

AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

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

Will reconsider the case of stray dogs: Chief Justice

New Delhi: Chief Justice of India BR Gavai on Wednesday assured to reconsider the ban on stray dogs from the streets of Delhi-NCR. The Chief Justice made the comment while hearing a petition filed by a senior advocate. The petitioner also mentioned the petition of the Conference for Human

Assured

The Chief Justice Gavai made the comment while hearing a petition

Rights (India) in the court, which stated that the Animal Birth Control (Dog) Rule, 2001, is not being fol-



lowed. This rule of 2001 makes regular

sterilization and vaccination programs neces-

sary to reduce the growing population of stray dogs. On August 11, the Supreme Court had ordered to remove all stray dogs from the residential areas of Delhi-NCR and send them to shelter homes within 8 weeks in view of dog bites and rabies cases. The court had warned of strict action against persons

obstructing the ban. The court had said - If any person or organization creates an obstacle, contempt proceedings can be initiated. The court took animal lovers to task and asked whether they would be able to bring back children who were victims of rabies? Children should not get rabies at any cost.

'SIR' is voter friendly'

Verification

Court rejected the petitioner's claim this exercise is an attempt to exclude people



Congress making false allegations: BJP

New Delhi. Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP Anurag Thakur has hit back at the allegations leveled by former Congress president and leader of opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on the Election Commission. He said that if anyone has a record of losing elections 90 times under his leadership, it is Rahul Gandhi. Questions are raised on Rahul Gandhi's leadership even within the party. When he loses elections, he questions EVMs or blames the voters. Anurag Thakur said that Congress first said that EVMs have been rigged for the BJP.

voter and separatist, but Justice Bagchi rejected his argument and said, "We understand your argument of separation

by linking it to Aadhaar. But the matter is about the number of documents, which is actually in favor of the voters, not

against them. Just see, with how many documents you can prove citizenship." If 11 documents are asked for then... Supporting Justice Bagchi's words, Justice Surya Kant said, "If 11 documents are asked for, then it can be anti-voter. But if only one document is asked for, then..." The court made it clear that this step of the Election Commission is going to facilitate the voters, not to trouble them. Opposition

The issue of special revision of the voter list in Bihar is spread across the country. The matter was also heard in the Supreme Court. During the hearing, social activist Yogendra Yadav presented a woman and a man in the court and claimed that they have been declared 'dead' in the draft voter list released after the SIR process in Bihar. He said that more than 65 lakh voters have been affected due to SIR.



The 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign started under the leadership of PM Modi has today become a mass campaign to bind the country in the thread of unity: Amit Shah

Single window system will be made for Ramlila committees: CM Rekha



Mahasangh and senior officials of the concerned departments were present in the meeting. Chief Minister said that this time Ramlila is going to be staged in the capital from 22 September to 02 October.

New Delhi. All types of No Objection Certificates (NOC) will be issued through a single window system under the leadership of DM at the district level for all permissions regarding staging Ramlila in the capital. This decision was taken in a special meeting held on Wednesday at Raj Niwas under the chairmanship of Lieutenant Governor Vinay Kumar Saxena. Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, officials of Delhi Ramlila

There are 1.53 crore stray dogs in the country

70% will be vaccinated within a year, advisory issued

Action plan

A/o the 2019 animal census, there are 50 lakh destitute animals in the country



New Delhi: On August 11, the Supreme Court had directed to remove all stray dogs from the streets of Delhi-NCR within 8 weeks and send them to special shelter homes. New information has come to the fore amid the

debate sparked after the Supreme Court's order to remove stray dogs from the streets of Delhi-NCR and take them to shelter homes. The central government has expressed concern over the increasing incidents of stray dog

bites and stray animals causing harm to the public. The Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Ministry of Panchayati Raj and Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairy have prepared a master

Kumaraswamy unveiled the official logo of 'Bharat Steel'

New Delhi. Union Steel and Heavy Industries Minister HD Kumaraswamy on Wednesday unveiled the official logo of the flagship 'Bharat Steel' conference to be held in April next year at Vigyan Bhavan. Along with this, he also inaugurated the brochure and website of the event, taking an important step towards strengthening India's steel industry on the global platform.



Bihar Assembly Tejashwi Yadav, met the Congress leader.

Congress leader Rahul shared a video on Instagram and said that there have been many interesting experiences in life but never had the chance to have tea with 'dead people'. Thank you Election Commission for this unique experience!

India-Singapore: Partnership strengthened at summit



Strategic

With the aim of giving impetus to the comprehensive strategic partnership

New Delhi. With the aim of giving impetus to the comprehensive strategic partnership between India and Singapore, the third ministerial round table meeting (ISMR) of the two countries was held in New Delhi today. In the meeting, both the countries reaffirmed their resolve to further strengthen the comprehensive strategic partnership. During this, emphasis was laid on increasing cooperation

Common man does not benefit from cheap Russian oil

Oil companies' earnings increased by 25 times, government is also collecting 46% tax

Benefit

The government needs a stable income from taxes and oil companies justify this



Mumbai: For the last 3 years, India has been getting crude oil from Russia at a discount of 5 to 30 dollars per barrel. 65% of this discount went to private companies like Reliance and Nayara along with government companies like

this. Trump says that Indian refinery companies process it and sell it in Europe and other countries. India does not care how many people are being killed in Ukraine due to Russia's attack. Answer: Even though oil prices are deregulated on paper,

retail prices are under the control of the government and oil companies.

The government needs a stable income from taxes and oil companies to justify their margins by citing the loss of old subsidy. The result is that the benefit of cheap oil is going into the coffers of companies and the government, and not into the pockets of common people. A large part of the price of petrol and diesel goes into taxes.

New Delhi. This year, 210 Panchayat representatives from across the country will be made special guests at the Red Fort in the Independence Day celebrations. All these representatives will reach Delhi with their families and nodal officers, whose total number will be 425. This initiative has been taken with the aim of honoring the contribution of public representatives working in rural India. An

Panchayat representatives will be special guests at the Independence Day celebrations at the Red Fort



Vivek Bhardwaj and other senior officials will also be present in this program. This year the theme of the program has been kept as Self-reliant Panchayat, Identity of Developed India. This theme was chosen to show 'Self-reliant Panchayats are a strong pillar in the development of India'. On this occasion, an application called 'Sabhasa' with AI technology will also be launched.

Sister Anupama, who protested Bishop Franco, quits



Jagannath temple body to apply for patents on names

Delhi: Amid the tussle between Odisha and West Bengal over naming of the Jagannath temple in Digha as Jagannath dham, the Jagannath temple management committee of Puri on Monday said it would apply for patent for expressions such as 'Srimandir', 'Jagannath Dham', 'Mahaprasad', 'logo of Sri mandir', 'Shrikshetra', and 'Purushottam Dham'. It has been approved in a high-level meeting today," said SJTA chief administrator Arabinda Padhee.

Four of the six nuns received church transfer orders in 2019.

The nuns petitioned Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan to postpone their direc-

which met in Puri said. The Sri Jagannath Temple Administration would apply for patents of terms such as 'Srimandir', 'Jagannath Dham', 'Mahaprasad', 'logo of Sri mandir', 'Shrikshetra', and 'Purushottam Dham'. It has been approved in a high-level meeting today," said SJTA chief administrator Arabinda Padhee.

Till the trial. Despite criticism and ostracism, the nuns stayed at their convent and supported the survivor nun.

Media and travel dominate political parties' poll expenses



mericals and electronic media. Party advertising and publicity costs were 591.39 crore and electronic media 434.84 crore. Press conference expenses increased to 90.99 lakh from 71.60 lakh last year. From April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024, the party won three state assembly

elections and lost Karnataka. With 240 Lok Sabha seats, it returned to power as part of the National Democratic Alliance coalition without a majority. With 619.67 crore in election expenses, the Congress prioritized ground operations. The party allocated 72%.

Karnataka govt pressured to restore 4% Muslim quota

Delhi: Since last year's assembly elections and this month's bypolls to three assembly seats showed the Muslim community had consolidated behind the Congress party, they are pressuring the government to restore their 4% reservation. The previous BJP government

eliminated the quota, but the Supreme Court delayed the decision. In 2023, the Supreme Court deemed the quota abolition "prima facie shaky and flawed", making it a difficult matter. It is unclear whether and when the quota will be restored. Congress returned with an

absolute majority under Siddaramaiah and DK Shivakumar after the 2023 assembly elections, with the quota scrapped as a key electoral issue. Riza Arshad, Shivajinagar Congress MLA believed the quota will be restored as the community's "right".

BJP expels 2 crossover MLAs for 6yrs



party, especially as it prepares for local electoral battles and 2028 assembly polls. Somashekhar, MLA from Yeshwanthpur in Bengaluru, and Hebbar, MLA from Yellapur in Uttara Kannada, were among the 14 Congress defectors who joined BJP in 2019.

Their defection played a key role in toppling

the HD Kumaraswamy-led Congress-JD(S) coalition govt. Both Somashekhar and Hebbar were rewarded with ministerial berths in the cabinets of BS Yediyurappa and his successor, Basavaraj Bommai. After BJP lost the 2023 assembly elections, the two legislators had started aligning openly with Congress.

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, Sonipat 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.

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. The concessionaire must get authorization for specific parking, landscap-

ing, and horticulture work and phase the project, according to the authorities. Officials said the developer must establish a film institute and get GRIHA 4-Star/IGBC Gold accreditation for green buildings to minimize environmental damage and carbon footprint during construction. "We authorized the layout plan, allowing site building. The concessionaire will now schedule site work. The concessionaire must build according to the terms and conditions. Yeida CEO Arun Vir Singh remarked. Construction of the 1,000-acre Film City

project, with the first phase encompassing 230 acres, is estimated to cost 1,510 crore over eight years. The project also builds a film institute with excellent technology to teach filmmaking, acting, music, and cinematography. According to officials, Kapoor said centralizing such facilities will save production costs by giving filmmakers access to crucial equipment and services. Film City will have air-conditioned indoor shooting locations for harsh weather. The new studio floors will be 40,000-60,000 square feet to accommodate huge setups and various backdrops.

Pet owners are responsible for making sure their animals don't hurt other people.



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."

to a neighbor's 2022 complaint that ten or twelve of the man's dogs had attacked him on the balcony of their building, causing injuries. The pet owner

accused the prosecution of using "falsehood and inaccuracies" as the basis for their charges in his HC plea.

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



Sahib in Patna) as "tankhaiwa"

(guilty of religious misconduct), according to Yudhvir Rana at Akal Takht in Amritsar. Not only is Akal Takht's jathedars 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.

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



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

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

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

crucial junction for this project, ensuring seamless integration into the national railway network.

CAPSULES

Owaisi finds it funny that Munir gave Prime Minister Sharif a "fake photo"

Delhi: Field Marshal Asim Munir reportedly held a dinner for Pakistan's top political leaders to honor those who were involved in "Operation Bunyanum Marsoos," the country's response to India's Operation Sindoora, according to Inter-Services Public Relations, the media wing of the Pakistan Armed Forces. Mr. Munir presented Prime Minister Sharif with a photograph titled "Operation Bunyanum Marsoos" during this gathering. But a search using the reverse image function revealed that it was really a photo of a rocket launch in China from a few years ago. "Yesterday, the Pakistani Army chief gifted a photo to the Pakistani PM Shehbaz Sharif... these stupid jokers want to compete with India. They had given a photograph of a 2019 Chinese Army drill claiming it is a victory over India," Mr. Owaisi expressed while speaking with the Indian diaspora in Kuwait. "Whatever Pakistan says, do not even take a pinch of salt," the MP said, voicing his disapproval of Pakistan's reliability.

"This is what Pakistan indulges in... 'Nakal karne ke liye akal chahiye'... inke pass akal bhi nahi hai."

Toll workers beaten up at Handia toll plaza, case related to MP's convoy

Prayagraj. The incident of assault on Handia toll plaza on Tuesday morning, August 12 has sparked discussion in the entire area. At around 7:55 am, the convoy of MP Dr. Vinod Bind was passing through the toll plaza. Meanwhile, due to a sudden technical fault, a boom barrier fell on a vehicle. According to eyewitnesses, the people sitting in the vehicle got

Injured

- Incident captured in CCTV
- Footage clearly shows that after the barrier fell



angry due to the fall of the barrier. Soon some supporters in the convoy started arguing with the toll workers, which soon turned into a scuffle. It is alleged that some people beat

up the toll plaza employees with sticks, causing chaos there. Many toll employees were injured. Every moment of the incident has been recorded in

the CCTV cameras installed at the toll plaza. The footage clearly shows that after the barrier fell, the argument intensified and then the fight started. Many vehicles were trying to pass through the plaza during this time, but due to the ruckus, the traffic was disrupted for some time. During the incident, other drivers and employees were seen trying to intervene, but seeing the aggressive attitude of the attackers, many people backed off. Toll plaza employees say that the incident has made them feel unsafe and it is difficult

to work in such a situation. On receiving the information, the police of Handia police station reached the spot and calmed the situation. Inspector Handia Nitendra Kumar Shukla said that no written complaint (tahrir) has been given by both the parties. After mutual talks, both the parties have reconciled.

After watching the CCTV footage, the toll operator admitted that

the mistake was of the toll worker. He says that the incident of the barrier falling occurred due to human error and technical precautions need to be taken. No complaint has been lodged by the toll management either.

Since the matter is related to the convoy of the MP, this incident remains a topic of discussion on social media and in local political circles. Some people

are considering it as injustice done to the toll workers, while some say that the fault was of the toll plaza. At present, the police have recorded the statements of both the parties and have considered the matter settled.

But after the CCTV footage went viral, this incident has once again raised questions on the security system and technical flaws of the toll plaza.

Meeting concluded under the chairmanship of DM with a view to reduce traffic congestion of trains at Prayagraj Railway Station

Meeting

- Survey work is also being done for the third line between Subedarganj to Daud Khan

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The doubling of Prayagraj- Banaras has been completed

The doubling of Prayagraj-Banaras has been completed and the work of the fourth line including flyover between Prayagraj to Bamrauli is also in its final stage. Final location survey work is also being done for the third line between Subedarganj to Daud Khan. Along with this, Subedarganj station is being developed as a mega terminal station and facilities are to be developed for the maintenance of 25 Vande Bharat trains. After the construction of the Phaphamau - Ramnathpur proposed project of Northern Railway, engine reversal and detention for trains coming / going from Prayagraj to West Central Railway will end at Prayagraj Junction.

working beyond their capacity; These are to be upgraded and revamped for future rail-way ambitions of 3 billion tonnes by 2030 and better connectivity on trunk routes of Indian Railways. Doubling work between Prayag (Northern Railway) - Lucknow has been approved. Doubling of Prayag - Banaras has been completed and work on the fourth line including flyover between Prayag to Bamrauli is also in its final stage. Final location survey work is also being done for the third line between

Subedarganj to Daud Khan. Along with this, Subedarganj station is being developed as a mega terminal station and facilities for maintenance of 25 Vande Bharat trains are to be developed. After the construction of Phaphamau - Ramnathpur proposed project of Northern Railway, engine reversal and detention for trains coming/going from Prayag to West Central Railway will end at Prayagraj Junction. In view of the above, Railway Board approved the survey of flyovers connecting Iradatganj

Yogi govt tables bill for formation of Shri Banke Bihari Temple Trust

Lucknow: The Uttar Pradesh government led by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath introduced the Banke Bihari Temple Trust Bill on the third day of the Monsoon Session of the Uttar Pradesh Assembly on Wednesday. The bill stipulates that the trust will have complete rights over the offerings, donations, and all movable and immovable assets of the temple. This includes the idols housed in the temple, gifts and offerings made to the deities within the premises, assets provid-

CM Yogi sounds bird flu alert, orders extra vigil in zoos

Lucknow: Taking cognizance of the potential threat of H5 Avian Influenza (Bird Flu), Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, on Wednesday, directed the departments concerned to take swift and coordinated action. He said that the safety of protected animals and birds is the state government's top priority, and negligence at any level will not be tolerated. The Chief Minister ordered enhanced security.



CM Yogi Adityanath flags off 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign (August 13-15).

Grand Tiranga Yatra taken out in Durgavati International School under Swaraj Week

Meja. Grand Tiranga Yatra was taken out on Wednesday under Swaraj Week going on in Durgavati International School and College since last week. Students of senior classes, teachers, school manager and chairman participated enthusiastically in it. The program started with essay writing on the first day, tree plantation and art competition on the second day. Tiranga Yatra organized on the third day



was inaugurated by school chairman Sushil Kumar Mishra by showing the tricolor and boosting the morale of the students.

Yatra started from the school campus and passed through various places of Meja Road and ended back in the school premises. During this, the atmosphere echoed with slogans of Bharat Mata Ki Jai, Ghar Ghar Tiranga Tiranga Hamari Shaan Hai. On the closing occasion, chairman Sushil Kumar Mishra and manager Mrs. Swatantra Mishra said that the Swaraj week will be concluded with flag hoisting on 15 August.

DM flagged off the Tiranga Yatra taken out by the Basic Education Department under the Har Ghar Tiranga program

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Prayagraj. Under the Har Ghar Tiranga Abhiyan program, the Basic Education Department took out a Tiranga Yatra on Wednesday under the leadership of District Magistrate Manish Kumar Verma. The Tiranga Yatra was flagged off by the District Magistrate from Gate No. 3 of Shaheed Chandrashekhar Azad Park. The Tiranga Yatra started from Shaheed Chandrashekhar Azad Park Gate No. 03 and passed through Civil Line Hanuman Mandir Chauraha and again

concluded at Shaheed Chandrashekhar Azad Park Gate No. 3. About 2500 teachers, scout team and school children of the Basic Education Department participated in the Tiranga Yatra. During the Tiranga Yatra, people were filled with enthusiasm and patriotism and inspiration of nationalism. On this occasion, Chief Development Officer Harshika Singh, IAS trainee Animesh Verma, District Basic Education Officer Devbrat Singh along with officers and officials of basic education and teachers' organizations were present.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Smt. Mili Ganguli, daughter of Late Shri Ashim Bikas Ganguli, residing at 45/53, Meerapur, Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh, do hereby state that my son's name is Dewang Ghoshal (Aadhaar No. 7865 2481 6492), and he has been using this name in all official records including his Aadhaar Card and Birth Certificate. Earlier, due to personal circumstances, I had initiated a change in his surname from Ghoshal to Ganguli, supported by affidavit and paper-publication. However, after due consideration and family consensus, we have decided to retain his original name - Dewang Ghoshal. He shall henceforth continue to be known as Dewang Ghoshal for all legal, educational, and official purposes.

Smt. Mili Ganguli
Address: 45/53, Meerapur, Prayagraj
Date: 13/08/2025
Mobile: 7991373700

The entire hall was filled with an atmosphere of heartfelt remembrance

People paid tribute to former MLA Ramakant on his 91st birth anniversary

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less efforts throughout his life to connect the Bara region with the mainstream of development and to strengthen its socio-economically. He used politics as a medium of public service, always prioritizing the welfare of people from all sec-

tions of society. Former Additional Advocate General Neeraj Tripathi highlighted his contributions toward educational advancement, stating that Pandit Mishra considered education the foundation of social development and established numerous schools for its promotion. He described him as a "Vikas Purush" (Man of Development).

President of the Block Pramukh Association Prayagraj, Indranath Mishra, and Rajendra Kumar Mishra 'Babuwaan' paid floral tributes at his statue and bowed in respect. Both spoke about his political journey, works, and personality, adding that following in his footsteps would be the truest tribute to him. The

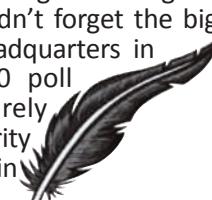
program was conducted by Dr. Manishankar Dwivedi. On this occasion, Karachhana Block Pramukh Kamlesh Dwivedi, DPR Officer Ravi Dwivedi, Yamanapar District President Rajesh Shukla, Chaka Block Pramukh Anil Singh Patel, Block Development Officer Amit Mishra, Nagendra Pandey, former Block Pramukh Anil Mishra, Ramnand Tripathi, Chandra Prakash Tripathi, Somanath Shukla, Krishnanand Shukla, along with several village heads, Kshetra Panchayat members, and prominent citizens of the region were present.

Editorial

Op Sindoor setting the tone for Bihar polls

In October 2016, addressing the national council of the Janata Dal (United), Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar slammed the Bharatiya Janata Party for 'politicising' the surgical strike. The entire nation stands with you [Narendra Modi] as you are the Prime Minister, but what about those BJP leaders who have repeatedly used the strike to play politics?" Kumar said. A couple of months earlier, as the BJP was organising Tiranga Yatras ahead of the 70th Independence Day, Kumar had taken a dig at it. Those who "never recognised the tricolour as national flag", he said, were taking out Tiranga Yatras. Much water has flowed under the Gandhi Setu since then. As the BJP took out Tiranga Yatras across Bihar for 10 days to celebrate Operation Sindoor's success, Kumar watched them silently—and warily, perhaps. The operation has brought springs to BJP leaders' feet. The 2024 Lok Sabha poll blow is a thing of the past. PM Modi has started taking his own name again—Modi's cool mind and the hot sindoor in his veins, Modi's chest, et al. It was in his first public rally after the Pahalgam terror attack in Bihar's Madhubani, when PM Modi had vowed to punish the perpetrators "beyond their imagination". The vow fulfilled, he will be back in Bihar on 29 and 30 May. The BJP's preparations for Modi's roadshow in Patna are in full swing. People standing on both sides of the road would be showering flower petals on him. That's how a victor is welcomed. How will Operation Sindoor impact the Bihar elections? Let's first look at where the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) stood before the strikes on Pakistan's terror infrastructure and military installations. DesignBoxed, a political digital campaign management company, conducted a survey in Bihar last month. I got access to its report, which has great news for the NDA: Overall, the DesignBoxed survey indicated a clear edge for the NDA. Mind you, it was conducted before Operation Sindoor. Nitish Kumar's principal challenger, Tejashwi Yadav, also has some positive takeaways from the survey. If elections were to be held tomorrow, 46.7 percent of respondents said they would vote for the NDA, against 35.6 percent who favour the INDIA-N bloc, with 13.8 percent 'undecided'. If Tejashwi were to swing the 'undecided', the game would be on. For 43.8 percent respondents, unemployment and migration are the most important issues in the upcoming elections—Tejashwi's key plank in 2020. What would make him even happier is the survey finding that 63.76 percent people want the current government to be replaced. This sounds incongruous, as a majority of respondents were satisfied with Kumar's performance. Those involved in the DesignBoxed survey, however, claim that it's no surprise. One of them told me: "You come across many respondents who are ok with Nitish Kumar but still want his government changed. It's vice versa, too. It's a lot to do with people's castes becoming the main determinant." Kumar has been the chief minister since 2005, except for a short interlude of nine months in 2014-15. The yearning for change is understandable. How much of it can Tejashwi exploit? Can he beat the caste arithmetic that seems to be in the NDA's favour today? We will find out in November. Union home minister and the BJP's chief strategist Amit Shah once told journalists: "People in Bihar are so political. They sit at tea stalls and read the entire newspaper—from the first to the last page."

Five months is obviously a long time for such political people to change their mind. But it's not just Tejashwi that CM Kumar would be worried about. The BJP says that the next election will be fought under his leadership, but it's evasive on the question of Kumar becoming the CM again if the NDA wins. Kumar wouldn't forget the big celebrations at the BJP headquarters in New Delhi after the 2020 poll results. The NDA had barely managed to cross the majority mark, securing 125 seats in the 243-member Assembly.



AIADMK led the way on caste census

In the intricate fabric of Indian democracy, few questions strike at the heart of equality and representation like that of caste. The recent announcement by the Union government to conduct a comprehensive caste census is a landmark moment—one that promises to reshape the contours of social justice policy in India. As the Leader of the Opposition in Tamil Nadu, I welcome this move with conviction and pride, for it affirms a demand the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam first articulated with clarity and foresight. This moment did not emerge overnight. The call for a caste-based census, now

accepted at the national level, has its roots in the firm ideological soil of Tamil Nadu's social justice movement. And in that journey, it was the AIADMK, under the visionary leadership of Puratchi Thalaivai Amma J. Jayalalithaa, that laid the foundation for genuine representational equity. As early as 2021, during my tenure as chief minister, our government was among the first to demand a fresh caste census. We argued vociferously that welfare policies cannot be built on outdated data from 1931. We recognised then, as we follow now, that progress requires not just empathy but evidence. Tamil Nadu has long stood as a bea-

con of affirmative action, with its unique 69 per cent reservation policy. That achievement was not accidental but was made possible by AIADMK's political resolve and constitutional acumen. When the Supreme Court's Indra Sawhney (Mandal) judgment in 1992 imposed a 50 per cent cap on reservations, the very framework of Tamil Nadu's policy was threatened. But Amma Jayalalithaa rose to the challenge. In 1993, she convened a special assembly session, passed a unanimous resolution, and led an all-party delegation to Delhi. Her persistent persuasion ensured the Tamil Nadu Reservation Act was placed in

the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution, protecting it from judicial review. That was not just governance; it was transformative leadership. Our 2021 demand for a caste census was not political posturing. It was a reflection of AIADMK's long-standing understanding of Tamil Nadu's evolving social realities. We recognised the urgent need to reassess the representation and well-being of Backward Classes (BC), Most Backward Classes (MBC), Scheduled Castes (SC), and Scheduled Tribes (ST) in education, employment, and welfare. This demand, when initially raised, was met with silence from the ruling DMK.

PMFBY is failing. It has the same flaws of earlier schemes



India's farmers steward the country's food security, yet they live in chronic distress and policy indifference. Though their contribution is crucial, they continue to be vulnerable and voiceless. Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar who comes from a farming family, has repeatedly expressed discontent by consistently bringing up farmers' grievances into the public limelight, stressing that "it is the government's foremost responsibility to take care of the farmers". Agriculture, despite accounting for only 18.2 per cent of India's GDP, remains the primary source of livelihood for nearly 42.3 per cent of the population. However, over the last decade, India has witnessed a significant decadal drop in agricultural employment, underlining the sector's declining viability. Agrarian distress is now endemic, driven by crop failures, falling prices, and a broken promise of security through insurance. As per the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) 2015 data, 80 per cent of suicides among farmers were due to debt and bankruptcy. The crisis has also exhibited a steady trend upward, with more than 1,12,000 people who work in the agricultural sector having died by suicide over the last ten years, according to NCRB data released in December 2023. The figures indicate that no fewer than one farmer died by suicide every hour in India. A 2018 survey conducted by the National Statistical Office (NSO) found that over 50 per cent of farm households in India had debt. Launched in 2016, the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) assured crop

insurance and restored farmers' confidence. On paper, it addressed many of the earlier shortcomings. But a closer look reveals that this ambitious insurance service ends up replicating several flaws of earlier schemes. It not only falls short of meeting the expectations of the farming community but alienates the very people it was meant to safeguard. A fundamental flaw resides in the impenetrable, convoluted, and overly technical process of settling claims. The use of satellite imaging and averaging data across vast units has created a mechanism highly disconnected from ground realities. Importantly, satellite inspections are limited in scope: they can only identify the presence or absence of crops. They cannot, and do not, determine the health or yield capacity of the crop, nor can they tell one type of crop from another. This technological weakness, when used as the basis for compensation, results in miscalculations that cost real livelihoods. A farmer who suffers heavy losses due to pest damage or loss of nutrients might be deprived of compensation just because their crops appear green from above. Even more appalling is the inherent inequity of the existing model. While farmers pay premiums on an

individual level, compensation is calculated by generalised averaging within village clusters or vaguely defined large patches aggregating both large and small landholdings without any equity-based method in delineating the units. This results in discriminatory denials of claims—most importantly, for those experiencing localised or complete loss of crops. The ongoing application of area-based measurement models exacerbates these issues. Localised weather conditions like a flash flood in a corner of a village can destroy a small farmer's crop, while that of his neighbour remains intact. However, both are measured using the same parameter. It is deeply unfair that individual agony and suffering are erased by collective statistics. The programme also does not cover those most at risk: tenant farmers, sharecroppers, female cultivators, and non-loanee farmers. These are systematically and indirectly excluded by land title requirements, archaic tenancy laws, and bureaucratic obstacles such as Aadhaar-linked bank accounts. Women who increasingly become the main cultivators because of male migration are not accounted for in this system through absence of formal landholding. These omissions are not accidental; they are manifestations of a design that does not see the true face of Indian agriculture in the present day. On-ground realities expose serious flaws in crop insurance delivery. Forced enrollment, delayed or denied claims, and faulty surveys have left farmers uncompensated and in debt. In Tamil Nadu's Mayiladuthurai district, a mere 68 villages among 277 were covered in the 2024 crop insurance settlements—and compensation was paid in just 16 of them. Similar cases were found in other districts too. D Arugam, a 55-year-old Tamil Nadu farmer who was not a loanee, was compelled by officials to sign up for PMFBY. Despite paying his premiums on time, he got no claims for two successive years of crop failure due to drought, pushing him into debt. S. Velu, a loanee cultivator from Sivagangai near Kiliyur, availed Rs 70,000 for his 15-acre field. Even though he was in the surveyed and insured area, he faced claim settlement problems as liabilities piled up. In Thoothukudi, farmers demonstrated against one-sided compensation. Villages that were affected by floods were not considered, while those with equal damage were compensated. Farmers accused the faulty surveys and demanded accountability. In Haryana, as reported by Down to Earth, Ramesh Lal from Sonipat was forced to pay a premium under threat of losing his interest subsidy on a loan, even though he never consented to the insurance coverage. When his crop failed, no claim was paid due to "tech-

nical issues" with the policy documentation he was never shown. In Rajasthan, many farmers lost their claims because the State Bank of India delayed crediting their premiums. Consequently, they went into the subsequent cropping season without anticipated reimbursement. Even when the Centre and states subsidise 80-85 percent of premium charges, private insurance companies consistently make profits while farmers do not gain much. Claims get delayed, disputed, or rejected, even as companies collect risk-free premiums. Meanwhile, crop-cutting experiments are done by inadequate manning, delayed rolling out, and poor-quality control, and the technological solutions like drones and AI-based analytics remain underutilised due to infrastructural gaps and lack of field-level training. Most alarmingly, a 2022 CAG report says that only 37 per cent of farmers surveyed had any real awareness of PMFBY's benefits, premium structures, or claim processes. On-ground realities expose serious flaws in crop insurance delivery. Forced enrollment, delayed or denied claims, and faulty surveys have left farmers uncompensated and in debt. In Tamil Nadu's Mayiladuthurai district, a mere 68 villages among 277 were covered in the 2024 crop insurance settlements—and compensation was paid in just 16 of them. Similar cases were found in other districts too. D Arugam, a 55-year-old Tamil Nadu farmer who was not a loanee, was compelled by officials to sign up for PMFBY.

Threats to India are not over. Why it must build fortress-like defences

The Sindhudurg Fort, located on an islet in the Arabian Sea near Maharashtra's Malvan town, is one of the most significant sea forts. It was built between 1664-1667 by Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, the founder of the Maratha Empire, for the purpose of strategic maritime defense and protection against foreign naval threats. The fort was central to Shivaji's plan to build a strong navy and protect the Konkan coastline, and marked the beginning of India's maritime defense strategy. In a similar vein, having demonstrated its military prowess in Operation Sindoor, India should now transform itself into Sindo Durg, an impenetrable fortress, safe from multi-domain threats emanating from land, sea, air or cyberspace. It will also mark the beginning of India's new doctrine against terrorism, as outlined by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his address to the nation earlier this month—"Terror and trade cannot go together, water and blood cannot flow together". The

military strikes on terror infrastructure in Pakistan under Operation Sindoor have only been paused. Pakistan, still smarting from the costs imposed on it, both reputational and on its military, will be thirsting for revenge. The brief skirmish has only served as a distraction for Pakistan from its domestic issues, especially its dire internal economic conditions, and has predictably united the country, even if temporarily, against a traditional foe. Buoyed by the grant of the IMF bailout, and by promoting Asim Munir to the rank of Field Marshal, Pakistan's politico-military leadership hopes to retain their tenuous hold on power. Since another misadventure cannot be ruled out, we have to guard against even more varied and audacious threats.

The first purpose of a fort is to provide for its own security and that of its inhabitants. India has demonstrated quite forcibly its capability to safeguard its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

India must look beyond Bangladesh

The political turmoil in Bangladesh has made it more urgent for India to complete the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Project, or KMMTP, which links Mizoram to Kolkata via Sittwe port in Myanmar. If fully operationalised, ideally with a rail link to Sittwe Port, it could offer a more resilient corridor for movement of goods to the Northeast, while also opening up longer-term trade possibilities with Southeast Asia. India's role as the pivot in South Asia extends beyond dominant power to that of a regional integrator. Intra-regional development is primarily a function of mutual friendship, interdependent trade, economic ties, and joint ventures. The goal may be to advance national interest, but the net effect is regional prosperity, which acts as a force multiplier for India's own development. South and Southeast Asian countries, joined together through bilateral and multilateral frameworks like the BBIN and BIMSTEC, have therefore started looking beyond the region—in line with India's Act East Policy. Apart from economic commitments, physical connectivity—especially in infrastructure and energy—has assumed unparalleled significance. Railways, high-ways, civil aviation, and inland waterways are now crossing borders for mutual growth and development. The East South Asia region is on the cusp of unprecedented intra-regional physical connectivity. It is the only way forward for the 21st century. For instance, Nepal and Bhutan, both landlocked nations, have gained access to Indian markets and ports. Newer cross-border rail links have been operationalised between India and Bangladesh, and several projects to connect Bhutan and Myanmar were put in place during the last 10 years. India-Bangladesh bilateral relations, in particular, had never been this strong and comprehensive—until last year. On 5 August 2024, Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina resigned following a massive uprising. An interim government headed by Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus has since been formed. This civil strife in Bangladesh has come with ripple effects. It's brought with it a certain straining of relations, causing collateral damage to trade and commerce. There have also been instances of cross border movements and joint project developments coming to halt. Existing trade corridors have been impacted and ongoing rail/road projects to provide shorter transit corridors across Bangladesh to and from India's Northeastern states are on hold. It's time now to look at alternative possibilities for northeastern states in addition to the Sikkim corridor. The Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Project requires revisiting and a fresh reassessment. During his visit to China in late March, Bangladesh's Chief Adviser Mohammad Yunus made remarks that were considered provocative, to say the least. "The seven states of India, the eastern part of India, are called seven sisters.... They are a landlocked country, a landlocked region of India. They have no way to reach out to the ocean," he said. "We are the only guardian of the ocean for all this region." Shortly thereafter, Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended the BIMSTEC conference in Thailand. He met Yunus on the sidelines and reiterated his support for a democratic, progressive, and inclusive Bangladesh, according to a Ministry of External Affairs release. He also underlined India's desire to forge a constructive relationship with Bangladesh.

CM Rekha visit at Sessions House amid mansion search

Delhi: Chief minister Rekha Gupta's recent visit to Sessions House, a lovely home in north Delhi's Civil Lines neighborhood, has alarmed judicial personnel. Gupta is looking for government housing. She visited the British-era cottage at 2 North End Road. Tis Hazari Court, the chief district and sessions judge, is renovating the enormous building. "The judiciary reveres Sessions House bungalow. Treating district courts this way is wrong. 'Respect and preserve this house's legacy,'" stated a district court senior judge. Sessions House sits on nearly two acres and features a seminar and judicial hall, six-room residence complex, servant quarters, and grounds.

According to a top Delhi government official, CM Gupta has considered numerous government bungalows over the past few weeks but has not decided on her

abode. Gupta's predecessor, Atishi, lived in the AB-17, Mathura Road home during her brief term as chief minister,

image.png

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Loss of Japan's position as the world's leading creditor

Delhi: Despite officials claiming that Japan's net foreign assets reached a record high last year, the country has fallen from its 34-year reign as the world's top creditor to second place, behind Germany. The finance ministry of Japan announced that the country's net external assets were 533.05 trillion yen (\$3.7 trillion) at the end of the year, an increase of 12.9% from the previous year. Yoshimasa Hayashi, a spokesman, explained that the value of financial assets and debts, as well as changes in the balance of payments, are among the elements that contribute to the determination of net external assets. "In light of these points and the fact that Japan's net foreign assets have been steadily increasing, we do not believe



that the change in ranking alone should be taken as a sign of a major change in Japan's position," Hayashi informed the media. Based on the data provided by the ministry, the following countries ranked third: China (516.28 trillion yen), Hong Kong (320.26 trillion yen), and Norway (271.83 trillion yen). The figures show that Japan's foreign assets and liabilities both increased due to the weakening yen, but that assets grew faster than liabilities, mostly because Japanese businesses invested more money overseas.

Drools becomes unicorn after Nestle bet

Delhi: Nestle bought a minority investment in Indian pet food startup Drools. After the investment, the Bengaluru-based company was valued at \$1 billion, joining unicorn startups. The business claimed, "This is a financial investment by the company, and Drools will remain strategically as well as operationally independent." Nestle's investment in Drools comes as the pet food and pet care industry in India is growing due to millennial and Gen Z pet parents who are willing to spend more for better nutrition and care. Nestle's Purina pet care segment,



which included pet food, accounted for 20.7% of sales in 2024. Recently, Indian companies like Godrej Consumer Care have entered the pet care sector. Drools, backed by L Catterton, competes with Mars PetCare and Heads Up For Tails in India. Drools raised \$60 million from L Catterton in June 2023. Drools is the fourth unicorn of the year following Netradyne, Porter, and JSW One Platforms.

India's crypto industry urges tax cuts as Donald Trump support softens New Delhi stance

Delhi: In an effort to capitalise on what it perceives as New Delhi's accommodating attitude towards digital assets, the cryptocurrency industry in India is urging for tax cuts that have limited domestic trading. This comes as politicians in New Delhi negotiate a more comprehensive trade pact with the United States. Policymakers' views towards cryptocurrency have been warming up, after making it a pariah sector in the country due to regulators' mistrust of its possible illegal applications.

After Donald Trump's endorsement of digital cur-



rencies and his return to the White House, exchange executives told them that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government has become much more attentive and engaged. The frequency of industry meetings with lawmakers has increased from once every six months to

"monthly, if not weekly," according to Ashish Singhal, co-founder of CoinSwitch, one of the biggest cryptocurrency exchanges in India with over 20 million members. Reducing taxes that he called "very harshly" enforced was the industry's "big ask," he claimed.

SEBI and the Exchange are in advanced negotiations

Delhi: In order to reach a consent settlement in the co-location case that is presently pending before the Supreme Court, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) is in advanced negotiations with the NSE. A



Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT) decision that lessened the initial sanctions levied against NSE in 2019 has been appealed by SEBI. According to someone with knowledge of the situation, "the discussion on the most important

issue of resolving the co-location case started, around one and half months ago." "The amount that NSE should pay to SEBI in order to settle the lawsuit is one of the consent terms that are currently being negotiated by both parties.

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

Rajasthan distribution companies ordered by the Court to pay Adani Power 186 crore

Delhi: The appeal that the electricity distribution companies in Rajasthan had lodged against the Appellate Tribunal for Electricity's (APTEL) decision in favor of Adani Power and the discoms, was affirmed by the court. To offset costs associated with moving coal from the mine to the destination.

has been rejected by the Supreme Court. Jaipur Vidyut Vitran Nigam Ltd (JVNL) and other state discoms filed appeals, but a bench of justices Rajesh Bindal and M M Sundresh decided on May 23 that the petitions had no validity. The decision made by APTEL in

April 2024, which identified a new tax imposed by Coal India Ltd (CIL) as a "change in law" event under the PPA between Adani Power and the discoms, was affirmed by the court. To offset costs associated with moving coal from the mine to the destination.

CAPSULES

Meta releases standalone AI app to challenge ChatGPT

Delhi: competing with ChatGPT creator OpenAI with a standalone AI app. Meta said that its new AI assistant will use Llama AI. The Discover stream shows how others are using the tool and provides prompts. The AI arms race pits Meta's new software against ChatGPT and other AI platforms. Claude, Grok, and Gemini from Anthropic, xAI, and Google are also leading contenders. In September



2023, Meta debuted an AI chatbot as a generative AI-powered digital assistant that can respond to user questions and produce graphics in its apps. Meta AI became prominent in April when it replaced Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp, and Messenger's search feature with a chatbot. Zuckerberg claimed in January that 2025 "is going to be the year when a highly intelligent and personalized AI assistant reaches more than 1 billion people, and I expect Meta AI to be that leading AI assistant." Meta finance head Susan Li said Meta AI has 700 million monthly active users in January. It rose from 600 million in December. Meta launched a standalone AI app after Google and Elon Musk's xAI. Both firms released Gemini and Grok applications recently.

Starlink arrives in India with plans under Rs. 850 per month



Delhi: Starlink is preparing to launch its satellite communication services in India after clearing most regulatory hurdles. A report claims that its plans could cost \$10 (Rs. 850) per month as the debut approaches.

Consumers may receive

unlimited data plans under initial promotional schemes. The Elon Musk-backed business hopes to swiftly build its user base to 10 million to offset high spectrum prices due to volume benefits. The Department of Telecommunication

connections, according to the. In addition, 4 percent of total adjusted gross revenue (AGR) with a minimum yearly charge of Rs. 3,500 per spectrum block and an 8 percent licensing fee for commercial services in India are required. The government has yet to approve these recommendations.

Bharat Dynamics to Receive Invar Missile Order from Government; Shares Climb 2%



Delhi: An official from the government has said that the Ministry of Defence is putting the finishing touches on a purchase order for 500 Invar ATGMs from state-run Bharat Dynamics Ltd (BDL). The contract is estimated to be worth between two and three million rupees. In order to strengthen India's armoured combat capabilities, this acquisition is a part of a larger push to equip T-90 main battle tanks with precision-guided missile systems.

Tanks are the ideal platforms from which to launch Invar missiles. An official informed that the Defense Ministry is likely to spend between two and three million Indian rupees (about \$2,100 million) for 500 missiles from BDL. As a result of their reputation for precision and efficacy, Invar missiles are currently being used by armoured units on India's frontline.

Fewer jobs at Tata Motors, smaller hikes for top deck

Delhi: For the first time in five years, automotive manufacturer Tata Motors saw its workforce shrink in a fiscal year, when its employee base fell 3% in FY25 compared with the previous fiscal. Alongside, the fiscal also saw median salary hikes for its senior-most executives at just 3% compared with 15% in

FY24, the company's annual report for FY25 showed. The twin developments happened against the backdrop of falling demand for its cars, trucks and buses in the fiscal. The total employee count of the country's third-largest automaker, excluding employees of its UK-based subsidiary Jaguar Land Rover.

More than 257 govt. schools have their vocational programs approved by the DoE

Delhi: Starting this school year, 257 additional government schools in Delhi will be offering vocational courses, an initiative by the Directorate of Education (DOE) to incorporate career-oriented, hands-on learning into the curriculum.

Designed for students in grades 9 and 10, the curriculum will provide practical experience in areas like healthcare, retail, information technology, and beauty and wellness. According to officials, the total number of government schools offering a skill-based topic has already surpassed 800, thanks to this expansion.

In addition to a traditional education, kids participating in the Samagra



Shiksha program can now take vocational courses that will help them get a leg up in the job market. This program aims to represent the larger goal of the National Education Policy 2020 by making education more relevant and in line with real-world employment markets, as stated in an official circular. These practical courses will now be available to pupils in grades 9 and 10, with school officials estimating that each topic may hold up to 50 students.

Tejaswini's 25-meter pistol gold lets India top the medal tally

Delhi: India took first place in the shooting sport with eleven medals, thanks to Tejaswini's victory in the women's 25-meter pistol event at Monday's ISSF Junior World Cup 2025 in Suhl, Germany. India took home the most medals at the junior ISSF World Cup with nine total, including three golds, four silvers, and the same number of bronzes. China came in second with three golds and one bronze.

Concerns raised regarding proposed universal seniority policy before the DU Executive Council meeting

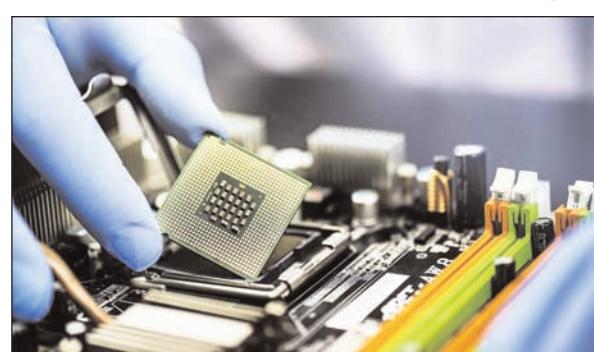
Delhi: High-level group recommended a standard approach to streamline promotions and appointments by eliminating persistent ambiguities in academic seniority, notably among assistant professors (Level 10). The panel included college principals, EC members, and SC, ST, and OBC representatives. After five meetings from July 2024 to April 2025, it made its final recommendations. The suggested policy places the first-appointed department ahead of the others. Where no common seniority list is established, faculty age is utilized to assess seniority among first-ranked



candidates across categories within a department. These parallel lists ensure impartiality and clarity in internal appointments, academic committees, and statutory organizations. However, DU Academic Council member and policy committee member Prof. Maya John has voiced major concerns. John warned that the policy's limitations, such as restricting seniority review to appointments made after April 2022 and refusing to use the reservation roster to calculate inter se seniority, would deepen DU faculty discontent.

Anxieties over politics to dampen employment for semiconductor design

Delhi: The number of job postings at India's Global Capability Centers (GCCs) for semiconductor design fell by 15% in 2024-25, a research said, mostly as a result of continuing geopolitical concerns and interruptions in the global supply chain. According to data compiled by Careernet, a provider of talent solutions, the number of available jobs reached a high of 3,760 in May 2024. From there, it dropped to 3,040 in January 2025 and 3,181 at the end of the year. This shows a measured drop in active involvement across India's top 50 semiconductor design GCCs of over 15% year-on-year. Even with this slowdown, the demand for specialized knowledge in areas like RF/analogue design,



India will host campuses of five prestigious international institutions

Delhi: India's ambitions to become a world-class education destination are gaining steam, as five international universities have recently received letters of intent to set up shop in the nation. Officials in the Indian government have stated that by the beginning of the next school year, over a dozen foreign universities will have established campuses in the country.

IIT-Roorkee joins institutions which have cut Turkiye links

Delhi: IIT-Roorkee has cancelled its Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Inonu University, Turkiye, becoming the third central university after Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) and Jamia Millia Islamia to end academic ties with a Turkish university. Lovely Professional University (LPU), a private university, has terminated six MoUs with universities in Turkey and Azerbaijan. Signed in Jan 2025, the MoU had enabled research collaboration and student and faculty exchange. IIT-Roorkee said the decision aligns with national interest.

Degree of Freedom: IIT Delhi Learns Future-Ready

Delhi : IIT Delhi has revamped its curriculum for the first time in 12 years to improve flexibility, hands-on learning, and alignment with global trends and sustainability. An integrated MTech lets undergraduates earn a bachelor's and a master's in five years. Students can petition for an MTech degree in any available program after their third



"Our global partnerships must reflect the values, priorities, and security considerations of our country," said Kamal Kishore Pant, director of the IIT. Chhatrapati Shahu Ji Maharaj University (CSJMU), Kanpur, a state-government run university, has also ended similar

MoUs, while there are many others reviewing their international agreements with higher education institutions from Turkiye. LPU cited the two countries' pro-Pakistan stance during recent Indo-Pak tensions as the reason for ending collaborations.

DOE issues guidelines for direct entry to Class XI in govt schools

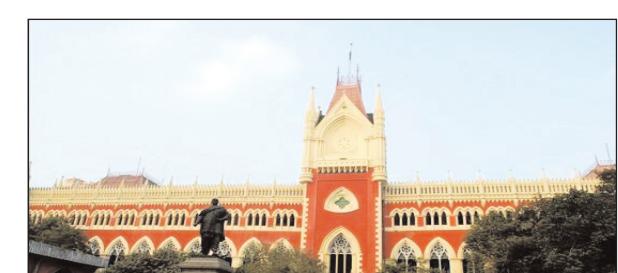


Delhi: Delhi Directorate of Education (DOE) has issued guidelines for direct admission to Class XI in govt schools under the non-plan admissions category for the academic session 2025-26. The online registration process begins and is open to students residing in Delhi who did not study in govt or govt-aided schools under DOE in 2024-25. The admission process will be conducted in three cycles from May 27 to June 9 (cycle I), July 1 to July 10 (cycle II), and Aug 1 to Aug 11 (cycle III). Students can register online at DoE's website, and help desks at schools will assist applicants who need support with the form. Applicants must meet specific academic criteria for their chosen stream. For example, students seeking admission in the Science stream with Mathematics must have at least 55% overall, with 50% in English, Mathematics, and Science. Relaxations of up to 5% in one subject are available for students belonging to SC/ST, OBC (non-creamy layer), minorities, Kashmiri migrants, or those excelling in national-level sports.

School eco clubs will be rebranded and given more resources

Delhi: As part of a statewide push to improve environmental education among students, all Delhi schools have been ordered to rebrand their current Eco Clubs as "Eco Clubs for Mission LiFE" and reinstate them by August 31. An official release said that this project.

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-

Scholarships offered by University of Hong Kong to outstanding students

Delhi: The University of Hong Kong (HKU), which was rated seventeenth in the QS World University Rankings 2025, has launched a scholarship program for exceptional students from the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE). Under this program, high-achieving CBSE students interested in majoring in HKU's undergraduate programs that promote innovation, technology, and interdisciplinary learning will be offered full-ride scholarships that pay for everything. On a national level, CBSE operates. It consistently produces a large number of students who get into professional colleges through entrance exams at the national and state levels. Not only do these students thrive in their professional and social lives,



"Tt consistently produces a large number of students who get into professional colleges through entrance exams at the national and state levels. Not only do these students thrive in their professional and social lives, but they also excel in professional colleges. CBSE has increasingly prioritized competency-based education"

but they also excel in professional colleges. The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has increasingly prioritized competency-based education and assessment since the New Education Policy—2020 came into effect. Higher education institutions overseas are providing several exemptions and support to our students as

a result of the high-quality education they receive from connected schools and their performance in STEM and other areas.

The CBSE notification detailed the exemptions and support, and it instructed schools to notify pupils about them so that they might reap the benefits.

India's Mahendra sets world record in World Para Athletics Grand Prix



Delhi: Roberto Floriano Edenilson of Brazil had previously held the world record of 59.19 meters, but the 27-year-old beat him in 2022. Following throws of 56.11 and 55.51 meters, he set a new world record with a throw of 61.17 meters on his third try. Throws of 58.54, 57.25, and 58.07 meters were his final three on Sunday. Field athletes who experience mild limitations in the use of one leg should consider F42. Sumit Antil, who has won gold at the Paralympics twice and holds the world record for the men's javelin F64 category, also placed first with a throw of 72.35 meters. Athletes competing on the field who have little or no movement in either leg can use F64. But Gurjar was one of many para-athletes from the F40, F57, F63, and F64 categories who competed in a combined event. Competition was open to para-athletes from all different classifications because it was a mixed event. The Swiss coach of Gurjar, Samarjeet Singh Malhi, informed that his charge set a world record in the F42 category and also won the gold medal. Having para-athletes from multiple categories compete in a combined event is "normal practice," he continued.

'A man came to my house twice with different women': Karnataka minister claims 'honeytrap' attempt,

NEW DELHI:

Karnataka home minister G Parameshwara on Tuesday said the state government will determine the course of action and type of probe into the alleged "honeytrap" attempt on cooperation minister K N Rajanna after consulting legal experts and chief minister Siddaramaiah.

The statement followed Rajanna's formal request for action, in which he described encountering unfamiliar individuals and raised concerns about whether they acted independently or had external backing.

The decision came hours after Parameshwara told reporters in Bengaluru that Rajanna had yet to file a complaint on the matter.

"I will file a complaint today and submit it to the home minister because I had spoken about it in the Assembly and had said I would do so. Until today, I was unable to



write the complaint due to various work-related commitments," Rajanna said. Speaking to reporters, he added, "I have personally written the complaint and will submit it to the home minister today. I'm getting it typed... I will go wherever the home minister is and hand it over. I have detailed everything that happened in a three-page complaint." Initially dismissing the issue as a common occurrence, Rajanna said he took it seriously after his name was mentioned in the Assembly. "I have not installed CCTV cameras in my Bengaluru house. If they were there, we could have

identified who came and went," he said.

He mentioned that the individuals involved were strangers and stressed the need to investigate whether they acted alone or had backing.

Among those who allegedly attempted to "honeytrap" him, Rajanna said the same man appeared both times, but the woman accompanying him was different on each occasion.

"The woman who came the second time claimed to be a high court lawyer. However, she was not wearing a lawyer's coat but was dressed in jeans and a blue top. They approached me, stating they had something important.

Congress's Karti asks Tamil Nadu govt to learn sanitation from BJP-ruled city

NEW DELHI: Congress leader Karti P Chidambaram on Tuesday advised the MK Stalin-led Tamil Nadu government to learn garbage management from the BJP-ruled Indore.

"Can the @chennaicorp name one learning & implementation of a practise from any of the previous study tours? Poor garbage management, street dogs & cattle, broken sidewalks & potholed roads is the hallmark of Chennai. Visit Indore to start with," he said in a post on X. He was reacting to a report that said that officials from Chennai were set to visit Europe



to study waste management. "Officials from Chennai to visit Europe to study waste management techniques in May. World Bank will support Chennai officials' visit to cities like Barcelona to study clean waste management. This could help Tamil Nadu adopt better solutions amid protests over local dump Yards," the report said.

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

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



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

'There should be a limit': Eknath Shinde hits out at Kunal Kamra amid 'gaddar' joke row



industrialists. This is not freedom of speech; this is working for someone," he added. This came after Kamra refused to apologize for his jokes, apparently made at the deputy CM, that caused massive political uproar in Maharashtra on Monday.

"I will not apologise," Kamra said, taking aim at the "mob and politicians". "Our right to

freedom of speech and expression is not only to be used to fawn over the powerful and rich even though today's media would have us believe otherwise," he added. What sparked the controversy? The controversy erupted when Kamra parodied a popular song from Dil To Pagal Hai, labeling Eknath Shinde a "gaddar" (traitor), triggering

protests and vandalism by Shinde-led Sena workers.

"Meri nazar se tum dekho to gaddar nazar wo aaye. Haaye," Kunal Kamra said during his show. "Shiv Sena first came out of the BJP, then Shiv Sena came out of Shiv Sena. NCP came out of NCP, they gave nine buttons to one voter... everyone got confused," he added. The joke drew a sharp response from Shiv Sena (Shinde faction) workers who went on to vandalise Habitat Studio, the venue where Kamra performed. What were the repercussions? An FIR was registered against Kamra and Khar Police issued summons to him.

Additionally, 12 Shinde-led

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



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

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



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

Ramaswamy-critic Ann says H-1B workers are indentured servants

Author and Conservative commentator Ann Coulter, who once said she would not vote for Vivek Ramaswamy only because he is of Indian origin, has commented on the ongoing H-1B row and said that H-1B workers can't leave a company, unlike American workers. And that's what tech like Elon Musk, Vivek Ramaswamy, Sriram Krishnan want - she implied.

agreement. The unloading.

Security forces intensify hunt for terrorists in J&K's Kathua'

NEW DELHI: Security forces in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district found four loaded M4 carbine magazines, two grenades, a bullet-proof jacket, sleeping bags, and food supplies on Monday as they intensified their search for terrorists hiding in the area. This comes as the search operation, now in its third day, continues in the forested areas of Kathua district to track down a group of infiltrating terrorists, officials said on Tuesday, according to news agency PTI.

Director General of Police Nalin Prabhat initiated the operation on Sunday evening in the Hiranagar sector following a confrontation between security forces and terrorists concealed in a nursery. Earlier today morning, as security forces advanced deeper into the cordoned area, gunfire erupted. Officials clarified that



troops conducted precautionary firing after detecting suspicious movement. Security forces deployed an army helicopter above the area while joint army units, including specially-equipped commandos with heavy weaponry, sniffer dogs, drones and unmanned aerial vehicles, continued searching for terrorists believed to be trapped within the zone. The Special Operations Group (SOG) launched the operation after receiving intelligence about terrorists hiding in a 'dhok' - a local enclosure - at a nursery in Sanyal village, about five km from the Pakistan border, officials said. The hiding terrorists responded with intense gunfire towards the police unit, resulting in a fierce exchange lasting for more than half an hour, they said. Additional forces were promptly deployed to capture the terrorists, who allegedly infiltrated on Saturday either through ravines or via a newly constructed tunnel.

Officials reported no casualties from the initial exchange, and the area remained under strict security throughout the night before forces advanced at daybreak.

Elon Musk reacts to Democratic Party's favorability dropping to a record low: 'Public is wise'

Elon Musk who once prided in calling himself a Democrat before he turned towards Donald Trump ahead of the election and is now a crucial part of the government reacted to the latest poll which revealed that the Democratic party's favorability rating stands at a record low. CNN released the poll conducted between March 6 to 9 revealing that the party's favorability rating stands at just 29 per cent - a record low in CNN's polling dating back to 1992 and a drop of 20 points since January 2021 just after the Capitol riots.



The Republican Party stands at 36 per cent in favorability. Elon Musk said the public is wise and they now know the Democratic Party scams as their funding is being turned off -- something that Elon Musk's Department of Government Efficiency has been doing. "The public is wise to the Democratic Party scams and their funding via bogus taxpayer-funded NGOs is being turned off," Elon Musk said. According to CNN, just 63 per cent of Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents gave a favorable view of their own party -- which is a dip from 72 per cent in January and 81 per cent at the beginning of Joe Biden's presidency. 79 per cent of Republicans and Republican-minded people take a positive view of the GOP. "Democrats, who overwhelmingly consider Trump too extreme, have yet to consolidate around any one-party leader to serve as a counterpoint."