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MORNING EDITION PRAYAGRAJ Wednesday, 17 September 2025 UNIQUE GIFT OF KRIYAYOGA ASHRAM AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE TO GIVE IMPETUS TO WORLD BUILDING AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT.

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

NEW DELHI:

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

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

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

As RSS pracharak, Modi would travel relentlessly

On Wednesday, he will mark his 75th birthday in MP, launching welfare schemes

Zeal

He will mark his 75th birthday in MP, launching welfare schemes



NEW DELHI: Close on the heels of his two-day tour of the North-East last week, PM Narendra Modi appears to be preparing for another tour of the region. He is likely to visit Tripura and Arunachal Pradesh later this month, his back-to-back trips, which hardly featured on the travel plans of his predecessors, being another instance that demonstrates his relentless travel zeal, which he has shown since his

days as an RSS pracharak, has not dimmed with age or changes in role. These excursions have provided opportunities for him to disseminate his messages, expedite the implementation of schemes, and gather feedback. On Wednesday, he will mark his 75th birthday in MP, launching wel-

fare schemes, in keeping with his plank of inclusive development. Modi's journeys have been an integral part of his politics. In 1990, he helped organise the Somnath-Ayodhya Rath Yatra, igniting pride amongst Hindus that laid the foundations for BJP to emerge at the national level. The Ekta Yatra (1991-

Modi's Gujarat Gaurav Yatra restored hope after a devastating earthquake

As Gujarat CM, Modi's Gujarat Gaurav Yatra (2002) restored hope after a devastating earthquake, while the Swarnim Gujarat Yatra (2010) celebrated the state's progress. "Each journey was a bridge to the people, rooted in their aspirations," said BJP national media head Anil Baluni.

92), which he led along with former BJP chief MM Joshi, and which culminated in hoisting the national flag at Srinagar's Lal Chowk, symbolised defiance of terrorism.

Government checking veracity of 'surrender offer' by Maoists



NEW DELHI:

CPI(Maoist), in a purported press statement signed by its top leader 'Abhay' - the nom de guerre used by senior-most politburo and central committee member Mallojula Venugopal Rao - has offered to lay down arms and enter into a temporary ceasefire. Pushed to the brink by sustained counter-Naxal operations in 'core' areas deep inside the jungles of Abujmahar, which have seen decimation of its top leaders, including general secretary

Basavaraju and seven central committee members this year, the CPI(Maoist) sought a month from govt to hold consultations with its leaders and cadre across the country, including those in jail, to build a consensus on its peace initiative. Sources in the Chhattisgarh govt and central agencies, however, said the authenticity of the letter, which is different from earlier CPI(Maoist) press statements as it carries a mugshot of Abhay, is still being verified.

Delhi issues guidelines for street dog management

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

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

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

India & US decide to efforts for early trade deal

Negotiations

India and the United States restarted bilateral trade negotiations.



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

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

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

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

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



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

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

Bilateral

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

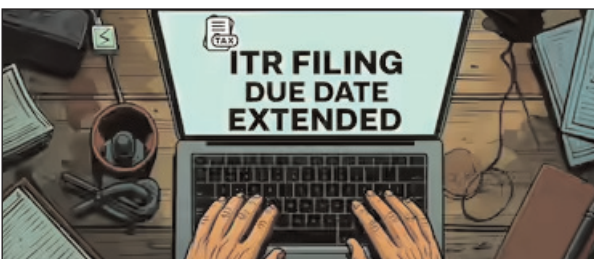
specific interaction with Rubio regarding Trump's claims of mediating the May 10

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

Income Tax Department announces new deadline for tax return filing

Extended

Tax Department announced the new ITR filing due date



NEW DELHI: In a big relief for taxpayers, the Income Tax Department has extended the due date or deadline for filing Income Tax Returns (ITR) for AY 2025-26 by a day. The original deadline of July 31, 2025 had

previously been extended to September 15, 2025. This has now been extended again to September 16, 2025, the Income Tax Department said. The extension in due date for filing ITR comes on the back of several taxpayers com-

plaining of glitches on the income tax e-filing portal website incometax.gov.in. The Income Tax Department announced the new ITR filing due date for FY 2024-25 (AY 2025-26) just minutes before the original deadline.

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

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

Trump says US, China reach deal on TikTok; to speak with Xi on Friday



White House for a state visit to Britain. The agreement follows two days of negotiations in Madrid between US

treasury secretary Scott Bessent and Chinese vice premier He Lifeng, officials said. TikTok, owned by

China-based ByteDance, has nearly two billion global users. A federal law requiring TikTok to be sold to US-controlled ownership or face a nationwide ban was set to take effect the day before Trump's inauguration on January 20. The Republican, who previously paused enforcement of the law, granted a 90-day extension in June, which expires on Wednesday.

SC slams Maharashtra poll panel for 'inaction and incompetence'

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

SC seeks states' replies on anti-conversion laws

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

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



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

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

Women and Jamiat Ulama-e-Hind. The states which have enacted anti-conversion laws include UP, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh.

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

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



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

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

Children being forced to 'glorify' PM, claims Cong

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

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

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



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



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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

"India is deeply concerned about the recent attacks in Doha



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

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

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

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

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



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

Govt allocates 12,952 crore for public transport system

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

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

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



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

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

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

For private automobiles older than 20 years, the government is considering a fitness

Delhi: The road transport ministry has suggested a significant rise in the fitness test fee for private vehicles older than 20 years, as well as for medium and heavy commercial vehicles older than 15 years, just weeks after the government increased renewal charges for older vehicles. The cost of the test will be Rs 25,000 for trucks and buses, and Rs 2,600 for vehicles that

are 20 years old. It has learned that the goal of this change is to make individuals less likely to keep their outdated cars. After 15 years on the road, the government is reportedly thinking about instituting fitness exams for private vehicles. At this time, RTOs do not conduct tests on private automobiles in order to issue fitness certificates; instead, they merely inspect them.

Himachal Pradesh Becomes Fourth Fully Literate State

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



address at an event to mark the

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

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

Meeting regarding preparations for Dussehra concluded under the chairmanship of DM

Meeting

□ The District Magistrate directed all the concerned officers to visit their respective areas and ensure all the necessary arrangements on time

Prayagraj: A meeting was held with the police administration, officials of the implementing departments and the officials of Durga Puja and Ramleela Committee in Sangam Auditorium on Tuesday under the chairmanship of District Magistrate Mr. Manish Kumar Verma to conduct Dussehra and Durga Puja in a safe and peaceful manner. In the meeting, the District Magistrate directed all the concerned officials and said that all the concerned officers should complete the work related to their respective departments on time. He asked the officials of the committees



to provide their cooperation in completing the event safely. The District Magistrate has directed the concerned officials to get the roads repaired, drains cleaned, lighting, drink-

ing water, parking arrangements etc. done on time in the city and rural areas. He has also directed to get the ponds made for immersion of Durga idols cleaned and filled with

clean water. The District Magistrate has directed the Public Works Department and Municipal Corporation officials to get the roads repaired. He has directed the officials of

the Electricity Department to arrange for uninterrupted power supply as well as repair the hanging dilapidated wires, replace the faulty transformers, trim the branches of trees hanging on the roads and the Municipal Corporation to get the street lights fixed. The District Magistrate has directed all the Sub-District Magistrates and Police officials to jointly visit and ensure all the necessary arrangements and also visit the sensitive places.

He has asked the Health Department officials to ensure the availability of ambulances and a team of doctors. He has asked the Municipal Corporation to take necessary action to catch the stray animals.

He has asked the officials of all the concerned departments to visit and remove the deficiencies of the fair routes. Instructions have been given to

the Municipal Corporation in urban areas and Panchayati Raj Department in rural areas to ensure cleanliness. The District Magistrate said that no non-traditional work will be done. There will be adequate arrangements of force. Arrangements for traffic, diversion and parking should be ensured. Adequate security arrangements should also be ensured at bus stations, railway stations, religious places. People from Crime Prevention, Civil Defense and other supporting departments should be put on shift wise duty. On this occasion, Additional District Magistrate Administration Mrs. Pooja Mishra, Additional District Magistrate City Mr. Satyam Mishra, Additional City Commissioner, Sub-District Magistrates, ACPs, officials of Ramleela and Durga Puja Committee and officials of all the concerned departments were present.

Secretary threatened with shooting, Secretary complained



Case

□ Police has been informed. Fertilizer will not be distributed until a case

Prayagraj: Secretary of Sadhan Cooperative Society Neeraj Patel has been threatened with shooting. The case is of Sadhan Cooperative Society Pawari of Koraon tehsil.

The secretary has complained about the case to the police and departmental officers. On Tuesday, police was called in the committee and fertilizer was distributed. On Tuesday, hundreds of farmers reached Sadhan Cooperative Society Pawari to

get fertilizer. There was a queue of farmers since morning. Meanwhile, there was a fight among the farmers. On which the police had to be called. After this, fertilizer was distributed. Meanwhile, a farmer threatened to shoot the secretary of the committee Neeraj Patel. Which created a stir. Secretary Neeraj Patel said that the farmer with token number 32 has threatened to kill him.

Police has been informed. Fertilizer will not be distributed until a case is registered against the accused. The secretary called the incident of assault a rumour.

DGP unveiled stickers, posters, Railway passengers will be made aware

Awareness

□ The objective of the public awareness material is to make the passengers

Lucknow. On Tuesday, stickers, posters and banners prepared for the purpose of safety and public awareness of passengers were unveiled by Director General of Police, Uttar Pradesh Rajiv Krishna at the Police Headquarters, Lucknow. Additional Director General of Police, Railway Uttar Pradesh Prakash D. and Inspector General of Police, Railway



Modak Rajesh D. Rao were present. The main objective of the public awareness material is to make the passengers traveling in railway stations and trains aware of security related information, vigilance measures and the utility of UP-112 helpline and Government Railway Police to get immediate help in any emergency.

The prepared stickers, posters and banners will be put up in railway premises, stations and passenger coaches, so that the security related messages can reach as many passengers as possible. In these messages, there is a special appeal to be cautious during the journey, to immediately inform if any suspicious object or person is seen and to get help

from the Government Railway Police. Addressing the program, Director General of Police, Uttar Pradesh said that the safety of passengers is not only the responsibility of the police but also the collective responsibility of the entire society. GRP and UP-112 are ready to provide all possible help to the passengers round the clock. Additional Director General of Police, Railways said that this campaign will increase awareness about safety among passengers and will also prove helpful in crime control and accident prevention.

Peace committee meeting organized in Kaushambi police stations



Kaushambi: A peace committee meeting was organized in the police station Sarai Akil premises under the joint chairmanship of Chail Circle Officer Abhishek Singh and Sub-District Magistrate Chail. In the meeting, necessary discussions were held with the aim of conducting events like Durga Mata idol installation, procession, fair and idol immersion in a peaceful and harmonious envi-

ronment on the upcoming Navratri festival. On this occasion, police station in-charge Sarai Akil Ashutosh Kumar Singh, members of Durga Puja organizing committee, village head, elite citizens and dignitaries were present. The officials appealed to maintain peace and law and order by providing necessary guidelines to the organizers. At the same time, the citizens present and the members.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

There is no right over the fruit, this is the above explanation, because there are many factors

Gita declares that a crime free and justice filled system should be established: Ashok

Prayagraj. National President of Sanatan Ekta Mission Ashok Kumar Pathak today delivered a lecture on Karmayog Vigyan of Gita in Shivcharan Das Kanhaiya Lal Intermediate College. He said that Gita helps in building a good personality and a good nation is built from good citizens and youth. National President Ashok Kumar Pathak, while explaining the verse of Gita 'Karmanyadwikaraste Ma Phaleshu



Kadachana', said that a person has a right over his deeds but not over the fruit, it is not appropriate to say that one should not desire the fruit. There is no right

over the fruit, this is the above explanation, because there are many factors that affect the fruit or result, most of which are not in the control of the person,

therefore, to get the desired result, one should resort to Karmayoga. It is said "Yoga: Karmasu Kaushalan" that is, efficiency in work is yoga,

System

□ He said that there are three types of karma, karma, akarma and vikarma

therefore, to get the desired result, excellence, efficiency, ability in work is necessary. He said that there are three types of karma, karma, akarma and vikarma. Its determination is not possible in a worldly way, the scriptures tell what is karma, what is

akarma and what is vikarma. National President of Sanatan Ekta Mission, Pandit Ashok Kumar Pathak said that the karma which is worth doing and the scriptures allow it to be done, is karma, the karma which is forbidden by the scriptures Those deeds which are done are inaction, like consuming alcohol is inaction, and those deeds which are against the prescribed rules and often come under the category of crime are vices.

'Swachhata Hi Seva' fortnight will run from 17th

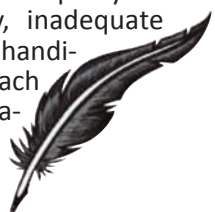
Prayagraj: A meeting was held in Sangam Auditorium on Tuesday under the chairmanship of District Magistrate Manish Kumar Verma regarding the successful organization of 'Swachhata Hi Seva-2025'. In the meeting, the District Magistrate informed that the Swachhata Pakhwada will be organized from 17th September to 2nd October. During this, programs related to cleanliness will be organized at various places. The District Magistrate administered

the oath of 'Swachhata Hi Seva' to all the people present in the meeting and asked everyone to actively ensure their participation in the Swachhata Pakhwada. He has asked to motivate other people to join this program by cleaning the house and public places through Shramdaan. The District Magistrate has directed all the concerned departmental officers to complete all the programs as per the action plan of Swachhata Seva Pakhwada.

Editorial

Russia's growing dependence on China

Russia's growing dependence on China would leave it open to pressure from the latter to withhold arms supplies and spares to India in the event of a wider India-China conflict in the future. Some commentators in India have argued that Russia is a declining power with an uncertain future and that India should therefore strengthen its ties with the West where its true interests lie in terms of economic growth, foreign investment, access to advanced technologies, defence modernisation, democracy links, educational opportunities, diasporic connections, and so on. In this view, India should give up fence-sitting and choose sides more openly. Our media and think tanks generally promote this thinking. Our business community, which is obviously much more linked to the West than to Russia, is not active enough in promoting stronger economic ties with Russia. The reality is that Russia is important to us bilaterally, regionally and internationally. It has stood by us since the mid-1950s when we were under great pressure by the West politically and economically, and indeed, strategically. It provided us with real defence muscle, participated in laying the foundations of our heavy industry, and engaged in space and nuclear cooperation with us. Russia has shared sensitive technologies with us, unlike the West which has imposed technology denial sanctions on us for decades. Russia has never sanctioned us, unlike the Western countries. Russia is the only country which is collaborating with us currently in setting up nuclear power plants. Expanding our nuclear power sector is becoming more pressing in light of climate change issues. Cooperation in the area of nuclear modular reactors could well be considered. Russia, even after the collapse of the Soviet Union, remains the world's biggest country, with enormous natural resources, self-sufficient in hydrocarbons and food, a formidable nuclear power with powerful delivery systems, a permanent member of the Security Council, with a great tradition of diplomacy, and so on. How many countries in the world have such assets? Should we distance ourselves from such a country? What is our gain in doing that? Russia may have been weakened after the collapse of the Soviet Union, but it still is a formidable international player. As part of broadening the base of our diplomacy to increase our global profile and influence, we are reaching out to a whole host of countries which individually do not play any significant international role, do not possess an array of resources, are not a source of technologies or major investments. What would be the logic then to draw away from Russia? It is wrong to describe our ties with Russia as "legacy" ties. The sense in which this word is used is equivocal. In reality, these ties continue to serve our interests in many important ways. Russia remains our biggest defence partner even as we diversify. (In fact, even in Soviet times, we procured major defence items from the West, excluding the US, and so diversity in defence supplies is not a new policy). With the end of the Cold War, geopolitical changes, a major reversal of US policies on India, the emergence of Israel as a defence partner, French readiness to engage us in sensitive defence cooperation, many platforms or niche technologies that Russia cannot supply, diversification has been a pragmatic process. In any case, over-dependence in any context is not a good option. PM Modi's Moscow visit will be an occasion to take stock of our existing and future defence cooperation in the context of Russia's preoccupation with the proxy war in Ukraine. Lack of contiguity, inadequate connectivity, transportation handicaps, lack of knowledge of each other's markets and even relative lack.



Why Modi-Shah can't decide Nadda's successor

Saariq
There are two ways of looking at Prime Minister Narendra Modi's response to the 2024 Lok Sabha election outcome. The first is that he is truly convinced that the people have shown faith in him and his government by giving a mandate to the National Democratic Alliance for a third term. He is looking to rule for the next five years with the same authority as he did for the past 10 years. The PM has given many indications to this effect: Largely the same Cabinet, with some token representation of allies; the same old ex-bureaucrats in his core team; the same self-proclaimed non-partisan presiding

officer of the Lok Sabha; and, the same aggression against the Opposition. Another way of looking at his response is to treat it as bravado—an attempt to hide the vulnerabilities of a coalition government. Any show of weakness at this point would embolden the Opposition, the allies, the ambitious BJP colleagues, the ideological patron and even the otherwise obedient bureaucracy. Things will start falling apart. That should explain the unnecessary belligerence against the Opposition in the very first session of the new Lok Sabha. A small, though significant, indicator of how the government is actually reading the 2024 man-

date came from the finance ministry discontinuing the practice of officially releasing monthly data with state-wise break up of Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections. That's because of the assessment. As my colleague TCA Sharad Raghavan reported, it was creating resentment among the people who were thinking that the government was sucking them dry by collecting too much tax. That's as hilarious as it can get but it gives us an inkling of how the 'system' is responding to the poll results. Be that as it may, Modi would have us believe the first scenario—that he is convinced that the 2024

election results were not a reflection on his governance and so he has retained the same old team. The Bharatiya Janata Party, therefore, needs to explain the loss of 63 seats—from 303 in 2019 to 240 in 2024. The PM hasn't said it in as many words, though. Signals from the ruling party are on the contrary—that it sees the 2024 mandate as a vindication of its politics and organisational prowess. If at all, blame the individuals for the party's performances in some states — say, Yogi Adityanath in Uttar Pradesh and Devendra Fadnavis in Maharashtra. Or, for that matter, blame the Opposition's 'propaganda'.

Why does he start cursing his previous govt?

Suman

But on the other hand, he did not rebuke even a single MP from the government for their misbehavior, neither did he scold them nor did his mike get switched off. It went to such an extent that Om Birla kept smiling even during the indecent speech of Prime Minister Modi. But Prime Minister Modi has never cared about the dignity of the post of Prime Minister, and the way he tried to prove Rahul Gandhi as a childish fool in the Parliament, not only through gestures, but also abused his mother Sonia Gandhi and the biggest limit was that Modi called himself a teacher through gestures, while called Rahul Gandhi a spoilt child. Does he also think of jokes and jumlabaaazi in the Parliament, in which he is an expert? Why does he start cursing his previous governments instead of answering the questions? And why is no attention paid to the language he uses? Don't those who laugh at his useless statements understand the dignity of the Parliament? But still these same people never get tired of invoking the Parliament. Apart from this, the way he tried to mislead the people with his flowery words was clearly showing that he was trying to find a way to save himself. Actually, the way many opposition MPs raised many issues in the Parliament, Prime Minister Modi should have spoken on those issues and also answered the questions of the opposition. For example, Rahul Gandhi raised



the issue of the NEET paper leak, which is an issue related to the future of the youth. Similarly, many MPs raised questions about the misuse of ED, CBI, while SP chief Akhilesh Yadav raised questions about EVM machines. Although I am not saying that the opposition MPs took care of the dignity of the Parliament, but the government should have pacified them by giving them a polite reply, and not said anything to prove them corrupt and outright wrong. The way Prime Minister Narendra Modi tried to prove in his statement that he is the only one capable of ruling the country in every way and that he is supreme, his arrogance was clearly visible. That is why MP Gaurav Gogoi said that Modi has two weapons - fear and confusion. He shows the fear of ED, CBI and IT and has spread confusion in the country. Former Army Chief General Naravane surrounded the govern-



ment on One Rank, One Pension and said that the government brought No Rank No Pension. Here in Rajya Sabha too, when Leader of Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge raised many important issues ranging from Hathras Satsang incident in Rajya Sabha, the Vice President of the country and Speaker of Rajya Sabha Jagdeep Dhankhar was seen clashing with him. Jagdeep Dhankhar was also unable to tolerate the attacks on the government by the opposition and kept trying to defend the government. But the most important Rajya Sabha MP Manoj Jha also questioned the credibility of the Election Commission and clearly said that only 28 percent people trust the credibility of the Election Commission. He said that the public has more trust in the village head regarding suspicious deaths than this. Along with this, he asked many questions to the government. The first

session of the 18th Lok Sabha, which began on June 24, was adjourned on July 16 due to the proceedings of the Rajya Sabha, and a day before that, on July 2, the proceedings of the Lok Sabha were adjourned. After the Lok Sabha elections were over and the formation of the NDA government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, this first session of Parliament in the year began with the new Parliament. But the sad thing is that in this Parliament session, very few MPs took care of the dignity of the Parliament. The way the MPs of the government and the opposition taunted each other in Parliament and tried to humiliate each other, it became clear that no one is behind anyone in lowering the dignity of the Parliament. Many big political experts believe that the government must tolerate criticism, because if there is any flaw in many of the works of the govern-

ment and it can know about its shortcomings better from the opposition, it will not be able to see it itself, because the government sees its shortcomings as good. The government must tolerate criticism. However, the way the Leader of Opposition, Rahul Gandhi and many other MPs surrounded the government on many issues and raised questions in the Lok Sabha session of Parliament, not only the government was agitated, but Speaker Om Birla also appeared angry, which should not have happened in reality. While addressing Om Birla during his re-appointment to the post of Speaker, Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi had said that you have to look at all the MPs equally without looking at the ruling party and the opposition, on the contrary, Om Birla, without caring about the dignity of the Speaker's post in Parliament, showed his biased attitude just like last time. The Prime Minister should answer the public and now when he himself is saying that the public has expressed trust in him for the third time, he should honestly call a big press conference and answer the questions of the country's combative and capable journalists. And it was seen that on one hand he not only constantly scolded Rahul Gandhi and all the opposition MPs, but also treated them in such a way as if the elected MPs were ignorant, apart from this the mikes of the opposition MPs were also switched off.

Hhistorians remain sceptical of Curzon's assertions

Abhimanyu Sharma

Circa 1900: Rudyard Kipling wrote Kim, placing the eponymous hero at the centre of the Great Game of espionage between the British Empire and Russia in the 19th century. The book is set after the Second Anglo-Afghan War, which ended in 1881, but before the Third, likely in the period 1893–98. Kim, short for Kimball O'Hara, is an impoverished Irish orphan who lives on the streets of Lahore and works for Mahbub Ali, a Pashtun horse trader. He later befriends an aged Tibetan lama, accompanies him on his journey along the Grand Trunk Road, learns about the Great Game, and is eventually recruited by Mahbub Ali, who works for the British Secret Service in their quest to extend influence in both Afghanistan and Tibet. Whether or not the Great Game—the expression used by British imperialists to describe the perceived expansion of Russian influence in Afghanistan, Central Asia, and Tibet—actually existed, the fact remains that sur-

veys were undertaken, expeditions mounted, spymasters recruited, and novels written, even as soldiers lost their lives. Taking a cue from Viceroy George Curzon, all pro-establishment papers—from the Civil and Military Gazette of Lahore to The Pioneer of Lucknow, The Statesman of Calcutta (now Kolkata), and The Times of India of Bombay (now Mumbai)—concurred that Tsarist Russia posed a real threat to the jewel in Britain's crown. A hundred and twenty years later, historians remain sceptical of Curzon's assertions. Is the hue and cry about the Deep State similar to the Great Game? Whether or not it exists, whether it operates in all countries, and whether the 'deep state' of one country is connected with others through the dark web or entrenched corporate interests remains unclear, as the discourse is more ideological than empirical. Sometimes, those who claim to be part of the deep state ascribe to themselves a larger-than-life role in state affairs.

Hizb ut-Tahrir has been accused of radicalising young Muslims

Suman Singh

Prior to the UK general elections, a media investigation revealed that five of the six major British political parties had taken illicit foreign funds. To minimise excessive foreign influence, British legislation compels parties to refund unlawful donations within 30 days and disclose any failures to the Electoral Commission. Only people on the electoral roll can make donations, with a minimum limit of £500. However, the Bureau of Investigative Journalism discovered that the Conservative Party, Reform UK, Liberal Democrats, Green Party, and Scottish National Party failed to prevent or identify these donations, which were made through an assortment of modest payments totalling more than £500 from a foreign source. As per the report, only the Labour Party successfully blocked such unlawful donations. Election law expert Gavin Millar criticised the self-policing method as ineffective and illogical because it relies on beneficiaries to enforce the law. Concerns had grown in the run-up to the 2024 UK general election about foreign players funding political non-governmental organisations (NGOs). Despite precise laws deliberate to prevent excessive foreign influence, some NGOs with significant influence in UK politics have evidently received large amounts of funding from international sources. These contributions, which are frequently routed through intricate channels to avoid detection, undermine the integrity of the democratic process and threaten to influence election results in favour of foreign interests. The current legal system, which relies mainly on self-policing, is

deeply inadequate, allowing foreign funders to have hidden power over British politics. Several controversial groups in the British community receive funding from ambiguous sources, which they utilise to spread their propaganda and operations throughout the country. One prominent example is the Muslim Council of Britain (MCB), an umbrella group that represents over 500 interconnected mosques and Muslim organisations. MCB has a notorious history of sponsoring and supporting extremist actions, prompting consecutive British administrations to adopt a "non-engagement" stance with the organisation since 2009. Notably, the MCB backed a declaration in Istanbul calling for jihad in reaction to Israel's activities in Gaza and backing Hamas attacks on foreign forces, possibly involving British troops. Another outfit of concern is the Hizb ut-Tahrir, which is secretively operational in the UK despite being banned in many countries due to its disruptive ideology and links to terrorist acts. Hizb ut-Tahrir has been accused of radicalising young Muslims and pushing for the formation of a global caliphate through non-democratic means. Its financing roots are opaque, leading to suspicions of foreign financial aid intended to destabilise communities. Islamic Relief Worldwide, headquartered in the United Kingdom, has been accused of supporting terrorist entities, especially Hamas. The organisation denies these allegations. However, both Israel and the United Arab Emirates have blacklisted Islamic Relief Worldwide over concerns about the misuse of charitable donations to fund terrorist activities.

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

New Delhi: Delhi govt is going to resume its interstate bus service after nearly 15 years with a fleet of electric buses. The service will kick off on Sept 23 with six daily trips between Delhi and Baraut in Uttar Pradesh, a senior official has said. The route has been selected as the pilot because of its strategic importance and suitability for electric vehicle operations. Baraut, located approximately 1.5 hours from Delhi, is an ideal route for e-buses, combining manageable travel time with increasing commuter demand, the official pointed out. The service will feature app-based digital ticketing with fares starting at Rs 125, offering a cashless ticketing experience. "Baraut is chosen as it has been comparatively less connected via direct public transport options and people there expressed the need for better connectivity with



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

Delhi : The Delhi government will provide free electricity up to 1,200 units to Ramleela and Durga Puja committees and meters for the same will be installed on just 25% security deposit, Chief Minister Rekha Gupta said. Moreover, to ease administrative hurdles, the government will issue no-objectionable certificates (NOC) for various services through a single-window system, eliminating the need for

these organising committees to approach multiple departments, the CM said. Gupta added that public amenities such as toilets, security arrangements, healthcare services, ambulances and fire brigades will also be ensured at the venues of Ramleela and Durga Puja. She made the announcements after meeting representatives of Ramleela and Durga Puja committees at the Delhi Secretariat. Delhi," said an official, who is part of the project. "The relatively short journey time

Activists laud involvement of RWAs, focus on Indian breeds

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



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

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

NDMC approves night food bazar at Connaught Place & India Gate

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

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

said the project will be developed along the lines of successful night markets in other parts of India. "Indore's Sarafa Bazaar, a jewellery market by day, transforms into a night street food market, serving a wide variety of local delicacies late into the night.

BMW accident: Accused files for bail

New Delhi: Gaganpreet Makkad, accused in the BMW accident that claimed the life of Navjot Singh, deputy secretary in the Department of Economic Affairs, on Tuesday filed a bail application in a Delhi court, claiming there was no intent or negligence on her part. The bail hearing is scheduled for Wednesday. Makkad's plea contended that custodial interrogation is unnecessary as she has cooperated fully with the investigation, does not pose a flight risk, and is unlikely to tamper with evidence. The court issued a notice to the prosecution and directed Tihar authorities to ensure Makkad receives medical care. She was sent to two-day judicial custody Monday after being arrested for culpable



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

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

Paharganj hotels fined by DPCC for unlawful groundwater extraction

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

Rain leaves its mark on air, but pollution starts rising

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



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

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

Elections: At DU, From Pamphlets To Playlists

New Delhi: Tuesday was the final day of campaigning for the Sept 18 Delhi University Students' Union (DUSU) elections — and the campus felt nothing like it once did. Cluttered walls once plastered with pamphlets had now transformed into a high-voltage digital spectacle. While college-to-college interactions were still a big part of the process, a ban on printed pamphlets made this year's campaign take a dramatic leap into the world of social media — and it showed. Campaigning videos were choreographed at selected backdrops like film sets, complete with trending soundtracks and dramatic drone shots. Classroom rallies unfolded to catchy background music. Candidates hired PR firms, collaborated with influencers, and saturated social media



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

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

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

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

NEW DELHI: An 18-year-old newlywed woman is fighting for her life on a ventilator after being stabbed allegedly by her stalker in northeast Delhi's New Mustafabad. He has been arrested. The woman, who got married just 10 days ago, had returned to her parental home for post-wedding ceremonies and was going to rejoin her husband in Ashok Vihar after spending a few days with her family. The man, her family claimed, had been stalking her for the past



three-four months and was opposed to the marriage. The Dayalpur police station was informed about the stabbing

near Mangal Bazaar Road on Thursday evening. The woman was taken to GTB Hospital before police reached the spot, said a

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

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

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

Delhi is singing its heart out at karaoke nights

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



belt out your favourite songs

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

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

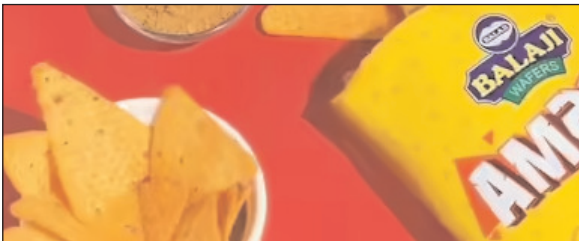
ITC, Temasek among dozen cos in race for 10% in Balaji Wafers

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

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

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

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



JPMorgan to cut China, India share in EM Bond



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

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

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

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

Groww files updated papers for Rs 7,000 crore IPO

Bengaluru:

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

TikTok deal close? Why US wants China to divest

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

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



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

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

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

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

Greece beckons: A smart real estate move for Indian investors

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



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

Why Greece, why now?

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

Thyssenkrupp sale: Jindal Steel makes bid for German steel unit

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

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

Juergen Kerner, a workers' representative on Thyssenkrupp's



Govt allows companies to display revised MRP on old unsold packs

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

Amazon eyes bumper sales

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

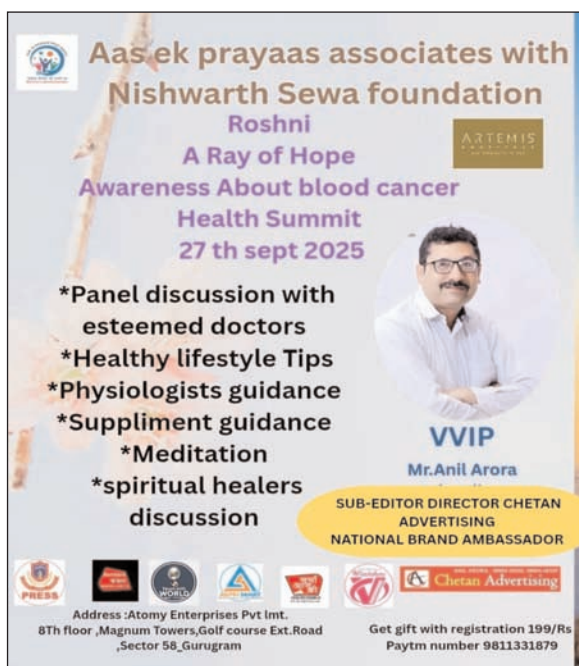
pared to previous year. Regardless, consumers typically wait for sales to begin before making large purchases; however, this time around, the trend has quickened thanks to the GST cuts. Customers can expect to save a ton of money this holiday season because to merchants' enticing bargains and a drop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

Roshni: A Ray of Hope - Empowering Lives with Blood Cancer Awareness

Gurugram : 27th September 2025 – This September, as the world observes Blood Cancer Awareness Month, Aas Ek Prayaas NGO, in association with the Nishwarth Sewa Foundation, is set to host a transformative Health Summit aimed at raising awareness, providing knowledge, and offering support to those impacted by blood cancer. The "Roshni: A Ray of Hope" summit will be held on Saturday at the Atomy Enterprises India Pvt. Ltd., located in Magnum Towers, Sector 58, Gurugram, beginning at 10:00 AM. The event is designed to bring together healthcare professionals, oncologists, spiritual healers, and health experts to discuss a holistic approach to combating cancer.

Event Highlights: The summit will feature two insightful panel discussions focused on various aspects of cancer care and well-being:

Round 1: Cancer Prevention and Treatment Experts in oncology will



share the latest advancements in cancer research, prevention strategies, and early detection methods. Discussions will also include advice on diet, lifestyle, supplements, emotional health from health coaches, psychologists, a n d physiotherapists. Round 2: **Spirituality, Stress Management, and Alternative Healing** Spiritual healers, astrologers, and numerologists will explore life after cancer, offering unique

insights into stress management, emotional resilience, and the role of alternative healing in cancer recovery. The event will also feature interactive sessions, including Laughter Therapy and Meditation, to emphasize the importance of mental and emotional well-being in the cancer journey. A special segment will discuss how the right tools and lifestyle changes—such as the use of specific utensils—can contribute to better health and wellness.

Next election in Nepal will be free and fair: Home Minister

New Delhi: Nepal's newly appointed Home Minister Om Prakash Aryal says that the aim of the current government is to conduct elections in a free and fair environment. Om Prakash Aryal has taken charge in the ministry. According to him, rebuilding the physical infrastructure damaged during the recent demonstrations and ensuring good governance will be the priorities of the government.



He emphasized that the people ousted by the rebellion are seeing a way to come back to power, they will have to test themselves through elections and take the mandate of the

people. Nepal's Home Minister Om Prakash Aryal also promised to investigate the alleged use of excessive force during the demonstrations on September 8.

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



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

NAAC adopts e-inspections for new accreditation

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

Yoga and Ayurveda reached new heights due to PM efforts

New Delhi: Under the leadership and guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, not only are several schemes being run to fulfill the resolution of a developed India by 2047, but several efforts are also being made for the welfare of poor women, youth and farmers. Due to the efforts of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Yoga and Ayurveda are being seen in a new light in the whole world today. On 27 September 2014, PM Modi called for the global adoption of Yoga from the platform of the United Nations. His call was supported by 192 countries of the world. DD News investigated these efforts of the Modi government and analyzed the various steps and schemes of the government by dividing



them into different categories. We have brought for you a series Jan Jan Ke Pradhan Mantri in which we will present before you the account of various schemes of the Modi government in 11 years. Under this series, today we will talk about the soft power of India. India has given invaluable contribution to the world

in the spiritual, philosophical and scientific fields. And now, due to the efforts of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Yoga and Ayurveda are being seen in a new light in the whole world. The decision to celebrate World Yoga Day on 21st June and Ayurveda Day on 23rd September from this year

makes it clear that this way of life of Indian Vedic tradition is writing a new chapter of India's growing global influence on the world stage. Yoga is the herb to live life to the fullest. Connecting with Yoga is a wonderful feeling in itself. Actually, Yoga is such a system which is a faith in itself and with this vision of faith, Prime Minister Narendra Modi decided to re-establish Yoga at the international level and the world also listened to him. On 27th September 2014, PM Modi called for the global adoption of Yoga from the platform of the United Nations. His call was supported by 192 countries of the world and on 11th December 2014, the UN declared 21st June every year as International Yoga Day.

Returning fourth-year students at 72% under NEP 2020's FYUP can opt out

Delhi: Nearly 72% of eligible students have opted to continue with the fourth year of Delhi University's Four-Year Undergraduate Programme (FYUP) under NEP 2020, according to Vice Chancellor Yogesh Singh. Up to the start of the new academic session on August 1, the university has allowed students to choose not to complete the fourth year. Out of more than 72,000 pupils, 20,221 have chosen not to



continue, leaving more than 50,000. The fact that students are willing to opt out of the third year demonstrates their value, which is quite encouraging, Singh told the media. All institutions affiliated with Delhi University will begin

the fourth year on August 1. As part of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, the FYUP provides several ways out: a certificate after the first year, a diploma after the second, and a degree after the third.

Himachal Pradesh: Nature's wrath, heavy rains wreak havoc in Mandi



New Delhi: Nature's wrath continues in Himachal Pradesh as well. Heavy rains wreak havoc again in many parts of the state last night. Heavy rains in Mandi district last night caused a lot of havoc. This time the centre of devastation was Dharampur market. Due to heavy rains, the Sane

Khadd flowing here assumed a monstrous form in no time. Due to this, the bus stand of Dharampur was completely submerged. The corporation buses parked at the bus stand drowned in the water and some buses were swept away with the flow of water. Along with this, many scooters,

bikes and cars were also swept away in the strong current. People whose houses were on the banks of the ravine also drowned in the water. At the same time, there are reports of landslides and disruption of normal life due to heavy rains in the capital Shimla and nearby areas.

Gyan Shri Award by Savitri Foundation

New Delhi :On Saturday, 13th September, on the eve of "Amrit Mahotsav" and "Hindi Day", Savitri Foundation, Delhi organized its 8th "Gyan Shri Award (for litterateurs)", "Gyan Deep Award (for educational institutions)" and "Gyan Prakash Award (for publishers)" along with a Kavi Sammelan (poetic symposium) at the auditorium of Deen Dayal Upadhyay College, Dwarka. The event was jointly coordinated with the college's literary society "Kalamkar" and Senrock Company. On this auspicious occasion, the first-ever "Dr. Ved Pratap Vaidik Award" and "Media Shri Award" were also launched. The program began with the college anthem of Deen Dayal Upadhyay College, followed by the ceremonial lamp lighting by Swami Anandeswar Giri Maharaj (Juna Akhara), Dr. B.L. Gaur (Gaur Sons, Chairman – world-renowned litterateur), Dr. Sandeep Marwah (Founder – Noida Film City, Marwah Studios),



Mr. Chanakya Potdar (astrologer), Prof. Hem Chand Jain (Principal, Deen Dayal Upadhyay College), Chief Guest Dr. Alka Agrawal (Chairperson – Mewar Institute), Chairperson Dr. Purnima Anand (President – BRICS Institute), Mr. Vijay Narayan Srivastava (Founder – Savitri Foundation), and Dr. Anita Srivastava (President – Savitri Foundation). Thereafter, the program was formally inaugurated with a soulful Guru Vandana presented by Mr. Vijay Srivastava. All the distinguished guests were honored with shawls and mementos by Mr. Vijay Srivastava (Founder) and Dr. Anita Srivastava

(President) of Savitri Foundation. The "Gyan Shri Award (for litterateurs)" was conferred upon Dr. Satya Narayan Jatia, Padmashri Sheela Jhunhunwala, Dr. Achla Nagar, and Dr. Laxmi Shankar Bajpai. The "Gyan Deep Award (for educational institutions)" was presented to Prof. Hem Chand Jain, Principal, Deen Dayal Upadhyay College. The "Gyan Prakash Award (for publishers)" was given to Mr. Ashok Gupta, Advik Publications and Mr. Kranti Kumar Srivastava, Prasad Psycho. The inaugural "Dr. Ved Pratap Vaidik Award" was presented to Mr. Vipin Gupta, National Express and Mr. Atul Singhal, Namo Impact.

Tech and sports: IIT will support SAI



Delhi: A partnership has been formed between the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IIT Delhi) and the Sports Authority of India's (SAI) National Centre of Sports Science Research (NCSSR) to improve cooperation in the fields of sports sciences, cutting-edge technology, and indigenous innovation. Union sports minister Mansukh Mandaviya stated, "This partnership reflects the ministry's commitment to integrating science and technology with sports to empower Indian athletes to compete at the highest international levels." "Our institute has significant competence in biomechanics, sensors, assistive technologies and AI and hope to create an impact in sports science and technology," stated Rangan Banerjee, head of IIT Delhi. The partnership is anticipated to pave the way for top-notch research in the fields of sports science and engineering, encourage initiatives driven by innovation to boost athletes' performance, facilitate the exchange of information, and make a substantial impact on the prevention of injuries and the overall health of athletes.

Ganguly makes honest confession: 'I stopped watching India vs Pakistan after just 15 overs'

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

Patience

□ Naqvi has warned. understands that the latest warning of withdrawal

Former India captain Sourav Ganguly had little patience for Sunday's Asia Cup clash between India and Pakistan in Dubai, admitting that the one-sided nature of the contest made him switch channels to football's Manchester derby. “I am actually not surprised by what I saw. I actually stopped watching after the first 15 overs and started watching Manchester United and Man City (in English Premier League),” Ganguly



It's the lack of quality in the side,” he said

“Pakistan are no match. I say that with respect, it's just because I've seen their team was. It's the lack of quality in the side,” he said. For Ganguly, the India-Pakistan hype no longer matches reality. “There is no competition... I would rather watch India play

quipped on Monday. India cruised to a seven-

Australia, South Africa, New Zealand, England, Sri Lanka or even Afghanistan. I don't think India and Pakistan are a contest anymore. We keep hyping it and for the last five years every hype has been shattered. It's been one-way traffic,” he concluded.

wicket victory over Pakistan, extending a

“Terror must stop, that's most important, all around the world'

“Terror must stop, that's most important, all around the world, not just India and Pakistan. You've seen so many things happening, so that also must stop. But sports also cannot stop. Terror has to stop all around the world,” he said. Asked about the players' actions, he deferred responsibility.

decade-long dominance. India's Handshake Snub at Asia Cup Leaves Pakistan in Full Meltdown, ICC Dragged Into Drama But the post-match buzz was dominated by controversy after Indian players collectively refused to shake hands with their opponents as

“You will have to ask Suryakumar Yadav, he has to answer. I'm too far, launching my ethnic brand. He's also answered it... Everyone has their own side of the story, that's what it is,” Ganguly remarked. On the cricketing side, the former BCCI president was blunt about Pakistan's decline.

a mark of solidarity with victims of the Pahalgam terror attack. Pakistan later lodged a formal complaint with the ICC, terming the act “unsporting.” Ganguly side-stepped the handshake debate but made his position clear on the bigger picture.

Another controversy erupts! Pakistan cancel press conference

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



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

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

BCCI finally breaks silence on India vs Pakistan handshake controversy



BCCI Secretary Devajit Saikia has addressed the controversy following the India-Pakistan Asia Cup match, suggesting that the focus should be on celebrating India's victory rather than the surrounding controversy.

The aftermath of Sunday's India-Pakistan Asia Cup match has sparked discussions due to Team India's decision to skip the traditional post-match handshake with Pakistani players. This action drew attention from PCB and Asian Cricket Council (ACC) chairman Mohsin Naqvi. Saikia emphasised the importance of celebrating India's decisive victory instead of paying attention to comments from other parties. “I can only say that India won handsomely. It was a thumping victory for the Indian team. Nothing

Sparked

□ The aftermath of India-Pakistan Asia Cup match has sparked discussions

more. Nothing less. That's all. India won the match so comfortably. We should be enjoying that rather than focusing on all that noise created by some third party or hostile countries. We should not be bothered by it. Instead, we should appreciate and feel proud of our boys for doing so well. We hope the winning momentum will continue till the last match of this tournament,” Saikia told IANS. India secured a seven-wicket victory against Pakistan, marking their second win in the tournament and ensuring their place in the Super Four stage.

Indian women's team all-rounder Deepti Sharma on India vs Pakistan



Stirred

□ I haven't thought about it. When that match comes, we will see what we have to

NEW CHANDIGARH: The Indian men's cricket team's decision to not shake hands with the Pakistan players after their group match in the ongoing Asia Cup has stirred a controversy. Ahead of the second Women's ODI at the PCA Mullanpur Stadium here, asked whether the Indian women's team will follow suit in their 2025 WODI World Cup match against Pakistan on Oct 5 in Colombo, ace allrounder Deepti Sharma said, “That match is a long time away. I haven't thought about it. When that match comes, we will see what

we have to do. I'm not thinking much about the Asia Cup. We are focusing on this series.” Left embarrassed by the eight-wicket hammering at the hands of the mighty Australia in the opening women's ODI on Sunday, India would be hoping for an almost miraculous bounce-back which enables them to level the series in the second match of the series at the PCA Mullanpur Stadium here on Wednesday. Another loss will see India not only lose the series, but also be a big dampener to their confidence, which was actually high after their successful tour of England ahead of the 2025 Women's ODI World Cup, which is now just a fortnight away. If they are to end their long wait for an elusive ICC trophy, India must slay their demons against Australia.

How Abhishek Sharma conquered 150 kmph, became India's power-hitting sensation

Realised

□ “Raj Kumar, who was Abhishek's first coach, said he soon realised

NEW DELHI: Indian opener Abhishek Sharma's father, Raj Kumar Sharma, has opened up about his son's passion for cricket since childhood, recalling how he always loved facing express pace and would often ask to train against bowling above 150 kmph during his under-16 days. Abhishek is currently setting new benchmarks in T20 cricket with his explosive batting. Long known as a genuine six-hitter, his power-hitting



reached another level when he opened alongside Australian superstar Travis Head for Sunrisers Hyderabad in the 2024 Indian Premier League (IPL). India's World Cup-winning all-rounder Yuvraj Singh, famous as the first Indian to hit six sixes in an over in international cricket, has also mentored Abhishek for years and continues to guide him. Speaking in a video

shared by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), Raj Kumar, a first-class cricketer himself, said: “I am also a first-class cricketer. There was a cricket-loving atmosphere at my house. And when he was a kid, he used to play with my bat and also trouble his mother. I have two daughters, he used to tell them to have him help bat at night. Sometimes he used to

"The senior players used to tell me.."

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

tell me that he wanted to do some diving practice and throw him. a catch.” Raj Kumar, who was Abhishek's first coach, said he soon realised his son's talent and passion.

India vs West Indies Tests: Full Windies squad announced; Roston Chase to captain

Squad

□ The squad features a blend of emerging talent, including Chanderpaul



alongside promising names such as Kevlon Anderson and Tevin Imlach. The Test series will mark the start of India's

2025 home season, which promises a packed calendar. The opening Test will be staged at Ahmedabad from October 2–6, fol-

lowed by the second at Kolkata from October 10–14. For West Indies, this series provides an opportunity to rebuild in red-ball cricket. West Indies squad for

series against South Africa in November and December. The two-Test series begins in New Delhi on November 14, with Guwahati hosting its first-ever Test from November 22. The tour then shifts to three ODIs (Ranchi, Raipur, Vizag) and concludes with five T20Is across Cuttack, Chandigarh, Dharamsala, Lucknow and Ahmedabad.

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

Ravichandran Ashwin poised for ILT20 stint with possible player-coach role

Ravichandran Ashwin, who described his post-IPL chapter as the start of his journey as an “explorer of the game across leagues,” is all set to play in the ILT20 League. “We're having very positive conversations with Ashwin, and hopefully we'll have positive news in the near future,” ILT20 CEO David White told TimesofIndia.com in an exclusive interview.



“If we can have a player of his stature, it would be huge. He is a world-class, generational tal-

ent. He has over 500 Test wickets, an outstanding ODI and T20I career, and what a cricket brain.

A charismatic figure, an intellect of the game. If he plays in the ILT20, we will be delighted,” said White. Virat Kohli, Rohit, R Ashwin, Pujara retire... who next? The legendary spinner has also spoken about exploring roles where he can both play and coach. When asked how open the ILT20 is to such a role, White said: “I think we're very open to anything like that. Not only his playing and coach-

ing, but also his analytical skills. He has his own media company, which he's working on. He's a very clever guy. We would welcome all aspects.” White further stated that he is positive Ashwin will play in the ILT20. “We hope to get him. Let's see what happens. Very positive for the moment,” he said. Last month, Ashwin announced his retirement from the Indian Premier League.

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

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

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