

# AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

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MORNING EDITION PRAYAGRAJ Thursday, 18 September 2025 UNIQUE GIFT OF KRIYAYOGA ASHRAM AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE TO GIVE IMPETUS TO WORLD BUILDING AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT.

## Kashmiri singer's show axed after authorities withhold clearance

**SRINAGAR:** Kashmiri pop singer Qazi Touqeer's much-publicised "Tachar Show" was cancelled after authorities withheld clearance, leaving the 2005 winner of a nationwide music reality show and his crew devastated. Touqeer said Wednesday he would not blame anyone but called the cancellation a blow to art and culture in Kashmir. "My fellow musicians, including Arav Bhatt from Bhopal, are shaken by what happened. He hasn't stepped out of his room," he said. "When it comes to music, art and culture, no one stands by us." The concert was originally slated for Sept 14 on the University of Kashmir campus. Authorities shifted it to Sept 17 in the university auditorium. "We re-advertised, informed our fans, and reorganised everything," Touqeer said. Then came another refusal. The auditorium was withdrawn, with a suggestion to move the event to the university's Zakura campus. "We agreed to it. All tickets were sold. My crew came from different parts of the country. I had been promoting the show for two months and hoardings were everywhere in Srinagar. Just a night before the event, I was told authorities didn't give clearance," Touqeer said.

## After encounter, man held for UP teen's murder



**Gorakhpur:** A day after suspected cow smugglers killed a 19-year-old medical aspirant, Deepak Gupta, in Gorakhpur, UP Police Wednesday arrested one of the accused following an encounter while he was attempting to flee towards Nepal. The accused, Rahim, sustained bullet injuries in both legs. Police seized his bike and a country-made pistol used in the crime. Kushinagar SP Santosh Mishra said Rahim's role surfaced during interrogation of another accused, Ajab Hussain, who was nabbed by villager.

## PM: Terrorist's tearful rant reveals Op Sindoor

This is new India; it enters the enemy's house and kills," the PM said

### New India

□ This is the new India; it is not afraid of anyone's nuclear threats

**DHAR:** A "tearful" Jaish-e-Muhammed (JeM) commander's rant in public about the price his outfit had to pay for being Islamabad's proxy against India is further proof of "Indian soldiers bringing Pakistan to its knees in the blink of an eye" during Operation Sindoor, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Wednesday, alluding to an undated viral video purportedly showing the terrorist speaking at a religious event. "Just yesterday, the



nation and the world witnessed another Pakistani terrorist tearfully recount his ordeal," Modi said at the foundation ceremony of India's first PM MITRA Park at Madhya Pradesh's Dhar, coinciding with his 75th birthday. "Terrorists from Pakistan took away the sindoor of our sisters and daughters. We destroyed their terror hideouts with

Operation Sindoor. This is the new India; it is not afraid of anyone's nuclear threats. This is new India; it enters the enemy's house and kills," the PM said. In the video circulating on social media, a man identified as JeM commander Masood Ilyas Kashmiri speaks about founder Masood Azhar's family being "torn into

### PM Modi paid tribute to the Indian Army for "liberating" Hyderabad

In his speech by invoking the Hindu deity of skill and craft on Vishwakarma Puja - PM Modi paid tribute to the Indian Army for "liberating" Hyderabad on this day in 1948 under Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's leadership. "For decades, this monumental achievement and the bravery of our soldiers were forgotten.

pieces" during an airstrike by Indian forces on the outfit's hub in Pakistan's Bahawalpur on May 7. Describing Sept 17 as "a historic day" for more reasons than one - he had begun.

## On b'day, Modi launches health outreach for women & children



**NEW DELHI:** On Sept 17, his 75th birthday, PM Narendra Modi launched India's largest-ever health outreach programme for women and children, called the Swastha Nari Sashakt Parivar health initiative, and exhorted women to actively participate in the initiative. Under the initiative, the govt is going to organise more than 10 lakh health camps between Sept 17 and Oct 2 across all its health facilities, from Ayushman Arogya Mandirs to tertiary hospitals, to screen women

for common health issues like anaemia, hypertension, diabetes and cancer. Some private hospitals have also volunteered to conduct camps to screen women for common health problems. "Today, I have come here to demand something from my mothers and sisters. All I ask is that you should attend these camps without any hesitation," the PM said. Tests and medicines are free. State treasury is not more important than your health," the PM said.

## Pak army chief ordered officers to attend Sindoor funerals: JeM man

**NEW DELHI:** Jaish-e-Muhammed (JeM) commander Ilyas Kashmiri has revealed that it was Pakistan army chief Asim Munir, who had ordered top army officers to attend the funeral of terrorists killed in India's Operation Sindoor. "GHQ ordered the martyrs to be honoured and given the last salute. Corps commanders

were asked to accompany the janaza (funeral procession) and guard it in uniform," Ilyas purportedly says in a video that has emerged online. He went on to confirm the complicity of his boss Maulana Masood Azhar in terror attacks in India, including the 26/11 Mumbai attacks. "After escaping from Tihar (post IC-814

hijack), Amir-ul-Mujahideen Maulana Masood Azhar came to Pakistan and the soil of Balakot provided him a base to carry forward his vision, mission, and programme in Delhi and Mumbai," he said. Another video surfaced on Wednesday, in which Lashkar-e-Taiba's deputy chief Saifullah Kasuri.

## Candidate photos on EVM ballots to now be in colour

### The font size

□ The font size of the candidate's serial number shall be 30 and printed in bold



**NEW DELHI:** Electors will now be able to view the choice of candidates more clearly while voting in a Lok Sabha or assembly poll, with Election Commission on Wednesday allowing colour photos of candidates on the EVM ballot paper, alongside their names printed in uniform font type and a conspicuous font size. The changes - which will take effect with the upcoming assembly poll in Bihar - were made by revising the existing EC guidelines issued under

Rule 49B of the Conduct of Election Rules, 1961, to introduce enhanced clarity and readability in design and printing of EVM ballot paper. EC, in a letter to all state/UT chief electoral officers, sought strict compliance of the new guidelines by all the district election officers, returning officers and other poll-related authorities. As per the revised subpara(xiv) of Para 11.25.3 of the 'handbook for returning officer 2023', the serial number of the ballot

paper and the candidates' names and colour photographs shall be printed on the left-hand side of the EVM ballot paper. The party's or candidate's symbol will be on the right side in the candidate panel. The serial number of the candidates shall be indicated in the international form of Indian numerals. The font size of the candidate's serial number shall be 30 and printed in bold, to help the elector visualise the choices better and make an informed decision.

## India rejected 3rd-party role to end conflict: Pakistan

**Pakistan's** deputy PM and foreign minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar has revealed that India categorically refused any third-party mediation in resolving bilateral issues with Pakistan during Operation Sindoor, contrary to claims made by US President Donald Trump. During an interview with Al Jazeera,



Dar stated that Islamabad had raised the issue of third-party mediation with US secretary of state Marco

Rubio, to which the US official responded that India did not support any outside involvement. Dar recounted a

### Bilateral

□ Dar has revealed that India refused any third-party mediation in resolving bilateral issues

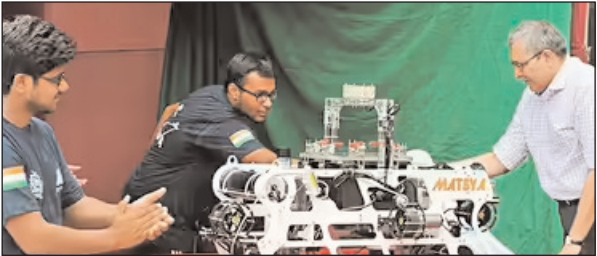
specific interaction with Rubio regarding Trump's claims of mediating the May 10

ceasefire between the two nuclear-armed nations. "Incidentally, when the ceasefire offer came through Rubio to me on May 10... I was told that there would be a dialogue between Pakistan and India at an independent place... When we met on July 25 during a bilateral meeting with Rubio in Washington.

## Bharat Innovates: Delhi woos global investors, tech leaders and policymakers

### Research

□ India is throwing open the doors of its universities and national research



**NEW DELHI:** India is throwing open the doors of its universities and national research labs, offering innovations and products to global investors and collaborators as it looks to turn ideas into international

partnerships. In a world where alliances are shifting, Delhi is seeking multiple players for its innovation story. Its new initiative, Bharat Innovates 2026, is designed to showcase Indian deep-tech talent, connect institutions with

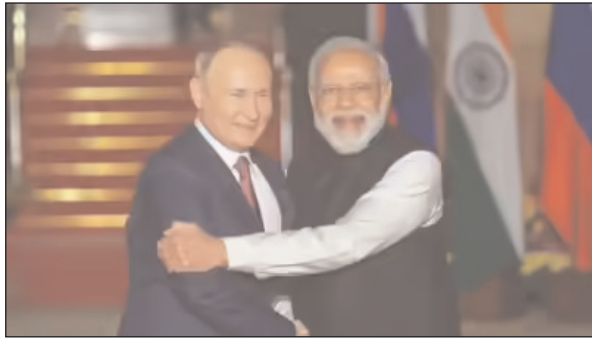
global capital, and position India as a predictable partner in unpredictable times. The first showcase will take place in Nice, France, from June 17 to 19, 2026, where around 100 ventures will be presented.

## Lorry on wrong side of road rams SUV in Andhra, 7 of family dead

**TIRUPATI:** A sand-laden lorry speeding on the wrong side of the road crashed into an SUV and dragged it for some distance, killing seven members of a family, near Peramana village in Nellore district of Andhra Pradesh Wednesday. The deceased were identified as Talluru Srinivasulu (36), his wife Talluru Radha (38), Sesham Saramma (40), Challagundla Lakshmi (40).

**NEW DELHI:** After US President Donald Trump, his Russian counterpart President Vladimir Putin too called PM Modi to wish him on his birthday. Several other world leaders, including Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu and Italy's Giorgia Meloni, greeted Modi on his birthday. In their phone conversation, Modi and Putin

## Putin calls PM, hails India's 'independent, sovereign policy'



took stock of various issues on the bilateral agenda in the run up to the 23rd India-Russia Annual Summit that

will be held in Dec. The summit will see Putin visiting India for the first time since the Russia-Ukraine war

started. Modi said he was looking forward to welcoming Putin. Like he did with Trump, Modi addressed Putin as "my friend" in a post on X announcing his talks with the Russian President and reiterating full support for resolution of the Ukraine conflict. Putin complimented Modi for India's "independent and sovereign policy" and its "impressive" economic performanc.

## Can life sentences be turned into fixed terms? SC to decide

**NEW DELHI:** Supreme Court agreed on Wednesday to examine whether a constitutional court can award a sentence of specific number of years to a convict in a heinous crime in substitution of life sentence



imposed by a trial court, and said it was prima facie of the view that fixed term sentences could be handed down in lieu of death penalty. "Can a constitutional court convert a life sentence into a fixed

term incarceration," asked a bench of CJI BR Vinod Chandran while dealing with an appeal filed by a former Roman Catholic church vicar who was convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment.

## Air India plane crash: Pilot's father says AAIB report 'tarnished son's reputation

**NEW DELHI:** The father of Captain Sumeet Sabharwal, who died in the Air India Ahmedabad crash in June this year, has called for a 'formal

investigation' by the central government while criticising the findings of the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) as well as the "selective leaks"

that "tarnish Captain Sabharwal's reputation". In the Ahmedabad plane crash, which was one of the worst aircraft accidents in India, 260 people.



## Consolidating Rahul's gains or establishing pre-eminence

**NEW DELHI:** RJD leader and former Bihar deputy chief minister Tejashwi Yadav on Tuesday launched 'Bihar Adhikar Yatra' from Jehanabad to raise pitch against Nitish Kumar-led NDA government over issues of unemployment and increasing crime incidents among others ahead of the upcoming assembly elections. Interestingly, Tejashwi's solo yatra comes close on the heels of the much-hyped "Voter Adhikaar Yatra" which included all Mahagathbandhan leaders and was led by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi. Tejashwi was part of the Voter Adhikaar Yatra, but the limelight was hogged by Rahul - who has been leading a campaign against alleged vote theft across the country accusing the Election Commission of helping the BJP.'No Confusion Regarding CM's Face' Tejashwi Yadav's Sharp Reply on INDIA Bloc CM Candidate



**In Mahagathbandhan, Congress might gain more than 50 seats, while the RJD would keep the same amount in 2020**

**Delhi:** Members of the Mahagathbandhan coalition in Bihar informed The Indian Express that the two parties are getting close to an agreement on who will share seats in the state assembly in the upcoming elections. The Congress has been demanding 70 seats, the same amount it sought in the 2020 elections, but the RJD is unwilling to allocate more

all out to dethrone Nitish Kumar led NDA government in the

than 50 or 55 seats. According to insiders, a compromise could be struck in the end, with the Congress gaining 58-60 seats. Assembly seats in Bihar number 243. The Congress, CPI(ML), CPI, and CPI(M) were all members of the Mahagathbandhan alliance in the 2020 elections, which was led by the RJD. The Congress party contested in 70 seats, the RJD in 144.

state, asserted that Tejasjiwi's yatra will cover districts .

## Hydrogen bomb' incoming? Rahul to hold special presser on Sept 18

**NEW DELHI:** Congress leader Rahul Gandhi will hold a "special press briefing" on Thursday, days after he hinted of dropping a "hydrogen bomb" on the alleged voter theft charges.

In a social media post on X, Congress leader Pawan Khara sent out invitation saying, "Tomorrow, 18 September, Special Press Briefing by the Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha, Shri Rahul Gandhi at 10 am Indira Bhawan Auditorium. Media is requested to be seated by 9.30 am."

This comes after Rahul had warned Bharatiya Janata Party of a new expose on alleged "vote chori" claims, claiming



that Prime Minister Narendra Modi would not be able to "show his face to people after we bring hydrogen bomb of 'vote chori'." "I want to tell the BJP people. Have you heard of anything bigger than an atom bomb, it is a hydrogen bomb. BJP people, be ready, a hydrogen bomb is coming. People are soon going to find out

the reality of vote chori," he said. "In the coming time, I am guaranteeing you that after the hydrogen bomb (comes), Narendra Modi ji will not be able to show his face to the country," he added. Earlier, Rahul had unveiled what he had described as an "atom bomb" of evidence against the Election Commission.

## ED arrests ex-Muda chief in case also tied to Siddaramaiah & wife

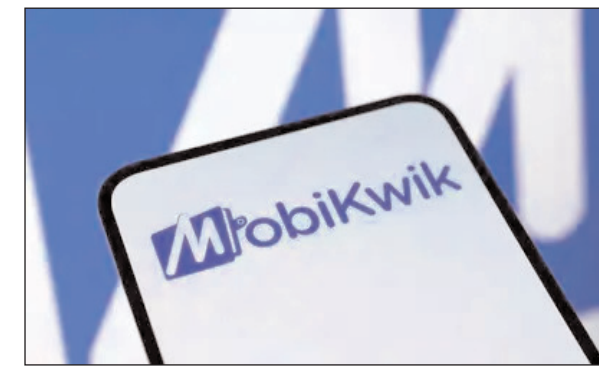
**NEW DELHI:** ED Tuesday arrested former Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) commissioner GT Dinesh Kumar in a money laundering case related to illegal allotment of plots. Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah and his wife are among others

facing investigation in the case. He was produced before the special court on Wednesday and remanded in ED custody for nine days. On the day of Dinesh's arrest, ED carried out searches at his residence in Bengaluru and

took him to its zonal office for questioning, where it arrested him late evening. ED sources said Dinesh, during his tenure as commissioner, allegedly indulged in large-scale illegal allotment of MUDA sites "in lieu of gratification benefits".



## MobiKwik loses Rs 40 crore in 48 hours



**GURGAON:** Taking advantage of what is believed to be a glitch that blindsided city-based digital wallet company MobiKwik's systems, around Rs 40 crore were allegedly siphoned off over two days, Sept 11 and 12, from the company's account through a blitz of UPI transactions. The fraud came to light on Tuesday after the arrest of six men whose accounts contained Rs 9 lakh of this stolen money. Uncannily, this is the second time this has happened to MobiKwik. In Oct 2017, the company was allegedly similarly defrauded of around Rs 19 crore with the money being moved to thousands of personal bank accounts. This time, the glitch happened after the company updated its software earlier this month, investigators said. It apparently allowed Mobikwik users to send much higher amounts of money than their wallet balances. Transactions, the investigators said, also went through if users entered incorrect PINs. Police said how scamsters came to know about this glitch is under probe.

## Emissions from power sector down 1% year-on-year in first half

**NEW DELHI:** In what could be a positive outcome of India's growing renewable energy footprint, a new analysis based on official monthly data has shown the country's carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions from its power sector fell by 1% year-on-year in first half of 2025 and by 0.2% over past 12 months - this is only the second instance of such a drop in almost half a century. The analysis indicates emissions from India's power sector could peak before 2030 if clean-energy capacity and electricity demand grow as expected. "The future of CO2 emissions in India is a key indicator for the world, with the country - the world's most populous - having contributed nearly two-fifths of the rise in global



energy-sector emissions since 2019," said the report prepared by Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA) for Carbon Brief (a UK-based website covering the latest developments in climate science and policy). The analysis also highlighted the substantial growth in India's clean energy capacity, which has grown by a record 25.1 GW in the first half of 2025. "This was a 69% increase

compared with the previous period in 2024, which had also set a record," said the report, noting that solar continued to dominate new installations and accounted for 14.3 GW of capacity added during the period this year, with 3.2 GW capacity coming from solar rooftop. In fact, progress on renewable front helped India achieve a landmark in its energy transition journey.

## 59K applicants affected by technical difficulties will be able to retake the SSC exam

**Delhi :** S Gopalakrishnan, the chairman of the Staff Selection Commission (SSC), stated that over 59,000 applicants who experienced technical difficulties during the examination will be given a special re-exam in three sessions . In order to "resolve the matters, retest the solution and improve operational matter," he said, the SSC Combined Graduate Level (CGL) exam, which was originally planned for August 13, has been pushed back to mid-September. " He announced that three special exam shifts would be held after a thorough log analysis had uncovered

## 'Tariffs a mistake': Bolton urges India-US talks; slams Trump's 'incoherent' approach

**Former US national security advisor John Bolton said that the punitive tariffs imposed by the US on India under President Donald Trump have complicated negotiations. He described the US tariff policy on India as a mistake and said the priority should be reaching a deal that lowers tariffs while keeping negotiations open. "I think the whole tariff policy is a mistake. I think we ought to go back to the way we were before, but leaving that aside, in the time of Trump, in the White House. To**



get a deal that reduces the tariffs and leaves the way open for further negotiations is the best thing to do," Bolton said in an interview with. He added that the focus should be on finding common ground on economic tariffs and then building from there.

Bolton criticized the 25 percent US tariffs on India as collateral damage from broader Western sanctions on Russia, which were imposed over Russian oil and gas imports. He called the move "incoherent", noting that Russia faced no direct tariffs and China, which imports more oil and gas than India, was left unpenalized. He also noted that India's historical ties with Russia present challenges but argued for a gradual transition toward cooperation with like-minded partners.

## Notify Saranda sanctuary or chief secretary will go to jail, SC tells

**NEW DELHI:** The Supreme Court on Wednesday said the Jharkhand govt is in gross contempt of court by not notifying Saranda forest as a sanctuary and summoned its chief secretary to face contempt proceedings on Oct 8 with a warning that if the notification is not issued by then, the top bureaucrat would go to jail. On April 29, the state gave an undertaking before the court that it would notify 576 sq km of the forest of East and West Singhbhum areas in Saraikeela district - the only patch of forest in the world with pristine Sal trees - as a sanctuary and an additional 136 sq km as conservation reserve within two months of receiving a report from the Dehradun-based Wildlife Institute of India. WII gave a favourable report but



the chief secretary, instead of putting it before State Wildlife Board, and subsequently, before the state cabinet for approval, decided to constitute another committee to examine the state's interests related to mining and implementation of the SC order. Amicus curiae and senior advocate K Parameshwar gave a detailed account of the Jharkhand govt's machination in delaying the issuance of notification in brazen violation of its promise before the apex court.

## Govt allocates 12,952 crore for public transport system

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

## Shrikant, Chairman & Managing Director of Labindia Equipments conveys heartfelt wishes to PM Modi

On the occasion of PM Narendra Modi's 75th birthday, Shrikant Bapat, Chairman & Managing Director of Labindia Equipments, conveyed his greetings through a heartfelt message. In his message, Bapat lauded the Prime Minister's visionary leadership, India's growing global stature as an Atmanirbhar Bharat, and the unifying spirit of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam." He also highlighted the company's own contribution to this vision with the launch of the 'VIDU'



Electric Bicycle, a green initiative rooted in self-reliance. Shrikant Bapat lauded the PM's efforts as a true nation builder who has uplifted the lives of millions. Calling PM Modi an enduring symbol of patriotism and selfless public serv-

ice, he emphasised that the PM has consistently worked for the welfare of the common man, national growth, and the greater good. World Leaders Unite to Wish PM Modi on His 75th Birthday, Hailing His Leadership.

## Modi's portrait lights up Burj Khalifa: Iconic Dubai landmark honours PM

**From Moscow to Washington:** PM Modi's Birthday Calls With Putin and Trump With Focus on Ukraine "Sincere congratulations to @NarendraModi on your birthday. I wish you continued good health and happiness, and ongoing success in advancing India's progress and the prosperity of its people," the UAE President expressed in his social media post. The birthday celebration received international recognition as leaders from various nations joined in extending their wishes to the Indian Prime Minister.

## Vatican: Pope blesses PM Modi on 75th birthday

**NEW DELHI:** Pope Leo XIV blessed Prime Minister Narendra Modi on his 75th birthday during a Papal Audience at St Peter's Square in Vatican City on Wednesday. The Pope prayed for Modi's good health and long life as around 30,000 people gathered for the weekly event.



The Papal Audience is a special

gathering where the Pope delivers teachings and blessings to visitors and pilgrims. During the ceremony, the Pope met a delegation from the Indian Minorities Federation (IMF). The IMF delegation was led by MP Satnam Singh Sandhu, former diplomat and MP Harsh Vardhan Shringla, and convener

Prof Himani Sood. They carried a portrait of Prime Minister Modi, which Pope Leo XIV blessed during the meeting. Sandhu also presented the Pope with a book titled Heart to Heart: Reverence of Saga. The book highlights PM Modi's special relationship with the Sikh community.



# The Minister in Charge inaugurated the three-day state-level Disability Skills Exhibition

## Exhibition

□ The Minister visited each stall at the exhibition, inquiring about the products made by persons with disabilities, and commended their efforts

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**Prayagraj.** Minister-in-Charge, District Prayagraj/Minister, Jal Shakti Department (Irrigation and Water Resources, Flood Control, Fallow Land Development, Minor Irrigation, Namami Gange and Rural Water Supply Department), Uttar Pradesh, Swatantra Dev Singh, on Wednesday, attended the inauguration of the three-day "Divyang Kaushal Exhibition" and Divya Shakti Exhibition (Cultural Programme) organized by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Uttar Pradesh, under state funds and in collaboration



with the Shri Kamta Prasad Sevaarth Trust, at the North Central Zone Cultural Centre, Prayagraj, to showcase products and artworks made by persons with disabilities, and other departments, from September 17-19, 2025, to showcase the inherent creative potential of persons with disabilities in the public domain and to ensure their accessibility to the general public. He inaugurated the exhibition by cutting the ribbon. In his address, the Minister extended

birthday wishes to the Prime Minister, saying that the Prime Minister has dedicated his entire life to the nation. He has faced every challenge he has faced, from serving as a Sangh Pracharak to Chief Minister and Prime Minister, with determination. He said that the Prime Minister's goal has been to ensure that those at the bottom of the ladder receive respect and dignity, and to bring them from the bottom to the forefront. The Prime Minister and Chief



Minister are continuously working to advance the lives of disabled people and children with disabilities through various beneficial schemes. He said that it is a significant achievement that the Prime Minister is always focused on serving the poor and their progress. The Minister was moved by the beautiful and captivating performance by the disabled children and praised the work of the teachers who provide education and training to disabled children. He said that

today, people are unable to sit with their parents. In such a situation, how these teachers handle and educate children who cannot hear or see is commendable. He described such teachers as great and praised them profusely. He said that not everyone gets the opportunity to serve the disabled, so we must fulfill the opportunity we have been given with complete honesty, dedication, and passion. He said that the Prime Minister is continuously leading the country on the path of devel-

opment through hard work. The energy and power to work with such dedication and determination comes only when a person works with complete honesty, depth of heart, dedication, and selflessness. On this occasion, the Minister provided five motorized bicycles, 20 tricycles, 10 MR kits, two Braille kits, and one smart cane to the disabled and encouraged them by rewarding them with certificates for their outstanding performance in various fields. Visited the art gallery decorated with artworks and paintings made by the handicapped people, observed each painting, appreciated it and got photographed with the handicapped people who made it. On this occasion, former MP Prof. Rita Bahuguna Joshi, MLA City North Harshvardhan Vajpayee, MLA Phaphamau Guru Prasad Maurya, BJP Metropolitan President Sanjay Gupta, District cers of other related departments, a large number of people were present.

## Health Camp Organized at Hospital Under the Healthy Women, Empowered Family



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**Prayagraj.** A comprehensive health camp was organized at Motilal Nehru Divisional Hospital (Colvin) in Prayagraj under the Healthy Women, Empowered Family Campaign. Phulpur MP Praveen Patel was present as the chief guest. The program was presided over by Dr. S.K. Chaudhary, SIC of Colvin Hospital. A large number of women and families participated in the camp and were pro-

vided with free health consultations, checkups for various diseases, and essential medicines. Specialist doctors provided advice on gynecological problems, anemia, nutrition, and family planning. Blood tests, sugar, blood pressure, and general health checkups were also conducted. MP Praveen Patel stated that women's health is the foundation of a strong society and family. He informed about government schemes aimed at strengthening the health of women and children.

## SDM's Surprise Inspection: Strict Directives on Cleanliness and Facilities

### Reviewed

□ During the visit, she closely reviewed sanitation arrangements, drinking water

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**Ghazipur :** On September 17, Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Dr. Harshita Tiwari conducted a surprise inspection in Ward No. 2 of the Municipal Council, Muhammadabad. During the visit, she closely reviewed sanitation arrangements, drinking water supply, and electricity services.



Municipal Council staff, sanitation workers, and the SDO of the electricity department were present on the occasion. While inspecting, the SDM directly interacted with local residents to listen to their grievances. She expressed displeasure after noticing unhygienic conditions at several spots and issued clear instructions to municipal

staff to ensure regular cleaning across all wards. She emphasized that an unclean environment leads to infections and diseases, and therefore, maintaining cleanliness is the joint responsibility of both the administration and the citizens. Regarding complaints about drinking water and electricity supply, she directed the concerned departments to take

immediate corrective measures. She warned that negligence in providing basic amenities would not be tolerated under any circumstances. It is noteworthy that Dr. Tiwari has been carrying out surprise inspections in different wards of the town over the past few days. As a result, municipal staff have become more active and are paying special attention to sanitation and other civic arrangements. Resident s appreciated the SDM's initiative and expressed hope that regular inspections would bring significant improvements to the town's management and facilities.

## Dirt adds to problems after floods in Daraganj-Nagvasuki



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**Prayagraj.** While the steady decrease in the water levels of the Ganga and Yamuna rivers has brought relief to residents living in coastal areas, the problem of filth has now exacerbated the difficulties of local residents. As the floodwaters receded, streets and neighborhoods were filled with mud, garbage, and filth,

disrupting normal life. Movement has become difficult in Daraganj, Nagvasuki, and surrounding neighborhoods in the Sangam region. The accumulation of filth and mud in the streets and neighborhoods has left local residents fearful of infection and disease. Mosquito infestations have also increased, raising the risk of dengue, malaria, and other diseases.

## Two youths assaulted in Soraon area over honking of a bike

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**Prayagraj.** Two brothers were severely beaten in the Soraon area after an altercation between youths over honking their bike horn. A group of youths attacked them with rods and knives, injuring them. Both have been hospitalized. A named complaint has



been filed against several youths in the case. The injured youths say

that the assaulters run a gang and scare people by uploading photos

and videos with weapons on social media platforms. The injured youths have also provided information about the accused's social media accounts in their complaint. Soraon police say the matter is being investigated. Mohamm ed Arman and Tabrez, residents of Ahibipur in the Soraon police station area, had gone

to buy milk on their bike in the morning. On their way back, Kaifi and Faiz stopped them near the Saghananj canal when they honked their bike horn and began assaulting them. It is alleged that Shivam and three other youths accompanied them. They then took out the bike keys and began beating them. It is

alleged that the attackers took out a pistol and hit them in the face with it. They were attacked with sticks and iron rods on their legs and shoulders. When the two brothers fell unconscious from the beating, the attackers fled. They are now being threatened if they file a complaint at the police station.

A Peace Committee meeting was held under the chairmanship of Chail Circle Officer

## Peace Committee Meeting Held at Night Queen Guest House

### Meeting

□ Discussions were held at the meeting to ensure that the upcoming Navratri festival

**Kaushambi.** A Peace Committee meeting was held under the chairmanship of Chail Circle Officer Abhishek Singh at the Night Queen Guest House under the Sandipanghat Police Station. Necessary discussions were held at the meeting to ensure that



the upcoming Navratri festival, including the installation of the Durga Mata idol, procession,

fair, and idol immersion, takes place in a peaceful and harmonious environment. On this occa-

sion, Station House Officer Sandipanghat Shashikant Mishra, members of the Durga

## Minister in Charge flags off rally

**Fatehpur.** On Tuesday, District Magistrate Ravindra Singh and Superintendent of Police Anup Kumar Singh welcomed Minister in Charge Ajit Pal Singh with a bouquet of flowers at the district's Public Works Department guest house. A police guard saluted him. The Minister in Charge flagged off the cleanliness rally. Following this, the Minister in Charge inaugurated an exhibition in the presence of district administrative officials. At a program held at the Banke Bihari Temple, the Minister in Charge administered the oath under the Cleanliness is Service 2025 campaign. Arriving at the District Women's Hospital.

Puja Organizing Committee.

## Woman molested in Civil Lines: Mob beats up accused

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**Prayagraj.** A young woman was molested outside her office in the Civil Lines area this morning. The victim works for a private insurance company and had arrived at her office as usual. A middle-aged man from Khuldabad arrived and began harassing her. According to reports, the accused had been following the woman

on social media for the past two months. He had been monitoring her activities and, whenever he got a chance, would approach her and harass her. When the woman protested and raised an alarm, bystanders and office colleagues immediately came to her aid. They apprehended the accused and severely beat him. He was then handed over to the police.

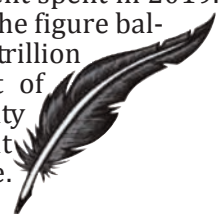


## Editorial

### Fundamental hypocrisy in global climate politics

In , the UN Climate Action Summit in New York, leaders from industrialised nations delivered impassioned speeches about the urgency of addressing climate change. Yet, behind closed doors, they continued to approve new fossil fuel projects and delay meaningful climate finance commitments. This dichotomy highlights a fundamental hypocrisy in global climate politics: The West often preaches sustainability but falls short in practice, prioritising economic interests over environmental imperatives. As the countdown to the COP29 climate summit in Azerbaijan this continues, the Bonn Climate Change Conference in Germany concluded in a stalemate last week. Nations disagreed on the size and scope of loss and damage financing, representing a significant setback in global climate negotiations. The Bonn talks did not achieve meaningful progress on climate financing, underscoring a persistent issue: industrialised nations, which bear the greatest responsibility for the current climate crisis, resisted calls from Global South countries to compensate those who suffer the most but have contributed the least to greenhouse gas emissions. Over a decade ago, developed nations pledged to mobilise \$100 billion annually by 2020 to support climate action in developing countries. This commitment, formalised under the Copenhagen Accord in 2009 and reiterated in the Paris Agreement, has not been met. The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) reported that climate finance reached only \$79.6 billion in 2019. It was only in 2022 that developed countries provided and mobilised \$115.9 billion in climate finance for developing countries. By the end of COP29, all parties must agree on a “new collective quantified goal” (NCQG) to guide the provision of climate finance, intended to replace the \$100 billion target after 2025. Progress on negotiating the NCQG has been slow. Disagreements persist on almost every aspect of the new target, including the amount of money to be provided, the sources of these funds, the recipients, and the specific forms of financial assistance. Current climate finance is grossly inadequate for the scale of action required. The \$100 billion target for climate finance is laughably insufficient. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Adaptation Gap Report 2021 estimates that the costs of adapting to climate change in developing countries could reach \$140-300 billion per year by 2030, escalating to \$280-500 billion per year by 2050. Furthermore, the Climate Policy Initiative (CPI) Global Landscape of Climate Finance 2021 report highlights that global climate finance flows reached a record \$632 billion in 2019/2020. Despite this record, the funding falls significantly short of the \$4.13 trillion annual investment required by 2030 to meet the Paris Agreement targets, as estimated by the International Energy Agency (IEA) in its Net Zero by 2050 report. Now even these estimates are seen as low. As highlighted by the Independent High-Level

Expert Group on Climate Finance in their 2022 report, emerging markets and developing countries (excluding China) are staring at a financial chasm. These nations must mobilise approximately \$1 trillion annually by 2025, amounting to 4.1 per cent of their GDP—double the 2.2 per cent spent in 2019. Fast forward to 2030, and the figure balloons to a staggering \$2.4 trillion per year, or 6.5 per cent of GDP. This glaring disparity underscores the urgent need to recalibrate. climate finance targets. if we are to meet the colossal demands of climate adaptation .



# Threat from ballistic hypersonic missiles

Aman Sharma

Space is emerging as the forerunner in the era of technology-driven warfare. A country like India, with significant geopolitical heft and the potential to emerge as a power of relevance, would sooner or later face a threat from space—a threat that cannot be defended by conventional means. It is therefore important to analyse if India needs to build a space force that is capable of fighting, not so distant, space wars. The Gulf War I is technically considered to be the first space war where the US relied on space satellite intelligence for aerial and ground operations inside Kuwait and Iraq. The satellite navigation systems played a significant role in the navigation of the US Air Force fighter jets. Currently, space prowess is clearly ruling the Russian-Ukraine and Hamas battlescapes. Taiwan is incrementally coming under the space lens of competing powers. The space satellites started playing their crucial role even before the start of the war. India raised the Defence Space Agency in 2019 as a scaled-down version of the space command. The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) also raised DSP to provide technical and Research and Development (R&D) support. In the last



five years, outer space has emerged as a source of concern, primarily the threat from long-range ballistic and hypersonic missiles. Many Direct Ascent Anti-Satellites (ASAT) experimental missile strikes have been tested, including by India (mission Shakti). Counter-missions are being developed for both offensive and defensive forms of space warfare. Even though the Outer Space Treaty debars nations from weaponising space, the writing on the wall makes it clear that a threat from space is lurking. All the major powers, such as the US, Russia, China, India, France, the European Union, and Japan, are building space military organisations. The US Space Force organises, trains, and equips personnel in order to protect US and allied interests in space and to provide space capabilities to the joint forces. The US Space Force, headquartered

at the Pentagon, employs 8,600 military personnel and 77 spacecraft. The Russian space forces are mandated to inform the higher political leaders and military commanders of missile attacks as soon as possible, ballistic missile defence, and the creation, deployment, maintenance, and control of in-orbit space vehicles, like the Persona reconnaissance satellite. These forces operate the GLONASS global positioning system. The Russian Space Forces include the third Missile-Space Defence Army and a Division for Warning of Missile Attacks. The Chinese People's Liberation Army Strategic Support Force (PLA-SSF) existed from 2015 to 2024 with the army's ability to fight “informatised conflicts”. In April of this year, the Strategic Support Force was dissolved and split into three independent arms: the PLA Aerospace Force,

the PLA Cyberspace Force, and the PLA Information Support Force. Like China, Russia views space as a warfighting domain, and they base their warfighting doctrine around the idea that achieving space supremacy is a precondition for winning a conflict. Russia has fielded a suite of non-kinetic options to create reversible effects on satellite systems in space, including ground-based systems to counter GPS navigation signals, tactical communications, satellite communications, and radars. On the non-kinetic side of this threat continuum, China has operational ground-based jamming systems that are capable of disrupting satellite communications, GPS navigation signals, synthetic aperture radars, missile warning systems, and other satellite systems. Jamming can prevent users from using satellite communication networks, degrade or prevent transmissions of vital missile warning data from space-based sensors to war fighters, and disrupt uplinks and downlinks needed to command and control spacecraft. While analysing the space wars, it is important to study the space-based wars of the past, when the intensity was nominal but gains were asymmetrical. During the two Gulf Wars, the Coalition

bombers and fighters dropped more than 5,000 GPS-guided Joint Direct Attack Munitions during the day and night, in all weather, with shattering effectiveness. Satellites also made it possible to direct Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) attacks such as Predator and Global Hawk. US imaging satellites gave commanders an unprecedented view of targets and battlespace. At least seven different types of military satellite systems were used during the Gulf War I. GPS receivers were affixed to tanks, trucks, and aircraft across the theatre. Tank commanders wanted to know the moisture content of the soil in some areas. Tomahawk precision attacks have multiple space based use cases, such as intelligence preparation, target location, command and control, weather assessment, launch, route navigation, and damage assessment. Space and cyber domains are the major components of ‘stand-off’ wars, which is the new way of war fighting. Elements contributing to stand-off conflicts are also moving into the hands of private space operators. While ‘space force’ would have a mandate to provide space support to conventional forces, it would largely engage.

## Women in Indian Politics: A story that has changed little over the years

**Sameer**  
**India's progress vis-à-vis women's representation in leadership positions** has remained rather slow and rarely linear, often pushing them to the margins of politics. Image: UN Women/Ruhani Kaur. India recently concluded its 2024 general elections, which took place in seven phases—from April 19 to June 1—to elect all 543 members of the Lok Sabha (lower house). While the results have taken many by surprise, what has been even more astonishing is the fact that for a country that has rigorously been trying to establish a more progressive front on women's rights and gender equality over the past few years, the

new Indian parliament has failed to showcase a notable uptick in the representation of women after the latest elections. Making just 13.63 per cent of the elected strength, the 18th Lok Sabha will comprise only 74 women compared to 469 men. This share is not only abysmally skewed but also lower than the 14.4 per cent share of female representation during the 2019 election, where 78 women were elected as MPs. The irony here is that just last year, India—during its G20 presidency—brought about a paradigm shift in gender-based policymaking by challenging the status quo and with the innovative idea of women-led development in order to ensure women's

inclusion and representation at all levels of decision-making. Even at the domestic level, India—after many deliberations—finally passed the historic Women's Reservation Bill in , which seeks to reserve one-third of the seats in the Lok Sabha and state legislative assemblies for women. While it is true that the bill has not yet come into effect, the journey from 13.63 per cent to 33 per cent (for the next elections) still seems rather long, especially given that, despite being the central agents of the 2024 elections and forming an important core of party manifestos as well as campaign speeches, only a handful of them were able to achieve the final victory. It is, however, impor-

## India took centre stage during the summit

**Abhimanyu**  
**India took** centre stage during the summit, and the family photograph taken post-summit is a testament to it. Image: Narendra Modi/X Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended the 50th G7 summit on June 14, 2024, in the city of Fasano in Apulia, Italy. The region of Apulia, throughout its history, has been inhabited by Greeks, Romans, Byzantines, Normans, and Spanish. The region has also served as a bridge between the West and the East, thanks to its geography. Apulia's rich history as a cultural crossroads underscores the significance of this year's G7 summit, which brings together diverse global leaders. In this summit, along with the G7 countries, the other invitees were India, the African Union, Brazil, the UAE, Argentina, and others, making the location and the purpose of the summit significant. India took centre stage during the summit, and the family photograph taken post-summit is a testament to it.

Two years ago, India was invited to the 48th G7 summit in 2022, after the Russian invasion of Ukraine. The primary narrative at that time was to punish India for keeping the ties intact with Moscow.

The Western ‘experts’, who are habituated to see things in binary, refused to believe that India can have ties with the G7 without harming relations with Russia. As per the Financial Times, the reason behind the invitation to India at the summit was “to woo New Delhi away from its longstanding alliance with Russia”. Two years down the line, India's relations are not majorly harmed, neither with Russia nor with the G7 countries! Freshly re-elected, PM Modi's attendance at the G7 summit signals a robust continuation of his administration's foreign policy initiatives, particularly his advocacy for the Global South. In , New Delhi organised the two Voice of Global

South Summits, first in January and next in November, to understand the concerns of the developing countries. The words and advocacy of Modi in Apulia should be taken as a continuation of this. Modi exploited the opportunities provided to put forward these concerns. “India has considered it its responsibility to place the priorities and concerns of the countries of the Global South on the world stage,” he said. At the same time, while putting forward his vision of a

developed India in 2047, he emphasised that “no section of society should be left behind in the country's development journey,” followed by applying this “in the context of international relations. The countries of the Global South are bearing the brunt of global uncertainties and tensions”. Then, Modi put forward the concern of ending monopolies in technology, one of the points of action at the end of the second Voice of the Global South Summit. On the sidelines of the G7 meeting, PM Modi also met Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky. However, Modi skipped the Ukraine Peace Summit, organised just after the G7 meeting, by sending a secretary-level delegation. The Indian delegation visited the summit but didn't sign the Joint Communiqué. This reflects a nuanced stance on the conflict, aligning with the broader Global South's cautious approach. India's significant presence at the G7 summit,

coupled with PM Modi's diplomacy, marks a pivotal moment in its global engagement. By advocating for the Global South in the G7, India continued efforts to emerge as a leader of developing nations in a China-fearing world.

## Promise made for assistance in the space sector

**Suman**  
**Russian** President Vladimir Putin's visit to North Korea (18-19 June ) has attracted global attention. Today, both of these states are keen to cooperate to overcome the sanctions put on them by the US. This is Putin's only second-ever visit to Pyongyang, with the first taking place way back in 2000. Obviously, a lot has changed during the last two decades or so. North Korea's other good friend, China, has welcomed this visit. Russia has always been important to North Korea. However, during the last few years, not much has happened towards any notewor-

thy engagement. During the 2018-19 period, the North Korean leader Kim Jong Un was found engaging China proactively, and between the period of March 2018 and January 2019, he visited China four times. Also, around the same period, he met US President Donald Trump. Actually, Trump became the first sitting US president to visit North Korea in 2019. Unfortunately, no efforts to engage North Korea have proved successful so far, and the only major countries that have cordial relations with North Korea remain its neighbours, namely Russia

and China. The recent increased bonhomie between Russia and North Korea could be said to have started with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un visiting Russia in September . Today, both of these states need each other much more than in the past. Moscow has some dependence on Pyongyang for supplies of arms and ammunition for fighting the war in Ukraine. While North Korea has a dependence on food and energy assistance. , interestingly, it is also depending on Russia for assistance in its space surveillance programme.

When Kim Jong Un visited Russia in September , he was assured by Putin of his assistance in the space domain. During the year , North Korea made three attempts to launch a spy satellite in space. The attempts during May and August had failed, while the attempt during was a success, with North Korea putting its first spy satellite, the Malligyong-1, on the back of its own

Chollima-1 launch vehicle in space. Since during Kim Jong Un's September visit to Russia, there was a promise made for assistance.



## His wife thinks he is undergoing treatment': Brother's pain

**NEW DELHI:** A 35-year-old sewadar was on Friday brutally beaten to death with sticks by a group of men inside the premises of southeast Delhi's Kalkaji Temple following a dispute over the distribution of chunni prasad.

Police have arrested five people so far, including the father of one of the men for harbouring him.

**Delhi Shock:** Kalkaji Mandir Sewadar Beaten To Death Over 'Chunni Prasad' Dispute The victim, Yogendra Singh, hailed from Fatehpur in Uttar Pradesh's Hardoi district, where he used to work as a farmer. He visited Delhi every few months, serving at the temple for the past 15 years. Also read: 'They came with iron rods, sticks': How a request to wait for prasad ended in fatal assault at Delhi Kalkaji temple Investigation revealed the group had an argument with temple staff, including Singh, over the same issue just days earlier. On



### Free electricity up to 1,200 units for Ramleela and Durga Puja committees

**Delhi :** The Delhi government will provide free electricity up to 1,200 units to Ramleela and Durga Puja committees and meters for the same will be installed on just 25% security deposit, Chief Minister Rekha Gupta said.

Moreover, to ease administrative hurdles, the government will issue no-objectionable certificates (NOC) for various services through a single-window system, eliminating the need for

these organising committees to approach multiple departments, the CM said.

Gupta added that public amenities such as toilets, security arrangements, health-care services, ambulances and fire brigades will also be ensured at the venues of Ramleela and Durga Puja. She made the announcements after meeting representatives of Ramleela and Durga Puja committees at the Delhi Secretariat.

Friday, police received a PCR call around 9.30pm about a quarrel at the temple. To

support his family and fund the treatment of his six-year-old differently-abled daughter,

## Delhi: Newlywed woman stabbed by 'stalker' in Mustafabad

**NEW DELHI:** An 18-year-old newlywed woman is fighting for her life on a ventilator after being stabbed allegedly by her stalker in northeast Delhi's New Mustafabad. He has been arrested.

The woman, who got married just 10 days ago, had returned to her parental home for post-wedding ceremonies and was going to rejoin her husband in Ashok Vihar after spending a few days with her family. The man, her family claimed, had been stalking her for the past three-four months and was opposed to the marriage.



The Dayalpur police station was informed about the stabbing near Mangal Bazaar Road on Thursday evening. The woman was taken to GTB Hospital before police reached the spot, said a senior officer. She remains critical, having sustained serious injuries to her kidneys

and intestines.

A case has been registered under Section 109 (attempt to murder) of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and the 24-year-old accused was arrested within hours. He has confessed to the crime, the officer claimed. The knife used in the attack was also found, he added.

## NDMC approves night food bazar at Connaught Place & India Gate

**Delhi :** NDMC approved 16 major proposals aimed at improving civic infrastructure, enhancing public services and promoting citizen welfare. Among the key initiatives that received the nod was a 'night food bazar' at Connaught Place and India Gate. The project

will see 50-60 food trucks operating daily between 10.30pm and 1am, offering a wide range of food and enriching the night-time experience for locals and tourists. The concept was proposed by Delhi minister and NDMC ex officio member Parvesh Verma. He

said the project will be developed along the lines of successful night markets in other parts of India.

"Indore's Sarafa Bazaar, a jewellery market by day, transforms into a night street food market, serving a wide variety of local delicacies late into the night.



## Delhi: Man steals 1kg gold bar from fiancée to buy plot, arrested



**NEW DELHI:** A jeweller was arrested for allegedly stealing a 1 kg gold bar from his fiancée, intended for their wedding, and replacing it with a fake.

According to police, the woman lodged a complaint claiming her fiancé, 30-year-old Nitesh Verma of Krishna Nagar, east Delhi, swapped the genuine gold bar, which she had given him for safekeeping, with a counterfeit. The woman also reported that several gold, diamond, and silver items went missing from her residence in Aug 2024, shortly after their engagement. When confronted, Nitesh admitted to both—the theft and substitution — and promised to repay the amount within a week but then went into hiding. The complaint was filed on July 29. DCP (central) Nidhin Valsan said police arrested Nitesh from a hotel in Kaushambi, Ghaziabad. He reportedly confessed to stealing the gold bar when alone at the woman's home, replacing it with a fake. He further revealed that he cut the gold into smaller pieces and sold them. claimed he used the proceeds to buy a Rs 42 lakh plot in Dehradun, Uttarakhand, and handed over Rs 70-80 lakh to his parents.

## Delhi govt may lower beer-drinking age from 25 to 21

**NEW DELHI:** Delhi govt is considering lowering the legal age for drinking beer from 25 to 21, bringing it in sync with neighbouring states, sources said. It may also allow private vendors. The proposal, part of a review of the excise policy, was discussed at a meeting of ministers, govt officials, and private liquor sellers.

In Noida, Gurgaon, Ghaziabad and Faridabad, the drinking age is 21 for all liquor. The stakeholders said syncing drinking age would check black market sales and protect state revenues. beer-drinking age Violating the law on drinking age is punishable under Delhi Excise Act, 2009. While the policy is still being drafted, govt officials revealed that other key structural revisions too were considered in



the first round of high-level committee meeting headed by PWD Minister Parvesh Verma with stakeholders from the liquor industry on Monday. The committee includes industries minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa, home minister Ashish Sood and senior officials of excise department. The meeting consid-

ered a hybrid model for running liquor shops, mixing government outlets with private shops. At present, only govt-run shops sell alcohol in Delhi. The previous AAP government scrapped private licences in 2022 after its new excise policy allowing private retailers triggered controversies and invited CBI and ED probes .

### Paharganj hotels fined by DPCC for unlawful groundwater extraction

**Delhi:** For unlawfully using groundwater without paying for it, 441 Paharganj hotels and guesthouses have been fined Rs 1 lakh apiece by the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC). By August, out of the total, these establishments had yielded 4.28 crore rupees. According to the chief secretary's statement before the National Green Tribunal (NGT), 555 hotels and guesthouses had their groundwater use rates calculated by the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) from 2014 to 2015.

## Say shubharambh to Navratri with garba workshops in NCR

As social media is buzzing with reels of dance lovers grooving to Gujarati folk mashups, garba workshops across NCR are drawing in enthusiasts to swirl, clap and strike their dandiya sticks in rhythm. With seasoned choreographers leading crash courses and workshops, many are picking up the basic moves just in time to let their hair down during Navratri nights. 'Garba workshops are not limited to the festive season' Nandini Pillai, who recently conducted dakla workshops in Gurgaon and Delhi, notes that garba is no



longer restricted to the festive season. "Garba is enjoyed year-round now, it goes beyond the festive season. I, along with choreographer Heet Samani, have been organising workshops since March. People have been giving so much love to garba workshops throughout

the year, probably because the core of folk dance is rejoicing with the community." She observes, "Participants love sharing the energy in a community-oriented dance form like garba. While garba workshops are not limited to the festive season, they do pick up 10x a

## MCD plans to hire agency to identify tax defaulters

**New Delhi:** The cash-strapped Municipal Corporation of Delhi is likely to finalise an agency within a month to identify tax defaulters and recover pending dues. Officials said the technical bid for the project had been invited.

Once financial bids are cleared, the selected agency will be allotted the task. It will have one year to submit its report after conducting door-to-door surveys, geo-tagging properties, serving tax notices and compiling self-assessment data through a computerised system across the city. As an incentive, it will receive a share of the recoveries.

A database will be developed covering commercial and residential properties, office spaces and vacant land. "The agency will train the



### MCD gets nod to invite agencies for Phase-III biomining at Delhi landfills

agents working on the ground to use gadgets for geo-tagging and data entry," said an official. They will record property details through an app and the MCD circle in-charges will generate tax demand notices after verifying the details with the available data. The agency will serve notices and, in case of non-payment, MCD will begin recovery proceedings. For locked properties, visits may be scheduled on weekends or holidays with notices pasted earlier.

**Delhi:** The mayor of Delhi has given the MCD the green light to ask agencies to participate in the Phase-III bio-remediation of trash at the Ghazipur, Bhalswa, and Okhla landfills. In order to finalize the rate and agency, a proposal will be presented to the standing committee. We anticipate that construction will begin shortly, and the method to grant anticipatory approval has been implemented.

## Actor Ashish shares first statement following rape allegations; "I have full faith in the legal system

**Dekha** Ek Khwaab actor Ashish Kapoor, who was granted bail by Delhi's Tis Hazari Court after being arrested on alleged charges of rape, has shared his first reaction. He shared a long note on social media responding to the allegations. He was taken into custody after a woman filed a complaint against him, accusing him of sexually assaulting her.

Ashish took to his Instagram handle and penned a long note. He also expressed his gratitude to the system for granting him bail. The



post read, "Following the recent incident, I'm filled with a deep sense of relief & gratitude. This experience has been a powerful reminder of the strength of our democracy & the principles enshrined in our constitution. I have full faith in the legal system, and

this outcome has only strengthened that belief." The post further read, "The diligent work of everybody ensured that justice was served, and the truth was brought to light. This is a testament that truth will always prevail. I want to thank everyone who

### Delhi govt drafts new liquor policy: Outlets may exit residential areas; price parity with neigh-

**Delhi:** In an effort to make the city of Delhi a better place to shop, the government has implemented a new excise policy in liquor outlets that are cleaner and better kept. There has been talk of moving liquor stores away from residential areas with a high concentration of people. Prices in Delhi should be com-

parable to those in nearby states, according to the government. Key structural adjustments are being explored, according to government officials, while the policy is still being developed. A high-level committee led by PWD minister Parvesh Verma talked with representatives from the alcohol business for the first time.

supported me during this tough time.

## Where fashion meets social theory, pop culture

There was no runway, no models, no extravagant textiles or designers, yet the evening was all about fashion as Nirupama Singh Dar launched her book Fashion, Popular Culture and Political Economy at the India International Centre. The inti-



mate gathering saw friends

and family come together to celebrate the launch of the book. Sunil Sethi, the Chairman of FDCI, who was the chief guest at the event, said, "I am here to honour and regard an old relationship. Dr Nirupama Singh Dar was the first fashion blogger at FDCI, in

2010, when digital was just emerging. She was the one who kickstarted the digital journey of FDCI fashion weeks." Adding, "According to the author, the book is a starting point for a subject called Sociology of Fashion and Political Economy.



## 'India's growth resilient': S&P reaffirms GDP outlook despite global turbulence

Global economic shocks have slowed India's growth in the short term, but its long-term prospects remain strong, according to a report by S&P Global India Research. The report highlighted that reforms, infrastructure development, and process improvements have strengthened India's position, giving it a competitive edge over developed countries.

"Amid global market volatility, India's growth is resilient and remains the world's fastest-growing major economy, with its GDP forecast to continue growing 6.5% in fiscal 2025-26," it said, adding that the country's forecast is influenced by both domestic strengths and global headwinds.

"India is likely to encourage more participation in global trade, which offers increasing gains in economic growth, capital attraction, and to generate employment opportunities." The report further noted that reforms are needed at central,



### JPMorgan to cut China, India share in EM Bond



JPMorgan Chase & Co will cut the weight of the largest bond issuers in its flagship emerging-market index, diverting investor flows from the likes of China and India toward smaller nations. The Wall

Street bank will gradually lower the issuer cap on its GBI-EM Global Diversified index in the first half of 2026, according to a client notice seen by Bloomberg. The limit will fall to 9% from 10% currently.

state, and bureaucratic levels to build a more coordinated system. The private credit sector is also set for strong expansion, as traditional banks leave a financing gap, sup-

ported by domestic insolvency frameworks. Though risks exist, the limited connection to the broader financial system offers some protection.

## 'Will be addressed satisfactorily': Goyal expresses optimism

Expressing confidence in the India-US trade deal, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal on Wednesday said that relations between the two countries remain positive. He cited the friendship between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump, and expressed confidence that all issues would be resolved satisfactorily. He emphasised the continued positive nature of relations with the United States. "We have been holding discussions for the last few months. Yesterday, a US representative was here. Talks are going on. President Donald Trump also



wished Modi on his birthday. India and the US are friendly countries; our leaders are friends. Every situation will be addressed satisfactorily," Goyal added.

The bilateral relationship became strained after Trump levied 50 per cent duties on Indian products. The relationship deteriorated further as Trump's officials intensified their criticism of

India regarding its Russian oil purchases, suggesting it provided financial support for the Ukraine conflict. Following a "positive meeting" between trade negotiators from India and America on Tuesday, both parties have agreed to strengthen their efforts towards establishing a bilateral trade agreement, indicating reduced friction ahead.

## US retail sales rise despite Trump tariffs: August growth beats estimates

Retail spending in the US exceeded expectations in August, rising 0.6 percent month-on-month, government data showed on Tuesday, even as President Donald Trump's tariffs continue to impact the global trade environment. On a

year-on-year basis, retail sales climbed 5 percent. The Commerce Department data highlighted that motor vehicle and parts dealers saw a 0.5 percent increase in sales, while restaurants and bars recorded a 0.7 percent rise. Grocery store sales

were up 0.3 percent, reflecting resilient consumer demand in key sectors, AFP reported. However, some areas showed signs of caution. Furniture store sales fell 0.3 percent from July, and general merchandise outlets dipped 0.1 percent.

## PepsiCo global CEO in India: Ramon meets PM Modi

PepsiCo's global chairman and CEO, Ramon Laguarta, met Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi, as per sources cited.

The meeting marks the first time Modi has met a top US CEO in India amid rising trade tensions and new GST taxes. Laguarta was accompanied by PepsiCo's entire board, representing the \$91.8 billion company behind Pepsi Cola, Lays, Kurkure, Mountain Dew, 7 Up, Slice, and Aquafina. This is also the first time in at least a decade that PepsiCo has brought its



full global board to India. The team is in the country for a three-day quarterly executive committee meeting, which rotates globally. The schedule includes a day in Delhi and two days in Hyderabad, where PepsiCo's GCC headquar-

ters is located. In April, Laguarta had led a similar visit with more than two dozen senior executives from the snacks division. "To have two high profile trips within five months is a clear indication of the strategic importance of India for the drinks.

### India, UAE set \$100 bn non-oil trade goal by 2030

Delhi : India and the United Arab Emirates are targeting \$100 billion in trade by 2030, excluding oil and precious metals, India's commerce ministry said in a statement. The target was decided during a meeting between Union commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal and the UAE's minister of foreign trade, Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, in New Delhi last week. They were reviewing bilateral trade between the two countries under the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) that came into effect in 2022. Both leaders stressed deeper cooperation in emerging sectors renewable energy.

## Greece beckons: A smart real estate move for Indian investors



As Indian investors increasingly seek to diversify their portfolios and secure long-term wealth, Greece is emerging as a strategic gateway, not just to the European Union, but to a lifestyle of prosperity, stability, and growth. More than just a scenic Mediterranean destination, Greece is fast becoming a hotspot for discerning Indian investors seeking to combine financial foresight with international mobility.

At the forefront of this shift is MIBS Group, a Greek leading real estate developer that blends deep market knowledge with access to luxury properties, eligible under Greece's coveted Golden Visa program.

### Why Greece, why now?

Greece's economic resurgence over the past decade has transformed its real estate market into one of the most promising in Europe. With a projected GDP growth rate of 2.3%.

## Hyundai wage hike: Chennai plant staff to get Rs 31,000 more

South Korean car maker Hyundai Motor India agreed on a three-year wage package for its employees at the Chennai plant in Tamil Nadu. The deal, announced on Wednesday runs from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2027 and includes a monthly salary hike of Rs 31,000, applied in a ratio of 55%, 25% and 20%, split over the three years. Apart from this, employees will also receive health coverage and access to advanced wellness programmes. "Hyundai Motor India Limited [HMIL] and United Union of Hyundai Employees [UUHE], the recognized union today announced the successful conclusion and signing of a mutually beneficial wage settlement agreement for the period 2024-2027," the company said in a state-



### GST rate cuts: Apollo tyres to pass on benefits to buyers

Apollo Tyres on Wednesday announced that it will be passing on the benefits of the recent GST rate cut to customers by lowering the tyre prices. Depending on the product, prices will drop by Rs 300 to Rs 2,000. Passenger car tyres will become cheaper by Rs 300 to

Rs 1,500, while truck and bus radial tyres will see a reduction of about Rs 2,000. The GST Council recently cut tax on new pneumatic tyres from 28% to 18%, and on tractor tyres and tubes to 5%. Apollo Tyres said it will transfer the full benefit of these changes.

ment cited by ET. "The revised all-inclusive compensation package sets a new benchmark in the

automotive industry," Youngmyung Park, function head, people strategy at HMIL, added.

## Govt plans to set up domestic MDP firms; will compete with global consulting

The government has put forward a plan to set up multi-disciplinary partnership (MDP) firms that can compete with global consulting and auditing giants. These new firms would provide a range of services under one umbrella. This includes



cost record maintenance, accounting, auditing, assurance, company secretarial

work, legal services, valuation and management. The move is aimed at creating Indian alternatives to global names such as PwC, Deloitte, KPMG, EY, McKinsey & Company and Bain & Company, PTI reported. According to a statement

issued on Wednesday, the ministry of corporate affairs (MCA) has formed an Inter-ministerial Group (IMG) to build the domestic ecosystem of consulting and auditing firms. The group will be chaired by the MCA Secretary.

## Trade outlook: Goyal expects 6% export growth in 2025



that we will be moving in the Amritkal from a \$4 trillion economy to a \$30 trillion-plus economy clearly show that India is the place to do business. The world would like to work closer with India," he said adding that the world would like to work closer with India. He also pointed to the country's improving

domestic conditions. "We have recently come out with the lowest unemployment data at 5.1%," he said, emphasising that domestic growth and international engagement are supporting each other. Addressing concerns about unemployment, Goyal said India offered plenty of opportunities.

### Amazon eyes bumper sales

Delhi: Amazon is preparing for an even greater surge in festive sales this year as a result of the reorganization of GST slabs, which would lower the prices of many consumer goods. This will increase spending by the salaried class, many of whom look for online offers when purchasing products, especially for expensive ones. Outside of ethnic clothing, which is the norm for festivals, the most purchased items during festivals tend to be smartphones, gadgets, and durables. We anticipate a greater increase in holiday sales com-

pared to previous year. Regardless, consumers typically wait for sales to begin before making large purchases; however, this time around, the trend has quickened thanks to the GST cuts. Customers can expect to save a ton of money this holiday season because to merchants' enticing bargains and a drop in GST on millions of products, according to Saurabh Srivastava, VP of categories at Amazon India. The government's decision to streamline the registration process for the new Goods and Services Tax (GST) system is a "game change."



## Various development projects worth 1600 crore inaugurated for Delhi as part of the Seva Pakhwada



Union Home Minister Amit Shah today inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for various development projects worth ₹1600 crore for Delhi as part of the ongoing Seva Pakhwada in New Delhi. Union Home Minister Amit Shah today inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for various development projects worth ₹1600 crore for Delhi as part of the ongoing Seva Pakhwada in New Delhi. Addressing the gathering at Thyagaraj Stadium, Mr. Shah said

that these schemes launched today will benefit the people of the national capital. He said that Mr. Modi has dedicated his entire life to the welfare of the countrymen. Mr. Shah said that under Mr. Modi's leadership in the last 11 years, the country has become safer, the economy has strengthened, and the poor have access to amenities. He said that the Modi government has provided amenities to 600 million people and lifted 250 million out of poverty. Mr.

Shah said the country will always remember Mr. Modi's historic achievements. Among the projects inaugurated today were the Atal Drishti Girls' Hostel for visually impaired students, the Atal Asha Home for intellectually disabled individuals, the Savitribai Phule Senior Citizens' Home, a hospital block, 101 Ayushman Arogya Mandirs, 150 dialysis centers, and 75 drones for police support. The foundation stone for two waste-to-energy plants was also laid.

## Major action against drug dealers in Delhi

The Anti-Narcotics Cell of the Outer North District Police achieved a major success. Police recovered 3.101 kg of heroin from the arrested accused, estimated to be worth 6.25 crore. Five drug peddlers arrested. A large consignment of heroin was seized from five accused, including a woman. Raids were conducted in Bhalsa Dairy, Burari, Nangloi, and Tilak



Nagar. 1.992 kg of heroin was recovered from the possession of mastermind Anil alias Bholi. Accused Bholi has previously been convicted in NDPS cases. The arrested accused

purchased flats and plots with the proceeds of crime. DCP Outer North Hareshwar Swami said, "Police action continues; strict measures are being taken against drug mafias."

## Over tin-shed schools, Delhi HC scolds the state govt.



**Delhi:** In hearing a petition by the non-governmental organisation Social Jurist, a bench comprising Chief Justice DK Upadhyay and Justice Tushar Rao Gedela voiced their dismay at the state of the schools. Students at Sarvodaya Kanya Vidyalaya in Kamla Market and the Government Boys and Girls Secondary Schools in Ashok Nagar are being compelled to study in makeshift classrooms made of tin that lack proper desks, walls, and other necessary facilities; the Delhi High Court scolded the Delhi government for this neglect on Wednesday. During a hearing, a bench comprising of chief justice DK Upadhyay and justice Tushar Rao Gedela voiced their dismay at the schools' terrible state. The petitioner, an NGO called Social Jurist, had asked the court to tell the Delhi government to tear down the tin-shed buildings and replace them with modern ones. Ashok Agarwal, an attorney for the NGO, submitted a petition in which he claimed that the government's refusal to fund essential infrastructure violated the right to education since it was capricious, unfair, and arbitrary.

## NAAC adopts e-inspections for new accreditation

**Delhi:** To eradicate corruption and speed up accreditation, the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) has stopped physical college inspections. Accreditation teams will now perform evaluations exclusively online, replacing on-cams visits with virtual examinations.

## From OROP to CDS, the Modi govt. has enhanced the military's prestige

**New Delhi:** Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, policy reforms were implemented in the Indian Army. Emphasis was placed on women's empowerment in the Army. Furthermore, the appointment of a Chief of Defence Staff for better coordination between the three services and the implementation of the long-pending OROP scheme were also seen. Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership and guidance, not only are numerous schemes being implemented to fulfill the commitment of a developed India by 2047, but also extensive efforts are being made for the welfare of poor women, youth, and farmers. DD News investigated these efforts of the Modi gov-



ernment and analyzed the various initiatives and schemes by categorizing them into different categories. We bring you a series, "Prime Minister of the People," in which we will present to you an overview of the various schemes of the Modi government over the past 11 years. Today, as part of this

series, we will discuss the Indian Army. Under Prime Minister Modi's leadership, policy reforms were implemented in the Indian Army. Emphasis was placed on women's empowerment in the Army. Additionally, the appointment of a Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) was seen to ensure better coordination

between the three services and the implementation of the long-pending OROP plan. Revolutionary changes in the military came with the appointment of the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS). The appointment of the CDS was made in January 2020 to establish better coordination among the three services and to eliminate corruption in the procurement of military equipment through quick decision-making. Experts believe this is an important step towards establishing a unified command between the three services. In Operation Sindoor, the three services launched a decisive attack on terrorist bases in Pakistan with a coordinated strategy. The improved coordination between the three

## GST reforms will save the public approximately 2 lakh crore: Nirmala

**Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman** stated that the new Goods and Services Tax reforms will result in savings of approximately ₹2 lakh crore for the public after reducing tax rates. She was addressing an outreach program on next-generation GST reforms in Visakhapatnam today. The Finance Minister stated that the new two-tier tax system of 5% and 18% reduces the burden on people's daily needs and essential



commodities. She said this significantly benefits the poor and middle class. Ms. Sitharaman stated that these reforms will increase farmers' incomes by reducing taxes on agricultural equipment and will also promote modernization in the agri-

cultural sector. She added that MSMEs and employment-generating sectors will also benefit from reduced costs and improved opportunities. The Finance Minister stated that GST reforms will increase purchasing power.

## Dr. Vikram Chaurasia was nominated as the National President of the All India Widows and Disabled Association, Mahila Suraksha Sena

**Dr. Vikram Chaurasia** was nominated as the National President of the All India Widows and Disabled Association, Mahila Suraksha Sena. **New Delhi:** Speaking with the organization's founder, Mr. Anil Gupta, on this occasion, Dr. Vikram Chaurasia stated that widowed women face social isolation, discrimination, financial hardship, and psychological problems, while persons with disabilities struggle with challenges such as education, employment, social participation, and access to assistive technologies. Both groups face conservative social attitudes that diminish their dignity, making life significantly more difficult. Widowed women are often considered



inauspicious and excluded from social activities. To raise awareness, Dr. Vikram Chaurasia, a renowned thinker, social activist, and IAS mentor, was appointed National President. Founder Mr. Anil Gupta pledged to bring about revolutionary change in society, stating that there is a need to change negative attitudes toward widows and disabled people and sensitize them. Patron Rajesh Verma expressed his

happiness on the appointment of Vikram Chaurasia as the National President and said that Vikram Chaurasia will take the organization to new heights. Prominent among those who expressed happiness were Abha Verma, State President, Jharkhand; Arun Rana, State President, Delhi; Uttam Dixit, State President, Rajasthan; Pravesh Srivastava, State President, Madhya Pradesh; Pankaj Srivastava, Mahendra Jain, National General Secretary; Maninder Kaur; Sushma Trivedi; Anmol Kumar, etc. The main objective of the organization is to strengthen government schemes and provide their benefits to eligible persons.

## Gobal leaders and ambassadors congratulate PM Modi on his birthday

**New Delhi:** Leaders and ambassadors from various countries around the world extended warm greetings to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on his 75th birthday. These messages expressed their desire to strengthen bilateral relations with India and elevate global partnerships to new heights. US President Donald Trump wished Prime Minister Narendra Modi a happy birthday. President Trump called PM Modi to congratulate him on his 75th birthday. President Trump shared the information on Truth Social. He wrote, "I had a wonderful phone conversation with my friend, Prime Minister Narendra Modi. I wished him a very happy birthday. He is doing an excellent job." President Trump thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his support in ending the war between Russia and Ukraine. New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon congratulated PM Modi by



sharing a video message on the social media platform X. Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said in a video message on the social media platform X, "Heartiest birthday wishes to my friend Prime Minister Modi. Australia is proud of such a deep friendship with India. We are grateful every day for the incredible contribution of the Indian community in Australia. I hope to see you soon." Israel's Ambassador to India, Reuven Azar, in a message in Hindi and English, said, "Many happy birthday wishes to Prime Minister Narendra Modi from Israel and our Embassy in New Delhi. May the India-Israel friendship grow

stronger." Kobi Shoshani, Israel's former Midwest India Consul General, said on the social media platform X, "Happy 75th birthday to PM Narendra Modi, who was born on September 17, 1950, the same day India recognized Israel." UAE Ambassador to India Abdul Nasser Alshahi wrote in his message, "Heartiest birthday wishes to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. I wish you good health and continued success. I am confident that the UAE-India partnership will reach new heights." Russian Ambassador to India Denis Alipov posted in Hindi on X, saying, "Heartiest congratulations and best wishes to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on his birthday. We are grateful for his invaluable contribution in taking the decades-old Russia-India friendship to new heights. We wish him continued success in all his work that benefits the country and the world."

## 19 dead this year: 'Brain-eating' amoeba sparks political slugfest



**THIRUVANANTHAPURAM:** The "brain-eating" parasitic infection amoebic meningoencephalitis has killed a three-month-old, a 52-year-old, and 17 others across Kerala this year. On Wednesday, grief turned into fury in the assembly, where opposition accused LDF government of presiding over a health system in free fall. Congress-led UDF moved an adjournment motion, saying 19 people had died this year from the rare infection, including Lathakumari of Thiruvananthapuram last week. The notice charged the government with ignoring awareness campaigns at local level, where those exposed to stagnant water are most at risk. It also flagged rising cases of jaundice, dengue, leptospirosis, typhoid and diarrhoeal diseases - calling the situation a "collapse of public health management". Primary amoebic meningoencephalitis is rare. Globally, fewer than 500 cases have ever been reported. Yet Kerala has seen over 120 so far, including 68 this year. Infection occurs when contaminated freshwater enters the nose, letting the amoeba reach the brain through the sinus and destroy tissue.



## Pakistan beat UAE to enter Super 4s, set up high-stakes Sunday rematch with India

● “I am actually not surprised by what I saw. I actually stopped watching after the first 15 overs and started watching Manchester United and Man City

### Victory

□ Pakistan delivered a strong all-round performance, securing a 41-run victory



Agha contributed 20 before falling to Dhruv

Fakhar made a valiant 50, while captain Salman Agha contributed 20 before falling to Dhruv Parashar. Shaheen Afridi's late hitting proved decisive, finishing unbeaten on 29 and guiding Pakistan to a defendable total of 146 for 9

With this win, Pakistan not only progress to the

in 20 overs. Afridi had previously impressed with 33 not out, including four sixes, against India. Junaid Siddique started with the ball for UAE, picking up four vital wickets for 34 runs, while Simranjeet Singh claimed three more.

Super Four but also set up a high-stakes

### UAE slow scoring made the target unrealistic

Chasing 147, UAE tried to adopt a cautious approach to avoid another low total, but their slow scoring made the target unrealistic. Rahul Chopra (35) and Dhruv Parashar (20) added 48 for the fourth wicket, but it wasn't enough. Pakistan maintained

control throughout, and from 85 for 3 after 14 overs, UAE collapsed to 105 all out in 17.4 overs. Pakistan threatened a pull-out after the handshake fiasco during the previous game against India before Salman Agha's team climbed down and showed up for the game.

Put into bat, Pakistan had a shaky start. Saim Ayub fell without scoring, followed shortly by Sahibzada Farhan, leaving the team reeling at 9 for 2 inside the second over. Fakhar Zaman and Salman Agha tried to stabilise the innings, but wickets kept tumbling.

## Another controversy erupts! Pakistan cancel press conference

NEW DELHI: The turmoil surrounding Pakistan at the Asia Cup 2025 deepened further on Tuesday as they cancelled their scheduled pre-match press conference ahead of their crucial clash against United Arab Emirates at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium on Wednesday. The move came just a day after Pakistan threatened to pull out of the tournament if match referee



Andy Pycroft was not removed. Pakistan had demanded Pycroft's ouster, accusing him of failing to act on their complaint against India following the Indian players' decision to skip

the customary handshake after their match in Dubai on Sunday. However, as reported by , it is highly unlikely that the Pakistan Cricket Board will actually pull out of the ongoing tournament.

### Rishabh Pant shares nostalgic childhood memory, gets haircut under a tree

Rishabh Pant gave fans a glimpse of his childhood memories with a light-hearted post on Instagram. The Indian wicketkeeper-batter shared a picture of himself getting a haircut under a tree, something he used to do as a kid.

## Chaos on the field! Umpire hit on ear by Pakistan fielder's throw, play halted in Dubai



Play was briefly halted in Dubai on Wednesday after on-field umpire Ruchira Palliyaguruge was struck on the ear by a throw during the Asia Cup Group A clash between Pakistan and the UAE.

The incident occurred in the sixth over of UAE's chase when a throw back to the bowler caught the Sri Lankan umpire on the left ear. Palliyaguruge, who had his back turned, looked visibly dazed as Pakistan fielders immediately rushed to his aid. The team physio was called, and after a short delay the reserve umpire took the field in his place. Earlier, Pakistan posted 146 for 9 in their 20 overs after being asked to bat first, a total that owed much to Fakhar Zaman's counterattacking 50 off 36 balls and a late cameo from Shaheen Shah Afridi. Afridi smashed an

### Struck

□ Saim Ayub dismissed for his third successive duck in the tournament

unbeaten 29 from 14 deliveries, including two sixes, to lift the innings from collapse. image (2) Umpire Ruchira Palliyaguruge makes his way off the field after being hit (Screengrab) UAE's bowlers dominated the innings, with Junaid Siddique returning figures of 4 for 18 and Simranjeet Singh Kang adding 3 for 18 to keep Pakistan to an achievable total for UAE. Pakistan's top order faltered again, with Saim Ayub dismissed for his third successive duck in the tournament and Abdullah Shafique also losing his wicket cheaply.

## Why did Molly leave ESPN? Stephen A. Smith reveals shocking details



### Missing

□ “We’re definitely missing something here.” Social media quickly lit up

As the face of First Take, Stephen A. Smith usually knows what's happening behind the scenes but not this time. He admitted he was blindsided by Qerim's decision and suggested he had no idea she was ready to leave. That only made fans more curious, with many suggesting, “We’re definitely missing something here.” Social media quickly lit up with theories, from creative control disputes to burnout after years in the hot seat. The bombshell broke when Stephen A. Smith revealed on-air that Qerim had “abruptly resigned as the host of the show last night.” The announcement shocked viewers, especially since there was no farewell episode or official lead-up to her exit. Qerim herself later confirmed the move on Instagram but hinted she didn't love how the news spread, writing that the story came out earlier than she intended and not

When it comes to sports TV shakeups, few saw this one coming. Molly Qerim, the longtime face of ESPN's First Take, has abruptly resigned from the show and even Stephen A. Smith says he was caught off guard. News of her exit stunned fans across social media, with many convinced there's more behind the scenes than what's being said. After nearly a decade steering fiery debates between Smith and his guests, Qerim's sudden departure has left viewers wondering what really went down. Molly abruptly resigns from ESPN's 'First Take' as Stephen A. Smith admits he was blindsided

## Pakistan vs UAE got delayed by drama, but for cricketers 'nothing else matters'

### Super Four

□ Pakistan brushed aside the UAE by 41 runs to storm into the Super Four



YouTube channel. SUBSCRIBE NOW! Following the meeting, the PCB released a statement saying: “ICC match referee Andy Pycroft has apologised to Pakistan's captain & manager after barring the India vs Pakistan handshake on September 14, calling it a miscommunication.” Then came a press conference in Lahore, and Mohsin Naqvi posted on X: “We have asked

the Pakistan team to depart to the Dubai Cricket Stadium.” Meanwhile, PCB also released a muted video showing Pycroft speaking with Pakistan captain Salman Ali Agha and coach Mike Hesson. Pycroft walked out for the toss with both captains, did his duty, and left the pitch immediately — offering no handshakes.

Pakistan

### "The senior players used to tell me.."

"The senior players used to tell me, your son has a lot of talent. He will play for India one day. I said, he is still a kid. He has just started holding the bat barely, but all the blessings, love, and hard work of him and his people brought him here." Being a left-arm spinner himself, Raj Kumar focused on Abhishek's bowling too.

brushed aside the UAE by 41 runs to storm into the Super Four, setting up a blockbuster rematch against arch-rivals India on Sunday at the Dubai International Stadium.

## Drama erupts! PCB labels Andy Pycroft 'controversial', says he apologised to Pak captain

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) issued a statement that ICC match referee Andy Pycroft apologized for the "no-handshake" incident during the India-Pakistan Asia Cup match, saying that it happened due to miscommunication. Earlier, the PCB formally requested Pycroft's replacement for their subsequent match, a request that was denied. Pycroft is the



match referee for the game, leaving Pakistan in an embarrassing spot. Pakistan clarify the Andy Pycroft situation with an official state-

ment on X. The image is from the conversation he had with Pak head coach and skipper also in view (Screengrab) The Pakistan Cricket

### Customary

□ PCB said Pycroft admitted the decision to prevent the customary handshake

Board (PCB) has issued a statement that International Cricket Council (ICC) match referee Andy Pycroft apologised to the national team's captain and

manager after the controversial “no-handshake” incident during the India-Pakistan Asia Cup clash on September 14. In a statement, the PCB said Pycroft admitted the decision to prevent the customary handshake between the two captains was a result of “miscommunication.” It added that the official had “apologised to the manager and captain of the

Pakistani cricket team” for the episode. Tense faces! Pakistan cricket team arrive at ICC Academy | Will they boycott Asia Cup? The board, however, maintained that it had strongly objected to Pycroft's handling of the matter and had formally appealed to the ICC to replace him as referee for Pakistan's following fixture against the United Arab Emirates.

"We're having very positive conversations with Ashwin, and hopefully we'll have positive news in the near future,"

## What Does ‘Siuuu’ Really Mean? Decoding Al Nassr Star Cristiano Ronaldo’s Signature

5 times Ballon d’Or winner Cristiano Ronaldo’s “Siuu” is one of the most widely known celebrations in the world. Performed each time a goal is scored, it consists of a high vertical leap, a turn in mid-air while in flight, both feet landing deftly on the pitch, arms raised, and a bellowed “Siuuuuuu!” This isn’t merely an exhibition of physical prowess, but an athletic and exuberant celebration of the goal



itself. Every time Ronaldo scores a goal, fans eagerly await it, making it one of foot-

ball's most electrifying moments. The origins of Cristiano Ronaldo's 'Siuuu' celebration The

"Siuuu" celebration was first performed on August 7, 2013, after a pre-season game between Real Madrid and Chelsea in the International Champions Cup. Critically, the now infamous move was instinctive for Ronaldo after scoring a goal. Reflecting on the moment, he mentioned, "I just scored the goal and it just came out, it was just natural, to be honest." The celebration,

ever since, has been synonymous with Cristiano Ronaldo's goal-scoring instinct and has been replicated a zillion times across clubs and countries. The meaning behind 'Siuuu' The word "Siuuu" comes from the Spanish word "yes", which is sí. Cristiano Ronaldo, in an interview, said, "It means yes, very simple but meaning it strongly!

## Asia Cup: Bangladesh beat Afghanistan by eight runs to stay alive in Super 4s

Bangladesh secured a crucial eight-run victory against Afghanistan in the Asia Cup group league match on Tuesday, keeping their Super Fours qualification hopes alive. Following their previous six-wicket loss to Sri Lanka, Bangladesh delivered a strong team performance in a competitive match that saw multiple momentum shifts. Afghanistan appeared to be in control at the halfway point after limiting Bangladesh to 154 for five. However, they struggled in their chase and were ultimately

bowled out for 146 in 20 overs. Azmatullah Omarzai made a significant impact with his quick 30 runs off 16 balls, including 20 runs in Saif Hassan's 14th over, which sparked Afghanistan's comeback after a slow start. Omarzai's innings ended shortly after hitting a six off Taskin Ahmed in the 16th over. Mustafizur Rahman sealed Afghanistan's fate by dismissing Rashid Khan for 20 and AM Ghazanfar for 0 in consecutive deliveries during the penultimate over.