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

इन्बॉक्स INBOX

Spent Rs 66,000, Pune farmer gets Rs 664 for 7.5 quintals of rain-hit onions

PUNE: Sudam Ingle, a farmer from Purandar, spent around Rs 66,000 on his onion crop this season. The incessant rains damaged most of his yield, but he managed to salvage a portion and spent another Rs 1,500 to pack and transport it to the Purandar market yard for sale on Friday. To his shock, Ingle received just Rs 664 for 7.5 quintals of onions. "This was from one acre of land. I still have onions from another 1.5 acres, but I won't sell them; I'll run a rotor and turn them into fertiliser for next year. That's more profitable than selling," he said. "I'm still a relatively big farmer. I don't know how smaller farmers with just one or two acres, many of whom have taken loans, will survive. If the govt doesn't step in, farmer suicides will increase." Ingle's story is echoed across Maharashtra's farmlands, where relentless rains and collapsing prices have left farmers struggling to survive. From onions, tomatoes, potatoes to pomegranates, custard apples, to soyabean, almost every crop has taken a hit this season. With no money in hand, farmers have no purchasing power, directly affecting rural markets that flourish during Diwali.

Karnataka: 10 fall ill after CM Siddaramaiah's Puttur event; cops cite delay, heat

NEW DELHI: At least ten people reportedly fell ill during an event attended by Karnataka chief minister Siddaramaiah in Dakshina Kannada on Monday, news agency ANI reported. According to the district police, "Hypoglycemia or dehydration was caused due to the delay in providing food and gifts. Three women were given IV fluids, and seven women have already been discharged after receiving outpatient treatment." The incident occurred during the 13th edition of the 'Ashoka-Janamana' Deepavali celebration.

Delhi air pollution: Residents complain of breathing difficulties

"Pollution hasn't just been increasing today; it's been increasing for years. Everyone blames politicians, but the people themselves

If every individual takes responsibility, then the AQI level can be controlled



NEW DELHI: Residents of Delhi have complained about breathing difficulties and irritation in eyes following the rise in air pollution post Diwali celebrations. Speaking to media, Sagar, a resident of the national capital, held people accountable for the dip in air quality. He said, "Pollution hasn't just been increasing today; it's been increasing for years. Everyone blames politicians, but the people themselves

are like this. People aren't improving themselves. You'll get fire-crackers, but it's up to you whether to burst them or not. Then they'll complain that the government isn't doing anything. There are problems in breathing, irritation in eyes." Ashish Ranjan, a local who came to Kartavya Path for running, also complained about the breathing difficulties. He said, "There are difficulties in breathing

during running time. I cannot breathe properly." Another resident of the city, said, "It is the responsibility of everyone. If every individual takes responsibility, then the AQI level can be controlled. Nothing will happen just by the thinking of the government and agencies. As a society, we should take this responsibility and keep things under control. There were clear orders to use green crackers, and if

we can adhere to these rules, then we would be doing a good service to the society." Local Surrender Gupta, said, "Last year, the pollution was less. Yesterday, when I came for morning walk, there were difficulties in breathing, but today, it problem has increased." A day after Diwali, New Delhi woke up to a thick, heavy layer of smog as air quality plunged into the 'Very Poor' category on Tuesday morning, with most monitoring stations falling in the 'Red Zone'. According to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), the city's overall Air Quality.

Bihar Assembly polls: Opposition allies climb down, yet face friendly fights in state

PATNA: Just a fortnight before the first phase of polling in Bihar, partners in the INDIA bloc, which seemed to be in a disarray till Sunday, appeared going into the damage-control mode on Monday with some withdrawing candidates against each other on certain seats. RJD announced its list of 143 candidates, leaving the remaining 100 for its allies. It dropped 31 MLAs and nominated new candidates. Congress has fielded candidates for 61 seats, while the Left comprising the CPI-ML, CPI and CPM announced its list of 30. On the other hand, the VIP led by former minister Mukesh Sahani has come up with its list of 15 candidates, which means the INDIA bloc partners still have some



friendly contests on at least six seats. Opposition bloc leaders said they were hoping the clouds of uncertainty would clear by Oct 23, the last date of withdrawal of candidature for the second phase. Significantly, JMM withdrew from the Bihar contest after a stalemate over their seat-sharing deal with INDIA bloc. "Unfortunately, JMM won't be part of the Bihar polls despite my intentions and plans. This is only because of RJD's 'political' immaturity. Congress should have mediated to accommodate JMM, but we are sorry to say that it too did nothing".

Upgrading strike capability: India tests 800-km BrahMos

NEW DELHI: In what will be a major boost for its precision strike capabilities, India plans to begin inducting the new 800-km extended range BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles in a little over two years, while over 200km Astra air-to-air missiles are also slated for production in 2026-27. Tests are underway for the 800-km BrahMos, with a modified ramjet engine and other upgrades, to ensure the



conventional (non-nuclear) missile is fully ready by end-2027, top defence sources told. 'Pinpoint Accuracy' Rajnath Singh Praises BrahMos Precision During

Operation Sindoor The existing 450-km range BrahMos missiles, which fly at almost three times the speed of sound at Mach 2.8, were launched from Sukhoi-30MKI fighter jets for the targeted strikes deep into Pakistan under Operation Sindoor in May. "The 800-km BrahMos is more or less developed in terms of the modifications to its ramjet engine.

Purification' over namaz at Shaniwarwada: ASI officer files complaint against 3 women

PUNE: BJP's alliance partners NCP and Shiv Sena on Monday came down heavily on its Rajya Sabha MP Medha Kulkarni for leading a protest and 'purifying' the site at Shaniwarwada where a group of Muslim women recently offered namaz. The NCP, which is led by deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar, demanded that a police case be filed against her for trying to disturb communal harmony. Members of NCP's Pune city unit held a protest against Kulkarni outside Shaniwarwada on Monday. NCP spokesperson Rupali Thombare, who led the agitation, said, "There was no need for Kulkarni to protest



over some Muslim women offering namaz in Shaniwarwada." The video was filmed around 1.45pm on Saturday and was shared on social media handles. It triggered a protest by Kulkarni and members of other rightwing outfits, prompting the police to deploy bandobast around the historic monument. Kulkarni and others performed a 'purification' of the historic wada. NCP spokesperson

Rupali Thombare said, "She [Medha Kulkarni] claims that the sentiments of Hindus were hurt, but I want to tell her that we are also Hindus, and our sentiments were not at all hurt as we believe in inclusivity. In fact, a case should be filed against her for disturbing the peace and harmony of Pune." The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)'s other Mahayuti partner, Shiv Sena, also criticised Kulkarni's action.

'Only Congress will respect Nitish Kumar': Pappu Yadav

"The people are united. When the public is united, they will bring everyone together, so don't worry"



NEW DELHI: Congress MP Pappu Yadav on Tuesday alleged that the BJP-led NDA is sidelining Bihar chief minister Nitish

Kumar and not giving him due respect. He added that only the Congress party would stand by Kumar.

Speaking to reporters, Pappu commented on the political dynamics within the alliance, claiming that Nitish Kumar would

not remain with the NDA after the upcoming elections. "The way BJP and Chirag Paswan have isolated Nitish Kumar to maintain their strike rate, I don't think Nitish Kumar will remain in the NDA after the elections. Only Congress will give Nitish Kumar the respect he deserves," Pappu said. He added, "The whole public stands with the

INDIA bloc, and they will blindly give their support to the INDIA bloc. The people are united. When the public is united, they will bring everyone together, so don't worry." Nitish Kumar, known for his frequent political realignments, remains the NDA's chief ministerial face in the Bihar elections.

Big cat, big loss: In 4 years, Maharashtra has lost 142 tigers, 537 leopards, reveals RTI

The big cat fatality data was provided by the principal chief conservator of forests (PCCF), Nagpur



NAGPUR: In a worrying trend, accidents, poaching, and electrocution accounted for a significant number of 142 tiger and 537 leopard deaths reported in Maharashtra from Jan 2022 to Sept 2025. The big cat fatality data was

provided by the principal chief conservator of forests (PCCF), Nagpur, in response to a Right to Information (RTI) query. The report states that 35 tigers and 115 leopards have died in Maharashtra this year till Sept. In com-

parison, 26 tiger deaths were reported in 2024, 52 in 2023, and 29 in 2022. Among this year's tiger deaths, 21 were due to natural causes, five from accidents, another five linked to electrocution and poaching, and four due to unspecified reasons. Of the 142 tiger fatalities reported since 2022, natural deaths accounted for 84 cases, while 23 were killed in accidents and 29 fell to poaching.

MP: In-laws demand buffalo for dowry, woman consumes acid; dies

BHOPAL: A 21-year-old newlywed woman died after consuming acid in Gwalior district of Madhya Pradesh, allegedly unable to bear the daily harassment by her in-laws who demanded a 'Murrah' buffalo as dowry. Police have registered a case against her husband and four family members for dowry harassment and abetment to suicide. Vimlesh Baghel got married to Dinesh Baghel.

Techie suicide scandal deepens: Ola Electric CEO booked

BENGALURU: Last month, a 38-year-old engineer working with the city-based Ola Electric died by suicide. The matter has now snowballed into a storm of allegations, with Ola Electric CEO Bhavish Aggarwal and senior executive Subrat Kumar Dash being named in the police FIR on charges of abetment to suicide. The deceased — K Aravind, of Chikkalasandra in south Bengaluru — had worked at Ola Electric as a homologation engineer since 2022. According to police



sources, Aravind, a bachelor, consumed poison on Sept 28 and left behind a 28-page handwritten death note detailing his despair at the workplace. Following his death, his elder brother K Ashwin lodged a complaint with Subramanyapura police alleging that repeated humiliation, denial of

salary, and coercion at the workplace had driven Aravind to suicide. Acting on the complaint, on Oct 6, police registered an FIR under section 108 (abetment to suicide) of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita against Dash (A1), head of vehicle homologation, Aggarwal, and other officials of the

company. The following day, cops issued notice to all the accused. "All of them responded through their advocate and challenged the FIR in the Karnataka high court. The court has directed that the petitioners should not be harassed during the investigation. We are continuing our probe," said a senior police officer. As part of the investigation, police have sent the 28-page death note to the forensic science laboratory for handwriting verification.

Even slight penetration is rape, consent irrelevant for minors: HC

NAGPUR: The Nagpur bench of Bombay high court recently ruled that even the slightest penetration constitutes rape and that consent is irrelevant when the survivor is a minor, reaffirming the absolute

nature of protection under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (Pocso) Act. Dismissing the appeal of a 38-year-old driver from Hinganghat in Wardha district, the

court upheld his conviction and 10-year sentence for attempting to commit aggravated penetrative sexual assault on two girls aged five and six. Justice Nivedita Mehta, who authored the judg-

ment, held that 'the act of rape or aggravated penetrative sexual assault stands complete as soon as the accused inserts any body part into the survivor's private parts — the extent of penetration being

immaterial in law'. CBI HIDING RAPISTS: Shocking Cover-up Allegation by RG Kar Victim's Father, Vows to Reveal Truth The court found that the accused lured the

Japan gets new PM: Sanae Takaichi becomes first woman to hold top post

Sanae Takaichi becomes first woman to hold top post; known as 'China hawk' Takaichi Sanae (AP) Sanae Takaichi made

history on Tuesday, winning Japan's parliamentary vote to become the nation's first female prime minister. Her victory was met with enthusi-

asm in domestic stock markets. Takaichi secured 237 votes in the first round in the 465-seat Lower House, eliminating the need for a runoff

A fair of devotion and faith was held on the banks of the Saryu River on Yama Dwitiya, the third day of Diwali in Ayodhya



Ayodhya

In Ayodhya the festival of Yama Dwitiya is celebrated with great devotion and faith. It is believed that at the time of Lord Rama's departure from earth, Yamaraj came to Ayodhya to receive him and rested at the Jamthara Ghat. In commemoration of this, a fair is held at the Yamthara Ghat on the banks of the Saryu River. Devotees bathe in the Saryu River in the morning, worship Yamaraj and pray for long life, safety and prosperity. Sisters observe a fast on this day and pray for the long life and well-being of their brothers. On this occasion, the idols of Lakshmi and Ganesha worshipped on Diwali are also immersed in the Saryu River. This tradition is a unique symbol of Ayodhya's eternal culture and faith.

Agriculture officer suspended for negligence in stubble burning Mathura

The administration is continuously conducting awareness campaigns to prevent stubble burning in the district. Under the direction of the District Magistrate, Mathura, several programs were organized to educate farmers about the importance of stubble burning. They emphasized that stubble burning depletes the fertility of fields and increases air pollution, adversely affecting public life.

Despite this, the district administration has taken strict action after incidents of stubble burning were reported in the area. Deputy Agriculture Director Vasant Kumar Dubey has suspended Narendra Pal Singh, Technical Assistant (Group C), working under the Sub-Divisional Agriculture Extension Officer, Chhata, with immediate effect for laxity in preventing stubble burning in his allotted Gram Panchayat, Bharnakhurd, Development Block, Chaumuhan.

UDMP Diplomatic Mission for World Peace Appoints New Peace Ambassadors

Delhi

Marking the 80th Anniversary of the United Nations, the UDMP Diplomatic Mission for World Peace, in association with the Empower Social & Education Trust, hosted the "Oath Taking Ceremony of Peace Ambassadors 2025" at the Constitution Club of India New Delhi. The grand event witnessed the formal appointment of new His/Her Excellency Peace Ambassadors committed to promoting peace, education and international harmony. The ceremony was graced by eminent global figures with Prof. Dr. Madhu Krishan, Founder and Chancellor of the American University of Global Peace (AUGP) USA, serving as the Chief Guest. In his inspiring address, Dr. Krishan emphasized the need for global unity, moral leadership and educational empowerment to strengthen world peace initiatives. Guests of Honour included Dr. Sandeep Marwah, Founder of Marwah Studios and Chancellor of AAST University and H.E. Amb. Dr. Ghanshyam Kolambe, Managing Trustee of Empower Social & Education Trust, who high-



lighted the importance of humanitarian collaboration in shaping a peaceful and inclusive world. Suresh Kumar Sharma Chief Information Advisor and former Inspector General of Punjab Police, extended his best wishes and blessings to the newly appointed Peace Ambassadors. The Oath of Peace and Commitment was administered by H.E. Amb. Dr. Somshekhar K. Chief Ambassador, UDMP Diplomatic Mission for

World Peace (India Chapter) and President of Empower Social & Education Trust and GL Foundation. He urged the Ambassadors to uphold the values of equality, service and solidarity as enshrined in the United Nations Charter. Special guests Dr. Madhumita Barua (Joint Director, NCDC) and Dr. Mahammad Riyaz also graced the occasion. The event saw the participation of Ex-Indian Navy and

Army officers under the leadership of H.E. Amb. Dr. Vijay Kumar Pandit, adding prestige to the ceremony. A total of 11 Peace Ambassadors took their solemn oaths and received Excellency Peace Ambassador Certificates and mementos in recognition of their commitment to global peace. Newly Appointed Peace Ambassadors 2025: H.E. Amb. Dr. Shivanand Neelannavar, H.E. Amb. Dr. Ravi Shesha Batter Dr. Laxman Das Agarwa, Dr. Raghu Shesha Batter, Dr. Inderjeet Lamba, Dr. Shankar Ramachandra, Dr. Monish Babre, Dr. Kamran Singh Baghel, Vaibhavi Kadam, Dr. Bhavini Hariyani. The event commenced with a welcome address by Dr. Deepak Dey and concluded with a vote of thanks by H.E. Dr. Vijay Kumar Pandit, reaffirming the shared vision of a sustainable and harmonious global community. This landmark celebration of 80 years of the United Nations stood as a symbol of hope, collaboration and compassion, reflecting the ongoing mission to build a world guided by peace.

Uttarakhand: Gangotri Dham's doors closed for the winter season



Gangotri

The doors of the Gangotri Dham temple were closed for the winter season with due rituals at 11:36 am today on the occasion of Annakut festival. The doors of the Yamunotri Dham temple will close for the winter season tomorrow, October 23rd on Bhaiya Dooj. After the doors close, the festival idol of Ganga Ji will be brought from Gangotri Dham in a palanquin to Mukhwa village, where the festival idol of Ganga Ji will remain seated in the Ganga temple for the winter season. Prior to this, today, the idol of Mother Ganga will rest overnight at the Annapurna Temple in Markandeya, three kilometers east of Mukhba. After that, on

Thursday, Bhaiya Dooj, it will be placed in Mukhba for six months. Devotees will be able to visit and worship at the Ganga Temple in Mukhwa during the winter season. It should be noted that the doors of the Yamunotri Dham Temple will be closed tomorrow, October 23rd at 12:30 pm on the occasion of Bhaiya Dooj. During the winter season, the festive idol of Yamuna ji will be placed in the Yamuna Temple in Kharsali village, where devotees will be able to visit and worship Yamuna ji during the winter season. The temples in Mukhwa and Kharsali have also been decorated. During this pilgrimage season, till this evening, 1402128 pilgrims have arrived at these two Dhams located in the district.

Delhi BJP Leaders Took Charge of Ensuring Chhath Puja Arrangements

Delhi

In view of the Chhath Puja arrangements in Delhi, a meeting was held this morning under the directions of Delhi BJP President Virendra Sachdeva and Chief Minister Rekha Gupta. The meeting was attended by BJP MP, ministers of the Delhi Government, MLA, state office bearers and district presidents. In the meeting Chief Minister Rekha Gupta and Minister Kapil Mishra briefed everyone about the



preparations being undertaken by the Delhi Government. State President Virendra Sachdeva stated that organizational office bearers, MP, MLA and councillors should ensure that the efforts of the Delhi

Government for Chhath arrangements reach the devotees. The Chief Minister and the State President instructed that all office bearers, public representatives and leaders should begin inspecting Chhath

arrangements in their respective areas starting today. MP Manoj Tiwari and Delhi Government Minister Kapil Mishra inspected the arrangements at the natural ghat being developed at Yamuna Ghat in Karawal Nagar. Delhi Government Minister Sardar Manjinder Singh Sirsa, along with conducting inspections, also participated in a cleanliness drive at the under-construction Chhath Ghat at Haathi Ghat ITO.

Dr. Rajeshwar submits proposal to CM for an "Area-Wise Demographic Policy" to ensure balanced growth and social harmony in UP

Lucknow

Legislator and former Enforcement Directorate officer Dr. Rajeshwar Singh has submitted a policy proposal to Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath calling for an "Area-Wise Demographic Policy (ADP)" to ensure balanced population growth, women's empowerment, and social cohesion in Uttar Pradesh. Commending the Chief Minister's leadership, Dr. Singh said that "under Yogi Uttar Pradesh has set new benchmarks in governance, women's safety and social reform and now must lead in responsible population management." **Changing Demographics:** Citing the Census of India (1951 & 2011) Dr. Singh noted that Hindu population share declined from 84.4% to 79.7%, while the Muslim share rose from 14.0% to 19.3% over six decades.



District-level data shows higher imbalances- in Rampur (50.6%), Sambhal (56%), and Muradabad (47%), Muslim populations now exceed or near majority. The State's fertility rate (TFR 2.4-2.7) also remains above the national average (2.0). Policy Proposal : The proposed ADP **Framework calls for:** *** District-wise classification** (Green-Amber-Red) based on fertility, education and migration trends. *** Girls' Secondary Education Mission** with 100% Class 12 completion. *** Mission Parivar Vikas 2.0** for doorstep family planning in high-TFR districts.

* UP Demography Dashboard with NITI Aayog and Health Department oversight. **Incentives and Deterrents:** *** Incentives:** 5% additional funds for low-TFR districts; ?10,000 DBT for girls completing Class 12; housing/tax priority for small families. *** Deterrents:** Two-child norm for government jobs in high-TFR areas; limited benefits for non-compliant families. **Expected Outcome:** Balanced demography, improved maternal-child health, stronger women's education, reduced illegal migration and data-driven governance across Uttar Pradesh. "This policy is not against any community," Dr. Singh emphasized. "It's for a stable, educated and equitable Uttar Pradesh- the foundation of Viksit Bharat 2047."

The Rekha Gupta government has fulfilled another BJP election pledge- Sachdeva

Delhi

Delhi BJP President Virendra Sachdeva stated that the Rekha Gupta government has fulfilled another BJP election pledge regarding Chhath Puja. Chhath Puja will be held at 1500 ghats in Delhi, including the Yamuna riverbank. Twenty-three large natural ghats will be located on the Yamuna bank, while

approximately 1300 artificial ghats are being developed and based on public demand, approximately 200 other locations have been identified for artificial ghats. Virendra Sachdeva stated that while the BJP government in Delhi has exposed the previous Arvind Kejriwal government's unethical ban on puja on the Yamuna banks, it also fulfills a demand raised by



BJP workers through protests and other protests over the past several years. The exposure of the polluted Yamuna and Arvind Kejriwal inaction before last year Chhath Puja is the result of the fact that, thanks to Chhath

Maiya we have a government in Delhi today. Sachdeva stated that while the Delhi government is diligently preparing for Chhath Puja our Delhi Municipal Corporation Mayor, Sardar Raja Iqbal Singh will ensure cleanliness. We will not leave the preparations and cleanliness of Chhath Puja solely to the Delhi government or the Delhi Municipal Corporation.

Under the leadership of our Purvanchal Morcha President Santosh Ojha, party workers will launch a massive cleanliness drive at all natural and artificial ghats. All party MP, MLA, councillors and senior officials will regularly visit various ghats to support the Rekha Gupta government's efforts to organize the best Chhath Puja.

Mega Health Camp in Tinsukia Screens Over 2660 Children. MP Rameshwar Teli Inaugurates the Camp

Assam

Under the Assam government's "Sushrusa Setu" campaign, a massive health camp based on the Tinsukia Assembly constituency was held on Wednesday at the Navjagriti High English School in Tinsukia. The camp was officially inaugurated by Rajya Sabha Member of Parliament and former Union State Minister Rameshwar Teli. The inauguration ceremony was attended by multiple dignitaries including Tinsukia Assembly MLA Sanjay Kishan, District Commissioner Swapnil Pal, Chairman of Tinsukia Municipal Board Pulak Chetia, Additional District



Commissioner Mirzana Hussain and Joint Health Director Dr. Jayanta Bhattacharya. The camp conducted health screenings for children aged 0 to 18 years, testing for over 50 different diseases. Based on the test results, children requiring further medical care were referred to nearby medical colleges and hospitals. Through the National Health Mission, children affected by diseases were previously

identified from schools, tea gardens, Anganwadi centers and the Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK) across the constituency. A total of 2660 children participated in Wednesday's camp. Among these, 300 children identified as patients were referred to various hospitals, including Assam Medical College Hospital in Dibrugarh, Guwahati Medical College Hospital, and Tinsukia Medical College Hospital, according to District Information and Public Relations Officer Bikash Sharma. The camp had the presence of 20 specialist doctors across multiple departments including pediatrics, cardiology, neurology, general

Foot patrolling was conducted in the Mathura Police Station Highway area



Mathura Mathura Police are on high alert to maintain tight security in the district for the festivals of Govardhan Puja and Bhai Dooj. Under the direction of the Senior Superintendent of Police, Mathura, foot patrolling and intensive checking operations are being conducted in all police station areas of the district.

The Luv Kush Ramlila Committee paid tribute to the acting legend Asrani

Delhi

Arjun Kumar President of the world-renowned Luv Kush Ramlila Committee, along with all the office bearers of the Lila Committee, paid tribute to the passing of renowned actor Asrani, who had proved his mettle in over 350 films. Paying tribute to the legendary actor Asrani, Arjun Kumar said that when he approached Asrani, who has reached the pinnacle of success in the film industry, at his residence in Mumbai to play the role of Narad Muni on the stage of Lord Shri Ram's Leela, he said that it is a matter of pride for me to play the role



of Narad Muni on the stage of Luv Kush to be held in the historic grounds of the Red Fort. While playing the role in front of thousands of Ram devotees here, I will not get a single chance for retakes like in the shooting of films. Arjun Kumar says that in this very meeting he accepted our request and after this he played different roles in the Leela five

times on the Leela stage. According to him, Asrani was so down to earth that he would always eat with other actors at the Leela venue. Even after rehearsing his role in the hotel, he would come to the Leela ground in the afternoon to rehearse his role. Asrani's craze among Ram devotees was such that on the day he had a role, Ram devotees would start

gathering in the ground from the evening to get a glimpse of their favorite actor. Arjun Kumar says that Asrani never forgot his struggling days, whenever I met him, he would tell me about his struggling days in Mumbai. Asrani had said in an interview that after playing the role of Narad in Luv Kush, whenever he went for a show abroad, people there too would request him to say Narayan Narayan instead of the jailer of the British era. Arjun Kumar has described Asrani death as an irreparable loss not only for the Indian film industry but also for the Ramlila world.

Star Plus Brings India First AI-Powered Epic Series 'Mahabharata: Ek Dharmayuddha'

Delhi

Star Plus in collaboration with JioStar and Collective Media Network, is set to add a new chapter to television history. They are launching India's first AI-powered premium entertainment series, 'Mahabharata: Ek Dharmayuddha.' This grand mythological saga will air on Star Plus from October 26th at 7:30 pm. Its digital premiere will be on JioHotstar a day earlier on October 25th. With this series, Star Plus continues



its legacy of delivering great and unique entertainment to Indian audiences for generations. 'Mahabharata: Ek Dharmayuddha' reimagines the Indian epic with the power of artificial intelligence, blending mythological storytelling, technology and human emotion in a

way never before seen on Indian television. The 100-episode series will showcase the immortal war between the Pandavas and the Kauravas in a new light. It has been so beautifully crafted that viewers will be immersed in both emotion and grandeur. Through AI-

based storytelling the show creates a unique bridge between India cultural heritage and future technology. At the trailer launch, Vijay Subramaniam, Founder and Group CEO of Collective Artist Network, said, "For many of us, the Mahabharata is not just a story, but tales we've heard from our parents and grandparents. The trailer is just a glimpse of the experience to come, which is going to be emotional, grand and completely immersive." Kevin Vaz, CEO-Entertainment,

JioStar, said, "Mahabharata: Ek Dharmayuddha is a celebration of our faith, a confluence where immortal epics and machine intelligence combine to present the soul of a new India. With this series, we are building a bridge between tradition and the future." With Mahabharata: Ek Dharmayuddha, Star Plus is taking another major step forward, where viewers will witness the perfect blend of mythology and modernity.

BJP Justice Rally for Famous Assamese Singer Zubeen Faces Strong Opposition from Public and Opposition Parties

Assam

Following the suspicious death of Assam's renowned singer and superstar Zubeen Garg in Singapore, demands for justice have been intensifying across Assam. The Assam BJP initiated a justice rally from October 22, which has sparked widespread political and public sensitivity throughout the state. Despite BJP active mobilization for the rally, it has faced severe criticism from the general public and opposition parties. Many perceive the movement as a politically motivated act that is disturbing Assam's social harmony. Ironically, the



BJP is now protesting on the streets demanding justice from a government led by BJP own Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, which many citizens are dismissing as political theatrics. Opposition parties have accused the BJP government of using the rally as a political weapon to suppress the case and advance its political agen-

das. Recently, Assam Pradesh Congress President Gaurav Gogoi and other opposition leaders organized candle marches and protests demanding justice, drawing thousands of participants. They asserted that Zubeen Garg's death should not be treated as an accident but suspected homicide and called for a fair investigation, including a CBI probe. So far, five accused, including Zubeen Garg's manager and event organizer, have been arrested. Following these arrests, violent clashes erupted outside Baksa jail between protesters and police, including stone-pelting on the convoy, escalating tensions.

Diwali Celebrated in a Spiritual Scientific Way at the Kriya Yoga Ashram

□ The True Nature of Diwali: The Depth of Kriya Yoga Meditation: Swami Shri Yogi Satyam



Akhand Bharat Message

Prayagraj. Diwali was celebrated with the Kriya Yoga method on Monday at the Kriya Yoga Ashram and Research Institute. Not only national but also international seekers were present on this occasion. Deepavali was broadcast live on YouTube under the spiritual aura of Mahaavatar Baba Ji's Banyan Tree, with a large number of seekers joining in. Gururji Swami Shri Yogi Satyam Ji Maharaj called Diwali the festival of knowledge. He also said that when the distance between any two entities decreases, knowledge emerges from within. As spiritual scientists, we prove that the absence of distance leads to the realization of truth. True knowledge exists, and this knowledge is called power, peace, bliss, immortality, and the Supreme Being. The present time is the 325th year of the ascending Dwapara Yuga.

Generally, the way Diwali is celebrated is



fine, but according to the times, the true nature of Diwali is revealed through the depth of Kriya Yoga meditation. In Kriya Yoga meditation, we reduce the distance between body and mind, revealing a light

within. This light is called the light of knowledge. When this light of knowledge awakens the extinguished lamps of knowledge (Muladhara, Swadhisthana, Manipura, Anahata,

Vishuddhi, Ajna, Sahasrara) in the head and spine, these seven lamps of knowledge are lit. In this state, our being becomes illuminated, and we embark on the path of truth and non-violence. The goal of human life is to experience truth and non-violence. This experience is devoid of time and distance; this is the state of yoga. By practicing Kriya Yoga, one attains the state of yoga in a single lifetime.

In this state of yoga, one perceives the fourteen worlds within one's being, which originate from Dhana (the formless, omnipotent, omnipresent conscious being).

The wealth of the thirteenth world is called Dhanteras, it is called infinite patience and self-love-filled humility, and it is called the supernatural power of the sixth heaven. Only after experiencing this can we enter the fourteenth world (Satya Loka – the seventh heaven). Upon entering Satya Loka, we attain Kaivalya, the goal of human life.



"The wealth of the thirteenth world is called Dhanteras, it is called infinite patience and self-love-filled humility, and it is called the supernatural power of the sixth heaven"

Station House Officer (SHO) Kaundhiyara celebrated Diwali with the needy

Prayagraj. On the auspicious occasion of Diwali, Station House Officer (SHO) Kuldeep Sharma, setting an example of humanity, visited the poor and destitute settlements in the area on Monday with his team and distributed sweets, lamps, and puja materials. This humanitarian gesture spread a wave of joy in the settlements. Children danced with joy and shouted "Happy Diwali," while elders blessed the Station House Officer for his



sensitive initiative. Station House Officer (SHO) Kuldeep Sharma said that Diwali is not just a festival of home decorations or firecrackers, but a symbol of

love, compassion, and shared happiness. He said that a true Diwali is celebrated when every section of society is happy and a lamp is lit in every home. He appealed to everyone to come forward to help the needy during the festival so that no family is left in darkness. This social initiative by the police sent a positive message in the area that, in addition to maintaining law and order, the police also protect human values in society.

Speed wrecks havoc in Gaura village, Bolero rams into house

Karchana. The havoc of speed was witnessed on Sunday night on the Karchana-Jari road when a speeding Bolero lost control and rammed into Shyamji Kushwaha's house in Gaura village. The impact was so powerful that the walls and tin shed of the house completely collapsed. The Bolero was severely damaged, but fortunately, all members of the family escaped unharmed, averting a major tragedy. According to eyewitnesses, the Bolero was coming at high speed from Karchana. Suddenly, it lost control and crashed into the house, breaking through its wall.

BSF soldier Gaurav Pandey, a resident of Shivpura village, died in a road accident, leaving the village in mourning

Meja, Prayagraj.

An Innova car carrying Border Security Force (BSF) personnel crashed near the Odisha-Andhra Pradesh border late Monday night. BSF soldier Gaurav Pandey, a resident of Shivpura Lehdi village in the Uruwa development block of Prayagraj district in Uttar Pradesh, died on the spot, while six other soldiers were seriously injured. According to reports, the accident occurred near Chatti Junction in the Chintoor



division of Andhra Pradesh. The soldiers, belonging to the 142nd Battalion of the BSF, were returning from duty when their Innova car collided

with a truck. The impact was so severe that the vehicle was completely destroyed. With the help of local people, the injured were admitted to a nearby hospital, where their condition remains critical. The deceased soldier, Gaurav Pandey, was returning from leave with his colleagues. BSF officials confirmed the accident and said that all injured soldiers are being provided with the best possible treatment and the cause of the accident is being investigated. The last rites will

be performed in Lucknow. As soon as the news of Gaurav Pandey's death reached Shivpura Lehdi village, a wave of mourning spread throughout the area. BSF soldier Gaurav Pandey, son of the late Vimal Kumar Pandey, was a resident of Shivpura Lehdi. His wife, Neha Pandey, and two children were inconsolable. The Upper Caste Army District President, Anand Dwivedi, expressed deep grief and described it as an irreparable loss for the entire village council.

High Court seeks response, stays lawyer's arrest

Police retaliate, enter lawyer's home and vandalize it

Law Correspondent, Prayagraj

The Allahabad High Court has sought responses from the state government and police administration on a petition filed by a Farrukhabad lawyer alleging police assault and vandalism of his wife, son, and servant at his home. It has also stayed the arrest of lawyer Awadhesh Mishra under the FIR registered at Fatehgarh police station on October 11. This order



was passed by a division bench of Justice JJ Munir and Justice Sanjeev Kumar after hearing senior advocates Amrendra Nath Singh and Prashant Singh Rinku on lawyer Awadhesh Mishra's petition.

Given the seri-

ousness of the incident, a special bench heard the lawyer's petition on Sunday, a holiday. The petitioner alleges that the FIR was filed against him maliciously at the behest of Farrukhabad Superintendent of Police Aarti Singh, as

he is the lawyer representing the victim's family in the habeas corpus petition in which this court had summoned the Superintendent of Police and other police officers. It is alleged that the accused in Crime No. 448 of 2020 demanded a sum of Rs. 5 lakh in exchange for the victim's testimony in favor of the accused named in the case. It stated that this FIR was filed just two days after the order summoning the Superintendent of

Police, which clearly demonstrates its malicious nature, and the subsequent action taken is even more so. Based on this FIR, the Superintendent of Police raided the petitioner's residence with 100 constables, assaulted his wife, son, and servant, and damaged household items. The court also granted Additional Government Advocate First Deepak Mishra and Vinod Kumar Srivastava, representing the respondent, Ajay Chauhan,

until October 29th to file a counter-affidavit. The court issued notice to respondent No. 3, directing them to serve it within 48 hours through the Chief Judicial Magistrate, Farrukhabad. Also directed the Registrar Compliance to immediately inform this order to the Superintendent of Police Farrukhabad and the Inspector in-charge of Kotwali Fatehgarh through the Chief Judicial Magistrate Farrukhabad.

Auto and bike collide, bike rider injured



Karchana On Sunday evening, a speeding auto rickshaw hit a motorcycle at the Ekauni intersection in the police station area. The bike rider, his wife, and 5-year-old daughter were seriously injured in the accident. The injured family was immediately admitted to a private hospital

with the help of local residents. People present at the scene said that the auto driver was driving at high speed, which caused the accident. Police arrived at the scene after receiving information about the incident and began action. The injured family is reported to be in critical condition.

Editorial

Why The Taliban Foreign Minister Is Really Visiting India

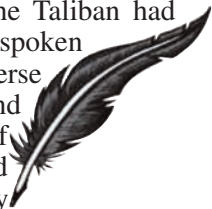
he Acting Foreign Minister of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, Amir Khan Muttaqi, will be traveling to New Delhi between October 9-16, after having received a waiver from the UNSC sanctions committee. His previous bid to secure the waiver back in September was not successful. During his visit, he is expected to meet the External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and will arrive in New Delhi after having participated in the Moscow Format Dialogue in Russia. The impending visit has raised - and might answer - important questions about how India's relationship with the Taliban-led regime has evolved in the past four years. While there is an acknowledgement of the inevitability of engaging with the Taliban because of strategic and security considerations, concerns about what form this engagement would take and whether India can secure its interests for real, persist.

India's Reaction In 2021

When the Taliban usurped power in August 2021 and anointed themselves at the helm in Afghanistan, India's response to the developments was simultaneously knee-jerk and gradual. As the fighting intensified, India did not take much time to shut down its consulates and close its embassy. It was also quick in revoking visas and arranging the evacuation of Indian citizens from the country. But there was still a degree of dilly-dallying on how it intended to engage with the regime. A few weeks after the group's return, the Indian ambassador in Qatar met the head of the political office of the Taliban in Doha in order to seek assurances about protecting India's security and interests in the country. Subsequently, after a visit by the then Joint Secretary of the Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran division in the Ministry of External Affairs to Kabul in June 2022, New Delhi operationalised a technical mission in the country to facilitate and monitor the delivery of aid. This ad hoc, reluctant engagement has now metastasised into a tacit acceptance of the inevitability of grappling with the reality of the Taliban.

The Dubai Meeting

At the beginning of this year, the Indian Foreign Secretary met Muttaqi in Dubai - the first high-level engagement between the two sides. The meeting saw a discussion over a broad spectrum of issues between the two countries - from humanitarian and development assistance to the importance of the Chabahar port for the purposes of trade and delivery of aid. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs under the Taliban defined India as a key 'economic and regional player' in their statement. After the terrorist attack in Pahalgalam in April, a delegation led by India's Joint Secretary in the PAI division also met Muttaqi. This was followed by a telephonic conversation between the Indian External Affairs Minister and Muttaqi, where India expressed gratitude for the Taliban's condemnation of the attacks in Pahalgalam. The January meeting between Misri and Muttaqi came in the backdrop of Pakistan's air-strikes in Afghanistan the previous month and New Delhi's condemnation of the same, while the April meeting and the consequent call happened in the context of the Pahalgalam terror attack and India's retaliatory strikes on Pakistan under Operation Sindoor. The Taliban had condemned the attack and spoken against how it had an adverse impact on regional peace and stability. The deterioration of ties between Pakistan and Afghanistan has consequently given India more space to engage with the Taliban.



Analysis - Bihar 2025: The Poll That Could Turn On 6,300 Votes

The latest Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of Bihar's electoral roll has concluded with a significant reduction of 51 lakh voters, amounting to a 6% drop from the rolls as of May 2025. In comparison, the previous SIR conducted between 2002 and 2003 led to a sharper 14% reduction in eligible voters. However, that exercise was spread over a longer period and occurred between two elections, not immediately before one. As a result, the revelation that more than one in ten voters were either ineligible or non-existent did not spark the kind of debate we're witnessing today. A detailed analysis of the electoral impact of both revisions offers a trove of insights into why this current exercise could significantly shape the upcoming election outcome.

Historical Benchmarks and Electoral Shifts

Working on an analysis that benchmarks all elections since the 2000 Bihar Assembly election tracks the reduction in voter numbers, turnout trends, and electoral outcomes. The first election after the 2002-03 revision was held in February 2005. The voter count had dropped



from approximately 6 crore to 5.26 crore. The result was a hung assembly, with the UPA led by Lalu Prasad Yadav struggling to retain power. By October 2005, the voter count further declined to 5.13 crore under the vigilant oversight of Election Commissioner KJ Rao. This election delivered a clear majority to the NDA, which won 143 of the 243 seats. Interestingly, as long as the absolute number of voters remained below the pre-SIR benchmark of 2000, the NDA maintained its dominance. The 2010 election was a landslide for the NDA. While many contextual factors influenced these outcomes, the correlation with voter count benchmarks is hard to ignore. However, as voter numbers began inching

back toward the 2000 levels, the NDA's grip weakened. In 2015, they lost. In 2020, they scraped through with a razor-thin margin - just 0.03% of the vote. While factors like the LJP's role and Nitish Kumar's shifting alliances were critical, one unmistakable pattern emerged: lower voter counts tend to favour BJP-led alliances. This seems to be an implicit understanding shared by both the BJP and its rivals.

Why This SIR Matters More

If the current SIR reduced voters by 6%, that is less than the 14% reduction of the previous one, why does it feel more consequential?

A microscopic look at the 2020 results reveals the answer. The NDA won the state by a margin of just

11,150 votes, narrower than the margin in many individual assembly seats. Had just 12 seats swung the other way, Bihar would have had a different Chief Minister.

In fact, only 6,292 voters across those 12 seats needed to vote differently to change the outcome. That's what makes this SIR so pivotal. Even a few hundred ineligible or non-existent voters could tip the balance in multiple constituencies. The average margin across the state was 16,832 votes, or roughly 10%. Yet the distribution of support for both the ruling party and the opposition was so evenly spread that small shifts could have led to dramatically different results.

The Jan Suraj Factor and Caste Dynamics

Adding to the complexity is the emergence of Prashant Kishor's Jan Suraj Party, which is expected to cut across caste lines and appeal to a broad voter base.

This new entrant could disrupt traditional voting patterns and further fragment the vote. A parallel can be drawn with Maharashtra's 2024 Lok Sabha election, where the NDA and the Congress-led

alliance were separated by just 0.5% in vote share. Despite the narrow margin, the NDA suffered a decisive defeat. However, the NDA's women-centric welfare schemes, especially the Ladli Bahin initiative, helped them break caste barriers and reach deeper into the electorate than ever before. This experience has likely informed the NDA's strategy in Bihar, where they hope to replicate that success and appeal beyond traditional caste lines, much like Jan Suraj aims to do.

A New Political Landscape

A serious attempt to triangulate Bihar's politics, long after the CPI(ML) and Left Front ceased to be major players. The rise of younger leaders in RJD and Jan Suraj, while the BJP banks on a coalition of EBC (Extremely Backward Class) leaders. rgest pre-election outreach to women voters in Bihar's history. It's a heady mix-new players, shifting alliances, and a finely balanced electorate. Many years ago, a state tourism department used the tagline "Full of Surprises." Today, that phrase perfectly captures the mood of Bihar's 2025 election.

Happy to see Indian girls coming up in golf,' says India's first ever female golfer

Among the longest hitters, at 25 years of age, this girl has been wowing golfing fans across the world. Her straight hits cover much ground, leaving onlookers agape. For world no. 41, Aditi Ashok, who has had a spectacular run in the 2023 LET, opens with a much-cherished win on European soil, winning the Ladies Open 2023 season-ending tournament at the Andalucia Costa Del Sol Open (Spain). It's total surrender to the game: she won her fourth Ladies European Tour title at the Kenya Ladies Open, came third in Morocco, and was runner-up in Saudi Arabia (2023). Scratch the calm demeanour, and there is a girl with a plan who wants to hit straighter and longer. Golf consumes her. She recently

reconnected with her childhood coach, Gaurav Diwan, and is "working on my swing speed and distance". From those early years, she turned pro in 2016 and was also rookie of the year, and Ashok is the first Indian female golfer to enter the top 50 world ranking. On a journey that began at age five, she accompanied her father, Ashok Gudlamani, onto the Karnataka Golf Course in Bangalore. One swing and another, and soon she was hooked. Over the years, her resolve, passion, and stoic stance have seen her climb deftly along the ranks of ladies' golf. Putting, she believes, is her strength, and often birdie-ing to perfection, the ramrod straight serious girl with her lips pursed in concentration has beaten

men, trumped tournaments, and is eyeing 2024 as the greens promise victories ahoy. "Finishing in the top 5 in Spain has been heartening after the work I have put in. It has been completely different when compared to where I was in 2022. Then, I was ranked 99 at the LPG. So, the first win (in Kenya) got the ball rolling," smiles Aditi. A miss at the 2020 Olympics (she came fourth), a silver at the Asian Games 2023, she dug deep after an off-kilter season. Having crossed the finish line with wins, she feels failure teaches, victories not so much. "In August, I took a month or two off to prepare for the Asian Games. Even though it had no ranking points and had nothing to do with my LPGA.

Ladakh Needs A Healing Hand, Not Divisive Politics - An IAF Officer's Plea

A most unwanted event occurred on the crown of India's map last month. This opinion piece is a cry to all, who mean well by India, to bury the hatchet that has brought turmoil to the most peace-loving but hardy group of people, and to one of the most serene real estate that India possesses - Leh, where one cannot move a step without being greeted by absolute strangers with their lyrical greeting - 'Juley'. One day in August 1978, I, a young Flying Officer, took 'lift' in an An-12 from Chandigarh to Leh for a month-long Chetak helicopter detachment. That began an association with that remote frontier through many flying detachments for the next four years, then in the mid-'90s for two-and-a-half years as a Commanding Officer, followed by many short visits in the next two decades. Leh grew on me, as it has on almost all Indian Army and Air Force personnel who has had the privilege of being stationed in the Ladakh sector. Can I apportion my feelings on many, if not most of the thousands of uniformed men and women who have been stationed there? I think I can, judging from the out-



pouring of bewilderment, grief and angst in social media by veterans after the violent happenings on September 24, when a protest turned violent and four Ladakhis were killed in police firing. The Ladakhis are simple folks who go about working in the limited summer months to stock up on money, food and livestock for the bitterly cold winters when temperatures drop to minus 30 degrees and below. The harsh and punishing environment has made them rugged and tough to endure hardships that are difficult for others to even imagine. They are literally the backbone of the security forces, too, up in those dizzy environs. Pick up the photo of May 24, 1948, when Air Cmde 'Baba' Mehar Singh landed his Dakota on the makeshift kutcha runway and opened up Leh for the Army to move in and throw back Pakistani raiders; what one would see are village folks who had

constructed the runway, crowding around the Dakota aircraft. Or, pictures of the making of airfields at Chushul, Fukche and Thoise, which show the locals toiling on their haunches to level the ground with hands, shovels and hand-pulled rollers. In the '70s and '80s, we would swoop low in our helicopter upon spotting an Army patrol moving on foot along the Shyok river valley to reach Daulat Beg Oldie (DBO) and Track Junction posts on the China border; on waving to the Ladakhis who manned these mule convoys - sometimes Yaks, too - they would cheerfully respond. It took us 90 minutes of flying to reach DBO from Leh - they, however, endured around two weeks of march. And the wars. There is not one conflict in independent India that has not seen the Ladakhis give their life for the nation. Take Colonel Chewang Rinchen (twice awarded Maha Vir Chakra.

Nitish Kumar Is Still The 'X' Factor In Bihar - And NDA Knows It

With poll dates announced in Bihar, election fever has gripped the state once again. As the political landscape heats up, one question dominates conversations across teashops and television debates alike: is Nitish Kumar still the X-factor that determines electoral outcomes in Bihar? The answer, it appears, is far more complex than a simple yes or no.

A Kingmaker's Legacy

Nitish Kumar's political career presents an impressive track record that few can match. Whichever party he has allied

with has tasted victory in Bihar - the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in 2005 and 2019, the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) in 2015, and the BJP again in 2020. This remarkable streak has earned him the reputation of being Bihar's ultimate kingmaker, who has donned the hat of King for almost 20 years - a leader whose support can swing the entire electoral arithmetic in favour of his chosen partner. His political strength rests on a carefully cultivated vote bloc comprising Kurmi-Koeri communities (7%), Hindu

Backward Classes (EBCs, at 26%) Mahadalits, and Womenfolk. These constituencies have remained largely loyal to him through various political upheavals, drawn by his relatively clean image and development-focused governance.

Development Agenda

Nitish Kumar's governance model has been distinctly welfare-oriented, particularly focusing on women's empowerment and marginalised communities. His flagship schemes like Jeevika Didi, cycle distribution for school

girls, and the controversial prohibition policy have become defining features of his political legacy. He introduced 20% reservation for EBCs in local bodies and pushed women's representation in panchayats to 50% - moves that significantly expanded political participation among previously under-represented groups. In what is termed his last innings, Nitish has opened the budget purse wide, launching a slew of schemes targeting women, youth, senior citizens, farmers, and laborers.

Google under CCI investigation over gaming firm complaint

Delhi: India's Google regulatory issues are growing. In 2022, the Competition Commission of India (CCI) fined the US tech giant for abuse of dominant position in its Play Store and Android mobile device ecosystem. Now, the fairplay regulator is investigating a complaint filed by gaming company WinZO. CCI directed its investigation arm to investigate and report within 60 days after finding a prima facie case. "Based on the facts and circumstances of the case, the commission believes Google is in violation and justifies further inquiry. The CCI bench, chaired by Ravneet Kaur and three members, ordered the director general to investigate. A Google spokesman declined to comment. WinZO, an online gaming company, claimed that Google's Play Store prohibits Real Money Game hosting. "Due to Google's unreasonable and



restrictive policy, all apps offering real money games of skill are only available for download from their website (a process called sideloading)," it told CCI. On Android devices, using this process to reach WinZO displays a disclaimer/warning, tarnishing its image. WinZO stated warnings are without validity and "completely illegal" and cost the company. It also claimed Google displays another "baseless warning" when users pay for skill-based games. "Such payment warnings are arbitrary as Google has not set any criteria for displaying them," WinZO complained to CCI.

US retailers utilize Trump tariff threats to boost sales

Delhi: Local media stated that many US businesses are advising clients to buy now before President-elect Donald Trump's proposed tariffs hike prices. Trump threatened 60% tariffs on all Chinese goods and 10% to 20% tariffs on other goods during his campaign. He announced plans to impose 25% tariffs on Mexican and Canadian imports and 10% on Chinese imports. According to Xinhua,

The Union government wants 100% FDI in insurance

Delhi: The Union Finance Ministry proposed raising the insurance sector's FDI ceiling from 74% to 100% in a consultation paper. The insurance FDI limit was raised from 49% to 74% in February 2021. The government said the proposal to alter insurance legislation will make insurance more affordable, grow the insurance industry, and streamline corporate operations.

An office memorandum dated November 26 proposed lifting the FDI ceiling in Indian insurance businesses from 74% to 100% and



allowing insurers to conduct one or more kinds of insurance business and associated or incidental operations. The suggestion also cut foreign reinsurers' Net Owned Funds from Rs 5,000 crore to Rs 1,000 crore. IRDAI can also set lesser entry capital (Rs 50 crore) for underserved or unserved regions on

a case-by-case basis. The sector regulator is trying to increase capital in this capital-intensive industry. The Chairman of IRDAI suggests that the insurance market requires 50,000 crore yearly to double penetration in the country. Insurance penetration is the ratio of annual premiums issued to GDP.

Gold loans rise 50% in seven months

Delhi: Bank loans against gold jewelry rose 50.4% in the first seven months of the year. Despite single-digit growth in every other personal loan area, credit rose sharply. RBI issued sectoral deployment of bank credit Gold loans totaled Rs 1,02,562 crore in March 2024. Growth was 56% year-over-year, up from

13% in October 2023. NBFCs' move and a preference for secured loans over unsecured ones contributed to the first-seven-month gold loan surge, bankers said. Bank loans to NBFCs fell 0.7% to Rs 1.5 lakh crore in the first seven months. Bankers also said that rising gold prices allow borrowers to repay previous loans

and get higher new ones. Analysts see rising gold loan demand as an indication of financial instability. RBI ordered banks and financial companies to review and fix their gold loan rules and procedures within three months last month. After an examination, evergreening was found to hide bad loans.

TRAI deadline may prevent Jio, Vi, and Airtel subscribers from receiving OTPs

Delhi: As Airtel, Vodafone-Idea, and Reliance Jio struggle to reach a crucial Telecom Regulatory Authority of India deadline, Indian mobile subscribers may experience OTP delays. The telecom watchdog extended the deadline for spam and phishing traceability requirements to December 1, 2024. Telecom companies must now track all commercial messages, including OTPs, to combat fraud. Telecom companies can block scams by identifying message sources. However, missing this deadline could delay or prohibit OTPs, harming banking, e-commerce, and social networking. The TRAI imple-



"The TRAI implementation timeframe is phased. Operators will notify chain declaration violators daily until November 30. All non-compliant messages will be prohibited starting December 1"

mentation timeframe is phased. Operators will notify chain declaration violators daily until November 30. All non-compliant messages will be prohibited starting December 1.

A former employee being sued by Google India for disclosing Pixel secrets

Delhi: Google and its subsidiary in India filed a lawsuit in the US against former Bengaluru office employee Harshit Roy for revealing trade secrets that were considered confidential. In order to prevent Roy from further disseminating the stolen trade secrets that had irreparably harmed Google, Google hired an outside investigator to find him. Among the information that was revealed were comprehensive specifications of proprietary hardware.

New Honda Amaze Variants and Top Features



Delhi: India will launch the third-generation Amaze on December 4, 2024, and unofficial bookings have begun. The car is arriving at dealer yards nationwide ahead of its much-anticipated launch. It will rival the new Maruti Suzuki Dzire, Tata Tigor, and Hyundai Aura. The 2025 Honda Amaze will come in three variants—V, VX, and ZX—with many interior and exterior changes. Since its inception in India over a decade ago, the Amaze has been a popular sedan. Several new features and technolo-

gies will be added. The top model will have a floating touchscreen infotainment system with wireless Apple CarPlay and Android Auto connectivity, automatic climate control, ADAS technology, six airbags, reversing camera, wireless smartphone charger, multi-functional steering wheel with mount-

ed controls, rear AC vents, dual cup holders, type-c charging ports, and more. However, an electric sunroof, motorized seats, and 360-degree camera will be missing. It will keep its 1.2L four-cylinder VTEC naturally aspirated petrol engine, which produces 90 PS, and no major mechanical alterations.

French energy giant Total puts Adani Gp investments on hold

Delhi: Total Energies, a French oil company, has suspended investments in Adani Group entities pending the conclusion of US bribery allegations against its founder. The Paris-based company, which owns key investments in Adani Group's renewable energy and gas distribution operations, said it was unaware of the US solar power corruption inquiry. "Total Energies rejects corruption in any form," it declared. "This indictment does not target Adani Green Energy (AGEL) itself, nor any AGEL-related companies." Total Energies claimed it learned about Gautam Adani's and others' indictment from US public pronouncements. Gautam Adani, his nephew



and Adani Green Energy executive director Sagar Adani, and others are accused of a \$265m bribery scam. Total Energies bought 19.7% of Adani Green Energy in January 2021. It invested \$444 million in an equal joint venture with the Indian company to acquire three 1,150MW operational renewable assets in September. Additionally, it owns 37.4% of Adani Total Gas, which supplies CNG to cars and natural gas to homes.

NBCC India will buy sick PSUs and redevelop land banks

Delhi: Two sources say NBCC India Ltd. wants to buy defunct public sector undertakings (PSUs) to redevelop and monetize their land. The state-run construction company wants to leverage its success in developing land for government-owned companies. Developer is in talks to acquire non-operational PSUs through a new entity to monetize their land banks. Details are not yet

Cabinet's 30k cr bank guarantee relief for telcos

Delhi: Government sources claimed the Union Cabinet has agreed in principle to waive bank guarantee requirements for telecom companies' deferred spectrum payments, but with strict conditions. The waiver will require telcos to pay three months' instalments in addition to their annual fees. Sources said the government will give up its right to collect Rs 30,000 crore in bank guarantees upfront. The Cabinet waived the requirement for telcos to buy spectrum in six auctions between 2012 and 2022. Spectrum auction regulations from 2022 and 2024 removed the necessity. Airtel and Jio would guarantee Rs 2,300 crore and Rs 4,000 crore. Vodafone Idea (Vi) spectrum auction moratorium ends in October 2025. Current



"Vi was accused of not paying its second bank guarantee of Rs 350 crore for spectrum purchased in a 2012 auction. November 1 was the payment deadline"

rules required the corporation to file bank guarantees 13 months before the next payment due date. The DoT requested bank guarantees from Vi for the September 2025 spectrum payment of Rs 24,747 crore. The DoT also asked the finance ministry to exempt operators from bank guarantees for spectrum payments. The waiver should help Vi. Telco shares

increased 7.8% intraday to Rs 7.53. After opening higher, Airtel shares fell 0.1% to Rs 1,577. Vi was accused of not paying its second bank guarantee of Rs 350 crore for spectrum purchased in a 2012 auction. November 1 was the payment deadline. Vi skipped the payment of about Rs 4,600 crore in 2016 auction guarantees two months earlier.

Tgana rejects Adani's 100-cr contribution

Delhi: Telangana chief minister A Revanth Reddy announced that the state government will not accept the 100 crore CSR donation from the Adani Group for the Young India Skills University in Ranga Reddy district, citing current circumstances and controversies. We thank you for committing 100 crore to

Young India Skills University on behalf of your Foundation via letter. We have not sought donors for physical transfers of monies since the university did not acquire the IT exemption under section 80G, Ranjan wrote. The official added that he was "instructed by the chief minister not to seek the transfer of funds in view of the present circumstances and arising controversies". According to the US Department of Justice indictment, Adani executives and Azure Power executives bribed Indian government officials in five states to win solar energy supply contracts worth over \$2 billion over 20 years between 2020 and 2024. The scam purportedly started in Odisha and spread to Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Chhattisgarh, and Jammu & Kashmir. The Telangana chief minister said everyone may lawfully invest, despite accusations that the state government accepted Adani Group funding. Reddy said Congress leader Gandhi has stated that the company that wins the bids according to the regulations will invest.





Goodbye, Jailor Saab

The veteran actor, who passed away on Monday, will be seen in 2 major movies in 2026



Veteran actor-director Govardhan Asrani, popularly known as Asrani, passed away on Monday around 4 PM in Mumbai after a prolonged illness. His sudden demise has come as a shock to the Bollywood industry, especially since the actor had shared Diwali 2025 wishes on his Instagram story earlier in the day.

Asrani's last rites performed at Santacruz crematorium

The actor's last rites were performed earlier today at the Santacruz Crematorium, where Asrani's family and close friends gathered to pay their respects.

Asrani did not want any commotion following his death

According to India TV, Asrani's manager Babubhai Thiba shared that the actor had been unwell for some time. Furthermore, reports suggested that the veteran actor did not want any commotion following his demise and had instructed his wife, Manju Asrani, not to announce the news publicly. As a result, the family performed his last rites quietly, without any formal announcement. Asrani, who was originally a resident of Jaipur, Rajasthan, appeared in over 350 Hindi films.

The actor was best known for his role as the jailer in Sholay. He later starred in several hit films, including Bhool Bhulaiyaa, Dhamaal, Bunty Aur Babli 2, R... Rajkumar, All The Best, and Welcome, among others.

Born on January 1, 1941, into a Sindhi

Hindu family in Jaipur, Asrani began learning acting under Sahitya Kalbhai Thakkar from 1960 to 1962. Later, he moved to Mumbai to pursue acting, and after an accidental meeting with Kishore Sahu and Hrishikesh Mukherjee, they advised him to train professionally.

He trained at the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), Pune, where he honed his craft before entering the Hindi film industry in the mid-1960s.

Asrani's work also extended to Gujarati cinema, where he played lead roles from 1972 to 1984 and transitioned to character roles from 1985 to 2012.

Asrani's family issues first statement

Now, Asrani's family has issued their first statement on his Instagram handle after his passing, expressing that his loss brings them deep sorrow. The statement

read, "The news of the passing of the king of laughter, the great actor Asrani Ji, who ruled millions of hearts, has left us all in deep sorrow. With his unique acting, simplicity, and humor, he gave Indian cinema a new identity. The life he breathed into every character will forever remain alive in our memories."

"His departure is not just a loss for the film industry, but for every person who ever smiled at his performances. We pray to God to grant peace to his soul," read the statement.

While the caption read, "Our beloved Asrani Ji, who brought smiles to everyone's faces, is no longer with us. His departure is an irreparable loss for both Hindi cinema and our hearts. The indelible mark he left with his acting will remain immortal. May God grant peace to his soul. Om Shanti."



PM's message

Prime Minister Narendra Modi took to X (Twitter) to mourn the demise of veteran actor Asrani. He tweeted, "Deeply saddened by the passing of Shri Govardhan Asrani Ji. A gifted entertainer and a truly versatile artist, he entertained audiences across generations. He particularly added joy and laughter to countless lives through his unforgettable performances."

"His contribution to Indian cinema will always be cherished. My condolences to his family and admirers. Om Shanti," he further wrote.



CM's condolence message

"Asrani was synonymous with wholesome entertainment. His passing is a major loss to the film industry," Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis said in his condolence message. Asrani's performances, whether in comic, stylish or content-driven roles, always struck a chord with audiences, he added.

His powerful and lively acting made every role memorable, and his portrayal of the jailer in Sholay became immortal, the CM said in his tribute. He noted that Asrani's contributions to Hindi cinema and the performing arts were significant and widely recognised through several prestigious awards.

"His demise is a great loss to Hindi cinema, his admirers, and his family. We share their grief and pray that God gives them the strength to bear this loss," the CM added.

Will be seen in two movies in 2026

While he is no more, we will get to watch Asrani in two big films in 2026, Bhooth Bangla and Haiwaan. Akshay Kumar, who has worked with him in many films, took to X (Twitter) to reveal that Asrani will be seen in his unreleased movies, Bhooth Bangla and Haiwaan.

Akshay tweeted, "Speechless with grief at the passing of Asrani ji. We had just shared the warmest of hugs just a week back at the shoot of Haiwaan. Bahot pyare insaan the...he had the most legendary comic timing. From all my cult films Hera Pheri to Bhagam Bhag to De Dana Dan, Welcome and now our unreleased Bhoot Bangla and Haiwaan..."

"I had worked and learned so much from him. What an absolute loss to our industry. God bless you Asrani Sir, for giving us a million reasons to laugh. Om Shanti," he further wrote.

Hera Pheri, Bhagam Bhag, and De Dana Dan



were all directed by Priyadarshan, and even Bhooth Bangla and Haiwaan are helmed by the filmmaker.

Too many 'hooks' spoil the broth for this one!

TITLE: *Thamma*

DIRECTOR: Aditya Sarpotdar

CAST: Ayushmann Khurrana, Rashmika Mandanna, Paresh Rawal, Nawazuddin Siddiqui, Faisal Malik, Rachit Singh, Geeta Agarwal

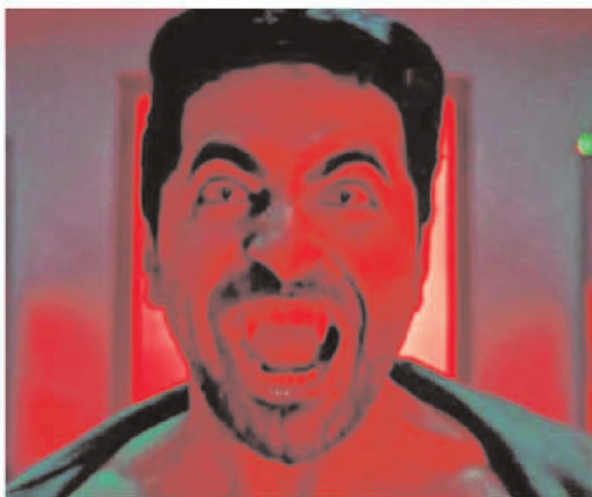
WHERE: In theatres.

RATING: ★★

After the sweeping success of Stree and Stree 2, all the eyes are now glued onto the B-O performance of the 'genesis film' Thamma, the latest instalment in Maddock Films' menu. Will it be served hot at the B-O or will it get a cold shoulder... let's find out!

The film starts off with 323 BC when we are introduced to an ancestral Yakshasana (Nawazuddin Siddiqui), who has been imprisoned for many years. This is followed by the introduction of Alok Goyal (Ayushmann Khurrana), a journalist by profession. In a quest to find 'non-meme' worthy news, he lands up in a jungle, where he meets Tadaka (Rashmika Mandanna), a rule-abiding 'betaal'. In due course of time, she falls in love with him, while he is unaware of her actuality.

This is then followed by a



series of twists and turns in the film which eventually culminate in an unexpected twist that is 'expected' to sweep the audiences off the floor!

Actors' performance

The film is a failed attempt to ride on the 'tried and tested' shoulders of Ayushmann Khurrana. Even though he has proved himself with each passing film, but, in the case of Thamma, the script fails him miserably. In an attempt to glorify his antics as a superhero, the film's narrative fails him very badly. This is followed by Rashmika Mandanna whose talent is wasted as well and in equal proportion.

The most shocking element of the film is in the form of Nawazuddin Siddiqui, who, in an attempt to look fierce, lands up looking caricatured! A sheer waste of seamless talent! Ditto for the veteran actor Paresh Rawal. When the leading stars of the film get failed by the film's narrative, there is hardly anything that the supporting cast can do!

The film has been directed by Aditya Sarpotdar, the very man who enthralled the audience with his previous blockbusters Munjya and Kakuda. With Thamma in his basket, just as when one thought he would achieve a hat trick of horror series, he gets clean bowled! Even

though he is an experienced hand in horror comedy, Thamma's haywire script fails to bring the 'hit director' in him. Even the cameo by Varun Dhawan fails to save this sinking ship.

Amongst everything, what shines is the film's music and the background music, both composed by Sachin-Jigar. Another shining aspect of the film is its stellar cinematography (Vijay A. Ganguly, Jani Master, Shekhar Master, Ranju Varghese).

The film's editing (Hemanti Sarkar) really needs to be worked upon. Scenes like 'keh doon tumhe', Alok's introduction

before the tribe and a bunch of other scenes can simply be deleted without any second thought. With this, the film's narrative could have been more bearable and believable.

FPJ Verdict

With Stree and Stree 2 being blockbusters, one expected these films to pave the smooth entry for Thamma. Because of the film's vfx and Diwali holidays, one can expect the film to do brisk business. But, eventually the real test will start after the holidays.



FILM REVIEWS

Pyaar, nafraat aur power ka tamasha hai yei

TITLE: *Ek Deewane Ki Deewaniyat*

DIRECTOR: Milap Zaveri

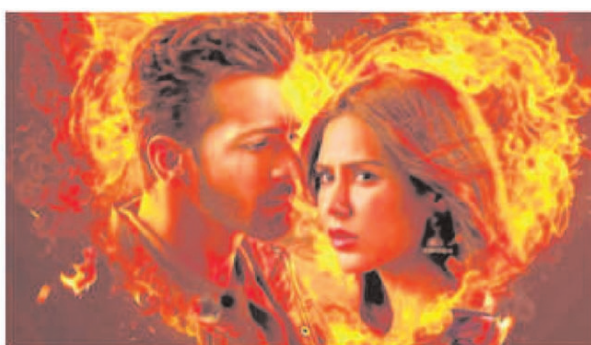
CAST: Harshvardhan Rane, Sonam Bajwa, Shaad Randhawa, Sachin Khedekar, Anant Mahadevan

WHERE: In theatres.

RATING: ★★★

In Ek Deewane Ki Deewaniyat, love is frothily intense, heady with melodrama, and often teetering on the edge of reason. Director Milap Zaveri serves up what can best be described as an over-brewed cocktail of obsession, politics, and passion; equal parts entertaining and exasperating. The result is a film that oscillates between brooding intensity and theatrical excess.

Vikramaditya Bhonsle (Harshvardhan Rane), the entitled heir to a political dynasty, falls headlong for Aada (Sonam Bajwa), a woman whose idea of love involves consent and sanity, two virtues our hero finds rather inconvenient. What follows is a heady mix of junoon, mild jealousy, and self-justified madness. It's pyaar, nafraat aur power ka tamasha. Only the ta-



masha sometimes drowns out the pyaar.

To Zaveri's credit, the film avoids mirroring the toxicity that often masquerades as passion; the hero's sincerity pulls it through. Yet, the storytelling falters under its own melodramatic weight. Every emotion arrives at full volume, every argument feels choreographed, and the authenticity that might have elevated the film remains missing. The final act stretches patience thin, testing not love's endurance but the audience's.

Nevertheless, the narrative flirts with the spectacularly implausible, though never with the dull. Even when the plot stretches credulity, the visual sheen and lofty dialogues keep you watching, if only to see how far the madness will go.

Actors' Performance

Harshvardhan Rane throws himself into the role with ferocious energy, sometimes too

much of it. His Vikramaditya is less the swaggering heir of a political dynasty and more a desperate lover clawing for affection. Behind the clenched jaws and smouldering eyes lies a man pleading to be loved. Rane brings conviction to the mania, but the writing denies him the quieter shades that might have made his yearning more affecting than exhausting. Sonam Bajwa's Aada, on the other hand, is the emotional fulcrum that tries to steady the chaos. She is luminous in moments of quiet defiance and delivers her lines with restraint, even when the film's tone goes operatic.

Shaad Randhawa as Sawant Bhai, the loyal right-hand man, gets a few sharp scenes and makes the most of them. Sachin Khedekar as Vikramaditya's father and Anant Mahadevan as Aada's father lend gravitas to a film otherwise consumed by its own dramatic excess.

Music and Aesthetics

The film's music, a multi-composer effort, serves the narrative without quite standing out. The songs are lushly produced and work as background mood-setters, but few linger once the credits roll. You might find yourself admiring the production design instead, which swings between Sanjay Leela Bhansali's grandeur and Anurag Kashyap's grit, sometimes within the same sequence.

The cinematography captures both opulence and decay, framing broken hearts with equal flourish. The political backrooms look suitably shadowed. Yet, the film's over-polished aesthetic occasionally makes the drama feel staged rather than lived.

FPJ Verdict

This film attempts to be a tragic romance but ultimately becomes a well-meaning melodrama that confuses intensity for depth. Still, it has moments that glimmer: a line here, a performance there, and the occasional truth about power and male entitlement peeking through the gloss.

Overall, this is neither a film to despise nor one to deify. It's a polished tamasha, over-spiced, over-greased, but intermittently entertaining. Watch it for its audacious sincerity, if not its storytelling sanity.

SBI plans to raise a Rs 45,000 crore in a mix of stock

Delhi : Capital markets are expected to generate Rs 45,000 crore for the biggest lender in the nation, SBI. This week, the largest equity issue of its sort in the Indian market will occur, with Rs 25,000 crore coming through a qualified institutional placement (QIP). The issue would dilute equity by 3.3% at the present market valuation of around Rs 7.4 lakh crore. Following shareholder approval on June 13 and board approval on May 3, the bank started the share sale. In accordance with the SBI Act and its General Regulations, the shares will be issued having a face value of Re 1. Up until now, the



biggest equity fundraising under QIP has been Coal India's 2015 Rs 22,560 crore offering. When fully subscribed, SBI's placement will surpass this. The offer's floor price, determined using Sebi's pricing formula, is Rs 811.05 per share. This amount can be reduced by as much as 5% by the bank. The book-running lead managers will be consulted to decide the ultimate pricing.

The PM SHRI Institute

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

Stricter bad loan policy cuts Axis Bank profit 4%.

Delhi : A steep surge in provisions lowered Axis Bank's net profit to Rs 5,806 crore in the quarter ended June 2025, down 4%. The bank described a one-time accounting adjustment as a "technical impact" or internal recalibration of their poor credit categorization, which increased provisions. This modification affected cash credit, overdraft, and one-time cleared accounts, causing Rs 2,709 crore in slippages. That alone prompted Rs 821 crore in provisions. Without this,



quarter provisions would have been Rs 3,127 crore instead of Rs 3,948 crore. The bank called this hit a "prudential application" of regulatory standards, not a decrease in asset quality. Gross non-performing assets rose 29

basis points quarter-on-quarter to 1.57% after the policy change. Net NPAs rose 12 basis points to 0.45%. A technical recalibration hurt headline profit, while revenue, loan book, and fee income grew more evenly.

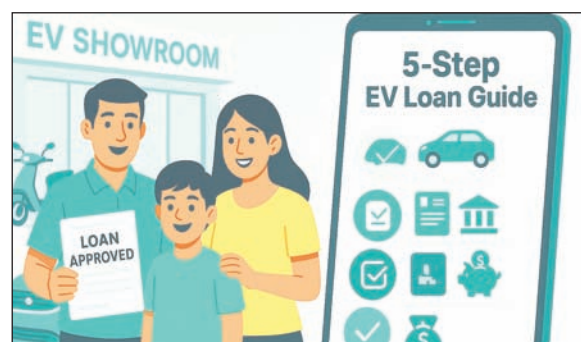
RIL makes record profit amid oil decline, sets clean energy outlook

Delhi : India's most valuable company, Reliance Industries Ltd., surpassed predictions to register a strong increase in revenue and profit for the April-June quarter, driven by better telecoms and retail profitability despite crude-based difficulties. Profits from its Asian

Paints disposal also boosted the bottom line. According to an investor presentation, Reliance's new energy business's production plants—which will drive its growth over the next decade—are being commissioned quickly. The new energy business would create solar mod-

ules, generate clean electricity from them, use electrons to run data centres, and make hydrogen, ammonia, and aviation fuel. Reliance did not provide timescales. Reliance Industries' oil-to-chemicals (O2C) business's operating profit fell in the first quarter.

Modern electric vehicle lenders ramp up battery loans



Delhi: When early indicators of scale appear in an industry that was previously considered too specialized or hazardous for institutional investors, a slew of new companies and financiers are changing the way electric commercial vehicles (EVs) are financed in India. Financing arrangements are being adjusted by lenders to accommodate the economics of electric vehicles and the credit realities of small business operators. This includes models such as first-loss guarantee partnerships, flexible EMIS, and battery subscription models. Modern methods are now able to meet the unique requirements of EVs. Battery subscriptions are offered by some lenders. Instead of paying for the entire cost of the battery up front, purchasers pay for it as they use it, similar to fuel. For driver-owners whose wages are unpredictable, there are options that offer adjustable EMIs that change depending on how much the car is used. Another way that startups are collaborating with NBFCs is through first-loss guarantee (FLDG) structures. This allows startups to de-risk lending to consumers without formal credit records by covering a percentage of the defaults. When it comes to financing electric vehicle chassis and batteries, VidyutTech is in the vanguard. Oil is a running cost for internal combustion engine vehicles. The battery, however, is essentially prepaid gasoline in an electric vehicle, accounting for 30–40% of the total cost.

A parliamentary committee on the income tax bill supports the expedited settlement of tax disputes

Delhi : In its 285 recommendations on the proposed legislation to streamline and update tax regulations, a parliamentary committee that reviewed the Income Tax Bill, 2025, Delhi, argued that litigation should have a deadline. On the opening day of Parliament's monsoon session (July 21), the IT Bill was reviewed by a select committee of the Lok Sabha presided over by BJP leader Baijayant Panda. The committee then adopted a report outlining the proposed law. Our team has put out 285 suggestions. Nearly two hundred fifty have been approved by the government. Huge improvements have transpired, as can be seen in the case of



refunds, but we have stated that tax litigations should not drag and that there should be time-bound settlement," a panel member added. The majority of the legislative panel's suggestions on the Income Tax Bill, 2025 were of a "corrective" character, according to one of its mem-

bers. The document's size has been reduced from 850 pages to 600 pages as a result of the simplification efforts. Simplifying the wording and structure of the IT Act 1961 was the goal of the IT Bill, 2025, which was submitted in Parliament.

To simplify TDS refund provisions under Income Tax Bill 2025

Delhi : Even if their income is not taxable, taxpayers must file income tax returns to receive a refund for tax deducted at source. This criterion is apparently being simplified by the government. According to The Hindustan Times, taxpayers may be able to receive TDS refunds without completing ITRs by filling out a simple form. The Select Committee on the Income Tax Bill 2025 advised the administration, according to bill-related officials.

Delhi: In a regulatory filing, the state-run telecom giant MTNL announced that it has defaulted on loans totaling Rs 8,585 crore from seven public sector banks. The public sector telecom firm's overall debt liabilities reached Rs 34,484 crore as of June 30, 2025, according to the filing.

This included a bank loan of Rs 8,585 crore, a sovereign guarantee bond of Rs 24,071 crore, and a loan of Rs 1,828



crore from the DoT to cover the interest on the Sovereign Guarantee Bond. A sum of 3,733 crore INR, 2,434 crore INR, 1,121 crore INR, 474.7 crore Punjab National Bank, 363.4 crore State Bank of

India, 273.6 crore UCO Bank, and 184.8 crore Punjab & Sind Bank debts, plus principal and interest, make up the total amount of loans that have gone into default.

Tesla sets foot in India with Rs 61 lakh Model Y

Delhi: Tesla is finally here. The electric car giant run by Elon Musk opened its first India showroom in Mumbai's BKC. Musk had set his eyes on India since at least 2015, but high tariffs, limited flexibility, and charging infrastructure challenges, kept Tesla away from the country, which the company had described as a hard market. While bookings opened, deliveries of Model Y SUVs, prices for which start at Rs 61-lakh on-road (500km range), will begin in Oct. A 'long-range' (622km) Model Y variant will be available from Jan 2026 with an on-road price tag of just over Rs 69 lakh. For context, BMW iX1 LWB electric SUV is priced at about Rs 51 lakh on-road, and Mercedes-Benz EQA electric SUV costs just over Rs 70 lakh. Users will have a simple 'plug and charge



SC recognizes firms as criminal victims

Delhi: The Supreme Court ruled that firms can be regarded "victims" under the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPc) and can appeal acquittals even if the state does not. This might profoundly change corporate rights in criminal litigation. Asian Paints Ltd. appealed a Rajasthan High Court ruling denying its right to dispute the acquittal of an individual convicted of selling counterfeit paint under its brand name. Justices Ahsanuddin Amanullah and Prashant Kumar Mishra approved the appeal. Whether the appellant is a 'victim' under Section 2(wa) and the provision to Section 372 of the CrPc is a significant legal question. This bench believes the High Court erred in ruling otherwise.

experience' with up to 267km range in superchargers adding 15 minutes.

Sources suggest Japan's SMBC wants RBI clearance for 4.9% more Yes Bank ownership

Delhi : Japan's Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation (SMBC) [RIC:RIC:SUM-FGI.UL] has sought approval from the Reserve Bank of India to acquire an additional 4.9% stake in India's Yes Bank (YESB.NS), bringing its total ownership to just under 25%, two sources told Reuters. Yes Bank disclosed in a stock exchange filing that SMBC bought a 20% share in the private lender for \$1.6 billion in May. Receive the latest Indian news and its global impact with the Reuters India File newsletter. Join here. The first source stated the RBI, India's central bank and banking regulator, is reviewing the transaction. Both sources declined to be identified due to transaction confidentiality. The additional pur-



Samsung may make India a US hub amid rising tariffs

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

chase's timeline was unknown to Reuters. Answers to Reuters' emails from Yes Bank and the RBI were delayed. On specific

deals, SMBC declined to comment. SMBC is considering a \$1.1 billion investment in Yes Bank for a 5% stake held by the U.S.

An amnesty program for overdue VAT taxes of 85,000 crore

Delhi : Resolving roughly ?85,000 crore in unpaid dues - mostly under the pre-GST Value Added Tax (VAT) regime - from before 2017, the long-awaited tax amnesty scheme is expected to be approved soon by the Delhi Cabinet. Over 300,000 traders from various sectors operating in Delhi will be encouraged to clear their long-pending tax bills through a scheme that is now being discussed at a high level. The scheme would offer large concessions on penalties and interest. The Trade and Taxes Department has presented a comprehensive plan detailing a framework for complete or partial waivers on penalties, interest, or both, according to a top source in the Delhi government's finance department. More than 85,000 crore is owed by over 300,000 merchants collectively. The government hopes to recoup half of this sum through the amnesty program. According to the official, it will increase tax revenue while also reducing the administration's legal load.

500 executive positions to be eliminated at Tata-owned Jaguar Land Rover

Delhi : Jaguar Land Rover (JLR), which is owned by Tata, will be laying off 500 managers in the UK as a result of falling profits and US tariffs. The automaker announced a 15.1% drop in retail sales and a 10.7% drop in wholesale sales for the three months ending June 30, 2025, on July 7. This is mainly due to JLR's stated intentions to halt shipments to the US in April 2025, after the implementation of US import taxes, and the planned retirement of older Jaguar models.

Scenarios: What Kaur-led India must do to reach Women's World Cup semifinals

● India's Women's World Cup campaign is hanging by a thread after another heart-wrenching defeat. Chasing 289 against England in Indore on Sunday

England's win secured them a semifinal spot, joining South Africa



Skipper Smriti Mandhana scored a commanding 88

Skipper Smriti Mandhana scored a commanding 88, while Harmanpreet Kaur contributed 70 and Deepti Sharma added 50. With India needing 56 runs off 54 balls and seven wickets in hand, the match appeared

while New Zealand, their main rival for the

under control. But England fought back brilliantly to clinch victory. Heather Knight's 109 off 91 balls, in her 300th international appearance, anchored England's total of 288/8, with Amy Jones contributing 56.

final semifinal place, also has four points but

SCENARIO 1 – WIN BOTH MATCHES

India beat New Zealand and Bangladesh. Result: India qualifies for the semifinals regardless of other outcomes.

SCENARIO 2 – LOSE TO NEW ZEALAND: India lose to New Zealand.

Then, India hope New Zealand lose their final match against England. India must beat Bangladesh to advance.

a lower net run-rate (-0.245). The defeat leaves India, co-hosts and pre-tournament favourites, on the brink of elimination, with their semifinal hopes dependent on the outcomes of the remaining two group matches. India will next face New Zealand on

SCENARIO 3 – WIN vs NEW ZEALAND, LOSE vs BANGLADESH:

India beat New Zealand but lose to Bangladesh. New Zealand must defeat England in their last match. The team with the better net run-rate (India or New Zealand) will progress. Against England, India looked in control for much of the chase.

Thursday, followed by their final group clash against Bangladesh on October 26. A win in both matches would guarantee India a semifinal berth. If they lose to New Zealand, India will need the Ferns to lose their final match against England and then beat Bangladesh.

Parvez Rasool bids farewell to cricket

Srinagar: Parvez Rasool, the first cricketer from Jammu and Kashmir to represent India and play in Indian Premier League (IPL), has announced his retirement from first-class cricket. "Today, with mixed emotions, I announce my retirement from professional cricket," the cricketer wrote on Facebook. The 36-year-old all-rounder from Bijbehara in south Kashmir told TOI that he informed the BCCI of his decision on Saturday, bringing



ing down the curtain on a 17-year domestic career. "It's been an incredible journey, one filled with dreams, hard work, joy, and countless memories that I will cherish forever, from local grounds to repre-

sending my team and my country," he said. He added that he will remain thankful to his family, coaches, teammates, and "fans for their love, trust, and constant support throughout this journey.

Ranji Trophy: Kerala's batting falterers under sombre skies

Kerala's Sanju Samson Thiruvananthapuram: Under brooding grey clouds that hovered over the Greenfield Stadium, Kerala's batting unravelled in a heap of unfulfilled promise, dismissed for 219 in response to Maharashtra's 239.

Pandya-Mahieka Sharma make it official? Their Diwali celebration wins the internet



Recently, the pair also celebrated Hardik's birthday with a beach getaway

lic outing immediately drew the attention of fans and paparazzi, with social media users calling them the "new power couple" of cricket and Bollywood. Photos and videos from the Diwali bash quickly went viral across platforms. Recently, the pair also celebrated Hardik's birthday with a beach getaway, glimpses of which Mahieka shared on her Instagram Stories. Their relationship first made headlines earlier this month when videos of them together at the Mumbai airport surfaced on October 10. Shortly after, Hardik posted an Instagram Story showing the two enjoying a quiet moment by the sea. Mahieka, who is seven years younger than Hardik, is a successful model known for her work with top brands like Tanishq, Vivo, and Uniqlo.

Virender Sehwag's Diwali social media post creates a stir: 'Where is...?'



Rumours are rife on social media that Virender Sehwag and his wife Aarti Ahlawat

couple of photos with sons Aaryavir and Vedant in her Instagram story. According to multiple reports, the couple are separated and have unfollowed each other on social media. Virender Sehwag and Aarti Ahlawat got married in 2004, and they have two sons together — Aaryavir, born in 2007, and Vedant, born in 2010. Virender Sehwag last shared a post with Aarti Ahlawat on April 28, 2023 — roughly 30 months ago. With rumours of Virender Sehwag and Aarti Ahlawat heading for divorce, this post has now gone viral on the internet. Rumours are rife on social media that Virender Sehwag and his wife Aarti Ahlawat are separating after 20 years of togetherness. However, both Virender and Aarti have remained silent.

Virender Sehwag's social media post on Diwali has created quite a stir among fans. The former India opener, who turned 47 on Monday, posted a photo with his two sons — Aaryavir Sehwag and Vedant Sehwag. Arti Sehwag's absence from the family photo has made fans curious. Sehwag posted on X and Instagram on the auspicious day of Diwali with the caption: "May you leave your sparkle wherever you go. Happy Deepawali." Sehwag Tweet Several fans commented, asking, "Where is your wife, Viru paji?" Meanwhile, Arti Sehwag posted a

The contribution is not ... ': Ravi Shastri's massive comment on Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli

"The contribution is not over two or three years. The contribution is over a decade"



NEW DELHI: Former India head coach Ravi Shastri, who guided Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli during their prime years, knows better than most how exceptional the two batters are — both at home and abroad, especially in Australian conditions. According to the ICC website, Shastri believes that the legendary duo would do nothing to diminish their legacy

by continuing their careers. Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma, Shubman Gill struggle as India falter in first ODI vs Australia "The contribution is not over two or three years. The contribution is over a decade, decade and a half in the case of Virat. It's massive and people don't forget that. And they've played

against some of the best bowlers that have been part of the game. It's special. Their legacy will remain. Whether they finish tomorrow or they finish the day after or whenever. That legacy will remain," Shastri said. Rohit and Kohli have retired from Tests and T20Is in the last 18 months, leaving

Rohit opened the innings alongside Shubman Gill

However, both endured a quiet outing with the bat — Rohit scoring 8 off 14 balls and Kohli departing for an eight-ball duck. Playing his 500th international match, Rohit opened the innings alongside Shubman Gill but edged one to the slips off Josh

ODI cricket as the only format they continue to represent India in. The pair made their much-anticipated return to international cricket.

Rishabh Pant recovers to be named captain of India A squad vs South Africa A

Other prominent names to look out for in the squad are India U-19 captain Ayush Mhatre



since picking up a toe injury during the tour of England. As a result he missed the home Tests against the West Indies and the ongoing

limited overs assignment in Australia. Earlier Pant was named in the Delhi Ranji Trophy squad to face Himachal

Pradesh, which is scheduled to take place on October 25 at the Arun Jaitley Stadium. But now with the first unofficial Test against South Africa on October 30, he may miss the domestic fixture. Pant sustained an injury on the England tour when a yorker from Chris Woakes struck his toe on the opening day of the Manchester Test. The

injury forced him to miss the final match of the five-Test series, which ended in a 2-2 draw between India and England. Since then, Pant has been under careful medical supervision, adhering to a structured fitness and rehabilitation program. A clearance from the BCCI medical team marks a key milestone in his return to elite

cricket. Other prominent names to look out for in the squad are Mumbai opener and India U-19 captain Ayush Mhatre, off-spinner Tanush Kotian. India A will play two four-day matches against the South Africa A from 30 October and 6 November, respectively, at the BCCI Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Bengaluru.

Rizwan had informed the PCB that he wouldn't endorse betting companies, which is the main reason behind his sacking

Shocking reason why Pakistan removed Mohammed Rizwan as ODI captain



Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) announced Shaheen Shah Afridi as cap-

tain of the Pakistan men's ODI team, replacing wicket-keeper-batter

"If he has spoken about Palestine, will you remove him from captaincy?"

"If he has spoken about Palestine, will you remove him from captaincy?" said Latif on his YouTube channel Caught Behind. "This mindset that there would be non-Islamic captains in an Islamic country is abysmal," he added. Shaheen will lead Pakistan in the three-match ODI series against South Africa, scheduled to take place at the Iqbal Stadium in Faisalabad.

Mohammad Rizwan. has learnt that the reason behind Rizwan's removal as

captain is his refusal to promote betting companies. "Rizwan had informed the

PCB that he wouldn't endorse betting companies, which is the main reason behind his sacking. He was against the PCB's collaboration with surrogate betting firms," a PCB source tracking the development told Earlier this year, while playing for St Kitts and Nevis Patriots in the Premier League.

Al-Nassr confirm Cristiano will not travel to India

Al-Nassr FC have confirmed that their captain, Cristiano Ronaldo, will not be part of the travelling squad that will arrive in India later tonight. Ronaldo, a five-time Ballon d'Or award winner, has missed the previous two AFC Champions League Two games, at home and away, and will now sit out of the group-stage clash against FC Goa at the Nehru Stadium in Fatorda on October 22. The Saudi Pro League giants are expected to arrive here on Monday night. FC Goa have

been waiting for a confirmation from Al-Nassr since Ronaldo's arrival here would mean detailed security arrangements. Goa police too had officially sought a status report on the Portugal superstar's arrival. "Al-Nassr have informed FC Goa today that Ronaldo will not travel," a source who has been tracking the development told TOI on Monday. "Even when FC Goa sought confirmation yesterday, they were asked to wait till today.