

# AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

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

## 'Like Team India': PM Modi bats for Centre-state cooperation - key takeaways

**NEW DELHI:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday batted for cooperation between the Centre and states to achieve the national goals, as he chaired a meeting of Niti Aayog.

"If Centre and states work together like Team India, no goal is impossible," Prime Minister Modi said at Niti Aayog governing council meeting.

He also said, "Viksit Bharat is the goal of every Indian. When every state is Viksit, then Bharat will be Viksit. This is the aspiration of its 140 crore citizens."

The theme of this year's meeting was 'Viksit Rajya for Viksit Bharat@2047', with a focus on the role of states in helping India become a developed country by 2047, according to a press release from NITI Aayog.

The Prime Minister also urged states to focus on tourism development.

"States should develop at least one tourist destination per State at par with global standards and by providing all facilities and infrastructure. One State: One Global Destination. It would also lead to development of the neighbouring cities as tourist places," PM Modi



said while chairing the 10th Governing Council Meeting of NITI Aayog on Saturday at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.

Hailing India's rapid urbanization, PM said, "India is getting rapidly urbanized. We should work towards future ready cities. Growth, innovation and sustainability should be the engine for the development of our cities."

'Over 10,000 Youths...': Modi's Clear Message On Maoism & Terrorism At Northeast Investors Summit

Andhra CM proposes three sub-groups for Viksit Bharat mission

At the Governing Council Meeting, Andhra Pradesh chief minister Chandrababu Naidu suggested creating three dedicated sub-groups of states, in partnership with the Union Government and NITI Aayog, to accelerate efforts toward achieving the goal of a developed India by 2047.

As per a statement issued by the State government, the first sub-group would focus on driving GDP growth by encouraging investments, enhancing manufacturing and exports, and generating employment. This would be supported through central Viability Gap Funding for public-private partnership (PPP) projects.

The second sub-group would address population management, aiming to help India make the most of its demographic strengths while also preparing for future issues such as population ageing and declining fertility rates.

The third sub-group would work on promoting technology-based governance by leveraging tools like artificial intelligence, quantum computing, drones, and digital platforms to ensure efficient, real-time, citizen-focused administration.

See Photos :Vision

Bharat@2047: States and Centre unite at key NITI Aayog meet led by PM Modi

Mamata, Vijayan among CMs to skip meeting

Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee and three chief ministers from Southern states, including from NDA ruled Puducherry, skipped the Niti Aayog's Governing Council meeting, news agency PTI reported.

While the CM of Congress-ruled Karnataka, Siddaramaiah, was busy with "prior engagement" in the state and sent his speech to be read out in the council, Marxist veteran and Kerala CM, Pinarayi Vijayan deputed his cabinet colleague K N Balagopal on his behalf.

Similarly, Puducherry chief minister N Rangasamy, who heads the AINRC-led NDA coalition in the union territory, also skipped the event, an official source was quoted as saying by the PTI.



**Union Minister for Communications and Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, Minister of State for External Affairs and Textiles Pabitra Margherita and Minister of State for Education and Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) Dr. Sukanta Majumdar will participate in the closing session.**

### Container ship capsizes off Kerala coast; 21 rescued, 3 remain onboard

**NEW DELHI:** A Liberia-flagged container vessel, MSC ELSA 3, capsized after departing Vizhinjam port on Saturday, prompting a major rescue operation by the Indian Coast Guard, reported All India Radio News Trivandrum.

The incident occurred approximately 38 nautical miles off the coast of Kochi, with the vessel seeking urgent assistance. The authorities have urged caution as there is a possibility of hazardous materials hitting the shore. The Indian

Coast Guard (ICG) immediately mobilised resources and is currently coordinating rescue operations. Ships have been deployed in the area and aircraft are maintaining aerial oversight of the distressed vessel.

21 of the 24 crew members on board have abandoned the ship and are currently in liferafts. The rest three crew (Captain, Chief engineer, and second engineer) remain onboard to facilitate planned salvage operations.

### Bihar's Nitish Kumar joins non-NDA CMs in skipping Niti Aayog meet

**NEW DELHI:** Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar, who is a key NDA ally, was among several opposition-ruled state leaders who skipped the 10th Niti Aayog governing council meeting in New Delhi on Saturday.

His absence has fueled political speculation, especially with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's upcoming visit to Bihar ahead of the assembly elections due this year.

## Savannah James shares glimpse of son Bryce James' convocation cer-

**NEW DELHI:** After LeBron James's heart-touching post about Bryce James's prom night, proud mom Savannah James has now shared a glimpse of his convocation ceremony to shower Bryce with appreciation and love as he enters a new chapter of life after school. Bryce James has graduated from Sierra Canyon School and is already committed to the University of Arizona to play basketball for the Wildcats team. Savannah James took to Instagram on Friday to share a bunch of pictures and a video from Bryce's convocation ceremony. She wrote along with it, "Yesterday we celebrated @justbryce as he walks into a new chapter of life!! So proud of you and all the hard work you've



done to get to this point. This is only the beginning! Keep striving to be the absolute best version of you! Love you more than words can explain and so excited to see what the future has for you!! I love you Stink!!

"The first video shows Bryce James along with his classmates as they assemble in rows for their group pictures, wearing blue

robes and convocation hats. But before the group photo, they throw their hats in the air as a gesture of celebrating their achievement. It is followed by a few pictures of Bryce, wearing a garland around his neck and posing with family. One picture shows Bryce with big brother Bronny James, who plays for the Los Angeles Lakers like their dad.

## Shubman Gill: A generational talent to lead India's NextGen in Test cricket

**New Delhi:** Nearly eight years ago, on a gloomy monsoon afternoon at the PCA Stadium in Mohali, a 17-year-old Shubman Gill was going hammer and tongs. Be it Manpreet Gony, Siddharth Kaul, Barinder Sran, or Sandeep Sharma, the Punjab fast bowling attack was taken to the cleaners by the teenager. Former Punjab batter Gurkeerat Mann, padded up and waiting for his chance, shouted, "Shubi, let others bat; it's been almost an hour now that I am waiting for my turn." The reply came, "Paji, ye upar waali ball ne aaj trouble kiya hai, thodi der aur ruk jao (The full ball has troubled me today; please let me bat



for a while). The duo nodded, and eight years later, Sran's prophecy came true as Shubman Gill was appointed India's Test captain on Saturday. Mann, who has not only mentored Gill from a young age but was also his hero growing up, is not surprised with "Shubi" becoming India's Test captain. "A generational talent to lead the next genera-

tion," Mann tells.

"With Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma retired, he is the right choice to carry the baton forward. He has this insatiable appetite for improvement, and I am sure he will do a good job for India in the whites," says Mann. Mann reckons Gill's unfazed temperament is key to handling success or failure. "Win or lose, duck or a century, he

will swiftly get over that knock. It is always the next game, then the next game," says Mann. Since his breakout performance at the 2018 U-19 World Cup, Shubman Gill has been earmarked as a potential successor to Virat Kohli as India's premier batter. To date, his international career has largely validated this anticipation, proving the long-standing hype surrounding him from his age-group cricket days was well-founded. However, a crucial question remains: can he translate his batting prowess into successful leadership as a captain? India Test squad for England tour: Shubman Gill to lead, Rishabh Pant his deputy.

## Yachna nahin, ab rann hoga': How Army used powerful music and visuals to deliver their message post

**NEW DELHI:** After decimating nine terrorist hotspots in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir under Operation Sindoor on May 7, the Indian armed forces had delivered a powerful message through videos showcasing military prowess, accompanied by an upbeat rendition of Ramdhari Singh Dinkar's Rashmirathi. The videos, which grabbed attention at the media briefings,



were produced in-house by the Social Media Section of the Indian Army's Additional Directorate General of Strategic

Communication, sources told news agency PTI. The songs were carefully chosen, each selected to match the content and theme

of the operation, they added. "The song was specially composed using specific lines relevant to the theme. The rock music style was chosen for its dramatic effect. The song was created by an in-house team using the latest available technology," a source in the defence establishment told PTI.

"The message intended to be conveyed through the music and videos was that the Indian Army is prepared,

ready, and capable of using decisive force against India's adversaries," they added.

"Those with nefarious designs against the nation should not lose sight of the Indian Army's might, reach, and valour," another source in the defence establishment said.

The lines played during the briefing were: "Jab naash manuj par chhata hai, pehle vivek mar jaata hai" (When destruction.

## Pitch for big defence industrial corridor: Chandrababu Naidu wants HAL to make

**NEW DELHI:** HAL, anticipating orders worth Rs 2.5 trillion by 2026-27, is increasing production of LCA and Light Combat Helicopters. (File photo of Tejas)

HAL defence aircraft to be made in Andhra Pradesh? N Chandrababu Naidu, the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh and a significant NDA ally, has proposed relocating the production facilities of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited's (HAL) Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA)



and Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) from Karnataka to Andhra Pradesh. He has offered 10,000 acres at the Lepakshi-Madakasira hub, situated an hour's distance from Bengaluru airport, for establishing HAL's AMCA production facility.

HAL, in partnership with various private organisations, is developing and manufacturing AMCA, India's fifth-generation stealth fighter aircraft. According to an report, the offer for setting up the facility forms part of Naidu's comprehensive proposal for establishing a defence industrial corridor, India's third following Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. The proposed corridor spans 23,000 acres across Andhra Pradesh from north to south.



# Punyashlok Ahilyabai Tricentenary Memorial Campaign

## Cleanliness drive at Dashashwamedh Ghat, floral tributes to Ahilyabai

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Prayagraj: Under the Punashlok Ahilyabai Holkar Trishatabdi Smriti Abhiyan, in memory of the incomparable sacrifice made by Devi Ahilyabai Holkar in the renovation of the ghat and temple, BJP Prayagraj Mahanagar on Saturday conducted a cleanliness program at the ancient historical Dashashwamedh Ghat of Daraganj and offered flowers to the picture of Devi Ahilyabai and then Aarti was performed. On this occasion, BJP Kashi Province Vice President Awadhesh Chandra Gupta said that Devi Ahilyabai dedicated her entire life to Shiva Bhakti. Even while ruling, she had dedicated her kingdom to Shiva. Devi Ahilyabai will remain relevant in the society for



ages. Mayor Ganesh Kesarwani said that Ahilyabai Holkar developed spiritual consciousness by renovating various temples of the country damaged by Mughal invaders. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP have worked

to awaken a new consciousness by running the birth anniversary remembrance campaign of such a great heroine. Metropolitan President Sanjay Gupta said that Ahilyabai Trishatabdi Smriti Abhiyan is a campaign to remind

people about the life philosophy of India's great heroine and the many remarkable works done by her for the country and society. He said that if Devi Ahilyabai had love for her, she also had the courage to rule and by displaying the

same courage, she defeated the invaders. Metropolitan President said that BJP running the birth memorial campaign of such a great heroine makes us aware of our responsibility towards the country and society apart from politics.

On this occasion, district coordinator of the campaign Vandana Singh, Dr. Shailesh Pandey, Shashi Varshney, Kunj Bihari Mishra, Devesh Singh, Rajesh Kesarwani, Shikha Rastogi, Shikha Khanna, Councilor Kiran Jaiswal, Councilor Supriya Nishad, Bharat Nishad, Anupama Pandey, Sunita Chopra, Pramod Modi, Vijay Srivastava, Vijay Patel, Sanjay Rajan, Rajesh Kesarwani, Vivek Mishra, Anand Vaishya Sudarshan, Sujit Kushwaha.

# Apex Court quashes gangster case against ex-director admin SHUATS

Prayagraj: The Supreme Court has quashed the gangster case FIR No. 850/2018 registered at Thana Naini, Prayagraj against former director administration of SHUATS Vinod B Lal. Senior Advocate Mr. Siddharth Dave and Advocate Kumar Vikrant Ghosh, appearing for the petitioner, submitted that the case registered against the petitioner does not allege any specific direct act on the appellant, he further said that there is no allegation of use of force and violence in the said FIR. According to him, the allegations do not show that the primary purpose behind the alleged offences was to disturb public order. The bench of Justice J.B. Pardiwala and Justice Manoj Mishra examined the case basis of various judgments, particularly in State of Haryana vs

Bhajan Lal, 1992 which laid down the parameters for quashing of FIR and subsequent proceedings. After analysis, the Bench observed that the allegations made in the FIR or complaint are so absurd and inherently impossible that no prudent person can ever conclude that there is sufficient ground to proceed against the accused. The allegations made in the FIR do not constitute cognizable offences but only non-cognizable offences. The allegations also fail to disclose whether any act of violence, threat, display of violence, intimidation or coercion was committed to achieve the said objective. Even in the chargesheet filed pursuant to the investigation in the said FIR, apart from repeating the contents of the FIR, only a vague reference has been made to the

alleged forged signatures on certain forms and documents. It was also observed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court that the provisions of Sections 16 and 17 of the Gangster Rules, 2021 have also been violated in the present case. Upon evaluating the present case in the context of the allegations made and in light of the decisions referred, we have no hesitation in saying that the High Court committed an egregious error in declining to exercise its jurisdiction under Section 482 of the CrPC to quash the subject FIR No. 850/2018 and all further proceedings in pursuance thereof qua the appellant. Finally, the Bench in its judgment the criminal proceedings arising from FIR No. 850/2018 dated 28.07.2018 registered at P.S. Naini, District Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh quashed.

## Child culture building camp organized

Prayagraj: The Bharatiya Yoga Sansthan organized a Bal Sanskar Nirman camp on Saturday at NJ Public School, Prayagraj. An effort was

Indian culture and Indian yoga.

The school's Principal Monami Basu and other teachers were thanked by the institute for the suc-



made to inculcate values in small children by organizing the Bal Sanskar Nirman camp. Along with this, a small effort is being made by the institute to make the future generation aware of

successful organization and arrangements of the camp. On this occasion, the center head of Jagannathpuri Yoga Center, Prayagraj, Vandana Tiwari, Kiran Tripathi, etc. were present.

## Tata Power Solarizes Public Institutions in UP via rooftop solar

Varanasi: In a significant step towards Uttar Pradesh's clean energy transition initiative, Tata Power has successfully solarized more than 300+ public sector institutions across the state, reinforcing its commitment to sustainability and innovation. This initiative is aligned with the Government of Uttar Pradesh's ambitious objectives under PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana to mainstream rooftop solar adoption. By promoting widespread adoption of solar energy, it not only supports the state's vision of empowering households with clean and affordable power but also contributes significantly to building a greener, more resilient, and energy-secure future for the nation.

While traditional grid connectivity remains available for backup, solar energy now serves as the primary driver of day-to-day operations across these institutions. It marks a pivotal step in Uttar Pradesh's

broader vision of achieving 4 GW of rooftop solar capacity by 2027 and 22,000 MW of overall solar energy capacity by 2026-27, transforming cities into models for sustainable urban development. Tata Power has signed an MoU with UPNEDA and is closely working to facilitate clean energy adoption across the state.

This initiative represents not merely an infrastructure expansion but a paradigm shift in how public institutions across Uttar Pradesh experience and consume energy-making reliability a lived reality rather than an aspiration. Tata Power's leadership in solar adoption is further amplified through strategic partnerships with public sector units such as NHPC and financing collaborations with institutions like Union Bank of India, ICICI Bank, and Canara Bank. These alliances ensure smooth project execution and ease of financing for broader adoption across sectors.

## Akhil Shukla takes over as Secretary to GM & DGM

Prayagraj: Akhil Shukla, who was serving as Senior Divisional Operations Manager(Coordination) Jhansi has taken charge of Deputy General Manager & Secretary to General Manager of North Central Railway. He took over the charge from the outgoing incumbent Shri Ajay Singh who got transferred to Varanasi as ADRM. Shri Shukla is an officer of Indian Railway Traffic Service of 2013 batch. He had served earlier as Assistant Operations Manager/Freight/Prayagraj, Divisional Operations Manager/Freight/Prayagraj, Divisional Commercial Manager Jhansi, Senior Divisional Commercial Manager/Freight, Jhansi & Senior Divisional Operations Manager(Co)/Jhansi in NCR. He is an alumnus of KNIT/Sultanpur from where he completed his B.Tech. in Computer Science.

## Peek of national togetherness to be witnessed in Muharram processions

Prayagraj: After three rounds of meetings to conduct the procession of Azadari in a timely and smooth manner in the month of Moharram, many important issues were discussed in the meeting chaired by Imam-e-Jamaat

Syed Hasan Raza Zaidi of Imam Jumma Shia Jama Masjid Chak Zero Road and conducted by Zakir-e-Ahlebaith Raza Abbas Zaidi. Hussain Abbas Monu of Anjuman Abbasia Rani Mandi, Kabban Bhai, Secretary of Anjuman Haideriya, Bashir Hussain of the family that laid the foundation of Juloos Chup Tazia, Asad Hussain Babbu, Haider Bashir, Irshad Hussain (Munne Bhaiya) of Anjuman Mazloomia, Najmi, Mohammad Abbas Rajan, Mirza Azadar Hussain (Abbu Bhai) of Anjuman Guncha-e-Qasimiya Bakshi Bazaar, In

the presence of Hasnain Akhtar, Syed Mohammad Askari, Anjuman Imamia Chak's president Mohsin Raza, Ahsan Raza, Anjuman Abidya's Mirza Haider Raza (Sheru) Bhai, Zakir-e-Ahlebaith Hasan Mian,



Anjuman Gulzar-e-Qasmi's Zaheer Abbas Bhai, Shadab Zaman Askari Abbas, there was a consensus on the progress of Azadari and unity to spread the purpose of Azadari to the common people and to take the Tazia

of their respective Azakhanas to Chakia Karbala in the procession of 10th Moharram. In the meeting, discussions were also held on forming a committee of presidents and secretaries of various mourn-

were not present in the program of honouring the elders of the community for their services the previous day due to some reason, were honoured with certificates for being present today. Maulana Syed Hasan

## Workshop organized on financial fraud and financial literacy at NC Rly HQ

Prayagraj: Under the guidance of Shri Himanshu Badoni, Senior Deputy General Manager, North Central Railway, Headquarters, Prayagraj, under the guidance of Shri Rajat Purwar, Deputy General Manager/General, North Central Railway, Prayagraj, under the leadership of Shri Santosh Bajpai, Work Study Officer, Prayagraj, a workshop was organized at Headquarters, North Central Railway to provide information to the employees on the subject of financial fraud and financial literacy. The workshop was inaugurated by presenting the planter to Senior Deputy General Manager, Mr. Himanshu Badoni and Deputy General Manager/General, Mr. Rajat Purwar by the workshop lecturer Mr. Kshitij Singh, Relation-

ship Head, ICICI Bank Ltd. Employees from Prayagraj, Jhansi and Agra divisions as well as the headquarters and workshops participated in the workshop.

The lecturers of the workshop, Mr. Kshitij Singh, Relationship Head, ICICI Bank Ltd. and his team members Kritika Khatri and Mr. Sunil Pandey, made the employees aware in detail about the cases of financial frauds by misusing Aadhaar Card, PAN Card or bank account details of the general public, fake emails or messages, and the measures to prevent them. Apart from this, the employees were also given information about financial literacy. The programme was concluded by Work Study Officer, Mr. Santosh Bajpai by presenting a memento to the workshop lecturer and his team.

## NCZCC's Summer Workshop kicks off, kids to learn nuances of acting & dancing

Prayagraj: The summer children's workshop organized by the North Central Zone Cultural Center, Prayagraj, started on Saturday with the lighting of lamps. This workshop is organized every year under the Ministry of Culture, Government of India to develop interest in art, culture and tradition among children. This year too, enthusiasm and joy was seen among the children regarding the workshop. Program in-charge Madan Mohan Mani and all the trainers jointly started the workshop by lighting the lamp.

The program in-charge said that the aim of the workshop is to inspire children to move beyond bookish education towards practical and creative education.

Here children are receiving training in disciplines like acting, dance, painting, crafts, sculpture, Haryanvi folk dance, Kathak, self-confidence and life skills.



On the first day, children learned the basic techniques of acting and the art of dialogue delivery under the guidance of theater and education expert Kuldeep

Singh. In the painting section, children were introduced to oil paintings and crafts. Crafts instructor Bhola Prasad explained the method of idol making from

clay and children made Ganesha idol and Shivaling with their own hands. Children learned traditional postures and expressions in Kathak and

Haryanvi folk dance, which further strengthened their interest in knowing the Indian cultural heritage. About 200 children aged 8 to 16 years participated in the workshop. From the very first day, the children's enthusiasm to learn various arts and a glimpse of creativity was seen. The program in-charge honored all the trainers by giving them bouquets. Center's in-charge director Ashish Giri said that this workshop is not only a means of enhancing talent, but is also a strong effort to move children towards self-confidence, discipline and overall development. Program executive Krishna Mohan Dwivedi, Manoj Kumar, Aarti, Himani, etc. were present on this occasion.

## Jamia Cooperative Bank Ltd appoints Arif Iqbal as its lawyer

Prayagraj: The Board of Directors of Jamia Cooperative Bank Limited has taken an important decision, in which, Arif Iqbal has been appointed as the advocate to represent the bank's cases in the Debt Recovery Tribunal, Debt Recovery Appellate Tribunal and Allahabad High Court. Arif Iqbal is an experienced lawyer who has deep understanding and expertise in financial and banking matters. This decision of the board is being considered a strong step towards effective legal protection of the bank's interests. The bank's chairman and members expressed confidence that the appointment of Arif Iqbal will strengthen the pending legal cases of the bank and speed up the judicial process.

Arif also represents Bank of India, SIDBI, DRT, DRAT, SSC, Information & technology Ministry under CSC and

GIC Housing Finance Limited Lucknow. He serves as General Secretary of DRT Bar Association. Known for his immaculate oratory skills, supporters of Arif Iqbal are campaigning hard to secure his victory in upcoming Uttar Pradesh Bar Council polls. According to his die-hard supporters he is poised to smoothly navigate through scary electoral process and secure massive victory in Uttar Pradesh Bar Council polls with a whopping margin.

A representative of Jamia Cooperative Bank Limited while commenting over the move and responding to media queries over appointment of lawyer Arif Iqbal said, "A significant change is occurring in the dynamic field of corporate governance. To take advantage of their legal



knowledge and manage the intricacies of today's business environment, banks are hiring lawyers at an increasing rate. First off, banks now have to navigate a maze of intricate rules in fields like securities, the environment, competition, and data privacy. The regulatory landscape has grown increasingly complex. Lawyers like Arif Iqbal contribute a profound comprehension of these frameworks, allowing boards to make well-informed choices and reduce any legal risks. Second, lawyers are expert risk managers who know how to spot possible hazards and develop plans to reduce them. Companies are protected from expensive legal disputes and reputational harm by their presence, which cultivates a culture of legal compliance and proactive risk management."



## TODAYs EVENT

The birthday program of former Cabinet Minister Narendra Kumar Singh Gaur and former MLA Udaybhan Karvariya ji will be organized by Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi Seva Samiti at Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Statue Park at 12 noon.

## Cop Manoj Kr Singh & subordinate counterparts felicitated

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Prayagraj: The committee honoured Assistant Police Commissioner Kotwali Prayagraj Manoj Kumar Singh and subordinate staff for their outstanding contribution in peace, security and crime control during

Ahmed, Sheikh, Mohammad Haleem, Irfan Ahmed Rakesh Sharma, Faizuddin Ansari, R.A. Farooqui, Sarwan Kumar Gaur, Mohammad Raju, Arjun Singh Sandeep Soni. On this occasion, Shri



Maha Kumbh 2025 in Prayagraj City Circle Kotwali area. As per the instructions of Kamlesh Srivastava, Chairman of UP Crime Prevention Committee, Lucknow, the delegation of the committee felicitated him for his excellent contribution in maintaining peace, security, traffic control and crime control in view of the Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj city area. The delegation was led by the secretary of the committee, Santosh Kumar. Other members of the committee were Lakshmikan Mishra Advocate (Legal Advisor), Shoaib Alam Public Relations Officer, Ajit Kumar Sinha (Incharge, Education Cell), Fayaz Ali Faizi, Yasin

Manoj Kumar Singh ACP was felicitated by presenting him with a shawl, a memento and a letter of appreciation. Along with this, his subordinates, 17 employees and members of the committee were also felicitated. In the same sequence, while presenting the files of social and public welfare works being done by the committee, it was requested that necessary instructions be given to the subordinate officers to establish coordination with the committee. Assistant Police Commissioner Manoj Kumar Singh praised the work of the committee and assured all possible co-operation and expressed gratitude to all the representatives.

## Emotional farewell given to sr advocate Shalabh Mehrotra



Prayagraj: On the beginning of a new innings by senior advocate Shalabh Mahrotra, a welcome ceremony and farewell program was organized for him in the office of a finance company on Saturday. The people associated with the finance company as well as the advocates gave him an emotional farewell and

praised his work. On this occasion, a large number of advocates including senior advocate Vishnu Verma, senior advocate Sudhakar Mishra, advocate Vikas Srivastava, advocate Surendra Kushwaha, advocate Sumit Yadav, advocate Himanshu Kesarwani, Anurag Yadav were present.

## Tablets distributed in Amrit Ganga Degree College Kathara

Prayagraj: Under the Swami Vivekanand Youth Empowerment Scheme, free tablets were distributed to 103 students of postgraduate classes at Amrut Ganga Degree College, Kathara Handia, Prayagraj, under the district



Prayagraj. While distributing the tablets, the Principal said that this scheme is like a panacea for making the rural areas technically competent. The Treasurer of the College Management Committee, Mr. Chandrabali Patel, while addressing the students, said that in today's era, the field of knowledge has become very wide; students will be able to get new knowledge from Google and various other sources. Poor meritorious students will get the maximum benefit from this scheme. On this occasion, Mr. Jitendra Kumar Maurya, Harishchandra Bina, Ram Ji Singh Yadav, Navneet Kumar, Alok Kumar, Jitendra Kumar Sharma along with teachers and staff of the college were present.

# DM held surprise inspection of SRN, takes stock of arrangements

Instructions given to ensure cleanliness, drinking water, timely presence of doctors, proper treatment of patients in OPD

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Prayagraj: District Magistrate Ravindra Kumar Mandhad reached Swaroop Rani Hospital on Saturday and did a surprise inspection there and after taking stock of the available arrangements, gave necessary instructions to all concerned. He instructed the vice principal present there regarding cleanliness in the hospital, drinking water, timely presence of doctors, proper treatment to the patients coming to the hospital and treatment by the doctors by sitting in the OPD on time. Apart from this, instructions have been given to make necessary arrangements so that patients can get MRI, CT scan, X-ray and other free facilities available in the hospital. Along with this, instructions have been given to keep other arrangements including cleanliness in the hospital in order.

First of all, the District Magistrate inspected the emergency ward, in which Dr. Prashant, who was posted on duty at that time,

was present and Dr. Deepak was found absent, on which the District Magistrate expressed strong displeasure and directed that boards be installed outside the duty room, on which the shift-wise names, mobile numbers and time of the doctors posted on duty at that time should be clearly mentioned.

During the inspection, when the AC and CCTV were not found working there, he instructed to get them repaired immediately. He inquired about the functioning of the machines in X-ray, CT scan, pathology and asked for grooming classes to be conducted for the personnel posted there. He asked for all the investigation reports to be made available on time by charging the prescribed fee. He met the patients and enquired about their well-being and enquired whether the doctor comes or not and asked if they are facing any inconvenience there. The District Magistrate talked to the District Probation



Officer and asked to provide all the necessary facilities to the one-year-old girl who had come to the emergency ward and was thrown off the bridge by her mother. He has asked the Chief Development Officer to make an Ayushman card for Bhaiya Lal, whose both legs and one hand were cut off after being hit by a train. He talked to other patients and their attendants and enquired about the facilities

being provided to them by the hospital.

The District Magistrate said that he has asked the Additional City Magistrates to ensure that all necessary arrangements and facilities are made available to the patients so that they do not have to wander here and there for any facility. He has asked the Joint Magistrate and all the Additional City Magistrates to inspect the hospital today and provide

a report regarding the necessary facilities. He has instructed to form a joint committee of Chief Development Officer, Joint Magistrate, Additional City Magistrate II, which will audit the accounts and provide a report. He has asked to prepare a visit sheet of the doctors.

The District Magistrate has instructed the doctors and other paramedical staff working in the hospital to

behave well with the patients. He said that whatever deficiencies were found during the inspection, instructions have been given to the Deputy Principal and SIC to make a timeline and remove them quickly, so that the patients coming here can experience good arrangements. He said that on receiving a complaint of prescribing medicines from outside, strict action will be taken against the concerned person. He has instructed the outpost in-charge to completely ban the entry of private ambulances in the hospital. He said that if a private ambulance is found entering, action will be taken against the outpost in-charge. He has asked for the repair and widening of the road leading to the emergency ward in the hospital premises. On this occasion, Chief Development Officer Harshika Singh, Joint Magistrate Animesh Verma, all Additional City Magistrates and all the concerned officials were present.

## New office bearers in Motilal Nehru Div Hospital Employees Union elected

### CONG LEADER EXTENDS CONGRATULATIONS

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Prayagraj: New office bearers were elected in the recently concluded elections of Motilal Nehru Divisional Hospital Employees Union of Prayagraj. Sujit Kumar Kanaujia has been elected as President, Mahesh Prasad as Senior Vice President, and Akhilesh Yadav as Vice President, Minister Pramod Maurya, Joint Minister Shiv Das Chaudhary, Organization Minister, Ranjana, Publicity Minister Subhash Kumar, Treasurer President Bholanath. Apart from this, elections were also held for other important posts. After the election, Congress



leader Irshad Ullah welcomed the newly elected office bearers with bouquets and garlands and congratulated them. He extended his best wishes to all the office bearers and motivated them to work for

the welfare of the hospital staff.

On this occasion, Irshad Ullah said, "This election is an important part of the democratic process and I congratulate all the newly elected office bearers on

their victory. I am confident that all of them will work together to safeguard the interests of the hospital staff and work for their welfare." Newly elected President, Sujeet Kumar Kanaujia said, "We are thankful to all the members of the Employees Union who have placed their faith in us. Together we will solve the problems of the hospital employees and protect their rights." After this election, there is an atmosphere of enthusiasm among the hospital staff and they hope that the new office bearers will protect their interests.

## Teacher Dr. Shravan Mishra became national mentor of NCTE

Prayagraj: Dr. Shravan Mishra, former Head of the Department of Teacher and Education of Nehru Gram Bharati Deemed University Prayagraj has been appointed as National Mentor by the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE), an institution of the Government of India, to train teachers across the country. Under the National Mentor Mission constituted by the Government of India under NEP 2020, he will train teachers across the country from time to time on the subject of social science teaching. There is an atmosphere of happiness in the entire university on this achievement of Dr. Shravan Mishra. On this occasion, the Chancellor, Vice Chancellor and Pro Vice Chancellor congratulated Dr. Shravan Mishra. Earlier also, Dr. Shravan Mishra has been honored with many national and international awards. Rakesh Mishra, Ajay Singh, Manish Dwivedi, Ashok Singh, Kalhans, Diwakar Dwivedi etc. were among those who congratulated Dr. Shravan Mishra. This information was given by DK Chaturvedi, Academic Advisor, National Council for Teacher Education, New Delhi.



## PMC issues notice against those who tie cattle illegally in Katra Mission Compound

Prayagraj: The Prayagraj Municipal Commissioner issued a notice against those who illegally tie cattle in Katra Mission Compound and said that action will be taken. The principals of two schools operating inside the Mission Compound and the pastor of Katra Church and the parents of the school sent a complaint to the Municipal Commissioner through local BJP leader Ravi Srivastava, taking cognizance of which, a notice was also issued against two people who illegally tied cattle. Regarding the matter, the school principals say that cattle are left illegally in the compound, which sometimes attack the students studying in the school. Despite the school administration's repeated refusal, some anarchists were not stopping, due to which the school administration and other local people together have submitted a memorandum in the matter.

## Dy CM Keshav Maurya arriving today

Prayagraj: Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya will arrive in Prayagraj today; media in-charge Rajesh Kesarwani said that

today Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya will land at Bamrauli Airport at 1:30 pm and will meet the workers at Prayagraj Circuit House at 2:00 pm and will participate in the launch and inauguration program of important programs of the Basic Education Department in the District Panchayat Auditorium on 26th May at 12:15 pm and will hold a meeting with party workers at the Circuit House at 1:55 pm, after that will hold a meeting with the departmental officers. And at 7:00 pm, he will release the book '2 Saal Bemisal' at the Municipal Corporation premises.



## Mann Ki Baat to be broadcast among public today

Prayagraj: The 122nd edition of Mann Ki Baat by Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be organised by BJP Prayagraj Mahanagar on 25th May at 11 am. Media in-charge Rajesh Kesarwani said that in order to spread the nationalist ideas of the Prime Minister among the people, Prayagraj city is organizing a meeting at 1216 booths. Mann ki Baat will be broadcast among the public along with the workers and all the MLAs, MPs, Mayor, Councillors, senior leaders, previously honored officials, district and division officials and workers of the metropolis will be broadcasted. Will ensure participation in the program with all the workers of your booth

# 'Parliament Kept in Dark': Shekhar Bahuguna on Op Sindoor

## Bahuguna's scion explains how Modi Govt's multi-party global outreach differs from the past

Prayagraj: Senior Congress leader Shekhar Bahuguna while retorting to media queries over Operation Sindoor said, "The Union government's diplomatic outreach - in the aftermath of the Pahalgam terror attack, Operation Sindoor and the four-day military conflict with Pakistan - has begun with multi-party delegations fanning out to key countries including UN Security Council (UNSC) members. The move to send multi-party delegations abroad comes amid calls from opposition parties for a special session in parliament. Opposition members have highlighted that foreign governments will be briefed while India's own parliament and people remain in the dark."

He claimed that some questions remain to be answered by the Modi government at home.

He quipped whether Modi government bypassed convention? "While no special session was held following terror attacks in the past and the decision to convene a parliament session rests with the government, during both the 1962 and 1971 wars, the parliament was kept in loop. The parliament was briefed after the last major terror attack on civilians - the Mumbai terror attack in November 2008 - as the winter session convened only days after the attack. Parliament should be told about what has happened and about what has been done by India although there are no

specific rules and it is for the government to decide to take the parliament into confidence. A look at significant global diplomatic outreach efforts by previous governments shows that in the aftermath of the 26/11 Mumbai terror attack, the parliament attack in 2001, and even the multi-party delegation sent to the UNHRC in 1994 following increasing violence in Kashmir - unanimous resolutions were passed in the parliament. While no special session was called, both the 2008 Mumbai terror attack and the 2001 parliament attack saw discussions in parliament with then Prime Ministers Manmohan Singh and Atal Behari Vajpayee delivering statements. The present diplo-

matic outreach comes after the Pahalgam terror attack when 26 civilians were killed on April 22 in the worst attack on civilians since 2008 and the largest military escalation between India and Pakistan since the Kargil war in 1999. 'Unacceptable to brief foreign governments while Indian people remain in the dark'. As the first batch of the seven all-party delegations left on Wednesday, opposition parties said that it was "unacceptable" that foreign governments would be briefed while India's parliament and people will remain in the dark," he opined.

Congress leader Shekhar Bahuguna added, "The government's decision to send all-party delegations to key countries, in-

cluding UNSC members, after Operation Sindoor has been marked by opacity and exclusion. Political parties were neither consulted nor briefed, and there is no clarity on the mandate of these delegations. It is unacceptable that foreign governments will be briefed while India's own parliament and people remain in the dark.

Before reaching out to the world, the government must first respect its own people and institutions. India deserves transparency, unity, and dignity - not arrogance, opacity, and suppression."

Shekhar Bahuguna also claimed, "While the government has convened two separate all-party meetings - one after the Pahalgam attack, and the other after

Operation Sindoor - Prime minister Modi did not attend either. He did make a statement following the Pahalgam terror attack, but it was at a rally in Bihar. His address to the nation following Operation Sindoor came only after the four-day long conflict ended with a ceasefire, which Trump claimed he had mediated, and 48 hours after the ceasefire itself. While Modi's statement was a departure from the US' claims, he did not make any direct references to Trump, who has since continued to reiterate the claims on various occasions. Trump went on to claim that he brought back the two countries from the brink of a nuclear war, and that trade was used as leverage to broker the ceasefire."



## Editorial

Constitutional Crossfire:  
President's Reference Puts  
Judiciary In The Dock

In an extraordinary move that has the scope to reshape the contours of the Indian Constitution, the President of India has invoked a rarely used power under Article 143 to refer a legal question to the Supreme Court. The question? The very scope and legitimacy of the Supreme Court's extraordinary powers under Article 142. At its heart, this momentous referral has placed two of the republic's most powerful constitutional authorities—the President and the Supreme Court—on a potential collision course. The reference from the Rashtrapati Bhawan paraded close to a month after the Supreme Court ruled that the President must decide on bills referred by Governors within three months. This landmark decision came after the court overturned the Tamil Nadu Governor's decision to withhold approval for pending bills. The court ruled that Governors cannot indefinitely delay assent to Bills passed by the state legislature. Such inaction amounts to a 'pocket veto', a concept alien to the Indian constitutional system. Bills can be reserved for the President only in specific circumstances (e.g., when required by Articles like 254(2), 31A, etc.). It cannot be used as a tool to block legislation falling within the State's domain," the bench, comprising Justices JB Pardiwala and R Mahadevan, had said in the verdict dated April 8, 2025. President Droupadi Murmu's reference in a way challenges the alleged judicial activism of the apex court, particularly questioning the reach and limits of its power to "do complete justice". Article 142 has often been described as a judicial wild card—a provision invoked to bridge legal gaps, deliver equitable outcomes, and, at times, sidestep the legislature. The invocation of the advisory jurisdiction by the President of India appears to seek clarity on the scope and extent of the extraordinary jurisdiction of the apex court. However, the said reference, if looked at from a wider lens, appears to be much more than unusual since an extraordinary constitutional power is being used to challenge another i.e. Article 143, which empowers the President to seek the advisory opinion of the Supreme Court on questions of public importance, but is a rarely used tool. When Was This Extraordinary Measure Last Used By A President? The last time this jurisdiction was invoked was in 2016, when then-President Pranab Mukherjee sought the court's opinion on whether the government could bypass the Rajya Sabha to enact the Goods and Services Tax (GST) by treating it as a Money Bill. On April 12, 2012, the then President Pratibha M Patil used it in connection with the 2G spectrum allocation, asking eight questions. These included judicial interference in policy matters and whether auction as the only method that can be used to allocate natural resources. President Murmu's current reference invoking the advisory jurisdiction is more than just a legal query—it is a moment of reckoning for the basic structure doctrine itself. Speaking to News18, senior advocate Siddharth Luthra said, "This reference to my mind is to determine what is the way going forward, to what extent the Supreme Court will direct Governors and Presidents to act, to what extent will they determine and sit over jurisdictions of Governors and Presidents."

Senior advocate Sanjay Hedge, meanwhile, said, "Reference is not a review. Presidential reference is a question to court in its advisory jurisdiction. Supreme Court had clarified its advisory jurisdiction is recommendatory and not binding. "Judgment of court is a verdict of court, it can be overcome only through process known to law which is an adjudicatory process. This is an opinion; it cannot directly override a judgment," he added. The apex court, for the longest time, has asserted that certain foundational principles—like judicial independence, federalism.



## No Pak general has survived an extended term

Raman Singh

The Pakistan government has cemented its relationship with the powerful army chief, General Asim Munir, by rewarding him with the title of Field Marshal. While it's not clear whether the idea originated with the army or the government, Munir's elevation to a five-star rank signals the Shehbaz Sharif government's allegiance to the commander of the largest service branch, an act that will have far-reaching political and institutional implications. Notwithstanding the general sense of jubilation in the country over the popular perception of a tactical victory against India, this particular decision came as a shock and may not serve Asim Munir's interests in the long run. Many people who were previously silent after the end of the conflict, or who had been generally happy with the Pakistan Air Force's achievement, suddenly took to their keyboards to mock the decision. Some pointed out how Munir has been steadily accumulating prefixes, while others drew comparisons to Ugandan dictator and army chief Idi Amin or joked about whether the title of Quaid-e-Azam would be next. There is a growing sense among many that the government should have stopped at celebrating the military achievement, rather than indulging in this kind of overdrive. As some observers I spoke to suggested, the decision may reflect the political cunning of the government, which could be attempting to shift negative focus back onto the powerful army chief—previously hailed as a hero. Others said the initiative was



entirely the government's way of signalling to Munir that, since the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PMLN) could go so far as to make him Field Marshal, he should remain invested in this partnership and not consider rapprochement with Imran Khan or his party. Indisputably, the government prioritised short-term political gains over long-term institutional consequences. With his promotion to five-star general, Munir is now the most senior commander in the country—disrupting the institutional balance within the armed forces. Ironically, he now outranks the Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCSC), a four-star general who heads the body created in the 1970s to ensure parity among the three services and coordinate joint planning. A five-star army chief attending CJCSC meetings renders the proceedings

practically ceremonial. This institutional imbalance echoes a similar issue from the Zia-ul-Haq era when, after declaring martial law and becoming president in 1977, Zia could no longer participate in CJCSC meetings. As a result, the Vice Chief of Army Staff (VCOAS) attended instead, undermining the intended balance among the services. This not only weakened joint planning but also sidelined the question of political control over the largest service. Munir's elevation is likely to create similar complications. As some of my sources suggested, he may try to resolve the issue by appointing a four-star VCOAS—a move believed to be aimed at calming nerves within the army, where many are now uncertain about their futures. But history suggests that a four-star general in the army often ends up being the army chief's undoing. It

would be a mistake to dismiss this decision as a mere political stunt, given its institutional implications. Crucially, the promotion is unlikely to make Munir more powerful than he already is. He and the institution he leads are already immensely powerful. No political party worth its salt today has even a notional interest in holding him or the military accountable. The last institution with any capacity to do so—the higher judiciary—backed off at the start of the conflict, when the Supreme Court conceded to the use of military courts to try civilians for treason. Furthermore, Munir has already outlined his vision for the state: a "hard state", hellbent on crushing dissent, refusing dialogue with those that appear belligerent, and upholding the national ideology through military means. One is also reminded of his earlier promises to transform

Pakistan into a trillion-dollar economy—a goal far more ambitious than convincing people to sacrifice for sustaining the military, especially in the wake of recent conflict. The civilian government's eagerness to appease the general also suggests that no one will raise questions this November when his current three-year term ends, and it comes time to legally extend it by another two years—taking him to November 2027. After that, another five-year extension seems likely. This is when the road may get bumpy for him. Even the two-year extension is already a problem: many three-star generals, who serve four-year terms, will now retire without a chance at promotion. Sadly, Pakistan has not seriously considered the implications of these extensions. Another five-year term after 2027 could open up a Pandora's box, as it has for previous generals during their second extended tenures. This is when all powerful generals tend to make mistakes, including caving in to international pressures, resulting in a push from within the institution. So far, no general has survived an extended term or managed to end their second term nicely—from Zia-ul-Haq and Pervez Musharraf to Ashfaq Parvez Kayani and Qamar Javed Bajwa, the ending for all of them was not as rosy as their beginning. Munir will struggle to maintain a balance within his own service, a task fraught with pitfalls. As many within army circles recall, even Musharraf had to negotiate hard with his corps commanders to get decisions accepted during his extend.

Can China's Arms Market Recover From  
India-Pak War Embarrassment?

Radhika Singh

India's Operation Sindoor is haunting both Pakistan and China, the former due to the non-explanation for sponsoring cross-border terrorism and the massive physical loss of military assets and face, and the latter due to the utter failure of its military equipment sold to Pakistan and the diplomatic fallout of supporting an "ironclad" friend. Diplomatically, after the Pahalgam terror attacks, China expressed its concern and called for restraint on India's part, while reiterating support for Pakistan both regionally and in the United Nations' #1267 al-Qaeda sanctions committee. China's Foreign Minister, Wang Yi, discussed issues with his Pakistan counterpart, Ishaq Dar, and India's National Security Advisor, Ajit Doval, without any concrete proposals in hand. Ironically, Chinese bloggers criticised India for 'escalation' and called its actions 'destabilising' even as they cheered Pakistan's drone strikes on

Indian borders. Many even said Pakistan was not involved in cross-border terrorism attacks in India, despite substantial evidence in this regard. Beijing offered mediation between the two warring South Asian countries but was at a loss when Pakistan preferred to approach the United States for a ceasefire. China's efforts to white-wash Pakistan-based terrorists and its diplomatic support to Islamabad have dented the image of China as a responsible country. Its myopic vision to back its "all-weather" friend at all costs is expected to cost it its long-term strategic objectives. However, it was in the military showdown that China's image took a dent. Most of its military equipment - estimated to have cost Pakistan more than \$20 billion - underperformed, missed their targets, malfunctioned, destroyed, or fell like duds in the war theatre. For instance, China sold to Pakistan its "vigorous dragon" J-10 C fighter aircraft.

Calculated Pressure' Should Be India's  
Mantra As Pak Chooses Escalation

Suman Sharma

When the Pahalgam attack took place on April 22 this year, with loss of innocent lives and the disgraceful religious and gender profiling, it was obvious that India's limit of tolerance had been crossed not by a few but by manifold notches. Although the government of India convened the Cabinet Committee for Security (CCS) immediately in the aftermath of the attack, the decisions of the CCS harped on politico-diplomatic-economic options to punish Pakistan. To strategic minds, it was obvious that it was a window of opportunity created for the armed forces to plan, acquire necessary intelligence and establish full readiness for both the launch of the designed offensive and the necessary guarding of flanks and depth to absorb any retaliation. Militaries usually work on surprise, but that may not be the most efficient way of executing an operation in which retribution is a major factor. In other words, failure or even non-attainment of the full aim cannot be an option. The delivery of the mission was a national compulsion, for, on it rested the image and the future status of India as a

responsible nation that could defend itself. Operation Sindoor, a very appropriate name of the operation, of which much has been written in the media, was designed to showcase India's capability for escalation dominance without a full-scale war. It was also conceived to impose material costs on Pakistan's hybrid war apparatus. With its emerging global strategic importance, India also ensured pre-emptive global diplomatic outreach to shape the post-strike narrative as a legitimate act of self-defence. In the operational-strategic domain, the shift from 'surgical strikes' and single objective missions, to strategic, punitive missile diplomacy has been a marked change in the strategy that India has followed. It's important to break down the components of the entire operation and look at these from angles that have hitherto not been considered strategically significant. The codename is one of them. The choice of the name, 'Operation Sindoor', is a lesson in strategic communication and is reputed to have the Prime Minister's personal stamp. 'Sindoor' (vermilion) symbolises a sacred mark on the

forehead in Indian culture, often associated with martyrdom (evoking the blood of fallen soldiers), resolve, and sanctity (especially, feminine strength in mythology). It is also a symbol conveying the betrothal of a woman to her husband. Thus, it's a sacred red line - which, once crossed, invites decisive retaliation. The psychological messaging from the codename was the reflection of India's restrained but resolute posture. On the choice of the nine targets and the means of hitting them, it's also good to understand why women officers of the Indian and the Indian Air Force (IAF) were nominated to sit on the Foreign Secretary's panel and explain the operation in detail. The era of strategic optics is now decidedly upon us. Most of India makes up its mind by watching visuals and staring at their mobile screens. The optics of the briefing focused on India's modern, inclusive, and capable armed forces. It countered stereotypes about patriarchal militaries. There was a symbolic projection of 'Nari Shakti' (women power) in national security roles to also link it with the tragedy that befell the unfortunate women.

What If Nuclear War Breaks Out? Here Are The  
7 Devastating Consequences

KK

Amid the ongoing tensions between India and Pakistan, one thing that's constantly making the rounds on the internet is the possibility of a nuclear war between the two countries. Nuclear weapons are the most destructive man-made thing ever created, because of the extensive devastation they cause and their distinctive, persistent, and genetically damaging radioactive fallout that spreads uncontrollably. The atomic bombings of the Japanese cities of Hiroshima on August 6, 1945,

and Nagasaki on August 9, 1945, carried out by the United States, during World War II, were the first and only use of atomic weapons in warfare, till now. As per the estimates, the bombing had killed an estimated 140,000 people in Hiroshima, and 74,000 people in Nagasaki by the end of 1945. A single nuclear weapon has the potential to destroy a city and kill most of its people. Multiple nuclear explosions over urban areas could lead to catastrophic consequences. This scenario could wipe out tens of millions of

lives. According to reports, a nuclear explosion's fireball comes to its maximum size in just about 10 seconds, unleashing massive energy in the form of blast, heat, and radiation. The shockwave, after the explosion, travels at hundreds of kilometres per hour, and has the potential to cause destruction beyond imagination. The blast can claim many lives near ground zero and inflict injuries, including lung damage and internal bleeding, at far distances. Collapsing structures and flying debris also harm people. Near ground zero, thermal radiation's extreme heat vaporizes everything, which leads to severe burns and sparking massive fires that merge into devastating firestorms. The disaster can also kill people in underground shelters due to lack of oxygen or carbon monoxide poisoning. Talking about the long-term, nuclear weapons produce ionizing radiation.

This could contaminate the environment, including rivers and air, which kills or sickens those exposed, and has long-term health consequences, including cancer.



## RSS asks for 'one nation-one culture' amid Aurangzeb issue

**Delhi: Rashtriya**

Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) stressed its commitment to "one nation-one culture" and advised people to choose idols "wisely" by questioning if they wanted a "invader" like Aurangzeb or his brother Dara Shikoh, who "loved the spirit of Indian After the Sangh's three-day Akhil Bharatiya Pratinidhi Sabha ABPS, RSS general secretary Dattatreya Hosabale told reporters that "one nation-one culture" aims to correct a "distorted narrative in written history" and create "a harmonious and organised Bharat". He claimed RSS will reach mandals and basthis (small pockets with less than 10,000 people) through a series of programs. The project will help the organization celebrate its centenary on Oct. 2, Vijayadashami. RSS was started by Dr. Keshav Baliram Hedgewar on Vijayadashami Day



### BJP claims Tamil Nadu liquor fraud worth Rs 1,000 crore, DMK denies it

**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

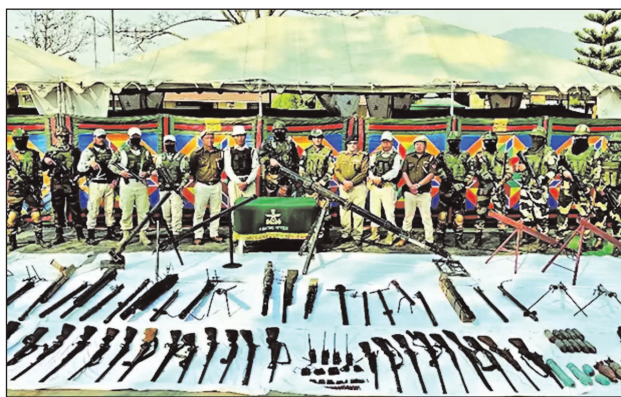
1925. Hosabale responded to Nagpur riots: "Independence in 1947 gave the country liberty, but mental decolonization is still needed.

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

Before Independence, Rana Pratap Singh fought for freedom. If someone changes the story based on Aurangzeb, we will battle it.

## 70% of Manipur firearms surrendered after governor call

**Delhi:** In response to governor Ajay Bhalla's call last month, about 70% of Manipur's guns surrendered came from four Valley districts: Imphal East, Imphal West, Thoubal, and Bishnupur. CRPF sources reported that 991 guns were surrendered between February 20 and the governor's deadline to voluntarily return weapons looted after ethnic unrest in Manipur in May 2023. This period saw rebels and protests across the state surrender 11,526 ammo, 366 hand grenades, 230 explosives, and 10 IEDs. Rebels in Imphal West surrendered 349 arms,



2,460 ammunition, 115 grenades, 2 explosives, and 1 IED. The authorities retrieved 204 guns, 5,764 rounds, 109 grenades, and 45 bombs from Imphal West. Over 15 days, Thoubal and Bishnupur surrendered 124 firearms, 1,329 ammo, 58 grenades, 9 explosives, and 2 IEDs.

Fewer surrenders occurred in Valley and hill districts. Sources say 4,500 guns were found in Manipur since ethnic conflict began, 1,050 of which were surrendered. The rest were taken by police and security during raids and searches.

## Gzb fast rail station may provide co-working spaces

**Delhi:** NCR opened a co-working space at Ghaziabad's Namo Bharat station concourse. The area will serve 42 people and 11 organizations with 42 open workstations, 11 private cabins, and two meeting spaces. An NCRTC spokesman said

video conferencing, wireless screen sharing, and high-speed fiber-optic internet are available. "IoT-enabled workspaces will have smart lighting, climate control, and meeting room scheduling. QR scan-and-use hot desks, vending machines, and feed-

back gathering will be available. The official stated that integrating these technologies will give professionals a future-ready, connected, and efficient co-working experience. This cost-effective strategy will allow startups, small enterprises.

## DU will discuss the Viksit Bharat curriculum

**Delhi:** According to officials, the standing committee of Delhi University (DU) will meet to evaluate suggestions for a number of value addition courses (VAC), including four that are centered on the Bhagavad Gita and one called An Introduction to Viksit Bharat. The committee's emphasis on incorporating modern applications of Indian philosophy and development topics into the curriculum is highlighted in the agenda, which was made public on Wednesday.

With themes like "Gita for Holistic Life," "Gita and Leadership Excellence," "Gita for Sustainable Universe," and "Gita for Navigating Life Challenges," four of the six VACs that are being considered are cen-



tered around the Bhagavad Gita. Based on Karmayoga, Jnanayoga, and Bhaktiyoga, the Gita for Holistic Life syllabus suggests teachings on self-management, resolving problems in modern life, and methods of action, knowledge, and devotion. The course will also include practical components. The other courses will cover similar the-

matic applications of Gita's teachings to leadership, sustainability, and life's problems. Gita may undoubtedly be able to offer us some direction, but it seems ridiculous to introduce so many VACs on Gita. In addition to practical elements like field trips to communities, self-help groups, and farmers' organizations.

### Supreme Court verdict will simplify government land acquisition

**Delhi:** Out of frustration with land acquisition litigation that delays projects for decades, the Supreme Court declared that a government cannot be hindered by third-party rights after acquiring land for public use. A bench of CJI Sanjiv Khanna and Justice Sanjay Kumar ruled that only the government can rescind acquisition for the full land or a portion of it, hence even a public organization that acquired land cannot surrender it to someone privately. Litigation over purchased land, mostly due to third-party rights, has delayed numerous projects.

## India's servers will host DeepSeek's AI models for security

**Delhi :**The Indian government said it will host Chinese startup DeepSeek's AI models on its computers to monitor security and safety. The country increased its efforts to give computers to entrepreneurs and researchers to accelerate the development of localized AI 'foundational models' or tech solutions to offset US and Chinese AI developments. IT and electronics minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said the government is buying 18,693 GPUs to provide "affordable

compute" to large and growing IT enterprises and AI researchers. Foundation models are AI solutions educated on large datasets to fulfill several tasks. The models are adaptable and can be customized for special uses. Vaishnaw noted that DeepSeek was constructed with 2,000 GPUs, therefore the Rs 10,372 crore IndiaAI mission's high-tech GPUs are enough to power India's AI quest. He dismissed concerns about India being late in its AI quest, saying it has US assistance as a valued

partner. We are punctual. Computer access is most vital. This is now accessible. We are fit. Getting the computer facility was crucial to the goal." He added India is optimistic Nvidia will provide GPUs regularly despite US government limitations on some countries. "I'm reiterating that we are seen as a trusted country, we're seen as a country which respects IP rights, (and) we're seen as a country which understands the technological development prospects .

## Fadnavis details 2014 Shiv Sena-BJP split 'Yuvraj reluctant to compromise'

**Delhi:** BJP-Shiv Sena partnership collapsed in 2014, as Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis admitted for the first time. The CM blamed seat-sharing disputes with Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena for the split. "When alliance talks began, the Shiv Sena had agreed to fight only 151 seats. We proposed contesting 127 seats and Shiv Sena 147 seats, and giving the rest to our minor alliance partners "said. Fadnavis spoke at Sikkim Governor Om Prakash Mathur's felicitation. The coalition ended when Shiv Sena refused to compromise on seat demands, the CM stated. After BJP leaders like Om Prakash Mathur escalated the situation to the central leadership, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah made the deci-



### Aadhaar verification has raised concerns among online gaming operators

In a number of cases challenging the restrictions placed by the Tamil Nadu Online Gaming Authority (TNOGA) that real money games (RMG) could not be played between midnight and 5 a.m. Indian Standard Time (IST) or without Aadhaar verification through one-time passwords (OTPs), the Madras High Court chose not to issue an interim order. Justices S.M. Subramaniam and K. Rajasekar of the Division Bench expressed their preference to hear the writ petitions submitted.

sions, he said. "Home Minister Amit Shah spoke to the Prime Minister, and it was decided that the alliance could continue only if the formula was

127 for BJP and 147 for Shiv Sena," he claimed. "I trusted Amit Shah and Om Prakash Mathur. We believed we could win, but the party did not.

## Stage productions cannot depict Sikh Gurus, Sahibzadas

**Delhi:** The Punjab Directorate of School Education has ordered all District Education Officers (DEOs) and school heads to stop students from playing Guru Gobind Singh's "Sahibzadas" (sons) and their families in plays and dramas. After National Commission for



Minorities chairman Iqbal Singh Lalpura wrote to the state's Chief Secretary, the directive was issued. The

Commission received a complaint that certain schools across the country had misconstrued the instructions by producing plays that depicted the Sahibzadas being bricked alive. To prevent anyone from misrepresenting the Sahibzadas and their families, the Commission has created a

Standard Operating Procedure (SOP). The SOP specifies that no one, especially kids, may mimic Sikh Gurus or their families on stage. The Commission stressed the cultural and theological value of portraying historical personalities, particularly Guru Gobind Singh's Sahibzadas.

## New UPSC PwBD guidelines avoid misconduct and fraudulent certifications



Examination candidature will be canceled if the registration and online application form lack the relevant information/documents. "All of these changes should be explicitly stated in

the notification, or the exam-conducting authority can create an educational video for specially abled candidates," he says. They appear puzzled and unable to complete the Prelims application form (due

February 11, 2025). Candidates must also write about their interests, hobbies, achievements, and NCC Scout participation in the Prelims, which were previously announced after the Mains. "The goal is to get the best candidate profile information before the Prelims," Kottaram explains (IRS) officers were recruited under PwBD reservation advantages. UPSC must examine claims and papers if aspirants submit fraudulent documents.



## SC approves Mathura Shri Banke Bihari Temple corridor project

**Delhi:** For scores of devotees, the Supreme Court approved an Uttar Pradesh government plan to develop the Shri Banke Bihari Temple corridor in Mathura. Justices Bela M Trivedi and Satish Chandra Sharma granted the Uttar Pradesh government's request to use Shri Banke Bihari shrine funding exclusively to buy 5-acre land around the shrine for a holding area. "We let Uttar Pradesh implement the entire scheme. According to the Banke Bihari Ji Trust, the state government can use the fixed deposits in the name of the deity/temple to acquire the requested land. However, the top court ordered that the deity/trust own the site for temple and corridor development.

It changed the November 8, 2023 Allahabad High Court ruling on the Uttar Pradesh government's PIL, which



### 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

accepted the state's ambitious project but refused to let it use temple monies. The bench noted that since the court was hearing the Uttar

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

Pradesh government's claim about Braj temple administration and safety, it was in the public interest to rule quickly.

**Delhi:** Sanjay Jha, working president of the Janata Dal (United) in Delhi, has praised the government's decision to incorporate caste-based enumeration in the next decadal census, stating that this is a significant step that will aid in the more effective design of policies for marginalized and underprivileged groups. Chosen passages from his interview: A major victory, without a doubt. Not only for the JD(U) but also for the NDA, since the BJP had joined forces and acknowledged the necessity of caste-based enumeration. Our party's leader, Nitish Kumar, has long



brought up this matter, even during his time in the INDIA bloc. Nevertheless, his request went unanswered at that time. We in the party believe that gathering information regarding the numerical strength of castes will allow us to better design policies and intervene

for the well-being of the poor and disadvantaged. It ought to have been done long ago; this crucial exercise has not taken place since 1931. There was zero coercion. You might recall that in 2022, the state cabinet in Bihar decided to do a caste survey with the support of the BJP.

## Key AI copyright panel member requests removal before first meeting

**Delhi:** A key member of the newly formed committee examining the impact of artificial intelligence (AI) on India's copyright law claims they were added without consultation and has written to the DPIIT requesting to be replaced by an AI expert.

The committee, constituted by DPIIT under the ministry of commerce & industry will study the legal and policy concerns surrounding AI in copyright and the Copyright Act, 1957's sufficiency. DPIIT will publish the committee's working paper with sug-

gestions after this procedure. "I'm not an AI expert," remarked the unnamed dissenter. Technology advances quicker than law, thus law must catch up. Artificial intelligence (AI) changes the game, thus outdated laws can't regulate it.

## Plans to update madrasa education Act of 2004 by UP government

**Delhi :** To update religious seminaries' curricula, the Yogi Adityanath administration in Uttar Pradesh intends to revise the Uttar Pradesh Board of Madrasa Education Act of 2004. However, this move is likely to spark controversy due to the fact that minority institutions in India are legally allowed to determine their own curricula. The proposed changes include making science and computer labs mandatory, switching to the National Council for Education, Research and Training (NCERT) curriculum from grades 1-3 and the State Council for Educational Research and Training (SCERT) from grades 4-8, and making English and Hindi classes mandatory from grades 3-10. Danish Azad Ansari, the minis-



ter of state for minority welfare in Uttar Pradesh, confirmed the development, saying that the chief minister had already discussed the ideas in a meeting. In his words, "affiliation from the Up-madarsa Board" necessitates meeting all of these specs. In Class 10, students have the option to study English or Hindi, and most madrasas follow their

own curriculum without science or computer laboratories. Maulana Khalid Rasheed Farangi Mahali, a member of the AIMPLB and chairman of the Islamic Centre of India, spoke out against the government's emphasis on announcements and instead called for better education in madrasas. image.png

### Teachers overburdened, students didn't attend classes 18 govt schools

**Delhi:** class 12 board exam results were declared earlier this week, 18 govt schools in Haryana have come under scrutiny. No student passed from any of these schools. Most of these six are in Nuh, four in Faridabad, and one each in Gurgaon, Hisar, Jhajjar, Karnal, Palwal, Rohtak, Sonapat and Yamunanagar. The zero-pass record isn't the only concern. These schools are among 100 govt institutions that performed poorly in the boards, overshadowing the overall pass percentage of 85.7. In 82 schools across Haryana's 22 districts, the pass percentage.

## Congress supports the Centre's online anti-terror efforts

**Delhi:** In an effort to clarify India's stance on terrorism emanating from Pakistan, the government has proposed sending multi-party parliamentary delegations to several nations. The Congress has said that it will be a member of these delegations. Jairam Ramesh, the communications in-charge of the Congress party, stated that Union minister Kiren Rijiju has discussed the matter with the president of the Congress, however the government has not made an official announcement. On



the other hand, Ramesh blasted Prime Minister Narendra Modi for passing on crucial matters of national security without consulting with his political opponents at home. In response to the terror incidents in Pahalgam and Operation Sindoor, the prime minister has declined to lead two all-party meetings.

Ramesh stated in a post that the Prime Minister has not consented to summon a special session of Parliament, as the Indian National Congress has been requesting, in order to show unity and restate the resolution that was passed by Parliament without a single vote on February 22, 1994.

## No vacancy for CM post in Bihar,' says Chirag after meeting Nitish Kumar

**Delhi:** Union minister and BJP (RV) head Chirag Paswan visited the chief minister at his Patna residence and expressed his support for Nitish Kumar by stating, "There is no vacancy for the CM's post in the state, as of now." Chirag reported that the gathering covered a wide range of topics pertaining to the state. Following the announcement of the election results, Nitish Kumar will once again head the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government in Bihar. In Bihar, the chief minister is spearheading the coalition, and I have faith that he would follow Prime Minister Narendra Modi's development approach, Chirag added. Arun Bharti, a member of the BJP (RV) from Jamui and Chirag's brother-in-law, told reporters that during their meeting with the chief minister,



### 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.

Nitish bestowed a blessing on his party president for his future leadership roles. During his discussion with Nitish, Chirag informed him about the 'Buyer-

seller international meet' that he was going to launch in Patna. Chirag then reaffirmed his intention to be politically engaged. in Bihar. I am originally

## The Patna Sahib has proclaimed three Akal Takht jathedars to be dukes

**Delhi:** Restoring excommunicated Takht Patna Sahib jathedar Giani Ranjit Singh Gauhar and summoning the Takht head granthi and additional head granthi, among others, to Akal Takht in Amritsar was declared by the 'Panj Pyare' (five beloved Takht Sri Harimandir Patna



Sahib in Patna) as "tankhaiya"

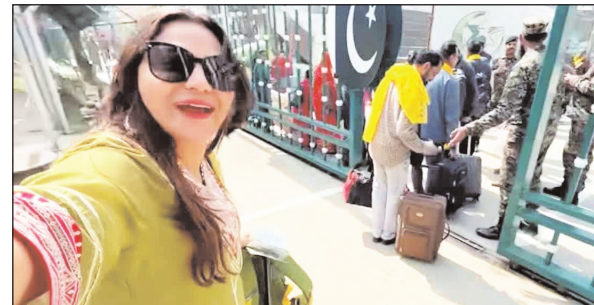
(guilty of religious misconduct), according to Yudhvira Rana at Akal Takht in Amritsar. Not only is Akal Takht's jathedar Giani Kuldeep Singh Gargaj there, but so are the two others: Baba Tek Singh and Takht Kesgarh Sahib. The 'Panj Pyare' has also issued a 10-day

notice to SAD president Sukhbir Badal, accusing him of interfering with Takht Patna Sahib's operations. They made it known that the Takht Sri Harimandir Patna Sahib will not be bound by decisions made at the Akal Takht or any other Takht outside of Patna.

### Yeida approves Film City layout

**Delhi:** The Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (Yeida) approved the layout design for the projected Film City in Sector 21, allowing filmmaker Boney Kapoor-led Bayview Bhutani Film City Private Limited to begin building. On December 24, 2024, Bayview Bhutani submitted the layout plan for clearance because work cannot begin without it. Yeida officials approved the layout plan following a thorough planning and high-level committee assessment.

**Delhi :** The alleged links between YouTuber Jyoti Malhotra and Pakistani intelligence operatives (PIOs) were questioned by officials from the National Investigation Agency (NIA) and the Intelligence Bureau (IB) during her espionage charge hearing, according to sources familiar with the investigation. Malhotra's recent travels to Pakistan, China, Bangladesh, and Dubai are also being investigated. Four individuals have been apprehended in the previous 24



hours alone in Punjab, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh alone, bringing the total number of individuals arrested in various northern Indian states to fourteen. The individuals are claimed to have shared critical information with operators from Pakistan, according to the authorities.

According to Hisar SP Shashank Kumar Sawan, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) team was visiting the city to question Jyoti Malhotra, the principal suspect. Nobody from the NIA has spoken out about it. The anonymous source added that Malhotra was interro-

gated by the IB and other personnel from the central intelligence agency in addition to the NIA. It has been discovered that she obtained a passport in 2018 with a validity until 2028 and has subsequently traveled to many countries such as Pakistan, China, Dubai, Thailand, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, and Indonesia. Additionally, the officer mentioned that additional information is being gathered regarding her travels, specifically to Pakistan, China.



## 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.

### Coconut oil prices rise, hurting users

**Delhi :** Coconut oil, a staple in most Indian households, may be raising your grocery expenditures. Due to rising coconut oil inflation, Marico and Dabur raised prices by 40% in the past year. According to Saugata Gupta, MD & CEO of Marico, commodity prices have 'peaked' and are unlikely to climb much unless a 'black swan event' occurs. He expects higher volume growth in the FMCG sector this financial year. For Marico, which creates Parachute coconut oil, copra dominates its commodity basket.

## Supreme Court rejects Airtel and Vodafone's requests to waive AGR fees

**Delhi :** Airtel and Vodafone Idea were denied a waiver of interest and penalty on their outstanding adjusted gross revenue (AGR) debts, totaling Rs 80,000 crore, by the Supreme Court. The order would have an effect on Tata Teleservices as well. After the initial SC order in 2019, which aimed to recover industrial dues, the outstanding AGR is now little less than 1.5 lakh crore.

Since it entered the telecom market in 2016 with only a



minor exposure to past dues and adjustments, Reliance Jio was the only company that walked out relatively unscathed.

The businesses' request for a postponement was denied by a panel of Justices JB Pardiwala and R Mahadevan, who

deemed the companies' petitions "shocking and misconceived" and rejected them. Multinational corporations' filing procedures for petitions seeking remedies for enforcement of rights under Article 32 were also examined by the court.

## High prices reduce India's January-March gold demand by 15% to 118.1 tonnes

**Delhi:** The WGC predicts 700-800 tons of gold demand from India in 2025. Since 2025, gold prices have increased 25%, approaching the psychological threshold of ₹1,000,000 per 10 gm, impacting consumer purchasing behaviors. Price increases have hurt

affordability. However, gold's cultural significance, especially ahead of Akshaya Tritiya and the wedding season, supports buying sentiment "WGC India CEO Sachin Jain stated in its quarterly report. Experts say the gold market is buzzing on Akshaya

Tritiya, a culturally significant day in India that generally boosts gold buying. Record costs have driven shoppers toward smaller, lighter pieces, with some delaying purchases awaiting price drops. Wedding demand remained consistent.

## Brokers can now invest in new business

**Delhi :** Brokers can now invest their own cash in enterprises beyond their jurisdiction after the government changed the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Rule. They can't invest clients' money in those businesses. They cannot borrow to invest in other firms either. Brokers indicated they'll await Sebi's rules. Brokers couldn't float subsidiaries before now. Top broking house officials stated the new rules allow that. "Given the growth in the scale and interconnectedness of the financial sector and the evolution of the nature of business of brokers with time, the DEA (Dept of Economic Affairs) felt it necessary to review the appropriateness of safeguards



embedded in the rules so that the intent of the rules is served without constraining activities of the stakeholders," the government said in a release. Broking house executives believe this SCRR modification is a major regulatory change. Leading broker

Motilal Oswal said stock brokers could only invest in securities and commodity derivatives until now. "This amendment allows stock brokers to invest in any firm without using client funds or securities or creating financial obligation.

### The cancellation of fleet talks by Uber is bad news for BluSmart.

**Delhi :** Two sources familiar with the matter have confirmed that Uber has canceled plans to transfer approximately 5,000 electric vehicles owned by Gensol Engineering Ltd. from BluSmart to its platform. The negotiations broke down because everyone was unhappy with the asking price for the autos. Discussions had begun as part of BluSmart's strategy to revitalise its taxi business. It was expected that BluSmart would partner with Uber's fleet. One of the individuals mentioned earlier asserted, "Uber has now withdrawn its interest," while requesting anonymity.

## 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 Wadhvani. "Today, we have a significant presence with life insurance and asset management businesses providing a comprehensive offering of insurance and wealth products," Wadhvani. 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.

## Automakers from other countries are searching for ways to cut electric vehicle tariffs

**Delhi:** In March 2024, India offered to let international automakers import a certain number of electric cars with low duties in exchange for a commitment to invest a certain amount in the country. Meanwhile, three industry officials have stated that manufacturers are now focusing on anticipated tariff reductions in free trade agreements (FTAs) that are currently being discussed, as the scheme's criteria have not been finalized by the Centre. Following CEO Elon Musk's public criticism of India's high import levies on autos, the country's



plan to promote manufacturing of electric passenger cars in India (SPMEPC-ICI), also known as the "Tesla Policy," was viewed as an effort by New Delhi to entice the American automaker. The plan called for authorized automakers to be able to import 8,000 EVs per year for a 15% tariff, as opposed to the typical 70-110% tariff on

fully assembled cars, also known as CBUs. Minimum investments of ₹4,150 crore were required to qualify for the incentive. People and companies said to be interested in the project include Tesla, Vinfast of Vietnam, Toyota Kirloskar, Hyundai Motor Ltd., Volkswagen Group, and Hyundai Motor Ltd.

## Indian tourists boycott Turkey, Azerbaijan

**Delhi :** According to two travel agencies, Indian tourists are canceling vacations to Turkey and Azerbaijan after the two countries supported Pakistan in a recent armed war with New Delhi. India is considering boycotting Turkey and Azerbaijan after both



publicly supported Pakistan amid mounting tensions after Operation Sindoor and the April 22 Pahalgam terror assault. Turkey supported Pakistan's call for an international probe into the Pahalgam incident, while Azerbaijan repeated

Pakistan's position. Turkish weapons have also been given to Pakistan. "Bookings for Azerbaijan and Turkey decreasing by 60% (over the last week) while cancellations have surged by 250%," a MakeMyTrip spokeswoman told

## The 'Faster Service' Advance Tip Feature of Uber is Baffled by CCPA Notice

**Delhi :** In response to a contentious policy found inside the Uber app, the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) has given the company a notice. The app allegedly encouraged users to tip drivers in advance to potentially gain quicker pick-up services, according to Union Consumer Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi. According to Joshi, this method is exploitative and unethical. Feel free to become one of our three million satisfied clients. Free brokerage



For first 30 days" Publicly voicing his disapproval, the Minister said that gratuities should be an after-service, optional gift of appreciation rather than a prerequisite for better service. Uber is being asked to provide an official explanation by the CCPA about this behavior. Users alleged-

ly see a suggestion to tip ₹50, ₹75 or 100 when they book a ride on Uber. The app's messaging implies that tipping drivers ahead of time would improve the likelihood of faster acceptance. "Tip for faster pickup" is the message that appears in the alert. If you provide a gratuity, the driv-

### NBD Bank PJSC gets RBI approval for India wholly owned subsidiary

**Delhi:** Emirates NBD Bank PJSC, a renowned UAE banking firm, received "in-principle" approval from the RBI to create a wholly owned subsidiary (WOS) in India. This is part of the RBI's Scheme for Foreign Banks to Set Up WOS

in India. In India, Emirates NBD has branches in Mumbai, Chennai, and Gurugram. The RBI has allowed the bank to transform these branches into wholly owned subsidiaries, subject to regulatory compliance.

er could be more inclined to accept the journey.

It elaborates by saying that the tip is final once chosen and belongs solely to the

driver. The present scrutiny is a result of this prompt, which seems to position the tip as a way to influence service speed rather than a reward.



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

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



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### Popular Business Degrees and Their Payoff

**Delhi:** You want a promotion at work after years of hard work. You know you have the job and life experience, but your resume never gets you an interview because you never graduated. You've considered returning to school, but how do you know your time and money will pay off? Let's get to work. A college degree can help you advance your job or start a new one and boost your earnings. One of the most popular on-campus.

## Medical issues will keep Moeen-Powell out of KKR's IPL 2025

**Delhi :** KKR, the defending champions, announced that all-rounders Rovman Powell and Moeen Ali will miss the rest of the IPL 2025 owing to medical issues. Except for Moeen and Powell, all other players—Indian and foreign—and support staff have arrived in Bengaluru, according to KKR. Powell and Ali were medically unable to return. Moeen and his family have a virus, while Rovman is having surgery. The franchise said it wished them good health and a swift recovery. Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) will train at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium



on Thursday and Friday before their match against Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) on Saturday, which is also IPL 2025's return. After the BCCI suspended the IPL 2025 for a week on May 9 due to border tension between India and Pakistan, it will

continue from May 17 to June 3. A ceasefire between the two countries allowed the BCCI to begin action on May 17.

Five wins from 12 matches have put Kolkata Knight Riders, captained by Ajinkya Rahane, in sixth place in the points table.

## 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.

## Delhi to hold mammoth job fair to increase youth employment

**Delhi :** The Delhi government will host a huge job expo later this year to increase youth employment. According to an official release, Labour and Employment Minister Kapil Mishra met with DoE officials to discuss connecting job seekers with employers. According to Mishra, government and industry departments should coordinate their efforts. He stated that the Delhi government's 2025-26 Budget funds the job fair. "A common platform will enable employer-job seeker direct interaction.

The first fair may be in July, he said. The meeting resolved to engage industry



associations like Ficci, Dicci, CII, and PHD Chamber of Commerce. Government agencies including the Department of Training and Technical Education, Department of Higher Education, and Education Department Vocational Branch will participate. A senior

labor department official said the data will help construct a list of job-seeking adolescents and recruiting organizations. Mishra also ordered departments to get campus placement and recruitment data from their universities and technical colleges.

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

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

## Maintain pre-2010 7% OBC quota

**Delhi :** Calcutta high court ordered the West Bengal University of Health Sciences (WBUHS), a government medical university in Kolkata, to enroll students with 7% reservation for 66 OBCs notified in the state before 2010. In its ruling, justice Kausik Chanda noted that a division bench of the high court had set down the state's reservation policy in May, which divided OBCs into A and B categories and offered 10% and 7% quota, respectively. The state must apply OBC reservations solely to the 66 backward classes recognized by



the backward class department before 2009. Justice Chanda that the state's OBC reservations should be 7% per November 6, 1997 notification. Caste certificates for 66 grades produced before 2010 have been preserved and 7% reservation maintained, the decision stated. The government suspended quota-based recruit-

ment and admissions after a division bench of the high court revoked OBC designation for 77 Muslim communities granted by the state since 2010. Supreme Court challenge by TMC government. West Bengal offered 17% OBC reservation in public sector jobs and state-run schools before the May ruling. It was divided into two brackets:

## A Third of the Total Fees Will Go Towards Reevaluating Legal Papers

**Delhi** Students in the Faculty of Law at Delhi University are protesting the introduction of a new re-evaluation facility, and not because of the facility itself but because of how much it would cost. DU's re-evaluation price for LLB students is Rs 2,000 per answer sheet, which is



equivalent to one-third of the faculty's yearly tuition fee and twice the fee for other disciplines. Previously, the only alternative accessible to law students was to have their marks re-totaled; re-evaluation of answer sheets was not an option. Professional courses, like law, do not currently have access to re-evaluation facilities, but DU announced plans to expand them in November of last year. Many were disappointed by the recently approved pricing, despite the fact that the move was well-

### US may ban visas for Indian travel brokers

**Delhi:** The announcement comes months after the U.S. deported illegal Indian immigrants. Around 330 Indian nationals were returned in February, demonstrating the Trump administration's stance on illegal immigration. The issue was likely raised during U.S. Vice-President J.D. Vance's India visit last month.

## Former CJI DY Chandrachud appointed as 'distinguished professor' at NLU

**Delhi:** Former Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud has been named a "distinguished professor" at National Law University (NLU), Delhi. The university shared the announcement in a press release and described it as a major step for legal education in India. "We are profoundly honoured to welcome Dr Justice D Y Chandrachud, former Chief Justice of India, as a Distinguished Professor at National Law University Delhi," NLU Delhi said in the press release. NLU Vice-Chancellor G S Bajpai called the move a key moment for legal academia. "This historic association marks a transformative chapter in Indian legal education, bringing one of our most progressive jurists to mentor the



"Justice Chandrachud's presence will profoundly enrich our academic ecosystem," he said. Under this collaboration, the university will set up a Centre for Constitutional Studies, where Justice Chandrachud will lead research work. NLU Delhi also plans to begin a lecture series

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titled In the Spirit of Justice: The NYC Distinguished Lecture Series starting in July 2025. This series will focus on major judgments authored by Justice Chandrachud, covering topics like privacy, LGBTQ+ rights, gender justice, digital freedoms, and judicial reforms. These will be discussed from his point of view.

## Premji pledges 2,250 crore for college education of girls



**Delhi:** Azim Premji Foundation has committed to giving 2,250 crore over three years to help more girls complete their college education, making it the country's largest direct benefit transfer scheme by a not-for-profit private entity. Under the initiative, a girl who has completed her standard X and XII from a government school can apply for the Azim Premji scholarship. Billionaire and philanthropist Azim Premji's eponymous foundation, Azim Premji Foundation, would give 30,000 a year to up to 250,000 girl students. This translates to ₹750 crore a year, which, over a three-year degree program, would total 2,250 crore. "The basic purpose of this is to allow girl children to complete their higher education," said. Anurag Behar, chief executive officer of Azim Premji Foundation. "If a girl has completed 10th and 12th from a government school and is admitted to a bona fide college, the child is eligible to get 30,000 every year for the duration of her course." Beginning in September, a girl who starts college and has received the Azim Premji scholarship will receive ₹90,000 over a three-year degree program.