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

PM Narendra Modi inaugurated new flats for MPs

New Delhi: PM Narendra Modi on Monday took a dig at the opposition during the inauguration of new flats for MPs. PM Modi said that some people will see the Kosi Tower of multi-storey flats built for MPs through the prism of Bihar assembly elections. A tower of 184 new type-7 multi-storey flats built on Baba Kharak Singh Marg is named after the Kosi river of Bihar. PM Narendra Modi said that the four towers of the complex are named after the rivers Krishna, Godavari,

Govt used to spend about Rs 1500 crore annually on the rent

The PM said that as I said earlier, the government used to spend about Rs 1500 crore annually on the rent of ministries running in rented buildings. Similarly, due to the lack of adequate number of MP residences, government expenditure was very high.

Kosi and Hooghly. I had the privilege of inaugurating a residential complex for my colleagues in Parliament. The



Despite the lack of MP residences, no new residence was built from 2014 to 2024.

four towers are named Krishna, Godavari, Kosi and Hooghly, which are the four great rivers of India. Some

We took this work as a campaign. About 350 MP residences have been built since 2014. PM Modi planted a vermilion plant. Earlier, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated 184 new Type-7 multi-storey flats built on Baba Kharak Singh

people will feel uncomfortable with the tower named Kosi. They will see it not as a river,

but through the prism of Bihar elections. PM Modi said that now it will be easier for MPs to live in Delhi. The availability of houses for MPs will increase. I congratulate the engineers and workers engaged in the construction of these flats. Our MPs will not face any problem in the new residences. They will be able to focus more on their work. More than 180 MPs will be able to live together in these multi-storey buildings. 350 MP residences have been built since 2014.

National Sports Governance Bill passed in Lok Sabha

New Delhi: Amid heavy uproar, the Central Government on Monday passed the National Sports Governance Bill and the National Anti-Doping Amendment



Bill in the Lok Sabha. Both these bills were introduced in the House by Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya during the current monsoon session. During this, the House was chaired by BJP's elected MP Sandhya Rai. The National Sports Governance Bill aims to regulate various sports administrators in the country, while the National Anti-Doping Amendment Bill provides .

SIR: Opposition's 'hallaboli' against voter verification

Rahul-Priyanka, Akhilesh were detained, released after 2 hours

New Delhi: Opposition MPs took out a protest march from Parliament House to the Election Commission office in protest against the voter list amendment in Bihar. During this, police barricades were put up at Transport Bhawan to stop the protesting opposition MPs. Here they were stopped from proceeding towards the Election Commission headquarters. The police said that no permission was taken by the opposition MPs for this march. After being stopped by the police, many MPs including Akhilesh Yadav, Mahua Moitra tried to climb the barricades. Some MPs jumped the barricades and sat on a dharna in the middle of the road. The police tried to convince the protesting MPs, but when the MPs refused to move from



The police and the government are not allowing us to march even for 30 seconds'

Congress general secretary and party MP KC Venugopal said, 'The police and the government are not allowing us to march even for 30 seconds. They want to stop us here. What kind of democracy is there in

the country? MPs do not have the freedom to go to the Election Commission. Now they are saying that only 30 people can come, but at least let those 30 people go to the Election Commission office.'

the road, all the leaders including Rahul-Priyanka Gandhi were taken into custody by the police.

However, they were later

released. Why the opposition march? Opposition MPs including Mallikarjun Kharge and Sharad Pawar on Monday took out a march from Parliament

Akhilesh jumped over the police barricade

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav jumped over the police barricade. He was marching from Parliament to the Commission of India as part of the opposition alliance's protest march against the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of voter lists in Bihar and allegations of voter fraud.

Rahul has raised serious questions: Tharoor

Congress MP Shashi Tharoor said, 'For me this issue is very simple. Rahul Gandhi has raised some serious questions. These deserve serious answers. The Election Commission has a responsibility not only towards the country but also towards itself that there should be no doubt in the minds.

'Our demand need to be fulfilled'

On the opposition's march to the Election Commission, Congress MP Jairam Ramesh said, 'My letter to the Election Commission was straightforward. I had clearly written that all opposition MPs will take out a peaceful march from Parliament to the Election Commission.

House to the Election Commission headquarters in protest against the voter list amendment in Bihar.

However, the police

stopped them midway near Transport Bhawan. When the police stopped the MPs from moving forward, many leaders sat on the road and started raising slo-



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath launched a scathing attack on the Samajwadi Party and Leader of Opposition Mata Prasad Pandey on the first day of the monsoon session. Reminding of the atrocities on traders and goonda tax during the SP's tenure, CM Yogi said.

India lashed out at Munir

Whenever America supports Pakistani army, they always show their true colors: India

New Delhi: India has expressed strong displeasure over the comments of Pakistani Army Chief Asim Munir. Slamming Asim Munir, the Ministry of External Affairs said that our attention has been drawn to the comments allegedly made by the Pakistani Army Chief during his visit to America. Threats of nuclear weapons are Pakistan's habit. The international community can draw its own con-



clusions on the irresponsibility inherent in such comments. Munir's statement points to deep doubts over the integrity of nuclear command and control in a country where the army is in cahoots with terrorist groups. It is also regrettable that these comments have been made

from the soil of a friendly country. India has already made it clear that it will not succumb to nuclear blackmail. We will continue to take all necessary steps to protect our national security. Earlier, sources said, 'It is known that Pakistan is an irresponsible country in the matter of nuclear weapons. There is a real danger of nuclear weapons falling into the hands of non-state elements in Pakistan.

The bill was passed amid uproar in the Rajya Sabha

New Delhi: The proceedings of both the houses of Parliament were disrupted several times on Monday due to the uproar by the opposition over the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the voter list in Bihar. The government is engaged in completing the necessary legislative work amid the uproar. The Rajya Sabha today returned the budgetary bills related to Manipur after a brief discussion amid the uproar. On the other hand, the government introduced the bills related to taxation in the Lok Sabha for consideration. Apart from this, the Lok Sabha passed the bills related to sports after discussion. Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge today raised questions on the passing of the bill amid the uproar. He termed it a big betrayal of democracy. On the other hand, Leader of the House JP Nadda said that the House cannot be held hostage. He is surprised that even after discussion in the Business Advisory Committee, the opposition is creating a ruckus during the passage of the bills. The opposition has been demanding a discussion on Manipur for a year and now instead of discussion, it is creating a ruckus. When the proceedings started in the Lok Sabha at 11 am today, due to the uproar of the opposition, the proceedings were adjourned after about 15 minutes till 2 pm. When the House resumed at 2 pm, the uproar of the opposition continued and meanwhile Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman placed the Taxation Act (Amendment) Bill, 2025 .



Opposition's strategy is to create chaos: BJP

Accused

☐ **The BJP leader also appealed to the opposition to raise the issue**

New Delhi: BJP has strongly countered the opposition's Election Commission march over the Bihar SIR case. Union Minister

Goyal held discussions with leading industrialists of the textile industry

New Delhi: Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Saturday met leading industrialists of the textile industry in Mumbai amid the US' announcement of imposing 25 per cent import duty (tariff) on India. Intensive discussions were held with the industrialists. During this, bold ideas were discussed to enhance global competitiveness, sustainability.



Dharmendra Pradhan accused Congress and Rahul Gandhi of anti-constitutional attitude. He said that SIR is not happening for the first time in the country, but

the opposition is trying to spread lies and create chaos by making it an excuse.

The BJP leader also appealed to the opposition to raise the issue in Parliament. Dharmendra Pradhan said that the country is seeing that those who are working against the Constitution are being led by Rahul Gandhi. SIR is not a new process,

it has happened before. Along with this, he accused the Congress of lying, raising questions on EVMs, spreading confusion about Maharashtra and Haryana elections. According to Pradhan, this is a well-planned strategy of the opposition to spread chaos in the country. Appeal to raise issues in Parliament.

Order

The Supreme Court has issued strict instructions to the civil administration

Catch stray dogs and keep them in shelters: Supreme Court



against stray dogs, then action should be taken against them as well. There should be no compromise in action against stray

dogs. After many cases of rabies infection came to light, the Supreme Court took suo motu cognizance and started hearing on this matter.

During the hearing on Monday, a bench of Justice JB Pardiwala and Justice R Mahadevan said that 'NCT-Delhi, MCD, NMDC should immediately start a campaign to catch stray dogs and especially in those areas where the threat of stray dogs is high.' The bench directed the local bodies to give information about building a shelter to keep stray dogs within 8 weeks. The court said that there should be no compromise in the

action against stray dogs. If any person or organization comes in the way of this work, then take action against them as well. Keep a record of catching dogs on a daily basis. The bench also said that 'MCD/NMDC and the concerned authorities of Delhi keep a record of catching stray dogs on a daily basis and after being caught, not a single stray dog should be released back and all should be kept in a shelter.'

Stopping Ayushman Bharat services, PVT hospitals in Haryana

Delhi : More than 600 private clinics in Haryana that were empanelled with Ayushman Bharat have ceased treating cards, which is a huge blow for those people. A number of persistent issues, including late or inadequate payments, are causing the hospitals to struggle, according to their statements. Last month, the state government was already notified by the Indian Medical Association (IMA) Haryana. The Health Secretary, Ayushman officials, and IMA Haryana met this, but no resolution was reached. The president of IMA Haryana, Dr. MP Jain, stated that this led to the decision to discontinue services. According to Dr. Jain, the state administration lacks the financial resources necessary to effectively administer the program, which is funded by the federal government. Additionally, more than 600 private hospitals are yet to get payment totaling



Out of 13.9L allopathic physicians, just 996 used NMR

Delhi : Even though it has been about a year since the National Medical Register was introduced as "a comprehensive and dynamic database for all allopathic doctors," out of the 13.9 lakh allopathic doctors registered with state medical councils, just 996 include NMR registration. According to the National Medical Commission (NMC), 91% of the 11,200 registration applications that were submitted have not been approved, according to an RTI question. Despite considerable anticipation, almost Rs 500 crore, he said. The sum of thirty thousand rupees

the NMR site of NMC, which was supposed to register all MBBS doctors eligible to practice in India, has not taken off. The launch was attended by the Union health minister. Supporters of NMR said it would "strengthen the digital healthcare ecosystem" and pave the way for additional healthcare workers, like paramedics, to have their own registers. The fate of the approximately 35 lakh nurses and paramedics, who would make up more than twice the number of nurses, is uncertain in has been disbursed in the past three days, which is insufficient.

Uttarakhand CM Releases Rs 20 Crore For Relief Operations

Delhi : The Chief Minister of Uttarakhand, Trivendra Singh Rawat, has ordered the transfer of Rs 20 crore from the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) to fund rescue and relief activities in the state following the glacier burst. The state administration released a statement saying that Mr. Rawat met with senior officials today to discuss disaster relief and rescue efforts. Helicopters delivered food and humanitarian supplies to remote settlements that had lost all means of communication. To inquire about the current situation of rescue and relief efforts in



the Reni region of Joshimath, the Chief Minister convened a meeting at the secretariat with high-ranking government, disaster-management, police, Army, and Indo-Tibetan Border Police authorities. There ought to be sufficient food supplies in the region, he told the cops.

"All necessary materials should be available on time to the personnel engaged in relief and rescue operations," added Mr. Rawat. The chief minister has ordered that officials periodically assess sensitive areas and that SDRF units be stationed close to such areas.

Budget for Manipur passes Lok Sabha despite opposition outcry

Delhi : Amidst the chaos, the Lower House approved the Manipur Budget for 2025-26 by voice vote, even as the Congress-led Opposition's persistent protests wiped out Lok Sabha proceedings. The Opposition had been demanding a discussion

on the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral registers in Bihar. House members quickly adjourned for the day following the Bill's passage. Both the President and Parliament have decided to keep Manipur under President's Rule till

February 2026, which began this year. A total of Rs 30,969.44 crore, including the amount of Rs 35,103.90 crore that was initially proposed in March, is authorized under the Bill. The Union Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman, defended the decision.

Omar writes to political party in support of statehood

Delhi : The chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir, Omar Abdullah, has written to every major national party, including the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), requesting that J&K be reinstated as a state. In his letter, the chief minister advocated for the return of statehood and called on lawmakers to introduce a measure during the current legislative session. "The restoration must not be viewed as a concession but as an essential course correction, one that prevents us from sliding down a dangerous and slippery slope where the statehood of our constituent states is no longer regarded as a foundational and



sacred constitutional right but reduced instead to a discretionary favour bestowed at the will of the central govt," Omar stated.

After reorganizing J&K state into two Union Territories, J&K UT and Ladakh UT, the Centre annulled the provisions of

Article 370 of the Constitution. On December 11, 2023, the Supreme Court supported the lower court's judgment to void Article 370, but they did note that Jammu and Kashmir should be re-stated promptly.

Bastar villages get 300 phone towers

Delhi: Centre and state have built at least 300 cell phone towers in Chhattisgarh's Bastar region in areas freed from Maoist rule in the last year. Security troops and Maoists fight over cell phone towers. Tower construction is a government priority. Destroying them is equally vital to Maoists. According to sources, at least 32 cell phone towers were built in Abhujmad, a vast forest of 5,000 sq km in Maoist-affected Bastar regions. In recent years, security troops penetrated portions of Abhujmad that had never been mapped and was Maoist-controlled. A top security officer in

Shinde meets PM, Shah, says will back NDA V-P nominee

Delhi: Eknath Shinde, leader of the Shiv Sena and former chief minister of the state, declared that his party would provide "unconditional support" to the NDA's vice presidential candidate. This could pave the way for other alliance partners to do the same, increasing the likelihood that a BJP candidate will be appointed to the constitutional position following the September 9 election. During his third visit to Delhi in less than a month, Shinde met with Amit Shah, the minister of home affairs, at Shah's



Parliament office and then made the news. After last month's departure of Jagdeep Dhankhar, an election for the position of vice president was deemed necessary.

During his meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Shinde offered his congratulations on the successful completion of

Operations Sindoor and Mahadev. People paid a lot of attention to the twin interactions.

Meeting with the BJP leadership, who allegedly helped bring down the Uddhav Thackeray government in 2022, was evidence of his ties with them, according to sources.

Retail prices of 37 additional medications, emergency-use medications are capped

Delhi : The government has set a maximum price for four different types of emergency medications, as well as a retail price for 37 other types of drugs, including antibiotics and pain relievers, made by different companies. Ipratropium is one of the medications used for emergency purposes; it helps patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) avoid symptoms including wheezing, shortness of breath, coughing, and chest tightness. The maximum price per milliliter was set at 2.96 rupees. The medications Sodium Nitroprusside (an injectable used to quickly lower blood pressure in hypertensive emergencies, during surgery to reduce bleeding, and in cases of acute heart failure) cost Rs 28.99 per milliliter; Diltiazem (a pill used to treat high blood pressure and chest pain) cost Rs 26.72 per capsule; and Povidone iodine (a



For LPG subsidies, the cabinet approves 42,000 crore

Delhi : About 330 million Indian households, including 103.3 million low-income families, would have access to cheaper cooking gas thanks to ₹42,060 crore that was granted under two separate categories in the current fiscal year by the Union cabinet. In the past, state-run oil marketing companies were given 30,000 crore as budgetary support to help middle-

class households with subsidised cooking gas. According to Ashwini Vaishnaw, the minister of information and broadcasting, in FY26, the government will continue to provide 12,060 crore to support the beneficiaries of the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana. He said, "PM Ujjwala yojana is globally recognized as one of the biggest examples of inclusive growth.

announcement was made by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority stating that manufacturers.

More than 100,000 votes allegedly "stolen"; EC requests signed statement

Delhi : In 2024, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) was able to secure the seat in the Mahadevapura assembly segment of the Bangalore (Central) Parliamentary constituency due to 100,250 votes that were allegedly "stolen" from the voters. Rahul Gandhi, who is the

leader of the opposition in the Lok Sabha, accused the Election Commission of India of "colluding" with the political party.

The Election Commission wasted no time responding to his presentation—which contained the names of the affected voters—and request-

ed that he submit a declaration and oath in writing. Gandhi offered a breakdown of the "stolen" votes, asserting that a group of forty individuals spent six months reviewing the seven-foot-thick, non-machine-readable election registers provided by the Commission: 11, 965 vot-

ers were found to have entered the same information twice, 40,000 people had incorrect or fraudulent addresses, 10, 452 voters were in groups of 60 or 70 votes using the same address, 4,132 voters had photographs that did not match, and 3, 692 voters had used Form 6.

334 unrecognized parties delisted by EC due to violation of standards

Delhi: On Saturday, 334 RUPPS were delisted by the Election Commission for failing to comply with registration norms and/or regulatory requirements. The number of RUPPS has been cut from 2,854 to 2,520 in the most recent round of delisting, which EC has described as a comprehensive and ongoing strategy to clean up the political environment. In accordance with Section 29B and Section 29C of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, read with the relevant sec-



tions of the Income Tax Act, 1961, and the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968, delisted RUPPS are no longer eligible for

income-tax reductions. The rules provide that a political party will be removed from the registry of registered parties if it does not actively participate in elec-

tions for a period of six years. The EC had previously ordered the state and UT CEOs to verify 345 RUPPS in June to make sure they were following its rules and the RP Act's aforementioned requirements. The results showed that 334 out of 345 RUPPS did not meet the requirements mentioned above, according to the reports of the CEOs. The remaining cases have been returned to the CEOs for further review, according to EC's statement.

District Magistrate inspected the under construction six lane bridge



Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Prayagraj. District Magistrate Manish Kumar Verma on Monday reached Bailey Kachhar and Phaphamau Malakharhar of the under construction six lane Phaphamau Bridge and conducted a site inspection and gave necessary instructions to all the officers related to the project. He took

information from the project manager about the under construction six lane bridge project, steel bridge built in Mahakumbh and traffic management, on which he told that the construction work of the six lane bridge is going on and about 80 percent of the project is complete. Due to the increase in the water level of Ganga ji, the progress of the work had slowed

Time frame

□ **The District Magistrate gave instructions to complete the work in a quality manner within the stipulated time frame**

down, but as soon as the water level decreases, the project will be



completed rapidly. There are a total of four hanging pillars in the work, out of which the work of 2 pillars has been completed, about 60 percent work has been completed in one pillar, work on only one pillar is still left, which is going on fast. The target has been set to complete the entire 6 lane bridge project by June 2026. During the Maha Kumbh, a steel bridge was

built for the management of traffic coming from Pratapgarh and Lucknow, which was dismantled after the Kumbh Mela. The District Magistrate told the Project Manager that if any kind of cooperation is required from the district administration in the construction of the bridge, then full cooperation will be provided by the administration. He has given instructions to

complete the remaining work of the six lane bridge under construction with quality and speed. On this occasion, trainee IAS Animesh Verma, Rohit Mishra - Project Manager, Setu Nigam, Parvez Sultan - General Manager, SP Singla Varun Varshney, Assistant Executive Engineer, Morth and other concerned officers were present.

Yogi govt set to launch over 3,000 fully functional Balvatikas

Historic

□ **Local public representatives, officials, and parents to in inaugural events**

Lucknow: Under Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's leadership, Uttar Pradesh will mark a historic leap in early education on August 15, with over 3,000 newly established Balvatikas becoming fully operational across the state. Independence Day celebrations at these centres will see public representatives, officials, and parents joining to encourage children, while programmes will showcase the importance of early learning, its benefits, and key government initiatives. The move is aimed at building a strong educational foundation and shaping the next generation into creative, confident, and responsible citizens. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 identifies Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) as the most critical stage of the entire learning journey.

Following this vision, the Yogi government has decided to transform all co-located Anganwadi centres into Balvatikas. The first eight years of life are crucial for brain development and learning ability, and these Balvatikas will help children develop linguistic, cognitive, social, and creative skills. Low-enrolment schools have been merged with nearby institutions to consolidate resources. Following renovation, beautification, creation of child-friendly classrooms, a print-rich environment, and provision of learning materials, these schools have now been prepared for Balvatika operations. Basic Education Minister Sandeep Singh said the Yogi government is giving top priority to early education, with Balvatikas designed to ensure children's holistic development and nutrition so they grow into strong, confident, and responsible citizens. "Making over 3,000 Balvatikas operational on August 15 is a major step towards providing children .

Legal aid camp was organized

Direction

□ **Will give new direction to our ex-servicemen, defense personnel and their families***

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Prayagraj. As per the instructions of Uttar Pradesh State Legal Services Authority Lucknow and District Judge President District Legal Services Authority Prayagraj Sanjeev Kumar, to provide legal aid to defense personnel, ex-servicemen and their families under NALSA Veer Parivar Sahayata Yojana 2025, the Legal Aid Clinic was inaugurated on 8.8.2025 by Secretary District Legal Services Authority Shri Dinesh Kumar Gautam in the



District Sainik Welfare and Rehabilitation Office on behalf of the District Legal Services Authority. On Monday, a legal aid camp was organized in the District Sainik Aid and Rehabilitation Office Prayagraj under the chairmanship of Secretary District Legal Services Authority. In the legal literacy and awareness camp, Dinesh Kumar Gautam, Secretary District Legal Services Authority Prayagraj, in his address said that this

legal aid center opened for our soldiers by the National Legal Services Authority will definitely give a new direction to our ex-servicemen defense personnel and their families. Free legal aid will be provided here. So that the soldiers deployed in the defense of the country and their families can be given the right information about the law. On this occasion, Ashish Kumar, a para-legal volunteer, was appointed by the District Legal Services

Authority to run the legal aid clinic. Prachi Shukla, a junior clerk, was appointed as a para-legal volunteer by the District Sainik Welfare and Rehabilitation Office. Secretary District Legal Services Program Prayagraj gave detailed information about NALSA's toll free number 15100 and told about the District Legal Services Authority and Taluka Legal Services Committee to get free legal aid and all the people present in the meeting were told to take advantage of it. Amit Bhargava Colonel, Gaurav Singh Deputy Chief Legal Defense Council, Dhananjay Kumar Patel Assistant Defense Council and others were present on this occasion. This information was provided by the Secretary District Legal Services Authority.

Minor commits suicide after dispute with boyfriend

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Prayagraj. A minor girl committed suicide on Sunday evening. Before her death, she had a fight with her boyfriend. The girl's family said that she was a high school pass and used to talk to a boy from the same village. They tried to stop her many times, but the girl kept talking secretly. Due to which she took this step after a dispute. Dispute with boyfriend and suicide. The girl's family, resident of Dhoomanganj police station, said that she was a high school pass and used to talk to a boy from the same village.

Suicide

□ **Information about the dispute was found from the girl's mobile**

They tried to stop her many times, but the girl kept talking secretly. On Sunday, there was a dispute between the two over something. She was alone at home, her mother was working on the roof, during which she hanged herself. The girl's father said while crying that he had raised his children by doing hard labour, but he never thought that his daughter would take such a step.

A fierce fire broke out in an electronic warehouse, firefighters rescued three people including an elderly woman

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Prayagraj. A fire broke out in the electronic warehouse located in the basement of Bank of Baroda building in Rambagh on Monday morning. The fire was so fierce that three people including the elderly landlady living on the first floor got trapped. The fire brigade team, which



arrived on the information,

rescued the people trapped inside with the help of stairs. But by then electronic goods worth lakhs had been burnt to ashes. No one was killed in the accident. There is a warehouse of electronic equipment in the name of Sangam Sky in Rambagh. Bank of Baroda lives in the same building and the landlord lives on the first floor. At around

11:40 in the afternoon, a sudden fire broke out in the warehouse built on the basement. The flames of the fire were so high that the smoke reached the first floor of the building. During this time, the landlady Savita Rani Agarwal (75), maid Gyaneshwari (45) and Chandan (45) got trapped in the house. The stairs were completely

filled with smoke. On getting the information, FSO Rajesh Kumar reached the spot with five fire engines from Naini and Civil Lines fire station and started the rescue operation. There were cries from the first floor.

There was no way to enter the building from the main stairs. Due to heavy smoke, the team installed an iron

ladder from outside and took everyone out of the room safely. The fire was brought under control after about two hours. Lights, wires and other electronic equipment were burnt in the fire. FSO Rajesh Kumar said that there was no loss of life in the accident. The cause of the fire is being said to be a short circuit.

37 UP districts face relentless rain; ministers, officials lead relief efforts

Yogi govt provides relief to nearly 7 lakh flood victims

Lucknow: Relentless rains in the mountains and plains have unleashed floods across large parts of Uttar Pradesh, prompting round-the-clock relief operations under Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's direction. Ministers and senior officials are on the ground, ensuring aid reaches every affected person. According to Relief



Commissioner Bhanu Chandra Goswami, floods have hit 95 tehsils and 1,929 villages in 37 districts, impact-

ing 6,95,362 people—all of whom have received assistance. So far, 84,777 cattle have been shifted to safety, 574

houses damaged with compensation given to 472 families, and 65,202 hectares submerged. Relief teams, using 2,622 boats, have distributed around 9.4 lakh meal packets, including 86,455 food packets and 8,58,573 lunch packets to victims. The Yogi government is also prioritizing the safety and well-being of livestock in flood-hit areas. To date,

12,382 quintals of fodder have been distributed for cattle. Preventive measures against waterborne diseases are in place, with 6,20,704 chlorine tablets and 2,35,117 ORS packets distributed. Currently, 453 flood shelters are operational, housing 65,844 people who are receiving regular health check-ups from 1,193 medical teams.

Furthermore, 1,594 flood posts have been set up to monitor the situation continuously. The 37 flood-affected districts include Ayodhya, Bahraich, Barabanki, Muzaffarnagar, Kabir Nagar, Prayagraj, Varanasi, Chandauli, Jalaun, Kanpur, Dehat, Hamirpur, Etawah, and Fatehpur. Relief operations in these regions are progressing at full pace.

Yogi govt emerges as a lifeline for leprosy-affected persons with disabilities

Lucknow: Reaffirming its commitment to social welfare, the Yogi government has strengthened support for persons with disabilities and individuals affected by leprosy through transparent and timely delivery of benefits. Under the Leprosy Pension Scheme, each eligible beneficiary receives Rs 3,000 per month—reaching 34,994 leprosy-affected persons with disabilities in the past three years, including 12,692 in the first quarter of 2025-26 alone. Similarly, the Divyang

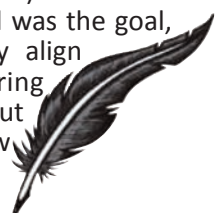
Bharan Poshan Anudan Yojana, which provides Rs 1,000 monthly to eligible persons with disabilities, has benefited 30,86,102 people over the past three years, with 11,32,240 receiving payments to their bank accounts in the first quarter of this year. The adoption of the Aadhaar-based payment system has made the schemes more transparent and time-bound, eliminating the risk of fund misuse. Eligibility verification has also been simplified through online applications.

Editorial

Buying Russian oil, misreading Trump—3 points will define India's next energy strategy

India's crude oil trade has evolved from a purely economic exchange into both a geopolitical test of strategic autonomy and a measure of the constraints in its energy policy. Over the past three years, India has gone from being a marginal buyer of Russian crude to one of its largest importers, carefully balancing ties with the US, Europe, and shifting global energy markets. That balance is now under pressure from Donald Trump's 50 per cent tariff offensive, aimed selectively at India and leaving little ambiguity about his objectives—and in Trump's world, what he wants, he usually gets. Yet the national debate has taken too many assumptions for granted. It is worth applying a deconstruction approach to India's famous oil bargains with Russia—a decision once hailed as tactical brilliance, but one now risking entanglement in overlapping economic and diplomatic challenges. While public commentary has focused heavily on Trump, tariffs, and New Delhi's indignation, the more pressing task is to interrogate the rationale behind these choices. To navigate the road ahead, India must revisit three fundamentals: why it embraced Russian oil, how it misread Trump's European recalibration, and where future India–Russia energy engagement should head. Clarity on these three points may well define the next chapter of India's energy strategy. Despite close political ties and deep defence cooperation, India and Russia were never bound by energy dependence. Even with India's heavy reliance on imports—currently 88 per cent of its daily crude requirement of 5.5 million barrels—its primary suppliers have traditionally been Gulf countries. The earlier chapter of India capitulating to Trump 1.0's sanctions on Iran and Venezuela is well known; today, however, the challenge is starker. Russia entered India's energy equation only after the geopolitical earthquake of President Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine. That act shattered the European order painstakingly built since the Second World War and crystallised after the Soviet Union's collapse. Central to this upheaval was Putin's weaponization of energy: Europe's decades-long dependence on cheap Russian oil and gas became a vulnerability. In response, Europe diversified away from Russia, while the G7 imposed a \$60 per-barrel price cap on Russian crude in December 2022. The logic was clear: as one of the world's top three oil producers, Russia could not be cut off overnight. The aim was instead to squeeze Moscow's revenues, which were funding its war machine, while keeping prices stable and securing alternative supplies for Europe. India saw opportunity in this upheaval. With vast import needs, it began rerouting Russian oil at supposedly lower prices, rejecting G7 sanctions and arranging direct and indirect deals through intermediaries. Early reports spoke of a “free on board” discount of 30 per cent, though never confirmed.

Brent crude fell from \$86.51 in January 2022 to \$80.92 in December, peaking briefly at about \$90 in June 2023 before sliding again. While some credit India's purchases with stabilising prices, Russian oil for India almost always remained way above the \$60 price cap. The critical question is whether India ever bought below that threshold. Reports suggest an average discount of only \$5 per barrel—hardly transformative—and potentially offset by hidden costs and surcharges. Even so, large volumes (peaking at over 2 million barrels per day before dropping to 1.5 million) meant cumulative savings. But if cheap oil was the goal, why not join or informally align with the price cap, securing crude closer to \$60 without the complications of shadow fleets and sanctions risks?



Bank nationalisation will be a blow to India's mixed economy, lead to totalitarianism: Phiroze Shroff

Every now and then we hear the cry that banks should be nationalised. The taking over of banks by the State is urged on various grounds, namely, that it is necessary in order “to mobilise resources” for the economic development of the country, “to prevent the concentration of economic power”, “to check malpractices in the working of banks” and to put a stop to profiteering” by banks. All these arguments will be found to be untenable on a dispassionate scrutiny of the issues involved. The primary function of banks

is to mobilise resources for economic development and that is exactly what the banks in our country have been doing. They have been working to attract deposits from those who have funds to spare on [a] long or short term basis. They have been making loans for industrial as well as agricultural expansion in accordance with numerous legislative requirements. During recent years, they have opened numerous branches in order to extend credit facilities to people even in remote areas, even though the banking business

in several branches has proved unremunerative. They have invested more than Rs 600 crore in Government securities. They have been broadening their capital base and increasing their reserves in accordance with statutory requirements. The enormous increase in their deposits during recent years bears testimony to the confidence which the public have in their working. By undertaking the foreign exchange business, our banks render considerable help in promoting exports. An occasional appearance of a black

sheep in the sphere of banking, as in any other sphere, does not detract from the value of the service which the banks as a whole are rendering to the country. What is regrettable is that though the Reserve Bank is invested with extensive powers to prevent malpractices, in one or two cases it failed to exercise them to protect the interests of the depositors as well as shareholders. Ninety-five per cent of bank advances in India are secured loans. The corresponding figures for the USA, is only thirty per cent.

Restoring J&K's statehood won't be enough. Kashmiris need to be treated like other Indians



Late one night in 1978, in a nation illuminated by the end of the Emergency, police dragged Ghulam Nabi Patel out of his home in Srinagar's Batamalloo, and into the city's Central Jail. Leviathan still cast a long shadow in this corner of the republic, it became clear. The head of the Kashmir Motor Drivers Association, it later emerged, had campaigned for the Janata Party in the just-concluded elections. This action enraged then-Prime Minister Sheikh Muhammad Abdullah enough to make the trade union leader the first victim of Kashmir's just-legislated preventive detention law, the Public Safety Act. The High Court ordered Ghulam Nabi's release, but that wasn't quite the end of the story. In 2018, the elderly politician, battling cancer and on a trip home to arrange his daughter's wedding, was shot dead by terrorists. This time, the parties he'd served for decades — the Congress and the People's Democratic Party — denied their association with him, so they would not have to condemn the assassins. A last bit of the story remains. In 2020, Ghulam Nabi's children were served notice by the government, ordering them to vacate the premises they were provided to protect them from terrorist attack. This week, the Supreme Court is scheduled to resume hearing petitions seeking the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood, an issue it elided over after 32 paragraphs of elegant prose, in return for a promise from the Solicitor General. The decision to hear

the issue is an important one, but it also evades a critical issue. The demotion of Kashmir to a Union territory isn't the only issue that needs to be discussed, as India moves forward to reimagine its constitutional relationship with the once-was-a-state. Kashmir has never been, in any sense of the world, allowed to be a normal state, with normal politicians and normal citizens. The state might have been the first to get rural radio sets, scholar Navnita Chadha Behera notes, but authorities were careful to disable their tuners with wire, so as to ensure only Radio Kashmir could be heard. There were elections to a constituent Assembly in 1951, true, but politician Syed Mir Qasim observed notices posted on walls, ordering people not to discuss politics. Thus, Kashmir was bound to the republic with terror and blood, not ideas or culture. For this, the long jihad Pakistan unleashed against Kashmir in 1947-1948, and has since continued without interruption, must be held responsible. Like many other regions in India, from the adivasi heartlands in central India to parts of the Northeast, democracy

has struggled to grow in exceptionally harsh conditions. All blame, though, does not lie across the Line of Control. Elections that served to undermine democracy, the state-enabled subversion of the political system through corruption, the use of coercion unconstrained by law: All these, the story of Ghulam Nabi Patel should remind us, were Indian inventions. Today, the challenge isn't just to restore statehood in Kashmir. The task Indians need to embrace is to build a state that is Indian, an unremarkable part of our republic. Eighty years ago, Prime Minister Abdullah had promised that a utopia would be built from the ruins of Partition and war. The Naya Kashmir manifesto — which, Andrew Whitehead reminds us, liberally helped itself to text from the 1936 constitution of the Soviet Union — held out promises to redistribute feudal landholdings to the peasants, to uphold the rights of women, and introduce universal access to healthcare and education. The communist couple Freda Houlston and her husband Baba Pyare Lal Bedi wrote the manifesto with Abdullah's encouragement,

though it is unclear if his commitment to communism was ever serious. To the great Kashmiri poet Ghulam Ahmad Mahjoor, it seemed Abdullah was leading the region out of the darkness: “The ranges of the mountains shall yield gold,” he gushed, “Pearls shall emerge out of the Wular lake.” Less than five years after Independence, though, the poet had encountered disillusionment. The reality of ‘New Kashmir’, it turned out, was one-party authoritarianism, electoral malpractice, and communalism. “Freedom being of heavenly birth, can't move from door to door,” he avidly wrote, “You'll find her camping in the homes of a chosen few alone.” How did this come about? The story has something to do with bad luck, scholar Aijaz Ashraf Wani has written, in an excellent survey of the roots of misadministration in Kashmir. Two successive bad harvests, in 1949-1950 and 1950-1951, created enormous rural discontent. Forced levies of crops from farmers, imposed in a desperate effort to stave off famine, sharpened the resentment, while shortages of food in the cities grew to alarming levels. The National Conference succeeded in dominating the Constituent Assembly, winning all 75 seats in the 1951 elections. This was only possible, though, because 45 out of 49 candidates of the Hindu-nationalist Praja Parishad party were barred from contesting, mainly on frivolous technical grounds, Behera has observed. The media was muzzled, and opponents

were intimidated and imprisoned. Less than five years later, though, the relationship between Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and Abdullah had begun to break down. The Praja Parishad, denied electoral space, started a mass movement seeking the full integration of Kashmir into India. Abdullah, in a 10 April 1952 speech in RS Pura, suggested it was becoming impossible to “convince the Muslims of Kashmir that India does not intend to swallow them up.” The threat of war with Pakistan was alive, Nehru could not countenance this rebellion. “I am afraid Kashmir is heading in an adverse direction,” Nehru warned in a 28 June 1953 letter. The new regime of Prime Minister Bakshi Ghulam Mohammad came to power on the back of a unanimous vote of confidence from Jammu & Kashmir's Constituent Assembly, many of whose members were released from prison that very day. Early in 1954, the Union government restricted Kashmir's special status by passing constitutional amendments that cut back the state's autonomy. Long before Kashmir's special status ended, 260 of the 395 Articles in the Indian Constitution were already applicable in Jammu & Kashmir; the remaining 135 were identical provisions found in the Constitution of Jammu and Kashmir. Like his predecessor and incarcerated friend Abdullah, Bakshi hoped development would subsume the urge for political agency and dialogue.

Good politician, bad statesman — what Muhammad Yunus' one year in power reveals

If Sheikh Hasina had her way, Muhammad Yunus would have been dunked into the Padma River by now. Not once but twice. But it has been a year since the ousted Bangladeshi prime minister hasn't had her way. In that time, not only has Yunus avoided a plunge into the Padma, but also dashed Hasina's dreams of returning to Bangladesh, all while sitting pretty in the chair she was forced to vacate. In the one year since Yunus took over as the caretaker to the interim government of Bangladesh on 8 August 2024, the accidental politician has proved himself a consummate one. Detractors who had claimed he won't last three months are now worried if he will even vacate his chair. Not only has Yunus deftly navigated the choppy waters of Bangladeshi politics, he has even turned foes into friends. Plunged into chaos after Hasina's hasty exit on 5 August 2024, Bangladesh, though, is in desperate need of a statesman. There has been no love lost between Sheikh Hasina and Muhammad

Yunus, much before the latter replaced the former as Bangladesh's premier last year. On 18 May 2022, Hasina had allegedly said, “He (Yunus) stopped funding for a project like the Padma Bridge because of one managing director post. He should be given two dunks in the Padma River, but lifted up so he doesn't die. Then maybe he will learn a lesson.” Hasina had said this while blaming Nobel Peace Prize winner, economist Dr Muhammad Yunus, for blocking the World Bank's funding of the Padma bridge project. That's not all. As recently as 1 January 2024, a court in Bangladesh had sentenced the Nobel laureate to six months in jail for violating Bangladesh's labour laws. Yunus' supporters said the case was politically motivated. The acclaimed economist and three colleagues from Grameen Telecom—one of the firms Yunus founded—were found guilty of failing to create a welfare fund for their workers. I call for the Bangladeshi people to speak in one voice against injustice.

Dharali floods a wake-up call for IMD, NDMA to buck up

The deadly flash floods and landslides in Uttarkashi on 5 August, in which 16 people were killed, highlight the problems of illegal riverbank constructions and inadequate warning systems. Videos of submerged villages, ravaging floods sweeping up buildings and cars in their tide, and stranded people have become an almost annual occurrence now in the Himalayan region. Dharali's floods struck in the absence of any weather warning, and authorities are still confused about the actual cause. While the Uttarakhand State Disaster Management Authority called it a cloudburst, the India Meteorological Department could not confirm it with the available data. Uttarkashi district recorded 12.7 cm of rain in 8 hours on 5 August; it is still lower than districts such as Haridwar and Dehradun, which got 15-30 cm of rain on the same day. In a state that sees frequent cloudbursts and floods during the monsoon, and has been explicitly marked as a ‘high vulnerability zone’ for landslides by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), the damage from the Dharali floods is not merely nature's fault. The blame also rests squarely on building norms, mass road construction and mining projects, and other anthropogenic activities that have exacerbated Uttarakhand's fragility. The floods should be another wake-up call for the IMD and the NDMA to buck up and ensure the safety of people and ecology in the Himalayas. Dharali is a small hamlet 2,680 metres above sea level, situated 18 km from Gangotri, and is a common stopover for tourists and pilgrims going to one of the Char Dhams of Uttarakhand. It is dotted with hotels, restaurants, and homes built precariously close to the banks of the Kheerganga River that runs through the village. On Tuesday afternoon, a barrage of water descended upon the village and

damaged houses, roads, and the one bridge connecting Dharali and Hershil, another area affected by the landslide. Satellite images from ISRO now show that deposits of mud and sediments from the floods cover all of the village. Alongside civilian settlements, an Army camp near Hershil too was impacted by the floods, although the number of people missing there hasn't been reported. The IMD had issued warnings of heavy to extremely heavy rainfall in all of Uttarakhand, including the Uttarkashi district, from 1 August onwards. But compared to other districts, Uttarkashi's rainfall during this monsoon was still pretty low. From 1 to 5 August, Uttarkashi's recorded rainfall was 6 percent lower than the average rainfall it gets during this period. Over the monsoon season so far this year in the state, Uttarkashi has recorded 7 per cent lower rainfall than average. If there was indeed a cloudburst—100 mm of rain falling in one hour in a small area—then the IMD is not aware of it. The closest Automatic Weather System (AWS) station that could record this cloudburst is 7 km from Dharali, and it did not catch a cloudburst. But experts say that even without a cloudburst, the possibility of heavy rainfall, causing this disaster is not unfounded. Dharali's location and slope explain it. “The ‘cloudburst’ may have happened much higher at 12,000 ft above sea level, and Dharali is at 8,000 ft. Even this slope of 4,000 ft makes a huge difference to the intensity of the water flow,” Mahesh Palawat, vice president of meteorology and climate change at SkyMet Weather, told ThePrint. “The canal is very narrow, and a lot of trees and mud could have been uprooted and swept along with the water.” If such damage without a rare event like a cloudburst, it should leave the system working toward India's disaster preparedness thinking.

Clinic workers in Mohalla seek help from High Court

Delhi : A writ suit has been filed in the Delhi High Court by staff members of Delhi's Aam Aadmi Mohalla Clinics (AAMCs) seeking relief from their ongoing job instability and inconsistent salary payments. In their petition, the healthcare initiative's doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and paramedics detail the difficulties they encounter on the job. The staffers have asked the court to rule against the "arbitrary removal" of current employees and to make sure that salaries are paid on time and consistently. Many employees are in emotional and financial pain because their salaries have been postponed for months, according to the petition. The AAMC staff is becoming increasingly dissatisfied with their employment security and the lack of openness from the administration, and this high court appeal arrives days before a similar file before the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT). Healthcare Workers



Soon, borewells will be regulated, the assembly was informed.

Delhi : The minister of water in Delhi, Parvesh Verma, recently said that the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) is forming an enforcement squad to bring an end to the city's widespread illegal borewells and will shortly unveil a lucid and realistic plan to regularize them. Water supply difficulties in unlicensed colonies, borewell sealing, and the water crisis as a whole will

be handled by the strategy, he claimed. During his speech in the Delhi assembly, Singh mentioned that borewells are now being sealed according to standards set by the NGT. He also mentioned that the proposed policy would make it possible to regularize them when necessary. In response to BJP MLA Jitendra Mahajan's worries over declining groundwater levels. Mohalla Clinics, both confirmed that many staff members have been effectively driven into forced unemployment.

By the end of 2027, the PM's residential complex will be completed

Delhi : The Prime Minister's Residential Complex (Executive Enclave-2), which is now under development as part of the Central Vista rejuvenation project, is expected to be completed by the end of 2027, according to authorities from the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA). Originally scheduled to be completed by the end of 2024, the project was one of several Central Vista projects that were tender-issued in August 2022. Undoubtedly, the new V-P enclave and Parliament building, which are also components of the Central Vista renovation, were postponed by over a year.



The "sensitive nature" of the Executive Enclave-2 project was the reason MoHUA authorities would not disclose its development cost. The Control Room. Someone in a position of authority has confirmed that a command and control center will be established to oversee the safety and accessibility of the Central Vista Boulevard, which encompasses the Kartavya Path, the C-Hexagon surrounding the India Gate, and the Yuga Yugeen Museum (the latter of which will take the place of the North and South block buildings).

Delhi may eliminate the necessity for MCD health trade licenses to run restaurants

Delhi: The Delhi government may soon eliminate the need for a health trade license from the civic body to build restaurants and cafés in the city to enhance the hospitality sector. At the "Expresso" Lt Governor V K Saxena announced the city's

restaurant licensing requirement is being eliminated. The Delhi government and MCD did not immediately respond to the development. Recently, the Delhi government eliminated the need for hotels, clubs, restaurants, and guest

homes to get a police 'Eating House Registration' and Lodging Certificate' to serve liquor. The L-G removed the Delhi Police Commissioner's ease-of-doing-business permit for the eating house registration certificate last month.

At DDA's 'luxury' residences in Dwarka, residents deal with dripping pipes and crumbling walls

Delhi : Resident expectations for the comfort and amenities promised by a luxury building were high when they moved into their new flats at Golf View Condos, a premium Delhi building Authority (DDA) housing complex in Dwarka, around nine months ago. Leaky plumbing, crumbling plaster, defective wiring, and unfinished construction quickly ruined that promise. Even though they paid more than ₹2 crore for the houses, the buyers claim they are now spending even more money to make their apartments habitable. A resident who bought a flat for ₹3 crore three months ago and moved in three months ago



said that troubles started the day he took ownership. Seepage in the walls, malfunctioning wiring, and missing doors were all issues. In order to convert the property into what it was intended to be, he had to spend an additional ₹30 lakh on repairs and upgrades. Citing an absence of supervision, he also paid

for private security cameras to be installed in his building. According to another tenant, the redoing of the wiring and plumbing makes it practically impossible to move in without investing an additional 20 lakh. You need to dismantle the walls and replace the fundamental fixtures.

A New Blood Donor App Is Coming Soon to Delhi

Delhi : Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta announced that the city will soon release an app listing blood donors who are willing to donate their blood voluntarily. A blood donation camp in the Anand Vihar area was the site of the announcement, given by Ms. Gupta. "Details of those who intend to donate blood will soon be available on a blood donor app. "Details about their blood type, when they last donated, and whether they are eligible to donate again .

Promotion of legal services using social media platforms through a lens

Delhi : Lawyers promoting their legal services on social media have been "cautioned" by the Bar Council of Delhi, who recently issued a warning claiming that this activity violates professional ethics and devalues the legal profession. "Bar Council of Delhi has observed that many lawyers are indulging in posting content and videos to solicit work by way of advertisement, either directly or indirectly, through circulars advertising personal interactions,



interviews and producing their photographs to publish in connection with the cases, etc." according to the BCD notice. Section 36 of the Bar Council of India Rules forbids the practices described in the notice, which highlight the proliferation of unqualified legal influencers who are disseminating false information on important legal matters. According to this part of the code of ethics, lawyers are not allowed to advertise or solicit clients in any way, shape, or form. The notice cautioned that the rule in question constitutes serious misconduct, and that advocates who violate it may face disciplinary proceedings . under section 35 of the Advocates Act, which authorizes the suspension or revocation of their license to practice law.

DTC revives Shadipur housing project, submits layout

Delhi: The Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) has submitted the layout plan for the long-delayed redevelopment of its Shadipur staff housing society to the Delhi Urban Art Commission (DUAC) for approval, reviving a project that had been stalled for over two years due to bureaucratic delays. The Shadipur redevelopment is one of two DTC land monetisation projects, together with a Hari Nagar housing society, to generate cash from underutilized land assets. The Shadipur layout has been submitted and should be approved soon. Previously delayed financial approvals will also come in, said a DTC official. Both projects were delayed due to the non-formation of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) standing committee, an 18-



member body that approves layout designs and finances. Officials stated the body has not met in almost 30 months, blocking hundreds of citywide redevelopment and infrastructure ideas. As required by the Delhi Master Plan 2021, the redeveloped Shadipur colony will have five high-rise residential towers with 427 flats and 228 flats for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS). One tower has 4BHK apartments with ground plus 30 storeys and four towers.

Lease over 35,000 sqm of DMRC office space to generate non-fare earnings

Delhi: Officials stated the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) is leasing more than 35,000 square metres of office space across various unoccupied premises. Officials said the walk-in, first-come-first-served space is part of a larger push to boost non-fare revenue. The DMRC's IT Park near Shastri Park Metro station on the Red Line houses.

Municipal Corporation of Delhi will seek pvt companies in an effort to expand tax base

Delhi : In an effort to increase its property tax collection, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) is reportedly planning to hire private operators to help it find homes that are not yet included in its tax database. An RFP is almost ready to be released in the next few weeks to select agencies that want the lowest share of revenue, according to a senior official from the MCD. Civic agencies in Odisha and Jodhpur have tested this concept, according to the official, and it is now



being adjusted for Delhi's specific circumstances. Private companies will scour the city for properties that are not subject to taxes, according to the proposed concept. The operator will receive a share of the tax revenue from these units once they are identified by the civic authority. The request for proposals is nearly complete. Increased revenue collection while strict adherence to regulations is the goal. The official stated that

although private agencies will be responsible for property identification, the accessor and collector department of MCD is the sole authority to issue tax notices.

MCD panel to include NGOs in expedited dog sterilization efforts

Delhi: After its inaugural meeting, the community dog subcommittee announced its intention to examine current regulations that are impeding sterilization efforts and to approach the Delhi and central governments for assistance in removing these procedural barriers. The group



will convene again to discuss

strategies and tactics with the help of non-governmental organizations and those who feed animals. Its objective is to deliver its final recommendations in a month's time. According to Satya Sharma, chair of the standing committee, the MCD is determined to find long-term, compassionate solutions to the problems caused by community dogs. With the help of other competent organizations, we will begin a new discourse with NGOs that are currently involved in sterilization. She promised to look into the rules that are causing delays.

Shops and commercial establishments in Delhi are now able to hire women for night shifts

Delhi: With the government lifting long-standing prohibitions under the Delhi shops and Establishments Act, women in Delhi can now lawfully work night shifts in stores and commercial establishments. The initiative, according to Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, would increase the number of women working and broaden the city's potential as an economy that works around the clock. The government intends to change the 1954 Act's Sections 14, 15, and 16, which ban women from working during night hours (summer: 9 pm to 7 am, winter: 8 pm to 8 am). Businesses will be able to hire women for 24/7 operations.

although private agencies will be responsible for property identification, the accessor and collector department of MCD is the sole authority to issue tax notices.

The highest-paid Indian IT CEO is Vijayakumar of HCLTech

Delhi: Vijayakumar, CEO of HCLTech, has surpassed \$10 million in pay to become the highest-paid IT CEO in India. For the fiscal year 2024-25, Vijayakumar, who is located in the United States, earned Rs 94.6 crore. This sum included Rs 15.8 crore in base salary, Rs 13.9 crore in performance-linked incentive, Rs 56.9 crore in long-term RSUs, and Rs 1.7 crore in bonus. Among Vijayakumar's contemporaries is K. Krithivasan, CEO of TCS, who, in the fiscal year of 2023-24, received Rs26.5 crore, a rise of 4.6% from the prior year. Salil Parekh, CEO of Infosys, saw a 22% increase to his salary, bringing it to Rs 80.6 crore. Srinivas Pallia, who became CEO of Wipro in April of last year, received Rs 53.6 crore; however, there is no historical data to draw from due to this being his first full year in the position. The company's annual report states

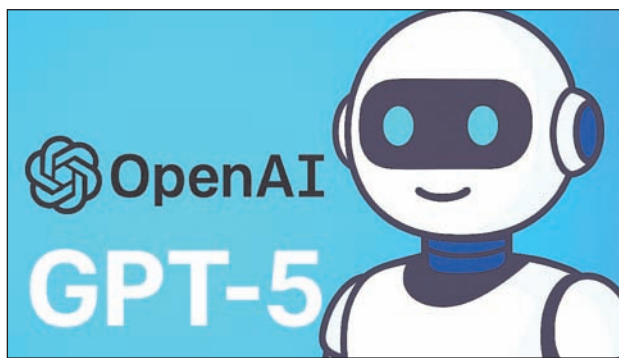


that Vijayakumar's compensation was increased by 7.9% over the previous year. Nonetheless, in the most recent fiscal year, employees (not including managers) saw a 3.1% average compensation increase. The 2024-25 fiscal year saw Vijayakumar's pay exceeding 662.5 times the median employee compensation. Following the NRC's recommendations, the Board of Directors has renewed Vijayakumar's appointment as Chief Executive Officer and Member of the Board of HCLTech effective September 1, 2018, until March 31, 2030.

Chinese giant Ant to leave Paytm for 3.8k cr

Delhi: A term sheet stated that China's Ant Group will sell its 5.8% share in Paytm in one or more block agreements worth at least Rs 3,800 crore (approximately \$434 million). Alibaba Group's Ant Group (previously Ant Financial) invested in Noida's fintech early on. This deal eliminates Chinese ownership of Paytm. Ant Group would offer 3.7 crore Paytm shares at a floor price of Rs 1,020, a 5.4% discount to NSE closing price of Rs 1,078. Paytm wouldn't comment.

Indian chatGPT market would soon surpass that of the US



Delhi: Users of ChatGPT, whether paid or free, and developers have access to OpenAI's newest AI mode, GPT-5, through the API. The business boasted that GPT-5 boosts reasoning, speed, accuracy, and mathematical prowess. Sam Altman, CEO, spoke at the inauguration about how the Indian market is becoming increasingly important. Among the world's greatest markets, India is second only to the United States, and it has the potential to overtake it, he declared. "The things that people in India are doing with AI are absolutely

astounding." Altman elaborated by saying that OpenAI is collaborating with Indian organizations to make AI more accessible and affordable. His intentions to visit the nation were also confirmed by him. According to OpenAI, GPT-5 is their top model for autonomous coding and

other coding-related tasks. With three sizes to select from—GPT-5, GPT-5-mini, and GPT-5-nano—developers may find the perfect balance between price and performance. The reasoning model in the API is GPT-5, and there is also a lighter, non-reasoning form called GPT-5-chat-latest.

The pilot retirement age of Air India will be raised from 58 to 65 years

Delhi: Those in the know say that Air India has chosen to raise the retirement age for pilots to 65 and for non-flying employees to 60. The airline's current retirement age is 58 years for both pilots and non-flying staff. According to the sources, CEO and MD

Campbell Wilson made the announcement regarding raising the superannuation age during the airline's town hall. A change is being considered to elevate the retirement age of Air India pilots to 65 years and non-flying workers to 60 years. This will

bring their superannuation age in line with that of former Vistara. Air India has not issued any formal statement on the matter. Among the approximately 24,000 employees at Tata Group-owned Air India are approximately 3,600 pilots.

The first universal banking license in ten years has been awarded to India's AU Small Finance Bank

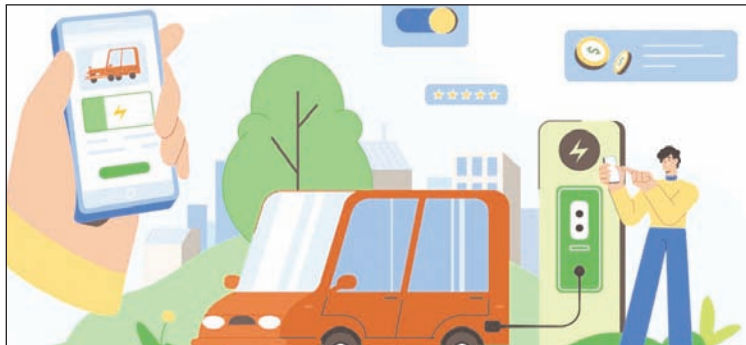


Delhi : India's AU Small Finance Bank (AUFINS), The first full-fledged banking license to be issued in nearly a decade was granted 'in-principle' clearance to transition into a universal bank by the banking regulator. The licence will enable AU Small Finance Bank to extend its operations beyond what is now possible for small finance banks, including taking on additional customers, forming subsidiaries, and offering larger loans. In 2014, the country's banking regulator, the Reserve Bank of India, published initial criteria for small financing institutions to become full-fledged banks.

In 2015, the rules were revised to include more specific requirements. These included a net worth of 10 billion rupees (\$114 million), a satisfactory performance history spanning five years, meeting capital requirements, being profitable recently, and having limited non-performing assets. Bandhan Bank, a microfinance institution based in Kolkata, was the last entity to receive such a license from the RBI in 2015. Net profit for the quarter came to 5.81 billion rupees, an increase of 16% year-on-year for AU Small Finance Bank. Gross bad loans as a percentage of total loans were 2.47%, up from 1.78% in the previous year.

The PM E-Drive Scheme Will Be Continued By The Government Until 2028

Delhi : The PM E-DRIVE program, which aims to improve innovative vehicles with electric drive technology, has been given a two-year extension by the Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI). Due to particular difficulties encountered by e-trucks, e-buses, and testing agencies, the PM E-DRIVE initiative has had to extend its deadline. High starting prices, a lack of charging infrastructure, concerns about range, sluggish charging speeds, and the requirement for professional maintenance and operating skills are all obstacles. Originally scheduled to conclude in March 2026, this program was introduced in 2024. Some time ago, the govern-



ment announced that it would be extended until March 31, 2028. On the other hand, the program's subsidies for electric two- and three-wheelers are set to expire on March 31, 2026. To increase the production, distribution, and use of electric vehicles, as well as their charging infrastructure, the Indian government's

heavy industries ministry unveiled PM E-DRIVE with a budget of INR 10,900 Cr. The Electric Mobility Promotion Scheme 2024 (EMPS-2024) was superseded by it. According to the notice, March 31, 2026, will be the last day for registered e-2W, registered e-rickshaws and e-cart, and registered e-3W.

Amazon shuts down Wondery podcast studio, lays off employees

Delhi: As reported by Bloomberg News, Amazon is reportedly reorganizing its audio division and will close its Wondery podcast studio, resulting in the loss of around 110 positions. This shift away from the internet giant's initial podcasting goals is a strategic move in response to industry-wide difficulties. As the Wondery team reorganizes to concentrate on personality-driven content (like the hit Jason and Travis podcast) and a new "creator services" group.

Delhi : According to US President Donald Trump, Apple has pledged to invest a total of \$600 billion in the US over the next four years, with an extra \$100 billion already committed. This, according to Trump, is "the greatest investment Apple has made in America," and he made the announcement at the White House with Apple CEO Tim Cook. Trump further by saying, "Apple will significantly boost spending on its domestic supply chain," referring to a new glass manufacturing plant in Kentucky that will be



utilized to create iPhone screens. Trump wasted little time claiming credit for Apple's February announcement that it would invest over \$500 billion in the US and employ 20,000 people. It expands upon previous announcements made in 2021, when Steve Jobs's business

stated its intention to invest \$430 billion in the nation and create 20,000 new jobs within the next five years. "In 24 factories across 12 states, American manufacturers are on track to make 19 billion chips for Apple this year alone," Cook stated in the Oval Office.

US duty hike hurts JLR, Tata Motors Q1 profit

Delhi: Tata Motors' cash cow, Jaguar Land Rover, suffered a 30% drop in earnings due to US President Donald Trump's tariffs. Outgoing JLR CEO Adrian Mardell expects new trade deals signed between the US and the UK, effective June 30, and between the EU and US, announced July 27, reducing tariffs on UK- and EU-made vehicles exported to America from 27.5% to 10% and 15%, respectively, to reduce the financial impact of US tariffs in subsequent quarters. JLR operating profit fell 49% to 351 million pounds or Rs 4,130 crore in Q1FY26. JLR, purchased by Tata Motors in June 2008, reduced revenue by 10% to 6.6 billion pounds or Rs 77,662 crore in April after halting exports to the US for nearly a month in reaction to Trump's tariffs and phasing out older Jaguar models



Mahindra to give Rs 400-500 cr ESOPs to 23,000 employees

Delhi: The group CEO and MD of Mahindra & Mahindra, Anish Shah, announced a first for the industry: a one-time Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOP) for about 23,000 employees, including factory floor workers. This is a reward for their role in the company's growth journey. Shah announced that the effort would encompass all three of Mahindra's main subsidiaries: Mahindra & Mahindra (car and agriculture industries), Mahindra Electric Automobile, and Mahindra Last Mile Mobility. For a huge Indian corporation to offer ESOPs to factory employees is unprecedented, if not unprecedented altogether. Restricted stock units (RSUs) will be used to distribute the shares. Since these ESOPs are open to all employees, it is something of which I am both pleased and proud of our company's culture.

built in the UK. With revenues. roughly 25% of JLR's

Minimum balance for savings accounts at ICICI Bank increased

Delhi : The average minimum balance for new savings accounts created after August 1st, 2018 at ICICI Bank is now Rs 50,000, up from Rs 10,000. The majority of public sector banks are removing the minimum balance requirement, which coincides with this five-fold growth. The move by the second-largest private bank in the nation has been heavily criticized. Though it chose not to comment, ICICI Bank has updated its qualifying criteria and posted them on its website. The remaining balance is Rs 25,000 in semi-urban areas and Rs 10,000 in rural areas. The minimum balance requirement was last increased by the bank more than ten years ago. The income per capita has increased by over 100% since that time. Failure to maintain the minimum



Samsung may make India a US hub amid rising tariffs

Delhi: Samsung may move some smartphone production from Vietnam if US tariffs drop in India. The world's largest smartphone maker would follow Apple in making India a top US smartphone manufacturing base. Samsung manufactures in various countries. Due to heightened US uncertainty, we are ready for several possibilities.

amount will result in a penalty of Rs 500, which is equivalent to 6% of the difference between the required and actual balance. The action by ICICI

Bank, which many bankers found puzzling, seemed, at first glance, to be an attempt to weed out low-value customers.

Demand for jobs in rural areas plummets as rain sends many people back to the fields

Delhi : July saw a 10-month drop in demand for rural jobs under India's flagship state employment program. This could be due to seasonal swings or early indications of



economic resiliency in rural areas, as the monsoon season sent millions of workers back to the fields. Statistics from the Ministry of Rural Development show that in July, around 16.6 million families applied for jobs through the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA). Following June's 27.56 million, May's 28.38 million, and April's 20.12 million, that's a precipitous decline.

Agricultural activity associated with kharif sowing temporarily draws manpower from public works, causing a normal mid-year dip, which is reflected in the July decline. The seasonality of farm output is reflected in the demand for government-backed jobs in rural areas, which is further highlighted by the fall. However, there are significant regional differences and certain states' persistent dependence on MGNREGA that are not reflected in the national headline figures.

HC grants Delhi 10 weeks to address EWS fee violations

Delhi: Delhi High Court ordered the Directorate of Education (DoE) to determine within 10 weeks on a case against various private schools for allegedly charging EWS and DG pupils fees. A panel of chief judge DK Upadhyay and justice Tushar Rao Gedela noticed that the Wazirpur JJ Colony Association had previously sent a representation to DoE on the subject, but the department had not acted on it. The court dismissed the petition and ordered the group to file a new, full representation within four weeks. It further ordered DoE to investigate and respond within 10 weeks of receiving the new representation. In its suit, the group accused numerous Delhi private schools of violating the Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009, by charging EWS/DG pupils and expelling those who couldn't pay. The RTE Act and Article 21A of the Constitution guarantee free education up to Class 8 for these



Fees will be regulated for all Delhi private schools

Delhi: The minister predicted the passage of the Delhi School Education (Transparency in Fixation and Regulation of Fees) Bill, 2025, during the Delhi Assembly's Monsoon Session. He said the bill's largest benefit is halting a "decade of unchecked profiteering" by private institutions through equitable application. A toothless, reactive framework is replaced by a proactive, empowered, and transparent one by this bill. Previously, the DoE could only approve school fee increases under the land clause, but hundreds of smaller private schools raise tuition unchecked. Although parents of larger schools may object, a fee rise of ₹1,000 to ₹1,500 for a small private school in Najafgarh is a 50% increase. This is a significant hardship for that school's parents, yet they rarely complain, Sood added. He claimed that the land clause applies to 350 of 1,443 schools and that the Department of Education .

Aiming for Defacement-Free DUSU Elections with a Rs 1 Lakh Bond

Delhi: In order to enforce order and avoid property damage during the Delhi University Students' Union (DUSU) election campaigns, the University of Delhi (DU) has released stringent regulations. A fair and disciplined election process is ensured by these new guidelines, which also seek to maintain the cleanliness and decency of the campus atmosphere. A Rs 1 lakh anti-defacement bond is required of all candidates nominated for any position in the DUSU. By posting this bond, the candidate promises that while campaigning, he or she will not engage in any behavior that could cause harm to or vandal-



ize college or university property. The amount of the bond will be lost if it is determined that the candidate or their supporters have violated these restrictions. This technique highlights the gravity of enforcing discipline on campus, much like the anti-ragging affidavit that students sign when they enroll. All academic units are required by the university to hold orientation and sensitization workshops where students will learn about campus environmental preservation and the electoral code of conduct. By educating the public on the consequences of vandalism and promoting civil protest, these initiatives hope to counteract the problem.

Academics fear FYUP may dilute relevance of UG in DU

Delhi : The academic community in India is concerned that the New Education Policy's (NEP) proposed four-year undergraduate program, FYUP, contains flaws that will lower the bar for higher education in the country. Professor Seema Das of Political Science at Hindu College, Delhi

University, believes that removing four required courses from the three-year bachelor's degree program would significantly water down the curriculum. "Reduction in core papers would not allow a graduating student to master the respective subject," according to Das. When picking up elec-

tives or research papers, it's likely that a select few fields will be favoured. Some classes might end up being scrapped entirely as a result of this, rendering the instructors obsolete. Rajesh Jha, a professor of political science at Rajdhani College, has stated that this might go against the NEP's principles.

With an improved score, Delhi University achieves NAAC's top A++ grade



Delhi : In its most recent round of institutional assessment and accreditation, the University of Delhi was declared to have achieved the highest possible grade of A++ by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) on August 8. The accreditation is effective for five years, until 2029, according to the varsity's statement. The school achieved a cumulative grade point average (CGPA) of 3.55. Following DU's A+ rating and 3.28 cumulative grade point average in 2018, Vice Chancellor Yogesh Singh extended congratulations to the university's staff, students, alumni, and other stakeholders. He stated that the dramatic uptick was evidence of the university's dedication to excellent teaching, ground-breaking research, and responsible administration. Singh expressed enormous pride for the entire fraternity, stating that obtaining the NAAC A++ grade is a landmark moment in the university's history. Our faculty, students, non-teaching staff, alumni, and all stakeholders have worked tirelessly, and their unfaltering dedication has paid off. He spoke about how it will inspire them to "expand the horizons of excellence in teaching, research, and service to society" by setting even higher standards.

Mid-Entry Window Opens Until August 10; More Than 9,000 Undergraduate Spots Remain Available at Delhi

Delhi : According to the list of open seats issued by the university's admissions division, there are over 9,000 undergraduate seats that are still vacant, thus students who have not yet obtained admission to colleges at Delhi University still have a chance. The institution has opened the mid-entry window for the 2025–26 academic session, giving applicants another chance to apply for undergraduate admissions using the Common Seat Allocation System (CSAS). A one thousand rupee (Rs.) non-refundable application fee is due



when submitted via the university portal. Before submitting their applications, students can use this window to see which seats are available, revise their course and college choices, and more. It is important to note that during the mid-entry

window, only candidates who were denied in Round 1 or Round 2 owing to faulty subject mapping, non-fulfillment of program-specific eligibility, or invalid documents will be allowed to fix their subject mapping and edit their preferences.

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.

Test formats between the NEP and the SEP in Tamil Nadu

Delhi : The state of Tamil Nadu has defied the federal government's National Education Policy (NEP) by releasing its own policy on education, which is called the State Education Policy (SEP). When Chief Minister MK Stalin introduced the new strategy, he made it plain: Tamil Nadu's educational system will go its own way. Under Justice Murugesan's leadership, a fourteen-person group developed the Tamil Nadu SEP. This strategy upholds the two-language policy, rejects important NEP provi-



sions, and gives English, science, and artificial intelligence top priority. Up to the tenth grade, Tamil is a requirement for all students, regardless of whether they attend a state-run school or adhere to the CBSE, ICSE, or any other national board. It is quite evident that the state is against impos-

ing any language on its citizens. The NEET is strongly opposed by this person. Concerned about stress and inequity, Tamil Nadu has fought against it for a long time. As a result of the state's insistence on using NEP and NEET, the federal government allegedly withheld Rs 2,152 crore (Samagra Shiksha).

Legislation to Regulate School Fees Adopted by the Delhi Assembly

Delhi : The 2025 School Fee Regulation Bill was approved by the Delhi State Assembly. A parent can now veto a decision to increase school fees, thanks to a recently passed bill. This prevents school administrations from making the decision to increase fees all at once. Even if just one parent objects to the proposed fee increase, it will not be authorized, according to Ashish Sood, Delhi's minister of education. The decision cannot be enforced by management, and parents will have the power to veto it. In addition, the measure specifies that institutions that are determined to have imposed excessive fees may be subject to fines or even the revocation of their future ability to submit fee modifications.

The extra payment must be returned with-



CBSE loosens regulations on adding new sections

Diviya Delhi: The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has revised its affiliation rules to permit section growth based on built-up carpet area instead of land size, in an effort to alleviate space restrictions caused by the increasing demand for school admissions. The board took this action in response to comments made by schools that are having trouble meeting the demand for new admissions despite having more sections than allowed. According to CBSE's circular, children's health, social and psychological development, and sense of belonging could be negatively affected if they had to travel significant distances to attend school because there aren't enough seats in their neighborhood. Officials and school administrators stated that the decision will alleviate admission pressure.

in 20 business days if more than the allowed the school's fees are limit.

J&K bans 25 books for 'false narrative' and 'glorification of terrorism'

Delhi: In an unprecedented action, the Jammu and Kashmir administration has ordered the seizure and prohibition of 25 books, stating they promote secessionism, glorify terrorism, and threaten national integrity and public order. On August 5, the Home Department issued S.O.203 to declare the books "forfeited," noting their "false narrative" and involvement in "misguiding the youth" of Jammu and Kashmir. Azadi by writer-activist Arundhati Roy, The Kashmir Dispute 1947–2012 by constitutional expert A.G. Noorani, and Kashmir at the Crossroads by political scientist Sumantra Bose are prohibited. David Devadas, Hafsa Kanjwal, Ather Zia, Anuradha Bhasin, and Tariq Ali all have novels on the list. After a thorough investigation, officials decided the content was "objec-



IGNOU July 2025 registration deadline extended again

Delhi: The Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) has extended the deadline for admission and re-registration for the July 2025 session. Students now have until August 15, 2025, to complete the process. The applies to both new admissions and re-registration for continuing students. IGNOU offers courses in both distance learning (ODL) and online mode, and the application must be completed through its websites.

tionable" and "potentially harmful to public peace and the unity of the nation." The Home Department reported

that investigations and intelligence inputs showed that these publications radicalized adolescents.

Controversy over the Maratha map prompts NCERT commission to review content

Delhi : A group of specialists was assembled by the National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT) to review comments made regarding the subject matter of many textbooks. According to officials, the group consisting of



esteemed faculty members and domain specialists from prestigious universities would be chaired by Ranjana Arora, head of NCERT's Curriculum Studies and Development (DCSD). Several textbooks' instructional content has recently been reviewed and provided feedback to NCERT. Therefore, in keeping with previous procedure, a Committee consisting of prominent specialists is being formed. In a statement, NCERT stated that the committee will review the feedback based on the evidence that is currently available and will deliver its report as soon as practicable. Three days prior to NCERT's announcement, former Jaisalmer royal family leader Chaitanya Raj Singh voiced his disapproval of one of the organization's recently published textbooks, citing what he saw as historical mistakes. In an X post, Singh took issue with a social studies map for eighth grade that showed Jaisalmer as an outpost of the Maratha Empire. Due to the lack of "any Maratha dominance, invasion, taxation, or authority" mentioned in "any authentic historical sources," he asserted.

Privatized entities can employ Aadhar authentication

Delhi : The ministry of electronics and IT (Meity) announced that the Union government has amended the Aadhaar rules to allow private entities to use Aadhaar authentication for service delivery. The amendments aim to give residents "ease of living" and "better access to services". Ministry Notified Aadhaar Authentication for Good Governance (Social Welfare, Innovation, Knowledge) Amendment Rules, 2025, revising 2020 rules. "The amendment allows government and non-government entities to use Aadhaar authentication, promoting trusted transactions for both providers and users," stated the announcement. It stated that the amendment will make non-government e-commerce, travel, tourism, hospitality, and health services easier to use.

The 2020 rules allowed the Centre to



allow Aadhaar authentication only "in the interest of good governance, preventing leakage of public funds, promoting ease of living of residents and enabling better access to services for them" to use digital platforms for good governance, social welfare benefit dissipation prevention, and innovation and knowledge dissemination. The amendments removed "in the interest of good governance, preventing leakage of public funds access to services for them" and added "promoting ease of living of residents and enabling better access to services for them" as the fourth purpose, expanding the reasons for authentication.

Prasanna S, the Supreme Court's advocate-on-record who challenged Aadhaar's constitutionality, called the expansion the "spectre of a surveillance state", "unwarranted" and in violation of the top court's ruling that struck down Section 57 of the Aadhaar Act, 2016 to bar private entities from using authentication services. The 2025 Rules change contradicts the five-judge Supreme Court ruling in *Puttaswamy v Union of India* (2018). Section 57 of the Aadhaar Act, 2016 prohibiting private entities from employing authentication services was overturned. He claimed this amendment practically re-legislates what was ruled down.

Women own almost 50% of small manufacturing businesses

A survey found that 58% of manufacturing businesses were owned by women in 2023-24, up 4% from the previous year.The Annual Survey of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises (ASUSE) 2023-24 found that 28.1% of workers were women. More than one-third (33.7%) of OAES' workforce is female in OAEs (owned enterprises). Female-owned businesses rose to 26.2% in 2023-24 from 22.9% in and 9.7% to 14.2% in other services. Female workers comprised 18.5% of recruited workers. Female workers were



most prevalent in manufacturing (46.5%), followed by other services (22.5%) and trade. West Bengal has the most female workers (12.7%), followed by Uttar Pradesh (10.4%) and Maharashtra (9.7%) in ASUSE 2023-24. West Bengal and Maharashtra have the most rural and urban female workers, at 16% and 13%,

respectively. Non-incorporated non-far establishments are not registered under the Companies Act 1956 or the 2013 Act.

Every fourth proprietary establishment in India was owned by a woman. Women run one-third of private businesses in Gujarat, Karnataka, Telangana, and West Bengal.

Health and wealth benefit from flexible work hours

Delhi: The Economic Survey supports allowing manufacturers to average legally capped working hours over three weeks or longer rather than week-by-week. Industry captains want larger hours. It claims that agile regulations will assist management satisfy production

demands and grow. "New Labour Laws are an improvement. With flexible legislation and competent implementation, firms may develop and create more jobs. "They protect labor rights and boost wages," it stated. The Survey complained that labor laws like the

Factories Act (1948) limit working hours to 48 per week, whereas other nations "allow these caps to be averaged over multiple days and weeks". It said India's working hour laws impede manufacturers from satisfying demand and competing globally.



Sebi to attract rural investors with MF-life insurance



Delhi: Sebi chief Madhabi Puri Buch stated that the regulator will offer mutual fund schemes with term life insurance. She added the FDA will soon release a combo product consultation paper. Puri Buch said the MF-insurance combo targets investors, particularly rural ones, where SIPs have great potential but low investment values. "We are now proposing to come out with a consultation paper again, to try and include insurance pure and simple vanilla life, term life insurance, along with our mutual funds, which is our main product for financial inclusion, and so that we are able to go, including to people where we have very, very low value SIPs coming from the hinterland, and to be able to offer them a combo product of term life insurance along with the mutual fund investment," said Buch. UTI Mutual Fund offers life insurance and tax savings. This 1971 program has a portfolio value of Rs 5,434 crore in December 2024. Even if existing investors can invest, UTIMF's website revealed no new applications for the schemes.

IT panel to propose TV, print, online media umbrella

Delhi: The Parliamentary panel on communications and information technology, led by BJP lawmaker Nishikant Dubey, will recommend that the Union government form the Media Council of India to regulate print, television, and online media, sources said. A senior panelist suggested an umbrella body because the same content occurs across platforms. You work for a paper. The Press Council of India oversees your newspaper articles. No regulation exists for the identical story in the paper's online edition." There is no central regulator for online material, but two groups regulate print and electronic media. The Press Council of India, a statutory quasi-judicial



autonomous authority established by Parliament, protects press freedom and improves newspaper and news agency standards. Among other major media regulatory reforms, the panel, which addressed fake news extensively will recommend this. In the discussion,

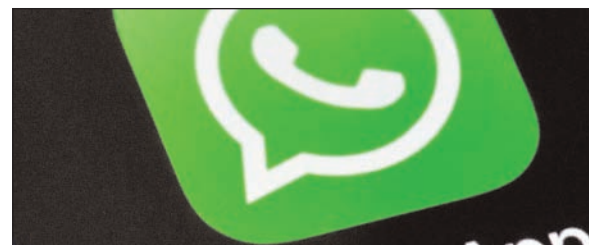
Dubey added, "Paid news is rampant. Illiterate and gullible individuals think alike. Without strict regulations, ethical boundaries are crossed. Investigative journalism is discouraged by expensive and lengthy legal fights for journalists and media corporations.

Foreign insurers gain ownership via 100% FDI

Delhi: 100% FDI will attract new capital, as multinationals can now invest without worrying about control or Indian partners. The capital gains tax rate of 12% applies to ULIP proceeds, which do not benefit from tax exemptions, instead of the higher marginal tax rate of 30%. Crop cover reinsurance is exempt from service tax, and the threshold for tax deduction at source on insurance commission has risen from Rs 15,000 to Rs 20,000. M Nagraju, financial services secretary, said the FDI relaxation was one of the suggested insurance measures. , and the modifications would

WhatsApp claims Israeli spyware Paragon targets users

Delhi: After the hack, WhatsApp issued Paragon a cease-and-desist letter. WhatsApp stated it "will continue to protect people's ability to communicate privately." Paragon wouldn't comment. WhatsApp officials reported a hacking attempt on 90 users. A number of civil society and media figures were targeted, although the official did not specify who or where. He said WhatsApp has stopped the hacking and was referring targets to Citizen Lab. Officials would not reveal how they determined



Paragon was responsible for the hack. He claimed law enforcement and industry partners were informed but declined to elaborate. Paragon sells high-end surveillance software to government clients, claiming it is essential to combating crime and defending national security. However, journalists, activists, opposition

politicians, and at least 50 US officials have found surveillance capabilities on their phones, raising fears about the technology's unregulated expansion. Paragon, which was apparently acquired by Florida-based investment group AE Industrial Partners last month, has strived to identify as a responsible industry actor.

Public infrastructure spend-rises, but private sector participation falls

Delhi: The 2024-25 Economic Survey delivered to Parliament found that India still struggles with infrastructure development despite government efforts. The union government's capital investment on major



The National Critical Mineral Mission gets 16,300 crore from the cabinet

Delhi : The Union Cabinet, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, launched the National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM) with a 16,300 crore expenditure and a projected 18,000 crore investment from PSUs and other businesses. "Several crucial decisions have created new scientific and technology prospects for our children, future generations, and the economy. Minister told a Cabinet briefing that PM Modi the National Critical Minerals Mission today.

infrastructure sectors grew 38.8% from FY20 to FY24, although private sector participation in core areas

remained low, according to the survey. "India needs a continued step-up of infrastructure investment.

Price pressure caps senior citizen health premium hikes at 10%

As medicare policy rates skyrocket for seniors over 60, Irdai has ordered insurers not to raise senior people' health premiums by more than 10% without approval. Before canceling senior health coverage, insurers must get regulator clearance. As healthcare prices rise, insurers are



advised to standardize hospital empanelment and negoti-

ate package rates like the government's PM Jan Arogya Yojana. Irdai reported a large increase in prices for various health insurance policies for subscribers over 60. Premium rates depend on projected claims, administrative expenditures, and acquisition costs, the regulator said. Private

insurance doesn't standardize hospitalization expenses, unlike PMJAY, which negotiates consistent package rates, which drives these rises. Seniors have reported virtually doubling their costs when entering a higher age category during an insurer's pricing change.

Redesigning agri export policies

Delhi: Three sources intimately involved in the process said India's six-year-old Agricultural Export Policy (AEP) will be overhauled as export destinations vary and the country's farm export basket diversifies. The planned study will improve Indian agricultural products' competitiveness, assure global standards compliance, and promote value-added products. The officials quoted above added on condition of anonymity that it will also aim to enhance commercial links with emerging countries while main-



taining strong partnerships with old partners. "Our agricultural exports have grown over the past five years. We must examine the policy to match export targets with market demands. One of the three persons cited above claimed

the agriculture ministry will assist with the review and set a deadline. India was the eighth-largest agricultural exporter in 2023 despite a drop from \$51.12 billion to \$48.77 billion in FY24. Recently, changing global demand pat-

Norms to stop annoying calls and surrogate advertisements next month

Delhi: Thirteen businesses, including significant producers of alcohol, tobacco, and paan masala, have received notifications from the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) for using surrogate advertising. The dishonest practice of using the

terns, trading partners, and agricultural technology have changed how and where agricultural products are sold. Two newly appointed MPC members have revived the Economic Survey's dis-

same brand name to promote products that are prohibited from direct advertising is known as "surrogate advertising." Pralhad Joshi, the union minister of consumer affairs, stated that the CCPA is creating regulations to control the issue.

cussion on removing food inflation from monetary policy. Q2 GDP growth and November food inflation may have unnerved MPC outsiders.