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

Uttarakhand: Cloudburst in Dharali, , entire village razed

❑ Water and debris came from the mountain, houses and hotels buried in debris in 34 seconds; 4 dead, 50 missing

Uttarkashi. There has been a big destruction due to sudden flood in Kheerganga after cloudburst in Dharali village of Harshil area of the district on Tuesday. More than 20 hotels and homestays in the area have been destroyed. Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami has given instructions to start relief and rescue operations immediately. Army, SDR, NDRF, district administration and other related teams are engaged in relief and rescue work on the spot. Senior officials of the district have also left for the affected village. According to the information, after cloudburst in Dharali village of Harshil area, located about 70 km from the district headquarters and just 20 km before Gangotri Dham, there was a sudden devastating flood in Kheer Ganga river. Seeing the devastation, the people of Mukhwa village



Union Home Minister spoke to the Chief Minister Dhami

Union Home Minister Amit Shah has expressed deep grief over the cloudburst incident in Dharali village of Harshil area in Uttarkashi district of Uttarakhand. He spoke to Chief Minister

Pushkar Singh Dhami over the phone and inquired about the incident. Meanwhile, Chief Minister Dhami has postponed his Tripura tour and immediately left for Dehradun.

across the Ganga shouted and warned the people. It is being told that 20 to 25 hotels and homestays in the area have been destroyed due to the devastating flood. According to

information received from local people, 10 to 12 people may be buried under the debris. Local Rajesh Panwar says that a cloud burst somewhere above the catchment area of Khir

PM condoles the tragedy in Dharali, Uttarkashi

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has expressed his condolences to the people affected by the tragedy in Dharali, Uttarkashi. He has also wished well for all the people affected by this incident. Earlier, Prime Minister Modi spoke to Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami over the phone and took stock of the situation. The Prime Minister assured that no stone is being left unturned to ensure timely assistance to the needy.

Ganga, due to which this devastating flood has come. There is an atmosphere of panic among the people due to the flood. On receiving information about the incident.

Shah made the record of being the longest serving HM

New Delhi. Former President of Bharatiya Janata Party and Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday made a unique record in his name. He has now become the longest serving Home Minister of the country. Amit Shah has completed 2,258 days on this post, leaving behind the tenure of 2,256 days (6 years 64 days) of BJP veteran LK Advani. Advani held this post from 19 March 1998 to 22 May 2004.



Hon'ble Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath ji holding divisional review meeting regarding development works with honorable ministers, MPs, MLAs and Legislative Council members of Agra division on Tuesday.

New beginning of strategic partnership between Philippines and India: Modi

Bilateral

❑ The bilateral relations between the two countries to the status of a partnership



New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Philippine President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. jointly announced on Tuesday the elevation of bilateral relations between the two countries to the status of a strategic part-

nership. Several important MoUs were exchanged between India and the Philippines on the occasion. Prime Minister Modi said in a joint press conference at Hyderabad House here that this year India and

the Philippines are celebrating the 75th anniversary of their diplomatic relations and President Marcos' visit to India holds special significance in this context. He said, "Even though our diplomatic relations are new, our civilisational

contacts are very ancient. The Ramayana Maharadiya Lawana of the Philippines is a proof of this." During the press conference, the two countries signed MoUs to promote science and technology, digital technology, tourism and defence cooperation. Three terms of reference were also exchanged between the Indian and Philippines armed forces, which is a symbol of growing trust in defence cooperation.

The Deputy Chairman termed the continuous deadlock in RS as worrying



New Delhi. On the 12th day of the Monsoon Session of Parliament, the proceedings of the Rajya Sabha remained disrupted on Tuesday. Deputy Chairman Harivansh condemned the attitude of the opposition regarding the disruption. There was a debate between the Leader of the Opposition and the Leader of the House on this. After this, there was a lot of uproar due to which the proceedings of the House were adjourned till two o'clock. The Deputy Chairman described the continuous deadlock in the House as worrying and said that on July 28, when a YSR

Condemned

❑ Chairman Harivansh condemned the attitude of the opposition

Congress member was speaking, some members got up from their seats and went to the mic and caused disruption. Was this not a violation of the privilege of the member? On July 31, when a minister was giving a statement on his own, his statement was also interrupted. When many other members were speaking, slogans were raised by going near the mic.

Judges will not decide who is a true Indian: Priyanka Gandhi

New Delhi: Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi said in the Parliament premises on Tuesday, 'With full respect for the honorable judges, I want to say that they will not decide who is a true Indian.' She said, 'It is the duty of the leader of the opposition to ask questions to the government. My brother will never speak against the army, he has respect for them. Brother's words were misinterpreted.' Meanwhile, in the NDA



Parliamentary Party meeting in Parliament House, PM Modi said on this issue, 'There cannot be a bigger rebuke from the Supreme Court than this.' Actually, this answer of Priyanka came on the question

raised by the Supreme Court on Rahul being a 'true Indian'. On August 4, during the hearing on the matter of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's comment on the army, Rau had expressed displeasure. The court had said that a true Indian

Comment

❑ The Supreme Court said - If Rahul was a true Indian, he would not have said

would not say this. How did you come to know that China has occupied 2000 square kilometers of India's land. On 16 December 2022, during the Bharat Jodo Yatra, Rahul had given a controversial statement.

RBI will announce the decision of the Monetary Policy

Mumbai: Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Sanjay Malhotra will announce the decision of the third bi-monthly Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) review meeting of the current financial year 2025-26 at 10 am on Wednesday. The six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) headed by RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra has started deliberations in the three-day bi-monthly

Review

❑ The decision taken in the MPC meeting will be announced on wednesday

review meeting from Monday. The decision taken in the MPC meeting will be announced on Wednesday at 10 am. Analysts say that the RBI has cut the repo rate by a total of one percent three times .

Manipur: Rajya Sabha passes proposal to extend President's rule

Resolution

❑ There has been only one incident of violence in the state in the last eight months

New Delhi. Rajya Sabha on Tuesday passed a resolution to extend President's rule in Manipur for six



months. This resolution was passed in Lok Sabha on 30th July. During the proceedings

that started after 2 pm on Tuesday in Rajya Sabha, Minister of State for Home Nityanand

Rai presented the resolution in the House amid sloganeering by the opposition. Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman started the discussion on this and gave Congress member Imran Pratapgarhi a chance to speak but he refused to speak. After this, Trinamool Congress member Sushmita Dev's name was called to speak, but she wanted to

put forward the point of discussing Bihar Special Intensive Review under Rule 259 and uproar started in the House. Trichy Siva also talked about discussing SIR.While presenting the resolution, Nityanand Rai said that the violence in Manipur had spread due to some aspects of the High Court's reservation order and the conflict

there was caste-based, not religious. There has been only one incident of violence in the state in the last eight months in which one person has died and not a single one in the last four months. Rai said that peace and normalcy is returning to the state and it was found necessary to extend President's rule to continue it.

"There has been a vast improvement in the infrastructure"

Raahveer

❑ The person who helps a person injured in a road accident will be awarded a certificate of 'Raahveer'



New Delhi: Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari said in a program here on Tuesday that there has been a vast

improvement in the infrastructure of roads in the country in the last 11 years under the

Modi government. Addressing the Global Indian Conclave and Awards (JICA) ceremony, Gadkari said that he has been working as the Road Transport Minister for the last 11 years and during this time there has been a vast improvement in the infrastructure of roads in the country, but every year five lakh road accidents occur in the country, in which about one lakh 80 thousand people die. 66 percent of these are youth

(aged 18 to 34 years). This is a very worrying situation. He said that now if the victim is admitted to the hospital in any road accident anywhere in the country, then the government will give assistance of up to one and a half lakh rupees directly to the hospital for seven days. The person who helps a person injured in a road accident will be awarded a certificate of 'Raahveer' and a prize of Rs 25,000.

Former Jammu and Kashmir

Governor Satyapal Malik dies in Delhi

New Delhi: Former Jammu and Kashmir Governor Satyapal Malik died on Tuesday at Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital here. He was 79 years old and was admitted to the hospital since May 11, where his condition remained critical.



It was during Malik's tenure as Governor of Jammu and Kashmir that the Central

Government abolished Article 370 and 35A on August 5, 2019. It is just a coincidence that he breathed his last on August 5. Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital said in a statement that Satyapal breathed his last at 1.12 pm.

CM issues stern warning over NSA and Gangster Act

Delhi: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has issued a warning that those who use drones without proper authorization or who distribute false information about them in an effort to incite fear may face prosecution under the Gangster Act and, in extreme circumstances, the National Security Act (NSA). He ordered high-ranking authorities to take strong action against infractions and to increase district-level drone surveillance and patrols. False allegations of burglars in western UP using drones to scout homes they target have sparked a spate of mob attacks, which led to the instruction. Yogi stated during a review conference with senior police officials that the state had outlawed the unlawful use of UAVs and that anyone caught misusing them will face legal consequences. Drone abuse, he said, would not be accepted. We will not



Yogi administration monitors decline in Haj applications

Delhi: Out of a total of 30,000 spots available for Hajj-2026, just 13,000 have been filled out thus far. An additional seven days, until August 7, are now available for application submissions. There were 13,600 pilgrims who made the Hajj last year, with 15,000 applications received out of a possible 30,000. The state got over 17,000 Haj applications in 2024.

As of 2023, the figure was at 26,000. As a fundamental tenet of Islam, the Haj is a pil-

grimage that all Muslims are obligated to undertake. We sent a letter to the Centre, and as a result, they extended the deadline for Haj 2026 applications by one week, from July 31, 2025, to July 31, 2026.

The minister of state for minority welfare, Muslim waqf, and haj in Uttar Pradesh, Danish Azad Ansari, stated that they have received approximately 13,000 applications thus far, but they are optimistic that this figure will rise.

NSA will be used if necessary," the CM stated.

Government personnel cannot be fired due to disability

Delhi: The Supreme Court ruled that public sector companies cannot automatically retire employees who develop disabilities while on the job without considering viable redeployment options. The court emphasized that an employer's discretion stops at the employee's dignity. While judicial caution is necessary to prevent abuse, it shouldn't be used as a reason to ignore injustice. "The Court is not crossing a line by intervening, it is upholding one drawn by the Constitution itself," reaffirmed a bench of justices JK Maheshwari and Aravind Kumar, in a major affirmation of the constitutional right to dignity and equality in



employment, when an employee is removed from service for a condition he did not choose and where viable alternatives are ignored. A judge ordered the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC) to rehire a driver who had been forcibly retired in 2016 due to a diagnosis of

color blindness in their ruling on August 1. The court slammed TSRTC for crossing the line into administrative error and violating constitutional principles and statutory requirements by not considering the driver's expressed desire to be reassigned to a non-driving position.

Nitish Kumar-led Bihar govt doubles honorarium for school support staff

Delhi: Support staff in state-run schools, including kitchen staff, security guards, and PE teachers, will see a significant rise in their honorarium, according to JD(U) leader and Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar, who made the announcement just

before the state's elections. Announcement made. According to the CM, this move is in line with the state's efforts to improve education since his administration took power in November 2005. We have been relentlessly pursuing educational

reform since our government was formed in November 2005. The overall education budget has grown from 4,366 crore in 2005 to 77,690 crore currently, according to Kumar. The amended structure increases the monthly payment for chefs.

Abhishek Banerjee named TMC Lok Sabha unit head

Delhi: West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee has handed her nephew and the Trinamool Congress' (TMC) national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee charge of the party's Lok Sabha unit amid a fresh public slanging match between its lawmakers Mahua Moitra and Kalyan Banerjee. According to party leaders aware of the matter, Kalyan on Monday offered to resign as the party's chief whip in the Lok Sabha after the fallout. The resignation is yet to be accepted, said the party leaders. "Abhishek Banerjee called me and told me not to push my resignation. He said, 'He wants to talk to me.'" Moitra, when asked about Kalyan's purportedly sexist comments



during the 2024 Lok Sabha campaign, said, "You don't wrestle with a pig because then you get dirty." "There are deeply misogynistic and sexually frustrated people in India and they have representation in Parliament," she added.

Kalyan Banerjee, in a post on X, hit back at Moitra. I

have taken note of the recent personal remarks made by Ms. Mahua Moitra in a public podcast. Her choice of words, including the use of dehumanising language such as comparing a fellow MP to a "pig", is not only unfortunate but reflects a deep disregard for basic norms of civil discourse."

Bastar villages get 300 phone towers

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

Why can't you forget your differences: Raj Thackeray



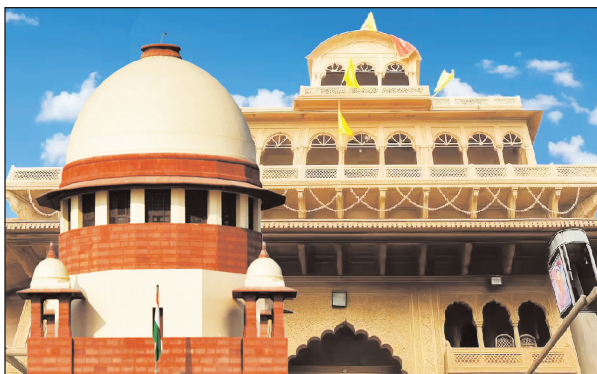
Delhi: If Raj and Uddhav Thackeray can come together after 20 years, why should party workers fight among themselves? This is what Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) chief Raj Thackeray asked his party's office bearers as he urged them to set aside their differences and come together ahead of the local body elections across the state, according to senior leader Bala Nandgaonkar. Addressing his party's Mumbai-based office bearers and workers at Rangasharda

Auditorium, Thackeray said that everyone in the party should work together to ensure its victory in the upcoming civic polls, and leave the issue of forging alliances to him, Nandgaonkar told reporters. With local body elections, including the crucial Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) polls approach-

ing, Raj organised Monday's meeting to rally MNS workers and give some important instructions. "He said that all workers, including former candidates and office bearers, must be taken along in the process," said N a n d g a o n k a r . Thackeray expects the BMC polls to be held in January or February next year.

Court challenges Uttar Pradesh government's Bankey Bihari temple ordinance

Delhi: The Supreme Court found that the government of Uttar Pradesh had moved in a "clandestine" and "tearing hurry" when it passed an ordinance to seize the Bankey Bihari temple in Mathura. The state and the temple administration were given one day to respond to the court's proposal that an interim administrative committee, presided over by a former high court judge, oversee the day-to-day operations of the temple and make recommendations for its comprehensive development with the goal of encouraging religious tourism. The "Uttar Pradesh Shri Bankey Bihari Ji Temple Trust Ordinance, 2025" was signed into law by the Uttar Pradesh government on May 26. This ordinance granted a state-run trust the authority to oversee the temple's operations and finances. The UP government was



Concerned RWAs urge government action to end stray dog problem

Delhi : Various residents welfare groups (RWAs) of Delhi-NCR gathered at Jantar Mantar to demand prompt action from the federal government in response to the increasing number of stray dogs in the nation's capital. In response to recent comments made by the Supreme Court in a case concerning the alleged harassment of a Noida resident for feeding stray dogs, the protest was spearheaded by former Union minister and senior BJP functionary Vijay Goel. Creating a safe haven in your own home is our recommendation.

The highest court in the land had made the remark, "Feed every dog in the community in your own house," emphasizing the need of protecting both stray animals and the public from harm.

granted permission to use temple funds to acquire 5 acres of land for a corridor development project surround-

ing the premises on May 15th, following which the ordinance was passed. biharijiTemple.png

Visitor registration for Mussoorie is now mandatory

Delhi : The Uttarakhand tourism agency has implemented a new requirement that all tourists visiting Mussoorie must now fill out an online registration form. When guests check in at hotels, guesthouses, or homestays, they will be asked to fill out an application. After

visitor footfall nearly doubled between 2022 and 2024, the change became operational to tackle overcrowding and manage traffic. A report on tourist arrivals in the town can be obtained by registering guests, according to Brijendra Pandey, the district tourism officer. Businesses must first

register on the site by entering information such as the owner's name and phone number, the facility's type (hotel, homestay, other), the property's name, the number of rooms, and the total capacity.

After that, they will take attendance. We have asked

our fellow hoteliers to comply with the new restrictions, as per the directions of the tourism department," Mussoorie Hotels Association president Sanjay Aggarwal said. Hoteliers are divided on the matter; some see the change as a "hindrance" while others support it.

A fresh plea for help in the fight against Delhi's stray dog problem



Delhi: The increasing problem of stray dogs in Delhi has been reaffirmed by former Union minister Vijay Goel, who has repeatedly demanded that the government and the MCD act swiftly to address the issue. Goel urged that anyone feeding stray dogs in public locations be fined and that FIRs be lodged, citing a recent incident in Mumbai as an example. "Rabies, a deadly disease, can be transmitted through dog bites. Rabies kills more than 20,000 people annually in India.

"Why can't people who feed stray dogs on the streets be held accountable if pigeon feeders can be?" he said. According to Goel, the Brihanmumbai

Municipal Corporation (BMC) was ordered to record FIRs against violators in a recent judgment by the Bombay High Court, which deemed mass pigeon

feeding a public annoyance and health threat. The five demands that he had previously stated—a toll-free hotline for complaints, recompense for victims of dog bites, penalties and formal reports for public feeding, a census of stray dogs immediately, and improved money and personnel to change the Animal Birth Control (ABC) Rules—were restated. To put an end to the practice of public feeding of stray dogs, he demanded the deployand civil defense volunteers.

Student going to school with sister dies after being hit by a trolley



Highway jam, CO and many police station incharges reached the spot

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Ajhuwa Kaushambi: A student riding a bicycle with his sister on school bicycle near Bhola intersection of Adarsh Nagar Panchayat National Highway of Saini Kotwali died after being hit by a trolley, the death of the student caused an uproar, angry family members and residents of the city jammed the highway, a long jam occurred on the highway, on receiving the information, the school management and police convinced the family members and residents and sent the body for postmortem and got the jam cleared by seizing the trolley. According to the incident, Jigar Prajapati, 13 years old son of Dinesh Prajapati, a resident of Parsipur village of Saini Kotwali, was a student of class seven in Dharma Devi Inter College located in Ken Kanwar.

Student Jigar was going to school on bicycle with his sister on Tuesday morning at around 7:30 AM. As soon as Jigar reached near Bhola crossing of



Azhuva highway, he started crossing the road. Meanwhile, due to passing of an e-rickshaw, the balance of the bicycle got disturbed and Jigar fell from the bicycle. At the same time, he came under the grip of a speeding trolley coming from Kanpur. The student died on the spot in the accident. Seeing the accident, a crowd of people gathered around. Taking advantage of the situation, the driver and conductor of trolley U P 22T4208 fled. People angry with the accident blocked the highway. Chowki in-charge Azhuva Anshuman

Anger among the residents of the city and the area

Ajhuwa Kaushambi. Azhuva town is a densely populated town. There are large establishments of hundreds of traders along the national highway. Some of them want to construct a bypass of the highway. Some want an elevated bridge with a pillar on the lines of Handia. In this tug of war, the tender for the bridge done by the National Highway Authority was cancelled in 2024. Thus, the work of bridge, bypass in the national highway from Chakeri to Prayagraj remained to be con-

Mishra kept on convincing the angry people. On receiving the



struction in Azhuva Basti. Due to non-construction of bridge, bypass, elevated bridge, dozens of accidents and deaths have happened in the last one month, but the administration did not pay heed and the responsible have not been able to find any solution till now and are watching the spectacle of gruesome deaths. According to the residents of the city, when an accident happens, the responsible go and get their photos clicked and make a despicable attempt to get applause. In the accident that hap-

pened today, the only light of 4 sisters of a house has been extinguished, tomorrow it will be someone else. The only question is, after how many deaths will the administration construct bridges, flyovers, bypasses in the highways of the city area. He will get it constructed, if we look at the allegations then not only police but even home guards are not deployed at Bhola crossing, Vikram tempo and taxi stand has been made on the national highway itself which is becoming a big cause of accidents.

information, CO Sirathu Thanadhyaksha Saini Satyendra Tiwari, Dharmendra Singh along with

DM SP inspected the accident site and gave necessary guidelines

Ajhuwa Kaushambi. After the death of the student at Bhola intersection of Adarsh Nagar Panchayat Azhuwa and the jam being cleared, District Magistrate Madhusudan Hulgi along with Captain Rajesh Kumar inspected the accident site with ARTO, National Highway officials and employees. During this, he ordered to close the road going to the other side of Bhola intersection at the cemented cross barrier and ordered to install speed breakers and reflected, rumble street at many places. During this, measurements were also taken for widening and bridge etc. in Azhuwa highway, orders have also been given to hold a meeting today on Tuesday evening.

the force of many police stations reached the spot, took the body of the student in their custody and sent it for post-mortem. On the instructions of CO Satyendra Tiwari, the trolley was seized and the jam on the highway was cleared.

DM inspected the flood affected area and gave necessary instructions



Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Prayagraj: District Magistrate Manish Kumar Verma reached the flood affected village Dhokri Uparhar Tehsil Phulpur on Tuesday and inspected the flood and met the flood affected people of the village and inquired about their problems and gave necessary instructions to all the concerned officials. The people of the village told that some houses of the village are surrounded by water and those people have taken shelter at other people's place in the village itself.

Animals have also

Inspected

Animals have also been kept elsewhere and fodder is required for them

been kept elsewhere and fodder is required for them, on which the District Magistrate has instructed the Sub-District Magistrate Phulpur to provide all food items and other necessary facilities to the flood affected people and to arrange for fodder by talking to the Chief Veterinary Officer. He has also instructed the Sub-District Magistrate to go by boat and inspect the houses surrounded by water.

Divisional Commissioner reached the flood relief camp set up at St. Joseph Girls College Mumfordganj

Review

People living in the flood relief camp should not face any kind of problem

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Mumfordganj :

Divisional Commissioner Vijay Vishwas Pant reached the flood relief camp set up at St. Joseph Girls College, Mumfordganj on Tuesday



reviewed the arrangements there. He interacted with the people living in the camp and inquired about the facilities and other arrangements available in the camp, on which the people

living there told him that all the arrangements are fine and food and water are being provided on time. Divisional Commissioner has given instructions to keep all the arrange-

ments in the flood relief camp in order. He said that special attention should be paid to cleanliness. He reached the stall set up by the Health Department in the flood relief camp and got information about the availability of medicines and other medical facilities. He said that if the people living here have any kind of health related problem, then they should be treated properly immediately.

A girl who reached with some boys on a bike jumped into the Yamuna

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Prayagraj: There was a lot of commotion on the new Yamuna bridge late at night. The crowd present on the bridge to see the flood said that a girl jumped into the river in the middle of the bridge going from Naini to the city. The slippers of both the feet of the girl were kept on the bridge. Late on Monday



night, a girl reached the new Yamuna bridge with two boys on a bike and jumped into the river after some time. As soon as the

girl jumped, the bike riders started running away from there. The passers-

by present on the bridge and the crowd that had come to see the flood caught both the boys and beat them up badly. On getting the information, the Jail Road Chowki Incharge reached the spot and took both the boys with him to the police station. The youths caught are said to be residents of Naini police station area and Bairhaha. At present, it could not be

ascertained where the girl was from. The police is trying to find out who the girl was and where she was from by interrogating the boys. It is being told that there was an argument between the girl and the boys on the new bridge for some time, after which the girl jumped into the river. Police say that information about the girl is being gathered.

24 districts and 1,245 villages affected by continuous rainfall in UP round-the-clock monitoring underway

Yogi govt emerges as a lifeline for flood victims

Lucknow: In the wake of devastating floods across Uttar Pradesh, the Yogi Adityanath-led government has emerged as a lifeline for thousands of affected families. With proactive monitoring, extensive relief distribution, and round-the-clock coordination, the state government has already extended assistance to more than 2 lakh flood-affected individuals. On Tuesday, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath conducted an aerial survey of the flood-hit regions

between Agra and Auraiya to assess the situation firsthand. Following the survey, he visited relief camps in Auraiya, where he met with displaced families and distributed essential relief materials. Reassuring flood victims, the Chief Minister said there is no need to panic, as the government is standing firmly with them during this difficult time and will ensure that no one suffers from any shortage. Flood Relief Commissioner Bhanu



Chandra Goswami provided detailed updates on the situation, noting that 24 districts, 59 tehsils, and 1,245 villages have been affected so far. A total of 2,06,910 people have received relief aid,

while 26,089 animals have been relocated to safer areas. The government has already provided financial assistance to 360 of the 517 households whose homes were damaged due to the floods. To

support the rescue and relief operations, 1,640 boats and motorboats are ferrying supplies to marooned areas. The government has distributed 17,924 food grain packets and 2,47,277 lunch packets among the victims. More than 40 community kitchens (langars) are operational in various areas, ensuring that affected families receive daily meals. Apart from human relief, the government is also ensuring the safety and nourishment of livestock. So

far, 5,585 quintals of fodder have been distributed. To prevent the spread of waterborne diseases, 2,04,494 chlorine tablets and 1,60,559 ORS packets have been distributed across vulnerable regions. 377 flood shelters are actively housing 41,842 displaced individuals, with 901 medical teams deployed for regular health checkups. In addition, 1,348 flood outposts have been set up for real-time monitoring of the situation.

CM Yogi unveils 'Atal Puram Township'-Agra's new landmark

Agra: Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, on Tuesday, inaugurated the ambitious 'Atal Puram Township' project, marking a new chapter in Agra's urban transformation. The launch event was held at the Divisional Commissioner's Auditorium, where CM Yogi unveiled the Agra Development Authority's largest housing initiative in the last 36 years. Spanning 340 acres near the Agra Inner Ring Road, this landmark project stands as a testament to the Yogi government's vision of planned urban

expansion and modern infrastructure. Strategically located at the confluence of Agra Inner Ring Road, Southern Bypass, and Gwalior Road, the township covers approximately 138 hectares. A key highlight of this project is ADA's historic move to directly purchase land from farmers through mutual agreement, offering compensation at four times the prevailing circle rate. This land acquisition model reinforces the government's commitment to farmer welfare.

Editorial

Priyanka to Sharmila, Kanimozhi to Misa—KCR’s daughter Kavitha is fighting a bigger battle

KKavitha, daughter of former Telangana chief minister K Chandrasekhar Rao, is hurting. She began her 72-hour hunger strike Monday, demanding 42 per cent reservation for backward classes in jobs, educational institutions and local bodies. Her party, the Bharat Rashtra Samithi, is staying away from it. While she is being trolled and ridiculed by political rivals as also party colleagues, nobody has come to her defense. Even her brother and the party’s working president, KT Rama Rao, hasn’t said a word. To make matters worse, she was dropped as honorary president of the Telangana Boggu Ghani Karmika Sangham (TBGKS), a BRS-affiliated trade union. Kavitha, a BRS legislator, has accused “party insiders” of encouraging those attacking her and also questioned the silence of BRS “brothers”. So, what’s happening in the BRS’ ‘first family’? In August last year when she came out of Tihar jail on bail in the alleged liquor scam, her family was waiting for her outside. With tears in her eyes, she kissed her brother KT Rama Rao’s hand. A year later, she is looking isolated and abandoned by the family. The controversy surrounding her ‘letter bomb’ refuses to die down. Not because her father is upset about the letter, in which she expressed disagreement with his way of functioning, but because of how her party has reacted — by virtually abandoning her. Party insiders tell me that while the father did call the daughter “three or four times”, the brother has cut off all communication with her. These developments are being interpreted in political circles as a full-blown succession war between Kavitha and KTR, with cousin Harish Rao keeping his ambitions in abeyance and pledging allegiance to KTR. But it’s not as simple as that. Party insiders close to the BRS first family tell me that the man behind Kavitha’s current woes is not her brother. The one who triggered this storm is someone party circles are calling the ‘VK Pandian of Telangana’ — a reference to the former IAS officer in Odisha whose “control” over ex-CM Naveen Patnaik alienated Biju Janata Dal (BJD) leaders and eventually led to Patnaik’s fall from power. In the case of the BRS’ family feud, it’s not an ex-IAS officer. It’s a close relative and KCR’s trusted confidant who, insiders say, has gained ‘control’ over the former CM. And it’s this person that Kavitha has taken up the cudgels against. She has been hurting ever since her letter to KCR was “leaked” — a letter in which she questioned her father for being soft on the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) during his speech marking the BRS’ 25th anniversary. She said this gave the impression that the BRS and BJP could work together in the future. The letter also flagged other concerns about the way her party leadership was functioning. It was ‘leaked’ while she was in the US visiting her elder son. Though she had sent the letter before leaving, many might find it strange that she chose to write rather than speak to her father, possibly a sign of a rift. The fact, however, is that she has been writing hand-written letters — not emails, which KCR doesn’t use — for years. The usual practice was that she would hand over a letter during a meeting, which he would read and respond to later. This time, Kavitha sent the letter through her mother, as she was sick and didn’t want to risk infecting her elderly father. But when the letter surfaced just before her return to India, she was furious.

She apparently saw a pattern — and a familiar hand, someone she always suspected of working against her. Party insiders say she suspects her cousin Joginapally Santhosh Kumar to be behind the leak. Santhosh is her mother Shobha’s sister’s son, who is like KCR’s “nurse and PA” who stays with him 24X7, taking care of him — much like Pandian did with Patnaik. KCR has given him untrammelled clout.



Do Chola kings represent a culturally united Hindu India? It’s a modern fantasy

History has rarely been away from the headlines over the last few weeks, whether through the rewriting of NCERT textbooks or PM Modi’s tribute to the Chola dynasty of medieval South India. The coming month will see the millennial celebrations of the 11th-century Chola emperor Rajendra I, specifically of his conquests in Southeast Asia. There is a loud chorus, at least on social media, that the Cholas—and South India in general—haven’t gotten their due in the national historical imagina-

tion. But there’s more going on than meets the eye. The fact is that celebrating the conquests of the Cholas misses the woods for the trees. Rather than encourage a deeper understanding of regional histories, we are instead forcing a remarkable medieval society into today’s culture wars. To understand the recent political bonanza about the Cholas, first we need to understand what they’ve left behind—and the many ways in which we’ve understood this over the decades. Most of what we

know about the Cholas derives from donative inscriptions that adorn the walls of medieval Tamil temples. Interestingly, most Chola-period donative inscriptions were not commissioned by the Chola court, but a broad, shifting spectrum of Tamil-speaking society.

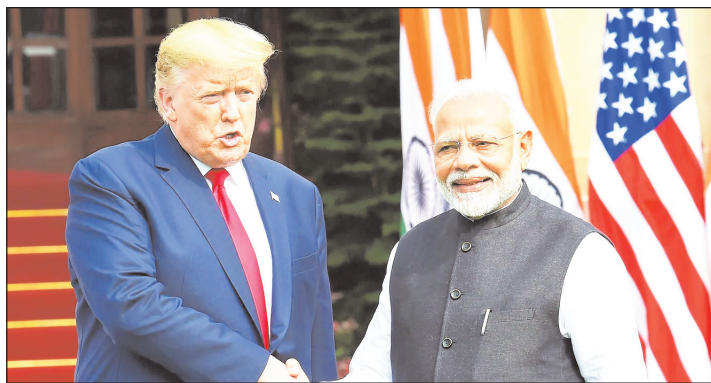
Through these inscriptions, we can see broad social trends. As historians Noboru Karashima, Y Subbarayalu, and James Heitzman have shown, most temple affairs—and, by extension, village affairs—depended on local collectives,

rather than royal officials. These might be collectives of Vellala cultivator families, or Brahmin landlords, or merchants. These collectives, as we’ll see soon, were not mute recipients of royal commandments. Temple donors were fairly diverse in the early 10th century (when the Chola dynasty was rising), sometimes including shepherds and washer-people. Over time, temple activities were steadily taken over by men of elite martial or landed backgrounds, often linked to the Chola court.

India now faces what can be best described as the Trump pill — a bracing dose of transactional geopolitics and neo-mercantilist tariffs that upend the diplomatic comfort of the past decade. With sweeping 25 per cent tariffs targeting Indian exports, our longstanding belief in strategic autonomy and global goodwill is being challenged by the brutal arithmetic of trade imbalances and national interests. This isn’t just a policy shift; it’s a call to recalibrate how India positions itself economically and diplomatically in a world now shaped by profit-first diplomacy. The newly announced tariffs by the Trump administration pose a direct threat to India’s export competitiveness. Sectors such as electronics, smartphones, automobile parts, and gemstones will be hit hardest. Comparatively, Vietnam faces only 20 per cent tariffs, and economies like Indonesia enjoy relatively lighter penalties. While pharmaceutical products, semiconductors, and critical rare earths remain exempt for now, there is a growing uncertainty about India’s continued access to these carve-outs, particularly as Trump intensifies his focus on bilateral trade “wins.” Further compounding this threat is the ambiguity around secondary sanctions tied to India’s oil imports from Russia. A punitive surcharge, conveyed repeatedly but not yet formalised, could be crippling. As we shall see, this issue is not merely economic — it strikes at the heart of India’s strategic alignment. The stakes for India are high. Without a trade deal with the United States, economic ramifications could be severe. Capital flows may dry up, leading to a weakening rupee. Stock markets are already reflecting investor nervousness, and early estimates suggest India’s GDP could suffer a 0.2–0.5 per cent contraction. Unlike Brazil,

, threatening secondary sanctions on nations buying discounted Russian crude, marks a shift. Initially dismissed due to Trump’s own ambivalence toward Ukraine and open admiration for Vladimir Putin, the bill has reemerged as Trump pivots back toward Europe, leaving India exposed. India’s rise on the global stage in the past decade owed much to its favorable geopolitical moment. As the Indo-Pacific became the centre of global strategic focus, India was cast as a vital counterweight to China. Western powers embraced New Delhi’s role, drawn by its demographic strength, huge market, and democratic credentials.

India sees the value of US defence ties, but MAGA-style tariffs threaten long-term stability



intrusive or incompatible with India’s traditional non-alignment posture, are now actively deployed to bolster maritime surveillance, domain awareness, and air defence capabilities. Operational collaboration has also deepened. India’s acquisition of MQ-9B Predator drones, MH-60R multi-role naval helicopters, and the proposed co-production of GE-414 engines for indigenous fighter jets signal not just defence modernisation, but also a convergence in regional threat assessments, especially vis-à-vis China’s assertive posture in the Indo-Pacific. Initiatives such as INDUS-X and iCET are moving beyond procurement to include co-development, startup incubation, and collaborative research in emerging technologies like Artificial Intelligence (AI), Quantum Computing (QC), and Autonomous Weapons Systems (AWS). These engagements point to a long-term strategic partnership rather than short-term expediency. However, there is a fly in the ointment. The July 30 announcement of 25 per cent US tariffs on Indian exports, couched vaguely in terms of India’s ongoing

defence and energy cooperation with Russia, reveals a recurring dilemma: how stable and reliable is US strategic posture and unconditional support when tested by domestic political imperatives or ideological shifts like MAGA? The tariffs, affecting nearly three-quarters of India’s exports, suggest that economic retaliation may be used as a convenient foreign policy tool for strategic coercion. That the current proposed tariffs were triggered not by any rupture in defence ties, but by dissatisfaction over India’s continued import of Russian oil and military platforms, underscores the complexity of American reliability. This tension exposes the somewhat hypocritical duality of US diplomacy, in that it seeks convergence on strategic goals while retaining coercive tools to enforce alignment. For India, such moves raise critical questions and strike at the heart of its policy of strategic autonomy. Can the US-India defence partnership flourish in an environment where India’s broader economic or foreign policy decisions invite punitive countermeasures? Will access to US platforms and supply chains be withdrawn

or restricted, especially in times of conflict, if India continues to pursue a multi-pronged foreign policy that includes countries like Russia and Iran, which the US views as enemies?The answer probably lies in separating the institutional depth of security cooperation from the dynamic volatility arising out of political posturing. Unlike trade, which is often driven by electoral considerations and domestic imperatives like MAGA, defence collaboration is sustained by bureaucratic processes, institutional memory, and mutual threat recognition. The US Defence and State Departments, and India’s Ministries of Defence and External Affairs, operate on longer timelines and are often shielded, though not immune, from the ups and downs arising out of political turnarounds. For example, platforms like the Reciprocal Defence Procurement (RDP), offset clauses, and co-development agreements are more likely to endure and evolve, perhaps with some tweaks, than suffer abrupt reversals. The 2+2 dialogue has endured many political hiccups. The MEA’s statement — “This partnership has weathered several transitions and challenges” — reflects the long-term nature of the relationship. India’s recent strategic decisions suggest a pragmatic reading of this duality. While defence cooperation with the US has accelerated, India continues to diversify its military suppliers, including France (Rafale jets), Israel (missile defence), and Russia (S-400 systems).

This hedging reflects India’s understanding that a strategic partnership does not mean strategic dependence. The refusal to proceed with the proposed F-35 acquisition, despite its symbolic value, signals India’s intent to avoid politically sensitive purchases that may jeopardise its diplomatic flexibility or trigger regional escalations. At the same time, India could astutely use its defence commitments as a bargaining tool. By advertising possible future purchases — from Predator drones and GE-414 engines to naval platforms — as strategic inducements, India has levers to secure tariff concessions, obtain market access, and reduce regulatory barriers in trade negotiations with the US. The trade-off is clear. Defence offsets, which require US firms to invest a portion of contract value in India, can be portrayed domestically in the US as job-creating and strategically aligned, softening opposition to trade waivers or procurement reciprocity. Yet this ‘carrot’ strategy can only go so far. US negotiators remain dissatisfied with India’s high tariffs on agriculture, digital localisation policies, and resistance to GM crops, which are seen as barriers to open trade. Even if India were to boost its defence purchases from the US, these unresolved economic grievances will persist. More critically, India’s energy and defence ties with Russia and its refusal to adhere to US-driven sanctions create minefields that defence collaboration alone may not be able to navigate.

Geopolitical forces beyond New Delhi’s control are at play in Trump’s approach to India

US President Donald Trump reignited trade tensions with India on 30 July, accusing it of imposing “far too high” tariffs and threatening a 25 per cent levy starting 1 August. Despite ongoing efforts toward a mini trade deal and a \$500 billion trade target by 2030, Trump’s obsession with trade reciprocity and a “messianic” zeal to correct any trade imbalance overnight with partner countries, looms large over the relationship. He also criticised India’s defense and oil ties with Russia, hinting at potential penalties. Still, in typical Trump fashion, he later softened his stance, saying India was now willing to reduce tariffs “very substantially,” adding, “We’re talking to India now — we’ll see what happens.” That Trump is displeased with a number of allies and partners has almost become a constant fixture in his second term, and India does not enjoy any special privilege. So, there are two ways of looking at the current spat and the low point in the India-US partnership. First, there is a broader geopol-

itics reshaping Trump’s almost pretzelian foreign policy twists. Second, a painful road awaits as Washington-New Delhi negotiations over a mini trade deal whose terms and conditions will remain uncertain, and even if agreed upon, will remain largely ad hoc and piecemeal. Behind Trump’s fresh round of rants and wrath aimed at India lies a broader geopolitical curve in Trump’s foreign and national security policy. In Trump’s first as well second terms, his positive vibe towards President Vladimir Putin of Russia, otherwise an eyesore for America’s western allies, has been relatively more welcomed in India. Compared to the Biden presidency, which was crystal clear on confronting Russia and supporting Ukraine sans conditions, the Trump presidency was more forthcoming on talking to Moscow and more circumscribed in its support for Ukraine. However, of late, amid dwindling prospects of a peace deal with Putin, Trump has taken a U-turn in his approach to the Russia-Ukraine war .

Trump tariff forces India to shed illusion. Stop conflating status with power

India now faces what can be best described as the Trump pill — a bracing dose of transactional geopolitics and neo-mercantilist tariffs that upend the diplomatic comfort of the past decade. With sweeping 25 per cent tariffs targeting Indian exports, our longstanding belief in strategic autonomy and global goodwill is being challenged by the brutal arithmetic of trade imbalances and national interests. This isn’t just a policy shift; it’s a call to recalibrate how India positions itself economically and diplomatically in a world now shaped by profit-first diplomacy. The newly announced tariffs by the Trump administration pose a direct threat to India’s export competitiveness. Sectors such as electronics, smartphones, automobile parts, and gemstones will be hit hardest. Comparatively, Vietnam faces only 20 per cent tariffs, and economies like Indonesia enjoy relatively lighter penalties. While pharmaceutical products, semiconductors, and critical rare earths remain exempt for now, there is a growing uncertainty about India’s continued access to these carve-outs, particularly as Trump intensifies his focus on bilateral trade “wins.” Further compounding this threat is the ambiguity around secondary sanctions tied to India’s oil imports from Russia. A punitive surcharge, conveyed repeatedly but not yet formalised, could be crippling. As we shall see, this issue is not merely economic — it strikes at the heart of India’s strategic alignment. The stakes for India are high. Without a trade deal with the United States, economic ramifications could be severe. Capital flows may dry up, leading to a weakening rupee. Stock markets are already reflecting investor nervousness, and early estimates suggest India’s GDP could suffer a 0.2–0.5 per cent contraction. Unlike Brazil,

which enjoys a trade surplus with the US, or China, which retains leverage through its monopoly over rare earth elements, India finds itself in a vulnerable middle. India has little immediate leverage in trade. Brazil, for example, will enjoy strategic concessions from Washington, thanks to the US having a trade surplus with it. China, with its iron grip over rare earth supplies, forced the US to capitulate during past confrontations. Meanwhile, Trump has succeeded in strong-arming traditional allies. He finalised a trade agreement with the EU after imposing 25 per cent tariffs on select sectors and billions of dollars promised in investment. He has also coaxed Japan into signing a deal with 15 per cent tariffs and \$550 billion in investments. Likewise, he has already finalised a deal with Indonesia and Vietnam, both with lesser tariffs than India’s. With India, however, talks have hit roadblocks — both economic and geopolitical. The US’ objections to India’s protectionism in agriculture and dairy are longstanding. But the deeper threat comes from Washington’s insistence on penalising Indian oil imports from Russia. Trump’s sudden support for the Blumenthal-Graham bill,

, threatening secondary sanctions on nations buying discounted Russian crude, marks a shift. Initially dismissed due to Trump’s own ambivalence toward Ukraine and open admiration for Vladimir Putin, the bill has reemerged as Trump pivots back toward Europe, leaving India exposed. India’s rise on the global stage in the past decade owed much to its favorable geopolitical moment. As the Indo-Pacific became the centre of global strategic focus, India was cast as a vital counterweight to China. Western powers embraced New Delhi’s role, drawn by its demographic strength, huge market, and democratic credentials.

PM stops razing slums, vows to build homes instead

Delhi: Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta responded to accusations that the BJP is betraying its commitments to the urban poor by saying that her administration is willing to revise Delhi's slum policy. This comes as the BJP is under pressure from both the opposition and members of its own party over the continuing destruction of slums in the capital. Slum residents are the "backbone of Delhi's working class," according to Gupta, who has ordered a stop to all demolitions unless suitable alternatives are found beforehand. Additionally, the Delhi government has stated categorically that the capital will not be removing any slums. Gupta issued a stern warning to land-owning organizations such as the Railways and the Delhi Development Authority, urging them to "immediately cease" any eviction campaigns. She also threatened that her government would resort to



Two months from now, Delhi will get its first hot air balloon rides

Delhi: Hot air balloon excursions over the nation's capital will soon be available to Delhi residents. The rides would be available at four different locations in two months: Yamuna Sports Complex, Commonwealth Games Sports Complex, Asita, and Bandera. The Delhi Development Authority said this to promote eco-tourism and recreational activities. A private agency has been con-

tracted by DDA to operate the hot air balloon trips for an initial period of three years, with the option to extend it up to nine years. Daily flying windows of up to four hours will be allowed, with the possibility of extensions depending on demand or other needs, according to a statement from DDA. The rides will operate under a revenue-sharing arrangement, and the DDA's permission.

legal action if required. The slum dwellers in R K Puram, an area where Prime Minister Narendra Modi had previously promised that "no jhuggi would be demolished

Voting for the next Vice President will take place on September 9

Delhi: Vote tallying and the vice president election are scheduled for September 9, according to the Election Commission of India (EC). On August 7, you will receive the VP poll notification, and nomination papers are due by August 21. Nominations will be reviewed on August 22, and candidates have until August 25 to withdraw their names from consideration. According to an official declaration from the EC, a poll would be held on September 9 if needed. You can cast your ballot in the first floor Vasudha room of Parliament House (Room No. F-101). Jagdeep Dhankhar's abrupt departure on July



21st created an unusual mid-term vacancy in the second highest constitutional office in the nation, forcing the election of a new vice president. On July 22, the official gazette notice was published on the vacant office. Members of the electoral college, which includes representatives from both

houses of parliament, vote for the vice president. There are 233 elected members of the Rajya Sabha (currently five seats are empty), 12 nominated members of the Rajya Sabha, and 543 elected members of the Lok Sabha making up the electoral college for this year's election.

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

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

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

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

650 private hospitals in Haryana have decided to withdraw from the Ayushman Scheme

Delhi: The Haryana chapter of the Indian Medical Association has said that, starting August 7, 650 private hospitals in the state will no longer accept patients through the Ayushman Bharat program if the Centre's payment of Rs 500 crore is not paid by then.

There was a "chronic breakdown" in the state's administration of the scheme, according to officials of IMA (Haryana), who had previously issued a similar warning in January of this year. According to their claims, most private hospitals have had to use their own funds or refuse



patients since March because they have only received reimbursements equal to 10-15% of their billed amounts. "Things are even worse now than they were earlier. Without prompt payments, hospitals

will be unable to keep providing free treatment under the program. The current financial situation makes system operation unfeasible, according to Dr. Mahavir Jain, president of IMA (Haryana).

A New Blood Donor App Is Coming Soon to Delhi

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

Might the Rohingya be considered refugees or unauthorized immigrants?

Delhi: The Supreme Court started looking into the status of Rohingya entrants in the nation as refugees or illegal migrants after hearing a number of petitions that fought against their deportation and demanded that the government do something to help them get the basics while they're in refugee camps. "Whether they are refugees or illegal migrants is the first major issue," a bench led by Justice Surya Kant stated. What follows is mere-



ly incidental. They have legal rights to certain protections if they are refugees. In that case, the bench—which also included Justices Dipankar Datta and N Kotiswar Singh—stated that the individuals in question should be

deported to their home country because they are considered unlawful aliens. Some 22 issues regarding the deportation of foreign nationals in detention camps or claiming refugee status were taken up by the court. The bench ordered that all cases involving Rohingya migrants be filed together. It mandated the consolidation of all cases involving foreign nationals into a single batch for independent consideration.

Govt. of Delhi unveils proposed regulations for social security labor code

Delhi: A social security board for unorganised workers and career centers to help entrepreneurs and job-seekers are two proposals put up by the Delhi government in the draft regulations released under the Code on Social Security.

The establishment of a social security fund, the formalization of worker compensation in the event of an accident, and maternity benefits are all proposed in the draft guidelines. The Delhi government's labor department has issued a call for public comments and recommendations, asking that those involved identify the chapter and rule or sub-rule that would be changed and explain why. Over five years after Parliament approved four labour laws, the Delhi government has now begun



to put them into effect with the release of these proposed regulations. The four codes, which consolidate 29 central labor regulations, were enacted in 2019 and 2020 with the aim of providing support for workers in the unorganised sector and accelerating economic reforms. The Code on Social Security is one of four codes in this set; the others deal with wages, industrial relations, and health, safety, and working conditions in the workplace.

Govt allocates 12,952 crore for public transport system

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

Govt. to clarify exemption from 15-year 'End of Life' regulation in an effort to increase electric vehicle sales

Delhi: Apparently, the government is planning to clarify that the 15-year 'End of Life' (EoL) legislation does not apply to electric vehicles (EVs) in the near future, in an effort to encourage the widespread usage of electric buses, automobiles, and trucks. Additionally, the power ministry will hasten the rollout of the Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards to urban freight vehicles, buses, and trucks in an effort to lower fuel consumption and carbon dioxide emissions. The restric-



tions were finalized at a recent high-level conference headed by Rajiv Gauba, a member of Niti Aayog. They were put in place in response to concerns over the poor pace of electric vehicle penetration, which was 7.6% in 2024

compared to the 30% target for 2030. According to TOI, the adoption rate of two- and three-wheelers as well as buses is higher than that of four-wheelers, while e-trucks are still in the early stages of development.

Tickets to the Delhi Zoo could be priced up by 20

Delhi: In 2021, when the zoo reopened following the COVID-19 pandemic, admission prices were last raised. Adults now pay twice as much, from 40 to 80 rupees. Prices for adults were increased from ₹20 to ₹40 in 2013, prior to that. Several states and nations throughout the globe have



average adult ticket prices that

exceed ₹100. Our suggestion is probably going to be around these prices. There was talk of a potential hike at the latest conference, which might lead to higher ticket prices. According to a zoo official, "the last revision came in 2021." They also mentioned that the government has not received

any paperwork about the matter. In 1959, when the Delhi Zoo first opened to the public, admission was 20 paise for adults, 10 paise for children aged 5 to 12, and free for children under 5. Guests could also purchase an actual zoo map for 5 paise to use as a guide while they were there.

CAPSULES

The capital's open-deck buses will soon be available for your riding pleasure

Delhi: Tourists visiting Delhi will be pleasantly surprised by the upcoming redesign of the city's Hop-on Hop-off (HoHo) bus service. The new buses will be cheaper to travel and will have decks that are partially open. Along with this, other routes will be added and the service's ticket pricing will be around INR 200, which is less than half of the existing ride. The new service is expected to launch before the end of this year, according to recent sources.



Tourists visiting various attractions across Delhi will have access to a flexible public transit network thanks to the service's introduction of interchange stations. The Delhi Tourism and Transportation Development Corporation (DTTDC) has submitted a revised model to the government for approval; the proposal was recently authorized by the government's planning department and is now awaiting clearance from the finance department. Further, the plan states that the government will provide rides at less than half the existing fare in order to attract more riders to the redesigned buses. The new 23 low-floor semi-open buses will replace the government's HoHo bus service. The estimated cost to the state government is INR 40 crore.

Prasar Bharati distributes free high-quality news content

Delhi : Prasar Bharati has invited newspapers, periodicals, and television channels nationwide to register on its newswire platform, PB-SHABD, to improve access to high-quality news and multimedia content. This extensive content-sharing effort, launched in March 2024, provides over 800 daily news pieces in several Indian languages to support media businesses. More than 40 categories of stories cover current events, economy, society, and science. The portal also broadcasts major national and international events, has a large visual archive, and publishes explanatory and research-based pieces. PB-SHABD's free, media-friendly content is easily accessible and used for traditional and digital content makers. All legitimate media organizations must be on the platform, officials said at a recent high-level conference convened by



Information & Broadcasting Secretary Sanjay Jaju. The goal is to spread accurate, authentic, and understandable information through trusted means. PB-SHABD, India's first government-backed digital newswire, launched in March 2024 and offers over 800 multimedia news pieces daily in multiple Indian languages. This platform covers over 40 topics, including politics, health, economy, foreign affairs, ecology, and more. Built to enable a robust and inclusive media ecosystem, PB-SHABD offers: Registered media partners get free, copyright-cleared content.

The Government of India is a major backer of SHRI School

Delhi: The Government of India is a major backer of SHRI School. Every student should feel welcomed and cared for in more than 14,500 PM SHRI Schools managed by the Central Government, State Government, UT Government, and local bodies like KVS and NVS. These schools should also provide a safe and stimulating learning environment, a variety of learning opportunities, and adequate physical infrastructure and resources.

Digital wallet payments must cross boundaries

Delhi : PayPal CEO Alex Chriss told us in an exclusive interview that digital wallets and rapid payment systems must integrate into a global, interoperable network to scale. Chriss lauded local payment rails like UPI, Venmo, and WeChat Pay. The next wave of digital commerce growth depends on making these technologies function together, he said. He believes travelers should be able to pay retailers or send money using their preferred apps, regardless of location. On PayPal World: PayPal has created PayPal World, a global



network connecting TenPay Global (China), UPI International (India), Mercado Pago (Mexico), PayPal, and Venmo. UPI apps will let Indians shop at European stores. Tourists in India might scan UPI QR codes with

their home wallets. Chriss also supported cryptocurrency as the next payment revolution. PayPal wants merchants to accept bitcoin by providing rails for such transactions as part of its worldwide ambition.

"Pending farm insurance claims exceeding 5k-cr"

Delhi: Union agriculture minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan stated in a written reply in Lok Sabha that insurance companies still owe farmers thousands of crores in claims under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), the state's flagship crop insurance program, despite several efforts to guarantee prompt com-

pensation. Information stated in response to a query posed by Hanuman Beniwal, a member of parliament from the Rashtriya Loktantrik Party, indicates that the scheme had pending claims of ₹5405 crore spanning many seasons, which accounts for around 6% of all compensation applications, until the

harif or summer-sown season of 2024. The response notes that the unpaid claims are mostly due to disputes between state governments and insurance businesses that are part of the crop insurance program, incorrect or delayed insurance proposals from banks, and late distribution of subsidy shares by states.

Banks and NBFCs are limited by RBI to investing no more than 20% of the AIF scheme's corpus



Delhi: According to new rules released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Regulated Entities (REs) can only invest up to 20% of an AIF scheme's total capital. The RBI has said in a circular that no RE may put up more than 10% of an AIF scheme's total value. The maximum amount that any one RE can put into an AIF Scheme as a whole is 20% of the scheme's corpus, the document stated. Unless a RE determines an earlier date in accordance with its internal policy, these Directions will be effective as of January 1, 2026. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) stated in a circular that real estate investment funds (REFs) are required to make full provision up to the amount of their proportionate investment in the debtor company through the AIF Scheme, up to a maximum of their direct loanand/or investment exposure to the debtor company, if their contributions exceed 5% of the corpus of the AIF Scheme and the RE has downstream investment (excluding equity instruments) in the debtor company. The full investment amount must be subtracted from the RE's capital funds, specifically Tier-1 and Tier-2 capital, in proportion, if the contribution is made in the form of subordinated units.

Possibly affecting electronics exports to the US, including iPhones

Delhi: Apple and Samsung, two of the largest electronics exporters, were caught off guard by the tariffs. If the tariffs remain in place and no negotiated solution is found, "manufacturing business for the US will be lost" according to the worry. Top electronics exporters like Samsung and Apple were taken aback by the Trump administration's proposal of a 25% tax on India and an extra penalty for trade with Russia. A lack of resolution through the bilateral trade agreement that is still being negotiated with Washington has industry officials worried that "manufacturing business for the US will be lost" in the event that the rates remain unchanged. India



surpassed China as the top iPhone exporter to the US in the second quarter of 2025, with a contribution of 44%. China's stake had dropped to 25% from 61% in the same quarter previous year, according to Canalys. This shift comes days after India had surpassed China. Industry

executives have mentioned that this might change if the tariffs on India continue. They also brought up the fact that the US administration has already lowered the duties on gadgets containing chips from China, such as smartphones, from a high of roughly 20%.

YES Bank Stole Rs 2,850 Crore From Reliance MF

Delhi : Reliance Mutual Fund of Anil Ambani invested Rs 2,850 crore in YES Bank AT-1 bonds for alleged quid pro quo, Enforcement Directorate sources said. Additional Tier-1 or AT-1 bonds have no maturity date and investors never get their principal, but they do receive a higher interest rate forever. If necessary, the bank might convert them to equity or write them off. Reliance Mutual Fund's bonds were written off and the money was siphoned off, ED sources stated.

Policybazaar fined Rs 5 cr by Irdai for infractions

Delhi: Policy bazaar was fined a record-breaking 5 crore rupees by the IRDAI for many infractions discovered during a June 2020 remote inspection. Inconsistent payments for outsourcing, incomplete mapping of telemarketing sales to authorized verifiers, premium remittance delays, and biased product advertising are all examples of the violations. The regulator found a conflict of interest and punished the company Rs 1 crore for letting its chief officer and other key managerial people retain directorships in other organizations without prior consent. its use of third-party data to promote certain insurance policies on its website as "best" or "top" resulted in another fine of Rs 1 crore. This method, according to Irdai, was deceptive, gave some



Due to issues with corporate governance, Indian e-cab supplier BluSmart has filed for bankruptcy

Delhi: BluSmart, an electric cab company in India, has gone bankrupt, according to a company law tribunal order. This comes as a result of growing concerns about corporate governance following allegations made by the company's co-founder in a regulatory investigation that he had stolen money intended for vehicle leasing. After co-founder Anmol Jaggi was excluded from the securities market by India's market regulator, BluSmart halted operations in April. The Reuters India File is a newsletter that covers breaking news from India and its global impact. Create an account by clicking here. The allegations that Jaggi used a new tab to steal money from his publicly traded affiliate Gensol (GENO.NS).

insurers more exposed than others, and limited consumer choice.

Why is Anil Ambani under investigation for Rs 17,000cr loan 'fraud'?

Delhi: Industrialist Anil Ambani was summoned to the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in New Delhi for a suspected Rs 17,000-crore loan fraud case. The agency issued a Look Out Circular (LOC) against him days before, prohibiting him from leaving the country throughout the probe. ANI reports that the ED is investigating financial irregularities and PMLA violations. A massive ED investigation on July 24 searched 35 properties, 50 firms, and over 25 Reliance Anil Ambani Group (RAAGA) employees. A CBI First Information Report prompted this money laundering case. Officials told that preliminary results showed a "well-planned and thought-out scheme" to defraud banks,



Samsung may make India a US hub amid rising tariffs

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

investors, and public organizations. Yes Bank and its then-promoter are also under scrutiny. The ED suspects Yes Bank illegally diverted

23,000 crore in loans between 2017 and 2019. The National Housing Bank, SEBI, NFRA, and Bank of Baroda provided inputs to the ED's probe.

Income Tax Department's PAN 2.0 project awarded to LTIMindtree

Delhi: The Income Tax Department has awarded the contract for the PAN 2.0 project to technology consulting and digital solutions company, LTIMindtree Limited, with the project expected to go live in 18 months, officials said. The bid value of the contract is around Rs 792 crore, they said. When the PAN 2.0 Project was approved by the Union Cabinet in November 2024, the government had provisioned Rs 1,435 crore for the project. Confirming the development, an LTIMindtree spokesperson



said, "We have been awarded this prestigious PAN 2.0 project which looks to enhance the PAN issuance process and security through technology-driven innovation." There were other contenders also for the project. Earlier, in May this year, Protean eGov Technologies had stated that it had partici-

pated in the Income Tax Department's Request for Proposals (RFP) bid for the project for selection of the Managed Service Provider (MSP) for design, development, implementation, operations and maintenance of the PAN 2.0 Project but the company had not been selected.

Export assistance from the government is on the table, but subsidies are not

Delhi: Following Trump's tariff announcement, there was a lot of pressure on the government to find a solution. While subsidies were rejected, the government did say it was willing to consider "innovative ways" to help industry overcome the issue. Commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal reportedly conveyed the message during meetings with industry representatives in Mumbai over the weekend. In an effort to bring down the cost of loans, Goyal proposed during the discussions that banks reevaluate their risk assessment and rating methodologies, with a focus on small exporters. Additionally, he committed to investigating suggestions to lower testing and certification fees for MSMEs. The 10% difference in tariffs between India and its competitors is allegedly partially the responsibility of the government. Some American purchasers have offered to chip in, but the garment sector will take a major hit, according to AEPCC chairman Sudhir Sekhri, who predicted that factories will close and people would lose their jobs. Despite a tariff disadvantage of 5 percentage points (30% US tariffs on China), buyers are telling us that they will buy from Chinese manufacturers because they are more cost competitive.



Qualified 25 higher education institutions in India

Delhi: As part of the implementation of National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, Indian higher education institutions (HEIs) have been given the goal of having at least 25 of them rank among the top 100 universities in the QS World University Rankings in the coming years. This information was shared by Union education minister Dharmendra Pradhan in Delhi. In a speech marking the fifth anniversary of NEP 2020, Pradhan addressed the Akhil Bharatiya Shiksha Samagam 2025. He unveiled educational projects worth over ₹4,000 crore, including new initiatives, AI-enabled learning apps, campus inaugurations, and foundation stone laying, and he handed letters of intent (LoI) to four foreign universities for setting up campuses in India before his address. According to the QS World University Rankings 2026, 54 higher education institutions in India have



Students can halt and resume their undergraduate degrees at Delhi University

Delhi: The University of Delhi has implemented a new academic framework that complies with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. This framework permits undergraduate students to take a break and then return to their degree programs. Students can now leave after an even-numbered semester and return within a certain time to finish their degree without losing any of their earned credits, according to the

been recognized.

At least 25 of our uni-

Multiple Entry and Multiple Exit (ME-ME) plan. Higher education will be more accommodating to students, especially those who may need to take breaks for personal, financial, or career-related reasons, according to this change, which is part of the Undergraduate Curriculum Framework (UGCF) 2022. Students are given the freedom to choose their own course of study within the ME-ME framework.

MCD considers utilizing schools and community halls for skill-building

Delhi: Sources close to the matter have informed that the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) is considering turning vacant community halls and more than 1,100 schools into skill development centers. Later this week, the standing committee will be presented with two policy proposals regarding this matter. According to a senior MCD official, the regulation requires the agencies to clean the school premises every day so it is ready for teaching the following day and to take the equipment with them when they use it.

There is a lack of use



of school facilities after school hours at many MCD schools, which means that they operate on a single shift. Skills development and vocational training can make use of the space in these

schools. According to the education department's proposal, "If institutions and NGOs with good credentials and desirous of using school premises, MCD can consider the request..."

Academics fear FYUP may dilute relevance of UG in DU

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

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

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

Qatar joins India, confirms IOC talks for 2036 Olympics and Paralympics



Delhi : The Qatar Olympic Committee (QOC) said it was discussing the 2036 Olympic and Paralympic Games host city voting process with the IOC, Reuters reported. After Indonesia, Turkey, India, and Chile, the country is the last to bid for the 2036 Games. It hosted the 2022 World Cup and 2024 Asian Cup. Saudi Arabia and South Korea are also exploring bids. Egypt, Hungary, Italy, Germany, Denmark, and Canada are interested. "We currently have 95% of the required sports infrastructure in place to host the Games, and we have a comprehensive national plan to ensure 100% readiness of all facilities," QOC president Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad Al-Thani told Qatar News Agency.

"This plan is based on a long-term vision to create a socially, economically, and environmentally sustainable legacy." A few weeks previously, an Indian delegation met with the IOC in Lausanne, proposing Ahmedabad as the official host city. The discussion was productive. It was then revealed that the IOC's message to India was straightforward: clean up before planning the Olympics. Three sources said that the IOC raised concerns about the Indian Olympic Association (IOA)'s governance issues, the doping problem in sports, and the country's poor performance at the Olympics, finishing 71st with six medals at last year's Paris Games.

Rashtraneeti' to teach pupils civic duty is being prepared by the government

Delhi: The government of Delhi is getting ready to launch Rashtraneeti, a new civic education program, to change students' perspectives on democracy, leadership, and civic duty. The program aims to instill civic ideals into the core of school life and is scheduled to launch throughout all government schools on August 15. It targets children from kindergarten to Class XII. "At the core of Rashtraneeti is a mission to instil ethical governance, democratic participation and national pride through active, student-led engagement," a spokesperson stated. The State Council of Educational Research and Training recently organized an



orientation for master trainers, who will spearhead the program's implementation in schools and serve as important ambassadors for the vision, in order to guarantee successful implementation. According to officials, the purpose of the training was to acquaint trainers with the pro-

gram's objectives, structure, and vision in order to facilitate effective classroom delivery. Committees addressing environmental issues, anti-bullying measures, and the administration of school cafeterias will be among the seven student-run groups established in each school. The goal of these

Irish education minister invites Indians for education, research

NEW DELHI: James Lawless, Ireland's Education Minister, on Monday said his country is "very welcoming" for students and has a supportive post-study employment visa arrangement. "Ireland is a very welcoming country. We have a very cosmopolitan culture. We have many nationalities now in Ireland, and many people have made their home, including many, many Indians," the Irish minister said, when asked whether his government is considering any changes in post-study work or immigration policies to retain skilled talents.

Delhi: The National Medical Commission (NMC) has once again warned medical schools that they will take legal action if their students do not receive stipends while they are in residency and internship. It is uncertain if the commission will take action this time due to a change in chairman, as no measures were implemented following comparable threats in 2023 and 2024. The National Medical Colleges Council (NMC) warned three months ago to fine medical schools Rs 50,000 for not pro-



viding stipends, even though these schools save crores of rupees annually. All medical schools are required by NMC laws to pay their interns and residents the same amount as the state government medical schools. Medical schools, universities, and state directorates of medical education

were tasked with resolving student complaints three days prior to the most recent public notice, which was dated July 11, by NMC. Still, it's threatening to take measures including financial fines, course recognition removal, and admission suspension.

Preparing for the IIT Exam? ChatGPT is Here to Help!

Delhi: With Big Tech promoting AI as a powerful study aid for kids aiming for highly sought-after jobs and prestigious engineering schools, traditional coaching centers and India's edtech companies may face fierce competition. Launching a "study mode" on its omnipresent generative AI chatbot, ChatGPT, OpenAI—the world's most prominent artificial intelligence startup—debuted on Tuesday. The company has acknowledged that ChatGPT's study mode will likely overlap with India's education-tech startups, access to a large and potentially monetizable base of students in the country. The focus of the service is on competitive examinations, including the most popular ones in India, such as engineering and medical entrance tests. Leah Belsky, OpenAI's VP of education, has stated that the company has prepared the student-centric study



CBSE loosens regulations on adding new sections

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

mode using "some" materials of competitive questionnaires and study

IIT-D, AIIMS improve laparoscopic instruments to reduce surgical pain

Delhi: Surgeons may extend their patients' lives in operating rooms, but their bodies may suffer. Laparoscopic surgeons routinely strain their bodies by staring at the display and using lengthy, inflexible equipment for long hours. Hunched shoulders, abnormal wrist twists, and non-neutral upper body postures cause fatigue, pain, and long-term musculoskeletal issues. IIT Delhi and AIIMS are redesigning laparoscopic instruments for ergonomics to address this invisible occupational hazard. Current laparoscopic devices cause finger, wrist, shoulder, and neck pain and numbness, a major occupational problem. These physical limitations and high surgery volumes in Indian hospitals cause chronic injuries, long recovery times, and lost work hours. Patient safety was a



IGNOU July 2025 registration deadline extended again

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

priority in early surgery. Reducing surgical waste and carbon footprint were environmental concerns.

"Now we must make surgery safe for surgeons," said AIIMS paediatric surgeon Dr. Sachit Anand.

Chinese government workers are severely restricted in their ability to travel and study overseas

Delhi: The standard disclaimers on tardiness and performance were part of Tina Liu's contract when she was employed as a literature teacher in a public primary school in southern China. The next line said: She risks losing her job if she goes a b r o a d



without the school's approval. A staff group chat reiterated the rule. According to the message, "teachers need to strengthen their disciplinary awareness" as per requirements from higher-ups. "At this time, we are unable to approve any trips abroad." Similar warnings are being sent around China as the government cracks down on state employees' interactions with outsiders. The government has ordered the surrender of passports held by certain individuals, including doctors, kindergarten instructors, and even contractors and workers of state-owned businesses. In order to get their passports back, pensioners in some places have to wait two years. Even for personal trips, many towns require government personnel to get approval before they can go abroad. Travel for "ordinary research, exchange and study" purposes by businesses is now illegal. Not to mention that most provinces have made it illegal to hold specific public office for people who have educated overseas. Reasons given by officials include preventing corruption, safeguarding national security.

India wants Rs 3 lakh cr in defense manufacturing

Delhi: The government wants to produce Rs 3 lakh crore in defence by 2029, strengthening India's standing as a global powerhouse. Now, 65% of defense equipment is made locally, up from 65-70% import dependency. According to the Ministry of Defence, 16 DPSUs, over 430 licensed enterprises, and 16,000 MSMEs boost indigenous production capabilities. "The private sector contributes 21% to total defence production, fostering innovation and efficiency," it said. The government wants to expand defence exports to Rs 50,000 crore by 2029, strengthening India's position as a global manufacturing hub and supporting economic growth. Defence exports rose 32.5% to Rs 21,083 crore in FY 2023-24 from Rs 15,920 crore in FY 2022-23. Indian defence exports increased 21 times from Rs 4,312 crore in



2004-14 to Rs 88,319 crore in 2014-24, demonstrating its growing involvement in the global security sector. India exports defense equipment to over 100 nations, with the US, France, and Armenia buying most in 2023-24. In 2024-25, the Ministry of Defence signed a record 193 contracts worth Rs 2,09,050 crore, nearly doubling the previous record. These include 177 contracts, 92%, awarded to the domestic industry for Rs 1,68,922 crore, 81% of the overall contract value. This emphasis on indigenous manufacture supports defence production self-reliance.

Centre will borrow 8L cr, 54% of the objective

The government plans to borrow Rs 8 lakh crore, 54% of its Rs 14.8 lakh crore FY26 borrowing, in the first half. It didn't front-load the borrowing program to avoid raising rates while the RBI pumped record liquidity into the system. Since the market reported little demand for 30-year and longer bonds, the government announced it would borrow less in FY26. Thus, front-loading of the borrowing program has been avoided due to government (fiscal consolidation without compromising quality of expenditure).

Kotak highlights the risk in the lending business strategy

Delhi: Veteran banker Uday Kotak has expressed worries about the banks business model, pointing out the shrinking gap between deposit and lending rates, ahead of an anticipated rate decrease by the RBI, despite the fact that liquidity is still limited. According to Kotak, leading banks are increasing one-year wholesale deposits by about 8%, which, when accounting for CRR, SLR, deposit insurance, and priority sector lending requirements (but not operational costs), results in a marginal deposit cost of more than 9%. The system as a whole has restrained



growth in low-cost retail deposits (CASA non-wholesale). However, banks are offering home loans at a variable rate of 8.5%. Take out a loan at 8.5% and borrow at 9%, Spread is negative by 0.5%. Additionally, repo rates are probably going to decline. Kotak warned that if the tight deposit situation continues, it may make it difficult for banks to maintain their

business model and asked how they would handle credit and operational expenses. The majority of banks are required to connect their retail floating rate loans to the repo rate. The remarks coincided with a sharp decline in bond yields as investors awaited the RBI's next liquidity injection before its monetary policy committee's decision.

Bank loan growth drops for eighth straight month in February, RBI data reveals

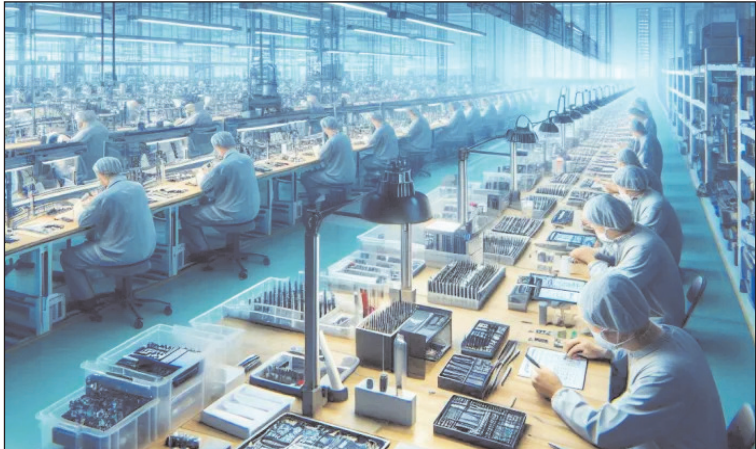
Delhi: Central bank statistics revealed that personal and credit card loans fell for the eighth straight month in February due to Reserve Bank of India tougher policies. Last month, banks' credit rose 12% year-over-year, slower than 16.6% a year earlier,

excluding HDFC Bank's merger. Housing Finance Corp, Loans rose 11% in February, compared to 20.5% a year earlier, including the merger. In January, loan growth fell to 12.5% excluding the merger and 11.4% including it. Retail

demand for unsecured loans drove strong loan growth for several years in the banking sector. However, in late 2023, the RBI tightened capital requirements for personal, credit card, and non-banking finance company loans. in its Mumbai headquarters.

Cabinet approves electronic component program

Delhi: The Union Cabinet approved a six-year Rs 22,919 crore incentive program for electronic component manufacture. The initiative seeks to increase India's domestic value addition and global value chain participation. The Indian Express originally revealed that the government was developing the system, its costs, and its details. The government wants at least 91,600 direct jobs from the scheme and has tied participating firms' annual payments to job creation. Rs 4.56 lakh crore in production and Rs 59,350 crore in investment are envisaged from the scheme. The government wants to target display modules, sub assembly camera modules,



printed circuit board assemblies, lithium cell enclosures, resistors, capacitors, and ferrites.

These are utilized in cell-phones, laptops, microwave ovens, refrigerators, and toasters. "This scheme will reduce component imports. We must

abandon import substitution and promote exports. After mass production, viability follows. Union IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said electronics production is \$120 billion and hopes to reach \$500 billion in the next years.

Gautam Adani Is India's Biggest Wealth Gainer

Delhi: According to the 'Hurun Global Rich List 2025', Gautam Adani, Adani Group Chairman, is India's greatest wealth gainer, increasing his net worth by approximately Rs 1 lakh crore. The ranking showed Adani's fortune rising 13%. Second-richest Indian on the global list, his total is Rs 8.4 lakh crore. Meanwhile, Indian billionaire Mukesh Ambani fell off of the top 10 richest list. However, he leads Asia. The Hurun list ranks India third in billionaires. Tesla-SpaceX CEO Elon Musk tops Hurun Global Rich List 2025. India has 284 billionaires, 13 more than previous year.

Airtel prepaid 5,985 crore spectrum dues but stock remains unchanged



Delhi: Bharti Airtel Ltd. shares closed flat after the company and its subsidiary Bharti Hexacom Ltd. prepaid Rs 5,985 crore to the Department of Telecom, fully prepaying the 8.65% high-cost interest liabilities for the 2024 auctions. Airtel subsidiary Network i2i Ltd. voluntarily called and redeemed \$1 billion in Perpetual Notes. BSE Bharti Airtel shares down 0.04% to Rs 1,733. Large cap stock has gained 8.58 percent this year and 42.51% in a year. The market cap of Bharti

high-cost spectrum commitments for the 2025 fiscal year and Rs 66,665 crores overall. The average cumulative liability prepaid interest rate was 9.74%. Airtel had entirely prepaid liabilities with 10%, 9.75%, and 9.3% interest rates. Prepayments were made 7 years before average residual maturities. Airtel prepaid Rs 116,405 crores of scheduled instalments that would have been due on their various dates over the obligations' original lifespan. Airtel's cost of debt on spectrum liabilities.

The Reserve Bank of India will increase the price for using an ATM from Rs 21 to Rs 23

Delhi: News broke from India's central bank. There will be a cost of Rs 23 per transaction for clients using ATM banking services from May 1, 2025. The previous amount was Rs 21 for each transaction. The central bank announced



Greater Noida Authority board authorizes Rs 5,600 crore land acquisition, important projects

Delhi: The Greater Noida Authority's 138th Board meeting approved a Rs 5,600 crore budget for 2025-26. Manoj Kumar Singh, Uttar Pradesh Chief Secretary and Authority Chairman, chaired the meeting. Budget priorities include land acquisition, development, and construction. The approved budget allocates Rs 1,400 crore for land acquisition and Rs 1,973 crore for development.

that customers will still be able to use their own bank's ATMs for five free transactions per month, regardless of whether they are finan-

cial or not. There are three ATMs in major cities and five in smaller towns where they can use their card for free transactions.

Income Tax wants Rs 2,209 crore from Yes Bank

Delhi: Union Minister of State for Power Yesso Naik urged state power companies to become more profitable. AI and digital technologies and cost-reflective pricing are crucial for electricity sector financial stability, the Minister said. These steps will help utilities



become financially stable, he said. He also suggested India's Ujwal DISCOM Assurance

Yojana (UDAY) for DISCOM financial turnaround and rehabilitation. The Energy Ministers of Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, and Maharashtra, top officials from the Central and State governments, State Power Utilities, PFC Ltd., and

REC Ltd. attended the conference. Special invitee TATA Power Distribution, Odisha, shared their best practices and journey to prosperous DISCOMS. Member States actively engaged and presented State DISCOM overviews. They give DISCOMS good

1 in 5 Indians with over Rs 5 crore worth plans to relocate overseas



Delhi: One in five ultra-rich Indians with a net worth over Rs 25 crore plans to settle abroad for investment opportunities, tax advantages, and greater global connectivity, according to a Kotak Mahindra Bank private banking survey. The first two quarters of 2024-25 survey interviewed 150 ultra-high networth people (UHNIs) and private bankers in 12 cities. EY ordered and validated the findings with industry. For this report, those worth over Rs 25 crore were canvassed.

However, Kotak's private banking division targets individuals worth over Rs 300 crore. Many UHNIs buy abroad property for migration and permanent residency. "Ultra-HNIs are diversifying their portfolios and embracing domestic and global assets, setting the stage for a sig-

nificant increase. Alternative assets and equities are becoming more popular in domestic and international markets. Nearly a third of India's Ultra-HNIs own worldwide assets. With two in three ultra-HNIs planning structured wealth transition, succession planning is crucial.

JB Chemicals' promoter KKR will sell 10% of the company for 2,6k crore rupees

Delhi: In a series of block agreements, the promoter of JB Chemicals—Tau Investment Holdings, a subsidiary of global private equity giant KKR—is selling around 1.6 crore shares, or 10.2% of the firm, for approximately Rs 2,575 crore (\$300 million). According to the deal's term sheet, the minimum price at which the shares can be sold is Rs 1,625—a 5%

reduction to JB Chemicals' closing price of Rs 1,709 on Wednesday on the NSE. Shareholding reports on the BSE indicate that as of December 31, 2024, KKR owned 53.7% of the pharmaceutical company situated in the city. Midway through 2020, at a share price of Rs 745, the PE giant had taken over the pharmaceutical manufacturer.