torched government buildings, politicians' homes and even the parliament. Soldiers remain deployed across Kathmandu.

## Spicejet aircraft loses tyre on take off at Kandla

**MUMBAI:** A Mumbai-bound SpiceJet aircraft's tyre fell off during take-off at Kandla on Friday. The pilots declared a full emergency when landing in Mumbai. The aircraft landed safely. The Bombardier DHC8-400 aircraft, operating flight SG-2906- lifted off at 2.39 pm. "During takeoff from runway 23 at Kandla, the tower controller observed a black coloured big object falling from the aircraft. It fell from the right



side on runway and rolled like a tyre. A jeep sent for inspection found intact tyre and metal rings," said a source. The Bombardier DHC8-400 has a tricycle landing gear system

with two wheels on the nose gear and two main wheels on each main landing gear. Spice Jet confirmed the incident. "On September 12, an outer wheel of a SpiceJet Q400 aircraft operating from Kandla to Mumbai was found at the runway after take-off. The aircraft continued its journey to Mumbai and landed safely. Following a smooth landing, the aircraft taxied to the terminal under its own power.

## Ahmednagar railway station

## renamed: Govt. issues notification

### Renamed

❑ Railway station's name be changed after the city was renamed Ahilyanagar



**NEW DELHI:** The Maharashtra government on Friday issued a notification renaming Ahmednagar railway station after receiving approval from the Union Home Ministry. The government is changing the station name to Ahilyanagar Railway Station. Earlier, the Ahmednagar district was renamed as Ahilyanagar district, PTI reported. Deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar, who had pursued the matter,

thanked Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav for granting the approval. Chief minister Devendra Fadnis and deputy chief minister Eknath Shinde were also involved in the efforts, a statement from Pawar's office said. Last month, Pawar had written to Vaishnav urging that the station be renamed to align with the city's new

name. "This long-pending demand has now been fulfilled. The renaming holds special significance as we are celebrating the 300th birth anniversary year of Punyashlok Ahilyadevi Holkar," Pawar said. Several organisations and citizens had been demanding that the railway station's name be changed after the city was renamed Ahilyanagar.

## 'Reality check': Defence secretary highlights lessons from Operation Sindoor

**NEW DELHI:** Defence secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh on Friday said that Operation Sindoor, the punitive strike targeting terror bases in Pakistan, served as a "reality check" for India's armed forces, highlighting areas where the country can improve its defence capabilities.



2025), Singh noted that the operation revealed certain capability gaps, including in electronic

warfare, counter-unmanned systems, low-level radars and the need for a stronger ecosystem

### Warfare

❑ Operation Sindoor, which was in some ways a reality check for us in terms of where we can do

to manufacture military-grade drones capable of operating in GPS-denied and contested environments. "It's pretty clear

in the context of the geopolitical situation now that most countries are paying a lot of attention to defence and hard power again. Given our neighborhood, India is no exception, and we've just had this experience with Operation Sindoor, which was in some ways a reality check for us in terms of where we can do better, where we need to adapt to changing.

## NC's Srinagar MP Aga Mehdi slams his own party again, accuses it of 'begging' for statehood

**SRINAGAR:** Srinagar MP Aga Ruhullah Mehdi once again launched a sharp attack on his own party, National Conference, accusing it abandoning Article 370 and "begging" for statehood. Addressing his followers in south Kashmir's Anantnag district on Thursday, Mehdi said for the first time in 40 years, people voted in large numbers in the Oct 2024 assembly polls because they were frus-

### Accusing

❑ National Conference, accusing it abandoning Article 370 and "begging"

trated with the system. "They didn't vote for any party, but for a system that would be answerable to them," Mehdi said. But, despite scaling down on the political front, "we have been turned into beg-

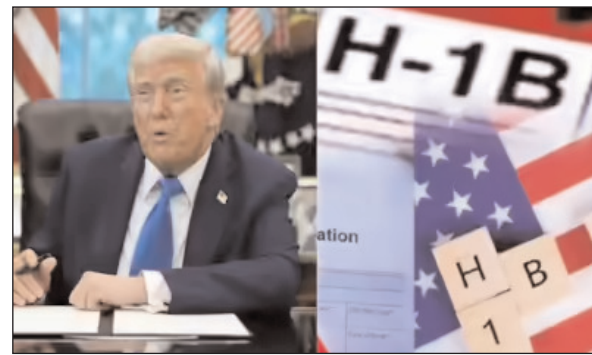
gars", he said. "It is better to fight for our rights and be defeated than to resort to begging every day for every small thing," he asserted. Mehdi, who was invited by the civil society of Anantnag to address people at the town hall, alleged that the district administration locked the building, forcing organisers to change the venue. "People were threatened and intimidated not to attend my meeting.

## Auto driver rapes student, later shot in leg by UP police

**AGRA:** A 25-year-old MPharma aspirant from Lucknow was allegedly sexually assaulted by an autorickshaw driver Thursday after she deboarded a bus and booked the three-wheeler from a key intersection of Yamuna Expressway in Mathura to visit an educational institution to complete admission formalities. Hours later, the accused driver was shot in the leg in a brief encounter when he tried to escape police custody.

## Big change for H-1Bs: Trump signs proclamation imposing \$100k annual fee on visa application

**US** President Donald Trump has signed a new proclamation on Friday (US time) introducing a \$100,000 annual fee for H-1B visa applications, along with other changes to the skilled foreign worker programme, which has been under scrutiny for years. Originally designed to attract exceptional foreign talent for specialised technical roles, the H-1B programme has evolved into a chan-



nel for workers accepting salaries around \$60,000 annually—well below the \$100,000-plus compensation typical for

American technology professionals, according to AP reports. "I think they're going to be very happy," Trump

said, anticipating the tech industry's response to the changes. Additionally, White House staff secretary Will Scharf said, "One of the most abused visa systems is the H-1-B non-immigrant visa programme. This is supposed to allow highly skilled labourers who work in fields that Americans don't work in to come into the United States of America. What this proclamation .

## Include sex harassment case against you in resume, Supreme Court

**NEW DELHI:** A sexual harassment complaint by a faculty member of West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences against its vice chancellor (VC) could not be looked into because it



was not lodged within the mandatory three-month period. However, Supreme Court on Friday ensured that the "offence" did not go unpunished by directing the VC to make the judgment, which

recorded his alleged acts in detail, part of his resume. A bench of Justices Pankaj Mithal and Prasanna B Varale passed the peculiar order while dismissing the plea filed by the faculty member.

## 50 days after resignation, Dhankhar breaks silence

**NEW DELHI:** Almost 50 days after his resignation, former Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar broke his silence to congratulate his successor C P Radhakrishnan, saying that the office of the VP would attain greater

glory with his vast experience. This was Dhankhar's first public statement since demitting office on July 21 - day one of the monsoon session of Parliament. In a letter to Radhakrishnan, Dhankhar said,

"Heartfelt felicitations on your election as the Vice-President of Bharat, the world's largest democracy and home to one-sixth of humanity." He further said, "Your elevation to this august office reflects the trust and confidence.



## Sister Anupama, who protested Bishop Franco, quits

**Delhi:** Sister Anupama Kelamangalathuveliyil, one of six nuns who brought the rape accusation against Bishop Franco Mulakkal, has left nunhood. She rejoined her family in Alappuzha, Kerala. In 2018, a nun at the Missionaries of Jesus convent in Kottayam accused Bishop Franco Mulakkal of repeated rapes from 2014 to 2016.



### 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

Four of the six nuns received church transfer orders in 2019.

The nuns petitioned Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan to postpone their direc-

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.

tives till the trial. Despite criticism and ostracism, the nuns stayed at their convent and supported the survivor nun.

**Gairsain (BharadiSain).** The monsoon session of the Vidhan Sabha continued amidst the uproar of the opposition. The House had to be adjourned repeatedly amid the opposition MLAs' tough stance demanding discussion on law and order and panchayat elections. Amid the uproar, the government dealt with legislative work. Today, a total of 09 bills including Uttarakhand Freedom of Religion (Amendment) Bill,

Uttarakhand Minority Education Bill were tabled in the House. With this, the House was adjourned till Wednesday. Despite the adjournment of the House, the opposition continued to sit on the dharna till late evening. The proceedings of the House started at 11 am, the opposition MLAs came into the well and started creating a ruckus. Meanwhile, the Congress leaders even overturned the table in the House. The House had to be

adjourned till 11.20 minutes, 11.30 am, 11.40, 11.50, 12 noon and 12.20. The proceedings of the House started at 12.20 minutes and till 01.25 pm, tribute was paid to former MLA Munni Devi in the House. After this, the House was adjourned till 03 pm for lunch break. The proceedings of the House started at 03 pm and amid the noise, the government passed 08 bills. After this, the proceedings of the House were adjourned.



## Owaisi finds it funny that Munir gave Prime Minister Sharif a "fake photo"



**Delhi:** Field Marshal Asim Munir reportedly held a dinner for Pakistan's top political leaders to honor those who were involved in "Operation Bunyanum Marsoos," the country's response to India's Operation Sindoor, according to Inter-Services Public Relations, the media wing of the Pakistan Armed Forces. Mr. Munir presented Prime Minister Sharif with a photograph titled "Operation Bunyanum Marsoos" during this gathering. But a search using the reverse image function revealed that it was really a photo of a rocket launch in China from a few years ago. "Yesterday, the Pakistani Army chief gifted a photo to the Pakistani PM Shehbaz Sharif... these stupid jokers want to compete with India. They had given a photograph of a 2019 Chinese Army drill claiming it is a victory over India," Mr. Owaisi expressed while speaking with the Indian diaspora in Kuwait. "Whatever Pakistan says, do not even take a pinch of salt," the MP said, voicing his disapproval of Pakistan's reliability.

## ITR filing deadline extended for FY 2024-25

**Delhi:** Income Tax Return (ITR) Filing Deadline Extended. The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), via its press release dated 27th May 2025, has extended the due date for filing ITR for Assessment Year 2025-26 from 15th September 2025. The extension is attributed to system development and integration necessitated by

This initiative is aligned with the government's broader effort to modernize and digitize the tax administration system. Significant investments are being made in technology and automation to improve the overall taxpayer experience. It raises the expectation of a future where the ITR forms are fully pre-filled, requiring taxpayers to

simply review, amend if needed, and file with a click. This extension is a welcome move in that direction, bringing hope for simpler, faster, and more accurate return filing processes. This is crucial to avoid penal interest under Section 234B of the Income Tax Act, which continues to accrue until the month in which the tax is paid.

## BJP expels 2 crossover MLAs for 6yrs

**Delhi:** In a crucial move ahead of local body elections, BJP expelled two crossover legislators ST Somashekar and Arabail Shivaram Hebbar from the party for six years for continued anti-party activities despite multiple warnings. This marks BJP's major disciplinary action after expelling former Union minister and Bijapur MLA Basanagouda Patil Yatnal in March. He was removed from the party for six years on charges of indiscipline and launching attacks against the family of former CM BS Yediyurappa and his son BY Vijayendra, who is state BJP president. The expulsion is seen as a message from the BJP central leadership to assert control and discipline within the



party, especially as it prepares for local electoral battles and 2028 assembly polls. Somashekar, MLA from Yeshwanthpur in Bengaluru, and Hebbar, MLA from Yellapur in Uttara Kannada, were among the 14 Congress defectors who joined BJP in 2019.

Their defection played a key role in toppling

the HD Kumaraswamy-led Congress-JD(S) coalition govt. Both Somashekar and Hebbar were rewarded with ministerial berths in the cabinets of BS Yediyurappa and his successor, Basavaraj Bommai. After BJP lost the 2023 assembly elections, the two legislators had started aligning openly with Congress.

### 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.

## CM inaugurated the payment of ex-gratia relief amount to flood

**Patna.** Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on inaugurated the payment of ex-gratia relief amount to flood affected families in the year 2025 at the rate of Rs 7000 per family directly in their bank account through DBT from 'Sankalp' located at 1 Anne Marg. Today, Rs 456 crore 12 lakh was paid to 6 lakh 51 thousand 602 affected families of 12 districts at the rate of Rs 7000 per family.

During the program, the Chief Minister said, "We



had a review meeting with the officials of the flood-affected districts on 13 and on August 14, we took stock of the situation by conducting an aerial survey of the flood-affected areas

of Patna, Vaishali, Begusarai and Munger districts. We had instructed the officials to carry out relief and rescue operations in the flood-affected areas.

## Pet owners are responsible for making sure their animals don't hurt other people.

**Delhi :** In a recent judgment, the Calcutta high court ruled that pet owners are responsible for ensuring that their animals do not cause injury to others. The court denied a man's request to dismiss a criminal prosecution related to a dog attack on a neighbor. An attack by a dog on a human being, which could result in severe harm or perhaps death, is of the utmost seriousness. Justice Uday Kumar stated in his May 23 order that pet owners are unquestionably obligated to take reasonable precautions to ensure their pets do not cause injury. The animal lover from Sonarpur, a neighbourhood near Kolkata, was facing charges related to "negligent conduct with respect to animals" under Section 289 of the Indian Penal Code. This was in response



### Politics Heat Up Over 107 'Missing' Pakistanis As DyCM Shinde, CM Contradict

**Delhi:** The ruling Mahayuti alliance in Maharashtra has failed to coordinate on Pakistani nationals. Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde told a Buldhana rally that 107 Pakistanis were missing in Maharashtra. Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis denied the claim, saying no Pakistani citizen is missing. Shinde told the audience, "Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Prime Minister Narendra Modi have instructed Pakistani nationals to leave our country.

to a neighbor's 2022 complaint that ten or twelve of the man's dogs had attacked him on the balcony of their building, causing injuries. The pet owner

accused the prosecution of using "falsehood and inaccuracies" as the basis for their charges in his HC plea.

## The Patna Sahib has proclaimed three Akal Takht jathedars to be dukes

**Delhi:** Restoring excommunicated Takht Patna Sahib jathedar Giani Ranjit Singh Gauhar and summoning the Takht head granthi and additional head granthi, among others, to Akal Takht in Amritsar was declared by the 'Panj Pyare' (five beloved Takht Sri Harimandir Patna



Sahib in Patna) as "tankhaiya"

(guilty of religious misconduct), according to Yudhvir Rana at Akal Takht in Amritsar. Not only is Akal Takht's jathedar Giani Kuldeep Singh Gargaj there, but so are the two others: Baba Tek Singh and Takht Kesgarh Sahib. The 'Panj Pyare' has also issued a 10-day

notice to SAD president Sukhbir Badal, accusing him of interfering with Takht Patna Sahib's operations. They made it known that the Takht Sri Harimandir Patna Sahib will not be bound by decisions made at the Akal Takht or any other Takht outside of Patna.

### 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.

## New Sikkim Rail Line From Melli To Dentam Gets Final Location Survey Approval From Railway Ministry

**Delhi :** Railway Ministry approved the final location survey for a proposed railway line from Melli to Dentam via Jorethang and Legship in Sikkim. Rs 2.25 crore has been authorized for the Northeast Frontier Railway survey. This endeavor is vital to connecting southern and western Sikkim to national railway infrastructure. The preliminary feasibility assessment estimates the proposed line to be 75 km long, a strategic continua-



tion of the Sivok-Rangpo railway project, which is scheduled for completion in 2027. Melli, the gateway to southern and western Sikkim, would be a

crucial junction for this project, ensuring seamless integration into the national railway network.

The final location survey will provide the technical

foundation needed to define project alignment, engineering specifications, and cost structure, according to the ministry.

The statement said this is a key step toward rail connection in southern and western Sikkim. The project is expected to have major economic impacts on Gyalshing and adjacent areas. It strives to improve access, tourism, trade, and employment. Tenders for survey work are expected soon.



इन्बोक्स INBOX

## Cunning people entered the house by claiming to be municipal workers

**Jhansi.** On Thursday, in Azad Nagar of the local police station area, two people tried to enter a house by claiming to be municipal workers. When they were questioned on suspicion, they fled. The victim has made a written complaint to the police about the matter. Azad Nagar resident Umesh Kumar Sharma is an employee in the court. He told that on Thursday afternoon, two youths came and introduced themselves as municipal workers. They said that they have come to survey the house from satellite. When the family members got suspicious, they started questioning the young men who had come, then both of them fled. Later it was found out that no such survey is being conducted by the municipal corporation. The police is investigating the matter.

### Memorandum submitted to SDM Koraon

**Prayagraj.** A new twist has come in the ruckus between the family members of Shambhunath Mishra and the police in Chapro village of Kheri police station area. District Panchayat member Pintu Choubey has opened a front against the police. Describing the incident as police excesses, Pintu Choubey on Friday submitted a memorandum addressed to the Chief Minister and the Women's Commission to SDM Soraon. It has been said in the memorandum that the police team of Inspector Ambesh Mishra and Inspector Preeti Rawat went to Shambhunath's house.

### Knowledge

□ **Arya Kanya Degree College's Golden Jubilee Celebration concludes**

**Prayagraj.** The seven-day "Sarthak" Golden Jubilee Celebration at Arya Kanya Degree College concluded with great fanfare on Friday. The closing ceremony resonated with various cultural programs. The program began with the lighting of lamps and chanting of Vedic mantras. Chief guest, Union Law and Justice Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal, referring to the Nari Shakti Vandan Act, said that Prime

# Empower yourself, empower women: Arjun Ram Meghwal

Students are the bearers of Indian tradition and culture along with technical knowledge: Pankaj Jaiswal



Minister Modi implemented this bill based on the women empowerment of Gujarat's Swami Dayanand Saraswati. He explained that the Prime Minister has built a new Parliament House for Indian MPs, replacing the British-era Parliament

House. Union Law and Justice Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal, while inspiring the students, said, "Empower yourself and empower women across society." The Law Minister also recited Jagjit Singh's ghazal, "The world snatched away from me whatever I loved, I won

everything, but I always lost. By losing my heart, immortalize my victory. By losing my heart, immortalize my victory." Welcoming the Chief Guest, the Union Law Minister, Chairman of the College's Governing Body, Pankaj Jaiswal, said that the college is constantly progressing in the fields of education, law, arts, and commerce. The students here are not only technically knowledgeable but also embody Indian tradition and culture. Over the past five decades, the institution has been a flag-bearer of the fundamental principles of the Arya Samaj and

Dayanand Ji. The Union Law Minister also released the college's magazine, "Arya Garima," and the National Service Scheme's newsletter, and released the book, "Western Notation and Indian Musicality," written by Dr. Ranjana Tripathi. The program was conducted by Chief Proctor Dr. Ranjana Tripathi, and the vote of thanks was given by Principal Prof. Archana Pathak. The highlight of the program was a play based on the life of Swami Dayanand Saraswati, presented by the college professors. Present at the program were MLC Surendra Choudhary, retired IPS

officer K.P. Singh, R.S. Verma, Ravindra Nath Jaiswal, P.N. Mishra, Arunesh Jaiswal, Alok Arora, advisor Dr. Mamta Gupta, Professor Anju Srivastava, Professor Nilanjana Jain, Dr. Nisha Khanna, Dr. Mudita Tiwari, Dr. Amit Pandey, Dr. Amit Mishra, Dr. Savya Sanchi Tripathi, Dr. Priyanka Srivastava, Dr. Radha Rani Singh, Dr. Chitra Chaurasia, Dr. Deepshikha Pandey, Dr. Smita, Dr. Nazneen Farooqui, Dr. Shashi Kumari, Dr. Sonamti Patel, Dr. Sudha Kumari, Dr. Bharti Devi, Dr. Kiran Mishra, Dr. Ragini, and a large number of students.

## Newly Appointed Divisional Commissioner Assumes Office

**Akhand Bharat Sandesh Prayagraj.**

Newly appointed Divisional Commissioner, Mrs. Soumya Agarwal, arrived in Prayagraj on Friday and assumed her duties. Commissioner, Mrs. Soumya Agarwal, is a 2008 batch IAS officer. Previously, she



served as Divisional Commissioner of Bareilly Division, District Magistrate of Ballia, Basti, Unnao, and Maharajganj, as well as in various other important positions. Upon arrival at the Circuit House, the Divisional Commissioner was given a guard of honor.

## All India Primary Teachers' Association submitted a memorandum against the mandatory TET order

**Akhand Bharat Sandesh**

**Prayagraj.** On Friday, the Uttar Pradesh branch of the Primary Teachers' Association, affiliated to Prayagraj district, under the leadership of District President Akhilesh Kumar Dwivedi, sent a memorandum addressed to the Prime Minister and the Union Education Minister, requesting the Honorable Supreme Court to intervene in the impractical decision regarding the TET matter and provide relief to teachers. The District President stated that just as the state government understood the difficulties



faced by teachers and came forward to resolve them by filing a review petition, the central government is also requested to step forward and provide relief to teachers in this TET matter. State Organization Minister Shradha Srivastava thanked all teachers and teachers and urged them to maintain unity

and fight this problem. Those who submitted the memorandum included District Vice President Devvrat Dwivedi, District Organization Minister Alka Seth, Organization Minister Satish Tiwari, Upendra Dwivedi, and District President of the Shiksha Mitra Organization.

## Vishnu, Nagendra, Vivek, and Shreya win and are honored

**Prayagraj.** Essay writing and speech competitions were held today at KP Inter College as part of the Hindi fortnight. The essay competition's theme was "Hindi is the language of self-respect and pride," and the speech competition's theme was

"Progress of one's own language is the root of all progress." 126 students from grades 9 to 12 participated in the essay competition, and 16 students participated in the speech competition. Following the competition's conclusion, Principal Dr. Yogendra Singh

awarded five outstanding performers in each competition. Nagendra Kumar won first prize in the essay competition, Shreya Pandey second prize, Riya Kushwaha third prize, and Shreya Singh and Manjeet Kumar received consolation prizes. Vishnu Kumar

won first prize in the speech competition, Vivek Bhaskar second prize, Riya Kushwaha third prize, and Shivam Mishra and Kashish Chaurasia consolation prizes. Praveen Chandra, Mrs. Sadhna Maurya, and Vijay Narayan Singh served as judges in

these competitions organized by the Hindi Department. Teacher Umesh Khare conducted the proceedings. The support of Dinesh Kumar Srivastava, Sudip Kumar, Rakesh Kumar, and Ram Niwas was commendable.

## Unknown assailants beheaded a woman in Phulpur

**Phulpur.** Unknown assailants beheaded a woman sleeping near her home in Ahiapur village, Phulpur police station area. When the family learned of the incident in the morning, the village was shaken. Upon receiving the information, the Phulpur police station in-charge arrived at the scene with police and began investigating, but the cause of the murder remained undetermined until late in the evening.

The body was taken into custody and sent for a post-mortem examination. Sushila Devi, 45, wife of Rajendra Kumar Bharatiya, a resident of Ahiapur village, Phulpur police station area, went to sleep on a cot near her home after dinner on Thursday evening. It is alleged that around midnight, unknown assailants killed her by hitting her with a stone and fled, leaving no one to notice. When the family woke

up in the morning, the blood-soaked body was a shock. A large crowd of villagers quickly gathered. Upon receiving the information, Station House Officer Phulpur Praveen Kumar Gautam arrived at the scene with the police force, informed the higher authorities, and began questioning the villagers, but could not find any clues. Police attempted to take the body for a post-mortem examination.

### Boy cuts his private part to become a girl

**Prayagraj:** A student cut his private part to become a girl. The student consulted a doctor to do this. When the boy's condition worsened, the landlord came to know. The landlord sent the student to the hospital. The student cut his private part by injecting himself with anesthesia. His condition is critical and he is undergoing treatment at Swaroop Rani Hospital. The young man feels that he is a girl from inside and his gait and voice are also like girls.

## Maharishi University, NIOS to host Teachers' Honors Ceremony on September 21st

**Prayagraj.** Maharishi University and the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) are organizing a Teachers' and Meritorious Students' Honors Ceremony on Sunday, September 21st, from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM at Hotel Kanha Shyam, Civil

Lines. Dr. Satyanand Yadav, NIOS coordinator and event coordinator, stated that meritorious students, district coordinators, and principals from the UP Board, CBSE, and ISE from Prayagraj, Pratapgarh, Jaunpur, and Mirzapur districts will be honored at the

Teachers' Honors Ceremony. He stated that the chief guest for the event will be State Cabinet Minister Nand Gopal Gupta Nandi, while the ceremony will be presided over by NIOS Regional Director Piyush Prasad. Maharishi University Vice

Chancellor Dr. Uday Pratap Singh will bless the meritorious students. NIOS coordinator and program convener Dr. Satyanand Yadav said that the special guests are UP Board Bhagwati Singh, CBSE Regional Officer (RO) Anil Kumar Jain.

## Successful Conclusion of the Three-Day State-Level Disability Skills Exhibition and Workshop

**Akhand Bharat Sandesh**

**Prayagraj :** The three-day state-level Disability Skills Exhibition and Workshop, organized by Shri Kamta Prasad Sevaarth Trust, Prayagraj, for the benefit of persons with disabilities under the State Fund Scheme, from September 17 to 19, 2025, at the North



Central Zone Cultural Centre, Prayagraj, concluded successfully today. On the closing ceremony, Honorable

Member of Parliament, Phulpur, Shri Praveen Kumar Patel, and Honorable Mayor, Prayagraj Municipal

Corporation, Shri Ganesh Kesarwani, visited the stalls set up by departmental schools, institutions, and voluntary organizations. All guests appreciated the inventions, products, paintings, posters, special materials, lectures, and cultural programs presented by persons with disabilities and children at the exhibition. Ten MR kits were dis-

tributed to children with disabilities during the event. The first winners of the exhibition were Anganwadi Centre, Women's Welfare Department, for the baby shower program, Jagadguru Rambhadracharya University, Chitrakoot, for the art gallery, and Uttar Pradesh School for the Deaf and Dumb, Prayagraj, for the cultural program.

## Doctors should treat snake bites with sensitivity: Relief Commissioner

**Prayagraj/Lucknow.** The Relief Commissioner's Office, Lucknow, organized a snakebite medical management workshop in the Vaichariki auditorium of Yojana Bhawan as part of the Snakebite Reduction Program. The workshop was coordinated by Relief Commissioner Bhanuchandra Goswami. Professor of King George's Medical University and Nodal Officer of the Snake

Bite Program of the Medical Health and Family Welfare Department, under the Snakebite Reduction Program, provided master trainer training to one doctor from each tehsil of 18 districts. On this occasion, Relief Commissioner Bhanuchandra Goswami stated that this workshop was organized to ensure proper and prompt treatment and medical management of

snakebite victims in the state. He said that in case of snake bite, doctors should treat the victim with utmost sensitivity and not send them to another hospital. Relief Commissioner Bhanu Chandra Goswami said that every moment is crucial in treating a snakebite victim. He added that primary and community health centers are the main centers of medical care in rural areas.



## Editorial

### Amit Shah looks sure of ruling till 2049 but Team Modi is losing steam and imagination

Amit Shah had declared at the Bharatiya Janata Party's national executive meeting in 2018 that the party will win the 2019 Lok Sabha election and "no one can dethrone the BJP for the next 50 years"—that is, till 2069. Last month, the Union Home Minister and BJP chief strategist said in the Lok Sabha that the Opposition parties would be there (on the Opposition benches) "for the next 20 years"—that is, till 2045. Let's make it 2049 because the Lok Sabha election will have taken place in 2044. It also takes into account Prime Minister Narendra Modi's goal of making India a developed country by 2047. Modi is looking to remain at the helm till 2035, at least. In his Independence Day address, he said that "in the coming 10 years, till 2035, I want to expand this (national security shield) ...strengthen it, modernise it". "I" is key here. He will be only 85 by then. And he is much fitter than Joe Biden who demitted the US President's office at 82. Mahathir Mohamad was the Prime Minister of Malaysia till he was almost 95. You may think I can't be serious. Talks of 20 or 50 years are just rhetorical, aren't they? A former BJP MP advised me not to take PM Modi's reference to 2035 seriously. "The day a leader throws a hint that he is even thinking of a retirement plan, everybody around him starts abandoning him. You can't afford to do that in politics," he explained. Maybe. What if BJP leaders truly believe what they say? How else could you explain the Modi-led government's sudden decision to bring the Constitution (130th Amendment) Bill, envisaged to unseat the Prime Minister, chief ministers, and ministers on the 31st day of their arrest or detention in custody? The PM figures in it for effect, of course. The proposed legislation places the CMs and ministers at the mercy of mostly Central investigation agencies whose track record in impartiality is better left undiscussed. These central agencies are known to often go out of their way to please the political bosses. The CMs and ministers who are not from the ruling party/coalition at the Centre have reasons to be alarmed by the proposed legislation. It is always prone to being used against the Opposition. Former Union minister Sharad Pawar recently pointed out how during the Manmohan Singh government, it was P Chidambaram who had backed the amendment in the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) to put the onus to prove innocence on the accused. Pawar told Singh that it was dangerous. "If the government changes, we will also have to face consequences. But the advice was not heeded," disclosed Pawar. In 2019, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) arrested Chidambaram in a PMLA case. He had to spend 106 days in jail before he got bail. The proposed law—Constitution (130th Amendment) Bill—can potentially be weaponized by a ruling party at the Centre (not necessarily BJP) to destabilise governments in states ruled by rival parties (the BJP, included). So, why would Shah or the BJP want to make such a law? The most conceivable answer is that the BJP doesn't see itself sitting on the Opposition benches in the Lok Sabha ever—till 2049, at least. Look at the Centre's stand on the Supreme Court setting a timeline for the governors to act on the bills passed by state assemblies. It wants the elected governments in the states to be placed at the mercy of its nominees in the Raj Bhawans. Only a party that is confident of being in power at the Centre forever would want to take such a stand. This confidence of the BJP is reflected in so many other ways—from overturning the SC's ruling to end government's control over the appointment of the Chief Election Commissioners and ECs to the alleged use of central investigative agencies to target Opposition leaders. There are many other instances. Here is the catch, though.



## Why Modi, BJP should worry about bad blood between CEC Gyanesh Kumar and Rahul Gandhi?

Amit Malviya must be a harried man as Rahul Gandhi set out on his 'Voter Adhikar Yatra' in Bihar on Sunday. Bharatiya Janata Party's social media department, headed by Malviya, is facing flak in the Right-wing ecosystem. The reason: its purported failure to counter the Opposition's narrative about the Election Commission's special intensive revision of electoral rolls in Bihar. Let's look at one such thread. Tushar Gupta, whose bio proclaims him to be "anti-Left", took to X to express his concern about the "fake news" being spread about the electoral process. "Absolutely zero resistance. EC's press releases are not going to cut it...", he wrote. His argument was that the 18-24 age group in 2029 would be "reelers", not readers, and could be easily swung by Gandhi. "And this is exactly what he (Gandhi) is doing right now," he added. X users reacted to the thread, venting their ire on Malviya, with some even demanding his resignation as the BJP's IT cell chief. Dr Ratan Sharda, who has written several books on the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), agreed with Tushar and said that Gen Z is "not clued on" to the BJP. "The communication, the enunciation, the slogans — all present a middle-aged projection of a young successful party led by the most popular PM of all times whom youth love. @BJP4India needs to reinvent its SM approach and communication," he wrote. To be fair to Malviya, headline management and narra-



tive-building aren't so easy after 11 years in power. The belligerence of the Election Commission (EC) in dealing with the Opposition isn't helping him either. "Give an oath or apologise to the nation. There is no third option," Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar said at a press conference Sunday, taking on Gandhi's 'vote theft' charge. Many Constitutional experts like former Lok Sabha Secretary General PDT Achary have rubbished the EC's demand for Gandhi's oath under Rule 20(3)(b) of the Registration of Electors Rules 1960, maintaining that it does not apply in this case. Kumar wouldn't bother. Since when has the CEC assumed the authority to instruct public representatives to apologise? Even former CEC MS Gill, who joined the Congress and went on to become a Union Minister after retirement, never demanded it from Opposition leaders as long as he helmed the EC. One may not agree with Gandhi's phraseology—from 'chowkidar chor hai (the gatekeeper is the thief)' to 'vote chori (vote theft)'. He often gets carried away, trying to bring

'earthquakes' in Indian politics. But that can't be the reason for a constitutional body to publicly berate the Leader of the Opposition. Also, it's not the first time that the EC has been accused of favouring the ruling party. After all, the fact is that the CEC was and still is essentially Prime Minister Narendra Modi's handpicked man—the ruling party's choice in that chair. After losing the South Delhi Lok Sabha seat to the Congress in the 1971 elections, Jan Sangh leader Balraj Madhok had gone to court complaining of rigging allegedly facilitated by the ruling Congress and the EC. He had alleged that the ballot papers were chemically treated and mechanically stamped to favour the Congress candidate, Shashi Bhushan. The Supreme Court dismissed his appeal. In 2002, then Gujarat Chief Minister Modi drew censure from Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee for attacking CEC JM Lyngdoh. There are myriad instances of politicians attacking the EC, but no CEC made it a personal issue until now. The body is entrusted to conduct free and fair polls, with no malice toward any party or politi-

cian. If there is bad blood and a public spat between the CEC and the Opposition leaders, it will shake the people's trust and faith in the election results. And that is the worst thing that could happen to Indian democracy. Instead of attacking Rahul Gandhi, the EC could have simply ordered an investigation into his claims of fake voters in Bengaluru's Mahadevapura—or, for that matter, the supposedly inflated number of voters in Maharashtra. It could have done a Bihar-like special intensive revision (SIR) in Mahadevapura immediately to rebut the allegations. That would have bolstered its credibility and its Bihar SIR case. BJP leader Anurag Thakur also made allegations about fake voters in the constituencies of Opposition leaders such as Gandhi, Akhilesh Yadav, and others. Thakur also accused them of 'vote theft'. Gandhi and Thakur were making the same disclosure—that voter lists across the country have issues. CEC Kumar hasn't reacted to Thakur's allegations yet. Fake voters' list is no news, anyway. The CEC could have thanked the Congress and BJP leaders for highlighting this issue again and used it to justify a countrywide SIR. What to speak of allegations of irregularities in Assembly or Lok Sabha elections, in the recent Delhi Constitution Club election (in which incumbent and former MPs are voters), Congress leader and former MP Brijendra Singh found to his dismay that his vote had already been cast. So did

another former MP from the BSP. It's plausible that Kumar—who was Secretary in Amit Shah's cooperation ministry—is extremely upset by Gandhi's diatribe against the Commission. The best way to deal with this would have been to invite Gandhi over for Kashmiri Kahwa, as he used to treat journalists with, and thrash it out. But Kumar has chosen to slug it out publicly with the Opposition. What must worry the BJP is the fact that the Opposition's diatribe against the EC seems to be resonating on the ground. As per a Lokniti-CSDS survey published in The Hindu on Sunday, 45 per cent of the respondents believe that genuine voters may get removed from the voters' list under the SIR, as against only 25 per cent who said 'no'. Only 60 per cent of respondents were very or somewhat confident of the EC's ability to ensure inclusivity. The survey was conducted in six states: Delhi, Assam, Kerala, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh. The Lokniti-CSDS survey, as compared to its 2019 and 2024 post-poll surveys, shows declining trust in the Commission. In Assam, the number of respondents who said they have "no trust" in the EC increased from 6 per cent in 2019 to 10 per cent in 2024 and 17 per cent in 2025. In Kerala, this increased from 10 per cent in 2019 and 2024 to 24 per cent in 2025. In Madhya Pradesh, the lack of trust in the EC rose from 6 per cent in 2019 to 22 per cent in 2024 and 2025.

### After rosogolla, Odias and Bengalis fight over Mamata's Jagannath Dham

In the season of Conclave, what if a church suddenly decided to call itself Vatican — not just a tribute, but a claim to spiritual status? That's what the Mamata Banerjee government effectively did, as far as Odias are concerned, when it named the new Jagannath temple in Digha after Jagannath Dham in Puri, Odisha. For the Odias, this 'appropriation' was the last straw and has put them eyeball to eyeball with the Bengalis like never before. Why did Banerjee tread this path? If a temple was her big trip, why a Puri Jagannath lookalike and not something in the tradition of Bengal's own terracotta temples that dot Bishnupur in Bankura district? Alternatively, it could have opted for something original. Bengalis, it seems, have a peculiar fondness for replicas. During Durga Pujas, Buckingham Palaces, Golden Temples and the Pyramids pop up all over the state — pandals built with bamboo and tarpaulin to house the goddess in the festive season. But

those are temporary structures, dismantled once the pujas end. The Jagannath Temple in Digha is permanent, a silent testimony to the Bengalis' copycat gene. A few months after becoming the chief minister in 2011, Banerjee was on her way home via Newtown, parts of which today resemble Gurgaon from 50 years ago, when she suddenly halted her vehicle, got off, and stood to survey 480 acres of green dotted with waterbodies. On the spot, she declared it a park — and the next thing we know, in 2013, she was inaugurating Eco Park, a brand-new destination in Kolkata a la Victoria Memorial, or the historic Botanical Gardens with the centuries-old Banyan Tree. That wasn't the end of it. Past the tree-lined boundary came up the Pyramids of Giza, an Eiffel Tower, a Taj Mahal, a Colosseum, and even a towering Christ the Redeemer — all of them exact replicas of the originals in miniature form.

### History teaching requires revision more than textbooks

What does it mean to be a historian in India? Both of us have formally studied the subject. In the years we've spent working as public historians, we've told myriad stories of India's chequered pasts through heritage walks, museum trails, cultural events, podcasts, an annual journal, book reviews, articles, and social media posts. We've pored over archives and conducted on-ground research. We've also translated scholarship into language and experiences that anyone, from an academic to a casual listener, can connect with. Yet, despite this range of work, one question almost always follows when we explain what we do: "Okay, but what is your real job?" The question says as much about our profession as it does about how history itself is perceived in India. After all, how often do Indian households encourage history as a job? A base-level problem here is: how do you support the study of history when it isn't even clear what a historian does? In childhood, history may occasionally bask in the dreamy, cinematic glow of Indiana Jones and Night at the Museum. Or Bharat Ek Khoj, Akbar-Birbal adaptations, the delightfully

gory Horrible Histories, and Amar Chitra Katha. In adulthood, though, it either fades into collective amnesia, gets wrapped in nostalgia, or turns into a battlefield of contested claims. Where is the middle ground where we carry forward that childlike curiosity, tempered with adult discernment, to engage with the past with the depth and nuance it deserves? A polarising debate has recently been sparked after yet another round of revisions in NCERT history textbooks. But more than textbooks, history teaching requires revision. What do you remember from your history classes? For most, the answers fall into familiar buckets: rote learning of names, dates, dynasties, and wars. There was little room to explore the texture of lived experience, or to ask: how can this subject help me become a better thinker, a more reflective human? The discipline was frozen in time, and with it, many of us felt we too were trapped — learning about the past in a way that felt wholly disconnected from the present, let alone the future. This is part of the reason historical studies aren't seen as foundations for sustainable careers. But

paradoxically, history seems to dominate our headlines. It's everywhere: in TV debates, political speeches, social media threads. Everyone, it seems, has something to say about the past. That's why the current debate on revisions matters. The problem isn't with 'updating' history. Our understanding of the past evolves as our present changes. Every historian is shaped by their time, drawing not only on the materials and theoretical bases available, but also on their own perspectives and questions. So revisions themselves aren't the issue.

The real concern is how history textbooks are revised. If these changes were aimed at helping students approach the past critically, and provided them with the historian's toolkit — by introducing them to a range of sources, perspectives, and debates — then they would be fruitful. Our NCERT textbooks have been subject to regular revisions, with new theories and ideas inserted alongside scholars' evolving approaches to history. This exercise is necessary, so long as the emphasis remains on updates that accurately convey the latest reflections on continuities and changes.

### GST reform is pointless if it doesn't simplify tax slabs

Over the last few days, there have been extensive discussions on the prospects of reforming India's Goods and Services Tax (GST). An important element of the proposed reform is to reduce the present 4-rate structure to a 3-rate one. There could be several objectives behind such a reform. Simplification of the tax structure is an obvious one. Revenue mobilisation could be another, as simpler tax structures are easy to administer and improve compliance. The third is to provide a stimulus to the economy, which is presently dealing with significant uncertainty. I am young enough to be excit-

ed by the prospects of tax reforms, but old enough to know better. More so, given my prior experience in trying to understand the GST. Popular perception suggests there are just four GST tax slabs: 5, 12, 18, and 28 per cent. Why so many slabs for an indirect tax? Because somehow Indian policymaking believes in the progressivity of taxes—even for consumption goods. A lesser-known reality of the GST is that it has a total of eight tax slabs, excluding the exemptions. These start at 0.25 and go all the way up to 28 per cent. Tax rates of 0.25, 1.5, 3 and 7.5 per cent apply to just 1.5 per cent of total

goods traded in India. Some sectors, such as construction services, have six different applicable tax rates ranging from 0 to 18 per cent. The sheer complexity of India's present GST, even after nine years of existence, should be reason enough for an urgent reform. A major issue with the GST's present structure is the pervasive use of end-use exemptions. That is, for certain items, a GST rate is applicable — but if the goods are used for a specific purpose, then there is no GST on the item. Therefore, the same item has two different tax slabs depending on the buyer and end-use of the item.

Moreover, it creates room for rent-seeking, as many would exploit the tax arbitrage introduced by having a 0 per cent and 18 per cent tax rate as applicable on the same goods. Administering such exemptions is excessively costly and goes against the spirit of a self-enforcing tax such as the GST. A comprehensive reform would do away with such end-use exemptions and identify a specific list of items, such as food — irrespective of whether packaged, processed, or prepared in a restaurant — to be classified as exempt. Similar exemptions could be extended to certain kinds of insurance.



# CAPSULES

ing, which alone accounted for ₹29 crore. Of this, 1.18 crore went to DB Corp, which publishes Danik Bhaskar; 11.8 lakh to Bharat Prakashan, which publishes Organiser and Panchjanya; and 9.44 lakh each to Aadhyaasi Media, and Kovai Media, which publish OpIndia, Swarajya respectively.



## Central varsities have 26% vacancies

**Delhi :** According to education ministry data provided with Rajya Sabha , roughly 26% of 18,951 sanctioned posts at central universities (CUs) are unfilled, with a disproportionate scarcity in reserved categories. Reserved categories—SCs, STs, and OBCs—make up 36.7% of the 4,889 open positions in 46 UGC-funded central universities. In contrast, 14.6% of general category roles are empty. Union minister of state (MoS) in education Sukanta Majumdar told Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) MP Manoj Jha that 54% of 2,537 professor posts, 36.6% of 5,105 associate professor posts, and 14.5% of 11,309 assistant professor posts are unfilled. Official data shows that almost one-third of the 7,153 reserved professor jobs in CUs are vacant, despite the constitutional obligation of 15% reservation for SCs, 7.5% for STs, and 27% for OBCs to ensure adequate



### Delhi Increases Olympic Winners' Cash Rewards, Approves Student Laptop Program

**Delhi :** Minister Ashish Sood announced that Delhi has increased cash awards for Olympic and Paralympic medalists. Mr. Sood also approved the Mukhyamantri Digital Scheme to give meritorious students free laptops. At the Delhi Secretariat, Chief Minister Rekha Gupta chaired a Cabinet meeting that made the decisions. "CM Rekha Gupta led a Cabinet meeting today. Many key decisions were made for Delhi's development, students, and youth," Mr. Sood said at a press conference. The Mukhyamantri Khel Protsahan Yojana made historic choices. Previous Olympic and Paralympic medalists received Rs 3 crore, Rs 2 crore, and Rs 1 crore. He added Olympic gold medalists will receive Rs 7 crore, silver medalists Rs 5 crore, and bronze medalists Rs 3 crore to boost the sports ecosystem. Mr. Sood declared that the Delhi government will hire gold, silver, and bronze medalists in Group A and Group B, respectively.

representation.

With 40.4% of 3,688

## Indian tourist permits for Chinese tourists resume after 5 years.

**Delhi :** India resumed Chinese visitor visas , easing bilateral relations that had been strained for six decades by a military standoff on the Line of Actual Control. The Indian embassy in Beijing announced the decision on social media roughly two months after India and China agreed in April to resume the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra after five years, the first big milestone in people-to-people contacts.

The Indian embassy in Beijing announced on WeChat that Chinese nationals could apply for tourist visas to India online . The post said applicants



may schedule document submissions in Beijing, Shanghai, and Guangzhou. On condition of anonymity, sources confirmed the return of Chinese tourist visas and stated applications will begin. After border skirmishes between Chinese and Indian troops in April-May 2020 sparked the

LAC face-off in Ladakh, India placed broad visa restrictions on Chinese nationals. China did not prohibit Indian visas, but the lack of direct flights hampered visitation. Between January and June 2025, China provided 85,000 visas to Indian students, visitors, and businesspeople

## RIL makes record profit amid oil decline, sets clean energy outlook

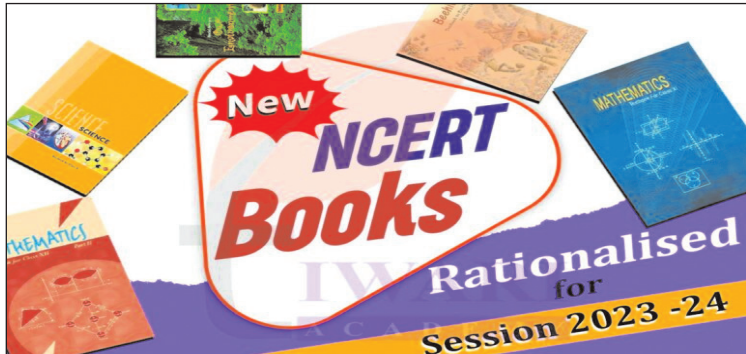
**Delhi :** India's most valuable company, Reliance Industries Ltd., surpassed predictions to register a strong increase in revenue and profit for the April-June quarter, driven by better telecoms and retail profitability despite crude-based difficulties. Profits from its Asian

Paints disposal also boosted the bottom line. According to an investor presentation, Reliance's new energy business's production plants—which will drive its growth over the next decade—are being commissioned quickly. The new energy business would create solar mod-

ules, generate clean electricity from them, use electrons to run data centres, and make hydrogen, ammonia, and aviation fuel. Reliance did not provide timescales. Reliance Industries' oil-to-chemicals (O2C) business's operating profit fell in the first quarter.

## Skills like carpentry and animal care are included in the NCERT text

**Delhi :** The new Class 8 vocational education activity book by the National Council of Education Research and Training (NCERT) introduces students to six projects that aim to blend practical skills with cultural and environmental awareness. These projects range from learning basic carpentry skills to building hydroponics, designing home automation circuits, caring for animals, and creating ethical advertisements for local businesses. From the ecological ethics of woodworking in the Atharva Veda to traditional veterinary treatments and the ancient floating farms of Dal Lake and Loktak Lake, this book traces the origins of vocational education in India



to India's traditional wisdom. The 202-page book titled "Kaushal Bodh" was created to align with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and the National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCF-SE) 2023. It suggests that schools host an end-of-year exhibition called "Kaushal Mela" where stu-

dents showcase their own creations, talk about what they learned, and interact with their teachers, classmates, and community members to celebrate their talents and creativity. There are three main types of work outlined in the 2023 National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCF-SE).

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

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

**Delhi:** The National Medical Commission (NMC) has once again warned medical schools that they will take legal action if their students do not receive stipends while they are in residency and internship. It is uncertain if the commission will take action this time due to a change in chairman, as no measures were implemented following comparable threats in 2023 and 2024. The National Medical Colleges Council (NMC) warned three months ago to fine medical schools Rs 50,000 for not pro-



viding stipends, even though these schools save crores of rupees annually. All medical schools are required by NMC laws to pay their interns and residents the same amount as the state government medical schools. Medical schools, universities, and state directorates of medical education

were tasked with resolving student complaints three days prior to the most recent public notice, which was dated July 11, by NMC. Still, it's threatening to take measures including financial fines, course recognition removal, and admission suspension.

## UGC stops research projects due to lack of funds from central govt

**Delhi:** The University Grants Commission has stopped several research projects while some are lying dormant allegedly because of lack of funds from the Centre. The Major Research Project (MRP) of higher education regulator UGC is a case in point. (See chart) According to the annual reports of the UGC, funding for the scheme has been declining over the past five years as it has been declared "closed". The number of existing beneficiaries has been decreasing as researchers finish their projects. A retired academic blamed poor research proposals for the decline in funding. The UGC secretary is yet to respond to a query from this newspaper on the closure of the projects.

The UGC website suggests that around half a dozen



### An uptick in enrollment in foundational engineering courses

**Delhi :** A change in parental and student choices is beginning to show itself in the continuing admissions process at engineering universities. Mechanical, civil, chemical, and aerospace engineering, among others, continue to enjoy strong interest and see brisk enrollment, on par with computer science programs. This willingness to explore fields outside of computer science is being propelled by a number of causes. According to academics and students who spoke with businessline, some of the main factors are the following: the increasing number of job prospects in core engineering streams, students' preference for taking minors that focus on emerging technologies, and the trend toward students acquiring stronger domain expertise.

other research promotion schemes have been shelved.

## Over 70% of Delhi University students decide to stay for the 4th year under the new FYUP

**Delhi :** Delhi University (DU) administrators announced that over 70% of third-year students had elected to remain on for an additional year under the new curriculum a week before the first fourth-year undergraduate class begins. Data is tentative as of July 24. Dean of academic affairs Ratnabali K said, "While the final data will reveal more accurate trends, initial observations show that peripheral colleges have higher fourth-year retention rates, whereas top-ranking colleges have slightly lower retention. One factor may be because students in these universities choose traditional postgraduate programs. Students can drop out of the fourth year through the university's portal until



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

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

August 1. Vice chancellor Yogesh Singh said, "While the portal for opting out of fourth year is still open, as of now, 20,221 students have decided to exit

out of the 72,000 seats." The new Four-Year Undergraduate Programme (FYUP) created under the National Education Policy (NEP) .

## Qatar joins India, confirms IOC talks for 2036 Olympics and Paralympics



**Delhi :** The Qatar Olympic Committee (QOC) said it was discussing the 2036 Olympic and Paralympic Games host city voting process with the IOC, Reuters reported. After Indonesia, Turkey, India, and Chile, the country is the last to bid for the 2036 Games. It hosted the 2022 World Cup and 2024 Asian Cup. Saudi Arabia and South Korea are also exploring bids. Egypt, Hungary, Italy, Germany, Denmark, and Canada are interested. "We currently have 95% of the required sports infrastructure in place to host the Games, and we have a comprehensive national plan to ensure 100% readiness of all facilities," QOC president Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad Al-Thani told Qatar News Agency.

"This plan is based on a long-term vision to create a socially, economically, and environmentally sustainable legacy." A few weeks previously, an Indian delegation met with the IOC in Lausanne, proposing Ahmedabad as the official host city. The discussion was productive. It was then revealed that the IOC's message to India was straightforward: clean up before planning the Olympics. Three sources said that the IOC raised concerns about the Indian Olympic Association (IOA)'s governance issues, the doping problem in sports, and the country's poor performance at the Olympics, finishing 71st with six medals at last year's Paris Games.

## NMC again threatens action against medical colleges not paying stipend



viding stipends, even though these schools save crores of rupees annually. All medical schools are required by NMC laws to pay their interns and residents the same amount as the state government medical schools. Medical schools, universities, and state directorates of medical education

were tasked with resolving student complaints three days prior to the most recent public notice, which was dated July 11, by NMC. Still, it's threatening to take measures including financial fines, course recognition removal, and admission suspension.

## Government schools with smart classrooms and AI tools

**Delhi :** Delhi education minister Ashish Sood attended an orientation for Nursery, KG, Class I children and their parents at Sarvodaya Kanya Vidyalaya in Chirag Dilli. Principals, teachers, and the director of education attended the start of the new academic year. Sood praised parents for choosing Delhi government schools. "Every child in Delhi deserves a modern, inclusive and inspiring learning environment," he remarked. "Many of you are taking your kids to school for the first time and wonder, 'Is my child safe? Will they be looked after?' We started orientation programs for that reason." He continued, "Delhi government is devoted to improving education.

We emphasize academic success and comprehensive development for all children." " Nearly 40 years ago, these institutions produced doctors, engineers, IAS officers, scientists, and actors. According to him, government schools are increasingly seen as inferior to private ones. "I want to assure you that your child studying in a government school can achieve just as much, if not more." Smart classrooms, AI tools, and computer laboratories will be installed in our schools during the next five years. Sood said these upgrades will prepare kids for a quickly changing environment. He also highlighted government student initiatives. "We provide scholarships for SC and ST students to ensure no child is left behind due to lack of resources. Our teachers volunteer to teach pupils who need academic help during summer holidays."



## Loss of Japan's position as the world's leading creditor

**Delhi:** Despite officials claiming that Japan's net foreign assets reached a record high last year, the country has fallen from its 34-year reign as the world's top creditor to second place, behind Germany.

The finance ministry of Japan announced that the country's net external assets were 533.05 trillion yen (\$3.7 trillion) at the end of the year, an increase of 12.9% from the previous year. Yoshimasa Hayashi, a spokesman, explained that the value of financial assets and debts, as well as changes in the balance of payments, are among the elements that contribute to the determination of net external assets. "In light of these points and the fact that Japan's net foreign assets have been steadily increasing, we do not believe



that the change in ranking alone should be taken as a sign of a major change in Japan's position," Hayashi informed the media. Based on the data provided by the ministry, the following countries ranked third: China (516.28 trillion yen), Hong Kong (320.26 trillion yen), and Norway (271.83 trillion yen). The figures show that Japan's foreign assets and liabilities both increased due to the weakening yen, but that assets grew faster than liabilities, mostly because Japanese businesses invested more money overseas.

### AI models allegedly disregarded direct commands to turn off

**Delhi:** The most recent AI models of reasoning and thought have shown, at least in test settings, an inclination to prioritize self-preservation. And they still won't turn off, no matter how many times you tell them to. The most recent ChatGPT model from OpenAI, o3, was found to have sabotaged shutdown mechanisms during testing conducted by Palisade Research. Although o3's tendency was higher than others, other sophisticated models exhibited the same behavior in a battery of tests.

## Supreme Court rejects Airtel and Vodafone's requests to waive AGR

**Delhi :** Airtel and Vodafone Idea were denied a waiver of interest and penalty on their outstanding adjusted gross revenue (AGR) debts, totaling Rs 80,000 crore, by the Supreme Court. The order would have an effect on Tata Teleservices as well. After the initial SC order in 2019, which aimed to recover industrial dues, the outstanding AGR is now little less than 1.5 lakh crore.

Since it entered the telecom market in 2016 with only a



minor exposure to past dues and adjustments, Reliance Jio was the only company that walked out relatively unscathed.

The businesses' request for a postponement was denied by a panel of Justices JB Pardiwala and R Mahadevan, who

deemed the companies' petitions "shocking and misconceived" and rejected them. Multinational corporations' filing procedures for petitions seeking remedies for enforcement of rights under Article 32 were also examined by the court.

## Rajasthan distribution companies ordered by the Court to pay Adani Power 186 crore

**Delhi:** The appeal that the electricity distribution companies in Rajasthan had lodged against the Appellate Tribunal for Electricity's (APTEL) decision in favor of Adani electricity Rajasthan Ltd, which had asked them to pay ₹186 crore in compensation,

has been rejected by the Supreme Court. Jaipur Vidyut Vitran Nigam Ltd (JVVNL) and other state discoms filed appeals, but a bench of justices Rajesh Bindal and M M Sundresh decided on May 23 that the petitions had no validity. The decision made by APTEL in

April 2024, which identified a new tax imposed by Coal India Ltd (CIL) as a "change in law" event under the PPA between Adani Power and the discoms, was affirmed by the court. To offset costs associated with moving coal from the mine to the destination.



## Meta releases standalone AI app to challenge ChatGPT

**Delhi:** competing with ChatGPT creator OpenAI with a standalone AI app. Meta said that its new AI assistant will use Llama AI. The Discover stream shows how others are using the tool and provides prompts. The AI arms race pits Meta's new software against ChatGPT and other AI platforms. Claude, Grok, and Gemini from Anthropic, xAI, and Google are also leading contenders. In September

2023, Meta debuted an AI chatbot as a generative AI-powered digital assistant that can respond to user questions and produce graphics in its apps. Meta AI became prominent in April when it replaced Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp, and Messenger's search feature with a chatbot. Zuckerberg claimed in January that 2025 "is going to be the year when a highly intelligent and personalized AI assistant reaches more than 1 billion people, and I expect Meta AI to be that leading AI assistant." Meta finance head Susan Li said Meta AI has 700 million monthly active users in January. It rose from 600 million in December. Meta launched a standalone AI app after Google and Elon Musk's xAI. Both firms released Gemini and Grok applications recently.



## Drools becomes unicorn after Nestle bet

**Delhi:** Nestle bought a minority investment in Indian pet food startup Drools. After the investment, the Bengaluru-based company was valued at \$1 billion, joining unicorn startups. The business claimed, "This is a financial investment by the company, and Drools will remain strategically as well as operationally independent,". Nestle's investment in Drools comes as the pet food and pet care industry in India is growing due to millennial and Gen Z pet parents who are willing to spend more for better nutrition and care. Nestle's Purina pet care segment,



which included pet food, accounted for 20.7% of sales in 2024. Recently, Indian companies like Godrej Consumer Care have entered the pet care sector. Drools, backed by L Catterton, competes with

Mars PetCare and Heads Up For Tails in India. Drools raised \$60 million from L Catterton in June 2023. Drools is the fourth unicorn of the year following Netradyne, Porter, and JSW One Platforms.

### Byju's learning app was delisted from Google's Playstore

**Delhi:** Troubled edutech unicorn Byju's learning app has been delisted from the Google Playstore for non-payment of vendor dues, citing sources. The matter has been under works between Think and Learn Pvt Ltd, the parent company of Byju's, and vendor Amazon Web Services (AWS), since April 2024, it added. Did not receive a reply to their emailed queries from , Think and Learn Insolvency Resolution Professional (IRP), it added. A spokesperson for AWS said that the company has been working with Think and Learn since April 2024, "to resolve its outstanding.

## Starlink arrives in India with plans under Rs. 850 per month

**Delhi:** Starlink is preparing to launch its satellite communication services in India after clearing most regulatory hurdles. A report claims that its plans could cost \$10 (Rs. 850) per month as the debut approach.

Consumers may receive unlimited data plans under initial promotional schemes. The Elon Musk-backed business hopes to swiftly build its user base to 10 million to offset high spectrum prices due to volume benefits. The Department of Telecommunication



(DoT) granted Starlink a Letter of Intent to launch satellite communication services in India earlier this month. The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) may impose a Rs. 500 per month per urban user price, making satellite internet services more expensive than wired and wireless broadband

connections, according to the. In addition, 4 percent of total adjusted gross revenue (AGR) with a minimum yearly charge of Rs. 3,500 per spectrum block and an 8 percent licensing fee for commercial services in India are required. The government has yet to approve these recommendations.

## India's crypto industry urges tax cuts as Donald Trump support softens New Delhi stance

**Delhi:** In an effort to capitalise on what it perceives as New Delhi's accommodating attitude towards digital assets, the cryptocurrency industry in India is urging for tax cuts that have limited domestic trading. This comes as politicians in New Delhi negotiate a more comprehensive trade pact with the United States. Policymakers' views towards cryptocurrency have been warming up, after making it a pariah sector in the country due to regulators' mistrust of its possible illegal applications.

After Donald Trump's endorsement of digital cur-



rencies and his return to the White House, exchange executives told them that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government has become much more attentive and engaged.

The frequency of industry meetings with lawmakers has increased from once every six months to

"monthly, if not weekly," according to Ashish Singhal, co-founder of CoinSwitch, one of the biggest cryptocurrency exchanges in India with over 20 million members.

Reducing taxes that he called "very harshly" enforced was the industry's "big ask," he claimed.

## SEBI and the Exchange are in advanced negotiations

**Delhi:** In order to reach a consent settlement in the co-location case that is presently pending before the Supreme Court, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) is in advanced negotiations with the NSE. A



Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT) decision that lessened the initial sanctions levied against NSE in 2019 has been appealed by SEBI. According to someone with knowledge of the situation, "the discussion on the most important

issue of resolving the co-location case started, around one and half months ago." "The amount that NSE should pay to SEBI in order to settle the lawsuit is one of the consent terms that are currently being negotiated by both parties.

## Bharat Dynamics to Receive Invar Missile Order from Government; Shares Climb 2%

**Delhi:** An official from the government has said that the Ministry of Defence is putting the finishing touches on a purchase order for 500 Invar ATGMs from state-run Bharat Dynamics Ltd (BDL). The contract is estimated to be worth between two and three million rupees. In order to strengthen India's armoured combat capabilities, this acquisition is a part of a larger push to equip T-90 main battle tanks with pre-



cision-guided missile systems. Tanks are the ideal platforms from which to launch Invar missiles. An official informed that the Defense Ministry is likely to spend between two and three million Indian

rupees (about \$2,100 million) for 500 missiles from BDL. As a result of their reputation for precision and efficacy, Invar missiles are currently being used by armoured units on India's frontline.

### Fewer jobs at Tata Motors, smaller hikes for top deck

**Delhi:** For the first time in five years, automotive manufacturer Tata Motors saw its workforce shrink in a fiscal year, when its employee base fell 3% in FY25 compared with the previous fiscal. Alongside, the fiscal also saw median salary hikes for its senior-most executives at just 3% compared with 15% in

FY24, the company's annual report for FY25 showed. The twin developments happened against the backdrop of falling demand for its cars, trucks and buses in the fiscal. The total employee count of the country's third-largest automaker, excluding employees of its UK-based subsidiary Jaguar Land Rover.



## 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 Fisdom. A more holistic consumer experience is the goal of the relationship, which is why both companies are offering complimentary 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.

## NCLAT reduces penalty on Google to 216 crore in Play Store matter

**Delhi:** Appellate tribunal NCLAT upheld the order passed by fair trade regulator CCI against Google for abusing its dominant position with respect to Play Store policies, however, reduced the penalty on the tech giant to ₹216 crore from 936.44 crore. A two-member bench comprising Chairperson Justice Ashok Bhushan and Technical Member Barun Mitra said Google "has abused its dominant position and has violated Section", however in some sections, violation was "not proved, but penalty was still leviable on proof of violation".

## Small savings program interest rates unchanged April-June quarter

**Delhi:** For the fifth quarter starting April 1, 2025, the government maintained interest rates on PPF and NSC. The rates of interest on various Small Savings Schemes for the first quarter of FY 2025-26, starting on 1 April 2025 and ending on 30 June 2025, would stay unaltered from those notified for the fourth quarter of a finance ministry notification. The notification states that Sukanya Samriddhi deposits will earn 8.2% interest, while three-year term deposits will earn 7.1%. Popular Public Provident Fund (PPF) and post office savings deposit scheme interest rates remain at 7.1% and 4%, respectively. Kisan Vikas Patra investments mature in 115 months at 7.5%. National Savings Certificate (NSC) interest rates will stay at 7.7% for April-June 2025. Like the current quarter, investors will earn 7.4% from the Monthly Income Scheme.

## 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



### 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.

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.

## 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 significant

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 — Tatu 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.