

AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

Title Code - UPENG04488

NATIONAL ENGLISH DAILY

MORNING EDITION PRAYAGRAJ Wednesday, 12 November, 2025 UNIQUE GIFT OF KRIYAYOGA ASHRAM AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE TO GIVE IMPETUS TO WORLD BUILDING AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT.

Uttar Pradesh earns national recognition in the Sixth National Water Awards 2024

New Delhi/Lucknow

Uttar Pradesh has added another feather to its cap with its outstanding performance in the Sixth National Water Awards 2024, announced by the Central Government. Mirzapur has been declared the Best District in the Northern Zone, while the Agra Municipal

Corporation secured joint third place in the Best Urban Local Body (ULB) category. This achievement underscores the success of the double-engine government's vision of "Har Ghar Nal, Har Khet Ko Pani." This recognition highlights the state significant strides in water conservation and public participa-



tion. The accomplishments of Mirzapur and Agra are setting new benchmarks for effective water management across the

country. Under the leadership of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Mirzapur has effectively implemented the Jal Jeevan

Mission and Atal Bhujal Yojana, leading to the revival of reservoirs, construction of drains and expansion of irrigation facilities in rural areas. Active participation by panchayats and local youth has made these initiatives highly successful with several villages recording a rise in groundwater levels through rainwa-

ter harvesting and pond rejuvenation projects. The Agra Municipal Corporation, on the other hand, has emerged as a model for urban water conservation through innovative practices. It recycles treated water from Sewage Treatment Plants (STP) for use in parks and industries.

Urban Development Minister A.K Sharma announces major relief for the people of the state

Lucknow

Uttar Pradesh Urban Development and Energy Minister A.K. Sharma has announced a historic decision in the interest of millions of electricity consumers of the state by launching the "Electricity Bill Relief Scheme 2025." Under this scheme, never-paid and long-unpaid consumers will be provided significant relief. The announcement was made by A.K Sharma during a press conference at Sangam Auditorium. Additional Chief Secretary Shri Narendra Bhushan, Chairman Ashish Goel and Managing Director Pankaj Kumar were also present on the occasion. Under the Electricity Bill Relief Scheme 2025, a historic decision has been taken to grant a 100% waiver on surcharge and up to 25% rebate on the principal amount on lump-sum payment of dues. The Energy Minister described this initiative as a "gift from the government and an unprecedented effort towards public participation." He said that the state government goal is to ensure that no consumer remains burdened by unpaid electricity bills and that the power distribution system becomes financially stronger. This scheme will not only generate significant revenue for the government but also provide major financial relief to both domestic and commercial consumers.

100% Waiver on surcharge and up to 25% rebate on principal for Lump-Sum payments

Sharma informed that under the scheme, if a consumer pays the outstanding bill in a lump sum, they will receive a 100% waiver on surcharge and a rebate on the principal amount as follows:



Phase 1 (December 1-31, 2025): 25% rebate
Phase 2 (January 1-31, 2026): 20% rebate
Phase 3 (February 1-28, 2026): 15% rebate

The Minister appealed to citizens to register during the first phase to avail the maximum benefits, stating, "Those who register and pay earlier will receive greater benefits."

Benefits for both domestic and commercial consumers

The scheme will be applicable to domestic consumers (up to 2kW) and commercial consumers (up to 1kW). Moreover, relief provisions have also been made for cases related to electricity theft. Consumers involved in such cases due to technical or metering errors will also be eligible for relief.

Installment facility for the poor and middle-class consumers

The Energy Minister stated that keeping in view the convenience of poor and middle-class consumers, the government has also provided a facility for payment through monthly installments. This will enable consumers who cannot pay their dues in one go to still benefit from the scheme and clear their outstanding bills. The initiative will promote economic empowerment and self-reliance among lakhs of small consumers in the state.

Instructions to search for every culprit of Delhi blast

New Delhi

Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Tuesday that security agencies have been directed to track down every culprit behind the Delhi bombings. A high-level security review meeting was held at his residence, chaired by Home Minister Shah. The meeting was attended by the Union Home Secretary, the Director of the Intelligence Bureau (IB), the Delhi Police Commissioner, and the Director General of the NIA, while the Director General of Police of Jammu and Kashmir participated via video conferencing. In a post on the social media platform X, Home Minister Shah said, "Chaired a review meeting with senior officials on the Delhi car bombings. Instructed them to track down every cul-



prit behind this incident. Everyone involved in this act will face severe punishment from our agencies." Sources said that the meeting discussed in detail the preliminary progress of the investigation and the possible terrorist angle to the blast. It is noteworthy that at around 6:52 pm on Monday, a powerful explosion ripped through a car parked at a traffic signal near Gate No. 1 of Delhi's Red Fort Metro Station, killing ten people and injuring 20. Several vehicles were damaged in the blast.

Expressing her deepest condolences to the families affected by the devastating explosion in the Red Fort area, Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta announced compensation for the families of the deceased and the injured. The Chief Minister stated that this accident is extremely tragic and heartbreaking. According to the Chief Minister, the untimely loss of any loved one is an irreparable loss for a family, one that no one can compensate. The Delhi government stands firmly with

every affected family in this difficult time. The Chief Minister announced an ex-gratia of 10 lakh to the next of kin of each person killed in the explosion. The Chief Minister also stated that proper treatment and financial assistance should be provided promptly to the injured so that no victim suffers due to lack of treatment. A compensation of 5 lakh will be provided to those temporarily disabled in the explosion. In addition, those seriously injured will receive 2 lakh, and those with minor injuries will receive ₹20,000. The Chief Minister stated that this accident in the Red Fort area is a profound shock not only for the affected families but for the entire Delhi. He said that all Delhiites stand united in this hour of grief.



Voters show their identity cards as they queue up to cast their votes, at a polling booth during the second phase of Bihar Assembly Elections 2025, at Madhya Vidyalaya Loco, in Gaya.

Adequate availability of fertilizers in Uttar Pradesh - Agriculture Minister Surya Pratap Shahi

Lucknow

A fertilizer review meeting was convened on Tuesday in the new building of the Legislative Assembly under the chairmanship of Uttar Pradesh Agriculture Minister Surya Pratap Shahi. The minister informed the meeting that currently, 12.68 lakh metric tons of urea, 3.87



lakh metric tons of DAP, 4.11 lakh metric tons of NPK, 2.74 lakh metric tons

of SSP, and 0.85 lakh metric tons of MOP fertilizers are available for purchase by farmers in the state. He stated that the state government is in constant contact with the Government of India to ensure smooth supply of fertilizers and that farmers will not face any shortages. The meeting was also informed that between November 1

and November 10, 2025 sales of 1.82 lakh metric tons of urea, 1.93 lakh metric tons of DAP, and 1.19 lakh metric tons of NPK were recorded in the state. Through cooperative societies alone, farmers have purchased 49,513 metric tons of urea, 94,423 metric tons of DAP and 38,317 metric tons of NPK fertiliz-

Bihar: 11 exit polls predict NDA majority

New Delhi

Exit polls for the 2025 Bihar Assembly elections have been released. According to these, the BJP-led NDA alliance appears to be returning to power with a clear majority. Almost all major survey agencies have given the NDA a lead of 130 to 180 seats, while the RJD-led Grand Alliance appears to be lagging behind. Let's take a look at what the data from all the agencies is indicating.

Matriz IANS

According to Matriz IANS, the NDA has won 147 to 167 seats. The Grand Alliance has been given 70 to 90 seats. Others are projected to win 2 to 6 seats. Prashant Kishore, who campaigned

vigorously in the Bihar elections, has not been given a single seat by this exit poll. People's Pulse Poll This poll has projected the NDA to win 133 to 159 seats, while the Grand Alliance has been projected to win 75 to 101 seats. Meanwhile, Jan Suraj has been given 0 to 5 seats, and others 2 to 8 seats. This survey also shows the NDA leading.

JVC Poll

According to the JVC poll, the NDA has been given 135 to 150 seats. The Grand Alliance is projected to win 88 to 103 seats. Jan Suraj may be limited to 0-1 seats, and others 3 to 6 seats. This survey also shows the BJP alliance close to a clear majority.

Uttarakhand Silver Jubilee Celebrated in Delhi Assembly, Discussions Held on Self-Employment and Entrepreneurship

Delhi: A grand Silver Jubilee celebration was held in the Delhi Assembly on Uttarakhand State Foundation Day. The event was presided over by Assembly Deputy Speaker Mohan Singh Bisht. The event was organized under the auspices of the Himalayan Resources Enhancement Society as part of Business Uttarayani Meets, which aims to promote self-employment and entrepreneurship in Uttarakhand. The pro-



gram was conducted by Neeraj Bawadi, and the welcome address was given by Advocate Mahesh Singh Bisht. The program, which began with the lighting of the lamp, was attended by several eminent personalities, including Dr. R.S.

Rautela, Durga Singh Bhandari, Sushila Rawat, Dr. Satish Kaleshwari, Dinesh Dhyan, Gopal Uniyal and Asha Badola. Topics such as education, health, migration, culture, and self-employment were discussed and 25 repre-

sentatives were honored with the Business Uttarayani Excellence in Service Award 2025. In his presidential address, Bisht paid tribute to the martyrs of the statehood movement and praised the development work being carried out under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami. Durga Singh Bhandari concluded the program by expressing gratitude to all the participants.

Entry of Muslims into the Braj Bhoomi Yatra should be banned

[touchwithworld.com](#)

Ajeet Chauhan Mathura: In light of the terrorist incident in Delhi, anger against Muslim is growing within the saint community. Today, they wrote a letter to the Chief Minister demanding that no Muslim be allowed to enter Braj Bhoomi during the upcoming Bageshwar Maharaj Yatra. Dinesh Falahari Maharaj, the main petitioner in the Shri Krishna Janmabhoomi Temple case, has even said that if any Muslim is found illegally entering Braj Bhoomi during Bageshwar Maharaj Padyatra, he will be blackened. Considerable anger has also been seen within the saint community regarding Muslims.

Floods, landslides prompt government to tighten norms for highway project preparation

NEW DELHI: The road transport ministry has made it mandatory to include a dedicated analysis based on datasets from the National Database for Emergency Management (NDEM) in the preparation of all highway project reports. This decision comes amid increasing instances of roads, particularly in hilly areas, being washed away due to heavy rain and landslides. NDEM has been developed and maintained by the National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) and Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), and the portal serves as a comprehensive geospa-



tial platform for disaster management, risk assessment, and infrastructure planning. It hosts multi-temporal satellite data, thematic layers, and decision support tools for monitoring natural hazards such as floods, landslides, droughts, and cyclones. In a communication to all states and highway agencies, the ministry has

said the dedicated analysis based on NDEM datasets must include use of flood-plain, digital elevation models (DEMs) and land use layers to identify optimal alignment to minimise exposure to natural hazards while deciding alignments. These must integrate flood extent and river basin layers to plan adequate cross-drainage structures and prevent future inundation issues, and landslide risk mapping in case of hill roads. "All alignment approval proposals to be placed before the different committees shall indicate if the analysis on NDEM has been carried out."

Scale of blast hints at military-grade explosives, clarity likely in a few days

NEW DELHI: There is mystery over the kind of explosive or chemical used in Monday's blast with the forensics and NSG's explosive wing yet to submit their report. However, prima facie assessment points towards the use of military-grade explosives, given the scale of damages and casualties. Sources said investigators on Tuesday sought an opinion from forensics on whether PETN, semtex or RDX could have been used. The initial assessment also points towards



the possible use of ammonium nitrate fuel oil and detonators. The nitrate oil is used both industrially and in improvised explosive devices due to its easy availability and cost-effectiveness. The forensic teams have collected roughly 42 exhibits from the site and

put them through lab testing. The exhibits include the i20 car's tyres, chassis, CGC cylinder and parts of the bonnet, besides other residues and traces of powder found at the site. They will help determine the types of high-exposure materials used in the explosion.

Pentaerythritol tetranitrate, or PETN, is a major ingredient of semtex and belongs to the same chemical family as nitroglycerin. One of the most powerful explosives, it is preferred by terrorists because its colourless crystals are hard to detect. A very small quantity of this explosive is required to carry out a blast in comparison to other chemicals. For example, the explosive substance used in the foiled transatlantic air freight bomb plot in 2010.

CM Says – “Vande Mataram is the Soul of Living India” Those who eat the nation grain but hesitate to say Vande Mataram – their true identity must be known

Barabanki

On Monday afternoon the historic land of Jhansapurwa resounded with patriotic fervor as Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath declared, “Nothing is above the nation.” From distributing chocolates to children to handing over certificates and cheques to beneficiaries, the entire event became a remarkable symbol of public welfare and nationalism. As the CM reached the stage, chants of “Bharat Mata ki Jai” and “Sardar Patel Amar Rahein” filled the air, while a collec-



tive rendition of “Vande Mataram” electrified the atmosphere. (Industrial & Employment Zones to be Set Up in Every District in the Name of Patel) The Chief Minister announced that Industrial and Employment Zones would be developed across all districts of Uttar Pradesh in the memory of Iron Man

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, each spread over 100 acres. These zones will create new job opportunities for local youth. “Patel united India, now it is our duty to build a New India in his memory,” CM Yogi said. “Every young person must take part in this great mission of national development.” Launching a sharp

attack on those who oppose Vande Mataram the CM said, “When the nation is secure, we are secure. When the nation is united, we are united. The greatest obstacle to national unity comes from those who stand against Vande Mataram.” He added, “Identify those who stand first in line to take benefits of government schemes but refuse to sing Vande Mataram.

This hypocrisy is dangerous for the nation.” The Chief Minister inaugurated and laid the foundation for 254

development projects worth 1734 crore in Barabanki. These include initiatives related to roads, irrigation, drinking water, industrial growth, agriculture and women empowerment. He inspected various exhibitions and praised self-help groups, youth, and farmers, saying, “Development is meaningful only when every citizen becomes part of it. (CM Reviews ODOP Exhibition) Before reaching the main venue, CM Yogi visited the One District, One Product (ODOP) exhibition.

Clash Over Land Dispute in Ababar Village; Four Booked for Breach of Peace



Auraiya

A land dispute between two groups in Ababar village under Dibiapur police station limits escalated into a physical clash on Tuesday, with both sides allegedly using sticks and rods. A video of the incident went viral on social media, prompting police to take swift action. On receiving the information, police reached the spot and conducted an inquiry. Following the investigation, Sub-Inspector Jai Prakash Singh booked four individuals from both sides under preventive action for breach of peace. Those booked include Santosh Kumar (45), son of Ramnaresh Gupta and Ramnaresh (72), son of

Manna Lal, residents of Avanti Bai Medical Store, Sahiyal Road, Dibiapur and Dileep and Madanlal Gupta, sons of Kriparam Gupta, residents of Ababar Village. The accused were brought to the police station and a preventive challan was filed against them. Meanwhile, several people reached the police station to seek the release of the detained individuals. However, Station House Officer Rudra Pratap Narayan Tripathi stated that since the matter involves a land dispute and the video of the clash has circulated online, police are taking the incident seriously. “The dispute is between two parties over land.

Security Tightened at Achalda Railway Station, Agencies Conduct Intensive Checking Drive



Auraiya

In the wake of the recent blast in Delhi, security agencies across Uttar Pradesh have been put on high alert. As part of enhanced surveillance measures, an intensive checking drive was conducted at Achalda Railway Station late Monday night and again on Tuesday evening. The campaign continued for the second consecutive day. The operation was carried out under the leadership of Achalda Station House Officer (SHO) Pankaj Mishra, Naib Tehsildar Harikishore and Intelligence Unit officials Deep Singh and Deepak Sharma. Security personnel thoroughly inspected luggage, bags and belongings of passengers arriving at and departing from the station with

special focus on identifying suspicious individuals. The intelligence team also conducted a detailed search of the platforms, waiting rooms and the ticket booking area. Passengers were sensitised about maintaining vigilance and urged to immediately report any suspicious activity to the police. SHO Pankaj Mishra stated that the drive is a precautionary measure aimed at preventing any untoward incident. “Following the Delhi blast, surveillance by police and intelligence units has been intensified across the district. Patrolling at railway stations and other key locations has also been increased,” he said. Station Superintendent Anil Tyagi along with additional police personnel was present during the checking operation.

A middle-aged man was crushed to death by a bus, his body trapped in the tire and dragged for 50 meters

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Harraipur Kaushambi. As a tourist bus carrying school students from a Prayagraj school on a picnic approached Dhanni village, under the jurisdiction of the Muratganj police station, the bus crushed a middle-aged man who was going to the toilet. The man's body became stuck in the bus tire and was dragged for 50 meters on the road. The middle-aged man died a painful death. The villagers were enraged by the accident, and a large crowd gathered on the road. The villagers blocked the Kanpur Prayagraj



National Highway and began vandalizing the tourist bus, forcing the students aboard to flee. Upon receiving information about the blockade following the accident, a heavy police force arrived at the scene. After much persuasion, the villagers were pacified and the body of the deceased was taken into custody and sent for post-mortem. According to

information, on Tuesday morning, a tourist bus carrying school students from Prayagraj city was going on a picnic. As the bus approached Dhanni village, under the jurisdiction of the Muratganj police station, a resident of Dhanni village Sharda Prasad, approximately 52, son of Baiju Saroj, was crossing the road when he was hit by a bus.

He became entangled in the tire and was dragged for 50 meters, resulting in his tragic death. The accident sparked an uproar in the village, and villagers took to the streets, blocked the road, and vandalized the bus. All the students were pulled out by breaking the glass. Upon receiving information about the incident, the police station and outpost arrived at the scene, pacified the villagers, and after convincing them to end the protest, they took possession of the bodies and sent them for post-mortem. The school students on the bus boarded another private bus and left for a picnic.

All police stations in the Ganganagar Zone are demonstrating a new dimension of women's empowerment: Girls are becoming empowered



under the direction of the Police Commissioner, Prayagraj, Additional Police

Commissioner, and under the able supervision of DCP Ganganagar Kuldeep Singh

Gunawat and Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police Ganganagar Pushkar Verma, the Mission Shakti team at all police stations in the Ganganagar Zone on Tuesday created awareness among women and daughters. Keeping in view their respect and rights, Mission Shakti teams of all police stations went to major markets, towns, educational institutions, religious places and other places and crowded

areas and informed them about the Women Power Line 1090, Women Help Line 181, CM Help Line 1076, Police Emergency Service 112 and Cyber ?? Help Line 1930. It was also told that the team made the girls aware by giving them information about cyber security and advised them to use social media cautiously. At the same time, women were being informed about the schemes run by the government like Chief

Minister Mass Marriage Scheme, Sukanya Samridhi Scheme, Kanya Sumangala Scheme, Widow Pension Scheme etc. During this, it was being told that if women have any kind of problem, they should not panic. Now a Mission Shakti Centre has been established in every police station, the purpose of which is that it has been created only to listen to and resolve the problems of women.

In this regard, an intensive checking campaign was conducted at Jasra Railway Station on Tuesday under the leadership of ACP

Prayagraj on high alert after Delhi blast, intensive checking continued for hours at Jasra Railway Station

Prayagraj. Following the blast in Delhi late Monday evening, police and administration across North India have been put on high alert. Security has been tightened in Prayagraj district as well. In this regard, an intensive checking campaign was conducted at Jasra Railway Station on Tuesday under the leadership of ACP Kaundhiyara Abdus Salam Khan and Ghurpur Police Station in-charge Dinesh Singh. Following



the blast in Delhi on Monday evening, Prayagraj Police have tightened security meas-

ures in the district. In view of potential security threats, ACP Kaundhiyara Abdus

Salam Khan and Ghurpur Police Station in-charge Dinesh Singh jointly conducted a special checking campaign at Jasra Railway Station on Tuesday. During the operation, police teams thoroughly checked passengers' luggage, tickets, and identity cards. The station's platforms, waiting rooms, toilets, foot overbridges, and surrounding areas were also searched. Police questioned every suspicious person present and asked

for travel documents from many. Security forces instructed personnel deployed at the railway station to remain vigilant and immediately report any suspicious activity.

During the checking, police also checked unattended items and bags to ensure no objectionable or explosive material was present on the station premises. ACP Abdus Salam Khan stated that this checking campaign

was carried out as a precautionary measure. He added, “Following the Delhi incident, a high alert has been issued in the district. Police surveillance has been increased at all sensitive locations to prevent any untoward incident.” Station in-charge Dinesh Singh also stated that in addition to Jasra railway station, police teams are continuously patrolling nearby markets, bus stands, and public places.

RPF Conducts Intensive Checking Drive for Second Consecutive Day at Fafund Railway Station

Auraiya

In view of the high alert issued following the bomb blast near Delhi Red Fort Metro Station, security has been tightened across the region. As part of enhanced security measures, the Railway Protection Force (RPF) carried out an intensive checking campaign for the second consecutive day at Fafund Railway Station on Tuesday. The checking operation was led by RPF Inspector N.K. Yadav, accompanied by his team and personnel from the Government Railway Police (GRP). During the inspection, luggage, platforms, waiting areas and other sensitive points in the station premises were thoroughly checked. No suspicious object or person was found during the drive. Inspector Yadav stated that strict checking and surveillance



at Fafund station will continue until further orders. Earlier on Monday night, District Magistrate Auraiya Dr. Indramani Tripathi and Superintendent of Police Abhishek Bharti conducted a foot patrol at Fafund Railway Station and other crowded areas. The Dog Squad was also deployed to inspect suspicious individuals and vehicles. Officers interacted with the public and urged them to remain alert, assuring them of adequate security arrangements.

The Divisional Commissioner conducted a department-wise review of the works undertaken by various departments under the Mahakumbh project

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Prayagraj. On Tuesday, in the ICCC auditorium at the Mela Authority office, under the chairmanship of Divisional Commissioner Soumya Agarwal, a department-wise progress review was conducted of the works undertaken by various departments under the Mahakumbh 2025 project, which required repair/strengthening or quality compliance under the Defect Liability Clause. Approximately 43 works of the Prayagraj Development Authority, Flood Works Division, Public Works Department, Municipal Corporation, Tourism Department, and Jal Nigam were reviewed. In the meeting, the concerned officials sought information on the contractors' compliance with the quality of the works identified as lacking by the committee constituted by the former Divisional Commissioner. The quality of drains constructed near several roads was also found to be deficient, and instructions were given to restore them to stan-



dards. The Prayagraj Development Authority has directed the concerned vendor to rectify the remaining deficiencies in the electrical work handed over to the Municipal Corporation by the Prayagraj Development Authority by having a committee investigate them. The Divisional Commissioner, while reviewing all departmental works point by point, expressed displeasure over the slow progress of compliance work. He directed the concerned officials to have all the work completed by the contractors and submit a report by the next meeting. He also

directed the concerned departmental engineers to ensure the quality of the work and to have it verified by a third party. Furthermore, if contractors are negligent in completing the work, he directed that FIRs be filed against them, their bank guarantees be confiscated, and they be blacklisted. The Divisional Commissioner expressed strong displeasure over the Irrigation Department contractor's failure to commence road restoration work following flood damage and directed the confiscation of the contractor's bank guarantee. Regarding horticulture work, he



directed that where vertical gardens have been created, pots are missing, or plants have died, proper irrigation and safety measures be taken, and replanting beautification be undertaken. Regarding electrical work, he directed that where lights have malfunctioned or the required quality of wiring ducts has not been ensured, the faulty lights be replaced and all work be completed with quality. The Divisional Commissioner directed that the streetlights on Airport Road be repaired and the necessary action be taken to hand them over to the Municipal Corporation. He

directed that the beautification work of the Mankameshwar Temple and Alopshankari Temple be completed expeditiously and with quality by the Tourism Department's affiliated organization, UPPCL. After the meeting, the Divisional Commissioner saw the beautification and strengthening works of Akshayavat Vatika, Akshayavat, Patalpuri, Saraswatikup, Presidential View under the Smart City Scheme inside the fort. He also visited Akshayavat, Saraswatikup and Patalpuri and offered prayers and also got information about their greatness.

Union Bank of India Celebrates Its 107th Foundation Day with Great Enthusiasm, Shares Joy with Customers



Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Ghazipur : The Union Bank of India branch located at Vitthal Tiraaha, under the jurisdiction of Kotwali Muhammadabad Yusupur police station in Ghazipur district, celebrated its 107th Foundation Day on Tuesday with great pomp, enthusiasm, and joy. The branch premises were specially decorated for the occasion, creating a festive atmosphere throughout the day. From early morning, bank staff cleaned and beautified the premises. The walls were adorned with colorful balloons, ribbons, and floral garlands, while a beautiful floral arch was set up at the main entrance to welcome visitors. Every customer who visited the bank was greeted warmly, offered sweets, and extended best wishes. During the program, Branch Manager Sushil Kumar Singh addressed the gathering and said that Union Bank of India has always given top priority to serving its customers. He informed that several new facilities have been introduced at the branch to enhance customer convenience and improve service quality so that no customer faces any

inconvenience. Mr. Singh further said that since its inception, the bank has upheld the values of "Service, Cooperation, and Trust", which is why Union Bank today stands among the leading nationalized banks of the country. On this occasion, Deputy Branch Manager Anoop Kumar, Shashikant, and all other bank employees were present. Together, they celebrated the Foundation Day in a family-like and friendly atmosphere. Throughout the day, the branch resonated with warmth, cordial interactions, and a spirit of unity between customers and staff. In conclusion, Branch Manager Sushil Kumar Singh expressed his gratitude to all customers and employees, stating that the success of Union Bank's journey has been possible only due to the trust and cooperation of its customers. He also assured that this relationship of faith and service would continue to grow stronger in the years to come. Overall, the 107th Foundation Day of Union Bank of India was celebrated as a living symbol of Service, Cooperation, and Harmony, spreading new energy and enthusiasm among everyone present.

Beni Madhav Singh PG College's Stars Raise the Flag



Tharwari

Whether it's education or sports, students from Beni Madhav Singh PG College, Madhav Nagar, Bighiya, are excelling in every field and bringing glory to the college. On Tuesday, Prof. Rajendra Singh Rajju Bhaiya University, Prayagraj, organized an inter-college sports competition, where students from all colleges participated. Trials were held for Wushu and Taekwondo in the men's and women's categories. In Taekwondo, Raju Sonkar won the gold medal in the 63 kg category in the men's category, while Sandhya Yadav won the gold medal in the 53 kg category in the women's category. In Wushu, Muskan Upadhyay won the gold medal in the women's category in the 52 kg category, and Shivam Maurya won the gold medal in the men's category. The four victorious athletes were all first-year B.P.Ed. students at Beni Madhav Singh PG

College. There was an atmosphere of joy in the entire college due to the happiness of this victory and in the joy of this victory, the college's Principal Dr. Devendra Vikram Singh, Secretary Madhuri Singh, President Kriparam Mishra and Dr. Seema Singh, Dr. Babita Singh, Head of B.P.Ed. Department Dr. V D Singh, Ram Prasad, Dr. Ram Kailash Yadav, Dr. Karunesh Shukla, Parveen Jahan, Prashant Pandey, Surya Pratap, Supreeti Mishra, Shalu Pandey, college's administrative officer Gopal Singh, Kriparam Mishra etc. congratulated the college family on this victory and inspired them to move ahead and said that true hard work and dedication are the ladder to real success. College President Kripa Ram Mishra said that the children who won today have not only raised the name of their school but also the name of their area and parents with pride and have increased the pride of everyone.

During the DM's inspection, all but the ward boy and doctor and pharmacist were missing

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Kaushambi. District Magistrate Dr. Amit Pal conducted a surprise inspection of the new Primary Health Center, Bairampur, on Tuesday. During the inspection, the government hospital's system appeared to be completely broken. Except for a ward boy, no one was present in the hospital. Dirt was everywhere. The hospital's doctors had fled to private nursing homes and the pharmacists had also fled, resulting in patients not receiving treatment at this government hospital, and this lack of treatment hin-



ders patients' access to this government hospital. The DM's inspection has exposed the reality of the situation. The Chief Medical Officer appears to be failing to improve the health department's system. Following the DM's inspection, the question arises: will the

doctor be subject to a one-day pay withholding, or will action also be taken against the CMO for failing to supervise. During the surprise inspection, the District Magistrate expressed strong displeasure over the absence of the doctor and all other staff, except for ward boy

Akhilesh Srivastava, the poor cleanliness of the hospital and premises, and the lack of delivery facilities. He spoke with the Chief Medical Officer over the phone and directed him to withhold one day's salary of the absent doctor and all other staff. He also instructed the Chief Medical Officer to ensure the presence of doctors and other staff and ensure the daily operation of the OPD. Along with this, he also instructed the Chief Medical Officer to provide delivery facilities in the hospital and to organize the hospital and ensure better cleanliness arrangements.

Illegal encroachments removed from 8 locations

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Prayagraj. A campaign against illegal encroachments is being conducted under the leadership of the District Magistrate in all tehsils of Prayagraj district. On 11.11.2025, as part of a comprehensive campaign against illegal encroachments on barren land, barn, new fallow land, chauk marg, and pond land, illegal encroachments were removed from a total of 8 locations in all tehsils of the district. Pond land in village Chapro of tehsil Koraon, new fallow land in village Barnapur, road land in village Mando, and

chauk marg land in village Tikuri have been freed from encroachment. Barren land in village Badgadi of tehsil Bara has been freed from encroachment. Barren land in village Arvasi and Bahadurgarh of tehsil Phulpur has been freed from encroachment. Drain land in village Palpur of tehsil Karchana and chauk marg land in village Mawaiya Uparhar have been freed from encroachment. District Magistrate Prayagraj Manish Kumar Verma has directed the Sub-Divisional Magistrates and other officials of all tehsils to take immediate action on complaints related to encroachment.

The Soraon Festival will be held in Soraon Tehsil from November 14th to 16th, 2025

Prayagraj. Under the chairmanship of Legislative Council Member Surendra Chaudhary and in the presence of Phulpur MLA Deepak Patel, a meeting was held with officials from all relevant departments in the Circuit House auditorium on Tuesday regarding the successful organization of the Soraon Festival, to be held in Soraon Tehsil from November 14th to 16th, 2025. The Legislative Council Member provided informa-



tion about the event, stating that numerous dignitaries, public representatives, and senior figures from various fields are expected to attend the festival in Soraon,

Prayagraj. This festival will be a unique event. Dance and cultural programs related to Prayagraj will also be organized during this event. Through the Soraon Festival,

people will also be informed about government schemes and programs. Additional District Magistrate (City) Satyam Mishra, who was present at the meeting, informed that the Sub-District Magistrate (Soraon) has been designated as the nodal officer for organizing the event. He briefed all concerned officials on their responsibilities and directed them to ensure all necessary arrangements are made in a timely manner. The Legislative Council

Member urged all concerned officials to ensure timely and ensure the participation of all departments for the successful organization of the event. He directed the District Development Officer to set up pandals for departmental exhibitions, and to organize exhibitions by various departments related to development work, and to promote departmental schemes. He directed the Regional Culture Officer to organize daily cultural programs at the venue.

The laying of a 120-kilometer railway line from Kunda to Manikpur will bring historic development to millions of

Demand for a railway line connecting Chitrakoot to Lucknow

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Kaushambi. The laying of a railway line from Lucknow to Chitrakoot will accelerate the development of millions of people in Pratapgarh, Kaushambi, and Chitrakoot districts. If the Government of India extends the new railway line from Harnam Ganj Kunda railway station on the Lucknow Prayagraj railway line, via Kada, Sirathu, Manjhanpur,

Teva, Maheva Ghat, Rajapur, to Manikpur station on the Banda Prayagraj railway line, the 120-kilometer railway line will accelerate the development of millions of people in Pratapgarh, Kaushambi, and Chitrakoot districts. The passage of this railway line will also facilitate the travel of devotees traveling from Ayodhya, the Hindu holy place, to Chitrakoot, to historical pilgrimage sites. Tourism

will also receive a boost after the laying of this railway line. The lack of a railway line in this region has hindered the movement of millions of people. It is noteworthy that millions of passengers yearn for rail travel between the three districts of Kaushambi, Pratapgarh, and Chitrakoot, which prevents industries from being established in this region. The lack of industries prevents the poor,

the weak, and the oppressed from finding employment. The poor, the vulnerable, and the marginalized laborers leave the district for employment and migrate to areas like Punjab, Haryana, Surat, Mumbai, Gujarat, Pune, etc. to earn their livelihood, thus hindering the development of the region. After the railway line is laid in the region, industries will be established, providing employment to the poor,

the weak, and the oppressed in rural areas. This employment will lead to rapid development of the district. However, no effort has been made by the local MP or MLA to lay a railway line from Harnamganj, Kunda, through Kaushambi district, to Manikpur. BJP MP Vinod Sonkar served in Kaushambi for 10 years, but during his 10-year tenure, he made no significant effort to connect Kaushambi's head-

quarters, Manjhanpur, with a railway line. Prior to this, Samajwadi Party MPs and Bahujan Samaj Party MPs also resided in Kaushambi, but neither did they provide rail connectivity to Kaushambi's headquarters, Manjhanpur. No effort has been made to connect the Kaushambi district with the railway line. Currently, the MP of Kaushambi is Pushpendra Saroj from the Samajwadi Party.

A job fair will be held on November 13th

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

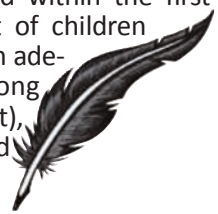
A job fair will be held on November 13th. Various private sector companies will conduct recruitment for approximately 1,500 vacant positions at the job fair. Akhand Bharat Sandesh Prayagraj. The Regional Employment Office, Prayagraj, will organize a job fair on November 13, 2025, at The Palm Academy, Karailbag, Prayagraj, starting at 10:00 a.m. Various private sector companies will conduct recruitment for approximately 1,500 vacant positions at the fair.

Candidates with high school/intermediate/graduate/ITI/Diploma/B.Tech/MBA degrees, aged 18 to 45, can participate in the job fair by registering on the Rojgar Sangam portal (rojgaarsangam.up.gov.in) and submitting photocopies of all their educational certificates, mark sheets, and caste certificates. Candidates can obtain detailed information regarding the vacancies on the Rojgar Sangam portal. There will be no travel allowance for participation in this fair, according to the Assistant Employment Officer, Prayagraj.

Editorial

Revamp anganwadi model for Viksit Bharat. Workers should be seen as frontline educators

Integrated Child Development Services Scheme – the Anganwadi Services Scheme was launched in 1975 as an innovative experiment to address maternal and child health, nutrition, and early childhood development. Aligned with the objectives to improve children’s health, nutrition, and development, reduce mortality, morbidity, and dropout rates, and empower mothers through counselling, the ICDS framework is designed to nurture holistic development. Through a lifecycle approach, it targets children aged 0-6 years, pregnant and lactating mothers, and adolescent girls, delivering supplementary nutrition, immunisations, health check-ups, non-formal pre-school education, and nutrition counselling. Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) are the focal points for delivering ICDS services, and Anganwadi workers (AWWs) and helpers are the fulcrum of rendering these vital services through AWCs and home visits. Today, through a strong network of more than 1.4 million Anganwadi centres (AWCs) covering 100 million particularly vulnerable mothers and children, ICDS has emerged as the largest service delivery program for mother care and child development. As ICDS celebrates 50 years this year, it presents a valuable opportunity to celebrate its achievements, reflect on the gaps and challenges, and propose a way forward to align with the futuristic needs of Viksit Bharat. Since this launch, ICDS boasts a robust framework that enables it to adapt and evolve meaningfully in the future. Its evolution to currently Saksham Anganwadi & Poshan 2.0, combines schemes Poshan Abhiyaan, Scheme for Adolescent Girls, and Poshan Bhi, Padhai Bhi, emphasising holistic development and real-time monitoring. Today, all AWCs and over 101 million beneficiaries are registered on the Poshan Tracker, enabling real time tracking of service delivery and outcomes. Over the years, ICDS has played a crucial role in equitably addressing malnutrition, early childhood care, and maternal health across India. India is moving in the right direction toward achieving the SDG 2030 targets for maternal and child mortality. Research has demonstrated that early childhood interventions targeting nutrition, education, and health can substantially enhance human capital, especially in developing countries. An IFPRI study published in the Bulletin of the World Health Organisation highlighted improvements in both equity and coverage of ICDS from 2006 to 2016, with increased service utilisation (58 per cent to 71 per cent), especially among Scheduled Castes and Tribes. Another study examining the linkages between utilisation of ICDS and underweight among children aged 6-59 months from 2015-16 to 2019-21, attributed improvements in ICDS utilisation to 9-12 per cent of the observed reduction in underweight children. A peer-reviewed study in The University of Chicago Press Journals found that children who were exposed to ICDS during the first three years of life completed 0.1-0.3 more grades of schooling than those who were not. As India advances towards Viksit Bharat, ICDS must not only strengthen its existing interventions but also embrace transformative paradigm shifts to effectively address emerging challenges, harness new opportunities, and align with the evolving aspirations of society. Firstly, the pace of improvement in nutrition needs to be accelerated. Malnutrition rates remain high—stunting among children under five is 36 per cent, underweight at 32.1 per cent, and anaemia prevalence at 67 per cent, especially in comparison to global benchmarks. Sub-optimal Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) practices, where only 42 per cent of infants are breastfed within the first hour, and only 11 per cent of children aged 6-23 months receive an adequate diet. Anaemia among pregnant women (52 per cent), children (67 per cent), and women of reproductive.



Religious autonomy isn’t absolute. Imarat-e-Shariah protest in Patna sidelined

Imarat-e-Shariah, a strong socio-religious group with a big influence on a section of Indian Muslims, organised a huge protest on at Patna’s Gandhi Maidan. The rally, named ‘Waqf Bachao, Samvidhan Bachao – Save Waqf, Save the Constitution’ – quickly gained momentum, with thousands of Muslim protesters from Bihar and nearby states vocally condemning the Waqf Act amendment as a violation of both constitutional rights and religious freedom. This was not just a protest; it was a firm declaration against a law perceived as an infringement on fundamental freedoms—freedoms that many believe must be protected at all costs. Speakers at the rally claimed that the Waqf Amendment Act crushes not only the Islamic principle of Waqf (charitable endowment) but also assaults the very core of religious autonomy. Faisal Wali Rahmani, head of Imarat-e-Shariah, made it clear: the Act is a dangerous overreach that jeopardises the community’s ability to govern its own affairs. “This conference,” he declared, “is a peaceful, constitutional demand to roll back this draconian legislation.” His words rang out as a challenge to those who would allow such overreach to stand unchecked. I fully agree that every Indian has



the right to free speech and peaceful protest, as guaranteed by our Constitution. But the argument surrounding religious autonomy is far more complicated than it seems. This notion of autonomy isn’t about personal religious practice—it’s about collective and organisational control. The idea that a religious group should have the unrestricted right to manage its own affairs raises some troubling questions. First, does this imply that such a group is somehow separate, not truly a part of the larger nation? Second, is there not a risk in projecting this image of self-containment—as though the community exists outside the national fabric? The implications are far more profound than they may appear. What if every community or tribe starts to argue that no one has the right to interfere in their affairs, claiming that their practices and core values are above the reach of national laws or human rights? Imagine a community that argues the gov-

ernment should have no say in child marriage, defending it as a matter of religious or cultural tradition. Would such a stance be accepted simply because it aligns with the idea that each group should be able to uphold its own values? Surely, we would not accept such practices under the guise of religious freedom. At what point do we draw the line between protecting religious rights and ensuring that these practices don’t violate basic human rights or endanger individuals? The core issue is whether any belief or practice—no matter how deeply rooted in religion or culture—can be allowed to override the fundamental principles of justice, equality, and human dignity. When leaders of the Muslim community, or any religious group, invoke the Constitution, they often present it as though it grants them an unfettered right to religious freedom—one that allows them to manage their affairs without interference from the state, its leg-

islature, or its judiciary. But what is overlooked is that this right to religious freedom is not absolute or separate from other constitutional values. It exists within a broader framework that includes human rights, equality, and justice for all citizens. The Constitution, in its design, ensures religious freedom—but it does so with the understanding that such freedom must never come at the expense of the dignity or rights of others. This means that the Constitution’s values—those of equality and justice—must always take precedence over any individual or collective religious right when they begin to infringe on these fundamental principles. Once we are clear on this, we can oppose Waqf amendments that we believe infringe upon our rights. The idea that any community has the inherent right to manage its own affairs solely under the umbrella of constitutional rights is a dangerous one. As I make this distinction, it is crucial to point out some things. While the Patna protest may be framed as a defence of constitutional rights, the very organisation leading it—Imarat-e-Shariah—operates a parallel system within the Muslim Personal Law framework despite lacking formal judi-

cial authority. The argument often put forward is that these bodies deal with matters like marriage, divorce, inheritance, and Waqf when all parties involved consent to the process. However, we all know the reality of social pressure within Indian Muslim society. In practice, these institutions often function without any regard for constitutional values that guarantee equality and human rights for all citizens, particularly women. This contradiction is visible when they invoke the Constitution to protect their own interest but fail to understand the very values it stands for. The Constitution is not just meant to protect religious autonomy and the collective religious right of a community; it is also supposed to protect the fundamental rights of every individual, regardless of their religion or background. Moreover, such protests and gatherings only represent a section of Indian Muslims – not each and every one of us. These events are led mostly by elite Ashraaf Muslims, with Pasmandas being utilised as mob followers. It is disheartening to see how these institutions, controlled by Ashraafs, continue to use Pasmandas as pawns in their own power negotiations while claiming to represent the community as a whole.

Karnataka’s fake news bill won’t survive a court challenge

Karnataka’s proposed Misinformation and Fake News (Prohibition) Bill, 2025, is poorly drafted and replete with structural infirmities. It is also at odds with existing central laws and its constitutional validity is questionable. Let’s see how. The bill deprives social media intermediaries of their statutory immunity from state persecution for user-generated content, a legal protection commonly referred to in internet law as ‘safe harbour’. India’s nodal Information Technology Act, 2000 (IT Act) provides for safe harbour protections and allows social media companies to host user content with conditional immunity, within a clearly defined legal framework. In contrast, Karnataka’s fake news bill proposes to hold social media companies accountable for violating any provision of the proposed law. The bill envisions a government-appointed Fake News on Social Media Regulatory Authority, with sweeping

powers to preemptively block or ban content it deems illegal. However, it does not clarify how these powers will sync with the safe harbour protections under the IT Act. Without safe harbour protections, social media companies could face a deluge of criminal penalties for content that is difficult to monitor and filter, such as superstitions or unscientific claims, both deemed illegal under the bill. The Authority’s blocking powers create a parallel mechanism to the content-blocking procedures already prescribed under the Centre’s IT Act. The lack of standard procedural safeguards, such as the need to notify penalised parties or offer them a fair hearing, further disregards the minimum standards set by the IT Act. That law limits content blocking to specific grounds such as public order, sovereignty, and integrity of India, friendly relations with foreign states, or preventing incitement to an offence – all of which correspond to the restriction.s

Indian Muslims must face the truth—Muslim countries don’t care about them

West Asia has ever been on the boil, and its tumultuous events perturb Indian Muslims no end. Their attitude toward international affairs, particularly events in Muslim countries, is determined more by their religious identity and extraterritorial loyalty than by their national identity and the country’s interests. Since the establishment of the Mughal rule in 1526, Muslim rulers of India stopped swearing allegiance to any foreign entity, as was the practice during the Sultanate period (the reason why that period came to be known by this name), when the Sultan tacitly recognised the suzerainty of the Abbasid caliphate, which, after the sacking of Baghdad by the Mongol army led by Halagu Khan in 1258, moved to Cairo where it resided until 1527. Later, the caliphate was transferred to the Ottoman rulers of Turkey. In the political lexicon of Islam, Sultan means an autonomous governor of the caliph. The Mughals didn’t recognise the new Ottoman caliphate in Turkey, and called themselves Padshah (king) instead of Sultan. However, so long as India was under Muslim rule, it didn’t really matter whether the caliph was recognised or not. But with the termination of the titular Mughal sovereignty in 1857, the Muslim ruling class found itself stranded. In order to find an ideological mooring for their adrift theo-politics, they anchored themselves in the theocratic institution of the Ottoman caliphate. The Muslim ruling class had so maintained its foreign character that this transfer of allegiance to a new overlord outside India seemed normal and caused no consternation. Rather, this instinctive reaction was understood as a default action. The first stirrings of the newly incubated pro-Turkish sympathies became visible during the Russo-Turkish War of

1877-78. Unsurprisingly, the newly established Muhammadan Anglo Oriental College in Aligarh, the precursor to Aligarh Muslim University, chose the Turkish dress, with the distinctive Fez – the red hat with black tassel – as its uniform. This trend of associating with the Ottoman caliphate matured during the Khilafat Movement, which, in the Muslim mind, forever subordinated Indian nationalism to pan-Islamism, and also to a great extent made the Indian foreign policy sensitive to the extraterritorial loyalty of the Muslims. India’s Muslim ruling class had cultivated a sense of identity that made it easier for them to associate with their foreign co-religionists than the native compatriots. Therefore, it was inevitable that Muslims diverged into pan-Islamism when the national movement emerged in India. It’s true that Sir Syed Ahmad Khan had been wary of the pan-Islamist ideas, and opposed its propagation by the peripatetic preacher, Jamaluddin Afghani (1838-1897). But his opposition was because of pan-Islamism’s anti-British edge – and Sir Syed was a British loyalist.

— rather than any thought for Indian nationalism, which he had contested. What’s known as global Islam or Ummah today was, in the late 19th and early 20th century, termed pan-Islamism. Contrary to what the terminology conveys – an ideology encompassing and shared by the entire Islamic world – it actually denoted the political attitude of Indian Muslims who, though domiciled in India, sought the meaning of their existence in belonging to the global Muslim community. India was incidental to their worldview. They were born here, but belonged elsewhere. What affected them the most, at the deep emotional .

Success to failure, UPSC is a family affair

A couplet by Mirza Ghalib could well serve as the unofficial motto of UPSC aspirants: Ragon mein daudte phirne ke hum nahin qayal; jab aankh hi se na tapka to phir lahu kya hai— I’m not impressed by blood that runs in the veins; if it doesn’t spill from the eyes, what kind of blood is it? After all, aspirants live, for lack of a better description, a suspended life built on the edifice of junoon (passion) and self-doubt. But sometimes, it all comes together. The result is announced, and the aspirant’s name appears on the list. Those who succeed are elevated to near-mythical status. Their photos decorate news-

paper pages and coaching centre hoardings, and they are invited for felicitations and motivational talks. But what is not celebrated is the silent effort of an entire support system—a quiet, unpaid workforce made up of family members, friends, and partners. It has been said that it takes a village to raise a child. Clichéd but true. The same holds for success in the UPSC exam. If UPSC is the Everest of Indian competitive exams, and the topper is the climber, then their family members are the sherpas who make the ascent possible. The mother, often a school dropout herself, becomes the planner.

Relatives are told not to visit, and the TV volume is turned down. The father, already exhausted by the demands of underpaid work, becomes proficient in the mechanics of prelims, mains, optional, DAF (detailed application form), and ethics papers. Siblings absorb any and all friction in silence. Affection is expressed not through words but by consoling oneself: “Let him focus, we will manage.” A natural question arises: why do families do this for an exam where the acceptance rate is lower than that of Harvard? The ideal of public service and giving back to society is sine qua non, but sometimes it is only a

necessary condition, not a sufficient one. First, the dream of cracking the UPSC is one that originates in the family, not the aspirant. A good score in Class 12. A local officer who is fêted like royalty. A personal experience with socio-economic dysfunction. All these experiences (and more) plant the seed. “Ladke ko IAS/IPS banana hai”. Whether the child is a doctor or an engineer, the end goal remains the same: to make them a Collector or SP sahab. Second, the fragility of the Indian middle class, especially in small towns and peri-urban India. This class, often first-generation salaried or self-employed.

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 NIE, 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.

Fewer dropouts, but school retention issues

Delhi: The Economic Survey 2024-25 released in Parliament shows that less than half of Indian students complete higher secondary education, despite declining dropout rates across all levels. Dropout rates were 1.9% for primary (Classes I to V), 5.2% for upper primary (Classes VI to VIII), and 14.1% for secondary. Retention rates—the percentage of children who stayed enrolled since first grade—were 85.4% for primary, 78% for elementary, 63.8% for secondary, and 45.6% for higher secondary.



According to the education ministry's Unified District Information System for Education-Plus (UDISE+ 2023-24) report, India's enormous educational system serves 248 million students in 1.5 million schools with 9.8 million instructors. Government schools make up 69% of schools, enroll 50% of pupils, and employ 51% of teachers. The research showed 22.5% private schools, 32.6% student enrollment, and 38% teachers. Digital infrastructure has improved. Computers in schools rose from 38.5% in 2019-20 to 57.2% in 2023-2024, while internet connectivity rose from 22.3% to 53.9%. The poll said the NEP 2020 is based on the idea that "education and human capital development are among the foundational pillars of development." The union government introduced NEP on July 29, 2020, to modernize the education system from school to higher education while maintaining it "rooted in Indianness". Higher education enrollment rose 26.5% to 43.3 million in 2021-22 from 3.42 crore in 2014-15, according to the poll. The poll found that tripling educational infrastructure would be needed to meet the government's 2035 goal of 50% GER in higher education.

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 organisation'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. 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.

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 satttu 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 satttu 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 docus 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



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. "

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

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.

Sunita drops another bombshell

Govinda's wife, Sunita Ahuja, has once again grabbed attention after saying she doesn't want Govinda as her husband in her next life, calling him 'not a good husband'

Govinda's wife, Sunita Ahuja, who often makes headlines for her controversial statements, has once again stirred attention after claiming that she does not wish to have Govinda as her husband in her next life, stating that he is not a 'good' husband. Earlier, reports suggested that Govinda was allegedly having an affair with a 30-year-old Marathi actress, which reportedly created tension between the two and led to their separation. However, the couple put all divorce rumours to rest when they hosted Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations together at their Mumbai home earlier this year.

Speaking to Pinkvilla, Sunita opened up about her marriage, reflecting on Govinda's mistakes. She said, "See, woh (Govinda) hero hain. Unka main kya bolun, wife log se zyada woh heroines ke saath time bitate hain. It takes you to become a very strong woman to be a star's wife. Aapko dil pa-thar ka banana padta hai. It took me 38 years of marriage to realise it. Jawani mein pata nahi tha."

Further, Sunita shared that one must learn to keep themselves in check and that it's acceptable to make mistakes when one is young. She admitted to having made them, and so had Govinda. However, she added that once a person reaches a certain age, such mistakes no longer look good. "Why make such mistakes when you have a beautiful family, a lovely wife, and wonderful children?" she said, subtly hinting at Govinda.

Govinda and Sunita tied the knot in 1987 but kept their marriage a secret until the birth of their daughter, Tina, in 1989. Later, in 1997, the couple welcomed their second child, Yashvardhan Ahuja.

Bigg Boss Malayalam 7 winner Anumol Anukutty took home ₹42.55 lakh instead of ₹50 lakh. Reports state she did not receive an apartment as part of the prize



Curious case of BB Malayalam 7 winner not getting apartment

Bigg Boss Malayalam Season 7 winner has been announced, and it is Anumol Anukutty. Anumol has become only the second woman to win Bigg Boss Malayalam in the show's history. After being announced the winner on November 9, Anumol took home a whopping prize money of Rs 42.55 Lakh, after being reduced from Rs 50 lakh. Do you know why it happened?

Well, the winners of Bigg Boss Malayalam generally are gifted an apartment by the makers. The makers reportedly gave apartments to

the winners of 1st and 3rd seasons. But Anumol not only received a reduced prize money but she also did not get an apartment as a part of the winning prize. As per reports, the makers have stopped giving an apartment as the prize post Season 3 of the show.

During various tasks inside the house, the contestants earned a substantial amount for their victories. In one of the tasks, Fathima Noora won and was given Rs 3.5 Lakh as the winning prize. This was deducted from Anumol's total winning amount. Similarly, other tasks were held on the show, with contestants winning and taking home cash prizes. This money was indeed

deducted from the winner's total amount.

Amid Bigg Boss Malayalam Season 7, there were rumors that Anumol's team paid Rs 16 lakh for the PR campaign. Later, Anumol acknowledged that she paid not 16 but only Rs 1 lakh for PR support, as per Indian Express.

The viewers believe Anumol's PR team played a big role in her winning. Taking to a Reddit thread with the title "Anumol is not deserving. Fluffin rigged show" a user commented, "Hats off to the pr and regressive audience for making such a vile contestant win." One commented, "The worst of the worst winners in BBM history."

KSBKBT Shagun confirms dating on-screen brother

Shagun Sharma, who is currently seen as Pari in Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi 2, opened up on her bond with co-star Aman Gandhi. Surprisingly, Shagun has been romantically linked to her on-screen brother Aman (Hrithik Virani). Accepting her relationship rumours, Shagun recently said in an interview, "Rumours thodi hai, sach hai woh toh."

During a candid conversation with Hauterrfly, Shagun accepted dating Aman in real life. She said, "Humlog (she and Aman) show pe nahi date karna shuru kiye, show se pehle date kar rahe hain."

Shagun further talked about they both were called to cast in Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi 2. Talking about how her dating and professional lives overlapped, Shagun said, "When I got called for Kyunki...he (Aman) was already finally for Kyunki..."

While auditioning for Kyunki, Shagun asked Aman whether they would be playing brother and sister on set. The actress went ahead with the role, as neither she nor Aman had any issue with it.

Shagun further said in the interview

that no one knew about them dating until two months. The couple informed others about their relationship when they got comfortable with the cast members.

As Shagun uploaded the clip from her interview where the actress is talking about her dating life, Aman reacted to the post, and wrote, "Hahaha 🤔🤔🤔"

The rumour of Aman and Shagun dating started when they celebrated Valentine's Day together and posted pictures of it. In an earlier interview with ETimes, Aman talked about settling down in life. He told the outlet, "I had told my family that the day I get recognition, fame and money, that's when I will be ready to settle down. And recently I told them that I am ready to get married now (sic). He further talked about opting for arrange marriage."

In an interview with NDTV, Shagun had mentioned that she likes men with a good sense of humour, who are tall, and who remain faithful in a relationship.

Shagun Sharma revealed that she wasn't dating her on-screen brother Aman Gandhi during Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi 2



Thulluvadho Ilaamai actor Abhinay passes away at 44

Actor Abhinay, known for his performance in Dhanush starrer Thulluvadho Ilaamai, passed away on Monday, November 10, 2025, at the age of 44. He was suffering from liver disease for the past few years. Abhinay reportedly did around 15 films and worked in the Tamil, Telugu, and Kannada film industries. He had featured in many advertisements, and also dubbed for Vidyut Jammal AR Murugadoss' 2012 Tamil film Thuppakki.

'Just shut your mouth': Renuka Shahane

Actress Renuka Shahane has come out in support of Aishwarya Rai Bachchan and slammed those who troll her for her weight gain. For those unversed, Aishwarya is often criticised for her red carpet looks at international events and she was also trolled for her post-pregnancy weight gain.

During one of her interviews, Renuka stated that Aishwarya should be celebrated for her achievements and those who can't say good things about her should just 'shut' their mouths.

Opening up about the Hum Dil De Chuke Sanam actress was body shamed over her Cannes red carpet appearances after giving birth to daughter Aaradhya. Renuka said, "Should we not celebrate her consistent achievements over the years? It doesn't take one minute for a big company to drop you. And she has been the brand ambassador for the company for years and she is representing us year in, out. And all we can think of is 'Oh isme ye pehna toh ye thik nahi tha. Oh no!' Please mat kariye ye. If you don't have anything nice to say, just shut your mouth."

Renuka further said that actresses today face immense pressure, particularly in the age of social media, where constant scrutiny has created a new world of judgement and expectations.

Renuka also pointed out that even after embracing motherhood, there remains an unrealistic expectation

for female stars to immediately return to their pre-pregnancy physiques.

After Aishwarya embraced motherhood, her actor-husband Abhishek Bachchan addressed the harsh body shaming remarks directed toward her and called out the public's judgemental attitude. During an interview with DNA, Abhishek had said that it was "deeply insensitive for people to comment on her appearance."



During one of her interviews, Renuka Shahane stated that Aishwarya Rai Bachchan should be celebrated for her achievements and those who can't say good things about her should just 'shut' their mouths



One candidate obtains 100% in four of five CUET-UG subjects

Delhi : The NTA released Common Entrance University Test-Under Graduate 2025 results on Friday. NTA reports one candidate earned 100% in four of five subjects. As many as 17 individuals earned 100% in three subjects. A merit list will be created by participating universities and organizations. The NTA's CUET (UG)-2025 scorecard will guide university counseling. NTA prepared to host CUET (UG) - 2025 in CBT style for 13,54,699 unique registered applicants. Between May 13 and June 4, 2025, 10,71,735 candidates took the exam. Around 6.1 lakh people registered for the General category, while 4.75 lakh individuals competed. The OBC (Non-Creamy Layer) group followed with 4.4 lakh registered and 3.6 lakh appear-



ing candidates. Nearly 1.4 lakh SCs registered and 1.15 lakh appeared, while 84,000 STs registered and 62,000 appeared. About 60,000 of 73,000 EWS students took the exam. Male candidates numbered 7.1 lakh, with 5.5 lakh appearing. At least 6.5 lakh women registered, and 5.2 lakh appeared. Only five third-gender people registered, and only three took the exam. About 22.5% of male candidates and 19.1% of female candidates did not present for

Move to delete papers on Islam, China, and Pakistan cleared by DU panel

"Delhi : The request to remove papers discussing Islam, Pakistan, China, and political violence from the post-graduate syllabus of Delhi University's Political Science department was approved by the department's top academic body. 'Pakistan and the World,' 'China's Role in the Contemporary World,' 'Islam and International Relations,' 'Pakistan: State and Society,' and 'Religious Nationalism and Political Violence.'

Delhi: Delhi University has allowed Four-Year Undergraduate Programme (FYUP) students to leave after three years and still receive a degree. A major step toward implementing the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. The Thursday notification allows students who have completed six semesters (three years) of the UG Curriculum Framework 2022 to depart. An Honours degree for single-core disciplines or a general degree for multi-core subjects will be awarded. It says:



"Students interested in availing the above option can log in to the university's student portal at <https://lc.uod.ac.in> and submit their intent through the designated online process." The institution advises students to "carefully evaluate their academic and career goals" and consult lecturers or mentors before leaving early. In

August, DU will commence the fourth and final FYUP year. The NEP 2020 program offers four-year undergraduate coursework with different entry and exit possibilities. Certificates (1 year), diplomas (2 years), and degrees (3 or 4 years) are awarded based on years completed. The fourth year offers research specialization.

The dual degree option at DU will help students learn more

Delhi: The University of Delhi (DU) now allows students to pursue two degrees simultaneously. DU students can enroll in one degree through the normal mode at any DU-affiliated college or department and a second through Open and Distance Learning (ODL) through the School of

Open Learning. This policy gives existing students the option to expand their academic horizons without choosing between conventional and distant education. It has restrictions, though. Even with normal and ODL enrollment, students cannot enroll in two identical degrees (such as

BCom Hons and BCom Pass). DU dual degree qualifying requirements are simple but require careful planning. Students must meet both degrees' academic requirements. Attending classes, completing assignments, and passing tests for each program.

City schools in Delhi must get smart classrooms and renovations ASAP, according to CM



Delhi: Chief Minister Rekha Gupta has ordered the following: the rapid activation of two thousand smart classrooms; the provision of state-of-the-art science laboratories in every public school; the immediate restoration of crumbling educational infrastructure; and the rapid filling of open teaching positions in all city schools. Understanding her government's dedication to building a comprehensive and modern educational environment for kids in the capital, she also ordered upgrades to the entry gates of Thyagaraj and Chhatrasal stadiums.

At a high-level review meeting at the Delhi Secretariat, these directives were issued by the Chief Minister, who was meeting with senior officials of the Education Department to evaluate current infrastructure projects, examine staffing gaps, and devise plans to guarantee that all Delhi Government schools provide a quality education. "Our Government is working with full commitment on both resource and policy levels to ensure every child in Delhi, irrespective of their background, receives equal opportunity and world-class education," stated Governor Gupta following the meeting.

image.png

IP University to consider CUET scores for admission to PG courses in 2025-26 session

Delhi: Offering students greater flexibility and more opportunities, IP University will now consider CUET-PG scores for admission to 20 postgraduate programmes in the 2025-26 academic session. According to the university, once the merit lists from national-level entrance exams and the university's own admission tests are exhausted, seats in the respective programmes will be filled based on CUET scores. This provision applies to a wide range of courses, including MBA, MCA, MA and LLM. Candidates interested in applying through CUET can submit their applications online along with an application and counselling fee by



July 15. Detailed information is available on the university's official website. The courses open to CUET-based admissions include MBA, MCA (Software Engineering), MAMC, MPT (M/N/S/C), MSc in Environment Management, LLM, MA (English), MEd, MTech (CSG),

MTech (EG), MA (Economics), PG in Applied Geoinformatics, MSc in Yoga, Medicinal Chemistry and Drug Design, Bioinformatics, Molecular Diagnostics, Microbiology, MS in Packaging Technology, BEd, and BEd in Special Education.

IT-Delhi rose 255 places to 171st globally

Delhi: Among Indian universities for sustainability, IIT-Delhi rose 255 places to 171st globally, according to 2025 QS Rankings released. The QS Sustainability Rankings include 78 Indian universities, with nine of the top 10 improving and 21 new institutions entering. Two IITs—Delhi and Kanpur—are in the world's top 100 for impact. With 177 and 67 rank improvements, each became fourth and fifth in India. Bangalore's IISc is among the world's top 50 environmental education schools.

Sikh resistance during the Mughal period to be covered in DU's upcoming UG course

Delhi : The Sikh community arose in reaction to "religious persecution" and "state oppression" in the Mughal era and subsequent foreign invasions and Delhi University intends to institute a course on Sikh martyrdom for all undergraduates. The course covers the years 1500–1765 and shows how the Sikh identity developed via resistance events, such as the murder of Sikh gurus and the ascent of Sikh fighters like Banda Singh Bahadur.



Students from all academic backgrounds will be able to take it because the Centre for Independence and Partition Studies is offering it as a four-credit general elective according to the Undergraduate Curriculum

Framework, 2022. At their meeting on July 5, the University's Academic Council will consider the course for approval. The highest decision-making body at DU, the Executive Council, has the last say. Course materials state that students will "throw light on the moral basis of emergent struggle by Sikhs to resist religious persecution" and "focus on the neglected social-religious history of martyrdom in the Indian context."

CBSE mandates that all schools begin language mapping

Delhi: The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has mandated that all affiliated schools begin implementing the language instruction provisions of the National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCF-2023) beginning with the 2025–26 academic year, marking a significant move towards improving language learning in early childhood education. During the Foundational and Preparatory Stages of schooling, the board has placed a strong focus on teaching in the mother tongue or home language. A news release from CBSE this week stated that schools have to start language mapping activities with students right away and that an NCF Implementation Committee must be formed by May 30,



2025. The order is in line with NEP 2020, which places a premium on multilingual education as a means to promote equity, inclusion, and cognitive development. Ideally, a student's mother tongue or a familiar regional or state language should be the first language of literacy (R1), according to the CBSE. "Until students attain foundational literacy in another language, R1 must be used as the medium of instruction," CBSE cited NCF-2023 (Part C, page 239). The board recognized that

the state language might be used as R1 where the mother tongue is impractical owing to student diversity or a lack of written heritage. The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has made it clear that a child's native language shall serve as the medium of teaching during the Foundational Stage (from pre-primary to grade 2, ages 3-8). R1 fundamental literacy includes reading fluently, understanding texts, and writing short sentences expressing personal.

Guidelines for CBSE Supplementary Exams 2025: Class 10, 12 practical test commences July 10

Delhi : From July 10, 2025, Central Board of Secondary Education will hold Class 10, 12 practical supplementary exams. Candidates for the exam have guidance from the Board. Candidates can review CBSE guidelines at cbse.gov.in. Class 12 students placed in the compartment category due to repeating practical will only have to take the practical exam during the supplementary exams.

Their theory marks will be carried forward. All students who will take the exam must submit their result/mark sheet



and admit card to their schools/exam centers by July 7, 2025. Official notice states that regional office practical answer booklets must be used for the practical exam. During the supplementary examination 2025, schools or examination centers that conduct practical

tests will upload applicant marks to the portal the same day.

The Board will administer regular candidates' practical exams in schools. Private candidates will take practical exams at theory exam centers. Candidates can visit CBSE's website for details.

New DU semester starts August 1

Delhi : DU offers 71,624 seats in 79 undergraduate and 186 BA programs in 69 colleges and departments this year. DU announced that classes will start on August 1 for the new academic year. After the Common University Entrance Test Undergraduate (CUET-UG) results were released, officials indicated the second phase of undergraduate admissions will begin early next week. The second phase schedule is coming soon.



Haneet Gandhi, DU's dean of admission, said a correction window for registered students will possibly begin in the first half of next week. With the opening of the Common Seat Allocation System (CSAS) portal on June 17, admissions commenced. DU offers 71,624 seats in 79 undergraduate and 186 BA programs in 69 colleges and departments this year. Candidates must map Class 12 subjects to CUET domain subjects in the second phase because the university will only consider domain papers that match or closely resemble school subjects. The allocation-cum-admission round requires candidates to "accept" their seat. Colleges will examine eligibility and online documents. After approval, candidates can pay the cost to confirm admission. Inaction is considered seat rejection. For the first time, DU will request Class 10 marks for tie-breaking.

Briefs

NEW DELHI

India Women will have new S&C coach



The World Cup winning Indian women's cricket team in all likelihood will have its first foreign strength and conditioning coach in the near future. The BCCI has already made multiple recruitments in the S&C department at the Centre of Excellence (COE) in Bengaluru. According to BCCI sources, Bangladesh men's S&C coach Nathan Kiely is in talks with the Indian board and chances are bright that he might join the COE. India's current S&C coach is **Al Harsha** has done a splendid job culminating with the World Cup title but it is learnt that the BCCB might have other assignments planned for him. Kiely apart from working with Bangladesh national team has also worked as assistant coach with New South Wales first class side.

MUMBAI

Ajinkya Naik re-elected MCA Prez



Ajinkya Naik on Monday retained his position as the President of the Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) after seven other candidates in the fray withdrew their nominations. The MCA elections for other posts in the Apex Council and office bearers will be held on Wednesday. Today was the last day to withdraw nominations. Naik had filed his nomination even though he was to serve a mandatory cool-off period of three years having completed six consecutive years in the MCA Apex Council as per the reforms introduced by the Supreme Court-appointed Lodha Committee for BCCI and its member associations.

KOLKATA

'No rank turner requested for Kolkata Test'



The Indian team management has not asked for a rank turner for the opening Test of the two-

FITNESS | Head coach states there is enough time in hand to get there

Gambhir feels Team India not T20 World Cup-ready yet

NEW DELHI

"From the fitness point of view, I think we still aren't where we want to be come the T20 World Cup."

Gautam Gambhir
India coach

The Indian cricket team is not where it "wants to be" in terms of its preparations for next year's T20 World Cup yet but head coach Gautam Gambhir says there is enough time in hand to get there.

In an interview with 'bccitv', Gambhir said the players needed to take their fitness to the next level as India prepare to defend the title at home.

"It has been a very transparent dressing room, it has been a very honest dressing room and that is how we want this dressing room to be. I think we still aren't where we want to be come the T20 World Cup," he said.

"From the fitness point of view, I think we still aren't where we want to be come the T20 World Cup. And that is exactly the conversation that we've had with the boys as well. We want to be absolutely sharp. We want to be fit. We want to move quicker."

"The fitter we are, the more mentally strong we are. Because come the pressure games come the pressure situation, the more physically strong you are, the more mentally strong you are. We still have three months to be where we want to be," said the former India opener.

The T20 World Cup is scheduled to be held in India and Sri Lanka in February-March next year.

Bumrah bowling three overs in powerplay is a very aggressive move

Gambhir also spoke about the logic behind using trump card Jasprit Bumrah for three overs in the

really worked well for us, because bowling Jassi in the first three obviously makes us win the powerplay most of the time...

"...and then obviously we got two wicket-taking options in the middle with Varun (Chakravathy) and Kuldeep (Yadav), so it gives them a lot of leverage to bowl with freedom in the middle phase, and we can take wickets all the time...I think it was a very aggressive move," said Gambhir.

We want to have 7 to 8 bowling options

In the Gambhir era, India have preferred to have batting till number eight. The head coach said it is also important the team has seven to eight bowling options and that is only possible by packing in all-rounders like Shivam Dube, Axar Patel and Washington Sundar in the playing eleven.

"Look the more the merrier (all-rounders), that is something which is important, it is always better to have more options than less options, so many times in the past we have always thought

about having a 6 bowling options, and this T20 side we have got 7 or 8 bowling options, which is always important.

"... for years and years we kept talking about, that how can we have guys who can give us couple of overs, be it in a T20 game or in a 50 over game, now we are trying to develop guys who can give us overs, and who can bat in the middle or in different phases as well, so I think it is always good to have those kind of options," said Gambhir.

The head coach is confident that the likes of Washington and Axar will excel in the T20 World Cup.

"...Not only in subcontinent conditions, the quality they have, I think they are going to flourish in most of the conditions as well, and that is why I feel that Washi bowling in the last 7 or 8 months, has been a huge success for Indian cricket..."

"...Axar batting at No. 5, again he has given a lot of responsibility to bat at No. 5 in the Champions trophy, he has done exceptionally well, bowled tough overs, bowled in the powerplay, bowled in the middle..."

He reiterated his philosophy of handing out tough assignments to individuals to understand the depth of their character. "Throw guys in the deep sea, as simple as it can get. We did the same with Shubman (Gill) as well when he was appointed as Test captain," he said.

Gill pulled off an inspired batting performance in his maiden Test series, against England, as captain. The Indian team under him drew the series 2-2 after every match stretched to the fifth day.

It has been a very transparent dressing room, it has been a very honest dressing room and that is how we want this dressing room to be. Gautam Gambhir

India head coach

Guru Gambhir states never lose track of big picture

India coach feels team's fortunes more important than individuals

NEW DELHI

"Commendable" performances in a losing cause should "never" be celebrated, said India head coach Gautam Gambhir as he took a critical view of the team's recent ODI series defeat to Australia.

In an interview to 'bccitv', Gambhir said while he can be happy for the individuals who succeed but one should never lose track of the bigger picture -- a series loss in this case for India.

The ODI series Down Under marked the return of Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli to competitive cricket after the IPL. Sharma was adjudged player of the series for a hundred in the third ODI that India won to avoid a whitewash and a 73-run knock in the lost second game.

Kohli, after consecutive ducks in the first two matches, came good with a 74-run effort in the final match. There were also impressive individual efforts by **Shreyas Iyer** and Axar Patel during the series.

Gambhir, however, did not take names and neither did the question thrown at him mention anyone in specific.

"...I've always been a believer that it's not about the individual performances. I can be very happy with the individual performances, and I will always remain happy with individual performances."

"But ultimately it's the loss of one day's series, that's the bottom line and I can never celebrate a series loss as a coach," he asserted.

Rohit and Kohli have



...I've always been a believer that it's not about the individual performances.

Gautam Gambhir
India head coach

retired from both Tests and T20 Internationals, causing their limited ODI appearances to become heavily-followed events for fans.

"As a player I can appreciate individuals, but as a coach I think it is my moral responsibility that we as a nation and we as individuals should never, never celebrate a series loss," Gambhir said.

India went on to win the five-match T20 International series after the one-dayers 2-1 and Gambhir said there was plenty to learn from that triumph as well.

"Ultimately we are representing the country, yes T20 series was different, we won the series, a lot of positives, but a lot of learning as well," he said.

Bavuma joins Proteas squad Full-strength SA squad in Kolkata ahead of first Test

KOLKATA

South Africa captain **Temba Bavuma**, who was part of the 'A' team's unofficial Test series in Bengaluru, was the last to join the senior squad on Monday morning as the visitors assembled in full strength ahead of the opening Test against India beginning at the Eden Gardens on Friday.

The first batch of the South African contingent, including head coach Shukri Conrad, pace duo of Kagiso Rabada and Marco Jansen, along with the players who featured in the white-ball series in Pakistan, had arrived on Sunday morning.

"Bavuma, along with another player and a few officials, arrived this morning from Bengaluru. Most of the squad including the head coach had already checked in on Sunday," the South Africa teams local manager told PTI. "So, South Africa now have their full contingent in. There's no activity scheduled at the Eden today... Most likely, both teams will have their first training session on Tuesday." Bavuma, who had suffered a calf strain and missed the start of South Africa's World



Bavuma, along with another player and a few officials, arrived this morning from Bengaluru. Most of the squad including the head coach had already checked in on Sunday

Temba Bavuma South Africa captain

Test Championship title defence during the two-match Test series in Pakistan, returned to action for the 'A' side in their second unofficial Test against India A in Bengaluru.

The SA skipper, playing under Marques Ackerman in the A side, was dismissed for a golden duck in the first innings but made a deter-

mined 101-ball 59 in the second to help his team clinch a five-wicket win in the second and final match of the series that concluded on Sunday.

Middle-order batter Zubayr Hamza, who did not get to play in the 1-1 drawn Test series in Pakistan, also joined main squad here after playing both 'A' matches in Bengaluru.

Did refusal to play in England hurt Shami's plans?

The 35-year-old last played for India in the Champions Trophy in March but since then he has not been picked in any format

NEW DELHI

Mohammed Shami may have already bowled 93 overs in the ongoing Ranji Trophy but it is unlikely that one of India's finest pacers will be seen donning the whites again and his chances of wearing the ODI blues also look bleak.

The 35-year-old last played for India in the Champions Trophy in March but since then, he hasn't been picked in any format.

He had endured a lengthy layoff from the game after the heel injury in 2023 which required surgery after the World Cup.

At this point, the direction in which Indian cricket is moving, it is unlikely that Shami will be adding more games to the 197 internationals that he has played across three formats.

He has fallen off the radar in both Test and T20I cricket where Prasad Krishna and Akash Deep have rapidly gone up the ladder.



There have been multiple times that national selectors and support staff from the BCCI Centre of Excellence have called to check on Shami. Senior board official

The only format seemingly left for him is ODI. But given that the next one-day World Cup is in 2027, it wouldn't be particularly prudent to travel with a 37-year-old with a history of career-threatening injuries, including a knee problem.

Shami has not exactly been

pleased with the national selectors and has gone on record to say that they have not communicated with him. However, sources in the BCCI say that it may not be the correct picture.

"There have been multiple times that national selectors and support staff from the

BCCI Centre of Excellence have called to check on Shami. The selection committee was desperate to get his services in England as Jasprit Bumrah could not have played more than three Tests," a senior board official told PTI.

"Who wouldn't want a bowler of his calibre in English conditions?" he added, referring to the series that India ultimately drew 2-2 earlier this year.

It is learnt that one of the senior members of the selection panel sent multiple messages to Shami enquiring about his fitness status and requesting him to play at least one India A game against England Lions in either Canterbury or Northampton. This was meant to check where he stands with regards to Test-match fitness for the five-match England series.

It is understood that the pacer responded by saying that he still needs to build his workload and shouldn't be considered for the assignment.

FIDE WC

Arjun faces Leko, Pragg meets Dubov for Round 4 test

PANJIM

India's leading Grandmasters Arjun Erigaisi, **R Praggnanandhaa** and P Harikrishna will look to continue their impressive run when the fourth round of the FIDE World Cup gets underway here after the first rest day.

Arjun, the country's highest-rated player, will start as the favourite against veteran Hungarian Peter Leko, while Praggnanandhaa faces the

inventive Daniil Dubov, who is playing under the FIDE flag. Harikrishna, the most experienced of the trio, takes on Sweden's Nils Grandelius as he aims to stay firmly in contention.

Leko, a formidable force about 20 years back, is showing signs of his prime but may not find things easy against Arjun, who likes to go for extreme complexities.

The 46-year-old defeated Bobby Cheng of Australia and Kiril Alekseenko of Austria without any tiebreak

games which speaks volumes about his quality of play.

Incidentally, Leko is a semi-retired player and his protégé Vincent Keymer of Germany is also in the fourth round, making it a rare case of 'Guru and Shisya' going deep in a knockout competition.

Arjun won both his matches without any tiebreak. The Indian has won three out of his four games thus far under the classical time control and has shown the exit door to Martin

Petrov of Bulgaria and Shamsiddin Vokhidov of Uzbekistan in the process.

Crowd favourite R Praggnanandhaa, meanwhile, is set to meet Dubov, known for his work as a theoretician. The Russian is also a dangerous opponent in the faster time control. He came through two tiebreak marathons against Bai Jinshi of China and Georg Meier of Uruguay, excelling due to speed and accuracy.

Praggnanadhaa was close to being eliminated in his

first outing in the second round itself but somehow survived in the tiebreaker against Uzbek-Australian Temur Kuybokarov before prevailing over his third-round rival Robert Hovhannisyan of Armenia.

Harikrishna, on the other hand, had a smooth sailing to the round of 32 with comprehensive victories over Arseniy Nesterov of Russia and Daniel Dardha of Belgium. Win with white and draw with black has been the mantra for Harikrishna.

