

# AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

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

## 'Country first, trade later', India did not bow down

**New Delhi.** Tensions between India and America regarding trade are increasing continuously. America has imposed 25% extra tariff on India from today. The reason behind this has been told by the US President to be India's purchase of oil from Russia. However, Indian oil refinery companies say that buying crude oil from Russia

will not stop. They believe that the government will not bow down to American pressure. The clear message of the officials is that 'country first, trade later'.

**No order received from the government**  
Officials of oil companies said that no order has been received from the government to stop buying oil from Russia. In the month of



September, orders have definitely decreased a bit, but the reason for this is not the American tariff but the low dis-

count from Russia. Last year, Russian crude oil was available cheaper by 2.5 dollars to 3 dollars per barrel, but now

### Oil

**Russian crude oil was available cheaper by 2.5 dollars to 3 dollars per barrel**

this discount has come down to only 1.5 dollars to 1.7 dollars per barrel. Officials believe that orders may increase again from October, as Russia is preparing to

increase the discount again. India will not stop buying oil from Russia. An industry official said, "The government's message is clear that we will not bow down. If oil imports are stopped now, America will impose more conditions." Experts associated with the oil industry believe that if India wants, it can easily buy oil from other countries as well.

## India will bid for Commonwealth Games 2030: Govt.

**Ahmedabad will become a contender for 2030 Commonwealth Games**

### Organize

- 31 August is the deadline;
- Decision on whether hosting will be given or not



### Cabinet approves four railway projects

**New Delhi.** India will present its bid to host the 2030 Commonwealth Games. This bid will be to organize these games in Ahmedabad. The Union Cabinet approved the proposal to this effect. The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi today approved the proposal of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports to submit a bid for the Commonwealth Games-2030 (CWG-2030). The approval is also linked to signing the Host Cooperation

New Delhi. The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved four important projects of the Ministry of Railways. Their total estimated cost is Rs 12,328 crore. These include a new rail line project in Kutch region of Gujarat and three multi-tracking projects in Karnataka, Telangana, Bihar and Assam. A proposal to this effect was approved in the Union Cabinet meeting chaired by PM.

Agreement (HCA) with necessary guarantees from the concerned ministries, departments and authorities and approving the necessary grant assistance to the Government of Gujarat in case the bid is accepted. According to the government release, Ahmedabad will prove to be an ideal host city for the event. The world's largest stadium, Narendra Modi Stadium, has demonstrated its potential.



Indi Alliance's vice-presidential candidate Sudarshan Reddy meets CPI-CPM leaders to garner support.

### FM Minister will address the GST Group of Ministers meeting

**New Delhi:** Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will address a meeting of the Group of Ministers of States on Wednesday regarding the proposed reforms in the Goods and Services Tax (GST). Under these reforms, GST rates will be cut and the prices of commonly used goods will come down.

## Historical basis of Rann Samvad: Rajnath

### Program

- India does not attack but if challenged, we will respond with full force



**New Delhi.** Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday (August 27, 2025) participated in the Rann-Samvad 2025 program in Mhow, Madhya Pradesh. During this, he told how the war will be fought in the future. Along with this, the Defense Minister also said that India never attacks first but if challenged, it will be responded with full force. Rajnath Singh

said, "I found the title of the program, 'Rann Samvad', very interesting. This name itself is a subject of contemplation and meditation. On the one hand, 'Rann' evokes the imagination of war and conflict, on the other hand 'Samvad' points to dialogue, discussion and reconcilia-

tion. At first glance, both these words seem contradictory. Where there is war, how can there be dialogue and where there is dialogue, how can there be war? But if we look deeply, this name contains one of the most relevant truths of our time." Rajnath Singh said,

"Ran-Samvad also has a historical basis in India and it reminds me of many incidents in our history that show us how civilizational wars mean 'battle' and dialogues mean 'dialogue'. And in India these two were intertwined. In our culture, dialogue is not separate from war. It happens before war. It happens during war and continues even after war. For example, take the Mahabharata, to prevent war, Lord Krishna went as a messenger of peace. He went to communicate so that war could be averted.

"Rajnath Singh explained how will the future war be?

## Notice to Centre and Army chiefs regarding insurance coverage of cadets

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court has taken suo motu cognizance of the situation of cadets who were expelled from military institutions due to disability during military training. The bench headed by Justice BV Nagarathna has asked the Central Government and all the Army Chiefs whether such cadets can be given any other alternative job in the army after treatment. The next hearing of the case will be on September 4. The court also issued



notice to the Center and the Chiefs of the Air Force, Army and Navy. During the hearing, the court suggested the government to consider giving insurance cover to such cadets, increasing financial assistance. The court asked ASG Aishwarya Bhati, appearing for the Central Government, to obtain instructions from the Central Government regarding.

**PANAJI:** Calangute police informed a Goa children's court on Tuesday that Suchana Seth, a Bengaluru-based data scientist who allegedly killed her four-year-old son in Goa, does not suffer from any stress-related ailments. She was examined by a panel of doctors, and questions posed to her answered.

**No stress-related problem with Suchana Seth, court told**

**New Delhi.** RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat said on Wednesday: No organization has faced as much opposition as the RSS. Despite this, the volunteers have pure



Satvik love for the society. Due to this love, the intensity of our opposition has now reduced. Bhagwat was addressing

the second day of the Samvad program organized at Vigyan Bhavan in Delhi on the completion of 100 years

of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS). Bhagwat told the volunteers: Make friends with noble people, ignore those who do not do noble work. Appreciate good deeds, even if they are done by opponents. Show compassion, not cruelty towards those who do wrong. There is no encouragement in the RSS, but many discouragements. There is no incentive for volun-

teers. Yesterday he said: Respect everyone's faith. On the first day of the program, Sarsanghchalak Mohan Bhagwat had said that a Hindu is one who respects the faith of people with different beliefs. Our religion is of coordination with everyone, not of conflict. He had said that the DNA of the people living in undivided India for the last 40 thousand years is the same. The people living on the land of undivided India and our culture, both are in favor of living in harmony. On the matter of India becoming a world leader, he said that India has to contribute to the world and now this time has come. Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, Anupriya Patel, BJP MP Kangana Ranaut and Baba Ramdev along with other celebrities attended the program.

## Centre took several steps for development of MSME sector: Shobha

### Sector

- An amount of Rs 20 lakh has been allocated for the service sector under the PMEGP



Enterprises (MSME) sector. An amount of Rs 20 lakh has been allocated for the service

(PMEGP), which has increased the scope of this scheme. Union Minister of State for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Shobha Karandlaje gave this information in a written reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha on Monday. Karandlaje told the House that the MSME Ministry has made Udyam Registration for MSMEs effective from July 1, 2020.

sector under the Pradhan Employment Programme

## The court raised questions on toll collection due to bad condition of roads

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court, while hearing a case, said that when the condition of roads is so bad that there is a 12-hour long traffic jam, then how can people be charged Rs 150 as toll. Commenting on the problem of traffic and waterlogging in

in which the Court had banned toll collection on a dilapidated National Highway 544. The Kerala High Court had ordered a ban on collection at a toll plaza, calling the 65 km long road from Edappally to Munnuthu very bad.

## NC is unlikely to revoke J&K Pahari 10% ST quota



**Delhi:** National Conference insiders warned taking back the 10% ST reservation for Paharis in J&K could cause agitations that would hurt the future party-led government. The quota issue still bothers youth and non-reserved classes in J&K, where total reservation has climbed to 70%, reducing open merit space. Protesters asked that the incoming government rescind the policy, arguing that the 10% quota is disproportionate to the recipients' population. BJP won only Kalakot out of eight Poonch and Rajouri seats, while NC won four, Independents two, and Congress one. BJP wanted to expand in these areas. Before

the elections, the UT administration proposed a 10% reservation for Paharis and three additional communities in addition to the 10% ST reservation for Gujjars/Bakarwals. NC sources said quota is a delicate topic and revoking it could spark riots that would hurt the next leadership. Their biggest concern was that it would assist BJP win Muslim Poonch and Rajouri at the expense of "secular" parties. BJP was limited

to 29 MLAs. We were worried. Only Budhal in Rajouri has a Gujjar majority, while the other seven seats have Paharis in large numbers. "The NC functionary suggested that BJP could have won up to seven seats in Nowshera, Poonch, Mendhar, Rajouri, Thanamandi, and Surankote if Paharis voted for it in large numbers. People on social media are criticizing the BJP's blunder, saying it was duped by its thirst."

## RSS door-to-door campaign helped BJP win large



**Delhi:** BJP members said large-scale door-to-door campaigning over the previous month helped them fight anti-incumbency in south Haryana. They said this, along with strong cooperation between BJP and RSS volunteers, helped the party win its third straight election. BJP leader and former chief minister A Gurugram-based RSS official stated his organization and the BJP plotted their electoral campaign. "We hold five-day door-to-door meetings to encourage people to vote for the nation. This time, the

greater support. We shared information and backed the BJP locally. BJP leaders shared input at regular samiksha baithaks. The RSS also distributed tickets before the polls, he added. The Haryana BJP social media team leader, Arun Yadav, said RSS and BJP activists mobilized and educated voters. We convinced voters that only the BJP could create a clean, merit-based administration without caste or group discrimination. Combined efforts by party and sangh karyakartas were crucial, he said.

## Mumbai Cars Enter Without Toll

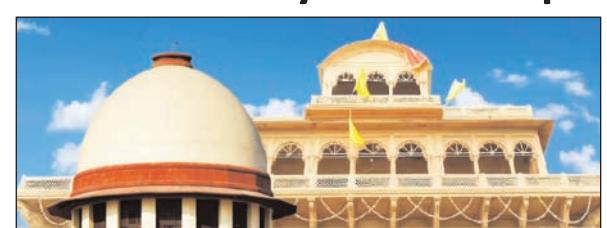


**Delhi Mumbai:** Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde declared that cars entering Mumbai will no longer pay tolls. The opposition immediately denounced the toll waiver as an election sop that would worsen traffic in India's financial capital, effective midnight today. According to Eknath Shinde, all light motor vehicles entering Mumbai at the five toll booths will be toll-free.

The state government cabinet meeting in Mumbai announced the measure weeks before the Maharashtra election. This will cut traffic, pollution, and commuter time. The decision is historic. "Mr.

Shinde told reporters. CM Ekanth Shinde states "The toll plaza at Mumbai's entry point used to delay traffic. People have demanded this for years. I'm also pleased that lakhs of light motor vehicles have been released during my term as CM. Maharashtra minister Dadaji Dagadu Bhuse said light cars could enter freely from 2002-commissioned tolls at Dahisar, Anand Nagar, Vaishali, Airoli.

## Court challenges government's Bankey Bihari temple



**Delhi:** The Supreme Court found that the government of Uttar Pradesh had moved in a "clandestine" and "tearing hurry" when it passed an ordinance to seize the Bankey Bihari temple in Mathura. The state and the temple administration were given one day to respond to the court's proposal that an interim administrative committee, presided over by a former high court judge, oversee the day-to-day operations of

the temple and make recommendations for its comprehensive development with the goal of encouraging religious tourism. The "Uttar Pradesh Shri Bankey Bihari Ji Temple Trust Ordinance, 2025" was signed into law by the Uttar Pradesh government on May 26. This ordinance granted a state-run trust the authority to oversee the temple's operations and finances. The UP government was granted permission.

### "The Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) fortified rice scheme will cost 17,082 crore"

**Delhi:** The Union cabinet approved extending the free fortified rice policy from July 2024 to December 2028, building the National Maritime Heritage Complex in Lothal, Gujarat, and building 2,280km of highways in Rajasthan and Punjab

border districts. After the meeting, which was chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union minister for information and broadcasting Ashwini Vaishnaw briefed reporters that the

### Government personnel cannot be fired due to disability

**Delhi:** The Supreme Court ruled that public sector companies cannot automatically retire employees who develop disabilities while on the job without considering viable redeployment options. The court emphasized that an employer's discretion stops at the employee's dignity. While judicial caution is necessary to prevent abuse, it shouldn't be used as a reason to ignore injustice. "The Court is not crossing a line by intervening, it is upholding one drawn by the Constitution itself," reaffirmed a bench of Justices JK Maheshwari and Aravind Kumar, in a

major affirmation of the constitutional right to dignity and equality in employment, when an employee is removed from service for a condition he did not choose and where viable alternatives are ignored. A judge ordered the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC) to rehire a driver who had been forcibly retired in 2016 due to a diagnosis of color blindness in their ruling on August 1. The court slammed TSRTC for crossing the line into administrative error and violating constitutional principles and statutory requirements.

### Supreme Court on RG Kar case: CBI report indicates probe into role of 'others'



**Delhi:** The Supreme Court reviewed the CBI's progress in the rape and murder case of a doctor in Kolkata. It instructed the CBI to submit a further status report within three weeks. The court also criticized the West Bengal government for delays in installing CCTVs and other security measures in medical colleges. Supreme Court on Tuesday, during a hearing on the suo motu case related to the rape and murder of a doctor at RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata, stated that the fifth status report of the probe filed by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) indicates agency's probe into the role of "others" in the case. Taking cognizance of the chargesheet filed on October 7 against accused Sanjay Roy and a Sealdah court, the court directed the CBI to file further status report on probe in the case within three weeks. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing on behalf of the CBI, had submitted the latest status report to the bench comprising Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra. The court also stated that the National Task Force meetings should be held periodically and directed it to formulate recommendations on safety of Kolkata doctors within three weeks. On September 30, the Supreme Court expressed dissatisfaction regarding the slow progress made by the West Bengal government in installing CCTVs and constructing toilets and separate resting rooms in government medical colleges. The court set a dead-

## CM issues stern warning over NSA and Gangster Act

**Delhi:** Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has issued a warning that those who use drones without proper authorization or who distribute false information about them in an effort to incite fear may face prosecution under the Gangster Act and, in extreme circumstances, the National Security Act (NSA). He ordered high-ranking authorities to take strong action against infractions and to increase district-level drone surveillance and patrols. False allegations of burglars in western UP using drones to scout homes they target have sparked a spate of mob attacks, which led to the instruction. Yogi stated during a review conference with senior police officials that the state had outlawed the unlawful use of UAVs and that anyone caught misusing them will face



legal consequences. Yogi said, "We will not accept any infraction. We will not spare anyone who uses drones unlawfully or to cause panic. The NSA will be used if necessary," the CM stated. There has been a rise in community-led patrolling, violent attacks, and mob violence against those with mental disabilities and those perceived as gang members due to the misinformation surrounding drones. Some locals took mat-

### GGM forbids the use of firecrackers; only "green" ones are permitted

**Delhi:** According to officials, the Chief Minister's Flying Squad raided two godowns in Gurgaon's Daboda that were holding non-green firecrackers. Three people were taken into custody after two warehouses with almost three tonnes of non-green crackers were found. In an effort to reduce pollution, the Gurgaon Deputy Commissioner banned the sale and usage of firecrackers prior to the festival season. DC Green firecrackers would only be permitted on specified occasions throughout a specific time period, according to Nishant Kumar Yadav. Inspector Dharamvir Singh of the Gurgaon Police has stated that two males are the subject of formal complaints under Section 98 of the Explosive Act 1884 and IPC section 188. Additionally, samples

### CAPSULES

## Most SIR deletions occur in Gopalganj and Kishanganj

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

### Abhishek Banerjee named TMC Lok Sabha unit head

**Delhi:** West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee has handed her nephew and the Trinamool Congress' (TMC) national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee charge of the party's Lok Sabha unit amid a fresh public slanging match between its lawmakers Mahua Moitra and Kalyan Banerjee. According to party leaders aware of the matter, Kalyan Banerjee offered to resign as the party's chief whip in the Lok Sabha after the fallout. The resignation is yet to be accepted, said the party leaders. "Abhishek Banerjee called me and told me not to push my resignation. He said, 'He wants to talk to me.' Moitra, when asked about Kalyan's purportedly sexist comments during the 2024 Lok Sabha campaign, said, "You don't wrestle with a pig because then you get dirty." "There are deeply misogynistic and sexually frustrated people in India and they have representation in Parliament," she added.

Kalyan Banerjee, in a post on X, hit back at Moitra. I have taken note of the recent personal remarks made by Ms. Mahua Moitra in a public podcast. Her choice of words, including the use of dehumanising language such as comparing a fellow MP to a "pig", is not only unfortunate but reflects a deep disregard for basic norms of civil discourse."

## Fortified rice plan for marine heritage complex approved by cabinet



### "The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) recommended phased rice fortification in India in April 2022"

PMGKAY's food subsidy program, Vaishnaw said. The extension supports the government's Anaemia Mukt Bharat campaign to tackle anaemia and nutritional deficiencies in India. Fortified rice will be distributed through the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), Integrated Child Development Service (ICDS), and PM POSHAN plan (previously mid-day meal) in all states and union territories. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) recommended phased rice fortification in India in April 2022.

Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) fortified rice scheme will cost 17,082 crore. The initiative will remain a central sector scheme, completely sponsored by the Indian government under

## District Judge and DM inspected Govt. Children Home Complex Khuldaabad

### Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Prayagraj, District Judge/Chairman District Legal Services Authority Sanjeev Kumar and District Magistrate Manish Kumar Verma along with Chief Development Officer Harshika Singh and Secretary-District Legal Services Authority Dinesh Kumar Gautam on Wednesday inspected the Government Children Home and Adoption Unit, Government Children Home for Girls, Government Children Home for Girls, and took stock of the arrangements and facilities there and the Honorable District Judge and District Magistrate inspected all the communication homes and gave necessary guidelines to all concerned. During the inspection, necessary guidelines were given to improve the facilities being provided and to provide



other necessary additional facilities in the Government Children Home premises, in view of the updated status of the building's condition, cleanliness of the premises and offices, sanctioned capacity, current attendance in

comparison to sanctioned capacity, open space, playground, availability of ventilation and light, security and privacy, space for internal and external activities etc. The District Judge and District Magistrate, while inspecting the

The DM expressed strong displeasure over the complaints received from the Child Welfare

The District Judge and District Magistrate, while inspecting the Government Children's Home for Girls, have directed to make necessary arrangements for providing training in beauty parlor, sewing, cooking, etc. to the girls living there and to make them skilled in dance and sports. He has also asked to make a plan for training and activities and display them there. In view of the beauty parlor training going on in the activity hall, he has also asked to provide them training through the Skill Development Coordinator. He talked to the girls living there and inquired about the facilities and arrangements being provided to them, on which satisfaction was expressed. The girl living there told the District Magistrate that she has now completed 18 years and wants to go her in-laws' house, on which he has instructed the representative of the Child Welfare Committee to take necessary action. The District Magistrate expressed strong displeasure over the complaints received from the Child Welfare Committee and instructed to improve the working process.

Government Children Home premises, have instructed to make better arrangements for cleanli-

ness in the premises and offices, and to keep files and goods in order in the offices. While inspecting the Government Children Home and Adoption Unit, the Hon'ble District Judge and District Magistrate have instructed to install exhaust fans for ventilation in the rooms where children live, to make alternative arrangements for running AC in case of power cut, to install nets in the windows and to get the walls painted in bright colors and to install additional lights for better lighting arrangements. While inspecting the children's classroom, when asked about their studies, it was told that some children go to private and some to government schools.

There are three teachers here, who teach the children by holding classes in shifts based on their learning level. While taking information from the children about their studies, dance classes, painting etc., he saw their paintings and while caressing them, he also gave them toffees and biscuits.

## Accused of robbing a jeweler arrested in police encounter, shot in leg

Instructed the CMO to ensure all the necessary arrangements in the BHND session

### Encounter

The accused was injured by a police bullet in an encounter near Lilhat canal



aged to escape taking advantage of the darkness.

Police recovered one kg silver jewelry from the arrested miscreant. Shiv Shankar Soni (28), son of late Rambabu, a resident of Varuna Bazaar in Phulpur Kotwali area, has opened a jewelry

shop in Bhogwara Bazaar of Phulpur. He was returning home after closing the shop on Sunday evening. As soon as he reached in front of Khojapur village on the road from Bhogwara to Varuna Bazaar, five miscreants riding on two bikes overtook him and stopped him. After this, they started beating the businessman at gunpoint. Due to which he got injured. After this, the miscreants broke the bike's trunk and snatched jewelry worth about two lakhs and 15 thousand rupees in cash and fled. On receiving the information, the police reached the spot. However, ACP Phulpur Pankaj Lavania said that prima facie the incident does not seem to be a robbery but a pickpocketing. Three suspects are being searched in this case.

## UPITS 2025 to showcase UP's economic prowess

**Lucknow:** The Uttar Pradesh International Trade Show (UPITS) 2025 will highlight the Yogi Adityanath government's achievements while unveiling

new initiatives to boost investment and establish the state as a global manufacturing hub. Alongside flagship schemes such as One District One Product

(ODOP), the Defence Industrial Corridor, expressway projects including the Ganga Expressway, the digital investment portal, and outcomes of the Global Investors Summit, the government is likely to announce fresh industrial promotion policies, MSME vendor development programs, and export-boosting.

## Permission to abort pregnancy resulting from rape: HC

### Akhand Bharat Sandesh

**Prayagraj.** Allahabad High Court has granted permission to terminate the unwanted pregnancy of a minor rape victim. The court passed this order on the basis of the investigation report of the team of doctors and clearly stated that delay in permission for abortion could prove to be a threat to the life of the victim. A division bench of Justice Manoj Kumar Gupta and Justice Anish Kumar Gupta gave this verdict. It

was also recorded in the report that both the victim and her parents agreed to the abortion and there was no pressure of any kind. In view of the report and consent, the court allowed the termination of pregnancy. Also, the Chief Medical Officer, Baghpat and Meerut were directed to form a team of specialist doctors from Lala Lajpat Rai Memorial Medical College, Meerut and complete the abortion process within three days. An order was also given to preserve the fetus for forensic examination.

## Selection of daughters of Tharu tribe is a living example of fair process : CM Yogi

**Lucknow:** Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday said that the fair and transparent recruitment process of the Women and Child Development Department is not only creating employment opportunities, but also raising hopes among youth in remote areas of Uttar Pradesh. Speaking at an appointment letter distribution program, the CM noted that candidates from districts including Azamgarh, Amroha, Shamli, Lucknow, Kanpur, Agra, Gorakhpur, Varanasi, and Prayagraj

have secured jobs. He highlighted the selection of two daughters from the Tharu tribe in Lakhimpur Kheri and Dudhwa National Park as proof that "talent is everywhere, it only needs opportunity." Yogi said the recruitment of candidates from tribal and backward districts such as Sonbhadra, Lalitpur, Jalaun, and Bijnor reflects the fairness of the process. "This step is not only offering jobs but also inspiring confidence among people of remote regions," he added, urging beneficiaries to shoulder.

## Leading bottlers from Adani Group and Coca-Cola acquire land to set up units

## Gorakhpur emerges as investor hotspot under Govt.



acres of land for 54 new units, paving the way for Rs 5,800 crore in capital investment and creating 8,500 jobs. Over the last five years,

GIDA has received proposals worth Rs 9,445 crore, generating nearly 23,000 employment opportunities. Global and national brands

### Industrial

PepsiCo bottling plant begins operations, Shree Cements eye industrial land

including PepsiCo, Keyan Distillery, Gyan Dairy, Technoplast, Central Warehousing Corporation, Kapila Agro Industry, and APL Apollo Tubes have already made their presence felt. Recently, Adani Group's Ambuja Cement and Coca-Cola

bottler Amrit Bottlers acquired land for new units. Meanwhile, Reliance Consumer Products Limited and Shree Cements have expressed interest, with their representatives visiting GIDA sites to explore investment options. To meet growing demand, GIDA has not only strengthened its land bank but also initiated the development of Dhuriapar Industrial Township in southern Gorakhpur—once hesitant to attract even local investors—is rapidly establishing itself on India's industrial map.

two major projects have already been allotted land. "Under the Chief Minister's guidance, Gorakhpur has built a strong ecosystem for investment. Land is being provided as per investor preference, and industrial interest is rising steadily," said Anuj Malik, CEO of GIDA. With world-class road, rail, and air connectivity now in place, Gorakhpur—once hesitant to attract even local investors—is rapidly establishing itself on India's industrial map.

**Lucknow:** In line with the Yogi Government's August 25 directive, a statewide road safety campaign, 'No Helmet, No Fuel,' will run from September 1 to 30 across Uttar Pradesh. Led by district magistrates in coordination with road safety committees, the drive will see police, transport, revenue, and district administration officials working jointly to ensure two-wheeler riders comply with helmet rules under the Motor Vehicles Act. Fuel will be denied at petrol pumps to those not wearing helmets, with the aim of promoting road safety rather than punishment. The Yogi Government has appealed to the public to extend full cooperation with the enforcement agencies. The initiative is lawful and designed in the public interest. Section 129 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, makes helmets mandatory for both two-wheeler riders and pillion passengers, while Section 194D prescribes penalties for violations. The Supreme Court's road safety committee has also advised states to give priority to helmet compliance.

## Editorial

## Beijing might claim that packing the plateau

Therefore, the frontier highway will also be an economic asset, apart from being a strategic masterstroke. This will also develop a connectivity conduit by interlinking the East-West Industrial Corridor Highway and the Trans-Arunachal Highway. It will also discourage migration from the border space to urban areas. The development will become more distributive than concentric. Pressure on the urban space will be primarily eased. The volatilities of the border space and Chinese hegemonic gravity will be minimised because of India's fully prepared, vigilant presence in the region.

The Myanmar chapter is currently in the doldrums. The Chinese alleged involvement in derailing democratic government there disturbs the geopolitics in the region, which imposes a cloud of uncertainty around India's infrastructure projects in Myanmar. Given the geopolitical complexity in the region, India makes measured strategic progress and anchors its hold firmly and irreplaceably. Building tunnels, bridges, airports, railroads, highways, etc, has become part of the process that systematically ensures India's strength and resilience. On the contrary, China's determined efforts in building highways, tunnels, bridges, railways, etc, on the Tibetan Plateau explain its preparedness. The skirmishes it indulges in along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) indicate its ulterior motive. Though Beijing might claim that packing the plateau with high-tech infrastructure is mainly for the economic development of Tibet, the territorial desires embedded in this exercise cannot be ignored. The Nyingchi-Lhasa rail line and highway that Beijing has built, as well as some sections that remain under construction, come close to the McMahon Line. Its concept of reconstituting border villages and a host of other things are symptoms of the region's complex geopolitics. Chinese brinkmanship has been primarily responsible for the disturbed geopolitics of the region. Much of these crises is expected to be resolved by the frontier highway. Therefore, India puts the required effort in the right direction to ease these tensions in the region.

West Siang, Upper Siang, Dibang Valley, Lower Dibang Valley, Anjaw, and Changlang in Arunachal Pradesh adjoining

Tibet and Myanmar is a geostrategic milestone. It was conceived in 2016 and is expected to be completed in 2027. Work in this direction has started at a quick pace. This shows the urgency and importance India gives to its territorial integrity.

The infrastructural development that China has brought along the McMahon Line is quite extensive. The frontier highway is a precise and direct response to this and to curb China's irrationality. The highway will become an all-weather road to handle any geopolitical and geostrategic pressure likely to emanate from the other side of the border. From Tawang to Vijayanagar, which covers the entire border space in Arunachal Pradesh, the frontier highway is a milestone in India's robust preparedness in the eastern Himalayas. The dragon finds a fitting competitor. The scale with which China develops its infrastructural might, both at the border and in the hinterland, the frontier highway is a geostrategic imperative. The risk these complex infrastructures present leaves no scope for a second thought but to act urgently to protect the territorial integrity of India. The frontier highway manifests India's right intent and seriousness in addressing the possible dangers that the enemy constantly poses. The frontier highway will present the required checkmate to Chinese bullying attitudes in the region. Beijing's reaction to these infrastructural initiatives is not new. It always does this to keep itself relevant in the thick of things. However, it has no business in making any comment as Arunachal Pradesh is an integral part of the sovereign India. China uses this drama to keep the issue alive and effectively uses its propaganda machinery to develop some geopolitical weight in the region.



# Well-functioning market requires a suitable regulatory role of the state

Deepesh Sharma

The Modi government's main move in the Union Budget 2025 has been to cut personal income tax. As finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman said in her speech, it is meant to boost demand in the economy. However, the government doesn't expect a higher-than-usual increase in other non-debt receipts and has budgeted a decline in the deficit. The budgeted capital expenditure is the same as the revised estimates for 2024-25. The tax cut should be seen in the context of other fiscal policy moves the Modi government has made in the last decade to boost growth. Since 2016, the Indian economy has struggled to sustain rapid growth. From 2016 to 2019, it was in a relentless slowdown, with GDP growth falling to 3.9 per cent in 2019-20. The GDP then fell sharply in 2020-21 due to the pandemic. After this sharp decline, high GDP growth numbers created a false sense of complacency, but the compound annual growth rate between 2019-20 and 2024-25 is only 4.8 per cent. The latest GDP estimates suggest that the economy is slowing down again—with growth clocking at 5.4 per cent in the July-September quarter of 2024. Even if we set aside the critiques of GDP estimation in India, growth remains a topic of concern in policy conversations. The government's response to an economic challenge depends on what it considers to be the root cause. The Modi government's actions over the past



decade suggest that it seeks to address India's economic growth pangs through fiscal policy. Consequently, fiscal policy has done much of the heavy lifting in the government's growth strategy over the past decade. In the economic slowdown from 2016-17 to 2019-20, the government sought to maintain its expenditure. To do so without increasing the reported fiscal deficit, from 2017-18 to 2019-20, it transformed a significant part of its on-budget expenditure into off-budget expenditure done by public enterprises. It also sharply raised cesses and surcharges on petroleum products, which are not shared with the states. These unusual tactics allowed the government to spend more, and expenditure continued to outpace GDP growth. These tactics also allowed the government to introduce new cash transfer schemes such as PM KISAN and increase allocations to existing schemes. In 2019, in an effort to stimulate investment, the government announced major tax breaks for corporates, especially in manufacturing. At the time, corporate tax collection had

been growing rapidly while other taxes were struggling to deliver the budgeted increase. The tax cut led to a sharp reduction in the corporate tax to GDP ratio in the subsequent years. As the pandemic hit, fiscal policy became even more central. The pandemic allowed the government to suspend its concern for deficits and bring the off-budget expenditure to the Budget in 2020-21. For a few years, revenue expenditure as a percentage of GDP was higher than its pre-pandemic levels. Among other things, this allowed the government to increase subsidies and cash transfers, and introduce production-linked incentives for manufacturing in India. Total subsidies as a percentage of GDP have now gone back to their pre-pandemic levels. The most important change in expenditure since the pandemic has been in its composition. Of the Union government's total expenditure, the share of capital expenditure has increased. Its share rose from 12.5 per cent of total expenditure in 2019-20 to 22.2 per cent in 2023-24. In 2019-20, capital expenditure was 1.67 per cent of GDP. It

rose to 3.21 per cent in 2023-24, before moderating to 3.14 per cent in 2024-25 (revised estimates). It is again budgeted to be 3.14 per cent of GDP in 2025-26. At the same time, there was a reduction in capital expenditure by public enterprises in these years. If we consider the combined capital expenditure by the Union government and its public enterprises from the pre-pandemic years, there has been a decline. Between 2017-18 and 2019-20, the combined capital expenditure was 4.94 per cent of GDP, while it has been only 4.32 per cent of GDP between 2022-23 and 2024-25. This probably shows the limitations of implementation capacity that a capital expenditure strategy tends to run into. So, in the last decade, the government has tried a variety of fiscal tactics—from increasing expenditure by "creatively" easing the Budget constraints, to giving generous corporate tax cuts, to introducing new welfare schemes, to increasing on-budget capital expenditure. The cut in the personal income tax is the latest in this series of measures. If this does not work, there are other arrows in the fiscal quiver—cut in GST, for instance. The fiscal policy landscape in India is such that there are always some instruments at the government's disposal, especially because it borrows domestically for the most part, that too, through financial institutions it controls. All this tells us something about the government's explanation of

how the economy works and what the challenges are. The government probably does not see deeper problems in the political economy. Now that it has made so many fiscal policy interventions, perhaps it should consider whether these can truly address the growth pangs of the Indian economy. The fundamental challenge for the Indian economy for over a decade has been the lack of revival of private investment and the lackadaisical performance of merchandise exports. While the latter performed well for about six quarters in the post-pandemic period, this was due to temporary opportunities created at that time—the exports are now back to low growth. Similarly, there have been a few quarters of better private investment activity in recent years, but we are not yet in a period of revival. On the other hand, some high-productivity services sectors continue to be the silver lining. The IT services exports have continued to grow and export services such as business and management consultancy as well as public relations have doubled from the pre-pandemic years. The FM's Budget speech and Economic Survey 2024-25 hinted at actions beyond fiscal policy—deregulation and tax code simplification. Depending on what reforms will follow, these can be steps in the right direction. However, two points are worth considering.

First, mere deregulation is not enough—a well-functioning market requires a suitable regulatory role.

## It shouldn't take anybody that much time to explain the applicable tax rates

Swati

While this may seem like a trivialisation of GST, it actually lays bare how the system has now rebounded on its initial promise of bringing ease of doing business in the country. The Finance Minister's four-minute explanation on the taxation of popcorn highlighted how complex the system has become. It shouldn't take anybody that much time to explain the applicable tax rates on a single product. Since then, GST has been ridiculed, derided, lamented about, and generally panned by laypeople and even former government officials who worked on its implementation. That is why India's Goods and Services Tax is ThePrint's Newsmaker of the Week. So, what is the issue behind GST on popcorn? You see, as per the taxman, depending on your taste preferences, popcorn can either be a namkeen (salty) or a

mithai (sweet)—forget that those two terms have never been used by anyone to refer to popcorn. Ready-to-eat popcorn, salted and spiced for taste, and sold loosely attracts a GST rate of 5 per cent. That same popcorn, if packaged and labelled, attracts a rate of 12 per cent. One wonders what happens if the vendor tears open the packet and sells loose popcorn to the customer. Perhaps the universe will explode, who knows? Things get even trickier when you talk about caramel popcorn. Those who prefer this flavour will have to shell out 18 per cent GST, regardless of whether it is packaged or sold loose. Then some head to the movie hall and ask for salted and caramel popcorn mixed together. What happens to them? Over the week, one particular meme stood out among the lot. It was a picture of salted caramel popcorn.

## The fourth anniversary of the notorious fatwa of the late Imam Khomeini

Abhimanyu Sharma

To stand in this house is to be reminded of what is most beautiful about religious faith: its ability to give solace and to inspire, its aspiration to these great and lovely heights, in which strength and delicacy are so perfectly conjoined. In addition, to be asked to speak here on this day, the fourth anniversary of the notorious fatwa of the late Imam Khomeini, is a particular honour. When I was an undergraduate at this college, between 1965 and 1968, the years of flower-power and student power, I would have found the notion of delivering an address in King's Chapel pretty far-out, as we used to say; and yet, such are the journeys of one's life that here I stand. I am grateful to the Chapel and the college for extending this invitation, which I take as a gesture of solidarity and support, support not merely for one individual but, much more importantly, for the high moral principles of human rights and human freedoms that the Khomeini edict seeks so brutally to attack. For just as King's Chapel may be taken as a symbol of what is best about religion, so the fatwa has become a symbol of what is worst. It feels all the more appropriate to be speaking here because it was while in my final year of reading history at Cambridge that I came across the story of the so-called satanic verses or temptation of the Prophet Muhammad, and of his rejection of that temptation. That year, I had chosen as one of my special subjects a paper on Muhammad, the rise of Islam, and the caliphate. So few students chose this option that the lectures were cancelled. The other students switched to different special subjects. However, I was anxious to continue, and Arthur Hibbert, one of the King's history dons, agreed to supervise me. So as it happened I was, I think, the only student in Cambridge who took the paper. The

## A hundred and twenty years later, historians remain sceptical

Suman Singh

**Circa 1900:** Rudyard Kipling wrote Kim, placing the eponymous hero at the centre of the Great Game of espionage between the British Empire and Russia in the 19th century. The book is set after the Second Anglo-Afghan War, which ended in 1881, but before the Third, likely in the period 1893-98. Kim, short for Kimball O'Hara, is an impoverished Irish orphan who lives on the streets of Lahore and works for Mahbub Ali, a Pashtun horse trader. He later befriends an aged Tibetan lama, accompanies him on his journey along the Grand Trunk Road, learns

about the Great Game, and is eventually recruited by Mahbub Ali, who works for the British Secret Service in their quest to extend influence in both Afghanistan and Tibet. Whether or not the Great Game—the expression used by British imperialists to describe the perceived expansion of Russian influence in Afghanistan, Central Asia, and Tibet—actually existed, the fact remains that surveys were undertaken, expeditions mounted, spymasters recruited, and novels written, even as soldiers lost their lives. Taking a cue from Viceroy George Curzon, all pro-establishment papers—from the

Civil and Military Gazette of Lahore to The Pioneer of Lucknow, The Statesman of Calcutta (now Kolkata), and The Times of India of Bombay (now Mumbai)—concluded that Tsarist Russia posed a real threat to the jewel in Britain's crown. A hundred and twenty years later, historians remain sceptical of Curzon's assertions. Is the hue and cry about the Deep State similar to the Great Game? Whether or not it exists, whether it operates in all countries, and whether the 'deep state' of one country is connected with others through the dark web or entrenched corporate inter-

ests remains unclear, as the discourse is more ideological than empirical. Sometimes, those who claim to be part of the deep state ascribe to themselves a larger-than-life role in state affairs—for example, AS Dulat and Asad Durrani in their 2018 book The Spy Chronicles: RAW, ISI and the Illusion of Peace. Their claim to be arbiters of one of the most tense and difficult relationships in the region has been widely critiqued by reviewers. The term first gained wide currency in the context of Türkiye as derin devlet, which literally translates to "deep state" in English.



## PM stops razing slums, vows to build homes

**Delhi:** Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta responded to accusations that the BJP is betraying its commitments to the urban poor by saying that her administration is willing to revise Delhi's slum policy. This comes as the BJP is under pressure from both the opposition and members of its own party over the continuing destruction of slums in the capital. Slum residents are the "backbone of Delhi's working class," according to Gupta, who has ordered a stop to all demolitions unless suitable alternatives are found beforehand. Additionally, the Delhi government has stated categorically that the capital will not be removing any slums. Gupta issued a stern warning to land-owning organizations such as the Railways and the Delhi Development Authority, urging them to "immediately cease" any eviction campaigns.

She also threatened that her govern-



### GIS mapping for PWD road dust checks

**Delhi:** The Public Works Department will enforce safety and dust control on building sites. Officials have sent the standard operating procedure for dust control measures to all agency wings, and chief engineers have been instructed to closely monitor project sites under their command and ensure compliance with Delhi government and Delhi Pollution Control Committee guidelines. The state government recently ordered PWD to deploy 200 anti-smog weapons on 1,400 km of highways as part of its winter action plan.

Notable slums in Delhi have been leveled in recent months by the BJP government: Madras Camp (340 structures), Bhoomiheen Camp (344 structures), Jailer Wala Bagh (300 buildings), and Taimoor Nagar (100 structures).

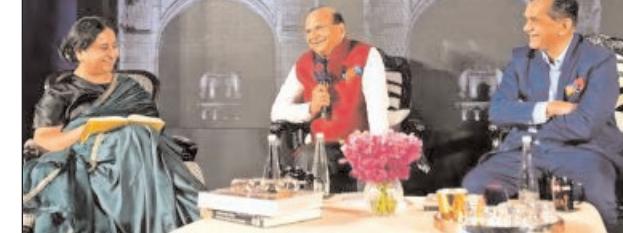
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ment would resort to legal action if required. The slum dwellers in R K Puram, an area where Prime Minister Narendra Modi had previously promised that "no jhuggi would be demolished" received eviction notifications weeks before her statement.

## Delhi may eliminate the necessity for MCD health trade licenses

**Delhi:** The Delhi government may soon eliminate the need for a health trade license from the civic body to build restaurants and cafés in the city to enhance the hospitality sector. At the "Expresso" Lt Governor V K Saxena announced the city's restaurant licensing requirement is being eliminated. The Delhi government and MCD did not immediately respond to the development.

Recently, the Delhi government eliminated the need for hotels, clubs, restaurants, and



At the "Expresso" event, Saxena promoted ease of doing business and announced restaurants would not need MCD permits. Opening eateries in Delhi requires an MCD health trade license

guest homes to get a police 'Eating House Registration and Lodging Certificate' to serve liquor. The L-G removed the Delhi Police Commissioner's ease-of-doing-business permit for the eating house registration certificate last

month. At the "Expresso" event, Saxena promoted ease of doing business and announced restaurants would not need MCD permits. Opening eateries in Delhi requires an MCD health trade license. A restaurateur said.

### Class 5 and 8 no-detention policy revoked by govt.

**Delhi:** The Centre has eliminated the "no-detention" policy for Classes 5 and 8, allowing schools to fail kids who fail year-end exams. On December 16, the Ministry of Education published the "Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (Amendment) Rules, 2024" gazette notifica-

tion, which stipulates that children who fail to meet promotion standards in Classes 5 or 8 in the regular examination can be held back. The Ministry stressed the necessity for corrective efforts for such students to close learning gaps in the Rules. The Right to Education Act, 2009 was revised in 2019 to eliminate the no-detention

policy, although the Rules were not notified until today. "Since the National Education Policy [NEP] was announced in 2020, we waited for the National Curriculum Framework document in 2023 before publishing the Rules," a senior Ministry official said. If detention is necessary, the pupil will be detained.

## App-purchased RRTS tickets are 10% off.



app, facilitating paperless ticketing. Lenovo "New app downloaders receive Rs 50, or 500 loyalty points. RRTS Connect app referrals earn 500 loyalty points. The announcement claimed the referral and referee will earn Rs 50, or 500 loyalty points, in their accounts. All loyalty points are valid for one year from credit date, encouraging frequent, sustained travel and app engagement.

It said that the Google Play and Apple App Stores offer the 'RRTS Connect' app. The announcement stated Namo Bharat Times will be free to download on NCRTC's digital channels, including nerci.in, rrtsc.in, and the 'RRTS Connect' app. The newsletter will update Namo Bharat commuters on new projects and improvements, strengthening their relationship to the service.

### HC condemns DDA for 'negligence', 'delinquency'; demolition allowed

**Delhi:** The Delhi High Court ordered the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) to pay over Rs 11 lakh to the family of a 45-year-old man who died in July 2000 when their second-floor balcony fell. Justice Dharmesh Sharma found the DDA's negligence the "direct cause" of the collapse and stressed its continuous responsibility to maintain infrastructure post-allotment. The court ordered the DDA to pay Rs 11.44 lakh to the widow and two children of the deceased, plus 6% annual interest from January 2001, when the writ suit was filed.

## Franco-Italian regional aircraft major ATR sees India emerge as its biggest market

**NEW DELHI:** Franco-Italian regional aircraft major ATR sees India emerge as its biggest market in the next five years. And as that happens, the turboprop maker says "it will be foolish not to increase our footprint here" in terms of sourcing of components, pilot training and others. "India currently has 65 ATRs - 45 with IndiGo and 20 with Alliance Air. IndiGo is to get five more. Startup carrier Fly91 (which is being launched by aviation

industry veteran Manoj Chacko) will get its first leased ATR anytime now and the second in a week or so," Jean-Pierre Clerc, ATR's head of commercial for Asia Pacific, said. "Indonesia has about 100 ATRs and is currently our biggest market. India and Brazil come after that. But the way Indian economy and air travel in the country is booming, within five years India will have the maximum ATRs given the government's focus on regional air transport through

## 11 Spl Courts Will Handle 2,000 Cases Every Day



### Coconut oil 'edible' to reduce taxes

**Delhi:** Is coconut oil taxed as a food or hair care product? After 15 years of debate, the top court ruled that coconut oil is edible and should be taxed less. Coconut oil comes in small packets, like personal care goods, but that doesn't matter. Hair care goods pay 18% GST, but edible oils pay 5%. After the 2005 CET Act amendment, coconut oil was included under Section III, "Animal or Vegetable Fats and Oils and their Cleavage Products."

]; Prepared Edible

## Capital's 3 ISBTS acquire prepaid auto booths



"They said the minimum fare is normally fixed because commuters drive vehicles for short distances of up to three kilometres from bus terminals as the last mile connection "

has allocated 75 lakh for the prepaid auto stand at all three depots, which should be finished in a week. Related Stories Commuters should profit from officials' plans to fix booth charges to avoid auto-vehicles from overcharging. They said the minimum fare is normally fixed because com-

### A social security board for unorganised workers and career centers

**Delhi:** A social security board for unorganised workers and career centers to help entrepreneurs and job-seekers are two proposals put up by the Delhi government in the draft regulations released under the Code on Social Security.

The establishment of a social security fund, the formalization of worker compensation in the event of an accident, and maternity benefits are all proposed in the draft guidelines. The Delhi government's labor department has issued a call for public comments and recommendations, asking that those involved identify the chapter and rule or sub-rule that would be changed and explain why. Over five years after Parliament approved four labour laws, the Delhi government has now begun to put them into effect with the release of these proposed regulations. The four codes, which consolidate 29 central labor regulations, were enacted in 2019 and 2020 with the aim of providing support for workers in the unorganized sector and accelerating economic reforms. The Code on Social Security is one of four codes in this set; the others deal with wages, industrial relations, and health, safety, and working conditions in the workplace.

The Delhi government has begun to create regulations for social security; the other three have not yet been completed.

## Banks are limited by RBI to investing no more than 20%

**Delhi:** According to new rules released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Regulated Entities (REs) can only invest up to 20% of an AIF scheme's total capital. The RBI has said in a circular that no RE may put up more than 10% of an AIF scheme's total value. The maximum amount that any one RE can put into an AIF Scheme as a whole is 20% of the scheme's corpus, the document stated. Unless a RE determines an earlier date in accordance with its internal policy, these Directions will be effective as of January 1, 2026. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) stated in a circular that real estate investment funds (REFs) are required to make full provision up to the amount of their proportionate investment in the debtor company



through the AIF Scheme, up to a maximum of their direct loan and/or investment exposure to the debtor company, if their contributions exceed 5% of the corpus of the AIF Scheme and the RE has downstream investment (excluding equity instruments) in the debtor company. The full investment amount must be subtracted from the RE's capital funds, specifically Tier-1 and Tier-2 capital, in proportion, if the contribution is made in the form of subordinated units.

**Honda and Nissan merge to form auto powerhouse**

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

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

adjusting pricing. Bihar deputy chief minister Samrat Chaudhary led a GoM to modify prices. The Centre will need to work hard on Saturday to convince states to agree to Chaudhary's GoM's insurance tax adjustments. States worry that lower rates may reduce revenue, especially since the compensating cess was removed to compensate for gaps. The Centre and states collected Rs 16,400 crore from GST on life and health insurance in 2023-24, down somewhat from the year before. Revenue loss could reach Rs 2,500 crore yearly. Since the anti-profiteering clause has been removed, it is unclear how the GST Council can ensure that consumers benefit from lower taxes.

## Adani Defence & Aerospace buys Air Works for Rs 400 crore

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

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

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

## The GST panel postpones calling for reduced insurance costs



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

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

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

## Indian gold demand is dampened by price fluctuations



**Honda proposes CAFE compliant EVs and hybrids**

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

"We are currently

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

## Indian steel imports from China reached record high

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

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

New Delhi is investigating whether

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



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

## Many states oppose insurance rate reduction



adjusting pricing. Bihar deputy chief minister Samrat Chaudhary led a GoM to modify prices. The Centre will need to work hard on Saturday to convince states to agree to Chaudhary's GoM's insurance tax adjustments. States worry that lower rates may reduce revenue, especially since the compensating cess was removed to compensate for gaps. The Centre and states collected Rs 16,400 crore from GST on life and health insurance in 2023-24, down somewhat from the year before. Revenue loss could reach Rs 2,500 crore yearly. Since the anti-profiteering clause has been removed, it is unclear how the GST Council can ensure that consumers benefit from lower taxes.

## Over 1.6 crore Jio subscribers leave in four months

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

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

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

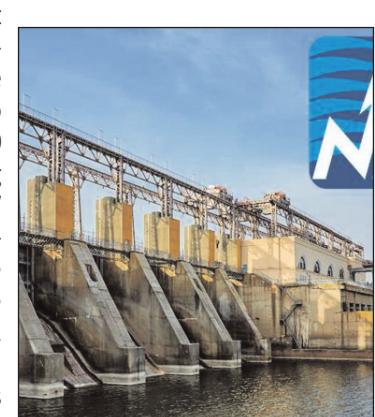
## Canon targets chip companies opening India operations

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

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

"We install equipment to make chips using our technology and goods. Negotiations are underway.

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



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

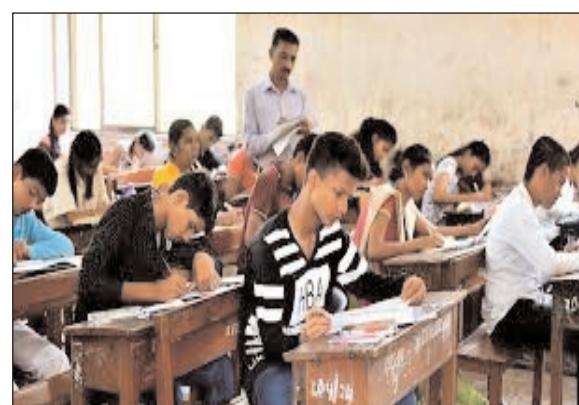
**Delhi:** NHPC Ltd.'s chairman and managing director Raj Kumar Chaudhary announced that the country's largest hydropower company will invest Rs 5,500 crore in a 1,000-megawatt solar power project in Bihar. At the Bihar Business Connect 2024 investor forum, the business and state government signed an investment MoU. "We have proposed to invest Rs 5,500 crore in setting up a 1,000 MW solar power project," stated. The project might be launched in 1.5–2 years after land purchase. Land is essential for solar

projects. He urged the state government to help acquire land so we could finish the project on schedule. The company's website says it has roughly 7 gigawatts of active hydropower projects and 9.3 under construction. Chaudhary said NHPC plans to build a modest solar plant to create green hydrogen. "The green hydrogen produced will be used to power passenger buses," stated.

When burned, green hydrogen creates no carbon and just water, making it the cleanest energy source. He stated NHPC will fund the green hydrogen bus. The state government will administer it as part of the government's sustainable energy plan.

## CBSE helps pupils cope with test stress before this week's Boards

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



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

questions and answer appropriately on tests. Students who just prepare for objective-type questions and don't attend school will miss the steps and write answers immediately in the Board exams, losing scores. "In fact, it has been seen many times that a student is able to perform well in competitive examinations and fails to perform well in the Board examinations," says Bhardwaj.

To protect pupils, CBSE has cut ties with 21 "dummy" schools and degraded six. To avoid disruption, fake school students in classes X and XII were allowed to take the Boards.

## Raptee.HV, the EV startup, launched India's high-voltage motorcycle

**Delhi :** Raptee.HV, the Chennai-based EV startup, launched India's first high-voltage electric motorcycle, which is developed with the technology being used in Electric cars across the world. Called the Raptee T 30, it is the first of its kind to use universal charging standards that are used by cars. In simple words, it uses a CCS2 charging port. The motorcycle is priced at ₹ 2.39 lakhs, ex-showroom. The Raptee.HV Motorcycle has an IDC Est range of around 200 km and a real-world range of over 150 km on a single charge. The company claims that it can accelerate from 0 to



60 kmph in under 3.5 seconds. The 5.4 kWh battery pack is IP67-rated, and it takes 60 minutes for a 20-80 per cent juice-up via a 3.3 kW charger. Through a fast charger, the same can be done in just 30 minutes. Also, the brand is offering a warranty of 8 years of 80,000 km on

the battery pack. The T 30 rides on a set of 17-inch rims with a 110-section tyre on the front and a 150-section tyre at the rear. Moreover, the suspension includes 37 mm USD forks on the front and a telescopic shock absorber at the rear. Braking duties are performed by a 320 mm.

## Tamil Nadu should appeal SC ruling on domicile quota

**Delhi:** A day after the Supreme Court banned domicile-based reservation in specialized and higher education including PG medical courses, MK Stalin's Tamil Nadu government declared it would file a review petition to vindicate its rights and uphold social justice. Health minister Ma

Subramanian said the SC order would affect the state's 69% reservation and quotas for in-service applicants in government medical colleges and minorities in self-financing medical colleges. He said that the order would violate state rights. The Union government receives 15% of under-

graduate medical seats and 50% of postgraduate medical and super specialty seats through the state quota each year. "All super specialty seats were lost. "TN gave government doctors a quota for super specialty courses after a court battle," he told reporters.

He stated the Centre

## Delhi Govt Triples DU College Funding



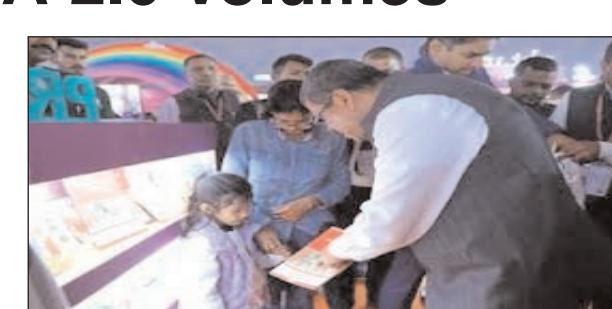
tions and expanding the older ones. She added the 12 fully funded Delhi University colleges are crucial to higher education in Delhi. College spending has risen since the AAP took over in Delhi. The statement said that these colleges were awarded Rs 132 crore in 2014-15, which is currently over Rs 400 crore. With a focus on the welfare of teachers, and giving their medical and pension benefits

that were stopped owing to financial mismanagement, the Delhi government is releasing Rs 100 crore in the third quarter for these 12 Delhi University colleges, it added. The Delhi government has set aside Rs 100 crore for 12 DU institutions in a Rs 400 crore budget for 2024-25. Funds increased since the AAP took over in 2015. The administration is committed to education.

## DU to expand PhD admission slots by 20-25 pc

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

## Pradhan unveils 41 PM YUVA 2.0 volumes



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

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

## New UPSC PwBD guidelines avoid misconduct and fraudulent certifications



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

cially abled candidates," he says. They appear puzzled and unable to complete the Prelims application form (due February 11, 2025). Candidates must also write about their interests, hobbies, achievements, and NCC Scout participation in the Prelims, which were previously announced after the Mains. "The goal is to get the best candidate profile information before the Prelims," Kottaram explains (IRS) officers were recruited under PwBD reservation advantages. UPSC

must examine claims and papers if aspirants submit fraudulent documents. Kottaram notes that mental illness is a grey area in the notification's five impairment categories, making it easy to misuse.

After the Puja Khedkar controversy, aspirants who took the Personality Test/Interview this year reported rigorous medical tests over 2-3 days at top medical institutions like AIIMS, SafdarJung Hospital, etc. to eliminate assessment irregularities.

## NAAC adopts e-inspections for new accreditation

**Delhi:** To eradicate corruption and speed up accreditation, the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) has stopped physical college inspections. Accreditation teams will now perform evaluations exclusively online, replacing on-cams visits with virtual examinations. But for colleges, the changeover will be hybrid; most inspections will be remote, but some reviewers will still visit campuses to retain some monitoring. The decision follows the CBI's recent arrests in the case involving Andhra Pradesh's Koneru Lakshmaiah



Education Foundation (KLEF), where management reportedly bribed NAAC peer visit inspectors for good ratings. "We chose to do whatever it takes to eliminate corruption. Stopping in-person visits will greatly reduce the

issue," stated NAAC executive committee head Prof Anil Sahasrabudhe. "With so many weekly inspection visits, it was hard to track what happened. Now, all this is recorded." NAAC head Ganesan Kannabiran hailed

the switch to online inspection a "surgical strike" against corruption. The latest CBI lawsuit challenged NAAC's peer review system. He remarked, "These are unwelcome in higher education, and NAAC, a quality assurance agency, is committed to eradicating them." The K Radhakrishnan Committee's basic (binary) accreditation scheme was to begin in July 2024, but it didn't. It's currently April-May 2025. The new schedule will also introduce maturity-based graded levels (MBGL) to encourage institutions to improve their academic and research capacities.

## When oil prices drop every month, US stocks go up

**Delhi:** Wall Street indexes rose in choppy rises as in-line European markets ended flat, continuing their 10-week winning streak. The Federal Reserve is expected to decrease interest rates twice this year, according to U.S. inflation figures. crude prices fell 1%, the first monthly decline since November, as markets braced for fresh levies from Washington and

crude exports from Iraq's Kurdistan region. According to a White House source, President Volodymyr Zelenskiy of Ukraine will depart the Oval Office early Friday after a contentious meeting with Trump. Following reports of falling yearly inflation and sluggish consumer spending in the latest statistics tracked by the Federal Reserve, U.S.

Treasury rates hit multi-month lows. A drop of 2.93 points, or 0.34%, was recorded by MSCI's global stock index. Crypto values dropped after the Trump boom waned. The U.S. personal consumption expenditures (PCE) price index fell from 2.6% in December to 2.5% last month, according to the Bureau of Economic Analysis, which is part of the

Commerce Department. Core personal consumption expenditure, the favored inflation indicator of the Federal Reserve, fell to 2.6% from 2.9% following an upward revision. Inflation of 2% is the target of the central bank. Analysts had anticipated both metrics to be met. The dollar has strengthened against rising tariffs.

## CAPSULES

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

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

## Health and wealth benefit from flexible work hours.

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

## Pradhan unveils 41 PM YUVA 2.0 volumes



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

## CEO Nithin 'complains' to RBI: Something needs to be done



Nithin Kamath, founder and CEO of Zerodha, has voiced his concerns to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) regarding the proliferation of fake apps mimicking banks, brokers, and payment apps. Kamath's comments come in the wake of RBI's recent announcement of an exclusive '.bank.in' domain for all Indian banks to combat digital financial frauds. In a post on X, Kamath highlighted the growing threat of cyber frauds, exacerbated by the possibilities offered by artificial intelligence (AI). He emphasised the need for stricter measures to tackle phishing scams and fake apps, which often trick users into providing sensitive personal information. Kamath also praised RBI's initiative but urged for more comprehensive actions, including multi-layered app store policies, real-time AI-based detection, and official app directories to help users identify legitimate entities.

Read the post here. The sheer number and variety of digital frauds is astounding. It's fair to assume that things will only get much worse from here, thanks to AI. Both SEBI and RBI are trying to educate people and implement measures to combat these frauds. SEBI has published a consultation paper proposing unique UPI IDs for brokers to ensure that investors transfer money only to SEBI-registered brokers and not to scammers using UPI IDs with broker names. Yesterday, the RBI announced that it would implement the "http://bank.in" domain exclusively for Indian banks, aiming to counter the numerous phishing sites that

mimic legitimate bank websites.

Another major nuisance, apart from payment and website fraud, is the proliferation of fake apps that mimic banks, brokers, and payment apps. Something needs to be done about these apps too. This is not the first time Kamath has raised awareness about digital frauds.

He has previously advised users to verify information carefully and be cautious of offers that seem too good to be true. Users also agreed with what Kamath has said. "Awareness is the key element, which enables customers to probe before taking actions. Tech enabled solutions and fixes like domain names and app strangle the existing fraud.

## The Govt is determined to revive the cultural heritage



**Chandigarh:** Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation and senior BJP leader Amit Shah, during the release of the book 'Jammu Kashmir & Ladakh Through The Ages: A Visual Narrative of Continuities and Linkages', made it clear that 'For the last 10 years, the Modi government is determined to revive the history and cultural heritage of Kashmir. At the same time, he also stressed that we will soon regain what we have lost.' In this country with diverse cultures, religions, food habits and attire from Kashmir to Kanyakumari and Bengal to Gujarat, for decades, historians have created a myth that the very idea of India's independence is dishonest. In fact, historians, especially leftist historians, have seen and

written about India from a geopolitical perspective, whereas India is the only country in the world which is a geoculture and whose borders are made up of cultures.

This book titled 'Jammu Kashmir & Ladakh Through The Ages: A Visual Narrative of Continuities and Linkages' has minutely proved that the culture, languages, scripts, spiritual thoughts, arts of pilgrimage sites, commerce and trade present in every part of the country were present in Kashmir for thousands of years. Based on references of texts which are about 8 thousand years old, this book has clearly proved that Kashmir was, is and will always be an inseparable part of India.

This book, which proves with references the journey of Buddhism from Nepal to Kashi, Bihar, Kashmir and Afghanistan, tells that Kashmir was the birthplace of the principles refined after Lord Buddha and Kashmir is also the birthplace of the principles of Buddhism prevalent today. The 8-thousand-year-old history of Kashmir has been engraved in this book as if the Ganges is being contained.

## Public infrastructure spending rises, but private sector participation falls



### The National Critical Mineral Mission gets 16,300 crore from the cabinet

**Delhi:** The 2024-25 Economic Survey delivered to Parliament found that India still struggles with infrastructure development despite government efforts. The union government's capital investment on major infrastructure sectors

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grew 38.8% from FY20 to FY24, although private sector participation in core areas remained low, accord-

ing to the survey. "India needs a continued step-up of infrastructure investment over the next two decades.

## SDACH to Host 'Samvaya 2025' Celebrating Golden Jubilee

**Chandigarh:** Shri Dhanwantry Ayurvedic College and Hospital, Sector 46, will mark its Golden Jubilee with 'Samvaya 2025' from 20 to 22—a three-day celebration featuring academic, cultural, and healthcare-centered events. Dr. Naresh Mittal, General Secretary, Shri Dhanwantry Educational Society, announced that the event will open with the foundation stone laying of a 250-bedded Ayurvedic Super Specialty Hospital by His Excellency Gulab Chand Kataria, Governor of Punjab and UT Administrator. The day will also witness the



inauguration of a Centre of Excellence for Chronic Spine Disorders and the launch of key health programs, including a NICU, Free Delivery Program, Anti-Rabies Centre, and Geriatric Care Services.

Dr. Koustubh Upadhyaya, Advisor (Ayurveda), Ministry of Ayush, will attend as Guest of Honour.

The Convocation Ceremony will follow, presided over by MP (Rajya Sabha) Satnam Singh Sandhu. Degrees will be conferred upon 135 students, and the day will conclude with an Alumni Meet. Day two features scientific sessions on Integrative Diagnostics, Pharmacognosy.

## Health and wealth benefit from flexible work hours

**Delhi:** The Economic Survey supports allowing manufacturers to average legally capped working hours over three weeks or longer rather than week-by-week. Industry captains want larger hours. It claims that agile regulations will assist management satisfy production

demands and grow. "New Labour Laws are an improvement. With flexible legislation and competent implementation, firms may develop and create more jobs. They protect labor rights and boost wages," it stated. The Survey complained that labor laws like the

Factories Act (1948) limit working hours to 48 per week, whereas other nations "allow these caps to be averaged over multiple days and weeks". It said India's working hour laws impede manufacturers from satisfying demand and competing globally.

demands and grow. "New Labour Laws are an improvement. With flexible legislation and competent implementation, firms may develop and create more jobs. They protect labor rights and boost wages," it stated. The Survey complained that labor laws like the

## Foreign insurers gain ownership via 100% FDI

**Delhi:** 100% FDI will attract new capital, as multinationals can now invest without worrying about control or Indian partners. The capital gains tax rate of 12% applies to ULIP proceeds, which do not benefit from tax exemptions, instead of the higher marginal tax rate of 30%. Crop cover reinsurance is exempt from service tax, and the threshold for tax deduction at source on insurance commission has risen from Rs 15,000 to Rs 20,000. M Nagraju, financial services secretary, said the FDI relaxation was one of the suggested insurance measures.

**"Elon stole my Nazi swag at the inauguration": Kanye West**



"Elon stole my Nazi swag at the inauguration": Kanye West 'loves Hitler' and has accused Elon Musk of stealing his 'Nazi swag'. Rapper and fashion mogul Kanye West has once again found himself at the center of controversy after making a series of inflammatory statements on social media. In a shocking tirade, West openly expressed admiration for Adolf Hitler, declared himself a Nazi, and accused billionaire Elon Musk of stealing his "Nazi swag." These remarks, posted on X (formerly Twitter), have ignited widespread backlash, with many condemning the artist's rhetoric as deeply offensive and dangerous. The controversy comes just months after West attempted to repair his reputation following previous anti-semitic outbursts that led to the loss of major business partnerships.

His latest remarks, however, have once again placed him under intense scrutiny, raising concerns about his influence and the potential consequences of his speech. Kanye West declares 'I Love Hitler,' igniting global outrage. West's latest controversy began when he posted an alarming statement.

## Price pressure caps senior citizen health premium hikes at 10%

As medicare policy rates skyrocket for seniors over 60, Irdai has ordered insurers not to raise senior people's health premiums by more than 10% without approval. Before canceling senior health coverage, insurers must get regulator clearance. As healthcare prices rise, insurers are



advised to standardize hospital empanelment and negoti-

ate package rates like the government's PM Jan Arogya Yojana. Irdai reported a large increase in prices for various health insurance policies for subscribers over 60. Premium rates depend on projected claims, administrative expenditures, and acquisition costs, the regulator said. Private

insurance doesn't standardize hospitalization expenses, unlike PMJAY, which negotiates consistent package rates, which drives these rises. Seniors have reported virtually doubling their costs when entering a higher age category during an insurer's pricing change.

## Vaishnaw, Scindia, Goyal quote PM Modi's 'slogan' for AAP in congratulatory messages

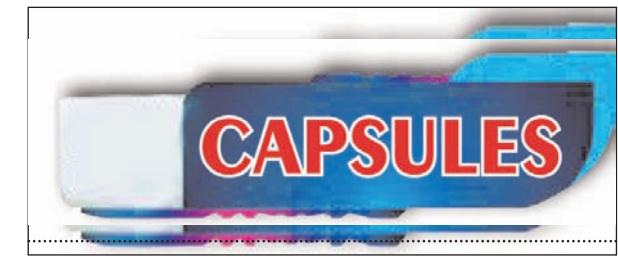
**Supporters** of Bharatiya Janata Party carrying out of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi celebrate party's victory in Delhi Assembly Elections 2025. (AP Photo/Manish Swarup) Delhi Assembly Elections 2025 congratulatory messages from cabinet ministers Ashwini Vaishnaw, Jyotiraditya M Scindia and Piyush Goyal have a commonality -- all of them quote Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'slogan' for Aam Aadmi Party

(AAP). In January this year, launching a scathing attack on AAP, PM Modi called it "AAPda" (Hindi for disaster), virtually setting the tone for an aggressive and high-pitched campaign for the assembly elections. Speaking at an event in New Delhi's Ashok Vihar, the PM gave the slogan, "AAPda ko nahi sahenge, badal ke rahenge (We will not tolerate the disaster, will change things)." He repeated the slogan several times with the crowd joining him

amidst loud cheers. Accusing AAP of putting brakes on Delhi's development, the PM said voters have now decided to get rid of the party. "This is the country's capital and it is the right of people to get good governance. But in the past 10 years, Delhi has been in the grip of a big AAPda," he said. Minister for Railways, Information & Broadcasting, Electronics & Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw; Telecom

minister Jyotiraditya M Scindia and Commerce & Industry Piyush Goyal all called AAP 'AAPDA' in their congratulatory messages on BJP's win in Delhi Assembly Elections 2025. "AAPDA Se Mukti," wrote Ashwini Vaishnaw. Union Minister for Communications and Development of North Eastern Region Jyotiraditya M Scindia, wrote, "Delhi se AAPDA Ke Vidaai." Piyush Goyal too called AAP AAPDA in his long message, written in Hindi.

PM Modi: Kattar Beimaan People Pushed Delhi into AAPda. "By putting Anna Hazareji at the forefront, some kattar beimaan people pushed Delhi into AAPda," PM Modi added. This was an indirect jibe at AAP supremo Arvind Kejriwal, who has in the past called himself "kattar imaanandar (hardcore honest)". AAP functionaries, including Kejriwal and Manish Sisodia.



## Sebi to attract rural investors with MF-life insurance



Delhi: Sebi chief Madhabi Puri Buch stated that the regulator will offer mutual fund schemes with term life insurance. She added the FDA will soon release a combo product consultation paper. Puri Buch said the MF-insurance combo targets investors, particularly rural ones, where SIPs have great potential but low investment values. "We are now proposing to come out with a consultation paper again, to try and include insurance pure and simple vanilla life, term life insurance, along with our mutual funds, which is our main product for financial inclusion, and so that we are able to go, including to people where we have very, very low value SIPs coming from the hinterland, and to be able to offer them a combo product of term life insurance along with the mutual fund investment," said Buch. UTI Mutual Fund offers life insurance and tax savings. This 1971 program has a portfolio value of Rs 5,434 crore in December 2024. Even if existing investors can invest, UTIMF's website revealed no new applications for the schemes.