

# AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

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MORNING EDITION PRAYAGRAJ

Tuesday, 19 August 2025

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

## Russian President Putin called PM Modi

**New Delhi:** Russian President Vladimir Putin called PM Narendra Modi on Monday. On the phone call, Putin informed PM Modi about his meeting with Trump in Alaska. PM Modi informed about his conversation with Putin in a post on X. PM Modi wrote on X that thank you to my friend President Putin for sharing information about his phone call and



his recent meeting with President Trump in Alaska. India has consistently called for a peaceful solution to the Ukraine dispute. India supports all efforts in this regard. I look forward to our continued exchange in the coming days. Russian President Vladimir Putin held a meeting with US President Donald Trump in Alaska on August 15. In this meet-

ing, a ceasefire in Ukraine was discussed. However, there was no agreement on implementing a ceasefire in the ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine. This meeting took place at a time when US President

### Info.

■ **Putin for sharing information about his phone call and his recent meeting**

Trump has imposed a 50 percent tariff on India for buying oil from Russia.

India had strongly objected to this and termed America's move

as unjust and absurd. The Indian Foreign Ministry said that we will take every possible step to protect our national interests. Now it is clear from the conversation between the Russian President and PM Modi that Russia stands with India against the US tariff. Impact on India if Putin-Trump meeting remains inconclusive.

## Lok Sabha proceedings adjourned due to uproar



संसद भवन परिसर में विपक्ष का प्रदर्शन

**New Delhi:** Opposition MPs protested in the Parliament House complex against the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the voter list in Bihar and alleged vote theft. The protest was led by Congress President and Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge. MPs from several opposition parties.

property should not be damaged. He gave the example of state assemblies and said that strict action has been taken against the members there for such acts. After this, the proceedings were adjourned till 12 noon.

## Radhakrishnan met PM Modi, discussions took place

He went to the Prime Minister's residence and met PM

### Prosper

■ **Long public service and experience of various fields will help nation prosper**



### DMK will not support Radhakrishnan's name

**Chennai:** BJP has nominated CP Radhakrishnan, who hails from Tamil Nadu, as its candidate for the post of Vice President. In such a situation, it is believed that Tamil Nadu's ruling party

DMK can also support the name of CP Radhakrishnan, but DMK has made it clear that they will not support Radhakrishnan and will stick to the decision of the opposition alliance.

congratulated him on becoming the NDA's Vice Presidential candidate. Experience will enrich our nation. Prime Minister Modi said, his long public service and experience of various fields will help enrich

our nation. May God continue to serve the nation with the same dedication and determination that he has always shown. It is worth noting that BJP President JP Nadda had announced.



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Monday met people from various districts during the public darshan at the Gorakhnath temple complex here and listened to their problems.

### FM Minister will address the GST Group of Ministers meeting

**New Delhi:** Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will address a meeting of the Group of Ministers of States on Wednesday regarding the proposed reforms in the Goods and Services Tax (GST). Under these reforms, GST rates will be cut and the prices of commonly used goods will come down.

### No stress-related problem with Suchana Seth, court told

**PANJAI:** Calangute police informed a Goa children's court on Tuesday that Suchana Seth, a Bengaluru-based data scientist who allegedly killed her four-year-old son in Goa, does not suffer from any stress-related ailments. She was examined by a panel of doctors, and questions posed to her answered.

## Yamuna water level close to danger mark

■ **Risk of flood**

■ **Due to the opening of all 18 gates of Hathnikund Barrage**



**New Delhi:** The water level of Yamuna in Delhi has reached 205.24 meters, very close to the danger mark, raising the risk of flood here. Due to the opening of all 18 gates of Hathnikund Barrage in Haryana and the release of about 1.78 lakh cusecs of water, the threat of flood has started looming over Delhi. The water level of Yamuna in Delhi rose

above the warning mark of 204.5 meters and reached 205.24 meters by 1 pm today. The danger mark of Yamuna in Delhi is 205.33. The Delhi government says that the situation is being constantly monitored. In the advisory issued on Sunday by the Irrigation and Flood Control Department of the Delhi Government, it has been said that the water level of Yamuna can cross 206 meters at 2 am on August 19. The department has issued instructions to vacate the ghats of Yamuna. Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee President Devendra said in an ex-

post that due to the rapid rise in the water level of Yamuna river, there is a danger of flood looming over Delhi.

For Delhi, which gets flooded even with a little rain, this situation is extremely serious and sensitive. He said that we hope that the government will immediately take all necessary precautions. Flood management, cleaning of drains and disaster relief preparations should not be seen only in files but in ground reality. The lives of Delhiites are at stake and this is not the time for political rhetoric but for responsibility and accountability.

## Instructions for action against those selling fake fertilizers, seeds and pesticides

### Fake

■ **I visited the field yesterday, hundreds of farmers were present there: Shivraj**



**New Delhi:** Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Shivraj Singh Chauhan has taken a tough stand on the issue of sale of fake fertiliz-

ers, seeds and pesticides. In a high-level meeting with senior officials of the department and Indian

those selling fake fertilizers, seeds and pesticides. The Agriculture Minister said that factories and shops should be sealed if any irregularities are found. Shivraj Singh said that all the officials should take the damage of farmers' crops very seriously, so that farmers can be saved from losses. He has also given instructions to conduct raids on a large scale and to go to the fields and investi-

gate. In the meeting, Shivraj Singh said that not just one but hundreds of farmers in different districts are facing problems due to fake fertilizers, seeds and pesticides. Such complaints come from many places, farmers say that they are putting medicine in the field but it is not having any effect.

Shivraj Singh said, I am very worried. The pain of these farm-

ers should be understood seriously. Yesterday I myself went to the farmer's field and saw that the farmer had applied a medicine due to which the soybean crop was completely destroyed. When I visited the field yesterday, hundreds of farmers were present there. He said that those who sell such cheap or fake medicines and fertilizers and seeds should not be spared at all.

## Centre took several steps for development of MSME sector: Shobha

### Sector

■ **An amount of Rs 20 lakh has been allocated for the service sector under the PMEGP**



Enterprises (MSME) sector. An amount of Rs 20 lakh has been allocated for the service

(PMEGP), which has increased the scope of this scheme. Union Minister of State for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Shobha Karandlaje gave this information in a written reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha on Monday. Karandlaje told the House that the MSME Ministry has made Udyam Registration for MSMEs effective from July 1, 2020.

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court, while hearing a case, said that when the condition of roads is so bad that there is a 12-hour long traffic jam, then how can people be charged Rs 150 as toll. Commenting on the problem of traffic and waterlogging in

Delhi, it said that Delhi becomes paralyzed in two hours of rain. Chief Justice made this



remark while hearing a petition of the National Highway Authority. The National Highway Authority had challenged the order of the Kerala High Court, in which the Court had banned toll collection on a dilapidated National Highway 544.

## CM issues stern warning over NSA and Gangster Act

**Delhi:** Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has issued a warning that those who use drones without proper authorization or who distribute false information about them in an effort to incite fear may face prosecution under the Gangster Act and, in extreme circumstances, the National Security Act (NSA). He ordered high-ranking authorities to take strong action against infractions and to increase district-level drone surveillance and patrols. False allegations of burglars in western UP using drones to scout homes they target have sparked a spate of mob attacks, which led to the instruction. Yogi stated during a review conference with senior police officials that the state had outlawed the unlawful use of UAVs and that anyone caught misusing them will face legal consequences. Drone abuse, he said, would not be accepted. We will not



### Yogi administration monitors decline in Haj applications

**Delhi:** Out of a total of 30,000 spots available for Hajj-2026, just 13,000 have been filled out thus far. An additional seven days, until August 7, are now available for application submissions. There were 13,600 pilgrims who made the Hajj last year, with 15,000 applications received out of a possible 30,000. The state got over 17,000 Hajj applications in 2024.

As of 2023, the figure was at 26,000. As a fundamental tenet of Islam, the Hajj is a pilgrimage that all Muslims are obligated to undertake. We sent a letter to the Centre, and as a result, they extended the deadline for Hajj 2026 applications by one week, from July 31, 2025, to July 31, 2026.

The minister of state for minority welfare, Muslim waqf, and hajj in Uttar Pradesh, Danish Azad Ansari, stated that they have received approximately 13,000 applications thus far, but they are optimistic that this figure will rise.

NSA will be used if necessary," the CM stated.

spare anyone who uses drones unlawfully or to cause panic. "The

NSA will be used if necessary," the CM stated.

## Abhishek Banerjee named TMC Lok Sabha unit head



during the 2024 Lok Sabha campaign, said, "You don't wrestle with a pig because then you get dirty." "There are deeply misogynistic and sexually frustrated people in India and they have representation in Parliament," she added.

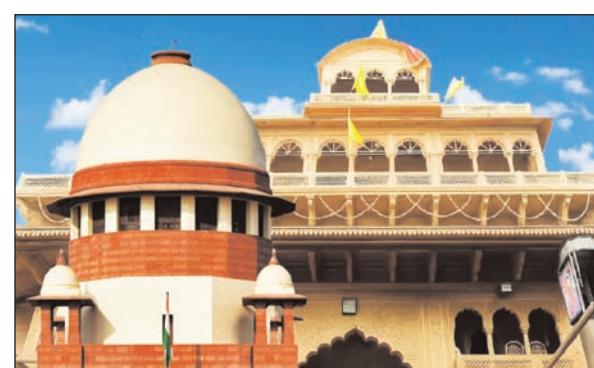
Kalyan Banerjee, in a post on X, hit back at Moitra. I

have taken note of the recent personal remarks made by Ms. Mahua Moitra in a public podcast. Her choice of words, including the use of dehumanising language such as comparing a fellow MP to a "pig," is not only unfortunate but reflects a deep disregard for basic norms of civil discourse."

Kalyan Banerjee, in a post on X, hit back at Moitra. I

West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee has handed her nephew and the Trinamool Congress' (TMC) national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee charge of the party's Lok Sabha unit amid a fresh public slanging match between its lawmakers Mahua Moitra and Kalyan Banerjee. According to party leaders aware of the matter, Kalyan on Monday offered to resign as the party's chief whip in the Lok Sabha after the fallout. The resignation is yet to be accepted, said the party leaders. "Abhishek Banerjee called me and told me not to push my resignation. He said, "He wants to talk to me." Moitra, when asked about Kalyan's purportedly sexist comments

## Court challenges Uttar Pradesh government's Bankey Bihari temple ordinance



### Concerned RWAs urge government action to end stray dog problem

**Delhi:** Various residents welfare groups (RWAs) of Delhi-NCR gathered at Jantar Mantar to demand prompt action from the federal government in response to the increasing number of stray dogs in the nation's capital. In response to recent comments made by the Supreme Court in a case concerning the alleged harassment of a Noida resident for feeding stray dogs, the protest was spearheaded by former Union minister and senior BJP functionary Vijay Goel. Creating a safe haven in your own home is our recommendation.

The highest court in the land had made the remark, "Feed every dog in the community in your own house," emphasizing the need of protecting both stray animals and the public from harm.

granted permission to use temple funds to acquire 5 acres of land for a corridor development project surround-

## NATIONAL

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## Government personnel cannot be fired due to disability

**Delhi:** The Supreme Court ruled that public sector companies cannot automatically retire employees who develop disabilities while on the job without considering viable redeployment options. The court emphasized that an employer's discretion stops at the employee's dignity. While judicial caution is necessary to prevent abuse, it shouldn't be used as a reason to ignore injustice. "The Court is not crossing a line by intervening, it is upholding one drawn by the Constitution itself," reaffirmed a bench of justices JK Maheshwari and Aravind Kumar, in a major affirmation of the constitutional right to dignity and equality in



employment, when an employee is removed from service for a condition he did not choose and where viable alternatives are ignored. A judge ordered the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC) to rehire a driver who had been forcibly retired in 2016 due to a diagnosis of

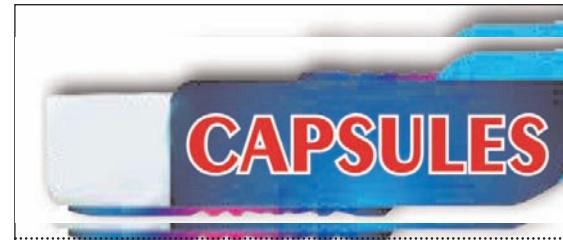
color blindness in their ruling on August 1. The court slammed TSRTC for crossing the line into administrative error and violating constitutional principles and statutory requirements by not considering the driver's expressed desire to be reassigned to a non-driving position.

## Nitish Kumar-led Bihar govt doubles honorarium for school support staff

**Delhi:** Support staff in state-run schools, including kitchen staff, security guards, and PE teachers, will see a significant rise in their honorarium, according to JD(U) leader and Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar, who made the announcement just

before the state's elections. Announcement made. According to the CM, this move is in line with the state's efforts to improve education since his administration took power in November 2005. We have been relentlessly pursuing educational

reform since our government was formed in November 2005. The overall education budget has grown from 4,366 crore in 2005 to 77,690 crore currently, according to Kumar. The amended structure increases the monthly payment for chefs.



### Most SIR deletions occur in Gopalganj and Kishanganj



**Delhi:** In what may be the biggest single deletion of such entries in independent India's history, the Election Commission of India (ECI) erased almost 6.56 million names from the draft Bihar electoral roster that was published due to deaths, permanent shifts, and double enrolment. The declaration was made just days after the state's contentious special intensive revision (SIR) ended; the poll watchdog said that valid names may be added until September 1 and that any objections to names would be verified. Based on the data provided by the ECI, the districts of Patna, Madhubani, East Champaran, and Gopalganj had the most deletions of voters (395,500, 352,545, 316,793, and 310,363, respectively), as compared to the electoral roll before SIR commenced. As compared to the 2024 Lok Sabha electoral roster, the highest number of deletions occurred in Gopalganj district (13.9%), followed by Kishanganj (10.5%), Purnia (9.7%), Madhubani (8.7%), and Bhagalpur (7.8%).

image.png

## Why can't you forget your differences: Raj Thackeray



**Delhi:** If Raj and Uddhav Thackeray can come together after 20 years, why should party workers fight among themselves? This is what Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) chief Raj Thackeray asked his party's office bearers as he urged them to set aside their differences and come together ahead of the local body elections in the state, according to senior leader Bala Nandgaonkar. Addressing his party's Mumbai-based office bearers and workers at Rangasharda

Auditorium, Thackeray said that everyone in the party should work together to ensure its victory in the upcoming civic polls, and leave the issue of forging alliances to him, Nandgaonkar told reporters. With local body elections, including the crucial Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) polls approaching, Raj organised Monday's meeting to rally MNS workers and give some important instructions. "He said that all workers, including former candidates and office bearers, must be taken along in the process," said Nandgaonkar. Thackeray expects the BMC polls to be held in January or February next year.

## Visitor registration for Mussoorie is now mandatory

**Delhi:** The Uttarakhand tourism agency has implemented a new requirement that all tourists visiting Mussoorie must now fill out an online registration form. When guests check in at hotels, guesthouses, or homestays, they will be asked to fill out an application. After

### Strategic sale of IDBI Bank expected by October

**Delhi:** Two senior government sources said the long-pending strategic disinvestment of IDBI Bank will be completed in October, and financial bids will be called soon as the sale process nears its close. "IDBI Bank stake sale will be completed by October," a senior government source stated.

The Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG) on disinvestment met on July 9 to examine the draft Share Purchase Agreement, a key step before seeking higher authority approvals.

visitor footfall nearly doubled between 2022 and 2024, the change became operational to tackle overcrowding and manage traffic. A report on tourist arrivals in the town can be obtained by registering guests, according to Brijendra Pandey, the district tourism officer. Businesses must first

register on the site by entering information such as the owner's name and phone number, the facility's type (hotel, homestay, other), the property's name, the number of rooms, and the total capacity.

After that, they will take attendance. We have asked

our fellow hoteliers to comply with the new restrictions, as per the directions of the tourism department," Mussoorie Hotels Association president Sanjay Aggarwal said. Hoteliers are divided on the matter; some see the change as a "hindrance" while others support it.

## A fresh plea for help in the fight against Delhi's stray dog problem



"Why can't people who feed stray dogs on the streets be held accountable if pigeon feeders can be?" he said. According to Goel, the Brihanmumbai

Municipal Corporation (BMC) was ordered to record FIRs against violators in a recent judgment by the Bombay High Court, which deemed mass pigeon

feeding a public annoyance and health threat. The five demands that he had previously stated—a toll-free hotline for complaints, compensation for victims of dog bites, penalties and formal reports for public feeding, a census of stray dogs immediately, and improved money and personnel to change the Animal Birth Control (ABC) Rules—were restated. To put an end to the practice of public feeding of stray dogs, he demanded the deployment of civil defense volunteers.

# Janmashtami Celebrated with Great Enthusiasm at IGUM Academy

**The school premises echoed with enthusiasm since the morning**

## Celebrated

Little children, dressed as Radha and Krishna in attractive costumes, captivated everyone's hearts

**Prayagraj :** At IGUM Academy, Patel Nagar Akodha, under Vikas Khand Kaundhiyara, the festival of Janmashtami was celebrated on Monday with great joy and devotion. The school premises echoed with enthusiasm since the morning. Little children, dressed as Radha and Krishna in attractive costumes, captivated everyone's hearts. The tableaux and cultural programs presented by the children remained the main highlights of the celebration.

The teachers of the school lovingly prepared the children for the occasion.

**The children of ML Public School Bagaha celebrated the festival of Janmashtami with great pomp**

## Tableau

The children also took out a tableau related to the life of Radha Krishna

**Akhand Bharat Sandesh**

**Meja Prayagraj.** The children of the school celebrated the festival of Shri Krishna Janmashtami with great pomp in ML Public School located at Bagaha Chowki Sirsa of the area. In the program, the children also took out a tableau related to the life of Radha Krishna and presented a colorful program on the songs of Radha Krishna and also danced on the song Nand ke ghar Nand Lal hue Jai Kanhaiya Lal ki Hathi Ghoda Palki. During this, the children also broke the handi by forming a human pyramid while participating in the Dahi Handi competition.

On this occasion, school manager

**Mother fed poisonous substance to three children in chowmein, one child died**

**Jaunpur.** On Monday, in Sabrahd village of Shahganj Kotwali police station area, a married woman drank poison along with her three children due to family discord, due to which one child died during treatment while the condition of the mother and 2 children remains critical, who are being treated in a private hospital in Jaunpur.



Some appeared as little Radha-Krishna, while others looked charming with flutes and peacock feathers. On this occasion, the children also presented short performances based on the life episodes of Lord Krishna, which were highly appreciated by the audience with rounds of applause.

At the conclusion of the program, the Academy's Coordinator and Principal, Diksha Tiwari, honored all the participating children with prizes and wished them a bright future.

She said that such festivals instill values, devotion, and pride in Indian culture among children. On this occasion, teachers Sapna Yadav, Neha Ali, Garima Patel, Mamta Mishra, Unisha Sahu, Poonam Pandey, Neha Singh, along with other staff members, were present and encouraged the children.

## Family members create ruckus over death of cancer patient

### Ruckus

SRN doctor had performed operation in private hospital

**Akhand Bharat Sandesh**



**Prayagraj.** A cancer patient of primary stage died on Monday in Mohak Hospital situated on Stanley Road. After this, the family members created ruckus. The family members kept the body in the hospital premises for about 4 hours and kept demanding action against the doctor. On receiving the information, police force from many police stations also reached the spot. After the assurance of police officers, the body was taken from the hos-

pital. The post-mortem of the body will be done tomorrow. The wife said, action should be taken against the doctor who performed the operation. The family members say that the operation was done by Dr. Rajul Abhishek of SRN Hospital. The wrong operation was done and after the operation, the patient's condition deteriorated and he died. The doctor said, the number will come after a month in SRN. Mukesh Kumar Yadav (35 years) was a resident of Lalgopalganj, Kasimpur village of Soraon tehsil. He was a

veterinary doctor. He was suffering from primary stage of mouth cancer. He had come to Tata Hospital for a checkup. Wife Kiran Yadav said, "I had shown Rajul Abhishek to SRN hospital. They said, it will cost three lakh rupees and the patient will be cured. The doctor said, we will have to wait for a month to get the operation done in SRN hospital. Therefore, the operation will have to be done in a private hospital. After this, the operation started at 3.40 pm on Friday in Mohak Hospital. He was conscious for 12

hours of the operation. He also made hand gestures. After this, he became unconscious. He was taken to the ventilator. But the husband died. Seeing the atmosphere getting chaotic, the staff left the hospital and ran away. Seeing the anger of the family members, the entire staff of the hospital ran away from there. The entire hospital was transformed into a police camp. The new patients who were coming kept waiting in the waiting area for hours. Wife Kiran and father were crying badly. Father said, the doctor had asked for 6 units of blood, we immediately arranged for the blood and brought it. Wife Kiran says crying that she has 2 small children. We and the children were the only support. Went.

## Before 2017, it took years to catch a criminal in UP, now they're being nabbed within 48 hrs: CM Yogi



**Lucknow:** Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, on Monday, said that unlike before 2017 when it often took years to nab criminals, Uttar Pradesh police now apprehend them within 24 to 48 hours, aided by technology and forensic science. The Chief Minister made the statement while inaugurating the three-day International Summit on the Dimensions of Cyber War, Multilateral Legal Framework, Forensics and Strategic Countermeasures, organized on the third foun-

dation day of the Uttar Pradesh State Institute of Forensic Sciences (UPSIFS) in Lucknow. The Chief Minister added, "In Indian

four Kumbh locations of the country. Such traditions keep alive India's ancient knowledge systems, strengthen social unity, and encourage the exchange of ideas. In the same spirit, this three-day seminar has been organized in Lucknow." Earlier, the Chief Minister inaugurated the Padma Shri Dr. Lalji Singh Advanced DNA Diagnostic Center, the AI, Drone and Robotics Lab, and the Atal Library. He also distributed smart tablets to students and flagged off 75

mobile forensic vans. Highlighting the transformation in law enforcement, CM Yogi said, "Indian culture has always encouraged the pursuit of knowledge and adapting with time." He stated further, "Before 2017,

Uttar Pradesh had only four poorly equipped forensic labs. Today, 12 modern labs have been established and six more are under construction.

In addition, mobile forensic units have been deployed in

### Prof. Himanshu becomes Director of Indian Institute of Advanced Studies, Shimla

**Gorakhpur.** Today, a felicitation ceremony was organized at Deendayal Upadhyaya Shodhpeeth located in the administrative building campus of

Deendayal Upadhyaya Gorakhpur University, Gorakhpur, on the appointment of Prof. Himanshu Chaturvedi, Senior Professor of the Department

of Medieval and Modern History of the University, as Director of Indian Institute of Advanced Studies, Shimla. This program organized by the

Department of History and Deendayal Upadhyaya Shodhpeeth was presided over by the Vice Chancellor of the University, Prof. Poonam Tandon.

**दुर्गावती इंटरनेशनल स्कूल**  
सभी नागरिकों एवं प्रदेश वासियों को  
स्वतंत्रता एवं जन्माष्टमी की हार्दिक  
शुभकामनाएं

चेयरमैन - श्री सुशील कुमार मिश्रा  
प्रबंधक - डॉ. श्रीमती स्वतंत्र मिश्रा  
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**समस्त नगरवासियों को स्वतंत्रता दिवस की हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं**  
उत्तर प्रदेश के साथ दर्शन के उत्तम भविष्य ही हमारा संकल्प है, विरास दर्शन का लोकप्रिय एक मात्र

**इंगिलिश मीडिएम स्कूल**  
**सेंट पीटर्स स्कूल**  
**श्रीमती शिवानी सोनी**  
**प्रिंसिपल**  
**रिषभ सोनी**  
**प्रबंधक**  
चतुर्व्याप्ति सिरसा मेजा, प्रयागराज

**समस्त नगरवासियों को स्वतंत्रता दिवस की हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं**  
काजी मु. मुअज्जम (प्रदेश अध्यक्ष) अपन संस्थान प्रधान संगठन  
पूर्ण जिला पाचायत सदस्य वार्ड नं. मेजा द्वितीय  
एवं (शाम प्रधान)  
संस्थान कालिकामनाएं  
तिथि. मेजा, प्रयागराज

**राष्ट्रीय पर्व की दृश्य सारी व्यापारी**  
**आभिषेक खेत्र**  
**डायरेक्टर**  
**सेंट पीटर्स स्कूल**  
**इंजिलिस मीडियम**  
**आंकिता खेत्र-प्रिनिसपल**  
**सेंट पीटर्स स्कूल**  
जनवार, मेजारोड, प्रयागराज

## Editorial

India's naval diplomacy:  
Building trust in the  
oceans

India's focus on its land borders has historically stemmed from past learnings from medieval-era invasions and in the current era, involved conflicts over land borders or around states contiguous to its boundaries. It is only in the last few decades that the role of the Indian Navy has gained prominence, as India aims to step up to a larger role in the global power hierarchy. In 2020, as India and China clashed in Galwan, several analysts pointed towards the need to use India's natural maritime advantages in its regional rivalry with China and in more effective power projection as an emerging and responsible global force. Keeping in mind India's ambitions in steering regional geopolitics, the role of the Indian Navy emerged from the shadows of India's arsenal to take on a more prominent role. Aside from developing its capabilities, India has recently played an active role in humanitarian and rescue missions, thus stamping its growing reputation as a responsible and capable maritime power. In the process, the navy has become a chief instrument in providing teeth to the country's aspirations outside the region. The Indian Navy is increasingly being seen as a capable and confident naval power that can be relied upon to make the seas a safer zone. "I think the scale of India's naval deployment is quite unprecedented, and in some ways this represents the confidence the Indian Navy has in its own abilities and the requirement to be seen as a benevolent regional player that is not simply looking after its own interests but also the interests of the global common," says Harsh Pant of the Observer Research Foundation in New Delhi. As the war wages in Gaza and with the Yemen-based Houthi rebels attempting to broaden the war by mounting attacks against passing ships, the US has retaliated by striking the Houthis. The war occasionally threatens to spill over to other parts of the region aside from the environmental risks that sinking of ships pose to the coral reefs in the region. Amidst this, India has made its presence felt by deploying warships and surveillance east of the Red Sea against any attack by the Houthis and pirates. In this context, it must be said that the Indian naval presence has made it safe for the conduct of commercial trade in the region.

With the states around India possessing limited capacity to use naval capabilities in the high seas, there has been a regular concern around the lack of law enforcement in the seas as pirates have continued to enjoy the largesse of terrorist groups, smuggling contraband, trafficking and attacking commercial vessels and affecting trade. "Maritime power is more than a matter of policing the commons or accumulating and projecting military force in the littorals. Sea power is equally about creating prosperity for the people and meeting the needs of national development," writes Abhijit Singh, Head of the Maritime Policy Initiative at the Observer Research Foundation. It was China that sent its naval ships to the Gulf of Aden two decades ago to ensure that commercial vessels were safe from pirates. Over the years, China has muscled its way into the Indian Ocean Region and in doing so, has raised concerns about its intent of colonial expansion. On the other hand, an expanding Indian role in protecting waters is building its credibility as a naval power that has both the capacity and the willingness to deploy naval assets to protect the sea lanes of communication, without attracting the unease that China's ulterior aims in its investments in ports and infrastructure projects have aroused. India's consistent patrolling is a reassuring presence in the deep waters that cuts through ideological swamps.



## The role of state fiscal capacities in national growth



India's economic progress is a composite reflection of the growth trajectories of its states. Given the federal structure of the country, each state operates with a degree of autonomy in implementing policies that drive their individual economies. This results in a broad spectrum of growth rates across states, highlighting significant disparities. For the nation to achieve holistic growth, it is imperative for all states to experience economic advancement. Despite this, there is a notable discrepancy in the attention paid to fiscal matters at different levels of government. The Union Budget, detailing the central government's finances, often

garners substantial scrutiny and debate for its potential impacts on the nation's economic direction. In contrast, state budgets, which are crucial for addressing local needs and fostering regional development, do not attract a similar level of public and analytical

scrutiny. Fiscal capacity, the government's ability to generate revenue from available tax and non-tax bases, is crucial for several reasons. First, it underpins a government's ability to provide essential public goods and services. These range from healthcare and education to

## How data is fast becoming an X factor in elections?



Gone are the days when the primary form of electioneering was posters and rallies. Today, while these still have their role, what decides their content, their location, and even their timing, is guided by finely honed data. This data decides what the messaging should be, where rallies should be organised for maximum impact, and what their chronological sequencing should be.

The 2014 parliamentary elections, in which Narendra Modi emphatically triumphed, saw the first widespread use of data in both the planning of an election campaign and the selection of candidates. In the last ten years, this data-driven process has become far more sophisticated, complex and

accurate. Based on scientific surveys, cross-checked against multiple factors, political parties can check the on-ground, realistic popularity of candidates, irrespective of what they claim, what 'status' they enjoy, and how many times they may have won before. This assessment is combined with changing demographics, caste considerations, local issues, grassroots party organisation, strength of possible opposing candidates, and new faces within the party that may have appeared, to create an algorithm that can zero in, if done competently, on who is the best choice for a particular constituency.

However popular some political leaders were when they first won a seat, and

often won them again, anti-incumbency against the same face can become a critical factor. Often, candidates after they win, rest on their laurels, fail to fulfil their promises to the voters, neglect the constituency, or are widely perceived to be corrupt. In the past, their earlier reputation as winning candidates was taken at face value. No more. The mood of the public is dynamic and can never be taken for granted. If a charismatic leader from the opposing side has diligently worked in a constituency, has proven his or her sincerity in addressing the needs of the people, and is physically available on the ground, when by contrast the elected incumbent, although at one time popular, is missing, the voting pattern can change dramatically. This is precisely what the role of data plays in assessing the winnability of a candidate, and the need to retain or replace him or her. Data also determines messaging for an election. What are the issues a party should focus on, both generically and at the micro level? A generic message may appear to have large popular support, but it needs to be buttressed in each constituency by due emphasis on local issues which affect people of that particular area. This too can now be accessed by a competent database and individualised briefs given to

## Bharat-Armenia: A tale of resilience diplomatic imperatives

In the words of British writer Annie Besant, "Hinduism is the soil into which India's roots are stuck, and torn out of that, she will inevitably wither as a tree torn out from its place. And if Hindus do not maintain Hinduism, who shall save it? If India's own children do not cling to her faith, who shall guard it? India alone can save India, and India and Hinduism are one." Hindus and Armenians share several striking similarities. Both cultures bear the weight of ancient civilizations, enduring centuries of history on their resilient shoulders. Each has confronted existential threats from expansionist empires harbouring genocidal intentions yet has managed to persevere against the odds. Both boast revolutionary



heroes, such as the Chapekar brothers and Soghomon Tehlirian, who bravely sought retribution against the oppressors of their people. Moreover, both communities have suffered territorial losses, witnessing the creation of new nations on lands once integral to their civilisations. They have also experienced the unsettling reality of historical enemies aligning against them. In addition, both Hindus and Armenians have found themselves confronting Western indifference and ignorance, bordering on

Hinduophobia and Armenianophobia, respectively, in the contemporary world. Those who harbour animosity towards our existence exhibit striking parallels amongst themselves. Their intolerance is palpable, mirroring a worldview wherein the dominance of their community is deemed inevitable. They display a resolute unresponsiveness to peace proposals, often resorting to warmongering tactics. Furthermore, they demonstrate a preposterous tendency to distort history, selectively

## Why Israel must redefine notion of victory or else it risks losing war?

Two days after Hamas launched a horrific attack on Israel, on 7 October 2023, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in his televised address announced five goals for his government and the IDF, which included among others destruction of Hamas.



Destruction of Hamas is a military task which the IDF is pursuing in conjunction with other security agencies. The task requires the IDF to capture and kill Hamas' political and military leadership and as many members as possible, destroy the group's command and control capability and degrade its logistical capability and 'Gaza Metro'. Implicit in the tasks is securing the release of hostages and restoring deterrence against any further attack on Israel. Like most other modern militaries, the IDF too has struggled to find an answer to how to deal with a terrorist organisation which has the support of its people and external agencies. Ever since Operation Accountability and Operation Grapes of Wrath against Hezbollah in the 1990s the IDF operations have followed a predictable pattern, barring few exceptions – the IDF operations commence with air force strikes killing a few terrorist leaders followed by a ground offensive when the group is still unbalanced, largely using standoff weapon systems. However, the terrorist groups recover soon and fight back. The IDF finds it difficult to keep the pressure and a negotiated settlement is sought, with international support, to terminate the war. Thereafter, Israel enjoys a limited period of peace before the next round of violence starts. The Israeli military doctrine is heavily biased in favour of the overwhelming use of air power and precision strikes, which the terrorist groups can counter by concealing fighters and resources, minimising electronic signatures, and using the Gaza Metro. The Israeli strategy euphemistically called the 'mowing the grass' strategy could never find a permanent solution to the raids by Hamas and other terrorist groups. To counter the predictability in operations, almost a decade ago, the IDF had conceptualised a plan

involving large-scale ground manoeuvre and capturing the three largest cities in Gaza – Gaza City, Khan Younis and Rafah – in two weeks. For some reason, the plans were shelved and never implemented.

During the tenure of Gadi Eisenkot, 21st Chief of Staff of the IDF, a plan codenamed, Operation Lightning Strike was also developed to overcome some of the challenges to ground manoeuvre. This was attempted in May 2021 with partial success, hence could not be repeated after the 7 October attack.

In the wake of the 7 October attack, the IDF had no plans for operations in the depth area, once the ground offensive began and had to hurriedly make one from scratch. On 20 October 2023, Defence Minister Yoav Gallant announced IDF's three-phase plan – air and ground campaign to destroy Hamas and its infrastructure, followed by low-intensity operations to destroy pockets of resistance and finally the creation of a new security regime and withdrawal of IDF. The IDF conducted air campaigns and standoff attacks before initiating ground operations on 27 October. By then the element of surprise was lost and the Hamas and Islamic Jihad.

## PM stops razing slums, vows to build homes instead

**Delhi:** Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta responded to accusations that the BJP is betraying its commitments to the urban poor by saying that her administration is willing to revise Delhi's slum policy. This comes as the BJP is under pressure from both the opposition and members of its own party over the continuing destruction of slums in the capital. Slum residents are the "backbone of Delhi's working class," according to Gupta, who has ordered a stop to all demolitions unless suitable alternatives are found beforehand. Additionally, the Delhi government has stated categorically that the capital will not be removing any slums. Gupta issued a stern warning to land-owning organizations such as the Railways and the Delhi Development Authority, urging them to "immediately cease" any eviction campaigns. She also threatened that her government would resort to



**Two months from now, Delhi will get its first hot air balloon rides**

**Delhi:** Hot air balloon excursions over the nation's capital will soon be available to Delhi residents. The rides would be available at four different locations in two months: Yamuna Sports Complex, Commonwealth Games Sports Complex, Asita, and Bandera. The Delhi Development Authority said this to promote eco-tourism and recreational activities. A private agency has been contracted by DDA to operate the hot air balloon trips for an initial period of three years, with the option to extend it up to nine years.

Daily flying windows of up to four hours will be allowed, with the possibility of extensions depending on demand or other needs, according to a statement from DDA.

The rides will operate under a revenue-sharing arrangement, and the DDA's permission.

legal action if required. The slum dwellers in R K Puram, an area where Prime Minister

Narendra Modi had previously promised that "no jhuggi would be demolished

tracted by DDA to operate the hot air balloon trips for an initial period of three years, with the option to extend it up to nine years.

21st created an unusual mid-term vacancy in the second highest constitutional office in the nation, forcing the election of a new vice president. On July 22, the official gazette notice was published on the vacant office. Members of the electoral college, which includes

houses of parliament, vote for the vice president. There are 233 elected members of the Rajya Sabha (currently five seats are empty), 12 nominated members of the Rajya Sabha, and 543 elected members of the Lok Sabha making up the electoral college for this year's election.

## 650 private hospitals in Haryana have decided to withdraw from the Ayushman Scheme

**Delhi:** The Haryana chapter of the Indian Medical Association has said that, starting August 7, 650 private hospitals in the state will no longer accept patients through the Ayushman Bharat program if the Centre's payment of Rs 500 crore is not paid by then.

There was a "chronic breakdown" in the state's administration of the scheme, according to officials of IMA (Haryana), who had previously issued a similar warning in January of this year. According to their claims, most private hospitals have had to use their own funds or refuse



patients since March because they have only received reimbursements equal to 10-15% of their billed amounts. "Things are even worse now than they were earlier. Without prompt payments, hospitals

will be unable to keep providing free treatment under the program. The current financial situation makes system operation unfeasible, according to Dr. Mahavir Jain, president of IMA (Haryana).

### A New Blood Donor App Is Coming Soon to Delhi

**Delhi:** Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta announced that the city will soon release an app listing blood donors who are willing to donate their blood voluntarily. A blood donation camp in the Anand Vihar area was the site of the announcement, given by Ms. Gupta. "Details of those who intend to donate blood will soon be available on a blood donor app. "Details about their blood type, when they last donated, and whether they are eligible to donate again.

homes to get a police 'Eating House Registration and Lodging Certificate' to serve liquor. The L-G removed the Delhi Police Commissioner's ease-of-doing-business permit for the eating house registration certificate last month.



ly incidental. They have legal rights to certain protections if they are refugees. In that case, the bench—which also included Justices Dipankar Datta and N Kotiswar Singh—stated that the individuals in question should be

deported to their home country because they are considered unlawful aliens. Some 22 issues regarding the deportation of foreign nationals in detention camps or claiming refugee status were taken up by the court. The bench ordered that all cases involving Rohingya migrants be filed together. It mandated the consolidation of all cases involving foreign nationals into a single batch for independent consideration.

## Govt. of Delhi unveils proposed regulations for social security labor code

**Delhi:** A social security board for unorganised workers and career centers to help entrepreneurs and job-seekers are two proposals put up by the Delhi government in the draft regulations released under the Code on Social Security.

The establishment of a social security fund, the formalization of worker compensation in the event of an accident, and maternity benefits are all proposed in the draft guidelines. The Delhi government's labor department has issued a call for public comments and recommendations, asking that those involved identify the chapter and rule or sub-rule that would be changed and explain why. Over five years after Parliament approved four labour laws, the Delhi government has now begun



### Govt allocates 12,952 crore for public transport system

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

to put them into effect with the release of these proposed regulations. The four codes, which consolidate 29 central labor regulations, were enacted in 2019 and 2020 with the aim of providing support for workers in the unorganized sector and accelerating economic reforms. The Code on Social Security is one of four codes in this set; the others deal with wages, industrial relations, and health, safety, and working conditions in the workplace.

Apparently, the government is planning to clarify that the 15-year 'End of Life' (EoL) legislation does not apply to electric vehicles (EVs) in the near future, in an effort to encourage the widespread usage of electric buses, automobiles, and trucks. Additionally, the power ministry will hasten the rollout of the Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards to urban freight vehicles, buses, and trucks in an effort to lower fuel consumption and carbon dioxide emissions. The restric-

tions were finalized at a recent high-level conference headed by Rajiv Gauba, a member of Niti Aayog. They were put in place in response to concerns over the poor pace of electric vehicle penetration, which was 7.6% in 2024

compared to the 30% target for 2030. According to TOI, the adoption rate of two- and three-wheelers as well as buses is higher than that of four-wheelers, while e-trucks are still in the early stages of development.

## Tickets to the Delhi Zoo could be priced up by 20%

**Delhi:** In 2021, when the zoo reopened following the COVID-19 pandemic, admission prices were last raised. Adults now pay twice as much, from 40 to 80 rupees. Prices for adults were increased from ₹20 to ₹40 in 2013, prior to that. Several states and nations throughout the globe have



average adult ticket prices that

exceed ₹100. Our suggestion is probably going to be around these prices. There was talk of a potential hike at the latest conference, which might lead to higher ticket prices. According to a zoo official, "the last revision came in 2021." They also mentioned that the government has not received

any paperwork about the matter. In 1959, when the Delhi Zoo first opened to the public, admission was 20 paise for adults, 10 paise for children aged 5 to 12, and free for children under 5. Guests could also purchase an actual zoo map for 5 paise to use as a guide while they were there.

## Voting for the next Vice President

### will take place on September 9

**Delhi:** Vote tallying and the vice president election are scheduled for September 9, according to the Election Commission of India (EC). On August 7, you will receive the VP poll notification, and nomination papers are due by August 21. Nominations will be reviewed on August 22, and candidates have until August 25 to withdraw their names from consideration. According to an official declaration from the EC, a poll would be held on September 9 if needed. You can cast your ballot in the first floor Vasudha room of Parliament House (Room No. F-101). Jagdeep Dhankhar's abrupt departure on July



21st created an unusual mid-term vacancy in the second highest constitutional office in the nation, forcing the election of a new vice president. On July 22, the official gazette notice was published on the vacant office. Members of the electoral college, which includes

## CAPSULES

### The capital's open-deck buses will soon be available for your riding pleasure

**Delhi:** Tourists visiting Delhi will be pleasantly surprised by the upcoming redesign of the city's Hop-on Hop-off (HoHo) bus service. The new buses will be cheaper to travel and will have decks that are partially open. Along with this, other routes will be added and the service's ticket pricing will be around INR 200, which is less than half of the existing ride. The new service is expected to launch before the end of this year, according to recent sources.



Tourists visiting various attractions across Delhi will have access to a flexible public transit network thanks to the service's introduction of interchange stations. The Delhi Tourism and Transportation Development Corporation (DTTDC) has submitted a revised model to the government for approval; the proposal was recently authorized by the government's planning department and is now awaiting clearance from the finance department. Further, the plan states that the government will provide rides at less than half the existing fare in order to attract more riders to the redesigned buses. The new 23 low-floor semi-open buses will replace the government's HoHo bus service. The estimated cost to the state government is INR 40 crore.

## Might the Rohingya be considered refugees or unauthorized immigrants?

**Delhi:** The Supreme Court started looking into the status of Rohingya entrants in the nation as refugees or illegal migrants after hearing a number of petitions that fought against their deportation and demanded that the government do something to help them get the basics while they're in refugee camps. "Whether they are refugees or illegal migrants is the first major issue," a bench led by Justice Surya Kant stated. What follows is mere-



ly incidental. They have legal rights to certain protections if they are refugees. In that case, the bench—which also included Justices Dipankar Datta and N Kotiswar Singh—stated that the individuals in question should be

### Shops and commercial establishments in Delhi are now able to hire women for night shifts

**Delhi:** With the government lifting long-standing prohibitions under the Delhi Shops and Establishments Act, women in Delhi can now lawfully work night shifts in stores and commercial establishments. The initiative, according to Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, would increase the number of women working and broaden the city's potential as an economy that works around the clock. The government intends to change the 1954 Act's Sections 14, 15, and 16, which ban women from working during night hours (summer: 9 pm to 7 am, winter: 8 pm to 8 am). Businesses will be able to hire women for 24/7 operations.

According to sources, majority of buses older than fifteen years are privately owned during the discussion.

## Prasar Bharati distributes free high-quality news content

**Delhi :** Prasar Bharati has invited newspapers, periodicals, and television channels nationwide to register on its newswire platform, PB-SHABD, to improve access to high-quality news and multimedia content. This extensive content-sharing effort, launched in March 2024, provides over 800 daily news pieces in several Indian languages to support media businesses. More than 40 categories of stories cover current events, economy, society, and science. The portal also broadcasts major national and international events, has a large visual archive, and publishes explanatory and research-based pieces. PB-SHABD's free, media-friendly content is easily accessible and used for traditional and digital content makers. All legitimate media organizations must be on the platform, officials said at a recent high-level conference convened by



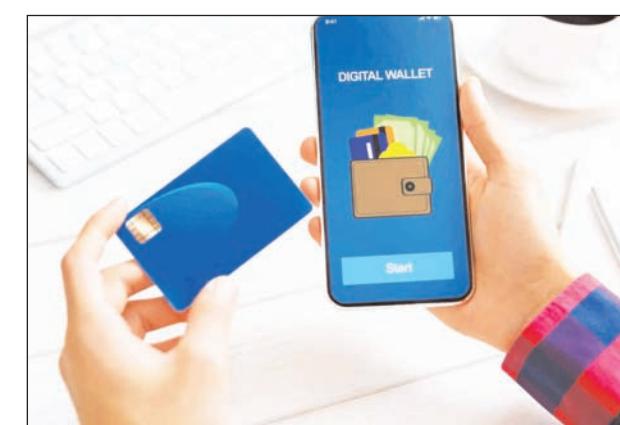
Information & Broadcasting Secretary Sanjay Jaju. The goal is to spread accurate, authentic, and understandable information through trusted means. PB-SHABD, India's first government-backed digital newswire, launched in March 2024 and offers over 800 multimedia news pieces daily in multiple Indian languages. This platform covers over 40 topics, including politics, health, economy, foreign affairs, ecology, and more. Built to enable a robust and inclusive media ecosystem, PB-SHABD offers: Registered media partners get free, copyright-cleared content.

**The Government of India is a major backer of SHRI School**

**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.

## Digital wallet payments must cross boundaries

**Delhi :** PayPal CEO Alex Chriss told us in an exclusive interview that digital wallets and rapid payment systems must integrate into a global, interoperable network to scale. Chriss lauded local payment rails like UPI, Venmo, and WeChat Pay. The next wave of digital commerce growth depends on making these technologies function together, he said. He believes travelers should be able to pay retailers or send money using their preferred apps, regardless of location. On PayPal World: PayPal has created PayPal World, a global



network connecting TenPay Global (China), UPI International (India), Mercado Pago (Mexico), PayPal, and Venmo. UPI apps will let Indians shop at European stores. Tourists in India might scan UPI QR codes with

their home wallets. Chriss also supported cryptocurrency as the next payment revolution. PayPal wants merchants to accept bitcoin by providing rails for such transactions as part of its worldwide ambition.

### "Pending farm insurance claims exceeding 5k-cr"

**Delhi:** Union agriculture minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan stated in a written reply in Lok Sabha that insurance companies still owe farmers thousands of crores in claims under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), the state's flagship crop insurance program, despite several efforts to guarantee prompt com-

pensation. Information stated in response to a query posed by Hanuman Beniwal, a member of parliament from the Rashtriya Loktantrik Party, indicates that the scheme had pending claims of ₹5405 crore spanning many seasons, which accounts for around 6% of all compensation applications, until the

kharif or summer-sown season of 2024. The response notes that the unpaid claims are mostly due to disputes between state governments and insurance businesses that are part of the crop insurance program, incorrect or delayed insurance proposals from banks, and late distribution of subsidy shares by states.

## Possibly affecting electronics exports to the US, including iPhones



**Delhi:** Apple and Samsung, two of the largest electronics exporters, were caught off guard by the tariffs. If the tariffs remain in place and no negotiated solution is found, "manufacturing business for the US will be lost" according to the worry. Top electronics exporters like Samsung and Apple were taken aback by the Trump administration's proposal of a 25% tax on India and an extra penalty for trade with Russia. A lack of resolution through the bilateral trade agreement that is still being negotiated with Washington has industry officials worried that "manufacturing business for the US will be lost" in the event that the rates remain unchanged. India

surpassed China as the top iPhone exporter to the US in the second quarter of 2025, with a contribution of 44%. China's stake had dropped to 25% from 61% in the same quarter previous year, according to Canalys. This shift comes days after India had surpassed China. Industry

executives have mentioned that this might change if the tariffs on India continue. They also brought up the fact that the US administration has already lowered the duties on gadgets containing chips from China, such as smartphones, from a high of roughly 20%. image.png

### YES Bank Stole Rs 2,850 Crore From Reliance MF

**Delhi :** Reliance Mutual Fund of Anil Ambani invested Rs 2,850 crore in YES Bank AT-1 bonds for alleged quid pro quo, Enforcement Directorate sources said. Additional Tier-1 or AT-1 bonds have no maturity date and investors never get their principal, but they do receive a higher interest rate forever. If necessary, the bank might convert them to equity or write them off. Reliance Mutual Fund's bonds were written off and the money was siphoned off, ED sources stated.

## Income Tax Department's PAN 2.0 project awarded to LTIMindtree



**Delhi:** The Income Tax Department has awarded the contract for the PAN 2.0 project to technology consulting and digital solutions company, LTIMindtree Limited, with the project expected to go live in 18 months, officials said. The bid value of the contract is around Rs 792 crore, they said. When the PAN 2.0 Project was approved by the Union Cabinet in November 2024, the government had provisioned Rs 1,435 crore for the project. Confirming the development, an LTIMindtree spokesperson

said, "We have been awarded this prestigious PAN 2.0 project which looks to enhance the PAN issuance process and security through technology-driven innovation." There were other contenders also for the project. Earlier, in May this year, Protean eGov Technologies had stated that it had participated in the Income Tax Department's Request for Proposals (RFP) bid for the project for selection of the Managed Service Provider (MSP) for design, development, implementation, operations and maintenance of the PAN 2.0 Project but the company had not been selected.

## Policybazaar fined Rs 5 cr by Irdai for infractions



**Due to issues with corporate governance, Indian e-cab supplier BluSmart has filed for bankruptcy**

**Delhi:** Policy bazaar was fined a record-breaking 5 crore rupees by the IRDAI for many infractions discovered during a June 2020 remote inspection.

Inconsistent payments for outsourcing, incomplete mapping of telemarketing sales to authorized verifiers, premium remittance delays, and biased product advertising are all examples of the violations. The regulator found a conflict of interest and punished the company Rs 1 crore for letting its chief officer and other key managerial people retain directorships in other organizations without prior consent. Its use of third-party data to promote certain insurance policies on its website as "best" or "top" resulted in another fine of Rs 1 crore. This method, according to Irdai, was deceptive, gave some

insurers more exposure than others, and limited consumer choice.

## Why is Anil Ambani under investigation for Rs 17,000cr loan 'fraud'?

**Delhi:** Industrialist Anil Ambani was summoned to the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in New Delhi for a suspected Rs 17,000-crore loan fraud case. The agency issued a Look Out Circular (LOC) against him days before, prohibiting him from leaving the country throughout the probe. ANI reports that the ED is investigating financial irregularities and PMLA violations. A massive ED investigation on July 24 searched 35 properties, 50 firms, and over 25 Reliance Anil Ambani Group (RAAGA) employees. A CBI First Information Report prompted this money laundering case. Officials told that preliminary results showed a "well-planned and thought-out scheme" to defraud banks,

investors, and public organizations. Yes Bank and its then-promoter are also under scrutiny. The ED suspects Yes Bank illegally diverted 23,000 crore in loans between 2017 and 2019. The National Housing Bank, SEBI, NFRB, and Bank of Baroda provided inputs to the ED's probe.



### 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.

**Banks and NBFCs are limited by RBI to investing no more than 20% of the AIF scheme's corpus**



**Delhi:** According to new rules released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Regulated Entities (REs) can only invest up to 20% of an AIF scheme's total capital. The RBI has said in a circular that no RE may put up more than 10% of an AIF scheme's total value. The maximum amount that any one RE can put into an AIF Scheme as a whole is 20% of the scheme's corpus, the document stated. Unless a RE determines an earlier date in accordance with its internal policy, these Directions will be effective as of January 1, 2026. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) stated in a circular that real estate investment funds (REFs) are required to make full provision up to the amount of their proportionate investment in the debtor company through the AIF Scheme, up to a maximum of their direct loan and/or investment exposure to the debtor company, if their contributions exceed 5% of the corpus of the AIF Scheme and the RE has downstream investment (excluding equity instruments) in the debtor company. The full investment amount must be subtracted from the RE's capital funds, specifically Tier-1 and Tier-2 capital, in proportion, if the contribution is made in the form of subordinated units.

## Export assistance from the government is on the table, but subsidies are not



**Delhi:** Following Trump's tariff announcement, there was a lot of pressure on the government to find a solution. While subsidies were rejected, the government did say it was willing to consider "innovative ways" to help industry overcome the issue. Commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal reportedly conveyed the message during meetings with industry representatives in Mumbai over the weekend. In an effort to bring down the cost of loans, Goyal proposed during the discussions that banks reevaluate their risk assessment and rating methodologies, with a focus on small exporters. Additionally, he committed to investigating suggestions to lower testing and certification fees for MSMEs. The 10% difference in tariffs between India and its competitors is allegedly partially the responsibility of the government. Some American purchasers have offered to chip in, but the garment sector will take a major hit, according to AEPC chairman Sudhir Sekhri, who predicted that factories will close and people would lose their jobs. Despite a tariff disadvantage of 5 percentage points (30% US tariffs on China), buyers are telling us that they will buy from Chinese manufacturers because they are more cost competitive.

## Qualified 25 higher education institutions in India

**Delhi:** As part of the implementation of National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, Indian higher education institutions (HEIs) have been given the goal of having at least 25 of them rank among the top 100 universities in the QS World University Rankings in the coming years. This information was shared by Union education minister Dharmendra Pradhan in Delhi. In a speech marking the fifth anniversary of NEP 2020, Pradhan addressed the Akhil Bharatiya Shiksha Samagam 2025. He unveiled educational projects worth over ₹4,000 crore, including new initiatives, AI-enabled learning apps, campus inaugurations, and foundation stone laying, and he handed letters of intent (LoI) to four foreign universities for setting up campuses in India before his address. According to the QS World University Rankings 2026, 54 higher education institutions in India have



**Students can halt and resume their undergraduate degrees at Delhi University**

**Delhi:** The University of Delhi has implemented a new academic framework that complies with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. This framework permits undergraduate students to take a break and then return to their degree programs. Students can now leave after an even-numbered semester and return within a certain time to finish their degree without losing any of their earned credits, according to the

been recognized.

At least 25 of our uni-

**Delhi:** Sources close to the matter have informed that the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) is considering turning vacant community halls and more than 1,100 schools into skill development centers. Later this week, the standing committee will be presented with two policy proposals regarding this matter. According to a senior MCD official, the regulation requires the agencies to clean the school premises every day so it is ready for teaching the following day and to take the equipment with them when they use it.

There is a lack of use



of school facilities after school hours at many MCD schools, which means that they operate on a single shift. Skills development and vocational training can make use of the space in these

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



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

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

## 'Rashtraneeti' to teach pupils civic duty is being prepared by the government

**Delhi:** The government of Delhi is getting ready to launch Rashtraneeti, a new civic education program, to change students' perspectives on democracy, leadership, and civic duty. The program aims to instill civic ideals into the core of school life and is scheduled to launch throughout all government schools on August 15. It targets children from kindergarten to Class XII. "At the core of Rashtraneeti is a mission to instil ethical governance, democratic participation and national pride through active, student-led engagement," a spokesperson stated. The State Council of Educational Research and Training recently organized an



orientation for master trainers, who will spearhead the program's implementation in schools and serve as important ambassadors for the vision, in order to guarantee successful implementation. According to officials, the purpose of the training was to acquaint trainers with the pro-

gram's objectives, structure, and vision in order to facilitate effective classroom delivery. Committees addressing environmental issues, anti-bullying measures, and the administration of school cafeterias will be among the seven student-run groups established in each school. The goal of these

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

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

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



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

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

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**CBSE loosens regulations on adding new sections**

**Divya Delhi:** The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has revised its affiliation rules to permit section growth based on built-up carpet area instead of land size, in an effort to alleviate space restrictions caused by the increasing demand for school admissions. The board took this action in response to comments made by schools that are having trouble meeting the demand for new admissions despite having more sections than allowed. According to CBSE's circular, children's health, social and psychological development, and sense of belonging could be negatively affected if they had to travel significant distances to attend school because there aren't enough seats in their neighborhood. Officials and school administrators stated that the decision will alleviate admission pressure.

mode using "some" materials of competitive questionnaires and study .

## IIT-D, AIIMS improve laparoscopic instruments to reduce surgical pain

**Delhi:** Surgeons may extend their patients' lives in operating rooms, but their bodies may suffer. Laparoscopic surgeons routinely strain their bodies by staring at the display and using lengthy, inflexible equipment for long hours. Hunched shoulders, abnormal wrist twists, and non-neutral upper body postures cause fatigue, pain, and long-term musculoskeletal issues. IIT Delhi and AIIMS are redesigning laparoscopic instruments for ergonomics to address this invisible occupational hazard. Current laparoscopic devices cause finger, wrist, shoulder, and neck pain and numbness, a major occupational problem. These physical limitations and high surgery volumes in Indian hospitals cause chronic injuries, long recovery times, and lost work hours. Patient safety was a



## IGNOU July 2025 registration deadline extended again

**Delhi:** The Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) has extended the deadline for admission and re-registration for the July 2025 session. Students now have until August 15, 2025, to complete the process. The applies to both new admissions and re-registration for continuing students. IGNOU offers courses in both distance learning (ODL) and online mode, and the application must be completed through its websites.

priority in early surgery. Reducing surgical waste and carbon footprint were environmental concerns.

"Now we must make surgery safe for surgeons," said AIIMS paediatric surgeon Dr. Sachit Anand.

**Chinese government workers are severely restricted in their ability to travel and study overseas**

**Delhi:** The standard disclaimers on tardiness and performance were part of Tina Liu's contract when she was employed as a literature teacher in a public primary school in southern China. The next line said: She risks losing her job if she goes abroad without the school's approval. A staff group chat reiterated the rule. According to the message, "teachers need to strengthen their disciplinary awareness" as per requirements from higher-ups. "At this time, we are unable to approve any trips abroad." Similar warnings are being sent around China as the government cracks down on state employees' interactions with outsiders. The government has ordered the surrender of passports held by certain individuals, including doctors, kindergarten instructors, and even contractors and workers of state-owned businesses. In order to get their passports back, pensioners in some places have to wait two years. Even for personal trips, many towns require government personnel to get approval before they can go abroad. Travel for "ordinary research, exchange and study" purposes by businesses is now illegal. Not to mention that most provinces have made it illegal to hold specific public office for people who have educated overseas. Reasons given by officials include preventing corruption, safeguarding national security.



## India wants Rs 3 lakh cr in defense manufacturing

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



2004-14 to Rs 88,319 crore in 2014-24, demonstrating its growing involvement in the global security sector. India exports defense equipment to over 100 nations, with the US, France, and Armenia buying most in 2023-24. In 2024-25, the Ministry of Defence signed a record 193 contracts worth Rs 2,09,050 crore, nearly doubling the previous record.

These include 177 contracts, 92% awarded to the domestic industry for Rs 1,68,922 crore, 81% of the overall contract value. This emphasis on indigenous manufacture supports defence production self-reliance.

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

The government plans to borrow Rs 8 lakh crore, 54% of its Rs 14.8 lakh crore FY26 borrowing, in the first half. It didn't front-load the borrowing program to avoid raising rates while the RBI pumped record liquidity into the system.

Since the market reported little demand for 30-year and longer bonds, the government announced it would borrow less in FY26. Thus, front-loading of the borrowing program has been avoided due to government (fiscal consolidation without compromising quality of expenditure).

## Kotak highlights the risk in the lending business strategy

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

## Cabinet approves electronic component program

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



printed circuit board assemblies, lithium cell enclosures, resistors, capacitors, and ferrites. These are utilized in cell-phones, laptops, microwave ovens, refrigerators, and toasters. "This scheme will reduce component imports. We must

abandon import substitution and promote exports. After mass production, viability follows. Union IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said electronics production is \$120 billion and hopes to reach \$500 billion in the next years.

### Gautam Adani Is India's Biggest Wealth Gainer

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

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



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

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

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

**Delhi:** News broke from India's central bank. There will be a cost of Rs 23 per transaction for clients using ATM banking services from May 1, 2025. The previous amount was Rs 21 for each transaction. The central bank announced



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

**Delhi:** The Greater Noida Authority's 138th Board meeting approved a Rs 5,600 crore budget for 2025-26. Manoj Kumar Singh, Uttar Pradesh Chief Secretary and Authority Chairman, chaired the meeting. Budget priorities include land acquisition, development, and construction. The approved budget allocates Rs 1,400 crore for land acquisition and Rs 1,973 crore for development.

that customers will still be able to use their own bank's ATMs for five free transactions per month, regardless of whether they are financial or not. There are three ATMs in major cities and five in smaller towns where they can use their card for free transactions.

## Income Tax wants Rs 2,209 crore from Yes Bank



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

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

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

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

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



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

However, Kotak's private banking division targets individuals worth over Rs 300 crore. Many UHNIs buy abroad property for migration and permanent residency. "Ultra-HNIs are diversifying their portfolios and embracing domestic and global assets, setting the stage for a significant increase. Alternative assets and equities are becoming more popular in domestic and international markets. Nearly a third of India's Ultra-HNIs own worldwide assets. With two in three ultra-HNIs planning structured wealth transition, succession planning is crucial.

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

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