

AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

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MORNING EDITION PRAYAGRAJ

Sunday, 31 August 2025

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

PM Modi reached China after seven years

□ There will be talks with President Xi; the world will be watching him, he has arrived in China to attend the annual summit



Why is Modi's China visit special?

According to Global Times, this visit of PM Modi can prove to be a big opportunity to reduce tension between the two countries and promote bilateral dialogue. Through this summit, Jinping will try to

show the world that he can give an alternative to the US-led global order. Along with this, this summit will also send a message that America's efforts to isolate China, Russia, Iran and now India have failed.

China economic relations and discuss steps to further normalize relations that have come under severe strain after the East Ladakh border dispute. The Prime Minister has arrived in

Indian migrants raised slogans of Vande Mataram

When the Prime Minister arrived at a hotel in Tianjin, he was warmly welcomed by the people of the Indian community. Indian immigrants raised slogans of 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai' and 'Vande Mataram'. Chinese artists performed Indian classical music and dance in front of PM Modi. These artists have been learning Indian classical music and dance for many years. Modi said that stable, predictable and cordial bilateral relations India and China.

on the sidelines of the summit. Ahead of his visit to Tianjin, PM Modi said that it is important for India and China to work together to bring stability to the world economic system.

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.



A major development was witnessed in Bihar politics on Saturday. In the concluding program of the Voter Rights Yatra in Ara, Tejashwi Yadav declared himself as the chief ministerial face of the Mahagathbandhan. Rahul Gandhi and Akhilesh Yadav were also present on this occasion.

There are no permanent friends or enemies: Defence Minister Rajnath

Trade war

□ There are trade war-like conditions in the world. countries are protectionist



New Delhi: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said amid the controversy over US tariffs that no country is a permanent friend or enemy. There is only permanent interest. Rajnath said this at the NDTV Defence Summit on

Saturday. He said that there are trade war-like conditions in the world. Developed countries are becoming increasingly protectionist. India does not consider anyone as its enemy, but we will not compromise on national interest and

people's interests. Rajnath's statement is being linked to the news of India, Russia and China coming closer against Trump's tariffs. PM Modi has left for China from Japan today. He will meet the Presidents of both the

countries at the SCO Summit here. Singh said, for us the interest of our people, farmers, small traders, countrymen is paramount. No matter how much pressure is put on us, India will not compromise at any cost. Singh said - India's defense export is 24 thousand crores. The world is witness to India's defense capabilities. The way our forces carried out precise attacks on Pakistan with indigenous equipment shows.

Noida: Country's first tempered glass manufacturing unit started



New Delhi: Union Electronics and Information Technology Minister Ashwini Vaishnav on Saturday inaugurated the country's first tempered glass manufacturing unit for mobile devices in Noida. It has been set up as a joint venture of Optimus Electronics and Corning Incorporated of the US. The unit will manufacture high quality products under the brand and will supply it

to the domestic and international markets. On this occasion, the minister said that tempered glass is an important accessory of mobile phones and its indigenous manufacturing is an important step towards Aatmanirbhar

Bharat and 'Make in India' campaign. In a phased manner, India is manufacturing all the components used in mobile phones. This includes chips, cover glass, laptops and server equipment. He said that soon the chip man-

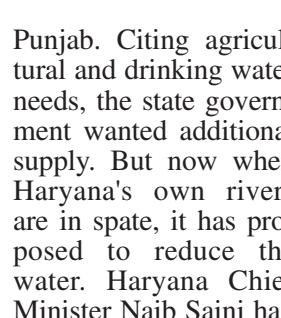
ufactured in India will come in the market. He said that in the last 11 years, India's electronics production has increased six times to Rs 11.5 lakh crore. Out of this, more than Rs 3 lakh crore has been exported.

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 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.

Haryana wrote a letter to BBMB, to reduce water supply from Punjab



months, took a new turn when Haryana wrote a letter to the Bhakra Beas Management Board

(BBMB) and the Punjab government asking them to reduce the water being released by

Punjab. Citing agricultural and drinking water needs, the state government wanted additional supply. But now when Haryana's own rivers are in spate, it has proposed to reduce the water. Haryana Chief Minister Naib Saini had recently written a letter proposing all possible help to Punjab during the flood. Ten districts of Punjab are currently

in the grip of floods. After the Chief Minister's letter, this letter of departmental officials has come to the fore. The Haryana government has argued that the demand for water has decreased due to rain. Due to which a dispute can arise again between the two states. The Haryana government has said that the 2,500 cusecs of water

released towards its canals should be reduced. It is said in the letter that on 29 August 2025, the discharge of water at Haryana Contact Point was found to be 8 thousand 894 cusecs, while Haryana had demanded 7 thousand 900 cusecs. Earlier on 26 August 2025, Haryana had reduced the indent to 7 thousand 900 cusecs.

US trying to force India into military alliance rather than just trade: Russia



NEW DELHI: Russian foreign minister Sergey Lavrov (AP) Russian foreign minister Sergey Lavrov on Friday claimed that while India had joined the QUAD alliance, which includes the United States, Japan, and Australia, solely for

naval and other military exercises. "We spoke to our Indian friends back then and they told us that their interest in joining the QUAD is exclusively of trade of economic nature and cooperation in other peaceful areas," he

Disaster: This time there was much more damage - CM Sukhwinder Sukhu



Survey

□ The Chief Minister left for Bharmour from Pathankot Air Force Station

Chamba. Chief Minister Thakur Sukhwinder Singh on Saturday conducted an aerial survey of Bharmour, Mani Mahesh and other disaster affected areas of Chamba district as well as Mand area of Fatehpur and Indora in Kangra district, which were affected by the floods due to the water released from the Pong Dam. The Chief Minister left for Bharmour from Pathankot Air Force Station, but his helicopter could not land there due to bad weather. Talking to reporters in Chamba, the Chief Minister said that due to the timely precau-

tionary measures taken by the present state government, the loss of life has been less as compared to the year 2023, but this time the scale of destruction is much more. Road, electricity, water supply and communication services have been affected more than in 2023. The state government has a big challenge of rehabilitation of the people, which we will overcome.

Chandigarh. The dispute between Punjab and Haryana over water, which has been going on for many

months, took a new turn when Haryana wrote a letter to the Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB) and the Punjab government asking them to reduce the water being released by

Punjab. Citing agricultural and drinking water needs, the state government wanted additional supply. But now when Haryana's own rivers are in spate, it has proposed to reduce the water. Haryana Chief Minister Naib Saini had recently written a letter proposing all possible help to Punjab during the flood. Ten districts of Punjab are currently

"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.

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 Hajj applications in 2024. As of 2023, the figure was at 26,000. As a fundamental tenet of Islam, the Hajj is a pillar

of pilgrimage that all Muslims are obligated to undertake.

We sent a letter to the Centre, and as a result, they extended the deadline for Hajj 2026 applications by one week, from July 31, 2025, to July 31, 2026.

The minister of state for minority welfare, Muslim waqf, and hajj 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.

spare anyone who uses drones unlawfully or to cause panic. "The

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

Abhishek Banerjee named TMC Lok Sabha unit head



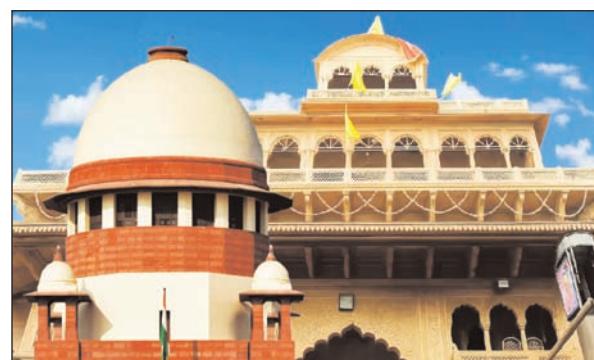
Delhi: West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee has handed her nephew and the Trinamool Congress' (TMC) national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee charge of the party's Lok Sabha unit amid a fresh public slanging match between its lawmakers Mahua Moitra and Kalyan Banerjee. According to party leaders 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."

Court challenges Uttar Pradesh government's Bankey Bihari temple ordinance



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.

biharjiTemple.png

NATIONAL

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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

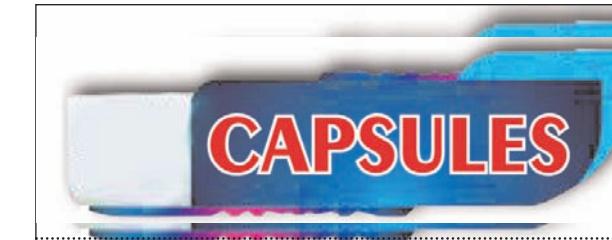
color blindness in their ruling on August 1. The court slammed TSRTC for crossing the line into administrative error and violating constitutional principles and statutory requirements by not considering the driver's expressed desire to be reassigned to a non-driving position.

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.



Most SIR deletions occur in Gopalganj and Kishanganj



Delhi: In what may be the biggest single deletion of such entries in independent India's history, the Election Commission of India (ECI) erased almost 6.56 million names from the draft Bihar electoral roster that was published due to deaths, permanent shifts, and double enrolment. The declaration was made just days after the state's contentious special intensive revision (SIR) ended; the poll watchdog said that valid names may be added until September 1 and that any objections to names would be verified. Based on the data provided by the ECI, the districts of Patna, Madhubani, East Champaran, and Gopalganj had the most deletions of voters (395,500, 352,545, 316,793, and 310,363, respectively), as compared to the electoral roll before SIR commenced. As compared to the 2024 Lok Sabha electoral roster, the highest number of deletions occurred in Gopalganj district (13.9%), followed by Kishanganj (10.5%), Purnia (9.7%), Madhubani (8.7%), and Bhagalpur (7.8%).

image.png

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 to 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 approaching, 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 Nandgaonkar. Thackeray expects the BMC polls to be held in January or February next year.

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.

The Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG) on disinvestment met on July 9 to examine the draft Share Purchase Agreement, a key step before seeking higher authority approvals.

"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, compensation 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 deployment of civil defense volunteers.



"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

The DM held a meeting in the Gram Panchayat Secretariat

□ Regarding the updated status of all the arrangements and facilities

Meeting

□ Related to revenue, development, health, agriculture and cowshed in the model Gram Panchayat Deoria

Akhand Bharat Sandesh



Prayagraj. District Magistrate Manish Kumar Verma on Saturday held a meeting with all the concerned officials in the Gram Panchayat Secretariat in Deoria to assess the updated status of all the arrangements and facilities related to revenue, development, health, agriculture and cowshed in the model Gram Panchayat Deoria development block Jusra and after the meeting, inspected 55 MLD intake well and water treatment plant under Jal Jeevan Mission, Baba Sujavan Dev Adarsh Gauvansh Ashray Sthal, Anganwadi Center Deoria, Mohini Prema Livelihood Village Organization under Uttar Pradesh State Rural Livelihood Mission. The District Magistrate held a meeting with all the concerned officials in the Gram Panchayat Secretariat and took information from

02 warrant accused arrested by Thana Holagarh Police



Prayagraj: Under the guidance of Police Commissioner and Additional Police Commissioner, in the course of the campaign being run against crime and criminals, under the able supervision of Deputy Commissioner of Police Ganganagar and Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police Ganganagar and under the able leadership of Assistant Police Commissioner Soraon, on Sunday, the Holagarh Police Station of Ganganagar Zone arrested 02 warrant accused 1. Vikesh and 2. Vipin sons of Ramasare residents of Badli Ka Pura Thana Holagarh Commissionate

Prayagraj from near their residence village under Thana Holagarh area and further legal action was taken as per

Arrested

□ Arrest warrant issued by Hon'ble Court Special Judge SC/ST Act

rules, in relation to the arrest warrant issued by Hon'ble Court Special Judge SC/ST Act the Holagarh Police Station of Ganganagar Zone arrested 02 warrant accused 1. Vikesh and 2. Vipin sons of Ramasare residents of Badli Ka Pura Thana Holagarh Commissionate

Prayagraj from near their residence village under Thana Holagarh area and further legal action was taken as per

Colonelganj ACP Rajiv Yadav's team arrested the youth who made indecent comments on the MLA

Review

□ A case was registered under the IT Act and the accused's location was found

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Prayagraj. The clash of politics and social media has once again made headlines. The youth who made indecent comments on the internet media against Chail MLA Pooja Pal, expelled from the Samajwadi Party, was



finally arrested by Colonelganj Police ACP Rajiv Yadav's team from Lalla Chungi, Umesh Yadav. The use of objectionable language against public figures on social media is increasing continuously, due to which this

matter has become very serious. On Saturday, the police arrested a youth named Umesh Yadav, who is accused of making objectionable comments against MLA Pooja Pal on platforms like X and Instagram. In this case, advocate

Shyamchandra Pal had lodged a case in Colonelganj police station. At the same time, Santosh Pal, a resident of Sheikhpur Rasoolpur of Charchha area of Kaushambi, also gave a complaint in Pipri police station. After this, the police started investigation by registering a case under the IT Act. During the investigation, the investigator extracted the details of the concerned user with the help of the cyber cell.

BJP leader's murder mystery is no less than a film story



revenge. He kidnapped Randhir on 22 August and killed him. After

the murder, the body was kept on the railway track of Puramuti. The body could be identified even after a train passed. Therefore, the body was again kept on the railway track. The body was torn into eight pieces after two trains passed. The accused left the Scorpio in Chitrakoot. Puramuti police got the body cremated considering it to be unidentified.

Three police teams are searching for

Taking a tough stand on not following the repeated orders, Tehsildar summoned

Ordered

□ The court passed an order to take action against the occupants and vacate the pond

The court passed an order to take action against the occupants and vacate the pond. But even after a year, no action was taken. After this, Anwar Ali filed a suit in the High Court. On September 4, 2024, the court ordered to vacate the pond within 6 weeks. But this order was not followed. When the applicant approached the court again, the court gave him three months from

the main accused Dr. Uday. Raids are on to catch Vijay Yadav and three other accused. Police is trying to trace their location. The secret was revealed in Nainital. BJP leader Randhir and Dr. Uday had gone to Nainital. About 2 months ago, Uday Yadav had gone to Nainital with his wife Anjali and Randhir Singh Yadav. At that time, on the

request of Anjali, a single room was taken in the hotel.

It was in Nainital that Uday Yadav saw his wife Anjali Yadav and Randhir Singh Yadav in an objectionable situation. After returning from Nainital, Uday Yadav's wife Anjali died under suspicious circumstances due to poisoning. The enmity started after this.

Basic work was found to be better during the inspection of officers

Prayagraj. Manoj Kumar Verma Assistant Director Samagra Shiksha Secondary Lucknow and Ramchandra Ishwar Dutt Vajpayee Assistant Deputy Education Director NCERT Lucknow were nominated as Nodal Officers of Prayagraj district for on-site inspection and review of important programs/activities being conducted under Samagra Shiksha of Director General, School Education and State Project Director Uttar Pradesh. This team inspected Kasturba Gandhi Residential Girls School Kaudihar today. Various points were reviewed by holding a meeting with Block Education Officers and District Coordinators at District Project Office M u m f o r d g a n j . Divisional Assistant Education Director Basic Mrs. Tanuja Tripathi, BSA Devravat Singh, ADIOS Jitendra Singh, all Block Education Officers, District Coordinators participated in the review meeting and the team was informed about the progress of departmental schemes..

Was involved in murder after taking 50 thousand, main accused still absconding

Third accused in BJP leader murder case arrested



Ram Singh said - Randhir had realized the danger before the murder

Yadav by taking 50,000 rupees. Vijay Saroj crushed Randhir Yadav's head and then put his body on the train track, during this time Ravi and Vijay Saroj were involved with Uday after taking money. Police said that during interrogation, Ajay Saroj accepted his role and said that this entire crime was committed under a plan. According to the accused, Uday Yadav had given him money to carry out the murder. After carrying out the murder, an attempt was made to destroy the evidence by

placing Randhir Yadav's body on the track, so that it could take the form of an accident. At present, another accused Ravi is absconding and apart from Vijay Yadav, the other two accused are also being searched by

the police. The police have intensified their investigation in the case. Ram Singh said - Randhir had realized the danger before the murder. The police asked Ram Singh - Why did you kill Randhir after torturing him so much? Ram Singh said - Uday felt that Randhir had betrayed their friendship. The matter of his affair with his wife had already come out. There was also a fight between the two. Randhir had also threatened that he would not leave Uday.

Editorial

Why Iran, Israel avoided crossing red lines

The Israeli reaction took place within the week. On April 19, they struck a military airbase near the city of Isfahan, and Iranian officials also claimed to have shot down small drones near the northern city of Tabriz, but this was downplayed. Isfahan Province, in the centre of Iran, is home to significant Iranian military infrastructure, including a large air base, a major missile production complex, and nuclear facilities. As per reports in the Jerusalem Post, the Israelis were targeting an air defence radar site near Isfahan that's part of the protection of the Natanz nuclear facility. The choreography of missile strikes once again ensured that there were no casualties and, moreover, no targeting of Iranian nuclear facilities. Iranian media and officials described a small number of explosions, which they said resulted from air defences hitting three drones over Isfahan. They referred to the incident as an attack by "infiltrators" rather than by Israel, obviating the need for retaliation. The Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian, downplaying the attack, said, "They're ... more like toys that our children play with, not drones." He also added, "As long as there is no new adventurism by Israel against our interests, we are not going to have any new reactions." With Israel remaining deadlocked in Gaza, where around 130 Israeli hostages remain but have inflicted more than 34,000 civilian casualties, including women and children, the Iranian strikes must have seemed like a welcome relief as the narrative shifted from the humanitarian crisis Israel is causing in Gaza. Further, in a timing that cannot be a mere coincidence, the US House of Representatives quickly passed an aid package of \$26.38 billion for Israel. With no hostage deal or ceasefire mechanisms apparent, the risk of miscalculation remains high. The region remains in a uniquely dangerous position, in which Prime Minister Netanyahu may feel that he has little choice but to escalate with Iran in order to maintain public support. But responses to the strike within Israel have exposed the country's political fissures. Security Minister Itamar Ben Gvir described the strike on Iran as "feeble" or "lame". In response, Israeli opposition leader Yair Lapid called for him to be sacked and said his remarks had ridiculed and embarrassed Israel.

Things were going Iran's way

Since the 1979 revolution, Iran has taken an anti-Israeli posture and, as part of its deterrence strategy, has cultivated and financed support for the 'axis of resistance' network in Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Yemen, and Palestine, surrounding Israel's borders.

The Hamas attack on October 7 suited Iran's agenda. Israel had suffered an unprecedented and humiliating setback; its much-lauded intelligence and defences had failed. Its subsequent actions in Gaza had received widespread condemnation and aligned the Middle Eastern countries against Israel. Israel's war was steadily harming its image, simultaneously exposing the hypocrisy of its Western backers. Israel was getting increasingly isolated internationally due to its disastrous war in Gaza.

The Palestinian cause in the region and around the world had been resurrected. Sympathy for Palestinian, particularly in the West, was more volatile. Iran did not need to intervene; its proxies acted on its behalf. Hezbollah had been routinely shelling Northern Israel, and the Houthis in Yemen have launched numerous unsuccessful missile and drone strikes against Israel, disrupting global shipping. However, Israel's attack against the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) in Damascus forced Iranian officials to make a more difficult choice. Iran had two choices, it could refrain from overt retaliation and continue to benefit from the present situation.

The spotlight would remain on the atrocities in Gaza.



Analysing Raisi's Islamabad visit and its impact on India



What adds an intriguing dimension to Raisi's visit is his distinction as the first foreign leader to initiate diplomatic relations with Pakistan, particularly against the backdrop of the recent contentious general elections held in the country on February 8. This context imbues Raisi's visit with heightened significance, revealing the intricate nuances and delicate balancing acts inherent in regional diplomacy. President Raisi's diplomatic journey warrants careful consideration, occurring amidst the backdrop of his designation as a target of sanctions under Executive Order 13876 by the US Office of Foreign Assets Control. This layer of complexity adds a nuanced dimension to his diplomatic engagements, underscoring the delicate balancing act required in navigating international relations. Moreover, Raisi's trip is shadowed by grave allegations of human rights abuses, with numerous international bodies and United Nations special rapporteurs highlighting these concerns. Such allegations have previously led to the cancellation of his planned trip to Geneva in 2023, indicating the significant scrutiny surrounding his diplomatic activities and the challenges they entail.

Recent developments in Iran-Pakistan diplomacy

The Iranian president's visit to Pakistan arises against a background of recent hostility

amid talks covering religious, cultural, investment, and diplomatic spheres. Iran reportedly launched missile strikes on two strongholds of the anti-Iranian rebel organisation Jaish al-Adl (Army of Justice) on January 16 in the province of Baluchistan, Pakistan. A major actor in the ongoing tensions between Iran and Pakistan is Jaish al-Adl, which was founded in 2012 by Abdul Rahim Mollazehi as a breakaway faction of Jundullah. As an "unprovoked violation" of its airspace, Pakistan denounced the bombing. The assault posed a threat to Pakistan's formidable army chief, Gen Asim Munir, whose reputation for toughness and resolve has been a point of contention in his relations with other nations as well as at home. This made political analysts wonder if Iran respected Pakistan's sovereignty. Retaliating quickly, Pakistan launched a surprise

attack two days later using fighter jets and missiles directed at the purported hideouts of anti-Pakistan ethno-nationalist insurgents in the Sistan-Baluchestan region who were allegedly operating from Iranian soil. In light of worries about regional security, these incidents do highlight the complex and unstable dynamics that define Iran and Pakistan's relationship, especially as root causes of terrorism, smuggling, and border infiltration are not addressed.

Pakistan serves as Iran's primary regional ally against adversaries such as Saudi Arabia and other Western powers. Iran's keen interest in joining China's economic corridor initiative aligns with Pakistan's close ties to Beijing. Notably, over 70 per cent of the electricity in Pakistan's Gwadar port city is sourced from Iran. The proposed gas pipelines, including the "peace pipeline" intended to

supply Iranian gas to India via Pakistan, have faced setbacks, notably India's withdrawal in 2009 due to US sanctions on Iran. However, Iran and Pakistan remain committed, signing a separate gas supply agreement. Notably, in June of that year, both nations entered into a multibillion-dollar agreement to develop a gas pipeline. However, while Tehran successfully completed construction of a 900-kilometre pipeline on its side by 2011, Islamabad still grapples with the task of installing 80 kilometres of pipeline on its territory. This discrepancy has sparked tensions, with Tehran issuing warnings of potential legal action and threats of an \$18 billion fine due to missed deadlines. Despite Islamabad's recent pledge to finalise the project by September of this year, doubts linger over its feasibility. The primary obstacle remains Pakistan's apprehension of invoking U.S. sanctions, a concern that has consistently hindered progress, echoing previous justifications for delays. Conversely, assuming a hostile stance towards Iran upsets the delicate equilibrium of Pakistan's already complicated neighbourly ties. Tensions with India continue despite a current cease-fire along the border. The Taliban's support for the TTP's anti-Pakistan insurgency has caused relations between the two parties to

deteriorate dramatically on Pakistan's western border. The recent deportation of Afghan refugees from Pakistan has further caused tensions between Pakistan and Afghanistan. During Raisi's visit, the Pentagon warned of sanctions for those engaging in business with Iran. Three Chinese firms aiding Pakistan's missile programme were recently sanctioned for WMD proliferation. Iran immediately shot back, stating that Israeli aggression on Iranian soil will result in a drastic shift in the balance of power. Raisi warned Israel on Tuesday: "Things will be different if the Zionist regime commits an error once again. If Tel Aviv attacks Iran once more, 'Israel will be completely different' and 'there will be nothing left of the Zionist regime'." According to Iranian Ambassador to India, Iraj Elahi, Tehran is optimistic that India will start purchasing crude from them again, as it did prior to May 2019, when the purchases stopped due to US sanctions against the West Asian nation. In order to advance the Chabahar Port project and strengthen bilateral relations, President Ebrahim Raisi might visit India later this year. Bypassing Pakistan completely, India will have access to Afghanistan through the Chabahar port, a symbol of strategic and economic cooperation between Iran and India.

Defence spending shoots up as conflicts rise globally

Total global military expenditure reached an all-time high of \$2443 billion in 2023, an increase of 6.8 per cent in real terms from 2022. This was the steepest year-on-year increase since 2009. The 10 largest spenders in 2023 were led by the United States, China, and Russia, all of whom increased their military spending. It was the ninth consecutive year of a rise in military spending. Also, it was the first time since 2009 that military expenditure went up in all five of the geographical regions. Particularly large increases were seen in Europe, Asia, Oceania, and West Asia. Clearly, there is a deterioration in peace and security. As the states prioritise military expenditure and strength, there is a risk of a spiral effect in the

neighbourhood. Russia's military spending increased by 24 per cent to an estimated \$109 billion in 2023, marking a 57 per cent rise since 2014, the year that Russia annexed Crimea. The Russian 2023 military expenditure was 16 per cent of total government spending and 5.9 per cent of GDP. Russia's military and war-related spending is set to rise sharply in 2024 under new federal budget plans for 2024–26 signed into law by President Vladimir Putin in November 2023. The plans suggest that the Russian government is committed to pursuing the war to a successful conclusion. Some have questioned the economic assumptions, though. Russia's rising debt burden has also meant reduced allocations to some key social

spending, including housing, education, and healthcare. Ukraine was the 8th largest military spender in 2023. Yearly spending surged 51 per cent to reach \$64.8 billion. It represented 58 per cent of total government annual spending. Interestingly, this spending was 59 per cent of Russia's defence expenditure. Ukraine also received at least \$35 billion in military aid during the year, including \$25.4 billion from the USA. When combining the two, it became

91 per cent of Russian spending. The US remains NATO's major spender, but European members have increased their share. In 2023, the 31 NATO members accounted for \$1,341 billion, equal to 55 per cent of the global military expenditure.

Pro-India hare and hunting with anti-India hounds

India has not just become the "only bright spot" economically, as the IMF wants us to believe, but also diplomatically and geopolitically, the country has started behaving like a global power. Image: REUTERS In 2021, The New York Times posted an online advertisement for the job of a South Asia business correspondent based in New Delhi. One of the requirements sought for the position even startled the staunchest of NYT supporters. For the American newspaper, quite categorically, sought the candidate to be critical of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his "muscular nationalism".

Explaining its stand, the newspaper wrote, "India's future now stands at a crossroads. Mr (Narendra) Modi is advocating a self-sufficient, muscular nationalism centred on the country's Hindu majority. That vision puts him at odds with the interfaith, multicultural goals of modern India's founders." Interestingly, the NYT has never put such preconditions for postings in Hong Kong or in mainland China. It has never asked the applicants to prove their pro-democratic credentials for a position in Hong Kong, or to publicly criticise Emperor Xi Jinping for a job in Beijing. If one thought the problem was NYT-centric, then hang on. Others in the West, too, aren't behind in targeting Prime Minister Modi and India. The Time magazine, for instance, just when Prime Minister Modi landed in Washington, DC, for his first official state visit in June 2023, questioned the very idea of India being an American ally. "India is not a US ally, and has not wanted to become one," a Time article thundered on 21 June. Interestingly, an even more scathing article appeared in the magazine a day earlier—on 20 June: "India's Worsening Democracy Makes It an Unreliable Ally." The Economist isn't behind either. It has often reproached Prime Minister Modi for stoking "divisions in the world's biggest democracy". It has singled out the Modi government

for its "flagrantly biased approach to citizenship" and delivering "collective punishment" for the people of the Kashmir Valley. It goes on to say that the "electoral nectar for the BJP" has become "political poison for India". It would, however, be wrong to assume that Western prejudice is only Modi-centric. Although it is today largely influenced and inspired by anti-Modism, prejudice is deeply entrenched against India and its rising global influence. This explains why the West has very rarely celebrated India's dance with democracy in the past seven decades. This despite the fact that India since Independence has been a case of democratic miracle—the only genuine democracy in the region between Israel and South Korea. Moreover, no other country, despite socio-political advancements and economic prosperity, comes even closer to India's democratic successes. What the country could achieve in 75 years, it took Britain and the United States centuries to reach there. Interestingly, in the given timeframe, the US found itself amid the Civil War which almost tore the country into two halves, but for Abraham Lincoln's sagacious leadership. It took the US another 50 years to make voting gender neutral and 100 years to give the Blacks the basic voting rights—something that India bestowed upon its citizens in one go in 1947 despite unprecedented poverty and astounding illiteracy. Yet, in the 1950s and '60s, the West was busy writing democratic India's obituaries: Its balkanisation was a foregone conclusion, and the only thing keeping the country together was Nehru! "What after Nehru?", was the most obvious question being asked during those times. After Nehru, during Indira Gandhi's time, the democrats of America and Britain found great comfort in Mao's company and had even dispatched an aircraft carrier, Enterprise, to bully India at the height of the Bangladesh war!

Maryam Kartarpur Sahib overture points at new Pak thinking

The election results also showed that Imran, despite all that the army and the People's Democratic Movement government had thrown at him, retained a substantial measure of support in Punjab. At the same time the Pakistan Peoples Party did well in Sindh. Very difficult PML(N)-PPP negotiations, clearly overseen by the army, from behind the scenes, followed. The arrangement that emerged saw Shehbaz Sharif as prime minister forming the government with outside PPP support, Asif Zardari becoming president of Pakistan, and Maryam becoming the first woman CM of the Punjab. In this the person who has temporarily lost out is Hamza Sharif

but the final word has not been said on how the reconciliation of political interests between Maryam and Humza will eventually occur. Now, to return to Maryam's visit to Kartarpur Sahib, she made an impressive speech to the sangat. She struck the right notes. She spoke in chaste Punjabi and projected herself as the daughter of Punjab who was the first woman to become CM in either Pakistani or Indian Punjab. She stressed her family's background in the village of Jati Umra in the Amritsar district from where her grandfather had migrated to Pakistan in 1947. Three other points that she made deserve special mention. One, that Pakistan was a

place where the minorities had the freedom to practice their faith and only recently the country had marked Eid, Easter, Holi and now she had come to be with the Sikh pilgrims at Baisakhi. Maryam's reference to this aspect is part of Pakistan's current endeavour to project itself as a moderate and liberal Muslim country. This is, of course, at variance with the prevalence and growth of extremist Islamist forces which want the country's governance to be strictly in accordance with the Sharia. The second point—and one of great significance—was Maryam's mention of the commonalities between Muslims and Sikhs. She took care to use the formulation

"you" and "us"; thus, carefully avoiding mentioning either Islam or Sikhism or Muslims and Sikhs. Obviously, she did not want to ruffle the feathers of the Pakistani ulema. She said that both "you" and "us" believe in one power which is the supreme power of the universe. She added that both "you" and "us" believe in honest living and earning through righteous means and giving to charity. Finally, Maryam referred to her father Nawaz Sharif's conviction that neighbours should open their hearts to each other and live in peace and also cooperate and trade with each other. It is true that Nawaz has always wanted to trade with India.

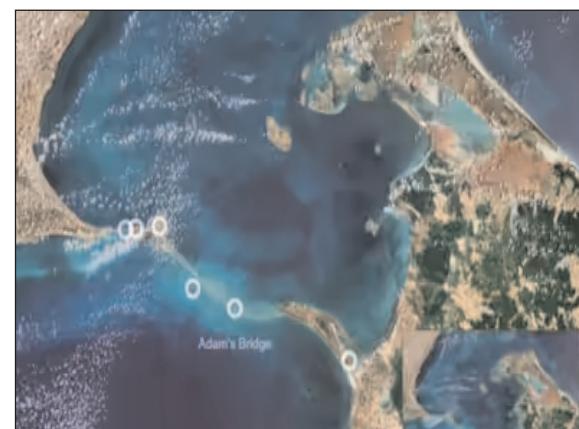


European Agency shares high-resolution 'Ram Setu'

Between

Rameswaram Island on India's southeast coast and Mannar Island on Sri Lanka's northwest coast, the Ram Setu runs 48 kilometers. Copernicus Sentinel-2 satellites captured the image. Satellites with an innovative wide-swath high-resolution multispectral imager with 13 spectral bands offer a unique view of land and vegetation. The 2nd HP State Swimming Championship concluded at The Lawrence School, Sanawar on wherein over 178 swimmers from 12 districts, including five school teams competed in the two-day event.

Chief Guest Praveen Bhardwaj, BDO Kasauli praised the spirit of the participants and highlighted the role of sports in character building. The Lawrence School, Sanawar lifted the Overall State Championship Trophy



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.

Bhusan Thakur (Solan) were declared Best Swimmers in the Open categories.

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.

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



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%

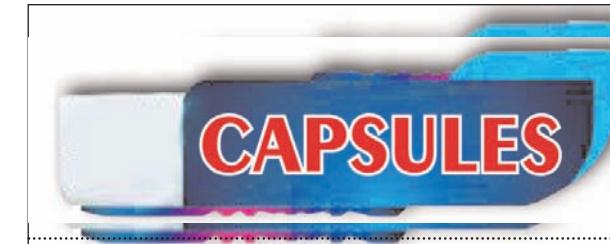
Delhi: In 2021, when the zoo reopened following the COVID-19 pandemic, admission prices were last raised. Adults now pay twice as much, from 40 to 80 rupees. Prices for adults were increased from ₹20 to ₹40 in 2013, prior to that. Several states and nations throughout the globe have



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.



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.

Might the Rohingya be considered refugees or unauthorized immigrants?



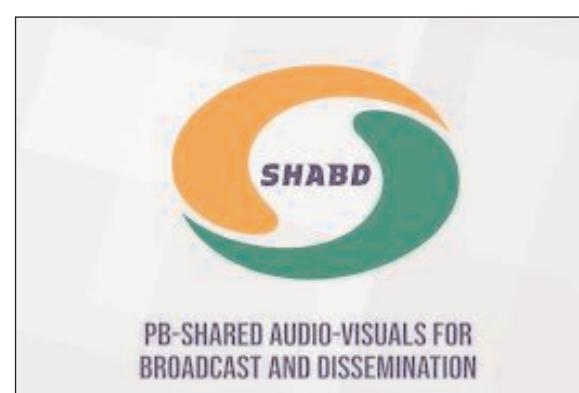
Delhi: The Supreme Court started looking into the status of Rohingya entrants in the nation as refugees or illegal migrants after hearing a number of petitions that fought against their deportation and demanded that the government do something to help them get the basics while they're in refugee camps.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

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

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

According to sources, majority of buses older than fifteen years are privately owned during the discussion.

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

kharif 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.

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%. image.png

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



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

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

insurers more exposure 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

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 loan and/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.

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 participated 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 AEPC 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.

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 program'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!



CBSE loosens regulations on adding new sections

Divya 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 abroad 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).

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

Kotak highlights the risk in the lending business strategy

Delhi: Veteran banker Uday Kotak has expressed worries about the bank's 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 Development 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.

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

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 financial 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 Ujal 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

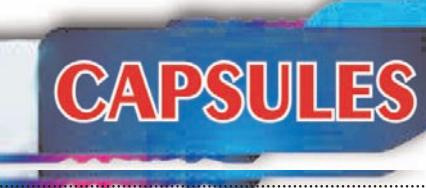


Delhi: One in five ultra-rich Indians with a net worth over Rs 25 crore plans to settle abroad for investment opportunities, tax advantages, and greater global connectivity, according to a Kotak Mahindra Bank private banking survey. The first two quarters of 2024-25 survey interviewed 150 ultra-high net-worth 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 significant 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 Chem's 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.



NCLAT reduces penalty on Google to 216 crore in Play Store matter

Delhi: Appellate tribunal NCLAT upheld the order passed by fair trade regulator CCI against Google for abusing its dominant position with respect to Play Store policies, however, reduced the penalty on the tech giant to 216 crore from 936.44 crore. A two-member bench comprising Chairperson Justice Ashok Bhushan and Technical Member Barun Mitra said Google "has abused its dominant position and has violated Section", however in some sections, violation was "not proved, but penalty was still leviable on proof of violation".

Small savings program interest rates unchanged quarter

Delhi: For the fifth quarter starting April 1, 2025, the government maintained interest rates on PPF and NSC. The rates of interest on various Small Savings Schemes for the first quarter of FY 2025-26, starting on 1 April 2025 and ending on 30 March 2025, would stay unaltered from those notified for the fourth quarter of a finance ministry notification. The notification states that Sukanya Samriddhi deposits will earn 8.2% interest, while three-year term deposits will earn 7.1%. Popular Public Provident Fund (PPF) and post office savings deposit scheme interest rates remain at 7.1% and 4%, respectively. Kisan Vikas Patra investments mature in 115 months at 7.5%. National Savings Certificate (NSC) interest rates will stay at 7.7% for April-2025. Like the current quarter, investors will earn 7.4% from the Monthly Income Scheme.

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



Airtel decreased to Rs 9.88 lakh billion. On BSE, 1.11 lakh shares traded for Rs 19.33 crore. Bharti Airtel stock has a one-year beta of 1, indicating average volatility. Technically, Bharti Airtel's RSI is 64.3, indicating it's neither overbought or oversold. The recent payment means Airtel has prepaid Rs 25,981 crore of spectrum liabilities.

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 lifespans. Airtel's cost of debt on spectrum liabilities.