

AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

Title Code - UPENG04488

NATIONAL ENGLISH DAILY

MORNING EDITION PRAYAGRAJ

Saturday, 06 September 2025

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

RBI's MPC meeting between 4 to 6 August, repo rate likely to remain unchanged

New Delhi: The three-day review meeting of the bi-monthly Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is going to be held between 4-6 August. RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra will announce the decisions taken in the meeting on 6 August. Economists have expressed the possibility of the repo rate remaining unchanged at 5.50 percent in the meeting. Economists believe that despite the US's announcement of 25 percent new tariff, the Reserve Bank will not make any change in the policy rates in the August Monetary Policy Committee review meeting.

Trump calls India a dead economy

New Delhi: Even after the announcement of a 25 percent duty and penalty on Indian imports from August 1, 2025, President Donald Trump has not remained silent, but in the last 24 hours, he has not only made very objectionable comments about the Indian economy and the relations between India and Russia, but has also indicated playing the Pakistan card against India.

Naveen Patnaik hospitalised for dehydration

BHUBANESWAR: Former Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik was admitted to a private hospital Sunday evening after suffering from dehydration. "His condition is stable and he is responding well to treatment," the hospital said in a bulletin. CM Mohan Charan Majhi expressed concern and prayed for Naveen's good health. "I am praying to Lord Jagannath for his speedy recovery and good health," he posted on X. Naveen had undergone a spine surgery for cervical arthritis in Mumbai in June. He returned to Odisha last month.

Floods cause havoc in North India

Boraj pond broke in Ajmer, Rajasthan, water entered 1000 houses

Devastation

43 deaths in Punjab, yellow alert for heavy rain again in Himachal on 8

New Delhi/Chandigarh/Shimla/Dehradun: Rain has caused devastation from hilly states to plain areas. Due to continuous rain in NCR, Yamuna river is flowing above the danger mark. This has caused floods in many areas. Sector-135 and Sector-151 in Noida have drowned. Many areas are filled with 3 to 4 feet of water. All schools in Panchkula, Hisar, Rohtak and Jhajjar in Haryana are



closed. Some schools have also been closed in Fatehabad, Kurukshetra, Yamunanagar and Faridabad. Signature Global Salora Society in Gurugram was flooded on Thursday. Due to this, women and children were trapped in their homes. The wall of Boraj pond collapsed after heavy rain on

Punjab: Army takes charge in Ludhiana

Chandigarh: Floods in Punjab are causing great destruction. So far 43 people have died due to water. More than 1902 villages in 23 districts are in the grip of water, affecting more than 3.84 lakh people. To establish direct contact between the flood-affected people and the administration in the villages, Chief Minister Mann has ordered to appoint one gazetted officer.

toll in floods in Punjab rose to 43. More than 3.55 lakh people are affected in 1,655 villages in 23 districts of the state. Crops on 1.71 lakh hectares of land have been destroyed.

Every citizen will get the benefit of reduction in GST: Finance Minister



New Delhi: Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday said that the benefit of reduction in Goods and Services Tax (GST) rates should reach the common man, so the central government is keeping a close watch on the implementation of the new tax system to be implemented from September 22, the first day of Navratri. Bihar and the whole country are getting this double dhamaka before Diwali and Chhath (Mayya) Puja. The Finance

Minister said in the interview that our focus is on the common man, the middle class, their needs and aspirations. Work has been going on for the last 1.5 years to bring reforms in GST and these have nothing to do with global trade tensions. A Group of Ministers (GoM) was formed for this and we were working. Defending the timing of the reforms made in GST, the Finance Minister denied any connection with the tariff imposed by US.

India expressed concern over protests against Indians in Australia

New Delhi: India has expressed concern over the anti-immigrant protests in several cities of Australia. The Australian government, while taking cognizance of India's concerns, has admitted that these protests

can be a matter of concern for their multicultural society. India has assured that it is committed to the safety and well-being of Indians living abroad. Foreign Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal reacted to the recent

protests against Indians in Australia in the weekly press conference on Friday. The spokesperson said that on August 31, anti-immigrant protests took place in several cities of Australia. During

this, the High Commission and Consul General of India were constantly in touch with the Australian government and the Indian community. Jaiswal said that senior leaders of both the Australian govt.

Teachers instill a sense of dignity in children: Murmu

Award

The President presented the National Teachers Award-2025 to the selected award



New Delhi: President Draupadi Murmu presented national awards to teachers at a function organized in New Delhi on Friday on Teachers' Day. The President presented the National Teachers Award-2025 to the selected award winners. President Draupadi Murmu said in a ceremony organized at Vigyan Bhavan in New Delhi on Friday that like food, clothing and shelter, education is also essential for the dignity and security of a person. Sensitive teachers work

to inculcate a sense of dignity and security in children. The biggest award for teachers is that their students remember them for life and make commendable contributions to the family, society and country. She described girl education as an important step towards promoting women-led development. She said that teachers should make it their responsibility. Girls' education should be given the highest importance.

By investing in the education of daughters, we make an invaluable investment in the building of our family, society and nation. President Murmu expressed happiness over the fact that among the teachers receiving the award, there are more teachers from rural areas than from urban areas. He said that the aim of the National Education Policy is to make India a global knowledge superpower.

We lost India-Russia to China: US President Trump

Washington DC: US President Trump has expressed apprehension that Russia and India have now gone to China's side. He wrote on Truth Social on Friday - It seems that we have lost India and Russia to China. Hopefully their future will be good. At the same time, Indian Foreign Ministry spokesperson



Randhir Jaiswal has refused to give any statement on Trump's post. Relations between the

Apprehension

The case of imposing high tariff on other countries including India

The case of imposing high tariff on other countries including India is being heard in the US

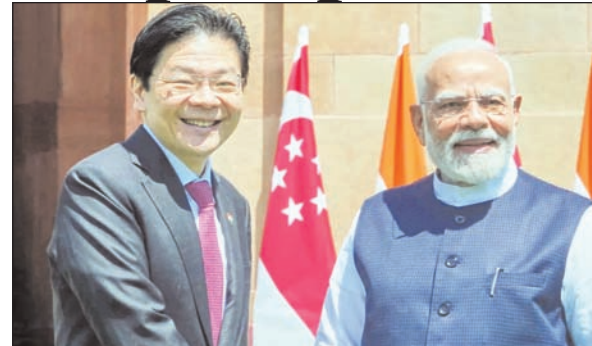
court. Trump had said in the court on Thursday that imposing tariff on India was necessary. He had said that if this did not happen, America would suffer huge economic losses. Trump has also shared a picture with his post, in which Modi, Putin and Jinping are seen together. This photo is from the BRICS summit held in Xiamen.

Safeguard duty on steel imports fixed, starting at 12%

NEW DELHI: The Directorate General of Trade Remedies has finalised a three-year safeguard duty on steel imports, starting at 12%, citing a sharp surge in shipments, especially from China, and a 76% decline in domestic profits. The safeguard duty was confirmed on Thursday, months after preliminary duty was imposed. Over 250 stakeholders, including automakers and electronics giants.

New Delhi: Both sides expressed satisfaction after reviewing the implementation of decisions taken during the bilateral defence cooperation initiatives in the 16th meeting of the India-Singapore Defence Working Group. The talks took place in Singapore after the meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his counterpart Lawrence Wong in New Delhi, in

India-Singapore discussed roadmap of partnership



which the roadmap for a comprehensive strategic partnership between the two countries was discussed. This meeting

was important in the backdrop of India's Act East policy, in which Singapore has played an important role in pro-

moting economic cooperation and cultural relations and developing strategic contacts with the countries of the region. Singapore Prime Minister Lawrence Wong arrived in New Delhi on 02 September on a three-day visit and held bilateral talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday. The 16th meeting of the Defence Working Group was held in Singapore.

India gets its first privately funded institute for maths research

MUMBAI: India, said Fields medallist Manjul Bhargava, must fall in love with mathematics again. Not as a "drudgery of formulae" but as an act of "exploration". Bhargava, Canadian by nationality but of Indian origin, believes class-

rooms need an overhaul-"experimental, playful," he said, with teachers "trained" to spark curiosity. Speaking to the sidelines of the launch of the Lodha Mathematical Sciences Institute



(LMSI), he added: "I'm

happy with the new textbooks and the changes brought in them. But they will only show impact in a few years." On the scientific advisory council of LMSI, Bhargava will lead sessions on arithmetic statistics, its new develop-

ments, and future directions. State cabinet minister Mangal Prabhat Lodha called it a school "not for an individual, not for a business, but for the nation that always prioritised knowledge over all and for India that gave so much math to the world."

Bihar man dies in attack by 20 monkeys

MADHUBANI: Over 20 monkeys attacked a 67-year-old man while he was collecting fodder for his livestock at Shahpur village of the district in Bihar on Sunday morning. By the time people gath-

ered to rescue him, Ramnath Chaudhary, a retired clerk of the now-closed Lohat Sugar Mill, was badly injured. He was taken to Madhubani Sadar Hospital where doctors declared him brought

dead. The incident triggered panic in the area. On being informed by local mukhiya Ramkumar Yadav, Pandaul circle officer Purushottam Kumar and police station in-charge Md Nadeem visited.

Authorities cannot authorize foreign kid adoption: HC

Delhi : The Bombay high court ruled that the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act and adoption regulations do not allow Indian couples to adopt foreign children, even if related. While dismissing a petition by a Pune-based couple, the division bench of justices Revati Mohite Dere and Neela Gokhale stated that the JJ Act and adoption regulations do not allow relatives to adopt a foreign-citizen child unless it is a 'child in need of care and protection' or a 'child in conflict with law'. The 2011-married couple sought to adopt the woman's sister's six-year-old kid in the US. They petitioned the Pune district court to adopt their 'relative' because Muslims have no adoption statute. While their plea was pending in district court in 2024, the Central Adoption Resource



BJP claims Tamil Nadu liquor fraud worth Rs 1,000 crore, DMK denies it

Delhi: The BJP has accused the Tamil Nadu government, led by Chief Minister MK Stalin, of a Rs 1,000-crore liquor fraud through the Tamil Nadu State Marketing Corporation. The ruling Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) denies the BJP's assertions that

have revealed massive financial irregularities. The BJP further claimed that CM Stalin is spreading falsehoods regarding the three-language policy and other national problems to distract from the fraud. DMK presented the Tamil Nadu Budget 2025-26 in the state Assembly on the same day as the claims.

Agency (CARA) refused to register them as prospective adoptive parents or issue a pre-approval letter because the 2022

adoption regulations did not allow American citizen adoption. A couple approached the high court. Advocate Shirin

Shiromani Akali Dal announces organizational elections

Delhi: Shiromani Akali Dal announced organizational elections. Its parliamentary board, chaired by working president Balwinder Singh Bhunder, chose this. The move follows a party membership drive debate. The SAD constituted a recruitment commission. The Akal Takht committee started a SAD membership drive. "It was decided in today's meeting that those who haven't submitted enrollment slips in party head office have until 31," said SAD secretary and spokesman Daljit Singh Cheema. He stated enrollment slips cannot be filed after 5 pm 31. Cheema said party observers will receive guidelines and cir-



cle-level delegate lists at the central office on 11. The SAD leader said these lists will be used for assembly segment elections for district and state delegates from 2 to 6, and observers will submit lists to the party chief on 7. The parliamentary board met with Janmeja Singh Sekhon, Hira Singh Gabria, and Gulzar Singh Ranike. President Harjinder Singh Dhani and former chief Kirpal

Singh Badungar resigned. Akal Takht appointed SAD MLAs Manpreet Singh Ayali, Iqbal Singh Jhunda, Santa Singh Umaidpur, Gurpartap Singh Wadala, and Satwant Kaur to the committee. Dissident Akali officials accused the party of breaking the Takht's December 2 directive to reform the SAD by creating its own working committee in to manage the membership drive.

Gzb fast rail station may provide co-working spaces

Delhi: NCR opened a co-working space at Ghaziabad's Namo Bharat station concourse. The area will serve 42 people and 11 organizations with 42 open workstations, 11 private cabins, and two meeting spaces. An NCRTC spokesman said

video conferencing, wireless screen sharing, and high-speed fiber-optic internet are available. "IoT-enabled workspaces will have smart lighting, climate control, and meeting room scheduling. QR scan-and-use hot desks, vending machines, and feed-

back gathering will be available. The official stated that integrating these technologies will give professionals a future-ready, connected, and efficient co-working experience. This cost-effective strategy will allow startups, small enterprises.

The Tribhuvan Sahkari University Bill to turn the Institute

Delhi: The Lok Sabha passed the Tribhuvan Sahkari University Bill, 2025, to turn the Institute of Rural Management (IRMA) into a university in Anand, Gujarat, to train co-operative society workers. Union home and cooperation minister Amit Shah said the university was named after Tribhuvandas Kishibhai Patel, who founded Amul dairy cooperative, during a Lok Sabha debate on the bill. Shah stated that the university will strengthen the rural economy, develop self-employment and small entrepreneurship, increase social inclusion, and set new standards in



innovation and research. It will also produce over 800,000 qualified and trained cooperative sector job seekers annually. This measure also calls the prospective university a "institution of national importance." The state government supplied the land for the institution in Gujarat, but Shah claimed

it will include all states "across the length and breadth of the country". He stated that institutions nationwide would join the university. The Union minister told Parliament that a cooperative insurance business will soon cover all cooperative societies in the country.

Offices, schools, and shops should check mosquito breeding, says MCD.

Delhi: Delhi Municipal Corporation's annual mosquito prevention campaign began with various departments. The municipal authorities said Delhi government institutions, schools, places of worship, and markets must eliminate standing water. MCD ordered severe mosquito breeding site eradication across the city. The warning encourages hygiene in slums and densely crowded areas. Vector-borne diseases were notifiable after Delhi High Court decisions created a stakeholder task force.

Sena MLA Disha's father's claims would force Aaditya out

Delhi: After celebrity manager Disha Salian's father accused him of murder, the ruling parties tried to corner Shiv Sena (UBT) MLA Aaditya Thackeray by urging him to quit. Allegations forced Dhananjay Munde to quit. Aaditya Thackeray resignation? Does the government investigate these charges? "Gaikwad asked. The legislature adjourned when ruling party MLAs caused a commotion. Shambhuraje Desai, state excise minister, replied, "His party decides whether to



quit on moral grounds. However, the government will punish the guilty." "We'll request the Mumbai police commissioner's report on Salian's claims for a SIT investigation. In the Disha Salian case, Shiv Sena MLC Bhawna Gawli asked why Aaditya Thackeray was not narcotested. She protested to the leg-

islative council about the sluggish investigation. " She sought government action to clarify the issue. Disha Salian, Sushant Singh Rajput's former manager, died on June 8, 2020, after falling off the 14th storey of a Malad residential building six days before Rajput's Bandra apartment death.

Maha has a two-year farm loan forgiveness ban

Delhi: In light of Maharashtra's financial problems, Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar claimed his administration cannot waive farmers' loans. Farmers should repay without the waiver, he said. The Maharashtra government rejected to increase Ladli Bahena cash support for poor women from Rs 1500 to Rs 2,000. Agriculture debt waivers should not be delayed, according to Finance Minister Pawar. We can't waive farmer loans since money is needed to do anything. Farm loans should be repaid immediately. "I never pledged to waive the farmer loan after taking office. Our party election manifesto didn't include it. The finance minister said farm loan waiver is impossible. The Ladli Bahena project will enhance financial aid for poor women, but not quickly, according to Ajit Pawar. We can raise



Asaram interim medical bail in the rape case has been extended by three months

Delhi: The Gujarat High Court awarded self-styled Godman and rape prisoner Asaram Bapu a three-month extension of the temporary medical bail that the Supreme Court had previously granted. Bapu has a life sentence out there. The rape suspect was granted medically-motivated interim bail by the Supreme Court in of this year.

funds anytime since we're elected for five years. We're employing numerous resources to strengthen public finances, said the deputy chief minister. The Opposition

slammed Mahayuti for breaching promises. Maharashtra Congress Legislature Party chairman Vijay Wadettiwar said MahaYuti and its alliance partners would provide financial aid.

Govt. tells court that rules governing online gaming are not enforced for the elderly

Delhi: In a series of cases challenging the Tamil Nadu Online Gaming Authority's (TNOGA) prohibition on playing real money games (RMG) without Aadhaar verification through and between 12 mid-

night and 5 a.m. Indian Standard Time, the Madras High Court declined to issue any sort of interim order. Instead of issuing interim orders, a Division Bench consisting of Justices S.M.

Subramaniam and K. Rajasekar stated that they would prefer to take up the writ petitions brought by an association of online gamers and a group of online gaming corporations for ultimate dis-

position as soon as possible. They asked Advocate General P.S. Raman to make sure that, within two weeks, a counter-affidavit was submitted on behalf of both the State and the TNOGA.

CCTVs compulsory at pharmacies



ties made the decision after receiving complaints over the intoxicating effects of these substances on both humans and animals, as well as their use in textiles, chemicals, and food products. By working together with the Narcotics Control

Bureau and the Delhi government, this action is anticipated to improve surveillance and reduce the distribution of illegal drugs. The letter that was sent said, the National Narcotics Coordination Portal, in collaboration with

the Narcotics Control Bureau, has been advised to stop, prevent and discourage the sale of dual-use medicines without prescription and an advisory dated first on this matter was already issued earlier."

513 teachers were honored on Teachers' Day

The role of teachers is important in shaping the future of students and in the development of the country - Keshav Maurya

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Prayagraj. The Deputy Chief Minister, who attended the Teachers' Day program in the District Panchayat Auditorium, inaugurated the program by garlanding the pictures of former Vice President Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay and Shyama Prasad Mukherjee. On this occasion, he honored 513 teachers who did commendable work in the field of education by giving them certificates and mementos. Deputy Chief Minister Mr. Maurya said in his address that the place of Guru is considered even above God. Prayagraj has been called the Oxford of the East in the field of education. Prayagraj has been the center of raising talents in every field of education. He said that no country can progress without education and the work of laying a strong foundation of education is done by teachers. He said that the government is taking strict action against copy mafias. The situation has changed, we are competing not with different states of the country but with the top countries of the world. The Deputy Chief Minister also discussed the achievements of Group Captain Subhanshu Shukla. On this occasion,



Cabinet Minister Swatantra Dev reached the residence of MLA Manikpur

Kaushambi. State Cabinet Minister Swatantra Dev Singh reached the house of MLA Avinash Chandra Dwivedi alias Lalli Maharaj of Mahila village Chitrakoot of Manjhanpur tehsil on Friday. Here he participated in a private program organized at the house of MLA Avinash Chandra Dwivedi (Lalli Maharaj). The minister met the family members and inquired about their well-being.



Teachers build an educated society: Ashim Mukherjee

Prayagraj. Jagat Taran Golden Jubilee School celebrated Teachers' Day in a grand manner today honoring the invaluable contribution of its teachers. The celebration began with the worship of Maa Saraswati, the goddess of knowledge, which made the day dignified. Many dignitaries including Jagat Taran Education Society's Acting President Ashim Mukherjee, Vice President Manoj Banerjee, Secretary Sanjeev Chanda, Treasurer Shankar Chatterjee, Jagat Taran Golden Jubilee School's Manager Amit Neogi, School Management

Procession taken out on Eid, festival concluded safely

Prayagraj. A procession was taken out in Lediaari on the happy occasion of Jashne Eid Miladunnabi. The festival of Eid was celebrated with love by congratulating each other and hugging each other. Hindu Muslim brotherhood was seen in the procession. The procession was taken out under the leadership of Pesh Imam Hafiz Qari Maulana, Muslim Raza Khan of Lediaari Noori Mosque.



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Friday honored 81 teachers selected for the State Teacher Award (66 teachers of basic education and 15 teachers of secondary education) at Lok Bhavan auditorium, Lucknow, distributed tablets to the principals of 2,204 government secondary schools.

Teachers become role models: BSA Devbrat

Prayagraj. On the occasion of Teachers' Day, the Basic Education Department Prayagraj organized a Teacher Honor Ceremony in the Saraswati Auditorium of the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan office today. During this, the District Basic Education Officer honored the teachers with the Best Teacher



Award. In the program, first of all, garlands were placed on the picture of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan and

Saraswati Vandana was sung. One from each development block of the district, i.e. a total of 20 (19 teachers + 1

Shiksha Mitra) teachers were given certificates, shawls and bouquets. Addressing the teachers to be honored, BSA Devbrat Singh said that the life story of Dr. Radhakrishnan inspires all of us to serve the society by becoming an ideal teacher. It is the responsibility of all the honored teachers.

Echoes of Devotional Verses, Streets Filled with Crowds—Milad-un-Nabi Celebrations



Brotherhood

The sacred occasion of 12th Rabi-ul-Awwal Sharif was celebrated

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Ghazipur: Across all urban and rural areas under different police stations in the district, the sacred occasion of 12th Rabi-ul-Awwal Sharif was celebrated with great faith and love. Police personnel and administrative officers remained on high alert throughout the event. At Kotwali Muhammadabad police station area, both in town and surrounding villages, Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi was celebrated on Friday with deep devotion and reverence. The entire region appeared immersed in an atmosphere of faith, love, and brotherhood. Thousands of devotees joined the Julus-e-Mohammadi (religious procession), raising chants

of Takbeer that echoed across the surroundings. Around 2 p.m., special enthusiasm could be witnessed as a procession carrying flags set out from the Jama Masjid. It passed through Dul-Dul Mohalla, Pokhara Mohalla, Bhatti Mohalla, Sadar Road, and Tehsil Golambar before reaching Hata Road. Processions from Salempur and Daudpur also merged into the main rally. Meanwhile, the Yusufpur Committee's flag procession moved through Nawapura and Prince Cinema Road, reaching Vitthal Crossing, where the entire atmosphere was filled with the colors of celebration, fraternity, and love. Throughout the journey, the air resonated with Naat recitations and blessings upon the Prophet, adding fragrance to the environment. Local residents set up refreshment stalls offering sherbet, cold water, and tea, presenting a true example of hospitality. The administration had made strict security arrangements.

Two-Day Teachers' Day Celebration Concludes with Reverence and Enthusiasm

Celebration

The primary reason for this was that some schools had a holiday due to a festival

Akhand Bharat Sandesh



Ghazipur : In the M o h a m m a d a b a d Kotwali area of the district, both in urban and rural regions, Teachers' Day celebrations concluded as a two-day event. The primary reason for this was that some schools had a holiday on September 5 due to a festival, while others celebrated Teachers' Day on the same date

with devotion and enthusiasm. On the birth anniversary of India's second President and eminent educationist Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, the celebrations began with floral tributes at his portrait, followed by the lighting of a ceremonial lamp. At New Ideal Public School, Phulli Sonharia, the

event was inaugurated jointly by Deputy Manager Siddhant Rai and Principal Vinod Yadav by lighting the lamp. On this occasion, Secretary Ramnivas Rai, Rahul Gupta, Ashwini, Suryansh, Beauty Ma'am, Sapna, Anjali, along with other teachers, were present. At Asht Shaheed Inter College, Principal Shiv Shankar

Giri inaugurated the program by lighting the lamp in front of the portrait. In his address, he said that education is the true guidance of life and we must deeply understand its importance. He also urged everyone to remain committed to education at all times. On this occasion, Dr. Sanjay Rai, Satyendra Kumar Singh, Sanjay Srivastava, Jayprakash Rai, Vandana Yadav, along with other members of the school family, were present. In the same way, various schools and educational institutions in the region also celebrated Teachers' Day with great joy and enthusiasm.

A huge crowd gathered in the town on the birth anniversary of the Prophet

Great pomp

Policemen were deployed at every corner, surveillance was being done with drone cameras

Prayagraj. On Friday, the celebration of Eid Milad-un-Nabi was celebrated with great pomp across the local town on the birth of Prophet Hazrat



Mohammad. On the occasion of Eid Milad-un-Nabi, the atmosphere was solemn with the slogans of Aaka ki aamd Maula ki aamd

Islamic flags on the vehicles of Khana-e-Kaaba and Gumbad-e-Khizra. In the afternoon, the procession reached the Madrasa Islamia campus via the old route. Thousands of devotees from Nindra, I m a m g a n j , Khanjahanpur Chakrawa, Daniyalpur, Janbakhsh Ka Pura, A a d h a r g a n j , Umraoganj, Rajaganj, Lala Ka Pura,

Munawwar Ali Ka Pura, etc. villages took part in the procession. Sweets and water bottles were arranged by various Anjumans on the main routes. The youth were seen in an enthusiastic mood on the occasion of the birthday of Prophet Hazrat Mohammad. Strict security arrangements were made by the administration. Outpost in-charge Saurabh

Pandey should be alert regarding the arrangements. A day before the festival, some people had planned to take out a procession through a new route. Upon getting the information, the police used force and did not allow the procession to take the new route. The procession was being monitored with drone cameras. Outpost in-charge Saurabh Pandey.

Lunar eclipse :Three hours and 28 minutes, it will be visible in entire India

On September 7, there will be a full lunar eclipse

Akhand Bharat Message

Prayagraj. According to Indian time, the full lunar eclipse will start from 9:57 pm on Sunday night. Moksha will happen at 1:27 pm. The duration of the lunar eclipse will be 3:28:02 hours. The full lunar eclipse was visible in entire India. According to astrologer Yogendranath Shukla, the Satak of the lunar eclipse will start nine hours before, at 12:57 pm. The doors of the



temples will remain closed during the eclipse. During this time, touching the idols of the gods will be prohibited. After Moksha, the temples will be cleaned and then worship will be done. There is a provision of chanting, penance, rituals,

bathing in holy rivers during the eclipse. In astronomical language, the full lunar eclipse is called Blood Moon. **When does the lunar eclipse occur?** According to Professor HN Mishra, who was the head of the Geography Department

in IVV, lunar eclipse occurs when the moon comes under the shadow of the Earth right behind it. This can happen only when the Sun, Earth and Moon are in a straight line in this order.

In this situation, the sunlight does not reach the Moon directly. As a result, the color of the Moon starts appearing black or copper-colored red. This astronomical phenomenon is called lunar eclipse. This time the Moon will appear red. According

to Suroor Fatima, educator of Jawahar Planetarium located in Anand Bhavan, the eclipse visible on September 7 is a total lunar eclipse. Lunar eclipse will be visible here. Apart from India, the total lunar eclipse will be visible in many countries of Europe including England, France, Germany and Italy. It will also be visible in most of the countries of Africa, Australia, New Zealand and some parts of America.

What is Satak period. Acharya Gopalji Malviya explains that Satak period is the time before the eclipse begins, in which worship, cooking or doing auspicious work is considered forbidden. The inauspicious time before the eclipse is called Satak period. This period is considered important from religious and classical point of view. The Satak period of the lunar eclipse begins nine hours before the eclipse begins.

Sanjay Tiwari made a courtesy call on the Deputy CM



Prayagraj. On Friday, on the arrival of the state's Deputy CM Keshav Prasad Maurya in Prayagraj, District President Gangapar Prayagraj International Hindu Parishad Sanjay

Tiwari met Deputy CM Keshav Prasad Maurya at the Circuit House and presented him with a garment and discussed about the development of the region.

Editorial

Emphasising India's reliance on imported technology

It delivered two Ming-class submarines to Bangladesh in 2017, gifted a P625 frigate to Sri Lanka in 2019, and committed to exporting Yuan-class submarines to Thailand. Although the Thai deal encountered difficulties when Germany refused to supply key propulsion components.

Thailand decided to proceed with the acquisition, underscoring China's persistence in maintaining its naval export commitments. Additionally, Pakistan is set to acquire at least eight Hangor-class submarines and other naval equipment from Beijing, further enhancing China's presence in the region. India has increasingly aligned itself with Western naval powers to address maritime challenges through collaborative efforts. France was among its earliest Western partners, and the countries' cooperation has grown stronger over time. India also participates in joint maritime missions with European nations and European Union Naval Force (EUNAVFOR) initiatives such as Operation Atlanta and Aspides. Furthermore, India contributes to significant maritime security dialogues such as the Coordinated Maritime Presence (CMP) and Enhancing Security Cooperation In And With Asia (ESIWA). India's 2023 inclusion in the Combined Maritime Forces (CMF), led by the US Central Command, underscores its dedication to enhancing collaborative security in the western Indian Ocean. The IFC-IOR exemplifies India's commitment to collective security, even though it remains a preliminary step toward a more robust maritime security framework. Advancing to the next level will require India to engage in the technically complex task of real-time information sharing through secure legal frameworks beyond Open-Source Intelligence (OSINT). The Quad's Indo-Pacific Maritime Domain Awareness (IPMDA) initiative highlights the challenges in achieving seamless data-sharing capabilities. To counter hybrid threats and protect critical infrastructure, India must prioritise sharing vital intelligence and deploying unmanned systems for coordinated surveillance. Strengthening such partnerships will bolster India's naval capabilities and contribute to broader maritime security across the Indian Ocean Region. The commissioning of new naval platforms marks a significant milestone for India but also highlights persistent challenges, particularly in achieving technological self-reliance in engine manufacturing. Although the INS Surat, INS Nilgiri, and INS Vagsheer were designed by India's Warship Design Bureau and built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited, their engines were procured from foreign manufacturers, exposing a critical dependence on external sources. INS Surat, the fourth and final ship of the P15B Guided Missile Destroyer Project, employs a Combined Gas Turbine and Gas Turbine (COGAG) propulsion system. This system uses Me6E and DT-59 reversible engines sourced from Ukraine's Zorya Mashproekt, a key supplier for India's frontline warships. Despite the ongoing war in Ukraine, India has continued to rely on Zorya, underscoring the critical nature of this dependence. To secure the supply chain, Bharat Forge acquired a 51 per cent stake in Zorya's India arm in 2023. Similarly, INS Nilgiri, the first ship of the P17A Stealth Frigate Project, launched in 2019, uses a Combined Diesel and Gas (CODAG) propulsion system. This system incorporates LM2500 engines from General Electric in the US and MAN diesel engines from Germany, further emphasising India's reliance on imported technology despite its strong indigenous design capabilities.



Lipi Sharma

Bangladesh is on the brink of significant political upheaval. The escalating tension between Muhammad Yunus's interim government and the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) signals a turbulent period ahead. With stakes high for domestic power dynamics and regional stability, the developments in Bangladesh demand scrutiny, particularly from neighbouring India. At the heart of Bangladesh's political discord lies the clash between the interim government, led by Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus, and the BNP, the dominant political force in the country. Following the ousting of Sheikh Hasina in August 2024, Yunus assumed leadership of an interim government tasked with implementing electoral reforms and facilitating free and fair elections. However, his reluctance to outline a concrete timeline for elections has drawn sharp criticism from the BNP. The BNP, emboldened by its strong grassroots support and organisational strength, has been pressing for elections by the end of 2025 at the latest. Any delay, the BNP fears, could undermine its momentum and strengthen the newly emerging political entities being nurtured by Yunus and his allies. This includes the Anti-Discrimination Students' Movement (ADSM), whose leaders are reportedly in the process of forming a political party with Yunus's backing. Yunus's proposal to delay elections until reforms are complete, potentially into 2026, has further fuelled suspicions. BNP leaders view this as a calculated move to consolidate power and allow the nascent "king's party" to establish itself. This manoeuvring has



triggered accusations of bias and unethical behaviour, as the interim government's primary mandate was to ensure a swift transition to democratic governance, not to reshape the political landscape. Compounding the tension is the involvement of Bangladesh's Islamist factions. The Islamists, including the Jamaat-e-Islami, have thrown their support behind Yunus, seeking opportunities to further their agenda under his leadership.

In exchange, they have reportedly received tacit approval to intensify efforts to Islamise the country and target religious minorities. The BNP's confrontational stance toward the Jamaat highlights the growing rift between the former allies. By invoking the Jamaat's controversial role during Bangladesh's 1971 Liberation War, the BNP has sought to delegitimise the Islamist party. However, this strategy risks escalating street-level violence, as the Jamaat is known for mobilising its supporters in aggressive displays of force. With the interim government's apparent alignment with the Islamists, the stage is set for widespread unrest. The current crisis draws parallels

with the political turmoil of 2007-2009 when an army-backed caretaker government attempted to implement a 'minus two' formula—banning both the BNP and the Awami League from politics. Yunus's government appears to be reviving elements of this approach, potentially sidelining the BNP and fostering the rise of alternative political entities. The BNP's leadership, including acting chairman Tarique Rahman, has categorically rejected such moves. The party insists that only an elected government can undertake major constitutional and institutional reforms. This principled stance underscores the BNP's commitment to restoring democratic norms but it also sets the stage for a protracted power struggle. As the BNP ramps up its demands for immediate elections, the likelihood of mass protests looms large. Any attempt by Yunus to suppress dissent through state machinery could further erode his credibility and exacerbate public discontent. Simultaneously, the emergence of a new political party under the aegis of the ADSM risks fragmenting the opposition landscape, complicating the BNP's path to power. The

role of external actors, particularly Western powers, cannot be overlooked. While Yunus enjoys considerable international support, his inability to stabilise the political situation and hold timely elections.

could prompt a re-evaluation of this backing. Western stakeholders, wary of Bangladesh's descent into chaos, may pressure Yunus to expedite the electoral process. For India, the unfolding crisis in Bangladesh presents both challenges and opportunities. The political landscape in Bangladesh is marked by heightened tensions, particularly between the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), the interim government led by Muhammad Yunus, and Islamist factions. Historically, India's relations with the BNP have been strained due to ideological differences and the BNP's association with anti-India sentiments. However, recent diplomatic overtures have paved the way for improved ties. The BNP's assurances to safeguard India's interests and curb anti-India forces signal a significant shift in the bilateral equation. In contrast, Yunus's administration has been viewed with suspicion in New Delhi. The interim government's alignment with Islamist factions raises concerns about the potential for increased radicalisation and instability along India's eastern border. Furthermore, Yunus's reluctance to engage meaningfully with India on key issues, coupled with his perceived bias against Indian interests, has strained relations further. This lack of cooperation has heightened India's apprehensions about the broader implications for regional security and economic integration. India

stands to benefit from a BNP-led government, which promises greater stability and cooperation on key bilateral issues, including border management, trade, and counterterrorism. Supporting the BNP's call for timely elections aligns with India's strategic goals of fostering a democratic and secular Bangladesh. Such a government could also strengthen India's Act East Policy, by providing a stable and cooperative neighbour that supports regional connectivity and trade initiatives. However, overt interference in Bangladesh's internal affairs risks backlash and could jeopardise India's long-term relationship with other political stakeholders in the country. Maintaining a balanced and nuanced approach will be essential for New Delhi.

In conclusion, the unfolding crisis in Bangladesh presents a complex mix of challenges and opportunities for India. By adopting a balanced and proactive approach, India can navigate this delicate situation, strengthen its bilateral ties with Bangladesh, and contribute to the broader goal of regional stability and development. Bangladesh's political trajectory remains uncertain, with heightened confrontations expected between the BNP, Yunus's interim government, and Islamist factions. This three-way struggle will shape the country's democratic future and determine the balance of power in South Asia. For the BNP, mobilising public support and maintaining organisational discipline will be crucial. The party must navigate the complex interplay of domestic and international pressures to secure its position as the principal political force.

The deal will also enable the return of displaced people

Suman

The deal will also enable the return of displaced people in Gaza to return to whatever is left of their homes, and daily delivery of food and other supplies by hundreds of trucks. But things can still go wrong. There can be accidents or attacks from either side, which could break the truce. But even if the guns in Gaza do go silent on Sunday and the ceasefire holds for its intended period, the real challenge will come in the second stage of the agreement, when negotiations for ending the war and return of all remaining hostages would begin. Is Israel ready for a permanent end to the war? And what will stop a Palestinian activist from firing at Israel, given the bitterness in the community after Israel's campaign? There is not a single Palestinian left in Gaza who has not lost a friend or relative at the hands of Israel in this war. The third and final phase will involve the reconstruction of Gaza, whose infrastructure has been destroyed by

the Israeli bombardments. The Arab countries that funded reconstruction in the past will be reluctant to do it this time unless they are sure that Israel will not destroy it again. It is also not clear who will govern Gaza now, as Hamas, even in its much-weakened form, will be unacceptable to both Israel and the United States. How Trump will react in the second and third phases is not possible to predict given his nature. In office, he may act differently. But both Israel and Hamas know that things have dramatically changed over the past 15 months when the current war began with the attack on Israel by the militant group on October 7, 2023. Israel's military response was swift and massive. One by one, it eliminated all the top leaders of Hamas and its ally Hezbollah and destroyed their military infrastructure. This also led to a regime change in Syria, where Bashar Assad was forced to flee the country and seek refuge in Russia. Hezbollah's primary backer.

Decisive increase in funding to accelerate the green energy transition

Abhinav

that there may be some rationalisation of duties on capital goods required for solar upstream manufacturing could be seen so that overall that industry can really take off. "We expect continuation and maybe broadening of the PLI support towards the solar module value chain. We already have a few interventions there, which are likely to be extended deeper," Dwivedi said. Similarly, on the battery manufacturing front, the industry expects localization of the value chain given competing countries have already advanced beyond India. In the green hydrogen segment, the industry believes the government may bring in hydrogen purchase for specific sectors like (green) steel. On the EV front, the industry seeks more support towards building public charging infrastructure given the anticipated increase in the EV penetration. "Under the PM E-drive, we already have an allocation of about Rs 1,100 crores for FY26. Given that the final guidelines have not been released until now, I think even the allocation under FY25 may get added and FY26 budget may be increased as the country expects an acceleration in EV adoption in FY26," Dwivedi said. While the government has already launched a rooftop solar scheme and announced viability gap funding for offshore wind projects, industry players expect increased allocations, particularly towards solar and wind, along with higher budgetary capital expenditure in green hydrogen and battery storage infrastructure. Along with this, the sector also expects the government to increase its coverage of households under PM Suryaghar. "Under the Atmannirbhar Bharat scheme, there should be a scheme for the home grown EPCM companies to create indigenous technical capabilities in the country and reduce the foreign exchange outflow.

We would also like to see a reduction on GST for engineering equipment and a reduction in import duties on chemicals in India," said Umesh Sood, CEO Simon India Ltd. Sunil Singhvi, President, Indian Electrical and Electronics Manufacturers Association noted that there is a need for strong policy support to foster growth, drive innovation, and enhance sustainability in the power sector. "One of the main requests is to expand the PLI scheme, which aims to increase domestic production of crucial electrical components necessary for large and essential power projects, such as the advanced High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) systems," he said.

Extension of the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for solar energy value chain, increased allocation towards PM Suryaghar Muft Bijlee Yojana, and greater thrust to distribution and transmission infrastructure are likely to be the key features of the upcoming Budget, as far as the energy sector is concerned. Sources said these proposals figured not only in the budget wish lists of the industry, but also in the respective recommendations from the ministries of power and renewable energy to the finance ministry, ahead of the Budget. "Given the success of PM Suryaghar scheme with almost 600,000 installations in just nine months since its launch, one could probably see additional allocation to target more households," said Ashwin Jacob, partner at Deloitte India. "As far as evacuation of power from offshore wind projects is concerned, we would want to see the VGF or budgetary support to continue or get enhanced," he added. "We hope to see a decisive increase in funding to accelerate the green energy transition. Priorities must include scaling renewable energy by addressing grid and transmission challenges, advancing Battery Energy.

The tragedy for the daughter of Bangladesh's founding father Sheikh Mujibur Rahman

Radhika Singh

But some of the mud will stick. That's the tragedy for the daughter of Bangladesh's founding father Sheikh Mujibur Rahman—even her staunchest supporters admit her chances of ever returning to her motherland look very slim. Not just her niece, several other members of Sheikh Hasina's family are also under investigation for corruption that, some estimates say, totals a mind-boggling \$5 billion. The corruption case is linked to an alleged land grab in Dhaka and, more infamous-

ly, to a Russian-funded nuclear power plant. In 2013, Sheikh Hasina travelled to Moscow to seal the deal and was photographed standing beside President Vladimir Putin, Siddiq, and other members of her family. When questioned about her presence in Moscow, Siddiq tried to explain it as a family event, but the photo was impossible to dismiss. Apart from family, powerful ministers and industry leaders—allegedly with Sheikh Hasina's blessings or blind eye—also cost Bangladesh billions. A white

paper on the economy, presented in Dhaka by a specially appointed finance committee in December, put the cost of corruption across public and private sectors at a staggering sum. Perhaps the most striking was the claim that "illicit financial outflows averaged \$16 billion annually from 2009 to 2023—more than double the combined foreign aid and FDI inflows."

Whether investigations into this immense corruption have yielded documentary evidence or not is open to debate. But for now,

Chief Adviser Mohammed Yunus has made his administration's objective clear. "The theft of billions of dollars in public funds has left Bangladesh with a significant financial deficit," Yunus said in a statement this week. "The funds stolen from Bangladesh belong to its people. We will continue to work with our international partners to ensure that justice is done." Bangladesh's current dispensation has also moved court against Sheikh Hasina on charges of "crimes against humanity."

Both BJP, AIADMK want to improve relations in TN

Delhi: Julie Mariappan says that 18 months after breaking relations with BJP and abandoning NDA, AIADMK leadership is warming up to the saffron party for a possible 2026 Tamil Nadu assembly election partnership. An AIADMK delegation led by general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami met with Union home minister Amit Shah. Both desire to advance the relationship. Next steps are forthcoming. Shah vowed to prevent the 'corrupt DMK govt' from returning in 2026 "AIADMK leader states. Shah accepted several AIADMK requests. Palaniswami told Delhi media that the conference discussed Tamil Nadu concerns such delimitation, the two-language policy, MGN-REGS and SSA dues, and the Tasmac scam. As the 2026 election approaches, the alliance will be decided. Shah and party president J P Nadda will



Transport department fined 95L for 2019 tree felling

Delhi: In 2019, the National Green Tribunal NGT order Delhi's transport department to pay ₹95.05 lakh for cutting 495 trees for bus depots in Burari without afforestation. The tribunal ruled that the forest department's license to transplant 168 trees

meet Tamil Nadu BJP national co-in-charge P Sudhakar Reddy night. State BJP president K Annamalai went to Delhi. While the AIADMK delegation met Shah, the Union minister's offi-

cial X handle had a 2026 Tamil Nadu electoral message. "As soon as the NDA govt is formed in Tamil Nadu in the year 2026, the 'flood of liquor' and 'storm of corruption' will stop."

Pollution Control Board (UKPCB) rules and asked all states, including Delhi.

Freedom of speech can't be suppressed on spurious reasons

Delhi: The

Supreme Court ruled that freedom of speech and expression was essential to a healthy and civilized society and could not be violated on "flimsy and fanciful grounds". Gujarat Police's social status charges against Congress MP Imran Pratapgarhi were dismissed by the court. media post with poetry 'Ae khooon ke pyase baat suno'. A bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and Ujjal Bhuyan suggested not filing FIRs blindly to prevent government or police harassment of spoken or written words, signs, or visible representations



and to protect artistic freedom. Under Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita Sections 196 and 197(1), the police should undertake a preliminary inquiry to determine if a prima facie case exists. The bench set standards for assessing spoken and written words' impact "When an offence punishable under Section 196 of BNS is alleged,

the effect of the spoken or written words must be considered based on reasonable, strong-minded, firm, and courageous people, not weak and oscillating minds. The impact of spoken or written words cannot be measured by individuals who are always insecure or see criticism as a challenge to their power.

New prison factories will employ 100 more prisoners

Delhi: The Delhi prison department will modernize and add factories to employ 100 more prisoners. New paper, carpentry, and oil production units are planned by the department. The units will make eco-friendly products like custom-printed paper carry bags, file covers, and stationery, as well as beautifully packaged coconut,

sesame, almond, and mustard oils. "The new jail factory units aim to deploy over 100 inmates and emphasize 'earn while studying' A prison official stated new high-tech equipment will be purchased. Officials say Tihar jail number 2 has six units: carpentry, oil, paper, weaving, tailoring, and baking. Mandoli and other jails have weaving,

jute bags, perfume, pickles, confecti carpentry, and underwear facilities. Different facilities employ over 2,500 convicts. Last year, 215 inmates joined jail number 2's industries, mostly for carpentry, followed by bakery and paper. "We plan to increase the number of units so that more inmates can receive vocational training.

Delhi's BJP government will pass a bill to safeguard stray cows. GST Section 150

Delhi : Urban Development Minister Ashish Sood announced the move during a Delhi Assembly debate on stray cows and other animals. GST Registration Cancellations Misuse. "After careful consideration, we will pass a cow conservation and protection law to avoid departmental confusion. Sood said relevant Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita (BNS) parts will be considered for legislation incorporation. He stressed that the bill will protect cows and keep the streets clean by avoiding stray livestock. "The suggestions represent House opinions and appeal to Sanatan-valued Delhiites. He stated



that everyone has thoughtfully addressed this topic. A stringent enforcement mechanism will prevent cow exploitation, illegal cattle trade, and owner neglect under the proposed law. The government is budgeting for new cow shelters and their maintenance.

BJP MLA Ashok Goel

introduced a private member motion requesting the government to build and maintain more shelters. Our culture and religion call the cow our mother, but many people abandon her when she stops delivering milk. Goel claimed this causes traffic, accidents, and sanitary difficulties.

MPs Get 24% Salary, Pension Increase; New Allowances

Delhi: MPs' wages would rise 24%, along with pensions and allowances for former MPs, according to the Indian government. The Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs notified these adjustments, matching them with the 1961 Income Tax Act Cost Inflation Index. This national revision follows the Karnataka government's large wage boost for the Chief Minister, ministers, and MLAs.

Delhi govt to enact law for cow conservation and protection

Delhi: Varanasi MC orders closure of meat shops in city limits during Navratri. The Varanasi Municipal Corporation (MC) has issued an order to shut all meat and fish shops within the civic body limits during the Navratri festival. The decision was unanimously approved in the corporation's executive meeting. "This is the first time a decision has been taken to keep all meat and fish shops closed during Navratri, starting March 30. Officials have been directed to enforce the order and shop owners



were informed about the decision taken in the executive meeting," said Varanasi Mayor Ashok Tiwari. Tiwari said in Thursday's meeting of the Municipal Corporation's executive council, a member proposed a complete closure of meat and fish shops during Navratri. There are around 400-500 meat and fish shops operating within

the city limits. The shopkeepers violating the order will face legal action, he added. Navratri will conclude on April 7. In January this year, the Varanasi civic body had issued notices to meat shop owners operating within a two-kilometer radius of the Vishwanath Temple, directing them to shut down for "violating rules."

The directive was based on a resolution passed by the corporation last year, which prohibited meat shops from operating within this radius.

State Hospitals Get Aushadhi Kendras

Delhi: The Delhi government will open Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Kendras in all state-run hospitals to provide patients with affordable medicines. All Delhi government hospitals save Ayurvedic, Unani, Siddha, and Homeopathic ones must have at least one such kendra on campus, according to officials. Patients can buy cheaper generic drugs instead of running to other hospitals' pharmacies to obtain branded ones. GB Pant Hospital, Lok Nayak Hospital, Sanjay Gandhi Memorial, Rajiv Gandhi Super Speciality Hospital, Guru Nanak Eye Centre, Maulana Azad Institute of Dental Sciences, Babu Jagjivan Ram Memorial Hospital, and Chacha Nehru Bal Chikitsalaya are state-run hospitals that have opened



medicine stores. The hospital administration can buy medicine from the Jan Aushadhi Kendra in times of crisis, instead of buying it locally, unless it is required. This month, the BJP government decided to open the pharmacies, according to senior health department officials. Delhi health minister Pankaj Kumar Singh has ordered all medical superintendents and health officials to expedite medicine procurement through the PMBJP under the central government's

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.

Will introduce new programs and end all of AAP's educational initiatives?

Delhi Happiness Curriculum, Business Blasters, and Mission Buniyaad, the hallmark education programs implemented by the previous Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government, will no longer be offered by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led Delhi government, according to Delhi education minister Ashish Sood. He went on to say that new projects called Rashtraneeti, New Era of Entrepreneur Ecosystem and Vision (NEEEV), and Science of Living will take the place of current programs. In an interview, Sood



claimed that the AAP's educational initiatives were created more for publicity and political gain than for the benefit of the kids. "Instead of assisting the students in becoming self-sufficient

and prepared for the outside world, the AAP government's educational initiatives (Business Blasters, Happiness Curriculum, and Mission Buniyaad) were centered on adver-

Many Delhi government ILBS services are now charged

Delhi: Delhi's autonomous Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences (ILBS) now charges for formerly free services, including body packaging (mortuary services). Dr. Arun Kumar Rastogi, chief operations (medical), ordered that corpse packaging services will cost Rs 1000. A patient

warming system will cost Rs 500 per day, infusion pump services for ICU, HDU, and ward patients would cost Rs 500, 300, and 200, respectively. Additionally, nebulisation costs Rs 100 every session. It charges Rs 250 for half-day oxygen/medical gas use and Rs 500 for full-day

use. Admission medical record fees are Rs 300. The domiciliary virtual consultation package is Rs 1800, while private and suite ward attendant fees (8 hours/night shift) are Rs 1000. The institute also changed service fees. USG screening costs Rs

450, up from Rs 385. Dietician consultation prices have increased from Rs 100 to Rs 250 and virtual OPD consultation fees from Rs 400 to Rs 600. Dr. Rastogi declined to discuss the topic due to his busy schedule.



Delhi's health minister promotes mobile dentistry vans to expand oral care

Delhi: Health minister Pankaj Singh launched six National Health Mission mobile dental vans at Maulana Azad Institute of Dental Sciences. The kickoff ceremony on World Oral Health Day aimed to expand dental services across the state. Minister Pankaj Singh remarked, "We will deliver the promised services to Delhi. This pilot project provides important dental treatment to children in government hospitals, senior individuals, and residents of slums and poor communities where such services are scarce." Singh said the mobile dental vans will deliver fillings, scaling, and general care. Our six-month plan includes adding vehicles after the state budget to broaden our reach. Our website will include all necessary information, and each van has GPS tracking so the public may track their locations across Vidhan Sabha constituencies. The vans will be available 24/7 to help the needy "said. Mobile dental vans will work with Delhi government dispensaries to improve primary care. They will also work with education, Delhi government schools, social welfare, and social justice ministries. On April 10, the Delhi government will sign an MoU with the Centre to execute the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) in the national capital and enroll one lakh people.



Over 1,000 crypto heists have netted hackers \$12.7 billion.

Delhi: Data indicated that cyber thieves have stolen over \$1.71 billion this year, bringing total losses to \$12.7 billion spanning more than 1,000 heists. Cryptocurrencies' great value and anonymity attract criminals, driving the value of criminal crypto transactions to alarming highs, according to CryptoPresales.com. According to Comparitech data, hackers stole over \$1 billion in five of the past 10 years, including 2024, demonstrating the continued battle for law enforcement and regulators to manage these crimes. Crypto heists increased 15 times in the past decade, from 12 in 2014 to 176 this year. The disparity is even greater than the 283 crypto heists reported in 2023, the most ever. A decade of crypto heists is disturbing, even though the annual number has fallen. Research has found 1,008 crypto heists since 2014, costing the sector over \$12.7 billion.



Data shows that almost 75% of these losses occurred in the last four years, with 2022 and 2023 leading the way. Exploits, hacks, and flash loan attacks account for approximately 65% of crypto heists, according to statistics. "So far, there have been 395 exploits, 271 hacks targeting systems or networks, and 220 flash loan attacks, which exploit smart contract bugs or manipulate crypto prices," the research stated. Despite fears about North Korea-linked hackers stealing bitcoin, South Korea and the US are researching ways to protect against them. Bitcoin's price rose to \$100,000.

Honda and Nissan merge to form auto powerhouse

Delhi: Honda, Nissan, and Mitsubishi Motors plan to unite, producing the world's third-largest carmaker by sales. The merger addresses industrial difficulties caused by increased electrification and developing technology. Smaller alliance member Mitsubishi Motors joined discussions on a strategic cooperation after signing an MOU. Mitsubishi plans to decide on its integration role by January 2025. The

Delhi: The powerful GST Council may have to delay a decision on the middle class-focused issue of waiving goods and services tax (GST) on term insurance and lowering health insurance rates from 18% to 5% due to opposition from numerous states. However, it may raise the second-hand vehicle charge from 12% to 18%, rejecting demands to cut it to 5% for electric vehicles. Due to concerns from states like West Bengal, Kerala, and Karnataka, insurance has not received the backing expected while there is no consensus on



adjusting pricing. Bihar deputy chief minister Samrat Chaudhary led a GoM to modify prices. The Centre will need to work hard on Saturday to convince states to agree to Chaudhary's GoM's insurance tax adjustments. States worry that lower rates may reduce revenue, especially since the compensating cess was removed to compen-

sate for gaps. The Centre and states collected Rs 16,400 crore from GST on life and health insurance in 2023-24, down somewhat from the year before. Revenue loss could reach Rs 2,500 crore yearly. Since the anti-profiteering clause has been removed, it is unclear how the GST Council can ensure that consumers benefit from lower taxes.

Adani Defence & Aerospace buys Air Works for Rs 400 crore

Delhi: Adani Defence & Aerospace said that it had reached a formal agreement to acquire Air Works, India's largest private-sector MRO provider, for Rs 400 crore. "Adani Defence Systems & Technologies Ltd (ADSTL) has signed a

share purchase agreement to acquire 85.8 per cent shareholding in Air Works India (Engineering) Private Ltd," a press release said. Air Works maintains narrow-body, turboprop, and rotary aircraft in Hosur, Mumbai, and Kochi

with regulatory permits from over 20 countries. The statement stated Air Works, a civil aviation industry leader, has deep defence MRO capabilities, executing projects for major Indian Navy and Air Force aircraft.

The GST panel postpones calling for reduced insurance costs

Delhi: The GST Council voted to exempt gene therapy used to cure cancer from taxes, and postponed a proposal for lower rates while lowering the tariff on fortified rice kernels used in PDS to 5%. The council determined that 18% GST would be applied to the margin of suppliers for all used cars, including electric vehicles. Even though there won't be any tax transactions involving private citizens, businesses or used car sellers would be subject to the fee. According to Sitharaman, states desired a greater fee, but the Center had suggested a 5% tax on EVs. The GST Council issued a number of clarifications, one of which was that ready-to-eat popcorn would be subject to a 12% tax, similar to the namkeen tax, if it were pre-packaged with salt



"The 'penal costs' that banks and NBFCs impose and collect from borrowers for failure to comply with loan terms do not need the payment of GST"

and spices. Caramelized sugar will be subject to an 18% tax. In a similar vein, the council stated that as voucher transactions were neither a delivery of commodities nor services, they

would not be subject to taxes. It also made it clear that small enterprises that pay rent to unregistered landlords and are covered by the reverse charge system will not be required.

NCLAT accepts Sapphire Media's Big 92.7 FM purchase

Delhi: The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) affirmed Sapphire Media's resolution plan to acquire Big 92.7 FM, owned by Reliance Broadcast Network Limited, dismissing Radio Mirchi, Orange FM, and others' petitions.

NCLAT Bench Chair Justice Ashok Bhushan and Technical Member Barun Mitra said, "After considering the submissions, we find no grounds to interfere with the NCLT's order dated May 6, 2024, and consequently, the appeals are dismissed."

Canon targets chip companies opening India operations



Delhi: Japanese image and optical products giant Canon India President and CEO Toshiaki Nomura feels its semiconductor lithography equipment for chip production has a bright promise in India and is in negotiations with firms putting up facilities here. Canon did not identify names but said there is huge potential since several chip manufacturers are considering India for semiconductor manufacturing. Many chipmakers are considering India as a new manufacturing location.

Nomura informed us that they are discussing our product and service with all chip manufacturers. He said this is a "good opportunity for us" for the Tokyo-based business to contribute its technology, goods, and services to this Indian market area. "We install equipment to make chips using our technology and goods.

We help chipmakers create strong India facilities. Once the chip manufacturer builds the facility in India, we will install our equipment and contribute to the Indian semiconductor industry with our good product and service," Nomura stated. Negotiations are underway.

Indian gold demand is dampened by price fluctuations

Delhi: This week, unpredictable pricing in India delayed gold purchases, while rising rates in China may balance seasonal demand. A Chennai jeweller claimed buyers are waiting for gold prices to fall after two weeks of volatility. After climbing to Rs 79,120 last week, Indian 10 grams prices dipped to Rs 75,459 (\$887.28) this week. Indian dealers offered a discount of up to \$8 an ounce over official domestic pricing, including 6% import and 3% sales levies, down from \$9 last week. "This week, jewellers awaited the Fed's interest rate cut. "The rupee's record low surprised them," said a Mumbai-based private bullion importing bank trader. India's gold imports are expected to drop sharply in December



as gold prices rise and families choose lighter, lower-carat jewelry. Swiss gold exports surged in November due to increased supplies to India and China and Hong Kong compared to October. According to an independent analyst, high gold prices also lowered demand in other Asian countries, notably top customer China, which gave \$5 per ounce reductions to the international price. A trader said gold was sold at a \$2.00 premium in Hong Kong.

Honda proposes CAFE compliant EVs and hybrids

Delhi: A top Honda Cars India executive said the next stage-3 of the Corporate Average Fuel Efficiency (CAFE) regulations will tighten pollution standards, therefore the company will sell hybrid and electric cars in the future years. It wants to launch three new electric vehicles by 2026-27 to align its India portfolio with its global electrification aspirations. "We are currently

Indian steel imports from China reached record high

Delhi: Provisional government statistics revealed that India's completed steel imports from China reached an all-time high in the first eight months of the fiscal year to March 2025, raising fears among domestic mills over cheap Chinese supplies. With India, the world's second-largest crude steel producer, a net importer, finished steel imports reached an eight-year high. Data revealed India shipped 6.5 million metric tons of completed steel, up 26.6% year-over-year. Data indicated China shipped 1.96 million metric tons of steel to India in April–November, rising 22.8% year-over-year. Beijing exported mostly stainless steel, hot-rolled coil, plates, electrical sheets, galvanized plain or corrugated sheets, pipes, bars,



"New Delhi is investigating whether to levy a 25% safeguard duty to control unbridled steel imports. India began importing steel in the financial year ending March 2024"

and rods. The report showed that Japanese finished steel imports more than doubled to 1.4 million metric tons in April–November, a six-year high. India imported 79% of finished steel from China, Japan, and South Korea. After hot-rolled coils, bars and rods were the most imported non-flat steel products.

New Delhi is investigating whether

to levy a 25% safeguard duty to control unbridled steel imports. India began importing steel in the financial year ending March 2024, and imports have gradually climbed. New Delhi joins a growing list of countries considering import restrictions as cheap Chinese steel has forced India's smaller factories to reduce operations and jobs.

Over 1.6 crore Jio subscribers leave in four months

Delhi: At Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd., India's largest telecom operator, approximately 1.65 crore subscribers have dropped in the past four months. Reliance Jio lost 37.6 lakh mobile users in October, 79 lakh in September, 40 lakh in August, and 7.58 lakh in July. Airtel, India's second-largest telecom carrier, gained roughly 24 lakh members in October after losing 14.3 lakh in September, according to TRAI data. In August and July 2024, Airtel lost 24 lakh and 16 lakh users. In October, Vodafone Idea lost 19 lakh mobile subscribers, up from 15.5 lakh in September.

Redeveloping railway stations opens Rs 30,000 cr in business opportunities

Delhi: EPC companies are expecting Rs 30,000 crore in business from contracts to redevelop/revamp railway stations in the next two years. The Railways have sanctioned 1,318 station redevelopment/revamps, which Icria Ratings estimates will provide Rs 30,000 crore in commercial potential for EPC firms over the next two years. The government previously planned most station renovation projects as public-private partnerships, accounting for 12% of the national asset monetisation pipeline target. However, due to pricing restrictions, real estate development market risks, and a lack of PPP experience in railways, the government reallocated station redevelopment work to the EPC mode in December 2022 and increased the budgetary allocation by more than seven times from Rs 2,159 crore in FY23 to Rs 15,511 crore in FY25. Railway station rehabilitation offers EPC businesses Rs 30,000 crore in business potential due to intense competition in traditional segments like roads and buildings, according to Vinay Kumar G of the agency. In the past two years, station redevelopment project awards have seen modest competition, with maximum discounts of up to 18% and a median discount of up to 4%, similar to other railway EPC projects with a median discount of up to 5%.

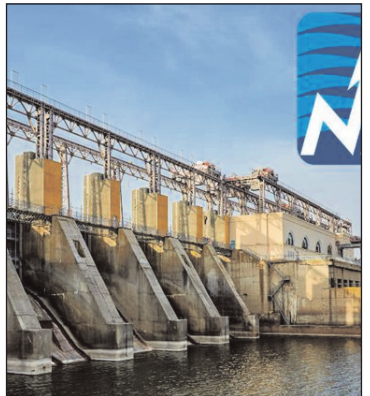


Nomura informed us that they are discussing our product and service with all chip manufacturers. He said this is a "good opportunity for us" for the Tokyo-based business to contribute its technology, goods, and services to this Indian market area. "We install equipment to make chips using our technology and goods.

We help chipmakers create strong India facilities. Once the chip manufacturer builds the facility in India, we will install our equipment and contribute to the Indian semiconductor industry with our good product and service," Nomura stated. Negotiations are underway.

NHPC invests 25,500 cr in Bihar 1,000 MW solar project

Delhi: NHPC Ltd.'s chairman and managing director Raj Kumar Chaudhary announced that the country's largest hydropower company will invest Rs 5,500 crore in a 1,000-megawatt solar power project in Bihar. At the Bihar Business Connect 2024 investor forum, the business and state government signed an investment MoU. "We have proposed to invest Rs 5,500 crore in setting up a 1,000 MW solar power project," stated. The project might be launched in 1.5–2 years after land purchase. Land is essential for solar projects. He urged the state government to help acquire land so we could finish the project on schedule. The company's website says it has roughly 7 gigawatts of active hydropower projects and 9.3 under construction. Chaudhary said NHPC plans to build a modest solar plant to create green hydrogen. "The green hydrogen produced will be used to power passenger buses," stated. When burned, green hydrogen creates no carbon and just water, making it the cleanest energy source. He stated NHPC will fund the green hydrogen bus. The state government will administer it as part of the government's sustainable energy plan.



CBSE helps pupils cope with test stress

Delhi : Sanyam Bhardwaj, CBSE's examination controller, says pupils often encounter academic stress, peer pressure, substance abuse, mental health issues, career worries, digital addiction, and life skills. Collaborations like "Say No to Drugs and Yes to Life" with NCB, IHBAS, and others boost students' mental health and life skills. Campaigns teach pupils drug dangers, coping methods, and early intervention. Through expert-led conversations and interactive activities, CBSE encourages awareness, pushing students towards a mindful and holistic life. "Through such seminars, programmes and summits for students, parents, counsellors and principals in schools, CBSE continues to increase its outreach, benefiting thousands annually. The 2025 CBSE board exam format modification was made to eliminate rote learning. Board



exams vary from other competitive exams in that they have extended responses and objective questions. Some problems don't require direct solutions; they can be solved in steps that earn points. Competency-based questions need steps to answer and are based on the application, thus they can't be answered by cramming. He thinks that the amount of competency-based questions from 40% in 2023-24 to 50% in 2024-25 will eliminate rote memorization. Bhardwaj says that pupils who attend class consistently tend to solve the huge, complex

questions and answer appropriately on tests. Students who just prepare for objective-type questions and don't attend school will miss the steps and write answers immediately in the Board exams, losing scores. "In fact, it has been seen many times that a student is able to perform well in competitive examinations and fails to perform well in the Board examinations," says Bhardwaj. To protect pupils, CBSE has cut ties with 21 "dummy" schools and degraded six. To avoid disruption, fake school students in classes X and XII were allowed to take the Boards.

Budget boost for 5 youngest IITs with 6,500 new seats

Delhi: The third-generation Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) will get a boost from Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's announcement of new facilities to accommodate 6,500 more undergrads over five years. The finance minister said in her Union Budget speech Saturday that IIT Patna's dormitories and infrastructure would be increased. "The total number of students in 23 IITs has increased by 100 percent from 65,000 to 1.35 lakh in the past 10 years. Sitharaman remarked, "New infrastructure will be built in the five IITs founded after 2014 to educate 6,500 more stu-

dents." In 2024, the 23 IITs offered 17,740 seats across various courses and categories. The five IITs founded after the Modi government took office in 2014 were in Tirupati, Palakkad, Bhilai, Jammu, and Goa, plus ISM Dhanbad become IIT (ISM) Dhanbad.

Five IITs, barring IIT Goa, will add seats, officials said. IIT Goa lacks a permanent campus, though many fledgling IITs have grown steadily. Since 2016, it has been in temporary facilities at Goa Engineering College in Farmagudi. A senior official in the Ministry of Education remarked, "IIT-Goa has not been

included at this moment since it does not have a permanent campus." Additionally, the government announced to grant 10,000 fellowships for tech research at IITs and Indian Institute of Science (IISc) for the next five years under the PM Research Fellowship Scheme.. The government has raised IIT funding to Rs 11,349 crore, 10% more than last year's Rs 10,324.5 crore estimate and 8.4% more than the revised Rs 10,467.13 crore estimate. The higher education budget has risen by 5% to Rs 50,077.95 crore from Rs 47,619.77 crore and by 7.7% from Rs 46,482.35 crore previous year.



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

Delhi: The opposition vehemently criticized the decision, as Maharashtra became the latest BJP-ruled state to ban eggs from midday meals for students in grades 1 through 8. The school education department changed the list of foods served during midday meals in a government resolution this week, eliminating the inclusion of sugar and eggs. Rather, it instructed schools to serve nachni sattu and "egg pulao" as optional meals. Nonetheless, it stated that these things, as well as sugar for desserts, had to be organized by the general public without the need for further government support. The state has changed the list to adhere to the meal items prescribed by the Center, according to an official who defended the action. While some states use their own resources to offer eggs, the federal government, which provides 60% of the funding for midday meals, does not include them in its list. Goa and Madhya Pradesh recently banned eggs due to criticism from some groups.

Health and wealth benefit from flexible work hours.

Delhi: The Economic Survey supports allowing manufacturers to average legally capped working hours over three weeks or longer rather than week-by-week. Industry captains want larger hours. It claims that agile regulations will assist management satisfy production demands and grow. "New Labour Laws are an improvement. With flexible legislation and competent implementation, firms may develop and create more jobs.

Ground planes to fly again in 2 years

Delhi: Business Standard sources reported that SpiceJet informed the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) that it will spend Rs 400 crore in two years to restore 36 grounded planes. The regulator met with the carrier last Friday to discuss restoring grounded jets. Sources said this followed the airline's Rs 3,000 crore qualifying institutional placement from global investors and mutual funds. The airline did not respond to Business Standard's request for comment. At the QIP, the airline identified 36 grounded aircraft out of 58. This was mostly due to lesser payment defaults, aircraft maintenance financial issues, and component shortages.



The airline informed the regulator that seven of the 36 grounded planes would return by year's end, sources added. The remaining 29 aircraft should be reactivated in 15-21 months. "Overall, the airline anticipates it will take 18-24 months to bring all grounded planes back to service," source said. SpiceJet announced that it will lease seven planes to improve fly-

ing operations immediately while repairing grounded planes. It said the seven leased planes will join the fleet by November 15. Sources say the carrier's grounded jets will undergo Airbus and Boeing-mandated return-to-service (RTS) procedures. The DGCA will allow commercial passenger flights after the RTS process.

RTS is the procedure of

DU to expand PhD admission slots by 20-25 pc

Delhi: Delhi University's executive council (EC) resolved to boost PhD admission seats by 20-25% from the last round of admission. The EC also allowed a university representation on St. Stephen's College's governing body to connect DU and the college. DU also updated donation rules to fund scholarships, honors, and capital assets. Under this, the government, trusts, and corporations may set up scholarships. Under this, the establishment of scholarships will be allowed by government entities, trusts, business houses.

Pradhan unveils 41 PM YUVA 2.0 volumes

Delhi : Union Minister for Education, Dharmendra Pradhan, introduced 41 new books under the PM YUVA 2.0 initiative at the New Delhi World Book Fair 2025. The Governor of Tripura, Indrasena Reddy Nallu, attended the ceremony as the guest of honour. In his remarks, Dharmendra Pradhan complimented the 41 young authors whose books were launched, expressing faith in their abilities to enrich the literary landscape and impact intellectual conversation through their unique writings. The



Minister stressed the program's value in mentoring young writers and developing ambassadors of Indian culture, history, languages, and literature. He also stressed the need to promote the unsung heroes of India's liberation movement. Pradhan said that promoting Indian-

language novels is now a national goal. He cited PM YUVA and the new 'Bharatiya Bhasha Pustak Scheme' from this year's budget as crucial milestones to this goal. He commended the National Book Trust (NBT) for making literature more accessible in Indian languages.

New UPSC PwBD guidelines avoid misconduct and fraudulent certifications

Delhi: The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)'s CSE 2025 requires online submission of certificates and documents at the preliminary stage of the exam, which includes submitting the necessary information and supporting documents for various claims, such as date of birth, category (SC/ST/OBC/EWS/PwBD/Ex-Servicemen), educational qualification, and Service preferences, with the Online A. Examination candidature will be canceled if the registration and online application form lack the relevant information/documents. "All of these changes should be explicitly stated in the notification, or the exam-conducting authority can create an educational video for specially abled candidates," he says. They appear puzzled and



unable to complete the Prelims application form (due February 11, 2025). Candidates must also write about their interests, hobbies, achievements, and NCC Scout participation in the Prelims, which were previously announced after the Mains. "The goal is to get the best candidate profile information before the Prelims," Kottaram explains (IRS) officers were recruited under PwBD reservation advantages. UPSC must examine claims and papers if aspirants submit fraudulent documents. Kottaram notes that mental illness is a grey area in

the notification's five impairment categories, making it easy to misuse. After the Puja Khedkar controversy, aspirants who took the Personality Test/Interview this year reported rigorous medical tests over 2-3 days at top medical institutions like AIIMS, SafdarJung Hospital, etc. to eliminate assessment irregularities. "DoPT is coordinating disability claim verification for aspirants. While there may be malpractices, procuring medical certificates from district authorities and hospitals can be laborious, making falsifying.

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. But for colleges, the changeover will be hybrid; most inspections will be remote, but some reviewers will still visit campuses to retain some monitoring. The decision follows the CBI's recent arrests in the case involving Andhra Pradesh's Koneru Lakshmaiah Education Foundation (KLEF), where management reportedly



bribed NAAC peer visit inspectors for good ratings. "We chose to do whatever it takes to eliminate corruption. "Stopping in-person visits will greatly reduce the issue," stated NAAC executive committee head Prof Anil Sahasrabudhe.

"With so many weekly inspection visits, it was hard to track what happened. Now, all this is recorded." NAAC head Ganesan Kannabiran hailed the switch to online inspection a "surgical strike" against corruption. The latest CBI law-

suit challenged NAAC's peer review system. He remarked, "These are unwelcome in higher education, and NAAC, a quality assurance agency, is committed to eradicating them." The K Radhakrishnan Committee's basic (binary) accreditation scheme was to begin in July 2024, but it didn't. It's currently April-May 2025. The new schedule will also introduce maturity-based graded levels (MBGL) to encourage institutions to improve their academic and research capacities. Special committees are completing its framework. 650 schools are in line for the old grading system.

India's first high-speed 280 kmph trains soon! ICF awards contract for new trainsets to BEML

Delhi: India is set to launch its first indigenous high-speed trains, built by BEML with a test speed of 280 kmph. Featuring modern amenities, these trainsets will consist of 8 cars each, costing Rs 27.86 crores per car, and to be delivered by the end of 2026. The rainsets will be the first indigenously designed and

manufactured in India, with a test speed of 280 kmph. (AI image) India's first indigenous high-speed train soon! In a big boost for Indian Railways' dreams of offering high-speed rail connectivity, the national transporter has awarded the contract for manufacturing high-speed trainsets to

BEML. These trainsets will be the first indigenously designed and manufactured in India, with a test speed of 280 kmph, marking a significant step forward in the country's high-speed rail journey. The trains will feature a fully air-conditioned, Chair Car configuration, offering modern passenger amenities such as

reclining and rotatable seats, special provisions for passengers with restricted mobility, and onboard infotainment systems, ensuring a comfortable and enjoyable travel experience. BEML Limited has secured a contract from Integral Coach Factory (ICF), Chennai, for the design.

Low affordability hits car demand: Kia India MD

NEW DELHI: With car prices going up between 35-50% over the past 3-4 years, owing to safety and emissions mandates, affording a vehicle has become difficult for mass consumers and sales are likely to see a moderate growth of 3-4% in the coming year, Kia India MD Gwanggu Lee said on Thursday. To generate demand, Lee suggests, govt can look at reducing taxes on cars from the current levels where mid-sized cars and bigger ones have a GST rate of over 45%, while smaller ones (under 4-meters) are taxed at over 28%. As the company prepares to launch affordable EVs as well as other mainstream cars, Lee said that the increase in car prices came at a time when incomes for many middle-class users did not go up at the same pace. As part of its strategy to perk up demand in the volume-laden entry SUV market, Kia drove in the all-new Syros mini offroader, which will stand besides its Sonet



model, also an under 4-meter car. Lee said that the boxy Syros, which will come with a 1-litre petrol engine and a 1.5-litre diesel, will also be offered with an electric version over the next one year. The company has developed the new vehicle after taking into account the customer preferences here, something it also did during the development of the Seltos and Sonet SUVs and the Carens MPV. But while the company expects to generate healthy volumes from the new model, whose price will be revealed at a later date, the Syros also comes in a segment that is crowded.

Amazon's cloud unit bets on new models

LAS VEGAS: Amazon's cloud unit AWS unveiled new AI models and chips to take on rivals like Microsoft, which has had an edge due to its ties with ChatGPT-maker OpenAI. Exactly two years ago, the launch of ChatGPT forced tech giants to redraw plans, wiping out billions from market caps of companies that were slow to adapt pioneered renting out data infrastructure, was seen to be losing grip on its cloud dominance over the past two years.

Government plans law to ban unregulated lending

NEW DELHI: The Centre has circulated a draft legislation to ban lending by unregulated entities, including by platforms, with violators facing imprisonment of up to seven years. Lenders, who harass and use unlawful means for recovery, face up to 10 years in jail, with those promoting such lending facing a term of up to five years. The move comes amid several complaints of borrowers taking loans from digital lending platforms, including those operated by Chinese entities, at exorbitant rates. And these platforms often harass cus-



tomers by blackmailing them in case of defaults. There have been instances of borrowers committing suicides due to harassment, prompting the Centre and the regulator to step in. The plan is to notify certain activities as "unregulated lending" with a

"competent authority" tasked with regulating the segment and also maintain a database on lenders. The authority headed by a secretary-rank officer will have powers to provisionally attach the accounts of the lender and call for data.

Private Equity and Venture Capital investments surge 156% year-on-year

NEW DELHI: Private Equity and Venture Capitalist funds invested \$4 billion in November, according to a joint report by IVCA and EY released on Wednesday. This shows a 156 per cent year-on-year increase while a 15 per cent decline from the

previous month. The month recorded 87 transactions, up 47 per cent from 59 deals in November 2023. "While 2024 had started off on a strong note, geopolitical tensions, uncertainty over US elections outcome, and inflation weighed on the markets,

as did the bid-ask spread between seller expectations and buyer valuations," EY's Vivek Soni said. He further said that pure-play PE/VC investments showed significant growth, reaching \$3.5 billion in November, representing a 297 per cent rise.

Sensex tanks nearly 1,000 pts on US Fed's cautious stance

MUMBAI: Hawkish statements from the US central bank chief on Wednesday night led to a global sell-off in stocks that also weighed on investor sentiment on Dalal Street. Sensex opened weak, remained in the red through the session and closed 964 points down at 79,218 points.

This was the first time since Nov 29 that the index closed below the psychologically important 80K mark, BSE data showed.



In the last four sessions the sensex has lost a little over 2,900 points, translating to 3.6%. On the NSE, the nifty too followed a similar path and closed 247 points lower at 23,952 points. This was nifty's first close below the 24K mark since Nov 28, NSE data showed. In Thursday's session selling was across the board with foreign funds again leading. At close, net selling by foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) was Rs 4,225 crore. In comparison, domestic funds were net buyers at Rs 3,943 crore, data from BSE showed. According to Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities, domestic markets tanked tracking negative global cues as benchmark indices slipped below their psychological levels. There was broad-based selling as the US Fed's hawkish stance raised concerns over further rate cuts next year. "Rising US bond yields have pushed global currencies, including the rupee to new lows while renewed foreign fund outflows from domestic equities could prompt investors to turn risk averse," he said. So far in the month, foreign funds are still a net buyer. But this came mainly on the back of their investments in IPOs, market players said. Combined data from NSDL and BSE showed that in Dec.

SME IPO mania: Infrastructure company's Rs 10cr offer gets Rs 14k crore bids

MUMBAI: The IPO mania in the SME space reached a new high on Thursday. NACDAC Infrastructure, a Ghaziabad-based construction company eyeing to raise Rs 10 crore from the market, got bids totalling Rs 14,386 crore, a subscription of 1,976 times (excluding the Rs 2.7 crore anchor part). This made the IPO the most subscribed one in India's capital market history, data from primary market analytics company Chittorgarh showed. Bidding data on BSE showed that the non-institutional (high net worth investors') part of the offer was subscribed 2,635 times while the retail part was subscribed 2,504 times. In comparison, the portion reserved



"Cardholders will enjoy welcome privileges of complimentary doorstep visa services, lounge access, and concierge support through OneVasco with visa fee waivers via Atlys, a luxury stay gift card via EaseMyTrip, discounts and event access through The Quorum Club"

for institutional investors like mutual funds, insurance companies, foreign funds etc, was subscribed a decent 236 times. The company is set to list on BSE's SME platform.

KKR invests in Behrouz Biryani parent

MUMBAI: Private equity giant KKR has invested in cloud kitchen startup Rebel Foods, which owns brands like Behrouz Biryani and Faasos.

The deal amount was not disclosed but it is understood to be a secondary transaction conducted at a lower valuation of around \$800 million. KKR said it will back the firm's expansion.

Nuvama recommends holding Ambuja Cements, anticipating growth after its merger with Shanghai Industries and Panna Cement. Kotak advises reducing Indiamart Intermesh holdings due to high churn. Yes Securities initiates coverage on Hyundai Motor India with a buy rating, citing the company's evolving tech landscape. JP Morgan gives Swiggy an overweight rating, expecting growth in food delivery and quick commerce. Stocks on brokerages' radar for 20 Nuvama has a 'hold' recommendation on



Ambuja Cements with a target price of Rs 667 (+19%). The company is merging Shanghai Industries and Panna Cement with itself for operational efficiencies and to improve efficiencies. Analysts feel this decision to streamline the structure of the company is a welcome move. Kotak Institutional Equities has given a 'reduce'

reco on Indiamart Intermesh with a target price of Rs 2,350 (-0.5%). Analysts believe that there is no easy fix for the high churn that the company is facing that is leading to lower collection. Yes Securities has initiated coverage of Hyundai Motor India with a 'buy' rating and a target price of Rs 2,194 (+23%).

The timeless taste of tradition: Mattanchere spice

As the festive season draws near, one name resonates with connoisseurs of fine cakes – Mattanchere Spice Matured Plum Cake. A true embodiment of time-honoured tradition and meticulous craftsmanship, this cake is more than a treat; it is a rich legacy passed down through generations.



The Mattanchere Spice Matured Plum Cake is available globally. Customers in India can order through Amazon, while those in the UAE can find it via Fresh to Home, in Singapore available in Dolly aunty. With worldwide shipping, cake lovers in Europe and North America, New Zealand can also enjoy this traditional holiday delight. The Mattanchere Spice Matured Plum Cake has its roots in centuries-old recipes, perfected with care and expertise. Its distinctive flavor comes from the thoughtful maturation

'No impact of suspension of MFN status'

NEW DELHI: Swiss major Nestle said suspension of MFN (most favoured nation) status given to India by Switzerland will have no impact on the company. Switzerland recently suspended MFN status under the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement. A Nestle India spokesperson said: "The matter is not a Nestle specific issue."

tion process, where an abundance .

'Indian tech sector to grow to \$350 billion from \$254 billion by 2030'

BENGALURU: India's tech industry is poised to expand to \$350 billion by 2030, up from \$254 billion in the 2023-24 financial year, Nasscom's president Rajesh Nambiar told. The sector's expansion reflects a CAGR of 6.4%. "We will work towards getting to about a \$350-billion mark by 2030. Of course, the growth rate came down significantly in the last two years. But even with all of that, we are seeing a lot of green shoots. I believe that we are in a pivotal moment. The emergence of GenAI has transformed the global landscape. Our focus must transition from AI PoCs to achieving measurable return on investments that we can put together on the board," said Nambiar. He succeeds his predecessor Debjani Ghosh, who completed her term in Nov. Prior to that,



"Nasscom initially forecasted the tech sector's revenues of \$350 billion for FY26, driven by demand for advanced technologies such as cloud computing and analytics. However, the IT industry body had to reset these growth "

Nambiar was chairman and MD of Cognizant India. Nasscom initially forecasted the tech sector's revenues of \$350 billion for FY26, driven by demand for advanced technologies such as cloud computing and analytics. However, the IT industry body had to reset these growth estimates, extending the timeline by five years to achieve the targeted figures. The Indian IT

services sector faces a significant slowdown in the last fiscal, with minimal expansion in both revenue and employment. IT exports grew a modest 3.3% in constant currency, reaching \$199 billion in FY24. This represents a substantial decline from the previous year's 11.4% growth, marking one of the sector's lowest growth rates.

\$11.3 billion: Startup funding sees marginal rise in 2024

MUMBAI: After two years of funding slump, investments into India's startups are seeing some revival. Investors infused about \$11.3 billion into startups this year, a slight improvement from funding worth \$10.7 billion recorded last year, data sourced from market research firm Tracxn showed. In the coming year, companies are expected to see a sizeable amount of funding cheques but the deployment of capital will be cautious, keeping in line with the trend seen for quite sometime now and late-stage deals (over \$100 million) will take time to close, venture capital (VC) firms said. Not to say that there's a lack of capital-VC firms raised an estimated \$2.5 billion in funding in 2024 alone compared to less than \$2 billion in 2023 and some of them plan to raise new funds in 2025; but investors want to ensure they make the right bets. "As investors, we are very clear that we need to see a company's path to profitability, we need to see good governance structures, assess firms' go-to market strategies deeply and figure out founders' ability to deliver. When you diligence all of these, it takes some time and investing capital takes longer," Padmaja Ruparel, co-founder at IAN (Indian Angel Network) Group told. Quick commerce player Zepto led startup funding this year having bagged \$1.4 billion in investments alone amid a surge in investor appetite for rapid deliveries. A clutch of companies including PhysicsWallah, Rebel Foods, Eruditus and Purple also managed to raise fund.

