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

इनदौर्वास **INBOX**
Former Jharkhand CM Shibu Soren passes away

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday visited Delhi's Sir Ganga Ram Hospital to pay tribute to veteran Jharkhand leader and former chief minister Shibu Soren, who passed away earlier in the day after a prolonged illness. Soren, 81, was undergoing treatment for kidney-related ailments and had been on life support for the past month. PM Modi also met Jharkhand chief minister Hemant Soren and other family members. In a post the Prime Minister said: "Went to Sir Ganga Ram Hospital to pay homage to Shri Shibu Soren Ji. Also met his family. My thoughts are with Hemant Ji, Kalpana Ji and the admirers of Shri Shibu Soren Ji."

NMC rules allow complaints against docs, but commission rejects them

NEW DELHI: Responding to a Parliament question on whether the National Medical Commission (NMC) was biased towards doctors, the health ministry has stated that the ethics regulation of 2002 provided for complaints against doctors. However, NMC's ethics section has been rejecting all patient appeals claiming.

Russia walks out of nuclear treaty with US; cites 'actions of Western countries'

MOSCOW: Russia on Monday announced it no longer considers itself bound by the 1987 Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty, blaming "the actions of Western countries" for creating a "direct threat" to its security. In a statement reported by RT, the Russian Foreign ministry said the conditions for maintaining the treaty had "disappeared," and that the country is no longer observing its previous self-imposed restrictions. "The Russian ministry notes the of conditions for the unilateral moratorium on the deployment of similar weapons and is authorized to state that Russia.

India calls out US, EU over oil trade with Russia

India Unfazed By Trump Tantrums; Gives This Big Directive To Refiners

Unreasonable

India on Monday pushed back against US President Donald Trump's threat

NEW DELHI: India on Monday pushed back against US President Donald Trump's threat to "substantially" raise tariffs on Indian goods over its continued oil imports from Russia, calling the targeting of India "unjustified and unreasonable." In a sharply worded statement, the ministry of external affairs (MEA) defended India's energy strategy, saying that its crude oil purchases from Russia are "a



necessity compelled by global market conditions" and not a political endorsement of Moscow. "India will take all necessary measures to safeguard its national interests and economic security," the MEA said in a statement, while pointing out that the US and European Union have themselves continued

trade with Russia, including in energy and critical commodities, despite publicly opposing the Ukraine conflict. The response came hours after Trump accused India of "buying massive amounts of Russian oil and selling it on the open market for big profits," and vowed to penalize New

Trump's rhetoric has escalated over the past week

Trump's rhetoric has escalated over the past week. He previously said India and Russia could "take their dead economies down together," prompting India to assert that it remains the world's fastest-growing major economy. The MEA also pointed out what it called "double standards."

Delhi by raising tariffs. The US President had earlier signed an executive order on August 1 titled 'Further modifying the reciprocal tariff rates', slapping a 25% duty on Indian goods.

Congress takes shot at PM Modi over Trump's latest threat



NEW DELHI: The Congress on Monday launched sharp attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi saying "Why is Modi afraid" following US President Donald Trump's remarks threatening increased tariffs on India over its continued oil trade with Russia. The party questioned PM Modi's silence, alleging that foreign policy under the BJP government had become more about optics than national interest.

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh in a post on X said, "So much for Howdy Modi. So much for Namaste Trump. So much for Ab ki Baar Trump Sarkar. So much for BJP MPs hailing Narendra Modi as India's trump-card." Jairam Ramesh added, "Despite all the hugs, all the handshakes, all the high-decibel bromance — 'My friend Dolaand' has delivered yet another jolt." He questioned what came of the "much-vaunted" front-row seat at Trump's inauguration or the prime minister being one of the first world leaders to visit the White House.

Kerala: More bones found at suspect's house; women missing since 2006

Kerala: Kerala police on Monday recovered more human remains from a 2.5-acre property in Pallippuram, Cherthala, as part of an ongoing investigation into the disappearance of several middle-aged women over the past two decades. Police sources told PTI that 20 charred bones were

recovered from a new spot on the premises, separate from where body parts were first found last week. The discovery is part of an ongoing investigation led by the Kottayam unit of the State Crime Branch. Cadaver dogs and forensic experts were brought in as officers carried out a detailed search across the com-

plex, including ponds and marshland. Some clothing items were also recovered from one of the ponds. The investigation centres around Sebastian, 68, a real estate broker, who was arrested last week in connection with the disappearance of Jainamma, a woman from Ettumanur who went missing in December.

'Boots must share space with bots': Army chief Gen Dwivedi



power with emerging technologies. Speaking at the Indian Institute of Technology-

Prepared

Stresses readiness for 5th-gen conflicts; inaugurates 'Agnishodh' to boost defence

Madras, Gen Dwivedi described future battlefields as ones "where boots must share space

with bots." He was addressing a session on 'Operation Sindoor - A

New Chapter in India's Fight Against Terrorism', and used the occasion to highlight India's evolving military doctrine and readiness.

Describing Operation Sindoor as a turning point, Gen Dwivedi said it was an "intelligence-driven response" that redefined India's counter-terrorism doctrine."

Kupwara cave raid: Chinese arms, IED manual recovered in 3-day joint op



following a joint three-day operation, officials said on Monday. The Border Security Force, Indian Army, and Jammu and Kashmir Police carried out the operation between August 2 and 4. According to a state-

TMC feud escalates: Kalyan Banerjee quits as party chief whip in Lok Sabha

NEW DELHI: Senior Trinamool Congress (TMC) MP Kalyan Banerjee has resigned from his position as the party's chief whip in the Lok Sabha, news agency PTI reported on Monday, citing party sources. Just minutes before the news of his resignation emerged, Banerjee, who represents Serampore in the Lok Sabha, took to social media platform X to criticise Moitra over her alleged remarks.

Lucknow: In a high-level meeting held on Monday, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath instructed officials to carry out a comprehensive and intensive review of the physical infrastructure of council schools across the state. Emphasizing the government's commitment to quality education, he made it clear that no school should suffer from dilapidated buildings, unhygienic conditions, or lack of basic facilities. Where such issues exist, immediate corrective action must be initiated, and accountability of the concerned officials

CM Yogi orders comprehensive infrastructure review in council schools



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fixed, CM Yogi asserted. The Chief Minister reaffirmed the government's resolve to provide children with an inspiring, clean, and safe learning environment. To this

end, he directed that special teams be constituted in every district, led by the District Magistrate and BSA, to conduct on-ground verification of school conditions. The review must comprehensively assess various aspects, including the structural integrity of school buildings, availability of drinking water, functioning toilets, electricity supply, furniture, wall painting, ramp facilities.

Omar plays down J&K statehood buzz



announcement in the immediate future, saying he expects "nothing to happen tomorrow" but remains hopeful for the rest of the monsoon session. "I've heard every possible permutation and combination about

what to expect in J&K tomorrow so let me stick my neck out and say nothing will happen tomorrow," Abdullah said in a post on X. "Fortunately nothing bad will happen but unfortunately nothing positive will happen either." While brushing aside the likelihood of any significant development on Tuesday, Abdullah added that he remains "optimistic about something positive for J&K in this monsoon session."

High court asks accused in cheating case with Sidhu's wife to deposit passport

CHANDIGARH: The Punjab and Haryana High Court on Monday asked Gagandeep Singh, who is facing criminal cases for allegedly duping crick-

eter-turned-political leader Navjot Singh Sidhu's wife, Navjot Kaur, to deposit his passport with the investigating officer upon arrival from Dubai.

The HC also clarified that if he arrives in the country and attends the mediation centre to settle his dispute with Kaur amicably, the police shall not arrest him.

Ahead of Bihar polls, EC plans house-to-house survey for electoral roll

Delhi: The Election Commission of India is planning to conduct an "intensive house-to-house verification" of the voters' list in Bihar ahead of the assembly polls due in the state later this year, officials said. Concerns have been raised by various civil society organisations, political parties and others persistently over the inclusion or deletion of names in the electoral rolls, the officials said. To ensure the system is completely robust and error-free, the ECI is considering an intensive house-to-house verification during the upcoming electoral roll revision before the Bihar Assembly polls," an ECI official familiar with the matter said, requesting anonymity. Such an intensive and rigorous revision of the electoral rolls has been done in the past as well with the last such exercise undertaken in 2004, the official said. The regular exercise of revision of electoral rolls is undertaken annually throughout the country.

try by the EC and also before the holding of elections or bypolls. The provisions regarding eligibility to be registered as a voter and disqualification are

Moushumi Bhattacharya and BR Madhusudhan Rao ruled that khula is a no-fault, non-confrontational divorce initiated exclusively by the woman and takes immediate effect in the private sphere. "Since the wife's right to demand khula is absolute and does not require a cause or the husband's acceptance, a court's only.

clearly laid down in Article 326 of the Constitution and Section 16 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950.

UGC bans 3 private universities from PhD admissions for 5 years

Due to academic misconduct and UGC PhD regulations, OPJS University (Churu), Sunrise University (Alwar), and Singhania University (Jhunjhunu) have been forbidden from accepting PhD students for five years (2025-26 to 2029-30). Admissions at three Rajasthan universities were suspended immediately. Following admission exam protocols, Research Advisory Committee (RAC) creation, and thesis evaluation criteria, the UGC found their practices inadequate. Another 30 are being examined. The UGC said, "After analysing/examining/evaluating the information/data submitted by the universities, the Standing Committee has



found that three universities did not follow the provisions of the UGC PhD regulations and also the academic norms for the award of PhD degrees... the responses received from these universities were not found satisfactory." UGC chair M Jagadesh Kumar stressed PhD program

integrity and said additional Indian universities are being reviewed. To maintain Indian higher education's reputation, violations may result in similar punishments. PhD programs should be held to the highest standards by universities. Institutions that violate

830 flats sold in just a month under Apna Ghar scheme

Delhi: Within a month of launching Apna Ghar Awas Yojana 2025, Delhi Development Authority has managed to sell 830 flats, with 630 or 75% of the units in Narela alone. According to officials, 150 flats were sold in Loknayakpuram and 50 in Siraspur. "The positive momentum of the scheme is particularly evident in Narela, where all 115 EWS flats in Sector A1 A4 were fully booked. Additionally, MIG flats in Loknayakpuram are almost sold out," said an official. The scheme offered ready-to-move-in flats at discounted rates across various categories, including economically weaker sections, low-income group (LIG), middle-income group (MIG) and high-income group (HIG). "It is an entirely online scheme, for which registration opened on



Voter list update suggests EC may announce a schedule on...

Delhi: The Bihar Election 2025 countdown has begun. The Election Commission released a crucial assembly poll update that suggests a Bihar election timeframe. The poll body announced "Special Intensive Revision of Electoral Rolls" in Bihar and "house-to-house verification" to enroll all eligible citizens. June 25, according to the Commission. It said a draft electoral roll will be released on August 1 and the final one on September 30. The Bihar assembly elections schedule can be revealed in the first week of October.

May 27. Its key features include a first-come, first-serve approach, the availability of ready-to-move-in flats and the option for prospective

buyers to visit sample flats at sites," said the official. Prospective buyers can also check the official DDA website, <https://eservices.dda.org.in>.

417-cr electronics hub approved for GB Nagar

Delhi: The central government has approved the setting up of a 417-crore Electronics Manufacturing Cluster (EMC 2.0) in Uttar Pradesh's Gautam Budh Nagar district, at Sector 10 of the Yamuna Expressway, to boost local electronics production and innovation. The project is expected to attract investments to the tune of 2,500 crore and lead to the creation of around 15,000 jobs. "It is fully in line with Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of promoting manufacturing in India. It reflects the government's sharp focus on job creation



and building a Viksit (developed) Bharat," said IT minister Ashwini Vaishnaw. The EMC 2.0 will be developed by the Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (Yeida) on 206.4 acres. The 417-crore project cost excludes the cost of land, but includes 144 crore in central financial assis-

tance from the IT ministry, with the remaining amount to be funded by Yeida.

The project is expected to be completed by January 2028 and will feature facilities such as a skill development centre, a convention centre, and a three-storey hostel block, among others.

Parag Jain, IPS officer who led Op Sindoor, is new R&AW chief.

Delhi: Modi appointed senior IPS officer Parag Jain as the next RAW chief. On July 1, 1989-batch Punjab IPS officer Jain replaced Ravi Sinha, who will leave on June 30. A 'super detective' in intelligence circles, Jain brings to the top post a reputation for mixing

HUMINT and TECHINT, which officials say has been critical to several high-stakes operations. Contributions was during Operation Sindoor, when his intelligence inputs enabled precision missile strikes against terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied

Kashmir. Insiders underlined that years of

groundwork and allowed precision missile hits in minutes. As India navigates an increasingly turbulent global security climate, Jain's significant experience in Jammu and

Kashmir.

, one of its most difficult

CAPSULES

The GST Council voted to exempt gene therapy used to cure cancer from taxes

Delhi: The GST Council voted to exempt gene therapy used to cure cancer from taxes, and postponed a proposal for lower rates while lowering the tariff on fortified rice kernels used in PDS to 5%. The council determined that 18% GST would be applied to the margin of suppliers for all used cars, including electric vehicles. Even though there won't be any tax transactions involving private citizens, businesses or used car sellers would be subject to the fee. According to Sitharaman, states desired a greater fee, but the Center had suggested a 5% tax on EVs. The GST Council issued a number of clarifications, one of which was that ready-to-eat popcorn would be subject to a 12% tax, similar to the namkeen tax, if it were pre-packaged with salt and spices. Caramelized sugar will be subject to an 18% tax. In a similar vein, the council stated that as voucher transactions were neither a delivery of commodities nor services, they would not be subject to taxes. It also made it clear that small enterprises that pay rent to unregistered landlords and are covered by the reverse charge system will not be required.

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21 MLAs from Manipur ask Modi, Shah to restore democracy

Delhi: In separate letters to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, 21 Manipur MLAs have called for a popular government to restore peace and normality. Since February 13, Manipur has been under President's Rule since former Chief Minister N Biren Singh resigned on February 9. The majority of signatories include BJP, NPP, NPF, and two independent members, according to a legislator who requested anonymity. The

suspended

Manipur Legislative Assembly has 60 members and a term till 2027. The MLAs' letter claimed that while the people first welcomed President's Rule with hope, no tangible peace restoration had occurred. "There is a strong apprehension among the public that violence may return," said. Civil society

groups are organizing rallies against President's Rule and criticizing elected officials for not establishing a government. Lack of an elected administration fuels instability and public resentment, MLAs warned. Lack of a consensus CM candidate by the BJP has delayed government formation.

Surat dog registration requires 10 neighbors' NOC



the 2008 law established by

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.

its governing body as a preventive step against legal problems, but dog lovers are shocked that neighbours can decide whether to retain a pet. In addition to neighbors' assent, owners must submit a copy of their Aadhaar card, municipal tax bill or rent agreement, notarized under-

taking, dog's image and immunization records, and other documentation. After a rottweiler killed a four-month-old in Ahmedabad, the prohibition is being strictly enforced. Surat's dog lovers are holding awareness events and submitting memorandums.

Uddhav, Raj slam Hindi 'imposition'



Party-led Mahayati government issued an order stating that Hindi will "in general" be the third language for classes 1-5 in Marathi- and English-medium schools unless at

sition of Hindi" in Maharashtra. Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray said the Mahayati government's decision was akin to declaring a "language emergency" in the state. The former chief minister said his party was not opposed to Hindi as a language, but was against its imposition in Maharashtra. He added that by doing so, the Mahayati wants to "poison the harmony" between Marathi- and Hindi-speaking people for its politics.

Deputy CM held a meeting with public representatives and officials regarding preparations to deal with floods

□ Our government is working with a spirit of service, flood is a disaster, all officers should consider it an opportunity to serve and work with a spirit of service □ Asked to also get the loss of crops assessed in the rural areas affected by the floods

Inspection

□ The Deputy Chief Minister took information from the District Magistrate

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Prayagraj: Deputy Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Keshav Prasad Maurya ji, after inspecting the flood areas and flood relief camps, held a meeting with public representatives and officials in the auditorium of the Circuit House regarding preparations to deal with the floods and gave necessary guidelines to all the concerned officials. The Deputy Chief Minister took

Administrative officers and employees should be ready to become the support of flood-affected people - Yogesh Shukla



Akhand Bharat Sandesh



The Deputy CM has instructed to make preparations for health and sanitation arrangements after the flood water recedes

The Deputy Chief Minister has instructed to make preparations for health and sanitation arrangements after the flood water recedes so that diseases do not spread. The Deputy Chief Minister has asked the District Magistrate to provide the list of SDRF, NDRF, relief camps and nodal officers to the honorable public representatives so that the public representatives can also contribute to the relief camps with a spirit of service. The Deputy Chief Minister has instructed to consider the villages in rural areas which have lost connectivity and have become islands as relief camps and ensure all the flood relief centers

necessary arrangements there. He has asked to take necessary action to provide generators for lighting in these villages. The Deputy Chief Minister has asked to ensure arrangements for health facilities in such villages. The Deputy Chief Minister said that if only a few houses of a village are affected by flood and those people are living at some higher place in the same village, then necessary arrangements should be made there as well. In the meeting, the Honorable Deputy Chief Minister said that keeping in mind all the aspects in view of flood relief, necessary arrangements should be ensured in and when information

all the flood affected areas, no negligence of any kind should be done in this. On this occasion, District Panchayat Chairman Dr. V.K. Singh, Honorable Mayor Umesh Chandra Ganesh Kesarwani, MLA Phaphamau Guru Prasad Maurya, MLA Karchana Piyush Ranjan Nishad, BJP Metropolitan President Sanjay Gupta, Yamunapar President Rajesh Shukla, Divisional Commissioner Vijay Vishwas Pant, Additional Police Commissioner Dr. Ajay Pal Sharma, Municipal Commissioner Sai Teja, Chief Development Officer Harshika Singh and officers of other related department, was taken from the people living there about the facilities and arrangements being provided by the administration, the people living in the relief camps praised the arrangements made by the administration. He has asked for special attention to be paid to the quality and quantity of food etc. being provided at flood relief centres. He has asked for male and female police personnel to be put on shift duty in relief camps. He has also asked for ensuring food arrangements for the sanitation workers working at the camps. The Deputy Chief Minister has asked to repair the roads in all flood relief camps if they are in bad condition and to keep all the arrangements in the camps in order.

Holiday in all schools till 7th August

All the government and private schools of the district have been closed

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Officer Devvrat Singh. Most schools have started online classes

All the private schools of the city have started online classes in view of the continuous rain and flood situation. Online classes are going on in SMC, St. Joseph Girls School. Teachers are teaching the students online by sending them the link of online classes. Holiday has been declared in BHS today.

tractor. Construction on confiscated land and house is a punishable offence. On the other hand, Handia police registered a case against the five accused on the complaint. ACP Handia Sunil Kumar Singh said that a case has been registered on the complaint of the Lekhpal. Investigation is being conducted.

CM Yogi reviews development projects in Saharanpur division

Saharanpur: Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Monday held a special review meeting with public representatives from Muzaffarnagar, Saharanpur, and Shamli under the ongoing divisional public representative dialogue series aimed at the all-round development of the state. The meeting, held at the Circuit House in Saharanpur, saw the Chief Minister engage in detailed discussions on constituency-level issues, public expectations, and developmental priorities. During the

Yogi's ministers assess ground realities in flood-hit areas, distribute relief materials



clean drinking water, food, medical services, and uninterrupted power supply. He stressed that medical teams must remain alert and proactive in preventing waterborne diseases. Cabinet Minister Nand Gopal Gupta 'Nandi' visited flood-affected Katka Dera village in Karchana tehsil of Prayagraj on Monday to assess the situation and interact with affected residents. He directed officials to ensure the availability of dry ration and fodder for cattle, and to maintain continuous water level monitoring through flood posts.

Lucknow: Acting on the instructions of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, state government ministers reached ground zero on Monday to oversee flood relief and rescue operations. They visited flood-affected districts, assessed ongoing relief efforts, and directly interacted with victims. Ensuring timely assistance and uninterrupted distribution of relief materials remains a top priority for the Yogi government. The Chief Minister affirmed that government representatives, administration, and resources stand with the people in every

situation, committed to providing support in both hardship and recovery. Finance Minister Suresh Khanna and Labour-Employment Minister Anil Rajbhar inspected flood-affected areas of Varanasi on Monday. Minister-in-charge Khanna visited locations from Namo Ghat to Nakki Ghat, interacted with victims at relief camps, and distributed relief material. He also visited camps set up at Shriram PG College and Deepi Convent School in Hukulganj, where he handed out essentials and gave chocolates to children. Emphasizing the need for proper care, Khanna directed officials to ensure cleanliness,

Case filed against five people including wife of former MLA Vijay Mishra for occupying land and house attached under Gangster Act

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Prayagraj: A sensational case of occupying land and house attached under Gangster Act of former MLA Vijay Mishra has come to light in Handia. In this case, a case has been filed against five people including his wife by the local Lekhpal. Akhilesh

Kumar Yadav is posted as Lekhpal in Handia. Along with his original posting in Badauli area, he currently has additional charge of Sarai Civil alias Khatiha. He has told in the complaint that a case under Gangster Act was filed in Phulpur police station in 2003 against former MLA Vijay Mishra from Gyanpur seat of

wife Ramlal Mishra located in Khatiha village were seized under Gangster Act on the orders of the then District Magistrate Rajiv Agarwal. SDM Handia was appointed as the administrator of the said properties. It is alleged that on investigation it was found that Ramlal Mishra and his associates Satish

Bhadoli. On the basis of this case, on 24 October 2009, 0.2970 hectare land and a two-storey house of mafia and his

Mishra, Ashish Mishra, Premshankar Mishra got the land ploughed and got paddy planted on the said land. Bindu Devi, wife of Manish Mishra, is using the land by constructing two rooms and a tin shed in the house. According to the complaint, the confiscated land was sealed and the ploughing was destroyed by a

They also toured the flood relief camp/shelter at Kamakhya Dham, Gahmar

District Magistrate and Superintendent of Police Conduct Inspection of Flood-Affected Areas in the District

Control Room

□ District Flood Control Room: 0548-2224041, 9454417103
□ Tehsil Flood Control Room: 05497-297597

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inspected the flood-affected areas of the district. As part of this inspection, they visited the flood-hit villages of Hasanpur and Birhoopur under the Seorai Tehsil to

assess the on-ground situation and reviewed the progress of ongoing relief and rescue operations. During their visit, they also toured the flood relief camp/shelter at

Kamakhya Dham, Gahmar, and issued necessary directives to the concerned officials. The officials interacted with the affected families in the villages and inspected the quality of essential items being distributed at the relief camps.

In view of the rising water levels, villagers were urged to remain alert, prevent their young children from entering floodwaters, and keep a vigilant watch on them.

Tehsil Flood Control Room: 05497-297597

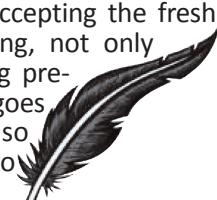
The officers and staff deployed at the control rooms will immediately inform the concerned departmental officials to ensure swift resolution of the complaints. Present on the occasion were the Additional District Magistrate, Sub-Divisional Magistrate of Seorai, Circle Officer of Zamania, flood relief officials, and other officers and staff members.

Ghazipur: The District Magistrate and Superintendent of Police

Editorial

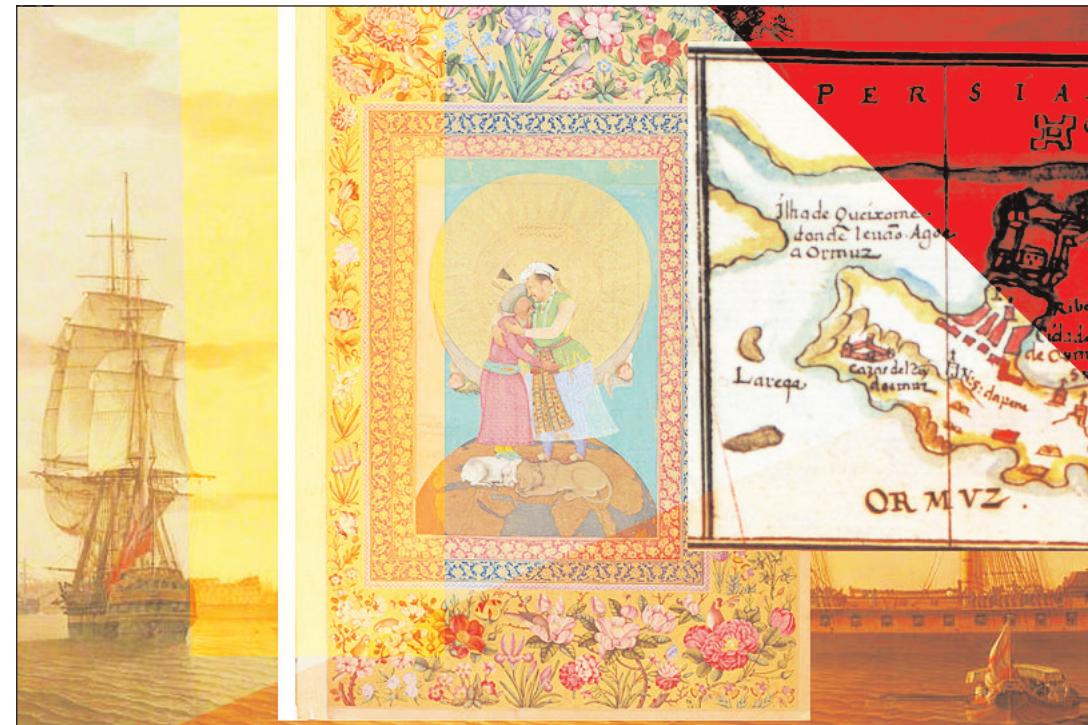
It's curious even scientists discard spirit of science in daily life, become unscientific: Nehru

In the course of less than four months, we have put up, declared open, or are going to declare open, three national laboratories. I suppose before this year is out, some more national laboratories will also be started. This is a great venture testifying to the faith which our scientists and, I hope, our Government have in science. I suppose the putting up of fine and attractive buildings does some service to science; nevertheless, buildings do not make science as Dr. Raman has often reminded us. It is human beings who make science, not bricks and mortar. Properly equipped buildings, however, help the human being to work efficiently. It is, therefore, desirable to have these fine laboratories for trained persons to work in and for persons to be trained for future work. You, Sir, referred to the spirit of science. I wonder what exactly that spirit is and to what extent we agree or differ in our ideas of it. Is science, as is often supposed, a handmaiden to industry? It certainly wants to help industry, though not merely for the sake of helping industry but also because it wants to create work for the nation, so that people may have better living conditions and greater opportunities for growth. That I suppose will be agreed to but there is something more to it. What ultimately does science represent? You, Sir, just referred to scientists declaring war on nature. May I put it in a different way? We seek the co-operation of nature, we seek to uncover the secrets of nature, to understand them and to utilise them for the benefit of humanity. The active principle of science is discovery. Now, what is, if I may ask, the active principle of a social framework or society? Usually, it stands for conservatism, remaining where we are, not changing and carrying on, though, of course, with some improvement and further additions. Nevertheless, it is a principle of continuity rather than of change. So, we come up against a certain inherent conflict in society between the co-existing principles of continuity and of conservatism and the scientific principle of discovery which brings about change and challenges that continuity. So the scientific worker, although he is praised and patted on the back, is nevertheless, not wholly approved of, because he comes and upsets the status quo of things. Normally speaking, science seldom really has the facilities that it deserves except when some misfortune comes to a country in the shape of war. Then everything has to be set aside and science has its way, even though it is for an evil purpose. It is interesting to see this conflict between the normal conservatism of a static society and the normal revolutionary tendency of the scientist's discovery which often changes the basis of that society. It changes living conditions and the conditions that govern human life and human survival. I take it that most people who talk glibly of science, including our great industrialists, think of science merely as a kind of handmaiden to make their work easier. And so it is. Of course, it does make their work easier. It adds to the wealth of the nation and better conditions. All this science does. But surely science is something more than that. The history of science shows that it does not simply better the old. It sometimes upsets the old. It does not merely add new truths to the old ones but sometimes the new truth it discovers disintegrates some part of the old truths and thereby upsets the way of men's thinking and the way of their lives. Science, therefore, does not merely repeat the old in better ways or add to the old but creates something that is new to the world and to human consciousness. If we pursue this line of thought, what exactly does the spirit of science mean? It means many things. It means not only accepting the fresh truth that science may bring, not only improving the old but being prepared to upset the old if it goes against that spirit. It also means not being tied down to something that is old.



Indians ruled the Gulf through Hormuz

Though an uneasy ceasefire between Israel and Iran continues, just two days ago, on 24 June, the Iranian parliament threatened the closure of the Strait of Hormuz. But this was not the first time that Hormuz, situated at the narrowest point of the Persian Gulf, has turned into a flashpoint between Iran and the West. Since at least 1300 CE, Hormuz has been the hinge of Eurasian trade, where thousands of Indians, Arabs, Iranians, Mongols, and Turks made their fortunes. Goods poured through Hormuz, to and fro the Mediterranean, West and Central Asia, South and Southeast Asia, and China. But in the 16th century, the Portuguese adventurer Alfonso da Albuquerque took control of the port. The shockwave rippled through the Western Indian Ocean; the decades after saw the end of Hormuz's prominence, the development of Iran's first maritime policy, and the immigration of tens of thousands of Indian traders and investors into the Gulf and Iran. This is the story of how Hormuz shaped the history of India and the world. Just as the Gulf's geography offered opportunities throughout time, it also created challenges. Its character was utterly unique, nothing like our world of monolithic nation-states. Sam Dalrymple, historian and author of *Shattered Lands: The Five Partitions of India*, described Gulf towns to me as "trading islands/oasis towns wedged between the sand sea and the salt sea. They make less sense as states and more as oases filled with traders." Their population was never



consistent: it waxed and waned with the trading seasons, which in turn depended on the monsoon. Outside these ports, weather conditions were extreme: storms, unseasonal winds, scorching heat and humidity. The Gulf's northern edge, shielded from the Iranian Plateau by a mountain range, allowed little room for coastal states to grow. In the south, the vast Arabian desert was home to small tribes that occasionally preyed on sea traffic. Hormuz rose to prominence because it was able to offer safe ground for international trade, without the risk of piracy. This wasn't what one would expect from looking at it. Barely a few kilometres across, sweltering Hormuz was encrusted in salt, with only one freshwater source. Its rulers solved this problem by importing water on barges from the shore. Markets were kept open all night to avoid the daytime

heat. In *The Persian Gulf: A Political and Economic History of Five Port Cities*, historian Willem Floor further explains that the rulers of Hormuz imposed an embargo on timber, oars, coir, iron and steel, which prevented their rivals from building ships. They then took control of nearby ports, establishing a chokehold on the Gulf. Though Hormuz's rulers were Muslim, the island made no segregations on ethnic or religious lines. The second-largest ethnic group on the island were Indians, who conducted a roaring trade in horses in the 13th century CE. In 'India's Sea Trade with Iran in Medieval Times', historian Shireen Moosvi discusses the Somanatha-Veraval inscription, recording the construction of a mosque in Somanath in 1264 by the Hormuz merchant Nuruddin Firoz. The Sanskrit portion of the inscription describes the

mosque as a dharma-sthanam, and mentions the direct involvement of Gujarat's ruling Chalukya king and his officials in the grant. If this Hormuz merchant had such influence, writes Moosvi, "Hormuz merchants must surely have formed an elite group of some importance... in the Chaulukya kingdom of Gujarat." For the next century, Hormuz continued to flourish. According to Moosvi, Hormuz's networks extended as far as Uzbekistan and Turkey. Goods shipped from Hormuz reached, in relays, all the way to China. The Chinese admiral Zheng He brought his vast armada there multiple times in the 15th century, where he exchanged ceramics and silks for the luxuries of Western Eurasia. Strategic resources such as horses were shipped to India from Hormuz; in return, India provided necessities such as rice to the Gulf ports, as well as cloth, metals, woods, and spices. In his edited volume *India and the Indian Ocean, 1500-1800*, MN Pearson notes that exchanges overwhelmingly favoured India. Vast quantities of silver and salt were required to balance the trade. In the early 1500s, the Portuguese erupted into the Indian Ocean. From their galleons—artillery platforms designed for deep-sea and coastal voyaging—they attempted to take control of trade gateways in the Indian Ocean, including Hormuz. They stationed a permanent garrison on the island in 1515, but immediately ran into problems. At the same time, the Mughal Empire of the Indian subcontinent consolidated its reach into Afghanistan. Conquering Kandahar, the Mughals stabilised overland routes from India to Central Asia, further weakening the appeal of Hormuz. According to Floor, the Ottoman Empire, which controlled Iraq, attempted to get rid of the Portuguese in 1552 but failed. It would be an Iranian power which finally expelled them and restored some normalcy to the Gulf trade.

But Hormuz would never again be independent. Up to this point, riven by internal strife, the Safavid dynasty of Iran had paid little attention to events in Hormuz—though they were technically its overlords. However, Shah Abbas I (r. 1587-1629), a contemporary of the Mughal emperor Jahangir, eventually consolidated power. He was alarmed by the loss of both Kandahar and Hormuz, crucial to Iran's trade with the steppe and the ocean.

Delhi's new fuel policy is forcing people to buy new cars. It won't reduce pollution

There is an old saying in English—'missing the woods for the trees'. It means getting so focused on the minor details that you overlook the bigger picture. And honestly, this is what I feel about the new 'fuel policy'. Starting 1 July, all end-of-life vehicles (EOL) in the national capital will be denied fuel and can also face deregistration, impounding or scrapping. Reportedly, many Delhi residents have been lining up at car showrooms, panic-buying new vehicles. A very close friend's mother called me up and asked, "Beta, should we buy a new car?" Let me tell you a bit about aunty—she's a retired government service officer and lives comfortably with her husband on a decent pension in one of those societies in Greater Noida. Other than the twice-a-week run to the shops and the occasional drive to meet friends in Delhi, their 11-year-old Hyundai i10 barely gets used. Yet because of the new fuel policy announced by Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta—where

older vehicles will not be allowed to refuel, first in Delhi and later across the entire National Capital Region (NCR)—she is genuinely wondering what to do. Now, let me make it clear that money is not a problem in this case. This retired couple can easily afford a new car. It is just that they don't see the need for one. And they shouldn't have to. You can think of thousands of cases like this of retired folks with perfectly functional and perfectly maintained vehicles that will now have to be junked because of this new policy. This is a waste of resources. If it is pollution reduction that we are chasing, the policy doesn't consider the massive carbon cost of building a new car from the ground up. I've read a few arguments in favour of shared mobility, the governments like Karnataka are trying to ban it altogether. And honestly, with how expensive and unreliable cabs have become, I've decided I'd rather just drive to the airport and pay the usurious parking fee myself.

UDF must look beyond Muslim votes to win 2026 polls

There is a new 'captain' in Kerala. After the Congress-led United Democratic Front wrested the Nilambur seat from the Left Democratic Front, the state media lavished praise on Leader of the Opposition VD Satheesan for helming a crucial electoral win. On 23 June, the day of the Nilambur bypoll verdict, Satheesan watched the proceedings from the District Congress Committee (DCC) office in Ernakulam. As soon as the UDF ensured its victory, Congress leaders vied among themselves to shower praises on the LoP, led by MP Hibi Eden. It was a mark of appreciation for Satheesan, who didn't bow down to former Nilambur MLA PV Anvar's diktats and ensured a win despite the latter re-entering the fray. It was PV Anvar's resignation that facilitated the by-election in the first place, even if he sought to extract his pound of flesh for extending his support to the UDF. Leaders within the Congress—such as Ramesh Chennithala and ally Indian Union Muslim League (IUML)—advocated Anvar's accommodation, with the by-poll becoming a bellwether ahead of the 2026 assembly election. Nevertheless,

Satheesan stood his ground and took ownership of the decision to keep Anvar out. It was a marked departure from the consensual ways that have defined the Congress in recent times. The consensual approach was necessitated on account of the party's weakening organisational apparatus, leaving it at the mercy of various stakeholders and its supporters frustrated. The UDF's morale-boosting win and the credit to Satheesan prompted former LoP Ramesh Chennithala to come out publicly, stating how nobody hailed him as 'captain' when he led the UDF to bypoll victories in the past. Power struggles in the Congress aside, the UDF seems to be taking the wrong lessons from the by-poll by extrapolating it to 2026. On the contrary, the ruling Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPI-M) is leveraging even the loss to build its narrative for the upcoming assembly election. The Left's route to a solitary seat in successive Lok Sabha elections in 2019 and 2024 was marked by a shift in its Hindu vote base to the Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP). The Left has traditionally been the 'Hindu party' in Kerala,

whereas the UDF has been anchored by minority communities. Unlike the 2019 elections—held in the wake of the BJP-fuelled Sabarimala agitation—the 2024 loss made the switching of Hindu voters a perpetual phenomenon. If the CPI-M initially concentrated on carving out sections of UDF's minority votes to counter the loss of its Hindu base, the 2024 loss demonstrated the urgency to hold on to its Ezhava vote bank. This prompted the Left to double down on its strategy of portraying the UDF as a front backed by communal elements. Such as Jamaat-e-Islami. CPI-M deployed the same tactic in last year's Palakkad and Wayanad bypolls—alleging that the Social Democratic Party of India (SDPI) and Jamaat were responsible for UDF's victory. After the setback in Nilambur, CPI-M state secretary MV Govindan resorted to the same game plan, almost like a reflex action. The potency of this strategy has swelled on account of the polarisation between the Muslim and Christian communities in Kerala lately. The CPI-M, perhaps, believes that it can attract additional Christian votes in the bargain.

Europe's factories to African startups—how India can act as a bridge between economies

Not long ago I heard a global CEO joke that India's payment apps impress the world, yet our biggest export deals still settle in dollars. The comment stayed with me because it captured the paradox of modern India: a country with the tools and talent to bridge East and West, but not choosing to think bigger. Today's global landscape is splintering. Rising tensions between the United States and China have prompted supply-chain realignments from Vietnam to Mexico. Political blocs, tariff walls, and digital standards

are being remade in real time. In this environment, many countries must choose sides. India, by contrast, can carve a third path: a true bridge economy that unites disparate markets through aligned infrastructure, finance, and digital networks. The first piece of this bridge is production. India's Production Linked Incentive-driven factories are churning out smartphones, solar panels, and auto components on a scale unseen a decade ago. Exporters in Pune now ship precision parts as easily to Stuttgart in Germany

as they do to Lagos in Nigeria. Our manufacturing base overlaps the needs of advanced economies (where quality matters) and the rising purchasing power of the emerging economies. That dual fit is rare, and it underpins India's unique value proposition. Digital rails reinforce this bridge. UPI's transaction volumes surpassed global giants like Visa, turning wallets into gateways. Early UPI trials in the UAE and Singapore show how a rupee-linked digital corridor can settle micropayments instantly, without inter-

mediary banks. If India extends these rails to East Africa, Southeast Asia, and the Gulf, small businesses from Nairobi to Jakarta could transact with Indian partners as effortlessly as they do with local vendors. Digital payment networks are the plumbing of the 21st-century bridge. With our digital rails in place, the next step is ensuring those goods move as smoothly across ports and borders. Yet infrastructure alone is not enough. Logistics bottlenecks still cast a shadow on our ambition. Nevertheless,

Centre requests a vendor survey from MCD under the 2014 Act



NDMC accepts mech sweepers, pink toilets, temple upkeep

Delhi: Officials said the Municipal Council (NDMC) approved a series of civic infrastructure projects on to improve public amenities in Lutyens' Delhi, including the purchase of new mechanical road sweepers (MRS), the construction of "pink

toilets" for women in all major markets, and the beautification of key temple complexes. Along with policy issues, the council overwhelmingly condemned the 1975 Emergency, calling it a "dark phase" that violated human freedoms.

practices, reconstitute and empower TVCs through inclusive elections, develop a heat-wave preparedness plan for vendors, legally recognise and integrate weekly markets into urban planning, enforce the provisions

of Street Vendors Act 2014, create urban space for vending and utilise NULM funds transparently," it said. NHA secretary Anil requested TVC-led implementation, policy review, and stakeholder coordination.

Centre informs SC child's caste certificate not affected by marriage

Delhi: The Centre responded to a public interest litigation (PIL) filed by retired Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) school teacher Santosh Kumari, who questioned the Capital's policy of issuing OBC certificates to any "paternal blood relative".

The petition demanded a statewide policy to grant such certificates to children of OBC single mothers, whether separated or divorced. The Indian Department of Social Justice and Empowerment responded, "The central government is of



the view that any child born to an OBC parent, whether the parents are separated or divorced, should be entitled to an OBC caste certificate based on the credentials of either the OBC father or the OBC mother, depending on who has custody or is actively raising the child." It

stated that adding such benefits would need a "comprehensive reevaluation of the criteria governing OBC classification, which are rooted in indicators of social and educational backwardness rather than merely lineage or parentage." In circumstances where an OBC certificate is awarded based only on the mother's qualifications, "It must be clearly established that the child has been living with and brought up solely by the mother."

A preventive mechanism should also be in place to avoid misuse of this benefit."

Govt may extend excise policy for 3 months

Delhi: The Delhi government may extend the excise policy for three months. According to reports, the committee struggled to improve customer experience, make retail liquor stores accessible throughout the city, and ensure brand and variant availability. They stated that

the chief minister has given stringent orders to eliminate favoritism and make the policy "fool-proof" to corruption. Sources said these difficulties hampered the disputed policy issued in Nov 2021, which was withdrawn in Aug 2022 after CBI filed a case over suspected irregularities

in its design and implementation. The policy may take time to finalize, and the current one expires in a week. Then it was discussed to extend the policy for at least three months. "A source claimed the political dispensation will make the ultimate decision."

In sweeping election-year move, Biden offers citizenship to American spouses

KOLKATA: West Bengal governor CV Ananda Bose, facing molestation charges from a former employee of Raj Bhavan, announced that he would present Raj Bhavan's CCTV footage to 100 private citizens of Bengal, excluding "Mamata Banerjee and her police". "Under the Sach Ke Samne programme, anyone who wants to see the CCTV footage can send an email to adcrajbhavankolkata@gmail.com or call the Raj Bhavan to

register their names at 033-22001641. The first hundred would be allowed to see the footage inside Raj Bhavan at 11.30am on May 9," Raj Bhavan said in a statement. The programme is aimed at addressing what was described as "mischievous and fabricated allegations" by police regarding the handling of CCTV footage related to the case. In response, state finance minister Chandrima Bhattacharya questioned governor

Bose's decision, asking why he was withholding the CCTV footage from police if he was innocent. She said: "The CCTV footage should be on public display if he is such an honest and innocent person. But here he is playing with the dignity of women, so he wants to shield it from police and is even unwilling to show it to the CM. Why can't the CM see it, if there is no foul play?" CM Banerjee and Trinamool have been going after the governor.

Advertising on FOBS should be authorized by the government

Delhi: In order to raise more money for their maintenance, the Delhi government has chosen to allow advertising on approximately 120 pedestrian bridges, according to In order to better maintain the foot over-bridges, PWD minister Parvesh Verma said that he instructed the department's engineers to develop a thorough proposal. A lot of these bridges need to have their escalators and lifts fixed because they're in bad shape.

PF funds can be accessed using ATMs



addition to conventional savings accounts, according to the minister. Then, the user can make transactions and withdrawals of qualified amounts without having to submit an application to the state-run retirement funds manager, the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO). The PF account will be linked to ATMs, so employees can access their cash directly according to their eligibility, according to Mandaviya.

Hundred Devi Buses Discontinued Service From Narela



Govt allocates 12,952 crore for public transport system

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

Franco-Italian regional aircraft major ATR sees India emerge as its biggest market



NEW DELHI: Franco-Italian regional aircraft major ATR sees India emerge as its biggest market in the next five years. And as that happens, the turboprop-maker says "it will be foolish not to increase our footprint here" in terms of sourcing of components, pilot training and others.

"India currently has 65 ATRs - 45 with IndiGo and 20 with Alliance Air.

IndiGo is to get five more. Startup carrier Fly91 (which is being

launched by aviation industry veteran Manoj

Chacko) will get its first leased ATR anytime now and the second in a week or so," Jean-Pierre Clerc, ATR's head of commercial for Asia Pacific, said.

"Indonesia has about 100 ATRs and is currently our biggest market. India and Brazil come after that. But

ATR feels India will

the way Indian economy and air travel in the country is booming, within five years India will have the maximum ATRs given the government's focus on regional air transport through

ude desh ka aam naagrik (UDAN) scheme," Clerc said.

ATR feels India will

Social justice to be focus of BJP's Bihar polls campaign

Delhi: The ruling Bharatiya Janata Party-led National Democratic Alliance is placing social justice at the core of its election campaign in Bihar, with a focus on Prime Minister Modi and chief minister Nitish as champions of the poor and socially marginalised, people familiar with the strategy said. The BJP is keen to go to the polls, expected in October-November, as part of a strong coalition to tap into the "collective vote bank" of allies in the state, where it is in power with chief minister Nitish Kumar-led Janata Dal (United) or JD(U). Other NDA constituents are Union minister Chirag Paswan's Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas), former CM Jitan Ram Manjhi-led Hindustani Awami Morcha (Secular) and Upendra Kushwaha's Rashtriya Lok Samta Party (RLSP). The NDA constituents will jointly contest elections that are likely to be held later this year.

need 50-150 such planes in the next

The pending health trade licenses will be expedited by MCD

Delhi: The deliberative arm of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi has announced a streamlined procedure for the approval of all outstanding health trade licenses. Mayor Raja Iqbal Singh expressed gratitude to chief minister Rekha Gupta for doing away with the need to



get a no-objection certificate from the Delhi Police, saying that this will allow more businessmen to save time. From October 2019 till now, the corporation has received 50,422 applications for health trade licenses. Out of these, 3,323 are currently being processed, 21,666 have been

issued, and 25,430 have been rejected, according to data published on the corporation's website. On the other hand, out of a total of 51,780 applications, 1,587 were pending processing, 13,354 were issued, and 36,839 were denied by the Delhi Police.

Dual Degrees Granted Prior to 2022 by UGC

Delhi: Students can breathe a sigh of relief as the University Grants Commission (UGC) has revised its provisions regarding dual degrees. Acquired degrees prior to 2022 will now be recognized as valid, as long as they were earned in accordance with UGC requirements. Starting from that day forward, students were able to pursue two degrees simultaneously according to a notification issued by the UGC. All degrees earned at the same time prior to April 13, 2022, were null and void. Those UGC guidelines state that a student cannot claim benefits based on two degrees earned concurrently before 13 April 2022, and they also state that these degrees will not be recognized.

The UGC resolved to revise this previous regulation during its



meeting on April 3, 2025. Guidelines were subsequently updated and released on June 5, 2025. New regulations make it possible to recognise a student's dual degree completion provided both degrees were earned in accordance with UGC requirements. If you want to get two degrees at once, you have to meet the requirements set out by the UGC. Both classes should not have conflicting schedules. Both courses can be taken in physical mode, however the class times need to be different.

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.

Indian medical students in Iran face uncertainty amid Iran-Israel rivalry

Delhi: The Indian government began Operation Sindhu to evacuate its residents, including over 6,000 students, from war-torn Iran amid rising tensions with Israel.

New Delhi received 110 Indians, mostly students, on the inaugural flight from Yerevan, Armenia. Due to instability in Ukraine and Russia, most MBBS students chose Iran. However, the Iran-Israel war has placed their careers on hold indefinitely, worrying these youngsters.

Hasan Zaidi from Agra, Uttar Pradesh, who

studied MBBS in Iran in 2024 at Arak University of Medical Sciences, Arak, told Education Times he only wants to return.



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studied MBBS in Iran in 2024 at Arak University of Medical Sciences, Arak, told Education Times he only wants to return.

He to India after his first year of study. We initially thought the war would finish shortly and we wouldn't need to return. I chose Iran because the

DU's 4th-yr plan raises concern over teaching load and staff gaps

Delhi: Teachers at Delhi University are raising concerns about increasing workload and lack of assistance as the university prepares to welcome its first group of undergraduates in their fourth year. According to 202 faculty members, the university is moving forward without doing a

realistic assessment of teaching capacity or infrastructure needs, since the seventh and eighth semesters are set to start in late July and early August under the Undergraduate Curriculum Framework (UGCF). The increasing disparity between sanctioned teaching hours

and the number of hours presently needed as a result of the extra academic year is a big worry, they claimed. "In some of our department meetings, we realised there's a huge shortfall," remarked a faculty member from the geography department.

DU's Decline to Publish Articles on Islam, Pakistan, and China Sets Off



World, China's Role in the Contemporary World, and State and Society in Pakistan. When the group reconvenes on July 1, they will finally get down to reading and discussing paper number five: Religious Nationalism and Political Violence. Professor

Monami Sinha, who was on the committee, disagreed with the decision and claimed that the changes show an effort to water down content that is controversial but still relevant to academia. We contend that thorough research on China and Pakistan.

750 books in 22 languages to be added in curriculum

Delhi: Twenty-two Indian languages classified under phase I and phase II of the Bharatiya Bhasha initiative - have now been integrated into the academic framework of universities. Under the Bharatiya Bhasha Pustak Scheme (BBPS) -headed by the University Grants Commission and the Bharatiya Bhasha Samiti over 1,000 authors have been mobilised to produce foundational textbooks in these languages, with 23 universities as nodal agencies.

University of Leeds, University of Delhi sign MoU



Delhi: A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between the Universities of Leeds (UoL) in the United Kingdom and Delhi (DU) in India, formally establishing a strategic academic relationship between the two institutions. The two institutions hope to strengthen their capacity-building efforts, exchange teachers and students more easily, and increase their collaborative research through this arrangement. The institution has released a state-

ment stating that the MoU lays the groundwork for a lasting academic partnership that will include collaborative research, academic events, co-teaching, and shared learning platforms. In order to facilitate international cooperation and the generation of new

information, the two schools intend to forge closer relationships with one another. The social science faculty at the University of Leeds spearheaded the development of the friendship that would eventually blossom into the cooperation.

3rd-gen IITs struggle with low enrollment and placements



estimates. According to 2017 Cabinet-approved figures shared by IIT Tirupati, by 2023-24, IIT Tirupati and IIT Palakkad would have 2,550 students (900 undergraduates) and the remaining IITs 2,540 students (1,170 undergraduates) across all courses. Right to Information (RTI) Act data and open source data suggest that many of these institutes are still falling short of the predicted figure.

Class 10 CBSE final two board exam policy: first option mandatory, second optional

Delhi: The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) announced its final policy for two board exams for Class 10 students in 2026, making the first mandatory and the second optional. The Board produced a policy draft in February and solicited stakeholder input. CBSE Controller of Examinations Sanyam Bhardwaj reported that 65% of pupils supported twice-assigned tests. To ensure pupils take the first exam seriously, teachers and principals advised making it mandatory. The 2023 National Curriculum Framework, modified to reflect the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020,



"Exams are between February and May. The CBSE has ruled that students who are missing in three or more courses during the first board exam, which would be the major exam, cannot sit the second (optional) exam. According to the final policy, such students would be placed in the 'Essential Repeat' category."

allows students two attempts each year—one main exam and one optional improvement exam—to minimize the high-stakes character of board exams. Exams are between February and May. The CBSE has ruled that students who are missing in three or more courses during the

Iranian medical students from India face an uncertain future

Delhi: With tensions rising between Iran and Israel, the Indian government has initiated Operation Sindhu to remove its nationals, including more than 6,000 students, from Iran, which is currently experiencing the effects of a civil war. The inaugural aircraft touched down in New Delhi from Yerevan, Armenia, with 110 Indian nationals on board, the majority of them were students. Because of the unpredictability in Russia and Ukraine, the majority of these MBBS candidates choose to study medicine in Iran. The students' careers have been put on indefinite hold due to the ongoing Iran-Israel conflict, and they are worried about it. Hasan Zaidi, an MBBS student from Agra, Uttar Pradesh, who went to Iran in 2024 to attend the Arak University of Medical Sciences in Arak, is only considering going back. He felt compelled to go back to India after this, his first year of college. At first, we thought the war would be over soon and that we wouldn't have to come back. I opted for Iran since my schooling appeared safer than in Russia or Ukraine due to the ongoing conflict. Quite unexpectedly, a comparable scenario has just surfaced in Iran. Tehran is in a very precarious position. Iranians are fleeing to more secure regions. According to Hasan, the Indian embassy in Tehran is providing assistance to students who are attempting to evacuate through neighboring countries such as Turkmenistan and Armenia.

Raptee.HV Launches T 30 High-Voltage Electric Motorcycle



Delhi : Raptee.HV, the Chennai-based EV startup, launched India's first high-voltage electric motorcycle, which is developed with the technology being used in Electric cars across the world. Called the Raptee T 30, it is the first of its kind to use universal charging standards that are used by cars. In simple words, it uses a CCS2 charging port. The motorcycle is priced at ₹ 2.39 lakhs, ex-showroom. The Raptee.HV Motorcycle has an IDC Est range of around 200 km and a real-world range of over 150 km on a single charge. The company claims that it can accelerate from 0 to 60 kmph in under 3.5 seconds. The 5.4 kWh battery pack is IP67-rated, and it takes 60 minutes for a 20-80 per cent juice-up via a 3.3 kW charger. Through a fast charger, the same can be done in just 30 minutes. Also, the brand is offering a warranty of 8 years of 80,000 km on the battery pack. The T 30 rides on a set of 17-inch rims with a 110-section tyre on the front and a 150-section tyre at the rear. Moreover, the

suspension includes 37 mm USD forks on the front and a telescopic shock absorber at the rear. Braking duties are performed by a 320 mm rotor at the front and a 230 mm disc at the rear. The motorcycle has advanced software features for an enhanced riding experience, including 3 riding modes and a 7-inch LCD instrument cluster. It comes equipped with connected features as well. There are four colours on offer - Horizon Red, Arctic White, Mercury Grey and Eclipse Black.

When oil prices drop every month, US stocks go up



Divya Delhi: Wall Street indexes rose in choppy rises as in-line European markets ended flat, continuing their 10-week winning streak. The Federal Reserve is expected to decrease interest rates twice this year, according to U.S. inflation figures. crude prices fell 1%, the first monthly decline since November, as markets braced for fresh levies from Washington and crude exports from Iraq's Kurdistan region. According to a White House source, President Volodymyr Zelenskiy of Ukraine will depart the Oval Office early Friday after a contentious meeting with Trump. Following reports of falling yearly inflation and sluggish consumer spending

in the latest statistics tracked by the Federal Reserve, U.S. Treasury rates hit multi-month lows. A drop of 2.93 points, or 0.34%, was recorded by MSCI's global stock index. Crypto values dropped after the Trump boom waned. The U.S. personal consumption expenditures (PCE) price index fell from 2.6% in December to 2.5%

last month, according to the Bureau of Economic Analysis, which is part of the Commerce Department. Core personal consumption expenditure, the favored inflation indicator of the Federal Reserve, fell to 2.6% from 2.9% following an upward revision. Inflation of 2% is the target of the central bank.

Graduates of state universities are unable to secure employment due to a lack of English ability



NGT requests DPCC report after plea says unlawful dyeing units continue.

Divya Delhi: The applicant, an environmental activist, told the National Green Tribunal that more illegal dyeing facilities were operating in Khyala and Meethapur village in Delhi after the authorities alerted them of their actions. The tribunal ordered the Delhi Pollution Control Committee to act and report in four weeks. In another matter related to such units, a joint committee recommended a campaign to sensitize the public about illegal industrial activity. was published. Local businesses in a lot of states rely heavily on outside expertise and materials. One factor contributing to this trend, according to the poll, is the low English proficiency among local kids.

FM reports 1100 out of 1200 state and national schemes under DBT



Divya Delhi: Direct bank account transfers have been assured for 1,100 out of 1,200 national and state government projects, according to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. One hundred out of one thousand two hundred federal and state programs get their funding sent straight to their bank accounts by DBT. She emphasized that the Public Financial Management System is crucial to the improvement of DBT. She said that PFMS has allowed the government to give benefits directly by cutting out middlemen at the 49th Civil Accounts

digital, PFMS has made all financial transactions more transparent and efficient, doing away with discrepancies and delays in fund distribution. The Minister of Finance made a point of mentioning that around 250 external systems, such as the Government e-Marketplace, GSTN, PM Kisan, and TIN 2.0, connect with PFMS. Efficient financial transactions and cooperative federalism are both facilitated by full integration. Through the integration of financial systems, the government may enhance the tracking of fund flows and ensure accountability.

EU, India will sign FTA by year-end

Divya Delhi: The sides promised "concrete steps" to finish the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor. The FTA states that the parties would "work as trusted partners to enhance market access and remove trade barriers". Modi and Leyen stressed IMEC. Modi said, "Concrete steps will be taken to take it

forward. The IMEC will promote global trade, sustainable growth, and prosperity. The IMEC was announced at the September 2023 G20 in New Delhi. India, the US, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and various European nations are involved. The corridor will link India, West Asia, and Europe via train, road, and sea. Lal was asked if

Europe would require lower wine, cheese, and automobile taxes. Leyen traveled to India with 22 EU Commissioners. It emphasizes our value. India and the EU are and space cooperation. The two sides agreed to have "focused discussions" on the military sector and marine domain awareness to strengthen shared assessment.



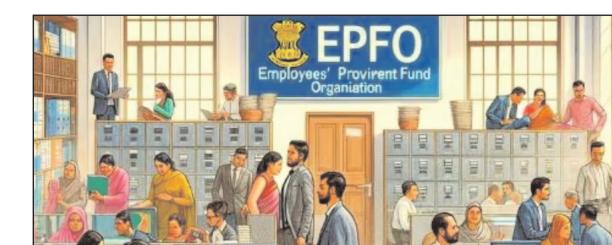
US Polo targets Rs 3,000 cr in India, boosts marketing

Divya Delhi: Arvind Fashions aims to increase marketing investments for its flagship brand, US Polo, to reach ₹3,000 crore in revenue, up from

the current ₹2,000 crore. Over 3% of our corporate budget goes to advertising. This has reached 4% for US Polo and is rising. He noted that US Polo's company was predicted to increase 12-15% due to its strong omnichannel presence, taking advantage of the emerging rapid commerce channel and the square-foot expansion of stores, which can become supply hubs in smaller towns. Like-for-like growth is solid, including virtually double-digit full-price growth. Other categories including kids, women, and footwear are developing faster than the mother brand. Nearly 20% of the brand's revenues are in adjacent categories. "US Polo dominates the domestic market. We will invest in the brand and grow quicker than the market, he stated. Deloitte India and the Retailers Association of India reported in February 2025 that urban and rural families will spend more on discretionary items due to a doubling of per capita income by 2030. The report noted that "the Indian apparel and footwear market was valued at ₹78 billion in 2023 and is expected to reach \$106 billion by 2028 at a compounded annual growth rate of 7.5-8%, driven by increasing disposable incomes, rising urbanisation, growing organised retail penetration.



Keep existing FY interest rate at 8.25%: EPFO board



Divya Delhi: The central board of trustees of the Employees Provident Fund Organisation proposed keeping the interest rate at 8.25% for the current financial year. The finance minister must approve this before money is credited to seven crore subscribers.

The Employees Provident Fund EPF has high and predictable returns compared to other fixed-income instruments, ensuring savings growth. The finance ministry taxed interest income obtained by people

who pay over Rs 2.5 lakh yearly a few years ago, claiming it would affect only 1% of subscribers. EPFO's 8.25% returns are far greater than PPF's 7.1%. Compounding is available with PPF's Rs 1 lakh annual investment cap. SBI is offering 7.5% on two- to three-year fixed deposits, however the interest income is taxed and compounding is not available. A 30% taxpayer will receive 5.25% post-tax FD returns. The EPFO board also amended the Employees' Deposit-Linked Insurance EDLI program to provide a minimum payment of Rs 50,000 to EPF members who die without one year of continuous service.

Manufacturing activity slows to a 14-month low in February

NEW DELHI: Activity in the country's manufacturing sector grew at its slowest pace in 14 months as production and new orders moderated but it still remained robust, a survey showed. The HSBC India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) registered a reading of 56.3 in Feb, down from 57.7 in Jan, but still indicative of further improvement in the health of the sector. The 50-point mark separates from contraction in the survey, which is compiled from responses to questionnaires sent to 400 manufacturing firms.



Apple will invest \$500bn and employ 20k in the US

Divya Delhi: Apple will invest over \$500bn in the US over the next four years, starting with a Texas advanced manufacturing complex. Over that period, the tech giant intended to add 20,000 positions, with the "vast majority" in R&D, software, and AI. How much the spending accelerates the com-

pany's current activity is unclear. The amount includes

supplier and Apple TV production costs, according to Apple. Days after Apple CEO Tim Cook met with President Donald Trump, who has prioritized US business investment, the news was made. It stated that the 250,000-square-foot Houston factory will construct servers "previously manufactured out-

side the US" to power Apple Intelligence, its AI system. The iPhone maker said it would open in 2026 and employ "thousands". Apple is also boosting its data center capacity in Arizona, and Nevada and doubling its \$5bn funding for Trump's first-term manufacturing fund to \$10bn.

Byju's loses \$533 million loan fraud case in US court

Divya Delhi: U.S. bankruptcy court rules Riju Ravindran, Byju's parent business Think & Learn, and hedge fund Camshaft Capital guilty of \$533 million fraud and "breach of fiduciary duty." The beleaguered edtech business Byju's Alpha has been found to have engaged in several fraudulent financial transfers and conversions, according to a ruling issued by the Delaware Bankruptcy Court. Byju's brother Riju Ravindran was found to have breached his fiduciary duty as

director of Byju's Alpha, according to the court. The court's clear recognition that Riju Ravindran, Camshaft, and Byju's engaged in a worldwide fraud including the theft of \$533 million is something we are grateful for. In a statement, the lenders hailed this as a major victory in their fight to reclaim the stolen assets that properly belong to them.

Byju successfully obtained a \$1.2 billion five-year term loan from Glas Trust through the establishment of his Alpha special purpose financial organization. Having defaulted on its loans, Byju's Alpha was placed under trusteeship in March 2023. A group of 37 banks and other lending organizations gave Byju \$1.2 billion. Byju's Alpha's limited partnership interest in Camshaft Capital was transferred to William Morton's hedge fund, Camshaft Capital Fund, with the proceeds of about \$533 million in term loans, according to the lenders.

Mittal's \$976 million Airtel stake sale

Divya Delhi: Sunil Bharti Mittal's business sold \$976 million in India's No.2 wireless carrier to raise funding for new ventures. According to an exchange statement, Bharti Airtel Ltd. founder Indian Continental Investment Ltd. sold 0.84 percent interest or 51 million shares for Rs 8,485 crore (\$976 million), nearly a fourth of which was bought by Bharti Telecom Ltd. Other investors were not named in the trade at Rs 1660.46 per share, a tiny discount to Monday's finish of Rs 1,675.6. The document said the shares were "allocated only to key marquee long only names, both global and domestic." Mittal is investing in Africa and OneWeb, which merged with Eutelsat in 2023, at the time of the sale. Last year, closely held Bharti Enterprises Ltd. bought 24.5% of BT Group Plc. Bharti Telecom now owns 40.47 percent of Airtel, reinforcing its "previously stated intent of strengthening its position."

Zomato's Q4 net profit falls 77% to Rs 39 crore

Delhi : Eternal Ltd. (previously Zomato) announced a 77% drop in overall net profit to Rs 39 crore in Q4 FY25 from Rs 175 crore the year before. Zomato, which owns Blinkit, lost 33% of its quarterly net profit to Rs 59 crore in October-December. Overall expenditures rose 67% to Rs 6,104 crore from Rs 3,636 crore. QoQ, costs rose over 10%. Food delivery company consolidated income from operations rose 64% to Rs 5,833 crore from Rs 3,562 crore in the January-March quarter of the previous financial year. Zomato earned Rs 6,201 crore in the quarter, up from Rs 3,797 the year before. Its expenses rose from Rs 3,636 crore to Rs 6,104 crore. Zomato shares finished at Rs 232.5 on the BSE, up 0.58 percent. According to its stock exchange filing, Blinkit opened 294 net new stores in Q4 and is on track to reach 2,000 by



December 25. Deepinder Goyal, Founder and CEO, Eternal, said, "We don't see any long-term structural reason for this slowdown, as the fundamentals – low penetration of restaurant food and increasing urbanisation and per capita income in India – remain unchanged." The company has several promising initiatives in the pipeline and hopes some will work and lead to higher growth without compromising profitability. The company began reporting NOV and GOV for its B2C activities (food delivery, rapid commerce, and going-out) in Q4 FY25.

Wagah closure hurts Afghan dry fruit imports

Delhi: The closing of the Attrari-Wagah border has hampered the movement of dry fruits from Afghanistan to India, which may raise domestic prices by 10 to 25%. Afghanistan is India's greatest dried fruit supplier despite war and civil upheaval. Anil Mehra, National President of the Federation of Grocery and Dry Fruit Commercial Association, when the Attari-Wagah border closed, no trucks transporting dry fruits from Attari had come. "50 trucks are at the Pakistani Wagah border.

Private sector capex may fall 25% to Rs 4.88 lakh cr in FY26: Govt survey

Delhi: A government survey research estimates private business capital spending will drop 25% to Rs 4.88 lakh crore in 2025-26 from Rs 6.56 lakh crore in FY25. The Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation's Forward-Looking Survey on Private Sector CAPEX Investment Intentions between November 2024 and January 2025 found that private corporate capex was Rs 3.94 lakh crore in 2021-22, Rs 5.72 lakh crore in 2022-23, and Rs 4.22 lakh crore in 2023-24. To establish a fixed panel, 2,172 firms provided complete infor-



mation for all five years of the reference period. The government said the aggregated (unweighted) capex data from this panel of firms is credible for five-year capital expenditure trends. Over four years from 2021-22 to 2024-25, aggregate capex (unweighted) increased 66.3%. Of the 3,064 responding companies, 2,172 planned 2025-26 capex. The data suggests respondents are cautious when revealing capital spending plans. The research advised caution when interpreting 2025-26 Capex data due to the conservative stance and fear of responding firms.

Possible goal of India-US trade deal: equal access to technology

Delhi: According to insiders, as part of the intended bilateral trade agreement (BTA), India is expected to request that the United States relax export controls and provide it with access to vital technologies on par with important American

allies such as Japan, Australia, and the United Kingdom. Furthermore, they mentioned that India might be interested in pursuing these kind of concessions in the following industries: semiconductors, biotechnology, artificial intelligence (AI), pharmaceuticals, quantum computing, and telecom equipment. Textiles, gems and jewelry, leather goods, clothing, plastics, chemicals, shrimp, oil seeds, chemicals, grapes, and bananas are among the labor-intensive sectors.

ATM withdrawals cost more: All about the new fees



cash deposits are free. Many big banks have revised their client policies: HDFC said, "With effect from 1st May 2025, the ATM transaction charge rate beyond free limits will be revised from Rs 21 + taxes to Rs 23 + taxes."

Bank emphasized that only cash withdrawals at HDFC ATMs exceeding the free limit will be charged, while non-financial transactions are free. Other banks' ATMs count both sorts of transactions toward the free limit.

Delhi : ATM users in India will incur revised transaction rates starting May 1, 2025, under the RBI's amended fee regime. The revisions aim to simplify ATM usage charges and promote digital banking for both financial and non-financial activities. Under the new guidelines, metro consumers will get three free ATM transactions each month and non-metro customers five. Free transactions include cash withdrawals and balance checks.

After this limit, banks can charge Rs 23 per transaction, excluding taxes. This applies to ATM and CRM transactions, although CRM

Promoters of Prudential, HCL to form health insurer



Delhi: Prudential and HCL Group promoters announced a separate health insurance joint venture. Prudential Group Holdings, Prudential's UK affiliate, would own 70% of the joint venture, while HCL Group promoter Vama Sundari Investments will own 30%. HCL founder Shiv Nadar gave his daughter Roshni Nadar Malhotra large shares in Vama Sundari Investments, giving her power. Prudential had its first branch in Kolkata in

1923, making India a critical market, according to CEO Anil Wadhwan. "Today, we have a significant presence with life insurance and asset management businesses providing a comprehensive offering of insurance and wealth products," Wadhwan. ICICI Bank has partnered with Prudential, a FTSE 100

company, for over two decades in life insurance and asset management. The Prudential cooperation intends to provide quality health insurance in India, according to Vama executive director Shikhar Malhotra. "Through this collaboration, we aim to advance our common mission to enhance access to quality health insurance and drive greater penetration across the country," stated. If approved by regulators, Amar Joshi will lead the joint venture.

The government raises sugar-cane FRP by 4.41% to Rs 355 per quintal for 2025-26



Delhi: The government raised the fair and remunerative price (FRP) of sugarcane by 4.41 percent to Rs 355 per quintal for the 2025-26 season in October.

An official statement said the Cabinet Committee

on Economic Affairs (CCEA) chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi made this decision in the interest of sugarcane farmers. Sugarcane FRP is Rs 340 per quintal for 2024-25. Sugar mills must pay sugarcane growers FRP, the minimum price set by the Indian government. I&B Minister Ashwini Vaishnav told the media after the

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.

Q4 Adani Enterprises net profit jumps 7.5x to Rs 3,845 crore, incubating enterprises thrive

Delhi : Adani Enterprises Ltd. (AEL), the flagship firm of the Adani Group, reported strong financial results, with net profit rising 7.5 times to Rs 3,845 crore in Q4 FY25 from Rs 449 crore in FY24. Adani Wilmar Ltd.'s 13.5% stake sale in Q4 gave AEL an outstanding gain of Rs 3,946 crore. Revenue rose 2% to Rs 1,00,365 crore and consolidated PBT rose 16% to Rs 6,533 crore in FY25. Incubating firms' solid operational performance drove EBITDA up

26% to Rs 16,722 crore last fiscal, the company said. Gautam Adani, Chairman of Adani Group, said Adani Enterprises is establishing firms that will shape India's infrastructure and energy sector. Our scale, speed, and sustainability drove impressive development across our incubation businesses. Adani New Industries Limited (ANIL) began expanding solar cell and module operations



alist said disciplined execution, future-focused investments, operational excellence, innovation, and sustainability drove impressive development across our incubation businesses. Adani New Industries Limited (ANIL) began expanding solar cell and module operations

WB: Oil prices might drop 17% and commodity prices 12%

Delhi: Commodity prices, according to the World Bank, could drop 12% this year, with the oil index possibly falling 17%, as a result of slowing economic development. "If realised, these declines will end a period of ele-

for 6 GW in Q4 FY25 with financial close. Improved realization and operational efficiency drove solar module sales up 59% to 4,263 MW and greater EBITDA margins. The company reported that ANIL wind business expanded capacity to 2.25 GW in Q4 FY25 with 5.2 MW, 3.3 MW, and 3.0 MW WTG.