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MORNING EDITION PRAYAGRAJ

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

PNG reached every part of the country

New Delhi: Piped natural gas (NG) has reached about 784 districts (100 percent geographical area) in 34 states and union territories of the country. Target to increase the number of PNG connections to 12 crores. Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) has said that it has set a target of 12.63 crore PNG domestic connections, 18,336 CNG stations and 5.46 lakh kilometers of piped gas connections by 2034. The board said, "To achieve the target, a strong and coordinated coordination between the states and institutions is essential." Several policy and regulatory measures taken by the government have been taken to accelerate development in this sector. These measures include allocating domestic gas at administered price and simplifying the supply mechanism, making PNG (piped natural gas) provision mandatory in government and defence residential complexes and directing CPWD and NBCC to include PNG provision in all government residential complexes.

Tenure of Railway Board Chairman Satish extended for one year

New Delhi: The tenure of Railway Board Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Satish Kumar has been extended for one year. His term was to end on August 31, 2025. The government's order dated August 27 said, "The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the contract-based re-appointment of Indian Railway Management Service (IRMSS) retired Satish Kumar as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Railway Board for one more year from September 1, 2025. This will be on existing terms and conditions or until further orders, whichever is earlier." Satish Kumar's initial appointment.

'States cannot file writ petitions in the Supreme Court'

President-Governor are not answerable to the court for their decisions

Subsidy

It has been approved to give a subsidy of Rs 300 per 14.2 kg cylinder

New Delhi: The central government on Thursday told the Supreme Court that state governments cannot file a petition (case) in the Supreme Court against the decision taken by the President or the Governor on the bills passed by the assembly, even if the state says that it has violated the fundamental rights of the people. What did the government say? Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appear-



ing for the central government, said this before a five-judge Constitution bench headed by Chief Justice (CJI) BR Gavai. The Constitution bench also included Justice Suryakant, Justice Vikram Nath, Justice PS Narasimha and Justice AS Chandrakar. Mehta said that the President wants to take

the opinion of the Supreme Court on whether state governments can file such petitions under Article 32 of the Constitution. He also said that the President also wants to know what is the scope of Article 361 of the Constitution. This article says that the President or the Governor will not be

Governor not right to keep bill pending for six months: CJI

The Solicitor General also referred to the April 8 decision in which the Supreme Court had said that if the Governor does not decide on the bills within the time limit, then the states can directly approach the Supreme Court. On this, CJI Gavai said that he would not comment on the decision of two judges of April 8.

answerable to any court for the discharge of their rights and duties. Mehta told the Constitution Bench that these questions have been discussed earlier as well.

Heavy rains, landslides cause heavy damage to Jammu and Himachal



Kullu: This time the monsoon is raining like a havoc. From the mountains to the plains, the rain has disrupted life. Traffic has come to a standstill. The Meteorological Department also says that the period of rain will continue in North India and the mountains. 35 people have also died due to landslides caused by heavy rains on the Vaishno Devi Yatra route in Jammu. Even after wreaking havoc in Delhi-NCR, UP, Bihar, Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan, the rain is not stopping. It has been raining continuously for several days in the hilly areas. Due to this, an alert has been issued regarding landslides and road closures in areas like Jammu. However, there is a possibility of a slight decrease in temperature due to rain. Kullu is bearing the brunt of the landslide the most. Thousands of trucks are stuck here due to landslides on the Chandigarh-Kullu highway.

Center is taking steps to help exporters: Center

New Delhi: Government officials have responded to the problems faced by the country's exporters after the US imposed 50% tariff on Indian products. An official has said that the government understands the problems faced by exporters due to the increased tariff and positive steps are being taken to help them. A government source said that diversifying exports will help exporters maintain the



momentum of business in the long run. Efforts are being made by the government to implement the Export Promotion Mission as soon as

possible to help exporters. This response, according to sources associated with the government, has come after exporters sought help on the cash front. According to sources, this issue is currently under consideration. According to the official, the government hopes that negotiations on the proposed India-US bilateral trade agreement will begin soon, new dates have not been decided yet.

Central government withdraws Income Tax Bill 2025



1961, was sent to the Select Committee headed by Baijayantha Panda for consideration. The Select Committee has made many important recommendations regarding this bill. The government

Bill

In its place a new Income Tax Bill will be introduced in Parliament

has decided to introduce it in the House on Monday, August 11 in a revised form, incorporating

most of the recommendations of the Select Committee in the bill. According to the information, the original bill introduced in the Lok Sabha on February 13 was aimed at bringing about radical changes in the Income Tax Act, 1961 by reducing legal complexities. But, due to several amendments after the review.

Rahul Gandhi is trying to create a false narrative: BJP



long time, our country's Leader of Opposition Rahul was talking about an atom bomb. He was actually cutting the tree on which he was sitting with an axe. The arrogance in the language of the Congress prince and the Leader of Opposition was for the employees of the Election Commission. He said that the false narrative that tried to create has been completely demolished

Chief Minister introduced the 'Delhi Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2025

New Delhi: Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Friday introduced the Delhi Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2025 in the Delhi Assembly. She said that through this bill, the government has reiterated its commitment to simplify the tax system, promote compliance and provide concrete relief to traders and taxpayers in the National Capital Region.

Now the enemy will be attacked simultaneously in cyber and space along with water



of Defense Staff General Anil Chauhan released this doctrine on the second day of the two-day Ran Samvad program

organized at Mhow War College. Under this doctrine, joint principles have also been issued for special forces and airborne and heliborne operations. According to this, airborne and heliborne units will now work jointly on multi-domain. According to army officials, this doctrine has been prepared in view of the need for multi-domain operations after Operation Sindo. Its main advantage will be that the army will be able to carry out any operation by establishing better coordination.

India halted the purchase of weapons from USA



vehicles, anti-tank missiles. According to officials, Defense Minister Rajnath Singh was going to Washington for this deal, but his visit has been canceled. This deal is said to be worth 31,500 crores. This decision of the central gov-

ernment is being linked to the tariff war. Neither the Indian Defense Ministry nor the Pentagon has given any statement on this issue. However, some reports are claiming that no decision has been taken so far to cancel the defense deal.

Modi visited the US in February. During this time, Trump and Modi together announced the defense deal. 50% tariff on India so far Trump has announced to impose 50% tariff on India.

Trade diplomacy cannot be at the cost of policy sovereignty: Jayant Chaudhary

New Delhi. Union Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (Independent Charge) Jayant Chaudhary said on Friday that national

interest is paramount and trade diplomacy cannot be at the cost of policy sovereignty. Union Minister Jayant Chaudhary made this remark in the backdrop of the US increasing the duty on Indian goods to 50 percent while addressing the 16th Global Skills Summit 2025 organized by the Federation of India.

SC approves Mathura Shri Banke Bihari Temple corridor project

Delhi: For scores of devotees, the Supreme Court approved an Uttar Pradesh government plan to develop the Shri Banke Bihari Temple corridor in Mathura. Justices Bela M Trivedi and Satish Chandra Sharma granted the Uttar Pradesh government's request to use Shri Banke Bihari shrine funding exclusively to buy 5-acre land around the shrine for a holding area. "We let Uttar Pradesh implement the entire scheme. According to the Banke Bihari Ji Trust, the state government can use the fixed deposits in the name of the deity/temple to acquire the requested land. However, the top court ordered that the deity/trust own the site for temple and corridor development.

It changed the November 8, 2023 Allahabad High Court ruling on the Uttar Pradesh government's PIL, which



BJP claimed that Stalin is spreading falsehoods regarding the three-language policy

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

accepted the state's ambitious project but refused to let it use temple monies. The bench noted that since the court was hearing the Uttar

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

Pradesh government's claim about Braj temple administration and safety, it was in the public interest to rule quickly.

JD(U) and NDA win big in the caste census



Delhi: Sanjay Jha, working president of the Janata Dal (United) in Delhi, has praised the government's decision to incorporate caste-based enumeration in the next decadal census, stating that this is a significant step that will aid in the more effective design of policies for marginalized and underprivileged groups. Chosen passages from his interview: A major victory, without a doubt. Not only for the JD(U) but also for the NDA, since the BJP had joined forces and acknowledged the necessity of caste-based enumeration. Our party's leader, Nitish Kumar, has long

brought up this matter, even during his time in the INDIA bloc. Nevertheless, his request went unanswered at that time. We in the party believe that gathering information regarding the numerical strength of castes will allow us to better design policies and intervene

for the well-being of the poor and disadvantaged. It ought to have been done long ago; this crucial exercise has not taken place since 1931. There was zero coercion. You might recall that in 2022, the state cabinet in Bihar decided to do a caste survey with the support of the BJP.

Key AI copyright panel member

requests removal before first meeting

Delhi: A key member of the newly formed committee examining the impact of artificial intelligence (AI) on India's copyright law claims they were added without consultation and has written to the DPIIT requesting to be replaced by an AI expert.

The committee, constituted by DPIIT under the ministry of commerce & industry will study the legal and policy concerns surrounding AI in copyright and the Copyright Act, 1957's sufficiency. DPIIT will publish the committee's working paper with suggestions after this procedure. "I'm not an AI expert," remarked the unnamed dissenter. Technology advances quicker than law, thus law must catch up. Artificial intelligence (AI) changes the game, thus outdated laws can't regulate it.

Plans to update madrasa education Act of 2004 by UP government



Delhi : To update religious seminaries' curricula, the Yogi Adityanath administration in Uttar Pradesh intends to revise the Uttar Pradesh Board of Madrasa Education Act of 2004. However, this move is likely to spark controversy due to the fact that minority institutions in India are legally allowed to determine their own curricula. The proposed changes include making science and computer labs mandatory, switching to the National Council for Education, Research and Training (NCERT) curriculum from grades 1-3 and the State Council for Educational Research and Training (SCERT) from grades 4-8, and making English and Hindi classes mandatory from grades 3-10. Danish Azad Ansari, the minis-

ter of state for minority welfare in Uttar Pradesh, confirmed the development, saying that the chief minister had already discussed the ideas in a meeting. In his words, "affiliation from the Up-madarsa Board" necessitates meeting all of these specs. In Class 10, students have the option to study English or Hindi, and most madrasas follow their

own curriculum without science or computer laboratories. Maulana Khalid Rasheed Farangi Mahali, a member of the AIMPLB and chairman of the Islamic Centre of India, spoke out against the government's emphasis on announcements and instead called for better education in madrasas. image.png

Teachers overburdened, students didn't attend classes 18 govt schools

Delhi: Class 12 board exam results were declared earlier this week, 18 govt schools in Haryana have come under scrutiny. No student passed from any of these schools. Most of these six are in Nuh, four in Faridabad, and one each in Gurgaon, Hisar, Jhajjar, Karnal, Palwal, Rohtak, Sonipat and Yamunanagar. The zero-pass record isn't the only concern. These schools are among 100 govt institutions that performed poorly in the boards, overshadowing the overall pass percentage of 85.7. In 82 schools across Haryana's 22 districts, the pass percentage.

Congress supports the Centre's online anti-terror efforts



Delhi: In an effort to clarify India's stance on terrorism emanating from Pakistan, the government has proposed sending multi-party parliamentary delegations to several nations. The Congress has said that it will be a member of these delegations. Jairam Ramesh, the communications in-charge of the Congress party, stated that Union minister Kiren Rijiju has discussed the matter with the president of the Congress, however the government has not made an official announcement. On

the other hand, Ramesh blasted Prime Minister Narendra Modi for passing on crucial matters of national security without consulting with his political opponents at home. In response to the terror incidents in Pahalgam and Operation Sindoor, the prime minister has declined to lead two all-party meetings. Ramesh stated in a post that the Prime Minister has not consented to summon a special session of Parliament, as the Indian National Congress has been requesting, in order to show unity and restate the resolution that was passed by Parliament without a single vote on February 22, 1994.

No vacancy for CM post in Bihar,' says Chirag after meeting Nitish Kumar



Politics Heat Up Over 107 'Missing' Pakistanis As DyCM Shinde, CM Contradict

Delhi: The ruling Mahayati alliance in Maharashtra has failed to coordinate on Pakistani nationals. Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde told a Buldhana rally that 107 Pakistanis were missing in Maharashtra. Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis denied the claim, saying no Pakistani citizen is missing. Shinde told the audience, "Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Prime Minister Narendra Modi have instructed Pakistani nationals to leave our country."

Nitish bestowed a blessing on his party president for his future leadership roles. During his discussion with Nitish, Chirag informed him about the 'Buyer-

seller' international meet' that he was going to launch in Patna. Chirag then reaffirmed his intention to be politically engaged. in Bihar. I am originally

The Patna Sahib has proclaimed three Akal Takht jathedars to be dukes



Sahib in Patna) as "tankhaiya"

(guilty of religious misconduct), according to Yudhvir Rana at Akal Takht in Amritsar. Not only is Akal Takht's jathedars Giani Kuldeep Singh Gargaj there, but so are the two others: Baba Tek Singh and Takht Kesgarh Sahib. The 'Panj Pyare' has also issued a 10-day

notice to SAD president Sukhbir Badal, accusing him of interfering with Takht Patna Sahib's operations.

They made it known that the Takht Sri Harimandir Patna Sahib will not be bound by decisions made at the Akal Takht or any other Takht outside of Patna.

Yeida approves Film City layout

Delhi: The Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (Yeida) approved the layout design for the projected Film City in Sector 21, allowing filmmaker Boney Kapoor-led Bayview Bhutani Film City Private Limited to begin building. On December 24, 2024, Bayview Bhutani submitted the layout plan for clearance because work cannot begin without it. Yeida officials approved the layout plan following a thorough planning and high-level committee assessment.

IIT Kharagpur teachers petition governors. Restore HoD positions

Delhi: The IIT Kharagpur Teachers' Association (IITTA) urged the institute's board of governors to expunge show-cause notices issued to 86 faculty members, restore their administrative positions, and protect the association's office bearers from arbitrary or retaliatory actions amid the faculty-administration dispute. In September, the IIT Kharagpur teachers' association accused director Virendra Kumar Tewari

of "nepotism" and "arbitrary faculty recruitment" in a letter to the Union Ministry of Education, sparking a confrontation. They wanted an academically qualified, inclusive governance-experienced successor. When the administration sent show-cause notices to IITTA office bearers and disciplined them for not answering within seven days, tensions rose. Show cause notices were sent to 86 academic members who signed a petition

supporting the IITTA, worsening the situation. The IITTA said several of the 86 academic department heads were replaced. The administration also said people who answered or apologized would not be punished. After an unusual general body meeting the IITTA approached the board of governors. They worry the administration may act fast and deny office bearers a fair hearing, further undermining trust. The association asked

Grandfather killed grandson under the influence of Tantrik, head and torso recovered, police revealed



Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Prayagraj. Superstition strangled relationships in Sadiapur of Kareli police station area. Here 17-year-old student Piyush Singh alias Yash was murdered by his grandfather Sarn Singh on the advice of a Tantrik. Police disclosed the case on Thursday and arrested the accused. Police officials said that Sarn

Singh's daughter committed suicide in 2023 and son in 2024. Distressed by these incidents of the family, he came in contact with a Tantrik. The Tantrik said that Yash's grandmother had done black magic on his family and Yash would have to be sacrificed to avert misfortune. Under this influence, Sarn Singh brutally murdered his grandson. On Tuesday morning, while going to



school, Sarn Singh stopped Yash and first attacked him with an iron rod. After this, his head was cut off from the body with a sharp axe.

The accused cut the



body into pieces and stuffed it in a sack and threw it in the drain near Saraswati Hi-Tech City located in the industrial area from a scooter. The incident was revealed when an elderly woman saw a

sack with blood dripping in the drain and informed the police. During investigation, the scooter rider was seen in the CCTV footage.

The accused was identified from the scooter number and

the police arrested him near Barkhandi Mahadev Mandir Road. Yash's head and torso were recovered on his information, while some parts are still being searched. Yash was a class 11 student in Saraswati Vidya Mandir Inter College located in Shastri Nagar. There is anger in the entire area due to the news of his brutal murder. Angry people surrounded Kareli police station and demanded hanging of the accused.

During the program, the Principal

said that if students study with full dedication and hard work, they can achieve any position in life. Describing the meritorious students as the pride of the society and family, he also called upon other students to take inspiration from their ideals.

Senior teachers of the school Dilip Kumar Sharma, Bhuvaneshwar Pandey, Ajit Singh, Shipra Singh, Krishna Kumar Dwivedi, Dinesh Vishwakarma and other teachers

were also present in the ceremony.

Everyone together wished the students a bright future and told them to explain the importance of values along with education. This program organized in the school premises instilled enthusiasm among the students. The parents present appreciated this step of the school management and said that such events inspire students to move ahead.

Meritorious students honored at Madhavendra Inter College Barao



Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Prayagraj. An honor ceremony was organized on Thursday to honor meritorious students at Madhavendra Inter College Barao in Karchana area. On this occasion, the Principal of the school, Dev Prakash Yadav, encouraged the students who performed excellently by giving them certificates.

During the program, the Principal

Yogi govt empowers the deprived, illuminates every village

Impact

The reach and impact of social welfare schemes have multiplied significantly

fare programs have been streamlined and strengthened, positively transforming millions of lives. From old age pensions to mass marriage assistance and competitive exam coaching, the integration of technology has dramatically expanded the reach and effectiveness of these schemes. Before 2017, the monthly pension for the elderly was fixed at Rs 300.

Lucknow: Yogi govt's eight-year social revolution: Transparent welfare, expanded benefits, and poverty reduction. Over the past eight years, the Yogi government has undertaken unprecedented efforts to uplift society's weaker sections. Before 2017, public welfare schemes were riddled with corruption and often failed to reach their intended beneficiaries. Benefits were distributed based on caste and religion rather than need, and no clear plan existed to eradicate poverty from the state. However, since Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath assumed office, wel-

Former district panchayat member's body found in suspicious condition

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Prayagraj. Former district panchayat member of Kaudihar Randhir Yadav's body, missing for six days, has been found in Puramuti. There is a suspicion of his murder. On August 22, he left in a Scorpio with his two friends after eating at a dhaba, but did not return home. Both his companions who were in the Scorpio with him are also missing since the incident. Two days later, his Scorpio was found in the bushes near Devangana Valley in the hilly area of Chitrakoot, but nothing happened to them. His body was found in Puramuti on Thursday. Wife Babli Yadav is a district panchayat member. Former district panchayat member Randhir Yadav's wife Babli Yadav is currently the district panchayat member of Kaudihar. Police have registered a case of kidnapping against two people on the complaint of his wife. Among the accused, Ram Singh is also missing along with Randhir Yadav. Police is searching for him.

On the other hand, there is silence at the house of the accused after the incident. Former District Panchayat member of Kaudihar Randhir Yadav



disappeared with his friend Ram Singh at around 9 pm on August 22.

His Scorpio was found in Devangana Valley near Chitrakoot Airport on the afternoon of August 23. It was told that on the night of the incident, Ram Singh Yadav, resident of Tulsiram Ka Pura Ibrahim Pur, was also with the District Panchayat member. He also did not return home. Wife Babli Yadav has blamed Ram Singh and Uday Yadav for the incident. It was told that Randhir Yadav, Uday and Ram Singh Yadav had a deep friendship. About a month ago, there was some dispute between Uday and Randhir.

While on the night of the incident, Ram Singh Yadav was with Randhir while eating at the dhaba of Hathiganga market. Babli Yadav said that Ram Singh has information about her husband, he has not been caught by the police yet. At the same time, the police have picked up many people for questioning.

CM announces stamp duty exemption for women, ex-servicemen, and differently abled

Impact

E-payment to be mandatory in all districts for registration fees above Rs 20,000

Lucknow: Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has expanded the ambit of stamp duty exemption, extending the benefit to ex-servicemen and differently abled persons. Until now, the exemption was limited only to women. The announcement came during a high-level review meeting of the Stamp and Registration Department, where the Chief Minister also issued a series of key directives aimed at



strengthening efficiency, transparency, and public convenience. Based on the positive outcomes of a pilot project in five districts, CM Yogi directed that e-payment of registration fees above Rs 20,000 be made mandatory across all districts. He also called for the implementation of Aadhaar authentication to curb fraud and a single-window e-registra-

tion system for allottees of development authorities to simplify procedures. Emphasizing faster service delivery, the Chief Minister instructed officials to complete the recruitment process for vacant posts at the earliest. He also asked the department to explore additional options for stamp sales and rationalize vendors' commissions. Further, he announced

Uttar Pradesh leads India's industrial surge, sets new growth benchmarks

Lucknow: Under the leadership of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Uttar Pradesh has set a new benchmark in industrial development. According to the latest Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) 2023-24, released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), Government of India, the state has

outperformed all major industrial states on three key parameters: number of factories, employment generation, and gross value

addition (GVA). This remarkable achievement establishes Uttar Pradesh as a rising industrial powerhouse, moving steadily

towards becoming the new industrial capital of India under the Yogi government. The ASI 2023-24 report highlights that the state's Gross Value Added (GVA) rose from Rs 1.34 lakh crore in 2022-23 to Rs 1.67 lakh crore in 2023-24, marking a historic growth of 25.03%—more than double the national average of 11.9%. With this, Uttar Pradesh has

secured the top position in the country. Similarly, the number of factories in the state increased from 19,102 to 22,141, reflecting a growth of 15.91%, nearly seven times higher than the national average of 2.7%. Employment figures also witnessed a sharp rise, with the workforce expanding from 14.86 lakh to 16.26 lakh—a growth of 9.37%, significantly

above the all-India average of 5.9%. Experts credit this extraordinary performance to the Yogi government's proactive industrial policies, investment-friendly environment, and strengthened law and order. Backed by the leadership of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and the vision of Prime Minister

CM orders district-level deployment of Aapda Mitras as Home Guard volunteers

Fresh board to be set up with Police Recruitment & Training Board's

CM directs immediate recruitment drive to fill vacant Home Guard posts

Recruitment

Support to ensure timely, transparent, and fair recruitment: CM

teers in maintaining law and order, managing traffic, and handling disaster situations. Officials have informed that, at present, 71,155 Home Guards are active in the state, against a sanctioned strength of 1,18,348. Over the next decade, nearly 38,000 volunteers are expected to retire, while more than 51 per-



cent of the current force consists of personnel aged 50 years or older. To enhance opportunities for youth and improve the efficiency of the force, the Chief Minister directed reforms in eli-

gibility and selection processes. He suggested fixing the maximum age limit for recruitment at 30 years to infuse youthful energy into the organization. He also emphasised the importance of making written examinations mandatory, updating eligibility criteria, and enhancing the evaluation system. Priority, he said, should be given to candidates with disaster management training or experience. The Chief Minister instructed officials to prepare a new recruitment system as soon as possible, expressing confidence that the initiative would transform the Home Guards into a more skilled, capable, and service-oriented force. In the meeting, departmental officials informed that Home Guard services are currently being utilized across several sectors, including police administration, traffic regulation, educational

institutions, healthcare, transport, mining, urban local bodies, Doordarshan, Akashvani, FCI, and development authorities. The force has also made significant contributions during the recent Lok Sabha and Assembly elections, election duties in other states, and major events such as the upcoming Maha Kumbh-2025. It was further highlighted that all departmental processes have now been fully digitized. Key functions such as duty allocation, allowance disbursal, ex gratia, and pension have been shifted online, while initiatives like the Home Guard Mitra App have significantly improved efficiency and transparency.

Editorial

Constitutional Crossfire:
President's Reference Puts
Judiciary In The Dock

In an extraordinary move that has the scope to reshape the contours of the Indian Constitution, the President of India has invoked a rarely used power under Article 143 to refer a legal question to the Supreme Court. The question? The very scope and legitimacy of the Supreme Court's extraordinary powers under Article 142. At its heart, this momentous referral has placed two of the republic's most powerful constitutional authorities—the President and the Supreme Court—on a potential collision course. The reference from the Rashtrapati Bhawan para-dropped close to a month after the Supreme Court ruled that the President must decide on bills referred by Governors within three months. This landmark decision came after the court overturned the Tamil Nadu Governor's decision to withhold approval for pending bills. The court ruled that Governors cannot indefinitely delay assent to Bills passed by the state legislature. Such inaction amounts to a 'pocket veto', a concept alien to the Indian constitutional system. Bills can be reserved for the President only in specific circumstances (e.g., when required by Articles like 254(2), 31A, etc.). It cannot be used as a tool to block legislation falling within the State's domain," the bench, comprising Justices JB Pardiwala and R Mahadevan, had said in the verdict dated April 8, 2025. President Droupadi Murmu's reference in a way challenges the alleged judicial activism of the apex court, particularly questioning the reach and limits of its power to "do complete justice". Article 142 has often been described as a judicial wild card—a provision invoked to bridge legal gaps, deliver equitable outcomes, and, at times, sidestep the legislature. The invocation of the advisory jurisdiction by the President of India appears to seek clarity on the scope and extent of the extraordinary jurisdiction of the apex court. However, the said reference, if looked at from a wider lens, appears to be much more than unusual since an extraordinary constitutional power is being used to challenge another i.e. Article 143, which empowers the President to seek the advisory opinion of the Supreme Court on questions of public importance, but is a rarely used tool. When Was This Extraordinary Measure Last Used By A President? The last time this jurisdiction was invoked was in 2016, when then-President Pranab Mukherjee sought the court's opinion on whether the government could bypass the Rajya Sabha to enact the Goods and Services Tax (GST) by treating it as a Money Bill. On April 12, 2012, the then President Pratibha Patil used it in connection with the 2G spectrum allocation, asking eight questions. These included judicial interference in policy matters and whether auction as the only method that can be used to allocate natural resources. President Murmu's current reference invoking the advisory jurisdiction is more than just a legal query—it is a moment of reckoning for the basic structure doctrine itself. Speaking to News18, senior advocate Siddharth Luthra said, "This reference to my mind is to determine what is the way going forward, to what extent the Supreme Court will direct Governors and Presidents to act, to what extent will they determine and sit over jurisdictions of Governors and Presidents."

Senior advocate Sanjay Hedge, meanwhile, said, "Reference is not a review. Presidential reference is a question to court in its advisory jurisdiction. Supreme Court had clarified its advisory jurisdiction is recommendatory and not binding. Judgment of court is a verdict of court, it can be overcome only through process known to law which is an adjudicatory process. This is an opinion; it cannot directly override a judgment," he added. The apex court, for the longest time, has asserted that certain foundational principles—like judicial independence, federalism.



What If Nuclear War Breaks Out? Here Are The 7 Devastating Consequences

Amid the ongoing tensions between India and Pakistan, one thing that's constantly making the rounds on the internet is the possibility of a nuclear war between the two countries. Nuclear weapons are the most destructive man-made thing ever created, because of the extensive devastation they cause and their distinctive, persistent, and genetically damaging radioactive fallout that spreads uncontrollably. The atomic bombings of the Japanese cities of Hiroshima on August 6, 1945, and Nagasaki on August 9,

1945, carried out by the United States, during World War II, were the first and only use of atomic weapons in warfare, till now. As per the estimates, the bombing had killed an estimated 140,000 people in Hiroshima, and 74,000 people in Nagasaki by the end of 1945. A single nuclear weapon has the potential to destroy a city and kill most of its people. Multiple nuclear explosions over urban areas could lead to catastrophic consequences. This scenario could wipe out tens of millions of lives. According to reports, A

nuclear explosion's fireball comes to its maximum size in just about 10 seconds, unleashing massive energy in the form of blast, heat, and radiation. The shockwave, after the explosion, travels at hundreds of kilometres per hour, and has the potential to cause destruction beyond imagination. The blast can claim many lives near ground zero and inflict injuries, including lung damage and internal bleeding, at far distances. Collapsing structures and flying debris also harm people. Near ground zero, thermal radiation's extreme heat

vaporizes everything, which leads to severe burns and sparking massive fires that merge into devastating firestorms. The disaster can also kill people in underground shelters due to lack of oxygen or carbon monoxide poisoning. Talking about the long-term, nuclear weapons produce ionizing radiation. This could contaminate the environment, including rivers and air, which kills or sickens those exposed, and has long-term health consequences, including cancer and genetic damage.

No Pak general has survived an extended term

The Pakistan government has cemented its relationship with the powerful army chief, General Asim Munir, by rewarding him with the title of Field Marshal. While it's not clear whether the idea originated with the army or the government, Munir's elevation to a five-star rank signals the Shehbaz Sharif government's allegiance to the commander of the largest service branch, an act that will have far-reaching political and institutional implications. Notwithstanding the general sense of jubilation in the country over the popular perception of a tactical victory against India, this particular decision came as a shock and may not serve Asim Munir's interests in the long run. Many people who were previously silent after the end of the conflict, or who had been generally happy with the Pakistan Air Force's achievement, suddenly took to their keyboards to mock the decision. Some pointed out how Munir has been steadily accumulating prefixes, while others drew comparisons to Ugandan dictator and army chief Idi Amin or joked about whether the title of Quaid-e-Azam would be next. There is a growing sense among many that the government should have stopped at celebrating the military achievement, rather than indulging in this kind of overdrive. As some observers I spoke to suggested, the decision may reflect the political cunning of the government, which could be attempting to shift negative focus back onto the powerful army chief—previously hailed as a hero. Others said the initiative was entirely the government's



way of signalling to Munir that, since the Pakistan Muslim League—Nawaz (PMLN) could go so far as to make him Field Marshal, he should remain invested in this partnership and not consider rapprochement with Imran Khan or his party. Indisputably, the government prioritised short-term political gains over long-term institutional consequences. With his promotion to five-star general, Munir is now the most senior commander in the country—disrupting the institutional balance within the armed forces. Ironically, he now outranks the Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCSC), a four-star general who heads the body created in the 1970s to ensure parity among the three services and coordinate joint planning. A five-star army chief attending CJCSC meetings renders the proceedings practically ceremonial. This

institutional imbalance echoes a similar issue from the Zia-ul-Haq era when, after declaring martial law and becoming president in 1977, Zia could no longer participate in CJCSC meetings. As a result, the Vice Chief of Army Staff (VCOAS) attended instead, undermining the intended balance among the services. This not only weakened joint planning but also sidelined the question of political control over the largest service. Munir's elevation is likely to create similar complications. As some of my sources suggested, he may try to resolve the issue by appointing a four-star VCOAS—a move believed to be aimed at calming nerves within the army, where many are now uncertain about their futures. But history suggests that a four-star general in the army often ends up being the army chief's undoing. It would be a mistake to dis-

miss this decision as a mere political stunt, given its institutional implications. Crucially, the promotion is unlikely to make Munir more powerful than he already is. He and the institution he leads are already immensely powerful. No political party worth its salt today has even a notional interest in holding him or the military accountable. The last institution with any capacity to do so—the higher judiciary—backed off at the start of the conflict, when the Supreme Court conceded to the use of military courts to try civilians for treason. Furthermore, Munir has already outlined his vision for the state: a "hard state", hellbent on crushing dissent, refusing dialogue with those that appear belligerent, and upholding the national ideology through military means. One is also reminded of his earlier promises to transform Pakistan into a trillion-dollar

Can China's Arms Market Recover From India-Pak War Embarrassment?

India's Operation Sindoar is haunting both Pakistan and China, the former due to the non-explanation for sponsoring cross-border terrorism and the massive physical loss of military assets and face, and the latter due to the utter failure of its military equipment sold to Pakistan and the diplomatic fallout of supporting an "ironclad" friend. Diplomatically, after the Pahalgam terror attacks, China expressed its concern and called for restraint on India's part, while reiterating support for Pakistan both regionally and in the United Nations' #1267 al-Qaeda sanctions committee. China's Foreign Minister, Wang Yi, discussed issues with his Pakistan counterpart, Ishaq Dar, and India's National Security Advisor, Ajit Doval, without any concrete proposals in hand. Ironically, Chinese bloggers criticised India for 'escalation' and called its actions 'destabilising' even as they cheered Pakistan's drone strikes on Indian borders. Many even said

Pakistan was not involved in cross-border terrorism attacks in India, despite substantial evidence in this regard. Beijing offered mediation between the two warring South Asian countries but was at a loss when Pakistan preferred to approach the United States for a ceasefire. China's efforts to whitewash Pakistan-based terrorists and its diplomatic support to Islamabad have dented the image of China as a responsible country. Its myopic vision to back its "all-weather" friend at all costs is expected to cost it its long-term strategic objectives. However, it was in the military showdown that China's image took a dent. Most of its military equipment—estimated to have cost Pakistan more than \$20 billion—underperformed, missed their targets, malfunctioned, destroyed, or fell like duds in the war theatre. For instance, China sold to Pakistan its "vibrant dragon" J-10 C fighter aircraft at \$40 million a unit.

Calculated Pressure' Should Be India's Mantra As Pak Chooses Escalation

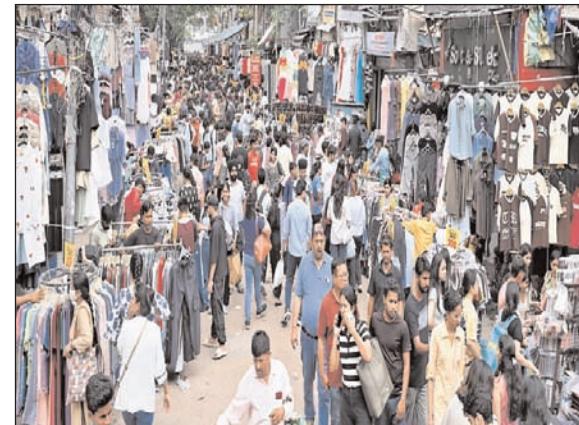
When the Pahalgam attack took place on April 22 this year, with loss of innocent lives and the disgraceful religious and gender profiling, it was obvious that India's limit of tolerance had been crossed not by a few but by manifold notches. Although the government of India convened the Cabinet Committee for Security (CCS) immediately in the aftermath of the attack, the decisions of the CCS harped on politico-diplomatic-economic options to punish Pakistan. To strategic minds, it was obvious that it was a window of opportunity created for the armed forces to plan, acquire necessary intelligence and establish full readiness for both the launch of the designed offensive and the necessary guarding of flanks and depth to absorb any retaliation. Militaries usually work on surprise, but that may not be the most efficient way of executing an operation in which retribution is a major factor. In other words, failure or even non-attainment of the full aim cannot be an option. The delivery of the mission was a national compulsion, for, on it rested the image and the future status of India as a responsible nation that could defend itself. Operation Sindoar, a very appropriate name of the operation, of which much has been written in the media, was designed to showcase India's capability for escalation dominance without a full-scale war. It was also conceived to impose material costs on Pakistan's hybrid war apparatus. With its emerging global strategic importance, India also ensured pre-emptive global diplomatic outreach to shape the post-strike narrative as a legitimate act of self-defence. In the operational-strategic domain, the shift from 'surgical strikes' and single objective missions, to strategic, punitive missile diplomacy has been a marked change in the strategy that India has followed. It's important to break down the components of the entire operation and look at these from angles that have hitherto not been considered strategically significant. The codename is one of them. The choice of the name, 'Operation Sindoar', is a lesson in strategic communication and is reputed to have the Prime Minister's personal stamp. 'Sindoar' (vermillion) symbolises a sacred mark on the forehead in Indian cul-

ture, often associated with martyrdom (evoking the blood of fallen soldiers), resolve, and sanctity (especially, feminine strength in mythology). It is also a symbol conveying the betrothal of a woman to her husband. Thus, it's a sacred red line—which, once crossed, invites decisive retaliation. The psychological messaging from the codename was the reflection of India's restrained but resolute posture. On the choice of the nine targets and the means of hitting them, it's also good to understand why women officers of the Indian and the Indian Air Force (IAF) were nominated to sit on the Foreign Secretary's panel and explain the operation in detail. The era of strategic optics is now decidedly upon us. Most of India makes up its mind by watching visuals and staring at their mobile screens. The optics of the briefing focused on India's modern, inclusive, and capable armed forces. It countered stereotypes about patriarchal militaries. There was a symbolic projection of 'Nari Shakti' (women power) in national security roles to also link it with the tragedy that befell the unfortunate women who lost their husbands.

Demolition drive at Sarojini Nagar market angers vendors

Delhi: An anti-encroachment sweep at the Sarojini Nagar market saw the Municipal Council (NDMC) remove shop extensions, awnings, signage, and permanent constructions from the places. Traders complained that the drive harmed 150 shops due to a lack of notification.

Ashok Randhawa, head of the Sarojini Nagar Mini Market vendors' association, said civic body bulldozers and enforcement teams arrived at the market at 11pm after traders departed. They demolished awnings, signage, and shop facades for around 150 shops between 11.30pm and 1am. Without our intervention, the damage could have been greater. All Delhi markets have awnings to shield against sun and rain, Randhawa said. NDMC stated, "We are consistently conducting anti-encroachment drives to maintain encroachment-free urban spaces and ensure unhindered



ONLY 45% OF CAPITAL BWG COMPOST WET WASTE

Delhi: The MCD has identified Bulk Waste Generators (BWGs), which include large establishments like hospitals, hotels, and commercial buildings, as crucial in managing wet waste. The city generates a substantial amount of solid waste daily (around 11,000 tonnes), but only a portion of it is processed. The Supreme Court has criticized the MCD for its failure to implement the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016.

access to markets, footpaths, and public areas for visitors. NDMC launched a night-time anti-encroachment opera-

responsibility to ensure the proper disposal of solid waste, including wet waste. The city generates a substantial amount of solid waste daily (around 11,000 tonnes), but only a portion of it is processed. The Supreme Court has criticized the MCD for its failure to implement the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016.

tion as part of its enhanced anti-enforcement push to recover public areas and improve urban accessibility.

Delhi govt reshuffles 42 IAS and DANICS officers shifted or given extra charge

Delhi: Delhi govt effected a major bureaucratic reshuffle in the capital evening, transferring or giving additional charge to 42 IAS and DANICS officers. The reshuffle was prompted by the Union home ministry's order earlier in the day in which it moved 12 Delhi bureaucrats of UT cadre to other states and transferred the equal number of officers to the capital. Following the order of LG VK Saxena, the services department of Delhi govt issued an order giving additional charge of environment and forest department of additional chief secretary (industries) Bipul Pathak, a 1992-batch IAS officer and the senior most bureaucrat in the



city. Pathak replaced Anil Kumar Singh, who was moved to Jammu and Kashmir by MHA. Prashant Goyal was transferred to the urban development department as additional chief secretary from the transport department while Navin Kumar Chaudhary, the additional

chief secretary of irrigation and flood control department, was given the additional charge of public works department. A Anbarasu was moved from PWD to the services department, while he will remain the principal secretary of home department.

Advertising on FOBS should be authorized by the government

Delhi: In order to raise more money for their maintenance, the Delhi government has chosen to allow advertising on approximately 120 pedestrian bridges, according to In order to better maintain the foot over-bridges, PWD minister Parvesh Verma said that he instructed the department's engineers to develop a thorough proposal. A lot of these bridges need to have their escalators and lifts fixed because they're in bad shape.

Tihar, which is overflowing, wants to build a new facility



Delhi: According to sources, the Tihar administration has written to the Delhi government to request the identification and allocation of 400 acres of land for a new complex in response to chief minister Rekha Gupta's budget announcement. It is anticipated that the new jail will be able to accommodate 8,000 prisoners. A few days ago, the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) and the Delhi government's department of land and construction received an official communication in this respect. The Tihar administration reportedly emphasized in their letter the urgent need for land to build new prisons that could house 5,000-8,000 prisoners. Since existing prison facilities are already functioning much above capacity,

Govt allocates 12,952 crore for public transport system

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

Women and young people are the main drivers of EPFO's 1.46 million

Delhi:

According to an official statement, the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO), which oversees the retirement savings of salaried employees, recorded a net addition of 1.46 million subscribers in March. Slightly more than half of these subscribers enrolled for the first time. 754,000 new members joined EPFO in March. Net subscriber additions grew by 1.15 percent from March 2024 to the current month, according to preliminary data. This is due to more job opportunities and a greater understanding of employee



benefits, both of which have been bolstered by EPFO's outreach initiatives. March saw a sequential increase of 2.03% and an annual increase of 0.98% in new subscribers. Female employees and young workers' participation rose, according to the report. A total of 445,000 new members were added in March, with 58.94% of those

users falling into the 18-25 age bracket. The additions of this age group increased by 4.21% on a monthly basis and by 4.73% on an annual basis.

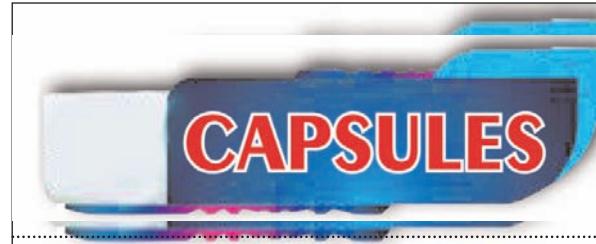
After taking outgoing employees into consideration, the net payroll addition for this category was 668,000, representing a rise of 6.49% on an annualized basis.

Assembly in Delhi lifts the gallery glass shield to promote openness and media freedom

Delhi: The glass shield encircling Delhi has been lowered, as stated by Speaker Vijender Gupta, enabling the media to cover the proceedings unimpeded. The decision was hailed by Gupta as a "significant step" towards "greater democratic accountability"

and the restoration of the assembly as an open and people-focused institution during a press conference. He declared, "This step reaffirms the Delhi legislative assembly's commitment to empowering the media and making democratic processes more visible

to the public," stressing the importance of openness in the assembly's activities. To deter people from throwing objects from the first-floor gallery into the hall, the glass panels were put in 2022 by then-Speaker. Ram Niwas Goel under



Jal Board receives Rs 1,400 crore from Delhi govt. for summer action plan and important projects

Delhi: Officials announced that the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) has been granted Rs 1,400 crore by the Delhi government to accelerate ongoing projects and put its Summer Action Plan into action.



The Summer Action Plan, which includes initiatives like installing water ATMs and GPS monitoring of water trucks to guarantee efficient water distribution during the busy summer months, has been allocated 500 crore rupees out of the entire budget. Water shortages may be avoided and supplies can run smoothly throughout the summer if the funds are released on schedule, according to an official. To handle long-term water management needs, the remaining amount will be used to extend the city's sewer network and create new sewage treatment plants. The aforementioned sums, along with those that were unable to be distributed in March of this year, were allegedly allotted as part of the annual budget. A thorough Rs 9,000-crore strategy concentrating on cleanliness, increasing access to potable water, and modernizing the water distribution system was earlier unveiled by Chief Minister Rekha Gupta in an effort to fortify Delhi's water infrastructure.

Support for Savarkar and other figures' portraits in the Assembly



Delhi: The Delhi Assembly premises will soon be graced with the paintings of Mahatma Gandhi, founder of the Arya Samaj, independence hero Veer Savarkar, and educational reformer Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya. This matter was resolved by the assembly's general purpose committee during a meeting presided over by Speaker Vijender Gupta. "Recognising their enduring contributions to India's freedom struggle, social reform and educational renaiss-

sance, the committee resolved to install their statues...This decision reflects the assembly's commitment to preserving and celebrating the legacy of these visionary leaders who played roles in shaping the nation's moral, cultural, and intellectual foundations," according to the assembly. According to BJP MLA Abhay Verma, who put forward the idea, these notable people were instrumental in the national movement, social change, and educational advancement of India. According to opposition leader Atishi, AAP MLAs had also wanted to put Savitribai Phule's photograph up, but the BJP had stopped them.

Delhi CM Rekha Gupta promises jobs for Mohalla Clinic staff in Arogya Mandirs



triggered by the government's recent decision to withdraw Mohalla Clinics that overlap with the Ayushman Arogya Mandirs. "We will engage you on a priority basis in the new system that the government is creating," Gupta told the staff, adding that preference will be given

to existing personnel once the transition begins. Delhi government intends to wind down existing Mohalla Clinics in areas where Ayushman Arogya Mandirs are coming up, since both facilities provide primary healthcare. According to minutes from a meeting on

2 weeks since blaze, Dilli Haat reopens

Delhi: Around 130 traders returned to their place of work to start from scratch, unpacking goods and setting up their shops as the iconic Dilli Haat in INA reopened. Two weeks after a major fire destroyed at least 30 stalls and damaged stock worth lakhs. Though their number was lower than usual, visitors and tourists too flocked to the huge market complex, a part of which was still under renovation due to the blaze. Process is also underway to upgrade electrical connections at the market for safety purposes. But while traders said they are relieved that work has resumed, there are still apprehensions about the safety measures introduced.

the operationalisation and staff may be of Urban Ayushman Mandirs, Mohalla Clinic doctors — or until new person-

Campaign to Reclaim Campus Space Launched by AAP Student Wing



Delhi: "Reclaim student politics" is the goal of the Association of Students for Alternative Politics (ASAP), the student arm of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), according to Delhi. A movement that "rejects muscle power and bias, and backs merit" has been launched by Arvind

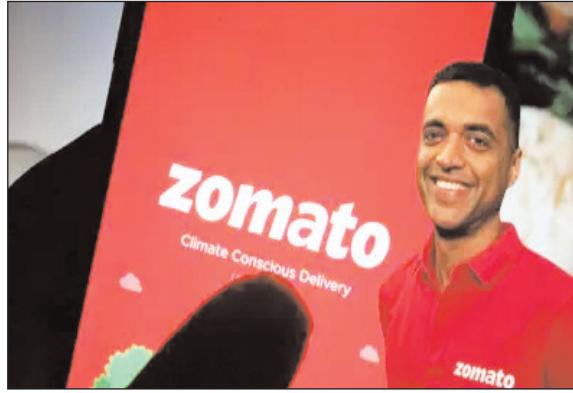
Kejriwal, the national convenor of the AAP, and is appealing to students all around the nation to become involved. Advertisement Forget Ads Right now In the upcoming DUSU elections, ASAP will run a strong campaign, continuing its objective of spreading Kejriwal's vision of alternative

politics to other universities. The student wing's members—Yash Phogat, Deepak Bansal, and Yuvraj Tanwar—discussed their plans for the future.

The influence that Kejriwal has on Delhi's politics is being acknowledged on a global scale.

Zomato's Q4 net profit falls 77% to Rs 39 crore

Delhi : Eternal Ltd. (previously Zomato) announced a 77% drop in overall net profit to Rs 39 crore in Q4 FY25 from Rs 175 crore the year before. Zomato, which owns Blinkit, lost 33% of its quarterly net profit to Rs 59 crore in October-December. Overall expenditures rose 67% to Rs 6,104 crore from Rs 3,636 crore. QoQ, costs rose over 10%. Food delivery company consolidated income from operations rose 64% to Rs 5,833 crore from Rs 3,562 crore in the January-March quarter of the previous financial year. Zomato earned Rs 6,201 crore in the quarter, up from Rs 3,797 the year before. Its expenses rose from Rs 3,636 crore to Rs 6,104 crore. Zomato shares finished at Rs 232.5 on the BSE, up 0.58 percent. According to its stock exchange filing, Blinkit opened 294 net new stores in Q4 and is on track to reach 2,000 by

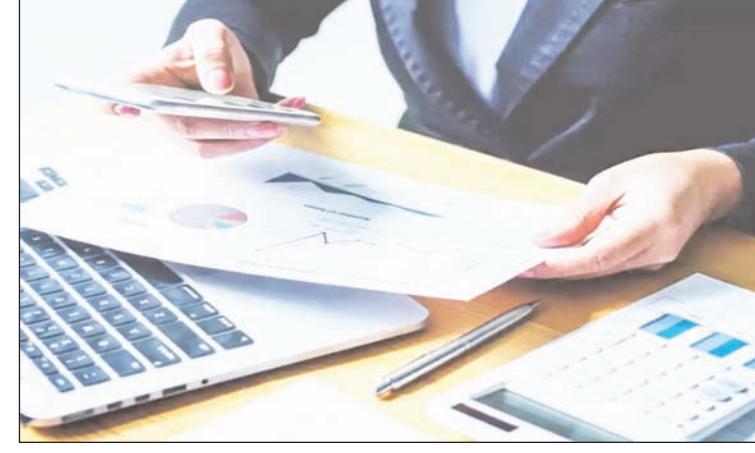


December 25. Deepinder Goyal, Founder and CEO, Eternal, said, "We don't see any long-term structural reason for this slowdown, as the fundamentals – low penetration of restaurant food and increasing urbanisation and per capita income in India – remain unchanged." The company has several promising initiatives in the pipeline and hopes some will work and lead to higher growth without compromising profitability. The company began reporting NOV and GOV for its B2C activities (food delivery, rapid commerce, and going-out) in Q4 FY25.

Coconut oil prices rise, hurting users

Delhi : Coconut oil, a staple in most Indian households, may be raising your grocery expenditures. Due to rising coconut oil inflation, Marico and Dabur raised prices by 40% in the past year. According to Saugata Gupta, MD & CEO of Marico, commodity prices have 'peaked' and are unlikely to climb much unless a 'black swan event' occurs. He expects higher volume growth in the FMCG sector this financial year. For Marico, which creates Parachute coconut oil, copra dominates its commodity basket.

Brokers can now invest in new business



Delhi : Brokers can now invest their own cash in enterprises beyond their jurisdiction after the government changed the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Rule. They can't invest clients' money in those businesses. They cannot borrow to invest in other firms either. Brokers indicated they'll await Sebi's rules. Brokers couldn't float subsidiaries before now. Top broking house officials stated the new rules allow that. "Given the growth in the scale and interconnectedness of the financial sector and the evolution of the nature of business of brokers with time, the DEA (Dept of Economic Affairs) felt it necessary to review the appropriateness of safeguards

embedded in the rules so that the intent of the rules is served without constraining activities of the stakeholders," the government said in a release. Broking house executives believe this SCRR modification is a major regulatory change. Leading broker Motilal Oswal said stock brokers could only invest in securities and commodity derivatives until now. "This amendment allows stock brokers to invest in any firm without using client funds or securities or creating financial obligation.

Automakers from other countries are searching for ways to cut electric vehicle tariffs



Delhi: In March 2024, India offered to let international automakers import a certain number of electric cars with low duties in exchange for a commitment to invest a certain amount in the country. Meanwhile, three industry officials have stated that manufacturers are now focusing on anticipated tariff reductions in free trade agreements (FTAs) that are currently being discussed, as the scheme's criteria have not been finalized by the Centre. Following CEO Elon Musk's public criticism of India's high import levies on autos, the country's

plan to promote manufacturing of electric passenger cars in India (SPMPC-I), also known as the "Tesla Policy," was viewed as an effort by New Delhi to entice the American automaker. The plan called for authorized automakers to be able to import 8,000 EVs per year for a 15% tariff, as opposed to the typical 70-110% tariff

Supreme Court rejects Airtel and Vodafone's requests to waive AGR fees

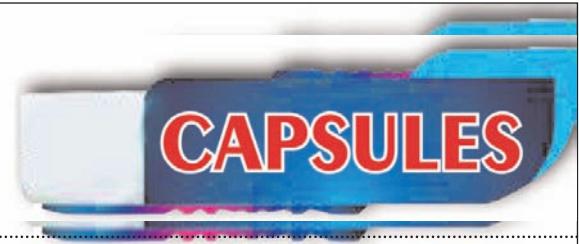
Delhi : Airtel and Vodafone Idea were denied a waiver of interest and penalty on their outstanding adjusted gross revenue (AGR) debts, totaling Rs 80,000 crore, by the Supreme Court. The order would have an effect on Tata Teleservices as well. After the initial SC order in 2019, which aimed to recover industrial dues, the outstanding AGR is now little less than 1.5 lakh crore.

Since it entered the telecom market in 2016 with only a



minor exposure to past dues and adjustments, Reliance Jio was the only company that walked out relatively unscathed. The businesses' request for a postponement was denied by a panel of Justices JB Pardiwala and R Mahadevan, who

deemed the companies' petitions "shocking and misconceived" and rejected them.



Meta releases standalone AI app to challenge ChatGPT

Delhi: competing with ChatGPT creator OpenAI with a standalone AI app. Meta said that its new AI assistant will use Llama AI. The Discover stream shows how others are using the tool and provides prompts. The AI arms race pits Meta's new software against ChatGPT and other AI platforms. Claude, Grok, and Gemini from Anthropic, xAI, and Google are also leading contenders. In September 2023, Meta debuted an AI chatbot as a generative AI-powered digital assistant that can respond to user questions and produce graphics in its apps. Meta AI became prominent in April when it replaced Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp, and Messenger's search feature with a chatbot. Zuckerberg claimed in January that 2025 "is going to be the year when a highly intelligent and personalized AI assistant reaches more than 1 billion people, and I expect Meta AI to be that leading AI assistant." Meta finance head Susan Li said Meta AI has 700 million monthly active users in January. It rose from 600 million in December. Meta launched a standalone AI app after Google and Elon Musk's xAI. Both firms released Gemini and Grok applications recently.



High prices reduce India's January-March gold demand by 15% to 118.1 tonnes

Delhi: The WGC predicts 700-800 tons of gold demand from India in 2025. Since 2025, gold prices have increased 25%, approaching the psychological threshold of ₹1,000,000 per 10 gm, impacting consumer purchasing behaviors. Price increases have hurt

affordability. However, gold's cultural significance, especially ahead of Akshaya Tritiya and the wedding season, supports buying sentiment. "WGC India CEO Sachin Jain stated in its quarterly report. Experts say the gold market is buzzing on Akshaya Tritiya, a culturally significant day in India that generally boosts gold buying. Record costs have driven shoppers toward smaller, lighter pieces, with some delaying purchases awaiting price drops. Wedding demand remained consistent.

Promoters of Prudential, HCL to form health insurer



Delhi: Prudential and HCL Group promoters announced a separate health insurance joint venture. Prudential Group Holdings, Prudential's UK affiliate, would own 70% of the joint venture, while HCL Group promoter Vama Sundari Investments will own 30%. HCL founder Shiv Nadar gave his daughter Roshni Nadar Malhotra large shares in Vama Sundari Investments, giving her power. Prudential had its first branch in Kolkata in

1923, making India a critical market, according to CEO Anil Wadhwan. "Today, we have a significant presence with life insurance and asset management businesses providing a comprehensive offering of insurance and wealth products," Wadhwan. ICICI Bank has partnered with Prudential, a FTSE 100 company, for over two decades in life insurance and asset management. The Prudential cooperation intends to provide quality health insurance in India, according to Vama executive director Shikhar Malhotra. "Through this collaboration, we aim to advance our common mission to enhance access to quality health insurance and drive greater penetration across the country," stated. If approved by regulators, Amar Joshi will lead the joint venture.

Indian tourists boycott Turkey, Azerbaijan



Delhi : According to two travel agencies, Indian tourists are canceling vacations to Turkey and Azerbaijan after the two countries supported Pakistan in a recent armed war with New Delhi. India is considering boycotting Turkey and Azerbaijan after both publicly

supported Pakistan amid mounting tensions after Operation Sindo and the April 22 Pahalgam terror assault. Turkey supported Pakistan's call for an international probe into the Pahalgam incident, while Azerbaijan repeated

Pakistan's position. Turkish weapons have also been given to Pakistan. "Bookings for Azerbaijan and Turkey decreasing by 60% (over the last week) while cancellations have surged by 250%," a MakeMyTrip spokeswoman told

The 'Faster Service' Advance Tip Feature of Uber is Baffled by CCPA Notice



Delhi : In response to a contentious policy found inside the Uber app, the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) has given the company a notice. The app allegedly encouraged users to tip drivers in advance to potentially gain quicker pick-up services, according to Union Consumer Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi. According to Joshi, this method is exploitative and unethical. Feel free to become one of our three million satisfied clients. Free brokerage

For first 30 days" Publicly voicing his disapproval, the Minister said that gratuities should be an after-service, optional gift of appreciation rather than a prerequisite for better service. Uber is being asked to provide an official explanation by the CCPA about this behavior. Users alleged

NBD Bank PJSC gets RBI approval for India wholly owned subsidiary

Delhi: Emirates NBD Bank PJSC, a renowned UAE banking firm, received "in-principle" approval from the RBI to create a wholly owned subsidiary (WOS) in India. This is part of the RBI's Scheme for Foreign Banks to Set Up WOS

in India. In India, Emirates NBD has branches in Mumbai, Chennai, and Gurugram. The RBI has allowed the bank to transform these branches into wholly owned subsidiaries, subject to regulatory compliance.

er could be more inclined to accept the journey. It elaborates by saying that the tip is final once chosen and belongs solely to the

driver. The present scrutiny is a result of this prompt, which seems to position the tip as a way to influence service speed rather than a reward.

Apply now for Bachelor of Science degrees online at IIT Madras; JEE score not necessary

Delhi: Online Bachelor of Science (BS) Degree Programs in Electronic Systems and Data Science and Applications are now accepting applications from interested students at the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras). These undergraduate programs offer an alternative to the standard Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) and are made to be both accessible and flexible, giving students another way to get an IIT-quality education. Through the official portal: study.iitm.ac.in, applications will be accepted until May 20, 2025. No age or seat limit applies; the programs are accessible to all students who have finished Class 12. The goal of this program is to make top technical education more accessible to more people, which is a larger objective of IIT Madras. A direct entrance is available



to candidates who qualify through the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE), while others are required to complete a four-week online preparatory program and pass an in-person qualifier exam. According to the news release, there are currently more than 38,000 students enrolled in these programs. These students come from a variety of academic backgrounds and include working professionals, career changers, and others. This cohort deviates significantly from the norm for engineering students in that 25% of its members are female and 20% are older than 30.

Popular Business Degrees and Their Payoff

Delhi: You want a promotion at work after years of hard work. You know you have the job and life experience, but your resume never gets you an interview because you never graduated. You've considered returning to school, but how do you know your time and money will pay off? Let's get to work. A college degree can help you advance your job or start a new one and boost your earnings. One of the most popular on-campus.

Delhi: In the last five years, the average cost of newly constructed residential properties in India's top ten cities has increased by an astounding 88%, per a report released on Monday by real estate data analytics company PropEquity. The greatest increase in prices was seen in Gurugram, where average prices shot up 160% from Rs 7,500 per square foot in 2019 to Rs 19,500 per sq foot in 2024. Mumbai, on the other hand, saw the least gain over the same period, going from Rs 25,820 per sq ft to Rs 35,500 per sq ft, or 37%. Noida (146%), Bengaluru (98%), Hyderabad (81%), Chennai (80%), Pune

(73%), Navi Mumbai (69%), Kolkata (68%), Thane (66%), and Mumbai are the next cities in terms of price growth after Gurugram. In the top 10 cities—Bengaluru, Chennai, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Mumbai, Thane, Navi Mumbai, Pune, Noida, and Gurugram—the survey examined 15,000 new launch projects that included flats, floors, and villas. In the past five years, real estate prices have increased dramatically in all major cities. The factors that have contributed to such a steep rise include the massive infrastructure development, the growing interest.



Students say the food in the IIT-D mess caused them ill

Delhi: According to an internet post, almost half of the students in a hostel at IIT Delhi were admitted to the hospital after reportedly eating food from the institute's kitchen. IIT-D refuted the accusations, claiming that the meal in question was ordered from an outside vendor rather

than being provided by the hostel mess. The message, which went viral on social media, claimed that many students became very ill after eating litti chokha from the dorm mess. The message, which generated a flurry of responses on social media, read, "I'm standing in line as I type this out, already waited for over 45 minutes and still six people ahead of me." The post went on to say, "Everyone ate the litti chokha that was provided at the hostel meal last night. People were getting sick like flies by dawn, which caused havoc, fever, chills.

Delhi to hold mammoth job fair to increase youth employment



Delhi: The Delhi government will host a huge job expo later this year to increase youth employment. According to an official release, Labour and Employment Minister Kapil Mishra met with DoE officials to discuss connecting job seekers with employers. According to Mishra, government and industry departments should coordinate their efforts. He stated that the Delhi government's 2025-26 Budget funds the job fair. "A common platform will enable employer-job seeker direct interaction.

The first fair may be in July, he said. The meeting resolved to engage industry

associations like Ficci, Dicci, CII, and PHD Chamber of Commerce. Government agencies including the Department of Training and Technical Education, Department of Higher Education, and Education Department Vocational Branch will participate. A senior labor department official said the data will help construct a list of job-seeking adolescents and recruiting organizations. Mishra also ordered departments to get campus placement and recruitment data from their universities and technical colleges.

Irish education minister invites Indians for education, research

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

Maintain pre-2010 7% OBC quota



Delhi: Calcutta high court ordered the West Bengal University of Health Sciences (WBUHS), a government medical university in Kolkata, to enroll students with 7% reservation for 66 OBCs notified in the state before 2010. In its ruling, Justice Kausik Chanda noted that a division bench of the high court had set down the state's reservation policy in May, which divided OBCs into A and B categories and offered 10% and 7% quota, respectively. The state must apply OBC reservations solely to the 66 backward classes recognized by

the backward class department before 2009. Justice Chanda said that the state's OBC reservations should be 7% per November 6, 1997 notification. Caste certificates for 66 grades produced before 2010 have been preserved and 7% reservation maintained, the decision stated. The government suspended quota-based recruit-

ment and admissions after a division bench of the high court revoked OBC designation for 77 Muslim communities granted by the state since 2010. Supreme Court challenge by TMC government. West Bengal offered 17% OBC reservation in public sector jobs and state-run schools before the May ruling. It was divided into two brackets:

A Third of the Total Fees Will Go Towards Reevaluating Legal Papers



US may ban visas for Indian travel brokers

Delhi: The announcement comes months after the U.S. deported illegal Indian immigrants. Around 330 Indian nationals were returned in February, demonstrating the Trump administration's stance on illegal immigration. "With a total annual fee of just about Rs 6,000, how can students be asked to pay Rs 2,000 for each paper?" Many will be discouraged from accessing a fundamental academic entitlement because of this. Delhi University

Former CJI DY Chandrachud appointed as 'distinguished professor' at NLU



"Justice Chandrachud's presence will profoundly enrich our academic ecosystem," he said. Under this collaboration, the university will set up a Centre for Constitutional Studies, where Justice Chandrachud will lead research work. NLU Delhi also plans to begin a lecture series titled 'In the Spirit of Justice'.

next generation of legal minds. Justice Chandrachud's presence will profoundly enrich our academic ecosystem," he said. Under this collaboration, the university will set up a Centre for Constitutional Studies, where Justice Chandrachud will lead research work. NLU Delhi also plans to begin a lecture series titled 'In the Spirit of Justice'. The DYC Distinguished Lecture Series starting in July 2025. This series will focus on major judgments authored by Justice Chandrachud, covering topics like privacy, LGBTQ+ rights, gender justice, digital freedoms, and judicial reforms. These will be discussed from his point of view.

Premji pledges 2,250 crore for college education of girls



Delhi: Azim Premji Foundation has committed to giving 2,250 crore over three years to help more girls complete their college education, making it the country's largest direct benefit transfer scheme by a not-for-profit private entity. Under the initiative, a girl who has completed her standard X and XII from a government school can apply for the Azim Premji scholarship. Billionaire and philanthropist Azim Premji's eponymous foundation, Azim Premji Foundation, would give 30,000 a year to up to 250,000 girl students. This translates to 750 crore a year, which, over a three-year degree program, would total 2,250 crore. "The basic purpose of this is to allow girl children to complete their higher education," said Anurag Behar, chief executive officer of Azim Premji Foundation. "If a girl has completed 10th and 12th from a government school and is admitted to a bona fide college, the child is eligible to get 30,000 every year for the duration of her course." Beginning in September, a girl who starts college and has received the Azim Premji scholarship will receive *90,000 over a three-year degree program.

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.

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



"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"

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French energy giant Total puts Adani Gp investments on hold



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.

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.

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, 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.

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 reportedly 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 Rahul Gandhi has stated that the company that wins the bids according to the regulations will invest.

Cabinet's 30k cr bank guarantee relief for telcos



"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% intra-day 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.

Commercial LPG hike by Rs 16.5 per cylinder, jet fuel up 1.45%; household cooking gas remains unchanged

NEW DELHI: The cost of commercial LPG and aviation fuel prices surged on Sunday following the monthly revision aimed at aligning with trends in international oil prices. State-owned oil firms raised commercial LPG rates, used in hotels and restaurants by Rs 16.5 per to Rs 1818.50 per 19 kg cylinder. Aviation turbine fuel (ATF) prices in Delhi, which hosts one of India's most active airports, saw an increase of Rs 1,318.12 per kilo litre, marking a 1.45 per cent increment. The new rate stands at Rs 91,856.84 per kl, according to state-owned fuel retailers. The prices of ATF and LPG vary from state to state, depending on local taxes, including VAT. This marks the second consecutive monthly increase in jet fuel prices, which were previously raised by Rs 2,941.5 per kl, or 3.3 per cent, on November 1. ATF prices were reduced by 6.3 per cent (Rs 5,883 per kl) on October 1 and by Rs 4,495.5 per kl, or 4.58 per cent, on September 1. In Mumbai, the ATF price increased to Rs 85,861.02 per kl on Sunday from Rs 84,642.91 previously. The price of commercial LPG have also increased for the seventh consecutive month. In the most recent review on November 1, commercial LPG prices were raised by Rs 62 per 19-kg cylinder. Over the course of five price hikes, commercial LPG prices have increased by Rs 172.5 per 19-kg cylinder, reaching their peak this year. Four monthly price reductions before the current cycle began in August were offset by the recent hikes. Prices for 19-kg cylinders were reduced by Rs 148 across the four rounds. Currently, commercial LPG costs Rs 1,980 in Chennai, Rs 1,927 in Kolkata, and Rs 1,771 in Mumbai for a 19-kg cylinder. However, the rate of cooking gas used in domestic households, however, remained unchanged at Rs 803 per 14.2-kg cylinder. State-owned Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL), and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) revise the prices of ATF and cooking gas on the first of each month.