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

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SC: Not every failed treatment is a case of medical negligence

NEW DELHI:

Reiterating that a doctor cannot be charged with medical negligence simply because a patient does not respond favourably to treatment, the Supreme Court has granted relief to a doctor who was held responsible for death of a woman post childbirth. A bench of Justices Sanjay Kumar and Satish Chandra Sharma said a patient's not responding favourably to the treatment provided by a physician or the failure of surgery cannot be a ground to hold the doctor liable per se by applying the doctrine of res ipsa loquitur ("the thing speaks for itself"). "This edict was reiterated in Martin F. D'Souza vs. Mohd. Ishfaq wherein, it was pointed out that no sensible professional would intentionally commit an act or omission which would result in harm or injury to a patient as the reputation of that professional would be at stake and a single failure may cost him or her dear in that lapse. It was also pointed out that sometimes, despite best efforts, the treatment by a doctor may fail but that does not mean that the doctor or surgeon must be held guilty of medical negligence, unless there is some strong evidence to suggest that he or she is," the bench said.

If illegality found, entire exercise will be struck down: SC on Bihar SIR

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Monday said that if any illegality is found in the methodology adopted by the Election Commission of India (ECI) during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar, the entire exercise will be struck down. The bench of Justices Surya Kant and Joymalya Bagchi also fixed October 7 for the final hearing on pleas challenging the validity of the Bihar SIR. Presuming the ECI was acting as per law, top court said that the exercise would be invalidated if constitutional safeguards were compromised.

GST Savings Festival: Modi writes an open letter

"This year, we are receiving another gift during the festivals"

Festival

❑ "GST Savings Festival" has begun across the country"

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has written an open letter to the countrymen on the "GST Savings Festival." In his letter, PM Modi said, "This year, we are receiving another gift during the festivals. With the implementation of the next-generation GST reforms on September 22nd, the "GST Savings Festival" has begun across the country. These reforms will benefit everyone,



including farmers, women, youth, the poor, the middle class, traders, small-scale industries, and cottage industries."From insurance to household goods, everything has become cheaper - PM ModiPM Modi said, "The hallmark of the new GST reforms is that there will now be only two main rates.

Everyday essentials like food, medicines, soap, toothpaste, and many other items will now be available at zero tax, i.e., a 5% rate. Tax rates on other goods have also been reduced. Most goods and services related to home and family will now be available at a 5% tax rate. This means that everything

Our GST journey began in 2017

He wrote, "I'm pleased to see that many shopkeepers and merchants have put up signs showing the price before and after, showing people how much cheaper certain items have become. Our GST journey began in 2017. Back then, the government provided significant relief to businesses by from insurance to household goods has become cheaper. This will only make things easier in the future." New insurance plans will now be offered excluding GST

Assam CM announces second autopsy for Zubeen Garg



Guwahati: Bowing to the demands of people and rule out foul play, Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma on Monday announced that a second autopsy will be conducted on legendary singer Zubeen Garg, who passed away while swimming in the sea in Singapore last Friday. As a tribute to the music icon, the CM has declared a holiday for all educational institutions and govt offices in Kamrup (Metro) on Tuesday, coinciding with the singer's cremation. The first autopsy

was conducted in Singapore. The post mortem will take place at Gauhati Medical College and Hospital (GMCH) on Tuesday in the presence of a team of expert doctors from AIIMS. "The autopsy will be conducted at 7.30am for which at least one and a half hours will be required. The body will be taken to Sarusajai Stadium once the autopsy is over, and at around 10 am, it will be taken to the cremation ground at Kamarkuchi NC Village.

Delhi issues guidelines for street dog management

NEW DELHI: Designated feeding spots in every ward, protection for animal feeders, special handling of aggressive and rabid dogs, 24x7 complaint redressal, and perks for adopting dogs of Indian breeds: these are part of fresh guidelines issued by the Delhi govt on Tuesday for managing street dogs, eradicating rabies and

reducing human-dog conflict. The civic body will issue SOPs on these in a week, a senior official said. Under the rules, all pet dogs above three months of age are to be registered. These registrations will remain valid only if the rabies vaccination of the pets is up to date. Harassment of dog feeders to invite legal action

The rules have been framed in compliance with Supreme Court and high court directions and the Animal Birth Control (ABC) Rules, 2023. Officials said these are aimed at balancing public safety with animal welfare, while ensuring uniform implementation of sterilisation, vaccination and feeding protocols across the city.

India & US decide to efforts for early trade deal

Negotiations

❑ . India and the United States restarted bilateral trade negotiations.



India-US trade deal talks: The chief negotiators from both nations commenced discussions on the proposed trade agreement. (AI image) India-US trade deal talks: In a positive sign towards reaching a deal, India on Tuesday said that the trade talks with Assistant US Trade Representative Brendan Lynch were 'positive and forward looking'. "It was decided to intensify efforts to achieve early conclusion of a mutually beneficial Trade Agreement," the

Ministry of Commerce said in a statement. "A team of officials from the office of United States Trade Representative led by Chief Negotiator, India US Bilateral Trade Agreement negotiations Mr. Brendan Lynch visited India on September 16, 2025. They held discussions with officials from Department of Commerce, led by Special Secretary, of Commerce on India-US trade ties including on the India-US Bilateral Trade Agreement," the

statement said. "Acknowledging the enduring importance of bilateral trade between India and the US, the discussions were positive and forward looking covering various aspects of the trade deal," it added. This is the first in-person meeting between trade representatives of the two countries since the Donald Trump administration imposed 50% tariffs on India. India and the United States restarted bilateral trade negotiations.

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.

Set to join Russia university, Uttarkhand man 'sent to war front in Ukraine'

Travelled

❑ Rakesh, a resident of Kushmoth village in Shaktifarm under Sitarganj



family said, adding they have had no contact with him since early Sept and are now desperate for help. The family of Rakesh Kumar, 30, has written to the ministry of external affairs (MEA), sought support from the Indian embassy in

Moscow, and approached local officials in a bid to bring him back home. Rakesh, a resident of Kushmoth village in Shaktifarm under Sitarganj tehsil, had left for Russia on Aug 7 after securing admission to St Petersburg University on a study visa. However, within a few days, he began hinting at being in a troubling situation, suggesting things were not going as planned.

Nitish goes off script; 'reveals' what led to JD(U)-BJP split

NEW DELHI: Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar on Monday pinned the blame for his exit from the alliance with Bharatiya Janata Party in 2022 on "some leader" from his party. While speaking at a rally in Bihar's Purnea, Nitish Kumar said that some of the leaders who created rift between JD(U) and BJP are present on the stage. He also vowed that he will never break alliance with BJP.

'It's not good': Trump links pain reliever Tylenol's use in pregnancy to autism

US President Donald Trump on Monday cautioned pregnant individuals against using Tylenol, citing an unsubstantiated link to autism, while also advocating for major changes to standard infant vaccination schedules. The White House's push to reshape healthcare in the United States has sparked concern among medical and scientific professionals over the admin-



istration's proposals. Healthcare practitioners have long endorsed acetaminophen as one of the safest pain relief

options during pregnancy, noting that untreated fever and pain can pose risks to both mother and foetus. Trump stated

firmly, "Taking Tylenol is not good." "For this reason, they are strongly recommending that women limit Tylenol use during pregnancy unless medically necessary. That's for instance, in cases of extremely high fever that you feel you can't tough it out," he added.

At the press conference, Trump also proposed significant changes to infant vaccination schedules.

SC slams Maharashtra poll panel for 'inaction and incompetence'

NEW DELHI: Extending the Sept 30 deadline for completion of the Maharashtra local body elections by four months to Jan 31 next year, Supreme Court on Tuesday upbraided the state election commis-



sion (SEC) for its inability to complete the delimitation process and requisition adequate number of EVMs and poll staff. Though it acceded to the SEC's request for extension of deadline for

completion of elections to zilla parishads, panchayat samities and municipalities, a bench of Justices Surya Kant and Joymalya Bagchi said four months were given to you by the court on May 6.

Going to be a very big thing': Trump lands in UK; Air Force One touches down at Stansted

US President Donald Trump landed in Britain on Tuesday for an unprecedented second state visit at the invitation of King Charles III. Air Force One touched

down at Stansted airport near London at 9:07 pm (2007 GMT). On the way, Trump told journalists the visit was "going to be a very big thing." The MAGA chief

is the first US leader to be invited for two state visits. His first was in 2019 when Queen Elizabeth II hosted him. Security is tight, and his schedule.

SC seeks states' replies on anti-conversion laws

NEW DELHI: Supreme Court Tuesday asked states, which have enacted anti-conversion legislations and most of which are governed by BJP, to file their responses to pleas challenging stringent provisions in those laws criminalising inter-faith marriages. The laws seek to prohibit conversion through threat, allurements, deceit or influence. At the same time, SC put the onus on individuals to prove their marital ties haven't been forged through deceit.

SC: Will consider freeze on anti-conversion laws after states' responses. A bench of Chief Justice B R Gai and Justice K V Vinod Chandran asked the states which have enacted the anti-conversion laws, also known as 'Freedom of Religion Acts', to respond to the allegations levelled by petitioners, including Teesta Setalvad-led Citizens for Justice and Peace, People's Union for Civil Liberties, women's wing of Communist Party of India - National Federation of Indian



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

Women and Jamiat Ulama-e-Hind. The states which have enact-

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.

ed anti-conversion laws include UP, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh.

Be ready to deal with 'invisible challenges', Rajnath tells forces

NEW DELHI: The armed forces should go beyond the traditional concepts of war, remaining alert and ready to also deal with 'invisible challenges' emanating from unconventional threats such as information, ideological, ecological and biological warfare, defence minister Rajnath Singh said on Tuesday. Addressing the ongoing combined commanders' conference in Kolkata, Singh stressed the need for a constant assessment of the changes taking place across the globe and their impact on the country's security system. The nature of warfare is continuously evolving, with recent global conflicts



underlining the relevance of a "technology-friendly" military. "Wars of today are so sudden and unpredictable that it is extremely difficult to foretell their duration. It can be two months, a year, or even five years. We need to be prepared. We need to ensure that our surge capacity remains sufficient," he said. The defence minister

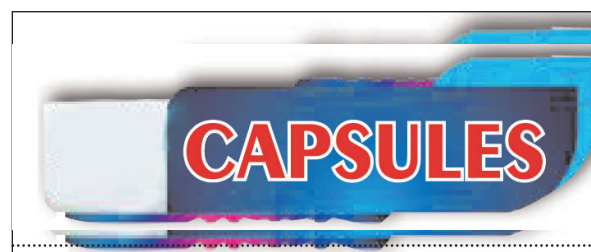
also said that a committee has been set up to prepare "a realistic action plan" to build an air and missile defence shield under 'Mission Sudarshan Chakra (MSC)'. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had announced the MSC on Aug 15, declaring that comprehensive security cover would be provided under it to strategic.

Children being forced to 'glorify' PM, claims Cong

NEW DELHI: On the eve of PM Modi's birthday, Congress on Tuesday said schoolchildren are being forced to "glorify" one person through govt diktats and demanded an "end to shameless misuse of power". Referring to news

reports that BJP-governed Odisha govt has asked schools to join the campaign to celebrate the PM's birthday on Sept 17 and that a similar circular has been issued by a Delhi school, Congress MP Manickam Tagore alleged that Modi became the PM

through "vote chori" and his govt is now using children and schools for propaganda. "Education is meant for learning. Using children as pawns to polish the image of Modi is not just wrong, it's dangerous. This is how dictatorships operate," he claimed.



Asia Cup row: BJP targets Rahul Gandhi over Shahid Afridi remarks; Congress hits back with old pic



NEW DELHI: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Tuesday targeted Congress leader Rahul Gandhi after former Pakistani cricketer Shahid Afridi called the Congress scion a leader with a "positive mindset". Lamenting over the Indian cricket team's decision to skip the customary handshake with the Pakistani team during Sunday's Asia Cup clash, Afridi said: "This is a despicable mindset, which will continue till the time he (PM Modi) is their head. There are also good ones like Rahul Gandhi with a positive mindset, who wants to cooperate with the World through dialogue. Isn't Israel enough that you're trying to become like Israel here?" Reacting to Afridi's remark, Union minister Kiren Rijju called Rahul Gandhi a "darling of Pakistan", saying "Pakistani people could even make Rahul Gandhi their leader". "Rahul Gandhi has been the darling of Pakistan! Shahid Afridi and the Pakistani people could even make Rahul Gandhi their leader," Rijju wrote on X.

Intensify drive to achieve PM's vision of drug-free India: Shah

NEW DELHI: Union home minister Amit Shah on Monday called for scaling up action and execution in the fight against drugs right from points of entry and masterminds of the cartels to local sale and distribution level. He also launched the NCB's drug disposal campaign and destroyed 1.37 lakh kilograms of drugs worth Rs 4,800 crore at 11 locations.

Addressing the inaugural session of the second National Conference of the Heads of Anti-Narcotics Task Force (ANTF) of states and UTs in New Delhi, Shah pointed out that while between 2004 and 2013, the quantity of drugs seized was 26 lakh kilograms, valued at Rs 40,000 crore, from 2014 to 2025, this increased to 1 crore kilo-



grams, valued at Rs 1.65 lakh crore. "Between 2004 and 2014, drugs worth Rs 3.63 lakh crore were disposed of, whereas between 2014 and 2025, drugs worth Rs 35.21 lakh crore had been disposed of. During 2004 to 2014, 1.73 lakh people were arrested, while between 2014 and

2025, 7.61 lakh people were arrested," he added. Shah urged every state to develop a high-level strategy targeting three types of cartels: those operating at entry points, those distributing from entry points to states, and those selling narcotics in smaller areas within states.

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

'Deeply concerned': India at UN condemns Israeli strikes in Qatar

NEW DELHI: India on Tuesday expressed deep concern about Israel's recent attack in Doha and unequivocally condemned the violation of the sovereignty of Qatar. Representing India at the United Nations, Arindam Bagchi said: "India firmly believes that differences must be resolved peacefully through dialogue and diplomacy in full conformity with the principles of the UN Charter and international law."

"India is deeply concerned about the recent attacks in Doha



and its impact on the security situation in the region. We unequivocally condemn the violation of the sovereignty of Qatar. Such actions threaten peace, stability and security not only in the region but across the world. India firmly

believes that differences must be resolved peacefully through dialogue and diplomacy in full conformity with the principles of the UN Charter and international law," Bagchi told the United Nations Human Rights Council.

US Prez dials PM: Modi thanks 'friend' Trump for b'day wishes

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday thanked US President Donald Trump for his 75th birthday greetings during a phone call, in which he also backed Trump's initiative for a peaceful resolution. PM Modi said he is "fully committed to taking the India-US Comprehensive and Global Partnership to new heights".

Italian Chef Valentino Rahim Wishes PM Modi with Tricolour Pizza "Thank you, my friend, President Trump, for your phone call and warm greetings on my 75th birthday. Like you, I am also fully committed to taking the India-US Comprehensive and Global Partnership to new heights. We support your initiatives towards a peaceful resolution of the Ukraine conflict," PM



Modi wrote on X. This was the second call between the two leaders within a week. On September 9, PM Modi expressed confidence that "trade negotiations will pave the way for unlocking the limitless potential of the India-US partnership." "India and the US are close friends and natural partners. I am confident that our trade negotiations will pave the way for unlocking the limitless potential of the India-US partnership," PM Modi said in a post on X.

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.

From health camps to swadeshi fairs, host of events starts today

NEW DELHI: The 75th birthday of PM Modi on Wednesday will witness the launch of a host of welfare and development initiatives by BJP and its govts at Centre and in states, while PM Narendra Modi will kick off a fortnight-long nationwide health and nutrition campaign from Madhya Pradesh.

The PM will launch the "Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar" and the eighth National Nutrition Month from Dhar. He will also unveil other development initiatives and address a public



meeting. "More than one lakh health camps will be organised, making this the largest ever health outreach for women and children in the country. Daily health camps will be held in all govt health facilities

nationwide," govt said in a statement. Besides, BJP party organisation will unveil many initiatives, including blood donation and health camps, across the country. The programmes are part of the "Sewa Pakhwada"

Himachal Pradesh Becomes Fourth Fully Literate State

Delhi: Himachal Pradesh has become the fifth fully literate State/Union Territory after Tripura, Mizoram, Goa and Ladakh, Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said highlighting that the achievement reaffirms the power of collective effort by the government, society and volunteers. In a virtual



address at an event to mark the

International Literacy Day, Mr Pradhan reiterated Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of education as the foundation of civilisation and called for renewed commitment to building a literate, self-reliant and developed India. The theme for this year's celebration was "Promoting Literacy in the

Digital Era", highlighting the pivotal role of digital technology in enabling reading, writing, numeracy, and lifelong learning skills across the country. Himachal Pradesh has become the fourth state to achieve full functional literacy, joining Tripura, Mizoram, and Goa in this significant milestone.

DM inspected the Community Health Center in Meja and reviewed the quality and arrangements

Displeasure

Expressed displeasure over the poor sanitation at the Community Health Center and directed a campaign to improve the sanitation system

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the quality and arrangements of healthcare facilities available to patients and to assess the current status of essential basic amenities available at the hospital. The District Magistrate inspected the Community Health Center, assessing cleanliness, the availability and attendance of doctors and staff, the availability and distribution of medicines, the availability and operation of medical testing machines, the status of

records, the essential basic facilities available to the public, the condition of the maternity ward, the ambulance, and other essential arrangements. The District Magistrate expressed strong displeasure over the poor sanitation at the Community Health Center, the lack of regular cleaning of toilets, the accumulation of garbage in the hospital premises, and the poor garbage collection system. He



directed the Medical Officer in Charge and the Block Development Officer to take necessary action to ensure regular and proper sanitation and to conduct a campaign to clean the hospital premises. The District Magistrate inquired about the well-being of patients who had come to the Community Health Center and asked them if they were experiencing any inconvenience at the hospital or if medicines

were being procured from outside.

He was informed that medicines were being provided by the hospital itself. He inspected the medicine distribution room, checked the stock of medicines, their expiration dates, and inquired about the medicines in high demand and their availability. He found all essential medicines available. The District Magistrate directed that proper seating arrange-

ments be made for visitors to the hospital. Inspecting the community center, the District Magistrate directed that a board be installed detailing the duties of all doctors posted at the hospital and that details of patients admitted to the wards be posted outside the male and female wards. The District Magistrate inquired about the availability of ambulances, and was informed that the hospital had sufficient ambulances. The District Magistrate, after reviewing the attendance register, instructed all doctors and other staff to be present at the hospital on time, as per their duties. Present on this occasion were the Sub-District Magistrate, Meja, Sub-District Magistrate, Koraon, District Development Officer, G.P. Kushwaha, District Economics and Statistics Officer, Santosh Kumar, Block Development Officer, and all other relevant officials.

DM inspects Jal Jeevan Mission works and assesses quality



Inspected

Following this, the District Magistrate also inspected the Government ITI

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Prayagraj. Prayagraj District Magistrate Manish Verma on Monday inspected the water collection centers under construction under the Jal Jeevan Mission in the tehsil area and directed the construction agencies to complete the work expeditiously. The District Magistrate first inspected the water collection center under construction in Kapuri village. He expressed displeasure over the slow progress of the work. Jal Jeevan Mission project officials explained that payments had not been

received for several months, which is why the work progress is slow. The work will be completed as soon as payment is received. District Magistrate Manish Verma then inspected the second water collection center under construction in Jadipur, where the situation was more or less the same. He directed those responsible for the construction work to complete the work expeditiously.

Following this, the District Magistrate also inspected the Government ITI College under construction in Pathartal village. He assessed the quality of the work and directed that the college's construction be completed by March. After inspecting the water harvesting center in Kapuri, Mr. Burma also inspected the Kapuri cowshed.

Expediting the tender process for the remaining works at the under-construction ITI Patharpal-Koraon, ensuring quality completion: District Magistrate

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Prayagraj. District Magistrate Manish Kumar Verma inspected the ITI Patharpal-Koraon under Tehsil Koraon on Monday and, after reviewing the progress of the construction, issued necessary instructions to all concerned officials. During the inspection, the project manager of the State Construction Corporation, the executing agency for the ITI, stated that 55 percent of the construction work had been completed and the work was in progress. Upon inspecting the



quality of the work and inquiring about the progress of the remaining works and the completion date, the District Magistrate discovered that tendering for the remaining

works had not been conducted for the past six months. Expressing strong displeasure with the Project Manager, State Construction Corporation, he direct-

ed the project manager to provide an explanation and expedite the tender process for the remaining works and ensure that the remaining works are completed with quality.

Take Necessary Measures to Generate Income from Cow Shelters

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The District Magistrate inspected the Kapuri Cow Shelter-Koraon and reviewed the facilities and arrangements available at the cow protection center, directing that all necessary systems be maintained. The District Magistrate directed that the entrance to the cow shelter be enlarged and a gate be installed, and that a board be installed within the cow shelter, indicating the name of the shelter, the names of the appointed cowherds, and other details. In view of the large number of stray cattle, he directed that an additional shed be con-

structed and that permanent tents be erected outside the existing shed. He directed that CCTV cameras be installed in the cow shelter, the premises be kept clean, and a small shed for calves and a low-height feeding trough be constructed. He also instructed that green fodder be sown, while assessing the fodder stock and availability of green fodder. He said that there should not be any shortage of green fodder, straw etc. Along with this, he also directed that there should be regular cleaning to ensure that there is no water logging and mud anywhere in the cowshed.

Strategy made in the meeting for preparations of Dussehra, Durga Puja, Instructions given for drinking water, uninterrupted power supply

Prayagraj: A meeting was held with the police administration, officials of the implementing departments and the officials of Durga Puja and Ramlila Committee in Sangam Auditorium to conduct Dussehra and Durga Puja in a safe and peaceful manner. The District Magistrate, while instructing the

concerned officials, said that all the concerned officials should complete the work related to their respective departments on time. He asked the officials of the committees to provide their cooperation in conducting the event safely. District Magistrate Manish Kumar Verma has instructed the con-

cerned officials to make timely arrangements for repair of roads, cleaning of drains, lighting, drinking water, parking etc. in the city and rural areas. Along with cleaning the ponds made for immersion of Durga idols, instructions have been given to fill them with clean water. He directed the Public

Works Department and officials to repair the roads. He directed the Electricity Department officials to ensure uninterrupted power supply and also to repair the hanging dilapidated wires, replace the faulty transformers, trim the branches of trees hanging on the roads and the Municipal Corporation

to repair the street. The District Magistrate directed all the Sub-District Magistrates and Police officials to jointly visit and ensure all the necessary arrangements and also visit sensitive places. The Health Department officials have been asked to ensure the availability

of ambulances and a team of doctors. The Municipal Corporation has been instructed to take necessary action to catch stray animals. He has asked the officials of all the concerned departments to visit and remove the shortcomings of the fair routes. He stressed on ensuring cleanliness.

For security arrangements, police personnel, divers and sailors have been continuously active

Thousands of devotees took a holy dip at various ghats of the Ganga and Yamuna on the first day of Navratri

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Kaushambi: Before worshipping Goddess Durga on the first day of Sharadiya Navratri, devotees took a holy dip in the river's waters with faith and devotion at various ghats of the Ganga and Yamuna. Afterward, devotees installed Kalash at their homes and began worshipping Goddess Durga. On the first day



of Navratri, thousands of devotees gathered at the Sandipan Ghat in

the Kokhraj police station area since morning, resulting in a huge

crowd of devotees taking a holy dip in the Ganga. From Chakwan intersection to the Sandipan Ghat on the banks of the Ganga, the entire area resounded with chants of Mata's name. Devotees offered prayers at the Devi temple and Shiva temple. Due to the Ganga bath festival, Kokhraj police station personnel were deployed at various locations to ensure security. Divers and

boatmen were also actively engaged along the banks of the Ganga. Due to the high water level in the Ganga, police and divers continuously advised devotees not to venture into deep waters to prevent any untoward incident. Ganga in the Palhna River There was a huge crowd of devotees taking bath in the Ganga on the banks since morning. Thousands of devotees took bath in

the holy water of the Ganga river at Palhna Ghat and offered prayers at the ancient Shiva temple. Similarly, thousands of devotees took a dip in the holy water of the river at other Ganga-Yamuna ghats in the district. For security arrangements, police personnel, divers and sailors have been continuously active on the banks of the Ganga-Yamuna.

Complete the Kapuri Belhat Road construction work on time: DM



Prayagraj. District Magistrate Manish Kumar Verma inspected the Kapuri Belhat Road being constructed by the Provincial Division of the Public Works Department in Koraon on Monday. After

inquiring from the junior engineer about the progress of the road construction work, he directed the work to be expedited and completed in a quality manner by the stipulated deadline of March 2026.

Editorial

Navigating India's choppy geopolitical waters

India appears beset on all sides by disruptive forces. China remains a toxic element. Pakistan, fresh off a turbulent election, is a loose cannon. Small fry like the Maldives are irritants. Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka blow hot and cold. Beyond the neighbourhood, strategic partners like the United States use the deep state, packed with neo-cons, to needle India when New Delhi's autonomous foreign policy rankles beyond a point. Canada hasn't recovered its poise from India evicting 41 Canadian diplomats from the country. First World nations aren't used to such peremptory treatment from the Third World. The second anniversary of Russia's invasion of Ukraine falls on February 24, 2024. Western sanctions haven't worked on Moscow. The rouble has recovered. Defying expectations, Russia's GDP grew 3.6 per cent in 2023. India continues to buy Russian crude, refine it, and sell it back to Europe as diesel. India's economy meanwhile powers on at above 7 per cent a year while Europe's largest economy, Germany, slips into recession. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) projects average global growth in 2024-25 at just over 2 per cent. It projects India's GDP growth at more than thrice the global average. With China caught in a downward economic spiral, President Xi Jinping recently met with the country's top finance authorities to stem China's fall into Japan-like stagflation. Beijing last week sacked Yi Huiman as chairman of China Securities Regulatory Commission (CSRC). He has been replaced by Wu Qing, a former head of the Shanghai Stock Exchange. The US economy, in contrast, is growing faster than expected at 2.5 per cent a year. Inflation has dipped to 2 per cent. The Federal Reserve is likely to start lowering interest rates from May 2024. Three rate cuts of 0.5 per cent each — from the current level of 5.25 per cent down to 3.75 per cent — are likely in calendar 2024. If that happens, India's already bullish stock market will be on steroids. Foreign funds have few places to invest profitably once the Fed's rate falls to 3.75 per cent. China remains an outcast. In a presidential election year, US politicians, Republicans and Democrats, will vie with one another to be tough with China.

Cutting China Off

Technology sanctions on Beijing are likely to widen. The US-led ban on selling advanced chips to Beijing has already set China's semiconductor industry back by half-a-decade. China has meanwhile shot itself in the foot. It passed draconian criminal laws on foreign companies sharing their data with headquarters outside China. This has caused an exodus of foreign executives from China fearing prosecution and jail terms if they transmit their own corporate data back to Washington or London. With JP Morgan including India in its widely tracked Government Bond Index-Emerging Markets (GBI-EM) from June 2024, over \$20 billion is expected to flow into Indian securities, boosting overall sentiment and integrating Indian financial markets into the global ecosystem. India's stock market capitalisation of \$4.3 trillion overtook Hong Kong's stock market cap last month. It is now the world's fourth largest stock market by capitalisation after the US (\$50.86 trillion), China (\$8.44 trillion) and Japan (\$6.36 trillion). With CIA agents thick on the ground in India, Washington knows exactly what this data means. For America's deep state, dealing with one Asian power — China — is bad enough. Dealing with another rising Asian power — India — which is supposed to be America's strategic partner requires more nuanced policy-making.

No proof

For a country that assassinates targets on foreign soil at will, it takes exceptional hubris for the US to move a New York court over an unproved allegation of a murder-for-hire plot by Indian businessman Nikhil Gupta.



Russia-Ukraine war: How Zelenskyy's sacking of his General shows brewing conflict in the Kyiv regime

The Ukrainian forces under General Zaluzhnyi had contained the initial Russian onslaught. Image courtesy: Reuters. On 8 February, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy announced that he was removing General Valerii Zaluzhnyi from command of the military and promoting General Oleksandr Syrskyi, the commander of the Ukrainian Ground Forces, to replace him. He thanked him for two years of defence of Ukraine," President Zelenskyy said on social media, adding: "We also discussed who could be in the renewed

leadership of the Armed Forces of Ukraine." General Zaluzhnyi had gained enormous credit for spearheading the successful effort by Ukraine's forces to halt and then reverse Russia's initial attack launched on 24 February 2022. He was appointed Commander-in-Chief in July 2021, just half a year before Russia launched its all-out invasion. The Armed Forces of Ukraine, under his leadership, had succeeded in pushing back initial Russian advances near the capital, Kyiv, and then led successful counteroffensives later in 2022,

freeing parts of eastern and southern Ukraine. Both General Zaluzhnyi and General Syrskyi played key roles in those campaigns. The dismissal ended weeks of speculation about the fate of General Valery Zaluzhnyi, whose relationship with President Zelenskyy had deteriorated, and there were strong rumours regarding his exit.

Brewing friction

The Ukrainian forces under General Zaluzhnyi had contained the initial Russian onslaught. That was a great achievement, because almost

everybody expected the Russian forces to steamroll their way across the plains of Ukraine. But lately, his record has been tarnished by the failure of last year's counteroffensive, which ran into well-prepared Russian defences. Last year's highly anticipated Ukrainian counteroffensive, using soldiers trained by NATO allies and Western weapons and equipment, reclaimed little territory, falling far short of expectations. General Zaluzhnyi and his American counterparts disagreed sharply over tactics.

Post-poll fixing is not that easy, though there were no shortage of attempts. The most widely discussed case is that of Nawaz Sharif himself, whose win at the Lahore seat (NA-130) and the Mansehra seat are both highly suspicious. In the first, the numbers don't match on Form 47, which the Election Commission of Pakistan issues, and in the latter, a fact check seems to conclude that Nawaz bagged 80,382 votes to PTI's Ghushtap Khan, who secured 105,249 votes and won the seat. There's more, which this author noticed while watching emerging numbers. In Multan, where PTI leader Shah Mehmood Qureshi's family.

The "White Paper on the Indian Economy", tabled by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the Lok Sabha on February 8, 2024, outlines the inheritance of loss and the economic misadventures faced by India due to the policies of the previous UPA government. According to the document, the UPA's tenure from 2004 to 2014 was characterised by economic mismanagement, financial indiscipline, and widespread corruption, which significantly hindered India's growth prospects. The paper claims that these issues relegated India to one of the "fragile five" economies globally, creating hurdles that impeded economic activity and growth. Prime Minister Narendra Modi delivered a stark critique of the decade preceding 2014, characterising it as a period that gravely endangered India's economic stability. He also alluded to the White Paper on India's economic conditions, which has since ignited widespread discussions. PM's remarks were not just reflections but a scathing indictment of the previous administration's governance, which, according to him, was marked by egregious financial mismanagement, riddled with scams, and paralysed by indecisive policy-making. This eroded

investor confidence but also brought the nation perilously close to a precipice of distrust and despair. There are four areas in which the current administration has worked to deal with the fiscal misadventures between 2004-14. First one of this is the practice of "phone banking" was identified as a contributing factor to the Non-Performing Assets (NPA) crisis in India during the NPA era. This term refers to the alleged influence exerted by politicians over banking decisions, where it is claimed that phone calls from influential figures could sway lending decisions of public sector banks. This led to the approval of loans for certain businesses without proper due diligence, contributing to the accumulation of NPAs within the banking system.

Under the NDA government led by PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the Gross NPA ratio in public sector banks was reduced from 16.0% to 7.8%, but during the UPA era, it escalated to 12.3% by 2013, partly due to political meddling in bank lending decisions. The crisis deepened by 2014 with the banking sector grappling with a substantial increase in bad loans, much of which were not recognized in official accounts. A Credit Suisse report from

March 2014 highlighted that top companies with poor interest coverage ratios contributed significantly to the unrecognised NPAs, suggesting a systemic underestimation of the banking sector's distress during this period. This period saw a massive escalation in gross advances by public sector banks from Rs 6.6 lakh crore in 2004 to Rs 39.0 lakh crore by 2012, with a large portion of loans turning problematic, particularly those originated between 2006 and 2008, as noted by a former RBI Governor in a 2018 parliamentary panel response. The Modi government addressed the NPA crisis through a strategic approach termed the '4R' strategy, encompassing recognition, resolution, recapitalization, and reforms. This strategy led to a significant reduction in bad loans, with public sector banks (PSBs) witnessing a decline of Rs 89,189 crore in their gross non-performing assets (GNPAs) during the financial year 2018-19. The efforts were part of a comprehensive plan to clean up the banking system, which included the implementation of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) and the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, among other measures.

India's temple diplomacy in the UAE



India's temple diplomacy has seen the most astounding diplomatic success overseas under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. There are several examples of his diplomatic skill, but the building of the biggest temple in the UAE is the most outstanding among them. On behalf of the Bochasanwasi Shri Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha (BAPS) Hindu temple, Swami Ishwarcharandas, and Swami Brahmaviharidas have invited PM Modi to inaugurate the massive Hindu temple in Abu Dhabi on Basant Panchami on 14 February 2024. The location where the temple stands is exactly called the Abu Mureikha area. The preparation for this temple building and, most importantly, the land allocation began in 2015. The area for its construction constitutes around 5.4 hectares, combining features such as a large amphitheater, a gallery, a library, a food court, a majlis, a garden, a children's play area, and two community halls with an accommodation capacity of nearly 5,000 people. The temple strictly follows the sacred Hindu methods and traditions of temple building. Indian artisans have gone to Abu Dhabi in thousands to make statues and carvings following the Hindu sculptural and architectural traditions. The stonework is most intricate to add an authentic aesthetic taste and visual exceptionalism. This explains the depth of the India-UAE bilateral rela-

tionship and the strength of the Indian diaspora in the UAE. Abu Dhabi is the fourth-largest investor in India and the third-largest trading partner. The 3.5 million Indian diaspora in the UAE is arguably the largest by the standard of an individual country. India's soft power diplomacy has been instrumental in reinvigorating the sense of the Indian diaspora's great pride in Indian heritage, culture, and civilisation and promoting the global resurgence of 'Bharatiya-Indianness' as a dharmic process that believes in universal well-being, mutual respect, and peace.

The 'Ahlam Modi' meaning 'Hello Modi' is scheduled for 13 February at the Sheikh Zayed Sports City Stadium in Abu Dhabi, just a day before the temple's inauguration. It also explains the popularity the Indian Prime Minister enjoys among the Indian diaspora. The zeal and enthusiasm of the diasporic community in

the inauguration of the BAPS Hindu Temple in Abu Dhabi amplified this dharmic and civilisational wave. The spirit of enthusiasm from both sides is reflected through the recent signing of four MoUs in the areas of healthcare, renewable energies, food park, aerospace, port, and other technologies between the Ministry of Investment of Dubai and the Government of India, and between the Government of Gujarat and (Dubai Port) DP World. Apart from the recent ones, the India-UAE bilateralism in export-import, port infrastructure, real estate, agriculture, space technology, defense equipment, herbal medicine, etc., has made remarkable achievements in various areas of engagement. The India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) to connect Europe involving India, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Israel, and Greece is a connectivity project in this direction. It embodies the

potential to revolutionise the import-export architecture between Asia and Europe. It will also decouple singular reliance on the Suez Canal to transport the cargo to the Mediterranean Sea to connect with Europe. In the event of an IMEC corridor, the stress and congestion emanating from the traffic in the Suez Canal linking the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden will be significantly eased. These developments keep India at the center of things, displaying India's diplomatic depth and soft power engagement in the region. No doubt, India is poised to be the Vishwaguru (World teacher), profoundly expanding the transnational knowledge space crisscrossing the territorial spatiality while reinforcing a strong sense of confidence among the Indian diaspora. BAPS Hindu Mandir in Abu Dhabi is a remarkable example of the diasporic rootedness in India's culture and its dedication to developing centers of Sanatan culture and spirituality overseas. Apart from BAPS Hindu Mandir, the UAE also has several Hindu and Buddhist temples and Gurudwara that include Shiva Temple (Dubai), Shree Krishna Haveli (Dubai), Shrinath Temple (Dubai), Shirdi Sai Baba Mandir (Dubai), Geeta Shanga (Sharjah), SMVS Mandir (Dubai), Gurudwara Mata Sahib Kaur ji (Abu Dhabi), Guru Nanak Darbar Gurudwara (Dubai), Mahamevnawa Buddhist Temple (Dubai), Lankaramaya

Buddhist Temple (Dubai), etc. This shows the strength of India-UAE bilateralism. It does not remain confined to commerce alone. It goes to the sphere of culture. On the scheduled inauguration of the BAPS Hindu temple, the Ambassador of the UAE to India, Abdunnasser Alshaali said, "It's going to be a phenomenal monumental day, a special occasion to celebrate tolerance and acceptance, and to further strengthen this relationship." The persistence of confidence and collaborative work has tirelessly contributed to building India's strong presence in West Asia through the UAE and other regional partners, which gives good dividends. The rise of India as a global player, its vibrant diaspora, civilisational value, and ethical gravity have cumulatively worked in its favor to emerge as a bankable partner. Its rich culture, inclusive outlook, youth energy and talent, significant strides in science and technology, art and culture, accommodative and enterprising people, and, more importantly, its ethical and spiritual value and unparalleled antiquity have attracted attention everywhere. The inclusivity that the Sanatana Dharma has shown to the world has generated significant interest across the globe. Bharat is the future and a global guide through virtue and spirituality. Its Yoga and Ayurveda have taught the world the incredible therapeutic dimensions they embody.

How another weak coalition in Islamabad will open a floodgate of issues for India

There is complete confusion among the ranks of analysts, both inside and outside Pakistan. Much-debated television debates and so-called expert commentators predicted that Imran Khan was destined to get a whopping vote and that the rest of the parties were history. As always, reality proved them wrong. What Pakistan is looking ahead to is yet another coalition, which means instability and, surprise, more space for army manoeuvring. Everyone now knows the extent of pre-poll match fixing. Not just Imran Khan and an entire cohort of his party leaders jailed, but the sheer overkill in even charging his wife

Bushra Bibi to seven years in jail, along with a Rs 0.5 million fine each, for "contracting marriage during the 'Iddat' (period of waiting)" of the former first lady. That was the third conviction of the former Prime Minister in a week, and the 'Iddat' case was widely seen as an attempt at character assassination when really nothing else was available. That's the key to Khan's success. No matter how much the army tries, it has not been able to prove personal corruption, other than a case on taking gifts meant for the prime ministerial office at a fraction of their price. That's peanuts in South Asian politics.

The rigging thereafter

White paper on the Indian economy: From fragility to stability

Delhi to bring back interstate bus service with e-buses next week

New Delhi: Delhi govt is going to resume its interstate bus service after nearly 15 years with a fleet of electric buses. The service will kick off on Sept 23 with six daily trips between Delhi and Baraut in Uttar Pradesh, a senior official has said.

The route has been selected as the pilot because of its strategic importance and suitability for electric vehicle operations. Baraut, located approximately 1.5 hours from Delhi, is an ideal route for e-buses, combining manageable travel time with increasing commuter demand, the official pointed out. The service will feature app-based digital ticketing with fares starting at Rs 125, offering a cashless ticketing experience.

"Baraut is chosen as it has been comparatively less connected via direct public transport options and people there expressed the need for better connectivity with



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, healthcare 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.

Delhi," said an official, who is part of the project. "The relatively short journey time

ensures that the electric buses can run without range issues," he added.

Activists laud involvement of RWAs, focus on Indian breeds

New Delhi: On Tuesday, the urban development department announced a new set of guidelines to strengthen Delhi govt's measures on management of street dogs. These guidelines cover key aspects such as population management, rabies eradication and reduction of human-dog conflicts, all in alignment with the Animal Birth Control (ABC) Rules, 2023. ABC Rules mandate a humane approach to managing community dog populations by requiring local bodies to capture, sterilise and vaccinate stray dogs before releasing them back into their original territories. The



new guidelines bring some clarity for NGOs and allow them to involve the residents' welfare associations in managing the street canines more effectively. SY Debi of Animal India Trust welcomed this change, saying that officially involving RWAs would improve the identification of feeding

points. "This brings more clarity amid the confusion after the municipal authority was made solely responsible for fixing the feeding spots for dogs," Debi said, adding that it would also benefit the feeders because they are more familiar with the dogs in their communities than NGOs or local civic authorities..

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.

BMW accident: Accused files for bail

New Delhi: Gaganpreet Makkad, accused in the BMW accident that claimed the life of Navjot Singh, deputy secretary in the Department of Economic Affairs, on Tuesday filed a bail application in a Delhi court, claiming there was no intent or negligence on her part. The bail hearing is scheduled for Wednesday. Makkad's plea contended that custodial interrogation is unnecessary as she has cooperated fully with the investigation, does not pose a flight risk, and is unlikely to tamper with evidence.

The court issued a notice to the prosecution and directed Tihar authorities to ensure Makkad receives medical care. She was sent to two-day judicial custody Monday after being arrested for culpable



homicide not amounting to murder. Her blood samples tested negative for alcohol, police said. Meanwhile, following a post-mortem at a west Delhi hospital, Singh's body was on Tuesday taken to the hospital in Dwarka where his wife, Sandeep Kaur, is currently admitted. Two stretchers were placed side

by side, one carrying Singh, the other for his wife. As she was shown his body one last time, Kaur broke down in tears, crying uncontrollably. Police inquiry revealed Nulife Hospital in GTB Nagar, where the injured couple were taken to by Makkad, is owned by her relatives.

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.

Rain leaves its mark on air, but pollution starts rising

New Delhi: Delhi's air quality has started deteriorating as the rain has paused. The city has seen five consecutive days of moderate air quality. The AQI was 121 on Tuesday. The last time Delhi saw a longer spell of consecutive moderate days was before June 18, before the arrival of the monsoon that hit the city on June 29. Experts said the improvement seen during the monsoon was due to back-to-back shower spells that washed away dust and suspended particles. Central Pollution



Control Board's data shows the AQI was in the satisfactory category on Sept 11 at 94. It worsened to 108, in the moderate range, on Sept 12. The AQI was 109 on Sept 13, 108 on Sept 14, 112 on Sept 15, and was 121 on Sept 16. India Meteorological Department's data

shows that Safdarjung, the city's base station, has not received rain since Sept 7. Sunil Dahiya, founder and lead analyst of the think tank EnviroCatalysts, said: "As soon as the monsoon started retreating from parts of the country, the pollution levels began to rise.

Elections: At DU, From Pamphlets To Playlists

New Delhi: Tuesday was the final day of campaigning for the Sept 18 Delhi University Students' Union (DUSU) elections — and the campus felt nothing like it once did.

Cluttered walls once plastered with pamphlets had now transformed into a high-voltage digital spectacle. While college-to-college interactions were still a big part of the process, a ban on printed pamphlets made this year's campaign take a dramatic leap into the world of social media — and it showed. Campaigning videos were choreographed at selected backdrops like film sets, complete with trending soundtracks and dramatic drone shots. Classroom rallies unfolded to catchy background music. Candidates hired PR firms, collaborated with influencers, and saturated social media



with a relentless flood of curated reels. Some teams posted over 30 reels a day — from fiery speeches and street plays to snappy slogans and behind-the-scenes moments — all carefully packaged for Gen-Z voters' screens. Both ABVP and NSUI set up dedicated 'social media war rooms' — buzzing nerve centres where campaign strategies were drawn, reels edited, and comment sections monitored in real time. ABVP has been recording podcasts with all four of its candidates.

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

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.

Delhi: Newlywed woman stabbed by 'stalker' in Mustafabad; accused arrested, victim critical

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

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 with the goal of bringing 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 neighbouring 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.

senior officer. She remains critical.

Delhi is singing its heart out at karaoke nights

As nightclubs slowly go out of style, music enthusiasts are finding solace in karaoke. Whether it's a post-work stress-buster or singing the weekend away, Delhi's karaoke bars have you covered. The tensions of the world melt away when you



belt out your favourite songs

with a bunch of friends (or friendly strangers). People now look for more intent in experiences, instead of just going out. "I feel most comfortable when I'm singing old classics at karaoke nights," says Sandhya, a regular at such

events. Hosts say that karaoke helps people feel seen by being on stage. "Even the shy attendees end up hogging the mic! It's quite a dopamine hit that people wait for all week," Ashish Ahuja, owner of a South Delhi pub says.

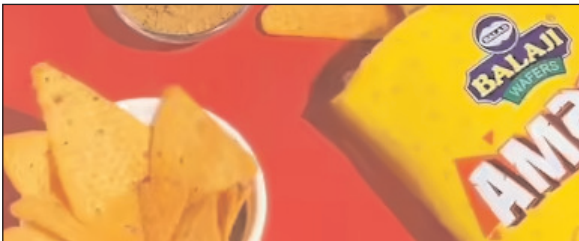
ITC, Temasek among dozen cos in race for 10% in Balaji Wafers

New Delhi: Over a dozen firms, including leading private equity firms, are in the fray to acquire a 10-15% stake in Balaji Wafers, where the promoters are diluting their stake, industry sources said.

PE firms, including Temasek, which recently acquired a 10% stake in Haldiram, along with TPG, ADIA (Abu Dhabi Investment Authority) and some 10 other VC/ PE names, are in discussion with the promoters to acquire a minority stake in Balaji Wafers.

Besides FMCG companies, ITC Foods is also in the race to acquire a stake in Gujarat-based Balaji Wafers, which has a strong presence in the chips, namkeen and confectionery products in central and western India.

The company's valuation is around \$3.5-4 billion, but the promoters are expecting around \$5 billion in valuation, sources said. ITC Foods, part of multi-conglomerate ITC, could be the likely suitor, they added. Balaji Wafers was



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

founded by Virani brothers who started by selling prepackaged snacks at a cinema canteen in the 1970s. They later started making their own potato wafers and namkeen

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.

snacks at home, eventually growing their business into a major Indian snack company. The brand name Balaji was inspired by a Hanuman Temple near their residence.

Groww files updated papers for Rs 7,000 crore IPO

Bengaluru:

Billionbrains Garage Ventures, the parent company of the investment platform Groww, filed its updated draft red herring prospectus (UDRHP) with Sebi for an IPO worth Rs 7,000 crore. The offer includes a fresh issuance of shares worth up to Rs 1,060 crore and an offer for sale (OFS) of up to 574.2 million shares by existing investors and promoters. Promoters Lalit



Keshre, Harsh Jain, Neeraj Singh, and Ishan Bansal will each sell up to 1 million shares. Major investors reducing stakes include Peak XV Partners, YC

Holdings II, Ribbit Capital, GW-E Ribbit Opportunity, and Internet Fund VI. The OFS component is expected in the range of Rs 5,000-6,000 crore.

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.

TikTok deal close? Why US wants China to divest

TikTok users in the United States could be spared a potential closure following the Trump administration's announcement of a framework agreement with China over the ownership of the popular social video platform. Trump, Xi to discuss final agreement

US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said on Monday in Madrid that President Donald Trump and Chinese Premier Xi Jinping will speak on Friday to potentially finalise the agreement. The plan aims to transi-



tion TikTok to American ownership. "The commercial terms have been agreed upon," Bessent said, without revealing specific details as the agreement involves private companies. China's international trade representative Li Chenggang

confirmed that both sides have reached a "basic framework consensus" on TikTok-related matters. Ownership and algorithm questions Oracle Corp. is reportedly a potential buyer, though the company has not commented publicly.

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%.

Thyssenkrupp sale: Jindal Steel makes bid for German steel unit

Jindal Steel International has made a non-binding offer to acquire Thyssenkrupp's steel division, the German conglomerate said Tuesday, in a move that could reshape Europe's traditional steel landscape. The bid, details of which were not disclosed, sent Thyssenkrupp shares soaring nearly 8% in Frankfurt trade, AFP reported.

The once-iconic German industrial major has been trying to exit its struggling steel arm — Thyssenkrupp Steel Europe (TKSE) — which has been battling high domestic costs and Asian competition. The group said it would "carefully review" the proposal from Jindal and pay "particular attention" to the implications for jobs.

Juergen Kerner, a workers' representative on Thyssenkrupp's



Govt allows companies to display revised MRP on old unsold packs

Delhi: As a comfort to packaged goods makers who were waiting for labelling and packaging clarity to figure out how to pass the GST gains on to customers, the government has authorized them to display revised MRPs on unsold old packs of items. But before the end of the

board, described the offer from the "growth-oriented" Indian steelmaker as positive for employees.

year, businesses must sell off their old inventory. The consumer affairs ministry announced on Tuesday that until December 31 or until supplies run out, whichever comes first, makers, packers, or importers of pre-packaged goods can show amended MRPs. The government has

"Jindal Steel has its own access to raw materials and expertise in the green transformation," he said.

EU to Give a Hand to India's Seafood Exports Following US Tariff

Delhi: After suffering under the US's harsh tariff regime, Indian seafood exporters are about to receive a vital lifeline in the EU. Shrimp exports, which were struck particularly hard by Washington's recent 50% tariff on Indian goods, could see



an immediate 20% increase, according to the Commerce Ministry. The European Union

(EU) cleared 102 new Indian fishing operations for export this month, effectively eliminating all pending permissions, marking a significant milestone. With the listings in place, which encompass aquaculture units, sea-caught processing factories, and cold

storage facilities, all of India's main seafood exporters can now begin shipping to the EU. India sent \$1.1 billion worth of seafood to the European Union in FY24, making it the country's second-biggest seafood export market.

US markets: Wall Street holds near record highs as Fed rate

US stocks hovered near record levels on Tuesday as investors counted down to the Federal Reserve's policy decision, widely expected to deliver the first rate cut of 2025. The S&P 500 slipped 0.2% after its latest all-time high, while the Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 169 points, or 0.4%.

The Nasdaq Composite was down 0.1% by mid-morning trade in New York, AP reported. Stocks have rallied this year on expectations that the Fed will begin a series of rate cuts to shore up a slowing jobs market, which many traders now see as a bigger threat to the economy



than inflation pressures stoked by President Donald Trump's tariffs. The Fed has so far held off on easing policy because inflation remains above its 2% target. Markets are betting on a 25-basis point cut on Wednesday, with Fed Chair Jerome Powell's press conference and the central bank's updated fore-

casts expected to draw heavy scrutiny. Tuesday's data showed US retail sales rose more than expected in August, though analysts said part of the increase reflected higher prices. While the report suggested household spending remains resilient, it did not shift expectations for imminent rate cuts.

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."

TN should appeal SC ruling on domicile quota

Delhi: A day after the Supreme Court banned domicile-based reservation in specialized and higher education including PG medical courses, MK Stalin's Tamil Nadu government declared it would file a review petition to vindicate its rights and uphold social justice. Health minister Ma Subramanian said the SC order would affect the state's 69% reservation and quotas for in-service applicants in government medical colleges and minorities in self-financing medical colleges. He said that the order would violate state rights. The Union government receives 15% of undergraduate medical seats and 50% of postgraduate medical and super speciality seats through the state quota each year. "All super spe-



cialty seats were lost. "TN gave government doctors a quota for super speciality courses after a court battle," he told reporters. He stated the Centre takes seats unfilled due to a lack of candidates. He said states invest fully in PG and super speciality medical education but share 50% of all-India quota seats. "Now, the judgment deprives us of all seats," Subramanian told reporters. According to him, the verdict will have a major impact on 2025-26 admissions but not 2024.

BBL: Melbourne Stars sign Adam Milne

Melbourne: The Melbourne Stars have signed New Zealand fast bowler Adam Milne to play in the Big Bash League (BBL) before Christmas. He will replace Pakistan leg-spinner Osama Mir, who will not be able to play in the first three matches of this season. The Stars are set to announce a new captain this week after Glenn Maxwell became captain at the end of last season. Maxwell is unlikely to be fit for the first match against the Perth Scorchers on December 15.

This IIM Got Rs 54 Lakh Highest Salary, Rs 5 Lakh Summer

Delhi: IIMs and other premier management institutes are conducting their final placement drives. Final placement season at IIM Mumbai began on November 25 and ended. Microsoft offered the highest remuneration, Rs 54 lakh per year. Coca-Cola paid a record Rs 5 lakh for a two-month summer internship. This year, 78 firms offered 373 jobs at IIM Mumbai's final placement season. Popular brands include Amazon, Microsoft, and Coca-Cola. IIM Mumbai placements saw a 15% boost in average stipend, according to a report. Top 10% of the



cohort received an average pay of Rs 48 lakh in job placements. Additionally, the top 50% of the batch received an average remuneration of Rs 35 lakh. IIM Mumbai ranks sixth in NIRF 2024. After being known as NITIE

Mumbai and then NIEE, it became the Indian Institute of Management in 2023, becoming the 21st IIM in the country. MBA registration at IIM Mumbai began on November 4. Registration ends January 31, 2025.

Hartek and NSS join hands to empower 50 disabled with prosthetic limbs

Chandigarh: Hartek Foundation, led by CEO Harkirat Kaur, has partnered with Narayan Seva Sansthan (NSS) to provide prosthetic limbs to 50 differently-abled individuals, taking a significant step toward building an inclusive

society. During a meeting in Mohali, NSS Director Palak Agarwal shared the organization's four-decade journey of humanitarian work, which includes free surgeries, distribution of prosthetic limbs, assistive devices, and

skill development programs benefiting lakhs across India. Inspired by NSS's impactful initiatives, Hartek Foundation pledged support to help restore mobility, self-reliance, and dignity to 50 individuals.

Hartek Foundation and Narayan Seva Sansthan join hands to empower 50 disabled with prosthetic limbs

Chandigarh: In a meaningful step towards fostering an inclusive society, Hartek Foundation under the leadership of CEO Harkirat Kaur has partnered with Narayan Seva Sansthan (NSS) to provide prosthetic limbs to 50 differently-abled individuals. The collaboration marks a shared commitment to empower and uplift those with physical disabilities, enabling them to regain mobility, self-reliance and dignity. On this occasion, Palak Agarwal, Director, Narayan Seva Sansthan met Harkirat Kaur in Mohali and discussed the organization's four-decade-long journey of humanitarian service which includes free surgeries, dis-



tribution of prosthetic limbs, assistive devices and skill development programs for lakhs of people across India. Inspired by NSS's impactful work, Hartek Foundation extended its support to help

50 individuals receive prosthetic limbs, giving them a new lease on life. Speaking on the occasion, Harkirat Kaur said that Narayan Seva Sansthan is not only working to uplift the differently abled

but also those overlooked by society. Thanking her counterpart, Palak Agarwal said this partnership goes beyond assistance as it brings hope and confidence to those who need it most.

Kerala cuts minority scholarships due to financial difficulties

Delhi : Kerala's government has cut minority community scholarships by 50%, putting thousands of students' education at risk, citing the financial crisis. Nine of the 11 minority welfare scholarship programs originally allotted Rs 13.6 crore are affected by the decision. The Government says the plan size reduction is a priority, but the disproportionate cut to minority student educational support raises questions about governmental priorities and social justice. Twitter shares The Prof Joseph Mundassery Scholarship, which received Rs 5.2 crore this



year, suffered most. It has saved Muslim, Sikh, Jain, and Parsi high-achieving children by paying Rs 10,000 to those who scored A-Plus in all SSLC subjects and Rs 15,000 to those who scored 80% in upper secondary or 75% in vocational higher secondary. It ensured that bright students from underprivileged backgrounds were not forced to drop

out due to financial constraints by prioritizing BPL students and providing provisions to economically weaker APL students. The crucial APJ Abdul Kalam Scholarship for minority students has also been cut in half. Those admitted to government-approved colleges on merit, with priority for BPL families, receive the Rs 6,000 grant.

The government of Maharashtra says it would not pay for eggs for the midday meal

Delhi : The opposition vehemently criticized the decision, as Maharashtra became the latest BJP-ruled state to ban eggs from midday meals for students in grades 1 through 8. The school education department changed the list of foods served during midday meals in a government resolution this week, eliminating the inclusion of sugar and eggs. Rather, it instructed schools to serve nachni sattu and "egg pulao" as optional meals. Nonetheless, it stated that these things, as well as sugar for desserts, had to be organized by the general public without the need for further government support. The state has changed the list to adhere to the meal items prescribed by the Center, accord-



ing to an official who defended the action. While some states use their own resources to offer eggs, the federal government, which provides 60% of the funding for midday meals, does not include them in its list. Goa and Madhya Pradesh recently banned eggs due to criticism from some groups. Aaditya Thackeray, a Sena (UBT) MLA, criticized the move and questioned why the government chose to substitute rice kheer and nachni sattu for eggs and sugar.

Adani cancels \$533mn US port loan in Sri Lanka

Delhi: After US securities and wire fraud allegations, Gautam Adani's Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone withdrew from a finance deal with a US agency for a Sri Lankan port terminal project and used its own resources. After the US indictment, American loans are harder to get. The US International Development Finance Corporation (IDFC) agreed to lend \$553 million to Sri Lanka. 's

Indian students in Canada panic as Ottawa requests docs again

Delhi: Indian students in Canada have reported receiving emails to resubmit study permits, visas, and educational records, including marks and attendance. IRCC, a federal department that handles foreign students, issued a request that panicked international students, many of whom have two-year visas. In response to the inflow of overseas students, IRCC is tightening its financial criteria and considering limitations on admissions. I was surprised by the email. My visa is valid till 2026, however I was requested to resubmit all my documentation. "Avinash Kaushik, "They even want proof of attendance, marks, where we are working part-time, etc.," he said. Punjabi students reported a similar increase in emails last week. Some were



Indian students have made up a large portion of Canada's rising international student enrollment. The ministry of external affairs reports that Canada has 4.2 lakh Indian students, followed by the US with 3.3 lakh.

required to verify their credentials at IRCC headquarters in person. "Many students are confused and worried," Indian students have made up a large portion of Canada's rising international student enrollment. The ministry of external affairs reports that Canada has 4.2 lakh Indian students, followed by the US with 3.3 lakh. The sudden

email flood left pupils unsure about their future. "We chose Canada for its welcoming environment, but this unfair," said Adilabad-based business management student in British Columbia. Students want IRCC to clarify and resolve their concerns. For now, urge students to submit documents quickly to avoid difficulties. "

IIT Kharagpur teachers petition governors. Restore HoD positions

Delhi: The IIT Kharagpur Teachers' Association (IITTA) urged the institute's board of governors to expunge show-cause notices issued to 86 faculty members, restore their administrative positions, and protect the association's office bearers from arbitrary or retaliatory actions amid the faculty-administration dispute. In September, the IIT Kharagpur teachers' association accused director Virendra Kumar Tewari of "nepotism" and "arbitrary faculty recruitment" in a letter to the Union Ministry of Education, sparking a confrontation. They wanted an academically qualified, inclusive governance-experienced successor. When the administration sent show-cause notices to IITTA office bearers and disciplined them for not answering within seven days, tensions rose. Show cause notices were sent to 86 academic members who signed a petition support also said people who answered or apologized eral body meeting the IITTA approached the board of governors. They worry the administration may act fast and deny office bearers a fair hearing, further undermining trust.

Tiranga Yatra Pays Tribute to Armed Forces

Chandigarh: Nearly 500 people especially from the Sikh community, participated in the Tiranga Yatra organised by Dr. Jagmohan Singh Raju (Retd. IAS) with blessings from Sant Baba Pritpal Singh Ji. Beginning at Gurdwara GurSagar Sahib near Sukhna Lake and ending at Gurudwara Sahib, Sector 7, the procession celebrated patriotism and communal harmony. Participants carried the Indian Flag and Nishan Sahib, accompanied by a live band playing patriotic tunes. Leaders from Sikh, Hindu, Muslim, and Christian communities joined in. Dr. Raju called the Yatra a tribute to the Armed Forces and a symbol of India's strength and unity.

'Physical, technical external interference': Azerbaijan Airlines

Azerbaijan Airlines on Friday revealed that initial investigation into the crash of its aircraft in Kazakhstan that killed 38 was likely due to "external interference of a physical and technical nature", fuelling discussions about potential involvement of Russian air defence systems. The airline has also halted operations to 10 airports in Russia, stating their decision was "based on the preliminary results of the investigation into the crash of the Embraer 190 aircraft operating the Baku-Grozny flight J2-8243 of Azerbaijan Airlines due to physical and technical external interference". This comes after, Russia, earlier in the day, put the blame on Ukraine, claiming that Ukrainian drones were attacking the city of Grozny as the Azerbaijani Airlines plane attempted to land, before its subsequent crash in Kazakhstan. "Ukrainian military



drones were carrying out terrorist attacks on civilian infrastructure... at the time," Chief of Russia's civil aviation authority Dmitry Yadrov said, adding that the plane made two unsuccessful attempts to land. "The pilot was offered alternative airports. He took the decision to go to Aktau airport" in Kazakhstan, he said. Also read: 'Ukrainian military was carrying out terrorist attacks when Azerbaijani flight tried to land,' claims Russia However, Ukraine has put the blame on Russia and said, "Russia must be held responsible for the downing of the Azerbaijan Airlines .

Balaji's mother opens up on his death: 'It doesn't look normal'

Balaji, who played a key role in organising data for OpenAI's models, resigned in August, calling its practices unfair. By November, The New York Times' lawyers named him as a key figure in their copyright case against OpenAI. However, on November 26, shortly after his 26th birthday, Balaji was found dead in his San apartment. Authorities ruled his death a suicide, yet his family remains unconvinced, pushing for a deeper investigation.

Elon criticises Bezos' ex-wife Scott for \$16 billion donation

Tech mogul Elon Musk described the philanthropic efforts of MacKenzie Scott, the ex-wife of Amazon founder Jeff Bezos, as "concerning." His comment came in response to a social media post scrutinising Scott's extensive donations, alleging that her initiatives primarily fund non-profits promoting divisive ideologies rather than addressing pressing global issues. The post highlighted Scott's "trust-based philanthropy," which involves providing no-strings-attached grants to over 2,500 non-profits. It alleged that her focus on causes such as racial



equity, immigrant rights, and LGBTQ justice feeds what the post described as an "NGO/non-profit complex," creating jobs for individuals seeking to validate their expensive degrees. The post further detailed Scott's \$16 billion in donations over

five years, noting her wealth remains substantial at \$36 billion, boosted by Amazon's rising stock price. Scott, the ex-wife of Amazon founder Jeff Bezos, has become one of the most prolific philanthropists in recent years.

MAGA Civil War: Why Indian-Americans, the new Jews, are irking Donald Trump supporters

There's a theory out there—wild, audacious, but surprisingly hard to dismiss—that just about everything worth celebrating in Western civilization was dreamed up, built, or perfected by Jews. From splitting the atom to decoding life itself, from rewriting the

rules of music to redefining what it means to be human, Jewish brilliance turned the world into their intellectual playground. Let's take a stroll down the hall of fame: J. Robert Oppenheimer, the "father of the atomic bomb," quite literally blew the lid off 20th-

century science. Albert Einstein, the cosmic poet, bent time and space to his will. Jonas Salk saved millions from polio, and Rosalind Franklin cracked the code of life itself with her DNA discoveries. And that's just the lab coats.

CNN's Scott Jennings mocks Vivek for 'prom queen' dig: 'Someone got stuffed in a locker'

CNN's Scott Jennings made fun of Vivek Ramaswamy's rant against the American culture over the H-1B row and without naming the DOGE co-chief, Jennings said someone got stuffed in a locker. "I'm not going to say who. Look, I think there's a way to talk about this that doesn't denigrate all of American culture," Jennings said without covering his feelings of hurt caused by Ramaswamy's strong words against America's prom queen culture. "I'm now understanding more and more how he got 100 votes in Iowa or whatever it was he got during the Iowa caucus," Jennings said taking another dig at Ramaswamy who had challenged Donald Trump in the



Republican primaries but got a very poor electoral support in Iowa which prompted him to end his campaign following which he endorsed Trump. After Trump's win in the election, Trump made Vivek Ramaswamy the co-chief of the Department of Government Efficiency along with Elon Musk.

The row goes back to Sriram Krishnan's advocacy

for removing the visa cam for countries.

Sriram Krishnan will work for artificial intelligence at the White House but the Indian-American's lobbying for more Indians in America by removing the cap on H-1B visas ruffled many feathers of Make America Great Again activists. But Elon Musk, Vivek Ramaswamy supported Sriram Krishnan's idea.

'Settle issues' of 1971, Yunus urges Pakistan PM, but mum on apology

Bangladesh's chief adviser, Muhammad Yunus, urged Pakistani PM Shehbaz Sharif to resolve outstanding issues from 1971 to improve bilateral relations. While Sharif highlighted the 1974 tripartite agreement, Yunus emphasized the importance of a SAARC summit. Both leaders agreed to strengthen ties through trade, cultural exchanges, and cooperation in areas like sugar industry and dengue management.

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



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

tool, aiming to create controversy around them. He clarified that military courts only handle cases involving attacks on defence establishments, citing incidents such as the attack on the Corps Commander's House in Lahore. The minister also criticised the PTI for changing its stance regarding trials of civilians in the military courts, recalling that during Khan's tenure, military court trials were praised. "The statements praising the military courts from PTI's leadership are still available on social media.

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

DHAKA: Bangladesh is set to receive its first consignment of rice imported from India since the formation of the new interim govt even as it looks to be drawing closer to Pakistan than to its immediate neighbour India, which stood beside Bangladesh in 1971 through shared sacrifices. Bangladesh had witnessed ships



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

agreement. The unloading of the rice will start soon after samples of the rice are collected and after physical examination, said a senior Bangladesh food ministry official. Talking to diplomatic correspondents in Dhaka recently, Indian high commissioner to Bangladesh Pranay Verma had said he was optimistic about Dhaka-Delhi relationship despite changes happening around. "This we look at the relationship. We have so many things to offer each other with our growing.

Pak military court sentence 60 more civilians, including Imran's nephew

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's military courts sentenced another 60 civilians on Thursday to prison terms ranging from two to 10 years for their alleged involvement in violent attacks on military installations during the nationwide protests on May 9, 2023 following the brief arrest of jailed former prime minister Imran Khan on graft charges. The latest sentences were announced just days after the same courts handed prison terms ranging from two to 10 years to 25 civilians on similar allegations. Imran's nephew Hassan Khan Niazi, who was taken into military custody in Aug 2023, was one of two people sentenced to 10 years' rigorous imprisonment. The convictions followed a Supreme Court constitution bench order that had



Imran's nephew Hassan Khan Niazi, who was taken into military custody in Aug 2023, was one of two people sentenced to 10 years' rigorous imprisonment

conditionally allowed military courts to pronounce verdicts on 85 under-custody civilians in cases related to the May 9 riots. "The Field General Court Martial has promulgated the punishments to the following remaining 60 culprits after examining all evidence, ensuring the provision of all legal rights to the convicts, completion of due process and the

appropriate legal proceedings," Inter-Services Public Relations, the army's media wing, said. "All convicts retain the right to appeal and other legal recourses, as guaranteed by the constitution and law.

" it stated. "The nation, govt, and the armed forces remain steadfast in their commitment to upholding justice and

Vietnam's restrictive internet law comes into force

A new internet law in Vietnam, Decree 147, gives the government increased control over internet access and content in the name of national security and social order. It mandates tech companies to store user data, verify accounts, and remove deemed illegal content within 24 hours. Critics argue this suppresses free speech and impacts livelihoods. A new internet law that gives the Vietnamese government expanded powers over internet services and people using them is set to officially take effect Wednesday. Decree 147 expands government control over access to information on the internet for reasons of "national security" and "social order." The law requires social media platforms providing services to users in Vietnam to store user data and provide it to authorities on demand. The government issued the decree this November, and it requires organizations to take down anything the authorities consider "illegal content" within 24 hours. Decree 147 has sparked concerns, with researchers and experts tracking the country saying that the law is part of a growing crackdown on civil society. "Because the Vietnamese police treat any criticism of the Communist Party of Vietnam as a national security matter, this decree will provide them with yet another tool to suppress dissent," said Patricia Gossman, associate Asia director at Human Rights Watch. The decree requires tech giants like Facebook and TikTok among other organizations.,

