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

NATIONAL ENGLISH DAILY

इन्वायरिंग इन्वॉक्स INBOX

Fifth group of Kailash Mansarovar pilgrims left for Gunji

Pithoragarh. The fifth and last group of Kailash Mansarovar pilgrims left for Gunji on Sunday morning. The 50-member group includes 37 male and 13 female pilgrims. This group of pilgrims going to Kailash Mansarovar reached Pithoragarh at 10:30 pm on Saturday. The group stayed overnight at KMVN Pithoragarh and left for Gunji at 7:30 am on Sunday. Today this group will reach Gunji. Liaisoning officers Manu Maharaj and Om Prakash are handling the responsibility of yatra management and coordination with the team. Due to road blockade in Swala (Champawat) on Saturday, this group reached late than the scheduled time. Today the fourth group has entered the Chinese border from Lipulekh Pass and left for its next stop. The Mansarovar Yatra is being continuously monitored by the district administration.

Alert for heavy rain in Himachal

Shimla: Most parts of Himachal Pradesh received rainfall last night, while today on Sunday also the weather remains bad due to cloud cover and there is a possibility of rain.

Rahul ji, why do you lie all the time? - Rijiju

New Delhi: The Air Force Chief made several big revelations on Operation Sindoos on Saturday. Air Force Chief Air Marshal AP Singh said that during this period, 6 aircraft including five fighter jets of Pakistan were shot down. After the statement of Air Force Chief Air Marshal AP Singh, Union Minister Kiren Rijiju has targeted the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi. In fact, while posting on the social media platform X, Kiren Rijiju wrote that I request Rahul Gandhi to maintain the dignity of the Parliament of India. During this, Kiren Rijiju also posted a clip.

"Political leadership gave complete freedom"

This helped the army commanders to take their own decisions and act

Confidence

□ This kind of confidence, political direction and clarity we saw for the first time

New Delhi: Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi said that Operation 'Sindoos' has united the whole country because the government gave us complete freedom during the air conflict with Pakistan. For the first time we saw political clarity. The absence of any kind of restrictions helped the army commanders to take their own decisions and work according to their discretion. Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi made this com-



ment during a program at IIT Madras on August 4, about which the army has given official information on Sunday. On the operation, Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi says that what happened in Pahalgam on April 22 shook the whole country. On the second day of the attack, i.e. on April 23, we all sat together. This was

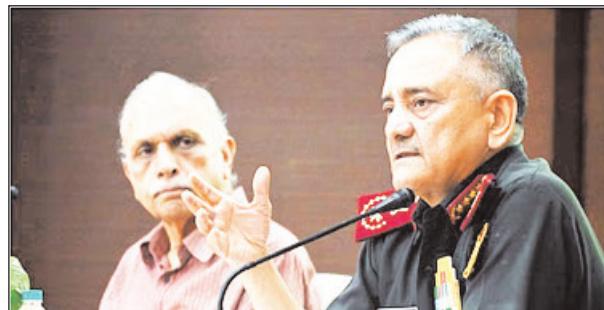
the first time when Defense Minister Rajnath Singh said, 'Enough is enough.' The three army chiefs were very clear that something has to be done. Complete freedom was given by the government to decide what to do. This kind of confidence, political direction and political clarity we saw

We played chess during Operation Sindoos:
Army Chief

During his address at IIT Madras, the Army Chief said that in Operation Sindoos we played chess. We did not know what the enemy's next move would be and what we were going to do. This is called Greyzone, which means we are not doing a conventional operation just a little less than a conventional operation. We were making chess moves.

for the first time. He said that the clarity of political leadership helped our Army Commander-in-Chief to work according to his wisdom while staying on the ground.

"Operation Sindoos is a proof of synergy and operational coherence"



New Delhi: Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan termed the key points to shape the future roadmap of integrated operations. General Anil Chauhan emphasised the importance of comprehensive capability development, self-reliance and in-depth understanding of the changes required in the military to deal with the dangerous changes in technology-driven modern warfare. The CDS delivered a lecture on 'National Security Architecture and Higher Defence.

Show transparency, make digital voter list public: Rahul Gandhi

New Delhi: Congress MP and Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi once again targeted the Election Commission. He shared a video on the social media platform 'X' and wrote, 'Vote theft is an attack on the basic democratic principle of one person, one vote. A clean voter list is essential for free and fair elections.

Our demand from the Election Commission is clear that it should show transparency and make the digital voter list public, so that the public and political parties can audit it themselves. You too can join us and support this demand - go to or give a missed call on 9650003420. This fight is to protect democracy.' This is a

crime against the Constitution. Rahul shared a video on social media, in which he reiterated his claims of large-scale criminal fraud in the elections with the collusion of the BJP and the Election Commission. Citing an analysis of a constituency in Karnataka, he said that this is a crime against the Constitution.

Dharali: Affected families will be given ration for six months



relief operations in Dharali, the Chief Minister said, despite bad weather, more than 1000 people have been rescued safely so far. This includes local people as well as pilgrims

Affected

□ The injured have been admitted to the District Hospital, AIIMS: CM

from all over the country. The injured have been admitted to the District Hospital,

AIIMS. Arrangements have been made to ensure that everyone gets good treatment. Adequate amount of medicines, milk, ration, clothes have been delivered to Harshil and Dharali areas. UREDA's power house has been started for power supply in Harshil area. UPCL is getting the damaged.

Bihar SIR: Election Commission's affidavit in Supreme Court



tions of removing the names of voters from the voter list, the Election Commission said that the name of any eligible voter will not be removed from the list.

In a petition filed in the Supreme Court regard-

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

Bihar: Amount transferred to bank accounts of 1 crore 12 lakh pensioners

Patna: Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar transferred an amount of Rs 1247.34 crore to the accounts of more than 1 crore 12 lakh pensioners under the Social Security Pension Scheme through DBT during a program organized at his residence on Sunday. The pension amount of Rs 1100 for the month of July has been transferred to the accounts of the beneficiaries of the Social Pension.

Rajnath Singh performed the Bhoomi Pujan of the Rs 1800 crore rail factory



Raisen: Union Defense Minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday (August 10, 2025) laid the foundation stone of the country's first rail and metro coach manufacturing unit Greenfield Rail Coach Manufacturing Center at Dussehra Ground in Raisen, Madhya Pradesh. Coaches for metro trains and Vande Bharat trains will be manufactured in this factory spread over an area of ??more than

60 hectares. The first phase of this Rs 1,800 crore project is expected to be completed by mid-2026. After this produc-

tion will start. Youth of these districts will get benefit Brahma Project (BEM) Rail Hub for Manufacturing) will benefit districts like Bhopal, Raisen, Sehore and Vidisha and thousands of youth will also get employment. Employment opportunities will be created for the students studying in technical institutes of these districts. While addressing the programme, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said, 'CM and Shivraj Ji have said that this is not a small gift but a very big one.'

'Vote theft': 'If there is proof, Rahul should go to court: Shinde



Mumbai: Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Sunday attacked the opposition Congress and its leader Rahul Gandhi over their allegations of 'vote theft'. The Shiv Sena chief said

that if they have proof, they should approach the court or the Election Commission. Shiv Sena leader Shinde told reporters during an event in Thane that by making such baseless claims, they have insulted the people of Maharashtra. Rahul Gandhi on Thursday claimed large-scale criminal fraud in elections through collusion between the BJP and the Election Commission.

Gram Pradhan, area and district Panchayat members will get training: CM Dhami

Dehradun: Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami has directed to provide training to the newly elected village heads, area panchayat and district panchayat

members on modern technology, financial management and governance system. Chief Minister said that everyone will have to make integrated efforts towards fulfilling the resolve of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to make India a developed nation by 2047. Development of the state and the country.

Authorities cannot authorize foreign kid adoption: HC

Delhi: The Bombay high court ruled that the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act and adoption regulations do not allow Indian couples to adopt foreign children, even if related. While dismissing a petition by a Pune-based couple, the division bench of justices Revati Mohite Dere and Neela Gokhale stated that the JJ Act and adoption regulations do not allow relatives to adopt a foreign-citizen child unless it is a 'child in need of care and protection' or a 'child in conflict with law'. The 2011-married couple sought to adopt the woman's sister's six-year-old kid in the US. They petitioned the Pune district court to adopt their 'relative' because Muslims have no adoption statute. While their plea was pending in district court in 2024, the Central Adoption Resource



BJP claims Tamil Nadu liquor fraud worth Rs 1,000 crore, DMK denies it

Delhi: The BJP has accused the Tamil Nadu government, led by Chief Minister MK Stalin, of a Rs 1,000-crore liquor fraud through the Tamil Nadu State Marketing Corporation. The ruling Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) denies the BJP's assertions that Enforcement Directorate raids

have revealed massive financial irregularities. The BJP further claimed that CM Stalin is spreading falsehoods regarding the three-language policy and other national problems to distract from the fraud. DMK presented the Tamil Nadu Budget 2025-26 in the state Assembly on the same day as the claims.

Agency (CARA) refused to register them as prospective adoptive parents or issue a pre-approval letter because the 2022

adoption regulations did not allow American citizen adoption. A couple approached the high court. Advocate Shirin

Lok Sabha approves Gujarat cooperative university bill

Delhi: The Lok Sabha passed the Tribhuvan Sahkari University Bill, 2025, to turn the Institute of Rural Management (IRMA) into a university in Anand, Gujarat, to train co-operative society workers. Union home and cooperation minister Amit Shah said the university was named after Tribhuvandas Kishibhai Patel, who founded Amul dairy cooperative, during a Lok Sabha debate on the bill. Shah stated that the university will strengthen the rural economy, develop self-employment and small entrepreneurship, increase social inclusion, and set new standards in



innovation and research. It will also produce over 800,000 qualified and trained cooperative sector job seekers annually. This measure also calls the prospective university a "institution of national importance." The state government supplied the land for the institution in Gujarat, but Shah claimed

Shiromani Akali Dal announces organizational elections

Delhi: Shiromani Akali Dal announced organizational elections. Its parliamentary board, chaired by working president Balwinder Singh Bhunder, chose this. The move follows a party membership drive debate. The SAD constituted a recruitment commission. The Akal Takht committee started a SAD membership drive. "It was decided in today's meeting that those who haven't submitted enrollment slips in party head office have until 31," said SAD secretary and spokesman Daljit Singh Cheema. He stated enrollment slips cannot be filed after 5 pm 31. Cheema said party observers will receive guidelines and cir-



cle-level delegate lists at the central office on 11. The SAD leader said these lists will be used for assembly segment elections for district and state delegates from 2 to 6, and observers will submit lists to the party chief on 7. The parliamentary board met with Janmeja Singh Sekhon, Hira Singh Gabria, and Gulzar Singh Ranike. President Harjinder Singh Dhami and former chief Kirpal

Singh Badungar resigned. Akal Takht appointed SAD MLAs Manpreet Singh Ayali, Iqbal Singh Jhunda, Santa Singh Umaidpur, Gurpartap Singh Wadala, and Satwant Kaur to the committee. Dissident Akali officials accused the party of breaking the Takht's December 2 directive to reform the SAD by creating its own working committee in to manage the membership drive.

Gzb fast rail station may provide co-working spaces

Delhi: NCR opened a co-working space at Ghaziabad's Namo Bharat station concourse. The area will serve 42 people and 11 organizations with 42 open workstations, 11 private cabins, and two meeting spaces. An NCRTC spokesman said

video conferencing, wireless screen sharing, and high-speed fiber-optic internet are available. IoT-enabled workspaces will have smart lighting, climate control, and meeting room scheduling. QR scan-and-use hot desks, vending machines, and feed-

back gathering will be available. The official stated that integrating these technologies will give professionals a future-ready, connected, and efficient co-working experience. This cost-effective strategy will allow startups, small enterprises.

Maha has a two-year farm loan forgiveness ban



Asaram interim medical bail in the rape case has been extended by three months

Delhi: The Gujarat High Court awarded self-styled Godman and rape prisoner Asaram Bapu a three-month extension of the temporary medical bail that the Supreme Court had previously granted. Bapu has a life sentence out there. The rape suspect was granted medically-motivated interim bail by the Supreme Court in of this year.

funds anytime since we're elected for five years. We're employing numerous resources to strengthen public finances, said the deputy chief minister. The Opposition

slammed Mahayuti for breaching promises. Maharashtra Congress Legislature Party chairman Vijay Wadettiwar said MahaYuti and its alliance partners would provide financial aid.

Delhi: In a series of cases challenging the Tamil Nadu Online Gaming Authority's (TNOGA) prohibition on playing real money games (RMG) without Aadhaar verification through and between 12 mid-

night and 5 a.m. Indian Standard Time, the Madras High Court declined to issue any sort of interim order. Instead of issuing interim orders, a Division Bench consisting of Justices S.M.

Subramaniam and K. Rajasekar stated that they would prefer to take up the writ petitions brought by an association of online gamers and a group of online gaming corporations for ultimate dis-

position as soon as possible. They asked Advocate General P.S. Raman to make sure that, within two weeks, a counter-affidavit was submitted on behalf of both the State and the TNOGA.

Govt. tells court that rules governing online gaming are not enforced for the elderly

Shooting, football competitions to be organized by DDA

Delhi: The Delhi Development Authority is planning to add shooting, archery, and football competitions to its calendar of sporting events, replicating the Lieutenant Governor's Cup for golf as a template. All across the city, DDA's sporting facilities will play home to the various events. The authorities recently announced that the duration of the tournaments for each of the nominated sports complexes' activities will be determined by that facility alone.

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Delhi: End of July is the deadline that the Delhi administration has set for the installation of closed-circuit television cameras around the nation's capital. In an effort to reduce the availability of illicitly obtained Schedule H, H1, and X narcotics, a resolution was reached following a conference held under the 11th National Narcotics Coordination Portal (NCORD). Reducing the likelihood of dual-use medication

CCTVs compulsory at pharmacies by August end



abuse is a major goal. The authorities made the decision after receiving complaints over the intoxicating effects of these substances on both humans and animals, as well as their use in textiles, chemicals, and food products.

The letter that was sent said, "As per provisions of the National Narcotics Coordination Portal, in collaboration with the Narcotics Control Bureau, has been advised to stop, prevent and discourage the sale of dual-use medicines without prescription and an advisory dated first August 2024 on this matter was already issued earlier."

CAPSULES

Border smuggling can be controlled with the help of 5,000 house guards and anti-drone technology



Delhi: The Bhagwant Mann administration, which is run by the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), announced important measures and allocated 260 crore to combat the drug issue in their signature goal, "Yudh Nasheyan Virudh," which was prominently included in the budget. Harpal Singh Cheema, the state's finance minister, acknowledged that drugs posed the greatest danger to Punjab's development and prosperity and pointed out that most of the narcotics were imported.

Since the 50 km stretch of the international border is under the authority of the Border Security Force, the Union government has the principal responsibility for ending the smuggling of narcotics and weapons across borders. Still, the (drug) problem is very much alive and well. Cheema announced in his budget address that two new projects would be launched to "complement the efforts of the BSF" in their fight against drug smuggling across international borders. In addition to the BSF, Cheema said that the state government will send 5,000 home guards to the border to serve as a second line of defense. To keep an eye on Punjab's future, its most resolute youth will be chosen to serve as house guards.

Sena MLA Disha's father's claims would force Aaditya out



Delhi: After celebrity manager Disha Salian's father accused him of murder, the ruling parties tried to corner Shiv Sena (UBT) MLA Aaditya Thackeray by urging him to quit. Allegations forced Dhananjay Munde to quit. Aaditya Thackeray resignation? Does the government investigate these charges? "Gaikwad asked. The legislature adjourned when ruling party MLAs caused a commotion. Shambhuraje Desai, state excise minister, replied, "His party decides whether to

quit on moral grounds. However, the government will punish the guilty." "We'll request the Mumbai police commissioner's report on Salian's claims for a SIT investigation. In the Disha Salian case, Shiv Sena MLC Bhawna Gawli asked why Aaditya Thackeray was not narcotics tested. She protested to the leg-

Rakshabandhan was celebrated in the light of Kriyayoga meditation



Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Guru and disciple tied the Raksha Sutra of unbreakable faith, foreign disciples also adopted the Indian Sanskrit festival

Yoga meditation. Throwing light on this in detail, he said that every Indian living in many countries celebrates Raksha Bandhan festival with great joy and also told that people do not know that Raksha Bandhan is a festival, just like Ram did not kill Ravana but we celebrate it, Lord Krishna did not kill Kansa but we celebrate it, nothing like this had happened, whatever is

told about Hiranyakashyap, God took him to the doorstep and incarnated and took the form of a man and a lion and kept him on his feet and hit him on the doorstep with nails, all this had not happened, in this way, like a story, Raksha Bandhan festival is celebrated in today's time. Like the story goes that if we tie a thread to a brother or sister or husband or

wife or friend or anyone, then they will protect us. Tying all these threads does not protect anyone. Now Dwapar Yug has come. We should celebrate all types of Indian festivals properly. What is Raksha Bandhan? Lahiri Mahasaya has said that to know whether something is true or false, take the help of Kriya Yoga to understand anything. And Swami Ji also told that by reading Sutra No. 12 to 18 in the procedure of Holy Science, one can easily understand the explanation of Raksha Bandhan. After this, Swami Ji asked all the Sadhaks to do Kriya Yoga recharging daily. By

doing recharging, one gets freedom from all types of diseases. In the ashram, along with different states of India, foreign disciples from America, Brazil,

Canada and Europe also participated in traditional Indian attire and tied Rakhi to the Guru with Kriya Yoga method and received blessings.

Bike riders collided with pole, condition critical



Akhan Bharat Sandesh

Jhunsi Prayagraj. On Sunday afternoon, on Sahason Andawa road of the police station area, bike riders collided with an electric pole and fell on the road while trying to avoid a car, both are said to be in critical condition.

Isipur Malawa village resident Vishnu Kesharwani 24, Aryan Kesharwani 21 were going on a bike towards their home from Andawa Tiraha, when in an attempt to avoid a speeding car coming from behind, the bike went out of control and collided with an electric pole on the roadside, the collision was so strong that the

electric pole also broke and both the youths were seriously injured. The people gathered at the spot admitted both the injured to a nearby hospital, on receiving the information, the relatives of the injured also reached the hospital but due to the critical condition, the doctors referred both of them after which they were admitted to SRN.

CM Yogi leads relief efforts, assists over 6 lakh flood victims

Lucknow: Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath is personally overseeing relief operations in flood-affected areas, ensuring swift and effective assistance. Acting on his instructions, ministers have been making continuous visits to affected districts—over half a dozen of them have toured flood-hit regions, distributing relief material and checking on the well-being of victims. Relief Commissioner Bhanu Chandra Goswami reported that floods have impacted 92 tehsils and 1,877 villages across 36 districts, affecting 6,42,913 people. Relief has been provided to all, while 84,700 cattle have been relocated to safe zones.

Floods have damaged 573 houses, with financial assistance already extended to 465 families. Over 61,852 hectares of land have been affected.

Relief efforts involve 2,610 boats and motorboats delivering aid. So far, 67,169 food packets and 7,99,734 lunch packets have been distributed, with community

kitchens (langars) continuing to serve meals. The government is also ensuring the safety and sustenance of cattle, having distributed 11,640 quintals of fodder. To prevent water-borne diseases, 5,83,758 chlorine tablets and 2,88,860 ORS packets have been provided. Currently, 475 flood shelters are housing 65,437 people, all of whom are being regularly examined by 1,124 medical teams. In addition, 1,517 flood posts have been set up to maintain round-the-clock monitoring. The 36 affected districts include Ayodhya, Bahrach, Barabanki, Basti, Kasganj, Hardoi, Moradabad, Muzaffarnagar, Shahjahanpur, Bhadohi, Shravasti, Unnao, Farrukhabad, Meerut, Hapur, Gorakhpur, Gonda, Bijnor, Badaun, Kanpur Nagar, Lakhimpur Kheri, Agra, Auraiya, Chitrakoot, Ballia, Banda, Ghazipur, Mirzapur, Prayagraj, Varanasi, Chandauli, Jalaun, Kanpur Dehat, Hamirpur, Etawah, and Fatehpur. Relief operations in all these districts are progressing at a rapid pace.

The rewarder who killed the truck driver and looted him has been arrested



Akhand Bharat Sandesh

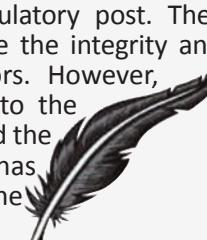
Kokraj Kaushambi.

Kokraj police had registered a case in the matter of killing the truck driver and looting goods worth crores of rupees on May 16 in Kokraj police station area and many accused were arrested by the police earlier. One accused was away from the reach of the police, on whose arrest Superintendent of Police Rajesh Kumar had announced a reward of Rs 25000. Kokraj Thanedaar and Karan Bind son Achhela Bind resident of Bibipuri Jamda police station Khetia Sarai district Jaunpur, who was carrying a reward of Rs 25000, from Kokraj police station area on Sunday. The arrested accused has confessed his crime. After completing the paperwork, the police presented the accused in the court.

Editorial

Civil servants are running India's regulatory bodies. It dilutes institutional independence

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



Trump should withdraw USCIRF's authorisation. It's interfering in India's domestic governance

In a strongly worded statement, Government of India has condemned and refuted the findings of the US Commission on International Religious Freedom report as "biased and politically motivated, and continuation of persistent attempts to misrepresent isolated incidents and cast aspersions on India's vibrant multicultural society which reflects USCIRF's deliberate agenda rather than a genuine concern for religious freedom". Though this is not the first time such reports have painted India as a coun-

try highly intolerant of its religious minorities, the March 2025 report is the first time a recommendation has been made for India to be designated as "country of particular concern". It alleges that minorities in India are facing 'deteriorating treatment'. Fifteen other countries, including Afghanistan, Russia, China, Pakistan, and Saudi Arabia, have been found to be treating their respective minorities badly. Three aspects of this report should be of concern to New Delhi, and it should be brought to

Can A 'Technocrat' Fix All That's Wrong With BJP In Kerala?



On June 9, 2024, as the Modi 3.0 government was set to swear in, Rajeev Chandrasekhar came up with a cryptic tweet: "Today, curtains down on my 18-year stint of public service, of which three years I had the privilege of serving with PM Narendra Modi's Team Modi 2.0. I certainly didn't wish to end my 18 years of public service as a candidate who lost an election, but that's how it has turned out". The tweet was deleted after a day, and the amended version conveniently laid the blame for the confusion on an "intern". It was an emotional response, a mark of Chandrasekhar's utter disappointment with not finding a place in Modi 3.0. It also signified how the 'technocrat' was not a run-of-the-mill politician who believed in rehearsed or curated responses. Less than a year since then, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) high command has now sprung a surprise by naming Chandrasekhar as its new Kerala state president. By no means was Rajeev Chandrasekhar the frontrunner. Incumbent K. Surendran, who overstayed his term by two years, was tipped to get another year's extension, until the assembly elections in the state in 2026. There were other contenders too, such as firebrand Sobha Surendran and veteran MT Ramesh. Even conventional wisdom suggested that social engineering compulsions would go against Chandrasekhar, a Nair hailing from Thrissur. With the two Malayalis in Modi's third ministry being a Nair and a Syrian Christian—Suresh Gopi and George Kurian—an

Ezava/Hindu OBC candidate would've been the more practical option. But the high command had enough reasons to pick Chandrasekhar. The BJP in Kerala is a divided house with multiple factions, and none of the frontrunners would have been able to function smoothly on account of internal dissension. Even K. Surendran's five-year term was marred by friction with the PK Krishnadas-led faction, as well as his running feud with Sobha Surendran. The BJP leadership reckons that Rajeev Chandrasekhar can carry all the factions together. He is not a natural politician, but the central leadership deems that this very characteristic will become Chandrasekhar's USP. It is very much a repetition of the 'K. Annamalai' experiment in Tamil Nadu.

True, Chandrasekhar's acceptability cuts across factions. But there are various other considerations at play. For all the gains it made elsewhere, the BJP has hardly had any electoral impact in Kerala, despite a steady rise in vote share. Even after faring reasonably well in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, cornering nearly 20% votes and Suresh Gopi's win from Thrissur, it did badly in the Palakkad by-election last November. That loss probably

put paid to Surendran's hopes to stay on until the assembly polls, as he had turned the issue into a battle of prestige. The central leadership also cannot quite understand why the BJP does so poorly in a state where the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) has the second-largest network of shakhas (branches) in the country. For a long, the RSS in Kerala had been deeply involved in the functioning of the state BJP, though the party's ideological mentor has taken a backseat in recent times. This was meant to afford more autonomy to the state party president, but it ultimately culminated in RSS organising secretary K. Subash's resignation, with the Sangh not naming a replacement in his stead for an extended period.

Now, Rajeev Chandrasekhar's appointment is likely to be followed by the RSS naming an organising secretary to assist the new president in his functioning. The last time the high command named an out-of-the-box candidate as state president was in the run-up to the 2016 assembly polls, when veteran Sangh leader Kummanam Rajasekharan, whose hardline image and association with the Nilakkal protests of 1982

had proved to be a baggage for the party in the past. The central leadership also believes that Chandrasekhar can cater to sections of Kerala's aspirational middle class that are yearning for change and are unhappy with both the ruling Left government and the Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF).

Since Chandrasekhar doesn't fit the mould of a regular politician, he may be able to connect better with this class and some increasingly 'apolitical' sections of voters that support, say, a Shashi Tharoor. In many ways in fact, it was the spirited contest that he put in against Tharoor in the Lok Sabha election in Thiruvananthapuram, despite being a late entrant, that may have propelled Chandrasekhar to the coveted position today. Giving a tough fight to Tharoor, a lot of people were left wondering whether Chandrasekhar could have emerged victorious had he been pencilled in sooner. "In Karyam Nadakkum" ('Now things will move') was Chandrasekhar's campaign slogan. This may well be called Chandrasekhar's second coming in Kerala politics. Contrary to what many may believe, the contest

in Thiruvananthapuram wasn't his initiation in state politics, even if he was based in Bengaluru until then. Much before that, he had been a key mediator for getting the Bharat Dharm Jana Sena (BDJS), affiliated to the Ezava community outfit Sree Narayana Dharma Paripalana Yogam (SNP), to join the National Democratic Alliance

BJP has a new Muslim strategy up its sleeve. Saugat-e-Modi isn't just about Bihar election

This Ramadan, a quiet gesture from the Narendra Modi government has stirred conversation Eid kits for 32 lakh underprivileged Muslims, described as a goodwill initiative timed with the holy month. The offering appears festive, including familiar Eid ingredients such as dry fruits, semolina, vermicelli and sugar. The kits also include kurta-pyjamas for men and suit fabrics for women, all neatly packaged to reach Muslim households before Eid. At first glance, it appears to be a thoughtful cultural outreach by the Bharatiya Janata Party, an attempt to bring warmth and festivity into homes that might otherwise go without. But as with most things in Indian politics, the surface is rarely the whole story. The move hasn't gone unnoticed by political observers. Why this sudden and massive outreach to Muslims—by a party that has so far built much of its narrative on distancing itself from appeasement politics? This is the same BJP whose leaders have routinely criticised political opponents for attending Iftar parties, framing such gestures as opportunistic pandering. And yet, here we are, with the ruling party preparing curated Eid hampers not just for a symbolic few but for over 30 lakh Muslim households. For many, the question is not whether the gesture is kind—but why now, and why like this? The BJP's 'Saugat-e-Modi' kits have not only surprised political commentators but also drawn scathing remarks from the Opposition. For some, it's a clear contradiction of the BJP's usual stance on such gestures. But for political analysts watching the timing closely, the move seems less like a change of heart and more like a strategic calculation—with Bihar in mind. The upcoming Bihar assembly election has raised concerns within the BJP that rising Opposition

momentum could impact not just the party, but also its key allies—Nitish Kumar's Janata Dal (United), Chirag Paswan's Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas), and Jitan Ram Manjhi's Hindustani Awam Morcha (Secular). In that light, the Eid outreach feels less like an act of cultural generosity and more like a political buffer—an attempt to soften the blow in a state where coalition math can shift quickly. That analysis may hold some truth—but it also seems to overlook the broader outreach pattern the BJP has been steadily building, particularly toward poor Muslims, Pasmanda communities, and Muslim women. Over the past few years, the party has made targeted efforts to create an opening within sections of the Muslim electorate long seen as distant. In the 2023 urban local body elections in Uttar Pradesh, the BJP went as far as fielding Pasmanda Muslim candidates—a move once considered politically unthinkable. Of the 395 Muslim candidates it fielded, 54 went on to win. These numbers may seem modest when seen in the larger national context, but they speak to a subtle shift in the party's approach.

One that goes beyond gift boxes and hints at reimagining of BJP's political strategy – at least on the surface. BJP's effort to engage with Pasmanda and poor Muslims isn't new. In UP, Danish Ansari, a Pasmanda Muslim, was appointed as Minister of State for Minority Welfare, Muslim Waqf, and Haj in Yogi Adityanath's second cabinet—which was seen by many as a symbolic but politically significant move. The party and its spokespersons often claim that it was the BJP that made APJ Abdul Kalam the President of India, citing it as proof of its inclusive credentials. Added to this are a number of welfare schemes that directly

Why's Turkey erupting for Ekrem Imamoglu?

He's the biggest threat to Erdogan yet

In Turkey, the vox populi is rising once again, reminiscent of the Gezi uprising that occurred 12 years ago. After a week of continuous protests in multiple cities—against the arrest of Istanbul mayor Ekrem Imamoglu—authorities have put a ban on gatherings and detained close to 2,000 individuals. The unlawful and unconstitutional arrest of Imamoglu is the culmination of over two decades of political erosion under President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's increasingly autocratic governance. It has systematically undermined democratic institutions, silenced dissent, and played up the Islamist agenda internationally, particularly on the matter of Kashmir. Now, in the streets of Turkey's major cities, thousands of people, mostly students and youth, are pushing back against Erdogan, and their defiance is growing louder by the day. At the heart of this unrest lies the struggle for Turkey's political future—and the figure leading this charge—Ekrem. Imamoglu, a calm and charismatic mayor, was arrested

under politically motivated charges of corruption and embezzlement—accusations that many see as a pretext for silencing a rising political star. His arrest was an absurd spectacle. Taken from his walk-in closet while calmly adjusting his tie, Imamoglu was detained merely hours before he was set to be nominated as the presidential candidate by Turkey's Opposition in the 2028 elections. For a leader with immense support across Turkey, this act of political repression has galvanised protests not just in Istanbul but across the nation. But why has one figure—mayor of Istanbul since 2019—become the focal point of such a significant crisis. Obscurity in 2019, defeating the candidate supported by Justice and Development Party (AKP) by 13,000 votes—when no one thought he could. Before Imamoglu, conservatives from the AKP had ruled Istanbul for 25 years. Erdogan himself owes the foundations of his political career to his mayorship of Istanbul in the 1990s.

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Both BJP, AIADMK want to improve relations in TN

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



Transport department fined

95L for 2019 tree felling

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

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

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

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

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



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

BJP MLA Ashok Goel

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

Goel claimed this causes traffic, accidents, and sanitary difficulties.

State Hospitals Get Aushadhi Kendras

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



Govt allocates 12,952 crore for public transport system

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

Freedom of speech can't be suppressed on spurious reasons

Delhi: The

Supreme Court ruled that freedom of speech and expression was essential to a healthy and civilized society and could not be violated on "flimsy and fanciful grounds". Gujarat Police's social status charges against Congress MP Imran Pratapgarhi were dismissed by the court. media post with poetry 'Ae khoon ke pyase baat suno'. A bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and Ujjal Bhuyan suggested not filing FIRs blindly to prevent government or police harassment of spoken or written words, signs, or visible representations



and to protect artistic freedom. Under Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita Sections 196 and 197(1), the police should undertake a preliminary inquiry to determine if a prima facie case exists. The bench set standards for assessing spoken and written words' impact "When an offence punishable under Section 196 of BNS is alleged,

the effect of the spoken or written words must be considered based on reasonable, strong-minded, firm, and courageous people, not weak and oscillating minds. The impact of spoken or written words cannot be measured by individuals who are always insecure or see criticism as a challenge to their power.

New prison factories will employ 100 more prisoners

Delhi: The

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

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

jute bags, perfume, pickles, confetti carpentry, and underwear facilities.

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

CAPSULES

Delhi's health minister promotes mobile dentistry vans to expand oral care

Delhi: Health minister Pankaj Singh launched six National Health Mission mobile dental vans at Maulana Azad Institute of Dental Sciences. The kickoff ceremony on World Oral Health Day aimed to expand dental services across the state. Minister Pankaj Singh remarked, "We will deliver the promised services to Delhi. This pilot project provides



important dental treatment to children in government hospitals, senior individuals, and residents of slums and poor communities where such services are scarce." Singh said the mobile dental vans will deliver fillings, scaling, and general care. Our six-month plan includes adding vehicles after the state budget to broaden our reach. Our website will include all necessary information, and each van has GPS tracking so the public may track their locations across Vidhan Sabha constituencies. The vans will be available 24/7 to help the needy "said. Mobile dental vans will work with Delhi government dispensaries to improve primary care. They will also work with education, Delhi government schools, social welfare, and social justice ministries. On April 10, the Delhi government will sign an MoU with the Centre to execute the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) in the national capital and enroll one lakh people.

Delhi govt to enact law for cow conservation and protection

Delhi: Varanasi MC

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



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

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

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

Will introduce new programs and end all of AAP's educational initiatives?

Deli

Happiness Curriculum, Business Blasters, and Mission Buniyaad, the hallmark education programs implemented by the previous Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government, will no longer be offered by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led Delhi government, according to Delhi education minister Ashish Sood. He went on to say that new projects called Rashtreeta, New Era of Entrepreneur Ecosystem and Vision (NEEEV), and Science of Living will take the place of current programs. In an interview, Sood



claimed that the AAP's educational initiatives were created more for publicity and political gain than for the benefit of the kids. "Instead of assisting the students in becoming self-sufficient

and prepared for the outside world, the AAP government's educational initiatives (Business Blasters, Happiness Curriculum, and Mission Buniyaad) were centered on adver-

Transport department fined 95L for 2019 tree felling

Delhi: In 2019, the National Green Tribunal NGT order Delhi's transport department to pay 95.05 lakh for cutting 495 trees for bus depots in Burari without afforestation. The tribunal ruled that the forest department's license to transplant 168 trees and plant 4,950 saplings was violated, making the practice "illegal." A panel of judge Sudhir Agarwal and expert Dr. Afroz Ahmed computed environmental compensation using Uttarakhand Pollution Control Board (UKPCB) rules and asked all states, including Delhi, to follow them for illegal tree chopping.

tisements and making political capital out of them." In the 2019 budget, the BJP govern- ment has set aside money for new programs that will take the place of the old ones.

Many Delhi government ILBS services are now charged

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

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

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

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

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

India wants Rs 3 lakh cr in defense manufacturing

Delhi: The government wants to produce Rs 3 lakh crore in defence by 2029, strengthening India's standing as a global powerhouse. Now, 65% of defense equipment is made locally, up from 65-70% import dependency. According to the Ministry of Defence, 16 DPSUs, over 430 licensed enterprises, and 16,000 MSMEs boost indigenous production capabilities. "The private sector contributes 21% to total defence production, fostering innovation and efficiency," it said. The government wants to expand defence exports to Rs 50,000 crore by 2029, strengthening India's position as a global manufacturing hub and supporting economic growth. Defence exports rose 32.5% to Rs 21,083 crore in FY 2023-24 from Rs 15,920 crore in FY 2022-23. Indian defence exports increased 21 times from Rs 4,312 crore in



2004-14 to Rs 88,319 crore in 2014-24, demonstrating its growing involvement in the global security sector. India exports defense equipment to over 100 nations, with the US, France, and Armenia buying most in 2023-24. In 2024-25, the Ministry of Defence signed a record 193 contracts worth Rs 2,09,050 crore, nearly doubling the previous record. These include 177 contracts, 92% awarded to the domestic industry for Rs 1,68,922 crore, 81% of the overall contract value. This emphasis on indigenous manufacture supports defence production self-reliance.

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).

Kotak highlights the risk in the lending business strategy

Delhi: Veteran banker Uday Kotak has expressed worries about the banks' business model, pointing out the shrinking gap between deposit and lending rates, ahead of an anticipated rate decrease by the RBI, despite the fact that liquidity is still limited. According to Kotak, leading banks are increasing one-year wholesale deposits by about 8%, which, when accounting for CRR, SLR, deposit insurance, and priority sector lending requirements (but not operational costs), results in a marginal deposit cost of more than 9%. The system as a whole has restrained



growth in low-cost retail deposits (CASA non-wholesale). However, banks are offering home loans at a variable rate of 8.5%. Take out a loan at 8.5% and borrow at 9%, Spread is negative by 0.5%. Additionally, repo rates are probably going to decline. Kotak warned that if the tight deposit situation continues, it may make it difficult for banks to maintain their

business model and asked how they would handle credit and operational expenses. The majority of banks are required to connect their retail floating rate loans to the repo rate. The remarks coincided with a sharp decline in bond yields as investors awaited the RBI's next liquidity injection before its monetary policy committee's decision.

Cabinet approves electronic component program

Delhi: The Union Cabinet approved a six-year Rs 22,919 crore incentive program for electronic component manufacture. The initiative seeks to increase India's domestic value addition and global value chain participation. The Indian Express originally revealed that the government was developing the system, its costs, and its details. The government wants at least 91,600 direct jobs from the scheme and has tied participating firms' annual payments to job creation. Rs 4.56 lakh crore in production and Rs 59,350 crore in investment are envisaged from the scheme. The government wants to target display modules, sub-assembly camera modules,



printed circuit board assemblies, lithium cell enclosures, resistors, capacitors, and ferrites. These are utilized in cell-phones, laptops, microwave ovens, refrigerators, and toasters. "This scheme will reduce component imports. We must abandon import substitution and promote exports. After mass production, viability follows. Union IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said electronics production is \$120 billion and hopes to reach \$500 billion in the next years.

Gautam Adani Is India's Biggest Wealth Gainer

Delhi: According to the 'Hurun Global Rich List 2025', Gautam Adani, Adani Group Chairman, is India's greatest wealth gainer, increasing his net worth by approximately Rs 1 lakh crore. The ranking showed Adani's fortune rising 13%. Second-richest Indian on the global list, his total is Rs 8.4 lakh crore. Meanwhile, Indian billionaire Mukesh Ambani fell off the top 10 richest list. However, he leads Asia. The Hurun list ranks India third in billionaires. Tesla-SpaceX CEO Elon Musk tops Hurun Global Rich List 2025. India has 284 billionaires, 13 more than previous year.

Airtel prepaid 5,985 crore spectrum dues but stock remains unchanged



Airtel decreased to Rs 9.88 lakh billion. On BSE, 1.11 lakh shares traded for Rs 19.33 crore. Bharti Airtel stock has a one-year beta of 1, indicating average volatility. Technically, Bharti Airtel's RSI is 64.3, indicating it's neither overbought or oversold. The recent payment means Airtel has prepaid Rs 25,981 crore of spectrum liabilities.

high-cost spectrum commitments for the 2025 fiscal year and Rs 66,665 crores overall. The average cumulative liability prepaid interest rate was 9.74%. Airtel had entirely prepaid liabilities with 10%, 9.75%, and 9.3% interest rates. Prepayments were made 7 years before average residual maturities. Airtel prepaid Rs 116,405 crores of scheduled instalments that would have been due on their various dates over the obligations' original lifespan. Airtel's cost of debt on spectrum liabilities.

The Reserve Bank of India will increase the price for using an ATM from Rs 21 to Rs 23



Greater Noida Authority board authorizes Rs 5,600 crore land acquisition, important projects

Delhi: News broke from India's central bank. There will be a cost of Rs 23 per transaction for clients using ATM banking services from May 1, 2025. The previous amount was Rs 21 for each transaction. The central bank announced that customers will still be able to use their own bank's ATMs for five free transactions per month, regardless of whether they are financial or not. There are three ATMs in major cities and five in smaller towns where they can use their card for free transactions. According to ET, a two rupee hike to the ATM interchange fee for cash withdrawals has been authorized by the Reserve Bank of India and the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI). The revised fees were

announced to member banks by NPCI and are scheduled to be implemented on May 1, 2025. An increase of Rs 19 for domestic financial transactions and Rs 7 for non-financial transactions has been agreed by the National Financial Switch Steering Committee.

Income Tax wants Rs 2,209 crore from Yes Bank

Delhi: Union Minister of State for Power Yesso Naik urged state power companies to become more profitable. AI and digital technologies and cost-reflective pricing are crucial for electricity sector financial stability, the Minister said. These steps will help utilities



become financially stable, he said. He also suggested India's Ujwal DISCOM Assurance

Yojana (UDAY) for DISCOM financial turnaround and rehabilitation. The Energy Ministers of Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, and Maharashtra, top officials from the Central and State governments, State Power Utilities, PFC Ltd., and

REC Ltd. attended the conference. Special invitee TATA Power Distribution, Odisha, shared their best practices and journey to prosperous DISCOMS. Member States actively engaged and presented State DISCOM overviews. They give DISCOMS good

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 - Taurus 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.

Honking ban ordered by DoE for schools

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



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

Telangana govt resolute in raising reservation

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

The US canceled 2,000 Indian visa appointments

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



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

Perfume manufacturing is the focus of the newest DU course

Delhi: As one enters this studio in the middle of Hindu College at Delhi University, they are greeted by pulsating scents and a diverse range of notes, from sweet to spicy, balm to effluvium. Instead of books, pupils in this classroom-like setup experiment with different combinations of essential oils to produce scents that they associate with their favorite perfumes. Enter the Sangamneria Olfactory Studio, a place that looks like a cleanroom but functions more like the Hogwarts House of Potions from the beloved Harry Potter books. In accordance with the New Education Policy, 2020, the college has instituted a new certificate program called "Sustainable Perfumery: the art of creating fragrances and nurturing careers," which is held at the studio. According to Benu Arora, a faculty member affiliated with the course, it is the first of its sort in the country. The course's concept emerged during the development of the Undergraduate Curriculum Framework. This course is 11 months long. Since the nation lacks any formal education programs teaching people how to create their own fragrances, we recognized a significant unmet need in the market and set out to provide it. Hindu College principal Anju Srivastava explained that the lengthy implementation process was due to the fact that, when the curriculum was drafted, it was forwarded to specialists and knowledge partners for refinement.



The dual degree option at DU will help students learn more

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

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

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



Hindi, Sanskrit, and other languages are taught as third languages in most states, along with the region's mother tongue and English, depending on the medium of teaching. French, German, and Spanish are also in demand in Hindi- and non-Hindi-speaking countries. The Tamil Nadu government has refused to sign an MoU with the Centre to implement the PM Schools for Rising India (PM-SHRI) scheme, which aims to upgrade 14,500 schools and make them model schools that embody NEP 2020, citing concerns about the "three-language formula" and Hindi language imposition.

IT-Delhi rose 255 places to 171st globally

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

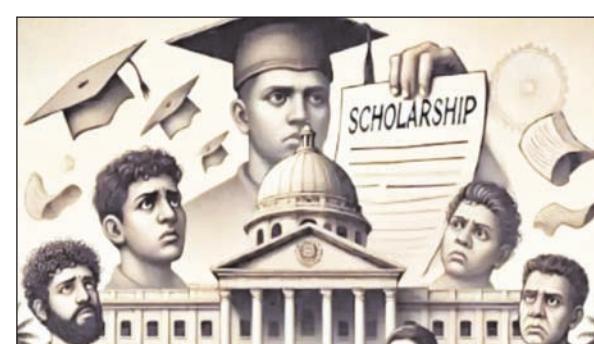
NAAC adopts e-inspections for new accreditation



Delhi: To eradicate corruption and speed up accreditation, the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) has stopped physical college inspections. Accreditation teams will now perform evaluations exclusively online, replacing on-cams visits with virtual examinations. But for colleges, the changeover will be hybrid; most inspections will be remote, but some reviewers will still visit campuses to retain some monitoring. The decision follows the CBI's recent arrests in the case involving Andhra Pradesh's Koneru Lakshmaiah Education Foundation (KLEF), where management reportedly bribed NAAC peer visit inspectors for good ratings. "We chose to do whatever it takes

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

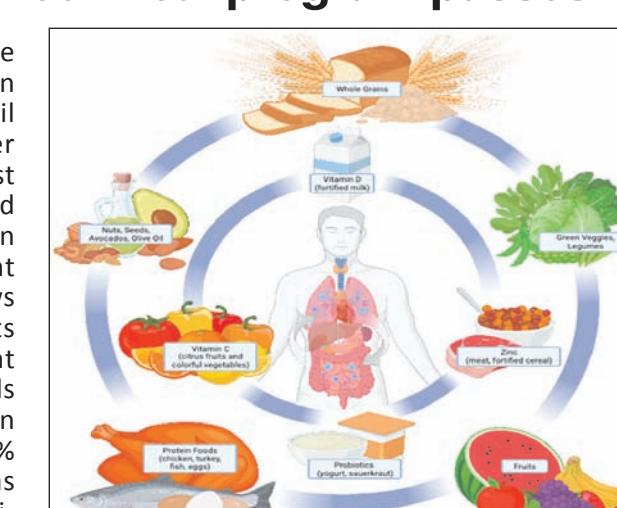
Kerala cuts minority scholarships due to financial difficulties



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

who scored 80% in upper secondary or 75% in vocational higher secondary. It ensured that bright students from underprivileged backgrounds were not forced to drop out due to financial constraints by prioritizing BPL students and providing provisions to economically weaker APL students. The crucial APJ Abdul Kalam Scholarship for minority students has also been cut in half. Those admitted to government nursing and paramedical diploma programs. Many aspiring nurses and paramedics, whose families cannot afford professional training, may have to quit.

Hospital visits decreased, learning metrics improved. Meal program passes



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

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

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

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

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



The regulator met with the carrier to discuss restoring

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



reactivated in 15-21 months. "Overall, the airline anticipates it will take 18-24 months to bring all grounded planes back to service," source said.

SpiceJet announced that it will lease seven planes to improve flying operations immediately while repairing grounded planes. It said the seven leased planes will join the fleet by November 15. Sources say the carrier's grounded jets will undergo Airbus and Boeing-mandated return-to-service (RTS) procedures. The DGCA will allow commercial passenger flights after the RTS process.

RTS is the procedure of restarting a grounded aircraft.

Change in rules marks discount broker turning point

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

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

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

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

Toyota Urban Cruiser Hyryder Festival Edition Launched

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

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

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

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



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

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

Of the overall inflows of for-

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

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

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

Tata Group to step up competition with Indigo!



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

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



Globe Civil Projects files draft papers with Sebi for IPO

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

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



Delhi: India is set to launch its first indigenous high-speed trains, built by BEML with a test speed of 280 kmph. Featuring modern amenities, these trainsets will consist of 8 cars each, costing Rs 27.86 crores per car, and to be delivered by the end of 2026. The trainsets will be the first indigenously designed and manufactured in India, with a test speed of 280 kmph. (AI image)

India's first indigenous high-speed train soon! In a big boost for Indian Railways' dreams of offering high-speed rail connectivity, the national transporter has awarded the contract for manufacturing high-speed trainsets to BEML. These trainsets will be the first indigenously designed and manufactured in India, with a test speed of

280 kmph, marking a significant step forward in the country's high-speed rail journey. The trains will feature a fully air-conditioned, Chair Car configuration, offering modern passenger amenities such as reclining and rotatable seats, special provisions for passengers with restricted mobility, and onboard entertainment systems, ensuring a comfortable and enjoyable travel experience. BEML Limited has secured a contract from Integral Coach Factory (ICF), Chennai, for the design, manufacturing, and commis-

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

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



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