

# AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

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

## Election Commission stole the election with BJP: Rahul

● Claim shown on the screen by showing voter list- 40 lakh suspicious names in Maharashtra ● fraud in Karnataka too ● Rahul accused of irregularities in voter list and manipulation of election

**New Delhi:** Former Congress President and Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Thursday accused the Election Commission and the Bharatiya Janata Party of colluding to include fake voters in the voter list. He said that the country's democracy is being weakened by the collusion of both. There has been a large-scale tampering in the voter list and this has led to manipulation of the election results. Rahul Gandhi, in a press conference at the Congress headquarters here, alleged that about one lakh votes have been stolen in these areas on the basis of analysis of data from Karnataka's Bengaluru Central Lok Sabha seat and Mahadevpura assembly seat. He claimed that 1,00,250 votes have been found suspicious in the 6.26 lakh voter list of



### Election Commission sought affidavit on Rahul's allegations

**New Delhi:** The Chief Electoral Officer of Karnataka has sought an affidavit with evidence from Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on the claim of irregularities in the voter list. He has been asked to prove

these two areas alone. He claimed that by analyzing this data, 1,00,250 voters out of a total of 6 lakh 25 thousand voters are fake. He said that 11,965 duplicate voters, 40,009 fake

his allegations. The Chief Electoral Officer of Karnataka has sent a letter to Rahul Gandhi today. The letter mentions that the Congress delegation is going to meet the Chief Electoral Officer.

or invalid addresses were found, 10,452 abnormal number of voters were found at the same address, 4,132 invalid or missing photographs of people were found.

### 'It took six months to complete this investigation'

He said that it took six months to complete this investigation and during this time the Election Commission did not help in any way, rather kept refusing to give the necessary data. We already suspected that something was going wrong in the electoral process in the country. False narratives have been repeatedly created behind the victory of BJP in states like Haryana, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh. Rahul Gandhi said that whether it is Operation Sindoor or Pulwama attack, 'Laadli Behna' scheme or any other emotional issue, the atmosphere was created in favor of BJP in every election.

### Notification of Vice Presidential Election Released

**New Delhi:** The Election Commission has issued the notification for the Vice Presidential Election 2025. The dates for nomination, scrutiny, withdrawal of nomination and voting have already been announced. If there is more than one candidate, voting will be held on September 9. With the notification, the nomination process has started, which will continue till August 21.



Little children from government schools tied Rakhi to Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta.

## Kharge questions the government on America's tariff hike

### Strategic

□ National interest is paramount and punishes our strategic does not understand India



**New Delhi:** Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge has questioned Prime Minister Narendra Modi's foreign policy over the imposition of additional tariffs of up to 25 per cent on Indian products by US President Donald

Trump. He said that India's national interest is paramount and any country that arbitrarily punishes our strategic autonomy does not understand India's strength. From threats of the Seventh Fleet to restrictions on nuclear

tests, we have maintained our relations with America with self-respect and dignity. Kharge alleged that the Modi government's diplomacy is faltering due to America's threats. Kharge said that despite knowing about Trump's

'reciprocal tariff' plan, the Indian government did not make any concrete strategy to provide relief to sectors like MSME, agriculture, engineering, electronics, gems and jewellery, medicine, organic products, petroleum and textiles in the Union Budget. The President said that India's exports to the US were around Rs 7.51 lakh crore in 2024, in such a situation, the imposition of 50 per cent tariff will put a direct economic burden.

## Vladimir Putin will visit India later this year



**New Delhi:** The government has clarified that Russian President Vladimir Putin's visit to India is not scheduled in August. After National Security Advisor Ajit Doval's meeting with Russian Security Council Secretary Sergei Shoigu in Moscow, reports had said that the dates of Mr Putin's visit to India have been finalised and he will come to India at the end of August. Sources denied these reports and said, "National Security Advisor Doval has said during his Moscow visit that the dates of President Putin's visit to India are being worked out. Mr Doval has not

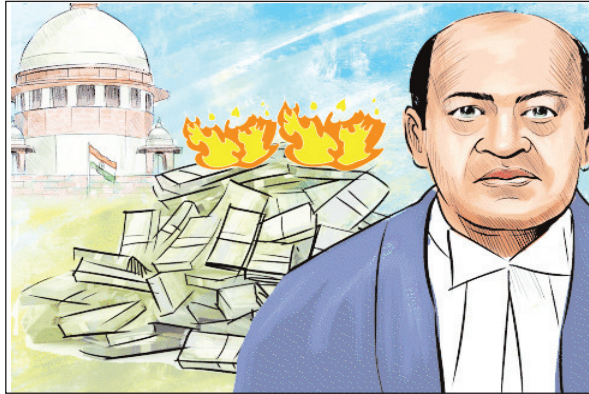
### Objective

□ The objective of the meeting was to strengthen energy

given any specific date or time in his meetings. The time being given as the end of August is wrong." It is noteworthy that in the meeting between Mr Doval and Mr Shoigu on Thursday, the Russian top security official praised the strong and time-tested friendly relations between India and Russia. The objective of the meeting was to energy and defence partnership.

## Supreme Court dismissed the petition of Justice Yashwant Verma

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court has dismissed the petition filed against the report of the internal investigation panel against Allahabad High Court judge Justice Yashwant Verma. The bench headed by Justice Dipankar Dutta ordered the dismissal of the petition. The court said that Justice Verma's petition cannot be heard because he has already appeared before the internal investigation panel and is now questioning the



authority of the investigation panel. The court had reserved the decision on July 30. During the hearing of this case, the court told Justice

Yashwant Verma that your conduct is not credible. The court asked why did you appear before the internal investigation panel.

### Dismissed

□ Verma is also opposing sending the report to the President and the Prime Minister

Why did you not challenge it. You should have challenged the report of the internal investigation panel first. The Court had said that Justice Verma is also opposing sending the report to the President and the Prime Minister

## Disruption continues in Parliament over SIR

**New Delhi:** On the 14th consecutive day of the monsoon session of Parliament, work was affected due to the uproar of the opposition in the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha on Thursday. The opposition remained adamant on the demand for discussion on the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the voter list in Bihar. Due to this, the proceedings were adjourned for the day after being interrupted several times. The pro-

### Opposition

□ Monsoon session of Parliament, work was affected due to the uproar of the opposition

ceedings in the Lok Sabha were first adjourned till 12 noon and later till 2 pm. When the proceedings started at 2 o'clock, the government passed the Manipur Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill.

## 'Unemployment situation in India is better than the global average'

### Declining

□ The unemployment rate in India is continuously declining: Karandlaje

**New Delhi.** In response to a question asked in the Rajya Sabha, Minister of State for Labor and Employment



Shobha Karandlaje said that the unemployment rate in India is continuously declining and it is

now in a better position than the international level. The minister said that the unemployment

rate as per usual status for persons aged 15 years and above was 6 percent in 2017-18, which has come down to only 3.2 percent in 2023-24. In particular, the unemployment rate among youth (15-29 years) was 17.8 percent in 2017-18, which has now come down to 10.2 percent, while according to the International Labor Organization, the

global youth unemployment rate is 13.3 percent. This shows that the situation of youth unemployment in India is better than the global average. He informed that the government has launched several schemes to provide employment to the youth and enhance their skill capabilities, which include Pradhan Mantri E m p l o y m e n t

Generation Programme (PMEGP), Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana and Rural and Urban Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM and DAY-NULM), Deendayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY), Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) and

## ED cannot act like a 'thug': Supreme Court

### Rogue

□ The conviction rate in the case of investigation being conducted by the ED is very low



**New Delhi.** The Supreme Court has said that the Enforcement Directorate (ED) cannot act like a rogue and it has to remain within the ambit

of the law. The bench headed by Justice Suryakant said that the conviction rate in the case

of investigation being conducted by the ED is very low. The Supreme Court said that we are concerned about the image of the ED. Actually, the Supreme Court is hearing a review petition filed against the Supreme Court's order regarding the powers of the ED in the money laundering case. During the hearing, ASG SV Raju, appearing on behalf of the Center, questioned the suitability of the petition. He

said that the reason for the low conviction rate is that influential accused adopt a strategy to delay the hearing. He said that influential accused keep a large army of lawyers and file different applications at different stages. This disrupts the trial. During the hearing, Justice Ujjwal Bhuiyan mentioned one of his decisions in which five thousand cases were registered by the ED in five years.

## Handloom was a weapon of the non-violent movement for independence

**New Delhi.** Union Rural Development and Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Thursday held a virtual dialogue with lakhs of sisters of self-help groups across the country from Krishi Bhavan on National



Handloom Day. On this occasion, Shivraj Singh said that women are a form of power and a

unique example of creativity. He said that handloom is a symbol of self-reliance. Handloom was also a weapon of the non-violent movement for independence. Thousands of years ago, the amazing art of our rural artisans established its identity.



## Ladki Bahin plan: The monthly amount cannot be increased

**Delhi :** Maharashtra's Social Justice Minister, Sanjay Shirsat, defended the Mahayuti government's Mukhyamantri Majhi Ladki Bahin initiative against the opposition. Although election promises were made to expand support to acknowledges that financial constraints prevent this at now. "The monthly amount of 1,500 cannot be increased to 2,100," he said, acknowledging the discrepancy between political pledges and budgetary realities. According to Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut, the Ladki Bahin plan has been lowered to 500 instead of the promised 1,500. The Mukhyamantri Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana offers 1,500 monthly to qualified women. "For the time being, 1,500 will be disbursed for sure," said he. Shirsat also accused Ajit Pawar's Finance Department of secretly redirecting funds. He wants to stop social justice and tribal affairs budget cuts through legal



### BJP claimed that Stalin is spreading falsehoods regarding the three-language policy

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

means.

According to Shirsat, his department was eligible for 11.8% of the state's 2.5 lakh crore budget (29,500 crore) but only

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

received 22,658 crore. The minister said, "I'll ask him for my department's money. I asked the Chief Minister to sympathize with my department."

## Haryana beer prices to rise under 2025–2027 excise policy

**Delhi :** According to Haryana's new tax policy, Indian beer prices will rise 55% and foreign beer prices will rise 45% on June 12. Big price changes are coming for Kingfisher, Carlsberg, Budweiser, and Hoegaarden. A 650ml Kingfisher Ultra bottle, previously priced at 90, now costs 140. Beers like Corona and Amstel, previously priced at 200 per pint, would now cost 290, with Tiger beer set to follow suit. Officials report that Budweiser and Carlsberg 330 ml beer bottles will now cost 120, up from 75. The price of a 500 ml can of beer has increased from



90 to 130 (45%). India-made and imported foreign liquor (IMFL) will cost 15-20% more under the new regulation, according to excise officials. For instance, Absolute Vodka will rise from 1,200 to 1,500, and Glenlivet will rise from 3,200 to 3,800. Gurugram deputy excise

and taxes commissioner Jitender Dudi verified the hike. "Yes, Indian beers will rise 55% and imported ones 45%. He stated this was done to level the playing field with neighboring states and encourage Indian beer and liquor over imports.

## DDA to promote events and projects online using influencers

**Delhi:** The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has hired a digital marketing agency to promote its projects. It issued a request for proposal. The agency will promote all DDA projects using social media influencers and professionals. Campaign goals include

branding DDA by increasing awareness and sharing information about its work. "If we are organizing a kite festival, we will promote it through all media and invite influencers. The selected agency must invite five Instagram or X influencers with at least 100K

followers to events or campaigns annually (as needed). Selected agency will also submit a list of relevant influencers to promote DDA events or initiatives "said the authority. Social media reels will be created by the firm in addition to event photos videos.

## Are RLD MLAs politically future-conscious?

**Delhi :** Two RLD MLAs Rajpal Baliyan and Madan Bhaiya, Muzaffarnagar MP Harendra Malik, SP MP from Kairana Iqra Hasan, SP MLA from Sardhana Atul Pradhan, and others attended the panchayat protesting Rakesh Tikait's misbehavior. But are RLD MLAs not confident in their party's future? To ensure their future and handle caste politics in the region, the MLAs joined the Kisan Union without party consent? Although in the government, RLD MLAs feel uneasy and neglected because they ignored Muslim votes and farmers. They feel we may lose political ground if the party's 2027 assembly election performance regarding the BJP coalition and the



Wakf Amendment Bill is poor. Two other party MLAs are also afraid about losing their tickets. Siwalkhas MLA Ghulam Mohammad is concerned that the party may run a Jat candidate this time.

However, Thana Bhawan MLA Ashraf Ali worries that BJP's strong leader and former minister Suresh Rana may be the nominee if they create an

alliance.

After joining the power with BJP, the RLD chief's remoteness from his MLAs, ministers, and workers is also blamed. Even after taking power, his lack of status forces him and his workers to sleep someplace. This uncertainty makes RLD MLAs uncomfortable in the party.

### 62 locations in Gurugram's Sadar Bazar to have CCTVs installed by GMDA

**Delhi:** A plan to install 62 CCTV cameras in the "congested" Sadar Bazar region, which witnesses hundreds of visits every day, has been finalized by the Gurugram Metropolitan Development Authority (GMDA). They also mentioned that the authority's control center in Sector 44 will be accessible from all of the CCTVs. The goal of the surveillance project, according to GMDA authorities, is to reduce encroachments, improve traffic management, and prevent crime in one of the city's busiest market locations.

## Three months after the med portal launch, just 6.5k 12L physicians reg.

**Delhi:** Three and a half months after the national medical registry was began, less than 6,500 doctors have registered and 284 have been approved. The projected 12 lakh doctors working in India would take 40 years to register and approve at the current rate. Union health minister JP Nadda launched the National Medical Register (NMR) Portal of the National Medical Commission (NMC) to register all Indian MBBS doctors. "The uniqueness of NMR is that it is linked with doctors' Aadhaar IDs, which

ensures authenticity," claimed the health ministry. NHA and NMC's NMR site will provide dynamic, authentic, and consolidated doctor data, it stated. The government claimed that "the speedy and easy registration process on the portal will facilitate the timely updation of the data", yet doctors have had registration issues. The Kerala State Medical Council confirmed my NMC registration. In 110 days, my application has been returned with unrelated questions four times, including questions about the University

and state medical council name changes. They want me to file an affidavit about the Aadhaar card name not matching the pre-Aadhaar registration. The NMR is required by Section 31 of the NMC Act, 2019. "If they cannot put together a digital database for just 12 lakh doctors who come through a highly regulated education system, can you imagine them being able to create databases for other categories in healthcare who would be well over 50 lakh and whose training is very poorly regulated?"

## No sustainable peace if Pakistan utilizes its land for terrorism against India

**Delhi :** AIMIM head Asaduddin Owaisi queried why "the President of a foreign country" announced the ceasefire hours after India and Pakistan decided to terminate military action, as India has historically resisted outside intervention. He referenced Trump's Truth Social announcement. Pakistan and India confirmed subsequently. Owaisi wrote on X, "As long as Pakistan uses its territory for terrorism against India, there can be no permanent peace. We must find the Pahalgam terrorists regardless of the ceasefire." After the ceasefire, drones and explosives were seen and heard in Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, and Gujarat. In a press conference, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri confirmed the "extremely con-



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

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

demnable" intrusions. Owaisi posted questions for Modi in English, Hindi, and Urdu. First, he said he wished "our PM Narendra Modi had

announced the ceasefire rather than the President of a foreign country" and asked why Trump announced the ceasefire without naming him.

## DU will discuss the Viksit Bharat curriculum and Gita-based

**Delhi:** According to officials, the standing committee of Delhi University (DU) will meet to evaluate suggestions for a number of value addition courses (VAC), including four that are centered on the Bhagavad Gita and one called An Introduction to Viksit

Bharat. The committee's emphasis on incorporating modern applications of Indian philosophy and development topics into the curriculum is highlighted in the agenda, which was made public on Wednesday.

With themes like

"Gita for Holistic Life," "Gita and Leadership Excellence," "Gita for Sustainable Universe," and "Gita for Navigating Life Challenges," four of the six VACs that are being considered are centered around the Bhagavad Gita. Based on Karmayoga,

Jnanayoga, and Bhaktiyoga, the Gita for Holistic Life syllabus suggests teachings on self-management, resolving problems in modern life, and methods of action, knowledge, and devotion. The course will also include practical components.

### High Court upholds influencers' fact-based criticism

**Delhi:** The Delhi High Court allowed social media influencers to criticize consumer goods with scientific facts. The Court denied San Nutrition Private Limited's request for an interim order to stop four influencers from criticizing its whey protein products. The judge, Justice Amit Bansal, ruled that restricting speech before a trial would be unreasonable. "Reasonable criticism, comment and parody is largely protected within the right to free speech under the Constitution.

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

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



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

cial junction for this project, ensuring seamless integration into the national railway network. The final location survey will provide the technical

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

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



## Chotu Singh, the uncrowned king of the world of crime, stacks up in a encounter



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**Prayagraj.** Ashish Ranjan alias Chotu Singh, 28, was killed in an encounter with AK-47 at Prayagraj STF in Shankargarh police station area late Wednesday night, while one of the offender fled the scene. Jharkhand police had put a reward of Rs 4 lakh on Chotu, a notorious criminal. The assailant had come to Prayagraj to kill someone armed with an AK-47 and a 9mm pistol. However, the STF had not disclosed his name. Chotu Singh, originally a resident of JC Malik Road in Dhanbad, Jharkhand, had 14 cases registered under various sections including murder, extortion, kidnapping and Arms Act. Several agencies, including the Jharkhand police, were searching for him when he was not arrested. Prayagraj STF received a tip-off that



Criminal fired 16 rounds, escaped Insp

The criminal Chotu fired a total of 14 rounds at the STF. The team asked him to surrender but he refused and continued firing. One bullet went through the head of Inspector Jaiprakash Rai. While soldiers Prabhajan, Rohit and Ajay also escaped unhurt. In response, the STF fired 16 rounds at the accused. Chotu was shot twice in the chest and one near the waist.

### Several cases registered against him

Notorious mafia Ashish Ranjan alias Chotu Singh has cases registered against him in several high-profile murder cases. Chotu Singh, originally from Dhanbad, managed to maintain his arm strength even after being locked up in Dhanbad jail. According to police, Ashish was active in UP and Bihar.

Chotu Singh was going on a bike from Shivrajpur cross-roads in Shankargarh police station area via Pratappur with one of his associates. Seeing the team, the criminal Chotu started firing indiscriminately with AK-47 and 9mm pistol. The soldiers retaliated in self-defense. Chotu was shot

three times in the encounter which lasted for about 10 minutes. He was rushed to Shankargarh Community Health Center where doctors pronounced him dead. The STF sealed the scene after the incident. Omprakash, forensic team and other officials also rushed to the scene and started investigation.

### The bad guy is from Jharkhand

Ashish Ranjan alias Chotu Singh, a resident of JC Malik Road, Dhanbad, Jharkhand, was killed in an encounter between STF Prayagraj unit and a notorious criminal in Shankargarh area on Thursday. The criminal, who is from Bihar and Jharkhand, was wanted in several serious cases. He was linked to an interstate gang and had been wanted by police for a long time. STF Prayagraj had received input that the wanted criminal was present in Shankargarh area. The team rushed to the scene immediately on the basis of the information. When officers JP Rai, Prabhajan and Rohit Singh, who were in the team, tried to arrest him, the assailant opened indiscriminate fire with an AK-47 rifle. All the STF members escaped unhurt in the sudden attack. Given the seriousness of the situation, the team retaliated in self-defence. The offender was shot and seriously injured in the short-lived encounter. Police rushed him to Community Health Centre, Shankargarh, where doctors declared him dead.

## Meeting of District Ganga Committee/District Tree Planting Committee/District Environment Committee held

### Abhiyan

- Under the Chairmanship of District Collector
- Directions for geo tagging of plants planted by departments under Vriksharopan Maha Abhiyan while protecting them

### Akhand Bharat Sandesh

**Prayagraj.** District Collector Manish Kumar Verma presided over a meeting of District Ganga Committee/District Tree Plantation Committee/District Environment Committee at Sangam auditorium here on Thursday. In the meeting, the District Collector asked for geo-tagging of all the plants planted by the departments under the Vriksharopan Maha



Abhiyan while protecting them. He also asked the officers of all concerned departments to monitor the plants and conduct field inspections once a month. The District Collector reviewed the tapped and untaped drains and directed to tap the untaped drains as soon as possible. He has asked them to take necessary action to restore the extinct rivers. The District Collector has directed all concerned officers to provide the information to be

sent to NGT in a timely manner.

He has reviewed the works related to cleaning of Ganga river, tapping of drains, upgradation of environment plan and given necessary guidelines. In view of the environment, necessary action has been taken to control the use of single use plastics. Chief Development Officer Harshika Singh, Divisional Forest Officer and other concerned officers were present on the occasion.

## Inspection of flood areas by Municipal Commissioner



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**Prayagraj.** With the low water level of Ganga and Yamuna rivers, water left floating material and dirt in many neighbourhoods, which has been cleaned by deploying additional personnel and orders have been issued to all concerned officials to work on war level. In the same vein, Municipal Commissioner

Food Inspector He directed the Additional Commissioner to conduct regular spraying, not to neglect any negligence by deploying additional staff in cleaning works if necessary and to conduct survey of entire flood affected areas by drone to ensure immediate cleaning work in timely returning areas Both Port Station was inspected. For which, the Assistant Municipal Commissioner was directed to continuously monitor the regular garbage collection in the flooded areas. During the entire inspection, Rajiv Shukla and Dipendra Yadav Additional Municipal Commissioners, Navneet Sankhwar Zonal Officer Zone Katra, Assistant Municipal Commissioner, Executive Engineer, concerned Sanitation and Food Inspector, and other officers along with regional councilors were also present.

Municipal Corporation Prayagraj, Sai Teja on Thursday inspected the flood-hit areas of Nevada Ashok Nagar, Ganganagar Rajapur, Salori, Bakshibadh pumping station. During this period, instructions were given to the concerned Zonal Officer and Sanitation and Food Inspector to clean the streets after 7-8 feet of water decreased rapidly. Instructions should be given to the concerned Zonal Officer and Sanitation and

## India Scouts and Guides Divisional review meeting held

### Review

- A Mandal Review Meeting of Bharat Scouts and Guides was held today

### Akhand Bharat Sandesh



**Prayagraj.** A Mandal Review Meeting of Bharat Scouts and Guides was held today in the auditorium of District School Inspector's Office under the chairmanship of Joint Director of Education Shri Ramnarayan Vishwakarma. The meeting was attended by Chief Commissioners of Fatehpur, Kaushambi, Pratapgarh and Prayagraj, District Secretaries, District Organization

Commissioners, Leader Trainers, Assistant Leader Trainers, District Scout Masters, and Guide Captains. The Joint Director of Education said that the problems should be solved with positive thinking at the local and Janapad levels so that there is no deadlock in the organization. The office bearers of the divisional and state institutions should also consider how the problems can be resolved quickly.

Certificates should be issued as soon as possible, and information from the grassroots level should reach headquarters in time. Assistant Regional Organization Commissioner Sundaram Shukla, and District Secretary, Prayagraj conducted the function. District School Inspector Shri and Chief Commissioner of Prayagraj P.S. N. Singh said, that the Scout and Guide organization

,embodies the spirit of discipline and development in the future citizens of the country ,so it should be spread to each and every household, and each and every village. District Secretary Dr. PP Singh said that even in such a developed time of information technology, the lack of coordination and monitoring and communication of information in the organization shows that there is a great need for vigilance in the organization. Assistant Leader Trainer Piyush Kumar Singh did the management. Shri Feroz Alam, Ved Prakash Bhagat, Meera Singh, Bhavna Mangulkar, Praveen Singh, Sudha Goud, Archana Singh, etc. assisted.

## 33 UP Gram Pradhans to attend Independence Day celebrations in Delhi

**Lucknow:** In a historic and proud moment for Uttar Pradesh, 33 Gram Pradhans from the state have been invited as special guests to the National Independence Day celebrations in New Delhi on August 15. These village heads will participate in the flag hoisting ceremony at the Red Fort alongside other inspirational personalities from across the country. The



selected Pradhans represent various districts and have been recognised for their exemplary work in rural development, sanitation, women's empowerment, digital Panchayat secretariats, and fostering community partici-

pation. Their contributions under schemes implemented by the Yogi government have not only transformed their villages but have also redefined rural governance on a national platform. Several of them have already received accolades and recognition at both the state and national levels. Their achievements are expected to inspire other Panchayats across

the country, opening new pathways for rural development and community-driven progress. Their presence at the Red Fort is a testament to their dedication and symbolizes the growing strength and relevance of grassroots leadership in shaping India's future. Panchayati Raj Minister Om Prakash Rajbhar described the moment as a matter of great pride for the state.

He said, "When village representatives from Uttar Pradesh are being honored at the national level, it highlights the spirit of the Prime Minister's vision of 'Sashakt Gram, Sashakt Rashtra' and the commitment of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. These 33 Pradhans are not just leaders in their villages—they represent the rising power.



## Death of elderly man under suspicious circumstances

### Spreads sensation among villagers

### Akhand Bharat Sandesh

**Kokhraj Kaushambi.** Mahesh Choudhary, 52, son of Baijnath, died in suspicious circumstances in Kashiya West of Kokhraj police station. Police took possession of the body and sent it for post-mortem.

According to villagers, there was a constant dispute with his wife Sources said that Mahesh died under suspicious circumstances today due to a dispute over his wife's closeness to another person. It is said that Mahesh Choudhary died of

poisoning. He was taken to hospital in critical condition but died during treatment. A villager is also involved in the conspiracy. The villagers are talking about this person has gone though anything the matter will be exposed after the police investigation of the person with whom Mahesh's wife was more closely interrogated strictly then Mahesh's death will be unveiled.

## CM's directives, 298 illegal constructions identified so far, in 7 Nepal border districts in 2 months

## Yogi govt bulldozes over 130 illegal constructions

**Lucknow:** The Uttar Pradesh government has demolished 130 unauthorized constructions, sealed 198 and has served notices to 223 along Indo-Nepal borders spanning seven districts of the state in the last two months as part of an ongoing crackdown on illegal encroachments. The crackdown being carried out on illegal structures following directives of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, includes Eidghas, madrasas,

### Illegal

- Nagpal informed that a total of 13 illegal constructions have been identified

and mazars among others. The crackdown has targeted illegal structures across Pilibhit, Shravasti, Balrampur, Bahraich, Lakhimpur Kheri, Siddharthnagar, and Maharajganj, with Shravasti topping the list with action against



149 encroachments. Shravasti District Magistrate Ajay Kumar Dwivedi informed that, as per CM Yogi Adityanath's directive, action has been taken against

illegal mosques, Eidghas, madrasas, and mazars built on both government and private land within 10 km of the Indo-Nepal border.

So far, 149 ille-

gal constructions have been identified in Shravasti. While notices have been served to all 149 structures, 140 constructions have been sealed, and 37 have been demolished. The DM confirmed that action against illegal constructions is still ongoing.

Lakhimpur Kheri District Magistrate Durga Shakti Nagpal informed that a total of 13 illegal constructions have been identi-

fied in the district, of which three have been demolished, 10 sealed and one served notice. Similarly, action have been taken against 45 identified illegal construction in Maharajganj of which 24 have been sealed and 31 demolished. In Siddharthnagar, 23 illegal structures were identified; notices were issued to two, and 21 were demolished. In Bahraich, 25 such structures were found, with five sealed and 15 demolished.

## Head constable dies in road accident

**Prayagraj.** Head constable Madhusudan Pathak, 51, posted at Neeva police station in Dhumanganj police station, died in a road accident. Officials rushed to the scene after receiving the incident. Police have informed the relatives of the incident and sent the body for post-mortem. The incident took place when he was returning home late at night from duty. He was

currently on duty at Daraganj Ghat. He was returning home on his bike late at night. He had just reached the High Court water tank when an unidentified vehicle hit his bike hard, killing him on the spot. He was originally a resident of Kaparwar village in Barhaj police station area of Deoria district. He lived here in Neeva with his wife Seema Pathak and three sons.



## Editorial

### What Pakistan Really Wanted From The Pahalgam Attack

Pakistan, the globally acknowledged epicentre of terrorism, once again and successfully carried out a major terror strike on April 22, 2025, in the beautiful Pahalgam meadows of the Anantnag district in Jammu & Kashmir, killing in cold blood 26 innocent unarmed tourists and injuring many more. These tourists were first asked about their religion, and subsequently, all those who were non-Muslims were slaughtered with their wives and children wailing and helplessly looking on. That such an inhuman act of targeting civilians and on the basis of their religion was perpetrated for the first time in Jammu & Kashmir in decades is a cause of great concern for the entire nation. Though Jammu & Kashmir has been the victim of Pak-sponsored terror for decades, this massacre also points clearly to a serious intelligence-cum-security failure. It just goes to show that security is a 24/7 responsibility and one's guard can never be down. The Modi government's Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) has, reportedly, given freedom of action to the Indian Armed Forces to exercise whatever option they deem fit to answer Pakistan's dastardly terror act. It's been nearly two weeks since the incident, and India has unleashed varied multi pronged non-kinetic actions in reprisal against Pakistan, which surely would hurt the country diplomatically, economically, and, to some extent, politically. The "holding in abeyance" of the 1960 Indus Waters Treaty (IWT), the ceasing of trade with Pakistan, the stoppage of visas to visit Pakistan, the closure of the Indian air space to Pakistani civil flights, the suspension of important Pakistani internet connections, the ban on their ships to enter Indian ports, the closure of the Attari-Wagah border posts, the reduction of High Commission staff, and many other restrictions, are among the array of non-kinetic measures enforced against Pakistan's highly condemnable behaviour. However, it also appears from reliable media sources that a major punitive reprisal from India is in the offing. India has done well to sensitise the global community about Pakistan's evil act and has since then drawn virtually total globe support in the counter-terror actions being contemplated. On the other hand, Pakistan's recent actions have been supported to some extent only by China, Turkey and Azerbaijan. That China never misses an opportunity to stand by its all-weather friend Pakistan to embarrass India is a foregone conclusion. As the Indian Armed Forces would certainly be putting the finishing touches to their contingency plans, coordinating additional security measures and vigilance on the ground, all the three services would be, in all likelihood, getting ready for any major kinetic initiative to be taken by them. The entire nation, including all political parties, populations from all religions, and, especially, Muslims, including locals from Jammu & Kashmir, have vociferously condemned Pakistan's inhuman perfidy. Over the last many days, the media has been brimming with many strategic analysts voicing their thoughts and suggestions for the best options for India to teach the Pakistanis a lesson they will not quite forget. Those responsible for India's security should naturally not be carried away by media-provoked jingoism and other unrealistic ambitions. The armed forces, once employed, will carry out their operations when fully ready and select their targets with care at a time and place of their own choosing. It goes without saying that the fortunes of India's armed forces impact the entire peace and stability of the South Asian region. The Indian armed forces, easily one of the best and most professional in the world, will soon decide on its modus operandi for this crisis. To stress how the contours of warfare and even counter-terror operations are undergoing a rapid transformation will be stating the obvious. Thus, India must also, with alacrity and supplemented by adequate resources,



## Why India must keep an eye on Bangladesh too

In the last 54 years, Bangladesh, birthed by the training of its ragtag guerrilla resistance movement and the active support of the Indian Army, has pulled down statues of its founding father, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, and become hostile to the country that liberated it from West Pakistan. In the period after the fall of the Sheikh Hasina government, powerful voices within the Bangladeshi political and military establishment have expressed open support to Pakistan and hostility toward India. As India carries out targeted retaliatory attacks within Pakistan, Delhi should keep a keen eye on Dhaka. A highly-placed source in the intelligence agencies told ThePrint that amid escalating military tensions between India and Pakistan, Bangladesh has undertaken a series of rather unusual strategic measures. One such measure was the military drill Akash Bijoy 2025, conducted by the Bangladesh Air Force in April.

This exercise was meant to demonstrate the Air Force's operational readiness and strategic capability. Under directives from the Bangladesh Air Force Headquarters, all bases and units participated in this drill with combat aircraft, transport planes, helicopters, unmanned aerial vehicles, radar systems, and various air defence platforms. Led by the Air Force, the exercise saw active participation of selected representatives from the Bangladesh Army, Navy, Border Guard Bangladesh, Bangladesh Police, Fire Service and Civil Defence, and the Bangladesh National Cadet Corps. The Chief Adviser of Bangladesh's interim gov-



ernment, Muhammad Yunus, was at the drill and gave a diplomatically phrased statement: "We live in a world where the threat of war looms constantly. India and Pakistan remain on the brink of conflict—rumors even suggest war could break out at any moment. In such a context, to remain unprepared is nothing short of suicidal." Yunus also spoke about the need for swift modernisation of the Lalmonirhat airbase and instructed the Air Force to expedite its operational readiness. The airbase holds significant strategic and national security importance due to its geographic proximity to the 'Chicken's Neck'—India's Siliguri Corridor—which is only 160 kilometres away. The corridor, just 21 km wide and 60 km long, borders China, Bhutan, and Nepal. Aircraft operations from the base would occur near this highly sensitive region. Sharing minutes of a confi-

dential meeting, the intel source quoted Air Vice Marshal Md Manzur Kabir Bhuiyan, chairman of the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh, as saying, "The reconstruction of the Lalmonirhat airbase remains one of our national priority projects. The Chief of Air Force and relevant authorities are well aware of this. This initiative is not based on any other country's interests, but rather, it stems from our own national needs." But much before the Pahalgam terror attack, a high-level delegation comprising four senior members of the Pakistan Army and intelligence services visited Bangladesh on 23 January under strict confidentiality. The delegation was led by Pakistan's newly appointed NSA Lt Gen Muhammad Asim Malik. Accompanying him were ISI's director general of analysis Major General Shahid Amir Afsar, Major General Alam Amir Awan, and Special

Service Group (SSG) officer Muhammad Usman Latif. They arrived at Dhaka Airport around 5 pm and were received by a senior official from Bangladesh's military intelligence agency, DGFI, Brigadier General Mehdi. The delegation is said to have toured several air bases and military facilities and held meetings with high-ranking officials of the Bangladesh government. Before this visit, a Bangladeshi delegation led by Lieutenant General SM Kamrul Hasan, principal staff officer of the Armed Forces Division of Bangladesh, had visited Pakistan between 13 and 17 January with other senior officers. The delegation is said to have met with several high-ranking Pakistani officials, including Army chief General Asim Munir and Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee General Sahir Shamshad Mirza. The delegation also held confidential meetings with Pakistan's

Foreign Minister, Defence Minister, and Deputy Prime Minister. The Bangladeshi delegation reportedly expressed significant interest in acquiring Pakistan's advanced military equipment, particularly the JF-17 Thunder fighter jets. Lieutenant General SM Kamrul Hasan also commended the Pakistan Air Force's modern initiatives, cutting-edge technology, and locally developed technological frameworks. Munir is said to have expressed an interest in the production of JF-17 Thunder jets and other modern military hardware. The meeting reiterated both countries' commitment to enhancing military cooperation and strengthening bilateral relations. Following the fall of the Hasina government, Indian intel agencies noted a major reshuffle in the higher ranks of the Bangladesh military. Islamist officers were promoted to general ranks, with many of them directly endorsing what India sees as "terrorist ideologies and Pakistan's influence". Popular Bangladeshi YouTuber Azam Khan, who keeps a keen eye on political and strategic affairs in the country, told ThePrint that Bangladesh's military ranks have been reshuffled to promote radicalism, particularly hatred for India and Hindus. "We need to remember that the Bangladesh Army is the off-spring of the Pakistan Army. You can see Pakistani army patterns in their activities such as working as freelancers in foreign soil, killing politicians, and top generals clandestinely running big business enterprises which might be up to 5-10 per cent of the Bangladesh economy," he said.

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

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

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

### For the Pakistan Army, war is the performance of its nationhood

The stage was carefully set, and the actors perfectly costumed for the performance of their nationhood: soldiers in their creased uniforms, armed police in bright maroon sweaters, a man in a blue business suit, and a black-robed cleric. To them, General Asim Munir said: "Those who fight Allah and his Prophet and bring strife to the land will be punished in this life as well as the afterlife. This is your law. And this is Allah's law. And because you are enforcing Allah's law, you are his soldiers. There is no force on earth which can defeat you." Less than two hours after President Donald Trump announced an immediate ceasefire between India and Pakistan on Saturday, Srinagar and Jammu began to be targeted by drones. "This is no ceasefire," Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Omar Abdullah said. There are stories, possibly apocryphal, that the missiles fired were inscribed with the names of Masood Azhar Alvi's slain kin, a gesture of support for the internationally proscribed terrorist's loss. The unravelling of the ceasefire—or the belief of some Pakistani commanders that it does not apply to the Line of Control—showed at least some in the Pakistan Army had taken

the words of General Asim earnestly. They answer only to the law of God. To India, it ought to be an education on the real reasons why punitive retaliation to secure deterrence against terrorism hasn't worked. For many in Pakistan's armed forces, as well as influential forces in its civil society and politics, the use of violence in India isn't a means to an end. Instead, it is the inexorable outcome of a state of irreducible hatred, which can only be requited with a final war of annihilation. Listening in to the Pakistan Army when it talks to itself, the scholar C. Christine Fair taught us that religious militarianism was core to the institution's idea of itself. Through the Green Books, compilations of essays by mid-level officers published by the General Headquarters in Rawalpindi since at least 1990, Fair revealed a Pakistan Army stripped of its veneer of modernisation. It was an institution riven with anxieties over religious identity, hatred of India, and a driving desire to reinvent Pakistan as a theocratic state. Tariq Majid, a naval officer writing in the 1990 Green Book, thus argued that "the Islamic state, apart from the standing forces, keeps a volunteer force of the people and

employs the other lot of able-bodied manpower to strengthen the other elements of the military system during wartime." This volunteer force, of course, comprised the jihadist proxies Pakistan used in Kashmir and had used against the Soviet Union in Afghanistan. In the 1994 Green Book, Brigadier Saifi Ahmad Naqvi proposed that it was critical to remember that Pakistan "is an ideological state, based on the ideology of Islam." Therefore, "the existence and survival of Pakistan depend upon the complete implementation of Islamic ideology in true sense." This, he went on, meant that the Army was responsible not just for guarding Pakistan's territorial integrity but "the ideological frontiers to which the country owes its existence." Following the events of 9/11, this belief congealed into a kind of maniacal conspiratorialism. Even as his forces fought alongside the United States against the Taliban in Afghanistan, Brigadier Muneer Mahmood warned in the 2002 Green Book that Pakistan was being cast as the "torch-bearer of the Muslim ummah [global community] by the biased Western media and Jewish lobby." Thus, it was "likely to be the target of these forces."

### What Operation Sindoor Has Taught Us About War And 'Information'

The Modi government's decision to go in for caste enumeration in the next population census is not entirely unexpected. Although it marks a major ideological shift away from the Hindutva vision of crafting a united Hindu family undivided by caste, there were enough indications that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) was preparing to bite the bullet in the aftermath of its below par performance in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. Not only did an important National Democratic Alliance (NDA) ally - Chirag Paswan of the Lok Janshakti Party - speak out in favour of a caste headcount soon after the Modi govern-

ment 3.0 assumed office, but the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) also put its stamp of approval on the proposal as far back as last September at the end of a three-day conclave in Kerala's Palakkad. Overturning the Sangh's historic resistance to a caste headcount, a spokesperson said the organisation had no objection provided the results are used for the welfare of society, not as a political tool. It was left to the Modi government to make a formal announcement at a time of its choosing. On the face of it, the immediate impetus for the decision seems to be the upcoming assembly polls in

Bihar's caste-driven electoral landscape. However, a closer analysis reveals concerns beyond Bihar. Poll losses in 2024 have spurred deep fears within the BJP about possible attrition in the party's OBC (Other Backward Classes) vote. This base forms the bedrock of the BJP's rise to power and its unshakeable grip over the election system. The outcome showed some erosion across northern and western India. But it was the collapse in Uttar Pradesh that shook them.

In this most critical of all BJP strongholds, the party's seat tally plunged to 31 last year from a high of 62 in 2019, with

the entire benefit going to two INDIA bloc partners, the Samajwadi Party (SP) and the Congress. The extent of worry about shifting OBC loyalties can be gauged from the fact that the government chose to play the caste census gambit amid heightened tensions with Pakistan, which have been preoccupying the entire security establishment since the April 22 terror attack in Pahalgam. Two factors seem to have prompted the government to take time out for domestic politics even as it holds meeting after meeting to calibrate a fitting response to the provocation in Pahalgam.



## Apply now for Bachelor of Science degrees online at IIT Madras; JEE score not necessary

**Delhi:** Online Bachelor of Science (BS) Degree Programs in Electronic Systems and Data Science and Applications are now accepting applications from interested students at the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras). These undergraduate programs offer an alternative to the standard Joint Entrance Examination (JEE), while others are required to complete a four-week online preparatory program and pass an in-person qualifier exam. According to the news release, there are currently more than 38,000 students enrolled in these programs. These students come from a variety of academic backgrounds and include working professionals, career changers, and others. This cohort deviates significantly from the norm for engineering students in that 25% of its members are female and 20% are older than 30.

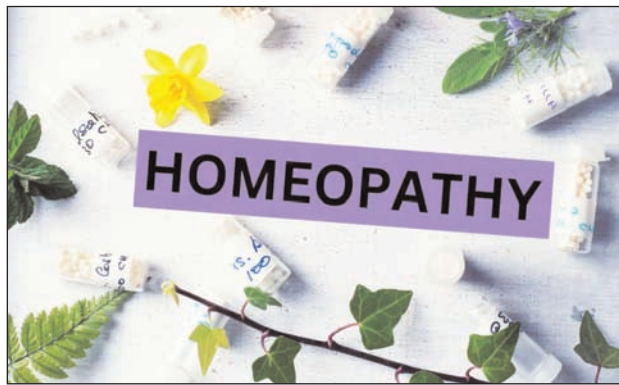


### No Kashmir, Palestine in DU psychology syllabus

**Delhi:** The Standing Committee on Academic Matters reportedly eliminated the Israel-Palestine conflict, Kashmir crisis, and dating app suicides from DU's psychology syllabus proposal. The study discussed Mahabharata, Bhagavad Gita, and Israel-Palestine and Kashmir wars. He claimed "Kashmir is resolved" and "we don't need to teach Israel-Palestine". The committee head rejected another proposal to integrate dating app psychology.

## NCH eases homoeopathy college teachers' rules

**Delhi:** The National Commission for Homoeopathy (NCH) recently amended MD Homoeopathy rules. NCH tightened post-graduate faculty rules in March 2024. However, these requirements were altered again. Colleges might have one assistant professor, an associate professor, and a professor for each PG specialization. Delhi: provided by the institute after last week's reforms. Since March last year, specialized departments need two associate professors and a professor, according to Careers360. The regulator has also relaxed the guide or



examiner qualification, allowing assistant professors to do so again. Only associate professors or professors might guide in 2024. Entry-level teachers have a student-guide ratio of 11, while associate professors and professors have 2.1 and 3:1, respectively, following

1989 guidelines. A National Medical Commission (NMC) proposal to ease medical college instructor qualifications precedes the reforms. Diploma holders and non-teaching consultants and specialists can become institute faculty under the new draft regulations.

## Students say the food in the IIT-D mess caused them ill

**Delhi:** According to an internet post, almost half of the students in a hostel at IIT Delhi were admitted to the hospital after reportedly eating food from the institute's kitchen. IIT-D refuted the accusations, claiming that the meal in question was ordered from an outside vendor rather

than being provided by the hostel mess. The message, which went viral on social media, claimed that many students became very ill after eating litti chokha from the dorm mess. The message, which generated a flurry of responses on social media, read, "I'm stand-

ing in line as I type this out, already waited for over 45 minutes and still six people ahead of me." The post went on to say, "Everyone ate the litti chokha that was provided at the hostel meal last night. People were getting sick like flies by dawn, which caused havoc. fever, chills.

## Students have the opportunity to check their answer sheets prior to requesting a re-evaluation

**Delhi:** The CBSE has updated its procedure for communicating with students following the release of exam results in Grades 10 and 12 in an effort to be more open and honest. Before students can request a verification or re-evaluation of their marks, they will be able to acquire photocopies of their graded answer sheets under the new method. This is a change from the previous procedure, which stated that students needed to submit an application for mark verification, then seek photocopies of their answer sheets, and then



submit an application for re-evaluation. "After getting a copy of their graded answers in the first step, candidates have the option to either re-evaluate a question or questions or verify their marks, which involves posting or totaling their marks or any

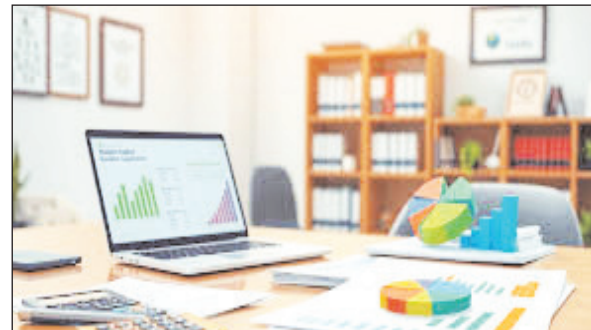
questions that were not graded. The board stated in a written notice that after acquiring a photocopy of the answer book, a candidate can ask for either a re-evaluation or a verification of marks, or both, according to the proper procedure.

### 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.

## A draft measure to monitor budgets, ensure accountability,

**Delhi:** A draft bill to establish rules governing school fees for all public and private schools in the city has been approved by the Delhi government. In order to prevent capricious increases and guarantee equity for parents, the bill, which was adopted by the Delhi cabinet, aims to create a clear and transparent process for school fee structures. According to the draft, schools that raise fees without authorization risk fines of up to Rs 10 lakh and the possibility of having their sta-



tus revoked once the bill becomes law. According to Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, each school will establish a fee regulation committee that will provide parents direct decision-making authority. Committees will be established at the school, district,

and state levels as part of a three-tiered committee structure for appeals pertaining to fee disputes. During talks with Gupta, a number of parents brought up the subject of capricious fee increases by schools, which led to the decision.

## Centre withholding funding for states not implementing PM SHRI is unjustified

**Delhi:** A parliamentary panel report tabled called withholding funds over non-adoption of the flagship PM Schools for Rising India (PM-SHRI) scheme "unjustifiable" and recommended that Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and West Bengal receive pending funds immediately.



Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and West Bengal have declined to sign an MoU with the Centre to implement the PM-SHRI project, which intends to modernize 14,500 schools and make them NEP 2020 model institutions. The Centre withheld funds from these states under the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan scheme (SSA), a flagship Indian government initiative to ensure universal elementary education (UEE) for children aged 6 to 14,

making free and compulsory education a fundamental right. In its 2025-26 demand for grants report for the Department of School Education & Literacy, chaired by Congress Rajya Sabha member Digvijaya Singh, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education, Women, Children, Youth, and Sports expressed serious concern over the non-release of SSA funds to states that have not signed MoUs for PM SHRI implementation. The audit states that West Bengal, Kerala,

## A group of educators is against UGC's plan to hold admissions twice a year

**Delhi:** A group representing educators has spoken out against the University Grants Commission's plan to hold undergraduate and graduate admissions twice a year. The idea was criticized as "impractical and destabilising" in a lengthy letter sent to the UGC chairperson by the Indian National Teachers' Congress (INTEC). "No serious consultation was held with universities or colleges," the letter adds. "What looks like flexibility on paper will, in practice, deeply disrupt the academic framework of higher education institutions," according to it. A single admission cycle is already a significant challenge for many institutions.



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Classes did not begin in July as usual due to the Common University Entrance Test's implementation, which notably pushed back the start of the academic year to September or October. Professor Pankaj Garg, chair of the INTEC, stated that adding a second cycle will further

complicate existing delays and disrupt the entire academic year. The teachers' union voiced concerns that having admissions twice a year would disrupt class schedules, make evaluations more difficult, and put too much administrative work on teachers and staff all year long.

## The Anti-Corruption Branch charges AAP's Sisodia and Jain with Rs 2,000 cr corruption

**Delhi:** The Delhi government's Anti-Corruption Branch (ACB) has charged top Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leaders Manish Sisodia and Satyendar Jain with irregularities in the construction of over 12,000 government school classrooms. The scandal allegedly cost the exchequer Rs 2,000 crore. In the Prevention of



Corruption Act case, BJP leaders Harish Khurana, Kapil Mishra, and Neelkanth Bakshi filed complaints. The trio claimed that 12,748 classrooms were built at 24.86 lakh each room, when they should have been built for Rs 5 lakh. A preliminary investigation by ACB chief Madhur Verma found that the project, which had a set cost and a deadline of June 2016, had major cost overruns and delays. "Not a single work was completed within the prescribed period, and significant deviations and cost escalations were observed," Verma. He added that 34 contractors, most of whom were supposedly AAP-affiliated, won project tenders. Initially awarded for Rs 860.63 crore, contract values climbed 17% to 90% due to enhanced material standards. Verma said the increase was 326.25 crore, of which 205.45 crore was due to costlier specifications, or 24% of the award value.



## Apple will source and manufacture all of its mobile devices in India

**Delhi :** While stating that Apple "has decided to source and produce all its mobile phones in India in the years to come," telecom minister Jyotiraditya Scindia made the claim that India has become a dependable and cost-effective manufacturing partner for smartphone manufacturers worldwide. At the Bharat Telecom event, Scindia stated that investing in India right now is not only a gesture of goodwill but also economically prudent for all original equipment manufacturers. Thanks to the government's production-linked incentive program, the minister noted, the telecom equipment industry has grown multiple times.

Sales of Rs 80,000 crore, exports of Rs 16,000 crore, and the creation of 25,000 jobs were all outcomes of an investment of Rs 4,000 crore—half a billion dollars in and of



itself.

With that in mind, he went on to say that India's telecom equipment business has also expanded tremendously. According to him, India is currently at the forefront of technological innovation and has not only caught up to the rest of the world in areas such as 4G and 5G, but is also forging its own future through massive reforms. A recent announcement by Apple CEO Tim Cook stated that for the June quarter, the bulk of iPhones sold in the US will be sourced from India, while the majority of smartphones for other markets will be produced in China.

### Bank to buy 20% stake

**Delhi :** The Japanese Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corp. (SMBC) will buy a 20% share in Yes Bank for 13,482 crore, marking the highest cross-border investment in the Indian banking sector. SMBC will buy Yes Bank shares from State Bank of India and other shareholders for ₹21.50, valuing the Mumbai-based lender at \$7.9 billion. "SMBC has entered into a definitive agreement on 9 May 2025 to acquire 20% stake in YES Bank through a secondary stake purchase of 13.19% from SBI and 6.81% aggregate stake from other bank shareholders.

## Indian Department of Telecom Approves Starlink to Roll Out Satellite Internet

**Delhi :** A major milestone in India's developing satellite broadband scene has been reached: Elon Musk's Starlink has received crucial regulatory approval to operate in the country. After Starlink agreed to meet India's updated security standards, the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) granted the business licenses for GMPCS, VSAT, and Internet service provider (ISP) operations. To corroborate the news, a government official informed MoneyControl, "Yes, Starlink has been issued a LoI by the DoT... the LoI came after it gave an



undertaking to meet license conditions and security protocols under the new revised security guidelines." Once the company has fulfilled all license responsibilities, final approval is anticipated. A greater crackdown on satellite internet companies in India followed the licensing process of Starlink. The

government revised the standards for lawful interception, data localization, gateway security clearance, and local manufacturing compliance the day before the LoI was announced. Starlink will soon receive In-SPACE authorization, according to a source.

## Govt is considering expanding US fertiliser imports to address US President concerns

**Delhi:** After LNG, the government is considering expanding US fertiliser imports to address US President Donald Trump's concerns over India's trade surplus. India will also become less dependent on China and Russia, its key shipping partners.

After the Ukraine war, sanctions on Moscow increased Russian fertiliser imports, like oil. India's trade deficit with Russia grew. Indian fertiliser imports totaled \$8.3 billion in the past financial year, with the US contributing \$300,000. India import-

ed \$86.5 billion in commodities from the US last year and had a \$41 billion trade surplus. The planned bilateral trade agreement with the US will cut tariffs to close the trade gap, but the government also wants to buy more American defense .

## BluSmart hoping to acquire Ja's stake and seize control

**Delhi :** Sources familiar with the matter have revealed that BluSmart investors are attempting to resurrect the ride-hailing company by discussing the possibility of buying out promoter Anmol Singh Jaggi. According to those in the know, the appraisal and due diligence processes are almost finished, and the legal issues surrounding the Jaggis' share transfer are being resolved. The deal, if finalized, would safeguard investors' funds, save drivers' jobs, and reintroduce BluSmart's electric taxis to the roads.

The departure of Jaggis, who established the firm



six years ago, would also be a consequence of this. Investors were spearheaded by Jaggis's other company, BP Ventures Engineering Ltd. As of February 2025, investors such as Softbank Mayfield India Fund, 100 Unicorns,

Responsability Investments, and celebrities like Deepika Padukone and M.S. Dhoni owned the remaining 70.9 percent of BluSmart, according to Tracxn. The promoters held 23.98% of the company.

### Another setback causes Oyo to postpone IPO plans

**Delhi:** Due to pushback from SoftBank and the unpredictable stock market this year, Oyo Hotels has decided to postpone its October IPO. Sources close to the situation say that SoftBank has expressed concerns about the planned timeframe and has asked Oyo to delay an IPO until its earnings are more stable. With investor appetite for risk dwindling due to Trump's trade policies, Oyo encounters a bleak market in its third attempt to go public since 2021. While Oyo founder Ritesh Agarwal indeed owns more than 30% of the company.

## HR issues Some work from home during travel advisories

**Delhi:** Many organizations have adopted safety protocols, business continuity plans, and flexible work regulations amid escalating border tensions. EY Global Delivery Services (EYGDS) informed staff that their crisis response unit and management are monitoring the situation. American Express reportedly banned employee transportation this week and asked them to work from home. American Express



and EY GDS didn't respond to an email until press time. Panasonic India has encouraged border-state employees to work from home, and AXA Global Business Services has enabled remote working. "We have issued travel advisory to border states in line

with the government directive," said Panasonic Life Solutions India CHRO Adarsh Mishra. Travel recommendations from HDFC Life advise employees to be vigilant, especially near borders. The company has told its teams to postpone or cancel off-site meetings until the situation improves.

"Our administration team and travel desk have been instructed to prioritize cancellations," said HDFC Life CHRO Vibhash Naik.

## The UK and India close key trade deal in 'new age' of Trump tariffs

**Delhi :** Britain and India signed a long-awaited free trade agreement as tariff upheaval caused by U.S. President Donald Trump accelerated commerce in whisky, cars, and food. After three years of stop-start negotiations, the world's fifth and sixth largest economies reached a deal to boost bilateral commerce by 25.5 billion pounds (\$34 billion) by 2040. The Reuters Tariff Watch newsletter provides daily global trade and tariff updates. Join here. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi called the trade accord "ambitious and mutually beneficial". British PM Keir Starmer said the enhanced partnership would lower trade obstacles in a "new era for trade". Nations are



seeking new trade partners and UK-savvy individuals because of Trump's tariffs. India discussions claimed the turbulence had heightened the desire to reach an agreement. The accord will decrease whisky tariffs, allow British enterprises to compete for Indian contracts, and make it easier for Indian workers to work in Britain, benefiting both economies. It shows India opening its long-guarded markets, notably automobiles,

providing an early model for its anticipated approach to major Western countries like the U.S. and the EU. It is Britain's biggest trade deal since leaving the EU in 2020, but its predicted economic production rise of 4.8 billion pounds a year by 2040 is tiny compared to its 2.6 trillion pounds GDP in 2024. The pact will reduce tariffs on 90% of Britain's tariff lines and zero charge on 99% of Indian goods, including textiles.

## For 2025-26, I-T Department notifies ITR forms 1, 4

**Delhi:** Individuals and companies with income up to Rs 50 lakh must file ITR forms 1 and 4 for assessment year (AY) 2025-26 with the income tax department. Anyone with long-term capital gains up to Rs 1.25 lakh in a fiscal year can submit ITR-1. Previously, they had to file ITR-



2. With the notification, individuals, HUFs, corporations with income up to Rs 50 lakh, and

those with business and professional incomes in 2024-25 (April-March) can file I-T returns. ITR Form 1 (Sahaj) and ITR Form 4 (Sugam) are easier forms for many small and medium taxpayers. Sahaj can be filed by a resident with an annual income of up to Rs 50 lakh from

salary, one residential property, other sources (interest), and agricultural income up to Rs 5,000. Individuals, Hindu Undivided Families (HUFs), and firms (other than LLPs) with yearly income up to Rs 50 lakh and business and profession revenue can file sugam.

## PM Narendra Modi's resolve made India a digital leader: Jyotiraditya Scindia

**Delhi :** Union Minister of Communications Jyotiraditya Scindia said Prime Minister Narendra Modi's bold vision and unrelenting resolve had changed India from a digital follower to a global digital leader, converting dreams into infrastructure and policy into progress. The minister told more than 130 foreign delegates from 35 countries at the launch of 'Bharat Telecom 2025' in the national capital that the conference is a declaration of India's intent to shape



global connectivity through innovation, collaboration, and inclusive growth. "When ideas, innovation, and intent come together in harmony, they create not a cacophony but a symphony, and 'Bharat Telecom' is that symphony of global collaboration and opportunity," the minister told the

audience, underlining India's export potential. The Telecom Equipment and Services Export Promotion Council (TEPC) and the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) organize the event, which helps India become a global telecom manufacturing, services, and export

### Get ready to travel the world with Indian Ports Global!

**Delhi:** The consortium plans to buy and run twenty ports in various parts of the world, including India, Africa, and Asia. The Indian government-owned Indian Ports Global Ltd is spearheading a consortium that plans to buy and administer

twenty ports across Asia, Africa, and India, according to two sources familiar with the situation. The Iranian firm that runs the famous Chabahar terminal is looking to expand into other ports in the Indian subcontinent.

hub. This is about connecting futures, not just villages. Every tower we build, every byte we send, provides 1.4 billion people opportunity, said

Scindia. We deployed 470,000 towers to connect 99 percent of our villages and 82% of our population to 5G in 22 months.



## India's first high-speed 280 kmph trains soon!

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

India's first indigenous high-speed train soon! In a big boost for Indian Railways' dreams of offering high-speed rail connectivity, the national transporter has awarded the contract for manufacturing high-speed trainsets to BEML. These trainsets will be the first indigenously designed and manufactured in India, with a test speed of 280 kmph, marking a significant step forward in the country's high-speed rail journey. The trains will feature a fully air-conditioned, Chair Car configuration, offering



**Govt. cancels employee leaves amid India-Pak tensions**

**Delhi :** Delhi administration cancelled employee leave due to escalating tensions between India and Pakistan and emergency readiness. Punjab closed all schools, colleges, and institutions for three days, as did Panchkula in Haryana. Gurugram's

modern passenger amenities such as reclining and rotatable seats, special provisions for passengers with restricted mobility, and onboard information systems, ensuring a comfortable and enjoyable

school shutdown was expected but not yet notified. The Services Department issued an order late tonight stating that no Delhi government officer will be granted leave until further orders due to the current scenario and emergency preparedness.

travel experience. BEML Limited has secured a contract from Integral Coach Factory (ICF), Chennai, for the design, manufacturing, and commissioning of two high-speed trainsets. Each trainset will con-

## Govt. lists Ola Electric's 'consumer rights infractions' to ARAI

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

are additional cited infractions. Old Electric is a FAME-II and PM E-DRIVE beneficiary under ARAI's eligibility requirements. Thus, MHI must get your opinions on the issue promptly "The ministry's letter to the testing centre stated. It further stated that under two EV incentive schemes, all OEMs, including Ola Electric, must maintain service centres to address consumer issues and provide warranties. Earlier, Union consumer affairs secretary and CCPA chief commissioner Nidhi Khare confirmed

that the National Consumer Helpline (NCH) has been receiving complaints for about a year. The company didn't answer problems effectively." CCPA can open a "class action" under the Consumer Protection Act if comparable complaints affect a 'class' of customers.' CCPA reports almost 10,600 complaints against the EV two-wheeler producer. Statute allows the CCPA to mandate recalls, price refunds, and the end of unfair and deceptive conduct. Sources said CCPA requested a 15-day

## Delhi authorities target unlawful encroachments on highways to improve public areas

**Delhi :** The authorities have found illegal encroachments on over 100 major highways, including Outer Ring Road, Mathura Road, Mehrauli-Badarpur Road, and Okhla Estate. PWD minister Parvesh Verma, district magistrates, and civic body officials

assessed the problem and identified some of these portions as persistently problematic. Rao Tularam Marg, Ring Road between Hyatt Regency and Moti Bagh, Bhikaji Cama Place-Ber Sarai intersection, and Vasant Vihar metro station area are also affected. Many

of these encroachment lawsuits include illegal car parking and street vendors. Temporary flower and fruit shops have appeared on footpaths, open spaces, even over sewers. Furniture businesses, tyre repair shops, and mechanics have too.



## One helpline for all rain problems in Delhi is 311

**Delhi :** The Delhi government will launch a unified helpline (311) and establish a central command center at Palika Kendra, the New Delhi Municipal Council headquarters, to handle monsoon-related concerns such as waterlogging and tree collapses. Delhi PWD minister Parvesh Verma stated this after seeing the NDMC's integrated command and control centre (ICCC) on Monday. All three Delhi governments are from the same party and coordinate well. "No blame game," Verma stressed. The rains four days ago swamped each department's complaint center with calls. The Smart City-created NDMC command center is functioning. We want to unite NDMC, MCD, PWD, DDA, the flood department, and the Jal Board under one command center. A single number for reporting waterlogging cases will follow. Verma noted that residents are confused about departmental jurisdictions, saying, "People don't know whether a street falls under PWD, MCD or DDA. With this new approach, they'll phone 311 and the complaint will be immediately forwarded to the right department. The chief minister should be able to access live camera feeds from across Delhi to identify waterlogged areas during an inspection. This was a step toward "One Delhi, One Number," said Verma. He stated, "Citizens won't need to worry about who's responsible—they'll just call 311, and action will follow."

## Over 5,600 Delhi government employees on ration subsidy list

**Delhi :** The Delhi government's Information Technology (IT) department has written to the services department recommending action against over 5,600 employees who received subsidised food under the National Food Security Act. After reviewing ration card records, the IT department uncovered more than 3,000 cases where beneficiaries received heavily subsidized rations despite receiving revenue department income certifications stating yearly incomes of over Rs 1 lakh. The revenue department has been asked to investigate these data by IT. The discrepancies were found following a preliminary study of food and supply, Delhi



PAO, and revenue data. Officials said the IT department is creating a Unified Data Hub to centralize data across divisions. Data analytics, cross-referencing, real-time updates, and better governance will result. For this project, Delhi government departments like food and supplies,

PAO, and revenue have exchanged records with IT. Preliminary research showed that 5,621 food and supply beneficiaries match Delhi government employee PAO data. According to an official, 395 recipients were placed as family heads in ration cards. The food and supply, services,

### DTC will launch e buses connecting three Delhi ISBTs with Noida

**Delhi ;** Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) have announced that electric bus services will begin connecting the capital to the soon-to-be-built Noida International Airport (NIA) in Jewar. Despite the airport's probable failure to meet the May operational deadline, buses will depart from three Inter State Bus Terminals (ISBTs) in Delhi: Maharana Pratap ISBT at Kashmere Gate, Swami Vivekanand ISBT at Anand Vihar, and Veer Hakikat Rai ISBT at Sarai Kale Khan.

**Delhi :** The Delhi government has ordered all government hospitals and health facilities to increase emergency preparedness, including painting a Red Cross sign on hospital rooftops to signal medical facilities from the air amid the growing military tension with Pakistan. In light of recent events, the guidelines require immediate action to ensure patient care and emergency readiness. require immediate action to maintain patient care and emergency preparation. Government officials

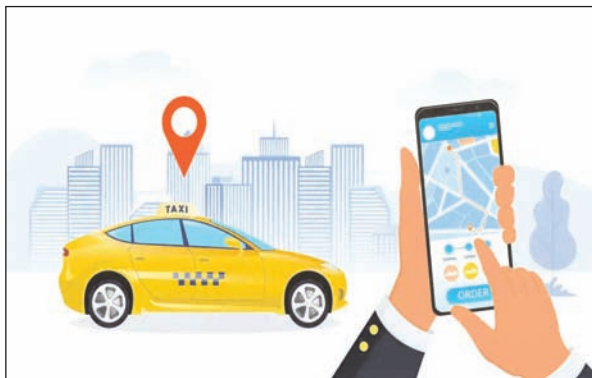


have ordered hospitals to hold another disaster readiness mock practice. They must also stockpile important drugs and consumables, maintain generator sets with fuel backup, and test emergency services including ICUS, oxygen delivery systems, and ventilators.

To enable 24-hour trauma care, hospitals must cancel surgeon, orthopaedic, and burn care specialist leaves. In addition, institutions must update ICU bed and equipment data on the ICU portal, secure hospital websites, and keep canteens and mess services stocked with food.

## IGIA raises app-based cab pickup cost

**Delhi :** According to sources, Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) has raised pick-up prices by 40% for app-based cab aggregator passengers from Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport. The increased fees apply to Ola and Uber rides from all three airport terminals. The amended collection fee is Rs 245 + 18% GST = Rs 289. Previous fees were Rs 173, excluding GST. From Delhi airport capital, Ola and Uber make four lakh monthly journeys. "Airport pick-up cost in Delhi is already among the highest in India and comes to roughly 25% of the rider's total average ticket," a source said. "With the new increase, riders will pay around 40%. The substantial increase does not provide new rider facilities." Pick-up fees are revised. The insider stated the pick-up will be



among the most expensive in the country after the increase. Rider airport charge includes airport pick-up fee, toll tax, driver profits, and commission. Riders will pay more due to the airport fee hike. The toll tax and airport pick-up fee will average 50% of the entire fare and go to the airport, not the driver or aggregator. DIAL did not respond immediately. Uber said that all airport trips on the cab aggregator include a pick-up cost as part of our commercial agreements with airports. This cost goes to the airport.

### Tata Group to step up competition with Indigo!

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

## Delhi's new EV policy aims to create 20,000 jobs; targets 95% electric vehicle registrations

**Delhi :** Manjinder Singh Sirsa, the environment minister of Delhi, stated that the new electric vehicle policy might generate 20,000 employment through the construction of a citywide network of charging and interchangeable battery stations.

To lessen environmental damage, this strategy promotes the use of electric vehicles. The goal is to convert mass categories to electric vehicles, which includes two-wheelers, buses, three-wheelers, and cargo carriers. He



announced that during the policy time, the Delhi government will strive to create 20,000 jobs related to electric vehicles. To drastically cut down on pollution, the government has set a goal of having 95% of new car registrations

be electric by 2027. It is our intention to make charging and battery changing infrastructure widely available to the public. Our goal is to have charging stations available at all times by the year 2030," he added.

### During India-Pakistan tensions, Delhi tests air sirens

**Delhi :** The national capital heard air raid sirens as part of a simulated practice amid rising tensions between India and Pakistan and two rounds of missile and drone attacks from across the border. The Delhi government warned that the Directorate of Civil Defence would test air raid sirens at the Public Works Department (PWD) headquarters in ITO before the rehearsal and not to panic. Testing will begin at 3 PM and last 15-20 minutes. The statement demanded significant social and electronic media publicity to advise the people to be calm and not panic throughout the exercise. District Magistrate (Central) G Sudhakar advised people to stay calm when sirens sound.

In addition, the policy calls for the construction of charging and swappable battery stations all across the city, as well as battery collection centers.

### Delhi golfers seek DGC practice rights, threaten Jantar Mantar protest

**Delhi:** Two-time Asian Tour winner Rashid Khan and numerous Delhi caddie-professional golfers will sit-in at Jantar Mantar on May 5 to win the right to practice at the Delhi Golf Club (DGC). Delhi caddie-pros and the DGC have been at odds for years. Long-running conflict has prompted



many pros to go to other courses or quit the sport, damaging their livelihoods. The affected golfers are seeking DGC practice authorization in the Delhi High Court. The case has been listed 30 times since February 4, 2020, without a hearing. Eight years before the contract expired,

the government renewed the DGC lease until 2050 in September 2012. DGC stopped allowing caddie-pros to practice in 2012. The protesting golfers argue that the club is on government land and serves to promote and advance golf, thus they should be allowed to practice there.



## 'Physical, technical external interference': Azerbaijan Airlines

Azerbaijan Airlines on evealed that initial investigation into the crash of its aircraft in Kazakhstan that killed 38 was likely due to "external interference of a physical and technical nature", fuelling discussions about potential involvement of Russian air defence systems. The airline has also halted operations to 10 airports in Russia, stating their decision was "based on the preliminary results of the investigation into the crash of the Embraer 190 aircraft operating the Baku-Grozny flight J2-8243 of Azerbaijan Airlines due to physical and technical external interference". This comes after, Russia, earlier in the day, put the blame on Ukraine, claiming that Ukrainian drones were attacking the city of Grozny as the Azerbaijani Airlines plane attempted to land, before its subsequent crash in Kazakhstan. "Ukrainian military drones were carrying



out terrorist attacks on civilian infrastructure... at the time," Chief of Russia's civil aviation authority Dmitry Yadrov said, adding that the plane made two unsuccessful attempts to land. "The pilot was offered alternative airports. He took the decision to go to Aktau airport" in Kazakhstan, he said. Also read: 'Ukrainian military was carrying out terrorist attacks when Azerbaijani flight tried to land,' claims Russia However, Ukraine has put the blame on Russia and said, "Russia must be held responsible for the downing of the Azerbaijan Airlines plane."

### Balaji's mother opens up on his death: 'It doesn't look normal'

Balaji, who played a key role in organising data for OpenAI's models, resigned in August, calling its practices unfair. By November, The New York Times' lawyers named him as a key figure in their copyright case against OpenAI. However, on November 26, shortly after his 26th birthday, Balaji was found dead in his San apartment. Authorities ruled his death a suicide, yet his family remains unconvinced, pushing for a deeper investigation.

## Elon criticises Bezos' ex-wife Scott for \$16 billion donation

Tech mogul Elon Musk described the philanthropic efforts of MacKenzie Scott, the ex-wife of Amazon founder Jeff Bezos, as "concerning." His comment came in response to a social media post scrutinising Scott's extensive donations, alleging that her initiatives primarily fund non-profits promoting divisive ideologies rather than addressing pressing global issues. The post highlighted Scott's "trust-based philanthropy," which involves providing no-strings-attached grants to over 2,500 non-profits. It alleged that her focus on causes such as racial



equity, immigrant rights, and LGBTQ justice feeds what the post described as an "NGO/non-profit complex," creating jobs for individuals seeking to validate their expensive degrees. The post further detailed Scott's \$16 billion in donations over

five years, noting her wealth remains substantial at \$36 billion, boosted by Amazon's rising stock price. Scott, the ex-wife of Amazon founder Jeff Bezos, has become one of the most prolific philanthropists in recent years.

## MAGA Civil War: Why Indian-Americans, the new Jews, are irking Donald Trump supporters

There's a theory out there—wild, audacious, but surprisingly hard to dismiss—that just about everything worth celebrating in Western civilization was dreamed up, built, or perfected by Jews. From splitting the atom to decoding life itself, from rewriting the

rules of music to redefining what it means to be human, Jewish brilliance turned the world into their intellectual playground. Let's take a stroll down the hall of fame: J. Robert Oppenheimer, the "father of the atomic bomb," quite literally blew the lid off 20th-

century science. Albert Einstein, the cosmic poet, bent time and space to his will. Jonas Salk saved millions from polio, and Rosalind Franklin cracked the code of life itself with her DNA discoveries. And that's just the lab coats.

## Shark Tank's Kevin says half of Canadians are interested in becoming 51st state

Shark Tank's Kevin O'Leary said most of the Canadians are interested in merging with the US.

Shark Tank's Kevin O'Leary, a Canadian, said he is very much enthusiastic about the idea of Canada being merged with the United States and half of the Canadians are but they don't want Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to do the deal with President-elect Donald Trump. The Canadian businessman said he would go to Mar-a-Lago to talk about a US-Canada merger. "There are 41 million Canadians, basically the population of California, sitting on the world's largest amount of all resources, including the most important: energy and water. Canadians, over the holidays, the last two days, have been talking about this. They want to hear more. Obviously, there are a lot of issues, more details of what could be the beginning of an economic union. Think about the power of combining two economies erasing the border between Canada and the United States and putting all that resource up to the northern borders where China and Russia are knocking on the door. So secure that, give a common currency, figure out taxes across the board...I like this idea and at least half of the Canadians are interested," Kevin O'Leary said. But the problem is, Kevin O'Leary continued, that most of the Canadians don't trust Trudeau to carry out the negotiation with his government collapsing and hence he said he would go to Mar-a-Lago to talk to Trump about this. He said he believed that Canadians would trust him with the negotiation. The issue started as a joke at a Mar-a-Lago dinner where Justin Trudeau and his government officials joined Donald Trump. It was a courtesy visit from Trudeau after Trump said he would impose a 25 per cent tax on Canada.



## CNN's Scott Jennings mocks Vivek for 'prom queen' dig: 'Someone got stuffed in a locker'

CNN's Scott Jennings made fun of Vivek Ramaswamy's rant against the American culture over the H-1B row and without naming the DOGE co-chief, Jennings said someone got stuffed in a locker. "I'm not going to say who. Look, I think there's a way to talk about this that doesn't denigrate all of American culture," Jennings said without covering his feelings of hurt caused by Ramaswamy's strong words against America's prom queen culture. "I'm now understanding more and more how he got 100 votes in Iowa or whatever it was he got during the Iowa caucus," Jennings said taking another dig at Ramaswamy who had challenged Donald Trump in the



Republican primaries but got a very poor electoral support in Iowa which prompted him to end his campaign following which he endorsed Trump. After Trump's win in the election, Trump made Vivek Ramaswamy the co-chief of the Department of Government Efficiency along with Elon Musk.

The row goes back to Sriram Krishnan's advocacy

for removing the visa cam for countries.

Sriram Krishnan will work for artificial intelligence at the White House but the Indian-American's lobbying for more Indians in America by removing the cap on H-1B visas ruffled many feathers of Make America Great Again activists. But Elon Musk, Vivek Ramaswamy supported Sriram Krishnan's idea.

### 'Settle issues' of 1971, Yunus urges Pakistan PM, but mum on apology

Bangladesh's chief adviser, Muhammad Yunus, urged Pakistani PM Shehbaz Sharif to resolve outstanding issues from 1971 to improve bilateral relations. While Sharif highlighted the 1974 tripartite agreement, Yunus emphasized the importance of a SAARC summit. Both leaders agreed to strengthen ties through trade, cultural exchanges, and cooperation in areas like sugar industry and dengue management.

ISLAMABAD: A Pakistani minister on Wednesday defended the military trial of civilians, saying that such courts were competent to deal with the cases related to attacks on army facilities. Information minister Attaullah Tarar also urged the opposition Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) led by Imran to refrain from politicising or disputing the issue of military trials. "When an attack is carried out on a defence institution or its property is set ablaze, it becomes the responsibility of the relevant authorities to



apprehend the culprits. Just as railway police handle crimes on railway premises, military courts address offences targeting assets. So, when attacks on military assets occur, the Military Act is enforced," he said while addressing a press conference. Tarar criticised Khan's party for using military courts as a political

tool, aiming to create controversy around them. He clarified that military courts only handle cases involving attacks on defence establishments, citing incidents such as the attack on the Corps Commander's House in Lahore. The minister also criticised the PTI for changing its stance regarding trials of civilians in the military courts, recalling that during Khan's tenure, military court trials were praised. "The statements praising the military courts from PTI's leadership are still available on social media.

## Rice shipment from India, first for Yunus government, to arrive today

DHAKA: Bangladesh is set to receive its first consignment of rice imported from India since the formation of the new interim govt even as it looks to be drawing closer to Pakistan than to its immediate neighbour India, which stood beside Bangladesh in 1971 through shared sacrifices. Bangladesh had witnessed ships



coming from Karachi twice in recent days. On Nov 13, for the first time since independence, a container-carrying ship sailing directly from Karachi had docked at Chattogram (Chittagong). This time the ship "MV Tanais Dream", carrying 24,690 metric tonnes of parboiled rice imported from India under the open tender agreement, will arrive at Chaudagram port at 5.30am on Thursday. This is also the first consignment of parboiled rice imported from India under the Nov 11

agreement. The unloading of the rice will start soon after samples of the rice are collected and after physical examination, said a senior Bangladesh food ministry official. Talking to diplomatic correspondents in Dhaka recently, Indian high commissioner to Bangladesh Pranay Verma had said he was optimistic about Dhaka-Delhi relationship despite changes happening around. "This we look at the relationship. We have so many things to offer each other with our growing.

## Pak military court sentence 60 more civilians, including Imran's nephew

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's military courts sentenced another 60 civilians on Thursday to prison terms ranging from two to 10 years for their alleged involvement in violent attacks on military installations during the nationwide protests on May 9, 2023 following the brief arrest of jailed former prime minister Imran Khan on graft charges. The latest sentences were announced just days after the same courts handed prison terms ranging from two to 10 years to 25 civilians on similar allegations. Imran's nephew Hassan Khan Niazi, who was taken into military custody in Aug 2023, was one of two people sentenced to 10 years' rigorous imprisonment. The convictions followed a Supreme Court constitution bench order that had



### Imran's nephew Hassan Khan Niazi, who was taken into military custody in Aug 2023, was one of two people sentenced to 10 years' rigorous imprisonment

conditionally allowed military courts to pronounce verdicts on 85 under-custody civilians in cases related to the May 9 riots. "The Field General Court Martial has promulgated the punishments to the following remaining 60 culprits after examining all evidence, ensuring the provision of all legal rights to the convicts, completion of due process and the

appropriate legal proceedings," Inter-Services Public Relations, the army's media wing, said. "All convicts retain the right to appeal and other legal recourses, as guaranteed by the constitution and law.

" it stated. "The nation, govt, and the armed forces remain steadfast in their commitment to upholding justice and

## Vietnam's restrictive internet law comes into force

A new internet law in Vietnam, Decree 147, gives the government increased control over internet access and content in the name of national security and social order. It mandates tech companies to store user data, verify accounts, and remove deemed illegal content within 24 hours. Critics argue this suppresses free speech and impacts livelihoods. A new internet law that gives the Vietnamese government expanded powers over internet services and people using them is set to officially take effect Wednesday. Decree 147 expands government control over access to information on the internet for reasons of "national security" and "social order." The law requires social media platforms providing services to users in Vietnam to store user data and provide it to authorities on demand. The government issued the decree this November, and it requires organizations to take down anything the authorities consider "illegal content" within 24 hours. Decree 147 has sparked concerns, with researchers and experts tracking the country saying that the law is part of a growing crackdown on civil society. "Because the Vietnamese police treat any criticism of the Communist Party of Vietnam as a national security matter, this decree will provide them with yet another tool to suppress dissent," said Patricia Gossman, associate Asia director at Human Rights Watch. The decree requires tech giants like Facebook and TikTok among other organizations,

