

AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

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MORNING EDITION PRAYAGRAJ Saturday, 15 November, 2025 UNIQUE GIFT OF KRIYAYOGA ASHRAM AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE TO GIVE IMPETUS TO WORLD BUILDING AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT.

J&K: 6 killed in blast at Nowgam police station; team was handling explosive samples

NEW DELHI: Six people were killed and several others sustained injuries after an explosion at the Nowgam police station in the outskirts of Srinagar. According to PTI, the blast took place when the police and forensic team officials were extracting samples from a massive cache of explosives recently seized in

connection with the 'white-collar' terror module case. The material had been brought from Faridabad, Haryana, and was part of the 360 kg of explosive chemicals recovered from the rented residence of arrested doctor Muzammil Ganaie, officials said, PTI reported. The bodies have been



shifted to the Police Control Room in Srinagar. At least 24 police personnel and three civilians have been admitted to vari-

ous hospitals across the city, the officials said. Five of the injured are in critical condition, and officials warned that the toll may rise.

The massive explosion shattered the quiet of the night and caused significant damage to the police station building. Ambulances and police vehicles rushed to the scene, with sirens piercing the air as the injured were taken to nearby hospitals. Small successive explosions after the initial blast briefly delayed rescue opera-

tions by the bomb disposal squad. While some of the seized explosives are stored at the police forensic lab, officials said the bulk of the 360 kg cache was being kept at the Nowgam police station, where the primary case linked to the terror module is registered. The terror module was uncovered after threatenin-

The katta government will not return to power in Bihar: PM



PM Modi said that today the whole of Bihar has declared: once again, an NDA government. I repeatedly stated during the elections that when I spoke of jungle raj and the "katta" government, the RJD didn't object, but it irritated the Congress party. What is Modi saying? But today I want to reiterate that the "katta" government will not return to Bihar. PM Modi said, "Friends, the people of Bihar have voted for a developed Bihar. They have voted for a prosperous Bihar. During the election campaign, I urged the people of Bihar to vote in record numbers, and the people of Bihar delivered. I urged the people of Bihar to give the NDA a landslide victory. The people of Bihar heeded my request. Bihar has given the NDA its biggest mandate since 2010. On behalf of all NDA parties, I humbly express my gratitude to the great people of Bihar. Public Trust in the NDA Government Even After 20 Years The PM said, "The people are still electing BJP-

led NDA governments, even after 20 years, and this is the establishment of pro-people, pro-governance, and pro-development politics. This is a new foundation for Indian politics. Building on this foundation, we will develop Bihar. We will develop the country. The people's trust in the party that ruled the country for decades is steadily declining. Congress is continuously out of power in many states." Congress has not returned to power in Bihar for 35 years, Gujarat for 30 years, Uttar Pradesh for nearly four decades, and West Bengal for nearly five decades. Congress has failed to reach three-digit numbers in the last three Lok Sabha elections. After the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, elections were held in six states across the country, but even in these, Congress failed to cross the 100-seat mark. The number of MLAs elected on this day in just one election is more than the number of MLAs Congress has won in the last six elections.

Bihar for NDA, big haar for MGB: Nitish does it again



transformed the MY (Muslim + Yadav) equation, on which Lalu-Tejaswi's politics has been based for decades, into MY (women and youth), and done so with such cleverness that the Grand Alliance has been too late to understand it. The situation is such that even in Muslim-dominated areas, the NDA has received significant votes, and NDA candidates have won the elections from these areas. The biggest factor behind this landslide victory is believed to be Chief Minister Nitish

Kumar's new "MY formula." Political analyst and senior journalist Luv Kumar Mishra explained that for decades, MY in Bihar politics has meant Muslim + Yadav, which was considered the RJD's strongest social equation. However, this time Nitish Kumar completely changed this and gave MY a new meaning: women + youth. Nitish Kumar's strategy was precise and grounded. The "Chief Minister Self-Employment Scheme" for women, prohibition, security

schemes, and a focus on girls' education swayed a large number of women voters to the NDA. At the same time, by reminding the youth about jobs, skill development, and the "jungle raj," the NDA also strongly wooed young voters. One of the key election issues in Bihar, the Nitish Kumar-led NDA government's decision to deposit ?10,000 each into women's accounts under the "Chief Minister Women's Employment Scheme," became a decisive factor, especially among women voters. The primary objective of this scheme was to empower women in the state by making them self-reliant and economically empowering them by providing self-employment opportunities.



Chirag Paswan played the role of 'Hanuman' in Bihar elections

Bihar election results: PM Modi hails 'sushasan ki jeet'; hints at Nitish staying CM

NEW DELHI: PM Modi termed NDA's landslide performance as "sushasan ki jeet (victory of good governance)", in what was seen as an endorsement of the continuation of Nitish Kumar as CM. Nitish is popular among his followers as "Sushasan Babu", claiming to have effected a turnaround in the past 20 years by improving



law and order, and development. "Victory of development has been achieved.

Victory of the spirit of public welfare has been achieved. Victory of social justice has

been achieved," Modi posted on X. "I congratulate all NDA leaders for their wonderful work and CM Nitish Kumar for his leadership," Modi said, allaying apprehensions about Nitish's continuation as CM even as BJP emerged as the single largest party. The opposition had claimed that BJP would not reappoint Nitish as CM.

Bihar election results: Single-digit show may spell double trouble for Congress



possibility given that many have been upset with the party's focus in recent months. A couple of popular faces are even said to be waiting for their opportunity. An ominous warning came from an unlikely corner. Mumtaz Patel, daughter of the late Ahmed Patel, posted on X: "It's time to look within and accept reality. Till when will countless loyal ground workers who have stayed with the party .

After Bihar verdict: Winning run may restart race for BJP president post

NEW DELHI: After a brief pause during intense campaigning for Bihar polls, attention has swiftly turned to one of the BJP's longest-pending decisions - the election of a new national president to succeed J P Nadda. The Bihar polls, which saw NDA secure a landslide victory with over two-thirds majority in the 243-seat House, have not only boosted party morale but also accelerated talks about internal leadership transitions. The first indication of the possibility of the transition coming soon was seen on Thursday when organisational poll in-charge K Laxman, a Rajya Sabha MP and head of party's OBC Morcha, was seen holding consultations with colleagues at the party



headquarters. Nadda has been at the helm of the party since Jan 2020. His initial three-year term was repeatedly extended - first until June 2024 for Lok Sabha elections, and then again amid organisational delays - to ensure stability during key electoral battles. Nadda's tenure officially ended last year, but extensions have kept him in place, leading to growing impatience within the ranks.

BJP's constitution mandates a structured process for electing a new president. Organisational polls must first be completed in at least half of the party's 37 state units - requiring elections in 19 states - before the national election can proceed. As of mid-2025, the party had crossed this threshold by appointing new state chiefs in key regions like Maharashtra, Uttarakhand, Telangana, Andhra,

Puducherry, and Mizoram. However, indecision persists in UP. Sources have indicated that a leader in his early fifties, with organisational experience, will be given the responsibility to helm the party with a long term vision. The party has already made the transition in the states, districts and at mandal level as most of office-bearers appointed recently are below 50 years of age. Sources have indicated that the leadership transition will be followed by the first Cabinet reshuffle of PM Modi's third term. Several names - including those of Union ministers Manohar Lal Khattar, Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Dharmendra Pradhan and Bhupender Yadav.

'Became PM by stealing elections': Rahul Gandhi's big charge against Modi

NEW DELHI: Leader of opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Friday made a big charge against Narendra Modi, claiming that he became the prime minister by "stealing elections". He vowed to expose the truth to the Gen Z, saying that he had "a lot of material". "We have a lot of material. We will carry on the process. We will clearly show India's Gen Z, the youth that Narendra Modi has become the prime minister by stealing elections and the BJP steals elections. We will clearly tell this, there will be no doubt," PTI quoted Gandhi saying. Rahul Gandhi Accuses.

Bihar election results: RJD may be down to 0 in Rajya Sabha by 2030



In 2030, RJD may retain one of its seats if it gets AIMIM support. But it appears a distant possibility as smaller parties invariably go by the politics of the day and their own interests. Out of five RJD members in Rajya Sabha, two - Prem Chand Gupta, the party's leader in the House, and A D Singh -

will retire in April 2026. The third one, Faiyaz Ahmad, will retire in July 2028; and the remaining two, Manoj Kumar Jha and Sanjay Yadav, will complete their term in April 2030. In 2026, elections will be held for five vacancies, including two from JDU and another from Rashtriya Lok Morcha (both NDA allies). The strength of the new assembly will help NDA gain all five seats from Bihar next year. Similarly, five members - three from BJP, and one each from JDU and RJD - will retire in 2028.

Bihar election results: Road bloc! Is it time to reinvent idea of 'INDIA'?



traditions. It helped the bloc in Jharkhand and J&K last year though it failed to rescue them in Maharashtra where Shiv Sena, NCP and Congress came up rather as a squabbling team. Bihar was a crucial test for the opposition bloc. RJD, the lead

player, was to take along Congress, Left and caste outfits to challenge the JDU-BJP combine. That it came a cropper is bound to raise questions for opposition as key contests await the INDIA bloc in Bengal and Tamil Nadu. TMC chief Mamata

Banerjee has made it clear that Congress is too weak to offer any value in an alliance, repeating the 2024 line when the two contested as rivals despite being part of the same umbrella nationally. The immediate challenge for Congress is the Bengal dilemma - should it target Mamata or BJP. A crucial overlapping constituency between TMC and Congress is the large minority populace in Bengal - and it would present a serious conundrum for Congress.

NEW DELHI: Staring at a political abyss in the face of continued decline post-2014 - hastened after 2019 - a flailing opposition came together to give itself the collective moniker 'INDIA', vowing to stick together and fight jointly. It enjoyed a surge in fortunes and gave the governing BJP alliance a scare in 2024. The INDIA bloc - stacked with competitive allies - managed to find a formula that allowed members to back each other despite the odd flaring up of con-

Major MNRE-GA scam exposed in Balha Bahraich

A case of massive fraud in MNREGA works has come to light in the Balha development block. The same worker's photo was repeatedly uploaded to the portal to mark attendance, revealing a major fraud. There are suspicions of irregularities in all the panchayats, including Ama Pokhar, Nibiya Shah Mohammadpur, Madhuban, Bagaha, Balsinghpur, Gaighat and Parsa Agaiya, due to collusion between responsible officials. No workers were found on the spot, despite continuous entries being made in the muster roll. This further strengthens the evidence of the scam. When the Block Development Officer was contacted, he stated that the matter would be looked into seriously. The administration has begun an investigation into the matter.

Wheat seminar concludes, calls for tech growth

Chandigarh: The two-day national seminar "Wheat in Transformation" concluded successfully at Hyatt Regency, Chandigarh, reaffirming the industry's vision to advance India's wheat ecosystem through innovation and collaboration. Organized by the Wheat Products Promotion Society (WPPS) and the Roller Flour Millers Association of Punjab (RFMAP), the event brought together policymakers, scientists, millers, and technologists. Expressing satisfaction, Ajay Goyal, Chairman, WPPS, said, "The seminar has laid a strong foundation for a resilient, technology-driven wheat ecosystem. WPPS remains committed to linking research, industry, and policy for the sector's collective progress."

District Persons with Disabilities Empowerment Officer, Celebrated Children's Day with TRRAIN TRUSTA

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Prayagraj. On the occasion of Children's Day, a special program was organized with Divyang Pankh trainees at the TRRAIN Centre of Excellence, Prayagraj. District Persons with Disabilities Empowerment Officer, A.K. Gautam, was the chief guest and celebrated Children's Day with the disabled trainees with great enthusiasm. At the beginning of the program, Chief Guest Mr. Gautam was welcomed with a bouquet, robes, and handmade greeting cards made by the children. He particularly praised the children's creativity, enthusiasm, and affection, calling it an inspiring initiative. Following this, the new batch of



the Pankh Project, run by TRRAIN TRUST, was formally launched. On this occasion, Pankh training kits were also distributed to the trainees to enable them to participate effectively in the training. In his inspiring address, Mr. Gautam provided detailed information about various government and non-government schemes for disabled youth.

These include the Pankh Project for

Livelihood, Shop Construction Scheme, Disability Pension Scheme, Prosthetic Device Distribution, Tablet Distribution Scheme, and the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act (RPwD) Act. He stated that these schemes of the TRRAIN TRUST and the government play a vital role in making young people with disabilities self-reliant, skilled, and economically empowered. The

TRRAIN Trust stated that through the Pankh Project, youth with disabilities are provided with employment-oriented training, digital skills, life skills, and livelihood opportunities.

The program's objective is to prepare youth for a better future, connect them with government schemes, and take concrete steps towards empowerment. The program concluded with a vote of thanks, in which the TRRAIN team expressed gratitude to the chief guest, all staff members, and trainee participants. Regional Manager Sagar Little, Rumaana, Furqan, Vipin Kushwaha, and Assistant Kanishka Ashish were present at the event. The entire program was conducted by Vipin Kushwaha.

ASP Conducts Surprise Inspection of Kotwali Dehat Police Station, Reviews Functioning and Public Facilities



Etah

Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) Rajkumar Singh carried out a surprise inspection of Kotwali Dehat Police station on Friday, closely examining management practices, records and public service facilities. During the inspection the ASP reviewed the police station premises, record management system, malkhana (Property room), armoury, lock-up, Women Help Desk, CCTNS unit, computer room, visitor register and sanitation facilities. He issued necessary directions for improvement wherever required. The Station House Officer briefed the ASP on the crime situation in the jurisdiction, the status of pending cases, progress in tracing wanted criminals and ongoing policing campaigns.

ASP Rajkumar Singh instructed officials to ensure polite, sensitive and humane behaviour towards every citizen visiting the police station. He stressed that complaints related to women and girls must be handled with utmost seriousness and prompt resolution and directed that the Women Help Desk be made more efficient and proactive. He emphasised that CCTNS records and complaint registers must remain fully updated at all times. Instructions were also issued to maintain proper organisation and security of seized items and records in the malkhana and to expedite disposal of unnecessarily pending cases. The ASP further ordered weekly reviews of pending investigations to ensure timely completion. Concluding the inspection.

Grand Conclusion of 17th Inter-District Volleyball Cluster Tournament, Winning Teams and Players Felicitated

Etah

The 17th Inter-District Volleyball Cluster Tournament (Volleyball & Sepak Takraw) of Agra Zone concluded on Friday with great enthusiasm and sportsmanship at the Police Lines Etah. During the closing ceremony, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Etah, Shyam Narayan Singh, felicitated the winning, runner-up teams and players who delivered out-



standing performances. Addressing the gathering the SSP encouraged the participants and said that sports not only enhance physical fitness but also foster team spirit, discipline, leadership qualities and mental resilience. He

added that sports hold special significance in disciplined forces like the police, as they promote unity and boost confidence. Teams from Agra, Aligarh, Mathura, Mainpuri, Hathras, Firozabad, Kasganj and Etah participated in the

tournament. In the Volleyball competition, Etah secured first position in the women category, while Mathura emerged runner-up. In the men category, Agra clinched the title with Etah finishing as runner-up. In the Sepak Takraw event, Etah dominated the women category, securing the top position, while Aligarh stood second. In the men category, Mathura emerged champion and Aligarh secured the runner-up position.

Delay in Salaries Sparks Anger Among NHM Employees, Concerns Raised Over Impact on Government's Image

Etah

Arvind Singh Chauhan, District In-charge of the Uttar Pradesh National Health Mission (NHM), has expressed deep dissatisfaction over the ongoing delay in salary disbursements to NHM employees. He stated that NHM personnel across the state have not received timely salaries for several months, leading to growing resentment and hardship among the workforce. According to Chauhan, major festivals such as Dussehra and Diwali passed without salaries being credited to employees, while the salary for October has still not been released in most districts. In several districts, payments for August and September also remain pending, which he described as extremely worrying and unfortunate. Chauhan alleged that the negligence of certain officials within the Health Department is negatively affecting the image of the state government and



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. "It appears that some officials are deliberately working in a manner that tarnishes the government reputation," he remarked.

Sources indicate that the state government has introduced a new payment system called the 'Spars Portal', through which salaries will be transferred directly from the Treasury to employees' bank accounts.

Under this system, district-level salary data will be sent to the state headquarters for approval and payment. However, Chauhan maintained that the new system should have been implemented only after clearing pend-

ing salaries through the previous process to avoid inconvenience to employees. He added that due to administrative lapses, NHM employees are facing financial difficulties, which is causing public displeasure and harming the government image. "NHM contractual workers already struggle to meet family expenses with low wages. Delayed salaries add to their burden and are grossly unfair," he said. Chauhan further pointed out that while the Chief Minister announced festive bonuses, more than 98,000 NHM contractual employees across the state could not even receive their regular salaries on time due to the indifference of some officials.

He urged the Chief Minister to take strict action against those responsible for the delay and to ensure immediate salary disbursement to NHM employees, so that their families do not suffer and the government positive image remains intact.

ADM Urges Greater Public Participation in Special Summary Revision-2026 to Strengthen Electoral Roll

Etah

Deputy District Election Officer/Additional District Magistrate (Administration) Satyaprakash has appealed to all eligible voters of Etah district to actively participate in the Special Summary Revision-2026 to help ensure a clean and error-free electoral roll, which he said is essential for strengthening democracy. He informed that, as per directives issued by the Election Commission of India, New Delhi, and the Chief



Electoral Officer, Uttar Pradesh, Lucknow, District Magistrate/District Election Officer

Prem Ranjan Singh has urged citizens to cooperate fully with the revision process. The distribution of enumeration forms related to the voter list has already begun. Booth Level Officers (BLO) are visiting households in their respective areas to hand over the forms. Voters have been requested to fill the form carefully and return it with their signature to the BLO. In case the voter is unavailable at home, any adult family member may provide the details of all eligible members, sign the form, and submit it.

Signed forms will form the basis for inclusion of names in the draft electoral roll, scheduled to be published on December 9, 2025. Residents have been urged to complete and submit forms on time to ensure that no eligible voter name is missed. The ADM further informed that citizens whose names are not included in the 2003 voter list will be covered in the second phase of the revision. After December 9, the ERO/SDM office will issue notices for verification, during which proof of Indian citi-

zenship will be required. Valid documents such as Aadhaar card, passport, driving licence or electricity bill may be submitted for verification. Additionally, relatives of deceased voters or those who have permanently shifted elsewhere must inform the BLO using the Yellow Form so that such names can be removed from the list. Representatives of political parties are also cooperating in the exercise to help ensure that the electoral roll remains accurate, transparent and up to date.

Shrimad Bhagwat Katha will be organized in a grand and grand manner by Mithila Ekta Manch: Sachin Uttarakhand



knowledge, listening to which leads to salvation, health and satisfaction in life. Get it. This story liberates man from worldly sorrows and leads him towards God. This religious event will start with the grand Kalash Yatra on 16th November at 11 am. The organizers have made a humble request, especially to women and sisters, to

participate in the Kalash Yatra in maximum numbers. This yatra will be carried out with the aim of propagating Bhagwat Sanatan Dharma and protecting Mother Cow. The organizers have invited all public and religious lovers have been requested to participate. Sachin Chaudhary, founder of Mithila Ekta Manch and Shri Radhe Trust, says that protection of mother cow is the protection of Sanatan Dharma, our main objective of organizing Shrimad Bhagwat Katha is to make Sanatani devotees more aware about their religion.

Eight months after her marriage, a married woman was beaten to death Kaushambi

In Pathraha village, a hamlet of Adampur Nadir Ali village under Harraipur police outpost of Sandipan Ghat police station area, a married woman was beaten to death within 8 months of her marriage and then hanged to make it look like a suicide. During the beating, the married woman had informed her father over the phone about the possibility of being beaten and murdered.

2 lakh fish fingerlings harvested in the Saryu River under the PM Matsya Sampada Yojana

Bahraich

A river ranching program under the PM Matsya Sampada Yojana was organized on Friday near the Shri Marimata Temple complex on the sacred banks of the Saryu River. Chief guest Dr. Anand Kumar Gond, MP from Bahraich, along with Nishad Party District President Manoj Kumar Nishad and other public representatives, collected 2 lakh fish fingerling seeds with the support of the National Fisheries Development



Board, Hyderabad.MP Dr. Gond stated that the river ranching program conserves fish species in rivers, improves water

quality, and reduces local water pollution. He stated that the target is to produce 5 quintals of fish per kilometer of river. He added that illegal poaching and uncontrolled exploitation impact fish breeding, preventing increased production. Keeping this in mind, 2 lakh fish seeds have been collected, which will help the poor fishermen community in getting better employment and doubling their income. On this occasion, Assistant Director in-charge of

Fisheries Baburam gave detailed information about the departmental schemes. He told that this collection was done through Uttar Pradesh Fisheries Seed Development Corporation, Saryu Ayodhya with the aim of preserving the aquatic ecosystem. Director of the district Fishermen Cooperative Societies Jawahar Lal Dhiwar, the President, Secretary and many members of the committee were present in the program.

Medanta Launches Heart OPD in Bahraich, Relieving Travel to Big Cities

Bahraich

Aiming to relieve heart patients from the burden of traveling to larger cities, Medanta Hospital has launched its Cardiology OPD in Bahraich. This OPD will operate at Gambhir Clinic, Hanuman Puri Colony, Railway Station Road. Medanta senior cardiologist, Dr. Mahim Saran, Director of Cardiology, was present to provide consultations at the facility,



which opened on Saturday. Patients will now be able to seek expert advice on heart-related issues on the second Saturday of every month from 12:30 to 2:30 pm. With

this initiative by Medanta, patients from Bahraich and surrounding districts will now have access to primary and specialized cardiology services in their own city. Dr. Mahim

Saran said, "Our aim is to provide timely, accurate advice for the treatment and prevention of heart diseases. The launch of the OPD in Bahraich is an important step in this direction."

"Now, even patients from remote areas will be able to receive proper diagnosis and treatment without having to travel to a major city. Dr. Rahul Singh, Senior Consultant of Cardiac Surgery, says,

"This initiative by Medanta will play a vital role in raising awareness about heart-related diseases and providing timely treatment."

With its launch, people in Bahraich and surrounding areas will no longer need to travel to Lucknow or other metropolitan cities for heart disease treatment. Now, patients will have access to competent doctor's advice and reliable treatment locally."

District Sports Development & Promotion Committee Reviews Preparations for MP Sports Tournament

Etah

The District Sports Development and Promotion Committee, Etah, convened a meeting on Friday at the NIC Hall in the Collectorate to review preparations for the upcoming MP Sports Tournament. The meeting was chaired by Additional District Magistrate (Administration) Satyaprakash. During the meeting, officials held detailed discussions on the event roadmap, expected number of participants, selection of sports venues, availability of essential resources and overall logistical arrangements. The ADM directed all concerned



departments to complete preparations within the stipulated timeline to ensure a well-organised event that provides a strong platform for talented sportspersons. He stressed the need for inter-departmental coordination to ensure that the tournament is conducted at a high standard, thereby encouraging sporting talent within

the district. "With effective coordination and timely preparations, we can deliver an excellent event that motivates young athletes and promotes sports culture in Etah," the ADM said. Chief Development Officer Dr. Nagendra Narayan Mishra, District Inspector of Schools Dr. Indrajeet Singh, and representatives Vineet

Satish and Shivam Jain from the Agra camp office joined the meeting via video conference. The meeting was attended by the Regional Youth Welfare Officer, secretaries and representatives of district sports associations for Yoga, Kabaddi, Kho-Kho, Football and Badminton. Additional Sub-Divisional Magistrates Rajkumar Maurya, Piyush Rawat, Shweta Singh, Principal of Avinashi Sahay Arya Inter College, Principal of GGIC, and heads of various educational institutions. Rajya Sabha MP Naveen Jain's personal assistant Akhil Jain also joined via video conference.

Divisional Commissioner Discusses With Local Residents Regarding Incorporation of Prayagraj's Villages Ujihini Aima



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Prayagraj. Divisional Commissioner Soumya Agarwal, Inspector General of Police Ajay Kumar Mishra, District Magistrate Prayagraj Manish Kumar Verma, and District Magistrate Kaushambi Amit Pal Sharma visited the villages of Ujihini Aima and Chandrasen on Friday, discussing

whether they should be included in Kaushambi District or remain in Prayagraj District. They held meetings with residents to discuss their views on the revenue villages and assess their views.

The meeting discussed in detail the appropriate decision from a police and administrative perspective, as well as the wish-

es of the residents. The geographical location of the villages and their connectivity with Kaushambi and Prayagraj were also examined through maps, and all aspects were considered. Sub-District Magistrate Sadar Abhishek Singh, Tehsildar Sadar Anil Pathak, and other relevant officials and local residents were present.

A young man died after being hit by an unknown vehicle



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A tragic accident three months before his wedding has plunged a family into grief. A young man died in a road accident on Thursday night in the Kaushambi Saini police station area. The young man had gone from his home to a tea stall to deliver milk. The collision was so severe that the doctor declared him dead upon arrival at the hospital. Police arrived at the scene immediately after receiving information about the incident and took custody of the deceased's body and sent it for a post-mortem. As soon as the family members learned of the incident, they rushed to the scene, weeping. According to information, Sunil Kumar, 25, a resident of Malak Nindra village in the Saini police station area, had gone from his home

to a tea stall to deliver milk. As Sunil Kumar reached the National Highway near Nindra village, an unknown vehicle coming at high speed hit him, causing him to fall at the scene and was seriously injured. Seeing the accident, people nearby rushed to the scene and informed the police. Police arrived at the scene and took Sunil to the hospital. He was taken to the hospital but by then it was too late, the doctor confirmed Sunil's death. It is being told about the deceased that he was going to get married in the month of February, but before that he became a victim of this terrible accident. The untimely death of the young man has created chaos in the entire family.

The police have now started investigation to identify the unknown vehicle and its driver.

An uncontrolled truck entered a house, the family narrowly escaped, Villagers blocked the road

Kaushambi

An uncontrolled truck rammed into a house near Badi Dhanni, under the jurisdiction of the Sandipan Ghat police station in Harraipur, Kaushambi, at 6:30 pm on Friday. No one in the house was injured. The entire family escaped unhurt. Following the accident, villagers rushed to the scene and blocked the road. According to information, an uncontrolled truck entered the house of Mahendra Saroj, a resident of Badi Dhanni. The truck broke the iron tin cans inside the house and the hand pump outside, causing widespread anger among the villagers. The angry villagers blocked the road from Prayagraj to Kanpur. Upon receiving the information, the Sandipan Ghat police arrived at the scene and, through persuasion, managed to remove the blockade.

A woman's body was found in a ditch, a vegetable knife lodged in her neck, shrouding her death in mystery

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Shankargarh. A heartbreaking incident unfolded on Friday in Neebi Lohgara, under the Bara police station area. The body of 28-year-old Sushma Dwivedi was found drenched in blood in her rented room. Sushma had been living in Lohgara on rent with her husband, Rohit Dwivedi, for the past three months. The couple originally hails from Kachra Manpur, Lalapur. Sushma's husband, Rohit Dwivedi, a security guard at the Bara Power Plant, said that despite calling several times in the morning, his wife did not answer his calls. Suspicious, he called the landlord and asked him to inspect the situation. When the landlord arrived, he found the door locked from inside. Rohit said he arrived at the room around 11:30 a.m. and managed to open the back door and enter. Upon entering the room, they were shocked. Sushma was lying on the floor, a vegetable knife lodged in her throat.

Under the direction of the District Magistrate, continuous action is being taken against illegal encroachments by land mafias

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Prayagraj. Under the direction of District Magistrate Manish Kumar Verma, a campaign is being launched in all tehsils against illegal encroachments, including barren land, barns, new fallow land, chauk marg, pond land, illegal encroachments and occupation of land belonging to the poor and government land, and to free land illegally occupied by land mafias. The administration is freeing government land from encroachment and identifying land that was allotted for a specific purpose for a fixed period and whose term has expired, and re-registering it in the government account. In this sequence, taking cognizance of the Khatauni of village Nasirpur

Silna Tehsil Sadar, found recorded as Arazi number 29 area 1.7010 category-3 of crop year 1428-33, a detailed investigation was conducted by Sub-Divisional Magistrate Sadar Abhishek Singh. After investigation, taking action as per the rules of Uttar Pradesh Zamindari Abolition and Land Reforms Rules-1952, the Court Sub-Divisional Magistrate Sadar declared Arazi number 1 area 0.3010 hectare, 29 area 1.7010 hectare, 30 area 0.3310 hectare, 180 area 1.3220, 304 area 0.765 hectare, 228 area 0.7990 hectare, 383 area 0.7170 hectare, 393 in Mauja Nasirpur Silna Pargana and Tehsil Sadar, Prayagraj. A total of 14 plots registered as area 0.3300 hectare, 405 area 0.0570 hectare, 406 area 0.2510

hectare, 413 area 0.2630 hectare, 448 area 0.3540 hectare, 474 area 0.8900 hectare, 449 area 0.6740, Category-3 (land which is under the occupation or right of the tenants), whose total area is 8.7550 hectare, have been ordered to cancel the names of all the account holders mentioned on it and instead enter them in the account of the Gram Sabha and through the Tehsildar Sadar, the Revenue Inspector and the Regional Lekhpal have been ordered to ensure the security of the government land. Thus, land valued at over ₹80 crore (approximately \$80 million) was re-registered in the name of the Gram Sabha, ensuring the security of the Gram Sabha's land. The land in Mouza Nasirpur Silna is registered in

the names of Amanullah, Ishtiyak Ahmed, Iqbal Ahmed, Ghulam Gaus, and Eklakha Ahmed, sons of Khaliluddin, and Ms. Bitniya, widow of Mouddin. This land, comprising 14 plots and a total area of 78.7550 hectares, is listed as Category-3 (land owned or occupied by tenants) and is recorded in the Land Rights Khatauni dated 1368F. According to Section 176 of the Uttar Pradesh Zamindari Abolition and Land Reforms Rules, 1952, land is allotted to an individual for agricultural purposes on a tenant lease for a maximum period of five years, the term of which has now expired. The aforementioned plots are vacant as fallow land and are in the custody of the Gram Sabha.

A truck hit two young men riding a bike, killing one on the spot and injuring the other

Kaushambi

Police are searching for the driver who fled the scene after abandoning the truck. The havoc of high speed was witnessed in the Karari police station area of Kaushambi on Thursday night, where a speeding truck hit two young men riding a bike. One of the young men died tragically on the spot, while the other was seriously injured. The injured man was taken to a hospital by ambulance for treatment. The driver fled the scene after abandoning the truck. Police arrived at

the scene, took the bodies into custody, sent them for post-mortem examination, and began an investigation. Upon receiving news of the accident, the family members were devastated. According to reports, Jitendra Kumar, 25, son of Kamta Prasad, and Subedar, son of Ram Adhin, residents of Jawai Bigarha, Pipri, were traveling by bike to attend a feast at their relative's house in Bandhwa village, under the Karari police station area, on Thursday. While returning from the feast, a speeding truck struck their bike as they

approached Myohar village. Jitendra was dragged under the truck and died on the spot, while Subedar was seriously injured. The truck driver fled the scene after the accident. Upon learning of the accident, people nearby rushed to the scene and informed the police station and ambulance. Police arrived at the scene, sent the injured to the hospital for treatment, took the deceased's body for post-mortem examination, and have begun an investigation. Police have seized the vehicle and launched a search for the driver.

Beni Madhav Singh PG College dominates the inter-college athletics competition 12 medals, including five gold



Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Tharwai. The inter-college athletics and shot put competition was held at Prof. Rajendra Singh Rajju Bhairya University, Prayagraj, on Friday, in which athletes from several colleges participated. Beni Madhav Singh PG College, Bighiya, a renowned college in Prayagraj, continues to boast of medals in sports along with education. Friday's athletics and shot put competition also won 12 medals, including five gold medals.

In which Anjali 100 meter silver

medal BA second year, Resham 800 meter race gold medal BA third year, Rudra Prakash Tiwari 800 meter race silver medal MA first year, Sagar Singh 800 meter race bronze medal BA first year, Sagar Singh 1500 meter race silver medal BA first year, Kavita Patel in women's category 1500 meter race bronze medal BPEd first year, Reshma in women's category 5 km race silver medal BA third year, and relay race gold medal in men's category, relay race women's category gold medal, relay race mixed gold medal and Sushil gold medal in shot put BA

third year women's category Palak bronze medal BPEd first year. In the joy of this victory, the college's Principal Dr. D.V. Singh, Secretary Madhuri Singh, President Kripa Ram Mishra, Dr. Seema Singh, Dr. Babita Singh, B.P.Ed. Department President V.D. Singh, Ram Prasad, Ram Kailash, Karunesh Shukla, Parveen Jahan, Supreeti Mishra, Shalu Pandey, College's Administrative Officer Gopal Singh, Satyanarayan Mishra etc. all expressed their gratitude on the joy of this victory and inspired to keep achieving such success.

On Chacha Nehru's birthday, children were encouraged to develop their skills

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Tharwai. Children's Day is not just a celebration, but a reminder to our society that children are the future of the country; their smiles and dreams are the true strength of India. This celebration is dedicated to children, and the main reason behind it is former Prime Minister of India, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. His love for children led to his affectionate name, Chacha Nehru. Nehru was born on November 14, 1889. Pandit Nehru had immense love and affection for children. Chacha Nehru saw the future of the country in them and believed that the foundation of any nation rests on a strong and educated childhood. On Children's Day, SIM Public School in Tharwai, under the Prayagraj Ganganagar Zone, organized a program to honor several children with medals and certificates. Children also organized a children's fair. The program was attended by L.B. Maurya,



Director of SIM Nursing College, and Deepa, Principal of SIM Public School, as the special guest. Previously, a technical skills exhibition was held, where children showcased their skills in science, technology, and art. Among the best performing children in that program, Wahid and Wajid from Class 5th took first, second, and third place, using their intellectual abilities to create DJs. Tania, a Class 4 student, took second place on the water cycle; Shreya Maurya, a Class 7 student, took third place on the atmospheric layer; Srishti, a Class 8 student, and Janvi, took fourth place on a model of how day and night work; Mahima, a Class 8 student, took fifth place on a house;

Tanu Pal, a Class 8 student, took sixth place on photosynthesis; and Swati Pal, a Class 7 student, took seventh place on air pollution. For their excellent performances, all the children were honored with medals, certificates, and gifts, encouraging them. On this occasion, teachers Alka, Poonam, Rakesh, Alok, Reshma, Deepmala, Parvati, and Pratima congratulated the children and encouraged them to continue their progress.

Director Engineer L.B. Maurya wished all the children well and Principal Deepa also emphasized that if children are given proper guidance and focused on developing good skills, they will become the future of the country.

Anti-Corruption Crackdown: Handia Supply Inspector Caught Taking Bribe

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

The Handia Anti-Corruption Bureau conducted a major operation in Handia Tehsil on Friday, arresting an officer posted in the Supply Department red-handed. The accused, Supply Inspector Nandkishore Yadav, was caught accepting the first installment of a monthly bribe of ₹10,000 from a ration dealer. According to reports, Supply Inspector Nandkishore Yadav had been pressuring ration dealers in the area to pay him illegal monthly payments. He repeatedly demanded ₹10,000 per month from a ration dealer, promising exemption from government investigations. Fed up with bribery, the victim ration dealer immedi-

ately filed a complaint on the Anti-Corruption Uttar Pradesh helpline number. After verifying the veracity of the complaint, the Anti-Corruption team devised a plan. Under the team's supervision, as soon as Supply Inspector Nandkishore Yadav accepted a bribe of ₹10,000 from the complainant ration dealer, the team immediately raided the place and arrested him on the spot. Anti-Corruption Department officials have confirmed that the accused officer, Nandkishore Yadav, has been arrested and a case has been registered against him under relevant sections of the Prevention of Corruption Act. This action sends a strong message to other corrupt officials in the district.

Editorial

Requires a suitable regulatory role of the state

The Modi government's main move in the Union Budget 2025 has been to cut personal income tax. As finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman said in her speech, it is meant to boost demand in the economy. However, the government doesn't expect a higher-than-usual increase in other non-debt receipts and has budgeted a decline in the deficit. The budgeted capital expenditure is the same as the revised estimates for 2024-25. The tax cut should be seen in the context of other fiscal policy moves the Modi government has made in the last decade to boost growth. Since 2016, the Indian economy has struggled to sustain rapid growth. From 2016 to 2019, it was in a relentless showdown, with GDP growth falling to 3.9 per cent in 2019-20. The GDP then fell sharply in 2020-21 due to the pandemic. After this sharp decline, high GDP growth numbers created a false sense of complacency, but the compound annual growth rate between 2019-20 and 2024-25 is only 4.8 per cent. The latest GDP estimates suggest that the economy is slowing down again—with growth clocking at 5.4 per cent in the July-September quarter of 2024. Even if we set aside the critiques of GDP estimation in India, growth remains a topic of concern in policy conversations. The government's response to an economic challenge depends on what it considers to be the root cause. The Modi government's actions over the past decade suggest that it seeks to address India's economic growth pangs through fiscal policy. Consequently, fiscal policy has done much of the heavy lifting in the government's growth strategy over the past decade. In the economic slowdown from 2016-17 to 2019-20, the government sought to maintain its expenditure. To do so without increasing the reported fiscal deficit, from 2017-18 to 2019-20, it transformed a significant part of its on-budget expenditure into off-budget expenditure done by public enterprises. It also sharply raised cesses and surcharges on petroleum products, which are not shared with the states. These unusual tactics allowed the government to spend more, and expenditure continued to outpace GDP growth. These tactics also allowed the government to introduce new cash transfer schemes such as PM KISAN and increase allocations to existing schemes. In 2019, in an effort to stimulate investment, the government announced major tax breaks for corporates, especially in manufacturing. At the time, corporate tax collection had been growing rapidly while other taxes were struggling to deliver the budgeted increase. The tax cut led to a sharp reduction in the corporate tax to GDP ratio in the subsequent years. As the pandemic hit, fiscal policy became even more central.

The pandemic allowed the government to suspend its concern for deficits and bring the off-budget expenditure to the Budget in 2020-21. For a few years, revenue expenditure as a percentage of GDP was higher than its pre-pandemic levels. Among other things, this allowed the government to increase subsidies and cash transfers, and introduce production-linked incentives for manufacturing in India. Total subsidies as a percentage of GDP have now gone back to their pre-pandemic levels. The most important change in expenditure since the pandemic has been in its composition. Of the Union government's total expenditure, the share of capital expenditure has increased. Its share rose from 12.5 per cent of total expenditure in 2019-20 to 22.2 per cent in 2023-24. In 2019-20, capital expenditure was 1.67 per cent of GDP. It rose to 3.21 per cent.

In 2023-24, before moderating to 3.14 per cent in 2024-25 (revised estimates). It is again budgeted to be 3.14 per cent of GDP in 2025-26. At the same time, there was a reduction in capital expenditure by public enterprises in these years. If we consider the combined capi-



Muslims want waqf reforms too. It's not an issue for political acrimony

When the Waqf Amendment Bill 2024 was first tabled in the Lok Sabha on 8 August last year, it triggered fears within the Muslim community, as it was perceived to have been introduced without adequate consultation with stakeholders. After all, the issue of waqfs—Muslim institutions through which property is bequeathed for religious or charitable purposes—is sensitive because it involves socio-religious spaces such as qabristans, masjids, idgahs, and madrasas. As such, the government and Parliament were exhorted to adopt procedures that allayed rather than stoked the fears of

Muslims. In this backdrop, the decision to refer the bill to a joint committee of both Houses of Parliament was welcome. The 31-member committee, drawn from across party lines, received 97,27,772 memoranda overall. There were representations from various ministries and departments—including Minority Affairs, Law and Justice, Railways, Housing and Urban Affairs, Road Transport, and Culture (Archaeological Survey of India)—as well as state waqf boards and experts, ensuring a diversity of opinions. As such, the government and Parliament were exhorted to adopt pro-

cedures that allayed rather than stoked the fears of Muslims. In this backdrop, the decision to refer the bill to a joint committee of both Houses of Parliament was welcome. The 31-member committee, drawn from across party lines, received 97,27,772 memoranda overall. There were representations from various ministries and departments—including Minority Affairs, Law and Justice, Railways, Housing and Urban Affairs, Road Transport, and Culture (Archaeological Survey of India)—as well as state waqf boards and experts, ensuring a diversity of opinions. It is not entirely

correct to state that waqf reforms are being externally foisted. Rather, to a large extent, the demand for waqf reforms has emerged from within the Muslim community also. The Ministry of Minority Affairs received numerous complaints from Muslims on the maladministration of waqf properties, which manifested in voluminous litigations. The ministry's analysis of grievances received from April 2023 found that 148 complaints pertained mostly to encroachments, illegal sales of waqf land, delays in surveys and registration, and complaints against waqf boards and mutawallis.

Putin, to start negotiations to end the Ukraine war

Trump sees things from the perspective of profitable deals. Western sanctions have hit Russia, but American companies have also suffered business losses, running into billions of dollars. He would like to reverse that. And despite Ukraine's resistance, Trump believes Zelenskyy will have to give access to critical minerals in return for any future US support. Some in the Trump administration suggest Kyiv should provide Americans with those minerals in return for the US military and financial aid already received by Ukraine. Trump has blamed European leaders for not doing enough to end the Ukraine war. He has also complained for a long time that Europe has lived off the US for too long and it must pay for its security. Europeans have increased their defence budgets but not enough to survive without US support.

In the face of changing US policy under Trump, European leaders are working on a plan to guard against a Russian attack. This involves a proposal to deploy tens of thousands of peace-keeping troops in Ukraine. The proposal has the support of Britain and France and is in response to Zelenskyy's request of 100,000 troops. But the idea doesn't have wider support in Europe. Germany, another big power in the continent, has already called it premature. The proposal has been dismissed by Russia, which currently has about 600,000 troops in Ukraine. But even Britain and France, with much smaller armies than Russia, can't send troops to Ukraine without some backup from the



United States. And that looks unlikely, for now. Trump's Ukraine envoy, General Keith Kellogg, who visited Kyiv and met Zelenskyy on Thursday, said all options must be open to deal with the outcome of peace talks. But he knows that any decision to provide any US military cover will be made by Trump who looks less inclined to do that.

Donald Trump has spent only a month in his second term as the US President. However, he has disrupted the international order, weakened the Western alliance and created a sense of insecurity and uncertainty among its members, surprising even some of his supporters. There has been a paradigm shift in US foreign policy under Trump. He is now closer to Moscow than Washington's traditional allies. He has embraced the Kremlin's narrative on Ukraine and has sidelined US allies. Although senior members of the Trump administration have denied that the US has abandoned Kyiv and ignored its European allies, Trump himself has not made any serious attempts to pacify Ukrainians and Europeans. His closeness to Russia has been on display since he talked for 90 minutes on the phone with Russian leader

Vladimir Putin, in which they agreed to start negotiations to end the Ukraine war, which will mark its third anniversary on Monday. Trump did speak to Zelenskyy soon after that call with Putin, but a nervous Ukrainian President warned that excluding his country from the talks would be "very dangerous". Events after that only made Ukrainians feel sidelined. Trump's Vice President, JD Vance, met European leaders in Munich two days later. But his comment that Europe will not be included in the peace talks only helped fuel the speculation that they were being left out of the future of Ukraine, which is closer to their homes and in which they have invested a lot of money and effort since the Russian invasion. Vance's meeting with Zelenskyy did not go well either as the Ukrainian leader refused to give access to the country's vast reserves of critical minerals unless he was given security guarantees. That angered Washington. Ending the Russia-Ukraine war was Trump's major campaign promise. But hardly anyone expected him to brazenly take Russia's side and even blame Ukraine for the conflict, which he did. Last

Tuesday, a US delegation led by Secretary of State Marco Rubio met the Russian delegation headed by Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov in Saudi Arabia, to discuss peace. Ukraine was not invited. Putin—who had been shunned by the US and its allies since the invasion of Ukraine—was delighted. A frustrated Zelenskyy dismissed the Riyadh talks as worthless. Trump did not like those comments and called the Ukraine President a dictator, even accusing him of starting the war. Zelenskyy said the US President was living in a Russian-made "disinformation space". This infuriated Trump, who does not take kindly to any criticism. He described Zelenskyy as "a modestly successful comedian" who "talked the United States of America into spending \$350 Billion, to go into a War that couldn't be won, that never had to start, but a War that he, without the U.S. and 'TRUMP,' will never be able to settle." Trump's behaviour towards Zelenskyy is in stark contrast to Biden's, who had backed Ukraine against Russia with all the possible military and financial aid. President Biden travelled to Ukraine many times since the Russian invasion in February 2022 to display his administration's full support. He also promised NATO membership to Ukraine at a future date. Russia was severely punished for invading Ukraine. The US joined hands with its allies to isolate Moscow. Russia faced tough sanctions and its assets in the West were seized. The International Criminal Court issued an arrest warrant against Putin for alleged war

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

The Hindutva Pitch of the BJP: Will Bihar Pay Attention This Time?

Seen on X alongside him were digvijaya Singh, abhishek Singhvi, and Sachin Pilot, all prominent figures in the Congress party. Members of the Gandhi family have a long history of participating in the Kumbh Mela, with both Indira Gandhi and Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru having done so in the past. Priyanka Gandhi, the member of parliament for Wayanad, reportedly wanted her brother Rahul, who represents Rae Bareilly, to continue this tradition. Even though he was in Uttar Pradesh, Rahul still decided not to visit Prayagraj. However, SP chief Akhilesh Yadav, who was on his side, continued the custom and dipped his head in the holy water. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath of Uttar Pradesh took great delight in hosting the Maha Kumbh and retaliated in the state assembly against the opposition for criticizing the Kumbh arrangements. Dead bodies are all that vultures see. All pigs can see is dirt. For those who are sensitive, relationships are a thing of beauty. A sense of fulfillment is

found by those who have faith. The impoverished find work, the wealthy make money, and gentlemanliness is upheld. Faithful discover God, he declared. Unlike the 2013 Kumbh, when Mohammad Azam Khan was appointed head of the religious assembly in Prayagraj and Akhilesh Yadav was chief minister of Uttar Pradesh, Yogi stressed that he had personally overseen preparations during Maha Kumbh. At the 2013 Kumbh, he recalled that the prime minister of Mauritius had declined to bathe in the sacred waters. President Droupadi Murmu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar were among the dignitaries that visited the Sangam, which he emphasised this time. The event was a resounding success on a global scale, as it drew the King of Bhutan as well as delegates from seventy-four other countries. Additionally, the chief minister of Uttar Pradesh brought attention to the fact that for the past fifteen days.

India must prioritise sharing vital intelligence and deploying unmanned systems

It delivered two Ming-class submarines to Bangladesh in 2017, gifted a P625 frigate to Sri Lanka in 2019, and committed to exporting Yuan-class submarines to Thailand. Although the Thai deal encountered difficulties when Germany refused to supply key propulsion components. Thailand decided to proceed with the acquisition, underscoring China's persistence in maintaining its naval export commitments. Additionally, Pakistan is set to acquire at least eight Hangor-class submarines and other naval equipment from Beijing, further enhancing China's presence in the region. India has increasingly aligned itself with Western naval powers to address maritime challenges through collaborative efforts. France was among its earliest Western partners, and the countries' cooperation has grown stronger over time. India also participates in joint maritime missions with European nations and European Union Naval Force (EUNAVFOR) initiatives such as Operation Atlanta and Aspidos. Furthermore, India contributes to significant maritime security dialogues such as the Coordinated Maritime Presence (CMP) and Enhancing Security Cooperation In And With Asia (ESIWA). India's 2023 inclusion in the Combined Maritime Forces (CMF), led by the US Central Command, underscores its dedication to enhancing collaborative security in the western Indian Ocean. The IFC-IOR exemplifies India's commitment to collective security, even though it remains a preliminary step toward a more robust maritime security framework. Advancing to the next level will require India to engage in the technically complex task of real-time information sharing through secure legal frameworks beyond Open-Source Intelligence (OSINT).

The Quad's Indo-Pacific Maritime Domain Awareness (IPMDA) initiative highlights the challenges in achieving seamless data-sharing capabilities. To counter hybrid threats and protect critical infrastructure, India must prioritise sharing vital intelligence and deploying unmanned systems for coordinated surveillance. Strengthening such partnerships will bolster India's naval capabilities and contribute to broader maritime security across the Indian Ocean Region. The commissioning of new naval platforms marks a significant milestone for India but also highlights persistent challenges, particularly in achieving technological self-reliance in engine manufacturing. Although the INS Surat, INS Nilgiri, and INS Vagsheer were designed by India's Warship Design Bureau and built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited, their engines were procured from foreign manufacturers, exposing a critical dependence on external sources. INS Surat, the fourth and final ship of the P15B Guided Missile Destroyer Project, employs a Combined Gas Turbine and Gas Turbine (COGAG) propulsion system. This system uses Me6E and DT-59 reversible engines sourced from Ukraine's Zorya Mashproekt, a key supplier for India's frontline warships. Despite the ongoing war in Ukraine, India has continued to rely on Zorya, underscoring the critical nature of this dependence. To secure the supply chain, Bharat Forge acquired a 51 per cent stake in Zorya's India arm in 2023. Similarly, INS Nilgiri, the first ship of the P17A Stealth Frigate Project, launched in 2019, uses a Combined Diesel and Gas (CODAG) propulsion system. This system incorporates LM2500 engines from General Electric in the US and MAN diesel engines from Germany.

Google under CCI investigation over gaming firm complaint

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



restrictive policy, all apps offering real money games of skill are only available for download from their website (a process called sideloading)," it told CCI. On Android devices, using this process to reach WinZO displays a disclaimer/warning, tarnishing its image. WinZO stated warnings are without validity and "completely illegal" and cost the company. It also claimed Google displays another "baseless warning" when users pay for skill-based games. "Such payment warnings are arbitrary as Google has not set any criteria for displaying them," WinZO complained to CCI.

US retailers utilize Trump tariff threats to boost sales

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

The Union government wants 100% FDI in insurance

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

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



allowing insurers to conduct one or more kinds of insurance business and associated or incidental operations. The suggestion also cut foreign reinsurers' Net Owned Funds from Rs 5,000 crore to Rs 1,000 crore. IRDAI can also set lesser entry capital (Rs 50 crore) for underserved or unserved regions on

a case-by-case basis. The sector regulator is trying to increase capital in this capital-intensive industry. The Chairman of IRDAI suggests that the insurance market requires 50,000 crore yearly to double penetration in the country. Insurance penetration is the ratio of annual premiums issued to GDP.

Gold loans rise 50% in seven months

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

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

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

Commercial LPG hike by Rs 16.5 per cylinder, jet fuel up 1.45%; household cooking gas remains unchanged

NEW DELHI: The cost of commercial LPG and aviation fuel prices surged on Sunday following the monthly revision aimed at aligning with trends in international oil prices. State-owned oil firms raised commercial LPG rates, used in hotels and restaurants by Rs 16.5 per to Rs 1818.50 per 19 kg cylinder. Aviation turbine fuel (ATF) prices in Delhi, which hosts one of India's most active airports, saw an increase of Rs 1,318.12 per kilo litre, marking a 1.45 per cent increment. The new rate stands at Rs 91,856.84 per kl, according to state-owned fuel retailers. The prices of ATF and LPG vary from state to state, depending on local taxes, including VAT. This marks the second consecutive monthly increase in jet fuel prices, which were previously raised by Rs 2,941.5 per kl, or 3.3 per cent, on November 1. ATF prices were reduced by 6.3 per cent (Rs 5,883 per kl) on October 1 and by Rs 4,495.5 per kl, or 4.58 per cent, on September 1. In Mumbai, the ATF price increased to Rs 85,861.02 per kl on Sunday from Rs 84,642.91 previously. The price of commercial LPG have also increased for the seventh consecutive month. In the most recent review on November 1, commercial LPG prices were raised by Rs 62 per 19-kg cylinder. Over the course of five price hikes, commercial LPG prices have increased by Rs 172.5 per 19-kg cylinder, reaching their peak this year. Four monthly price reductions before the current cycle began in August were offset by the recent hikes. Prices for 19-kg cylinders were reduced by Rs 148 across the four rounds. Currently, commercial LPG costs Rs 1,980 in Chennai, Rs 1,927 in Kolkata, and Rs 1,771 in Mumbai for a 19-kg cylinder. However, the rate of cooking gas used in domestic households, however, remained unchanged at Rs 803 per 14.2-kg cylinder. State-owned Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL), and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) revise the prices of ATF and cooking gas on the first of each month.

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

Delhi: As Airtel, Vodafone-Idea, and Reliance Jio struggle to reach a crucial Telecom Regulatory Authority of India deadline, Indian mobile subscribers may experience OTP delays. The telecom watchdog extended the deadline for spam and phishing traceability requirements to December 1, 2024. Telecom companies must now track all commercial messages, including OTPs, to combat fraud. Telecom companies can block scams by identifying message sources. However, missing this deadline could delay or prohibit OTPs, harming banking, e-commerce, and social networking. The TRAI imple-



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

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30. All non-compliant messages will be prohibited starting December 1.

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

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

New Honda Amaze Variants and Top Features



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

gies will be added. The top model will have a floating touchscreen infotainment system with wireless Apple CarPlay and Android Auto connectivity, automatic climate control, ADAS technology, six airbags, reversing camera, wireless smartphone charger, multi-functional steering wheel with mount-

ed controls, rear AC vents, dual cup holders, type-c charging ports, and more. However, an electric sunroof, motorized seats, and 360-degree camera will be missing. It will keep its 1.2L four-cylinder VTEC naturally aspirated petrol engine, which produces 90 PS, and no major mechanical alterations.

French energy giant Total puts Adani Gp investments on hold

Delhi: Total Energies, a French oil company, has suspended investments in Adani Group entities pending the conclusion of US bribery allegations against its founder. The Paris-based company, which owns key investments in Adani Group's renewable energy and gas distribution operations, said it was unaware of the US solar power corruption inquiry. "Total Energies rejects corruption in any form," it declared. "This indictment does not target Adani Green Energy (AGEL) itself, nor any AGEL-related companies." Total Energies claimed it learned about Gautam Adani's and others' indictment from US public pronouncements. Gautam Adani, his nephew



and Adani Green Energy executive director Sagar Adani, and others are accused of a \$265m bribery scam. Total Energies bought 19.7% of Adani Green Energy in January 2021. It invested \$444 million in an equal joint venture with the Indian company to acquire three 1,150MW operational renewable assets in September. Additionally, it owns 37.4% of Adani Total Gas, which supplies CNG to cars and natural gas to homes.

NBCC India will buy sick PSUs and redevelop land banks

Delhi: Two sources say NBCC India Ltd. wants to buy defunct public sector undertakings (PSUs) to redevelop and monetize their land. The state-run construction company wants to leverage its success in developing land for government-owned companies. Developer is in talks to acquire non-operational PSUs through a new entity to monetize their land banks. Details are not yet

Cabinet's 30k cr bank guarantee relief for telcos

Delhi: Government sources claimed the Union Cabinet has agreed in principle to waive bank guarantee requirements for telecom companies' deferred spectrum payments, but with strict conditions. The waiver will require telcos to pay three months' instalments in addition to their annual fees. Sources said the government will give up its right to collect Rs 30,000 crore in bank guarantees upfront. The Cabinet waived the requirement for telcos to buy spectrum in six auctions between 2012 and 2022. Spectrum auction regulations from 2022 and 2024 removed the necessity. Airtel and Jio would guarantee Rs 2,300 crore and Rs 4,000 crore. Vodafone Idea (Vi) spectrum auction moratorium ends in October 2025. Current



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

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

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

Tgana rejects Adani's 100-cr contribution

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



Dharmendra discharged from hospital

The family and hospital authorities did not go into any specific details about the tests or his condition

Veteran actor Dharmendra was discharged from the Breach Candy hospital on Wednesday morning and will continue his recovery at home, his family and doctor said amid intense speculation about his health. The 89-year-old actor was discharged from the south Mumbai hospital days after he was admitted there for tests. The family and hospital authorities did not go into any details about the tests or his condition. In a statement, the family urged for

privacy and asked people to respect the actor, reminding them that "he loves you", a reference to how Dharmendra signs off many of his Instagram videos to fans. "Mr. Dharmendra has been discharged from the hospital and will continue his recovery at home. We kindly request the media and the public to refrain from any further speculation and to respect his and the family's privacy during this time."

"We appreciate everyone's love, prayers, and good wishes for his continued recovery, good health, and long life. Please respect him because he loves you," son Sunny Deol's PR representative said on behalf of the family.

Family friend Guddu visits Dharmendra

Family friend and Ziddi director Guddu Dhanoa visited the actor at home and told reporters, "All I can say is that he is doing fine. I can't say anything further."



The ambulance from Mumbai's Breach Candy Hospital in which Dharmendra was taken home on Wednesday morning.

Dharmendra under home care: Doctor

According to his treating doctor, Dr Pratit Samdani of Breach Candy hospital, Dharmendra was discharged from the hospital around 7:30 am on Wednesday morning. "He will be treated at home as the family has decided to give him home treatment," he told PTI, adding that that was all he could confirm at the time. Addressing the media later, Samdani said the actor's treatment and "management with recovery" will continue at home.



Govinda admitted, now discharged

Bollywood actor shares health update, says, "I did excessive work and was fatigued, but I'm fine now"

Bollywood actor Govinda was spotted outside Mumbai's Criti-Care Hospital after being discharged on Wednesday. The 61-year-old actor, who was admitted in the wee hours of Wednesday, following dizziness and fatigue, interacted briefly with the paparazzi and shared an update on his health.

"I did excessive hard work and was fatigued. Yoga and pranayama are good, excessive exercise is tough. I am trying to make my personality even better. I feel yoga-pranayama

is better. Doctors have given me medicine." Govinda said while speaking to media persons outside the hospital.

The actor was admitted after feeling disoriented at home and has now been advised rest and a focus on light exercise and meditation. He has also been advised to consult a neurologist. Fans of the actor expressed relief on social media after seeing him in good spirits post-discharge.

The actor was admitted after feeling disoriented at home and has now been advised rest and a focus on light exercise and meditation. He has also been advised to consult a neurologist.

Bigg Boss 19's Neelam Giri feels Tanya Mittal is playing a game, reacts to her bond with Farrhana Bhatt



Is Tanya fake? Neelam reacts

Neelam Giri, who was recently evicted from *Bigg Boss 19*, opened up about her friendship with Tanya Mittal, which many viewers believed was one-sided. While fans felt Neelam was genuine, Tanya was often accused of using her for her game. In an exclusive conversation with *The Free Press Journal*, Neelam shared her honest thoughts about Tanya's changing dynamics inside the house, her alleged lies, and the body-shaming controversy involving Ashnoor Kaur.

When asked about Tanya Mittal's growing closeness with Farrhana Bhatt in the recent weeks, and whether she feels replaced, Neelam shared, "Can't say Tanya has replaced me with Farrhana. Even when I was inside the house, they used to eat together and they used to sit together the entire day. So, it's not a big deal for me now. Maybe Tanya is playing a game and she feels she'll be more seen if she spends time with Farrhana. Maybe that's her intention. I didn't feel bad. I just felt bad once when she started talking to Farrhana and I did react back then. Now, I don't feel bad."

Responding to rumours that Tanya faked stories about her wealth inside the *Bigg Boss 19* house, Neelam clarified, "Can't say much about it because I haven't searched anything about her. I never intended to come out and see what all she has spoken about. She has been a friend to me since the first day and even outside the house, she'll be my good friend. Whether

she lied or not - I don't know about that. But I still pray that whatever she has said is actually true so that other people are proven wrong. I don't want Tanya to be proven wrong in front of the world. If she has told the truth then I'll also get to say 'yes, she's rich, what will you do now'. And if she has exaggerated about anything, then maybe that's her game."

Neelam also addressed the incident where both she and Tanya were called out by Salman Khan for body-shaming Ashnoor Kaur, but Tanya shifted all the blame onto Neelam. "People understood that she was trying to put the blame on me. I felt guilty about body-shaming Ashnoor so I immediately apologised but when I asked Tanya to apologise, she went and apologised to Abhishek (Bajaj). So, this is wrong. First she made fun of Ashnoor and then started denying and putting the blame on me instead of apologising to Ashnoor. It's okay to make mistakes but the least you can do is accept it."

When asked if she believes Tanya used her to move ahead in the game, Neelam said, "Won't say Tanya used me. I used to always be concerned about her. I used to also explain her that if you're lying, then lie fearlessly. I maintained my friendship with her but if she played me behind my back or played with my emotions then there's nothing I can do."

Scan QR code to watch the full interview on FPI's YouTube channel



'She's older, wider...'

Twinkle Khanna returns with Mrs Funnybones sequel after a decade

Actor-turned-author Twinkle Khanna is back as the beloved Mrs Funnybones. A decade after releasing the first edition in 2015, Twinkle Khanna has announced a sequel to one of her most popular books, *Mrs Funnybones*.

Taking to Instagram, Twinkle unveiled the first look of the latest edition titled *Mrs Funnybones Returns* and penned down her thoughts about how her fans have been eagerly waiting for it.

"Every book tour I've ever been on, people have inevitably asked about the sequel to *Mrs Funnybones*. Well, here it is. Finally. Ten years of writing about women's lives, politics, godmen, news, loss, grief, ageing and yes,

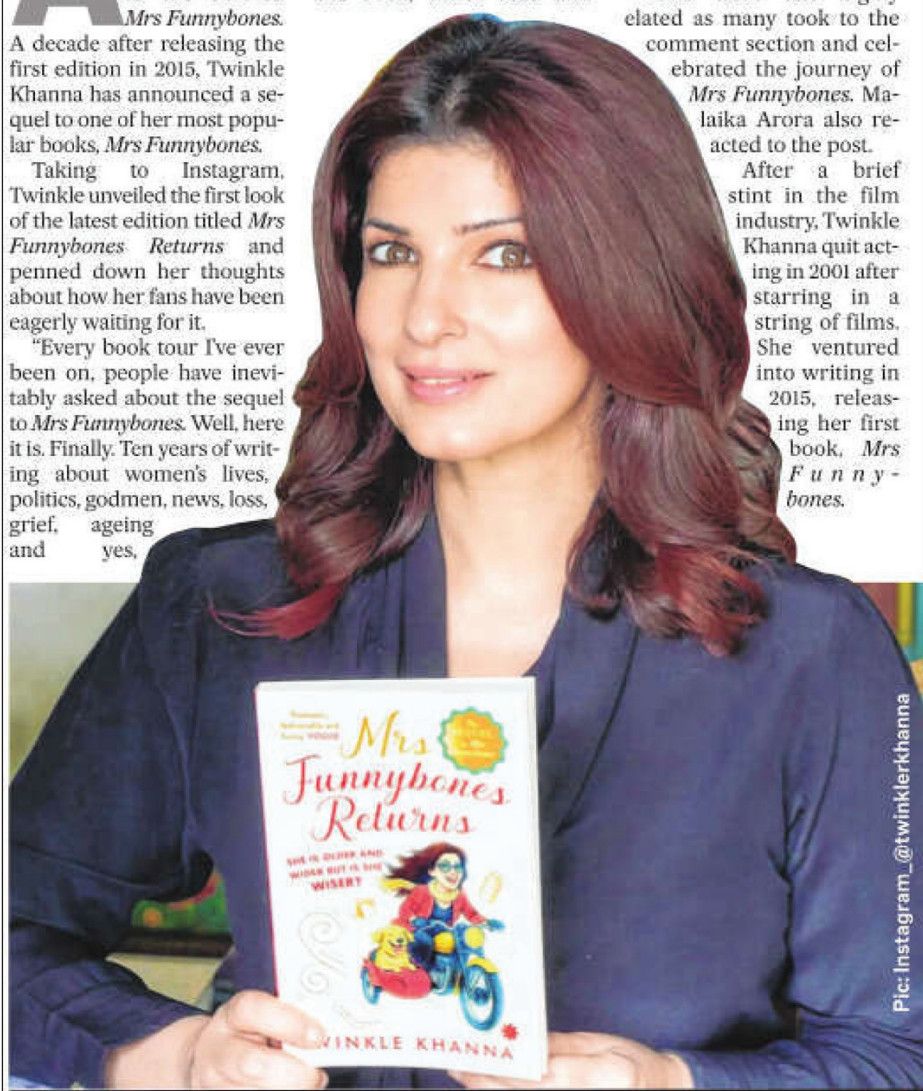
laughter. A decade of watching how India looks at women and how I look back at India," she wrote in the caption.

Teasing a new tagline from the book, which read *Mrs*

Funnybones Returns. She's older, wider, but is she any wiser?'. Twinkle also asked fans for their own thoughts on her books.

Fans were left highly elated as many took to the comment section and celebrated the journey of *Mrs Funnybones*. Malaika Arora also reacted to the post.

After a brief stint in the film industry, Twinkle Khanna quit acting in 2001 after starring in a string of films. She ventured into writing in 2015, releasing her first book, *Mrs Funnybones*.



Pic: Instagram_@twinklerkhanna



Glimpses of Prithvi festival

The Prithvi Theater Festival is underway, bringing together artists and theater enthusiasts from across the region. The festival features a diverse lineup of plays, workshops, interactive sessions, showcasing both contemporary and traditional performances. Organisers aim to provide a platform for emerging talent while celebrating established artists. Audiences can



experience a variety of themes, including social issues, folklore, and experimental theater. Safety measures and guidelines are being followed strictly to ensure a smooth event. Theater

lovers are flocking to the venue, excited for live performances after a long hiatus. The festival continues throughout the day, promising cultural enrichment for all attendees.



SBI plans to raise a Rs 45,000 crore in a mix of stock

Stricter bad loan policy cuts Axis Bank profit 4%.

Delhi : Capital markets are expected to generate Rs 45,000 crore for the biggest lender in the nation, SBI. This week, the largest equity issue of its sort in the Indian market will occur, with Rs 25,000 crore coming through a qualified institutional placement (QIP). The issue would dilute equity by 3.3% at the present market valuation of around Rs 7.4 lakh crore. Following shareholder approval on June 13 and board approval on May 3, the bank started the share sale . In accordance with the SBI Act and its General Regulations, the shares will be issued having a face value of Re 1. Up until now, the



biggest equity fundraising under QIP has been Coal India's 2015 Rs 22,560 crore offering. When fully subscribed, SBI's placement will surpass this. The offer's floor price, determined using Sebi's pricing formula, is Rs 811.05 per share. This amount can be reduced by as much as 5% by the bank. The book-running lead managers will be consulted to decide the ultimate pricing.

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

Delhi : A steep surge in provisions lowered Axis Bank's net profit to Rs 5,806 crore in the quarter ended June 2025, down 4%. The bank described a one-time accounting adjustment as a "technical impact" or internal recalibration of their poor credit categorization, which increased provisions. This modification affected cash credit, overdraft, and one-time cleared accounts, causing Rs 2,709 crore in slippages. That alone prompted Rs 821 crore in provisions. Without this,



quarter provisions would have been Rs 3,127 crore instead of Rs 3,948 crore. The bank called this hit a "prudential application" of regulatory standards, not a decrease in asset quality. Gross non-performing assets rose 29

basis points quarter-on-quarter to 1.57% after the policy change. Net NPAs rose 12 basis points to 0.45%. A technical recalibration hurt headline profit, while revenue, loan book, and fee income grew more evenly.

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.

Modern electric vehicle lenders ramp up battery loans



Delhi: When early indicators of scale appear in an industry that was previously considered too specialized or hazardous for institutional investors, a slew of new companies and financiers are changing the way electric commercial vehicles (EVs) are financed in India. Financing arrangements are being adjusted by lenders to accommodate the economics of electric vehicles and the credit realities of small business operators. This includes models such as first-loss guarantee partnerships, flexible EMIS, and battery subscription models. Modern methods are now able to meet the unique requirements of EVs. Battery subscriptions are offered by some lenders. Instead of paying for the entire cost of the battery up front, purchasers pay for it as they use it, similar to fuel. For driver-owners whose wages are unpredictable, there are options that offer adjustable EMIs that change depending on how much the car is used. Another way that startups are collaborating with NBFCs is through first-loss guarantee (FLDG) structures. This allows startups to de-risk lending to consumers without formal credit records by covering a percentage of the defaults. When it comes to financing electric vehicle chassis and batteries, VidyutTech is in the vanguard. Oil is a running cost for internal combustion engine vehicles. The battery, however, is essentially prepaid gasoline in an electric vehicle, accounting for 30–40% of the total cost.

A parliamentary committee on the income tax bill supports the expedited settlement of tax disputes

Delhi : In its 285 recommendations on the proposed legislation to streamline and update tax regulations, a parliamentary committee that reviewed the Income Tax Bill, 2025, Delhi, argued that litigation should have a deadline. On the opening day of Parliament's monsoon session (July 21), the IT Bill was reviewed by a select committee of the Lok Sabha presided over by BJP leader Baijayant Panda. The committee then adopted a report outlining the proposed law. Our team has put out 285 suggestions. Nearly two hundred fifty have been approved by the government. Huge improvements have transpired, as can be seen in the case of



refunds, but we have stated that tax litigations should not drag and that there should be time-bound settlement," a panel member added. The majority of the legislative panel's suggestions on the Income Tax Bill, 2025 were of a "corrective" character, according to one of its mem-

bers. The document's size has been reduced from 850 pages to 600 pages as a result of the simplification efforts. Simplifying the wording and structure of the IT Act 1961 was the goal of the IT Bill, 2025, which was submitted in Parliament.

To simplify TDS refund provisions under Income Tax Bill 2025

Delhi : Even if their income is not taxable, taxpayers must file income tax returns to receive a refund for tax deducted at source. This criterion is apparently being simplified by the government. According to The Hindustan Times, taxpayers may be able to receive TDS refunds without completing ITRs by filling out a simple form. The Select Committee on the Income Tax Bill 2025 advised the administration, according to bill-related officials.

MTNL has failed to repay bank debts totaling 8,585 crore rupees



Delhi: In a regulatory filing, the state-run telecom giant MTNL announced that it has defaulted on loans totaling Rs 8,585 crore from seven public sector banks. The public sector telecom firm's overall debt liabilities reached Rs 34,484 crore as of June 30, 2025, according to the filing.

This included a bank loan of Rs 8,585 crore, a sovereign guarantee bond of Rs 24,071 crore, and a loan of Rs 1,828

crore from the DoT to cover the interest on the Sovereign Guarantee Bond. A sum of 3,733 crore INR, 2,434 crore INR, 1,121 crore INR, 474.7 crore Punjab National Bank, 363.4 crore State Bank of

India, 273.6 crore UCO Bank, and 184.8 crore Punjab & Sind Bank debts, plus principal and interest, make up the total amount of loans that have gone into default.

Tesla sets foot in India with Rs 61 lakh Model Y

Delhi: Tesla is finally here. The electric car giant run by Elon Musk opened its first India showroom in Mumbai's BKC . Musk had set his eyes on India since at least 2015, but high tariffs, limited flexibility, and charging infrastructure challenges, kept Tesla away from the country, which the company had described as a hard market. While bookings opened, deliveries of Model Y SUVs, prices for which start at Rs 61-lakh on-road (500km range), will begin in Oct. A 'long-range' (622km) Model Y variant will be available from Jan 2026 with an on-road price tag of just over Rs 69 lakh. For context, BMW iX1 LWB electric SUV is priced at about Rs 51 lakh on-road, and Mercedes-Benz EQA electric SUV costs just over Rs 70 lakh. Users will have a simple 'plug and charge



SC recognizes firms as criminal victims

Delhi: The Supreme Court ruled that firms can be regarded "victims" under the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) and can appeal acquittals even if the state does not. This might profoundly change corporate rights in criminal litigation. Asian Paints Ltd. appealed a Rajasthan High Court ruling denying its right to dispute the acquittal of an individual convicted of selling counterfeit paint under its brand name. Justices Ahsanuddin Amanullah and Prashant Kumar Mishra approved the appeal. Whether the appellant is a 'victim' under Section 2(wa) and the provision to Section 372 of the CrPC is a significant legal question. This bench believes the High Court erred in ruling otherwise.

experience' with up to 267km range in superchargers adding 15 minutes.

Sources suggest Japan's SMBC wants RBI clearance for 4.9% more Yes Bank ownership

Delhi : Japan's Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation (SMBC) [RIC:RIC:SUM-FGI.UL] has sought approval from the Reserve Bank of India to acquire an additional 4.9% stake in India's Yes Bank (YESB.NS), bringing its total ownership to just under 25%, two sources told Reuters. Yes Bank disclosed in a stock exchange filing that SMBC bought a 20% share in the private lender for \$1.6 billion in May. Receive the latest Indian news and its global impact with the Reuters India File newsletter. Join here. The first source stated the RBI, India's central bank and banking regulator, is reviewing the transaction. Both sources declined to be identified due to transaction confidentiality. The additional pur-



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.

chase's timeline was unknown to Reuters. Answers to Reuters' emails from Yes Bank and the RBI were delayed. On specific

deals, SMBC declined to comment. SMBC is considering a \$1.1 billion investment in Yes Bank for a 5% stake held by the U.S.

An amnesty program for overdue VAT taxes of 85,000 crore

Delhi : Resolving roughly ?85,000 crore in unpaid dues - mostly under the pre-GST Value Added Tax (VAT) regime - from before 2017, the long-awaited tax amnesty scheme is expected to be approved soon by the Delhi Cabinet. Over 300,000 traders from various sectors operating in Delhi will be encouraged to clear their long-pending tax bills through a scheme that is now being discussed at a high level. The scheme would offer large concessions on penalties and interest. The Trade and Taxes Department has presented a comprehensive plan detailing a framework for complete or partial waivers on penalties, interest, or both, according to a top source in the Delhi government's finance department. More than 85,000 crore is owed by over 300,000 merchants collectively. The government hopes to recoup half of this sum through the amnesty program. According to the official, it will increase tax revenue while also reducing the administration's legal load.

500 executive positions to be eliminated at Tata-owned Jaguar Land Rover

Delhi : Jaguar Land Rover (JLR), which is owned by Tata, will be laying off 500 managers in the UK as a result of falling profits and US tariffs. The automaker announced a 15.1% drop in retail sales and a 10.7% drop in wholesale sales for the three months ending June 30, 2025, on July 7. This is mainly due to JLR's stated intentions to halt shipments to the US in April 2025, after the implementation of US import taxes, and the planned retirement of older Jaguar models.

DU academic panel approves syllabus rewrite despite opposition

Delhi : The Delhi University (DU) Academic Council (AC) accepted revisions to numerous departments' syllabi based on recommendations from its standing committee on academic affairs, despite opposition from several elected council members. The university's main academic body, the AC, approved the revisions. "The department's Committee of Courses (CoC) must receive standing committee recommendations. Subject specialists in CoCs create or amend syllabi. Despite concerns from department heads and AC members, the procedure was short-circuited," said one academic council member who signed a dissent note. At least eight elected AC members sent disagreement notes, according to one dissenter. The council can have 166 members, 26 of whom are elected. Departments must get the departmental CoC's approval before creating their syllabi at



DU. The standing committee may advise on CoC proposals. These non-binding recommendations should be returned to the CoC for approval or rejection. The syllabus goes to the AC for final approval after CoC approval. One dissent note stated that the standing committee can evaluate the course for structure and credit requirements but not academic content. These included Psychology, Sociology, History, and Political Science courses. Sexual orientation, dating apps, caste and religious identity, Kashmir, and the Israel-Palestine conflict were recommended for elimination.

Hindu University establishes public policy institute

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

A group at DU has proposed removing classes on sexual orientation

Delhi : Students at Delhi University are not encouraged to research or write about sensitive social issues including sexual orientation, religion, or caste. The university standing committee suggested removing sections on sexual orientation, religion, caste, and an entire elective paper called "Psychology of Sexuality" from the psychology department's syllabus after a meeting in which the committee discussed the department's planned adjustments. The university's standing committee has recommended that any references to Pakistan, Bangladesh, or Kashmir



be omitted from the course outline as well. Under the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 framework, the institution is revamping its undergraduate fourth-year curriculum, which includes the suggested revisions. The committee has been pushing to have Indian epics added to the curriculum in addition to

having these subjects removed. "The paper on 'Psychology of Peace' must be revamped with examples from the Mahabharata on mediation and negotiation," according to a government official. In order to investigate "concepts of peace and conflict resolution," the committee recommended reading the Bhagavad Gita.

Simplified visa requirements for visitors

Delhi: As part of the trade agreement, the UK will ease its visa requirements for certain Indian professionals, including those working in technology, management, engineering, and research and development. Among them are 1,800 yearly visas for artists, cooks, and yoga teachers. An important part of

the trade deal that was unveiled is the relaxation of regulations around mobility, as well as other service sectors that target Indian enterprises who are looking to set up shop in the UK. Suppliers from India in the fields of architecture, engineering, telecom, and information technology have received substantial

promises from the United Kingdom for digitally provided services. Workers on short-term visas were able to save almost Rs 4,000 crore in social security payments over the course of three years thanks to the Double Contributions Convention, which government officials highlighted as a significant benefit.

Academic functioning has been hindered due to a lack of faculty in central universities

Delhi: Institutions of higher learning have been profoundly affected by the adhocism phenomenon. Our goal is to become a world leader, or Vishwaguru. However, twelve of the fifty-six core institutions in the country do not have a permanent vice-chancellor. The education ministry finally appointed VCs to four central universities last week after nearly a year of waiting: Wardha Hindi University; English and Foreign Languages University; Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University; and Lucknow's Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University. Twelve universities are still without permanent VCs. Nalanda University, Visva-Bharati University, and Banaras Hindu University are all on the roster. Since November 2023, no one has filled Rabindranath Tagore's prestigious position of vice chancellor at Visva-Bharati University. A similar pattern is visible at public universities, where vice chancellor seats go empty at a rate of between 20% to 30%. Importantly, administrations can choose permanent vice chancellors even before the position becomes vacant if they want to.

New Zealand witnessed a 27% increase in international student applications this year

Delhi: With academic agreements, research partnerships, and new scholarship programmes, the educational ties between New Zealand and India are on the upswing. As student interest in New Zealand's universities continues to grow, initiatives like the New Zealand Centre at IIT Delhi is expected to play a pivotal role in driving research innovation and fostering global educational opportunities. At a recent event held to celebrate this flagship initiative, Christopher Luxon, Prime Minister of New Zealand, announced a slew of scholarships, including NZ \$260,000 partial scholarship package under NZEA 2025 and the New Zealand Centre Innovation Fellowship. Prof Dawn Freshwater, vice-chancellor of the University.

Decree authorizing 5 IITs to expand by Rs 11,828 cr

Delhi : Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) in Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh; Bhilai, Chhattisgarh; Jammu, Jammu and Kashmir; Dharwad, Karnataka; and Palakkad, Kerala, would be able to expand their academic and infrastructure capacities, according to Delhi's reporting from the Union cabinet. The goal of the expansion is to make it possible for these schools to educate almost 6,500 more students. To further improve cooperation between businesses and universities, five brand new, cutting-edge research parks are also in the works. With an estimated total expenditure of Rs 11,828.7 crore over four years, from 2025-26 to



2028-29, the cabinet has approved Phase-B building for these IITs. These schools will be able to increase their undergraduate, graduate, and doctorate student bodies from 7,111 to 13,687 thanks to the program. The authorized plan calls for the creation of 130 new profes-

sorial jobs (level 14 and above). In the first year, 1,364 students will be admitted; in the second year, 1,738; in the third year, 1,767; and in the fourth year, 1,707 students will be admitted across all academic programs.

Companies in the electronics industry are the most welcoming to LGBTQIA+ apprentices.

Delhi : A whopping 71% of businesses in the electronics sector have shown a great desire to hire LGBTQIA+ apprentices, making it one of the most welcoming sectors for this demographic. Overall, 64 percent of Indian companies are welcoming of LGBTQIA+ apprentices, so this is just one more example of a larger trend. The January-March TeamLease Degree Apprenticeship Outlook Report emphasizes this change. The majority of electronics and telecom firms (71%) are eager to hire LGBTQIA+ apprentices.

Delhi will provide 100 schools with free computer labs

Delhi : Delhi will install free computer labs at 100 government schools. An MoU signed on March 28 between the Directorate of Education and Ladli Foundation Trust is being implemented. According to a statement, the MoU established a pro-bono collaboration to improve digital education and technical accessibility for economically disadvantaged children. After careful consideration, 100 schools will participate in the project. The statement added Ladli Foundation staff did a field study to see if these



schools could have labs. The deal requires the Directorate of Education to provide classrooms, electricity, lighting, fans, furniture, and power backup.

It added that schools will appoint a teacher or coordinator to run the lab and ensure its longevity. The registered non-profit Ladli Foundation Trust will supply 20 PCs per lab,

hardware and software maintenance, and monitoring and assessment. The non-governmental organization would also provide free CUET mock tests to up to 1 lakh students and skill-building seminars through its partners. On April 28, the Additional Director of Education (IT) conducted a video conference with district and zonal deputy directors of education and school heads to streamline the rollout. The statement stated authorities were informed on their duties in project implementation during the meeting.

2 Australian and UK universities to open in Navi Mumbai

Delhi: CM Devendra Fadnavis said two top Australian and UK universities struck an agreement with the state government to open campuses at Cidco's Navi Mumbai education center, Educty. The projects invest Rs 1,500 crore per campus. He stated 10-12 top-100 universities will build campuses at Educty. "...MoUs were signed with the University of



Western Australia and University of York (in UK) to set up their campuses in Educty," he said. Three more foreign universities have agreed to open campuses in the education cluster, he said. Five more are in talks. Fadnavis praised NSE for establishing Nifty Waves Index, which covers 43 AVGC (animation, visual effects, gaming, and comics) media and entertainment companies. These changes will improve the financial ecology in this area, he said. Upon

DU teachers raise issues of unoccupied reserved seats

Delhi: Teachers from Delhi University brought up issues with professor recruitment in front of a Parliamentary Committee, claiming that the SC/ST populations were marginalized on a systematic level. Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. They paid a visit to DU and had in-depth interviews with eighty people, including faculty.

Two new PR routes for skilled workers, including Indians, in Canada

Delhi : Good news for French-speaking Indians wishing to move permanently in Canada. Canada launched two new immigration programs to entice talented workers to rural and Francophone minority areas. Immigration Minister Marc Miller unveiled the Rural Community Immigration Pilot and the Francophone Community Immigration Pilot (FCIP), which allow critical workers in 18 communities to become permanent residents. As the government attempts to permanentize the Rural and Northern Immigration Pilot, these pilots are launched. RCIP matches local firms with trained workers to aid rural regions



with labor shortages. Smaller communities struggle to attract and retain labor, hurting economic growth. This experiment promotes immigration in worker-intensive areas. Francophone community immigration pilot (FCIP) aims to increase French-speaking immigrants in Francophone minority areas outside Quebec. Canada seeks to preserve these tribes' languages and cultures by increasing their numbers.

Local economic development organizations in 18 selected communities will collaborate with IRCC to identify labor shortages, designate safe employers for newcomers, and recommend permanent residence candidates. According to a news release, IRCC has begun training these organizations, and each community will shortly share more information about when employer and worker applications will open image.

Board exam results for ISC Class 12 and ICSE Class 10 have been announced by CISCE



Delhi: The results for the Class 12 Indian School Certificate (ISC) and Class 10 Indian Certificate of Secondary Education (ICSE) tests for the year 2025 have been announced by the Council for the Indian School Certificate tests (CISCE). The overall pass rate for the ISC test was 99.02 percent. There were 99,551 people who took the ISC test, and 98,578 of them were successful. When broken down by gender, the ISC test passed rate for girls was 99.45% and for boys it was 98.64%. The trend of girls achieving higher success rates in the ISC and ICSE tests continues from prior years. The overall pass percentage for the ICSE Class 10 exams was 99.09%. A pass percentage of 99.37% was achieved by the girls and 98.84% by the boys. The findings show that the applicants maintained their excellent level of performance on both exams. Overall, 98,088 applicants passed the ISC examination in 2024, an increase over the previous year's 98.19 percent. The pass percentage for the ICSE examination in 2024 was 99.47%, with 2,42,328 students achieving this feat.