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

Criminal law can't become means to settle scores: Supreme Court

NEW DELHI: Supreme Court has said that criminal law cannot become a platform for initiation of vindictive proceedings to settle personal scores and vendettas, and derided the increasing resort to lodging of FIRs to settle civil disputes. While quashing an FIR lodged more than two decades ago for the offence of cheating in a land transaction case, a bench of Justices B V Nagarathna and R Mahadevan said, "In recent years, the machinery of criminal justice is being misused by certain persons for their vested interests and for achieving their oblique motives and agenda." While Jharkhand high court took 15 years to dismiss the plea for quashing of the FIR, SC took another six years to reverse the HC verdict. Writing the judgment, Justice Nagarathna said given the misuse of criminal law, "courts have to be vigilant against such tendencies". Chiding the complainant for his inability to prove charges against the appellant, court said such actions "create significant divisions & distrust among people while also placing an unnecessary strain.

Wankhede sues Aryan Khan's show for defamation

NEW DELHI: IRS officer and former Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) zonal director Sameer Wankhede has filed a defamation suit in Delhi high court against the makers of the Netflix drama series 'The Ba***ds of Bollywood'. The suit filed on Thursday seeks an injunction and Rs 2 crore in damages for misleading and negative portrayal of anti-drug enforcement agencies and maligning his reputation. The series, directed by Aryan Khan, son of actor Shah Rukh Khan, was released on Sept 18. Wankhede is known for arresting Aryan Khan in a drug case in 2021.

Women entrepreneurs share transformative journeys

UP's 'Didis' shed fear, scale new heights under Yogi's leadership

Self Help PM interacts with women from self-help groups at the UP Trade Show

Greater Noida Once considered unsafe for women, Uttar Pradesh has emerged as a model of women's empowerment. Before 2017, women often hesitated to step outside their homes, let alone pursue entrepreneurship. Over the past eight and a half years, under Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's leadership, this perception has been completely transformed. The change was on full display at the UP International Trade



Show 2025 at India Expo Mart, Greater Noida, where Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacted with women entrepreneurs from self-help groups. For many, sharing their stories with the PM was a dream come true. Their journeys reflect both personal triumphs and the broader revolution across the state, demonstrating that women now feel secure and empowered to pursue their ambitions. Sangita, a Vidyut Sakhi from Meerut, told the Prime Minister that she now earns a steady income by collecting electricity bills. When asked about challenges, she proudly said, "Now we have no problems. People recognize us with

Gaining people's trust was challenge

She recalled that gaining people's trust was initially challenging, but today her work is widely respected. Sarla proudly informed PM Modi that she has assisted in opening over 2,000 Jan Dhan accounts, 700 Suraksha Bima accounts, 200 Jeevan Jyoti Bima accounts, and 200 Atal Pension Yojana accounts. Neetu Singh respect." Sarla, a Banking Sakhi from Lucknow, explained to the Prime Minister, how she helped people open bank accounts while earning a good livelihood.

PM Modi to officials: Don't wait for me, fix project delays



NEW DELHI: PM Modi has told top bureaucrats and state chief secretaries to find ways to fix delays in infrastructure projects rather than wait for him to review and fix accountability for delays. Chairing the web-based Pragati meeting on Wednesday, Modi asked if any disciplinary proceedings had been initiated against erring officials, sources said. "In almost every Pragati meeting, the PM urges us to ensure timely completion of projects and fix responsibility. He has also suggested states to have a review mechanism like those of 'Pragati' to monitor and resolve issues," said an official. Adopt an approach that advances goals of ease of living, ease of doing business: PM Modi During Pragati meeting, learnt, Cabinet Somanathan presented a progress report on steps taken by Centre and states to expedite projects delayed by decades, including the 83-km Nangal Dam-Talwara-Mukerian new railway line in Punjab.

On 80-yr-old's plea, SC orders eviction of his 61-yr-old son

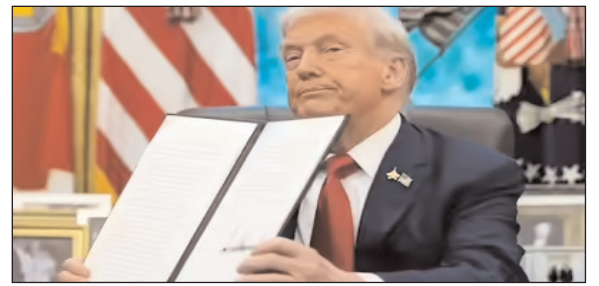
NEW DELHI: In a case reflective of relationship issues that are unique to today's times, Supreme Court has come to the relief of an 80-year-old man and his 78-year-old wife and ordered eviction of their 61-year-old son from two rooms owned by the man in Mumbai after he failed to provide them with maintenance, as mandated

under the Maintenance and Welfare of Senior Citizens Act, 2007. The octogenarian father and his wife had moved back to their native town in Uttar Pradesh after being pushed out of the properties - one room at Yadav Chawl in Yadav Nagar and another at Raju Estate, Bengali Chawl, Saki Naka -- by their eldest son who was

running a business there. In July 2023, they filed for maintenance and eviction of their son from the said properties before the tribunal concerned, which in June last year directed the man to hand over possession of both the rooms to his parents and also provide them with a monthly maintenance of Rs 3,000.

Trump approves TikTok deal, Xi gives go-ahead to US ownership

Negotiations ByteDance owns TikTok but to remain operational in the US, a majority stake



As US President Trump signed the order on the TikTok deal, he said, "This is interesting because I had a very good talk with President Xi, a lot of respect for him. Hopefully, he has a lot of respect for me, too. We talked about TikTok, and he gave us the go-ahead. You know, it's run by American investors and American companies, great ones, great investors, the biggest. The young people really wanted this to hap-

pen. We have American investors taking it over, running it, highly sophisticated, including Larry Ellison and Oracle, I guess, is going to play a very big role in terms of security, safety, and everything else. "Who owns TikTok in US now? ByteDance owns TikTok but to remain operational in the US, a majority stake will move to US investors. A group of US investors, including Oracle and Silver Lake,

are set to take the new TikTok entity for the US while ByteDance will maintain less than 20 per cent in equity to comply with the divest-or-ban law. ByteDance will be represented by one person on the board, but that individual will be excluded from any security matters or related committees. Much is still unknown about the actual arrangement, but Trump said Chinese President Xi Jinping "gave us the go-ahead" to proceed.

In NY, Jaishankar calls for peace, ending conflicts

NEW DELHI: Addressing a meeting of G20 foreign ministers on the margins of UNGA, EAM S Jaishankar made a strong pitch for ending conflicts, combating terrorism and reforming multilateralism. He said with both international peace and global development taking a



hit, the costs - especially to Global South - in terms of energy, food and fertiliser security were starkly demonstrated by ongoing conflicts, particularly in Ukraine and Gaza. Terrorism remains a

Strong "Given the extensive networking amongst terrorists"

persistent threat to development, and it is imperative that the world display neither

tolerance nor accommodation to terrorist activities, the EAM said. "Given the extensive networking amongst terrorists, those who act against them on any front actually render a larger service to the international community as a whole," Jaishankar added.

India's forest cover expanded by mere 2.5% in 10 yrs but 'very dense' cover

Increased

India's forest cover increased by merely 2.5% between 2010-11 and 2021-22



NEW DELHI: India's forest cover increased by merely 2.5% between 2010-11 and 2021-22, but the 'very dense forest' component of it grew by 22.7% during the period, indicating effective regen-

eration and conservation efforts, claimed the central govt's first-ever dedicated publication on forest accounting. It recorded a decline only in the 'moderately dense forest' category. Released on Thursday, the physical asset

accounting showed that forest cover (very dense, moderately dense and open forest) increased from 6,97,898 sq km in 2010-11 to 7,15,342 in 2021-22, adding 17,444 sq km (2.5%) in 10 years. During the same 10-year period, 'very dense forest' (VDF) increased by 19,000 sq km (from 83,502 sq km in 2010-11 to 1,02,502 sq km in 2021-22), whereas 'moderately dense forest' (MDF) decreased.

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

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

School dropout rates halved in 2 years, says govt report

NEW DELHI: India's school system has recorded one of its sharpest gains in recent years, with dropout rates falling significantly across all levels, according to the ministry of statistics and programme implementation's (MoSPI) Comprehensive Modular Survey: Education, 2025. The survey, conducted during April-June 2025 as part of the 80th round



of the National Sample Survey, shows that dropout rates have nearly halved within just two years. At the secondary

level, the rate fell to 8.2% in 2024-25 from 13.8% in 2022-23. At the middle level, it dropped to 3.5% from

8.1%, while at the preparatory stage, it declined to 2.3% compared with 8.7% earlier. This sharp improvement signals a structural turnaround in retention, suggesting that more children are staying enrolled and completing schooling. Experts link the gains to govt initiatives such as expanded mid-day meals, targeted scholarships for disadvantaged groups, better infrastructure.

Ensure day-to-day trials in criminal cases, SC tells HCs

NEW DELHI: Supreme Court has asked high courts to ensure day-to-day trial in criminal cases, especially important and sensitive cases, saying it has become imperative in the prevailing social, political and administra-



tive scenario, including the style of functioning of police. Expressing disappointment over discontinuance of day-to-day trial, which was the norm three decades ago, a bench of Justices J B Pardiwala

and K V Viswanathan said once the examination of witnesses commences in a trial, the court concerned must not adjourn proceedings keeping in mind the convenience of advocates, which has become common.

Entire Sunjay assets suit can't be in sealed cover: High Court

NEW DELHI: Industrialist Sunjay Kapur's third wife Priya Sachdev Kapur asked Delhi HC to let her submit a list of her late husband's assets and liabilities in a sealed cover. She alleged Thursday that pleadings from the partition suit were being leaked to the media and said the documents carried financial implica-

tions. The court will hear the matter on Oct 9. The case was filed by Kapur's first wife, actor Karisma Kapoor, along with their son and daughter.

SC seeks states' replies on anti-conversion laws

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

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



The two parties are getting close to an agreement on who will share seats in the state assembly

Delhi: Members of the Mahagathbandhan coalition in Bihar informed that the two parties are getting close to an agreement on who will share seats in the state assembly in the upcoming elections. The Congress has been demanding 70 seats, the same amount it sought in the 2020 elections, but the RJD is unwilling to allocate more than 50 or 55 seats. According to insiders, a compromise could be struck in the end, with the Congress gaining 58-60 seats. Assembly seats in Bihar number 243. The Congress, CPI(ML), CPI, and CPI(M) were all members of the Mahagathbandhan alliance in the 2020 elections, which was led by the RJD. The Congress party contested in 70 seats, the RJD in 144.

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

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

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



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

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

Children being forced to 'glorify' PM, claims Cong

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

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

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



BJP targets Rahul Gandhi over Shahid Afridi remarks; Congress hits back with old pic



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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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



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

Govt allocates 12,952 crore for public transport system

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

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

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

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



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

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

Himachal Pradesh Becomes Fourth Fully Literate State

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



address at an event to mark the

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

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

A successful district-level voluntary labor program was organized in Prayagraj under the "Swachhata Hi Seva"

Campaign

He also called for maintaining awareness about cleanliness in the district and continuing it. Thus, this special one-hour program

Prayagraj: On September 25, 2025, under the "Swachhata Hi Seva 2025" campaign, a voluntary labor program was organized enthusiastically in Prayagraj district under the slogan "One Day, One Hour, One Place." All the district's honorable public



representatives, district-level and block-level officials, village panchayat representatives, employees, and the general public and

villagers actively participated in this campaign. Chief Guest MLA Guru Prasad Maurya was also present at the program. He guid-



ed the officials and citizens on the importance of cleanliness and thanked everyone for their support in this initiative. During this

special campaign, cleanliness and tree plantation programs were organized in the city and villages from 8:00 am to 9:00

am. Officials, employees, social and voluntary organizations, and citizens contributed labor in their respective areas to make the campaign a success. District Panchayat Raj Officer Ravi Shankar Dwivedi thanked all the participants and the public for their active participation in the program.

He also called for maintaining awareness about cleanliness in the district and continuing it. Thus, this special one-hour program proved to be an important step towards cleanliness and environmental protection in Prayagraj district.

District Panchayat Raj Officer Ravi Shankar conducted a field inspection of Dhawaiya Village



Prayagraj: District Panchayat Raj Officer Ravi Shankar Dwivedi conducted a field inspection of the agricultural stack crop survey in Dhawaiya village of Jhanjhrachoubey Gram Panchayat, Shankargarh Block. On this occasion, he inspected the village fields and assessed the crop situation, land use, and farmers' needs. The District Panchayat Raj Officer stated that this survey is being conducted to provide farmers with better technical assistance and the benefits of government schemes. He also discussed with local officials and villagers to assist farmers in the survey.

He also inspected the Gram Panchayat Secretariat and reviewed ongoing work at the Secretariat. He stated that it is essential to effectively implement all schemes and official procedures at the Secretariat. The District Officer also

Inspected

He also inspected the Gram Panchayat Secretariat and work

conducted a field inspection of the Chief Minister's residence under construction and assessed the quality of construction work, materials, and timely completion. He also issued necessary guidelines to contractors and concerned officials. Local villagers and Panchayat members were also present during the inspection and informed the District Magistrate about the villagers' problems and suggestions. District Panchayat Raj Officer Ravi Shankar Dwivedi said that regular field inspections help ensure transparency and proper implementation of government schemes and ensure the speed and quality of development in rural areas.

Chamber of Commerce meeting concludes regarding preparations for Dussehra and Navratri

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Ghazipur. A meeting of Chamber of Commerce officials was held in the M u h a m m a d a b a d Tehsil auditorium of the district, jointly celebrating International Snakebite Awareness Day and World Rabies Day. The meeting was chaired by Sub-District Magistrate Dr. Harshita Tiwari. At the beginning of the meeting, Dr. Ashish Rai, Deputy Medical Officer of the Community Health Center, raised awareness among citizens about the importance of snakebite and rabies prevention and timely



treatment. He emphasized the importance of bringing the patient to the nearest health center immediately in case of any accident, so that life can be saved in time. Following this, Chamber of Commerce District President Pradeep Verma, also known as

Deepu Verma, presented the city's problems to the officials. Especially in view of the Dussehra and Navratri festivals, a demand was made to replace worn-out electrical wiring to prevent potential accidents. Other city problems were also discussed in the meeting. The offi-

cials present took cognizance of the problems and assured of early solution. On this occasion, Circle Officer Sudhakar Pandey, Police Station Kotwali in-charge Ram Sajan Nagar, Municipal Council President Rais Ahmed, officers and employees of the Electricity Department, local President of the Trade Board Guddu Verma, Vice President Abhay Kumar Verma, General Secretary Tanhai Khan, Mukul Kesari and many other officials were present. In the end, the expressed his gratitude to everyone and wished the citizens Happy Navratri and Dussehra.

A meeting was held by the Superintendent of Police regarding law and order



Kaushambi. On Wednesday, Superintendent of Police, Kaushambi, Rajesh Kumar, held a meeting with all the Circle Officers of the district at the camp office.

In the meeting, proper arrangements for the safe, peaceful, and harmonious celebration of Sharadiya Navratri and

Dussehra were discussed in detail. The law and order situation was also reviewed and necessary guidelines were issued.

During the meeting, the progress of pending investigations/inquiries in the district was reviewed and instructions were given for their timely and quality disposal.

Prayagraj Murder Case Revealed: Wife and Lover Killed Husband, Both Arrested



Prayagraj. Police have made a sensational discovery in the murder case that occurred in Phoolara village, under the Shankargarh police station area. Ravi, alias Sonu Singh, was murdered by his wife, Sandhya Singh, and her lover, Vikas. Police have arrested both accused and recovered the murder weapon, a pickaxe, stone, clothes, and a saree. Love Affair Escalates Conflict According to reports, Sandhya was having an

affair with a young man from the same village, Vikas, son of Nachau. When her husband, Ravi, became aware of this rela-

tionship, the conflict between them escalated. Ravi would quarrel with her and harass her daily. Distressed, Sandhya

asked her lover, Vikas, to help her get rid of her husband. Murdered in the Field, Body Thrown in the Well On the evening of September 19th, Ravi had gone to the field to feed the laborers. Sandhya informed Vikas at the same time. Vikas arrived at the field with a pickaxe and stabbed Ravi repeatedly on the way. Ravi died on the spot from the attack. To conceal the incident, Vikas returned at night and took the

body to the well and drowned it. To drown the body, he tied nearby stones to his sari and tied it around the deceased's waist. On September 21st, Ravi's brother, Suraj Singh, filed a missing person report. Police began an investigation using mobile call details, CCTV footage, and other technical information. On September 22nd, Ravi's body was recovered from a well in the field. The investigation revealed the role of Sandhya

and Vikas as suspects. On September 24th, both were apprehended near the Tons River bridge. The arrested accused, Vikas, son of Nachaku (35 years), resident of Phoolara, and Sandhya Singh (24 years), wife of Ravi alias Sonu Singh, resident of Phoolara, were arrested by a police team led by Inspector-in-Charge Yashpal Singh. The accused were sent to jail after solving the case.

Wanted accused of raping a minor arrested

Nawabganj. Under the direction of the Police Commissioner and Additional Police Commissioner, in the ongoing campaign against crime and criminals, under the able

supervision of the Deputy Commissioner of Police, Ganganagar, Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police, Ganganagar, and under the able leadership of Assistant

Commissioner of Police, Soraon, Ramesh Patel, son of late Devta Din Patel, resident of Faridpur (Purva), Nawabganj Police Station, Commissionerate

Prayagraj, wanted under the POCSO Act registered at Nawabganj Police Station in the Ganganagar Zone, was arrested by the Nawabganj Police.

Purvanchal's first Sainik School opens in Nawabganj

Prayagraj. The Sangam city of Prayagraj has been gifted with Purvanchal's first Sainik School. Access International School, located in Nawabganj in the Gangapur area, has been approved by the Sainik School Society, Ministry of Defence, New Delhi.

Sub-Inspector Naushad Khan, posted at Koraon Police Station, passes away



Prayagraj. Sub-Inspector Naushad Khan, posted at Koraon Police Station, passed away late this evening. The entire staff, including Station House Officer Rakesh

Kumar Verma, expressed their condolences. Mr. Burma expressed his condolences with deep sorrow that our brother Naushad Khan is no longer in this world.

This initiative will play a vital role in awakening the inherent potential of girls and making them self-reliant

Vanshika Pandey, a student of the Government Girls Inter College, became the District Inspector of Schools (DIOS) for a day

Prayagraj. Following the instructions of the Honorable Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, prioritizing the safety and empowerment of girls, the fifth phase of the Mission Shakti campaign was launched on the first day of Sharadiya Navratri. Under the campaign, several programs are being organized in Prayagraj district to promote self-respect and leadership skills



among girls. In this sequence, Vanshika Pandey, a student of the Government Girls

Inter College, Prayagraj, was given the charge of District School Inspector

(DIOS) for a day. Upon assuming the chair, Vanshika said in a conversation that the Mission Shakti campaign will write new chapters in the lives of girls.

This initiative will play a vital role in awakening the inherent potential of girls and making them self-reliant. Vanshika said, "Sitting on the chair of the District School Inspector made me realize that by getting

an education, we girls can contribute equally to our brothers in any field. This experience inspires us to play an active role in the development of society and the country." On this occasion, District School Inspector P.N. Singh, the school head, Co-District School Inspector Ajay Giri, along with teachers and other officials, congratulated student Vanshika and praised the program. They said

that such events will prove helpful in developing leadership skills, self-confidence, and a sense of social responsibility in girls. The officials described this experience as unprecedented and expressed hope that the programs organized under Mission Shakti will brighten the future of girls and enable them to face any challenge with courage and knowledge.

Editorial

India's naval advancements will fuel its Indian Ocean ambitions

The nation has achieved a significant milestone in strengthening its naval capabilities. In an exceptional move reflecting strategic foresight, Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently commissioned three advanced naval platforms in a single day: a destroyer, a frigate, and a submarine. However, in a fast-changing security environment in the Indo-Pacific, the developments in naval capabilities must be measured in a relative context—capabilities of arch rivals and a swiftly evolving security domain, that is. Now, five points need to be underscored in this context. The commissioning of advanced naval platforms highlights India's aspiration to establish itself as a net security provider in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). Over the years, India's maritime security strategy has significantly evolved. The 2015 Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR) vision reflects India's dedication to fostering regional cooperation in the Indo-Pacific. This vision is supported by initiatives such as the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) and the Indian Ocean Island Countries (IOIC), which emphasise coastal connectivity and sustainable development. PM Modi's address at the 2018 Shangri-La Dialogue further reinforced India's strategic perspective for the Indo-Pacific. The SAGAR vision has gained traction through frameworks such as the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI) and the Information Fusion Centre for the Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR), aiming to tackle regional security issues and counter China's expanding influence. While China's People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN) has grown to become the world's largest by fleet size, it still lacks the operational capabilities and combat experience of the United States. India's navy, although the smallest of its armed forces, has consistently demonstrated efficiency and timely acquisitions. Compared to the Indian Air Force, which faces critical squadron shortages, the navy pragmatically acknowledges domestic limitations in engine development. It relies on foreign collaborations to fill gaps, ensuring progress. However, I'll turn to that later. To establish itself as a net security provider, the Indian Navy must sustain the momentum it has recently achieved in naval defence exports. Although this initiative began in earnest only in 2011, it gained significant traction after 2016. India has transitioned from being a cautious supplier of naval equipment, primarily targeting countries such as Mauritius, Sri Lanka, and the Philippines, to a more prominent player in defence exports. For many years, India's exports to nations such as Seychelles, the Maldives, Mauritius, and Sri Lanka were limited to refurbished ex-navy and coast guard vessels. However, this trend has undergone a remarkable transformation in recent years. Naval ships, as of 2024, account for over 61 per cent of India's total defence exports. This shift highlights India's growing capability to manufacture advanced platforms and its determination to emerge as a dependable supplier of defence equipment to neighbouring countries. This development is a critical component of India's regional and maritime strategy, especially given China's rapid ascent in modernising PLAN and expanding its influence in the Indian Ocean by providing naval assets to smaller nations. China has already established itself as the leading defence exporter to both Pakistan and Bangladesh. It delivered two Ming-class submarines to Bangladesh in 2017, gifted a P625 frigate to Sri Lanka in 2019, and committed to exporting Yuan-class submarines to Thailand. Although the Thai deal encountered difficulties when Germany refused to supply key propulsion components.



Slowing capital expenditure is good. Don't invest in BSNL, save for shortfall instead



The Union government's capital expenditure (capex) continues to be a cause for concern. Of course, the extent of its decline has reduced somewhat — from 35 per cent at the end of the first quarter of the current financial year to 15 per cent at the end of six months. But the latest number for the April-November 2024-25 period shows that the Union government's capex was still 12 per cent lower than what it was in the same period of 2023-24. Instead of aiming for the targeted 17 per cent growth to ~11.11 trillion in capex for 2024-25, the government will have to strive hard to at least cross the figure of ~9.48 trillion reached last year. What has led to this decline? A widely held view is that the seven-phase general elections, which began on April 19 and ended on June 1 last year, caused a slowdown in capex. But if that indeed is the reason, the decline in capex in the first quarter should have been reversed in the second quarter of 2024-25. And certainly, the first two months of the third quarter should have raised the trajectory of capex growth to a higher level. There has been some improvement, but a 12 per cent decline in the April-November 2024-25 period is no comfort. Look at the slightly different trajectory seen in the Union government's revenue expenditure growth during the same period. The Budget for 2024-25 had projected a rise of over 6 per cent to ~37.1 trillion in revenue expendi-

ture. At the end of June 2024, the growth was just about 2 per cent, but it has been rising since then, reaching 4.2 per cent by the end of the first six months of 2024-25 and climbing even higher to 7.8 per cent during April-November 2024-25. So, if revenue expenditure has gained momentum, why has capex failed to follow suit? A close analysis of the government's capex numbers presents an interesting picture. Over 90 per cent of the Centre's total capex during 2024-25 was accounted for by just six sectors — roads, railways, defence, telecom, transfer to states and new schemes. Their share in total capex in 2023-24 was a little less at 87 per cent. But the 12 per cent decline in the first eight months of 2024-25 is primarily the result of a marked slowdown in only two of these six areas — roads and defence, which accounted for over 40 per cent of the total capex outlay for 2024-25. Capex on the construction of roads and highways fell by 16 per cent, while defence saw a decline of 15 per cent. This is serious and has worrying implications

for both infrastructure and defence. The problem of slowing expenditure in these two areas should not have been difficult to fix. Either effective monitoring of spending is lacking, or there are serious problems with project execution, reflecting the poor expenditure-absorbing capacity of these two sectors. This is borne out by a relatively good performance of the Indian Railways, which accounts for over 22 per cent of this year's capex. At ~1.68 trillion, the Indian Railways' capex is just about 1 per cent lower than its spending during April-November 2023. With regard to the transfer of special assistance as loans to states for their capex and additional central assistance for their externally aided projects, the Union government's performance was slightly better. In the April-November 2024-25 period, these transfers rose by about 5 per cent, although much lower than the budgeted increase of 41 per cent.

In contrast, such transfers during the entire 2023-24 had risen sharply

by about 24 per cent to ~1.15 trillion. It appears that these transfers will take a hit in the current year and for the first time since this initiative to help states boost their capex was undertaken a couple of years ago. Significantly, this has not yet adversely impacted the states in a big way. The capex of 25 states (accounting for 95 per cent of all the states' and Union territories' total capex budget) has risen by just about 1 per cent in the April-November 2024-25 period, although states like Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Mizoram, Odisha, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and West Bengal saw their capex fall by varying margins. Eventually, however, this will have an adverse impact on the states' capex programme and its growth-enhancing effect. There are two more sectors that account for another 13 per cent of the Centre's capital expenditure budget. But they bring out an intriguing aspect of why the government's capex has been slowing. They suffer from a peculiar problem, which has nothing to do with either the relevant sectors' expenditure-absorbing capacity or the absence of effective expenditure monitoring. The bulk of the capex under telecommunications was meant for infusing equity into state-owned Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd, or BSNL. Of the total capex of ~0.84 trillion, the proposed amount for BSNL's equity infusion accounted for as

much as ~0.83 trillion. But the total expenditure under this head in the first eight months of 2024-25 is only 6 percent of what has been budgeted. In other words, a decision to transfer the equity amount promised to BSNL would increase the government's capex by a significant margin. Why this money has not been transferred is puzzling. Last year, against a budgeted BSNL equity infusion of ~0.53 trillion, the actual infusion was higher at ~0.65 trillion. This year, no action on this front even after eight months is a puzzle as this failure also contributes significantly to the decline in the Centre's capex. More importantly, the Budget for 2024-25 had allocated a significant amount of ~0.66 trillion for capex on central sector schemes and projects. Of this, a large chunk, estimated at ~0.62 trillion, was earmarked for new schemes that the government would announce during the year. However, in the first eight months of the current year, only 4 percent of that total outlay has been used up, leaving ~0.63 trillion yet to be spent. It is likely that the government may not need this amount or it may have kept its powder dry to meet any new schemes that it might announce later in the year, for which such capital allocations will be useful. For the Union finance ministry, currently busy preparing the Budget for 2025-26, such a state of play with regard to slowing capital expenditure could well be an opportunity.

Will Israel-Hamas Ceasefire Really Lead To Peace?

On January 20, 1981, on the day Ronald Reagan took over as the new US president, Iran freed 52 American hostages it had been holding for over a year. That projected Reagan as a strong leader sending a powerful signal to US allies and its foes. His predecessor, Jimmy Carter, did all the negotiations and tried his best to have the hostages released while he was still the president. But Tehran would not let him take the glory. Forty-four years on, Donald Trump is taking the credit for the Gaza ceasefire deal, which will come into effect a day before his inauguration, cementing his reputation as a tough leader. Biden can say that the deal happened under his watch. But there is no doubt that it was Trump whose pressure led to achieve the goal. He declared on his social media platform Truth Social: "This EPIC ceasefire agreement could have only happened as a result of our Historic Victory in November, as it signalled to the entire World that my

Administration would seek Peace and negotiate deals to ensure the safety of all Americans, and our Allies." Days after he threatened that there better be a Gaza deal by his January 20 inauguration or "all hell would break out", his special envoy to the Middle East, Steven Witkoff, landed in Tel Aviv last Saturday. It was the Sabbath, the day of rest for Jews. But Witkoff insisted on meeting the Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, that day. At their meeting, he conveyed Trump's message that the incoming President of the United States wanted to end the Gaza war and demanded that a ceasefire agreement be signed immediately. The format of the three-stage deal announced on Wednesday was proposed by Biden in May last year and was later also endorsed by the UN Security Council. But both Hamas and Israel kept dragging the negotiations over it. In Israel, Netanyahu refused to give any concessions to Hamas and continued with his brute military operation in Gaza.

Investors line-up for Excitel's \$200-million equity deal

Extension of the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for solar energy value chain, increased allocation towards PM Suryaghar Muft Bijlee Yojana, and greater thrust to distribution and transmission infrastructure are likely to be the key features of the upcoming Budget, as far as the energy sector is concerned. Sources said these proposals figured not only in the budget wish lists of the industry, but also in the respective recommendations from the ministries of power and renewable energy to the finance ministry, ahead of the Budget. "Given the success of PM Suryaghar scheme with almost 600,000 installations in just nine months since its launch, one could probably see additional allocation to target more households," said Ashwin Jacob, partner at Deloitte India. "As far as evacuation of power from offshore wind projects is concerned, we would want to see the VGF or budgetary support to continue or get enhanced," he added. "We hope to see a decisive increase in funding to accelerate the green energy transition. Priorities must include scaling renewable energy by addressing grid and transmission challenges, advancing Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) for grid stability and reliable power, doubling energy efficiency and digitalizing the energy sector through AI, smart meters, and data-driven solutions. Streamlining rooftop solar programs with simplified approvals, financing, and monitoring is equally vital," said Saurabh Kumar, Vice President – India, Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet (GEAPP). Sharat Goyal, CEO of Impact Infracap also expects the government to remove restrictions on state wise caps on roof top capacity for net-metering for industrial establishments. "Further, adoption of batteries to substitute use of diesel generators for back-up power should receive incentives and policy support

given their role in reducing dependence on imports," he said. While the government is increasingly working towards enhancing the country's RE capacity, the distribution and transmission infrastructure for its evacuation still needs to be strengthened. With the peak demand for power growing at a rate of 8-9% annually, the industry is looking forward to strengthening of climate resilient infrastructure augmentation. "One can expect new allocations towards augmentation of power distribution infrastructure, especially in high density/ urban load centres, in view of the sharp rise in peak demand over the last few years," said Anujesh Dwivedi, Partner at Deloitte India. He noted that there may be some allocation towards supporting the preparatory work especially on the listing of power utilities, or some incentive mechanism for promoting initiatives on private sector participation or listing of utilities at the state level because they are increasingly being seen as the much needed structural reforms the sector needs. The industry is optimistic of a wider coverage of the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme by including smart metering in infrastructure definition.

"This would direct more financing for a sector which seeks to bring down India's transmission and distribution losses to 12% and improve recovery for state utilities," Goyal said. Goyal also noted that power transmission despite significant potential has not seen any notable monetisation events which could address the latent investor demand. "Government should announce a time-bound privatisation programme for assets owned by PGCIL," he said. The sector also sees the PLI scheme for solar value chain to continue with possible reduction in the duty structures for solar equipment. Jacob highlighted.

Tulip's resignation in the UK is troublesome for Hasina. Spotlight on daughter Saima

The sins of fathers shall be visited upon the sons—this ominous pronouncement in the Bible has now come true for Tulip Siddiq, a 42-year-old minister in the British government, but with a twist. In her case, it wasn't her father's sins that visited upon her but those allegedly committed by her aunt, the deposed prime minister of Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina Wazed. And it cost Siddiq her job. Slapped with a range of corruption charges by Bangladesh's Anti-Corruption Committee (ACC), which forced an internal gov-

ernment inquiry, Siddiq has strenuously denied any wrongdoing—except that of ignorance about benefiting from dubious transactions. But she has paid the price and resigned as UK treasury minister on Tuesday, though she stressed that an independent review found she had "not breached the ministerial code". If the sins of aunts can impact nieces, then can daughters escape their mothers'? Ever since Siddiq's case hit the headlines, the spotlight has slowly but surely turned to Sheikh Hasina's daughter,

Saima Wazed, also known as Putul, who was elected regional director of the World Health Organisation's Southeast Asia branch amid considerable controversy in February 2024. An editorial in the eminent medical journal The Lancet had earlier questioned if she was fit for the job, as she only held a master's degree in psychology while rival aspirants were doctors with years of public health experience. The ACC has now initiated a probe into how she got the job: on her own merit or her mother's

intervention as prime minister. All eyes are now on Putul and whether she'll be forced to follow in her cousin's footsteps. What does it all mean for 77-year-old Sheikh Hasina, who has been sheltering in New Delhi since fleeing Dhaka on 5 August after a violent student uprising against her 15-year continuous tenure as Bangladesh's prime minister? There is no doubt that the charges being hurled at her, her family, and her friends are coloured by political prejudice from those now in power in Bangladesh.

Delhi: Man steals 1kg gold bar from fiancée to buy plot, arrested

NEW DELHI: A jeweller was arrested for allegedly stealing a 1 kg gold bar from his fiancée, intended for their wedding, and replacing it with a fake.

According to police, the woman lodged a complaint claiming her fiancé, 30-year-old Nitesh Verma of Krishna Nagar, east Delhi, swapped the genuine gold bar, which she had given him for safekeeping, with a counterfeit. The woman also reported that several gold, diamond, and silver items went missing from her residence in Aug 2024, shortly after their engagement. When confronted, Nitesh admitted to both—the theft and substitution — and promised to repay the amount within a week but then went into hiding. The complaint was filed on July 29. DCP (central) Nidhin Valsan said police arrested Nitesh from a hotel in Kaushambi, Ghaziabad. He reportedly confessed to



stealing the gold bar when alone at the woman's home, replacing it with a fake. He further revealed that he cut the gold into smaller pieces and sold them. claimed he used the proceeds to buy a Rs 42 lakh plot in Dehradun, Uttarakhand, and handed over Rs 70-80 lakh to his parents. , who allegedly invested in plots in Dehradun and Delhi and stayed at luxury hotels in Mussoorie and Kerala.

On Tuesday, the urban development department announced a new set of guidelines to strengthen Delhi govt's measures on management of street

dogs. These guidelines cover key aspects such as population management, rabies eradication and reduction of human-dog conflicts, all in alignment with the Animal Birth Control (ABC) Rules, 2023. ABC Rules mandate a humane approach to managing community dog populations by requiring local bodies to capture, sterilise and vaccinate stray dogs before releasing them back into their original territories. The new guidelines bring some clarity for NGOs and allow them to involve the residents' welfare associations in managing the street canines more effectively.

FM reports 1100 out of 1200 state and national schemes under DBT

Delhi: Direct bank account transfers have been assured for 1,100 out of 1,200 national and state government projects, according to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. One hundred hundred out of one thousand two hundred federal and state programs get their funding sent straight to their bank accounts by DBT. She emphasized that the Public Financial Management System is crucial to the improvement of DBT. She said that PFMS has allowed the government to give benefits directly by cutting out middlemen at the 49th Civil Accounts



Day festivities. It was said "Everything is direct payment, so no middlemen, no unborn children getting allowances." All recipients have their funds deposited into accounts that have been biometrically verified. Out of the 1200 national and state schemes, DBT is in charge of 1100. By going

digital, PFMS has made all financial transactions more transparent and efficient, doing away with discrepancies and delays in fund distribution. The Minister of Finance made a point of mentioning that around 250 external systems, such as the Government e-Marketplace, GSTN, PM Kisan, and TIN 2.0, connect with PFMS. Efficient financial transactions and cooperative federalism are both facilitated by full integration.

Through the integration of financial systems, the government may enhance the tracking of fund flows and ensure accountability.

EU, India will sign FTA by year-end

Delhi: The sides promised "concrete steps" to finish the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor. The FTA states that the parties would "work as trusted partners to enhance market access and remove trade barriers". Modi and Leyen stressed IMEC. Modi said, "Concrete steps will be taken to take it forward. The

IMEC will promote global trade, sustainable growth, and prosperity. The IMEC was announced at the September 2023 G20 in New Delhi. India, the US, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and various European nations are involved. The corridor will link India, West Asia, and Europe via train, road, and sea. Lal was asked if

Europe would require lower wine, cheese, and automobile taxes. Leyen traveled to India with 22 EU Commissioners. It emphasizes our value. India and the EU are and space cooperation. The two sides agreed to have "focused discussions" on the military sector and marine domain awareness to strengthen shared assessment.

CAPSULES

US Polo targets Rs 3,000 cr in India, boosts marketing

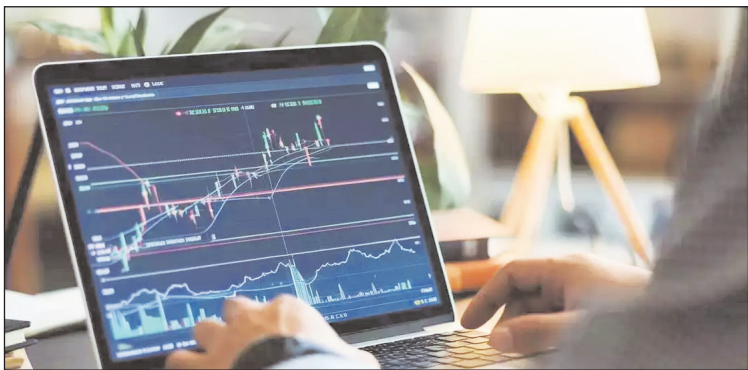
Delhi: Arvind Fashions aims to increase marketing investments for its flagship brand, US Polo, to reach ₹3,000 crore in revenue, up from the current ₹2,000 crore.



Over 3% of our corporate budget goes to advertising. This has reached 4% for US Polo and is rising. He noted that US Polo's company was predicted to increase 12-15% due to its strong omnichannel presence, taking advantage of the emerging rapid commerce channel and the square-foot expansion of stores, which can become supply hubs in smaller towns. Like-for-like growth is solid, including virtually double-digit full-price growth. Other categories including kids, women, and footwear are developing faster than the mother brand. Nearly 20% of the brand's revenues are in adjacent categories. "US Polo dominates the domestic market. We will invest in the brand and grow quicker than the market, he stated. Deloitte India and the Retailers Association of India reported in February 2025 that urban and rural families will spend more on discretionary items due to a doubling of per capita income by 2030. The report noted that "the Indian apparel and footwear market was valued at \$78 billion in 2023 and is expected to reach \$106 billion by 2028 at a compounded annual growth rate of 7.5–8%, driven by increasing disposable incomes, rising urbanisation, growing organised retail penetration.

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 Zelenskyy 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 lat-



est 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.

Manufacturing activity slows to a 14-month low in February

NEW DELHI: Activity in the country's manufacturing sector grew at its slowest pace in 14 months as production and new orders moderated but it still remained robust, a survey showed. The HSBC India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) registered a reading of 56.3 in Feb, down from 57.7 in Jan, but still indicative of further improvement in the health of the sector. The 50-point mark separates from contraction in the survey, which is compiled from responses to questionnaires sent to 400 manufacturing firms.

Keep existing FY interest rate at 8.25%: EPFO board

Delhi: The central board of trustees of the Employees Provident Fund Organisation proposed keeping the interest rate at 8.25% for the current financial year. The finance minister must approve this before money is credited to seven crore subscribers. The Employees Provident Fund EPF has high and predictable returns compared to other fixed-income instruments, ensuring savings growth. The finance ministry taxed interest income obtained by people



who pay over Rs 2.5 lakh yearly a few years ago, claiming it would affect only 1% of subscribers. EPFO's 8.25% returns are far greater than PPF's 7.1%. Compounding is available with PPF's Rs 1 lakh annual investment cap. SBI is offering 7.5% on two- to three-year fixed deposits, however the interest income is

taxed and compounding is not available. A 30% taxpayer will receive 5.25% post-tax FD returns. The EPFO board also amended the Employees' Deposit-Linked Insurance EDLI program to provide a minimum payment of Rs 50,000 to EPF members who die without one year of continuous service.

Graduates of state universities are unable to secure employment due to a lack of English ability

Delhi Divya: Using the success stories of Punjab and Karnataka, the NITI Aayog suggests that state public universities work with international language organizations to provide programs for English and foreign language proficiency. The employability of the students who graduate from these institutions is greatly impacted by their "inadequate" skill in the English language. State public universities are essential to reaching the NEP 2020 objectives; they educate more than 80% of all college-aged students and were the focus of a new report from the National Institution of Transforming India Aayog, "Expanding Quality Higher Education Through States and State Public Universities," which



NGT requests DPCC report after plea says unlawful dyeing units continue.

Delhi: The applicant, an environmental activist, told the National Green Tribunal that more illegal dyeing facilities were operating in Khyala and Meethapur village in Delhi after the authorities alerted them of their actions. The tribunal ordered the Delhi Pollution Control Committee to act and report in four weeks. In another matter related to such units, a joint committee recommended a campaign to sensitize the public about illegal industrial activity.

was published. Local businesses in a lot of states rely heavily on outside expertise and materials. One factor

contributing to this trend, according to the poll, is the low English proficiency among local kids.

Apple will invest \$500bn and employ 20k in the US

Delhi: Apple will invest over \$500bn in the US over the next four years, starting with a Texas advanced manufacturing complex. Over that period, the tech giant intended to add 20,000 positions, with the "vast majority" in R&D, software, and AI. How much the spending accelerates the com-



pany's current activity is unclear. The amount includes

supplier and Apple TV production costs, according to Apple. Days after Apple CEO Tim Cook met with President Donald Trump, who has prioritized US business investment, the news was made. It stated that the 250,000-square-foot. Houston factory will construct servers "previously manufactured out-

side the US" to power Apple Intelligence, its AI system. The iPhone maker said it would open in 2026 and employ "thousands". Apple is also boosting its data center capacity in , Arizona, and Nevada and doubling its \$5bn funding for Trump's first-term manufacturing fund to \$10bn.

Byju's loses \$533 million loan fraud case in US court

Delhi: U.S. bankruptcy court rules Riju Ravindran, Byju's parent business Think & Learn, and hedge fund Camshaft Capital guilty of \$533 million fraud and "breach of fiduciary duty." The beleaguered edtech business Byju's Alpha has been found to have engaged in several fraudulent financial transfers and conversions, according to a ruling issued by the Delaware Bankruptcy Court. Byju brother Riju Ravindran was found to have breached his fiduciary duty as director of Byju's Alpha, according to the court. The



court's clear recognition that Riju Ravindran, Camshaft, and Byju's engaged in a worldwide fraud including the theft of \$533 million is something we are grateful for. In a statement, the lenders hailed this as a major victory in their fight to reclaim the stolen assets that properly belong to them. Byju successfully obtained a \$1.2 billion

five-year term loan from Glas Trust through the establishment of his Alpha special purpose financial organization. Having defaulted on its loans , Byju's Alpha was placed under trusteeship in March 2023. A group of 37 banks and other lending organizations gave Byju \$1.2 billion. Byju's Alpha's limited partnership interest in Camshaft Capital was transferred to William Morton's hedge fund, Camshaft Capital Fund.

, with the proceeds of about \$533 million in term loans, according to the lenders.

Mittal's \$976 million Airtel stake sale

Delhi: Sunil Bharti Mittal's business sold \$976 million in India's No.2 wireless carrier to raise funding for new ventures. According to an exchange statement, Bharti Airtel Ltd. founder Indian Continental Investment Ltd. sold 0.84 percent interest or 51 million shares for Rs 8,485 crore (\$976 million), nearly a fourth of which was bought by Bharti Telecom Ltd. Other investors were not named in the trade at Rs 1660.46 per share, a tiny discount to

Monday's finish of Rs 1,675.6. The document said the shares were "allocated only to key marquee long only names, both global and domestic." Mittal is investing in Africa and OneWeb, which merged with Eutelsat in 2023, at the time of the sale. Last year, closely held Bharti Enterprises Ltd. bought 24.5% of BT Group Plc. Bharti Telecom now owns 40.47 percent of Airtel, reinforcing its "previously stated intent of strengthening its position . as the principal vehicle

Privatized entities can employ Aadhar authentication

Delhi : The ministry of electronics and IT (Meity) announced that the Union government has amended the Aadhaar rules to allow private entities to use Aadhaar authentication for service delivery. The amendments aim to give residents "ease of living" and "better access to services". Ministry Notified Aadhaar Authentication for Good Governance (Social Welfare, Innovation, Knowledge) Amendment Rules, 2025, revising 2020 rules. "The amendment allows government and non-government entities to use Aadhaar authentication, promoting trusted transactions for both providers and users," stated the announcement. It stated that the amendment will make non-government e-commerce, travel, tourism, hospitality, and health services easier to use.

The 2020 rules allowed the Centre to



allow Aadhaar authentication only "in the interest of good governance, preventing leakage of public funds, promoting ease of living of residents and enabling better access to services for them" to use digital platforms for good governance, social welfare benefit dissipation prevention, and innovation and knowledge dissemination. The amendments removed "in the interest of good governance, preventing leakage of public funds access to services for them" and added "promoting ease of living of residents and enabling better access to services for them" as the fourth purpose, expanding the reasons for authentication.

Prasanna S, the Supreme Court's advocate-on-record who challenged Aadhaar's constitutionality, called the expansion the "spectre of a surveillance state", "unwarranted" and in violation of the top court's ruling that struck down Section 57 of the Aadhaar Act, 2016 to bar private entities from using authentication services. The 2025 Rules change contradicts the five-judge Supreme Court ruling in Puttaswamy v Union of India (2018). Section 57 of the Aadhaar Act, 2016 prohibiting private entities from employing authentication services was overturned. He claimed this amendment practically re-legislates what was ruled down.

Women own almost 50% of small manufacturing businesses

A survey found that 58% of manufacturing businesses were owned by women in 2023-24, up 4% from the previous year.The Annual Survey of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises (ASUSE) 2023-24 found that 28.1% of workers were women. More than one-third (33.7%) of OAES' workforce is female in OAEs (owned a c c o u n t enterprises). Female-owned businesses rose to 26.2% in 2023-24 from 22.9% in and 9.7% to 14.2% in other services. Female workers comprised 18.5% of recruited workers. Female workers were



most prevalent in manufacturing (46.5%), followed by other services (22.5%) and trade. West Bengal has the most female workers (12.7%), followed by Uttar Pradesh (10.4%) and Maharashtra (9.7%) in ASUSE 2023-24. West Bengal and Maharashtra have the most rural and urban female workers, at 16% and 13%,

respectively. Non-incorporated non-far establishments are not registered under the Companies Act 1956 or the 2013 Act.

Every fourth proprietary establishment in India was owned by a woman. Women run one-third of private businesses in Gujarat, Karnataka, Telangana, and West Bengal.

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.



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.

IT panel to propose TV, print, online media umbrella

Delhi: The **Parliamentary panel on communications and information technology**, led by BJP lawmaker Nishikant Dubey, will recommend that the Union government form the Media Council of India to regulate print, television, and online media, sources said. A senior panelist suggested an umbrella body because the same content occurs across platforms. You work for a paper. The Press Council of India oversees your newspaper articles. No regulation exists for the identical story in the paper's online edition." There is no central regulator for online material, but two groups regulate print and electronic media. The Press Council of India, a statutory quasi-judicial



autonomous authority established by Parliament, protects press freedom and improves newspaper and news agency standards. Among other major media regulatory reforms, the panel, which addressed fake news extensively will recommend this. In the discussion,

Dubey added, "Paid news is rampant. Illiterate and gullible individuals think alike. Without strict regulations, ethical boundaries are crossed. Investigative journalism is discouraged by expensive and lengthy legal fights for journalists and media corporations.

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, and the modifications would

WhatsApp claims Israeli spyware Paragon targets users

Delhi: After the hack, WhatsApp issued Paragon a cease-and-desist letter. WhatsApp stated it "will continue to protect people's ability to communicate privately." Paragon wouldn't comment. WhatsApp officials reported a hacking attempt on 90 users. A number of civil society and media figures were targeted, although the official did not specify who or where. He said WhatsApp has stopped the hacking and was referring targets to Citizen Lab. Officials would not reveal how they determined



Paragon was responsible for the hack. He claimed law enforcement and industry partners were informed but declined to elaborate. Paragon sells high-end surveillance software to government clients, claiming it is essential to combating crime and defending national security. However, journalists, activists, opposition

politicians, and at least 50 US officials have found surveillance capabilities on their phones, raising fears about the technology's unregulated expansion. Paragon, which was apparently acquired by Florida-based investment group AE Industrial Partners last month, has strived to identify as a responsible industry actor.

Public infrastructure spending rises, but private sector participation falls

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 grew 38.8% from FY20 to FY24, although private sector participation in core areas remained low, according to the survey. "India needs a continued step-up of infrastructure investment over the next two decades to sustain a high rate of growth," the research says. The National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP) program has met its FY22-24 objective of 4.30 lakh crore with transactions totaling 3.86 lakh crore. In Q1 FY25, average monthly capital spend-



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

Delhi : The Union Cabinet, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, launched the National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM) with a 16,300 crore expenditure and a projected 18,000 crore investment from PSUs and other businesses. "Several crucial decisions have created new scientific and technology prospects for our children, future generations, and the economy. Minister told a Cabinet briefing that PM Modi the National Critical Minerals Mission today.

ing dropped to 0.60 lakh crore from 0.66 lakh crore in July-November 2024. Railway network expan-

sion remained constant at 2,000 kilometers, with 17 Vande Bharat train pairs and 228 carriages added.

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.

Redesigning agri export policies

Delhi: Three sources intimately involved in the process said India's six-year-old Agricultural Export Policy (AEP) will be overhauled as export destinations vary and the country's farm export basket diversifies. The planned study will improve Indian agricultural products' competitiveness, assure global standards compliance, and promote value-added products. The officials quoted above added on condition of anonymity that it will also aim to enhance commercial links with emerging countries while main-



taining strong partnerships with old partners. "Our agricultural exports have grown over the past five years. We must examine the policy to match export targets with market demands. One of the three persons cited above claimed

the agriculture ministry will assist with the review and set a deadline. India was the eighth-largest agricultural exporter in 2023 despite a drop from \$51.12 billion to \$48.77 billion in FY24. Recently, changing global demand pat-

Norms to stop annoying calls and surrogate advertisements next month

Delhi: Thirteen businesses, including significant producers of alcohol, tobacco, and paan masala, have received notifications from the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) for using surrogate advertising. The dishonest practice of using the

same brand name to promote products that are prohibited from direct advertising is known as "surrogate advertising." Pralhad Joshi, the union minister of consumer affairs, stated that the CCPA is creating regulations to control the issue.

terns, trading partners, and agricultural technology have changed how and where agricultural products are sold. Two newly appointed MPC members have revived the Economic Survey's dis-

cussion on removing food inflation from monetary policy. Q2 GDP growth and November food inflation may have unnerved MPC outsiders.

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



Gurugram : 27th September 2025 – This September, as the world observes Blood Cancer Awareness Month, Aas Ek Prayaas NGO, in association with the Nishwarth Sewa Foundation, is set to host a transformative Health Summit aimed at raising awareness, providing knowledge, and offering support to those impacted by blood cancer. The "Roshni: A Ray of Hope" summit will be held on Saturday at the Aatomy Enterprises India Pvt. Ltd., located

in Magnum Towers, Sector 58, Gurugram, beginning at 10:00 AM. The event is designed to bring together healthcare professionals, oncologists, spiritual healers, and health experts to discuss a holistic approach to combating cancer.

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

Round 1: Cancer Prevention and Treatment

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

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

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



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

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

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



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

NAAC adopts e-inspections for new accreditation

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

Class IX students' Vigyan Pratibha test

Delhi: As a way to recognize and reward exceptional ninth graders in the city, the Mukhyamantri Vigyan Pratibha Pariksha will be held by the Directorate of Education (DoE). The purpose of the annual test is to pique students' interest in research-oriented professions by assessing their conceptual

knowledge, analytical thinking, and problem-solving skills. Along with merit awards, the top 1,000 rank holders will each receive a one-time scholarship of 5,000. Students in the ninth grade at NDMC, DCB, Kendriya Vidyalaya, Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, or any other publicly or privately fund-

ed school are eligible to take the exam. Class VIII qualifying requirements for students belonging to restricted categories (SC/ST/PH) are 55%, while students in the General and OBC categories need to secure 60%. A minimum of 15% of the seats are set aside for students from Scheduled Castes.

Yoga and Ayurveda reached new heights due to PM efforts

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



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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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



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

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

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

Gyan Shri Award by Savitri Foundation

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



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

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

Tech and sports: IIT will support SAI



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

BIS raids Amazon warehouses for dangerous, non-certified products

Delhi: Amazon, BigBasket, and Flipkart have been warned by the Bureau of Indian Standards BIS for breaking certification requirements. BIS, part of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food, and Public Distributions, visited Amazon and Flipkart warehouses and seized uncertified merchandise. BIS sued responsible parties under the BIS Act 2016 after material was seized.

BIS sued the entities twice for violations. Amazon mandates compliance with laws, rules, and policies for all merchants. "We build unique technologies to prevent harmful products from being listed and ensure our selection matches industry standards. We remove noncompliant products and contact sellers, producers, and government organizations for more information to keep our clients safe.

At an Amazon warehouse in Lucknow, BIS



seized 215 toys and 24 hand blenders without BIS certification. operation at the e-commerce giant's Gurugram factory uncovered 58 aluminum foils, 34 metallic water bottles, 25 toys, 20 hand blenders, seven PVC cables, two food mixers, and 1 speaker without certification. At a Flipkart warehouse in Gurugram run by Instakart Services Pvt Ltd., authorities seized 534 stainless steel vacuum-insulated bottles, 134 toys, and 41 speakers that did not fulfill regulations. BIS investigations linked various non-certified products to Techvision International Pvt Ltd.

For a long time, Lifebuoy was a germ-fighter

Delhi: Lifebuoy, one of the top-selling soap brands in India that is worth more than 2,000 crore in sales, is getting a makeover. Citing declining sales in the 'hygiene soap' segment, a top executive at HUL said that Lifebuoy will now be positioned within the broader 'skin protection' category, moving beyond its traditional 'germ protection' focus. "It is a big transformation that we are doing on the brand and that entails pivoting the brand from the world of germ protection to the world of skin protection along with a change in packaging and new communication.

Patanjali and DS Group acquired Magma Insurance for 4,500cr

Delhi: Patanjali Ayurved and other foundations will acquire a controlling stake in Magma General Insurance after the board approved a share purchase deal. Patanjali Ayurved and DS Group would buy the insurance for Rs 4,500 crore, pending regulatory permission. Baba Ramdev's Patanjali Ayurved is a renowned manufacturer and marketer of herbal, nature-based, medicinal, and FMCG items. The Dharampal Satyapal Group DS Group, founded in 1929, is a major Indian conglomerate that operates in food and beverages, confectionery, mouth fresheners, hospitality, dairy,



luxury retail, and agriculture. Patanjali Group's first major financial action.

The purchase requires clearance from Irda, the Competition Commission of India, the company's debt holders, and other regulators. After completion, the buyers will invest further in the company. Sanoti

Properties LLP, owned by Adar Poonawalla 90% and Rising Sun Holdings 10%, owns 72.5%. Poonawalla's Rising Sun Holdings bought 60% of Magma Fincorp, an NBFC with a German insurer, in 2021. "Magma General Insurance has methodically established its retail and corporate business, with over 18,000 agents, 2,000 corporates, 14 OEMs, including all the main OEMs, and 80 financial services firms. Patanjali Ayurved and the DS Group, we are optimistic it will continue to contribute to the general insurance business."

Delhi Metro will add urban freight (cargo) services

Delhi: A DMRC spokeswoman said the Delhi Metro will include urban freight cargo services. "The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation DMRC and Blue Dart, a leading Indian express logistics service provider, have signed an urban logistics MoU.

This service is a strategic partnership between the DMRC and Blue Dart, India's leading express logistics operator. This first-ever South Asia Pacific effort strengthens the DMRC and Blue Dart's commitment to environmental stewardship and sus-

tainable logistics solutions. Under this agreement, Blue Dart will use metro train capacity to transfer time-sensitive freight faster and more reliably during off-peak hours. This novel approach decreases road traffic and pollution.



Prior to the wedding season, gold reaches an all-time high of Rs 91,000/10g

Delhi: According to Abhilash Botekar, the price of gold surpassed a historic level, reaching Rs 91,000 per 10 gm, just in time for the wedding season. Nashik and Jalgaon traders in Maharashtra are bracing for more price increases in the days ahead. Because of its stellar reputation for guaranteeing the purity of gold and outstanding craftsmanship, Jalgaon remains a popular destination for purchasers from all over Maharashtra, Gujarat, and MP. "The market rate for 10 gm gold was Rs 91,052, including tax," stated Sushil Bafana, a jeweller headquartered in Jalgaon. What was it Rs 91,600. The market price is reacting to news from around the world, particularly the US government's trade policies. Many individuals still think gold is the greatest investment opportunity today. Customers in Jalgaon benefit from the jewellers' cutthroat competition, which guarantees affordable, high-quality products.

Women own almost 50% of small manufacturing businesses.

Delhi: A survey found that 58% of manufacturing businesses were owned by women in 2023-24, up 4% from the previous year. The Annual Survey of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises (ASUSE) 2023-24 found that 28.1% of workers were women. More than one-third (33.7%) of OAEs' workforce is female in OAEs (owned account enterprises). Female-owned businesses rose to 26.2% in 2023-24 from 22.9% in and 9.7% to 14.2% in other services.

TRAI will limit satellite permits to five years

Delhi: A senior government source said India's telecom regulator will recommend five years of satellite broadband spectrum to assess first market uptake, defying Elon Musk's Starlink, which wants a 20-year permit. TRAI is recommending a time frame and price for administratively granted satellite spectrum to the federal government. Musk and Indian billionaire Mukesh Ambani announced a collaboration this week to sell Starlink gadgets in Reliance stores, providing it significant distribution. Early rivals, Ambani's telco company unsuccessfully lobbied New Delhi for months to sell spectrum instead of allocating it administratively as Musk



intended.

According to public submissions, Starlink wants spectrum for 20 years to focus on "affordable pricing and longer-term business plans" and Reliance wants it for three years to review the market. Indian telco Bharti Airtel also

wants a 3-5-year license. Like Reliance, Airtel and Musk have a Starlink distribution deal. According to a licensing source, New Delhi can alter spectrum costs after five years as the market grows due to the shorter timeframe.

First deep-seated mineral exploration license sale in India

Delhi: Goa hosted India's first exploration licence auction, a major change to unlock the nation's untapped mineral resources. Union Minister G Kishan Reddy and Goa Chief Minister. Pramod Sawant auctioned 13 Exploration Licence blocks for important minerals such as REE, Zinc, Diamond, Copper, and PGE. "This initiative, facilitated through a transparent online bidding process, is set to accelerate systematic mineral exploration. Mines Ministry in a release. Create a self-reliant, future-ready mineral ecosystem aligned with India's clean energy.

Sebi approves LG Electronics' Rs 15,000-crore share sale



Delhi: LG Electronics' domestic unit has received regulatory approval for a Rs 15,000-crore public float and offer for sale, making it the second Korean company to go public after Hyundai. Hyundai Motor India was the first Korean business to launch a Rs 27,870.2-crore share sale on Dalal Street, the largest ever. The huge issue comes as over 45 Sebi-approved issuers have called off or delayed their issues due to the market collapse that began last October and contin-

ues. The indexes are down more than 18% since September 27, with investors losing almost Rs 70 trillion in share value and the market cap falling over Rs 112 trillion. The company has not specified the issue size, but a source said it is expected to be Rs 15,000 crore.

Last month,

the company began IPO roadshows. LG India will not receive any money from the public issuance, which is simply an OFS. Instead, the earnings will go to LG Life's Good. LG submitted preliminary paperwork with Sebi in December to sell 10.18 crore shares, or 15% of its ownership.

"Speculative reports" should be avoided, warns RBI of IndusInd Bank's stability

Delhi : After IndusInd Bank disclosed inconsistencies in its derivatives portfolio and cautioned of a one-time impact to its net worth last week, the Reserve Bank of India reassured depositors that the bank's financial situation "remains satisfacto-



The lender's board and management to finish fixing the problem

ry," putting their money at ease. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued a press release stating that the bank is "well-capitalised" and that its financial health is being continuously watched.

The message emphasised that the bank is not vulnerable to "speculative reports

at this juncture" and encouraged depositors to have patience. According to the central bank, the bank has already hired an outside auditing firm to look over its systems and determine how serious any problems are based on what is already known to the public.

European wine and spirits to face a retaliatory tariff of 200%

Delhi: If the European Union follows through on its intention to levy a tax on American whiskey, U.S. President Donald Trump has threatened to slap a 200 percent tariff on wine, champagne, and other alcoholic products from EU countries. Following the imposition of tariffs on steel and



aluminum imports by the United States the day before, the European Union (EU)

levied tariffs on \$28 billion worth of US goods, including a 50% tax on US bourbon whiskey. In response to the statement by the EU, Trump warned on his Truth Social platform that a 200% tariff would be imposed on all alcoholic beverages, wines, and champagnes imported from

France and other countries represented in the EU unless the tariff is lifted immediately. He criticized the European Union's tariffs and taxes, calling them "nasty," and said that the organization had been created with "the sole purpose of taking advantage of the United States".

Bitcoin will not be added to the Korean Central Bank's foreign exchange reserves

Delhi : The South Korean central bank has expressed concern about the potential volatility of bitcoin's price and has urged a "cautious approach" to maintaining foreign exchange reserves that include it. Following President Trump's announcement earlier this month of a strategic bitcoin reserve and digital asset stockpile, lawmakers have begun to consider the possibility of including cryptocurrencies in these reserves. The Bank of Korea BOK has stated



that it "has neither discussed nor reviewed the possible inclusion of bitcoin in foreign exchange reserves" and that "a cautious approach is needed" regarding the issue, according to Rep. Cha Gyu-geun of the tiny Rebuilding Korea Party. According to Yonhap, a South Korean news

agency, the BOK pointed to the extreme price fluctuation of bitcoin as the main cause. "Withdrawing bitcoins could become much more expensive if the cryptocurrency market experiences volatility." Additionally, the liquidity, market value, and credit rating requirements established by

Clusters for electronics production in Tamil Nadu to receive 1,112 crore rupees

Delhi : Two electronics manufacturing clusters, totaling Rs 1,112 crore, would be set up in Tamil Nadu, according to the Union government. To establish Tamil Nadu as a key node in the local and global electronics markets, these clusters will be built at Kancheepuram district, and Manalur, Thiruvallur district. The

the International Monetary Fund IMF for foreign exchange

clusters' strategic placement in Pillaipakkam and Manalur is based on their closeness to Chennai, a city well-known for its strong industrial infrastructure and trained manpower. In recent years, the electronics industry in India has surpassed several more sectors to become the country's second-largest export earner.

reserves are not met by cryptocurrencies.