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

Delhi blast: 'Madam Surgeon' emerges as key player

LUCKNOW/KANPUR: Investigators are racing to close the arc of a Jaish-e-Mohammed project they said was years in the making - one that turned a campus doctor into "Madam Surgeon" of a cross-border terrorist blueprint. The alleged architect linking these threads is 43-year-old Dr Shaheen

Shahid - "Madam Surgeon" in the underground lexicon of the JeM module of medics accused of the Nov 10 New Delhi car blast and preparing coordinated terrorist strikes on six cities, investigators said. Terrifying CCTV Captures Delhi's Red Fort Blast; Vehicles Erupt in Fireball



Investigators described Shaheen, arrested in Faridabad, as a key asset. Seized digital evidence, handwritten

diaries and planning notes - now central to the case - describe a plan for a Dec 6 strike aimed at "avenging"

the 1992 Babri Masjid demolition. The papers outline "D-6 Mission", target lists, recruitment pitches, fund movements and secure communication protocols. Investigators also identified roles assigned to Kashmiri doctors Muzammil Ahmad Ganaie and Umar Un Nabi, alongside Shaheen, who

allegedly joined a deeper JeM-backed structure in 2021. The probe has allegedly uncovered an Rs 20-lakh hawala channel routed through a JeM handler for operational use by , Muzammil and Shaheen - money suspected to have funded recruitment, safe houses, secure phones.

Lalu pari-war: After Rohini, 3 more daughters walk out of Patna home



PATNA/NEW DELHI: RJD patriarch Lalu Prasad's daughter Rohini Acharya's outburst at her brother Tejashwi Yadav and his close associates for "abusing" and "throwing" her out of home is snowballing into a full-blown family feud and hints at increasing internal rumblings over the decisions of the party's anointed heir after its bid for office unravelled spectacularly in the assembly polls. As she dropped another bombshell on Sunday by saying she was dissed for donating her "dirty kidney" to Lalu and was accused of extracting

crores of rupees and a Lok Sabha ticket, three of her sisters - Ragini, Chanda and Rajlakshmi - left their parents' Patna residence. Their brother Tej Pratap Yadav, disowned by his father and ousted from the party last year, spoke up against Rohini's "humiliation". Lalu, his younger son and political heir Tejashwi, and other family members have maintained silence, an indication of the division and conflicted emotions within. The party too has kept mum. Some party leaders suggested that differences among the siblings have long been simmering.

Nitish set to take oath as CM for tenth time on Nov 20

Patna: In a moment that highlights both continuity and political longevity, JD(U) president Nitish Kumar will take oath as Bihar chief minister for the 10th time on Thursday, Nov 20, a senior party leader told TOI on Sunday. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to attend the swearing-in ceremony of the new NDA govt. "The swearing-in ceremony will be organised at the sprawling Gandhi Maidan. Many top NDA leaders, including Union home minister Amit Shah, other central ministers Rajnath Singh, Dharmendra Pradhan, Chirag Paswan, Jitan Ram Manjhi, UP CM Yogi Adityanath, and the chief ministers of other NDA-ruled states, will attend the grand event," a senior BJP leader said. State administration officials on Sunday began preparations to turn the



Gandhi Maidan event into a major public spectacle. "The Gandhi Maidan will remain closed to the general public from Nov 17 to 20. There will be a complete ban on the entry of common people into the Gandhi Maidan during this period," the Patna district administration said in a notice issued on Sunday. "The Maidan has been closed for four days to make preparations for the upcoming swearing-in ceremony of the new govt," a senior official said. Sources said the formula for distributing cabi-

net berths among allies has been finalised. Along with JD(U) and BJP, the smaller allies - Chirag Paswan-led LJP (RV), Manjhi-led HAM-S and Upendra Kushwaha-led RLM - will also join the govt. "The LJP (RV) is likely to get three berths in the new state cabinet while the HAM-S and RLM one berth each. A maximum of 16 ministers from the BJP and 14 ministers and the chief minister from JD(U) will take oath on Thursday," a senior BJP leader said. According to a notification issued by the cabinet secretari-

at department on Sunday, the last cabinet meeting of the outgoing govt will be held at 11.30am on Monday. "The cabinet meeting, to be chaired by Nitish, would pass a resolution to make a recommendation to the governor for dissolving the current assembly. From the cabinet meeting, the CM and other senior ministers of the outgoing govt would drive to the Raj Bhavan, where Nitish would submit his resignation and urge the governor to dissolve the assembly," sources in the NDA said. After submitting his resignation, Nitish will attend a meeting of the newly-elected JD(U) legislators, where he will be formally elected leader of the JD(U) legislators' party. A senior BJP leader said the saffron party has called a meeting of its newly elected legislators in Patna on Tues.



Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan attended the Manorama News Newsmaker Award 2024 ceremony as the chief guest in New Delhi, where he presented the award to Suresh Gopi, Union Minister of State for Tourism and Petroleum and Natural Gas.

CM launches portal for fire safety certificate

New Delhi Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta has made the fire safety certificate renewal system online. She launched the portal for online renewal of fire safety certificates at the Delhi Secretariat on Saturday. Delhi Government Home and Education Minister Ashish Sood and senior officials from the Delhi Fire Service (DFS) were also present at the special event. The portal, devel-



oped through a joint effort by the National Informatics Centre (NIC) and the Delhi

Government, fundamentally restructures the fire safety renewal process in Delhi.

The Chief Minister stated that over the past eight months, the Delhi Government has implemented several landmark reforms that are directly benefiting businesses, citizens, and various institutions in the capital. She explained that the processes related to fire permits, licensing, and other mandatory approvals have been simplified, transparent, and transformed into a single-window system.

CDS lashes out at defence companies: 'Show a bit of patriotism'

NEW DELHI: Flagging concerns that Indian arms companies were failing to deliver emergency procurements on time and that some of them were even inflating the extent of indigenous content in their products, Chief of Defence Staff Gen Anil Chauhan has said the armed forces expect "a bit of nationalism and patriotism" in industry's "profit-driven endeavours". "Defence reforms are not a one-way street. (Domestic) industries will have to be truthful about their indigenous capabilities to us. You cannot leave us in the



lurch. When you sign a contract and don't deliver in that particular time frame, it is a capability that is being lost," CDS said at a USI seminar on Friday. CDS said Army had told him "most" of the Indian companies had "over-promised things" and failed to deliver in specified time-frames during 5th and 6th phases of the emergency procurements mechanism.

DK dismisses talks of resignation as KPCC chief; calls himself 'loyal soldier' of Congress

NEW DELHI: Karnataka deputy chief minister DK Shivakumar on Sunday asserted there is "no need" for him to step down as the state Congress president, stressing that his health is "good" and that he has several responsibilities to discharge as Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) chief.

"I have worked to build the party day in and day out, and I will continue to do so. My mental, physical and political health is good," he told reporters in Bengaluru, according to ANI. Shivakumar noted that he must oversee the laying of foundation stones for 100 Congress party offices in Karnataka and is scheduled



to meet Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge. "We have to celebrate the Congress foundation day (December 28). Who will do all this? I have to do it. Why should I resign from the KPCC presidency? There is no need for it," he remarked.

Describing himself as a "loyal soldier" of the party, he added that he would continue as KPCC chief for as long as the leadership wants him to remain in the role. On whether he would raise rumours of a Cabinet reshuffle during his meeting with

Kharge, Shivakumar distanced himself from the matter. "That is left to the CM (Siddaramaiah). He will discuss it with the high command. I am meeting Kharge only to finalise dates for laying the foundation for the new Congress offices. I would like both Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi to lay the foundation stone. I am requesting a date before December 1 as the Parliament session starts that day," he explained. Shivakumar's reaffirmation of loyalty comes amid a renewed push from a section of the Karnataka Congress for him to be elevated as chief minister under the so-called "2.5-year formula" that party leaders.

Amrit Pharmacy will be established in every medical college and district hospital

New Delhi Union Health and Family Welfare Minister J.P. Nadda on Saturday announced the extensive expansion of the AMRUT network across the country, stating that the goal now is to provide AMRUT pharmacies in every medical college and every district hospital in the country, ensuring access to affordable medicines for every citizen. Nadda was addressing the gathering after inaugurating the 10th foundation day celebrations of AMRUT (Affordable Medicines and Reliable Implants for

FIR against Amit Thackeray, 70 MNS workers

NAVI MUMBAI: Nerul police have filed an FIR against Amit Thackeray, the son of MNS chief Raj Thackeray and 70 MNS workers including office bearers for defying police prevention and forcibly unveiling the statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj in a canopy constructed by NMMC at a junction in sector -1, Nerul near Rajiv Gandhi flyover on Sunday afternoon. The accused have been booked under relevant sections of BNS for assault or criminal force



against a public servant, voluntarily causing hurt to a public servant in the discharge of their duty, unlawful assembly, rioting, joint liability and mischief causing loss or damage to property along with relevant sections of Maharashtra Police Act. The accused are Amit

Thackeray, chief of Maharashtra Vidyarthi Sena, Mumbai, Gajanan Kale, MNS President of Navi Mumbai City and Abhijit Desai, MNS Nerul unit chief among other MNS workers, informed Brahmanand Naikwadi, senior inspector of Nerul. Inspector Naikwadi said, "The accused had took out a morcha without permission and gathering unlawfully assaulted the on-duty Assistant police inspector Nilesh and also created obstruction.

Police station blast killed educated Kashmiris

SRINAGAR: Inspector Asrar Ahmad Shah called his cousin at 10.50pm on Friday, asking him to wait on the highway so they could drive home to Kupwara together after work. Thirty minutes later, an explosion ripped through Srinagar's Nowgam police station, killing Asrar and eight others. The victims were police officers, forensic personnel, revenue officials and a tailor, all between 30 and 45.

The cousin who had waited for Asrar spent the night visiting Srinagar hospitals before finding his body in the police mortuary the next morning. By then, social media was flooded with hashtags of heartbreak and outrage over yet another of Kashmir's recurring



tragedies. Asrar, 37, was an MBA from the University of Kashmir who joined J&K Police in 2010. He was a father of three. A video of a young man playing with his infant daughter at home bore the caption, "His daughter's giggles still echo in that room...She waited for her

father to return." That was 33-year-old Arshad Ahmad Shah, a Crime Branch photographer from Kulgam. Arshad, a father of two, lost his brother in a road accident. His father is a retired cop. Javaid Mansoor Rather, 40, from Tral, was an MA from the same university who changed tracks to spe-

cialise in crime photography and join the police force as a constable four years ago. Naib tehsildar Muzaffer Ahmad Khan, 33, from Soibug, did his postgraduation in sports physiotherapy at Delhi's Jamia Millia Islamia before joining govt service in 2020. Another colleague in the revenue department, Suhail Ahmad Rather, was killed in the explosion. Constables Aijaz Ahmad and Mohammad Amin were both old hands in forensic investigation at FSL, Srinagar. Showkat Ahmad Sheikh worked as a laboratory assistant there. Tailor Mohammad Shafi Parray was the odd one out. He had been called to Nowgam police station, located in Srinagar's Sheikh Ul Alam neighbourhood.

Google pulls offline map app from Play Store per government requests

Delhi: Google and Apple removed MAPS.Me offline navigation app from Play and App Store. The app misrepresented India's border. To Google's nodal officer, P r i y a d a r s h i Banerjee, the Survey of India (SoI) submitted MAPS.Me a notice under Section 79(3)(b) of the IT Act, 2000, in December 2024. The software misrepresents Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, according to the notice. The app's Google Play Store homepage now displays "We're sorry, the requested URL was not found on this server". SoI reportedly provided notice to Google, but since the app is unavailable on Apple's App Store for Indian consumers, it's unclear if Apple was notified.

The publisher accessed the letter using Lumen Database. It says: "The maps.me app on Google PlayStore portrays an Indian map with an incorrect external boundary, endangering India's sovereignty and integrity. The Survey of India (SoI) was appointed by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (Meity) in 2020 to "disable access to incorrect maps of India." Nitin Gadkari said that the roads ministry is developing annual and 'lifetime' passes for private cars to allow unlimited travel across the NH network for a single toll payment. Private cars account for 60% of NH traffic, but only 20-26% of toll income. Gadkari remarked during a

'Barrierless Tolling in India' workshop, "Private automobiles generate less money. The majority of toll revenue comes from commercial vehicles. To avoid problems, we're exploring yearly passes. People will be relieved but we will not lose." They stated that the government is developing a plan to private toll high pass user counts on certain stretches. Primus Partners and Think Infra's thinking paper, released by Gadkari, claimed that GNSS-based tolling will enhance traffic flow by eliminating delays, lowering travel time by 20-30%, and saving 8-10 minutes each toll station. The environment include reducing carbon emissions by 50 lakh tonnes and saving Rs 12,000 crore in fuel costs.

DU will discuss the Viksit Bharat curriculum and Gita-based courses

Delhi: According to officials, the standing committee of Delhi University (DU) will meet to evaluate suggestions for a number of value addition courses (VAC), including four that are centered on the Bhagavad Gita and one called An Introduction to Viksit Bharat. The committee's emphasis on incorporating modern applications of Indian philosophy and development topics into the curriculum is highlighted in the agenda, which was made public on Wednesday.

With themes like "Gita for Holistic Life," "Gita and Leadership Excellence,"

"Gita for Sustainable Universe," and "Gita for Navigating Life Challenges," four of the six VACs that are being considered are centered around the Bhagavad Gita. Based on Karma yoga, Jnanayoga, and Bhakti yoga, the Gita for Holistic Life syllabus suggests teachings on self-management, resolving problems in modern life, and methods of action, knowledge, and devotion. The course will also include practical components. The other courses will cover similar thematic applications of Gita's teachings to leadership, sustainability, and life's prob-

lems. Gita may undoubtedly be able to offer us some direction, but it seems ridiculous to introduce so many VACs on Gita. In addition to practical elements like field trips to communities, self-help groups, and farmers' organizations, the proposed chapters will address the role of technology, infrastructure, agriculture, and sustainability, he said. A VAC titled "The Science of Happiness" is also on the schedule. The Centre for Hindu Studies has also suggested starting a PhD program in Hindu Studies, which is anticipated to begin.

Pradhan defends UGC 2025 draft, calls Cong claims 'false'

Delhi: The University Grants Commission (UGC)'s proposed rules on faculty recruitment and promotions in higher education planted seeds of a new political conflict between Tamil Nadu and Kerala and the Centre. Compared to the June 30, 2010 gazette notification, the vice

appointment process appears unchanged. The states' argument that the new legislation will provide chancellors (governors) more VC selection discretion has caused controversy. Kerala called the draft regulations "an overreach by the central govt, rendering states

powerless in the higher education sector," but M K Stalin declared preparations to dispute the governor's VC appointment powers. UGC draft regulations a "direct attack on federalism and state rights" since they offer state governors substantial authority.

The GST Council voted to exempt gene therapy used to cure cancer from taxes

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



The council determined that 18% GST would be applied to the margin of suppliers for all used cars, including electric vehicles

popcorn would be subject to a 12% tax, similar to the namkeen tax, if it were pre-packaged with salt and spices.

Caramelized sugar will be subject to an 18% tax. In a similar vein, the council stated that as voucher transactions were

neither a delivery of commodities nor services, they would not be subject to taxes. It also made it clear that small enterprises that pay rent to unregistered landlords and are covered by the reverse charge system will not be required.

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Starbucks workers expand strike across several US cities

Starbucks workers have extended their ongoing strike to four more cities, including New York, according to the union that represents more than 10,000 coffee shop workers. The strike stemmed from failed negotiations between Starbucks and union representatives, with disputes over wages, staffing levels, and work schedules remaining unresolved. According to news agency Reuters, the five-day strike, which began on , initially impacted Starbucks

locations in Los Angeles, Chicago, and Seattle. As of Saturday, the industrial action has expanded to include New Jersey, New York, Philadelphia, and St. Louis. While the union did not specify the location of the walkout in New Jersey, it confirmed that the strike continues to disrupt operations in the newly added cities.

The union's strike spans in 10 cities, including Columbus, Denver and Pittsburgh, during the festive period, potentially affect-

ing the company's Christmas revenue. The workers' United had earlier indicated that the industrial action could extend to "hundreds of stores". Eve. Discussions between Starbucks and the union began in April. The company recently reported conducting over eight negotiation sessions, resulting in 30 agreements. The coffee chain manages more than 11,000 outlets across the United States, with approximately 200,000 staff members.

UGC bans 3 private universities from PhD admissions for 5 years

Due to academic misconduct and UGC PhD regulations, OPJS University (Churu), Sunrise University (Alwar), and Singhania University (Jhunjhunu) have been forbidden from accepting PhD students for five years (2025-26 to 2029-30). Admissions at three Rajasthan universities were suspended immediately. Following admission exam protocols, Research Advisory Committee (RAC) creation, and thesis evaluation criteria, the UGC found their practices inadequate. Another 30 are being examined. The UGC said, "After analysing/ examining/ evaluating the information/ data submitted by the universities, the Standing Committee has found that three universities did not



follow the provisions of the UGC PhD regulations and also the academic norms for the award of PhD degrees... the responses received from these universities were not found satisfactory." UGC chair M Jagadeesh Kumar stressed PhD program integrity and said additional Indian universities are being reviewed. To maintain Indian higher education's reputation, violations may result in similar punishments. PhD programs should be held to the

highest standards by universities. Institutions that violate UGC's PhD regulations will be punished. We are also inspecting PhD programs at other universities. Those that breach PhD regulations will also be punished.

Incorrect institutions must be barred from admitting PhD candidates. We must protect Indian higher education's integrity and worldwide standing "UGC chair M Jagadeesh Kumar stated.

Admission is based on points from various categories

"Nursery admissions began. The Directorate of Education (DoE) announced in November that the second list would be revealed on February 3"

Delhi: The first list for 2025-26 nursery admission at Delhi's private unaided schools. Initially, major school lists had 100 to 200 pupils. Nursery admissions began November 28, 2024. The Directorate of Education (DoE) announced in November that the second



list would be revealed on February 3. All admissions will be completed by March 14.

Parents now have four to five days to accept admission, verify, and pay costs. Schools vary, but ours

gives parents four days to pay fees. We will then work on the second list, depending on the vacancy. Tania Joshi, principal of The Indian School in Sadiq Nagar, south Delhi, said their list of 114 kids was released Friday.

Jyoti Arora, principal of Mount Abu Public School in Rohini, northwest Delhi, claimed that based on prior trends, 20-25% of first-list candidates will not take admissions. 100 students are on the first list. We will see some rejections since parents apply to numerous institutions and occasionally wish to wait for their first choice, Arora said.

According to DoE, admission is based on points from various categories. Most schools consider distance between the student's home and school, if the candidate has siblings in the same school, and whether anyone in the

IIT Kharagpur teachers petition governors. Restore HoD positions

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

tion accused director Virendra Kumar Tewari of "nepotism" and "arbitrary faculty recruitment" in a letter to the Union Ministry of Education, sparking a confrontation. They wanted an academically qualified, inclusive governance-experienced successor. When the administration sent show-cause notices to IITTA office bearers and disciplined them for not answering within

seven days, tensions rose. Show cause notices were sent to 86 academic members who signed a petition supporting the IITTA, worsening the situation. The IITTA said several of the 86 academic department heads were replaced. The administration also said people who answered or apologized would not be punished. After an unusual general body meeting the IITTA

approached the board of governors. They worry the administration may act fast and deny office bearers a fair hearing.

, further undermining trust. The association asked the board of governors to remove show-cause notices from 86 faculty members, restore their administrative positions, limit press statements that inflame tension, and protect ;.

Body found in garden near Lakharwa village identified: Used to study while staying at uncle's place

The girl had left the house on November 10: Police engaged in investigation, The student was of class eleventh: The student was studying in Government Girls Inter College, Katra

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Tharavai. A dead body was found buried in the ground under a Mahua tree in a garden near Lakharwa village. The police arrived on the information of the villagers, took possession of the body and started investigation. The police was also busy collecting the same evidence. After a lot of investigation, the body of an unknown woman was identified, in which the deceased Sakshi Yadav, son of Gyanendra Kumar, a girl from Bankat Sorhawa village of Soraon police station area, aged 17 years, was identified as a minor. It is being told that she had gone missing from home four days ago on November 10. Joint police teams are busy investigating how and when the girl was murdered. The girl lived with her uncle Shyam Lal, who is a Havildar in the Army, and Sakshi Yadav was also studying from there. The girl was a student studying in class 11th at GGI Inter College, Katra. Like every day, Sakshi Yadav had left home after telling her uncle that she was going to school. But when it was time to come home, she did not reach home. As the afternoon progressed to evening and it was 4 o'clock in the evening, but she did not reach home, so everyone started worrying and started searching for the girl. Even after a lot of efforts, nothing could be found. The girl lived with her uncle Shyam Lal Army in Havildar



Quarter No. T-3/02 Staging Camp New Katra Prayagraj. After a lot of investigation, if no trace could be found, then on November 11, on the complaint of father Gyanendra, the daughter was registered missing in the police station Cantt. In which the investigation continued by the police. On November 11, the girl's school bag was found near Katiyahi in Soraon police station area. When news of this was received, the investigation increased further. While investigating, the body has been sent for post-mortem. The police is continu-

ously investigating all the issues like how the murder took place, who etc. The girl had gone to school from her uncle's quarter; her body was found buried in the ground. On Saturday morning, the villagers killed a girl in the garden near village Lakharwa village of Tharvai police station area and showed her a dead body buried in the ground. Only his hands were slightly visible and his scarf was also found. When the police got information about this at around 8.30 in the morning, police station Tharvai including police station Sarai Nayat, Phaphamau's force and ACP Tharvai Chandrapal Singh, forensic and SOG team reached the spot and were busy in the investigation. Within no time, DCP Ganganagar Kuldeep Singh Gunawat, ADCP Pushkar Verma also reached the spot and were busy investigating the case from every angle. ACP Tharvai said that prima facie there seems to be injury marks on the head on the body. And also told that joint teams of police are engaged in investigation.

The girl was identified as Sakshi Yadav: The girl was a minor Sakshi was a resident of village Bankat Sorhawa under Soraon, and lived with everyone in the quarters of her uncle, who was a Havildar in the Shyam Lal Army. When the girl, who was a student of class XI, was inquired in the school, she was told that she had not come to school today.

After UP T20, 23rd CK Nayudu got selected in Ranji team due to his tremendous performance



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Prayagraj Dev Sports Cricket Ground Prayagraj is constantly in the headlines at this time. The reason for this is that the promising trainee Karthik Yadav was recently selected in the 23rd CK Nayudu Trophy after the Uttar Pradesh T20 League matches. Karthik Yadav took 10 wickets against Himachal Pradesh in the first match of the 23rd CK Nayudu Trophy, 8 wickets against Karnataka in the second match, and managed to take 11 wickets against Railways in the third match. Thus, Karthik Yadav managed to take a total of 29 wickets in the 23rd CK Nayudu Trophy. In view of this brilliant and tremendous performance, today once again the value of Dev Sports Cricket Ground has been increased by getting selected in the Ranji Trophy. Karthik Yadav's coach Ramchandra Prajapati sent best wishes to Karthik Yadav on this achievement. Coach Ramchandra Prajapati ji said that even though Karthik Yadav was born in Ghazipur,

his education started from Shantipuram in Prayagraj. His father Suresh Kumar Yadav who is working in CRPF Mother Sarita Yadav Karthik's elder brother MBBS Doctor Bowling Left Arm Spin Batting Left Hand Karthik Yadav's Achievements Fatehpur Hostel 2018 Under-19 Binu Mankad Trophy, 2022-23 and Under-19 Cooch Behar Trophy, 2022-23 Syed Mushtaq Ali Cup, 2023 Air India, 2024 FCI, 2025 Net Bowler India vs Bangladesh, Test Match Uttar Pradesh Premium First Year, 2023 Kanpur Superstar, 2024 Noida King, 2025 Kashi Rudraksh, this season's best performance, Best Bowler Economy Award, Best Catch Award etc. He told the players of Dev Sports Cricket Club about their achievements and wished them a bright future. Due to the selection of Karthik Yadav in Ranji Trophy, there is a wave of enthusiasm among his initial coach Shri Ramchandra Prajapati and players of Dev Sports Cricket Club. May the performance continue like this.

Three day program of Soraon Mahotsav concluded



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Soraon

The program was completed in a grand manner in the playground of Mewalal Inter College, Soraon, development block of Prayagraj district. The chief guest of the program was MLA Legislative Council Surendra Chaudhary and the special guest was Harsh Vardhan Bajpai. During this time, TLM exhibition was organized by all the schools like Primary School Rajapur Parshurampur, Pvt Narayanpur, Primary School Ismailganj Second, Pvt Shringarpur, Composite Vidyalaya Bhadri, U.Pv Malak Choudhary, Composite Vidyalaya Mammohammadpur, Pvt Dandupur etc. in which all the subjects were in their mother tongue Hindi, English, Mathematics, Science etc. The main objective of installing all these TLMs was to provide the simplest form of teaching to the children and they could learn easily. In this, TM related to eco-friendly and environmental activities, communicable disease diagnosis awareness, basic numerical knowledge and mathematical value points and alphabet knowledge, word, sentence, and vocabulary building skills for linguistic proficiency were demonstrated. Which was prepared and presented by the teachers under the able guidance of the ARP team. At the conclusion of the three days, the TLM fair was successfully organized by the teachers of various schools of the development block under the leadership of Suman Mishra, Education Officer of the development block Soraon and under the successful operation of the nodal ARP Akhilesh Kumar Shukla.

Press Day: The changing nature of media is the fourth pillar of democracy

Press Day is not just a celebration of journalists but a celebration of democracy - Tanu Kushwaha

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Tharavai Every year on 16th November we celebrate National Press Day. National Press Day was established on 16 November 1966. The day the Press Council of India started its work. This day is not just a formality but a special occasion to remind us of the pride of Indian journalism, its courage, strong knowledge, hard work and its role and responsibilities. This is the day when we salute the freedom of the press, its impartiality, accountability and its devotion to democracy. In the entire structure of democracy, the press has been given the status of

'fourth pillar' and it has not got this status just like that, but it has proved it through years of hard work, struggle, sacrifice, impartiality, courage, knowledge, fearlessness and dutifulness. This pillar has been erected by risking our lives. Today when we all are celebrating Press Day, it is necessary that we stand with the glorious history of journalism and its present form, its challenges and its struggle, the role it is playing in the society so that we can develop our country of India and our nation and stop the injustice happening. The history of the press has been very long and glorious and admirable. Journalism in India was



Tanu Kushwaha
Prayag PG College
Hetapatti
Prayagraj Student -
Bachelor of Legislative
Law]

started as a mission. During the British rule, the press was the only medium which

spread the spirit of freedom to the people. News was not just news, but they were a tool to keep the fire of freedom burning. And even today we are working to spread even the smallest news happening in the society to everyone.

There have been many great people in history who have worked related to the press, such as Johannes Gutenberg who invented the printing press. In India, freedom fighters like Gopal Krishna Gokhale and Lala Lajpat Rai also used the press to spread awareness and promote socio-political activities. Great men like Raja Ram Mohan Roy made the press a means of social reform. Bal Gangadhar Tilak

filled the hearts of the people with enthusiasm through his newspaper Kesari. In this way the press never compromised its duty. Even today the press has the same importance.

Democracy can remain healthy only when the public gets the right information, at the right time and in an unbiased form. So that injustice can be stopped in time. Tanu Kushwaha told that our pen is a voice. The journalist can tell only the size. News on every topic should be monitored from every angle. He said that our journalism should be impartial and alert and convey the right information to the right people. The fourth pillar is the identity of a penman.

Sarojini Nagar pride-198 Tara Shakti Centers open a new chapter

Lucknow

Sarojini Nagar MLA Dr. Rajeshwar Singh held a public interaction at his office in Parag Square, Aashiyana, on Saturday, listening carefully to the area's problems, demands, and suggestions and assured them of prompt and effective solutions. Reviewing the pending Tara Shakti (sewing) center applications at the MLA office Dr. Singh stated that 162 Tara Shakti centers have been established in Sarojini Nagar, providing approximately 1800 sewing machines. In the next 36 weeks, 36 more Tara Shakti centers will be established, providing over 500 sewing machines. With the establishment of these new centers, the number of pending applications at the office will be reduced to zero. **Tara Shakti Kendras: Beyond Sewing, Centers for Holistic**



Development

Dr. Rajeshwar Singh stated that the 162 Tara Shakti Kendras in Sarojini Nagar currently serve as strong pillars of women economic, social and skill-based upliftment. These centers have transformed the energy, efficiency and strength of the women power into an organized movement. He stated that 36 new Tara Shakti Kendras will be established in the next 36 weeks and with the addition of these 36 centers, the total number of Tara Shakti Kendras in Sarojini

Nagar will increase to 198. **198 Tara Shakti Kendras** This is not just a number; it is a testament to the women's power of Sarojini Nagar, a recognition of their progress and the greatest celebration of their self-reliance. Today, these centers are no longer just sewing institutes, they have truly become "Holistic Development Centers," where women not only learn skills but are also writing a new chapter of leadership for their families, society and future generations.

Free artificial hand distribution camp completed by Rotary Club Midtown and Inali Foundation



Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Prayagraj. Free Battery-Operated Artificial Hands Distribution Camp organized by Rotary Club of Allahabad Midtown in collaboration with Inali Foundation was successfully concluded today at Kesar Bhawan, Panna Lal Road, Prayagraj. A large number of beneficiaries were provided artificial hands

made with modern technology in the camp. Chief guest of the program was A. Of. Gautam, District Disability Empowerment Officer encouraged the participants and praised this humanitarian effort of Rotary Club. Rotary Club President Vinay Goyal said that this project has been organized to provide self-reliance to the economically weak and needy disabled people.

Respected members were present in the camp. Rotary Club expressed special gratitude to the District Disabled Empowerment Office, with whose cooperation the selection of beneficiaries and operation of the camp was successfully completed. Rotary Club of Allahabad Midtown expressed its resolve to continue similar social service activities in future also.

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Prayagraj

In the police station area Kaundhiyara, the case of organized network carrying out hawala transactions worth crores of rupees by weaponizing the bank accounts of poor villagers is deepening rapidly. After the complaint was sent by the victim to the Chief Minister, Police Commissioner Prayagraj and ACP Kaundhiara, the police has started taking action with full seriousness. Despite this, the main accused are still absconding, which has made the case even more suspicious. On Sunday morning, the police team raided several places including Gidhaura village, but all the accused were found absconding after vacating their houses. The police have strictly instructed the family members of the accused to immediately deposit the bank passbook, ATM card, mobile SIM, pho-



tocopy of Aadhar card, account related documents and other important items in the police station, so that the investigation is not hampered. According to sources, this gang has made hundreds of poor villagers victims of its fraud in the last one year. The gang members first got the villagers to open bank accounts and then took possession of the bank passbooks, chequebooks, ATMs, SIM cards and related documents. After this, an amount of Rs 40-45 lakh was sent from abroad through the same

accounts, which was withdrawn within a few hours and delivered to the leader of the network. Due to transactions worth crores of rupees, the accounts were seized, while the real account holders were kept quiet by paying a few thousand rupees. Police suspect that this entire racket is linked to international funding network, hawala chain and possible illegal activities. This is why the police has intensified the investigation of the mobile numbers of the accused, call details, bank statements, digital transac-

tions, their activities in the village and contact with suspicious people. Police technical team has also been activated in this case, so that the flow of money and the tightest links of the network can be identified. The villagers demand that the entire network should be exposed soon and those powers should be exposed who are making illegal earnings of crores of rupees by taking advantage of poverty and helplessness in the villages. Misuse of bank accounts of the poor will not be tolerated at any level and the culprits will be arrested at all costs and sent behind bars. Special teams have been formed to take action against the accused and raids are being conducted continuously and regular information about the progress of the investigation is being sent to higher officials.

ACP Kaundhiara- Abdus Salam Khan

Editorial

Why The Taliban Foreign Minister Is Really Visiting India

The Acting Foreign Minister of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, Amir Khan Muttaqi, will be traveling to New Delhi between October 16-18, after having received a waiver from the UNSC sanctions committee. His previous bid to secure the waiver back in September was not successful. During his visit, he is expected to meet the External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and will arrive in New Delhi after having participated in the Moscow Format Dialogue in Russia. The impending visit has raised - and might answer - important questions about how India's relationship with the Taliban-led regime has evolved in the past four years. While there is an acknowledgement of the inevitability of engaging with the Taliban because of strategic and security considerations, concerns about what form this engagement would take and whether India can secure its interests for real, persist.

India's Reaction In 2021

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

The Dubai Meeting

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

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

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

Historical Benchmarks and Electoral Shifts

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



from approximately 6 crore to 5.26 crore. The result was a hung assembly, with the UPA led by Lalu Prasad Yadav struggling to retain power. By October 2005, the voter count further declined to 5.13 crore under the vigilant oversight of Election Commissioner KJ Rao. This election delivered a clear majority to the NDA, which won 143 of the 243 seats.

Interestingly, as long as the absolute number of voters remained below the pre-SIR benchmark of 2000, the NDA maintained its dominance. The 2010 election was a landslide for the NDA. While many contextual factors influenced these outcomes, the correlation with voter count benchmarks is hard to ignore. However, as voter numbers began inching

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

Why This SIR Matters More

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

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

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

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

The Jan Suraj Factor and Caste Dynamics

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

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

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

A New Political Landscape

A serious attempt to triangulate Bihar's politics, long after the CPI(ML) and Left Front ceased to be major players. The rise of younger leaders in RJD and Jan Suraj, while the BJP banks on a coalition of EBC (Extremely Backward Class) leaders. The pre-election outreach to women voters in Bihar's history.

It's a heady mix - new players, shifting alliances, and a finely balanced electorate. Many years ago, a state tourism department used the tagline "Full of Surprises." Today, that phrase perfectly captures the mood of Bihar's 2025 election.

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

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

Scratch the calm demeanour, and there is a girl with a plan who wants to hit straighter and longer. Golf consumes her. She recently

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

Kingmaker's Legacy

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

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

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

Development Agenda

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

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

Citywide development projects to receive about Rs 800 crore

Delhi: Various development projects in the city of Delhi were funded by the government and allocated to civic organizations. The sum total was Rs 820 crore for the Municipal Corporation of Delhi, Rs 8 crore for the NDMC, and Rs 5.5 crore for the Cantonment Board. Biomining operations at three Delhi garbage sites were sanctioned with Rs 50.8 crore as part of the first tranche of the basic tax assignment for the fiscal year 2025-26. The rapid biomining at these places and the subsequent decrease in rubbish mounds will be made possible by this amount, according to MCD. The dump sites in Okhla, Bhalswa, and Ghazipur each received releases of Rs 20.3 crore, Rs 20.8 crore, and Rs 9.7 crore, respectively. The Delhi government is dedicated to promptly paying its fair part to local bodies, according to chief minister Rekha Gupta. "Local bodies play a key role in that journey to transform



Free electricity up to 1,200 units for Ramleela and Durga Puja committees

Delhi : The Delhi government will provide free electricity up to 1,200 units to Ramleela and Durga Puja committees and meters for the same will be installed on just 25% security deposit, Chief Minister Rekha Gupta said.

Moreover, to ease administrative hurdles, the government will issue no-objectionable certificates (NOC) for various services through a single-window system, eliminating the need for

Delhi into a modern and developed capital," she said. Considering this, our

these organising committees to approach multiple departments, the CM said. Gupta added that public amenities such as toilets, security arrangements, health-care services, ambulances and fire brigades will also be ensured at the venues of Ramleela and Durga Puja. She made the announcements after meeting representatives of Ramleela and Durga Puja committees at the Delhi Secretariat.

government disbursed the initial funding of 820 crore rupees. to the MCD, 8 crore

Delhi has extended its electric vehicle policy

Delhi : Delhi government has decided to extend the deadline for its Electric Vehicle (EV) Policy by four months, bringing it to November 15. This decision was made since a draft of the policy is currently being reviewed and is awaiting clearance. According to Pankaj Singh, the minister of transport, the document is currently undergoing revisions and will likely be finalized in at least four months. For the time being, we have prolonged the present policy until November 15 and may do so again if needed, he stated. In order to make sure that everyone may enjoy a



cleaner, more sustainable transportation system, we are talking to professionals and looking into all possible possibilities. An increase in EV registrations and a general uptick in interest have been observed recently. The present electric vehicle policy has been extended multiple times since its

inception in 2020 and its expiration in August 2023. At present, e-rickshaws and e-carts can receive a 25% purchase incentive up to 5,500, two-wheelers can receive 5,000 per kWh of battery capacity up to 30,000, and e-cycles can receive 30,000. Additionally, 30,000 can be subtracted from the

NDMC approves night food bazar at Connaught Place & India Gate

Delhi : NDMC approved 16 major proposals aimed at improving civic infrastructure, enhancing public services and promoting citizen welfare. Among the key initiatives that received the nod was a 'night food bazar' at Connaught Place and India Gate. The project

will see 50-60 food trucks operating daily between 10.30pm and 1am, offering a wide range of food and enriching the night-time experience for locals and tourists. The concept was proposed by Delhi minister and NDMC ex officio member Parvesh Verma. He

said the project will be developed along the lines of successful night markets in other parts of India. "Indore's Sarafa Bazaar, a jewellery market by day, transforms into a night street food market, serving a wide variety of local delicacies late into the night.

Govt to involve corporates to clean up the river

Delhi: The government of Delhi has reached out to corporations in an effort to clean up the Yamuna River, level trash dumps, and reduce air pollution, among other environmental issues. Attendees at the "Revival of Yamuna and Delhi, A CSR Dialogue" event at Raj Niwas included VK Saxena, the lieutenant governor, Rekha Gupta, the chief minister, and Praveesh ma, the minister of water. Had conversations with top executives, government officials, and trade group representatives. Delhi Jal Board senior officials laid out a plan for how corporate social responsibility funds could be used. According to Gupta, businesses can help with sewage treatment by installing drains and tiny STPs



along the banks, as well as by contributing technological solutions. She proposed establishing a corpus fund as part of CSR. She went on to say that DJB will be the one to supply the list of projects eligible to receive the funding. The environmental problems in Delhi can only be solved if the government, businesses, and

citizens all pull together, and maintaining the Yamuna's purity is one of my government's top priorities.

The LG stated that the contamination of rivers, garbage mounds, and air had brought "international disrepute" to the city and were issues that the new government had inherited.

Paharganj hotels fined by DPCC for unlawful groundwater extraction

Delhi: For unlawfully using groundwater without paying for it, 441 Paharganj hotels and guesthouses have been fined Rs 1 lakh apiece by the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC). By August, out of the total, these establishments had yielded 4.28 crore rupees. According to the chief secretary's statement before the National Green Tribunal (NGT), 555 hotels and guesthouses had their groundwater use rates calculated by the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) from 2014 to 2015.

Delhi: With an inventive proposal to have them handled by evening courts starting, traffic challans—of which a backlog of more than two crore has accumulated in the district courts—may now be more easily resolved.

The courts will meet on all working days from 5-7 PM in all district courts under the name Evening Courts for Traffic Challans (ECTC). Beginning on December 20, 11 night-time courts in Saket, Rohini, Dwarka, Karkardooma, Tis



Hazari, and Patiala House will work to resolve 2,200 cases per day. With the exception of those marked as "contested challan," "sent to digital court challan," and "cognizance declined challan," all traffic challans

displayed on the Delhi traffic police webpage that are pending on or before December will be handled. Direct downloads of the challan slips are available <https://traffic.delhipolice.gov.in/evecourtddc>.

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

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.

MCD gets nod to invite agencies for Phase-III biomining at Delhi landfills

Delhi: The mayor of Delhi has given the MCD the green light to ask agencies to participate in the Phase-III biomining of trash at the Ghazipur, Bhalswa, and Okhla landfills. In order to finalize the rate and agency, a proposal will be presented to the standing committee. We anticipate that construction will begin shortly, and the method to grant anticipatory approval has been implemented.

A 20-kilometer section of the Munak Canal will be maintained by the Delhi government

Delhi: Chief minister Rekha Gupta said that the maintenance of a 20-kilometer section of the Munak Canal, which runs from Bawana to Inderlok, will now be handled by the Delhi government instead of Haryana. This move is part of an effort to strengthen control over the canal, which is an important water lifeline for Delhi, and to address growing safety concerns. Two days prior to this decision, two boys, Aniket, nine years old, and Krishna, thirteen years old, drowned in the



canal. This tragedy renewed previous worries about safety along the waterway and sparked requests for more preventative

measures. Built between 2003 and 2012 as a section of the Western Yamuna Canal system, the 102-km Munak Canal provides

MCD committees fail to show up for meetings, prompting BJP leader to submit an appeal

Delhi: There has been a request for improved participation to aid progress in Delhi's Municipal Corporation, as councillor attendance at newly constituted committees is minimal. After almost two years of political uncertainty, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has finally



formed many committees.

However, authorities are now reporting that they are facing a new challenge: an alarming number of councillors are failing to attend meetings. Parvesh Wahi, the head of the house, wrote to all of the municipal councillors on Monday, urging them to "ensure their presence on scheduled

times" and to "understand the importance of the meetings." Oversight of topics such as public health, education, sanitation, horticulture, licensing, and disciplinary proceedings are supervised by around twenty statutory, ad hoc, and special committees within the company.



MCD to set up 1,000 dog feeding spots across Delhi localities



Delhi: According to Satya Sharma, who also heads the dog sub-committee meetings, the standing committee chairperson, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has ordered all zonal deputy commissioners to begin designating feeding spots for stray dogs across Delhi. There will be around 1,000 spots set aside in the first run. We will designate three or four feeding areas in each ward. Depending on the area, we will have anything from 500 to 1,000 feeding sites spread out over 250 wards. "Sanitation inspectors, RWAs, and councillors will all be involved," Sharma announced. These feeding stations will not be situated in more populated areas, according to Sharma. This includes places like marketplaces and intersections. "It would be wise to locate these points away from houses," she emphasized. This follows the Supreme Court's modification of its order pertaining to stray dogs, which prohibited public feeding of dogs except at specific locations, authorized the release of vaccinated and sterilised non-aggressive canines, and so on.



Salman Khan says Dharmendra has always been his biggest fitness inspiration

'He is like my father'

Bollywood superstar Salman Khan opened up about the inspiration behind his fitness during a media interaction ahead of his *Da-Bangg Tour* in Qatar. When asked about the 1990s, an era when many young people kept his gym photos for motivation, Salman said that his own inspiration has always been veteran actor Dharmendra.

In one of the videos shared by an influencer, Salman Khan emotionally said, "Before me, there was only one man, Dharam ji. He is like my father. I love him, and I just hope he comes back." Earlier, Dharmendra too had expressed similar affection for Salman. Some time ago, the veteran actor even called Salman his third son. When the *Sholay* actor appeared on one of the seasons of *Bigg Boss* as a special guest, he said, "Salman is my son. I have three sons - all three are emotional, strong-willed, and straightforward." With a smile, he then looked at Salman and added, "But he takes after me a little more. He has a colourful personality and, like me, he loves to dance."

Aahhhhaaa

Salman Khan drops backstage glimpses from the *Da-Bangg* tour

Bollywood heartthrob Salman Khan is in Qatar at the moment for his *Da-Bangg: The Tour Reloaded* show in Doha. Before entertaining the viewers with his powerful performance, the Sultan actor treated his InstaFam with a fun backstage glimpse on social media. Salman took to his official Instagram handle and dropped a photo of himself getting his leg stretched. Wearing a gray T-shirt and black denim, he had his leg placed on a man's shoulders. The image was accompanied by a hilarious caption that read, "Aahhhhaaa".

Shiva felt gifted from the stars: Nagarjuna

South superstar Nagarjuna penned a note on his social media and said *Shiva* was "gifted from the stars" as the film re-released in theatres after 36 years. Directed by Ram Gopal Varma, the film originally released on October 5, 1989. It also served as a breakthrough for the actor. The makers re-released the digitally restored version of the film today in theatres.

Nagarjuna uploaded a post on his X handle on Friday and the restored version "feels untouched by time". "*Shiva* released on October 5th 1989 !!! Now 36 years, 40 days later, *Shiva* 4K feels untouched by time. As life brings me back to where it all began, I can only smile at the cosmic poetry of it all. This film never felt "made", it felt gifted from the stars. A piece of stardust that chose us, shaped us, and changed Indian cinema forever. It's rare in life when you return to a moment that defined you - rarer still when that moment shines brighter than time," he wrote.

South superstar Nagarjuna hails re-released *Shiva* as "gifted from the stars," celebrating 36 years since the film's original release

"As I watched *Shiva* in 4K, it feels untouched by time, it is hard to say if it was made in the past or summoned from the future - it's costumes, it's sound, it's frames, it's spirit - everything about it seems as relevant now as then - timeless. Like I said *Shiva* fell from the stars and stardust never fades," he added.

The film revolved around a new college student named Shiva, who gets involved in a conflict with a violent student gang leader. It also starred Amala and Raghuvaran in pivotal roles alongside Nagarjuna. "Re-releasing *Shiva* today feels like holding that stardust once more, and offering it to a new world. Life comes a full circle. Thank you for walking this circle of life with Shiva and me. Yours - Nagarjuna Akkineni. #50YearsOfAnnapurna @RGVzoomin @amalaakkineni @ilaiyaraaja #AnrLive-son," he concluded.

The film was also the debut directorial of the acclaimed filmmaker Verma.



Big B's cryptic post

Veteran actor Amitabh Bachchan shares a cryptic post criticising lack of ethics, amid media frenzy over Dharmendra's health

"No ethics or sense of responsibility... just an avenue of personal gain," read the latest post on megastar Amitabh Bachchan's official blog. The megastar shared the cryptic post on Friday but didn't name anyone in particular.

"No ethics... no sense of responsibility... just an avenue of personal gain, without any consideration of the moment. Disturbing and disgusting," the 83-year-old actor wrote.

In a separate post on X, he said, "No ethics... *koi bhi achar- niti nahi*." Amitabh Bachchan's post comes amid the relentless media

coverage of his *Sholay* co-star Dharmendra's health struggles. Dharmendra, who was admitted to the Breach Candy Hospital for tests last week, was discharged on Wednesday and moved home for continued treatment.

Over the past few days, media crews had camped outside both the hospital and the Deol residence, prompting pleas of privacy from the family.

On Thursday, Dharmendra's son, actor Sunny Deol, sharply reprimanded photographers gathered outside his Juhu home. His outburst followed the circulation of a leaked video purportedly showing the Deol family grieving at the bedside of an ailing Dharmendra.

Cardi B embraces motherhood again

American rapper welcomes baby boy with beau Stefon Diggs

American rapper Cardi B has embraced motherhood for the fourth time as she welcomed a baby boy with boyfriend Stefon Diggs. This is the couple's first child together.

Sharing the happy news on social media, the 33-year-old rapper dropped a post of herself lip-synching the track "Hello," from her recently released sophomore studio album *Am I the Drama?*

In the caption, Cardi B revealed how she has brought both new music and a new baby into this world, almost at the same time. She penned,

"My life has always been a combination of different chapters and different seasons. My last chapter was the beginning of a new season. Starting over is never easy but it's been so worth it! I brought new music and a new album to the world! A new baby into my world, and one more reason to be the best version of me, one more reason to love me more than anything else or anyone else so I can continue giving my babies the love and life they deserve (sic)."



2025 PETA India Vegan Food Awards

PETA India celebrates veganism

PETA India honours innovative vegan foods from Ranveer Singh, Hrithik Roshan and other brands, promoting ethical, tasty and sustainable eating this World Vegan Month

As vegan eating continues to soar in popularity, PETA India has announced the winners of its 2025 Vegan Food Awards. Highlights include Ranveer Singh's SuperYou Pro Fermented Yeast Protein Cold Coffee for Best Vegan Protein, Hrithik Roshan's HRX by EatFit High Protein Veg Momos for Best Vegan Snack, and Greenmeat Chilly Roast for Best Vegan Meat. Other winners span vegan staples, including Country Delight Oat Beverage, Nutralite Activ Olive Plant-Based Butter, 1.5 Degree Gelato, and Zero Guilt Vegan Orange Ganache Barfi. "From plant-based milks to protein-rich ready-to-eat meals, these winners make choosing compassion easier—and tastier—than ever," says PETA India's Dr Kiran Ahuja. The awards highlight vegan foods' benefits for animals, the planet, and human health, encouraging everyone to embrace cruelty-free eating.



The makers have released the trailer for *The Super Mario Galaxy Movie*, the sequel to the super hit *The Super Mario Bros. Movie*. The trailer starts out with Mario and Luigi taunting the super-small Bowser, who ate a Mini Mushroom at the end of the first

movie and became the plumber brothers' puny prisoner. After Bowser paints a romantic portrait of himself and his beloved Peach and gets rejected by Mario, the real action begins. Mario and Peach see dozens of shooting stars streak across the sky, then head to the stars with

Luigi and Toad. Just like *The Super Mario Galaxy* video game, they travel through different planets, including one made entirely of water and a desert planet with upside-down pyramids (from 2017's *Super Mario Odyssey*) that Mario and Luigi zoom through on bikes.

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

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



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

Wagah closure hurts Afghan dry fruit imports

Delhi: The closing of the Attari-Wagah border has hampered the movement of dry fruits from Afghanistan to India, which may raise domestic prices by 10 to 25%. Afghanistan is India's greatest dried fruit supplier despite war and civil upheaval. Anil Mehra, National President of the Federation of Grocery and Dry Fruit Commercial Association, when the Attari-Wagah border closed, no trucks transporting dry fruits from to Attari had come. "50 trucks are at the Pakistani Wagah border.

Private sector capex may fall 25% to Rs 4.88 lakh cr in FY26: Govt survey

Delhi: A government survey research estimates private business capital spending will drop 25% to Rs 4.88 lakh crore in 2025-26 from Rs 6.56 lakh crore in FY25. The Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation's Forward-Looking Survey on Private Sector CAPEX Investment Intentions between November 2024 and January 2025 found that private corporate capex was Rs 3.94 lakh crore in 2021-22, Rs 5.72 lakh crore in 2022-23, and Rs 4.22 lakh crore in 2023-24. To establish a fixed panel, 2,172 firms provided complete infor-



mation for all five years of the reference period. The government said the aggregated (unweighted) capex data from this panel of firms is credible for five-year capital expenditure trends. Over four years from 2021-22 to 2024-25, aggregate capex (unweighted) increased 66.3%. Of the

3,064 responding companies, 2,172 planned 2025-26 capex. The data suggests respondents are cautious when revealing capital spending plans. The research advised caution when interpreting 2025-26 Capex data due to the conservative stance and fear of responding firms.

Possible goal of India-US trade deal: equal access to technology

Delhi: According to insiders, as part of the intended bilateral trade agreement (BTA), India is expected to request that the United States relax export controls and provide it with access to vital technologies on par with important American

allies such as Japan, Australia, and the United Kingdom. Furthermore, they mentioned that India might be interested in pursuing these kind of concessions in the following industries: semiconductors, biotechnology, artificial intelli-

gence (AI), pharmaceuticals, quantum computing, and telecom equipment. Textiles, gems and jewelry, leather goods, clothing, plastics, chemicals, shrimp, oil seeds, chemicals, grapes, and bananas are among the labor-intensive sectors.



Meta releases standalone AI app to challenge ChatGPT

Delhi: competing with ChatGPT creator OpenAI with a standalone AI app. Meta said that its new AI assistant will use Llama AI. The Discover stream shows how others are using the tool and provides prompts. The AI arms race pits Meta's new software against ChatGPT and other AI platforms. Claude, Grok, and Gemini from Anthropic, xAI, and Google are also leading contenders. In September



2023, Meta debuted an AI chatbot as a generative AI-powered digital assistant that can respond to user questions and produce graphics in its apps. Meta AI became prominent in April when it replaced Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp, and Messenger's search feature with a chatbot. Zuckerberg claimed in January that 2025 "is going to be the year when a highly intelligent and personalized AI assistant reaches more than 1 billion people, and I expect Meta AI to be that leading AI assistant." Meta finance head Susan Li said Meta AI has 700 million monthly active users in January. It rose from 600 million in December. Meta launched a standalone AI app after Google and Elon Musk's xAI. Both firms released Gemini and Grok applications recently.

ATM withdrawals cost more: All about the new fees

Delhi : ATM users in India will incur revised transaction rates starting May 1, 2025, under the RBI's amended fee regime. The revisions aim to simplify ATM usage charges and promote digital banking for both financial and non-financial activities. Under the new guidelines, metro consumers will get three free ATM transactions each month and non-metro customers five. Free transactions include cash withdrawals and balance checks.

After this limit, banks can charge Rs 23 per transaction, excluding taxes. This applies to ATM and CRM transactions, although CRM



cash deposits are free. Many big banks have revised their client policies: HDFC said, "With effect from 1st May 2025, the ATM transaction charge rate beyond free limits will be revised from Rs 21 + taxes to Rs 23 + taxes."

Bank emphasized that only cash withdrawals at HDFC Bank ATMs exceeding the free limit will be charged, while non-financial transactions are free. Other banks' ATMs count both sorts of transactions toward the free limit.

Amazon Launches Project Kuiper Satellite Internet Service

Delhi: A United Launch Alliance Atlas V rocket launched the payload into Low Earth Orbit from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station.

Amazon claimed it had contacted all 27 satellites by morning and was activating them "nominally." Amazon launched two test satellites in 2023, but this is its first full-scale deployment. The corporation expects to launch over 3,200 satellites using ULA's Atlas V and Vulcan rockets, Blue Origin, and others. Amazon thinks it needs 580 operating satellites to supply internet connectivity.

Promoters of Prudential, HCL to form health insurer

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



1923, making India a critical market, according to CEO Anil Wadhvani. "Today, we have a significant presence with life insurance and asset management businesses providing a comprehensive offering of insurance and wealth products," Wadhvani. ICICI Bank has partnered with Prudential, a FTSE 100

company, for over two decades in life insurance and asset management. The Prudential cooperation intends to provide quality health insurance in India, according to Vama executive director Shikhar Malhotra. "Through this collaboration, we aim to advance our common mission to enhance access to quality health insurance and drive greater penetration across the country," stated. If approved by regulators, Amar Joshi will lead the joint venture.

The government raises sugarcane FRP by 4.41% to Rs 355 per quintal for 2025-26

Delhi: The government raised the fair and remunerative price (FRP) of sugarcane by 4.41 percent to Rs 355 per quintal for the 2025-26 season in October.

An official statement said the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi made this decision in the interest of sugarcane farmers. Sugarcane FRP is Rs 340 per quintal for 2024-25.

Sugar mills must pay sugarcane growers FRP, the minimum price set by the Indian government. I&B Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw told the media after the meeting that the FRP of Rs 355 per quintal for a 10.25%



basic recovery rate was approved. "The FRP for sugar season 2025-26 is 4.41 per cent higher than current sugar season 2024-25," says the report. Farmers will receive Rs 3.46 per quintal for each 0.1% sugar recovery increment above 10.25%. FRP decreases by Rs 3.46 per quintal for every 0.1% recovery rate decline. The government also agreed

not to deduct sugar mills with recovery below 9.5%.

These farmers will receive Rs 329.05 per cent for sugarcane in 2025-26. The statement states that sugarcane production costs Rs 173 per quintal in 2025-26. The 2025-26 FRP of Rs 355 per quintal at 10.25% recovery is 105.25% higher than manufacturing cost.

For 2025-26, I-T Department notifies ITR forms 1, 4

Delhi: Individuals and companies with income up to Rs 50 lakh must file ITR forms 1 and 4 for assessment year (AY) 2025-26 with the income tax department. Anyone with long-term capital gains up to Rs 1.25 lakh in a fiscal year can submit ITR-1. Previously, they had to file ITR-



2. With the notification, individuals, HUFs, corporations with income up to Rs 50 lakh, and

those with business and professional incomes in 2024-25 (April-March) can file I-T returns. ITR Form 1 (Sahaj) and ITR Form 4 (Sugam) are easier forms for many small and medium taxpayers. Sahaj can be filed by a resident with an annual income of up to Rs 50 lakh from

salary, one residential property, other sources (interest), and agricultural income up to Rs 5,000. Individuals, Hindu Undivided Families (HUFs), and firms (other than LLPs) with yearly income up to Rs 50 lakh and business and profession revenue can file sugam.

Q4 Adani Enterprises net profit jumps 7.5x to Rs 3,845 crore, incubating enterprises thrive

Delhi : Adani Enterprises Ltd. (AEL), the flagship firm of the Adani Group, reported strong financial results, with net profit rising 7.5 times to Rs 3,845 crore in Q4 FY25 from Rs 449 crore in FY24. Adani Wilmar Ltd.'s 13.5% stake sale in Q4 gave AEL an outstanding gain of Rs 3,946 crore. Revenue rose 2% to Rs 1,00,365 crore and consolidated PBT rose 16% to Rs 6,533 crore in FY25. Incubating firms' solid operational performance drove EBITDA up



26% to Rs 16,722 crore last fiscal, the company said. Gautam Adani, Chairman of Adani Group, said Adani Enterprises is establishing firms that will shape India's infrastructure and energy sector. Our scale, speed, and sustainability drove our strong FY25 success. The billionaire industri-

alist said disciplined execution, future-focused investments, operational excellence, innovation, and sustainability drove impressive development across our incubation businesses. Adani New Industries Limited (ANIL) began expanding solar cell and module operations

WB: Oil prices might drop 17% and commodity prices 12%

Delhi: Commodity prices, according to the World Bank, could drop 12% this year, with the oil index possibly falling 17%, as a result of slowing economic development. "If realised, these declines will end a period of ele-

vated inflation-adjusted commodity prices in the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic and Russia's invasion of Ukraine," recent commodities Markets Outlook. Reports indicate that supplies might be higher this year.

for 6 GW in Q4 FY25 with financial close. Improved realization and operational efficiency drove solar module sales up 59% to 4,263 MW and greater

EBITDA margins. The company reported that ANIL wind business expanded capacity to 2.25 GW in Q4 FY25 with 5.2 MW, 3.3 MW, and 3.0 MW WTG.

WAR CONTINUES | At least 430 drones and 18 missiles were used in the attack across the country, Ukrainian President Zelenskyy said

Russia's massive attack on Kyiv kills 4, injures 27

BEIJING

China cracks down on 'zero mileage' cars

China has moved to crack down on exports of "zero mileage" new vehicles being exported as if they are used, a tactic that has allowed some of its automakers to exaggerate their sales data and claim tax rebates and other benefits. The tighter regulations apply to exports of cars within 180 days of when they are registered. China has become the world's largest exporter of vehicles as its automakers struggle with excess competition in their home market. The "zero mileage" auto exports are thought to distort sales data to make it look as if more of that excess inventory is being sold.

LAHORE

Pak athletics squad's flight delayed by over six hours

The ongoing dispute with the aircraft engineers resulting in major disruptions to domestic and international flights in and out of Pakistan left the country's athletics squad stranded on Friday for over six hours on their journey to Riyadh for a sporting event. The athletics contingent, which includes Olympic Gold Medallist Arshad Nadeem, his coach Salman Butt and other athletes, faced disappointment when they reached the Lahore airport in the morning on the way to Riyadh to take part in the Islamic Solidarity Games being held there this year.

KATHMANDU

Nepal's 'Green Election' code of conduct for March 5 polls

Ban on plastic and other non-biodegradable materials during campaign; use of EVs instead of fossil-fuel vehicles, and disposal of waste after rallies or marches are some of the things that Nepal's poll body expects from political parties ahead of the March 5 general elections. Media reports on Friday said the Election Commission (EC) has introduced a 'Green Election' code of conduct aimed at ensuring that the March 5 House of Representatives (HoR) election is conducted in an environmentally responsible manner. "The provision, outlined in Chapter 6 of the newly issued code of conduct, requires all election-related activities to be carried out in ways that minimise harm to the environment," said news portal MyRepublica.

KYIV

Four people were killed after Russia unleashed a massive combined attack on Kyiv early Friday, sparking fires and scattering debris across many districts of the capital, Ukrainian authorities said.

At least 27 people were injured as emergency crews responded to multiple strikes, said Tymur Tkachenko, head of Kyiv's military administration. At least 430 drones and 18 missiles were used in the attack across the country, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said.

He said the attack, which struck other regions of the country, was targeting Kyiv. "A specially calculated attack to cause as much harm as possible to people and civilians," Zelenskyy said in a post on Telegram.



He added the Azerbaijan Embassy was damaged by fragments of an Iskander missile.

Fifteen people were hospitalised, including one man in critical condition and a pregnant woman, after a series of powerful explosions sounded in the city and air defences were activated.

City authorities warned that power and water outages are possible.

In the Darnytskyi district,

debris landed in the yard of a residential building and on the grounds of an educational facility. A car caught fire after being hit by falling fragments.

In the Dniproviskyi district, debris damaged three apartment buildings, a private household and caused a fire in an open area.

In the Podilskyi district, five residential buildings and a nonresidential structure were damaged.

In the Shevchenkivskyi dis-

trict, falling debris sparked a fire in an open area near a medical facility and inside a nonresidential building.

In the Holosivskyi district, debris ignited a fire at a medical facility and damaged another nonresidential building.

In the Desnianskyi district, fires were recorded in two residential buildings.

In the Solomianskyi district, a fire broke out on the roof of a residential building.

In the Sviatoshynskyi district, debris caused a fire in a private home.

In the Kyiv region, Russian strikes damaged critical infrastructure and private homes, injuring at least one civilian, regional head Mykola Kalashnyk said. A 55-year-old man in Bila Tserkva suffered thermal burns and was hospitalised, he said. Fires broke out in private houses in the capital's suburbs.

Israel busts Hamas in Bethlehem, 40 arrested

ISRAEL

Israeli security forces have foiled a major Hamas terror network in the Bethlehem area, preventing planned attacks against civilians and soldiers, authorities said.

"The thwarting of this infrastructure prevented significant bombing and shooting attacks," the Israel Security Agency (Shin Bet) and Israel Police said.

Over recent weeks, around 40 operatives were arrested in more than 15 coordinated operations.

Weapons, including M16 rifles, were seized from the cells.

CANADA

The Foreign Ministers of the Group of Seven (G7) democracies have voiced their concern over China's growing military capabilities and reiterated their commitment to developing alternatives to its dominance in critical mineral supplies during the recent G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Canada. Kyodo News reported.

According to Kyodo News, citing a statement issued at the conclusion of a two-day meeting in Canada's southern Ontario on Wednesday, the ministers reaffirmed their "unwavering support" for Ukraine in defending its sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity against Russian aggression.

The G7 called for an immediate ceasefire in the Russia-Ukraine conflict and said it is exploring additional measures against entities financially assisting Moscow.

Eight non-member countries Australia, Brazil, India, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, S.Africa, S.Korea, and Ukraine attended G7 meet.

China received particular attention during the discussions on Asia. The G7, comprising Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United States, and the European Union, expressed concern over China's rapid military expansion, including its nuclear capabilities.

The ministers urged Beijing to improve transparency and demonstrate its commitment to regional stability and also opposed any attempts by China to alter the status quo by force or coercion in the South and East China Seas and across the Taiwan Strait, as reported by Kyodo News.

Japanese Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi emphasised the importance of a "free

and open Indo-Pacific based on the rule of law." The meeting also focused on economic security, maritime and energy security, and building resilient supply chains independent of specific countries.

During a working dinner, the ministers condemned North Korea's nuclear and ballistic missile programmes, noting that some funding comes from cryptocurrency-related crimes, according to Japan's Foreign Ministry.

Ukraine's Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha attended a dedicated session, briefing the ministers on the situation amid Russia's intensified attacks on the country's energy infrastructure, as reported. Canadian Foreign Minister Anita Anand said, "Ukraine's fight is our fight as well," reaffirming G7's commitment to providing all support to Kyiv. Sybiha called for increased pressure on Russia and strengthened support as Ukraine faces a "very difficult, very tough winter".

Security forces knockout 26 terrorists in northwest Pak

PESHAWAR

Pakistani security forces killed 26 terrorists in multiple intelligence-based operations in the restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, officials said on Friday.

The three operations were conducted in the Bajaur, Kohat and Karak districts on Thursday.

The operation in Bajaur was conducted after receiving credible information about the presence of a large number of terrorists in the Gaddar village. "As soon as the information was received, the forces carried out an extremely effective and targeted operation, during which 22 terrorists were killed," a security official said.

The terrorists were hiding in the village which the locals had already evacuated with the cooperation of tribal elders.

"At the time of the military operation, all the houses around the target were empty, due to which no civilians were harmed," the security official added.

"The nation of Pakistan and its security agencies are united to completely eliminate this scourge of terrorism, and these operations will continue until the last terrorist is eliminated," the official added.

Separately, according to District Police Officer (DPO) Kohat, Shehbaz Ilahi, the station house officer of Saddar police station was on a routine patrol with his team when the terrorists opened fire on them near Bazid Khel.

Police retaliated immediately and engaged the attackers in a gun battle, which resulted in the death of all three of them on the spot.

In another incident, acting on intelligence, police launched an operation in Mir Kalam Banda area in Karak

district.

One terrorist, wanted in multiple serious cases, was killed during the intense exchange of fire, a spokesperson for the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) said.

Police officials said investigations are underway to identify the network linked to the slain terrorists.

Last week, the military's media wing reported that at least three terrorists had been killed in two separate operations in the province.

Pakistan has lately witnessed a surge in terror activities, particularly in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan provinces.

The spike in incidents followed the proscribed Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) ending a ceasefire with the government in November 2022 and vowing to attack security forces, police, and personnel of law enforcement agencies.

US lawmaker to introduce bill to eliminate H-1B visa prog

NEW YORK

An American lawmaker will be introducing a bill to "completely eliminate" the H-1B visa programme and take away the pathway to citizenship that it offers, "forcing" individuals to "return home" when their visa expires.

"My dear fellow Americans, I'm introducing a bill to completely eliminate the H-1B visa programme, which has been riddled with fraud and abuse and has been displacing American workers for decades," Congresswoman from Georgia, Marjorie Taylor Greene said in a video posted on X on Thursday.

She said that there will only

be one exemption in her bill, which will allow for a 10,000 per year cap on visas issued to medical professionals like doctors and nurses who provide life-saving care to Americans.

Greene however noted that even this 10,000 per year cap will be "phased out" over 10 years to "allow us time to build our own pipeline of American doctors and physicians." Greene added that her bill will also "take away the pathway to citizenship, forcing visa holders to return home when their visa expires."

She further said that the intention of her bill is to restore the "original intent" of the H-1B visa, which was "for it to be temporary."

Four Taliban militants held in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan on Friday said that security agencies have arrested four militants belonging to the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) for their involvement in a suicide attack outside a court in Islamabad.

At least 12 people were killed and 36 others injured on Tuesday when a suicide bomber detonated his explosives near the entrance of the Islamabad District Judicial Complex in the G-11 area of the capital. In a statement on social media, the government said that four militants were arrested in a joint operation conducted by the Intelligence Bureau Division and the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD).

Nationwide protests in Pak

ISLAMABAD

An alliance of opposition parties on Friday announced a series of nationwide protests against the recent controversial constitutional amendments, declaring it would use all "democratic means" to press for restoring the Constitution to its original form.

President Asif Ali Zardari on Thursday signed into law the 27th Constitutional Amendment, which provides for the creation of a new position of the Chief of Defence Forces and a constitutional court.

The Tehreek-e-Tahafuz Ayeen-i-Pakistan (TTAP), which includes jailed former prime minister Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) party, said in a statement after a meeting that it would "vigorously protest" the changes.

NEW DELHI

Bangladesh is witnessing an alarming consolidation of Islamist groups pushing for harsher religious laws, raising fears of an ideological and security crisis. Tensions escalated after the Muhammad Yunus-led interim government reversed its decision to recruit music and physical training teachers in government primary schools, a move headline groups labelled "un-Islamic".

Officials say Yunus' decision to lift the ban on the Jamaat-e-Islami has backfired, emboldening Islamist forces. The Jamaat, long believed to be influenced by Pakistan's ISI, is now coordinating with radical groups such as Hefazat-e-Islam to demand stricter Islamic laws.

Bangladesh watchers describe the situation as an "Islamist counter-revolution" taking shape since the ouster of Sheikh Hasina.

Following pressure from these groups, Yunus also relaxed visa rules for Pakistan and opened avenues for deeper engagement —

a move seen as strengthening Islamabad's influence. Officials believe the developments are part of a larger, well-planned conspiracy, much like the August 2024 coup that removed Hasina.

Intelligence inputs suggest the ISI is backing this effort on multiple fronts. While the Islamist alliances attempt to dismantle democracy politically, terror organisations such as Harkat-ul-Jihad-al-Islami (HuJI) and Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) have been tasked with

planning cross-border strikes in India to create instability.

Meanwhile, minority communities in Bangladesh are facing an orchestrated campaign of violence. Numerous temples have been attacked, and social media platforms are flooded with hate messages calling for the imposition of Sharia and elimination of "infidels".

Posts invoking ISIS-style beheadings and Hamas-like violence have multiplied rapidly.

Indian agencies warn that the ISI has facilitated coordination between Salafist networks in Bangladesh and Pakistan, who are now driving the ideological coup.

Intelligence reports also indicate the training of over 8,000 youth to form an Islamic Revolutionary Army (IRA), modelled on Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps.

Back to Earth

Chinese astronauts stranded after debris hits spacecraft return to earth safely

BEIJING

Three Chinese astronauts, who aborted their departure home after their spacecraft was hit by debris, returned to earth safely on Friday.

The return capsule of the Shenzhou-21 spaceship, carrying the astronauts Chen Dong, Chen Zhongrui and Wang Jie, touched down at the Dongfeng landing site in north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, the China Manned Space Agency (CMSA) said.

They were scheduled to return on November 5, but their journey was postponed at the last minute after



Shenzhou-20 astronauts return safely from space.

"small" space debris hit the station, according to CMSA.

Official media earlier reported that the crew was unable to return on their own

spacecraft after tiny cracks were found in the porthole of the Shenzhou-20's return capsule - damage that was likely caused by the debris

The first since the space station was launched in 2011. China rotates the crew at the station every six months.

impact.

The Shenzhou-21 spaceship undocked from the space station combination and the return capsule touched down at 4:40 p m Beijing time at the Dongfeng landing site in north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, CMSA said.

The astronauts are all in

good health. They had spent 204 days in orbit, setting a new record for the longest in-orbit stay among Chinese astronauts, the CMSA added.

China built its space station after it was reportedly excluded from the International Space Station (ISS) over concerns that China's space programme is manned by its military, the People's Liberation Army (PLA). The first since the space station was launched in 2011, sparked concerns here as the station was built to accommodate three astronauts. China rotates the crew at the station every six months.

NEW YORK

Despite being a registered sex offender following his 2008 conviction for soliciting

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