

AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

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MORNING EDITION PRAYAGRAJ Thursday, 29 January, 2026 UNIQUE GIFT OF KRIYAYOGA ASHRAM AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE TO GIVE IMPETUS TO WORLD BUILDING AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT.

Briefs

CHANDIGARH 26 schools get bomb threat emails

At least 26 schools in Chandigarh received threatening messages and emails of potential bomb attacks here on Wednesday, triggering panic among staff, students and parents and evacuations. Besides some of the prominent government schools, several private schools also received the threatening emails following which the students were evacuated and sent back home by all the schools immediately after informing police and administration. Bomb detection squads which had conducted checks at most of the schools found no suspicious objects; the administration issued an advisory asking the educational institutions to remain calm and avoid creating unnecessary panic.

PATNA Tiger carcass found in Bihar's VTR

The carcass of a tiger was recovered from a sugarcane field early Wednesday inside the Valmiki Tiger Reserve (VTR) in Bihar's West Champaran district. Local people alerted officials after spotting the animal near Purnia village under Manpur police station limits. Forest officials said the cause of tiger's death is yet to be ascertained. While initial reports suggested the tiger might have died in a confrontation with another tiger, forest officials are also investigating the possibility of electrocution from a wire fence erected by a farmer to protect crops.

CHENNAI 3 of Bihar migrant family killed

A man, his wife and their two-year-old child were killed, their bodies dumped in different parts of the city here. The first hint in the case came to light on Monday after residents reported a gunny bag abandoned near a two-wheeler showroom on Indira Nagar First Avenue in Adyar, a posh locality. Police found the body of Gaurav Kumar, a native of Bihar, stuffed inside. A case was registered immediately, and CCTV footage revealed two men arriving on a two-wheeler and dumping the sack at the spot. Tracing the vehicle led police to a private security company and, eventually, to five suspects — all from Bihar — who were arrested on Wednesday. During interrogation, the accused allegedly confessed to murdering not just Gaurav Kumar, but also his wife Munitha and their two-year-old child, Birmani Kumar.

CHANDIGARH Murder accused shot outside court

Two motorcycle borne assailants shot dead an accused in 2020 Punjab University (PU) leader Gurial Brar's murder case in full public view outside Mohali court complex, near here on Wednesday. The deceased, Gurbinder Singh, a resident of village Rurki Kham in Mohali district, had come to Mohali district court with his wife for a hearing in an NDPS Act case around 3 pm. Gangster Goldy Brar said on a social media (Facebook) alleging that as police had been indifferent in the case of the killing of sons of ordinary families, hence they would get justice themselves.

BUDGET SESSION | Prez lauds govt for growth impetus via EU trade deal, commitment to security underlined by Op Sindoor

'Prudent foreign policy charting growth path'

NEW DELHI

The Budget Session of Parliament got underway on Wednesday with the address of President Droupadi Murmu in which she delved on how in this "phase of complexities" and "ongoing conflicts" faced by the world, India has navigated the path of development through the government's "balanced foreign policy and far-sighted vision".

Addressing a Joint Session of both Houses, Murmu without naming the US or its President Donald Trump's policies, especially with regard to imposition of tariffs, said, "amid the complex global circumstances prevailing at present, India is playing the role of a bridge in the world" and "at the same time, it has remained steadfast in its resolve of 'India First'".

Murmu also noted that the free trade agreement with the European Union will "give impetus to the manufacturing and service sectors in India and also create new employment opportunities for the youth of India".

The President's Address also mentioned Operation Sindoor saying "India has proved that power can be used with responsibility and prudence".

On the domestic terror front, she said, "security forces have also acted decisively against Maoist terror" and it has now been "reduced to just eight districts. Out of these, only three districts remain the most-affected".

She said under the production linked incentive (PLI) scheme, production worth



President Droupadi Murmu leaves for Parliament on the first day of Budget session, in New Delhi on Wednesday

over Rs 17 lakh crore has been done. Similarly, India's defence production crossed Rs 1.5 lakh crore in 2025 and exports crossed Rs 23,000 crore.

The President also spoke about the overall development through the launch of over 150 Vande Bharat trains.

She also mentioned that the space trip undertaken by astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla and the work being undertaken towards the Gaganyaan Mission, demonstrate India's urge to cross new frontiers.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijju alleged that the opposition members embarrassed the country with their conduct and also insulted Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Dr B R Ambedkar, Birs Munda, Bhupen Hazarika, Guru Tegh Bahadur and Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay by raising slogans during the president's address which paid tributes to them.

Oppn protests G RAM G; govt demands apology

NEW DELHI

Opposition members on Wednesday protested against the VB-G RAM G Act during President Droupadi Murmu's address to the joint sitting of Parliament drawing strong condemnation from the government with Union minister JP Nadda demanding that they apologise for their conduct.

PM: Prez speech a blueprint of policy direction

PM: Prez speech a blueprint of policy direction

NEW DELHI

PM Narendra Modi on Wednesday lauded the President's Address. In a post on "X", Modi wrote that the President's Address "spells out the policy direction and collective resolve that will guide our nation's developmental journey in the coming months".

As for the address by President Droupadi Murmu, he said, "It reflected India's remarkable development journey in recent times while showing a clear direction for the future. The emphasis on building a Viksit Bharat was perfectly captured, reflecting our shared aspiration of building a strong and self-reliant nation."



— MIKA'S MATRIX

Unholy mess: Seer exits Magh Mela without the ritual bath

PRAYAGRAJ

Shankaracharya Swami Avimuktasharanand on Wednesday abruptly left the ongoing Magh Mela for Kashi without taking a holy dip at the Sangam, marking the first time he has returned from the annual fair without performing the ritual bath. His departure followed an alleged dispute with police and officials on Mauni Amavasya.

After the incident, the Shankaracharya neither went for the Sangam bath nor

Brother says Ayodhya official used fake cert for job, probe ordered

Lucknow: Ayodhya Deputy Commissioner (GST) Prashant Kumar Singh landed in fresh trouble after his elder brother accused him of using a fake disability certificate to secure his government job. The complaint was filed by Dr Vishwajeet Singh, following which the Chief Medical Officer (CMO), Mau, ordered verification of the certificate from the Director General of Medical and Health Services, Uttar Pradesh, and the State Medical Board.

returned to his camp and instead began a sit-in protest on the roadside. He remained on dharna for ten days and, on the eleventh day, announced his decision to leave. He said

he came to Prayagraj seeking spiritual peace but was leaving with deep anguish, stating that the incident had shaken his faith and raised questions about humanity and fairness.

Kolkata fire toll 19, warehouse owner arrested

Kolkata: In the Kolkata warehouse fire incident in Anandapur, the owner of the warehouse Gangadhar Das was arrested on Wednesday.

Das was taken to Baruipur Sub-divisional Court after a medical check-up. Das however claimed he was innocent and had lost everything due to the fire. Notably, the death toll increased to 19 on Wednesday and several people are still missing.

Another death in Indore reignites foul water row

INDORE

Following the death of a 62-year-old man in Indore's Bhagirathpura area, his family claimed on Wednesday that he died due to diarrhoea caused by contaminated drinking water.

Including this case, locals have claimed that 29 persons have lost their lives so far in a diarrhoea outbreak triggered by contaminated drinking water in the area that began a

month ago. However, a "death audit" report presented by state government to Indore bench of Madhya Pradesh High Court on Tuesday suggested that the deaths of 16 people in Bhagirathpura may be linked to the water-linked health crisis.

According to his family members, Bhagirathpura resident Khubchand Bandhaiya was being treated for vomiting and diarrhoea. His last rites were performed on Wednesday.

offgrid

Techie steals source code worth €8 m from firm

BENGALURU

A techie in Bengaluru is alleged to have exfiltrated source code of a company, which is valued at 8m euros in the international market.

The company — Amadeus Labs India Private Limited — has lodged a complaint with the Whitefield police that its employee Ashuthosh Nigam, who was working as Senior Managing Research Scientist

in the company, had stolen the source code.

In the company complaint filed by its senior officer Jul Kafeel, Ashuthosh was working in the company since February 1, 2020.

On October 11, 2025, without the consent of the company or his superiors, transferred the source code and secret data of the company and exfiltrated the files.

After an internal investigation and proper documentary

proofs, Ashuthosh was subjected to official inquiry in the company, where he admitted to have committed the crime. His confession was recorded and he was terminated from the services on December 3, 2025, the complaint stated.

Due to data breach by Ashuthosh, the company suffered severe financial losses and the total amount of data theft, including the source code is estimated to be 8m Euros, the complaint added.

Upper hand with India: US

NEW YORK

India has emerged on "top" in its free trade agreement with the European Union and is set to have a "heyday" from the deal, US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer said, marking the first reaction from the Trump administration to the agreement.

Speaking in an interview with Fox Business on Tuesday, Greer said he had reviewed some details of the deal, which was sealed between India and the EU earlier in the day and has been billed as the "mother of all deals".

"I've looked at some of the details of the deal so far. I think India comes out on top on this, frankly. They get more market access into Europe," Greer said.

He added that the pact also appeared to include additional immigration or mobility provisions for Indian

EU TRADE DEAL



workers. "It sounds like they (India) have some additional immigration rights. I don't know for sure, but President (Ursula) von der Leyen of the EU has talked about mobility for Indian workers into Europe. So I think on net, India is going to have a heyday with this. They have low-cost labour," Greer said.

Greer said the deal suggested that EU was doubling down on globalisation at a time when US was trying to "fix some of the problems of globalisation here in US".

He said it was important to see the pact in context of

President Trump's focus on domestic production and the decision to start charging a fee for other countries to access the US market. "Because President Trump has prioritised domestic production and essentially started charging a fee for other countries to access the US market, these countries are trying to find other outlets for their over-production," he said.

"So EU is turning to India to try to find a place. The EU is so trade dependent, they need other outlets if they can't keep sending all their stuff to the United States," Greer added.

On India's purchases of Russian oil, Greer said New Delhi still pays levies linked to those imports, in addition to the 25% reciprocal tariff imposed by the Trump administration. Asked if India was still buying Russian oil, he said, "They have made a lot of progress on this but still have a way to go on this point".

Nabin slams TMC over SIR row, infiltration

DURGAPUR (WB)

Stepping up its pre-poll offensive ahead of the West Bengal assembly elections, BJP president Nitin Nabin on Wednesday launched a blistering attack on the TMC government, accusing it of endangering national security by patronising infiltration and intimidating voters during the SIR to malign the EC.

Addressing a public meeting in Durgapur on his first visit to the state after assuming the party's top post, Nabin alleged a "deliberate attempt" by the ruling party to alter Bengal's demography and "turn the state into Bangladesh", warning that the issue posed a grave threat to West Bengal and India.

Mamata vows industry, farm boost in Singur

KOLKATA

10 days after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's meeting at Singur, CM Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday held a public rally at there and slammed the speeches given by him.

"I respect the chair but someone a few days back had claimed that they had given the 'classical language' tag to the Bengali language. It is a blatant lie, as I had repeatedly requested them with documents so that Bengali gets the tag. They (BJP) claim that they think about Bengal but the truth is if anyone speaks in Bengali in BJP-ruled states, they are beaten," she said.

Speaking about her Singur movement during the Left Front regime, Mamata prom-

ised both industry and agriculture in Singur.

"Both Amazon and Flipkart will set up warehouses and generate employment for the people of Singur. Agro-industrial park will be set up on eight acres of land. We don't speak but do our work. BJP doesn't keep their word. For the last five years, they haven't paid our dues. Whatever work is being done is being paid by the state government. Singur is my favourite place. I had spent many days here between 2006 and 2008," further mentioned Mamata.

Notably, Mamata had cancelled her visit to the national capital due to sudden demise of Ajit Pawar but slammed the saffron camp for deleting names of 'genuine' voters through SIR.



clearing the path
A snow-cutter blower cleans snow from the old national highway from Jammu-Srinagar after heavy snowfall, in Anantnag, Wednesday. The Jammu-Srinagar National Highway was partially reopened for traffic on Wednesday after remaining suspended due to snowfall a day earlier — PTI

Disputes with wife resolved: Mulayam's son

Lucknow: BJP leader Aparna Yadav's husband Prateek Yadav, who had alleged that she had ruined his family ties and he would seek a divorce from her "as soon as possible," on Wednesday said that he has sorted out all disputes with her. On Instagram, Prateek, step-brother of Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav, posted a video in which he said, "On January 19, I had a serious dispute with my wife Aparna. However, the matter has now been resolved mutually after discussions, and there is no dispute between us. —PTI

Netas involved in illegal sand mining, Karnataka min pleads helplessness

BENGALURU

Pleading helplessness, Karnataka Home Minister Dr G Parameshwar has admitted that the political leaders cutting across party lines were involved in illegal sand mining and there was little anyone could do about it.

Interestingly, the admission came on the floor of the Legislative Assembly, when Devadurga MLA raised the issue during question hour, alleging that even police did not take action despite the MLA herself lodging a complaint.

Expressing his helplessness in curbing the menace, Dr Parameshwar said, "Illegal

sand mining is a big racket. I am not giving any explanation or naming anyone, as it is a little embarrassing. I have only given a restricted answer, but it involves many influential people. I will call a meeting to discuss the issue."

Earlier, MLA Karemma of JD(S) charged that her home district of Raichur was full of illegal activities, where the police are also involved with the criminals. "There have been many cases of illegal sand mining, matka, gambling and thefts in Raichur district. Sand is mined from the Krishna river basin continuously at night. The special task force to contain illegal mining is just on the paper and they have ensured that no CCTV

cameras are installed or no registers are maintained at the check posts to monitor the movement of these vehicles, which have caused many accidents," she lamented.

"Since I started raising my voice against the sand mafia, some vehicles follow me whenever I go around the constituency on official work. Repeatedly, I also receive threats," she charged.

Assuring proper safety for her, Dr Parameshwar said around 400 cases have been booked in Devadurga in last two and half years, adding, "We know magnitude of illegal mining is much bigger and we will initiate action against the police who have connived with the illegal sand miners."

India, South Asian airlines to need 3,300 new aircraft by 2044: Boeing

MUMBAI

India and South Asia's passenger air traffic will rise an average of 7% annually over the next 20 years, revealed American aircraft manufacturer Boeing's latest commercial market outlook (CMO)

report for South Asia. The report highlighted that airlines will need nearly 3,300 new airplanes by 2044 to meet the demand for air travel.

As per Boeing's annual CMO, single-aisle narrow body aircraft will account for nearly 90% of these projected

deliveries as airlines look to boost network flexibility on fast-growing short- and medium-haul routes. It stated that the Indian and South Asian regions' fleet will grow from 795 to 2,925 airplanes in two decades, reporting nearly a four-fold increase over that time.

Woman Killed, Son Injured in Home Invasion in Lucknow



Lucknow

In a shocking incident on Friday afternoon, a 37-year-old woman, Renu Yadav, was killed and her 20-year-old son, Nikhil, seriously injured during a home invasion in Bahukhedra village, PGI police station area. Police said 3-4 assailants attacked the mother-son duo as they returned home from Renu's parental house. Nikhil was rushed to PGI Hospital for treatment. Deputy Commissioner of Police (South) Nipun Agrawal inspected the scene, where blood-stained walls, household items and a gas cylinder were found. Preliminary investigation suggests the murder may have involved a heavy object. Police have collected forensic evidence, recorded neighbors' statements and are reviewing CCTV footage to identify the attackers. Officials are probing whether the attack was a robbery or a premeditated act, as the violent assault left signs of struggle throughout the house. The area has been secured with a heavy police presence.

Gadkari says Mercedes-Benz wants to export 'made in India'

Delhi: According to Nitin Gadkari, India's minister of road transport and highways, Mercedes-Benz has told the government that it plans to increase production at its plant outside of Pune in order to fulfill its goal of exporting "Made in India" automobiles to markets worldwide. The chairman of Mercedes, according to Gadkari, informed him that the production quality in India is strong, which has led the company to consider increasing manufacturing in the nation to fulfill the demands of worldwide markets. "The chairman of Mercedes was telling me that they are going to look at increasing the productivity of Mercedes in India.

The stench from the garbage heaps near Swarg Dham and the Dondra drain makes it difficult for pedestrians to walk

Bahraich

The Nagar Panchayat morning and evening cleaning is commendable. However, the garbage heaps at two locations are increasing the risk of infectious diseases. The Nagar Panchayat has not dug any pits to dispose of the garbage. People are praising the daily cleaning of Station Road, Bajaja Market, NH 927 and Goods Shed Road by dozens of sanitation workers. After the morning and evening cleaning, homeowners and shopkeepers are again dumping garbage on the streets. Despite repeated appeals by the Nagar



Panchayat, this situation remains unresolved. Garbage heaps are piled up near the Dondra drain and Swarg Dham, west of Rupaidiha. Rotten animal waste is also being dumped in sacks. Rotten vegetables from the vegetable market are also being thrown in. Stray animals are rummaging through them, spreading them onto the road. Due to this, people and students from dozens of villages in the western part of Rupaidiha, including Pokhara, Pachpatri, Ranjibojha, Madhavpur Niduna, Shivpur Moharnia, and Pandit Purva, travel to and from Rupaidiha via this route. A graveyard sits in front of this garbage

Cheques of 50,000 each presented to families of farmers killed by lightning

Bahraich: The Samajwadi Party (SP) supremo has sent financial assistance of 50,000 rupees each to the families of farmers killed by lightning in Dhanrajpur. The Samajwadi Party has handed over the cheques to the families of the deceased. Peshkar 45, son of Ramachal and Ram Surat alias Bhallar 50 son of Harpal, residents of Mohammadpur Khurd Dhanrajpur on Jarwal Road, had gone to the river bank with villagers to graze their cattle. To protect themselves from the rain, they sat under umbrellas. They were struck by lightning accompanied by thunder and lightning, killing them. Samajwadi Party Kaiserganj MLA Anand Yadav and former SP district presi-



dent Laxmi Narayan Yadav handed over cheques of Rs 50,000 each sent by former Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav to the deceased family members Meera Devi and Sahebudin. On this occasion, Yadav the Samajwadi Party is with you in this hour of grief. SP supremo has assured to provide all possible help to the family in future also. Hundreds of names including Harnam Yadav, Rakesh Rao, Ranjan Yadav, Atiq Ahmed, Sunil, Manish Yadav, Shatruhan, Sanwal, Hussaini Yadav, Pradeep Yadav, Maya Ram were present on this occasion.

Two communities clashed during Durga idol immersion, leaving more than 20 injured

Bahraich

Clashes broke out between two communities during the Durga idol immersion in several locations in the neighboring Nepalese district of Banke. More than 20 people, including three police personnel, were injured in the incident. Banke Superintendent of Police (SP) Angoor GC stated that all the injured are in good condition. He attributed the killings to a rumor,



stating that someone spread false rumors.

No one was killed. Clashes occurred at three major locations in

the district. One community pelted stones at the idol immersion procession from atop houses, resulting in head injuries to several devotees. These locations are Piprahawa, Suiyan and Fultekra, villages adjacent to the Indian border. Police have taken control of these three locations. Peace and order has been maintained. The Superintendent of Police has urged everyone to ignore rumours and appealed for restraint and peace.

Rasulpur Police Station conducted an intensive checking campaign under Mission

Mathura

Under "Mission Shakti Abhiyan Phase 5," led by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, continuous efforts are being made across the state to ensure women's safety, respect, and self-reliance. In this regard, Rasulpur Police Station conducted a special checking campaign on Saturday October 4, 2025. During the cam-



campaign, a police team led by Sub-Inspector Alka Rani, in-charge of the Mission Shakti Center, conducted intensive checking of suspicious individuals and vehicles on major roads, markets,

and public places in the area. Drivers violating traffic rules were chided, and those driving without helmets, seatbelts, or required documents were strictly warned. Suspicious individuals were questioned, verified, and released after being given necessary instructions. Sub-Inspector Alka Rani and her team also conducted a

public awareness campaign among women and girls. The team informed women about their legal rights, safety measures, and helpline numbers under Mission Shakti Phase 5. They said that as per the instructions of Chief Minister, this campaign is being run with full dedication. and promptness across the state for the safety and

Women's Chaupal organized by the Mission Shakti team

Mathura

Under Mission Shakti Phase 5.0, a women's Chaupal was organized in Mohalla Arjunpur, Govind Nagar police station area, to promote women empowerment and awareness. This Chaupal was led by Lady Sub-Inspector Anshul Deshwal, Lady Sub-Inspector Soni Yadav, Sub-Inspector Santosh



Yadav, Lady Constable Rajni, Lady Constable Bhanu and other team members. The problems of the women present at the Chaupal were listened to seriously and necessary action was taken to resolve them. Lady Sub-Inspector Anshul Deshwal

informed the women about available helpline numbers for safety and assistance, such as Emergency Service 112, Women Power Line 1090, Ambulance Service 108, etc. Pamphlets containing information related to Mission Shakti were also distributed to the women so that they can take advantage of the services available from time to time.

Ladakh DGP explains why Sonam Wangchuk was arrested

NEW DELHI: Around 5,000-6,000 protesters poured into Leh's streets this Wednesday, their anger spilling over into arson and stone-pelting. Government buildings were damaged, a BJP office was attacked, and vehicles set ablaze as the agitation over Ladakh's demands for statehood turned violent.

Minister in Charge Visits Home of Elderly Couple Killed in Wildlife Attack

Bahraich

During his visit to the district, State Minister for Agriculture, Agricultural Education and Agricultural Research Surya Pratap Shahi along with District Magistrate Akshay Tripathi, Superintendent of Police Ramnayan Singh, Chief Development Officer Mukesh Chandra and other officials, visited the wildlife-affected area in the Fakharpur develop-



ment block. He visited Uchhapahi Bhigupurwa, village Majhara Taukli, where Chheddan, son of the late Janardan and Munkiya, wife of Chheddan, who died in a recent wildlife attack. He

met with the deceased couple's sons, Chhabbar and Omprakash and expressed his heartfelt condolences. He presented an acceptance letter for the gratuitous assistance provided. The Minister in

Charge stated that the state government stands with them in this hour of grief. The affected families will be provided with all possible assistance permitted by the government. Minister in Charge, Shahi, inspected the temporary health center being operated at the Panchayat Bhawan in Manjhara Taukli and inquired about the available medical facilities and the availability of anti-rabies injections.

A collective memorandum signed by the Bharatiya Kisan Parishad was submitted to the Agriculture Minister

Bahraich

Upon the arrival of the Uttar Pradesh Government Agriculture Minister, Surya Pratap Shahi the Minister in charge of the district, a collective memorandum signed by the organization, under the auspices of the Mahamana Malviya Mission and the Bharatiya Kisan Parishad, was submitted to the Agriculture Minister, demanding the effective

implementation of the public awareness campaign "Toxin-Free Farming - Drug-Free Villages." The Mahamana Malviya Mission President, Awadh Sanjeev Srivastava, Advocate and State Convenor of the Kisan Parishad, informed the Agriculture Minister that the rampant use of chemical fertilizers and chemical pesticides in agriculture is causing infertility, and friendly insects are being

destroyed. Agricultural productivity is also being affected. The use of chemical-laced food is also increasing the risk of new, deadly diseases. Human life is no longer safe. The delegation of the Malaviya Mission and the Kisan Parishad urged the Agriculture Minister to conduct a continuous public awareness campaign through the staff, officers and scientists of the Agriculture Department and the Krishi Vigyan

Kendra to inform the public about the harmful effects of chemical fertilizers and pesticides, and to encourage farmers to use better alternatives like compost, cow dung, neem cake, and organic food, so that the earth remains green and the environment remains conducive to human life. The delegation included Kisan Parishad District Coordinator Mahendra Singh Sengar, District Minister Yogacharya

Sushil Bajpai, Senior Vice President Anil Tripathi, Vice President Jai Chand Soni Advocate, Nanpara Coordinator Shiv Pujan Singh, President Keshav Pandey, Gayatri Chetna Kendra Manager Principal RPN Srivastava, environmentalist Prem Chand and social worker E. Radheshyam Srivastava, and spokesperson Dr Pankaj Srivastava. The Agriculture Minister thanked the organizers who are spearheading.

Awareness campaign was created under Mission Shakti 5, Personal Safety was successfully organized in schools

Mathura

The Women's Welfare team provided training to students on self-defense and legal rights. Emergency helpline numbers (1090, 181, 112) were specifically focused on. Awareness programs strengthened initiatives to empower women and girls. Personal Safety (Mega Event) was successfully organized as part of the Mission Shakti campaign. This program



was conducted by the Women's Welfare Department team in two prominent schools in Mathura district. This important event was held simultaneously at Shri Krishna Extension Junior High School, Lohvan, Mathura, and

Higher Primary School, Gopalgarh, Vrindavan. The primary objective of this event was to educate students and teachers about the importance of self-defense and personal safety. The Women's Welfare Department team provided detailed training to students on the necessary information, legal rights, and self-defense techniques to ensure their safety in adverse situations. During the session.

Shankaracharya Swami Avimukteshwaranand leaves Magh Mela with a heavy heart, says he never imagined such a situation

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Prayagraj. Shankaracharya Swami Avimukteshwaranand has announced his departure from the ongoing Magh Mela in Prayagraj with a heavy heart. In a press conference held on Wednesday morning, he said that he had come to the Magh Mela with faith and devotion, but due to the circumstances that arose, he had to decide to return without taking a dip in the Sangam (confluence of rivers). He described this as extremely painful for him. The Shankaracharya said that Prayagraj has always been a land of peace, faith, and Sanatan traditions. Returning from such



a holy land in this manner is very distressing for him. He said that an incident occurred during the Magh Mela that he had never imagined, and that incident deeply hurt him. He clarified that taking

a dip in the Sangam at the Magh Mela is not just a religious ritual for him, but a matter of deep faith. Despite this, considering the current circumstances, he made the difficult decision to leave the

fair. Following his decision, discussions have intensified among the saint community and devotees. In the press conference, the Shankaracharya said, "We have not accepted injustice

and will await justice. Today, words fail me, my voice is heavy. What happened on the land of Prayagraj has shaken our soul. We are leaving here without bathing in the Sangam, but we are

leaving behind the echo of truth." He also said that on Tuesday evening and Wednesday morning, a proposal was sent to his chief executive officer by the administration. The proposal stated that whenever he wished, he would be given a respectful bath in the Sangam, and all the officers would be present, along with a shower of flowers. However, the Shankaracharya said that the proposal did not mention any apology for the incident in question. The Shankaracharya said, "We felt that if we had taken the bath and accepted the shower of flowers, the incident of that day would have remained incomplete. Therefore, we made this decision."

Republic Day Celebrated with Great Enthusiasm at Meja Energy Corporation, Outstanding Employees Honored



Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Meja. The 77th Republic Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm at Meja Energy Corporation on Friday. The ceremony began with the hoisting of the national flag by the corporation's Chief Executive Officer, G. Srinivas Rao. On this occasion, CISF, DGR security forces, and children from St. Joseph's School saluted the tricolor. In his address, the Chief Executive Officer said that strengthening educational facilities is among the priorities of Meja Energy Corporation. He mentioned the achievements of the corporation and appreciated the contributions of the employees. Children from Our Little Kingdom, Bal Bhavan, Bal Srijan, and St. Joseph's School presented patriotic cultural programs at the ceremony. The CISF security demonstration was a major attraction. During the program, employees who performed outstanding work throughout the year were honored with Meritorious Awards. CISF personnel were also felicitated. On the occasion of Republic Day, the corporation, under its CSR scheme, inaugurated a 5-kilowatt off-grid solar power system at Primary School Kohdar (I). G. Srinivas Rao said that this initiative will ensure uninterrupted power supply in schools and promote education and clean energy in rural areas. Senior officers of the corporation, employees, their families, school administration, and villagers were present at the event.

Wildlife Trafficking Busted at Prayagraj Station, 600 Rare Turtles Recovered from Jodhpur-Howrah Express



Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Prayagraj. A joint team of RPF and GRP at Prayagraj railway station on Wednesday unearthed a major international wildlife trafficking network. 600 rare turtles were recovered from the Jodhpur-Howrah Express, valued at approximately Rs 1.5 crore in the international market. Five traffickers from Sultanpur district were arrested during the operation. Under the leadership of RPF Inspector Amit Kumar Meena and GRP

Inspector Akhilesh Kumar Singh, an intensive checking drive was being conducted at the station. During this time, information was received from an informant that prohibited wildlife was being smuggled on the Jodhpur-Howrah Express. As the train arrived at platform number 4/5, the police team noticed some suspicious bags and sacks near the general coach. Suspicion arose due to movement and sounds coming from the sacks. When the sacks were opened, a large number of live turtles were



found inside. Upon counting, the number exceeded 600. The police immediately cordoned off the area and arrested five traffickers on the spot. The arrested accused have been identified as Arun Kumar, Anish Kumar, Ravi Kumar, Jitendra, and Amir Khan. All the accused are residents of the Hanuman Ganj area of Sultanpur district. During interrogation, the accused revealed that they were catching the turtles from rivers and ponds in Fatehpur district and transporting them to Howrah in West

Bengal, from where they were to be sold at high prices in the international market. Upon receiving information about the case, the Forest Department was called to the spot. In the presence of Deputy Ranger Ravindra Kumar and Forest Guard Shivdutt Singh, the turtles were counted and their health was examined. The recovered turtles and the accused have been handed over to the Forest Department for further legal action. A case has been registered against the accused under the Wildlife Protection Act.

Tricolor Flag Hoisted at Commissioner's Office on Republic Day



Prayagraj. On the occasion of Republic Day, Divisional Commissioner Soumya Agarwal hoisted the national flag at the Commissioner's office on Monday. After the national anthem, she administered the oath of the Preamble of the Constitution to the officers and employees. Wishing everyone a Happy Republic Day, the Divisional Commissioner said that the Constitution has granted equal rights to every citizen. She urged the officers and employees to rise

above religion, caste, and regionalism and discharge their duties with complete dedication and honesty so that the country and the state reach new heights of develop-

ment. All the officers and employees of the Commissioner's office, including the Additional Commissioners, were present at the program.

Sex Racket Operating in Rented House Busted, Eight Arrested Including Female Kingpin

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Prayagraj. Police have busted a sex racket operating in a rented house in the Kidganj police station area. Four women, including the racket's ringleader, and four men have been arrested in the operation. According to the police, the gang had been active for about four months, and illegal activities were being conducted inside the house with the help of cameras. Police had been receiving information for some time about suspicious activities in a house located in the Madhavpur area of Kidganj. Residents of the neighborhood had also complained about the constant coming and going of young men and women. On Wednesday, after receiving information again, a team led by ACP Colonel Ganj Rajiv Yadav and Kidganj Inspector Virendra Singh raided the premises. Young Men and Women Found in Compromising Situation During the raid, four women and four young men were found inside the house. Some of them were in an incriminating situation. Incriminating material was



also recovered from the spot. All of them were brought to the police station for questioning, after which the entire network was exposed. Woman from Dhoomanganj Identified as the Kingpin Police interrogation revealed that one of the arrested women is a resident of the Dhoomanganj area and is the ringleader of the entire racket. She had rented the house for Rs 7,000 per month and had been running illegal activities there for the past four months. The landlord lived in the same house with his family, but he was unaware of this illegal activity. The accused woman misled the landlord by introducing the young men and women as her family members. Local Customers, Residents of Different

Areas According to the police, three of the arrested women are residents of Prayagraj. The four arrested men are said to be customers, residents of various neighborhoods in the city. The arrested men include Sahil, Moin, Govind Ojha, and Indrajeet. Similar Incident Happened Before It is noteworthy that a sex racket was busted in the Kidganj area about 24 days ago as well. In that case, a racket operating from the house of an IAS officer was exposed, and four women and five young men were arrested. Case filed under the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act ACP Colonel Ganj Rajiv Yadav said that a case is being registered against all the accused under the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act.

Robbery Cases Solved in Yamunapar, Two Criminals Arrested in Police Encounter



Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Prayagraj. A joint police team from SOG Yamunagar Zone and Karchhana police station, while investigating two major robbery incidents in the Yamunapar area, arrested two notorious criminals during a police encounter on Wednesday. Both criminals were injured in the encounter and admitted to the hospital for treatment. Police recovered stolen white metal jewelry, two motorcycles, an illegal pistol, and cartridges from their

possession. According to the police, the arrested accused had knocked down Chandan Soni from his motorcycle near the Majhua canal in the Karchhana police station area and looted a bag full of gold and silver ornaments. When the victim resisted, the accused shot and injured him. They had also committed a robbery near the bridge in Tevariya village, snatching a scooter, silver ornaments, and cash from a woman named Kavita Vishwakarma. Cases had already been registered at the police



station regarding both incidents. Encounter during Vehicle Checking On Wednesday, the Karchhana police and SOG team were conducting vehicle checking near the Harrai-Bendo border. During this time, two motorcyclists were seen approaching at high speed. When signaled to stop, the motorcyclists tried to flee. The police chased them, and the criminals fled towards the Mungari-Panasa road. Seeing themselves surrounded, the criminals' motorcycle fell, and they started running



towards the fields. The police say that the criminals fired with the

intention of killing, in response to which the police fired in self-defense. During this exchange of fire, Pappu Sonkar and Arvind Sonkar were injured. Two other criminals took advantage of the darkness and escaped. The arrested accused have been identified as Pappu Sonkar, son of Sahanlal, and Arvind Sonkar.

INFORMATION

It is hereby informed to the general public that my son's correct name is Akarsh Yadav son of Bhagwan Das Yadav, which is recorded in his educational records. Due to an error, his name has been recorded as Anshu Yadav in my son's Aadhaar no. 401764469999, which is incorrect. In the future, my son should be known and identified by his correct name Akarsh Yadav son of Bhagwan Das Yadav. It is certified hereby that all the legal formalities in this regard have been completed by me.

Bhagwan Das Yadav
Address - Matadin Ka Poora Gaddopur Phaphamau Prayagraj Uttar Pradesh

Editorial

India's online gaming ban shows today's thriving sector could be tomorrow's casualty

It took a mere six minutes in the Lok Sabha and a few minutes more in the Rajya Sabha to wipe out an established industry. In a matter of 48 hours, the passing of the Bill on Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Bill 2025 has adversely impacted 2,00,000 direct employees, Rs 23,613 crore in investments, over Rs 4,500 crore in advertisements and Rs 20,000 crores in direct and indirect taxes. The Bill, now an Act, was introduced in Parliament without undergoing the due process of a draft for public opinion, stakeholder consultations, or, at the very least, a warning. Policy corridor whispers imply that even allies were not aware of such a move. A decade-old, established sector constitutionally guaranteed under Article 19 has been asked to wrap up operations and told it will be held liable for criminal actions, including those of its employees, if it doesn't comply. While the Act aims to safeguard public health and address the concern of offshore illegal platforms, any ban, especially in the digital space, has consistently proven to have amplified the issue multiple times. The immediate fallout would include economic disruptions, shifts in user behaviour, and social harms. The opaque strategy adopted by the government in this case highlights the grave direction that policy-making is taking in India. The uncertainty goes far beyond the online real money gaming sector and will set a precedent for future policies in each sector. This swift and unconsulted legislative strike is not just a regulatory misstep but a stark warning of the growing unpredictability in India's policy landscape, one that could unravel investor confidence, domestic business trust, and exacerbate systemic issues like brain drain of talent and businesses. The immediate economic toll is staggering and underscores the bill's shortsightedness. Beyond the 2,00,000 direct jobs at risk, it affects ancillary industries like fintech, advertising, and content creation. Annual GST revenues of Rs 20,000-25,000 crore and TDS of Rs 1,080 crore (FY24) will evaporate, creating fiscal gaps at a time when India's fiscal deficit stands at Rs 15.77 lakh crore, amounting to 4.8 per cent of GDP. But the real cautionary tale lies in the investor disarray this creates. A reported foreign direct investment (FDI) of \$2.7 billion and startup funding of \$2.8 billion in real money gaming are now stranded. This unpredictability echoes broader patterns in India's policy environment, where sudden changes deter long-term commitments. For instance, the 2019 e-commerce FDI rules, which restricted inventory models for e-commerce platforms, led to a reported slowdown in US-India tech investments, with firms citing regulatory whiplash as a key barrier. Similarly, retrospective tax demands in the past (e.g., the Vodafone case) have been linked to a dip in FDI inflows, with studies showing that economic policy uncertainty reduces FDI by up to 30 per cent in emerging markets like India. The 2025 Kearney FDI Confidence Index highlights regulatory complexity and ease of doing business as concerns for investors in India, potentially shoving off billions in inflows amid global uncertainties like US tariffs. Businesses, particularly in the digital economy, thrive on stability. This bill's passage without stakeholder input, bypassing the Pre-Legislative Consultation Policy, sends a chilling message: Today's thriving sector could be tomorrow's casualty. As the industry voices alarm, with petitions likely heading to courts, the precedent risks cascading effects on adjacent digital fields where India aims for global leadership but faces investor hesitation due to such volatility. In the larger scheme, this policy unpredictability is accelerating India's brain drain, particularly in tech and digital innovation, where skilled professionals seek more stable environments abroad. Data from 2025 reveals a stark reality: Over 1,05,000 global tech layoffs this year alone, with 20 per cent occurring in India, have pushed thousands of engineers and developers to migrate.



Why hasn't India won the Nobel Prize for literature after Independence? Quality of education

Speaking in a distinguished institution, a political leader expressed concern that after Rabindranath Tagore in 1913, no Indian has received the Nobel Prize in Literature. His question—"Is the writing of our country not at the level anymore? Or has it been ignored by international institutions?"—was thought-provoking. But the tone was aloof. However, when you think about it, the answer is obvious. During the British Raj, India produced a number of great poets, artists, scientists, scholars, and thinkers. Many of

them have an international reputation. The solitary Nobel Prize in literature was also received during the British period. Under the British, our talents flourished. The educational institutions of the British rulers encouraged talents without discrimination on any ground. Did our desi leaders, post-British rule, continue that noble tradition? It is well-recognised that the educational institutions of British India declined rapidly after Independence. Instead of nurturing talent, new policies, knowingly or unknowingly,

worked toward their suppression or migration to the West. Isn't it curious that during the British Raj, hardly any Indian writer, scientist, artist, or scholar decided to settle abroad? Whereas in Independent India, talent of all kinds began settling in Europe and America, leaving India for good. To come to the issue, the leader who pointed out our lack of Nobels seems unaware that there are two essential prerequisites to help grow quality writers. One, to connect children & youth with great literature, taking care that they also get time

and encouragement to savour it. Second, to maintain a whole system of good institutions and platforms for learning, teaching, writing, publishing, and interacting. To ensure all this, staying away from narrowness or compromise must be a rule. But desi leaders, preachy and voluble, did the opposite! The British made arrangements in every field of knowledge and science to promote talent—modern public institutions, great libraries, newspapers, magazines, entire new learning disciplines like history, civics, etc.

India-US relationship has survived darker times. Intelligence ties bind us together

Edward Heath, Great Britain's Prime Minister, felt the words wash over him, hot like a dragon's breath: "The United States had received nothing from India except a kick in the teeth, in exchange for \$¼ billion last year," President Richard Nixon raged. The Indians, Nixon went on, thought "the white nations had no choice but to come in and bail India out." Alarmed, British Foreign Secretary Alec Douglas-Home stepped in. "The Indians were admittedly intolerably high-minded," he accepted. "But there was an important common interest in preserving Indian independence from Soviet and Chinese domination." The invective against Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and her nation, provoked by her refusal to back down on Bangladesh, continued in the privacy of Nixon's office, though: "A slippery, treacherous people," "bastards," "old witch," "b*tch". Even as the political leadership in both countries raged against each other, the relationship between the Central Intelligence Agency and the Research and Analysis Wing remained robust, historian Paul McGarr writes. In 1973, the head of Prime Minister Indira's secretariat, Prithvi Nath Dhar, and the chief of R&AW, Rameshwar Nath Kao, lobbied for CIA chief William Colby to visit New Delhi. As President Donald Trump appears to be leading the India-United States relationship into an abyss from which there is no return—adding restrictions to the outsourcing of jobs on the back of crippling tariffs—the period



between 1971 and 1973 shows the two countries have been locked in airless places before. The intelligence services of both countries, though, found ways to bypass potholes and cul-de-sacs, ensuring strategic conversation continued. Little understood, India-US intelligence ties flourished in the shadow of the Cold War, as New Delhi resolutely proclaimed its commitment to non-alignment. Late in the summer of 1949, India was struggling to contain its first post-Independence insurgency, an uprising by communists in the Telangana region. The Indian Army, sent to Hyderabad to battle the Nizam's armies, found itself at war with peasant insurgents in Telangana. Thousands died in the brutal conflict, Jonathan Kennedy and Sunil Purushotham have recorded, as the Army herded Adivasis into concentration camps in near-starvation conditions. Less than forty-seven

years old and with little experience in global politics, an unassuming police officer was tasked with helping India find the right tools to deal with the crisis. TG Sanjeevi, earlier a Superintendent of Police in Madras, and now Director of the Intelligence Bureau, was ordered to make a three-week visit to Washington. For decades before Independence, the Intelligence Bureau had been relentlessly focused on the threat of communist terrorism. Telangana was its first challenge after Independence—and, it seemed, its first potential failure. To Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, it seemed that the threat was transnational and a danger to the survival of the Indian republic. The colonial legacy meant India had a substantial relationship with the United Kingdom's intelligence services. The Security Service, popularly known as MI5, was a

critical source of assistance in the first years after Independence. India became debilitatingly reliant on this relationship, Avinash Paliwal has recorded. "This is satisfactory," an MI5 memo on general dependence smugly noted—but India understood the need to widen its partnerships. George Kennan, then director of policy planning at the State Department, agreed with Prime Minister Nehru's assessment. To address the challenge, Kennan recorded, Sanjeevi would have to "look beyond India's borders and seek to influence policy in regard to dangers from without." This meant that, despite Nehru's socialism, America would help him push back against the Communist threat. The visit did not begin well, though. Sanjeevi was affronted by the imperious behaviour of the director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, J Edgar Hoover, and vowed never to allow contact between the Intelligence Bureau and the FBI. The damage was contained, however, during his subsequent meetings with the Central Intelligence Agency. Sanjeevi came away with positive impressions of his meetings with Colonel Richard Stilwell, Kermit "Kim" Roosevelt, and the director of central intelligence, Roscoe Hillenkoetter. Even though the two countries clashed over questions of ideology and global politics, the alignment of their interests wasn't particularly opaque. India's government provided arms and training to Tibet's ramshackle military after 1949, and even considered deploy-

ing troops in support of its independence. The problem was that the Indian Army just didn't have the resources. In 1954, India formalised this reality, ceding many of its colonial-era rights, like stationing troops in Lhasa, historian Karunakar Gupta has written. The Intelligence Bureau, though, looked the other way, as the CIA supplied weapons and equipment to Khampa insurgents from 1958 on, historian Claude Arpi has written. India also ignored CIA flights in support of Tibetan insurgents, which crossed over its territory en route from Dhaka. Langley supported the founding of the Special Frontier Force, intended to carry the PLA along the China-India Line of Actual Control. The CIA also oversaw the insertion of nuclear-powered surveillance equipment to gather intelligence on China's nuclear-weapons programme. Even as this intelligence cooperation continued, Prime Minister Nehru publicly complained that the United States was interfering in Indian politics, "buying up newspapers and spreading a network of publicity organisations." Later, Prime Minister Indira assailed foreign powers plotting to "run down India." CIA agents, American intelligence officer Russell Jack Smith wrote sharply, "were to be found according to Madame Gandhi, beneath every charpoy and behind every neem tree." Even as Prime Minister Indira frequently railed against CIA intervention to bring about regime change—and public erupted when the journal Ramparts.

China will be more central to India now. Though an anti-US unity is premature

As I write this column from Boston, the biggest American newspapers have the Tianjin meeting of Prime Minister Modi, President Putin, and President Xi—all three smiling and shaking hands—as a leading news item. The sub-theme is also that President Trump's policies are driving them closer, perhaps opening the door to an anti-US unity in international geopolitics. The talk of an anti-American unity is perhaps premature. At least two of the three nations, China and India, have significant ties with the US, which can be ruptured only at a very great cost. Despite the talk of a decline, the US is still the world's largest economy. At the end of 2024, according to the World Bank, America's GDP was \$29.18 trillion, which amounted to 26.2 per cent of the world economy (\$111.33 trillion). A market of that size cannot easily be shunned. Indeed, most countries and corporations would covet access to it. But there is no doubt that Trump's radi-

cal break from America's post-Cold War foreign policy, especially his use of tariffs as an economic and political tool, is creating new geopolitical and economic scenarios. Countries must take into account these changes as they make adjustments in their foreign policies. Of course, Trump is known to be mercurial and abrupt changes in his policies cannot be wholly ruled out. However, three things are likely to remain constant: use of trade tariffs, opposition to immigration, and smaller American investments in international security. The changes in these realms, if any, are likely to be of degree. Fundamental changes can take place only if the results of these policies are catastrophic for his MAGA base, especially via inflation or if the judiciary intervenes more firmly than it has done so far. How should India, severely jolted by Trump's tariffs, imagine its way forward? Let me suggest that China will become even more central to India's foreign policy.

Vijay is winning the nickname war in Tamil Nadu. He's attacking Brand Stalin with 'uncle' taunt

In the world of marketing, a new entrant's toughest task is to break the perception built around the old guard. Established brands don't crumble because of direct attacks. They erode when their aura is punctured, when their carefully constructed image is made to look smaller, or even laughable. Politics is not different. Though for decades, MK Stalin was no more than a 'possible' political heir to former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu M Karunanidhi, things changed in 2019. Stalin was turned into a brand, crafted meticulously as the only answer, as an able administrator, and a calm and composed CM post the 2021 elections. He was present-

ed as the inevitable figure, the steady numero uno of contemporary Tamil Nadu Politics, a man positioned above ridicule. Even his critics rarely succeed in dismantling his image. Actor turned politician Vijay was out to destroy that brand when he called him, "My dear Stalin uncle." With such an open taunt at his second public rally, Vijay wasn't merely addressing the Chief Minister; he was reframing him. What at first sounds like cinema dialogue is, in LinkedIn lingo, classic disruption. A single word that wedges into the aura of authority, triggering what one might call the 'uncle-ification of a statesman'. Stalin was recast as just another politician, a figure who is now the

subject of memes. This is not an insult for insult's sake, but rather is a strategy through vocabulary. Political authority in Tamil Nadu has always been theatrical. MGR's heroism, Jayalalithaa's imperiousness, Karunanidhi's oratory skills, Stalin's calm—these are curated performances. Brands with narratives. "Uncle" in this context is not reverential. It's casual, familiar, and even patronising. The strength of Stalin's brand lies in the distance it creates, and Vijay's jab collapses that distance instantly. It is lethal in politics. It forces a new narrative onto the mainstream discourse, away from discussions on policy and performance, and instead drags it into a battle of personalities.

The disease of pride is like alcohol

"Every breath and word is precious." The disease of pride is like alcohol. Everyone knows it's intoxicated except the person himself. One who is intoxicated with pride, neither sees the virtues of others nor his own shortcomings. Keep in mind that pride is

very hungry, and its favorite food is exclusively his own. The worst thing about pride is that it will never let you realize you're wrong. I was very proud of the roof being the roof. One more floor was built, and the roof became the floor. What's there to be proud of? There

will come a night after which there will be no morning. The body is made of clay, even the breaths are borrowed. What's the point of pride? We're all tenants here. Keep laughing, keep smiling. Whether you help someone or not, be the reason for everyone's smile.

Sahara India Challenges Municipal Corporation Action in High Court

Lucknow

Sahara India Commercial Corporation Limited has approached the Lucknow Bench of the Uttar Pradesh High Court against the possession proceedings initiated by the municipal corporation. The company termed the sealing of Sahara City by the municipal corporation as unilateral and against the fundamental principles of justice. Serious Allegations Raised in High Court Petition In its petition filed before the High Court, Sahara India alleged that the municipal corporation forcefully took possession and sealed Sahara City without giving the company an opportunity to present its side and overlooked previously issued stay orders. The petition demands the cancellation of the municipal



orders. **Instructions for Lease Extension Already Issued** Sahara India has also informed the court that clear instructions for extending the lease term had already been given as part of the ongoing arbitration process. Despite this, the municipal corporation allegedly violated these orders and proceeded to seal Sahara City, which Sahara claims is a breach of judicial proceedings. Sealing Action Termed Unjust Sahara India contends that the municipal corporation's action is not only unjust but has also caused seri-

ous damage to the company's reputation and commercial activities. The petition further states that the corporation did not provide any opportunity for a hearing, which is against the principle of natural justice. Hearing Expected This Week The petition filed before the Lucknow Bench of the High Court is likely to be heard this week. Given the seriousness of the matter, the court is expected to intervene promptly. As of now, there has been no official response from the municipal corporation regarding this issue.

The High Power Management Committee of the Shri Banke Bihari Temple met

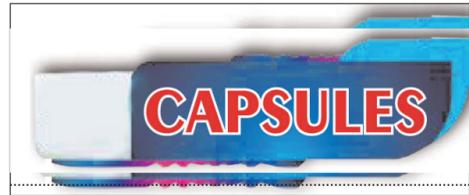
Mathura

The sixth meeting of the Thakur Shri Banke Bihari Temple High Powered Management Committee, Vrindavan Mathura was held in the auditorium of the Laxman Shaheed Memorial Building, Vrindavan, under the chairmanship of Justice (Retired) Ashok Kumar of the Allahabad High Court. Six points were discussed at the meeting, including the views of the Goswamis regarding the impasse in complying with the decision taken at the committee meeting on September 29, 2025 to extend the darshan timings at the Shri Banke Bihari Temple. The progress of the opening of the Golas (circles) located in the Shri Banke Bihari Temple, as discussed at the committee meeting on September 29, 2025. The progress of the opening of the closed rooms located in the Shri Banke Bihari Temple, as discussed at the committee meeting on September 29, 2025. The progress of the investiga-



tion by the three-member committee formed to investigate irregularities in the 357-square-yard vacant, semi-constructed site in the courtyard of the Thakur Shri Banke Bihari Temple. Presentation by Chief Executive Officer, Uttar Pradesh Braj Teerth Vikas Parishad, Mathura, regarding the corridor of Thakur Shri Banke Bihari Temple, Vrindavan. Status of compliance of the decisions taken by the committee in the previous meetings. President Justice (Retd.) Allahabad High Court Ashok Kumar Member/ District and Sessions Judge (Retd.) Mukesh Mishra Member/ District and Sessions Judge Mathura Vikas Kumar Member/ Munsif/Civil Judge

Mathura Shipra Dubey Member Secretary/ District Magistrate/ Collector Mathura Chandra Prakash Singh Member/ Senior Superintendent of Police Mathura Shlok Kumar Member/ Municipal Commissioner Mathura-Vrindavan Municipal Corporation Mathura Jag Pravesh Member/ Vice Chairman Mathura Vrindavan Development Authority Mathura Shyam Bahadur Singh Member/ Superintendent Archaeologist Archaelogical Survey of India Agra Dr. Smita S Kumar Member/ Goswami Rajbhog Group Shrivardhan Goswami son of Jugalkishore Goswami were present in the meeting.



Jaipur-Ajmer highway inferno: LPG truck collision triggers massive fire

NEW DELHI: A major fire broke out on the Jaipur-Ajmer highway late Tuesday night after a truck carrying LPG cylinders collided with another vehicle near the Dudu area, officials said. The impact of the crash triggered multiple explosions as gas cylinders began to burst, sending flames and shockwaves across the stretch. The blaze and loud explosions were visible and audible from several kilometres away, according to news agency PTI. Police personnel and fire brigades rushed to the scene, halting traffic on both sides of the busy highway. Rescue and fire-fighting operations continued late into the night as teams worked to bring the situation under control. Rajasthan chief minister Bhajanlal Sharma directed deputy chief minister Dr Prem Chand Bairwa and MLA Kailash Verma to visit the site and assess the situation. In a post on X, he wrote, "The accident of a fire breaking out in a truck loaded with gas cylinders on the Jaipur-Ajmer National Highway in the Mauzamabad police station area of Jaipur Rural is extremely tragic. Fire brigade and disaster management teams are engaged in relief and rescue operations at the incident site." "Instructions have been given to the district administration to ensure proper treatment for the injured and to provide all possible assistance to those affected. I pray to God for the safety and well-being of all citizens affected by this heart-wrenching incident", he further added. Jaipur district collector and other senior officials also head-post on X, confirmed that relief and rescue efforts were underway near Sawarda culvert in the Mojmabad area.

Himachal tragedy: 18 dead as landslide strikes bus in Bilaspur; many missing

KULLU: At least 18 people were killed after a massive landslide slammed into a private bus near Barthi village in Bilaspur district of Himachal Pradesh, around 100km from Shimla, on Tuesday evening. Many are missing and the rescue operation was on when this report was filed. The bus was carrying 30-35 passengers to Ghumarwin when the landslide struck around 6.30pm, said an official. Rocks and boulders crashed through the roof, crushing passengers to death in their seats. Debris completely enveloped the 42-seater vehicle. Bilaspur administration immediately dispatched a team to the site. Before police or rescue per-



sonnel arrived, however, local people rushed to the spot in large numbers and began digging through the mound of debris to reach survivors. The rescue team brought along a JCB to clear the debris. With the help of locals, police

pulled out four survivors, three of them children. They have been admitted to a govt hospital in Barthi. None of the deceased had been identified till Tuesday night. Bilaspur ADC Om Kant Thakur and SP Sandeep Dhawal were super-

vising the search and rescue mission on the spot. It has been raining heavily in Himachal for the past two-three days and the landslide was triggered by a downpour, said an official. Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed grief over the tragedy. "Saddened by the loss of lives due to a mishap in Bilaspur, Himachal Pradesh. My thoughts are with the affected people and their families during this difficult time. Praying for the speedy recovery of the injured," a PMO statement said. An ex gratia of Rs 2 lakh from PM National Relief Fund will be given to the next of kin of each deceased, and the injured would be given Rs 50,000, it said.

Thursday, 29 January, 2026

DELHI: Soaring demand for weight-loss therapies has brought Eli Lilly's Mounjaro within striking distance of Indian pharma market's long standing leader GlaxoSmithKline's Augmentin, an antibiotic. During September, Mounjaro recorded sales of Rs 80 crore, becoming the second-largest

brand in the pharma retail market, latest data culled by TOI from market research firm Pharmatrac showed. As against this, Augmentin generated sales of Rs 85 crore during the month. Typically, top-selling medicines in the pharmaceutical market are either Augmentin or anti-diabetic therapy, Mixtard, which generates around Rs 75-80 crore in monthly sales. Launched in March this year, Mounjaro generated a cumulative revenue of Rs 233 crore by

September. Bulging sales Augmentin unit value lower than Mounjaro's Industry experts said the introduction of Mounjaro in a pre-filled device, KwikPen, in August has boosted sales. A key reason for the sales is the higher unit value of the drug even though the volumes are lower. Average monthly cost of Mounjaro for a patient starts from Rs 14,000 and goes up to Rs 27,000, depending on the prescription. In contrast, a strip of

Bihar assembly elections: NDA, INDIA bloc race to complete poll pacts

PATNA/ NEW DELHI: As Bihar's governing NDA and opposition INDIA bloc engaged in hectic seat-sharing talks on Tuesday, a day after the Election Commission announced the two-phase assembly poll dates, the opposition alliance was expected to induct two more allies - Jharkhand Mukti Morcha and ex-Union minister Pashupati Kumar Paras-led Rashtriya Lok Janshakti Party - even as it tried to negotiate seats with its dissatisfied Left constituents. NDA, likely to announce its seat-sharing arrangement on Thursday, too, was trying to iron out wrinkles with its allies, especially with Chirag Paswan's LJP (Ram Vilas). **Seat struggle** CPI(ML) rejects offer of 19 seats from



Tejashwi's RJD The INDIA bloc, which comprises RJD, Congress, CPI, CPI(M), CPI(ML), and Mukesh Sahni's Vikassheel Insaan Party (VIP), met late Monday evening but failed to reach a consensus as CPI(ML) Liberation and CPI wanted more than the number of seats offered and sought shares based on their 2020 performances, according to highly placed sources. Discussions were scheduled to resume on Tuesday evening. CPI(ML) rejected the

offer of 19 seats - the same number it had contested in 2020 - from Tejashwi Yadav's RJD as against their demand for between 40 and 45 seats. With the senior leadership seeing this proposal as neither "dignified" nor "respectable", it proposed on Tuesday a nearly 25% climb-down to convey to RJD a list of around 30 seats which, sources said, would be "non-negotiable". State CPI(ML) secretary Kunal said, "There is no discontent among us.

TN drug inspectors had failed to detect toxic cough syrup production for 14 years

CHENNAI: For 14 years, Sresan Pharmaceutical, the manufacturer of toxic Coldrif cough syrup that has been blamed for the deaths of 17 children in Madhya Pradesh, operated unchecked from a dingy building in Kancheepuram, Tamil Nadu, even as drugs were manufactured in patently unhygienic conditions with no proper facilities and zero adherence to rules. It took the fatalities in MP's Chhindwara district for the Tamil Nadu drug authorities to finally wake up and inspect the manufacturing unit, which held a licence since 2011, and subsequently seal the premises. The inspection, carried out



a day after receiving a letter from MP's drug controller, confirmed 364 critical and major violations at every stage - right from sourcing raw materials to drug making, testing and packing. On October 3, Tamil Nadu's deputy director of drugs control S Gurubarathi, who is the licensing and controlling

authority in the state, directed the pharma firm to halt the manufacture, sale and distribution of drugs, after lab test revealed the Coldrif solution manufactured in the unit contained 48.6% diethylene glycol, an industrial chemical that causes acute renal failure when ingested. Sriperebudur drug control inspector Manimegalai

issued a show-cause notice to the company on Tuesday afternoon. The company has been called upon to provide a detailed explanation for the discrepancies in the medicine's quality and labelling. A police team from MP reached Chennai on Tuesday evening and are likely to visit the facility on Wednesday morning to conduct a detailed probe. A release from the Tamil Nadu directorate of drugs control said despite October 1 and October 2 being public holidays, the inspection of the manufacturing facility was begun just hours after receiving MP's request on October 1. The entire investigation,

including inspection, sampling, analysis of the syrup and stopping production, was completed within two days, it added. **What churned out killer syrup: Filthy unit, leaking equipment** Senior drug inspectors P Nithin Kumar in Kancheepuram and R Sasikumar in Tiruvallur inspected the premises and found that the company purchased a non-pharmaceutical grade of propylene glycol, a raw material for manufacture of drugs, but there was no invoice for the purchase. Four other syrups manufactured with propylene glycol as an excipient were found to be safe.

Cough syrup tragedy: Toll hits 17; doctors say toxic

NAGPUR/BHOPAL: Toxic cough syrup Coldrif prescribed to children in MP's Chhindwara snuffed out two more lives on Tuesday, taking the toll to 17 in 43 days. Jayashu Yaduvanshi and Vedansh Pawar, both aged two and suffering from renal



failure, succumbed during treatment in Nagpur, report Sarfaraz Ahmed and Amarjeet Singh. Both died following severe brain damage inflicted by diethylene glycol. Dr Ashish Lothe GMCH said DR sticks to brain tissues and is impos-

sible to filter. "Permissible limit is 0.1%, but DEG was at 48.6%, nearly 500% more," he said. Civic & health officials in Nagpur said 11 children remain critical. A door-to-door survey was launched to trace bottles of Coldrif that were already sold.



Rukhsar Rehman on surviving two broken marriages

"It's true that sometimes it's a woman who breaks your marriage": Rukhsar Rehman hints at facing infidelity in her second marriage with Faruk Kabir

Actress Rukhsar Rehman, known for her work in films and television, has lived through two failed marriages - experiences that have shaped her outlook on life, love, and resilience. In an exclusive conversation with the actress opened up about how she navigated heart-break, the social judgment women face and why she refuses to let bitterness define her. Reflecting on her first divorce from Asad Ahmed, Rukhsar credited her faith and patience for helping her move forward. "I think my belief in the Almighty, in destiny, and my patience helped me. Sometimes I do lose it, but I had just surrendered. I'm



Rukhsar Rehman and Faruk Kabir

not the kind of person who would say, 'I want to fight it' in the aggressive sense. My concept of fighting is different - to be brave enough to sit back. Sitting back doesn't mean giving up on life; it means taking the back foot and playing from there. When your time is not right, you shouldn't push yourself to the forefront, because if one thing doesn't work, the other won't either. If your personal life is bad, it can ruin your professional life,

friends, and family." Hinting at betrayal as a factor in her second divorce from filmmaker Faruk Kabir, Rukhsar admitted, "It's true that sometimes it's a woman who breaks your marriage. A woman is filled with emotions and she's capable of a lot of things. Even men should not use us or give us love and hope just because they want to have sex with us. Don't make a fool out of a woman." During her first divorce, major source of strength for her was her grandmother. The actress said, "I had one woman in my life who was a very positive influence in every way, and that was my dadi. She was the strongest woman I have ever seen. Whenever I was overthinking, I would go to her. She would just say, 'Leave it.' The way she said it, and the way I understood it because of the time I spent with her, would instantly lift a lot of my baggage." Rukhsar also spoke about the way society tends to

place the burden of saving a marriage on women. "It's always natural to judge women more. I know why it happens but I would not like to say it out loud on camera. The judgements have decreased but we still don't know what women are going through in the interiors. In metro cities, you can still take a stand or post on the internet, but in small towns, nobody knows what's going on. It's not all beautiful - I keep hearing strange stories from women where they try to normalise whatever bad is happening to them."

Filmy Shots



Hrithik celebrates Rajinikanth's 50 years before box office clash

Bollywood actor Hrithik Roshan congratulated superstar Rajinikanth for completing 50 glorious years in the film industry. He penned a heartfelt note and it comes a day before their films' clash. For those unversed, Hrithik's *War 2* is all set to clash with Rajinikanth's *Coolie* at the box office. Both the much-awaited films are scheduled to hit the big screens on August 14. Taking to his X account on Wednesday, Hrithik wrote, "Took my first steps as an actor at your side. You were one of my first teachers, @rajinikanth sir, and continue to be an inspiration and a standard. Congratulations on completing 50 years of on-screen magic." Hrithik had starred as a child artist in Rajinikanth's 1986 film *Bhagwaan Dada*. The film also featured Hrithik's father Rakesh Roshan, who had also produced it.

Isha Malviya breaks silence on Saiyaara casting rumours

Television actress and *Bigg Boss* fame Isha Malviya finally broke her silence on reports which claimed that she was the first choice for the blockbuster film, *Saiyaara*, but was later replaced by actress Aneet Padda. She debunked the reports and asked people to not spread "fake news". Isha took to her Instagram handle on Tuesday to share a post about her alleged casting in *Saiyaara*. Along with that, she wrote, "What is wrong with the media pages? Kindly stop spreading fake news guys, movie tak baat pahuch gayi aur mujhe hi nahi pata (sic)."

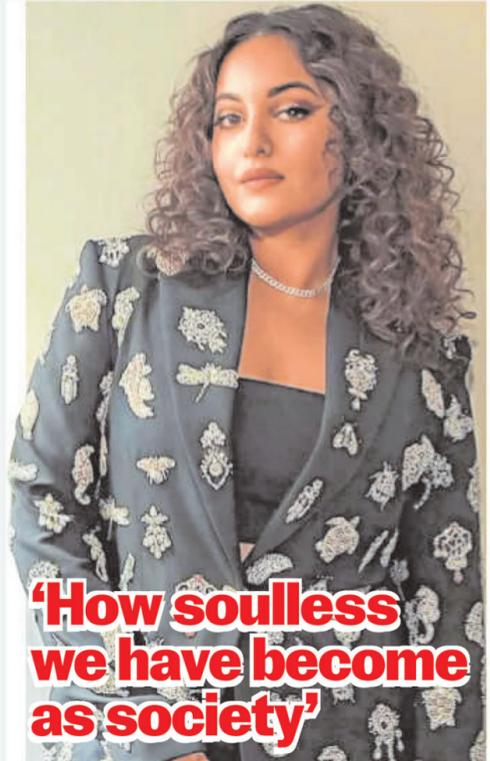


Atif Aslam's father passes away at 77, singer mourns

Pakistani singer Atif Aslam's father, Muhammad Aslam, passed away on Tuesday. He was 77. The singer, known for some of the most popular Bollywood tracks, shared a photo with his father on social media and penned an emotional note. While Atif's social media accounts are not accessible in India, internet is flooded with screenshots of his post. Along with the photo, he wrote, "A final good bye to my Iron Man. Rest in love Abu g." According to Pakistani media reports, Atif also requested his fans and followers to keep his father in their prayers.

Ek Chatur Naar starring Neil Nitin Mukesh, Divya Khosla set for September release

Comedy thriller *Ek Chatur Naar*, featuring Neil Nitin Mukesh and Divya Khosla, will be released in theatres on September 12, the makers announced on Wednesday. The movie is directed by Umesh Shukla, known for movies such as *Oh My God*, *All Is Well*, *102 Not Out* and *Aankh Micholi*. *Chaturai ki pehli jhalak. aage aage dekho hota hai kya #EkChaturNaar Hosiyaari Suru* in cinemas from 12th September, production banner T-Series posted on its social media handles. *Ek Chatur Naar* is described as a comedy with clever plot twists that will take viewers on a gripping ride of drama and edge-of-the-seat thrills.



'How soulless we have become as society'

Sonakshi Sinha on Supreme Court's order on relocation of strays

Bollywood actor Sonakshi Sinha has criticised the Supreme Court directive on relocation of street dogs from Delhi NCR region, calling it a disappointment.

The 38-year-old also shared a note on Instagram with a caption that read: "Day by day we expose how soul-less we have become as a society. Every day is a disappointment." The note that she shared read, "Street dogs are not a problem. They are victims. Victims of fear, hunger, disease, neglect, cruelty, and abandonment. They live without shelter, without vaccination, without sterilization, left behind to give birth on the streets, only to watch their puppies suffer the same fate. Many die under speeding wheels or at the hands of cruelty. They are not animals. They are people. They feel, they sleep, they cry, and now even plan to support them from the only place they know, sending them to overcrowded shelters where they will lose their freedom and identity. This is not animal welfare. Spaying and vaccinating street dogs is the real, humane solution."

In their judgement, a bench of Justices J B Pardiwala and R Mahadevan noted that there was an "extremely grim" situation due to stray dog bites resulting in rabies, particularly among children. The court has directed Delhi authorities to start with creating shelters for around 5,000 canines within six to eight weeks.



'I am better than her'

Mrunal Thakur faces backlash as old video calling Bipasha Basu 'manly with muscles' resurfaces

Mrunal Thakur, who began her career with television serials and is now active in Hindi films, has become the target of trolling after an old video went viral on social media in which she claimed she was 'better than Bipasha Basu'. The clip is from her *Kumkum Bhagya* days, where she portrayed Bulbul Arora Khanna.

In the resurfaced clip, Mrunal is seen chatting with her *Kumkum Bhagya* co-star Arjit about fitness, where Arjit playfully dares her to do a headstand, to which

she jokingly replies that he could sit while she balanced on her head. When he then challenges her to do push-ups, the actress says that he might be interested in marrying a strong, muscular woman, before remarking, "Do you want to marry a girl who is manly with muscles? Go marry Bipasha." Further, she added, "Listen, I am far better than Bipasha." A user commented, "That's why they made a song on BIPASHA and not you." While another added, "She wants to be feminine (not manly) is okay! But putting down someone else? That too THE BIPASHA?" "Not even close to Bipasha's pinky finger," read another comment.

Bipasha Basu

Mrunal Thakur



CAUGHT ON CAM

Celebs were snapped as they were out and about in Mumbai

Sara Ali Khan is papped outside Manish Malhotra's house

Sidharth Malhotra and Janhvi Kapoor are snapped at the Mumbai airport

Alaya F is all smiles as she is snapped in Bandra

Nataša Stanković is spotted outside a mall in Bandra

STREET DOGS ARE NOT A PROBLEM THEY ARE VICTIMS. VICTIMS OF FEAR, HUNGER, DISEASE, NEGLECT, CRUELTY, AND ABANDONMENT. THEY LIVE WITHOUT SHELTER, WITHOUT VACCINATION, WITHOUT STERILIZATION, LEFT BEHIND TO GIVE BIRTH ON THE STREETS, ONLY TO WATCH THEIR PUPPIES SUFFER THE SAME FATE. MANY DIE UNDER SPEEDING WHEELS OR AT THE HANDS OF CRUELTY. THEY ARE NOT ANIMALS. THEY ARE PEOPLE. THEY FEEL, THEY SLEEP, THEY CRY, AND NOW EVEN PLAN TO SUPPORT THEM FROM THE ONLY PLACE THEY KNOW, SENDING THEM TO OVERCROWDED SHELTERS WHERE THEY WILL LOSE THEIR FREEDOM AND IDENTITY. THIS IS NOT ANIMAL WELFARE. SPAYING AND VACCINATING STREET DOGS IS THE REAL, HUMANE SOLUTION.

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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



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

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

EU, India will sign FTA by year-end

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

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

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

CAPSULES

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

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



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

When oil prices drop every month, US stocks go up

Delhi: Wall Street indexes rose in choppy rises as in-line European markets ended flat, continuing their 10-week winning streak. The Federal Reserve is expected to decrease interest rates twice this year, according to U.S. inflation figures. Crude prices fell 1%, the first monthly decline since November, as markets braced for fresh levies from Washington and crude exports from Iraq's Kurdistan region. According to a White House source, President Volodymyr Zelenskiy of Ukraine will depart the Oval Office early Friday after a contentious meeting with Trump. Following reports of falling yearly inflation and sluggish consumer spending in the lat-



est statistics tracked by the Federal Reserve, U.S. Treasury rates hit multi-month lows. A drop of 2.93 points, or 0.34%, was recorded by MSCI's global stock index. Crypto values dropped after the Trump boom waned. The U.S. personal consumption expenditures (PCE) price index fell from 2.6% in December to 2.5%

last month, according to the Bureau of Economic Analysis, which is part of the Commerce Department.

Core personal consumption expenditure, the favored inflation indicator of the Federal Reserve, fell to 2.6% from 2.9% following an upward revision. Inflation of 2% is the target of the central bank.

Manufacturing activity slows to a 14-month low in February

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

Keep existing FY interest rate at 8.25%: EPFO board

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



who pay over Rs 2.5 lakh yearly a few years ago, claiming it would affect only 1% of subscribers. EPFO's 8.25% returns are far greater than PPF's 7.1%. Compounding is available with PPF's Rs 1 lakh annual investment cap. SBI is offering 7.5% on two- to three-year fixed deposits, however the interest income is taxed and compounding is not available. A 30% taxpayer will receive 5.25% post-tax FD returns. The EPFO board also amended the Employees' Deposit-Linked Insurance EDLI program to provide a minimum payment of Rs 50,000 to EPF members who die without one year of continuous service.

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

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



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

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

was published. Local businesses in a lot of states rely heavily on outside expertise and materials. One factor contributing to this trend, according to the poll, is the low English proficiency among local kids.

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

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



pany's current activity is unclear. The amount includes

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

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

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

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



five-year term loan from Glas Trust through the establishment of his Alpha special purpose financial organization. Having defaulted on its loans, Byju's Alpha was placed under trusteeship in March 2023. A group of 37 banks and other lending organizations gave Byju \$1.2 billion. Byju's Alpha's limited partnership interest in Camshaft Capital was transferred to William Morton's hedge fund, Camshaft Capital Fund. , with the proceeds of about \$533 million in term loans, according to the lenders.

Mittal's \$976 million Airtel stake sale

Delhi: Sunil Bharti Mittal's business sold \$976 million in India's No.2 wireless carrier to raise funding for new ventures. According to an exchange statement, Bharti Airtel Ltd. founder Indian Continental Investment Ltd. sold 0.84 percent interest or 51 million shares for Rs 8,485 crore (\$976 million), nearly a fourth of which was bought by Bharti Telecom Ltd. Other investors were not named in the trade at Rs 1660.46 per share, a tiny discount to Monday's finish of Rs 1,675.6. The document said the shares were "allocated only to key marquee long only names, both global and domestic." Mittal is investing in Africa and OneWeb, which merged with Eutelsat in 2023, at the time of the sale. Last year, closely held Bharti Enterprises Ltd. bought 24.5% of BT Group Plc. Bharti Telecom now owns 40.47 percent of Airtel, reinforcing its "previously stated intent of strengthening its position as the principal vehicle

SP Inspects Kotwali Police Station, Reviews Under-Construction Building

Auraiya

The Superintendent of Police (SP) of Auraiya conducted a surprise inspection of the Kotwali police station and issued necessary directions to officials for the prompt redressal of public grievances. During the inspection, the SP reviewed the cleanliness of the police station premises, assessed the progress of the under-construction building and emphasized ensuring timely disposal of complaints received from the public. During the visit, the SP thoroughly inspected the CCTV cameras, women help desk, investigation room, office records, crime



registers, Naksha Nazri and the armory. He instructed the staff to maintain proper cleanliness and discipline within the police station premises. The

Superintendent of Police also carried out an on-site inspection of the under-construction administrative building and investigation room at the Kotwali police

station. While reviewing the quality and pace of the construction work, he directed the concerned officials to complete the work within the stipulated

time frame while maintaining high standards of quality. Additionally, the SP instructed the officers to take public complaints seriously and ensure their timely

and effective resolution, reiterating that Public service and transparency should remain the top priority of the Police Department.

DM and SP Flag Off Road Safety Awareness March Past

Under the direction of Superintendent of Police Ramnayan Singh as part of the Mission Shakti Campaign Phase 5.0, being run by the Uttar Pradesh government for the safety and self-reliance of women and girls, a grand awareness program was organized at Sir Syed Girls Inter College, under the jurisdiction of Kotwali Nagar Police Station. Addressing the program, Superintendent of Police Ramnayan Singh informed women and girls about various helpline numbers, including Women Power Line 1090, Police Emergency Service 112, Ambulance Service 108, Child Line 1098, Health Service 102, Women Helpline 181 and Chief Minister Helpline 1076. In addition, through a meaningful and positive discussion, they were warned against issues of good touch, bad touch, domestic violence and cyber crimes and informed them about Cyber Helpline 1930. The women and girls present in the program were



made aware by distributing pamphlets, discussing the legal provisions related to women empowerment and their rights and giving information about various government schemes. The grand public awareness program organized at Sir Syed Girls Inter College was successful in giving the message that women empowerment is the identity of a

strong society, and through Mission Shakti 5.0, every woman of the district has taken one step forward in becoming safe, strong and self-reliant. Through the program, the Superintendent of Police also gave the message that only through Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao will the identity of a strong society be ensured, women's safety is the basis of

society's progress, we should all move together towards a crime-free society, which will ensure unity in the society. On this occasion, Additional Superintendent of Police Rural Durga Prasad Tiwari, Circle Officer City Pahup Singh, Inspector in-charge Kotwali City Rakesh Kumar Singh, In-charge Women Police Station Manju Yadav, Mission Shakti.

SP Holds Public Hearing at Police Office in Auraiya



Auraiya

Superintendent of Police Abhishek Bharti organized a public hearing (Jansunwai) at the police office in Auraiya, during which he patiently listened to the grievances of complainants who had arrived from different parts of the district. During the public hearing, complaints related to land disputes, family conflicts, assault, fraud and other issues were presented. The Superintendent of Police carefully examined each

case and issued clear instructions to the concerned officers to ensure fair, timely and quality disposal of all complaints. On this occasion, SP Abhishek Bharti also addressed all station house officers of the district through video conferencing.

He emphasized that public grievance redressal is among the top priorities of the government and that any negligence in resolving public issues would not be tolerated. The SP directed that all received complaints be resolved

promptly and that complainants be kept informed about the progress and action taken in their cases. He further stated that public hearings serve as a strong bridge of trust between the police and the Public. The Superintendent of Police instructed all officers to discharge their duties with sensitivity and responsibility. The Additional Superintendent of Police, Auraiya along with other officers and Staff was also Present during the Public Hearing.

Meeting Held with Recognized Political Parties on Special Intensive Revision of Electoral Roll-2026

Etah

In compliance with the directives of the State Election Commission regarding the Special Intensive Revision of the Electoral Roll-2026, an important meeting with representatives of recognized Political Parties was held on Tuesday at the NIC Auditorium located in the Collectorate. The meeting was organized as per the instructions of District Election Officer Prem Ranjan Singh and was chaired by Sub-District Election Officer/ Additional District Magistrate (Administration) Satya Prakash. During the meeting, the Additional District Magistrate (Administration) sought active cooperation from all Political Party representatives to ensure the successful implementation of the revision programme. He informed that February 6, 2026 has been fixed as the last date for submission of Claims and objections. He urged the representatives to thoroughly examine the draft electoral roll and the ASD (Absent, Shifted, Dead) list and ensure that



claims and objections are filed in time so that they can be disposed of as per rules within the stipulated Period. He further informed that, in accordance with the directions of the State Election Commission, a special Booth Day (Special Day) will be organized on Saturday, January 31, 2026. On this day, all Booth Level Officers (BLO) will remain present at their respective polling booths from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. to receive claims and objections and to fill forms for the registration of new voters, ensuring that no eligible citizen is left out of the electoral Roll. The Additional District Magistrate appealed to the representatives of political parties to establish coordination with BLO through their appoint-

ed BLO/agents and actively support training and Public awareness activities. He emphasized that collective efforts would help in preparing a more accurate, updated, and error-free electoral roll. The meeting was attended by Assistant Sub-District Magistrate Rajkumar Maurya, Congress District President Ashiq Ali, BJP General Secretary Sushil Kumar Gupta, Pradeep Gupta Bhamashah, Aam Aadmi Party State Secretary Rajkumari Yadav, Samajwadi Party District President Parvez Zubairi, General Secretary Bhupendra Prajapati, Santosh Chauhan, Rajesh Sarani, Gaurav Pathak, Gaurav Yadav, representatives of other Political Parties and Jitendra Kumar from the Election Office,

Etah

Deputy Commissioner of Industries Premkant informed that under the Uttar Pradesh Government ambitious Vishwakarma Shram Samman Yojana, a toolkit distribution Programme was organized on Wednesday at 11:30 a.m. at the District Industries Promotion and Entrepreneurship Development Centre campus, Kasganj Road, Etah. The programme was held for trainees who completed training in the tailoring trade during the year 2024-25 and was presided over by Etah Sadar MLA Vipin Kumar David. On the occasion, Deputy Commissioner of Industries Premkant felicitated MLA Vipin Kumar David by pre-

Smiles Light Up as Trainees Receive Tailoring Toolkits under Vishwakarma Shram Samman Yojana



senting a bouquet and a Shawl. He also briefed the attendees about the Vishwakarma Shram Samman Yojana, stating that the state government aims to create employment opportunities for small artisans and craftsmen by providing 10-day skill training along with honorarium and advanced toolkits. He informed that besides tailoring, training is

also imparted in trades such as halwai (confectioner), cobbler, mason and carpenter under the Scheme in the District. Interacting with the trainees, MLA Vipin Kumar David sought feedback on the quality of training and its benefits. The trainees shared that they had learned skills such as salwar-suit cutting, Petticoat stitching, children frocks and

blouse making. Addressing the gathering, the MLA said that the state government is committed to inclusive development without discrimination on the basis of caste, religion or creed. He emphasized the vision of "employment for every hand" and informed that several loan schemes are being run to promote self-employment. He further highlighted that through the District Industries Centre, women can establish their own enterprises by availing loans of up to ₹5 lakh under the Chief Minister Yuva Entrepreneur Development Scheme. Toolkits for the tailoring trade were distributed by the MLA to Vijaylaxshmi, Shashi Kumari, Kareena

Kashyap, Shalini, Mehak, Nisha, Lalita, Usha Rani, Roopa Rani, Anita, Meena Rani, Guddi Devi, Bijlesh Kumari, Shabnam, Tarawati, Shayda, Poonam, Rajkumari, Krishna Kashyap, Lata, Ruby, Priyanka, Poonam Kumari, Hemlata, Shalini, Anjali, Manju, Pinky, Rakhi, Shashiprabha, along with more than 200 other Women beneficiaries. Deputy Commissioner of Industries Premkant and officials from the District Industries Centre, including Rajeev Kumar, Jameel Akhtar, Ved Prakash, Vardan Sharma, Sarita Bhardwaj, Gaurav Sachan, Pawan Kumar and Bijendra Pal Singh, were also present on the Occasion.

Grand Journalists' Conference of Rural Journalists Association Turns Etah into a Hub of Media Dialogue

Etah

Under the banner of the Government District Agriculture and Industrial Development Exhibition "Etah Mahotsav-2026", a grand and dignified journalists' conference and felicitation ceremony was organized on Tuesday at the exhibition pavilion by the Rural Journalists Association Uttar Pradesh, Etah district unit. The event was successfully led by District President Pankaj Gupta and witnessed enthusiastic participation from journalists across the district and neighboring regions. The conference saw active involvement of journalists and office bearers not only from Etah but also from Kasganj, Aligarh, Hathras, Mathura, Bulandshahr and various tehsils of Etah district. The Primary objective of the Programme was to strengthen the social responsibility of journalists, promote impartial and responsible journalism and enhance mutual coordination within the media fraternity. Chief Guest Renu Gaur, while addressing the gathering, stated that journalists act as a vital bridge between society and the administration. She emphasized that fair and fearless journalism strengthens the foundations of democracy and plays a crucial role in guiding society in the right direction. Senior Superintendent of Police Shyam Narayan Singh appreciated the role of journalists, stating that the media presents the true picture of society. He urged journalists to work in public interest through fact-based, responsible and positive journalism. Additional Superintendent of Police/SP City Shwetabh Pandey highlighted that better coordination between the media and the police can further strengthen law and order in society. State Vice President of the Rural Journalists Association Uttar Pradesh, Ramnareesh Chauhan, specially lauded the role of Etah journalists in making the conference a success. He said that from preparations to arrangements, management, coordination and participation, the journalists of Etah demonstrated unity, discipline and responsibility at every level. Aligarh Division President of the association, Raj Narayan Singh, termed the felicitation of Etah journalists for their social contributions, impartial journalism, and public-oriented work as a commendable initiative. State Advisory Board Member Vinod Agrawal motivated fellow journalists to focus on news writing in public interest and elaborated on the organization activities. Office bearers and guests from distant Bhati, Shambhunath Purohit, Vivek Sharma, Chetan Gupta, Tejveer Singh felicitation ceremony. Senior Superintendent of Police Shyam Narayan Singh Pride and positive energy, which further boosted their morale. The successful Himanshu Tiwari (District General Secretary), Vipin Kumar (District General Secretary), Rajeev Mishra (District Vice President), Hemendra Gupta, Ankit Yadav, Yogesh Yadav, Sudhir Yadav, Shivam Solanki, Suresh Bhaskar, Raju Afsar, Riyaz, senior journalists Sunil Mishra, Shiv Kumar Pathak, Vaibhav Pachauri, Pawan Pathak, Ashu Sharma, and other office bearers and members of the association, whose contributions were widely appreciated.

