

# 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



### 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 today. The letter mentions that the Congress delegation is going to meet the Chief Electoral Officer.

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.

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

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 Sindo 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

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 percent tariff will put a direct economic burden.

## Vladimir Putin will visit India later this year

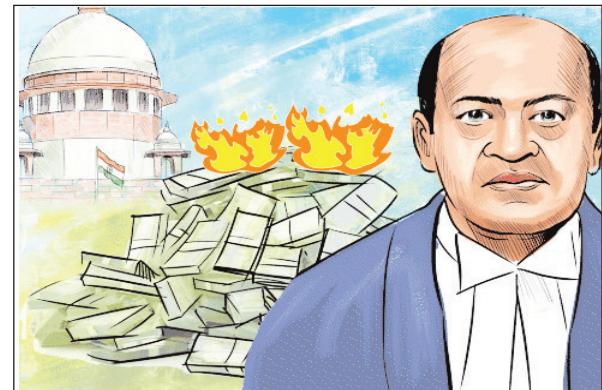


### Objective

□ The objective of the meeting was to strengthen energy

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 finalized 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

## 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-

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 Employment

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



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.

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.

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

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



**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

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."

## Are RLD MLAs politically future-conscious?



Waft 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 somewhere. This uncertainty makes RLD MLAs uncomfortable in the party.

**Delhi:** Two RLD MLAs Rajpal Balyan 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

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



### 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.

## 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



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



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Criminal fired 16 rounds, escaped Insp

**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 has 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

### 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, Prabhanjan 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.

### 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 Shivrampur 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.

## Inspection of flood areas by Municipal Commissioner



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## India Scouts and Guides

### Divisional review meeting held

#### Review

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

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**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 Ramnaryan 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.

## Death of elderly man under suspicious circumstances

### Spreads sensation among villagers

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**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.

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 of 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."



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

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."

## 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.

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

## Yogi govt bulldozes over 130 illegal constructions

#### 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, Eidgahs, madarsas, 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.

## 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 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 offspring 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 millenarianism 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 Sindoos 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) and are made to be both accessible and flexible, giving students another way to get an IIT-quality education. Through the official portal [study.iitm.ac.in](http://study.iitm.ac.in), applications will be accepted until May 20, 2025. No age or seat limit applies; the programs are accessible to all students who have finished Class 12. The goal of this program is to make top technical education more accessible to more people, which is a larger objective of IIT Madras. A direct entrance is available



to candidates who qualify through the 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.

## 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.

**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.

## 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 (UAE) 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 destabilizing" 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. Classes did not begin in July as usual due to the Common University Entrance Test's implementation."

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.



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

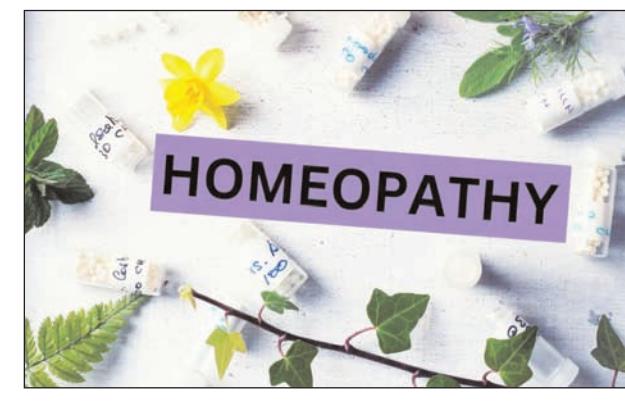
**Delhi:** The Delhi government's Anti-Corruption Branch (ACB) has charged top Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leaders Manish Sisodia and Satyendar Jain with irregularities in the construction of over 12,000 government school classrooms. The scandal allegedly cost the exchequer Rs 2,000 crore. In the Prevention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

## European Space Agency shares high-resolution 'Ram Setu' image

Between Rameswaram Island on India's southeast coast and Mannar Island on Sri Lanka's northwest coast, the Ram Setu runs 48 kilometers. Copernicus Sentinel-2 satellites captured the image. Satellites with an innovative wide-swath high-resolution multispectral imager with 13 spectral bands offer a unique view of land and vegetation.



## Lawrence School, Sanawar shines at State Swimming C'ship

**Chandigarh:** The 2nd HP State Swimming Championship concluded at The Lawrence School, Sanawar on Wednesday wherein over 178 swimmers from 12 districts, including five school teams competed in the two-day event. Chief Guest Praveen Bhardwaj, BDO Kasauli praised the spirit of the participants and highlighted the role of sports in character building. The Lawrence School, Sanawar lifted the Overall State Championship Trophy with Pinegrove School finishing as Runners-Up. Samaira Dhankar (LS, Sanawar) and Bhusan Thakur (Solan) were declared Best Swimmers in the Open categories while Adhiraj Singh (LS, Sanawar) and Bhagverdhkma Verma (Solan) won top honours in the Under-17 category. Headmaster Himmat Singh Dhillon expressed gratitude to all involved and reaffirmed the school's commitment to nurturing sporting talent across Himachal Pradesh.

## 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

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



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

**Delhi:** 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. (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

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-

## 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 subsidised 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,

## IGIA raises app-based cab pickup cost



### 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 is

## 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

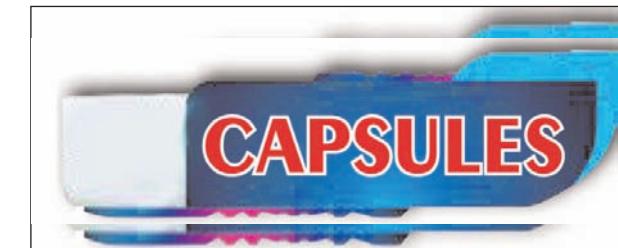
**Delhi:** Two-time Asian Tour winner Rashid Khan and numerous Delhi caddie-professional golfers will sit in at Jantar Mantar on May 5 to win the right to practice at the Delhi Golf Club (DGC). Delhi caddie-pros and the DGC have been at odds for years. Long-running conflict has prompted



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.



### 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."

## Hospitals in Delhi must be prepared for emergencies



**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. 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. 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.

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

Azerbaijan Airlines revealed 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 Azerbaijani 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'



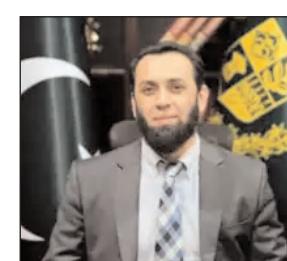
Republican primaries but got a very poor electoral support in Iowa which prompted him to end his campaign following which he endorsed Trump. After Trump's win in the election, Trump made Vivek Ramaswamy the co-chief of the Department of Government Efficiency along with Elon Musk. The row goes back to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

for removing the visa cap 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.

## Pak minister defends military trial of civilians



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



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 Chittagong (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 Chittagong 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

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,

